

# Santon Downham News

The Parish Council Newsletter for Santon Downham Villagers

July 2012

Number 14

Special Diamond  
Jubilee Edition

It's difficult to believe that it is almost August at the time of writing. This has been such an unusual year with all sorts of weather records having been broken. And we are still waiting hopefully for summer!

I must clarify a date that I muddled up in the last newsletter. The next quiz night is on **Friday 12 October at 7pm**. Apologies for the confusion.

We have received information about free property insulation. The Councils of Suffolk are working with trusted and accredited local companies, to offer Suffolk residents FREE cavity wall and loft insulation. The website for the scheme is [www.greensuffolk.org/toast](http://www.greensuffolk.org/toast) and the hotline phone number is 0845 603 7686.

The scheme also features a community benefit element, in that for every home that is insulated as part of this scheme, £15 is donated to a local Suffolk school/club/group/charity that has registered with the scheme. The list of those schools/groups that have so far registered can be found at: [www.greensuffolk.org/registrations](http://www.greensuffolk.org/registrations). *Derek Toomer, Editor*

## Diamond Jubilee

### Celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The Parish Council and the Village Hall Working Group decided to plant a commemorative tree on the green and to have a Diamond Jubilee café on the Sunday 3 June of the four day festival.

The day did not get off to a good start, with the Jubilee car boot sale having to be abandoned because of heavy rain - only the second time since the car boot sales were resurrected.

This did not bode well for the afternoon, but we were all hopeful that the weather would be kind to us.

At the appointed time, some Parish Councillors and Village Hall Working Group representatives assembled at the commemorative tree.

The rain had stopped, but there were very few other villagers there. Would anyone else turn up? Was this all going to be something of a damp squib?

But we shouldn't have worried - good numbers of villagers suddenly appeared over the rising ground - it was like something out of the movies.



We shouldn't have worried, lots of villagers appeared for the 'tree planting'.



Waiting for the 'tree planting ceremony'. Is this all who are going to turn Up?



Mick Mackender addressing the assembled villagers





**The plaque on the commemorative tree.**

The assembled masses then moved to the village hall. This had been decorated for the Jubilee. The villagers tucked into their free tea and cakes and had a good chat with others present.



**Scones and cream, mini Pavlovas, homemade cakes and beverages – Jubilee treats for villagers.**



**The Jubilee café was buzzing with activity.**



**Free cakes and tea, and even the beer was free!**

Commemorative mugs were presented to village children by Mick Mackender, Chairman of the Parish Council.



**Jubilee mugs were presented to village children – including some very young ones.**

Andrew Kedar arranged for the church illuminations to be switched on for the duration of the Jubilee celebrations.



**Our church splendidly illuminated.**



**Mick Mackender, Chairman of the Parish Council, waiting patiently for the rain to stop for the car boot sale.**

In the end, it was a very successful day, in spite of the weather.

Thanks to Malcolm Finch for his help with acquiring the tree and planting it.



## Forthcoming Events

### Autumn Village Quiz – Friday 12 October, 7pm

We will be holding our next quiz and fish and chip supper in the autumn. The emphasis is on fun, so do come along even if you don't think you are any good at quizzes.

Cost £2 and £7.50 including fish and chips. The village Hall bar will operate as well.

### An illustrated talk by Derek Toomer

'USA's Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks'. Friday 23 November 2012, 7.30pm, £2. When I visited these National Parks in June, I wasn't planning on giving a talk. But on my return, a number of people said they were looking

forward to my talk! So do come along – stunning scenery, beautiful plants and animals.

### Christmas Bazaar

This will be held on Saturday 1 December. 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.

### New Year's Eve Party – Monday 31 December, 7.30pm–1am, £12.

This year's theme is 'A Night at the Movies', So choose your favourite movie character and come along for a night of fun. Buffet supper, bar and disco as usual.

## Village Hall – Recent Activities

### Rotary Beer festival

This was held over the weekend of the 19–20 May. Money raised will go towards the purchase of *Shelter Boxes* – kits that can be sent to disaster areas, each containing a tent and other emergency supplies.



A real choice

### Ride for Life

This very successful fundraising event was held in May, with over 900 taking part. Over £35,000 was raised towards East Anglia's Children's Hospices. Fundraising Manager, Mark Loades, extends his thanks for the villagers' tolerance. In the 19 years this event has been running, nearly three quarters of a million pounds has been raised. Superb!



Ready for the off

Villagers Mandy and Paul McCreath's daughter, Zoe, decided to have her school's prom at our village hall with fellow pupils arriving in an impressive variety of vehicles. An excellent end to school life.



Very posh!



Very posh also!



Very retro!



Very impressive!

### Anything young ones can do . . .



In June, Mr and Mrs Vasey celebrated their Golden Wedding in the village hall, arriving in a splendid red Routemaster Bus.

### A School Prom comes to Santon Downham

Now I thought that a prom was something at the seaside, or even something at the Royal Albert Hall. But it seems that it is now **the** way to celebrate the end of school life. Pupils dress up incredibly smartly and arrive at the prom party in a range of interesting vehicles.



Gosh, don't they look smart!

# Dates for Your Diary

(In the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise)

2012

Sunday 5th August	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Sunday 2nd September	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Sunday 7th October	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Friday 12th October	Quiz night (with Fish and Chips supper)	7pm	£2/£7.50
Sunday 4th November	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Friday 23rd November	<i>USA's Grand Teton and Yellowstone, National Parks</i> by Derek Toomer	7.30pm	£2
Saturday 1st December	Xmas Bazaar	10am to 4pm	50p
Saturday 31st December	New Year's Eve Party	7.30pm to 1am	£12

## Village News

### Tony Lister 1927–2012

Tony, aged 84, died peacefully in June. He had lived in the village for 18 years. London borne, he trained as an accountant,



before joining the RAF shortly after the war. He trained to be a pilot at Feltwell, where he met his wife Betty in 1949. One of his first major roles as a pilot was to fly a Handley Page Hastings as part of the Berlin Airlift (now preserved in Duxford Museum), transporting supplies to the people of Berlin. On leaving the RAF, with Betty his wife, they ran a small garage/shop in Feltwell, before setting up a very successful garage in Weeting. They moved to Santon Downham in the mid 1990s. Tony continued flying in his own private plane until very recently.

Our thoughts are with Betty, his wife, and their son, daughter and grandchildren.

### Richard Blair 1989–2012

Richard lived in Santon Downham for a number of years during his early life, being fostered by Pat and Chris Goodson. Although disabled, Richard lived a full life, attending college and making many friends. He was a popular young man and his sudden passing at the age of 22 was a shock to his family and friends. Our thoughts are with them.



### And sadly . . .

Geoff Robinson, who regularly ran a book stall at our car boot and table top sales, and who will be remembered by many of us, passed away in May after a short illness.



### And the weather records continue

BBC's Look East weather has continued to surprise us with records. For April in East Anglia, Santon Downham had the highest temperature at 24°C and the lowest regional temperature at -6°C. On 29 May, the highest temperature nationally was 28°C in Santon Downham. Then on 4 June, Alex Dolan said that in parts of East Anglia, it was nearly cold enough for a frost, except in Santon Downham, where temperatures dropped below freezing!



### Village Websites

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

[www.santondownhamcentre.co.uk](http://www.santondownhamcentre.co.uk);  
[www.santondownham.org](http://www.santondownham.org)

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