

Santon Downham News

The Parish Council Newsletter for Santon Downham Villagers
January 2010 Number 4



Once again, it's the start of a new year. I like to think that everyone had a nice festive season. I would like to say a big thank you to all who were involved in the setting-up and cleaning-up of the hall over the past year, and input from all the many successful events throughout 2009.

We have many more events to come for this year of 2010. Two of the big events coming up are the *Ride for Life* and the *40's Night* with a big band. It would be nice to see as many of you as possible at the forthcoming events.

Cheerio for now, until the next newsletter.

Michael Mackender, Chairman of the Parish Council

Photo spot



Santa Macklaus! at the Christmas Bazaar



John MackLennon?
Paul MackCartney?
at the New Year's Eve Party?



A friend or (several of them) in need is a friend indeed

Parish Council Chairman, Mick Mackender, seems to have more disguises than the Scarlet Pimpernel. At the Christmas Bazaar, Father Christmas arrived with sack of presents and helpful elf. The man in red looked strangely familiar.

Then who should appear at the New Year's Eve

Party but Beatle Paul MackCartney himself - looking slightly more rotund than I remember him! (I still think he looked like Roy Orbison - Ed.)

But then, when Mick gets stuck in the snow, villagers are there to assist. That's one of the great things about living in a lovely village like ours.

Forthcoming Events

Table top sales (indoor car boot sales)

Because of the success of our 'resurrected' car boot sales, we have decided to extend the season by bringing the sales indoors during the winter. So do come along to our first one on 31 January, starting at 8.30am to 1.00pm. Why not book a table to dispose of those unwanted Christmas gifts (Tel. 01842 815213) or just browse the stalls. We will be serving refreshments and home-made cakes. Further table top sales will be on 28 February and 28 March. and then recommencing on 7 November.

Car boot sales

We will be starting these a little earlier this year, with the first one on 11 April. After that, they will be on the first Sunday of the month through to October. As usual, teas and coffees will be available,

together with some excellent home-made cakes.

'Antiques Road Show'!

No, not the real one. We will be having an auctioneer from Lacey Scott's to come to a valuing event. Search your lofts for forgotten masterpieces, retrieve those inherited items from dusty corners and bring them along.

The event will be on Monday, 29th March 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm. Admission will be £2 and £1 per item to be valued.

Lunch Club

The lunch club events proved instantly popular last year, with over 50 people participating each time, and an amazing 70 plus for the Christmas meal. We will be starting the meals on 3 February and again on 3 March and then recommencing them in the

autumn. We are keeping the price the same as last year, at £4.95 for two courses. The village hall funds subsidised the teas and coffees last year. This year, we will be asking for a small donation (suggest 50p) to cover our costs. Book by phoning 01842 815213.

Talks

Last year, we had two successful talks in the autumn. We will be having the next speaker in April. We will publicise this when details have been finalised.

If you have come across a good speaker who you can recommend, do let us know.

Summer event – 40's Evening

Those who participated in last year's 40's Night will remember what a superb evening it was. We will be repeating it this year, but this time on a Saturday, to attract even more people. So mark 10 July firmly in your diary and start making your 40's costume.

Village Hall – Recent Activities

Charity Auction

Each year, the village holds an auction of donated items to raise money for worthy charities. Last year, with the effects of the credit crunch on people we were not sure how successful we would be. By the end of the Friday afternoon, we had received a large number of items to be auctioned.

Last year, we were very fortunate to have the services of a professional auctioneer, Fabian Eagle. He moved proceedings along swiftly and by the end of the evening, we had raised over £570. There will be a donation made to the Quidenham Hospice from the funds raised in 2009.



Fabian and Sylvia seeking bids as the auction gets into full swing

However, in view of the fact that there remains a large debt hanging over the village hall, a decision has been made that the bulk of the money raised will go towards the village hall rebuilding debt. We feel certain that our villagers are just as weary of hearing of this debt as the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee are of mentioning it, so an all out effort will be made over the next two years to hopefully put this particular issue to bed.

Look out for this year's auction, which we will call the Santon Downham Village Hall Auction, and which we are planning to make very different and exciting.

Christmas Bazaar



The village hall packed with stalls for the Christmas Bazaar

Early in December, the village held its Christmas bazaar. The hall was packed with stalls, with stallholders selling a wide range of items from cakes and cards to jewellery and paintings.

The quality of the produce was very impressive and people seeking some late stocking fillers were not disappointed. Stallholders were pleased with the level of sales – everyone went home happy.

This year we plan to hold the bazaar slightly earlier, so put the 27th November in your diary. Anyone wanting to have a stall would be wise to book early as we are already taking bookings! Don't be disappointed, ring Sylvia on 01842 815213.

Talks

At the end of November, we had our second speaker of the year, Rodney Tibbs. He came highly recommended from a Parish Councillor who had been to his talks previously.

The title of his talk was *A Fresh Look at the Fens*, a topic that may not sound that interesting at first glance. Rodney promised us that we would have a new liking of this region by the end of his talk. He was right.

Rodney took us through the history and origin of the fens, looking at its archaeology, some of its architecture, its people, its historic importance and recent changes. The fens are not just flat and boring.

Ring in the New Year

We wanted to celebrate the New Year and decided to have a New Year's Eve Party. We aimed to provide a good, friendly, music-filled evening with excellent food at a very reasonable price. From the feedback from participants, we succeeded.

To keep the cost down, it was decided to provide our own buffet. Sylvia East, Clerk to the Parish Council, assumed the role of organiser and roped in a number of volunteers to help produce and prepare the sumptuous banquet. Sylvia, Sue, Jan, Pat, April and Lisa did a fabulous job, so thank you ladies.

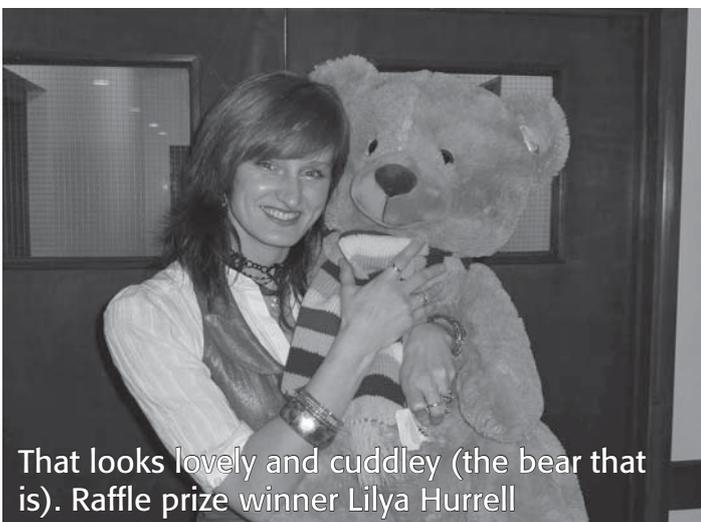


Sylvia making final checks with the buffet

It took a while for people to get up and dance but as the evening went on (and the drinks soaked in) nearly everyone was dancing.

When the food was 'served', revellers were amazed at what had been provided by volunteers. Everyone had plenty of food and many went back for seconds (and thirds).

The raffle was a good money raiser, with many of the prizes being donated.



That looks lovely and cuddly (the bear that is). Raffle prize winner Lilya Hurrell

The whole evening was a pleasant, good-humoured event with people from the village and surrounding areas mixing well.



Inhibitions gone, everyone joins in the dancing

By midnight everyone was still having a thoroughly enjoyable time. It took a few more hours before the final revellers departed.

A few hours later, our dedicated team of hall cleaners arrived. The scene looked a lot worse than it was and the hard work of half a dozen of us had it looking spotless again.

Quiz Night

Wow! What a success! When we started to plan to have a quiz evening, we thought we would get about 30 people, and so the idea of providing a fish and chips supper wasn't so stupid. By the time everyone had arrived, we had over 90 people.



Time for serious thinking and moderate drinking as the quiz begins

The atmosphere was superb, the competition electric. From the feedback, it was deemed to have been a huge success. So did we manage to feed the 90 plus participants? Yes - Brandon Fish Bar provided the separate suppers on time and piping hot. Quite amazing.



The winning team - Only Fools and Horses - receiving their prize from Sylvia and Derek (Quiz master)

If you weren't there, you missed an excellent evening of fun. We will be having another quiz evening on 15 October. We hope to see you there.

Dates for your Diary

(In the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise)

2010

Sunday 31st January	Table Top Sale	8.30am to 1pm	
Wednesday 3rd February	Lunch Club	12.30pm	£4.95
Sunday 28th February	Table Top Sale	8.30am to 1pm	
Wednesday 3rd March	Lunch Club	12.30pm	£4.95
April	Illustrated Talk: Details to be announced later	7.30pm	£2
Sunday 28th March	Table Top Sale	8.30am to 1pm	
Monday 29th March	Antiques Road Show	7.00pm	£2 entrance, £1 per item valued
Sunday 4th April	Teas in the Church	Afternoon	
Sunday 11th April	Car Boot Sale	8.30am to 1pm	
Sunday 2nd May	Car Boot Sale	8.30am to 1pm	
Sat/Sun 15th/16th May	Ride for Life		
Sunday 6th June	Car Boot Sale	8.30am to 1pm	
Sunday 4th July	Car Boot Sale	8.30am to 1pm	
Saturday 10th July	1940s Evening	7.30pm	

Cheese delight – a simple recipe

Amongst the many excellent foods at the New Year's Eve Party were some things called Cheese Balls, made by April Quillin. Quite a number of people commented on how tasty this cheese dish was and so April has kindly supplied the recipe.

April's Cheese Ball

4 oz British (white) Cheddar Cheese (grated)
4 oz Extra Sharp (Orange) Cheddar Cheese (grated)
4 oz Swiss Cheese (grated)
8 oz Cream Cheese
8 oz Sour Cream
2 oz Jar Pimento's (drained)
1 packet Lipton Onion soup mix
Mix well together into a ball. Roll in finely chopped walnuts or pecans (parsley can be substituted for nut allergy). So simple, so tasty

... and then there were two!

In the last newsletter, I (Ed.) announced that I was planning to do a Sky Dive in 2010 to raise money for the village hall funds. It seems that I shamed Sylvia (Clerk to the Parish Council) into making her own rash decision. She has agreed to join me leaping out of an aeroplane.

We plan to make our jump in April. We will be coming around during February and March to seek

sponsorship. Please be generous, as monies will go towards our own village hall – something that will benefit us all.

Santon Downham's 'unique' climate

OK, so we've had a long cold spell for a change. But Santon Downham is used to weather extremes. With its location in East Anglia and in the middle of Breckland, Santon Downham frequently gets weather patterns that are unusual:

1963 – the lowest temperature ever recorded in Norfolk (?) was measured at Santon Downham on 23rd January at -19°C .

1963 – snowiest year for Norfolk (?) (64 days of laying snow) at Santon Downham.

1968 – joint hottest March day on record for the UK when highs reach 25°C at Santon Downham.

1962 – the British record for the lowest June temperature -5.6°C at Santon Downham.

Wow!

Photographs by *Derek Toomer*

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

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