

Santon Downham News

The Parish Council Newsletter for Santon Downham Villagers
August 2009 Number 2



Hello from the Chairman of the Parish Council.
An update from me on where we are at this moment in time.

Over the past three months our car boots have done exceedingly well. I would like to thank everyone who has helped, in whatever way, for their contributions in making these such a success. Special thanks are due to Betty Branch for running the Tombola stall and to John Dyer for managing the refreshments stall.

Our 1940's evening really did go with a 'swing' and will certainly be repeated next year. We had a phenomenal turnout, with a very large contingent from our village, and an extremely jolly time was had by all. A lot of hard work and effort went into the preparation of this event, so a huge thank you to all of those concerned in making this a very, very special evening (see page 3.)

A lot has been achieved in a small space of time, long may it continue, and again, I thank our team of volunteers for their involvement - what more can I say, it is really appreciated. However, we cannot rest on our laurels, there is still much left to do. *Michael Mackender, Chairman of the Parish Council*

New Bar Arrangements

Since the beginning of May, the Village Hall Bar has been run by the Parish council. The decision to run the bar was not an easy one, but it was felt that in so doing, and with the use of volunteers to serve, it would be possible to raise some money towards the outstanding cost of the hall.

None of this would have been possible without the tremendous help from Michael Finch. With his past experience, he was able to set up the bar with all of its requirements..



Recent Events

Ride for life

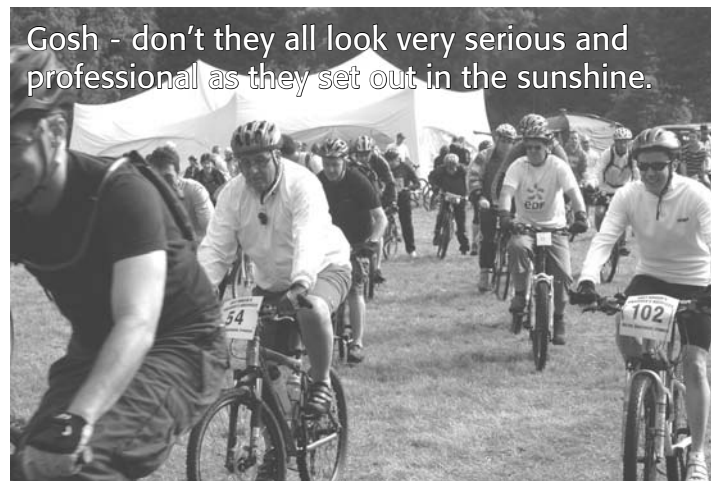
In early May, hundreds and hundreds of cyclists descended on the village. They were here for the annual Ride For Life, a fund-raising event that continues to be very successful. The village green turned rapidly into a sea of cars from which a vast

number of bikes emerged. A large proportion of the riders looked very professional indeed, but there were fun bikers as well, all determined to do their bit. The weather deteriorated, but the riders were not put off. So far, £44,000 has come in. Why not join in next year! Thanks to the villagers for their support.

What happened to our green?
The sea of cars that had brought the hundreds of riders to the charity event.



Gosh - don't they all look very serious and professional as they set out in the sunshine.



Excellent venue for birthday parties

We are trying to introduce events in the hall that will appeal to the villagers and bring them together.

At the same time, the hall is available for hire for a variety of functions.

In early July, the hall was hired for an eighteenth birthday party. What made it a particular pleasure for all, including the bar volunteers, was that everyone had come in fancy dress. (The birthday girl said that she had made it clear that fancy dress was not optional.) Many of the guests,

young and old, had made a splendid effort, with Captain Hook, Cinderella, Superwoman, Fred Flintstone and numerous others resplendent in their hired gowns.

With about one hundred attending and the greater proportion of them teenagers, they were commendably well-behaved.

Why not have *your* celebration in our village hall next time? Contact Sylvia, Tel: 01842 815213, or Derek, Tel: 01842 812291, or Mick, Tel: 01842 812291.



A Batman-less Robin consoles himself by dancing with lots of other characters.

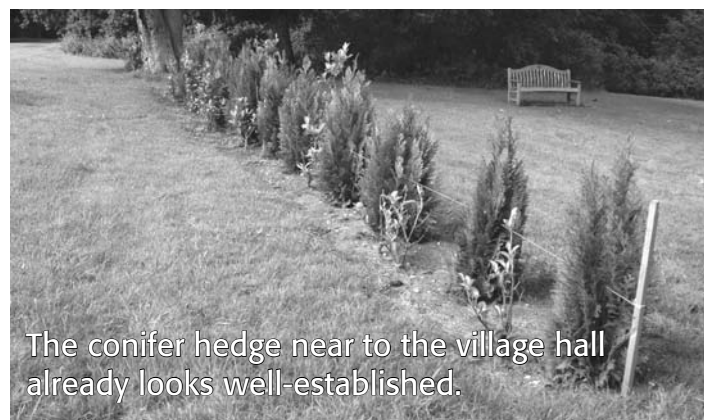


Dorothy (Wizard of Oz) tries to capture the moment, although I am not sure what moment this is!

Muntjac proofing!

A couple of years ago a row of laurel cuttings was planted at the south end of the green near the village hall. The local Muntjac population appreciated the nutritious treat and continually over-pruned them.

'Chief' Benton, living near this poor hedge volunteered to replant the hedge and maintain it indefinitely. A donation from the Rotary club allowed him to purchase and plant a row of Muntjac-proof conifers (not *leylandii*!).



The conifer hedge near to the village hall already looks well-established.

Beer Festival

On the weekend of the Ride for Life, The Breckland, Club in partnership with the Brandon & District Rotary Club, held a beer festival, with a range of real ales from Adnams and the Brandon Brewery. Some of the cyclists helped out with consumption.

'Grumpy Old Bastard' - no, that's one of the beers!



Annual Parish Meeting

In early June, the Parish Council held a meeting where Councillors and villagers could come together and chat about anything to do with the village and the Parish Council. This was the first time this had been tried and it proved very successful. There was a good turnout from the village. A display of old village photographs, produced by Ronnie Moran, kept everyone fascinated.

Village websites

There are two websites relating to the village, maintained by Tim Kaye. Don't forget to look at them and tell your friends:

www.santondownhamcentre.co.uk;
www.santondownham.org

1940s Evening – A Resounding Success



On 19th July, we held our first big event, together with the Rotary Club, a 1940s evening, with a swing orchestra. Four weeks hard worked still left us apprehensive about how successful it would be. We shouldn't have worried.

Guests started arriving around 5.00pm, entering through the line of army tents. Within a short time, people were sitting on the straw bails in the tents and the tables within the hall. The swing orchestra was not due to start for another couple of hours, but the pianist and singer took to the stage and started playing songs contemporary with the evening's theme. Their audience relaxed and the atmosphere in the hall was one of enjoyment.

We were so pleased to see how many people had gone to a lot of trouble to dress up in appropriate gear – army and navy men, spivs with double-breasted jackets, maids and posh ladies. – they were all there.

One delightful young character, Mitchell Plumpton, came as an evacuee, complete with gas-mask box and brown address label.

The barbecue, gallantly manned for the whole evening by Terry and Mick, was well under way by the time the orchestra assembled. We were all amazed at the 24-piece group of musicians and so impressed with their music. It was perfect for the evening.

With well over 100 people attending and all thoroughly enjoying themselves, we were thrilled with the success of the event. The feedback from the guests was very positive. We will be repeating it next year and hope to see you all there.

It was all possible thanks to the hard work of a number of village residents and members of the Village Hall Committee.



The atmospheric entrance to the dance hall, with relaxed guests.



The Downham Market Swing Orchestra – an impressive sound fitting in with the 1940s theme.



Hitler wins! (I never thought we would hear that. Trevor Bailey receives his prize from Sylvia East.



An excellent evacuee, Mitchell Plumpton, complete with dirty knees.



Mr and Mrs suave! Steve and April Quillin, some of our American friends.



All the nice girls like a sailor (and the not so nice ones?) – Michael Denison

Dates for your Diary

(In the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise)

2009

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| Sunday 2nd August | Car Boot Sale | refreshments available |
| Sunday 6th September | Car Boot Sale | refreshments available |
| Sunday 4th October | Car Boot Sale | refreshments available |
| Friday 9th October | Illustrated Talk: <i>Wildebeest and Warthogs, Big Cats and Buffalos; a Tanzanian Safari</i> | 7.30pm by Derek Toomer |
| Wednesday 28th October | Lunch Club begins (plus carpet bowls, cards etc) | 12.00–4.00pm |
| Friday 20th November | Charity Auction | |
| Sunday 29th November | Art Exhibition | |
| Monday 30th November | Illustrated Talk: <i>A Fresh Look at the Fens</i> | 7.30pm by Rodney Tibbs |
| Saturday 12th December | Christmas Bazaar | |
| Thursday 31st December | New Year's Eve Party | |

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| January or February | Table Top Sale | (Date to be decided) |
| Friday 15th January | Quiz Night (with fish & chips supper) | |

Help for Disabled

Do you want advice and information about your disability? The West Suffolk DisABILITY Resource Centre (DRC) can help you.

Contact:

The West Suffolk DisABILITY Resource Centre
Papworth House, 4 Bunting Road, Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk IP32 7BX. Tel: 01284 748888, Fax: 01284
748889, Email: WSDRC@papworth.or.uk
Website: www.papworth.org.uk/wsdrc

The Brandon & District Rotary who meet at the Village Hall every Thursday evening are looking for new members. Anyone interested should contact Mick Mackender 01842 811681.

The Breckland Club Santon Downham

Always welcomes new members and visitors

Opening times: 8pm to 11pm Monday–Thursday;
5pm to 11pm Friday;
1pm to 11pm Saturday;
12 noon to 11pm Sunday.

Hairdressing

**Cutting, Colouring and
Perming**

**by Stevie Plumpton
(with 25 year's experience)**

**Have your hair cut in your own home
– Tel; 01842 810112**

**or in Brandon Salon – Total Hair
Tel: 01842 819764.**

Concessionary prices for senior citizens



Photographs by Derek Toomer

This Newsletter is compiled and produced by Sylvia East and Derek Toomer

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