

LITTLE THETFORD NEWSLETTER.

AUGUST /SEPTEMBER 2012

All items for the next Newsletter covering October & November should be with the editor Mrs. J. Staines by September 15th please, jennifer.staines@btinternet.com or 38 The Wyches.

St George's Church

5th August - Morning Praise - 9.30 a.m.
12th August - Family Service - 10.30 a.m.
19th August - Holy Communion - 9.30 a.m.
26th August - Morning Praise - 9.30 a.m.

2nd September - Morning Praise - 9.30 a.m.
9th September - Family Service - 10.30 a.m.
16th September - Holy Communion - 9.30 a.m.
23rd September - Morning Praise - 9.30 a.m.
30th September - Holy Communion - 9.30 a.m.

MJS Gardening Services.

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

Patios, Decking, Turfing,
Garden Design and Maintenance.
Fencing & Odd Jobs.

1st Lt. Thetford Brigade at St. George's, for children of 5+ Thursday evenings in term time, 6 pm - 7.30 pm - will begin again in September with a new programme of games and things to enjoy, New Members always welcome. Speak to Mrs. Jane Dunseath 649232 for more details.

Enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings or other pastoral matters to Rev Margaret Harper - 01353 645128

The Friends of St George's.

In May the Christian Aid collection raised almost £350 which is the best ever result. A big thank you to the collectors for all your efforts and of course to all who gave so generously. This year there is a bonus in that the government is matching the first £5 million raised which will make a great difference to the amount of help that Christian Aid can give to folk who are so much worse off than us.

The Jubilee Flower Festival - many thanks to all of you who came to St. George's to marvel at the displays and help us eat all the cakes. On the Friday evening we had a wonderful time with Mike Petty as he presented his latest collection of photographs and anecdotes of 60 years of Fenland life from the coronation until today. Mike is a great entertainer and raised many chuckles as amongst other things, he explained the intricacies of sugar beet singling and roding dykes! We then had a great turnout for the Flower Festival on the Saturday. Sadly the weather on the Sunday did us no favours but nevertheless, we raised almost £550 over the weekend. This money will be used to fund the ongoing repairs to the walls and windows of the Church. Many thanks to the members of The Friends who worked hard to make the event so enjoyable and successful.

A musical evening on 28th. October will feature Judith Short and her musicians. This is the third time that we have welcomed Judith and this time the evening will feature light music with a strong leaning towards

Jazz: It promises to be another memorable evening so please book the date in your diaries now.

St. Georges Revels.

Saturday September 8th. A family evening at the Village Hall and a chance for you to 'take to the floor' and be famous. We will be rehearsing chorus items on Tuesday evenings at St Georges 6 -7pm more details from Jane on 649232.

Ukulele orchestra – still working on a date for a meet and masterclass! Interested - phone Jane 649232.

Little Thetford Baptist Chapel

'Life' for all of us is a journey that we only visit once in this world. We reflect backwards over it wondering where the years have gone, and sometimes what difference we may have made to people or situations we have encountered along the way. After all, do we not hope that our lives have a purpose apart from paying 'those bills?' You may have a heart to serve others but not know where to start. This passage of scripture may help point the way to our lives today. 'God indeed is my Saviour. I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Saviour. With joy, you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.' Isaiah 12: 2-3

August

Sunday 5th August at 10.30am
All Age Service
Including Holy Communion

Sunday 12th August at 10.30am
All Age Service

Sunday 19th August at 10.30am
All Age Service

Sunday 26th August at 10.30am
All Age Service

September

Sunday 2nd September at 10.30am
All Age Service
Including Holy Communion

Sunday 9th September at 10.30am
All Age Service

Sunday 16th September at 10.30am
All Age Service

Sunday 23rd September at 10.30am
All Age Service

Sunday 30th September at 10.30am
All Age Service

For those of you that may be considering coming along to the chapel, we have a children's group that leave midway during the service. Whether you have been before or not, your children will be made to feel most welcome.

Church Fellowship Group: Alternate Thursday Evenings: 7pm Venue: 3, Chapel Close.

Community Coffee Mornings:

Wednesday 1st August at 10am

Wednesday 5th September at 10am

Wednesday 15th August at 10am

Wednesday 19th September at 10am

It's lovely to see some new faces coming along for this time of refreshment and chat. All welcome.

Contact: Tudor Parsons- (Pastor) on (01353) 648082 e-mail: tudor.parsons@btinternet.com

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Lt. Thetford Feast.

The 2012 Little Thetford Feast arrived in the middle of some of the worst summer weather the area has seen in many a year. Local village fetes & events had already been cancelled, but the Feast committee took the decision to go ahead and although the sun didn't appear until late, the rain stayed away for the majority of the afternoon.

With a couple of unoccupied Gazebo's (presumably because of the weather) stall numbers were down compared to last year, but that did not detract from the afternoon. The Cambridgeshire Model Aircraft

Display Team showed amazing aerobatic skills & control flying various aircraft. Many of the locals were hoping to see the 200mph model jet in the air but unfortunately the field just wasn't big enough for the plane to take off! With equal control The Cambridgeshire Canine Flyball Team gave impressive displays in dog handling and agility. We would like to thank both clubs for attending and giving their time, it was a pleasure to have you with us.

So with bouncy castles, bungee runs, BBQ and beer tent and stalls at full tilt the afternoon progressed with everybody enjoying the day. One thing that was commented on was the amount of new faces that attended which is always nice to see. We hope that you will come and enjoy the facilities in and around the Field, Social Club & Village Hall in future.

The day ended around 5.30 pm with the "cashing up". Early indications are that the day generated a surplus for the Feast (excluding the Bar) in the region of £500. This is a fantastic achievement given the conditions and we are very grateful to both those who attended and those that donated to our collections through the village last week. The Committee will now meet over the coming weeks to discuss the distribution of the profits. We will notify where & how the surplus has been divided in the next newsletter.

As always these events need people to give up their time & resources to organise. Once again I would like to thank the Feast Committee members: Georgie Heaton, Julie Murfitt, Sharon Smith, Lisa Murfitt & Chris Lee, for their time & enthusiasm over the last months. As important are our volunteers who never ever say no when we ask "Can you help" As ever too many to mention but you know who you are!

See you next year! *Rob Stead.*

LITTLE THETFORD WI

Due to the horrible weather the July Garden Party had to be held in the Village Hall. However despite the weather 23 members from other local WI's came along and supported us. The rain relented just enough to allow everyone that wanted to go and look at the garden where the party should have been held. A very nice tea was provided and the 2 quizzes were very popular.

The next main meeting is on Monday 3 September at 7.30 in the Village Hall and is a talk on Couture Millinery by Stella Louise. All ladies from the village welcome. Anyone wishing further information should phone Christine Bullen on 649 268.

Lt. Thetford School.

Leavers Assembly: On the last day of term (20th July) there was a Leavers Assembly. A presentation was shown (made by the Year 6s and their class teacher- Mrs Morley) to commemorate the time these 16 pupils had spent at Little Thetford. We wish them luck in their ventures!
New Steps: When school begins again in September, everyone will have moved up a little. All the teachers should have at least 15 new children in

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their class (some newer than others)! It's a big step for us all, especially Year 6's and teachers, losing some children as they go up in the world and gaining new ones. The summer holidays are here and after the 6 week break (in the sunshine hopefully!) There will be a new set of reception children in School –they should feel very welcome by the warmth of the staff and pupils.

Tea and Scones with Grandparents: The Pinafore Pirates was a great success and KS2 performed once again as they recited some of their songs from the play. KS1 also performed as they re-created some of their songs from the picnic evening on stage in the hall. Tea, coffee and scones were served to the grandparents and parents who came to see the show on the 12th July.

Barbecue: on the 18th of July Year 6 children had a fun barbecue at Little Thetford, two days before they left on the last day of term.

Teachers Leaving: Every single pupil of Little Thetford grows to love all the teachers here. But sadly some will be leaving us! Mrs Green, yr.3/4 teacher, will be leaving to live in Surrey and Mrs Zsak will be moving to a different school in Cambridgeshire.. However we also have some new teachers: Mrs Laycock will be the new Yr. 3 and 4 teacher. Miss Jackson is a new teacher assistant in Reception. Already receptions love her! We all wish them luck with their new careers.

Reception Cake Stall: The cakes ranged from spongy cakes, sweet cupcakes and sweet delights. They were labelled with ingredients in case of allergies and for eater's interest. They were sold after school on July 13th with all the money raised given to FOLTS towards many trips and equipment for the school.

Area Sports Witchford Village College: On the 16th of July Yr.6 went to Witchford Village College for a fun area sports day. The school provided transport for the event, and this was a great event for everyone!

Space Centre: Years 5 & 6 have recently been on a fabulous trip to the Leicester Space Centre for the day. We were allowed to take £5.00 spending money and we had to wear our school uniform.

Yr 6 Kayaking: On the 19th of June, the 16 Year 6's went down to the river to do a spot of kayaking in the sun along the River Ouse. They went in two groups of seven, and took it in turns to sail gracefully (most of the time) or play in Pocket Park and eat their lunch. Afterwards their head teacher kindly bought them all an ice-cream. It was a great day out for all!

K-Nex Challenge: On the 28th of June, some of the Year 6 boys competed in the K-Nex challenge and won 1st prize. We were very proud to have won and it was a great time for all who went!

SAT'S: Finally the Yr6's have finished the never-ending bout of SAT's. The Level 6's however, had 2 extra exams to do! The results have come through and it is a record year – we have all done incredibly well.

Tag Rugby Team: Recently the Tag Rugby Team travelled to Harlow for a Tag Rugby final. They represented the county and they made the county proud. Huge congratulations to them! They all did their best and all of them thoroughly enjoyed this day!

Hockey Team: On Tuesday the 10th of July our school hockey team represented East Cambridgeshire and Fenland in the County Finals after storming to success at a recent Area Sports event.

Football Match: Our football team is undefeated this year and has earned a place in the final of the league. Hopefully we will beat Rackham School and bring home the Cup.

Year 3 & 4 trip to Duxford: Quite recently Years 3 and 4 went on a trip to Duxford which linked into their science topic. They saw many planes and objects that had a historical link to their topic work. This was not only very educational but exciting and interesting at the same time. It was a long, tiring day but everyone enjoyed it and thought it was all worth it!

By Georgina Melia and Katie Compton Yr. 6

The Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations - in Lt. Thetford.

It seems appropriate to congratulate and say thank you to all who took part in any way in organizing the Diamond Jubilee weekend. For such a small village to have something happening from the Friday evening at St. Georges running right through to the lighting of the beacon on the Monday was a wonderful achievement.

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Those who represented the village at the Diamond Jubilee Picnic at Burleigh House arrived in a shower of rain but then enjoyed a relatively dry day. A brief glimpse of the Queen, the marquee displays, aerial displays and the variety of music and dance in the superb grounds of Burleigh House gave us an interesting and enjoyable day.

The Jubilee Mugs for the children proved popular and several people have asked about purchasing additional ones. The amount we had just covered the ones to be presented but a further minimum order has been placed. These will be for sale at around £4.20 and with our current orders it is expected to have about 10 of those spare to so if you would like one please contact me as soon as possible.

Jennifer Staines (contact details on cover page)

Parish Council.

Readers may remember that Cllr Hunt, one of this parishes District Councillors, asked the Parish Councils in his 'patch' and their residents to write to him giving him clear guidance as to their views on the car parking proposals in Ely. At the June meeting the issues were discussed and it was agreed that the PC does not support either off street car parking charges nor the introduction of charges for on street parking.

The June meeting appointed Mrs Alison Oughton as a Trustee of the John Townsend Charity. It has been drawn to the attention of the PC that there are a number of hedges are overhanging the footpaths in the village and impeding the progress of pushchair and wheelchair users – residents are asked to keep their hedges trimmed and the paths left clear.

The leaning lamp post in Watsons Lane will be reported to contractors Balfour Beattie. A request for a further dog waste bin in Holt Fen is being investigated – first and foremost it is necessary to ensure that if purchased and erected it will be cleared.

A reminder that fly posting is a potential litter problem if the poster is not removed when the event is over – this is the responsibility of the person that posted it in the first place! If you need a poster put in the Parish Notice Board for a forthcoming event please put it through the letter box at 38 The Wyches.

The July meeting agreed that Lt. Thetford Acorns may have the dead wood trimmed from the oak tree during their summer break, a contractor and price was agreed. The Clerk was instructed to begin the process of getting a preservation order placed on the tree.

A bid for funding for additional signage and road markings to help with road safety in the Parish has been successful and a meeting with the County Council Highways Department is being arranged.

The meeting was informed that a planning application to make a single storey extension to 32 Main Street has been successful. A further planning application has been received for the positioning of an air source heat pump at 1 Green Hill.

Following some enquiries the PC has adopted its own document on Affordable Housing taking into account the local facilities, public transport, views expressed in the Parish Plan and employment opportunities.

A PC representative attended a briefing by the County Council on the work being done across the county on street lighting. All street lights in the care of the County Council are being reviewed by contractors Balfour Beattie and it is anticipated that many of them will need replacing. It is planned to make a reduction of between 10% and 30% of the lights that need replacing. All the lamps will be replaced with white lights and all the replacement lamp posts will be an extra metre tall. Following the work the lamps will be dimmed between 10pm and 6am which means a huge saving on electricity and an anticipated reduction of over 4,500 tonnes of carbon emissions each year county wide. All residents will be given the opportunity to take part in a consultation process beginning about 6 months before the work in our parish begins and more information will be available then. At present we have no indication when the work will move to our Parish.

Due to the wet weather there has been a delay in building the temporary BMX style cycle track in Holt Fen. It is hoped that the work can begin in a few days time. Also in Holt Fen enquiries are being made about repair to the basket ball net and putting down a small hard area around the base of the basket ball post.

A swing has had to be removed from the Play Area due to some damage/wear – we are trying to get a replacement part and hope to have the swing in place again in the near future. There has been a request for another seat in the play area and this is being investigated.

The next Parish Council Meeting is being held on September 10th in the Village Hall.

Connecting Cambridgeshire.

With this Newsletter you should receive a leaflet 'Connecting Cambridgeshire' the Parish Council are encouraging residents to support this effort to bring a faster, reliable broadband service to Cambridgeshire, including the rural areas. Many of you may already have registered your support online but if anyone is unsure of what it is about this leaflet will explain.

A faster Broadband was a point made by residents in the Parish Plan and would improve life for many across Cambridgeshire.

You will see from the leaflet that it is necessary for residents, businesses, parishes and community groups to show suppliers where there is most demand – as this is a small community it needs a really good input from all of us to make a difference here in Lt. Thetford.

To register is quick and easy just go to www.connectingcambridgehire.co.uk and follow the leads.

Do please consider playing your part in getting a better service for everyone in our area.

**Cambridgeshire Acre Oil Buying
Scheme.**

A community- based, oil - buying scheme.

More Information – contact

Steve Merrell -648751 or

littlethetfordoil@gmail.com