

Santon Downham News

The Parish Council Newsletter for Santon Downham Villagers
October 2010 Number 7

With the first frosts, it feels as if winter has already arrived. But don't be downhearted, we have a good range of activities to interest you all. We have the return of the lunch club, table-top sales, Christmas bazaar, talks, auction, flower arrangement workshops. and last but not least, a spectacular end of year party - join in with as much as you can. I hope to see you in your *Mardi Gras* outfit on 31 December.
Derek Toomer, Editor

Forthcoming Events

CORRECTION

The Christmas Bazaar is on **SATURDAY 27** November, not Sunday as previously stated.

Annual Auction – 19 November

This is an important fund-raising event. We rely on the good will of villagers to supply auction items and to make purchases on the night.

Please have a look around your home and loft. Is there anything there that is not really wanted (most of us are magpies). We will accept jewellery, ornaments, furniture etc.

If you have any items that need to be collected, phone 01842 815213, 01842 811681 or 01842 812291.

Let's see if we can make this evening a huge success.



New Year's Eve Party – 31 December

The theme this year is *Mardis Gras*. We hope this will be a lavish event. Come dressed in your most outlandish *Mardis Gras* outfit. Masks will be supplied and there will be a prize for the best outfit.

As with last year, there will be an excellent buffet and disco. All this for £12.



Book your tickets now - phone 01842 815213 - and see the New Year in style.

A reminder of other events

Lunch Club - 3 November

This starts again, by popular demand. Excellent value at £5.45. Book your table - phone 01842 815213.

Lunch Club Xmas Meal - 8 December

At £8.50, another excellent value occasion. Book your table - phone 01842 815213.

Indoor Car Boot Sale - 7 November and 5 December.

Book a sales table - phone 01842 815213.

Realm of the Dragon - 12 November

Illustrated talk about China - come and hear about this incredible country. Entrance only £2.

Flower Arrangement Workshops - with

Mary Griffiths, 26 November and 10 December, 7.00-9.00pm. Cost £7 each. To book a place phone 01842 815213.

Shef's Lunch - 19 December

To book a table, phone 01842 819212 or 01842 819803.

Christmas Bazaar - 27 November

Book a sales table - phone 01842 815213. Father Christmas will be visiting between 12 noon and 1am.

Further details of all events on page 4

Village Hall – Recent Activities & News

October Quiz Night

Our quiz night in January was such a resounding success that we just had to repeat it.

The organising team were all ready and prepared, but would the quiz teams turn out? Oh yes indeed they did. With over 90 people, the hall was packed and the level of chatter reflected the enthusiasm of all. With questions on computer-muddled personalities, popular songs played backwards and



A packed hall - over 90 people testing their brains against the mind of the quiz master

details of local landmarks, there was enough to interest and frustrate all.

Combining the quiz with a fish and chip supper had seemed a huge gamble in January, but it was repeated with confidence gained from the earlier success. At half-time, boxes of piping hot fish and chips arrived to feed the hungry masses. They were all woofed down, with no complaints at all. We have to thank Brandon Fish bar for getting 94 portions prepared on time.

At the end, the desire to have another such quiz was expressed loud and clear. Watch out for details in a future newsletter.



The winning team, 2+2, having won by a tie-break, with a very high score, (must have been easier this time) receiving their prize.

Help for Heroes

The 1940s event that we held in July was also a tremendous success. Part of its aim was to raise money for an appropriate charity. We had a lot of help in setting up for the evening from RAF volunteers and TA volunteers, all organised by Lance Corporal Lee Nocton and they sold items to raise money for *Help for Heroes*.

At half-time in the quiz evening, a cheque for £400 – from the profit from the 1940s evening – was presented to Lee – to go to *Help for Heroes*,



Lee and comrades receiving a cheque for *Help for Heroes* from the Parish Council Chairman and Parish Clerk

Village News

Who pinched our log?

The trunk of a felled pine tree on the small part of the village green had been a familiar feature for a number of years. Because of its age, it was getting rather rotten but unfortunately was still a plaything for children. A request was made to the Parish Council to remove it. We imagined ourselves with chain saws cutting it into pieces – quite a task.



All that was left was a dent in the grass!

And then someone remembered that Stefan Karafa-Korbut had a new JCB vehicle in his drive. In minutes, it was lifted and deposited in the forest behind the Village Hall, out of harms way where it can continue to rot.

Church white-washing

Our church has been in bad need of decorating. The interior is being white-washed, and has resulted in the church being closed from 11 October. It is hoped that it will re-open on 7 November, although this could be delayed for a further week.

Beware – burglars

Our village is a fairly safe place to live. Unfortunately we are part of the real world. Last month, two houses were entered and items stolen, including a car. **Take extra care with closing windows and locking doors.**

Rapid road repairs

A small but deep hole appeared on the road from Santon Downham to Brandon. I phoned Suffolk County Council on a Monday and spoke to the Highways section. By Tuesday afternoon, it had been repaired. Now that's what I call service. Well done Suffolk CC.

More on the weather

In a TV programme about the weather in late September, the Breckland area featured strongly, because of its striking weather patterns and the reason for it. Our village had several mentions because of its records.

The warm, moist spring and hot summer weather certainly produced some surprising plant growth.



Now that's what I call a weed. (Great Mullein)

contd on p4

Focus on

Rotary Club of Brandon



The Rotarians meet weekly in Santon Downham Village Hall. Probably, like myself, you have only a vague idea of what Rotary does. Here, with help from Jason Whichelow, we will give you some idea of their important work, and of their history that led to them meeting in Santon Downham.

Rotary International

The Rotary Club of Brandon and District is part of Rotary International whose main world objectives are to:

- combat hunger
- improve health and sanitation
- provide education and training
- promote peace
- eradicate polio across the globe
- to organise collections for emergency appeals such as the Asian Tsunami and Haitian Earthquake

This is achieved by working on a variety of service based projects both here in the UK and overseas.

Brandon Rotary

Locally, Brandon Rotary undertakes a range of fundraising activities to support their charitable donations, and they support their local community.

The club also actively supports young people in the community, and in common with many other Rotary clubs, it takes part in the "Rotary Young Chef" Competition, "RYLA" for young adults, and the "Kids Out" programme, which provides a great day out for younger children.

When they are not fundraising, they are having fun. The club has a packed social calendar with weekends away at home and abroad. Members also attend national Rotary events and conferences, and participate in Rotary Friendship Exchanges to other Rotary Clubs.

Family events with their partners and children are also arranged from time to time, giving them the chance to say "Thank You" for their unwavering support behind the scenes.

Why meet in Santon Downham?

In 1974, it was decided to form a new Rotary Club in Brandon. The first meeting of business and professional men took place in Breckland Middle School.

In 1976, they moved to what had been the war-time Polish Club and Catholic Chapel in Rattlers Road, renting it and engaging a cook. The freehold was purchased in 1980 and the Club carried on meeting there until 1996. At this time, it was decided to carry out a major renovation. Unfortunately, vandals broke in and the subsequent

fire resulted in the building becoming beyond repair.

A series of venues for their meetings was chosen over the next few years, including the Brandon House Hotel, the Saxon Inn at Weeting and the Ram in Brandon.

In 2003, the Parish Council in Santon Downham wanted to rebuild the village hall, but were short of funds. It was agreed that Rotary should invest some of the funds made from the Rattlers Road site in the proposed new hall, with Rotary having their own room, the Rotary Centenary Room, which the Parish Council could use occasionally.

Thanks to Rotary

We have to be very appreciative of the financial help given by Rotary towards our new hall. As well as direct help with funding, Rotary loaned the Parish Council a significant sum. With profit from events and the bar over the last 18 months, this has been repaid.

Rotary Meetings

Meetings of The Rotary Club of Brandon & District are held on Thursday evenings in the Rotary Centenary Room, and members are advised to arrive at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Business is carried out around a meal prepared by the 'on site' caterers, Shefs.

Would you like to join Rotary?

If you think you would like to join, find out more on their website - www.brandonrotary.org.uk, or email info@brandonrotary.org.uk, or phone Jason Whichelow during office hours on 01842 815777.



Ken Harris, the President of Brandon and District Rotary

Dates for Your Diary

(In the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise)

2010

Wednesday 3rd November	Lunch Club	12.30pm	£5.45
Sunday 7th November	Indoor Car Boot Sale	10am to 2pm	
Friday 12th November	Realm of the Dragon	7.30pm	£2
	<i>Illustrated talk about China by Derek Toomer</i>		
Friday 19th November	Auction Evening	7.30pm (preview from 6pm)	£2
Friday 26th November	Flower Arrangement Workshop	7pm to 9pm	£7
Saturday 27th November	Xmas Bazaar	10am to 4pm	50p
Sunday 5th December	Indoor Car Boot Sale	10am to 2pm	
Wednesday 8th December	Lunch Club Xmas Meal	12.30pm	£8.50
Friday 10th December	Flower Arrangement Workshop	7pm to 9pm	£7
Sunday 19th December	Shef's Lunch	12.30pm	
Friday 31st December	New Year Party	7.30pm to 1.00am	£12

Village News – contd

Harvest Supper



Villagers waiting for the feast to begin

The annual harvest supper was held in the church nave on 14 September. With pews turned around and borrowed tables laid out, the church was full. An excellent spread was available and the whole event was delightful.

All present joined in the fun of the auction that followed, paying well over the odds in many cases. The evening raised well over £400 – brilliant!

Church Teas



A sunny day, home made cakes and good company – what more could you want?

There is something very pleasant about sitting around in the churchyard of our church, supping a beverage and eating home-made cake. Through the summer months, many villagers and welcome passers-by partake of the treats available. But it's not just pleasant, it is a great fund-raiser for the church. This year, over £1,900 was raised, and over the last 10 years, a staggering £12,000 and more has been raised. Church teas start again in May.



Jonny and Sally McIrvine – just two of many volunteers serving at the Church teas

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*

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