

# Santon Downham News

*The Parish Council Newsletter for Santon Downham Villagers*

April 2013      Number 17

**D**id I miss spring? The cold spell that started at the beginning of the year finally changed on 14 April, with temperatures literally soaring. And where was the highest temperature in the country for that day? Yes, you've got it, Santon Downham, at 22°C. Finally hedgerows are turning green and tree buds are bursting.

Did you know that apparently Santon Downham has been rated as one of the Top Ten places to live in a recent 'Sunday Times' survey. (I'm not sure if that is nationally, or just in Suffolk.)

I hope to see you at our Cream Teas in July, or at one of our Car Boot cafés, or perhaps at our New Year's Eve Party. *Derek Toomer, Editor*

## Parish Council News

### So what does the Parish Council do?

We have new residents in our delightful village and perhaps it would be nice to give them a little background information about the Community Building and Parish Council?



**Mick Mackender, Chairman of the Parish Council, and Sylvia East, Clerk to the Parish Council**

The Parish Council owns the 'Community Centre', housing the Village Hall and The Breckland Club, the land on which the building stands, the greens and various scattered bits of land across the village. The Parish Council also owns several of the internal village roads and a number of trees.

Your Parish Council consists of six Councillors and a Parish Clerk. The quorum to make legal decisions is three or one third, whichever is more. No less than four meetings can be held per annum and this includes the Annual General Meeting.

The Parish Council bears no costs of running and maintaining this centre. Its resources are mainly in the form of the precept. This is an amount of money from the County Council, which is sourced from our Council Tax contributions. The current precept stands at £4,650 and this has to cover Parish Council expenditure such as Public Liability & Fidelity Insurance, membership to Council organisations,

annual audit, Parish Clerk's salary, and the upkeep (to the best of its financial ability) of the trees and roads owned by the Parish Council.

### The Village Hall & the Breckland Club



These two totally separate entities are both tenants of the Parish Council, and are individually responsible for the upkeep of their tenanted premises both inside and out.

A number of activities take place in the Village Hall. It is available for hire for private functions weddings, wakes and parties. On most Tuesday's between 8-9 pm there is a Pilates Class, every first Sunday of the month between March and October there is a Car Boot with indoor café and occasionally we do run other hall events, such as talks, summer and New Year dances and Christmas Bazaars, advertised throughout the village as and when.

The Village Hall is run on a voluntary basis and new volunteers are always welcome — no regimental commitment, just when you can.

The Breckland Club is membership based and is cheap and easy to join. *Mick Mackender, Chairman of the Parish Council; Sylvia East, Clerk to the Parish Council*



## Forthcoming Events

### Ride for Life – Sunday 19 May

This annual event is a great fund-raiser for East Anglia's Children's Hospices. It will include on and off-road rides from 10 to 35 miles, plus Walks for Life of 3 and 9 miles. As last 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 a very worthwhile cause, sign up online, please visit [www.each.org.uk/rideforlife](http://www.each.org.uk/rideforlife) or call Laura Shearing 01953 715559 for an entry form, or just turn up on the day.

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 – Saturday 18 May and Sunday 19 May

The Rotarians will be hosting their annual Beer Festival by the Village Hall. Do come along and sample some fine real ale.

### Cream Teas – 17 July at 3pm

Coffee mornings through the winter have proved quite popular. The Village Hall Committee thought that villagers might like a cream tea in the summer.



What could be more pleasant than a home-made scone with lots of jam and cream, a nice cup of tea and good company.

Do come along, only £3 each. So that we have some idea of numbers, book any time by phoning Sylvia on 01842 815213 or Derek on 01842 812291, but if you just turn up on the day, I am sure we will accommodate you..

### Advanced information

**Namibia, Southern Africa, a talk by Derek Toomer – Friday 18 October, 7.30pm. Entrance £2**

The amazing desert scenery of Namibia (sand dunes a thousand feet high) and its bird and animal wildlife.

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

Excellent Disco, super food. Fancy dress optional – prizes for the best outfits. This year's theme – characters from your favourite TV programme.

## Village News

### Village Trees owned by the Parish Council

Most residents will be aware of the problems we have had with the Norway Maple down Marks Lane. Limbs broke off just shortly after some walkers had passed by! The Forestry Commission reacted quickly and the offending limbs were removed, only for them to realise that this tree is the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Following on from this, and in consideration of adverse media attention elsewhere, the Parish Council made a decision to have a full survey of the trees it owns. This survey had to be undertaken by a professional company.

The Report is now to hand, but the Parish Council needs time to digest what this will mean by way of expenditure. Certainly the Norway Maple requires more remedial work, and there is also an Oak by the church that is in dire need of attention. There will be other work needed throughout the rest of the tree stock, and the Parish Council will need to make a decision as to which trees require a lot of work, just be a little 'haircut', or to simply be

monitored and dealt with over the next few years.

We are sure everyone will recognise that we do need to safeguard the trees, not only because of their beauty, but also because of the safety issues. You can generally see what lies directly under you, but not always what is falling down from above!

There will always be an issue of available funds for 'village' work, so we need to take a sensible approach as to where best we can apply our resources. Overall the decision by the Parish Council is that we MUST deal with the immediate issues of the tree survey, carry out any urgent pothole work on the main village roads and thereafter consider what financial provisions might be required for any future needs.

*Sylvia East, Clerk to the Parish Council and Mick Mackender, Chairman of the Parish Council*



**A splendid Wellingtonia on the village green**



## Spring splendour



How delightful the daffodils look around the church wall. They were planted by three generations of the Sayer family in memory of Annie Royal, Vera's mother, who at the time of her death was the oldest resident of Santon Downham. Annie also spent many of the war years living in Corner Cottage. *Vera, Gilly and the Sayer family*

## 180! – well almost Santon Downham's oldest couple



Marjorie and John William (Jack) Traube have lived in Santon Downham for 65 years. Jack was originally from Enfield and Marjorie lived in Little Lodge Farm for a while. They met in Thetford during the war and were married on 11 October 1947. Marjorie will be 90 on 13 May, and Jack will be 89 on 21 June. Congratulations to them both.

## Brenda Largent 1931–2013

Brenda passed away on 23 March 2013 at Brandon Park Nursing Home, after a short illness. She was a true Santon Downhamer, having lived here all her life.

She was born in the Coach House 08/01/1931 to Albert and Kit Carter.



In the 1950s, she married Herbie and had two daughters. She lived in Bridge House for the last 50 years.

Brenda was a very active member of our community, serving on the Parish Council and being involved with the Village Hall. Many people will remember her calling round to people's houses to pick up cakes for car boot sales.

You would see her on her bike or on foot round the village, wearing her 'famous' straw hat, and always having biscuits in her pocket for any passing cat or dog.

She really loved Santon Downham. *Vinnie and Mac Harrington*

## Time for some summer exercise – Pilates

Exercise can give you that feel good factor, and it doesn't have to involve lots of sweat and going to the gym. Villager Penny Crook has been running classes in our village hall for several years. Here she explains what Pilates is all about:



**Pilates, beneficial in so many ways says Penny.**

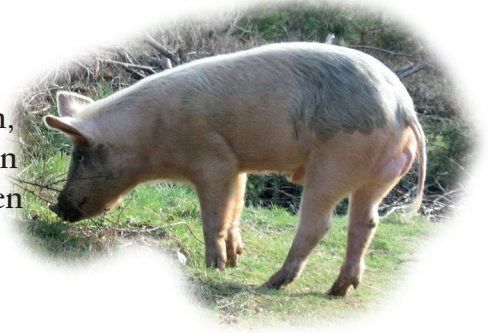
"What is Pilates? It is a floor based exercise class offering complete body conditioning comprising slow, controlled, flowing movements targeting key postural muscles of the torso. You will develop and improve mobility, flexibility, core strength, muscle tone, balance and so help to reduce stress and enhance emotional well-being. Pilates is a 'common sense' mind-body approach to functional fitness."

Why not give it a try. If you book a session of seven weeks, it can be as cheap as £5 a session. Contact Penny to enquire about the classes on 01842 815074, or 07796 603643, or email [zumba-penny@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:zumba-penny@hotmail.co.uk). *Penny Crook*

## Bacon on the hoof? or someone's outgrown pet?

'Mr Pig' first appeared on the scene on Friday 15 March, ambling about in the lane between Field Barns and the village, and along Harling

Drove. He was quite happily munching vegetation and not a bit concerned about traffic. He was still there on the Sunday and I managed to get a few photos of him.



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# Dates for Your Diary

(In the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise)

2013

Sunday 5th May	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Saturday/Sunday 18–19th May	Rotary Beer Festival	All day	
Sunday 19th May	Ride for Life	All day	
Sunday 2nd June	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Sunday 7th July	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Wednesday 17th July	Cream Teas	3pm	£3
Sunday 4th August	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Friday 18th October	<i>Namibia, Southern Africa</i> by Derek Toomer	7.30pm	£2

## Parish Council Meetings

(In the Village Hall)

2013

Monday 20th May	AGM and Annual Parish Meeting	7pm
Monday 8th July	Parish Council Meeting (Approval of Section 1 of the Annual Return)	7pm
Monday 2nd September	Parish Council Meeting	7pm
Monday 28th October	Parish Council Meeting (Budget 2014 issues)	7pm
Monday 23rd December	Parish Council Meeting	7pm

I last heard about him on Tuesday 19 March when I heard it had discovered someone's compost heap in Harling Drove. It seemed very settled and content with life. The Police, RSPCA and Forestry Commission didn't want to know, so it was left alone to take its chances.

We assume it was once a 'micropig' (a small pet) which just kept on growing and has been dumped in the forest by its owners. He has no ear tags so is not a farm escapee, and his markings suggest he was once a very pretty little piglet. I haven't seen or heard of the pig since then, but he is probably still around somewhere.

Has anyone else had any sightings? *Claire Barton*

### Coffee Mornings

The village hall kindly hosts the coffee club without charge. This is organised and run by Maggy with a very small charge for tea/coffee and biscuits and a great chat. This year Maggy has in total handed the village hall £100 and this will

be used to purchase a steam cleaner for the hall use. We thank Maggy for her hard work and for what is always a terrific time to catch up with friends.

The coffee club is now ended until next autumn but the Village Hall will have a "Cream Tea" on 17 July at 3pm. Do come along.

### 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)

Photographs by *Derek Toomer*

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