

# Santon Downham News

The Parish Council Newsletter for Santon Downham Villagers

October 2014 Number 23

Welcome to the autumn newsletter, or is it winter? And did I miss summer? I know we do keep on about Santon Downham weather, but we really do have an unusual climate here. I think the classic weather records were declared on BBC Look East on 1 September. The highest August temperature in East Anglia was 26°C in Santon Downham, followed about a week later by the lowest August temperature for East Anglia of 2°C. Where? Well, you've guessed it – Santon Downham!

In this newsletter: the last car boot of 2014; Christmas Bazaar and New Year activities; end of The Ride For Life in Santon Downham; and a fascinating piece from Andrew Kedar about the involvement of village men in The Great War; and very sadly, two obituaries for village people.

**Letters to the Editor** We have never had a section for *Letters to the Editor*, mainly because I have never received a letter! So please feel free to contact us, not just about village problems, but also about aspects of village life that pleases you. We would love to hear from you and will endeavour to publish all letters. Send them to the editor at Woodcock Cottage, SD, or email to [derek.toomer@btinternet.com](mailto:derek.toomer@btinternet.com)

**Contributions to future newsletters** We hope you have been enjoying our newsletters. We would very much like to have some of your stories, achievements, past village characters etc. Again, please send them to the editor at Woodcock Cottage, SD, or email to [derek.toomer@btinternet.com](mailto:derek.toomer@btinternet.com). *Derek Toomer, Editor*

## Parish Council Procedure re Complaints

Any complaint must be received in writing before the Parish Council will discuss, investigate or take action. All such complaints will be minuted by the Parish Council. *Sylvia East, Clerk to the Parish Council*

## Forthcoming Events

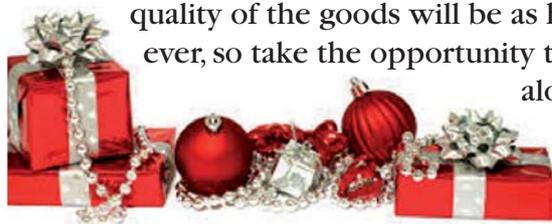
### Coffee mornings are back!

Come and join us on any of the following Wednesdays for a pleasant chat. Coffee, tea or hot chocolate and a biscuit for only 50p – Nov 19; Dec 3 and 17.



### Christmas Bazaar – Sunday 30 November, 10am-3pm

This year's Christmas Bazaar will be bigger than ever, with more stalls and our popular café. The quality of the goods will be as high as ever, so take the opportunity to come along and buy some novel Christmas



presents. Bacon butties have proved so popular at car boot sales that we shall be serving them along with beverages and home made cakes.

Come and browse and buy.

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

Tickets are going fast! Book yours now to avoid disappointment. Come along and see the New Year in with us. This year's party is bound to be a good one. There will be loads of excellent food produced by the Village Hall Working Group, a popular disco, and of course, our well stocked bar. Book your tickets – phone 01842 815213.



## Village – Recent Activities

### Car Boot sales – a very successful year

The last car boot sale on the village green was on 5th October. We now have a break until the weather is more reliable. The first car boot sale in 2015 will be on Sunday 5 April.

This year has been very successful. We have had more stalls – the best month was September with

84 cars – and we have had more than 45-50 for most other months. Added to that, our hall cafe has been very popular. There has been a really good atmosphere, with all tables bustling with customers. Bacon butties are inevitably a great success.

We hope to see you in spring next year.

## Harvest Supper at St Mary's

This year's Harvest Supper, was held in the church on Tuesday, 9th September.



Thanks to lots of helpers and donations of food and harvest produce, it was a very successful event.

As well as being a successful fund raiser, the

Harvest Supper is a very enjoyable event, with a great fun atmosphere being created, as bidders for produce try to push up the price.

The profit of just over £450 is being shared equally, by the church and two charities – the British Red Cross and "Water Aid" (£151 each).



## Village News

Very sadly, Santon Downham has recently lost two of its well know residents:

### Marjorie Traube – 1923-2014

Marjorie, wife of John Traube, died peacefully in her sleep in early October, aged 91, after suffering from Cushing's Syndrome for a number of years.

John and Marjorie were the village's oldest couple.



Marjorie was born in Brandon and moved to Little Lodge Farm as a teenager. John was from London, and on returning from Egypt where he was based after the war, met Marjorie at a dance in the Guildhall in Thetford. They got married in Tottenham in October 1947 and lived at Little Lodge Farm for a year.

They moved to their house in Santon Downham in 1948, where they lived to this day.

Marjorie worked on the farm, and later at Danepak. One of her pass-times in later life was knitting, making knitted figures.

Our thoughts are with John and their son David.

### Jack Butcher – 1926-2014

Jack passed away peacefully on 18 October. He had been ill for a number of years, and kidney failure and a weak heart finally proved too much.

Jack had lived in Santon Downham with his family since 1966.



He was born in Brandon in 1926 and spent a number of years in the army, serving in Palestine and being promoted to Sergeant. On leaving the army he set up his own timber haulage business, doing a lot of work for the Forestry. He also diversified into coal selling, bringing coal back to Brandon after delivering timber. His business was later to work in partnership with Anglia Heavy Haulage.

Jack was married and had two children, Andrew and Jacqueline. Andrew worked for his father and he describes him as "a strong character" and someone who enjoyed his job and worked very hard at it.

The funeral will take place at Santon Downham Church on 5 November at 2.30pm.

Our thoughts are with Jack's family.



# Santon Downham men and The Great War

The Great war, World War I, because of the huge loss of life, had a profound effect on all cities, towns and villages throughout the country. Santon Downham, in spite of its very small size, suffered as well. Andrew Kedar relates the story of the men of Santon Downham who did not return from the war.

The names of three men of Santon Downham, who were killed in The Great War, are inscribed on a Memorial in St Mary's, the parish church. This year, being the centenary of the outbreak of that war, it is fitting to learn something about their short lives.

## Sidney George Claxton

Sidney was born in Brandon in 1894, where his father worked on agricultural machinery. There were seven children, but three had died before the 1911 Census. The family moved to Santon Downham before The Great War began. In 1914 Sidney enlisted in the Norfolk Regiment and went to the Western Front in 1915, as an infantryman in the 8th Battalion.

This Battalion was part of the huge 5<sup>th</sup> British Army, at Ypres in Belgium. In August, 1917, it was engaged in forcing the Germans out of the Gheluvelt Plain, east of Ypres, in readiness for the gruesome Battle of Passchendaele, which began in November. The 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, of the Norfolks advanced into German territory on the 10th of August, but was forced to retire a day later, when the Germans counter-attacked. It is likely that Sidney was killed in Glencorse Wood, but his body was never found.

He was 23. His name is inscribed on the famous Menin Gate Memorial, and in our church.

## John Wells

John was born in 1889 in Brandon. He became an "Assistant Gamekeeper" on the Santon Downham estate. In 1913, he married Lily Emily Dyer, and they had two children. In December 1915, he enlisted in the Norfolk Regiment, and was in the same Battalion as Sidney Claxton - the 8<sup>th</sup>, serving east of Ypres.



Like Sidney, he was part of the British Advance into the Gheluvelt Plain on August 10th, 1917, and was killed the following day in Glencorse Wood. He was 28. His name, too, appears on the Menin Gate Memorial, and in our church. It is also inscribed on the Brandon War Memorial.

## Ernest Hector Lockwood

Ernest was born near Thetford in 1897. His father was a Gamekeeper on the Santon Downham estate. He enlisted in the Essex Regiment, in May 1916, but was transferred to the Suffolk Regiment (8<sup>th</sup> Battalion).

The German Armies made their last "big push" in March, 1918, across France, but were halted in early August. On August 8th, the British began the final battles of The Great War. One battle was fought south of Arras, at Bapaume, which is an important railway junction. It began on the 21st, and on that day Ernest was killed. His death was not in vain - the November Armistice was just over two months away.

Ernest was just 21 and is buried in a small Military Cemetery, just south of Bapaume, called "Railway Cutting Cemetery". Another 107 men are interred in this place - all killed within 3 days of the battle commencing. His name is inscribed in our church, and also on the Brandon War Memorial. *Andrew Kedar*



Internet images



# Dates for Your Diary

(In the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise)

2014

Wednesday 19th November	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 3rd December	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 17th December	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Sunday 30th November	Christmas Bazaar	10am to 3pm	
Wednesday 31st December	New Year's Eve Party	7.30pm to 1am	£15

## Parish Council Meetings

(In the Village Hall)

2014

Monday 15th December	Parish Council Meeting	7pm
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## Village News

### Ride for Life to move after 21 years



"Dear residents of Santon Downham,

I write to inform you that after much deliberation, we have decided to hold EACH's Ride for Life 2015 at Mayday field on Sunday 14th June 2015.

As you may be aware, we are launching an appeal at the end of the year to build a new Norfolk hospice and so have decided to capitalise on this news by freshening up our flagship event. Mayday, being a larger site, will enable us to offer more activities for families to enjoy, as well as new routes for the participants.

I would like to express my sincerest thanks on behalf of all at EACH for hosting our event over the past 21 years. The village of Santon Downham has

accommodated us so well and so I wish to extend my appreciation to the residents of the village for their kind support of our work. We have received such a warm welcome from you all every year which we are so grateful for, especially when we arrive to set up at 6am on a Sunday!

The event has raised an incredible £810,000 to date - thank you so much for being a part of that effort.

We have so many memories of our time at Santon Downham and will remember our time there fondly.

Thank you so much once again for your kind and very much valued support.

*Laura Carver, On behalf of EACH and the Ride for Life Committee*

### 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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