

Santon Downham News

The Parish Council Newsletter for Santon Downham Villagers
January 2011 Number 8

A Happy New Year to you all. At the time of writing, we are hopefully moving out of the cold winter spell and looking forward to the new spring. The last 18 months has been hard work for the Village Hall Working Group and other volunteers. Was it worth it? I will leave it to the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk to tell you of the exciting news below.

Thank you all for your support and we hope to see many of you at our events in 2011.

Derek Toomer, Editor

Village Hall News

It was 20 months ago that we embarked on a mission to save the Village Hall from bankruptcy and clear the rebuild debt. In just 18 months this was achieved - **£40,000** plus has been repaid and the Village Hall is now clear of debt.

Why have loans?

We have heard the odd comment about why it was necessary to take on loans and perhaps we should explain. Many promises of financial support were given by organisations, unfortunately at the 11th hour, some reneged on their promises. It was not considered sensible or justifiable to halt the project and thus the loans came into being.

It is important that recognition is given to the fact that although supported by the Parish Council, the repayment of the loans were made entirely from monies raised by Village Hall funds.

Continued bookings essential

Now that loans are repaid, the need to take all and any bookings has receded. On the other hand, with the best will in the world, community based projects will not keep the wolves at bay and the hall will need to be hired at a reasonable level in order to cover the extremely high cost of simply

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Barman extraordinaire! Michael Finch's experience and expertise has helped in running a hugely successful bar and raising important funds.

As Chairman of the Parish Council, I would like to say a special thank you to Michael Finch for all his support and dedication given to the Village Hall. Over the past 20 months Michael has been behind the bar with a smile to greet all-comers. He keeps our bar fully stocked and creates the all round good atmosphere that the Village Hall enjoys. Thank you Michael.

Michael Mackender, Chairman of the Parish Council



The Village Hall Working Group. Their hard work has paid off by providing a range of village activities that have been supported by the villagers and nearby residents, raising important funds for the Village Hall.

maintaining what we have. Community activities remain an important factor on our radar.

Sincere thanks

Thanks to each and everyone of you who has contributed towards this wonderful success. So many of you have baked cakes, given tombola and raffle prizes, offered a helping hand here and there.

IT IS ALL VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. We are also heartened at the attending support of so many of the villagers to our events. Not every event appeals to all but so many of you have turned out to at least some of the events. That is what having a Village Hall is all about.

Michael Mackender, Chairman of the Parish Council, Sylvia East, Parish Clerk

Forthcoming Events

With the start of the new year, a number of regular activities will recommence. We also have a number of entertainment events that we hope you will wish to attend.

Table Top Sales - 6 February/6 March

To book a sales table, phone 01842 815213.

Lunch Club - 9 February/9 March

This continues by popular demand. Excellent value at £5.50. Book your table - phone 01842 815213.



Good company, good food - and all at a bargain price.

Car Boot Sales - 3 April and first Sundays through to October. Come and support these, or just come and have a tea or coffee and a piece of excellent home-made cake.

Quiz Evening and Fish 'n Chip Supper - Friday 8 April
Our two quizzes in 2010 proved incredibly popular with a full house on both occasions. Come and join in the fun and tuck in to a good fish and chip supper from the Brandon Fish Bar, all for £7 (or just £2 without the supper).

1940s Evening - Saturday 30th July

Come and enjoy a fun-packed evening, dancing to the sound of the *Marrakesh* group. There will be an excellent barbecue and bar. Timings will be announced later. We hope to see you there.



Last year's 1940s evening was a resounding success.

Race Meeting Evening - Saturday 19 November

Come and join in the fun and excitement of a 'day at the races' without having to leave the village.

A series of DVDs present races on which bets can be placed. Admission £2

Village Hall - Recent Activities

Village Auction Evening



Tess Youngs, our auctioneer for the evening, kept things moving at fast pace.

An impressive range of items were donated to the Village Hall auction in November. Thank you to all who made items for sale. A very busy evening saw

attendees acquiring some superb bargains. A profit of just over £800 and donations have been made to Macmillan nurses and the Air Ambulance service.

Christmas Bazaar



The hall was filled with high quality gifts at our Christmas Bazaar.

There was an excellent turn out of stalls, offering a wide variety of goods including candles, jewellery, cakes, cards and much more. Father Christmas made an appearance, to the delight of the younger children. Put a note in your diary to come at the beginning of December to snap up some presents.

Mardis Gras comes to Santon Downham

New Year's Eve saw the Village Hall reverberating to the sounds of New Orleans. The party was well attended and so many people had made excellent efforts to come 'in costume'. There was



Pat Fuller

a real party atmosphere throughout the evening. The superb buffet, provided by the Village Hall Working Group and other volunteers, was appreciated by all.

Choosing the 'best dressed' person was not easy, as so many outfits were very good. The chosen winner was Sally Hibbs.

Do come along to our next New Year's Eve party.



Beautifully attired Sally Hibbs.

Village News

Good Bye and Good Luck, Betty

Most villagers will know Betty Branch, if not just as a long-time villager, but either through the Breckland Club or by being 'encouraged' to buy tickets for her tombola at our car boot sales or indoor table top sales (taking about £1,200 in 2 years).

Betty, who was 80 in December, is leaving the village to be nearer her daughter who lives near Bury St Edmunds. When I was talking to her, I was amazed to learn that she has lived in the village for 63 years. She has not moved house before, having lived in one of the Kennel Bungalows since she was married. Things have changed in the bungalows since then - gone are the oil lamps, the black range cooker and the outside loo!

Betty and her husband Bas were founder members of the Breckland Club and she remained actively involved throughout her time in the village.

She has two children, Daniel in Australia, and her

daughter near Bury and five grand children, and seven great grand children.

She has been an active member of the Parish Council for two years and her move leaves a vacancy. If you would like to be involved, contact the Parish Clerk in May - 01842 815213.

We all wish her well in her new adventure.



Betty Branch, an active member of the village community, is moving to be with her family.

Reflex FACTOR for S D News !

When Derek Toomer enquired (in his own inimitable way) if I knew how a village newsletter might be most economically produced, I had a feeling he had already decided that "Reflex" was the answer! Such a subtle approach was hard to resist, except for the very real problem that our presses are big and more suited to large quantities of colourful brochures, magazines and books. The only viable solution was to print *Santon Downham News* on a single

colour laser machine until such time as a move to colour could be considered.

In October 2010 we took delivery of an amazing digital press and, after installation, we proceeded to produce posters for the Village Hall New Year's Eve Celebration. If everything has gone to plan, then this is the first version of *Santon Downham News* to be printed in colour. Reflex prints this Newsletter free of charge and I am confident that Derek and Sylvia will continue to create an impressive publication that the village can be proud of and enjoy reading.

John Parrington, Reflex Litho Ltd

Dates for Your Diary

(In the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise)

2010

Sunday 6th February	Indoor Car Boot Sale	10am to 2pm	
Wednesday 9th February	Lunch Club	12.30pm	£5.50
Sunday 6th March	Indoor Car Boot Sale	10am to 2pm	
Wednesday 9th March	Lunch Club	12.30pm	£5.50
Sunday 3rd April	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Friday 8th April	Quiz Night (with Fish and Chips supper)	7pm	£2/£7
Sunday 1st May	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Sunday 5th June	Car Boot Sale	8am to 1pm	
Saturday 30th July	1940s Evening	tba	£12
Saturday 19th November	Race Meeting Evening	7.30pm	Admission £2

Village News – contd

Xmas Lights Extravaganza

For several years, Gavin Butcher has been decorating his house, with the help of his father, with a huge array of Christmas lights. We have all probably looked at them with pleasure but at the same time thought we couldn't put on such an impressive display. This year was certainly no exception.



December 1st was lighting up time at No. 1. An eye-catching display and fund raiser.

This year, Gavin used his Christmas lights display to raise money for the Air Ambulance Service. At the switch on, over £80 was raised. If you enjoyed Gavin's lights, why not give him a donation. Drop it in an envelope to Chestnut Cottage, 1 Santon Downham.

Come and get fit

If you don't know what Pilates is all about, pop along to our Village Hall on a Tuesday evening and sign up for a class. In the last 18 months many local people have benefited from their regular

exercising of their 'core muscles'. No running or weightlifting, just stretching and contracting various muscle groups – suitable for any age.

Penny Crook, who takes the classes lives just on the boundary of our village and one third of the participants is village based.



Eyes right – and stretch those muscles. Pilates is very beneficial and fun.

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

Photographs by *Derek Toomer*

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

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