

Little Thetford Newsletter.

August 2015/Sept. 2015

Little Thetford Fitness Classes
at the Village Hall:
Tuesday Evenings:
Boxercise & Kettlebells 7pm
Powerhoop & Kettlebells 8pm
07983440187
Taniafitness.com
taniamcquilkin@hotmail.co.uk

Items for the next Newsletter covering Oct./Nov. 2015 should be with the editor Mrs. J. Staines no later than Sept.15th please, jennifer.staines@btinternet.com or 38 The Wyches.

St. George's Church.

Jesus said 'I am the Light of the World' 'If you follow me you will not be stumbling through darkness'.

August.

Sunday 2nd 0930 Morning Praise. Preacher John Marshall.

Sunday 9th 1030 Family service 'Songs of Praise' with the band. Do join us for a joyous sing.

Sunday 16th 0930 Morning Praise. Leader Claire McGinley

Sunday 23rd 1030 Holy Communion. Preacher Canon Lin

Sunday 30th Team Churches Service at St. Mary's, Ely 0900 or

September.

Sunday 6th 0930 Morning Praise. Preacher John Marshall.

Sunday 13th 1030 Family Service. Leader Claire McGinley.

Sunday 20th 0930 Morning Praise. Preacher John Marshall.

Sunday 27th 1030 Holy Communion. Preacher Rev Alan Jessor

Neil Cutforth
Architectural Design and Planning
Services
Extensions, Loft and Garage
Conversions
30 years local experience.
Tel: 01353 649600

After all our services we have a time of Fellowship and chat over Coffee and Biscuits. Everyone is very welcome at any of our services and events during the week, we are very informal.

Tuesday 6-7pm Informal Hymn singing and band practice. Do join us if you enjoy a good sing song or play any instrument.

Wednesday mornings 08:45 - 10:30am we shall be running a Coffee and Chat time for anyone of any age to call in a have a coffee. Stephen and Rachel will be there for informal chat.
Starting from 7th September.

Wednesday 3pm 'Messy Church' for children and families. Bible Crafts, Cakes and Fun! **Restarts 7th September.**

Thursday 6-7.30pm during Term Time. Brigade for school age girls and boys. Craft, Badge work, Camp, hand Bell ringing, WiFi studies and much more. New members very welcome. Please contact Captain Jane Dunseath 01353 649232.

'Dragon Club' for adults. 2.30 - 4.30 Talks, quizzes, games,

Link Decorating.
Painting & Decorating.
Wallpapering.
Ceramic wall and floor tiling.
Coving.
Contact Simon on
Tel. 01353 648497 or 07596454345
www.linkdecorating.co.uk

Tea and Cake and Chat.

Tuesday 18th August.

Talk from Age Concern about their work.

Tuesday 15th September.

'Flower Arranging' with Jennifer Bedford.

We now have WiFi installed for the Young people to use at Brigade and Messy Church activities. The young people have worked very hard fundraising for this and grateful thanks for all donations.

The Church is having a 'Gift Day' on **Saturday 26th September 10am - 3pm**. The Church costs about £275.00 a week to run and like all establishments we are finding it hard to make ends meet. This amount covers Mission work, Clergy costs, Utilities and upkeep of this Historic Building. We shall be delivering envelopes nearer the time for any gifts which can be delivered to the Church on 26th or put in the wall safe at any other time. The Village Church is always open during daylight hours, do come a look around.

For enquiries about Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals please contact Rev Chris Hill 01353 662308 or

revchill@stmarysely.org. St. George's Church is now on Twitter @stgeorgeslt and 'A Church near you' website.

Little Thetford Social Club

Summer Nights continue with the awesome 'Jersey Boys' on **Saturday August 22nd** & 'The Lonely' on **Saturday 26th September...** Fantastic nights of live music, dancing & BBQ in the garden arena.

Tickets just £10 available from the club.

LITTLE THETFORD VILLAGE HALL (*registered charity 105086*)

Chairman's report - AGM 25 June 2015

End of year (31 December 2014) accounts show total income for the year of twelve and a half thousand pounds, one thousand two hundred pounds up on the previous year, against expenditure of nearly eleven thousand eight hundred. Maintenance and improvement costs were half of the previous year's total however, whereas income from staged events was the same. During the year Trustees agreed to the necessity of reducing the deposits by a further £1,000. I make no further comment on the year's accounts or on the current financial situation and leave that to our new Treasurer, Peter Frew, who I now formally welcome onto the Board of Trustees with the grateful thanks of us all for taking on the role following the sudden resignation of the previous Treasurer. Fund raising events sponsored by the Trustees were an Easter egg hunt, table top sale, a fashion show and a barn dance with "*Fen Blow*". Events so far in this calendar year include a very successful 'gig' by "*The Lonely*" rock band. The hall has maintained its position as the venue for Parish Council meetings and the internationally known "Ely Guild of Wood Turners" as well as for various other local organisations both from within and outside the village, including "Women's Institute", ladies fitness classes, children's dance classes, "Campaign Amateur Theatre" rehearsals, "Playright Children's Theatre" performances and since March weekly term time Mums & Toddlers sessions run by "Little Thetford Acorns". Witchford Amateur Dramatic Society and "Dog Sense" (a dog sensory training organisation) are amongst other groups using the hall on an *ad hoc* basis and as it has for many years the hall continues to sponsor the weekly Post Office. An indication of the appreciation of the hall by the community is, I believe, the increase in hirings for children's birthday parties and hardly a week goes by without one such event or similar.

As already noted, John House resigned as both Treasurer and Trustee earlier this year and Peter Frew came onto the Board and a new Parish Councillor, Trevor Dickenson, joined the Board as a Parish Council nominee following the May elections.

Hot air hand driers have been purchased (although not yet installed) for the kitchen and disabled toilet and to

improve the provision in the ladies. Trustees have discussed informally the possibility of implementing a different system for hot water supply to all toilets which would be more economical in the long term and it is hoped that definite plans for that and other improvement projects will be forthcoming within this calendar year as finances may permit. Trustees have continued to seek economies in maintenance and running costs without reducing services or standards or having to raise fees, although some slight adjustments have been made recently and the scale of fees charged to users will continue to be kept under review. A cleaner is employed for three hours a week but all other caretaking and maintenance tasks not requiring professional expertise are undertaken on a voluntary basis by Trustees who also make regular donations of their own equipment, abilities & finances. A water leak, which before it was discovered in April, resulted in a considerable charge by Anglia Water for 'lost' water although a rebate for most of the cost has been received; the leak was finally repaired through the good offices of a Trustee at a fraction of the cost that might otherwise have occurred.

Together with the Parish Council, the Sports & Social Club and Little Thetford Acorns, the Village Hall remains a stakeholder in the Parish recreational facilities situated on "Oakfield".

A number of Trustees have indicated their wish to stand down from the Board over the next year or so, and in particular your Chairman who has been stating this for several years and I now give notice that, if elected from this meeting, it will be the last year that I shall serve. This is

no longer a threat but a definite statement of intent; this Trustee will not serve, in any capacity, after the AGM next year. Over the preceding years appeals have been repeatedly made at the Annual Parish Meeting, through the pages of the village newsletter as well as in informal conversations for other Parishioners to become executive Trustees. The necessity for such in the next twelve months is now a reality.

"Responsible 16 year old from the village, good with children, available for babysitting. Please contact Isobel 07508656278."

Robert Bullen 25th. June 2015

Little Thetford Social Club's Summer Nights continue with the awesome 'Jersey Boys' **on Saturday August 22nd & 'The Lonely' on Saturday 26th September.....** Fantastic nights of live music, dancing & BBQ in the garden arena... Tickets just £10 available from the club....

LITTLE THETFORD WI

The next main meeting of the WI is on **September the 7th 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. One of the members will be recalling her experiences as a choral singer.

The meeting in **October is the 5th** same time and venue when there will be a demonstration of Theatrical Make-up.

For further information please contact Christine Bullen on 01353 649 268

Parish Council

A.M. PEASE
Taxi Service, Ely.
07802 507862
Airports – Seaports
All Long Distance Work

At its meeting on 13 July, Alison Kilby, having offered her services and declared she was eligible, was co-opted to the Council as the seventh Councillor; the Council now has its full complement of Councillors. Parishioners are reminded that Parish Council meetings, usually held on the second Monday of each month in the Village Hall are open meetings at which the public may attend the whole meeting and speak on matters on the agenda. The agenda and other details are posted on the village noticeboard.

The condition of the cycle path into Ely is still causing concern and the Council is doing its best to work with other agencies to have it improved although little progress is being made at this time despite constant urging by Councillors.

The “Keep Britain Tidy – *'We're watching you'* campaign” against dog fouling had been investigated by a Councillor who reported that involvement in the scheme is costly and Council decided the Parish does not have the finances to enter the scheme unilaterally. Dog fouling in the village remains a problem and residents are again urged to please clear up after their dogs and not to leave the bags lying around but to put them in the dog bins provided around the village. A replacement bin for the one destroyed by vandalism in Cowslip Drive is still awaited from ECDC.

Councillors had no objections to a planning application for a wooden structure to form a short-term 'granny' annex convertible long-term to a garage to the rear of “The Acacias” on Ely Road.

Approval was given for a new memorial for an ashes burial plot in the cemetery. Concern was expressed at the manner in which graves are currently being prepared and the Cemetery working group will meet to review the cemetery regulations.

As a trial the safety and condition of the play area and equipment has been monitored for the last three months by qualified inspectors from ECDC who are reporting monthly to the PC. Councillors were satisfied that the system is working well and a contract to continue will be entered into with ECDC and the Clerk will investigate having the District Council's approved contractor carry out minor repairs as highlighted by the inspections. Unfortunately a discarded flick-knife had been found and removed by the ECDC inspector at his last visit;

MJS Gardening Services.

**24 The Wyches. Lt. Thetford
649795 or mobile 07747864303.**

**Patios, Decking, Turfing,
Garden Maintenance.
Fencing & Odd Jobs.**

this has now been reported to the police. The play area is visited regularly by Councillors who monitor its use and condition but Parishioners are urged to be extra vigilant when using the play area and to inform Councillors of any unsociable behaviour or report to police on 101 if severe.

Councillors approved the payment of an additional premium to increase its public liability insurance from £6m to £10m.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will **provisionally be on Thursday 20 August** (not the second Monday) reverting to its normal pattern on **14 September**.

Coach day excursions and short breaks

direct from Little Thetford.
Contact: Eagle Tours Cambridge
01763 252870 or visit
www.eagletourscambridge.co.uk

**D.K.Till & Partner
Approved Coal & Solid Fuel Merchant.**

**Tel. 01223 232947
Email: thecrisps@tiscali.co.uk**

Little Thetford School

In these past few weeks all the children have been very busy and have had lots of fun. Last week the school enjoyed a lovely picnic evening and, for once, the weather was kind to us. The children had a great time playing with their friends, while their parents relaxed and listened to wonderful music performed by an excellent band. This was led by Prue Ward, our peripatetic violin teacher.

Years 1 and 2 took part in a mini Olympics event, organised by Witchford Village College. The children enjoyed playing tennis, football, basketball, running, hurdling and much more. The juniors have enjoyed many sporting successes and we are very proud of their enthusiasm and commitment.

The children have all been on their final trips, with the cost of the coaches funded by FOLTs. The infants have had a trip to Hunstanton to visit the Sealife Centre. This was an excellent way to complete their topic

on the 'Seaside'. Years 3 and 4 had an amazing day at 'Go Ape' and years 5 and 6 have been having lots of fun and games in Thetford Forest.

Of course, the end of the year means we have to say goodbye to our year 6 children. It is always an emotional time as the majority of them have been with us for seven years. We wish them well as they move to their chosen secondary school.

Finally, Mr Rob Litten, our Head Teacher, is leaving as he is moving to take up a post as executive head of two schools in Whittlesey. The school community wishes him success and happiness in his new role.

Equicentric

Old Bishop's Palace, Tower Farm, Little Downham, CB6 2TD **01353 699909** / info@equicentric.com / www.equicentric.com <https://www.facebook.com/EquicentricLtd>

Everything for horse & rider, outdoor clothing, gifts, cards
Smallholder & pet supplies (or we will order what you need)
Open 7 days a week from 10am (late night Thursday until 8pm)
Complementary tea/coffee and cake while you browse!

PLEASE NOTE: The Newsletter accepts no responsibility for the services advertised within it –readers are strongly advised to do their own research before making any agreements with the service providers