

# Titchmarsh Times

A Bi-monthly Village Newsletter Sponsored by Titchmarsh Parish Council.

Editor: John Greig  
Email: [je.greig@btopenworld.com](mailto:je.greig@btopenworld.com)

Parish Clerk: Jane Teague  
Email: [jane.teague@mac.com](mailto:jane.teague@mac.com)

## June/July 2005

### **Parish Council.**

*Ian Curtis. Chairman writes:*

**Village of the Year.** Let me begin by thanking all of you who, in one way or another, contributed to our efforts in this competition. Many areas had benefited from a tidy up by the time that the judges toured the village on 11th May. We feel that we have made a strong submission and eagerly await the results on 16th June. The winners will be announced at an 'Oscar type' ceremony with all the contenders waiting with bated breaths for the results. Real edge of the seat stuff!

The village has had two very positive reports in the Evening Telegraph in recent weeks; one was for the 10K race, the other for the school's May Day celebrations. It's always good to see this kind of positive recognition of your efforts.

**Annual Parish Meeting.** Thanks to those of you who attended our first open Parish Meeting. We hope that you found the presentations from the Parish Plan Committee, local police, Neighbourhood Watch, pathways wardens and parish, district and county councillors interesting and informative. We will be reviewing your comments in the follow-up questionnaires and intend to incorporate some of the suggestions in next year's event.

The Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator intends to call a meeting of all those in the parish involved in the programme. We will give you details of this in the next edition of the Times. Meanwhile if you are interested in being involved yourself, please let Jane our clerk know.

We were reminded to secure our sheds and garden furniture, post-coding removable articles wherever possible. There has been an outbreak of garden thefts in the area and it is always better to be safe than sorry.

**Affordable Housing.** We are continuing to pursue the provision of low cost housing for villagers. However, we have recently been informed that to be eligible for such housing, you must already be on the District Council's waiting list. If you are interested in acquiring one of the affordable units then you should make sure that you are on the list.

**Age Concern** is looking for someone in the village to act as a first point of contact for older people who may need support. By taking on this role you would be joining a network of 700 volunteers across the county who provide different kinds of help. If you are interested in taking on this rewarding role - or would just like some more information - contact Sheila Baker at Age Concern.

**Parish Council AGM.** The Parish Council AGM was held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May. Sylvia Prestwich was elected Chair of the Council and Michael Alderman Vice Chairman. All members thanked Ian Curtis his chairmanship over the past two years and wished him a happy retreat to the back benches.

JG

# News and Future Events.

## **Titchmarsh Annual Fete. Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June. Mid-day to 5pm. Entrance FREE!!!**

This year's fete is fast approaching and is set to be as good as ever. The old favourites are returning, the Parachuting Teddies, children's fancy dress and races. Pet Show and Tug-of-War. Do come along and see the many attractions that will be taking place. Enjoy a glass or two of Pimm's whilst listening to the Rushden Town Band, light refreshments in the tea tent or a bite to eat at the BBQ washed down with a pint or three in "Wally's Beer Tent!!!

Duncan and Karen Williams will soon be knocking at your door for any donations you may wish to make to the Tombola. Donations of cakes would be gratefully received. Please ring Sylvia to arrange collection in advance. We look forward to seeing you all on the 11<sup>th</sup> June to share in the fun.

*Clair Walpole*

**Titchmarsh School.** On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May we had a really super May Day celebration. In spite of the cold weather it remained dry and we were able to carry out the tradition of our village walk and open air concert without running for cover! We had a very regal 'Royal Party' lead by Alice Garnham and Kern Routley. We were overwhelmed by the turnout for the service, walk and concert. Thank you to all involved in its smooth running.

Special dates in the school diary for the rest of the summer term are:

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Church Services at 9.15am            | 24 <sup>th</sup> May and 28 <sup>th</sup> June |
| Incoming Reception Parents Evening   | 11 <sup>th</sup> July                          |
| 'Incredibal' Rounders at PWS, Oundle | 6 <sup>th</sup> July                           |
| Transfer Day                         | 18 <sup>th</sup> July                          |
| Leavers Assembly at Church 9.15am    | 20 <sup>th</sup> July                          |
| School closes for summer break       | 22 <sup>nd</sup> July                          |

*Mrs J Milton. Head Teacher*

**Village Marquees.** We have managed to misplace the 4 tie-down kits (comprising red webbing ratchet straps and metal screw pegs) that belong to the marquees! So, could everyone who has been associated with the marquees have a look around for the tie-down kits? If you've located them please contact Michael or Sylvia.

**Ladybirds.** Are you the parent of a baby or toddler? Would you like to meet other parents and give your child the chance to make some new friends?

Ladybirds Parent and Toddler Group meets on Wednesdays, 1.45 to 3.20pm in the Clubroom. All are welcome. Contact Virginia Moffatt for more details, or just come along; we would love to see you there.

**Marie Curie Cancer Care - Daffodil Appeal:** I would like to thank all those people who bought daffodils. A cheque for £50 was sent to the appeal in March.

*Shirley Curtis.*

**10K Road Race.** Runners of all ages and abilities took part in a morning of racing to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Titchmarsh 10k Road Race.

This year, to mark the event, we introduced a 3K Fun Run and hundreds of racers of all ages packed the village to help make the day the most successful ever. Representatives of 36 running clubs boosted the field in the 10K race to 276. Despite the difficult, muggy conditions, the course record was broken by Terence D'Amor from North Cork, Ireland in an incredible time of 32 minutes 3 seconds. His fellow countrymen came close to cleaning up in both club and non-club categories.

The 3K Fun Run, fielding 162 runners, was won by 13 year old Mike Smith from Huntingdon in 10 minutes 48 seconds. Could we be looking at a future 10K champion?

The organisers would like to thank everyone in Titchmarsh who showed their support and especially those who helped on the day. We were thrilled with the final amount raised which is a few pounds short of a record £2000. The one comment that comes back year after year is how wonderful the village atmosphere and support is, and it is that that tempts runners and their clubs back again and again.  
*Caroline Thompson*

**Friends of Titchmarsh School (FOTS).** The Spring Ball went ahead as planned and thanks to all who attended. Everyone looked fantastic, the room had been decorated beautifully (I'm sure you will agree), and the band were as good as ever. What a great night out! We hope you all had a fun and enjoyable evening. Thank you also to all who bought raffle tickets to support the event and now we are able to tell you that we have raised approximately £1,600. The date for next year's ball will be confirmed in the next edition of TT.

The Fun Day took place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May and wasn't it windy!!! To those who helped put up and take down gazebos (or just hung on to them), ran stalls, made cakes, helped out or attended our Fun Day, thanks very much for supporting us. We raised approximately £1,000.

*Bag2School* was another successful event. We managed to collect once again an absolutely overwhelming amount of recycling material thanks to all you spring cleaners. The van took away our collection but we are still waiting the outcome of how much the van weighed and how much we have raised. We will let you know.  
*Sue Shapland*

**Titchmarsh Draw.** April's draw took place this year in the Wheatsheaf. Winners of the £15 tickets were: 57 – Lloyd Barrett, 28 – Mobile Promotions, 122 - Liz Townson, 42 – Rosemary & Henry Baker.

The draw in May took place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May in the D&P – (Due to prior engagements of organisers we had to change date at last minute). The winners were: 49 – Sue Greasley, 137 – John Greig, 99 – Mrs Cranch, 44 – Alan Dexter. Each prize winner received £15.

The next draw will be held in the Wheatsheaf on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Don't forget that July's draw will be for the second big jackpot of this year. One very lucky winner will receive £663. This jackpot draw will take place in the D&P on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 7pm.

**News from the Dog and Partridge.** We will be closing for refurbishment on Friday the 29th July and are due to reopen on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. We are still cooking on Thursdays until the closure.

We are sorry but there will be no portable bar in the garden during the closure period so we will be unable to serve any drinks at all during this period.

At the grand reopening we will be having lots of things going on from noon. We will have a bouncy castle, face painting and a clown at 2 pm. In the evening, at eight, we will have a hog roast and the "Stars in Their Eyes" winner who will imitate Kylie.

We will be starting a full menu from 6.30pm on Friday 8th September. We will be offering a full menu which will consist of homemade produce and varied steaks. We will also offer ten "specials" at all times and a large desert menu. We will be serving food every night except Monday and Tuesday and will make sure appropriate table space is reserved for our crib team.

*Andy Jacquest*

**County Council Elections.** Congratulations to Bob Seery on being elected to Northamptonshire County Council as our local representative. Bob has been appointed to the Cabinet of the County Council where his brief for Highways and Transportation will keep him very busy.

**An “adopted resident” departs.** Sadly my time in Titchmarsh has come to an end. I want to say thank you to the villagers for making me feel like a permanent resident. I am extremely proud to be able to say that I shared in the life of such a wonderful and true to life English (Pommy) village. It has been truly fantastic.

I leave you with a deep sense of sadness, but the clear conviction that one day I will return. I realise that I will never be able to recapture the moments I have had over the last eight months, but eagerly look forward to being able to reacquaint myself.

There are so many people to thank that I am afraid to mention individuals for fear of inadvertently missing someone. Please, everyone, accept my thanks for allowing me to share in your lives. Having said that, I want to give a special thanks to my friend and aunt, Sylvia. You have given me the opportunity to be a part of your life, something that is especially dear and important to me. In doing this you have also allowed me to be part of this special place. Thank you so much.  
*Lisa West*

**Titchmarsh Show.** This years Flower and Vegetable Show is on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2005 at the Clubroom. A popular event open to everyone, an opportunity to show off your growing and cooking skills; along with handicraft, painting and photography opportunities. There are classes for all subjects and all ages, the children’s classes are especially popular. The Show opens to the public at 2.30pm and, apart from viewing the prize winning exhibits, you can stay for refreshments, try your hand at skittles and enjoy the tombola and plant stalls. Do stay for the raffle and presentation of trophies at 4.30pm, followed by the auction of Show produce.

Sharon Corbin, who has been our Treasurer for 15 years, resigns from her post this year. On behalf of the Show Committee we pass on our best wishes and grateful thanks to Sharon for her hard work and support over the years. We hope to see you the other side of the desk this year!

**Tales from the past.** You may remember that in a previous edition I asked for any reminiscences or anecdotal stories you may have of Titchmarsh. I was contacted by Ben Gray who grew up in Titchmarsh in the 1920’s and 30’s and now lives in Manchester. Thank you Ben for sending the following story.

“When Titchmarsh had its own fire engine an annual test run was held. The engine was housed in the building that backs onto the Pound and a team of firemen, under its Captain, William Dexter, would haul the engine to a reservoir in Ranway, accompanied by a crowd of excited children.

At the reservoir Bill shouts his orders, “*Git the ‘ose out ‘arry, will yer*” and the firemen leap into action. Three on either side, they work the contraptions the hand pump handles. Up and down, up and down with a clank, clank until a gurgle of water spills from the nozzle. With more effort and more clanks the water reaches about 30 feet.

So the engine really works and to prove it Bill, whose feelings have been hurt by the jibes around him, swings the steaming hose over anyone within range. “*Now you bu\*\*ers*” he says with a wry smile, then frantically amid shrieks of alarm, the offenders scatter in all directions.

They would then trail the engine back to the village being glad that they had been there for the great moment”.

**Finally.** Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition. Not enough for a six pager this time, lets try for the August/September edition. Please may I have your contribution at the above address by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2005 at the very, very latest?  
*John Greig. Editor*