

The Parish Council Newsletter for Santon Downham Villagers
April 2015 Number 25

The car boot café team are ready for action.

VILLAGE NEWS

THANK YOU'S

A good number of people help out with village and hall activities. Thanks to everyone who helps in the café at car boots. A big thanks also to Maggy Turner and Phil Hammond for organising the coffee mornings. These have proved to be one of the best activities for involving villagers. We must also thank the villagers who deliver this newsletter. Andrew Kedar, Maggy Turner and Michael Finch have delivered them since we started. Recently, Ann and Julian Podd have taken over from Michael Finch and will continue with his part of the round.

CRIME PREVENTION

Our village is relatively safe from criminal activities, but we can all take preventative steps.

We are very fortunate to live in this lovely village, and even more so as we have very little crime. Anne-Marie Powell is a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) based in Brandon. She regularly attends our Parish Council Meetings to report on crime in the area. Within the village itself, there is usually very little if any to report. Here, she gives some tips on making your property and outbuildings safer.

CRIMINALS ARE NOT ONLY INTERESTED IN THE CONTENTS OF YOUR HOUSE THEY CAN TAKE ANY VALUABLE GOODS AND EQUIPMENT STORED IN SHEDS AND EVEN IN THE GARDEN AS BICYCLES LAWN MOWERS AND TOOLS CAN BE JUST AS VALUABLE AS TELEVISIONS (THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SIMPLE MEASURES WE CAN ALL TAKE

- o FIXING MESH OR BARS ON THE WINDOWS
- o FITTING GOOD LOCKS TO ALL SHOULD BE AT LEAST 2CM HARDENED STEEL AND TO BE THE RIGHT TYPE REDUCES RISK OF BEING BURST OPEN
- o FITTINGS SHOULD BE BOLTED AND REINFORCED AT THE BASE OR WASHER
- o FITTING ADDITIONAL LOCKS

DOORS

- o CONSIDER A BATTERY OPERATED LOCK
- o SECURE ALL ITEMS THAT COULD BE REMOVED THEY COULD BE USED TO GET INTO YOUR HOUSE
- o SECURITY MARK ALL ITEMS WITH A SECURITY TAG AND HOUSE NUMBER
- o ENSURE THAT ALL BICYCLES ARE SECURELY LOCKED
- o CONSIDER INSTALLING SECURITY LIGHTS TO ILLUMINATE YOUR GARDEN AND DRIVEWAY
- o KEEP SHRUBS BUSHES HEDGES AND TREES TRIMMED THEY CAN PROVIDE A HIDING PLACE FOR THIEVES
- o ASK NEIGHBOURS TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR GARDEN IF YOU GO AWAY AND LEAVE THEM
- o CONTACT POLICE IMMEDIATELY IF YOU NOTICE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS

For further advice please contact your local Safer Neighbourhood team on tel: 101 Anne-Marie Powell PCSO Powell 3066, Brandon SNT

OTHER POTENTIAL CRIMES

THEFT FROM CARS IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON CRIMES IN OUR AREA, AND YET IT IS SO EASY TO PREVENT. DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING VALUABLE VISIBLE AND ALWAYS LOCK YOUR CARS EVEN IF YOU ARE ONLY LEAVING THEM FOR A FEW MINUTES. IT TAKES ONLY SECONDS TO SMASH A CAR WINDOW AND SNATCH ANY ITEMS FROM THE VEHICLE.

WE ARE AWARE OF TELEPHONE SCAMS AND HAVE HAD PLENTY OF ADVICE ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THESE. REMEMBER, IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT ALMOST CERTAINLY IS.

RECENTLY, WE HAD A CALLER TO OUR DOORS WITHIN THE VILLAGE. HE HAD A PLAUSIBLE STORY OF HAVING COME OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND WANTING TO PURSUE HIS OCCUPATION AS A TOUR OPERATOR AND HAD SOME TRANSPORT IN THE FORM OF A LAMBORGHINI AND A FEW MORE CARS. SEVERAL PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE HAD ALREADY PURCHASED THE CARS AND REMEMBERED SEEING HIM SCOURING THE VILLAGE FOR YEARS BEFORE.

IF YOU WANT TO BE CHARITABLE, GIVE TO RECOGNISED CHARITIES TO PEOPLE WHO KNOCK ON YOUR DOOR WITH SOB STORIES.

DOORS UNLATCHED

WE HAVE A DEFENSIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH GROUP IN OUR AREA, COVERING BRANDON AND DANTON DOWNHAM. THEY HAVE REGULAR MEETINGS WITH THEIR COMMITTEE AND PRODUCE REGULAR NEWSLETTERS. YOU SHOULD ALL HAVE A COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER. IN THE RECENT NEWSLETTER, THERE IS A GOOD ITEM ABOUT AVOIDING PHONE SCAMS APPARENTLY FROM YOUR BANK.

Fast driving on Parish owned roads is both dangerous and damaging to the road surface.

I am sure that most villages moan about cars speeding through. We have a slightly more complex situation in that we have County Council owned roads and Parish Council owned roads.

County Council owned roads – the one through the village green and the one running down in front of the church – have a statutory speed limit of 30mph. This is frequently exceeded by drivers passing through the village.

The remaining roads are Parish Council owned. Many parts of this road system is too narrow to drive fast, but we still have a number of people who 'dash' around on these roads. It is both dangerous, and can damage the road surface, which we all end up paying for through the Council's precept.

The Parish Council is planning to put up some signs with advisory speed limits of 15mph and other warnings.

3 LOW DRIVING p ALSO DAMAGING

A few weeks ago, several large Army vehicles appeared driving down Hall Drive. It was clear that they were lost. Their excuse – SAT NAV. Their manoeuvres to turn around over grass verges did a comprehensive job of ploughing up some decorative grass areas.

A good try, but it won't win any ploughing competitions

A small army party was sent a few days later to tidy up the damage. No-one realised they had been, as the damage looked the same!

4 R E E T R E A T M E N T

A couple of years ago, as a response to potential danger, the Parish Council was obliged to have a survey carried out on trees on their land. A number of trees were then 'thinned'. Since then, several trees have continued to become damaged by disease. It was necessary to have two of them felled and removed.

The Escorted diary

The ancient pine in the middle of the green

Looking after our beautiful trees is clearly an ongoing problem and unfortunately, an expensive one.

20 ROTARIANS HELP DISABLED LADY
 ROTARIAN INTERNATIONAL IS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION WHOSE STATED PURPOSE IS TO BRING TOGETHER BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONALS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN SERVICE AND TO ENCOURAGE HIGH ETHICAL STANDARDS

Rotary Club of Brandon & District, who meet weekly in the Centenary Room at the Community Hall, have been making over a garden for a young disabled lady in Brandon over the last few months. This was an amazing job for the Club and many of their members have given up several Saturdays to help. Some Rotarians also using their businesses providing goods & services.

They cleared the garden, fitted new fences, a disabled friendly door, shed, patio, brick ramp, small dog run, raised planters with plants. Fencing

Dates for Your Diary

(In the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise)

2005

Friday 1st May	Quiz Night	N& Fish and Chips	7pm - 11pm	£7
Sunday 3rd May	Car Boot Sale		8am to 1pm	
Sunday 7th June	Car Boot Sale		8am to 1pm	
Sunday 5th July	Car Boot Sale		8am to 1pm	
Sunday 2nd August	Car Boot Sale		8am to 1pm	
Sunday 6th September	Car Boot Sale		8am to 1pm	
Sunday 4th October	Car Boot Sale		8am to 1pm	
Friday 7th October	Brail - a talk by Derek Toomer			£2
Thursday 31st December	New Year's Eve Party		7.30pm onwards	£15

Theme = 50s and 60s

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

(In the Village Hall)

2015

MONDAY 11th May - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
 & followed by the AGM of the PARISH COUNCIL

and gravel to front garden, and electrical services including lighting and an outside tap installed. The Rotary Club were supported by:

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In March 2014 the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) confirmed the award of nearly £1.5million to the Breaking New Ground Landscape Partnership, enabling a £2.2m scheme (the largest of its kind in East Anglia) to start delivering a range of exciting Heritage and Landscape Projects in the heart of the Brecks. The project's headquarters is at Brandon Country Park. As part of this large project, there are numerous activities available for people to participate in. These include a look at the Brecks' geology and archaeology, as well as painting, writing and photography and much more. There is something there for everyone, so have a look at the project's website and get involved. The website is WWW.BREAKINGNEWGROUND.ORG.UK

Before...

...and after
 What a transformation!

Don't forget to look at our two websites relating to the village, maintained by Tim Kaye.

WWW.SANTONDOWNHAMCENTRE.ORG
WWW.SANTONDOWNHAM.ORG

"BREAKING NEW GROUND PROJECT"
 "BRECKLAND PROJECT"

In Santon Downham we live in the middle of an area known as Breckland. Famed for its dry, sandy landscape that conjured up visions of a wild desert to early travellers, the Brecks have been shaped by long human interaction with this marginal natural environment. Its very name commemorates the temporary fields that were 'broken in' from the area's extensive heaths.

to Derek Toomer
 The News Editor is Daniel Toomer (Ed) Sylvia East

News sponsored
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