

Titchmarsh Times

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

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Parish Council.

Village of the Year. The results are now in ...and they are a big disappointment. Our high hopes of success were dashed by the judges. We scored highly in sections such as "Building community life" and "General impression". We also had a "wow factor" of 90%, but we scored less well on what is provided for younger and older people. Our disappointment was to some extent reduced by the news that a local village, Brigstock, was judged the overall winner, breaking the seeming stranglehold on the competition by villages in the west of the county.

Appearance of the village. Thanks again to the many of you who continue to work so hard to keep the village looking its best. You will have noticed that the District Council has been active in tidying up gutters and pavements, although some of the roads remain in a poor state. Will you be kind enough to check your own hedges to make sure that shrubs and trees are not hanging over footpaths or roadways?

Footpaths. Our Footpath Wardens team has alerted the County Council to the condition of some of the footpaths. As a result the keen walkers among you will be aware of the repairs that have been made to several stiles and bridges.

Help needed. Northamptonshire Association for the Blind (NAB) is looking for volunteers to support the local Oundle branch in its work. If you feel that you can help in any way, please contact NAB direct on 01604 716044 or the Parish Clerk, Jane Teague, for details.

Help offered. East Northants Voluntary Action is offering free advice to pensioners on a range of benefits. Interested? Then ring (01832) 273013 for further information or, again, contact Jane Teague.

Parents, do you know where your children are? Recently there has been a spate of mischievous and irresponsible behaviour in the village, some of which – such as tampering with cars – is potentially dangerous. The police are aware of the problem, but we hope that a reminder from parents will see an end to this mindless nuisance.

Village News and Events

The Mobile Library. The dates for the mobile library are 10th & 24th Oct and 7th & 21st November. The times have changed very slightly and we have also lost one of our stops. In future it will be in Drydens Close between 11.25am and 11.40am, and in St Andrews Lane between 11.45am and 12 O'clock. The library has now been computerised and all users will be issued with a card that can also be used at any of the other libraries in the area.

We have already lost one of our regular stops - please support this facility before we lose any more !

Pip Blowfield.

Titchmarsh Club Room Committee.

Don't forget the **Murder Mystery Night** on Saturday 15th October at 7.30pm. More information will be placed shortly on posters around the village with further details, and a flyer will be delivered to your door nearer to the date.

Thrapston Amateur Dramatics (TADS) will be undertaking the acting so you will not need to worry about dressing the part or anything else except coming along and enjoying the evening. A bar and light refreshments will be available and prizes for the winners who correctly guess the name of the guilty party. Please come along and support this event.

Another date for your diary, Saturday 28th January, when we will be having an **Old Time Music Hall Revue** at the Club Room. I know it seems a long way off but we have to book these events well in advance.

The **Club Room Annual General Meeting** will be held in the hall on Tuesday 11 October 05 at 7.30 p.m. and all are welcome. There are vacancies on the Committee, as Bert Ash Chairman, Pauline Ash Committee Member and Lucy Milner Secretary are not standing for re-election. The Committee now needs support from new members, so if you are new to the village or have lived here all your life, now is the time to offer your services and make a contribution to village life.

Pauline Ash. Committee Member.

Friends of Titchmarsh School (FOTS).

The FOTS have held their AGM for the 2005/6 school year and a new committee has been elected. We are now planning and arranging events for 2005/6.

The first date is for our **Halloween Party** which is to be held in the Club Room on Friday 21st 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 from the village will be Monday 7th November but you will receive your blue bags sometime during the week before – so start your clearing out now.

We are also planning to organise a **Bingo afternoon and a Quiz**. Once the dates and venue have been confirmed we shall let you know when they will take place. *Sue Shapland.*

Titchmarsh Draw.

The August draw took place in the Wheatsheaf. The four £15 winners were: Liz Knivett – 031, Pat Hitchings – 118; B. Harrell – 19; P. Montague.

The September draw also took place in the Wheatsheaf and the winners of £15 each were Mrs Caves – 132; Pat Hitchings – 118; Lynn Tetley – 20; and Helen Nicholls – 003.

All winners will be notified as soon as possible after each draw and details of winners will also be posted in the Titchmarsh Times. We shall be distributing renewal reminders for 2006 Titchmarsh Draw sometime during November and hope you will feel able to continue your support for the benefit of Titchmarsh Primary School and Titchmarsh Church.

Re-cycling. Having trouble with your Green Box overflowing? Since the introduction, of the now fortnightly collections, of the contents of the Green Box we seem, in our household, to generate too much re-cyclable waste for the box to hold. Having spoken to East Northamptonshire Council concerning this matter Green Box waste may be placed in any additional container so long as it is clearly marked.

JG(Ed.)

“Titchmarsh Past and Present”.

The first edition of the book *Titchmarsh Past and Present* was written and published by Helen Belgion in 1979. The book was produced to show what the present day inhabitants of Titchmarsh owe to past generations, what a wealth of detailed information can be discovered about the story of an agricultural village, how it was affected by national crises and how some of its leading figures were important in the affairs of Northamptonshire and the whole of the country.

That first edition sold out almost two decades ago, but the copyright was purchased by Marlow Durndell and a second edition was published subsequently in 1990 (ISBN 1873407009). Although most copies of the second edition were sold to locals, some found their way to remote parts of the UK as well as overseas. To the best of our knowledge, there are now only a handful of new copies remaining of the second edition. Most of these are likely to be held in stock by Amazon, the online book retailer, so if anyone wants a new one, there's still just a chance. The book can be purchased online from www.amazon.co.uk.

There are currently no plans to reprint this book.

Andrew Marlow

Harvest Time.

The fields around us have had their crops ripen, been collected and stored for use.

There will be an opportunity to thank God for the harvest at a **Songs of Praise Service** at 11.00am on the 2nd October at church and then afterwards in the Club Room for lunch and auction of produce. The service will be led by Rev. Alan Smith. The auctioneer will be Mr Michael Bletsoe. Any donations of produce can be taken to the church on Saturday or brought with you on Sunday.

Get you tickets in advance, £5 adults and £2 children. Remember to bring your own cutlery.

Julia Powell.

Repair of the Chancel Roof.

We are pleased to let everyone know that the final part of the restoration of the eastern end of the church can go ahead. The church has been given an English Heritage Grant of £50,000 which now has to be matched by a similar amount from us in the village for the work to reach completion. The PCC were very encouraged by a recent generous gift towards this by the Titchmarsh Flower and Produce Show Committee. Suggestions on ways in which this money can be raised would be warmly welcomed.

The Quiz Night

This event to assist Church funds, will be held on Saturday 19th November in the Club Room. The same format will apply, teams of 8, with a Supper and Bubbly in the interval. There will be a bar with beers and wines; and Duncan as the quizmaster. Book your places now.

Titchmarsh School.

The children and staff have settled into the new academic year. We are already planning our **Harvest Festival**, which will be held in our school hall on 12th October at 9.15am.

The children will be attending church services with Canon Richard Ormston on the following Tuesday mornings at 9.15am on 4th and 18th October, 1st and 15th November.

To get the Christmas festivities started, we will be holding our annual **Christmas Bazaar** in the school hall on Thursday 1st December, from 3.00 to 4.30. Proceeds go to the Titchmarsh School Funds. Do feel free to join us for all these events!

Our new school building development to improve accessibility and facilities is now underway. We already have improved access into our hall for wheelchair users and prams. If you wish to view the plans please contact the school.

Mrs J Milton. Headteacher

New Village Calendar.

The Titchmarsh Village Calendar is being produced for 2006 by John Gaskin. Whatever profits are made will be for the benefit of the Playing Field where about £35,000 has to be raised over the next few years towards the cost of a new pavilion.

The subject of the calendar for next year will be village organisations and John is taking photographs of twelve of these committees. The members will be seen in other than a typical committee meeting pose and, hopefully, the calendars will raise some smiles in the village!

The calendars, which will be A4 size with double columns for the dates, will be priced at £7 each. It would be really helpful for John to know numbers required so as to match the printing run and costs as far as possible to the number of calendars required. If anyone would like to order calendars, which should be available at the end of October, please give John a call. No money is required until the calendars are collected.

Playing Field Committee.

The drizzle and a crucial day's play in The Ashes resulted in a low turnout for the Fun Day on the Playing Field. For those that did make it a range of games and refreshments were enjoyed along with the mini fun fair. The highlight of the afternoon was the games of Football Rounders which gave everyone, from six to sixty, a good run around. Many thanks from the committee to FOTS for their support and from everyone who donated cakes for the event.

As the evenings draw in it's time to fix a date for our **Autumn Disco** on Saturday October 22nd, on the theme of the *Battle of Trafalgar*, supported by music from 'Super Cooper'. Happy hour from 8.30 - 9.30pm with food and dancing all evening, tickets £7 from any committee member or ring Caroline.

Carols around the Christmas tree.

I know that Christmas seems a long way away but it now time to plan for our annual "get together" for carols on Christmas Eve, at 7pm, around our village tree.

Ever since we have had a tree it has been my lot to lead this gathering. I think that it is now time that some other secular person who can at least sing should take on this role and possibly put in a bit of professionalism. If you think you can help please call me. *John Greig*

News from the Dog and Partridge.

After a longer than expected period of refurbishment the 'spick and span' D&P is now open. The full food menu will be available from Friday 30th September.

The ever popular **Quiz Nights** will continue, the first being on Sunday 16th October followed by Sunday 13th November.

Look out for more information concerning the **Elvis Tribute Night** to be held on Thursday 17th November.

Andy & Lee

Finally.

Thank you, to all who have contributed to this edition. We seem to be missing contributions from some of the other village groups. Lets hear from everyone.

For the December/January 2006 "Christmas Special" please may I have your copy at the above address by **Friday, 18th November?** That day is the very latest. *JG (Ed.)*