

# LITTLE THETFORD NEWSLETTER.

## FEB./MARCH 2017



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

### St. George's Church.

'Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life.'

#### **FEBRUARY.**

Sunday 5th	0930 Morning Praise.	Leader Rev Julia Chamberlin. Preacher John Marshall.
Sunday 12th	1030 Family Service.	Preacher Rev Julia Chamberlin.
Sunday 19th	0930 Morning Praise.	Leader John Marshall. Preacher Rev Julia Chamberlin.
Sunday 26th	1030 Holy Communion.	Preacher Rev Julia Chamberlin.

#### **MARCH.**

Sunday 5th.	0930 Morning Praise.	Leader John Marshall. Preacher Rev Julia Chamberlin.
Sunday 12th	1030 Family Service.	Rev Julia Chamberlin. Claire McGinley.
Sunday 19th	0930 Morning Praise.	Leader Rev Julia Chamberlin. Preacher John Marshall.
Sunday 26th.	1030 Family Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday.	United with the School. Preacher Rev Julia Chamberlin.

Our Village Church is always open during daylight hours for Prayer, Peaceful Meditation and Reflection. Services are informal with Coffee, Biscuits and fellowship afterwards. There are activities at the back of the Church for children and all ages are welcome at all services.

#### **REGULAR EVENTS.**

**Tuesday 6-7pm** Informal Hymn singing and Band practice, all welcome who love to sing or play.

**Alternate Tuesdays 7.30pm** House group meeting for prayer, study of the scriptures, Coffee and Cake. For further details please contact Peter Cockerton on 649493.

**Wednesday 9-11am** 'POP IN' for Coffee, Cake, Chat and Laughter. Everyone welcome!

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

**Thursday 6-7.30pm** Brigade for Girls and Boys. Leader Jane Dunseath. Craft and badge work, fun, games, snacks and WiFi. New members always welcome.

**DRAGON CLUB.** for all age adults. 2.30pm - 4pm. Talks, Cakes and Tea, Quizzes and Fellowship.

Tuesday 21st February. Illustrated talk on the Falkland Islands by Bryan Jones MBE

Tuesday 21st March. Talk about the work of the Salvation Army followed by a 'Sing to the Lord'.

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)

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

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

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

A small team from St. George's goes into school Thursday mornings to take an 'Open the Book' assembly for 15mins. These are Bible stories enacted. Are you a person with an urge to act? We welcome anyone who could give a little time during term time. Please contact John 01353 648819 or [johnandruthdrewry@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnandruthdrewry@hotmail.co.uk)

**Advance notice.** *On Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd July we are holding a 'Toys and Games through the ages Flower Festival event'. There will be plenty of interactive games and large games outside for children. If anyone has toys or flower arranging skills they wish to offer please contact Jane Dunseath 649232 or [johnandruthdrewry@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnandruthdrewry@hotmail.co.uk)*



## **Little Thetford CE Primary School**

On behalf of all the staff and children at the school, I would like to wish the whole community a very Happy New Year!

We are just reaching the end of our first week back after the Christmas break and already we have so much going on. On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January we had a whole school trip to Bury St Edmunds to see the pantomime: Beauty and the Beast. It is always so lovely to see the sheer excitement of the children and I think it is fair to say the performance was enjoyed by all! A huge thank you to our PTA, FOLTS, who paid for all of the tickets for this New Year treat. Our Year 3/4 children are currently on a residential trip to Burwell House. Despite the freezing weather, I'm sure they are having a fantastic time and look forward to hearing about their amazing experiences on their return to school tomorrow afternoon.

Looking ahead, our Year 5/6 children also have two residential trips to look forward to with them visiting Kingswood for activity based few days and then experiencing another culture when visiting France in March.

The younger children don't miss out either and have a toy workshop coming up which will give them the chance to learn about and just as important play with a range of toys from the past.

With all these exciting enrichment opportunities alongside our learning in the classroom, we certainly have a fun action packed term ahead!

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

White lining and the condition of the road surface at Little Thetford corner remains an issue and the Council continues to press County Council Highways, now with the assistance of our District and County Councillor, for action; 'Highways' remain unresponsive, so Council will carry on complaining. A bid for speed reduction measures in Red Fen Road, supported by the police, is to be presented to the Local Highways Improvement Initiative that meets to consider such bids on 6 February. Following a strong representation from your Council to County Highways objecting to its intention to withdraw winter road gritting, pointing out that there is only one road both in and out of the village and that it is the only vehicular route to the school, CCC has rescinded its original decision and will reinstate gritting in the village.

After careful consideration Councillors raised no objections to a new planning application for the erection of a single storey dwelling with detached garage to the rear of 19 Main Street or to an application for a first floor extension above the existing ground floor at the rear of 4 The Wyches. An application for the erection of a proposed new dwelling in Red Fen Road was recommended for approval with the proviso that due consideration be given by the Planning Authority to Council's and residents already noted concerns regarding traffic in the road. The Planning Authority has approved a ground floor extension to the rear of 31A The Wyches.

Contact is being maintained with officers of ECDC regarding the possibility of obtaining Parish ownership of the play area (currently leased from ECDC) and the feasibility of gaining ownership of the grass area in New Close Road depending on ECDC's intentions for such open spaces. Councillors continue to pay close attention to the proposals, particularly as they may affect the Parish, in the ECDC Local Plan, now entering another consultation phase, and will respond accordingly.

Eastern Landscape Services has been contracted to carry out maintenance and remedial work on the trees by the noticeboard on the green in The Wyches.

The condition of the fencing to the play area has deteriorated rapidly recently and it has been decided that it makes far more, longer term, economic sense to renew the entire fencing (with more sustainable materials) rather than continual patching up of the old. Consequently quotes are being sort from local contractors. Councillors are attempting to enter into meaningful dialogue with the Post Office to obtain an alternative replacement service for the village following the closure of the Monday post office in the village hall on the retirement of the postmistress.

A number of factors are expected to affect an unavoidable increase in Parish Council spending in the coming year. A decision on increasing the Clerk's hours and salary is currently under consideration. Large expense will become necessary on improvements to the play area and the utilisation of the cemetery extension as well as the possible purchase of open spaces in order to place them under Parish control; all against a back ground of reduced District and County Council services which will need to be provided by local means to merely maintain the status quo. Consequently, following no rise in 2016/17, and only after lengthy and serious debate, Councillors have raised the Parish precept for 2017/18 by £1,500 to £17,250. This may seem like a huge amount but Parishioners are asked to bear in mind that it will actually represent an average increase on the Parish Council Tax of about £5 per household over the year (about 10p/week.)

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

**Please note** - our next Parish Council meeting is on 13th February. Kevin Evans will be present to talk about the possibility of forming a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for the village. Several people have already expressed a willingness to help with this but more are needed, so if you are interested, do please attend to hear more on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February **at 7pm** normal Parish Council meeting to follow at 7:30pm..

## **Little Thetford Village Hall.**

Happy New Year from the Trustees of Little Thetford Village Hall!

We are aiming to get the Village Hall off to the right start by encouraging anyone who is thinking about hiring the Hall to contact us. We will be happy to answer your questions and show you around the venue. We want to thank Little Thetford Sports and Social Club for their kind donation to the Village Hall from last years' Feast. The money will go towards keeping the Hall running and available to the local community. For your information, Tricia Shaw who has been running the Post Office service from the Village Hall is retiring. Thank you, Tricia, for providing this essential service for many years. The service will be temporarily suspended until the vacant position is filled by the Post Office. Recent successful events held at the Village Hall have included a Relaxation evening, Bert's Bingo and a Pilates taster session. Please show your support for your local Village Hall and keep an eye out for upcoming events on our Facebook page. Attendance for events open to the public is crucial towards keeping the Village Hall open.

**Link Decorating.**

**Painting & Decorating.**

**Wall papering.**

**Ceramic wall and floor tiling.**

**Coving.**

**Contact Simon on**

**Tel. 01353 648497 or 07596454345**

[www.linkdecorating.co.uk](http://www.linkdecorating.co.uk)

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. Book Now!

If you wish to book the hall contact Clair Melloy 07521 931063 [littlethetfordvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:littlethetfordvillagehall@gmail.com)

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

## **New guide to care and support in Cambridgeshire – a crucial time for information**

A new, updated Cambridgeshire Adult Care and Support Services Guide has been published today in association with Cambridgeshire County Council. It gives readers crucial information on how to access, and pay for, care services throughout the county.

With Government plans to cap the costs of social care now postponed, it's never been more important to have impartial information to guide you through choosing and paying for care and support. The guide helps readers to understand their options, highlights where to go for advice and gives information on how the paying for care system works.

With no cap on care costs at present, this independent information is invaluable to help navigate the system. The new edition of Cambridgeshire Adult Care and Support Services Guide and accompanying website give information on all aspects of arranging care and support in Cambridgeshire. It includes how to stay independent for as long as possible, the different care and support options available and what to look for when choosing a care provider. It also offers guidance on important issues such as paying for care and what financial assistance may be available from the local authority. There are comprehensive listings of all registered care services throughout Cambridgeshire, plus checklists to help you ask the right questions when visiting services.

For a free copy of Cambridgeshire Adult Care and Support Services Guide 2017 please email [carechoices@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:carechoices@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or call Customer Services on 0345 045 5202. It is also available

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throughout the region from outlets including carers' centres, hospitals, GP surgeries, Age UK and the Alzheimer's Society. It can be downloaded from [www.carechoices.co.uk](http://www.carechoices.co.uk) and is available in spoken word. Further help and information can be accessed via the guide's free telephone helpline on 0800 389 2077.



**The Cambridgeshire Bobby Scheme** is a local charity which provides a service to older or vulnerable people by improving home security to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

- If you've been a victim and you are 60 or over you will receive a free visit.
- If you are 65 and over or disabled and would like a visit from the Bobby Scheme advisors to reduce your chance of becoming a victim, we ask for a contribution of £30

towards our costs.

- Key safes supplied and fitted from £50 - £80

The Bobbies fit a range of security devices to help people feel safer in their own homes again. They also provide security advice and reassurance. Further specialist products are available to be purchased. On average it costs the Bobby Scheme £130 to work at each home, so we ask you to make a donation so that we can continue to provide a service.

The Bobby Scheme works with a number of partner agencies, including the Police, Local Authority, Fire Service, Age UK and other services.

If you would like a visit call them on 01480 413311 or email [info@thebobbyscheme.org](mailto:info@thebobbyscheme.org)

### **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)

### **Information Kiosk.**

The new timetable for Cambridge Hearing Help sessions in Ely has been displayed and some copies of the new Stagecoach bus timetables and other leaflets have been placed in the kiosk so please take a look.

#### **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.

*Ladies Did You Know.....* All your old bras can help raise funds for breast cancer research, recycle them at the Bra Bank just inside the entrance to the East Cambs. District Council Office in Nutholt Lane Ely. £1,000 will be donated for breast cancer research for every tonne of bras collected. Give your old bras a new lease of life by placing them in the Bra Bank they will then go to small businesses in Africa where affordable bras are in short supply.

If you have other types of textiles they can also be recycled at

most of the counties recycling centres.

Worn out clothes, stained fabrics, misshaped tops, underwear and odd shoes can be recycled and turned into new clothes, padding for furniture or even speakers! It's not just clothes - towels, blankets, curtains and other textiles can all be recycled. For more information see [www.recap.co.uk](http://www.recap.co.uk)

#### **A.M. PEASE**

Taxi Service, Ely.

07802 507862

**Airports – Seaports**

**All Long Distance Work  
will do wait & return.**

**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



## Happy New Year to all!

We commence 2017 with a warm welcome to the many new children starting preschool and to our increasingly popular out of school clubs. We are also very pleased to welcome back Lyndsey from her maternity leave.

The term ahead includes lots of activities relating to events such as Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, Pancake Day, World Book Day, Red Nose Day, Mother's Day, Easter, and Father's Day. We will also be running a fun packed February half term week of themed activities, baking, games, sports and crafts.

**Fundraising:** We will be hosting various fundraising events and again thank everyone in our community for their ongoing generosity. A reminder that an easy way to help raise much needed funds is via [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

**Toddler Group:** If you have children aged 0-4 years, please come along to our welcoming Toddler Group held in the Village Hall every Tuesday (term-time) 9.30am-11.30am. There are a variety of activities including crafts, singing, messy play, and of course lots of toys to play with. 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.

**Holiday Club:** Our next fun filled holiday club for 4-11 year olds starts on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February until Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February between 9am - 4pm. Places are limited and will go fast, please contact us for more information and to complete a booking form. Activities during the week are as follows:

### MONDAY

AM - Valentines Arts and Crafts - join us for sticky, creative, glittery fun

PM - Clay afternoon - get creative with clay

### TUESDAY

AM - Valentines baking - bake biscuits and decorate fruit with melted chocolate

PM - Games - bring your own or challenge us with ours

### WEDNESDAY

AM - Science with Dr Lucy - Learn to make potions and be a mad scientist

PM - Vegetable gardening - Lets grow our own vegetables

### THURSDAY

AM - Nature Trail - What will you find in the conservation area?

PM - Jigsaw dancing - come and learn some hip-hop dance moves

### FRIDAY

AM - Movie morning - come watch a film and munch on yummy popcorn

PM - Valentines disco - have a boogie, spread the love, enjoy party treats

**Future holiday club dates:** 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

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)

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