

# Lt. Thetford Newsletter.

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## August/ September 2010

*Items for the next newsletter to Mrs. J. Staines 38 The Wyches, by September 15<sup>th</sup> please. Copy may also be e-mailed to [jennifer.staines@btinternet.com](mailto:jennifer.staines@btinternet.com).*

### Churches in Little Thetford Aug/ Sept. 2010

#### Baptist Chapel

Before becoming a Christian I remember saying to a friend, this is relating to an excess of all the food that was bad for me, 'Before I die, I want to remember that I had lived' and enjoying food was one of the things I could have fond memories of. So why, as Pastor, am I telling you this? In a nutshell, because before living for Christ, I believed that by indulging myself in everything, (not just food) would satisfy me, making me content in life. However, after many years of this I still felt, is this it? is this everything? I still longed for this life I led to have a purpose. It took many years, but eventually, I found this in Christ Jesus. If you like me have asked the question "is this it? is this everything?" then perhaps you might like to have a chat. I'm sure Margaret, myself or any of the churches leadership will be more than happy to speak with you about it. May Gods purpose be realised in each one of us through this journey of life,

**August/September dates for your diary-** all services start at 10.30am

**1<sup>st</sup> August** - 1st Sunday service of the month is always Holy Communion

8th August joint family service with St. Georges at the chapel

Normal services on 15th, 22nd and 30th.

**5<sup>th</sup> September.** Service with Holy Communion

12th September- joint service held at St. Georges.

Normal service on 19th and 26th.

#### **Extra events planned-**

**Sunday August 8th** 3-5pm Afternoon cream cakes and tea.

**Sunday September 5th** 3pm Film club

**Sunday 12th September** New start for Praise and worship afternoon service 5.30pm held once a month.

**Advance notice:-** on October 10th - Joint Harvest festival service with St Georges with meal afterwards.

Our thanks from all at the chapel for all those that attended the barbecues, your effort in cake making and your kind donations towards the costs of the events. May God bless you and your families through the holiday season, don't forget the sun cream!! Tudor Parsons- 01353 648082.

**Girls Brigade** will return to Fridays at 6pm first week back to school in September. New girls always welcome

#### **MJS Gardening Services.**

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

**Patios, Decking, Turfing,  
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**St George's Church.** There is always a warm welcome for you in the churches of Little Thetford, whether you are new to the village, or have lived here for many years.

**Services at St George's** are usually at 9.30am, except when we go to the Baptist Chapel, every other month - then it is 10.30am. There is crèche space in a carpeted area at the back of church if that is helpful for parents / carers with small children. Sunday Club for school age children usually happens on the first and fourth Sundays of each month. There are notices up around the village giving more details.

In our busy lives, it can sometimes be difficult to find quiet space for our own thoughts. St George's is a place set aside for Christian prayer, and is open most days. Do feel free to use the building for your own quiet prayer or reflection if you would find this helpful.

**Friends of St George's;-** As you can imagine, the upkeep costs for the church are considerable. If this building is something you value, you may like to know about the "Friends of St George's". This group was formed some years ago, for those who would like to raise funds to help maintain the structure of the building, for all to enjoy. In October, precise date to be announced, Mr George Jellicoe who was involved in the engineering of the Channel Tunnel Project will give a presentation and we now have a definite date for Cadenza, they will be giving a seasonal concert in the church on Saturday 11th. December. As you know they are an exceptional group, and this will be a very special evening. We will have more details on both events by the next Newsletter. If you would like to know more about the 'Friends' have a word with Tony Shaw, on 649470.

If you would like to explore a little more about the Christian faith, or you have an enquiry about marriage or baptism, please contact Rev Margaret Harper, on 645128.

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**LITTLE THETFORD VILLAGE HALL**

The village hall remains the only place within the village for holding public meetings, parties, celebrations and other events attracting more than a few people and provides a service for other village organisations and individuals. The hall is let at very reasonable market rates and has become a popular venue for people from the wider Ely area. The hall's only income comes from lettings; nevertheless concessionary charges are granted to village organisations seeking to raise funds or which have few funds (or none at all) of their own. No charge is made for funeral receptions for village residents. The weekly post office is hosted free of charge. It is 'home' to the Ely Guild of Wood Turners and known nationally for that.

The Trustees (whose number decreases year on year, despite my annual plea for more candidates) worked throughout the year to maintain the hall's facilities to a satisfactory standard to help in attracting more event and conference business, although they are now very aware that large scale decorating and refurbishment is required fairly imminently. The current economic climate has not assisted income flow and in February the hall lost a major client when the pre-school moved to its own premises. On the plus side that has served to free-up weekday mornings so that the hall can now be utilised for whole day events. Despite that loss income has remained fairly level although there is no cause for complacency. In order to maintain a satisfactory balance of reserve funds the Trustees have not felt able to put into train any of the possible building improvements for which planning permission has been granted with the exception of the refurbishment of the lounge which was carried out in association with our partners the Sports and Social Club. As with the internal decoration Trustees are still all too aware that the external appearance (especially the front elevation) leaves much to be desired and are currently investigating how funds could

become available to allow some modernising improvements to be made in the coming year. The village hall remains a stake-holder (together with the Parish Council and the Sports & Social Club) in the "Oakfield" recreation project.

Finally, at risk of becoming too repetitive and boring, I must say again what I say every year. Under its constitution all village organisations are entitled to have two representatives on the board of Trustees; some only have one, most have none at all. Individuals who are independent of any organisation constitute the remainder of the Board. New Trustees are urgently required and that need will become greater from next year as several active but long serving Trustees have indicated that they will not be able to continue in the role beyond the end of 2011 at latest and unless others willing to step into the role are forthcoming an alternative form of managing and maintaining the village hall will have to be considered.

*(Sadly only very few people attended this years A.G.M. for the Village Hall and for the Conservation Group. As these are both great assets to our village it was agreed, as an exception, that the Chairman's reports be included in this edition so that the whole community is made aware of the current concerns.)*

### **LITTLE THETFORD PARISH CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS**

Better known to most people as the Conservation Group. It is in fact just that, a group of people who are interested in conservation in its widest sense and who join together from time to time to help to maintain the conservation area at the bottom of Oakfield playing fields and whose interests may extend to other areas of open, public land within the parish of Little Thetford. Although it has a constitution and currently a healthy balance of funds (which are held by the Parish Council) there is no formal membership and no fees to pay. A number of responders to the Parish Plan earlier this year indicated that conservation is important to them and that they would be interested in joining with others on an occasional basis to help the efforts of the group. Currently the conservation area is looked after by a very small number of volunteers who have not been able to further the constitutional aim to "conserve and manage other areas of public land within the parish of Little Thetford as opportunity may arise". The AGM held on Wednesday 14 July (for which notice was given in the last newsletter) was unfortunately so poorly attended that no quorum was obtained so a committee and officers could not be elected. Those present decided to continue on an ad hoc basis as last year – the AGM in 2009 was in-quate also – for the time being, until such time as the Parish Council has opportunity to consider how best for conservation within the village to be managed in future. It has been decided to hold a week-end of conservation activities on the mornings of Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September. Meeting at the village hall at 10am the Saturday session will take the form of a walk of some (presumably not all – there's about 14 of them!) of the designated footpaths in the village to familiarise ourselves with them and investigate the possibilities for volunteer preservation of and conservation within those footpaths. A light lunch of soup, rolls and tea/coffee will be served afterwards in the village hall. The Sunday session will again start at 10am. and will be a working party on the conservation area itself to trim and tidy hedges, retie trees to stakes, make good any dilapidations in the planting or fencing and to discuss what other action might be further undertaken. There won't be any heavy digging or lifting (unless anyone is particularly keen to do so.) Another light lunch will be served after a couple of hours or so when we are all fed up or all the work has been done. (Remember the social club bar opens at midday on Sundays so members could enjoy even more conservation related chat together over further refreshment if they wish.) Please come to one or both of those morning sessions in September if you possibly can. We'll look forward to seeing you. (It would help catering if you could let Christine or Robert Bullen know beforehand on 649268 or robert.bullen1@tesco.net.)

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## LITTLE THETFORD W.I.

Attention to all ladies of the village. The WI is having a LINE DANCING EVENING on Monday October 4<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7.30. Come along and have an evening of fun and enjoyment. Beginner or expert, all welcome. Visitors fee £3.00. If you require further information please contact Christine Bullen on 01353 649268.



Pre-school is shortly closing for the summer, but our children have been having lots of fun in the last few weeks of term. Planned for the end of term is Sports Day, a great performance of “Mother Goose” and the Farewell party on the last day of term, where we say good bye to all our children who are leaving for “Big School”. We wish them all the best for their future adventure.

We would like to remind parents in the village that we do hold a waiting list for pre-school places, so please get your child’s name down as soon as possible. Even if they are still babies and pre-school seems like a long way off, it comes around very quickly, so please register them, however young they are! For an application form, please call us or download it from the website:

**[www.LittleThetfordAcorns.org.uk](http://www.LittleThetfordAcorns.org.uk) 01353 649234**

We are also taking bookings for our Breakfast and After School Clubs in September, so again, please call the number above for a registration form.

### ***Little Thetford Acorns Toddlers***

Toddler group will be held every Monday afternoon during term time 1.30-2.45pm. We welcome children aged 0-3years (older siblings are very welcome too!) and their parents or carers to join us for a variety of play time activities. This is held in our new building, which allows lots of fun for the children and a lovely environment for the grown-ups too. Come along to our next session and make some new friends.

## **Lt. Thetford Parish Council.**

Cllr Bill Hunt was present at the July meeting and gave a report on the various expenditure cuts that the County Council are having to make. He also advised of a website ‘Fix My Street’ where road repairs such as pot holes can be directly reported by anyone for repair.

Councillors were pleased to hear that the lettering on the War Memorial has been repaired and Cllr .Russell has undertaken to clean the stonework of the memorial.

Cllr Mortimer will be reporting on the Parish Plan to East Cambs. District Council on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

The gate to the Conservation Area has been repaired.

A submission to the Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Scheme this year is a road safety request to have some additional signing and white lining in The Wyches and Main Street. This is just a bid for funding for these items – it may not be successful!

The retrospective planning application for a builders yard on land east of Quarterway House has been refused and an application for the construction of a 3 bedroom dwelling in Holt Fen has been withdrawn.

An additional seat is to be placed in the Wyches and repairs to the bench in Holt Fen are to be carried out. Councillors were saddened to hear that the new piece of equipment on the Play Area has not been installed to the standard required and are in discussion with the company to get this rectified as soon as possible.

**Please note:-** dates of the next two Parish Council meetings have been changed to **August 23<sup>rd</sup> & Sept 14<sup>th</sup>**

A white football has been found in the Play Area – please telephone 649733 to reclaim.