

LITTLE THETFORD NEWSLETTER.



APRIL 2017/ MAY 2017

Items for the next Newsletter covering June/July 2017 should be with the editor Mrs. J. Staines by May 15th please, jennifer.staines@btinternet.com or 38 The Wyches.

St. George's Church.

Jesus said ' Be sure of this. I am with you always, even unto the end of the age.'

APRIL.

Sunday 2nd. 0930 Morning Praise. Leader Rev Julia Chamberlin. Preacher John Marshall.

Sunday 9th 1030 Family Service for Palm Sunday Leader Claire McGinley.

Sunday 16th 0730 Sunrise service on Holt Fen. Leader Rev Julia Chamberlin.

Sunday 16th 1030 Easter Family Communion Service. Celebrant Rev Julia Chamberlin.

Preacher Pastor Peter Cockerton.

Sunday 23rd. 1030 St. George's Day Service united with St. James Church followed by a bring and share lunch. Preacher Rev Natalie Andrews. Leader Rev Julia Chamberlin.

Sunday 30th. 1030 Morning Praise. Preacher John Marshall.

MAY.

Sunday 7th. 0930 Morning Praise. Leader Rev Julia Chamberlin. Preacher John Marshall.

Sunday 14th. 1030 Family Service. Leader Claire McGinley.

Sunday 21st 0930 Morning Praise. Leader John Marshall. Preacher Rev Julia Chamberlin.

Sunday 28th 1030 Holy Communion. Celebrant Canon Linda Church.

St. George's Church is always open during daylight hours for anyone to come in to Pray or for Peaceful Meditation and Reflection. All services are followed by Coffee, Biscuits and a time of Fellowship, whilst there are activities at the back of the Church for Children.

Saturday 22nd April will be a gift giving time in aid of St. George's. If you would wish to make a donation toward the upkeep of this lovely local Church and help support the Christian work therein or just come to look around there will be a box for any donations on the Altar with prayer cards.

REGULAR EVENTS.

Tuesday 6-7pm. Informal hymn singing and band practice, all welcome who love to sing or play an instrument.

Alternate Tuesdays 7.30pm House group meet for prayer, to study the scriptures, Coffee and cake. 11th & 25th April. 9th & 23rd May. Further details from Peter Cockerton 649493.

Wednesday 9-11am POP IN for Coffee, Cake, Chat and laughter. Everyone welcome.

Wednesday 3pm Messy Church for families following on from the whole school assembly. Join with Stephen and Sarah for Crafts, Cake, Fun and Games.

Thursday 6-7.30pm Brigade for Girls and Boys of school age. Leader Jane Dunseath. Craft

and Badge work, games, snacks, WiFi and lots of Fun.

Dragon Club. For all age adults. 2.30pm – 4pm. Talks, Cakes, tea, Quizzes and Fellowship.

Tuesday 18th April. Illustrated talk on the work of a Lay Pioneer and setting up a new Church with Stephen Dove.

Tuesday 16th May. A talk on Fire Safety in the home with Community Safety Officer, Belinda Ashdown.

Advance notice. Weekend of 1st & 2nd of July we are having a Flower Festival ‘TOYS AND GAMES THROUGH THE AGES’ If anyone has any Toys or Games we could include in Displays or would like to help in any way please contact Jane on 649232 or johnandruthdrewry@hotmail.co.uk

For all enquiries about **Weddings, Baptisms or Funerals** please contact Rev Julia Chamberlin on 01223 861511 or julia.chamberlin@elyteam.org

Christian Aid.

For a few years now St Georges Church and The Brigade have worked together to present an afternoon and evening of entertainment as an alternative to doing a door to door collection for this very worthwhile charity. This year they are presenting;- FRENCH CONNECTION

Thursday 18th May at St. George's Church from 2.00pm until 7.30pm.

Come along & enjoy all things French - crepes, patisserie, sugar craft demonstration (2 - 2.30p.m), art, French knitting circle, boule, snail racing, amazing displays, music Supper at 6.30pm & finale of song.

French Connection:-Jeudi 18 Mai a l'Eglise design Saint George design 14hoo a 19h30.

Venez vous joindre a nous pour celebre tout ce quiest francai!

Crepes, patisserie, demonstration de sucre cuit (de 14hoo a 14h30),art, tricotin, petanque, course d'escargots, superbes presentations, musique....

Souper a 18h30 etc final en chansons.

Au profit de Christian Aid.

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Village Hall

Do you have a Wedding anniversary, Birthday, or special occasion coming up? Why not celebrate at Little Thetford Village Hall? The Hall offers a spacious facility with kitchen and plenty of parking. Our hire charge competes very favourably with Ely!

Back, due to popular demand, is the wonderful Relaxation evening on 10th May 7.30pm-8.30pm. Spend an hour relaxing and unwinding under the expert guidance of Jackie Lamb for only £5. To book a place call Jackie on 01353 649860 or email jackie.lamb1@googlemail.com

Did you know that Pilates and the Dance Group and now held twice a week? There's also the Toddler Group then the Fitness Class on Tuesday? Attendance for events open to the public is crucial towards keeping the Village Hall open, so please come along and meet everyone!

Please show your support for your local Village Hall and keep an eye out for upcoming events on our Facebook page.

Congratulations to the Play Right Youth Theatre group who

**Coach day excursions
and short breaks**

direct from Little Thetford.

Contact: Eagle Tours Cambridge

01763 252870 or visit

www.eagletourscambridge.co.uk

recently performed to a sell-out crowd!

Would you like to see another type of Fundraising event at your Village Hall? We're open to suggestions!

Little Thetford Feast is back on Saturday July 8th 2017! If you would like to have a stall on the day, please contact Annie Foulser 07432 056008 This year new to the Feast will be a family fun run through the village!

Anyone who is thinking about hiring the Hall we will be happy to answer your questions and show you around the venue.

If you wish to book the Hall, please contact Clair Melloy 07521931063 littlethetfordvillagehall@gmail.com

Speed Watch

The Speed Watch team have held two successful mornings, but need more volunteers, please contact the coordinator Charlotte Mitchell.

Neighbourhood Watch

Following on from two serious burglaries in the village, concerned residents have joined together to start a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. If you would like to volunteer or participate in the scheme and help keep our village safe, please contact Kevin Evans, at kevin.g.evans@ntlworld.com and let him know you want to be part of the Little Thetford Neighbourhood Watch.

The John Townsend Charity ***Registered Charity no. 202685***

The John Townsend Charity is for the benefit of the people living within the parish boundary of Little Thetford. Its Scheme enables its Trustees to consider requests for financial assistance from those who are sick or on low income.

Are you on low income?
Are you sick or have
a long term illness?
Could you benefit from a
one-off payment!
CAN WE HELP YOU?

Brief examples of what the Charity could give assistance for can be read in the policy guidelines on the parish notice board near the play park or pick up a leaflet from the Information Kiosk. A phone call, email or letter to the Charity's Clerk would determine if your cause was eligible. Each application received is considered on its merits by the Trustees at a duly convened meeting that excludes the public and press. In some cases, applications are subject to the financial status of both the applicant and the Charity. If approved, a grant would be offered as a one-off payment only. A further request on other occasions would require the completion of another application form.

Ely Social Car Scheme

(01353 666553)

Do you use it for hospital visits?

A request could be considered for assistance towards transport to hospital or half the mileage costs for parishioners using the Social Car Scheme to travel to local hospitals for appointments or to visit patients who are close family members.

Enquiries about financial assistance or to request an application form can be made to the Clerk of the Charity: Mrs J Wardle, 30 New Close Road, Little Thetford, Ely, Cambs CB6 3HQ
Tel: 01353 648820 Email: jtowndsendcharity@btinternet.com
Please be assured that all matters are dealt with in strict confidence.

Womens Institute

The April meeting of Little Thetford WI. will be on Monday 3rd at 7.30pm and will include an illustrated talk on Dragonflies. The May meeting will be on Monday 8th and will have a demonstration by

Little Thetford Fitness Classes
at the Village Hall:
Tuesday Evenings:
Kettlebells 18:55
Powerhoop 19:45
www.taniafitness.com
tianamcquilkinn@hotmail.co.uk

Bernadette Christory on 'How to make Pasta'. Visitors are always welcome.
Please note that **BOTH** these meetings will be in **St. George's Church** (NOT at the village hall.)
Further information may be obtained from Christine Bullen on (01353) 649268

PARISH COUNCIL

Following the resignation of a Parish Councillor due to relocation a vacancy is arising for a parishioner to be co-opted to the Council. There is a legal process to be administered and the required notices are displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard. Interested parishioners should contact the Parish Clerk.

A vacancy is also arising for a Parish Council nominee to the board of Trustees of the John Townsend Charity. Notices are on the Parish noticeboards and further information may be obtained from the Clerk to the John Townsend Charity. (See separate article for contact details.)

Following continuous pressure from the Parish Council supported by District and County Councillors, the highways authority has made some improvements to the white lining at the A10 junction. Following representations from the PC the County Rights of Way authority has built new bridges over the ditches crossing **Footpath 3** which is being realigned some 15 meters to the north east.

Discussions are still ongoing with ECDC regarding possible transfer to parish ownership of the playground and the open space in New Close Road.

A presentation was made to the Local Highways Improvement Scheme for traffic calming measures in Red Fen Road. Although details are not yet to hand it is believed that the application was successful.

Discussions with officials will continue.

A contract for the renewal of the fencing to the playground was entered into with the local contractor who cuts the grass and it is anticipated that the work will commence after the Easter holidays. It may be necessary to close the playground for a while during the work on safety grounds.

The Parish Council's response to the latest consultation phase to the District Plan was submitted to the Authority and Councillors continue to monitor the process to ensure the best possible outcome for the village. "Future Development of the Village" will be included in the agenda for the **Annual Parish Meeting** on Wednesday 26 April at 7.30pm. in the village hall. The land adjacent to the cemetery and the car park remains one of the two preferred sites for development under the District Plan. Many Parishioners

have asked about the intentions for the site now that it has been part cleared of growth but the Council is unaware of the owner's intentions and has not been informed about any planning application to date. The Planning Authority (ECDC) has refused permission for the erection of a new dwelling in Red Fen Road and it is understood that an appeal to the Secretary of State has been made against the

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Authority's refusal of a planning application for an extension and alterations to 38 New Close Road.

Parish Council meetings are open to the public and held on the second Monday of each month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. or as notified on the Parish Council noticeboard where the agenda is displayed.

Little Thetford CE Primary School



The school has been a hub of activity throughout the Spring Term with lots of things taking place in what is the shortest term of the academic year. All of our children in Key Stage 2 have had the chance to go on a residential trip this term including an amazing trip to France last week, which I was lucky enough to accompany the children on. As a school, we very much value the opportunities for our children beyond the classroom and try to provide as many ways as possible for the children to learn and experience the 'real' world.

We have this week sent out a letter to parents outlining some changes we have had to make in order to support the school financially moving forward and I believe it is also important that the community is aware of the situation.

Unfortunately as small, successful, rural school, we have been seriously affected by cuts in funding which has left us with no choice but to make some changes in order to support the school moving forward. The significant cuts in our budget make it extremely difficult to maintain our current levels of staffing and continue to provide all of the opportunities for our children. However, this is something that we are determined to do.

So if anyone in the village has any suggestions or ideas about how the school might be able to raise or receive additional funding to support the school, I would very much welcome your ideas or suggestions. You can contact the school via email on office@littlethetford.cambs.sch.uk or by phone on 01353 649260.

Kind Regards,
Jonny Wallace
Headteacher



The children have enjoyed a busy second half of the Spring Term with Red Nose Day and various Easter themed events. Preschool children are now looking forward to a fun filled Summer Term which will include our Rising 5's Club, where children participate in various activities to prepare them for the exciting transition from Preschool to Primary School.

Little Thetford Toddlers - On the 8th March our Toddler group celebrated its 2nd Birthday, we would like to say a BIG thank you to all parents and children for their support over the past two years. It has been lovely to see so many children that have attended the group now joining the preschool along with friends they have made at Toddlers. The group takes place every Tuesday (term time) 9:30 - 11:30am in Little Thetford Village Hall for 0-5 year olds. Entry £2.50 per family, additional children £1 (under 1's free). Like our Facebook page for regular updates.

Easter Holiday Club - 3rd-7th April 2017 - It's going to be a cracking Easter with loads of fun themed activities; including sports, arts and crafts, face-painting, dance classes and even reptiles and meerkats will be visiting! Session Times AM 9.00 - 12.00 PM 1.00 - 4.00 and we offer a lunch club too... Please contact us on 01353 649234 or admin@littlethetfordacorns.org.uk for further details

Our Summer Holiday Club will be running 24th July-4th August 2017 - further details available soon!

Fundraising Events; Up and coming fundraising events include our Easter Egg Raffle and Easter Craft Events. We are also holding an Easter Craft & Social Event for adults in the Village Hall after such a well-attended and enjoyable Christmas event. This is being held on March 30th 2017 at 7.30 pm - 10.30pm, we

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

will be creating Easter cards, silhouette bunny lanterns, spring flower vases, customised tote bags, decorative eggs and bead work. Tickets are £7.50 for 3 craft activities and refreshments are available.

In the Summer Term we will be running our very popular Fun Day which is open to the public - keep an eye out for further details coming soon!

We are also encouraging everyone to help us raise funds using the 'Easy Fundraising' website -

www.easyfundraising.org.uk we are on there as 'Little Thetford Acorns' just click on us and then the chosen

retailer you wish to buy from and we receive a percentage of your total order with no extra cost to you.

We Wish Everyone A Very Happy Easter Break

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 Please be our friend on Facebook - "Little Thetford Acorns"

Information Kiosk.

New to the Information kiosk this month are leaflets detailing a new minibus service called East Cambs. Connect. A door to door service for travel in East Cambs. between 7am & 7pm Monday to Friday. Telephone 01353 612699. This service begins on April 3rd.

There are also in the kiosk timetables for the Stagecoach service 9 which travels past the end of the village.

Leaflets detailing how to register to vote if you have moved and not yet updated your details on the Electoral Register are also there - www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Equicentric

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emergency work.

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

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—readers are advised to do their own research
before making any agreements with the service
providers.