

# Santon Downham News

The Parish Council Newsletter for Santon Downham Villagers

July 2013 Number 18

At the time of writing, summer has arrived, although we are already using the term 'heat wave' presumably to be followed by 'drought'. Many of the villages garden flowers have survived the cold and there are some excellent specimens of Wisteria (but not mine - well frosted). Now, one last mention (probably) of our unique weather. On 11 June we were the hottest in East Anglia at 20°C. Then a friend in Northumberland emailed me to say that on their weather news Santon Downham had a huge temperature range of 1°C to 21°C in one day. On 7 July, with 28°C we were the hottest in East Anglia, and lastly, on 22 July, we were joint hottest in East Anglia with a staggering 32°C. Wow! *Derek Toomer, Editor*



John and Lydia Dyer's magnificent Wisteria

## Forthcoming Events

### Car Boots – August to October

These very popular events will continue on the first Sunday of each month until October. They will then recommence in March 2014. Why not come along for some light refreshments in the car boot café in the Village Hall.

### Coffee Mornings – October to December, 50p

These will start up again on 9 October and continue on the first and fourth Wednesday each month at 10am to 12 noon. Come and join us for a gentle chat. **Don't forget to bring your own mug.**



### Namibia – Deserts and Dunes, Big Game and Birds, a talk by Derek Toomer – Friday 18 October, 7.30pm. Entrance £2

Mountainous dunes and a rare Black Rhino – among the many sights in Namibia.



Namibia, in Southern Africa, is a fascinating country with some truly amazing scenery (sand dunes a thousand feet high), wonderful game reserves with beautiful animals and birds. Come and share this spectacle.

### 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. Would anyone dare come as Andy Pandy or Looby Loo? We hope to see you there to welcome in the New Year.



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### Tree lopping

Some village trees have to have some attention for health and safety reasons. A contractor has been chosen out of the three agreed by the Parish Council, and the planning application is in hand. Once this is accepted, tree lopping will begin. One of the first to receive attention is the large Norway Maple in Marks Lane that we have mentioned before. This requires some crown reduction. The oaks near the church will then follow.

The swing on the pine tree near the Village Hall has been well used by children. The tree survey highlighted it as causing damage to the tree. Added to this, a child was hurt on it recently. For health and safety reasons, the swing was promptly removed.



A Forestry trimmed Beech, cut to encourage wildlife during its decay.



## Village Hall – Recent Activities

### Spring Village Quiz – Friday 26 April, 7pm

The latest quiz was held at the end of April. We decided to not have a fish and chip supper as well this time and it made the whole evening a lot more relaxed. Fun was had by all and teams showed an impressive level of knowledge.

The winning team were the Oohs & Aahs.

We will be having another quiz in the New Year, so come and join us for a fun evening.



**The winning Oohs & Aahs team receiving their prize from Michael.**

### Ride for life – 18 May

On a beautiful Sunday in May, almost 1,000 people turned up on the village green to take part in the annual bike ride, raising money for East Anglia's Children's Hospices. This has proved to be a superb fundraiser for a number of years. When the final monies have been collected this year's event will have raised over £50,000 – absolutely brilliant. Watch out for next year's event on Sunday 11 May – why not take part?



**The next family groups ready for the off. EACH's superb charity event.**

### Rotary Beer Festival – Saturday 18 May and Sunday 19 May

Over the Ride for Life weekend, the Rotarians hosted their annual Beer Festival. A good number of real ales were available for all to sample. Alongside their beer tent, they ran a barbecue. Profits from their weekend were donated towards the cost of the toilets used for the Ride for Life.



**Beer and burgers provided by the Rotarians at the Ride for Life event.**

### Santon Downham Car Boot Sales

Having resurrected our car boot sales, several years ago, they have continued to increase in popularity. Sales people and buyers seem to enjoy the scenic and more intimate atmosphere of our events compared to some of the larger ones.



**July's car boot had beautiful weather which brought out plenty of buyers and sellers.**

Alongside the stalls, we have been running the Village Hall café. This has also proved very popular and each car boot sees the hall buzzing with people. Bacon butties proved very popular as soon as we introduced them. This year alone, we have served well in excess of 500, bringing in good revenue towards the upkeep of the Village Hall.



**The bustling Village Hall café on a car boot sales day.**



## Help for Hedgehogs

There are very clear indications that one of the nation's favourite urban and garden mammals is severely declining in numbers for a variety of reasons. At present, there is still a reasonable population of these delightful animals in Santon Downham, but it is probable that there has been some decline in numbers this year.

### Providing care

For several years we have been taking in sick, hungry and underweight hedgehogs for rehabilitation and subsequent release, once they are well enough to survive. For some of these animals, this means hibernating them overwinter or even feeding throughout the winter. Whilst with us, they are de-wormed but from the moment they are released they will start re-infecting themselves by consuming all the slugs and snails that they can find. Any gardener will tell you there are plenty of these around.

### What to look for and action to take

We are particularly concerned with small and underweight animals or animals that are "out in daylight", behaving oddly or staggering. Whilst these animals are usually seen in Autumn, they may appear



A young Hedgehog at its cutest!

Internet image

at any time, particularly in Spring and just after hibernation. We would be very happy for local people in the village and surrounding villages and towns to draw our attention to these animals in their gardens or bring them to us in North Haven, Marks Lane, Tel: 01842 812558 for assessment.

Prompt intervention is crucial, but bread and milk are **not** the order of the day. Kitten food is more appropriate. In due course they can be released back into your garden, though a hedgehog is more than capable of traversing the environs of Santon Downham every night. *Bill Landells and Ann Hennessey*

## A message from our Suffolk Library service

### Suffolk Libraries – we're open to everyone!

Not everyone may realise what the library service in Suffolk has to offer them.

There are 44 Libraries in the county which, as well as offering a huge range of books of course, also offer a range of other services and activities.

As well as books you can also hire CDs and DVD titles for a small charge. You can get online for free in all libraries – ideal for filling out job applications or keeping in touch if you've not got a computer at home.

### Activities for all

There are a wide range of activities for young children and older people. We also provide free Bookstart packs for babies and three year olds.

From 21 July to early September all of our libraries will be offering children the chance to take part in

the Summer Reading Challenge which is a fun and rewarding way of encouraging children to keep reading during the holidays. You can find out more at your nearest library.

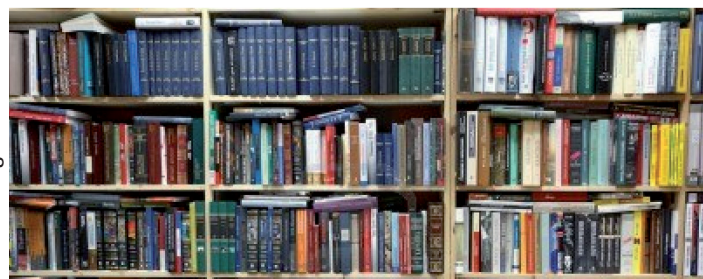
### Library coming to you

The mobile library visits 200 villages and hamlets and 475 stops in Suffolk. There is also an At Home Library Service which involves volunteers delivering books to people.

You can also access and browse the full library catalogue from [www.suffolklibraries.co.uk](http://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk). It's free and easy to sign up to be a library user. Lots more information can be found on our website or call Suffolk Libraries Direct on 01473 584563.

All of Suffolk's library services are now run by Suffolk Libraries which is an independent and charitable organisation supported by the county council.

You can also follow Suffolk Libraries on [twitter @SuffolkLibrary](https://twitter.com/SuffolkLibrary) or Facebook at <http://facebook.com/suffolklibraries> to keep up to date with news and activities and you can sign up to our newsletter on our website. *Laura Sampson, Administration Team, Suffolk Association of Local Councils*



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# Dates for Your Diary

(In the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise)

2013

Sunday 4th August	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Sunday 1st September	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Sunday 6th October	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Wednesday 9th October	Coffee Morning	10am to 12 noon	50p
Friday 18th October	<i>Namibia, Southern Africa</i> Talk by Derek Toomer	7.30pm	£2
Wednesday 23rd October	Coffee Morning	10am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 6th November	Coffee Morning	10am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 20th November	Coffee Morning	10am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 4th December	Coffee Morning	10am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 18th December	Coffee Morning	10am to 12 noon	50p
Tuesday 31st December	New Year's Eve Party	7.30pm to 1am	£12

## Parish Council Meetings

(In the Village Hall)

2013

Monday 2nd September	Parish Council Meeting	7pm
Monday 28th October	Parish Council Meeting (Budget 2014 issues)	7pm
Monday 23rd December	Parish Council Meeting	7pm

## Village News

### Coffee, cake and culture in our church

Church teas on 7 July were given an extra treat. Santon Downham's Jonathan Radford gave a concert in the church with friend Yun Chieh. Jonathan has been studying for the last four years at Versailles Conservatoire, France. In September, he will be starting at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Music Paris, where he is the first ever British saxophonist to gain entry.



Young musicians, Jonathan and Yun entertain the church teas folk.

Jonathan's fellow musician was born in Taipei. He met her in a music class at Versailles. She also studies at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Music Paris. Money raised at the concert was donated towards the church maintenance fund.

### 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

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

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