

Santon Downham News

The Parish Council Newsletter for Santon Downham Villagers

January 2017 Number 30

A Happy New Year to you all. I can't believe we are well in to 2017 already. What happened to 2016? It seemed to go so quickly. Perhaps it was the mixed weather. We were all waiting for summer, and it never seemed to get bright enough for more than the odd day.

Still, things are looking up. Robins have been singing all through the winter, and they are now being joined by Dunnocks and tits, and Great Spotted Woodpeckers are drumming.

I hope you all have a lovely year in this beautiful village of ours. *Derek Toomer, Editor*

Forthcoming Village Hall Events

Coffee mornings

These will be starting again in January. They are held on the first and third Wednesday of the month from January to March. Come and join us for a relaxing chat with friendly people. The dates are on page 4, *Dates for Your Diary*. **Don't forget to bring your own mug, and 50p.**



Car Boot Sales – starting again in April.

Last year, our car boot sales proved more popular than ever. Do come along with a stall, or as a buyer, or just to have some refreshments and a chat in the Village Hall café. They are held on the first Sunday of the month from April to October inclusive.



Village Hall – Recent Activities

2016 New Year's Eve Party in the Village Hall

The New Year's Eve party in the Village Hall was a huge success. With over 100 people attending, the hall was really buzzing. The disco played music that was relevant to the age group of the revellers and the dance floor was packed for most of the evening. The excellent buffet for the large group was prepared by the hall volunteers. It's amazing what five people can do. We would love to see more villagers at the party. If you think you would like to come, please contact Sylvia on 01842 815213 early as tickets are limited.



The dance floor was packed with revellers until the early hours.

Village News

2016 Harvest Supper – correction

Oops, sorry! In the last newsletter, I said that the Harvest Supper was organised by Margaret and Andrew Kedar. It was in fact organised by Sally McIrvine with help on the night from husband Johny. Many thanks to them.

Damned Potholes!

The Government has agreed to give money to councils to help with their repairing county roads. Alas, this does not extend to Parish Councils that own their own roads.

This winter weather has not been too bad, but a quick look around our Parish Council owned roads reveals quite a number of new potholes. Parish Council funds do not allow for any major resurfacing too often, so as soon as weather conditions allow, Mick Mackender and Michael Finch will go around the village filling in the holes.



Music talent in our midst

Most of us know Lydia Kakabadse as Lydia Dyer, 'Big John's' wife. What many of you may not know is that she is an accomplished composer of music, not five-minute pop songs, but of choral and chamber music. She has recently featured in an article in *Let's Talk Magazine* where she explains her passion for music. She inherited her love of music from her parents, Her father a Russian/Georgian and her mother a Greek/Austrian.



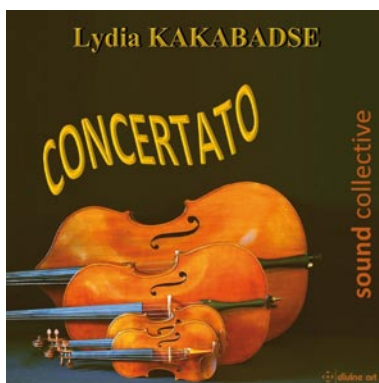
Lydia read music at the Royal Holloway College, University of London. Composing the type of music that she loves is a slow process, requiring inspiration and dedication; a creative period may result in working through to the small hours of the morning. She does most composing at the piano although this will be for a range of instruments that are to be included. Her work has been performed across the country at a range of venues from Ely Cathedral to St. John's Smith Square, London.

In order to finance her work, as making a living on royalties is very difficult, Lydia took a Master of Law degree, gaining a distinction and qualified as a solicitor. She still works part-time.

She has produced CDs of her work which have been well received. *The Phantom Listeners*, containing a selection of her chamber works, was released in 2011. In May last year, she released an album of sacred/liturgical choral works entitled *Cantica Sacra*, which has been critically acclaimed and has been played on Radio 3.

Her latest album of chamber works, entitled *Concertato*, will be released on February 17, 2017.

To find out more about Lydia's music, visit her website: www.lydiakakabadse.com



Our Village Hall is getting a face-lift

The current building was completed over 12 years ago. Since then, it has seen many wedding receptions, wakes, parties, dances, car boot cafés, meetings and coffee mornings.

During this time, the outside of the building was treated a few years ago, but little interior decoration has taken place. It has survived very well, but was beginning to look a little sad. Definitely time for a revamp. The whole interior is being redecorated, ceiling repairs carried out, new LED lights installed, new curtains purchased and the bar area brightened up. Mick Mackender has been overseeing the work of painters and electricians, and helping with the improvements. It is looking as good as new, if not better.



Goodbye to our Telephone Box, or not?

BT is doing away with the iconic red telephone boxes because of their lack of use. It would be a shame to see ours disappear, but that is not necessary. Communities are allowed to 'lease' their telephone boxes for £1. Many villages have done this.

The problem then is what do we do with it. Across the country, they have been put to a range of uses: converted into a sofa (?), a flower box, cash machine, exchange library, housing a defibrillator.

The last two uses are receiving interest. The library would be a free exchange library, requiring shelves. Housing a defibrillator appears to be quite a popular idea. There could be security



issues, but these have been overcome elsewhere. It would also be necessary to have at least two people trained in its use.

If we went down the library use, and housing a defibrillator, the Brandon & District Rotary would be willing to help with the conversion and purchase of a defibrillator, and Mick Mackender would be happy to look after its maintenance.

Do you have any strong views? If you do, let me know. Email me, derek.toomer@btinternet.com, or phone 01842 812291.

Forest Heath Local Plan Public consultation

Your views on the final draft of the Forest Heath Local Plan are welcome.

The public consultation runs from Tuesday 10 January to Tuesday 21 February 2017

You can comment on how the plan affects future growth in your neighbourhood

- Enter your postcode in 'Find my nearest' at www.westsuffolk.gov.uk
- Attend any of these drop-in events
- Lakenheath, from 4-7pm on Thursday 26 January at the Brendan Fulham Centre in the High Street;

- Newmarket on Monday 30 January, from 4-7pm at the Town Council Offices in the High Street;
- Red Lodge on Thursday 2 February from 4-7pm at Red Lodge Sports Pavilion, Hundred Acre Way
- Brandon on Thursday 9 February, from 4-7pm at the Brandon Centre, Brandon Library.
- Go online <http://westsuffolk.jdi-consult.net/localplan>
- or to request a paper copy, email planning.policy@westsuffolk.gov.uk

Avian Flu risk

If you or anyone you know keeps poultry and other captive birds across England their birds must be kept indoors, or appropriate steps taken to keep them separate from wild birds.

How to spot avian influenza (bird flu), what to do if you suspect it, measures to prevent it, and the Prevention Zone - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

Biosecurity and preventing disease in captive birds within a Prevention Zone - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#biosecurity>

Clinical signs that poultry keepers should look - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#about-avian-influenza>

Mysteries from our graveyard solved

Andrew Kedar has again been looking into the background of some of the people buried in our churchyard.

John Garner-Richards

In our churchyard is a War Grave in memory of Lieutenant John Cecil Boghurst Garner-Richards. He was serving in the Royal Lancers and died in Armagh, Northern Ireland on 4th April 1975. He died in a road traffic accident.

The cause of the accident will probably never be released, but he was driving a civilian unmarked car. All that has been declared is that he died "in suspicious circumstances". Whatever happened, the government declared he was a victim of 'The Troubles'.

Born in 1951, he joined the army in May 1972 and was commissioned in May 1973. His short military career was served in the 9th/12th Lancers, an armoured Cavalry Regiment, at the height of 'the troubles' in Ulster.

Why were his remains buried in St Mary's churchyard? Inside the church, there is the beautiful stained glass window of St Francis and the creatures of Thetford Forest. It is in memory of Tyrrell Garner-Richards and his wife May. He was one of John's Great Uncles. My inquisitiveness was fired and so I used the Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft Records Offices to help build a family history.

A John Garner of Santon, married Mary Tyrrell in 1780. One of their grandsons, Tyrrell, was a farmer

in Santon Downham. He had a son Daniel Richards Garner, who lived in Brandon, and who had his surname changed to 'Garner-Richards' in 1860.

Moving forward two generations of the Garner-Richards family, we find Cecil Pooley Garner-Richards, an oil engineer working in Bogota, Columbia, South America in the 1940s/1950s. His wife, Nancy Joy, gave birth to a son there, John Cecil Boghurst Garner-Richards, in August 1951. John travelled with his parents to and from the UK, and eventually lived in Venezuela.

The family returned to the UK in the late 1960s and settled in Lowestoft where Nancy died in 1967. She is buried in our churchyard. Her husband died much later in 1994, having re-married in the early 1970s. He shares his first wife's grave here. A deceased daughter, Diana, is also commemorated on this headstone. Being buried here in 1967, Joy's grave was also the first in the 'new plot'. John's War Grave is in the second row not far away from his parents' grave.

Several headstones carrying the surname Garner-Richards stand in the wildlife area of the churchyard, to the south of the church. Ten named members of the family rest there, all of whom I have traced. Some members of the Garner family, most of whom died in the 19th century, also rest in our churchyard.

Andrew Kedar

Dates for Your Diary

(In the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise)

2017

Wednesday 18th January	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 1st February	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 15th February	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 1st March	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 15th March	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Sunday 2nd April	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Sunday 7th May	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Sunday 4th June	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	

Parish Council Meetings

(In the Village Hall)

Monday 13th February, 2017	Parish Council Meeting	7pm
Monday 10th April, 2017	Parish Council Meeting	7pm
Monday 15th May, 2017	Parish Council AGM	7pm
Monday 26th June, 2017	Parish Council Meeting	7pm

Village News

Wildlife? Look in your garden or house

What's that eating my snails? Perhaps I shouldn't be worried, we have an abundance of snails in this area.

So what is it? It is in fact the larva of a 'glow-worm'. Glow-worms are actually beetles. It is the females that exhibit bioluminescence, to attract the males. Watch out for them later in the year. I have seen them in



and around my garden on many occasions. The larvae paralyse the snail and suck it dry! Nice. The adults do not feed, but mate and die after a couple of weeks.

Then of course, there is the colony of hive bees at the roof over a bay window. There has been a colony in the space between the chimneys for decades. But about five years ago, a daughter colony established themselves in the roof space. There is no access to the house from there, so they cause no harm, although they do alarm visitors, as they are near the front door and do buzz loudly. As the colony grows, they swarm, when a new

queen leaves with her entourage of workers. Initially they settle nearby, before leaving to find a new venue and to establish a new colony. In 2016, surprisingly, my bees swarmed TWICE within a few weeks. I know of a friendly beekeeper who collected both swarms. If you have a bee swarm any time, I can put you in touch with him.



Village Websites

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

www.santondownhamcentre.co.uk;

www.santondownham.org **New version**

Photographs by *Derek Toomer*

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

Santon Downham News is funded by the Parish Council
It is printed by Reflex Litho, Printers, St Helens Way, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 1HG, Tel: 01842 754600.
Contact them for all of your printing requirements.