

Santon Downham News

The Parish Council Newsletter for Santon Downham Villagers

September 2017 Number 32

Whilst writing this, I am watching the seed level in my bird feeders drop visibly as flocks of young birds, mainly Great Tits, visit to take away seeds. I am sure we are feeding the whole forest population of Great Tits! Our car boot sales with the Village Hall cafe have been very successful this year, and of course, the golf tournament to raise money for the village defibrillator was a memorable event.

Don't miss my talk on my visit to Vietnam and Cambodia in October, and we would love to see some more villagers at our New Year's Party. (We are now producing just three newsletters a year. The next ones will be in mid January and mid May.) *Derek Toomer, Editor*

Forthcoming Village Events

Coffee mornings are back

Autumn is nearly here, so it is time to gather in the village hall for an informal chat. Tea or coffee or hot chocolate, biscuits and good company, all for 50p. The first one is on 11 October, at 10.30-12 noon, then on 25 October. After that they are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. The dates are on page 4, *Dates for Your Diary*. **Don't forget to bring your own mug, and 50p. Hope to see you there.**

Car Boot Sales

The last car boot of the season is on 1 October at 8am. Our small, friendly car boot sales have been very successful. June, July and August events were the best ever, and helped raise revenue for the Village Hall.



Busy, busy, busy! Our car boot sales get more and more popular.



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The cafe in the Village Hall in particular has been extremely popular with record sales of beverages, home-made cake and bacon baps. See you there in October, or at our first sale in 2018 in April.

Vietnam and Cambodia – an illustrated talk by Derek Toomer, Friday 20 October, 7pm; £2.00

In spite of the awful, devastating wars that wreaked havoc for decades, both of these southeastern Asian countries have recovered well. The architecture, archaeology and culture are all fascinating. Come and share this travel experience with me.



The memorial tower containing several thousand skulls. Millions died.

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.

Recent Activities

The Santon Downham Open! A fun golf day for charity.

It was a lovely day in May that our village green became a nine hole golf course. The purpose was to raise money for the defibrillator that is to be installed in the telephone box. With the support of the Brandon and District Rotary, the day was also

meant to be fun.

A steady stream of participants, including a good number of villagers, turned up throughout the day and they tackled the course that had been designed by Mick Mackender. Refreshments were on hand from the cafe in the Village Hall, and a barbecue run by Rotarians.

Recent Activities



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



Young and old took part. In fact some youngsters showed adults how it is done.

The overall winner was Dave Flack from Watton. Sylvia East from Santon Downham was the lady winner and the junior winner was Sullivan Goddard, aged 8, from Bawburgh Golf Club. Many people helped make it a financial success. Each hole was sponsored by local businesses and



Mick Mackender: "I knew I should have cut the rough a bit (a lot?) shorter!"

trophies were donated by Dave Vincent and Gilly Sayer.

As well as money coming from the participants, a number of villagers who did not wish to take part kindly donated to the fund.

The golf day raised £1,561. Rotary generously raised this to £1,800 - the required amount for purchasing the defibrillator.

Thanks - Thanks are due to many people. Thanks to Rotary for their support, to Mick Mackender for designing the course, to Ken Harris for helping Mick in the building of the course. Thanks also to Brian Rutterford for the loan of machinery and to all of the sponsors. And finally, thanks to all of the villagers who participated.

This was a one-off event, but will it be repeated? Who knows. Watch this space.

Village News

Phone Box - Defibrillator and free library

The phone box near to the Village Hall has had the defibrillator installed. It is in a locked box, to avoid any mis-use or vandalism.

So how can anyone who knows how to use it get at it? In the event of someone having an apparent cardiac arrest, the first thing to do is to **phone 999**.

Two ways to get the key pad number: it can be found in the village hall bar, and in the Breckland Club bar. If neither of these is accessible, on phoning 999, the key pad number will be given to the enquirer.

Over 50 villagers attended the training session, so it should be possible to locate one of these people. With modern technology, it is very easy to use. It produces voiced messages that guide you through the process and it cannot be used incorrectly.

Exchange library - Shelves inside the phone box will contain a range of donated books. These can be borrowed or exchanged by villagers.



Mick Mackender and Ken Harris renovated and adapted the phone box for its new uses.

Road repairs – why was more not done?

The Parish Council owns all roads in and around the village, except the main roads through the village. To maintain these is a mammoth task, and an expensive one. At the end of July some professional repair work was undertaken. Potholes were filled, and a section of the roads involving part of Mark Lane, which was in more serious need, was re-surfaced.

Comments that have come back to the Parish Council query why the rest of the roads were not re-surfaced. There is a very simple reason. The cost of the repairs has to come out of the Parish Council's limited budget. The money, the precept, is raised from extra charges on your Council Tax. The only way that the remaining Parish roads could be re-surfaced would be by raising an extra contribution on your Council Tax. That would not necessarily be a popular move.

A seat to be remembered by

The bench seat near the Village Hall and telephone box is sadly showing signs of old age, and needs replacing. Perhaps someone in the village would like to buy a new seat to remember a relative by, or to commemorate an important event, such as a significant anniversary.



This bench is probably beyond a bit of TLC. Would you like to buy a replacement to remember someone or something by?

If you would be interested in purchasing a bench seat, please contact Derek Toomer on 01842 812291, or Parish Clerk on 01842 815213.

Superfast Broadband?

Well, yes, it really has arrived in our little village. It is not actually fibre to each household, but is to the new green telephone unit near the village entrance.

I investigated this, going on to the websites available, and after quite a lengthy process and a new contract with BT, my provider, I now have broadband that is considerably faster. You do not have to do this through a BT contract, but can do it with your current provider.

Have a look at the websites from the last newsletter:



basicbroadbandchecker.culture.gov.uk

and latest news on local broadband activity led by Suffolk County Council can be found at www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com

Swift success

Until a few years ago, crowds of Swifts screamed as they swept through the village, especially above the Forestry Commission offices and the village shop. They nested under



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eaves throughout the village. Historically there were up to 20 pairs nesting in natural sites throughout the village. This year, there may have been only five nests in two houses.

Two winters ago, Dr Bill Landells fitted 18 purpose-built nest boxes behind the louvres within the bell tower of St Mary's Church and used a tape recording to try to attract potential breeders. None were taken up last year, but this year, a pair nested in the tower and produced two chicks.

Hopefully, more pairs may take to the nest boxes next year. The project was supported by 'Action for Swifts', Save our Swifts, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Bury St Edmunds Diocese.

Websites worth consulting: actionforswifts.blogspot.com; suffolkwildlifetrust.org/swifts.

If you are having any repairs or renovation to your roof, remember to avoid disturbing any bat roosts, but also remember to consider Swifts. These days, workmen are obliged to seal all sorts of gaps in roofs, but it is possible to get purpose-built secure nest boxes for Swifts. *Andrew Kedar and Bill Landells*

Raves Return

On the evening of 5 August, music was heard throughout the village. Someone thought to call the police, as they thought it was coming from a wedding disco in the Village Hall. Nothing of the sort! We make every effort to keep the noise from such discos down to an acceptable level.

The music, if that is what you call it, came from an illegal rave in the forest, the first one for quite a long time. It was still going at 4.00am.

"Why don't the police do something about it?" I have heard people say. Sadly, in most cases they can do very little. Sending a small number of officers to confront often hundreds of ravers, in various states of inebriation would be quite dangerous.

If you know about any raves in the future, it is still worth notifying the police. Sometimes they can step in and prevent something.

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Dates for Your Diary

(In the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise)

2017

Sunday 1st October	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Wednesday 11th October	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Friday 20th October	<i>Vietnam and Cambodia</i> – a talk by Derek Toomer	7pm	£2
Wednesday 25th October	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 8th November	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 22nd November	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 6th December	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Wednesday 20th December	Coffee Morning	10.30am to 12 noon	50p
Saturday 31st December	New Year's Eve Party	7.30pm to 1am	£15 <i>(includes a superb supper)</i>

Parish Council Meetings

(In the Village Hall)

Monday 30th October, 2017	Parish Council Meeting	7pm
Monday 11th December, 2017	Parish Council Meeting	7pm

Village News

Ronnie Moran 1937–2017

Very sadly, Veronica Moran, known to us all as Ronnie, passed away in July.

Ronnie had a very eventful early life, having been born in Burma. With the war, she was left to be brought up by her grandparents – traumatic times.



After the war, she moved to England and attended boarding school in Bournemouth. She then went on to teacher training course in London, and teaching was her career until she retired.

It was at the training college that Ronnie met Arthur. He proposed seven days later and they married in 1960. They taught abroad for a number of years and eventually moved to Santon Downham to live here permanently in 1984.

Ronnie was very skilled artistically and enjoyed painting, ceramics and mosaics. Leading up to year 2000, she contributed to the 22 Villages project and researched the history of Santon

Downham extensively.

She will be missed by many of the villagers. Our thoughts are with her family, David, Hazel and, Heidi and their children.

To the Community of Santon Downham and the Church of St Marys

Thank you for all your kindness and support of us as a family over the past few weeks and your friendship and support towards our mum Ronnie and dad Arthur over the past 50 years.

They loved Santon Downham and it holds a very special place in all of our hearts.

With best wishes – David, Hazel and Heidi Moran.

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

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