

Santon Downham News

The Parish Council Newsletter for Santon Downham Villagers
November 2009 Number 3



I would like to say a big thankyou to all the people involved over the past few months in the organisation and running of the car boots, tombola, refreshments, cleaning the hall, working behind the bar and stocking it up. Well done everyone.

I feel it has been a very successful period, so again, many thanks for all your time and support, which has been much appreciated, long may it continue.

May I now wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Michael Mackender, Chairman of the Parish Council

Forthcoming Events

Charity auction – 20th November

This is our annual fund-raising activity. Sort out your unwanted items and bring them along to the Village Hall on the day between 10am and 12 noon, or 2pm to 3.30 pm. Or you can telephone 01842 815213 before the day and arrange collection.

This is a fun evening for all. Come along for the preview at 7pm and then take part in the auction from 7.30pm onwards. Admission is only £2 and this will include table snacks. Monies raised will be donated to charitable causes.

Christmas Bazaar – 12th December – 10am

Come along and buy some last minute gifts from one of the stalls, which will be selling a variety of goods from 10am to 4pm. Admission is free. Santa will be joining us, so this is a fun event for both children and adults. We will also have our 'Café' open for the entire time.

New Year's Eve Party – 31st December

Come and see the New Year in with us. There will be plenty of car parking space. 7.30pm till 1.00am. There will be a disco, the bar will of course be open and we will be putting on an excellent buffet, do come along and join in the revelries. The fancy dress theme will be 'glad rags' and there will be a prize for the best dressed reveller! The ticket price is only £6 and children are free (tickets to be booked in advance. Telephone 01842 815213.)

First Quiz Night – 22nd January at 7.30pm (plus fish and chips supper)

Table quizzes can be great fun. Sort out your team of four persons and come along. There will be prizes to win, but the fun is in taking part. The bar will be open, coffee and tea will be available and fish and chips will be served at half time. Tickets to be purchased in advance, Tel. 01842 815213 £2 for the quiz, or £6.50 to include a fish and chips supper.

Notes from the Parish Clerk



This has been a very eventful year to date. The Parish Council took on the management of the Village Hall Bar from the 1st May, created a new Village Hall Working Party which has resurrected the car boot sales and is working on

events that will hopefully appeal across the board. There is a saying that you cannot please all of the people all of the time, but we will make every effort to do our very best.

We have had several volunteers join our ranks, and we are always happy to welcome others – volunteering becomes a social forum and can be great fun. It is not just about giving time, ideas for events you may actually want to help organise, just

ideas for events, support for some of the events that appeal to you. The Village Hall does need to be used for outside functions, in order to keep going, but it is also here for the villagers and this is a big part of what the Village Hall Working Party is all about. We are a happy and friendly bunch of people, come and talk to us.

We still have a way to go towards our goal of eliminating the loans to the Rotary and Forest Heath District Council, but with continued support and enthusiasm, we will achieve what we have set out to do, get rid of our debts and bring more events to the Village Hall that will benefit our villagers. *Sylvia East, Clerk to the Parish Council*

Village Hall – Recent Activities & News

Murder Mystery Evening

Brandon and District Rotary Club held a Murder Mystery evening in October. The hall was filled with smartly dressed diners, while actors from Lakenheath Amateur Dramatics interspersed the excellent meal produced by *Shefs*, with 'scenes' from their James Bond Mystery. It was clearly enjoyed by all. Look out for another such event in the future.

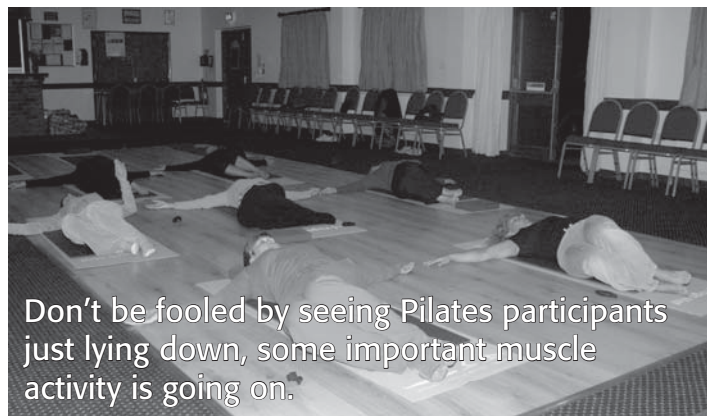


'James Bond' and compatriots enjoying their starters before entering into 'character'.

Pilates

Pilates classes have now been running for several weeks and are set to run weekly on Tuesday evenings for the near future.

If you are one of the 'exercise is not for me' brigade, then perhaps you should think again. Pilates is not about running around, and sweating profusely, or using complex apparatus to make muscles hurt, but is about controlled movements that work on core muscles of the abdomen and back. When the core muscles are strong and doing their job, they work in tandem with the more superficial muscles of the trunk to support the spine and movement.



Don't be fooled by seeing Pilates participants just lying down, some important muscle activity is going on.

Why not come along to the Village Hall one Tuesday at 7.15pm and see how this regular exercise could help you. Occasional sessions cost £6. but only £4 a session if you pay in advance for a whole block, which is usually 8 weeks at a time.

Lunch Club

The inaugural gathering of the village Lunch Club took place on 21st October. We had no idea how

successful or not it would be. Over fifty people turned up to enjoy a two-course meal produced by *Shefs* (for £4.95) and spent the first half of the afternoon chatting in friendly groups.

We hope that at future lunches, villagers might want to linger, playing cards or dominoes, or possibly carpet bowls. We welcome other ideas.

The next dates for the Lunch Club are 11th November (for £4.95) and 9th December, for our Christmas Meal (for £8.00 including extras), both at 12.30pm. Hope to see you there.



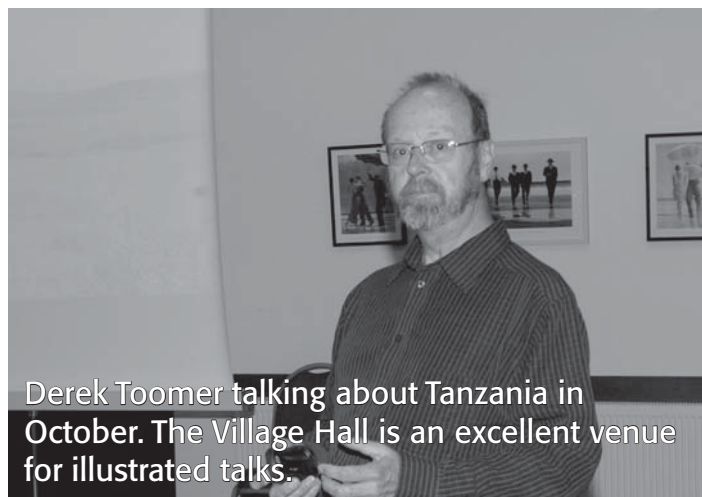
A full Village Hall on our first Lunch Club date. If you missed the first one, why not come along next time. (Please book in advance.)

Talks

We hope to hold a regular series of talks through the year. The first one, in early October, showing some of the beautiful wildlife to be found in Tanzania, was well attended and received.

The next talk will be on 30th November, when Rodney Tibbs will take *A Fresh Look at the Fens*, an important area right on our doorstep.

The talk starts at 7.30pm. Admission £2. The bar will be open and tea and coffee will also be available.



Derek Toomer talking about Tanzania in October. The Village Hall is an excellent venue for illustrated talks.

Like a Phoenix . . . – Car boot Sales

In 2008, the attendance at car boot sales on the Village Green had dwindled away, and the decision was taken to stop them.

With the renewed Parish Council, it was decided to resurrect the car boot sales. We assumed it was going to take a while to get the message out and to get back to a healthy number of stalls. The first sale in May was superb – over thirty cars came, and a large number of ‘buyers’. Santon Downham’s car boot sales were back.

We could never hope to compare with some of the larger car boots in the area, but what buyers and sellers like is the friendly atmosphere and pleasant surroundings. With the Hall acting as a cafe, selling teas and coffees with a range of excellent home made cakes, many people just enjoy coming along for a pleasant chat.



Small, but beautifully formed! The success of Santon Downhams’ car boot sales comes from its small-village friendliness.

Obviously, the Parish Council hopes to make a profit from such events, as well as providing a service to the villagers. The refreshments have been a surprising money maker, thanks mainly to volunteers manning the ‘cafe’ and making the cakes.

Another surprisingly successful source of revenue has been the Tombola, run every month by Parish Councillor Betty Branch, bringing in over £400 clear profit for the year. Well done! I will leave it to Betty to comment further:

“I would like to say a big thank you to all the kind people who gave prizes and bought tickets for the tombola stall at our car boot sales. Without your help and generosity, it would not have been such a success. The final total of £432.20 was made for the Village Hall funds.”



The car boot sales ever-present tombola runner, Betty Branch. With the odds of winning being quite high, people readily part with their money.

Car boot sales will resume on 11th April 2010 and continue on the first Sunday of the month after that through till October.

We will be introducing Table Top Sales in the Village Hall in 2010, to fill the car boot sales slot during the winter.

Other Village News

The Success of Church Teas

It may seem an unlikely venue for afternoon teas, in the churchyard, but this has been a popular meeting point for many years.

This year it has proved exceptionally popular and ‘Church Teas’ has raised an amazing £1,795 – excellent funds for the church.

Come along on 27th December, 2009 and 4th April in 2010 for teas **inside** the church. Regular church teas start at the end of May.

Tractor Boy!

No, not a new signing for Ipswich Town! Parish Council Chairman, Mick Mackender has recently invested his own money in purchasing a tractor. Together with the grass cutting attachment which was generously funded by two other Parish Councillors, this will allow very cheap management of the Village Green.



Extreme measures!

We do need funds to pay off some of the debt of the Village Hall, but surely no-one would think of taking part in an extreme sport to raise money! Oh yes I have.

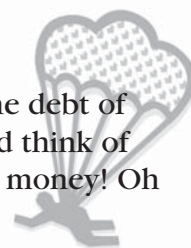
Sometime early in the New Year, I intend doing a sponsored Sky Dive, so get your cheque books ready – I will be looking for sponsors. (Ed)

Have you seen this man?



recognise this man, don’t confront him!*

**Panic over – It was Don Latin, with a message for Bill Bishop about where to collect his wife!*



Dates for your Diary

(In the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise)

2009

Wednesday 11th November	Lunch Club	12.30pm	£4.95
Friday 20th November	Charity Auction	7.30pm	£2
Sunday 29th November	Art Exhibition		
Monday 30th November	Illustrated Talk: <i>A Fresh Look at the Fens</i> by Rodney Tibbs	7.30pm	£2
Wednesday 9th December	Lunch Club Christmas Dinner	12.30pm	£8
Saturday 12th December	Christmas Bazaar	10am to 4pm	Free
Thursday 31st December	New Year's Eve Party	7.30pm to 1am	£6

2010

Friday 22nd January	Quiz Night (with fish & chips supper)	7pm	£2/£6.50
Sunday 31st January	Table Top Sale	9am to 1pm	

Signs of the Times

One attractive feature of many East Anglian villages is the village sign. The Parish Council is looking into the possibility of erecting a village sign and is investigating the costs and designs. We will be seeking sponsorship for this and we have already had several promises of donations.

When we have some possible designs, we will have an exhibition in the Village Hall, to give residents an opportunity to have their say.

On a similar theme, the Parish Council is seeking planning permission from Forest Heath District Council to have the Village Hall re-signed, to avoid any confusion with the rest of the building.

Booking the Hall

We have an excellent venue for all those important dates, or simply for an excuse to have a good get-together with friends. We are happy to accommodate our villagers at special rates. Do come along and talk to us - you will be surprised at the venue if you have not already been inside. Plenty of room, and excellent bar, friendly and comfortable atmosphere, the services of *Shefs* if you want a very professional and stress-free food provision, or, you can bring in your own buffet.

Telephone Michael or Sylvia on 01842 815213 or Mick and Sue on 01842 811681 or Derek and Jan on 01842 812219, we will be delighted to take you round the venue and discuss how we can help.

Breckland Club

We tend to talk about our Village Hall because this is one of the main focuses of the Parish Council.

However, we must not forget that our Village is lucky to also have a Members Social Club, which has a very long and interesting history in the Village. New Members are always welcome, and the membership is not expensive.

Colour Newsletter put on hold

John Parrington, Santon Downham resident and MD of Reflex Litho, sponsors of this newsletter, had said that he hoped his company would soon have facilities to print short runs in colour. Then a couple of weeks ago, fire destroyed half of their premises. We hope that Reflex can get their business back to full working order as soon as possible.

Village websites

Don't forget to look at our two websites relating to the village, maintained by Tim Kaye.

www.santondownhamcentre.co.uk;

www.santondownham.org

Photographs by *Derek Toomer*

This Newsletter is compiled and produced by *Derek Toomer (Ed)* and *Sylvia East*

Hockwold Christmas Bazaar

*14th November, 10am to 4pm,
at Hockwold Village Hall.*

Over 80 stalls

*Proceeds to The Children's Society
and St James' Church Organ fund*

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