

Titchmarsh Times

A Bi-Monthly Village Newsletter Produced for Titchmarsh Parish Council

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Parish Council

Ian Curtis. Chairman.

Election: Following the recent ballot, John Greig was elected to serve on the Parish Council. As the previous Chairman, his experience will be most valuable, and we thank him and the three other candidates for their interest in the role. Incidentally, the turnout was nearly 40%, which was apparently exceptional for a Parish Council election. It clearly shows that local democracy is alive and thriving here in Titchmarsh.

Road Safety: As part of our campaign to reduce speeding, we have erected temporary signs in the "hot spots" and had an illuminated speed indicator set up for short periods in the High Street and Islington. The provisional indications are encouraging. The average speed recorded in the High Street was 24.6mph and in Islington, 27.6, and no vehicle went faster than 40 mph. However, whereas only 14% of the vehicles in the High Street were exceeding the 30 mph speed limit, 36% of those in Islington did so. This shows that we still need to urge caution, particularly as the length of daylight shortens.

Roadworks: With the extensive road works through the village, speeding has been something of an academic issue more recently. The Parish Council did not receive notification of the work so we were unable to warn you about it. The work is being undertaken to improve telecommunications and is expected to last until late September. It will necessitate full closure of part of the High Street for a short time but, at the time of writing, we are still awaiting further details.

Waterville Lakes: In the last edition of the Times mention was made of the concerns over access to this area. Following reassurances that access will not be unduly restricted, the campaigning group has decided to take no further action for the time being but will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Parish Plan: As your Council we are keen to hear your views as expressed at the T Day on 26th September and in the subsequent questionnaire. The points you raise are likely to give us a clear agenda for the development of the village over the next few years. So please take this opportunity to make your voice heard.

Other items in brief:

There has recently been further **fly-tipping** in the lane behind Church Street. Thanks to the vigilance of a villager who contacted - and harried - the offending firm, the waste was quickly removed.

An appeal from the prospective developer of **Manor Farm Court** has been received by East Northants Council. We will let you know how this progresses.

A warm welcome to any newcomer to the village. If you have not received your **Welcome Pack**, please contact Jane Teague for a copy. Early reports tell us that new villagers are finding this a very useful resource.

Finally, many congratulations to the Clubroom Committee, especially Pauline Ash, for seeing through the improvements to the **Clubroom** and for the successful reopening event. The splendid new facilities stand in testament to all your hard work. Well done.

Titchmarsh Club Room

Pauline Ash

Well the day finally arrived when we were able to officially re-open the Clubroom, Saturday September 11th 2004. Phil Hope MP performed the official ceremony, cutting the yellow ribbon at the main hall entrance. Everyone then went in side where Ian Curtis gave a super, light hearted speech on behalf of the Chairman and the Clubroom Committee, thanking organisations for funding and individuals who had helped with preparation. Mr Phil Hope gave a short address and then Mr Ron Pinnock Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council and Mrs Pinnock cut the celebratory cake and official guests and village residents then enjoyed a glass or two of wine and some light refreshments and sweets for the children.

Between 80 and 100 people attended and the festivities went on well into the afternoon and a good time was had by all. The hall looked splendid in the sunshine, due to the fantastic roof light windows donated by the VELUX Co and the feeling was that the refurbishment of the hall has been highly successful.

The Committee were pleased that a cousin of former Chairman, the late Raymond Gray, attended the opening and she was highly delighted with the picture of Raymond that now has pride of place along with the picture of Lord Lilford who donated the Clubroom to the village. It was Raymond's wish that Lord Lilford's picture should be displayed in the hall and there were many comments that Raymond would have been so proud and delighted with the results of the refurbishment.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone that helped at the opening ceremony but particularly Jean Dexter who stayed tucked away in the background. Jean does not like to be centre stage but without her help organising the buffet, teas etc things would not have run as smoothly as they did. Many thanks Jean and your band of helpers.

I have still got about 12 months work to do before the project is completed as the organisations that funded the project now require feedback and monitoring of use to be undertaken, but now the hall is open the pressure is off and hopefully things will run smoothly from now on.

We hope to have our Clubroom Annual General Meeting sometime in October or early November and we would be delighted to welcome everyone to come along. I will let you know the exact date through the Website and by posters in the village. The Committee would welcome new members and if anyone is interested in joining the committee please contact the Chairman Mr Bert Ash

Titchmarsh Flower and Vegetable Show - As usual the Annual Show was blessed with wonderful weather. Many came to look at and admire the numerous entries and the competition was fierce. Mr Chris Bletsoe did sterling work at the auction, which raised just over £300 and a good time was had by all. Sadly Mrs Bette McTigue, who has been actively involved with the Show for 23 years is now retiring. Bette joined the Horticultural Show in 1981 as Assistant Secretary then rose in ranks to Secretary in 1984 and has done an admirable job over the years. The Show Committee extend their heartfelt thanks to her for her hard work and dedication and I am sure all our Show visitors and Judges would join us in wishing her all the best for the future. Sharon Corbin Treasurer.

Skittles Team - The Titchmarsh Skittles Team is based at the Dog & Partridge. We play all year around with the playing season running from September to April each year. We meet on Monday night at 8 pm in the Dog & Partridge. We are in the 1st Division of the Islip District League, which involves home and away matches. We are always looking for new members and Team spirit comes above player ability. Team shirts are also provided, courtesy of JAC Windows. So if you are interested please come along on a Monday night. Further information from Mark Noakes, D & P Skittles Captain.

Folk Dancing in Titchmarsh – Titchmarsh Folk Dance Club meet on Monday evenings at the Clubroom to promote and teach all forms of Country Dancing in a light hearted manner. It's a sociable evening and you do not need to bring a partner. Just turn up for our weekly session from 8pm – 10pm in the Clubroom. Cost £1, first night free. Contact John Fieldsend

Ladybirds Toddler Group. A reminder that Ladybirds will now meet in the Club Room from 2.00 to 3.15pm every Monday. So come along, meet new friends for a play and a chat. Toddlers, please bring an adult! For further information contact Kate Eve.

Titchmarsh School.

Mrs J. Milton. Acting Headteacher

The new academic year has already begun in earnest. The children have settled well into their new classes. We are already planning our Harvest Festival, which will be held in our School Hall on Wednesday 13th October at 9.15am.

The children will be attending church services on the following Tuesday mornings at 9.15am – 28th September, 19th October, 16th November and 7th December. Do feel welcome to join us.

FOTS Input

The Friends of Titchmarsh School have held their first meeting of the new academic year and are now planning and arranging events for 2004/5. The first date is for our Halloween Party which is to be held in the Club Room on Friday 22nd October from 6.30pm until 8pm. Entry is 50p unless you come in fancy dress and then entry is free. Hotdogs and other refreshments will be available.

We are also undertaking another Bag2School collection. Any unwanted items of clothing, bedding, curtains, shoes, belts, etc can be collected and recycled for the benefit of the school. The date for the collection will be 18th November but you will receive your blue bags sometime during the week before – so start your clearing out now.....

The Spring Ball has been booked for Saturday 23rd April 2005. Dates for the Beetle Drive and our annual Quiz night will be notified in the next edition.

Titchmarsh Draw.

August's draw took place in the D&P. The four winners of £15 were Mrs Fairbrother (67), Duncan Williams (37), Lisa Law (123) and Julian Hawkins (93).

September's draw took place in the Wheatsheaf and the winners for this month were Pauline Gambrell (129), Viv White (018), Emma Cooper (126) and Julie Ray (120).

Well done to all. The next draw is to take place on October 1st in the D&P at 7pm.

The Titchmarsh draw has been going on now for almost a year during which time we have had two jackpot winners of £555. It is therefore time for the renewal or purchase of tickets for 2005. All those who have a ticket for 2004 will soon receive a letter regarding this renewal or if you wish to join the Titchmarsh Draw, please contact Mary Cheney or Sue Shapland.

Playing Fields Committee News.

Caroline Thompson

Sunday Fun Day on the Playing Fields. A good crowd of children, with their families in tow, joined us for games, fun fair rides, teas and hot dogs on Sunday 12th September. The tents remained firmly on the ground in spite of the wind and the rain held off until we finished. It was really enjoyable to see so many people taking part and using the playing fields. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the day.

Autumn Dance: Saturday 9th October. The nights may be drawing in but here's the chance to get a party together and enjoy the music. Come and enjoy the '**Madhouse**' disco experience, with full bar and buffet supper. Tickets are on sale now, at only £6.50, from any member of the committee.