

# LITTLE THETFORD NEWSLETTER.

**DEC. 2016/JANUARY 2017**



Items for the next Newsletter covering February & March 2017 should be with Mrs. J. Staines no later than January 15<sup>th</sup> please, [jennifer.staines@btinternet.com](mailto:jennifer.staines@btinternet.com) or 38 The Wyches.

**The Newsletter Team wish all readers a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and good wishes for the year ahead.**

**On behalf of the readers - a thank you to those who send in the "News" and to the team of volunteers who deliver to every home in the Village throughout the year.**

## St George's Church.

'Hark the glad sound the Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long.'

All at St. George's wish everyone a Peaceful and Joyous Christmas.

### DECEMBER.

- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 0930 Morning Praise. Preacher Rev Julia Chamberlin. Leader John Marshall.  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 5pm Christingle Service with the school. Everyone welcome to come and make a Christingle and learn the meaning of one. Preacher Rev Julia Chamberlin.  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 3pm Carols and Readings by Candlelight. Preachers Rev Julia Chamberlin and John Marshall.  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> 3pm Crib service. Join our nativity, the end of the Sheep trail!! Sing Carols! Preacher Rev Julia Chamberlin  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 09:30. CHRISTMAS DAY. Family Communion - Preacher Rev Julia Chamberlin.

### JANUARY.

- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 0930 Morning Praise. Preacher Rev Julia Chamberlin. Leader John Marshall.  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> NO SERVICE AT ST. GEORGE'S. Plough Sunday Service 10am with St. James, Stretham followed by a Bring and Share lunch. Preacher Rev Natalie Andrews.  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 0930 Morning Praise. Preacher John Marshall. Leader Rev Julia Chamberlin.  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 1030 Holy Communion Service. Preacher Rev Julia Chamberlin.  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 1030 Morning Praise. Preacher Rev Stephen Leeke. (Please note 1030am on 5th Sundays.)

Our Church is informal and always open during daylight hours for Prayer, Peaceful reflection or meditation. After each service we have a time of Coffee and Fellowship, everyone welcome. We always have activities at the back of the Church for Children.

#### **REGULAR EVENTS.**

**Tuesday 6-7.15pm** Informal hymn singing and band practice. If you like to sing or play an instrument do come along and join us.

**Alternate Tuesdays 7.30pm** the Home Group meets for prayer, study of the scriptures, Coffee and Cake. Dates: 6th Dec, 20th Dec, 3rd Jan, 17th Jan, For further details please contact Peter Cockerton on 649493.

**Wednesday 9-11am** POP IN for Coffee, Cake, Chat, laughter and friendship.

**Wednesday 3pm** Messy Church for families following the whole school assembly. Join with us for Craft, Cake, Fun and games.

**Thursday 6-7.30pm** BRIGADE for Girls and Boys. Leader Jane Dunseath. Craft and Badge work, fun, games, snacks and Wi Fi,

**DRAGON CLUB** for all age adults. 2.30pm - 4pm Talks, Quizzes, Cake and Fellowship:- Tuesday 20th December. Christmas Joy get together. Nibbles, Quizzes, Games, Secret Santa and much more. Tuesday 17th January. Illustrated talk about Ely Museum from the Curator.

For all enquiries about Weddings, Baptisms or Funerals please contact Rev Julia Chamberlin on 01223 861511 or [julia.chamberlin@elyteam.org](mailto:julia.chamberlin@elyteam.org)

There is a collection of Village information and wonderful photos from past years at the Church, these have been put in folders for people to gain access and enjoy. If you have any that could be included please contact Alan Hall or Jane Dunseath 649232. Thank you.

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



#### **Friends of St. Georges.**

Thank you everyone who came and supported our concert with The Rocking Ukuleles on 22nd. October . We had an absolute blast and the band's 'human jukebox' was a special hit. They are raising funds for prostate cancer research at present and thanks to the generosity of the audience we were able to donate £100 towards the charity. They will be back at St. Georges next year, hopefully during the summer months when we may be able to create a musical garden party. Watch this space.

**Speedwatch** A Village resident has asked to pass on her thanks to the newly established Volunteer Speedwatch Team who have now held two sessions in the Village.



Over the past few weeks' preschool children have been enjoying many exciting activities including making Guys for fireworks night, taking a walk to St George's Church to lay a wreath for Remembrance and supporting Children in Need by dressing up and selling cakes.

This half-term is always full of excitement and anticipation in the lead up to Christmas. Our little actors will be performing in our festive play; we will be going on a magical trip to Wicken Fen to meet Father Christmas and enjoying a special Christmas party. This year we will also be participating in the Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for Save the Children.

**Little** Thetford Fitness Classes  
at the Village Hall:  
Tuesday Evenings:  
Kettlebells 18:55  
Powerhoop 19:45  
[www.taniafitness.com](http://www.taniafitness.com)  
[taniamcquilk@hotmai.co.uk](mailto:taniamcquilk@hotmai.co.uk)

**Toddlers...**Our friendly Toddler Group is held at the Village Hall every Tuesday (term-time) 9.30am-11.30am. We have varied activities for ages 0-4 years, including crafts, singing, messy play, and there are always different toys to play with each week. The entry fee is £2.50 for the first child and £1 for any additional children per family and includes healthy snacks and drink for children and tea/coffee and biscuits for carers.

We'd love to see some new faces so do pop along for a coffee and a chat whilst your children play with their friends.

**Fundraising Events...**Thank you to everyone who has helped support us and donated bottles for our stall at Ely Lighting Up Night on 25<sup>th</sup> November. We are also selling our Christmas Grand Draw Raffle Tickets - with a chance to win the following top prizes and many more amazing prizes; **1st Prize - Kindle Fire donated by Fencabs, 2nd Prize - Whole house of carpets and upholstery cleaned by Whitegate Cleaning Company, 3rd Prize -Family pantomime ticket to see Aladdin at Ely Maltings.**

This year we are also holding a Christmas themed social craft and shopping evening on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 7.30pm-10.30pm at the Village Hall (where the licensed bar will also be open) to raise valuable funds for the Preschool and After School Club. Tickets can be purchased in advance via email to ([admin@littlethetfordacorns.org.uk](mailto:admin@littlethetfordacorns.org.uk)) or phone (01353 649 234) or on the door on the night. Tickets are £5 and includes entry, a choice of 3 crafts and a mince pie!

**www.easyfundraising.org.uk..**With lots of Christmas gifts being ordered online in the coming weeks please do purchase via [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) as if you select "Little Thetford Acorns" we receive a percentage of your total order with no extra cost to you - so this is a wonderful way to raise extra funds for the preschool this season.

**Holiday Club...**We will be running holiday clubs between 9am – 4pm on the following dates; **13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> February 2017, 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 & 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> July & 31<sup>st</sup> July-4<sup>th</sup> August** Please contact us for further details.

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](mailto:admin@littlethetfordacorns.org.uk) or via our website [www.littlethetfordacorns.org.uk](http://www.littlethetfordacorns.org.uk)



## PARISH COUNCIL

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

### **PS Plumbing Services**

4 The Wyches, Little Thetford

07984 017 213

[ps-plumbingservices@outlook.com](mailto:ps-plumbingservices@outlook.com)

Bathrooms, kitchens, maintenance and emergency work.

Repairs to the “Burma Bridge” in the play area have been completed. Repair to the carousel is likely to be very expensive and the Council remains in contact with the contractors to attempt to reach a compromise. The gate was partly repaired although Council is dissatisfied with the result and is pressing for a different outcome.

The district tree officer has inspected the tree near to the noticeboard and reports there is no immediate concern. However, she advises that tree surgeons are consulted about reducing the crown thereby greatly reducing any possible future

risk. This is being followed up.

Council is monitoring the incidence of ragwort in the conservation area although it is believed any spread has now ceased on the onset of winter. Further action will be taken as and when necessary next year. Overall the condition of the area is very satisfactory.

A Councillor took informal action over the issue of cars being left on the verge at the A10 junction whilst being advertised for sale which closed the issue. However, parishioners are reminded that it is an illegal practice and is to be discouraged. Police will take action in severe incidences.

Police patrols are also monitoring traffic in Red Fen Road and will issue advice to drivers where appropriate and they support residents’ concerns on vehicle speeds along the road. A submission is to be made by Council to the minor highways improvement scheme requesting some form of traffic calming measures along the road. The voluntary speed watch scheme is not appropriate for Red Fen Road at this time but does operate at other locations within the village.

Having monitored the incidents of dog waste in New Close Road Councillors have concluded that the expenditure of about £270 on a dog bin in the area is not justified at this time but the possibility of siting new dog bins at either end of the path between The Wyches and New Close Road will remain under review. The dead tree in New Close Road is to be reported to ECDC.

The very poor and potentially dangerous condition of white lining and the road surface at the Little Thetford corner remains a serious cause for concern and the Council is pressing and will continue to press ‘Highways’ for maintenance and improvements. Support is being obtained from the District and County Councillor.

On planning matters Council has learned that an application for a two bed bungalow to the rear of 12 The Wyches to which Council had no objections has been refused by the Planning Authority. Minor revisions to a previously approved plan at 3 Holt Fen have been approved by the Authority and Council has no objections to an application for a single storey rear extension to 31a The Wyches.

The third and final draft for the District Plan has been issued for consultation. Currently this shows that only two sites (one of which already has outline planning permission) within the village are being considered for potential development; the area between Holt Fen and Stretham is not included. In theory this could change and Council will carefully consider the draft plan further at its meeting on 12 December (**reminder: Parish Council meetings are OPEN to the public**).

### **MJS Gardening Services.**

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

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



## **Little Thetford CE Primary School**

We are as busy as ever at Little Thetford Primary School with lots of learning opportunities for our children and lots of real engagement visible as I walk around the school.

Lots of exciting learning has been taking place in all of the classrooms this term. Highlights include our annual Book Week which took place at the end of September, which was based around Hansel and Gretel and included lots of role play and drama activities which really supported children in generating ideas in their linked writing task. Our Year 3/4 children visit West Stow Anglo Saxon Village next week as part of their current topic.

As I write this, we are rapidly approaching the exciting yet manic time of Christmas at school with a whole host of exciting events planned for the children. During December, our Key Stage 1 children will be performing their nativity and the childrens' grandparents will be invited into school for a whole school concert. There is also a Family Christmas Decoration Day, a Christmas Fair and a Christmas Shopping Day to look forward to. Looking towards January, the whole school will be going to Bury St Edmunds to see the pantomime, Beauty and the Beast. A huge thank you to our PTA (FOLTS) who fund the tickets for all the children to enable them to go along to the pantomime each year.

## **The Royal British Legion Poppy Collection 2016**



Thank you for once again giving so generously to this worthwhile cause. The total collected this year is £633.60 an increase of approximately £50.00 over last year. None of this would have been possible without the efforts of the collectors: Sylvia Sadler, Helen Dewey, Bob Rain, Chris Piggott, Ursula Rain, Judy Young, Alison Taylor and Susan House who made items for sale, as well as the Little Thetford Social Club and the Church of England School who also held collections - Thank you all very much indeed.

This message arrived a few days too late to be included in the last Village Newsletter... **The Salvation Army Waterbeach and Soham Corps** extend their thanks to all who donated when they collected for the 'Salvation Army's Big Collection' in September, the total donated from the village was £367:70

### **Coach day excursions and short breaks**

direct from Little Thetford.  
Contact: Eagle Tours Cambridge  
01763 252870 or visit  
[www.eagletourscambridge.co.uk](http://www.eagletourscambridge.co.uk)

### **D.K.Till & Son-in Law. Approved Coal & Solid Fuel Merchant.**

**Tel. 01223 232947**  
**Email: [thecrisps@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:thecrisps@tiscali.co.uk)**

### **Equicentric**

Old Bishop's Palace, Tower Farm, Little  
Downham,

CB6 2TD **01353 699909** /  
[info@equicentric.com](mailto:info@equicentric.com) /  
[www.equicentric.com](http://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!

## Lt. Thetford Netball Club

**10<sup>th</sup> December** at The Village Hall.

### **Bert's Christmas Bingo**

Eyes down at 7.30pm.

Lots of prizes to be won.

Raising funds for the Netball Club



## Little Thetford Social Club

**23<sup>rd</sup> December** “Christmas Karaoke”

- Free entry for members. Come along with your singing voice

**24<sup>th</sup> December** “Father Christmas Visit in the club”

- On the most important night, he will be popping into the club for a little break. Bring the kids and family

**Christmas Day** – the bar is open from 12 till 2pm only

**31<sup>st</sup> December** “Family New Year’s Party” 8pm

This year again it will be free entry with your 2017 membership

These will be posted to you in December.

Non-member £5 each per person



## Little Thetford Village Hall.

The Little Thetford Village Hall needs your support and is planning many fund-raising events to raise money for running costs and maintenance to the hall. A Pre-Christmas Relaxation Session, (if you missed this – watch for details of the next one!) 5k Fun Run, Community Hub and Teen Disco are just a few of the events proposed. We will be at the Village Hall this weekend, and on other match days, offering hot coffee or tea and a bacon roll in exchange

for a kind donation.

The Board of Trustees are committed to ensuring the Village continues to enjoy an affordable and spacious venue for your special occasions. We want to maintain this wonderful facility, a valuable asset of the local community.

There are few places within East Cambridgeshire that can boast a facility like the Village Hall within walking distance of your front door. The Hall is a perfect venue for Wedding receptions, Birthday parties or business events, with plenty of car parking space.

If you wish to book the hall, please contact Clair Melloy 07521931063

littlethetfordvillagehall@gmail.com or visit our Little Thetford Village Hall Facebook page.

Please support our efforts to keep the Village Hall a vibrant part of the community.

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

