

# Santon Downham News

*The Parish Council Newsletter for Santon Downham Villagers*

January 2015 Number 24

**H**appy New Year to you all. By the time you read this, it will already be February. Time seems to be flying away, but at least we can look forward to Spring. If you didn't get along to the last two events of 2014, you missed some treats. The Christmas Bazaar and the New Year's Eve Party are reported on p2. Coming up this year, we have our Village Hall quiz and our regular coffee mornings and car boot sales. Later in the year, I shall be giving another of my travel talks, about a South American country again, Brazil. See below for details. *Derek Toomer, Editor*

## Forthcoming Village Hall Events

### Coffee mornings resume in the new year

Our coffee mornings continue through February and March. These get-togethers, organised by Maggy Turner and Phil Hammond, have been very successful.

Currently, they attract about 20 villagers, sitting round chatting. Sometimes Phil and Maggy will produce a simple quiz just for amusement, with no obligation to complete it, and no winners and no prizes.



**Late December coffee morning. Intelligent chatter and sharing of excruciating cracker jokes.**

Do come along on one of the mornings. They are from 10.30am until noon. The remaining dates are as follows, all Wednesdays: Feb 4th; Feb 18th; March 4th; March 18th. Cost 50p, and **please bring your own mugs**. Hope to meet you there.

### 2015 Car Boot sales



**OK, so our car boots won't reach this size, but ours are smaller and friendlier.**

These will commence on Sunday 5 April, Easter Sunday, and will run through until October, at the usual times 8am to 1pm, first Sunday of the month. The hall café will operate and bacon butties are sure to be their usual hit.

We expect the first one in April to be well attended, so do come along and have an enjoyable morning.

### Village Hall Quiz Evening

Do join us in a fun evening, complete with fish and chips supper. Don't worry if you 'don't do quizzes', the emphasis is on fun as well as competition. Teams of four are needed. Book your table by phoning 01842 815213. Hope to see lots of you there.



**Friday 1 May, 7pm. Cost about £7.00, including an excellent Fish and Chips Supper.**

### Advanced notice – **Brazil** – a talk by Derek Toomer, Friday 23 October, 7pm. £2

When we hear of Brazil, we think either of Rio de Janeiro or the Amazon rainforest. But Brazil is a huge country, over 30 times the size of the UK. Rio certainly is an exciting city and the Amazon rainforest covers a staggering area. But there is much more to Brazil, the largest country in South America. Come to this illustrated talk and see.



**Rio's Sugar Loaf Mountain and iconic bays, viewed from the Statue of Christ the Redeemer.**



## Village Hall – Recent Activities

### Christmas Bazaar

This was held at the end of November and was certainly the most successful to date.



**The high standard of goods on offer attracted a large buying public.**

To accommodate more stalls, a marquee was borrowed from a generous Rotarian and erected just outside the middle door.



**The addition of the marquee allowed for more stalls, and eased the space in the hall.**

We have included a hall café in past bazaars, but this time we decided to extend our bacon butties to this event, and to add turkey and pulled pork rolls. These were certainly enjoyed by many visitors.



**Bacon butties, turkey and pulled pork certainly pulled in the customers to our café.**

With large number of quality stalls and many visitors, it was very busy, but I am sure that all went away pleased with their day.

This event involves a large amount of hard work for the Village Hall Working Group, and we have yet to decide about a 2015 Xmas Bazaar.

### New Year's Eve Party

This has become a regular event in the village. This year's party was enthusiastically enjoyed by over 100 people.

The food for the buffet was prepared as usual by Sylvia and her small team of helpers. And what a buffet it was! Everyone commented on the superb food.



**Food fit for a king, prepared by our handful of volunteers.**

The disco hit the right spot with his choice of music, and nearly everyone was dancing and singing along throughout the evening.



**Isn't that our Chairman of the Parish Council on the left, strutting his funky stuff?**

We have had themed parties for a number of years. This time the theme was Cowboys and Indians. Unfortunately, this was not adopted by many attending, but it did not detract from the fun.



**Members of the Village Hall Working Group made a good effort with the fancy dress.**

This year, 2015, we would love to see more villagers attending. Give it some thought. Is there a better way to see the New Year in?

Would anyone like to suggest a theme for the next party?



## Churchyard Teas

### Could this be the end of an era?

Summer teas have been served in the Churchyard for over 40 years, and many of us remember Thelma sitting by the gate with her bric-a-brac stall each Sunday.

### A wide variety of visitors

Our eldest visitor is a lady in her 90s from Braintree, who has been coming for many years. There are many regulars from the village and nearby, plus passers-by who think it's all rather quaint, and thoroughly enjoy the peace, quietness and, of course, the cakes. Bikers in full leathers are a regular addition to the visitors.

### An important source of Church income

The money raised has been used for the upkeep of the Parish Churchyard and to help preserve the old and beautiful church which has served the community for over 900 years. Maintenance costs frequently run to over £5,000 a year.



Churchyard teas help with maintenance costs of our lovely Church.

This contribution to Church funds, has been quite significant, with over £23,000 having been raised in the last 25 years.

So many have helped to make this possible throughout the years and more recently Andrew



**Surely not!!**

Can you help by giving up some of your time to keep this delightful tradition going?

and I have enjoyed the hours spent setting up and helping most Sunday afternoons.

### Can you help to keep this going?

So although we hate to admit to feeling older and less strong, we realise we lack the stamina to continue and we were wondering if there is a couple, or better still two couples who would like to take over this village tradition.

We are here this year to advise and help – who knows what may happen later. So please, if you are interested, give us a call on 01842 812985, we would be delighted to hear from you.

*Margaret Kedar*

## Breckland Club at 60

The Breckland Club was established 60 years ago and for a lot of that time it has been an important part of the social life of the village. To mark this 60th birthday milestone, the club held a Posh Frock Night on 29 November, 2014.



Posh frocks dancing the night away.

The evening was a great success, the cocktail bar proved very popular. Fun, games and dancing was supplied by D.J. Disco



Youngsters entered into the spirit wearing their own posh gear.

**Members** – Please note that 2015 subscriptions are now due.

## Breckland Club Quiz Night

The Club is holding a General Knowledge Quiz on the 7 February at 8pm. There will be a raffle and chilli to purchase on the night. Members and their guests welcome. *Vera Sayer*

# Dates for Your Diary

(In the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise)

2015

Wednesday 4th February	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 18th February	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 4th March	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 18th March	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Sunday 5th April	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Friday 1st May	Quiz Night & Fish and Chips	7pm	about £7
Sunday 3rd May	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Sunday 7th June	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	

Saturday 8th February      Breckland Club Quiz      8pm  
In the Breckland Club, for Members and their guests

## Parish Council Meetings

(In the Village Hall)

2015

Monday 23rd February      Parish Council Meeting      7pm



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### Where are the Golden Pheasants?

Someone asked Tim Kaye, who runs the Santon Downham websites, if he knew where Golden Pheasants could be found in the area. Sadly the answer is that they have virtually disappeared from the forest around here. A beautiful Asian bird, they were introduced into various parts of the UK, including the Elveden Estate. They thrived in the forest around Santon Downham, with up to 100 being seen drinking at a forest pond (Ron Hoblyn). They have since declined and are probably extinct in the area.



Internet images

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

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