

# Santon Downham News

The Parish Council Newsletter for Santon Downham Villagers

September 2016 Number 29

Autumn is almost here already. This summer saw one of The Village Hall's most ambitious events for many years. With Queen's 90th birthday, they couldn't let it pass. A lot of planning and organisation had occurred before the day. We all watched the weather forecast for weeks. Then we finally got to the 11th June. Marquees had been erected, sections of the greens cordoned off for car parking and various activities, and cakes baked. The weather was not great, but we were so lucky. The day remained dry, but at the end of the afternoon when the activities had finished, it poured down. And then it stopped in time for the evenings activities. But it hadn't finished, as it poured again overnight. Next morning, when we had to clear up, it was dry again. How lucky can you be!

All in all it was a very successful venture. We had a steady flow of people throughout the day and every one seemed to be enjoying themselves.

None of this would have happened without the help of many people. The Village Hall Volunteers and friends grafted away as usual. We were helped in many ways by members of the Brandon & District Rotarians. We were very pleased to see so many villagers coming along to help in the café and with many of the games. A big thank you to all. We would also like to thank a number of sponsors: Tesco for the loan of the marquees; and Electric Base in Thetford; Arrowpak in Brandon; Windymillers Pet Supplies in Brandon; L. Fysh Aquatics in Brandon; and Sainsbury's for their donations of prizes. *Derek Toomer, Editor*



Young bowlers and ...



... old(er) racers – all enjoying themselves.

(more photos on page 2)

Derek Toomer/Sylvia East

## Forthcoming Village Hall Events

### Car Boot Sales – the last of this season

This year has seen some very busy events. We have built up a loyal following of stall-holders and attendees. The last this year will be on Sunday 2nd October. Car Boot Sales will resume in April 2017.

### Coffee mornings continue

The popular coffee mornings, organised by Maggy Turner, are starting again. They will continue in the Village Hall until December 14th. Do come along for an informal chat with other villagers. October's date is 5th. Further dates are on page 4, *Dates for Your Diary*. **Don't forget to bring your own mug, and 50p.**



Last reminder – ***In the Shadow of the Himalayas*** – a talk by Derek Toomer, Friday 21 October, 7pm. £2.

Join me in a trip to Nepal and Northern India – mountains, wildlife, beautiful people and of course the Taj Mahal. **(Please note, that an incorrect date was in the last newsletter.)**



### New Year's Eve Party – Saturday 31 December

Come and Join us in the Village Hall. Good food, good disco and good company. £15, phone 01842 815213 for tickets.

# Celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday



Getting set up for the games.



Wow, where did they learn to move so fast?



Now she really looks as if she knows what she is doing.



"Now this horse is just the right size for me."



"Can I take this one home Granny?"



Ahh! the hog roast. Vegetarians look away.



"My doggy's just won a prize!"



Harley Street – entertaining into the night.

## Next Parish Council Meeting - date change

The Parish Council Meeting in September has had to be postponed. It will now take place on Monday 10 October.

## Dog poo – a continuing problem

Now, the vast majority of dog owners are very responsible and clean up after their pets. Unfortunately, there are still some dog walkers who are irresponsible. I don't know how many more times we have to raise this issue. Recently, I have had dog poo left on my mown verge several times, judging by the nature of the mess, by the same dog. I dug out my old signs making a polite request. It seems to have worked.

But it is not just on my grass. Mess has been found on the village green and behind the houses on the south of the green. Please be responsible and clear up your own dog's mess. If you see anyone else not doing so, kindly ask them to be more considerate.



## The village green and vehicles

Technically, there should be no car parking on the village greens. However, the Parish Council has over the years shown flexibility about this, and overlooks cars parked sensibly on the edges.

With events such as car boot sales or village fetes, the Parish Council has the right to allow parking.

All the Parish Council asks is that villagers be considerate. The grass of the greens has to be mown regularly, by volunteers, and sensibly parked cars do not cause too much of a problem. If you use the greens, please take away any mess. We hold car boot sales on seven months of the year, each lasting a few hours. This brings in important revenue for maintaining the Village Hall and indeed for large annual contributions towards the maintenance of the village greens. Please be helpful about where you park on such days.

## Harvest Supper – 6 September

Organised by Andrew and Margaret Kedar, a delightful supper was followed by the auction of donated produce. Great Fun! £430 raised half to the Church Fabric Fund, half to Wateraid.



## Power cut? Dial 105

On 6th September a new national phone number "105" will be launched by electricity network operators for customers to call should they need to report or get information about a power cut in their area.

Key points to note about this service are:

- Dialling 105 will put customers through to their local electricity network operator – the company that manages the cables, power lines and substations that deliver electricity into homes and businesses in their area.
- 105 is just one of the ways that customers can contact their electricity network operator. They can also contact them by phone or via their website, and most network operators are on social media too.
- 105 is a free service for people in England, Scotland and Wales.
- Customers can call 105 no matter who they choose to buy electricity from.
- Customers can also call 105 if they spot damage to electricity power lines and substations that could put anyone in danger. If there's a serious immediate risk, they should call the emergency services too.

## Are you finding it difficult to use public transport?

Connecting Communities is a new service – bringing the traditional community transport services such as Dial a Ride, Suffolk Links and Community Car service under one new single identity.

Our service enables passengers to travel locally, for example to visit friends and relatives, attend medical appointments or take a trip to the shops. Access Education and work places, linking with other scheduled services.

There is a central phone number – the booking line is open Monday to Friday 8am until 4pm.

Call 01638 664304

We are here to assist with any journeys that you are finding difficult to do using public transport – perhaps you have mobility issues or there simply is no service available where you live.

Our team will look to see if they can offer a transport solution.

Connecting Communities operates Monday to Saturday 7am until 7pm

[www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com)

# Dates for Your Diary

(In the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise)

2016

Sunday 2nd October	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Wednesday 5th October	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 19th October	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Friday 21st October	<i>In the Shadow of the Himalayas</i> – a talk by Derek Toomer	7pm	£2
Wednesday 2nd November	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 16th November	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 30th November	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 14th December	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Saturday 31st December	New Year's Eve Party	7.30pm to 1am	£15 (includes a delightful supper)

## Parish Council Meetings

(In the Village Hall)

Monday 10th October), 2016	Parish Council Meeting	7pm
Monday 7th November, 2016	Parish Council Meeting	7pm

## Village News

### Ann Elizabeth Birkitt 1937-2016



In June, we had the sad news that Ann Birkitt had passed away after several years of poor health.

Ann played an active role in the life of the village and was known and liked by villagers.

She was born in Fulham and lived part of her early life in Ryslip. She trained as a GP

telephonist and later became a solicitors clerk.

It was St John's Ambulance that brought Ann and Ron, her husband-to-be together. They both worked with St John's Ambulance as volunteers in the late 1960s. They married in 1972 and set up home together in Santon Downham, where Ron had lived since 1951, his father being a forester.

By this time, Ann was working for an Estate Agent but a lot of her spare time was taken up with St John's Ambulance and also with her other

voluntary work as a Samaritan.

As volunteers for St John's Ambulance, Ron and Ann had an important role in the air shows that took place then at Mildenhall.

In the village, Ann got involved with the Parish Council, and for many years was Clerk to the Parish Council while Ron was Chairman. With the decision to build a new Village Hall, Ann had an important role in obtaining the funding.

Our thoughts are with Ron and their children.

### 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) **New version**

Photographs by Derek Toomer

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