

Santon Downham *News*

The Parish Council Newsletter for Santon Downham Villagers
April 2009 Number 1

Your Parish Council represents the interests of the community, the villagers of Santon Downham. There are ways in which the Council can help you and, equally, ways that you can help your Council. Please feel free to come to us with your concerns, your requests and your ideas.

The Parish Council is made up of a relatively new and very enthusiastic group of councillors. With your help, they are keen to make the village a thriving and active community

Let us introduce you to your new Parish Council:



Michael Mackender
Chairman



Derek Toomer
Vice Chairman



Sylvia East
Parish Clerk



Betty Branch
Parish Councillor



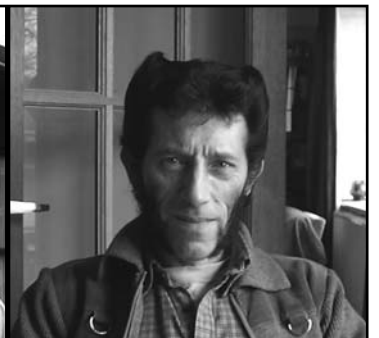
Heather Brighouse
Parish Councillor



Veronica Moran
Parish Councillor



Malcolm Finch
Parish Councillor



Gareth Rees
Parish Councillor

Parish Council Contacts

Your contacts within the Parish Council are: Mr Michael Mackender, Chairman 01842 811681, Mrs Sylvia East, Parish Clerk 01842 815213 and Dr Derek Toomer, Vice Chairman 01842 812291.

Your Village Hall

Your Parish Council are aware of concern by some of our villagers that the village hall does not feel as though it belongs to the community. In order to address this issue, a Village Hall Committee has been formed to look into various ideas for village events, which we hope will encourage participation.

Here are some of the possible ideas that have been suggested so far:

Bazaar
Women's Group
Car Boots
Flower Show
Craft Fayre
Exhibition and Sale of Art
Quiz Night
Cheese and Wine Tasting
Talks on Subjects of Interest
Wedding Fayre
Dinner Club
Book Club
Oompah Night
Exercise Classes – Yoga, Pilates etc.
Open Evening
Demonstrations e.g. Flower arranging, Sugar Craft

You can contribute

We would welcome villagers input with regard to these and any other ideas. We would also welcome any offers of voluntary help. Could you organise an event, or help run one? Do let us know.

Annual Parish Meeting

(not to be confused with the Annual General Meeting)

We are introducing an annual Parish Meeting, which this year will be held on Friday, 5th June at 7.00 pm. All villagers are invited to come along to the Village Hall and meet with representatives of your Parish Council, Village Hall Committee, County and District Councillors, Community Officers, and have a opportunity to ask questions, and generally discuss our village and its facilities. We will be serving light refreshments and will be happy to arrange a tour of the building.

Charity Auction, November 2008

We are delighted to say that the Charity Auction in November raised just over £800 and a cheque for the full amount was sent to the Quidenham Hospice. We are so grateful for all of the kind donations made each year and hope we can rely on your generosity once again for 2009.

Parish Council Funding – Precept 2009/2010

Parish Council funding, known as the precept for 2009/10 was increased to £4,500. The Parish Council had over the years maintained this at a low level, but ever increasing costs for road maintenance, audit fees, Insurance and other running costs, have lead us to seek incremental increases. It is intended that in October or November, a budget meeting will take place in order that the Parish Council may fully discuss funds and put forward a forecast for 2010/11. The Parish Council will be looking very seriously at alternative means of raising funds to add to the precept, in order to alleviate the need to make such large increases in future.

It is in the interests of all Santon Downham villagers that we retain our Parish Council status, for losing this would mean us being engulfed by a larger outside body, and undoubtedly much larger precepts.

Race for Life

We will once again be hosting the Race for Life event during May. The set up operation will begin on Friday 15th and run right through to packing up on Monday the 18th. Notices will be displayed closer to the time.

Booking of the Village Hall Facilities by villagers for that special event

There will be a concession applied in future to all residents of the village. We have a wonderful facility here in Santon Downham and would like to encourage its use by our villagers. We can cater for any event, large or small. We have the services of an on-site caterer, *Shefs*, but we are also able to accommodate those who may wish to bring in their own buffet. We have our own bar, and we are able to offer other facilities upon request. Concessionary rates for villagers will be advised on request.

Why look outside your own village for a wonderful venue for that special event, come and speak to us. All bookings will be made through your Parish Clerk, Mrs Sylvia East on 01842 815213.

Car Boots

Yes, we are going to bring back the car boots. These were always a good source of revenue for the village hall, and can offer our villagers both an opportunity to pick up bargains and also the opportunity to get rid of things you no longer need. The car boots will recommence on Sunday 3rd May, and carry on through to Sunday 4th October (the first Sunday of each month). Tea, Coffee, light cold drinks and cakes will once again be on sale from the village hall committee.

Santon Downham News frequency

We will be issuing our Newsletter twice (or three times) yearly to begin with and we really would welcome local news/input. Have you got an interesting story or anecdote related to the village or villagers? Do pass it on to Sylvia or Derek. If you have an accompanying photograph, even better.

Road Checks

You may have noticed a group of people wandering around the village staring at the tarmac. Some Councillors have been checking on potholes and other wear to decide where best to spend money on repairs.

Beer (and Wine) Festival in May

The Rotary Club is holding a Beer and Wine festival outside of the Village Hall on Saturday 16th (11am–11pm) and Sunday 17th (12 noon to 4pm) of May. Do come along.

Compiled by *Sylvia East* and produced by *Derek Toomer*

Santon Downham News is sponsored by Reflex Litho, Printers, St Helens Way, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 1HG, Tel: 01842 754600. Contact them for all of your printing requirements.