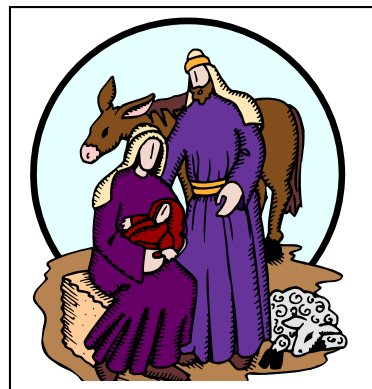


LITTLE THETFORD NEWSLETTER.

DEC. 2014/ JAN. 2015



Items for the next Newsletter covering February /March 2015 should be with the editor Mrs. J. Staines by January 15th please, jennifer.staines@btinternet.com or 38 The Wyches.

Editors Note: To everyone who has helped during 2014 with the success of this our Village Newsletter a very sincere thank you - whether you contribute the items for print, deliver a section of the village, or if you read it and so take an interest in our small village community, thank you and to you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a New Year of Blessings.

St. Georges Church

Do not be afraid", the angel said. "I bring you good news of great Joy for everyone!" Luke 2 v 10

Sunday 7th December	0930	Morning Praise.	Preacher John Marshall.
Sunday 14th December.	5pm	Christingle Service.	Leader Stephen Dove.
		Joining with the school to make a traditional Christingle and explore its meaning.	
Sunday 21st December.	3pm	Tree service with readings and carols by candlelight.	Preacher John Marshall.
		Donations of new toys for disadvantaged children gratefully received.	
Christmas Eve 24th December.	6pm	*'Big Crib' event meeting at Church with torches or lanterns.	Leader Claire McGinley.
Christmas Day 25th December.	9:30am	Family Communion	Preacher Canon Linda Church.
Sunday 28th December.	9;30	Carol Praise.	
Sunday 4th January.	9:30	Morning Praise.	Preacher John Marshall.
Sunday 11th January.	10:30	Family Service.	Leader Claire McGinley.
Sunday 18th January.	9:30	Morning Praise.	Preacher John Marshall.
Sunday 25th January.	9:30	Holy Communion.	Preacher Canon Linda Church.

***The Big Crib** is being built in school with Mrs McGinley and will be at the Church for all the Christmas Services. The Big Crib event on Christmas Eve will begin at St. Georges include Carol Singing in Cowslip Drive and New Close Road and then return to St Georges for a brief service and refreshments.

After all our services we always have a time of coffee and chat. All people are most welcome to any of our services and events.

Weekly events at Church.

Tuesday	6-7pm	Informal hymn singing and band practice, if you enjoy singing do come along.
Wednesday	3pm	Messy Church for Parents and Children during term time - with Stephen Dove and Rachel Hilditch
Thursday	6- 7.30pm	Brigade for school age girls and boys. Contact Jane Dunseath 649232.

Baptist Chapel

As 'Church' attendance continues to dwindle within the village, particularly throughout the course of the year, a decision has been made to no longer continue with 'The Journey to Bethlehem' service from the chapels perspective. This is in no way a reflection on any conversations held with St. George's church but rather reflects peoples commitment to church life outside of the seasonal periods.

Christmas Events at the Chapel to which all are invited are:-

Christmas Gift Giving Service on Sunday December 14th at 10:30am when Gifts will be received for 'The Send a Cow Charity' which supports families in East Africa by enabling the provision of tools, seeds and livestock to set them on a new path. Gifts will be received at the service or may be posted in the Chapel post box – please label your gift 'Send a Cow'.

Christmas Coffee Morning Wednesday 17th December at 10am. You are warmly invited to come along and bring a friend.



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Once again we have had a magnificent response from the village with a total of £486.00 coming from the house to house collection and a further £99.00 given at the Remembrance Service at St. Georges on Sunday 9th. November. Thank you all for giving so generously. Particular thanks are due to the collectors, Chris Piggott, Hazel and Richard Poulter, Helen Dewey, Ruth and John Drewry, Sarah Shea Symonds, and Sylvia Sadler. In addition, both the school and social club had boxes. Thank you all, it was a wonderful effort..

Trisha and Tony Shaw.

Little Thetford school

This term the children have been extremely busy developing many skills. A variety of topics have been taught and KS2 have had visits to West Stow and Denny Abbey. The infants welcomed two scientists who worked with them for a fun morning where they learned about their senses and germs, linked to their topic 'Ourselves'.

Book Week was very successful with a visiting theatre group performing 'The Railway Children' and Mark Lowery, a local author, leading a very entertaining assembly and workshop.

We are always grateful for all our visitors who assist us with our assemblies: GenR8, Light and Life and Open the Book. In the past few weeks we have started to hold our Wednesday assembly in church led by youth workers and curates from the Ely Diocese. The children can then stay for fun craft activities which they call Messy Church. We are grateful for this additional support from the church.

Of course, now our thoughts are turning to Christmas. We have just started rehearsing for the Christmas performances and so the excitement will start to build. We have lots to look forward to : a fair, shopping day, Grandparents concert and parties. Our term will end with a time to calm down and reflect in a quiet service in church.



Bert's Christmas Bingo

EYES DOWN 12th December 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Lots of prizes and an enormous raffle. Fun for all the family.

All proceeds for the Netball Club.



The children are enjoying a busy time; we have many planned activities over the next few weeks, along with all the normal excitement of the Christmas season. Our topic this half term is learning all about "Autumn". We created a poppy, which the children placed in St Georges church, ready for Remembrance Sunday. We held a onesie and pyjama day joining in the fun with Pudsey Bear for Children in Need. Our Christmas Trip will be to Wicken Fen on Thursday 11th December, the children will enjoy a lovely winter walk around the Fen, followed by the opportunity of taking part in some craft activities and meeting Father Christmas. They'll also have the opportunity to meet him again at our "Breakfast with Santa" on the 13th December. Our final few days of term will be our Christmas Performance and party, which is keeping us all very busy!

Fundraising Events: We've had a busy month with our Autumn Craft Morning, Halloween Cake stall, LTA Personalised Christmas Puddings, Individually Designed Children's Christmas Cards and Organised Mum. A BIG thank you to everyone who has supported us. We recently did a village collection for bottles to go on our tombola at this year's Ely Lighting Up Event and again would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who kindly donated towards this.

Forthcoming Events; Breakfast with Santa - **Saturday 13th December at 10am** followed by our Grand Christmas Raffle.

Holiday Club: We will soon be starting the planning for our **February Holiday Club - 16th - 20th February 2015 between 8am - 6pm**. If you would like further details on this Holiday Club, activities on offer or wish to send your child, please contact us - 01353 649234 or admin@littlethetfordacorns.org.uk

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.

A.M. PEASE
Taxi Service, Ely.
07802 507862
Airports – Seaports
All Long Distance Work
will do wait & return.

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

Link Decorating.

Painting & Decorating.

Wall papering.

Ceramic wall and floor tiling.

Coving.

Contact Simon on

Tel. 01353 648497 or 07596454345

www.linkdecorating.co.uk

**Coach day excursions
and short breaks**

direct from Little Thetford.

Contact: Eagle Tours Cambridge

01353 648950 or visit

www.eagletourscambridge.co.uk

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

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

Maria Gass
Lady Gardener/Home Help.
Friendly Reliable Service.
Tel. 07900837575

LITTLE THETFORD W.I.

The W.I. meet on the first Monday of the month at 7.30 in the Village Hall. At our meeting on Monday 1st December we made a Christmas decoration and enjoyed some seasonal goodies with our tea and coffee. For further information please contact Christine Bullen on 01353 649 268.

Christmas 2014 at Little Thetford Social Club

Fri 19th Dec - Karaoke with Rosie 8pm till late

Sun 21st Dec – Family disco, party games, 4pm to 7pm – FREE OF CHARGE for all the family.

Wed 24th Dec – Father Christmas is popping in any time after 6:30pm

Thurs 25th Dec – Christmas Day drinks from **12pm to 2pm**

Sun 28th Dec – Help for Hero football match. Also BBQ Love to see people come to support this charity.

Sun 28th Dec- Poker night from 8pm till late

Mon 29th Dec – Cash prize bingo eyes down at 7.30pm

**From the Social Club committee, We wish you a wonderful
Christmas and a prosperous New Year**



**Please note: The Newsletter does not accept any liability for the availability
or quality of any services advertised.**



Parish Council.

The Parish Council was represented at the Remembrance Sunday Service in St. Georges Church on November 9th and was one of the organisations to lay a wreath at the War Memorial in the cemetery after the service.

At the October meeting a quote for work on the cherry trees and other trees in the area behind the Village Notice Boards was accepted following the receipt of permission for work on the Cherry Trees from East Cambs. District Council (E.C.D.C.). The ash tree in The Wyches near the entrance to the car park which had

raised concern has been inspected by County Council Highways who do not believe it to be a risk – no further action will be taken by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council received 2 applications for the vacancy of a Trustee to the John Townsend Charity – Mrs Christine Howard was appointed.

A new Internal Auditor has been appointed for the year and the External Auditors Report has been received for last year and its content noted.

Planning – The application to build a detached dwelling on land adjacent to 4 Holt Fen has been refused by E.C.D.C. as has an application to build a detached dwelling at 3 Holt Fen. Approval has been granted for the construction of a detached dwelling and extensions and modifications to the existing dwelling at 19 Main Street. Councillors raised no objections to an application to build a new garage, an external store and studio at 31a The Wyches.

The investigation into providing sand bags in the village in case of future flooding has, so far, not proved to be financially viable for the Parish Council. E.C.D.C. recommend householders make their own arrangements. However a Councillor has agreed to make further enquiries to see if a viable compromise can be reached.

A new Cemetery Caretaker has been appointed. Mr John Skipper took on the role from the beginning of November. The water tap in the cemetery has been repaired and lagged and thanks are due Mr K Wright for dealing with this in a timely manner.

Cllr Bill Hunt attended the November meeting and spoke as a County Councillor of his support for the Southern Bypass, his hopes for retaining the waste re-cycling centre at Witchford with a possible reduction in hours, the possible earlier switch off for some street lights, both for reasons of economy, County Council archives are going to be relocated to Ely and new cash ticket machines are being installed at Park and Ride sites.

His enthusiasm for the new Zipper Bus for the ‘Grundy Fen Villages’ was evident. At District Level again for economy reasons E.C.D.C. is to be reduced to 27 Councillors. County Council archives are going to be relocated to Ely.

Timetables for the Zipper bus service have been delivered to all the houses in the village Cllr Staines has some spare copies if anyone has mislaid their copy. A contribution towards publicity for this new service was agreed.

A further reminder that next May an election for a new Parish Council will be held. Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor will be required to nominate themselves for election (it is not a matter of invitation!). Publicity is given to this process in good time so watch for the announcements to be made. Our request to reduce the Council to 7 members has been approved and we are asking parishioners to seriously consider standing as Parish Councillors at the elections next year. In a small Parish a local council is vitally important, only local people can give genuine and fair consideration to local matters. If you would like to know more about the role of a Parish Councillor please speak to one of our present Councillors or come along to a Parish Council Meeting held on the 2nd Monday of the month – next one December 8th at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

MJS Gardening Services.

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

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

Neil Cutforth
Architectural Design and Planning
Services

Extensions, Loft and Garage
Conversions

30 years local experience.

Tel: 01353 649600

Email: neil@neilcutforth.co.uk



Village Hall.

The Village Hall urgently needs YOUR help.

By its constitution the Village Hall is administered by its Trustees under the rules of the Charity Commission. No maximum number is stipulated but every organisation or institution within the village may nominate up to two people to serve on the board as a trustee. Currently only the Parish Council has representatives on the Village Hall's board of trustees. No other is currently represented by even one nominee although some Trustees do wear 'two hats' as members of more than one organisation without being formally its representative. Trustee numbers are made up of 'independent' members who whilst not representing any particular organisation are concerned for the continuation of village amenities. The shortage of trustees is putting a huge burden on those currently in post. Due to the recent resignation of the treasurer to the Trustees we **urgently** need new Trustee to take on the role of **treasurer**. This need not be a particularly demanding task – the pay role for our one employee is managed by Cambs.ACRE for example. Obviously a knowledge of bookkeeping and some experience of financial management of small organisations would be an advantage. Please do give this matter your thought and should you feel that it is a role within our Village community that you are able to take on, I will be delighted to hear from you. (tel 649268 or email robert.bullen1@tesco.net) The outgoing treasurer is happy to give any new incumbent every assistance in taking over. The present Trustees are very aware that several of their number have indicated that they will be unable to serve for much longer – the current chair in particular will not serve after the 2016 AGM (if he lasts that long!) and consequently unless the board of Trustees is strengthened now the future of the Village Hall is in jeopardy and that will have a disastrous knock-on effect on living in Little Thetford as we know it.

Robert Bullen.

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

Little Thetford Fitness Classes @ Village Hall. Tuesday Evenings:

DanceBox 18:45-19:40 Powerhoop & Kettlebells 19:45-20:40 - **Wednesday Mornings:** Kettlebells & Body Tone
9:15-10:10 Powerhoop 10:15-11:00. For more information & to book your place please contact Tania:
7983440187 or taniamcquilkin@hotmail.co.uk & 'like' my facebook page

