

Lt. Thetford Newsletter.



Dec. 2011/Jan 2012

*Items for the next newsletter to Mrs. J. Staines 38 The Wyches, by Jan 15th please.
Copy may also be e-mailed to jennifer.staines@btinternet.com.*

Little Thetford Baptist Chapel.

*"For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah Chapter 9 verse 6.*

Sunday 4th December at 10.30am
All Age Service with Holy Communion

Sunday 1st January
No Service

Sunday 11th December at 5pm
Christmas Tree Service with the Salvation Army
And Songsters.

Sunday 8th January at 10.30am
All Age Service with Holy Communion

Sunday 18th December at 10.30am
All Age Service

Sunday 15th January at 10.30am
All Age Service

Saturday 24th December at 6pm
'Journey to Bethlehem.'
Starting at the Chapel and finishing at
St. George's with mince pies and refreshments.

Sunday 22nd January at 10.30am
All Age Service

Sunday 25th December
No Service

Sunday 29th January at 10.30am
All Age Service

Church Fellowship Group: Thursdays at 7pm. Venue: Tudor & Karen's 3, Chapel Close. Tel.
648082

Community Coffee Mornings:

Monday 12th December at 10am

'Christmas Special' Coffee Morning

Wednesday 8th January at 10am Coffee Morning **Wednesday 22nd January at 10am** Coffee Morning

You don't have to attend the Chapel to come along! All are welcome to join us for cakes, coffee and conversation. Even if you come alone, a warm welcome is guaranteed!

We would encourage all in the village to join in any of the services at either the Chapel or St. George's this Christmas.

The Waterbeach Salvation Army and Songsters will lead our Tree Service this year. Once again all donations kindly given will be passed to the Emmaus Community Companions at Landbeach. All welcome to join us for an evening of Christmas Hymns and Carols.



Christmas and New Year at St Georges' Church

Christmas Fair, Saturday 3rd December 12.00-4pm, Village Hall
Please note that Sunday times vary slightly.

December

* Sunday 4th, 9.30am, Morning Praise

* Sunday 11th, 5pm – 6pm,
Christingle with Little Thetford Primary School

* Sunday 18th, 3pm – 4pm,
Carols by Candlelight

* Christmas Eve, 6pm
Journey to Bethlehem, starting at the Baptist Chapel, singing carols in the village, then on to St George's, ending with mince pies.

* Christmas Day, 9.30am,

a short family service with Holy Communion.

January

*Sunday 1st at 9.30am Morning Praise

*Sunday 8th at 11am

United Plough Sunday at St James Church, Stretham, followed by Bring and Share Lunch together

*Sunday 15th at 9.30am Holy Communion

*Sunday 22nd at 9.30am Morning Praise

+Sunday 29th at 9.30am Holy Communion

Enquiries about weddings and baptisms to Rev Margaret Harper 01353 645128

A Happy and Peaceful Christmas to Everyone in Little Thetford

The Friends of St Georges

Adam Hayward, the stonemason, has now started repairing the walls at the rear of the Church. This is important work and involves repointing and replacing stonework, some of it previously poorly repaired, and which was allowing water to enter the building. This is the first stage of the repairs that we need to carry out and will cost over £6,500. We will need to raise more funds before we can complete the repairs which includes the major work to the south west window of the nave. Some folk have already very kindly donated money towards this but there is some way to go yet. We will be holding more fund raising events in the New Year and advertise them in this Newsletter. Please support us if you are able to.

St. Georges Christmas Bazaar:- Date:- Saturday 3rd. December 12.00 noon until 4.00pm. All the usual stalls, i.e. Cakes, Bric-a-Brac, Tombola, Grand Draw, Knitted items, Book Stall, Provisions (jams and Chutneys) Woodturning items, Jewelry, Hot Lunches, Teas, and various games for both adults and children. Any offers of help please to either Ruth Drewry or Trisha Shaw. Hope to see you there.

A.M. PEASE

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Village Hall - Trustee (Treasurer) wanted!!

The current Treasurer of the village hall is resigning his Trusteeship at the end of this year. A new Treasurer is urgently needed from January. The Treasurer will also be a Trustee of the registered charity that administers the Hall. The post is not onerous although clearly exactness and precision in accounting and organising finances are essential to satisfy the requirements of our auditor and the Charity Commission, so some experience in accounting/book keeping would be useful. If you think you could help the Village Hall in this way and might be prepared to become a Trustee and the Treasurer (or you know of someone) please do call or Email me - Robert Bullen (Chair of Trustees) on (01353) 649268, robert.bullen1@tesco.net

New recycling centre for East Cambridgeshire opens

The new state of the art recycling centre at Witchford near Ely opened on Thursday 3 November. This new Cambridgeshire County Council facility has replaced the old open air site at Grunty Fen. The new centre is open from 9-6, seven days a week with a late night opening until 7pm on Wednesdays to make it even easier for you to recycle. It will be under cover so you can use it in all weathers, and split-level which means you won't have to climb steps to deposit your waste.

The centre, run by AmeyCespa on behalf of the County Council, will offer lots of opportunities to recycle everyday household items from paper, glass and plastic bottles, to less commonplace items like cooking oil, paint and electrical goods.

For more information on the new recycling centre and what you can do to reduce waste going to landfill, go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/recycling and follow the links.

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HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM ONE OF YOUR COUNCILLORS.

Bill Hunt would like to wish all the residents of Aldreth, Haddenham, Little Thetford, Stretham, Wentworth, Wilburton and Witchford a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

It has been a real pleasure representing you during 2011 and I hope that 2012 contains more that is hopeful and positive and less that is troublesome and downbeat.

All the very best for a restful and enjoyable period full of Christmas joy.

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Little Thetford Acorns are enjoying a busy time; we have many planned activities and fundraising events over the next couple of months, along with all the normal excitement of the Christmas season. The children are busy learning all about 'Pets' and 'Different Seasons' this term, planting bulbs for the spring and creating decorations for their homes. We created a poppy to place in St Georges Church, ready for Remembrance Sunday which was lovely to see, along with joining in the fun with Pudsey Bear for Children in Need.

We have a Malaysian day planned, where Kelly a member of staff and the children will be making spring rolls and rice ready for our snack, along with wonderful Malaysian costumes and music. Our Christmas trip will be to Wicken Fen again where the children have a fantastic time enjoying all the different activities and meeting Santa. They'll also have the opportunity to meet him again at our 'Breakfast with Santa' on the 11th December.

Our final few days of term will be the Christmas Concert and Party to keep us all very busy!

Our Out of School Club is keeping very busy too, our October Holiday Club was our most successful Holiday Club to date and we already have enquiries for February, which will run w/c 13.2.12.

Thank you to everyone that supported the 'Pumpkin Party' and 'Shopping Evening' both were a huge success and very enjoyable for all that attended.

LTA would also like to thank everyone for their kind donations towards the bottle collection, held in the village recently, donations went towards the 'Tombola' for the 'Ely Lighting up Night' held on 25th November, thank you to those who came along -it's nice to see a friendly face when you've stood out in the cold for so long!

We are also encouraging everyone to help us raise funds using the 'Easy Fundraising' website -
www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Please take a look it's easy to use; we are on there as 'Little Thetford Acorns' just click on us and then the chosen retailer you wish to buy from (there's hundreds on there, including all the high street names) and we receive a percentage of your total order with no extra cost to you.

With many people now choosing to buy online this is a great way for us to raise funds for equipment and the little extras we need from time to time.

It just leaves us to say - we wish everyone a very
'MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR'

For enquiries about our services please do not hesitate
to contact us -

01353 649234 or admin@littlethetfordacorns.org.uk or
via our website www.littlethetfordacorns.org.uk

West Area Neighbourhood Panel Update

Neighbourhood Panels are your opportunity to tell agencies working in your area what you would like to see improved and will ultimately make your locality a better place to live. The last West Area Neighbourhood Panel meeting was held on Monday 24th October 2011 and amongst other things, reported back on what we've been doing to address some of your issues of concern including:

**Parking on double yellows (especially in Haddenham) and Obstructive Parking on pavements generally.
Tackle speeding across panel area to include results of activity and provide support to the Speedwatch to encourage its continuation**

Straw and aggregate lorries on roads in breach of agreements and road safety issues

Some of the issues you have asked us to address next

- Improve the state of rural roads, especially in Coveney, Lt. Downham and Pymoor
- Take action on overgrown hedging along the A10 cycle path at Little Thetford
- Provide information on environmental pollution in Stretham
- Address parking issues down Cowslip Drive and Orchid Close, Little Thetford
- To investigate fly tipping at Mepal and Sutton roundabout (Witcham Road)
- Investigate drugs activity in Haddenham
- Address parking issues outside Stretham Primary School Ely Road, Stretham

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- Prevent litter in bus stop on Ely Road, Stretham (Red Lion Square)
- Investigate access issues for emergency vehicles and bin lorries in Carpond Lane, Wilburton

Priorities for Action

The Panel agreed that the priorities for the 3 months to the end of December should be:

- To investigate drugs activity in Haddenham.
- To tackle neighbourhood nuisance and anti-social behaviour in Little Downham
- Improving the state of rural roads, especially in Coveney, Lt. Downham and Pymoor
- Providing information and joint partnership approach to environmental pollution issues in Stretham

If you would like to raise an issue of concern, but are unable to come to the next Panel meeting, please contact your local Neighbourhood Panel representative or contact Lewis Bage, Project Officer, on 01353 665555.

The next Panel meeting is on:-**Monday 23rd January 2012 at 7.00 – 9.00pm at Little Thetford Village Hall**
 And the following meeting is on **Monday 16th April 2012 at Witcham Village Hall**

For further up-to-date information on the East Cambs Neighbourhood Panels use N in the A-Z section of the East Cambridgeshire District Council website: www.eastcambs.gov.uk

Little Thetford Netball Club.

Bert's Christmas Bingo - Friday 2nd December - Little Thetford Village Hall - Eyes Down 7.30pm
 Raffle and great prizes.

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Parish Council

On Remembrance Sunday a wreath from the Parish Council was placed on the War Memorial along with others from the village.

At recent meetings information on Community Land Trusts (CLT) has been received from Cllr Roberts of Stretham and is being considered. A CLT is being set up to cover the Stretham and Wilburton Parishes and Lt. Thetford has been invited to join with this. A CLT is a non-profit, community based organisation run by local volunteers that develops housing or other assets at permanently affordable levels for long term community benefit. Find more information on www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk Cllr Hunt has reported on the proposed 50mph speed limit on the A10 .

A petition containing 61 signatures was received at the October meeting asking the PC to revisit the question of setting up temporary bike/scooter ramps on the open land in Holt Fen. The P.C. agreed to do this for a 6 week trial period during the school summer holidays 2012. Costs for other projects for this age group are being investigated.

The results of the questionnaire set up by East Cambs. District Council, Lt. Thetford Village Vision, have been received – unfortunately only 33 people responded - the results can be found on the ECDC website. The Right Hon Jim Paice M.P. attended in November for a tree planting ceremony on Holt Fen – thank you to all who attended this event and to our MP.

Several parishioners as well as people from outside the village have expressed concern about cars for sale being parked on the grass at the A10 junction – this is not acceptable practice as this is a distraction to motorists at this road junction. The police do have powers to have them removed and will use them.

The external auditors report has been received reporting no areas of concern. The proposed precept for 2012/13 has been set at £13,250. Planning Applications have been received and responded to for two properties in Main Street and a further application for land on the A10 will be considered at the next P.C. meeting on December 12th.



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The Village Newsletter

Many residents and readers of our Newsletter will know this newsletter depends on the goodwill of many people. Secretaries or officers from the various organisations send in their news, it is collated and printed and then a team of volunteers delivers it free of charge to your homes. Our treasurer collects in a small subscription from the local organisation and our advertisers every year to pay for the photocopying which the village school kindly allows.

The first Newsletter was published in April 1974 and has been delivered to homes in Lt. Thetford every two months since then. The method of production may have changed, the early ones were done in a much more labour intensive way! I wasn't involved at the beginning but have had some role to play in it for over 30 years and I feel that it is a great credit to the village to have kept it going for so long in such a relaxed yet informative way. Copies of each edition are archived at the County Library so it will become a historical documentation of life in Lt. Thetford. As well as the method of production changing we have moved into the age of technology with each edition now being published on the village website so if you mislay or recycle your paper copy there is no excuse for not knowing what is going on!

One thing that must be made clear is that if information is not received it cannot be published – again that is so much easier now with electronic mail but hard copies are just as acceptable. The date never changes the deadline is always the 15th of January, March, May, July, September & November. So a reminder to local organisations - we ask that each item is no more than 250 words in length and it about what will be happening for the coming two months.

On behalf of the readers - Thank You to all who regularly support the publication of our newsletter whether it be by sending in news, delivering the newsletters, placing an advertisement, collecting the subscriptions or adding it to the website.

Finally to you all

*Seasons Greetings and all good wishes
for the year 2012*



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