

Titchmarsh Times

A bi-monthly village news letter sponsored by Titchmarsh Parish Council.

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June/July 2007.

Parish Council.

You will no doubt be aware that, because there were not enough candidates, there was no need to hold an election. Your councillors are Michael Alderman [chairman], Sylvia Prestwich (vice chair), Bert Ash, Julie Cheney, Ian Curtis, Gina Gaskin, John Greig and Ian Teague. Sylvia was thanked for her two years service as chairman. The Council was very sorry to lose the services of Janet Jones and Dave Walpole who have stood down this time, but welcomes Bert and Ian as new councillors.

There remains one **vacancy** and we would urge you to consider becoming a councillor yourself. We meet on the third Thursday evening of each month for a couple of hours, so it's not too time consuming and it's an opportunity for you to influence village affairs. Please apply for the vacancy, by letter, to Emma Meen, Clerk to the Council, 9 Fair Lane, Thrapston NN14 4TD by 15th June 2007.

Annual Parish Meeting

We held our third Annual Parish Meeting in April and were pleased to welcome 36 villagers to it. The reports were followed by a lively discussion on matters of interest and concern. The Council finds this a very useful test of local opinion and many of the ideas feed into our subsequent discussions. Our main frustration is that we do not have the power to resolve finally some of the more troubling aspects of village life, such as traffic. We can only work through other authorities in hoping to solve them.

An obvious example is that of lorries in Islington. We have received assurance that a weight restriction will be imposed in the village and have managed to get signs set up next to IKEA. But, as many of you have pointed out, the signs are too small and are in the wrong place to have much effect. We are still working on that one. Another suggestion to reduce speed in Islington was to move the 30 mph restriction signs further out along the road. Our information is that the legal costs alone of doing this are between £5000 and £15000, and that there is no prospect of this being done in the near future.

Keep the ideas coming in though. We will still plug away at the issue.

Collection of green waste.

This was a concern raised in the Parish Plan. Working with the Verdant Group, East Northamptonshire Council has now introduced a green waste collection service. If you want to use the service, there is an annual charge of £35 +VAT and a one-off charge of £10 + VAT for the delivery of a large capacity bin. Further information available from Verdant Group on 0800 781 7135 or visit their website at www.greenwasteclub.co.uk (click on the East Northants Council logo).

Sand and gravel workings, Castle Manor Farm

A Liaison Group has been set up to monitor the work at this site which is opposite IKEA. There have been two meetings, the second of which involved a tour of the site. We were able to discuss with the operator, Mick George, the anxieties that have been expressed about the site and were reassured by what we saw and heard. The bulk of the usable deposits have now been extracted and the hole is being refilled with inert waste, mainly building rubble; although the works are likely to last for another five years. There is very little crushing taking place so the noise and dust is kept to a minimum. Four lagoons have been dug to filter the water from the quarry, but an issue remains about what happens to the lagoons once the site reverts back to farm land.

Saturday 9th June 2007. Titchmarsh Village Fete 12 noon to 5 p.m. on the School Field. Come and hear Rushden Town Band, watch teddies parachuting from the church tower, whilst enjoying a glass of Pimms or tea and cakes. There will be a beer tent, tombola, prize draw, bouncy castle, dog agility demonstration, folk dancing and lots more fun and games. The gardens of Titchmarsh House will also be open under the National Garden Scheme. **Probably the best fete in East Northants!**

If you are interested in entering the "whacky wheelbarrow" race please contact Rob Jones. Donations for the plants, produce, preserves and cakes stall should be left with Anita Dunn at Manor Farm House, 1, Chapel Street. Donations for the White Elephant Stall should be left with Sylvia Prestwich at Ridgeon, Toft's Close. Offers of help or cakes for the tea tent please contact Pauline Gambrell. Fete committee members will be knocking on doors shortly asking for donations for the bottle tombola and to offer the sale of tickets for the Grand Prize Draw. 1st prize 4 tickets to Mama Mia in the West End with champagne in the interval. Many other great prizes.

If you feel you would like to join in the fun and help we need volunteers for setting up, manning stalls or helping to clear up. Please contact Sylvia Prestwich.

Titchmarsh Lunch Club will meet again on the 1st of June and we are hoping for a big turnout as we expect a visit from the Best Village Competition folks. For our regulars, please try to attend and if possible, encourage someone new to come with you. We would like to see the numbers increase. **For June, please would everyone bring some savoury dish.** There will be salad, potatoes and dessert supplied. The club will also meet on the 6th of July so please mark your calendar now. Ring Sylvia McNeely or Anne Howe to say how many people are coming to the lunch or for more information.

Transport. At T Day, which seems a long time ago now, a suggestion was made that there may be a need in the village for a scheme to help those without transport get to the hospital or doctor. A group met recently to consider this. From the feelers that had been put out it was felt that most people in the village had access to friends, neighbours or family who could help in these circumstances. However if you feel that this is not so and there is indeed a need then please let us know and we will see what can be done. Contact Liz Knivett.

Titchmarsh website www.titchmarsh.info

I have been the Titchmarsh Village website 'webmistress' since the site was formed in 2003. The work involves occasional updates of web pages with news, events and minutes that are sent to me from various village organisations. It occurred to me that someone else might like the opportunity of updating the website, and perhaps giving it a new lease of life. If you are interested, or would like to know more, please contact me at sylviaprestwich@aol.com

Titchmarsh Pre-School. We would like to thank the residents of Titchmarsh and everyone that helped and supported our very successful Car Treasure Trail and Auction of Promises in March. The money raised is being used to buy new toys and equipment.

We are also pleased to announce that Barclaycard Community Partnerships have very kindly donated £1000 to enable us to provide a sensory corner where the children can focus on exploring their senses, have another space to relax and enjoy sensory input (sounds, lights, textures).

The children recently went on a trip to the new Asda store at Rushden, took part in a sponsored Easter Egg Hunt around Titchmarsh and have even been doing their own fundraising for the Pre-School!

We have also been offered a grant by the NCC to support us opening for 2 full days per week, 9.15 am – 2.45 pm on Tuesday and Thursday and hope to have this in place shortly.

This year we will be holding our annual Sports Day on the Titchmarsh Primary School field on Friday 29th June.

If you have a child of 2.5 to 5 years old and would like more information about

Pre-School, do please contact us, or call in during session time (09.15 – 11.45 every day, till 12.45 pm on Wednesday and 12.15 pm – 2.45 pm on Thursdays

Clubroom. Unfortunately, due to work-life balance issues, we lost the services of our Cleaner and Caretaker/Bookings Clerk at the end of April; but, hopefully by the time you're reading this we'll be well on the way to recruiting their successors. In the meantime the Committee's thanks go to Katie Waterfield for stepping into the breach and taking on the cleaning duties whilst we carry out the formal, open recruitment process – I'd also like to express my thanks to John Fieldsend and Alan Dexter for covering the caretaking duties during this period.

In an attempt to help potential hirers gain some visibility of when the Clubroom is available, we now display the current and next two months' bookings on the noticeboard outside the Clubroom. Whilst we will endeavour to keep these as up to date as possible they should only be used as a guide to available slots. Until we can confirm the contact details of our new Bookings Clerk any questions about bookings can be directed to me via e-mail to bookings@titchmarsh.info or by phone.

Recently ENDC launched their 'Food Hygiene Star Rating' system aimed at venues that offer facilities to cater for the public. I'm please to announce that the Clubroom scored 4 stars in recognition of the 'high standard of compliance with food safety legislation and robust food safety management' that our kitchen provides.

The Clubroom prides itself that we've been able to hold our hire charges at the same rates for over three years now. We review these every year in light of our running costs and whilst no final decisions have been reached at this time, it is very likely that our charges will need to increase in the Autumn. Progress on this matter will be discussed with our key users and communicated well in advance should any increase be required.

Midsummer Music! There is to be an evening of music on Saturday 23rd June on School Field, starting at 7.30pm, which is being organised by the Playing Field Committee. You will be able to hear live jazz from John Easton and his ensemble and live popular music from Blast from the Past! Paul Cooper will play easy listening music through the evening and the intention is that there will be a dance floor There will also be a bar and a Pimms tent, and the village BBQ will be lit for you to cook your own food. The whole evening will have a 'picnic in the park' feel to it. We just need some sun! There are a limited number of pitches for gazebos at £5 and/or if you would like tickets at £7.50 per person, telephone Gina Gaskin. The Playing Field Committee will be holding their AGM in the Clubroom on Thursday 7th June at 7.30pm, new members always welcome.

Titchmarsh Youth Group. As you may be aware, some adults in Titchmarsh and Clopton got together some time ago to try and put together a plan for a workable youth group in the village. It has taken time, lots of paperwork, finance applications, training sessions, many meetings and an open evening a year ago to now eventually be able to say we have got a start date. This youth group has been created for young people for **YEAR 7 upwards** to attend the Clubroom on alternate Fridays.

We shall aim to incorporate visits to the suggestions that were initially put forward on our questionnaire during the next year. Our start date will be **Friday 8th June 7pm-9pm** in the Clubroom. We will need all those attending to complete a membership form which can be downloaded from the village website which has further details of the group. This form needs to be countersigned by a parent or carer before any young person can attend. There will be a £10 per year membership which will go to the upkeep/purchase of new equipment, hire of hall etc. There will be an admission fee of £2 per session. The £10 membership will be payable from September and will be an annual payment. There will also be a tuck shop during the evenings.

Two further sessions will take place before the end of the school term: 22nd June and 6th July. All membership forms must be signed prior to entry to the Youth Group. Pupils in this year's current YEAR 6 can attend the three sessions in June and July in an attempt to sort out memberships and paperwork prior to the start in September.

We have to thank the Parish Council for their kind donation, the National Lottery for their award and also Nathan Dove for the roller shutter he has donated to secure the youth group's items. Without these donations, we would not be in a position to open the youth group.

We will be putting information, dates and activities on the Titchmarsh village website. For further information please contact Sue Shapland or Alice Dove. For those in Clopton/Thurning please contact Julie Ray. We shall be holding our AGM on 11th July in the Clubroom. All are welcome.

Titchmarsh Walking Group. The Walking Group now has a grand total of 31 members, and following on from the Walking Group's AGM held in April, it has been decided to extend the regular monthly Saturday morning walks to include weekday and weekend walks.

The next Saturday morning walk will be on 16th June, and we shall be strolling around Arthingworth and through the Great Oxendon tunnel. The first weekday walk will take place on Tuesday 19th June, leaving the Dog and Partridge at 5.30pm; going to Polebrook and returning at approximately 9.30pm.

The July Walk will take place on Saturday 14th July, with a guest leader taking us around Yarwell and Nassington.

For more information on the Walking Group, please contact Maggy Chapman mc.chapman@ukonline.co.uk

A Message from the Pridmore family.

Pauline, Andrew, Nick, Kim and all the family would like to thank everybody for their kindness and support over such a sad time after John's sudden death.

Also for everyone's overwhelming generosity as donations have now reached over £900. The money will be forwarded to the Coronary Care Unit at Kettering General Hospital. We hope this will go towards equipment that will help to save someone's life.

Titchmarsh P.C.C.

Benefice Choir. One of the first initiatives to support our new association of parishes is a plan to form a Benefice Choir. David Buswell (who directed the Bradford Choristers as they sang cathedral music throughout the UK and Europe) is leading the formation. It is intended that the choir will sing in Benefice churches on occasions special to the life of each parish. Initially, David wants to mobilise a small core of experienced sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. The two or three rehearsals before each event mean that the commitment shouldn't be too onerous. If you are interested in helping David to get the choir "up and singing", please contact him

Antiques Roadshow. This will be held on Sunday 8th July in the Church at 2.30pm. Tickets will cost £10 and this includes an item for valuation and afternoon tea. Lady Victoria Leatham will be talking about the items and give valuations where possible. This promises to be a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon. Tickets can be purchased from Jean Bussens or anyone else on the PCC.

Rev'd Jim Mynors will be very pleased to meet everyone in Titchmarsh on Saturday 23rd June. He will be in the Clubroom between 10.30 and 12.30, so do pop in and say hello and join us for a cup of tea or coffee. He will be officially Licensed as our incumbent on Monday 18th June in Titchmarsh Church at 7.30pm.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the window cleaning in the church. The north windows are now sparkling and the difference is amazing. It took 10 of us 3 hours to do this work and clear up the mess that was made, but it was well worth it. Also thanks to the intrepid band who set about clearing the churchyard this Spring, watch out for information regarding the Autumn clear up.

Boundary Walk will be held on Sunday 20th May, with the long route leaving the Church at 7.30am, fortified with a wee dram of something nice. The short route will leave the Church at around 10.30am. Julia is walking the long route this year because Sylvia and Terry have volunteered to bring out the refreshments; but have no fear Alan's cakes will still be on offer. Cost as always is £2 for adults and £1 for children; all of this goes to the church.

Titchmarsh Village Shop Project. Refurbishment work started on 10 May and should be finished around the end of June. We were delighted to hear this week that our grant application to Welland SSP, for £20,000 under the Redundant Rural Buildings Scheme, has been approved. This is wonderful news. We expect to sign a contract with Welland on or before 8 June to finalise this.

A big thank you to everyone who came along and supported the hugely successful Open Day & Food Fair on Saturday 19 May. The Youth Committee did a sterling job in completing surveys with many of you to ascertain your views, preferences and likely shopping habits and we are grateful for your input. We will take note of everything you have told us. Many people commented on how much they enjoyed the day and were pleasantly surprised at the quality of potential product lines available for tasting and/or purchasing. Janet Jones' cakes were universally popular!

We sold 77 shares in Titchmarsh Village Shop Association Limited and are delighted at the level of support in evidence. If you would like to buy a share at a cost of £5, please contact Peter James.

TOAwST

Thanks to all the regular 'quaffers' amongst us for your continued support.

The One Year Celebration evening was a great night and all credit to those who prepared the food for the fabulous buffet.

We are meeting on Friday July 20th at 8.00p.m for a South African theme night.

Weather permitting this will be held at Chale Cottage where BBQ food will accompany the wine.

There will be an admission fee of £2.00.

For any further information please phone Jeff and Jo Hunter. Cheers!

Stitchmarsh. Just a reminder to members that there are just two more meetings before the Summer Break, June 13th and June 27th commencing at 7.30pm in the Clubroom. Members are trying their hand at patchwork.

The first meeting after the break will be Wednesday September 12th in the Clubroom.

Project ideas from September will appear in the next copy of the Titchmarsh Times

We are always pleased to welcome new members at our meetings so come along and see what we do.

Or if you want that quiet moment to do your handicraft ? Then you are quite welcome to come along and 'do your own thing'. *Eleanor Greig. Secretary.*

Titchmarsh Local History Group.

For our meeting to be held in the Club Room on Thursday 14th June at 7.30pm we are going back in time to visit

The Vikings in Northamptonshire.

John Brown, a historian from East Hunsbury, will be giving the speaking to us about the Viking era within the County and the influence they had on the culture and landscape.

The cost of the evening will be £2 including refreshments. All are welcome.

For further information contact John Greig.

Finally an Editorial Note.

Mention has been made in the Parish Council section concerning the VACANCY for a Parish Councillor. Having been a member of the Council for many years I was extremely disappointed that we did not have enough candidates for an election, which gives you, the residents of the village, the opportunity to choose your Council. I really hope that people will put themselves forward to fill this vacancy.

The usual thank you to all those who have contributed to this edition and my sincere apologies to those who submitted articles that got missed from the last edition. Probable cause was a Senior Moment combined with a technical hitch.

Please may I have your contributions for the August/September edition at the above address by Friday 20th July at the very latest.

John Greig (Ed).