

Santon Downham News

The Parish Council Newsletter for Santon Downham Villagers

April 2012 Number 13

At the time of writing, we have just had a record breaking March, with temperatures soaring into the mid 20s°C followed closely by a cold and wet week. Our local weather never ceases to surprise.

We have news of a variety of events that may be of interest to you, so read on.

The content of our newsletters is mainly the work of one or two people. We would welcome contributions from other village people. Do you have any interesting stories or anecdotes, or maybe old photos? Do get in touch with me - Tel: 01842 812291, or email derek.toomer@btinternet.com. *Derek Toomer, Editor*

Forthcoming Events

An illustrated talk by Derek Toomer

'Top to Bottom Down Under - New Zealand's Beauty'. Friday 27 April 2012, 7.30pm, £2.

New Zealand is both a beautiful and fascinating country. Being so far away adds to its mystery. Geologically, it became an unattached country about 80 million years ago. This meant that there were no land mammals on the islands. How things have changed! The North Island was shaped by volcanic activity, whereas the South Island was sculpted by glaciers, both producing a spectacular scenery.

Derek's illustrated talk will take you the length and breadth of the country showing the scenery and the country's wildlife.



Ride for Life – a reminder

The 2012 Ride for Life will take place on Sunday 20 May. It will include on and off-road rides from 10 to 35 miles, plus Walks for Life of 3 and 9 miles. This year entrants are allowed to do 2 or 3 laps of the 35 mile on-road route, perfect for those who would like an extra challenge!

There is still time to take part, so if you are looking for a good day's fun around our forest tracks, and raising money for East Anglia's Children's Hospices,

sign up online, please visit www.each.org.uk/rideforlife or call 01953 715559 for an entry form.

As well as the cycle rides and walks, there will be stalls, refreshments and entertainment on the Village Green, so it's a great day out for all the family!



Rotary Beer Festival

The Rotarians will be holding their annual Beer Festival in a marquee near the Village Hall on 19 to 20 May. Do come along and sample some real ales.

Diamond Jubilee Car Boot Sale

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations coincide with our monthly car boot sale on Sunday 3 June. We will be having a special café in the village hall on this date, which will continue into the afternoon. We will have the usual array of home-made cakes and bacon butties as well as soft beverages, so come along and enjoy some afternoon tea in good company.



Getting ready for another busy morning's car boot sale.

Diamond Jubilee tree planting - To commemorate this special occasion, the Parish Council has decided to plant a tree on the green. It will be planted at the far end of the village green (Church end), near the Silver Jubilee tree, on the afternoon of the car boot sale. Do come and watch.

We will be sending out a sheet in May with more information about the Diamond Jubilee event, including some details about a Jubilee souvenir for village children.



Silver Jubilee tree

Parish Annual Meeting and Parish Council AGM

The Parish Annual Meeting will take place on 14 May, 6.30–7.30pm. It is an opportunity to speak to your representatives on the Parish Council – ask questions, offer ideas.

The Parish Council AGM will follow the Parish Annual Meeting at 7.30pm.

Advanced warning

Autumn Village Quiz – Saturday 13 October, 7pm

a) What is the commonest bird in the world?

b) Which Shakespeare play is this? (the vowels have been removed) – SYLKT *Answers on p4*

We haven't forgotten to have a quiz this year. We

will be holding our next quiz and fish and chip supper in the autumn. Over the past couple of years, our village quizzes have been great fun, so do come along. The entry charge is £2 and about £7.50 including fish and chips (to be determined later). The village Hall bar will operate as well.

Look out for the July Newsletter for further details.

Christmas Bazaar

This will be held on Saturday 1 December. This will be our only 'table-top' sale next winter (see below), so book a table early for your sale of festive gifts.

If you are looking for some quality and novel gifts and stocking fillers do come along on that Saturday. The Village Hall café will be open as well.

Village Hall – Recent Activities

Coffee Mornings

Maggy Turner set up our coffee mornings last year, with the simple intention of bringing village people together for chat and a bevy. Most mornings saw about two dozen villagers chatting amicably, looking over old photographs of the village and village people or tackling one of Maggie's 'gentle' quizzes. They are having a break for the summer and will return in the autumn. Look out for details in a future newsletter and come along for a chat.

We must give Maggy a big thank-you for organising these mornings.



Gentle conversation, coffee and cakes – a pleasant way to spend a couple of hours.

Just before the final coffee morning, our automatic water boiler broke down and needed to be replaced. Maggy very kindly donated the 'profit' from the coffee mornings, amounting to £100, towards a new boiler. Parish

Councillor Heather Brighthouse kindly added another £20 towards the new boiler.

Many thanks to Maggy and Heather for their generosity.

Table Top Sale

March saw the last table top sale of the season. They have been very successful since we started them, although they do result in considerable effort in setting up. Because of this, the decision has been made that, apart from the Christmas Bazaar, we will not have future table top sales. Instead, the car boot sales will be extended and will run from March to November.



Maggy entertaining

Village News

Church Teas

With summer just around the corner, what could be nicer on a Sunday afternoon than sitting in the churchyard with a cup of tea, a piece of homemade cake and some pleasant company.

Church teas will resume on 3 June to 26 August, 2.30–5.00pm. As well as being very pleasurable, church teas are a good source of revenue. So come along and chill out and help raise funds for the church at the same time.



Catching up on what is going on in the village on a Sunday afternoon.

I would think that everyone in the village knows Andrew Kedar. He is one of these octogenarians who seems to have boundless energy. I wish I had half of his enthusiasm and get up and go. He is as familiar overseeing church activities as he is dashing around on his 'funky' moped. As always, there is more to the man than what we see superficially, as I found out when talking to him Ed.

Iknew as soon as I moved to Santon Downham that this was the village I wanted to spend the rest of my life in. I was so pleased to be here and I wanted to work hard for the village.

So how did this all come about?

A career in the RAF

I was born in Essex – my father was a farmer from Scotland. I went to the Grammar school in Colchester and obtained good grades in my school certificate. I left in 1946 and joined RAF in 1947 where I remained for the rest of my working life – 39 years.

It was an interesting and varied career and after three years, I was selected to go to Queens University, Belfast to do an engineering degree. During the three years I belonged to the University air squadron, going on my wings course in Feltwell. I was commissioned and my Wings were awarded in 1954.

I stayed as an engineer for the rest of my RAF career. After six years aircraft maintenance I moved to guided weapons and spent three years at Farnborough. That's when Margaret and I married.

After this I was sent to California, USA for two years to do a Masters degree. On graduating, I returned to work for the Ministry of Defence. I then went to Staff College for a year, and then spent more time engineering on Stations as a Wing Commander. After 18 months in Cyprus I returned to take charge of the Data Centre at Swanton Morley.

Time spent at Army R & D at Fort Halstead in Kent and working for the Ordnance Board led up to my retirement in 1985.

How did I end up in Santon Downham?

With my family, we were looking to move to this



part of East Anglia. I had been to Santon Downham several times, walking in the forest with our children. So when a property in Santon Downham came on the market I jumped at it. We moved in to *Hornbeams* in 1987.

Involvement with the church

This started by chance. Two doors away lived Margaret Taylor who was Church Warden. During some cold weather I offered to unlock the church for her and that is how my involvement with the church began. I have been on the Church Council for 24 years, treasurer for nearly 24 years and Church Warden for 13 years.

Further 'working for the village'

I got involved with the Village Hall for a number of years, first as Committee Member and then as Chairman, (as well as general handyman and treasurer at different times).

By 2002 the old building, which had come from High Lodge, was starting to suffer. So with the backing of the Village Hall Committee, I tried to get grants to replace it. Our efforts were not successful. For complex financial reasons, the task of getting funding and building a new hall was handed over to the Parish Council.

I was also on the Breckland Club Committee for nine years.

Pastimes

For a number of years I have spent time researching my family history with the intention of passing it on to the four children. I still love our delightful village and enjoy walks in the forest.

Andrew Kedar



Family Photograph

Dates for Your Diary

(In the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise)

2012

Friday 27th April	<i>Top to Bottom Down Under,</i>	7.30pm	£2
	<i>New Zealand's Beauty</i> by Derek Toomer		
Sunday 6th May	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Monday 14th May	Parish Annual Meeting	6.30 to 7.30pm	
Saturday 19–20th May	Rotary Beer Festival	All day	
Sunday 20th May	Ride for Life	All day	
Sunday 3rd June	Diamond Jubilee Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
	and Diamond Jubilee Café	1pm onwards	
(This will include the planting of the Diamond Jubilee tree and a presentation to village children)			
Sunday 1st July	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Sunday 5th August	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Saturday 14th October	Quiz night	7pm	£2/£7.50
	(with Fish and Chips supper)		

Village News – contd

Forest Heath Electoral Registration

The Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform, Mark Harper, has issued a direction under Section 52(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to Electoral Registration Officers that the annual canvass for 2012 shall commence as soon as reasonably practicable after the 2 July 2012 and shall be concluded on the 15th October. It also requires the revised register to be published on the 16th October. This is a one-off exercise for this year only and I understand that the reference date for the canvass will still be the 15th October 2012.

The purpose of this is to have an up to date register ready for the Police Commissioners Elections in November.

Forest Heath will be sending its initial form out in mid June, reminder in July and canvassers will door knock in August.

It's a small world

Santon Downham is a very small village, so we don't usually expect anyone who does not live near to have heard of it. So you can imagine my surprise when I was talking to some of group on an archaeological trip to Egypt in February. I am not sure what the topic of conversation was, but I was just saying that I lived in a village in the middle of the forest, and one of the group said "You don't live in Santon Downham do you? I used to live there in the 1980s". Her name was Myrtle Blight. She used to live at the top of the green towards the church end. She said she used to help organise the Woodchoppers' Gala amongst other things.

Do you remember her? Do let me know.

Bus Shelter – needs some TLC

Our bus shelter, situated near to the church, has survived for many years. It is 'part of the village', but sadly its roof is starting to lose bits of wood and felt. At



a recent Parish Council meeting, it was clear that we did not want some modern shelter, or even a new wooden one, as neither would fit in. So we are hoping to get it repaired and one of our Parish Councillors has agreed to see what he can do. If anyone else feels that they could help, please get in touch with me (Ed.).

p2 quiz answers:

- a) *Chicken (more than 24 billion)*
- b) *As You Like It*

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

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