

# Santon Downham News

The Parish Council Newsletter for Santon Downham Villagers

July 2014 Number 22

With August just around the corner, here's hoping we still have some good summer weather to come. Many of you will be off on your annual summer holiday. I hope you all have a good time.

When we get to autumn, I will be giving another of my travel talks, about Peru in South America, and before we know it, we will be thinking about Christmas. Apologies for mentioning the "C" word, but we do have our annual Christmas Bazaar coming up and then of course, New Year and our "Eve" party. *Derek Toomer, Editor*

## Forthcoming Events

**Illustrated talk about travels in Peru by Derek Toomer – Friday 17 October, 7.30pm, £2**

A final reminder (almost) - but I just want to make sure that you come if you are interested. South America is a remarkable continent, characterised by a wide range of habitats from high Andes, coastal deserts to tropical rainforest. Peru has all of these. Add to that the remains of the Inca civilisation and you can see what a fascinating country Peru is. I hope to see you there.



The magic of the Andes.

**Christmas Bazaar – Sunday 30 November, 10am-4pm**

Our recent Christmas Bazaars have been very successful, with a wide range of stalls with high quality goods.

Come and browse and buy.

The Village Hall café will be operating as well, so

come and join us for a bevy, bacon butty or home-made cake.

**New Year's Eve Party – Wednesday 31 December, 7.30pm-1am, £15. Theme – Cowboys and Indians!**

For the last four or five years, the New Year's Eve party has been a resounding success. This year's is bound to be a good one as well. There will be loads of excellent food produced by the Village Hall Working Group, a popular disco, and of course, our well stocked bar. Come and see the New Year in with us. Book your tickets - phone 01842 815213.



Internet image

**Car Boot sales**

These will continue on the first Sunday of the month through to October and will then recommence in April 2015.

## Village Hall – Recent Activities

**Quiz Evening – 2 May 2014**

Another very successful evening, enjoyed by all. A hall full of participants pitted their wits against each other. At half-time, piping hot fish and chips refreshed everyone. These were supplied by *Sea Star Fish Bar*, London Road, Brandon - excellent quality.

We will be holding another quiz in 2015, at the end of April. Look out for the date in a future newsletter and do come along for a fun evening.



## Ride for Life – Sunday 11 May



Wrapped up and ready for the off.

Unfortunately the weather was terrible, but it didn't seem to dampen spirits with over 700 people attending. They all went home a bit soggy though! We have raised over £27,000 already with more donations due to come in. The highest adult and child fundraiser will win a bicycle kindly donated by GreenVentures bikes of Thetford.

Next year will see the 22nd year of our much-loved Ride for Life which has raised over £837,000 for EACH since it began. The date for next years event will be confirmed shortly.

Special thanks must go to all who support

the event in various ways. – Our organising committee, the Forestry Commission, residents of Santon Downham, 4x4 response, RAYNET, St Johns Ambulance, RAF Honington, lots of lovely volunteers and of course the participants who turn up rain or shine to support EACH. *Laura Shearing*

## Rotary Beer Festival and Barbeque 10-11 May



A fine range of real ales was served over the weekend

This is timed to coincide with the Ride for Life. The weather didn't help sales this year, but it was reasonably successful overall. Money raised is split between community charities and international ones.

The Brandon & District Rotary kindly cover the cost of the portable toilets.

## Village News

### An Update On Your Village Hall

Five years ago, in fact 1st May 2009 the village hall working party, all volunteers, took on the onerous task of raising the village hall from a near bankrupt situation to where it is today, free of its debts and financially secure.

#### Enhancing the Hall

This year in partnership with our Landlord, the Parish Council, we have commenced with some projects to enhance the services and safeguard the security of the building overall. The Village Hall and Club are run separately from the Parish Council, but since the building is owned by the Parish Council and held in trust for future generations, it quite obviously needs to monitor and ensure that the building is secured and maintained well.

The Parish Council were promised some funds from Councillors Bill Bishop and Reg Silvesters Locality Budgets towards the purchase of CCTV and picnic furniture, with a promise made by the Village Hall to meet at least 50% of the cost, and taking full responsibility in addition, to undertaking the work involved.



#### How can the monies be spent?

There are restrictions imposed on the way that the Locality Budget funding can be used, which means that when granted these funds, they must be used for projects such as just described.

The village hall is its own 'charity', and the funds raised from bookings are therefore only intended for the needs of the Village Hall. However, since the Village Hall does make use of the land close to the hall for the car boots and other bookings, it is able to assist the Parish Council financially, thereby easing the burden on the Parish Precept funding, on which the Parish Council relies. As an example, the Village Hall sponsored the Jubilee Tree and the Jubilee Party, refurbished the old bus shelter and the bench seat nearby, and we also help to fund the

grass cutting costs and the costs associated with the mole issue.

### Can you help our small team of volunteers?

We know we keep on asking, but if anyone in the village would like to support us with some of the work our small voluntary working group carries out, we ask again please contact any of the Village Hall Working Group. The expectation for casual volunteers is not huge, we would be simply grateful for whatever level of volunteering was offered. We are always grateful for homemade cakes for the car boots, and a helping hand behind the tea and coffee table is always welcome - we

already have several village lads and lasses that give us an hour here and there and it does make all the difference, and it is great fun. We also have some very talented volunteers that have given us help with the odd project. We again would like to especially thank a number of villagers that although not on the Village Hall Working Party, do give us a lot of occasional help. Eve, Jane, Margaret, Lydia, Maggy, Liz, Phil, John, Malcolm and George, - thank you so much for all you do, it is very much appreciated.

*Derek, Sylvia, Mick, Jan, Michael and Pat  
The Village Hall Working Group*

## The new acquisitions

### CCTV

The system purchased for the village hall has six cameras, positioned to cover most potentially vulnerable areas of the hall and the Breckland Club. This should protect the buildings from vandalism and theft, especially heating oil theft.



One of the cameras and inset, the multi-screen image provided.

### Picnic tables

Three tables have been purchased. They are made from recycled plastic, coloured dark brown throughout. The use of this material means there is no maintenance required and they should last for a very long time.



Fixing the first of the three picnic tables to the concrete base.

New concrete bases were dug and filled and the tables assembled over a few days (more complicated than we had imagined). Thanks to

Mick Mackender (Chairman of the Parish Council), Neil Pettit (Rotarian), Mick Welch (Rotarian) Derek Toomer (Chairman of the Village Hall Working Group) and Michael Finch (member of the Village Hall Working Group) for their help in assembling and fixing the picnic tables and tree seat.



The completed set of three picnic tables.

### Tree seat

This seat is not of recycled plastic, but of pale hardwood. As well as being functional, it is very decorative.



The attractive tree seat, fixed to its concrete base and awaiting a coat of preserving oil.

Since positioning these seats and tables at the end of the village hall, it has been good to see that they have already been used by some village people and some casual visitors to our village.

# Dates for Your Diary

(In the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise)

2014

Sunday 3rd August	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Sunday 6th September	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Sunday 5th October	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Friday 17th October	"Andes to Amazonia" An illustrated talk about Peru by Derek Toomer	7.30pm	£2
Sunday 30th November	Christmas Bazaar	10am to 4pm	
Wednesday 31st December	New Year's Eve Party	7.30pm to 1am	£15

## Parish Council Meetings

(In the Village Hall)

2014

Monday 13th October	Parish Council Meeting	7pm
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## Village News

### Dog mess – an evolving problem

In response to complaints about dogs mess on the village green, the Parish Council erected several warning signs about dog fouling.

At the time, the use of special dog poo bins was discussed.

At a recent Parish Council Meeting, a villager raised the point about a recent development with dog walkers. A number of people have been using plastic bags to pick up their dog's mess, but have then hung the bags on forest barriers, tree branches and anywhere else possible, rather than take them home to dispose of.

The provision of dog poo bins was raised again. the Parish Council agreed to look into the use of such bins.

It may seem a straightforward decision, but there are related issues. Firstly, someone has to empty them, and it seems unfair to expect someone on the Council to have to take this responsibility on top of all of the hard work that many of them already have to do. The other point with poo bins is that they are frequently misused.

The Council is looking into the cost of bins. Is there a village dog-walker who would take on the responsibility of emptying them? Do get in touch if you would be happy to help.



Internet image

### Bus shelter bench restored

Phil Hammond has been putting in some super effort again, in repairing the bench near the bus shelter. Thanks and well done.



Phil with the beautifully restored bench.

Maggy Turner

### 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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