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WELCOME!

Spring is here, and in this issue of your magazine you can find out about all the many and various interesting pastimes that take place in Littleport.

If when you look through it you notice something that you are interested in that is not included, perhaps you'd kindly get in touch and let me know with the relevant information so that it can be included next time.

We also focus on the people and places that serve our village, in the public sector and commercially, and those often unsung heroes who are involved in countless fundraising endeavours for charity.

Spotlight on our Advertisers- the Stories behind the Ads!

Every issue of Littleport Life – your community magazine – is supported financially through the money paid in advertising. The entire team of Littleport people who put the magazine together for you do it voluntarily and without pay. So basically they pay the costs of our prepress and print, and delivery in to our central distribution point here in Littleport.

Most of the adverts as you know are from people with services or goods to provide from and in Littleport itself, although we do take ads from people and goods and services providers outside of the village.

There are as many stories and interesting people behind each advert as the things that they advertise!

We can't get every advertiser's 'story behind the ad' in every quarter's issue, we don't have enough pages, but we can, and do, bring you a few each time the magazine comes out.

Neither are they too in-depth as again,

we don't have the space – but we hope that those we can include makes some interesting reading!

We have our Roving Reporter, Cathy Gibb, who is also our advertising manager, and she has been out and about speaking to Littleport Life advertisers and putting together some insights for you again this quarter.

Naturally we take a glance backwards at our winter season, punctuated as it is by Christmas and other light festivals' celebrations, but most activities are actually ongoing into March, April and May, and of course beyond!. Speaking of spring public holidays, we have Easter the first week in April and the Whitsun weekend of May 24th and Monday 25th to which we look forward.

We are a growing population with more people recognising what a great place Littleport is to live in and coming to settle here. This magazine is the village showcase for all its residents new and old — as well as a handy directory of services offered - and we say again on behalf of the team of unpaid volunteers who work hard to ensure you receive your copy of Littleport Life every quarter: "Welcome!"





	Welcome	3
	Meet The Master Of Ghost-Storytelling At Littleport Library	7
	A Visit To The Gate House B&B	8
	Sharon Gets A Gold	9
	Bright Sparks Needed!	11
	Littleport WI Update	13
	For Home And Country The Real Story Behind 'Jam And Jerusalem'	14
	Heritage Centre Thriving	16
	Ely Walking Group	16
	Meet The Man Behind The Ad!	18
	Littleport Scout Troop Taste-Test Take-Aways	21
	Pet Shops Are Us In Littleport	21
	Not Prehistoric But Modern Day Shopping At Jurassic Bark!	22
	Coleby's – The Fisherman's Friend And A Famous Name In Littleport!	23
	Hale Fen's Creature Comforts	24
	Stitch In Time	25
- M	'Made With Love And Care'	28
	Cathy Continues To Rove	30
	Salvation Army	32
5	St John's Methodist Church	32
	A Message From St Georges Church	33
	Message From The Greater Littleport And District New Spiritualists' Society	34 38
	New Horizons For Dance In Littleport! Cambridgeshire County Council Bus News	30 41
	Littleport Rotary Club	42
	Plans And Donations	43
	Littleport Town Team Survey	44
	Coffee Time Teaser	49
	Colouring In Corner	50
	Crowning Around	52
	Fun Skating At Littleport Leisure	55
	The Littleport Players Theatre Group	56
	Flexing Their Civic Muscles	59
	Riparian Rights	62
	Goodbye To Our Village	62
	A Healthy Part Of Littleport Life	64
	Time To Bank Some Litterpicking	65
	Littleport Lions Club Activities	66
	Littleport Yard Sale Add To Littleport Life	74
	The Field Theatre Group Presents: Mouse Pie & Glory Buns!	77
	Supporting Millfield Primary School	81
	A Littleport Community Primary School Headteacher John Cattermole writes	82
	A Running Route For Littleport	83
	Diary Dates	85
	New Direction For Old A10	86
	Useful Contents	87
	Medical Centre: Contact Details, Opening Hours, And Clinic	87

Accommodation			Health & Fitness		
The Gate House		19	Angela Wilson – Chiropodist/Podiatrist	70	
72 B&B		81	Cambridgeshire Hearing Aid Help	74	
Accounting, Bookkeeping & Finan	ce		Connections Cancer Club	87	•
Prime Bookkeeping Society		29	Dan Reagan – (Hypnotherapy)	10	
Rollings Accounts		77	Essence Foot Health	40	•
Loach & Wade Optometrists		68	Fiona Gilbert – Foot Health Professional		•
Ely Tax & Accountancy		35	Love Pilates	78	
Auctions			Naturally Healthy Colonics	10	•
YPL		36	Pos+Ability	29	
Building Services			Home Interiors, Services & Gardening		70
A C Tree & Garden Care		20	A C Property Services	19	U
Alan Baker House Maintenance		68	Aspire Plumbing & Heating Ltd	83	_
D A Construction		53	Dee Jays Tanker Service	68	α
D Silcock Construction Ltd		35	Enkay Flooring	13	
G Spalding Building & Carpentry		20	Holmes Furnishers (formerly Neal's)	76	P-7
MAM Tiling		26	J P Oven Clean	39	
McLatchie Electrical Services		6	Mark A Bennett Plumbing & Heating	78	
S J P Maintenance		29	Matt Whitaker Handyman	11	M
Charity Shop			Mitchell & Mayle Ltd	75	
Branching Out		78	M.J. Yardy Engineering Ltd	39	
Church & &Faith Groups			Peter's Bridal Warehouse	70	H
Littleport New Spiritualists' Society	У	71	Phil Rudderham Handyman Services	79	
Salvation Army	•	32	Port Plumbing Supplies	27	
St John's Methodist Church		32	Sigma Embroidery	35	
Computers, TVs, Telecoms			The Other Shop	76	
B M Aerials & TV Services Ltd		31	Time Bank (ChildLine Fundraising Event)	67	
Millrose Telecom		18	Leisure & Interests		
T W Electrical (Ely) Ltd		20	Beynur's Tattoo Studio	52	T-T
Farm Supplies			Christine Dressmaker	40	—
Fen Farm Supplies		51	Darrell Ritchings, Music Teacher	81	
The Shed Farm Shop		72	Fancy Pants Costume Hire	53	
Florists			Happy Feet – Nursery Dance	11	
Flowers By Chloe		51	Jane's Sewing Services	70	
Food & Drink			Littleport's Ex-Servicemen's Club	82	\vdash
Indian Garden		17	Marriage & CP Ceremonies Volunteering		
Kidd's Kitchen – Caterers		28	YPL Repair Bike Shop	37	A
Spice Lounge Indian Restaurant		17	Pets		
The Ship Inn, Brandon Creek		69	Camelot Creature Comforts	40	
W H Cox Butchers & A J Caterers		18	Isle Veterinary Group	63	
Funeral Directors			Johnson And Scott	54	
R J Pepper & Son		12	Jurassic Bark	84	
Hair & Beauty			Paws Doggy Day Care	84	
Kim Mobile Hairdressing		10	Hire Transport	- 1	—
Nails By Carrie Ann		79	Anglia Taxis	47	
Motoring		,,	Parker's Taxis	58	
Diamond Vehicle Services		58	Mil-Ken Travel	6	
Geoff Glover Hire, Sales & Service		46	Will Kell Huvel	J	
Mildenhire		88			

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MEET THE MASTER OF GHOST-STORYTELLING AT LITTLEPORT LIBRARY!

Robert Lloyd Parry, local actor and founder of the Nunkie Theatre Company, will be visiting Littleport Library to present his thrilling one-man show which brings to life the spine-chilling ghost stories of M R James.

The performance will take place on Friday 20th March between 7:30-9:30pm (including interval) in an appropriately atmospheric venue; the Victorian building that houses Littleport's Public Library. This is the first event in Littleport's Arts Alive in Libraries programme, an Arts Council England funded project to promote arts events in Libraries. This is also the first time that Littleport Library has been used as a venue for such an event so I do hope you will join us in the exciting new venture.

M R James wrote his ghost stories to perform to friends in the years leading up to WW1 and today they have lost nothing of their power to terrify and amuse. In the show Robert Lloyd Parry will perform two of his stories: Casting the Runes introduces us to the unforgettable 'Abbot of Lufford', Mr. Karswell - magic lanternist, historian of the occult, and scourge of the

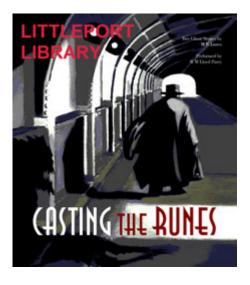
academic establishment. This story is perhaps best known for being the source for the classic 1950s horror film 'Night of the Demon'. And one of James's most neglected masterpieces, The Residence at Whitminster in which a dark shadow is cast over the precinct of a peaceful English church...

"Riveting... wonderful and such magical storytelling. A pleasing reminder that the spoken word can be as spine-chilling as anything in the cinema." —Daily Mail

"Lloyd Parry's beautifully modulated performance is perfectly judged to send an enjoyable chill down the spine." — Metro

Tickets are £5 (or £4 for Library Members), including a glass of wine or soft drink and are available in advance from Littleport Library. The performance is suitable for 13 year olds+.

The next Arts Alive event scheduled for Friday 24th April will be a 1950s-inspired evening centred round a screening of the sing-a-long version of the film Grease. Please look out for further details in the Library...and beyond.



A VISIT TO THE GATE HOUSE B&B

If anyone is au fait with the website 'TripAdvisor', Littleport are proud to announce that our very own AA Four Star The Gate House situated at 2B Lynn Road are constantly at the top of the ratings when it comes to successful B&Bs.

"We have been between 9th to 13th out of 270 to 280 the best B&Bs in Cambridgeshire, and we are even fluctuating from 1st or 2nd place in Ely alone which is quite an achievement,"

laying the wooden floors," said Peter who was able to employ local tradesmen to complete the structure of the house, as well as doing the electrics and fitting the windows.

The couple eventually felt that the house was just too big for the two them, so they decided to turn it into this thriving B&B with three bedrooms (2 en suite), whilst still retaining their own privacy with an office upstairs, and a private dining room

and lounge downstairs.

The Gate House is busy all the year round but Edna and Peter try to get the balance of their work and life right.

"This is our home, but our guests still have their own privacy and we are on call whenever they need us," said Edna, who prides herself on a spotlessly clean establishment

which is modern and spacious including all mod cons from wifi to personal fridges etc.

There are those personal touches with Peter's family pictures on the walls and his 30-year-old BSA C15 bike taking pride of place on the landing.

"We treat everyone who stays here how we would like to be treated ourselves. We don't let standards slip. We don't get complacent because we know people are spending their time and money. If someone is coming to Ely and wishes to stay at our establishment we don't want to ruin their stay – as time is precious and having that spare time available to you, you want to provide the best service you



said one of the welcoming proprietors Edna, who can rustle up a mean breakfast, and likes to give that personal touch by providing homemade biscuits and muffins for the guests placed on the tea tray in their rooms.

They use a lot of organic and free range produce from local suppliers including our advertisers Westmoor House and The Shed.

Edna's partner Peter, an engineer by trade, built the house on what was originally a vegetable garden that belonged to Colville House next door.

"We did everything from the plumbing, electrics, the flooring, carpentry, to tiling the bathroom and kitchen tiling and even

can", Edna told Littleport Life

When you meet this welcoming Littleport couple, they really do make you feel at home as one satisfied visitor commented.



"Everything in this bed and breakfast was first class, from the bed to the bacon. The attention to detail was outstanding and we would certainly recommend a stay at The Gate House. Very convenient too for a trip to Cambridge or Ely, especially if you want to leave the car behind as it is next to the station - but still quiet."

SHARON GETS A GOLD!

A weight loss expert from Littleport has struck gold for the exceptional work she does in helping more than 100 people to lose weight at her local group every week. Sharon, who runs the group every week has been awarded 'Gold' status by the national slimming club because of her success in supporting slimmers to reach their dream weight and the super service she provides to those members.

The accolade is given to Slimming World consultants who consistently have 100 or more members in their group

over several months. It represents the highest level of service in slimming and places Littleport in the top five per cent of the organisation's 3,500 Consultants, meaning Littleport is home to some of the best slimming support in the UK.

Sharon says: "I am delighted to have received the 'Gold' award. I absolutely love my job, I'm passionate about helping people to transform their lives by losing weight and seeing them succeed is reward enough, but being given this recognition for the whole group really is the icing on the cake. This award belongs to the Littleport group's 135 members. They're the ones who make our group the success that it is, with their fabulous commitment, the wonderful support they give each other every week. They make the group a fun, buzzy place to be and I can safely say I always look forward to going to work. I truly believe I have the best job in the world."

"The group has really put healthy weight loss on the map in Littleport.

Together they've lost an amazing 316 stones this year. Obesity is at record levels everywhere and many people are suffering a range of weight-related health problems from diabetes to heart problems and feelings of low selfworth that impact on their working and personal lives every day. It's never been more important that overweight people get the support to make changes to and lead healthier lives both for themselves and the future generations, their children too."

To join the Littleport group, which is held every Tuesday at 6pm & 7.30pm at the Leisure Centre, Camel Road, either pop along or give Sharon a call on 01353 861499.





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Bright Sparks Needed!

Volunteers wanted for Christmas Lights... Last year's Christmas lights could be the last – unless more practical help from the Littleport community is forthcoming.

You will have noticed that there were a few glitches – with some lights not functioning as they should and actually



not being in all the old established places they should have been.

The absence of the sleigh due to licensing protocols notwithstanding, the festive lights themselves are now at risk from a lack of electrically minded and strong volunteers to attend to them — and difficulty ensuring the power supply.

In previous Christmas times the shop owners and service providers in the village centre not only contributed directly financially, but also contributed indirectly by allowing their businesses own electricity source to be used as 'pick up points' to power the lights.

These philanthropists included J.H.Adams Hardware, Bamber's Electricals, Goodson's Greengrocery, and Page's Gift Shop – all now gone.

Also unable to continue the actual installation are many of the old and older volunteers and even those who are left are now in their seventies! However although there have been two or three younger people already recruited to the team of installers many more are needed! A long-standing member of the Rotary

Club told Littleport Life, "We would like a firm commitment from all our new business leaders in the village to support this year's festive light decorations, and the Christmas Celebration Lights Committee, to ensure that this lovely tradition continues even better than before! Let's not go back to the 'dark ages' with an unlit up shopping centre and a Christmas Tree without sparkle!" If you can help please email us and someone will get back to you.



Happy Feet gives your little ones a great first taste of ballet and tap, so whether your child is a graceful little angel or just loves to make noise, Happy Feet is the place to be!

Classes in Ely, Littleport, Little Downham & Witchford (For under 5's).

For information or to book, contact Stephanie: Telephone: 07793 815720 Email: stephanie@horizonsacademy.co.uk

MATT IS HANDY!

Littleport has quite a few handy men – and one of the handiest seems to be Matt Whitaker. He is always willing to do odd jobs to do with gardening, painting, repairs and those fiddly flat-pack assemblies for very reasonable cost. You can contact him on 07507566560.

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LITTLEPORT WI UPDATE

At the October meeting we had a Manager from Sainsbury's Supermarket who gave a very interesting talk covering a wide area of how the stores are run, products etc, and how very pleased the company was to now have a store in Ely.

Many questions were asked and answered and sample of bread and cheese from their selection were tasted and enjoyed. In November we enjoyed our Pudding Night where members brought their favourite puddings for all to try with the recipes available if you so wished. So many delicious puds we were all ...

We also held a Bring and Buy Sale which was very well supported and which raised valuable funds.

December saw us enjoying a Christmas party with the food supplied by our members. There was so much and such a wide variety. Thank you to all who helped make this a success.

Pam Hayes gave us a brilliant demonstration of Flower Arrangements for Christmas. These beautiful arrangements were then donated to our Raffle which proved very popular and helped our funds no end.

Over the coming year we have many Speakers and Demonstrations booked.

Details of these are awaiting on request. 2015 is also the Centenary of the Women's Institute and there will be various events taking place both nationally and locally. W.I. Merchandise i.e. Jams, Chutneys,

W.I. Merchandise i.e. Jams, Chutneys, Biscuits, etc for sale are available in The Other Shop in Main Street Littleport, so why not go and have a look.

Interested? Come along to one of our meetings on the second of the month 7.15 at the Village Hall.

For more information: President Ms J. Bird 01353 863823;Secretary Ms M. Dennis 961298.



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FOR HOME AND COUNTRY

The real story behind 'Jam and Jerusalem'



'For Home and Country' has been the rallying statement for millions of women since it was devised in 1902 by Ms Laura Rose, who in 1899 had been appointed by the Ontario Government to assist a new organisation, the Women's Institute. Laura was a graduate of the Farm Dairy School, a college tutor and speaker at many WI meetings and author of the text book, 'Farm Dairying'.

There are currently 212,000 members and 6,600 Women's Institute branches in Great Britain. So the Women's Institute can say it has certainly come a long way both literally and figuratively since it was first set up by Adelaide Hoodless in the village of Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada, back in 1897!

Jerusalem sung at the start of WI meetings is self-explanatory – underpinning as its words tell us to try and achieve the best living conditions by our own efforts...

In 1916, before he tragically died in the Spanish Flu pandemic two years later, Sir Hubert Parry was asked by the then Poet Laureate Robert Bridges to compose music for William Blake's poem 'Jerusalem'. Sir Hubert assigned his copyright to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies for use as a 'Women Voters Hymn' after talks with Millicent Garratt Fawcett and the copyright was thereafter given to the Women's Institute by his executors after the NUWSS was wound up in 1928.

Now about that jam?

The WI was set up in 1915 after the outbreak of World War One in order to encourage women in rural communities to grow food and preserve it to help supply nourishment to the war-deprived population.

Then called upon yet again in World War Two, it's recorded that from 1940 to 1945 members of the WI produced a staggering 5,300 tons of preserves to put on the nation's bread. No mean feat and one that shouldn't be belittled!

In the decades since peace was declared, many interesting and positive WI campaigns have been discussed and launched by women living in rural communities that have had national — and even international — impact on all women's lives.

In the 1950's there was a 'Keep Britain Tidy' anti-litter campaign that caught the imagination of everyone with billboards

and stickers everywhere to be seen.

The 1960's may have been swinging for some, but the WI kept the nation on course with solid efforts like support for the National Art Exhibition, opening



WI's in psychiatric hospitals, warning of the availability of habit-forming drugs to young people and commissioning an opera – music by Malcolm Williamson, libretto by Ursula Vaughan Williams – The Brilliant and the Dark, about women's lives through the ages.

The 1970's reflected the new understandings of wider issues for women generally. There was a call for full, free family planning services and more nursery education.

The 80's were punctuated by efforts to raise awareness about the need for education on solvent abuse, vigilance about child abuse and more information to be broadcast on AIDS.

A less obvious initiative in the interests of equality was made in 1993 when the Women's Institute held a 'Woman Driver of the Year' competition.

As the new 21st century arrived, the public perception, and often it seems misconception of the raison d'etre for the Women's Institute and the kind of women that collectively make up its membership, was changed in a way that couldn't have been bettered by any PR company employed for the purpose!

The Prime Minister of the day who was prey to those commonly held popular myths about the WI was invited to speak at the AGM in June 2,000 which was to be televised. He was told that politics and religion were not areas that would be acceptable — nevertheless he began as he meant to go on — ignored those guidelines and was heckled, jeered and slow-handclapped. Some women actually walked out.

He may not have been briefed on the history of the foundation and onward progress of the women who made and make up the WI. Apart from the avowed inherent independence from political parties, institutions or church or chapel - thus encouraging non-establishment women into joining, and the first ever National federation of Women's Institutes President having also been the first Chair of the Family Planning Association, President of the Ladies Golf Union and a director of the Westminster Press among other activities, he could have done with reading the objects of the organisation he was addressing...

The WI states in its company objects that it exists mainly to enable women who are interested in issues associated with rural life, including arts, crafts and sciences, to improve and develop conditions of rural life, to advance education in citizenship; to address public questions both national and international, in music, drama and other cultural subjects and branches of agriculture, handicrafts, home economics, health and social welfare; to give women the opportunity to work together and put into practice the ideals for which the Women's Institute stands.

Lyn Guest de Swarte

HERITAGE CENTRE THRIVING

In the chilly month of February the Fen dweller's warmest thoughts oft turn to ice!

This year was no exception with the Adam's Heritage Centre playing host to a two-day exhibition of all things fen skating. There were plenty of old skates and photographs of skaters from as long ago as the 19th century on display.

Speakers from the Fen Centre - Chair Nigel Drake and its Publicity Officer, David Smith, who is also still competing

at international level, gave illustrated and fascinating talks to the Heritage Centre's many visitors, on skating then and now. On the Saturday morning of February 28th David and Fen Centre colleagues gave a talk and demonstration of inline roller speedskating at the Littleport Leisure Centre during Brian Paddington's Fun Roller Skating session for youngsters. There were also old sales ledgers recording sales of Hagen skates to browse through - and pictures of a similar ice stadium and track plan to the one planned for Littleport in the not too distant future. The Adams Heritage Centre Trustees did a great job of putting up the display boards, ensuring visitors were welcomed through the doors and providing light refreshments throughout the entire exhibition.

ELY WALKING GROUP

16 members of Ely Walking Group, together with 4 well behaved dogs, enjoyed a 6 1/2 mile walk in the winter sunshine. Starting at a frosty Santon Downham, on the Norfolk/Suffolk border, they then used paths along the Little Ouse River, through Thetford Warren forest and stopped halfway at High Lodge in the forest for a hot drink. Revived, they followed paths to the outskirts of Brandon and there they turned and made their way back to Santon Downham.

The Group are celebrating their 30th anniversary this year and their proud boast is that it's never cost their members a penny! The next walk is Sutton on Sun 6th Feb and the leaders are Peter & Trish 01353 777626

www.freewebs.com/elywalkinggroup you can also email;

For more details go to:

info.elywalkinggroup@yahoo.co.uk or phone; David Kirby 01353 667286.

FREE TIME? WANT TO BE MORE INVOLVED WITH THE COMMUNITY AS A VOLUNTEER?

Littleport Life magazine is looking for a website editor, to add to the existing editorial team, who will transfer the published magazine to our website. If you think you can, and would like to help, contact the Committee Chairperson by email: dawnstar@tesco.net

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MEET THE MAN BEHIND THE AD!



Littleport Life magazine is supported by its many lovely advertisers, so as you know we feature one or two of them each issue.

One of those supporters is Keith Evans who has been advertising with us for a couple of years now - but you may know him better under his own company name of Millrose Telecom.

He runs a very successful business, and you can read glowing comments from some of his customers when you log onto his highly informative website www. millrosetelecom.co.uk

Keith told Littleport Life's Roving Reporter Cathy Gibb:

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- both business and residential, and have lived in Littleport for 10 years. My employment track record speaks for itself having worked for companies like Virgin Media, BT, NTL and Ionica, as well as business telecoms companies.

Last year I set up Millrose Telecom (named after their daughter Millie Rose) which provides residential and business telecom services to local customers including phone faults, extension issues and troubleshooting (less expensive than BT charges), and also business telephone systems and data-cabling."

Keith provides some very handy tips about various phone problems from a crackly line, no dialling tone, to slow broadband or phantom ringing etc., on his website. You can always email Keith at Millrose Telecom on keith@millrosetelecom.co.uk

or phone 01353 860872 or 07884 293102 if you need to make an appointment or receive some advice.

While Keith is busy with his own company, his wife Jo is also fully occupied with her business. She is Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Emerald Frog Marketing and PR Company which is based at e-Space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport.

The Evans' working ethos even extends to volunteering for Littleport Timebank and delivering the Littleport Life Magazine to your doorstep.

Keith also manages to make time for his other passion in life, Wildlife Watch, where he is leader for the Ely Branch, and the junior club of the Wildlife Trust, plus he regularly runs activities for local children helping them to learn about the Isle of Ely's wildlife.



The Gate House Bed & Breakfast (Littleport)

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LITTLEPORT SCOUT TROOP TASTE-TEST TAKE- AWAYS

Littleport's scout troop are looking forward now to the spring months of activities, but here is a backward glance to let you know what the group did as part of their active winter programme.

The 1st Littleport Scout Troop undertook a taste-testing competition before Christmas!

The competition was designed and undertaken by the members of Puma & Tiger Patrol overseen by 12 year old



Patrol Leaders Amber Dorrington and Harriet Cree. A portion of chips were purchased anonymously from all the takeaway venues in Littleport and were then scrutinised for quality by the 20-strong Scout Troop, accounting for cost, portion size, taste and texture. The scores for each portion were totalled to find which they found to be the best overall. The winners were presented with the results and a certificate during an evening hike organised by the Cobra Patrol.

This event concluded a hectic winter programme which included a visit to

the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge to learn more about the night sky and navigation by the stars. There was an autumn weekend camp with canoeing, rock climbing, backwoods cooking and archery and a Living History WW1 evening where Scouts discussed their own family history and could get up close to a collection of 19th Century military paraphernalia to understand for themselves the conditions of trench warfare

Any child - boy or girl - interested in joining the Scout Troop (10 – 13 ½) or if there are any adults with some spare time on their hands to help Beavers, Cubs or Scouts, please contact Mike Philbey. Group Scout Leader. Tel. 01353 861303 / email: padlport@btinternet.com

PET SHOPS ARE US IN LITTLEPORT

Littleport is a village of pet lovers. This statement is born out by the fact that as well as having a veterinary practice, there are no fewer than three pet supplies shops to choose from.

Each pet retail outlet has its own specialities and strengths that draw their regular customers as well as individual surroundings, atmospheres and decor! Of course many pet owners will also be happy to frequent all three pet shops, enjoying the ambience in turn, even if they need to shop at one in particular for their particular pet's needs — especially if that pet is a horse or two!

Our Roving Reporter has not been idle – and has been to all three...

Turn the page to find out what went on.

NOT PREHISTORIC BUT MODERN DAY SHOPPING AT JURASSIC BARK!

In July 2013 Jurassic Bark opened its first pet shop in Downham Market courtesy of Lionel Partridge who founded the company with the intention of providing bulk food to trade customers such as kennels and breeders. Fez, as Lionel is better known, didn't realise how successful his business would become, and decided to expand, opening a second shop in Littleport off the A10 in the Saxon Business Park in May last year.

Jarl Ford who enthusiastically and expertly



runs the Littleport branch and is ably assisted by Siobhan told Littleport Life; "Admittedly two years ago I was happy in my health care world. I was financially well off and working just 5 days a week. But given the opportunity to run a shop helping people to look after and care for their pets and companion animals really appealed! Here at Jurassic Bark it is a longer working week, although I do have Sundays off which is great because I have a young family.

The customers who come in here are

just fantastic which makes my job super rewarding and I wouldn't change it for the world."

The Ford family including 10 year old Joshua and 7 year old Madison have been totally committed to the Jurassic Bark project spending the time before opening day updating the entire interior with eye catching and animal friendly carpeting, building adequate storage and partitions which added to a complete facelift which the premises needed.

According to Jarl, Jurassic Bark's Littleport outlet has certainly evolved from this time last May.

"When we first started, it was purely cat and dogcentric, but we now carry fish products, exotic pet products on a smaller scale, and we are growing all the time keeping up with local demands for products."

Across the two shops the aim of Jurassic Bark is to provide their customers with advice and information so that they can select pet food that is best for their pets and within their budget.

It is thanks to their website that Jurassic Bark has had a huge demand for online products which gets picked up and packaged at their Littleport premises plus they have a huge demand for bulk orders. Lorries come in everyday with deliveries, plus couriers are used to dispatch the products ordered.

Jarl says; "Through Jurassic Bark's wholesalers there is access to thousands of products, so if what you are looking for is not on our shelves then please do ask and we will do our best to source it for you and at very competitive prices."

COLEBY'S – THE FISHERMAN'S FRIEND AND A FAMOUS NAME IN LITTLEPORT!

This is a pet shop with a difference. Colbey's has been selling angling goods to fishing enthusiasts for many many years. About 11 years ago young couple Gavin Eeles and his wife decided to buy the renowned angling hub and kept the name going. As Gavin remarked to Littleport Life; "When we came here the street was really busy and Littleport's village centre was thriving. Since the advent of the big supermarket – as well as internet shopping – things have been quieter..."

Although they are still selling quality tackle of competition quality, they diversified a couple of years ago and made half the shop over to domestic pet provisions from dogs to hamsters with all the usual foodstuffs and accoutrements such as pet beds etc. The shop is open 9

to 5.30pm Monday to Saturday inclusive with half-day closing Wednesday.

Earlier this year they made another big decision to sell Colbey's, and move a little further to the south west of Cambridgeshire to be nearer to Gavin's mother.

Interestingly it is on the estate agent's books as a 4 bedroom house with shop premises beneath and an outbuilding that had planning permission for another house behind – but the Eeles' are only selling the stock at wholesale value – and the Good Will attached to the famous angling shop is free!

If you are an angling enthusiast you may well want to contact Pocock's in Ely to find out how much it will cost for you to purchase this piece of Littleport's history!



HALE FEN'S CREATURE COMFORTS

Camelot Creature Comforts is another pet shop well worth a visit which serves the Chettisham, Ely, Littleport and surrounding areas. This family business prides itself on good value for money catering for all types of animals in a setting which were originally horse stables.

Just drive past the Littleport Leisure Centre in Camel Road, past Sharman's Garden Centre and across the A10 you will find The Willows, 3 Hale Fen by turning left and into a vast farm type space where you are usually greeted by three happy small pooches and the affable owners John and Alison Bushe.

John, who is a Gooner, (Arsenal supporter in football parlance) is only too happy to welcome you in, show you around and advise when needed. Usually you can happily lose yourself just browsing through the vast array of food and treats and accessories displayed in several single separate stables from provisions for cats, dogs, horses, reptiles and fish to bulk farm and horse feed.

"We have lived here just 8 years in April, but the shop started up just over 2 years ago and we have lots of horses here who are either retired or current show jumpers which my 23 year old daughter Elizabeth now rides," said John

Elizabeth is a keen amateur jockey and is pursuing equine studies in a degree course at Warwick University.

Ex Jockey and trainer John told Littleport Life how he came to be running Camelot Creature Comforts.

"Needing to buy some horse feed we went along to Camelot Creature Comforts to purchase some from the proprietor Barbara. Having been in the business for years, she told us that she was going to retire and that it was up for sale but no one was interested in taking it on. It only took me 30 seconds to decide that I was going to buy the business and that is what



we did," revealed John, who at 65 says he now has to get help every Monday mornings unloading 3 tons of feed.

Wife Alison helps out with all the accounts, ordering, the VAT as well as caring for her mother who lives with them next door who unfortunately suffers from Alzheimer's.

Every year John and Alison run an Alzheimer's charity event at Hale Farm and this year they are holding a couple of their fundraising fun dog shows. One is possibly scheduled for June 14th, the date of which John is still to confirm. He is delighted to report that last year's event raised £500 for the charity.

STITCH IN TIME

Sigma Embroidery shop is in Littleport's Main Street, and I went along to speak to owner and former Addenbrooke's Hospital Clinical Scientist, Kim Oakhill on behalf of you, the reader of Littleport Life magazine writes Cathy Gibb.

I was extremely impressed with what they actually create and produce in the heart of our village. Sigma turns out to be a very innovative local company. They will be expanding by swapping to bigger premises in April with their next door neighbours The Bargain Centre.

"We have come to the point that we can't show everything we produce. We are going to have everything in our catalogue on show from specialised embroidered or printed handiwork from tee shirts, fleeces, mugs, bags, mouse mats, house door numbers to hoodies and wall art which customers will be able to see, feel and touch.

"We do so many personalised gifts that when the customers visit they are just amazed with the excellent advice they receive and are usually satisfied with the end product," said Kim, who will be celebrating her second year since opening the shop in April 2013.

Kim hopes that by moving, the company will be able to promote local artists who will be able to sell their work which will be more personalised rather than standard art.

The latest innovation is printing or embroidering university school or primary school leavers 'hoodies' - pupils get their name, the school's name and the date they left on their garment.

Sigma feel that their pricings are very reasonable too. A standard tee shirt plus VAT is priced £7.00 with an additional

£3.00 or £4.00 for the embroidered logo. If you are working for a business, you can order a work wear pack which costs £55.00 plus VAT and that gives you 3 polo shirts, 1 tee shirt and 1 fleece.

The company sponsors Witchford Football Colts who have Kim's two sons playing for them.

Kim Oakhill knows she could not run



Sigma Embroidery on her own without her reliable right hand man, 21 year old Cambridge United supporter Jamie Cramwell, who has such great artistic flair that he is designing his own logos.

Gill Page works in sale and admin three days a week, plus there are new part time employees Emily and Georgina, due to join the firm very soon.

Sigma Embroidery likes to involve themselves in local community events by supporting the likes of the Brownies and the Cubs, as well as a summer school and Littleport Sports Centre.

"We had some left over bits of printing so we decided to run a 'printed tee shirt making' event with some local children which went really well", revealed Kim.

So if you require some embroidered work wear, a brand new printed sports kit or just that one off personalised gift then you need look no further than Littleport. Sigma Embroidery are happy to help!

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It's great to find out how people started their own local businesses and why. 'Made With Love and Care'

This is the logo chosen by a fairly new and thriving Littleport business, 'Kidd's Kitchen'.

Debbie Kidd spent 20 years working in the catering and training industry, but eventually decided, with the support of her husband Adrian, to turn her expertise into starting their own catering business working from home so that is how Kidd's Kitchen came to fruition in summer 2014. The food is sourced from local suppliers; the staff are qualified and hold the appropriate Food Hygiene Certificates, and the business carries the highest rating of five stars awarded by Environmental Health.

Debbie's company caters for various kinds of events from private dinner parties, to weddings, christening, funerals, garden parties, afternoon teas plus corporate and business lunches and BBQ's covering areas in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.

They have an informative website www. kiddskitchen.co.uk with many glowing testimonials from satisfied customers such as "a fabulous wedding cake detailed in flowers which was exquisite and perfectly coloured that matched our wedding theme" to an "amazing variety of chutneys."

If you want to know a bit more about Kidd's Kitchen, you can actually catch them at Mildenhall Market every Friday and Ely Market every Thursday and Saturday.



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CATHY CONTINUES TO ROVE...

Mark and Eva Mason aka MAM Tiling are loyal advertisers whose contribution supports this magazine, as well as bringing their product to the notice of its thousands of readers.

They sit behind Sharman's Garden Centre in Camel Road and their neighbours are Port Plumbing who also support the publication of your magazine with a regular advert, not forgetting 'It's Wonderful' the gift shop with a difference next to the tea room at the Garden Centre!.

Eva welcomed me into their showroom which was displaying their very impressive lit up beige tiled kitchen which was specially designed by MAM Tiling.

Mark's working CV speaks for itself having tiled many a project from hotels, showrooms to new builds and private homes. The Masons felt there was a niche in the market for serving the local Littleport community so hence MAM Tiling came into being in February 2010, but they didn't in fact open to the public until May of that year.

"We are doing a lot of wood effect tiles which has taken the place of laminated tiles. People have gone more for this because it doesn't cause you to slip", informed Eva, who told Littleport Life that this year is discount year taking 10% off the price which includes labour, tiles and materials.

"We are a bit different and unique from other competitors. Not only because we are local, but in that we include both the tiles and the workforce i.e. supply and fit in our costings, and we give expert advice and support."

As a thank you to all their local customers Mark and Eva offer a superb free delivery service.

Good news for MAM Tiling is that their business is continuing to thrive, and they have been very busy.

"I think people now know we exist and we even get customers coming from as far as Cambridge because of our affordable prices," said Eva.



They are pleased to announce that their designer bathrooms are also selling well. It seems that tiles have taken over from old fashioned lino and thick carpet because you can keep tiles clean and it's easier to maintain.

Even hallways are being tiled and MAM Tiling are delighted to be part of this fashionable change in the bathroom and kitchen market.

You can see MAM Tiling's finished work when you visit The Poets House which is a new boutique hotel based in Ely, and The Anchor at Little Downham.

They are also heavily involved with Cannon & Kirk Builders and the new houses being built in Highfield.

This year is discount year and MAM Tiling are happy to provide 10% off when labour, tiles and materials are taken together.

Just log on to MAM Tiling's website and you can see exactly what they provide. You won't be disappointed!

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A MESSAGE FROM ST GEORGES CHURCH



By the time this edition of Littleport Life is printed we will be well into 2015, but I would just ask that you cast your mind back to November last year when the space probe Philae landed on the comet, out in deepest space. The landing was the end of the 10 year Rosetta Mission and without doubt, it is a stunning technical achievement. The aim is to understand the comet and from that, to hopefully gain a greater insight into the origins of life, the universe and everything. It seems that much exploration into space and on the ground is concerned with finding out where we come from: for example, the Hadron Collider in Geneva seeking the Higgs-Boson Particle.

What I find fascinating about all of this is that the science, stunning and amazing as it is, is possible because the scientists can predict what the physical forces will be that they are likely to encounter. And that's because those forces are essentially identical to what goes on in their own back yard, or indeed, in your back yard. The more we explore, the more we find similarity not difference, predictability not chaos. No, you can't fire up the hatchback and drive out to a comet, but

Philae needed an engine too and the Teflon on your frying pan was first used on the Apollo missions. What works in space works here on the ground as well. Discovering the origin of life, the universe and everything is an understandable quest for the human mind, but the suggestion that there is an origin implies a start date and if there was a start date, then why? It's no coincidence that the Higgs-Boson has been nicknamed the God Particle.

At Christmas we celebrate the story of Jesus' birth, God's Son; it's the celebration of when, at Bethlehem, God said "here I am! Right here with you". Perhaps as we explore ever deeper into space we will find that actually, similarity and predictability continue. And however exciting and amazing that will be, rather than look for God at the edges of the universe, we could simply start right where we are.

If you would like to do that, that's brilliant. At St George's after Easter we will be holding a series of discussions called Christianity Explored and as many as would like to come are warmly invited. If you want to know more, please ask either directly or via the website or Facebook link. Don't be put off by the word discussion – they will be informal and no question about life, the universe and everything will be off limits. Exact dates will be advertised in due course and there are of course the informal services of Messy Church and Cafe Church where there's time to chat.

With every blessing.

Rev'd Howard Robson.

MESSAGE FROM THE GREATER LITTLEPORT AND DISTRICT NEW SPIRITUALISTS' SOCIETY



A couple of the most frequently asked questions are 'what is a Spiritualist' and 'why are there so many religions rather than just one'?

Well the answer to the first is a simple matter and can be found in any dictionary! For instance, 'Spiritualist' is defined by the Chambers Dictionary as; a belief that it is possible to have communication with the spirits of dead people, e.g. through a medium and the practice of this, the doctrine that a person's spirit continues to exist after their physical death.

Here in Littleport we have a demonstration of that basic belief and practice with a service of prayer, praise and worship that always includes a medium to which anyone from any religion or none is always welcome.

The religious philosophy engendered by that practice leads us into answering that second question.

Again we can find a common dictionary definition; religion is worship of a god or gods — a particular system of belief such as Christianity or Judaism...

Most Spiritualists would say that they are also Christian – or Jewish (or Moslem) when asked their religion. They could equally be from other religious backgrounds! Ours is avowedly a Christian denomination however.

Most Spiritualists would agree that

although the people of the world have over the ages evolved into cliques espousing particular doctrine and dogma; essentially proposing that their religion or belief system

is the only right one, Spiritualist practice leads to the philosophy that all religions have the same spiritual base, even if we disagree with their practices and prefer our own! QED!

Within Spiritualism itself there are different groupings – just like all those other religions.

What we must all agree on is to disagree, and rather than dwelling on our differences view the similarities inherent in all spiritual philosophies.

Take on board that famous prayer of St Francis...

"Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy."

Our regular services of 'Upliftment and Mediumship', are held on Thursday nights each week, at Littleport Village Hall, barring the occasional election or show by the Littleport Players, so do come along to find out more.

With many a blessing to you all.

Rev'd Nick Brown



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NEW HORIZONS FOR DANCE IN LITTLEPORT!

Stephanie Bean runs a couple of classes a week at Littleport Village Hall and told Littleport Life,"We have exciting news that we would love to share with the village. Horizons Dance Academy presented their first ever Showcase to an audience of friends and family at Littleport Village Hall in February. The show was a mix of ballet, tap, Jazz and musical theatre. I was so incredibly proud of every single dancer. For many it was their first performance





and they really did a truly fabulous job.

We are a fairly new dance school and I am delighted with what the girls and boys have achieved in such a short period of time. The parents also deserve a massive shout out as without their support and commitment Horizons Academy wouldn't be turning into the lovely community that it is."

Stephanie continued,"Horizons Dance & Fitness Academy aims to be a place where children not only learn to dance, but also to build confidence, meet friends, add to a healthy lifestyle and hopefully come away with a sense of achievement and a growing enthusiasm for dance and theatre."

For more information please contact Stephanie@horizonsacademy.co.uk

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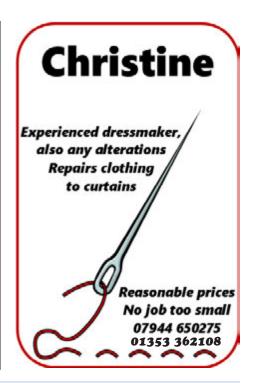
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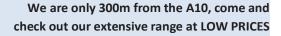
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Reviewed bus services progress as new timetable specifications are issued for tender

Following a process of community engagement and discussion through a Working Group, several bus services under review are now at the penultimate stage of the process where new timetables have been designed and issued for tender.

The following bus services are currently out for tender:

117 (Upware - Soham - Ely)

125 (Wardy Hill/Little Downham – Ely) - includes current service 116

129 (Black Horse Drove - Prickwillow - Ely)

The existing bus service 115 (Gold Hill Corner – Ely) will be withdrawn.

The tender process takes approximately 4 months and final timetables will be dependent on the costs of bids returned. Further information will be available around <u>April 2015</u>. *All existing services will remain in place until a new service commences as an alternative.*

The timetables for these services have had changes made so please check out the proposed new timetables on the 'Working with the Community' page on Cambridgeshire County Councils website at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cft. The new timetables will be advertised locally prior to when the new service is due to start.

Contact the team: email: cft@cambridgeshire.gov.uk; tel: 0345 045 0675

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Littleport Rotary Club — Quarterly Update

As we move further into 2015 a look back on our achievements and a look forward to what is planned, will hopefully give readers a better understanding, of what we do at Rotary.

Once again we provided a Xmas Tree and lights. The tree was chosen in Elveden Forest This was funded partially by ourselves, corporate sponsors and the Parish Council. Rotary installed the tree and the associated lights. Each year we pull this all together, purchasing the tree, hiring the "cherry picker", and raising a team of Rotarians to carry out the installation.



Each year we send a local candidate to the Rotary's equivalent of an outward bound scheme. Known as **RYLA**, the event is held at Rutland Water and we were delighted to send **Kirby McManus** for the week long course back in July 2014.

Kirby is currently working at the Anchor in Little Downham.



Plans and Donations

Continued from facing Page:

Kirby reported back to us and openly admitted that before the course she would not have been able to talk in front of a group of strangers but after RYLA she felt at ease giving her presentation. If you have any individuals aged between 18 and 25 within your organisations, that you feel would benefit from such exposure, please let us know.

As a club we also make charitable donations overseas, over the last couple of years we have become involved in Micro-Finance. This is the lending of very small amounts of money to entrepreneurs in third world countries. So far we have lent over £3,000 to 60 recipients with over half of our money, having been repaid and recycled.

We have also donated money to both The **Salvation Army** and the **Littleport Town Team**, providing help over the Christmas period. Further our funds, provided toys for many of the children within the village.

Going forward we are planning a Golf Day in the summer, another Race Night in the autumn and have plans to re-introduce the Christmas Sleigh collection. A duck is also race being considered which we are likely to hold when the weather is warmer.

Longer term plans include a sponsored walk next year, to celebrate the **Littleport Riots** and in 2018 an event to remind us of the ending of the First World War.

If you want to be part of our successes why not contact us – we'd like to hear from you whether you want to sponsor any of our future activities, including the Christmas Trees. If you want to have a chat about becoming involved in Rotary why not speak to our Membership Secretary

David Ambrose Smith on: 01353 861010

If you want to find out more about our Rotary Club. Take a look at our website:

www.littleportrotary.org.uk Paul Cox



Littleport Town Team

Putting Life into Littleport Town Centre

Littleport Market Survey

itial consultation with Littleport Retailers/businesses last summer showed there was a desire for ttleport to have its own market. The Littleport Town Team (as reported in Littleport Life's last lition) is now looking into the feasibility of setting-up and running a market. As residents, we ould very much like to hear your thoughts and ideas to help scope the first stage of this process. rerefore, we would be grateful if you could complete the below questionnaire:

ວ you think L	ittleport should	I have a market?	•			
es 🔲	No 🗌	Unsure				
ວ you think i	t should be inde	oor or outdoor?				
2S	No 🗌	Unsure				
hat day of tl	he week would	be preferable?				
on	Tues	Wed	Thurs] Fri	Sat	Sun [
ow often do you think a Market should be held?						
nce a week all year round Once a week during summer months only						
ny other com	bination (please	e state):				
'hat times sh	ould the Marke	et be open?				
orning only	After	noon only	All	Day 🔲		
'hat type of stalls would you most like to see at a market? (tick as many as apply)						
uit/Veg Fish/ Meat Gifts/Craft Food to Go Other (please state)*						

Do you have any suggestions as to where you think the ideal location for a Market would be?
Please use the space below to make any other comments/suggestions:
Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please hand your response into any of the following Littleport businesses: Littleport Library, Sigma Embroidery or The Other Shop by 30 th March 2015. Once collated, we will report back on our findings via Littleport Life.
If you would be interested in becoming a trader, please provide your contact details below:
To help with our findings, it would be useful if you could also answer the following two questions:
Which age group do you fit into?
Under 18 19 to 30 31 to 45 46 to 55 Over 55
How often do you shop in Littleport?
Regularly Occasionally Never

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The Littleport Society

Preserving our Heritage

Just before the Society was founded 1987 an incident occurred that highlighted how our heritage was being lost. A large pile of old bound copies of the Littleport Parish Magazines dating from the 1880's was put out with a dustbin for the dustcart to take away. Fortunately the dustman recognised what this potential pile of refuse was and saved it from inevitable destruction. He took the items to Miss Eileen Gill, a former school mistress, and well known as a local historian, who was to become the Society's first President. As there was no historical society in the village she gave them to the Cambridgeshire Collection, a large collection of printed material about the history of Cambridgeshire housed in the Central Library in Cambridge where they can still be seen today.

It was therefore clear when the Society was fully established that one of our aims must be to collect Littleport related material and ensure its safe keeping for the future. One of the first large donations was from the Martin family, who deposited a large metal trunk full to the brim with old documents dating back to the 18th century. Storage was a problem in the early days, but we were kindly given a space in the old Methodist Hall in High Street. There the collection remained until we were able to move into The Barn, where the collection, containing many delicate and fragile old documents is now stored in a very good environment to ensure their preservation.

As well as donated items the Society also began a programme of purchasing

items to add to the collection whenever and wherever they came up for sale. Our most expensive purchase to date is the Military Medal of Cpl. Walter Sallis, who received the medal for his part in the siege of the Schwaben Redoubt in 1916 during the First World War. The medal was purchased through an auction, and the Society had strong competition from medal collectors.

The smallest items in the collection are two tiny tokens issued by the Littleport Overseers of the Poor in 1668. One of them was donated by a member who lives in Hull and the other was purchased. Despite their age they are far from the oldest items in the collection, that honour goes to the fossilised flipper bone of a Plesiosaurus which dates back 25 million years.

A selection of items and photographs from the collection is displayed at our open days, and at selected other venues from time to time. The Society will contribute a display to the V.E. Day event at the Adams Heritage Centre in May. The Society's OPEN DAY this year will be held on Saturday 19th September at The Barn in the Main Street Car Park from 10 am to 4 pm. Displays will include Memories of the 50's and 60's, Littleport during the First World War, Washington Bus Services, Family History, and much more. Entrance is free, so why not drop in, have a cup of tea and a cake, have a chat with the members of the committee, and discover how the Littleport Society is preserving our heritage.

OFFEE TIME TEASER

1.

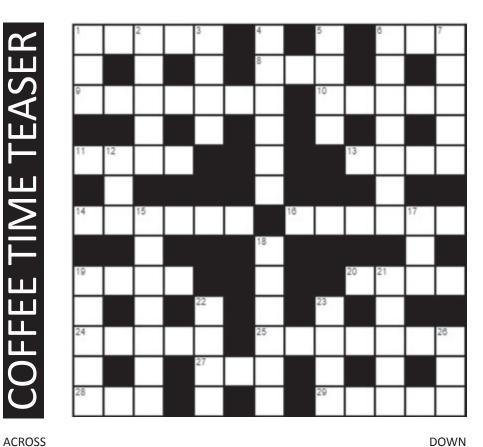
28.

29.

a slatted wooden box

nevertheless

a grub or caterpillar



6.	pointed tool for making holes	intense physical or mental suffering	2.
8.	malt beverage	gain income	3.
9.	washed by scrubbing vigorously	harass or urge persistently	4.
10.	not silently	ray of light	5.
11.	male children	loving	6.
13.	large carnivorous feline	burdened	7.
14.	A person lacking normal	refined petroleum	12.
	pigmentation	tend to someone else's child	15.
16.	bout of excessive indulgence	large northern deer	17.
19.	infant	rots	18.
20.	repulsive or distasteful	hanging loosely	19.
24.	used as a surface for painting	person who weeps	21.
25.	competence	physical person of an individual	22.
27.	arid	female child	23.

an affirmation

26.

By Angela C Greene

DOWN

1.

lettuce with long dark-green leaves

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CROWNING AROUND

The Crown Inn and 363MCC are presenting their yearly 'Crowning Around Bike Show' on Saturday May 2nd.

The famous motorbike club whose logo commemorates the Littleport Rioters of 1816 are expecting a massive turnout having attracted live bands like Phil Crawford, Alskarma TV11, Dead Horse and Blue Thunder to perform. The admission fee is only £3 per person and children are allowed in free. The fun starts at noon and goes on til late.

Although there is always plenty of support for this annual fundraiser for charity from the locals, there is always a massive turnout from the other villages and towns in the fens — and from many other places in the UK — not least because of the opportunity to show off their motorbikes in the place revered by Harley Davidson enthusiasts.

All the money raised will go towards worthwhile charities including the East Anglian Air Ambulance, Highfields School in Ely and the Scholiosis Association UK (SAUK).

The organisers always ensure that everybody is well catered. There will be trade stalls and food vendors from bacon butties to doughnuts, to ice cream and beer. Other providers for the day's festivities are Bike Show Inc, bespoke trophies, a major raffle and an auction, while the children can enjoy themselves having their faces painted or playing on the bouncy castle.

The organisers would like to take this opportunity in Littleport Life to thank all the sponsors who have made this year's 'Crowning Around' possible.

These include Sharman's Garden

Centre, Langford's Hog Roast & BBQ, Cambridgeshire ACRE, Crown Garage, Ant's Driving School, Big Cat Audio, Cre8ive Faces and Littleport Steakhouse. Also on the day itself, one Littleport resident Kurt Lee, who you often meet serving behind the local McColls counter will be having all his hair shaved off for charity in aid of Cancer Research UK, and in memory of his grandfather Robert (Bob) Lee who died of prostate cancer only last year.

"There will be a few of us doing it including work colleagues Stein Stubbings, Giles Philby and possibly another person who we still have to confirm," said Kurt, who's Mum Zoe is very impressed that he will be losing his precious shoulder length locks for such a good cause.



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Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 3-6pm Thursday 3-7 pm

Saturday mornings 8.30-11.30 am

Sunday 6-7 pm emergency walk in clinic

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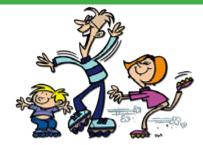
FUN SKATING AT LITTLEPORT LEISURE

Littleport Leisure Centre's main hall was full of happy skating youngsters with their responsible adults seated along one side enjoying the spectacle, while at least three grownups wearing trainers held the hands of little roller skaters, helping them round the polished hardwood floor the day I visited writes Lyn Guest de Swarte.

This was a regular 'Fun' Saturday morning session with music that starts at 10 and finishes at 12 noon.

Organiser and Coach Brian Paddington was off that day accompanying a squad of artistic skaters to a competition. Although not at that event, a couple of youngsters were practising the kind of moves associated with that particular discipline. One wore a red sequinned dress and another a floaty green short outfit with tights, the former wearing a pair of inlines - the only ones in the hall. Everyone else just wore casual clothes. In teeshirt and jeans a young lad, Tom, was there with his mum Lisa, and he caught my eye as he whizzed round - looking like a speedskater in the making!

At 11 it was time for everyone who wanted to to join in with the skills games organised by Russ Place whose two boys, Louis and Bradley are keen skaters. In fact it was because he would take his sons, who were then 4 and 9 years old respectively, swimming in Ely, and decided to let them try roller skating afterwards



while he had his workout in the gym that his interest in the sport began.

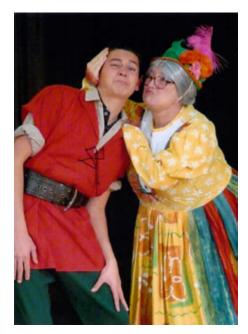
Russ, who works as a caretaker for the Council, gave it a try himself at the ripe old age of 38 – and has never looked back.

Russ who now helps out when Brian is at competitions, is also keen on archery and cycling, and having become adept on a pair of roller skates is able to demonstrates the different drills that the skaters copy. They skate up and down, forwards and backwards with balancing exercises. When Russ fell over during the demonstration he also demonstrated his good nature – as well as the fact that if you skate – you can fall over no matter how expert you are!

This is a fantastic opportunity for all young people to experience the joy of skating in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

There are other roller skating sessions: Mondays and Wednesdays 5.15pm – 7.15pm and Thursdays 4-5pm. For more information on which session may be more suitable for you please call Brian Paddington on 01353 661885.

THE LITTLEPORT PLAYERS THEATRE GROUP



This has been another successful year for the Littleport Players after staging the fantastic production of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe in June and then Red Riding Hood in December, it has certainly been a busy time for everyone! Chairperson, Becky Green, stated – "time goes by very fast – one minute we are busy rehearsing for the show, next minute, the performances are upon us.

It certainly couldn't have been achieved without a superb set of volunteers who

spend so much of their spare time putting all these shows together. Whether it is making costumes, preparing music, set designing, set painting, making props, rigging lights, it all takes a significant amount of time and energy but we do it because we love it! Knowing that quite a few of our theatrical buddies have gone on to do bigger and better things, also reminds us that community theatre really does give people a good starter in life. It not only helps you gain experience on stage but also gives you confidence to



perform and experience of working in a team, meeting new people and gaining lifelong skills required for everyday life". As a result of Littleport Players productions this year, the group were ecstatic to announce that both productions this year had been nominated for NODA (National Operatic Dramatic Awards) within the Eastern Region. Red Riding Hood was nominated for Best Panto 2014 and The Lion. The Witch and The Wardrobe was nominated for Best Technical 2014 (makeup, set and costumes). Becky stated "we do not find out if we have won until the Awards Ceremony in May 2014, but just to be nominated for the Eastern Region is such an achievement for the group. It is great we have been recognized for all our efforts of putting on a theatrical performance despite difficulties against us". Last year, the Players also received the Best Youth Actor 2014 (George Harrison) for his performance of Bugsy in Bugsy Malone. Again, it is a great achievement for George and the Group. However, we are always on the lookout for new members (both on and off stage) and we encourage anyone over the age of 11 to take part. It really does make a difference in your life and there are so many opportunities to gain experience from — including make-up, costumes, stage design, scenery painting, prop making, front of house, stage manager, backstage crew, technical not to mention starring in a theatrical production (should you wish to tread the boards) — it's great fun an such an achievement for all involved!

If you wish to take part please contact Becky on rebekah.g@tesco.net or join the Facebook page on The Littleport Players or alternatively check out the website at www.littleportplayers.co.uk. Hope to see you all soon

Becky Green



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FLEXING THEIR CIVIC MUSCLES ON BEHALF OF LITTLEPORT RESIDENTS

ACTION IN LITTLEPORT RESIDENTS INTEREST!

Littleport Parish Council decided to write an open letter to the East Cambridgeshire District Council highlighting their serious concerns over the cinema and leisure park planned for the outskirts of Ely. Councillors feel that it could have a detrimental effect on Littleport as well as on council tax rates for the rest of the district.

At January's meeting they opined that development could be a 'death knell for a number of organisations'.

In the Minutes it states 'as a Parish we have serious concerns about the proposed Ely leisure village and the detrimental effect it will have on Littleport and the financial burden on rates for the District'.

The Councillors also agreed that a copy of this open letter would be sent to Soham Town Council and Burwell Parish Council as well as the Paradise Centre in Ely...

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

MET IN NOVEMBER PUBLIC QUESTION TIME & COMMUNITY ISSUES REPORT:

A resident of Wellington Street spoke on the issues of heavy vehicles travelling at speed past his house and wondered why they did not use the bypass. It was explained that some commercial vehicles have to use the roads through the village to reach their destinations. Members agreed to ask speed watch to carry out a survey.

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Letters of thanks were received from the Royal British Legion and the Adams Family Project. An email had just been received that evening from Rob Moy, Project Manager for the new schools, asking for contacts to discuss access for the schools. Members agreed to convene an extraordinary meeting for 24th November to consider.

MINUTES:

Reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 20th October 2014, the Planning Committee and Preliminary Precept Meetings held on27th November 2014, and the notes on the Staff Committee Meeting held on 10th November 2014 were confirmed

FINANCE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor J J B Lee reported on the finance recommendations.

FOLLOW UP DIARY

The Clerk reported on Anglian Water, the Cemetery Security Gates, compensation for theft and damage in the Cemetery last year, Lloyds Pharmacy dialogue, a new dog bin at Friars Way, and the Clerk would attend a meeting with The Environment Agency regarding a blocked watercourse at Black Bank Drain.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Councillor D I Ambrose Smith reported Anglia Revenue Partnership has now increased from 3 to 7 in the group. He has asked for all involved to receive training. Councillor Mrs C M Ambrose Smith reported on free parking in Ely and the approval for an 8 lane 25m swimming pool at the Ely Leisure Centre. It was noted it costs £170,000 a year to run the pool at Paradise. Members were concerned that the ECDC forgets there is life outside Ely. Councillor Wright explained the costings behind the projects that even by selling

all ECDC assets there is still a funding gap and the burden of a 35 year loan to repay. It was agreed to discuss this issue at the next full council meeting.

Just some of the business of the Parish Council considered in December PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND

COMMUNITY ISSUES:

A resident from Oak Lane raised concerns about the Planning Process at East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) and their failure to serve the proper notices on applications and take into account Parish Council comments. Members sympathised and agreed that a letter should be sent from the Council raising concerns on notices not being served, point put the building does not conform with plans approved, and ask Environmental Health to monitor the sound levels

All the reports of the Planning Meeting, the Meeting with Sanctuary Hereward, Finance, Parish Council Meetings and the Confidential Meeting Minutes held on 17th November 2014, the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 24th November 2014 and the Planning Meeting held on the 8th December 2014, were confirmed. The Parish Clerk reported on the Follow up Diary.

The District Councillors gave their reports. County Councillor Divine sent an email report to members.

FLOOD RISK CONSULTATION:

Councillor F J W Brown reported that gardens in the Upton Place/Parsons Lane area are now flooding as a result of the Highfield development as water comes up through the drains as it is alleged the pumps are turned off in heavy rain. Other problems arise when water is discharged into unmaintained water courses. The



Consultation is only looking at River conditions.

ELY LEISURE VILLAGE

Members raised many issues about the project namely the cost to the ratepayer to maintain a swimming pool and the loan required to build the facility will for many years be a burden on the rates. Ely gets money thrown at it - are they going to help Littleport and Soham? proposed cinema and eating houses would also affect Ely City Centre's footfall. Will the new centre affect the new schools in Littleport? It was agreed that an open letter be sent to the District Council saying as a parish we have serious concerns about the proposed Ely Leisure Village and the detrimental affect it will have on Littleport and plus the financial burden on the rates for the District. The open letter will be sent to Soham and Burwell councils as well as Ely Sports Centre seeking their support: Members to approve the open letter prior to mailing

Your Parish Council met in The Barn on Monday 19th January 2015 at 7.30pm

Councillors present were: D J Boyd, C M Ambrose Smith, F J Brown, F J W Brown, R Constable, B W Hayes, S D Kerridge, J J B Lee, T J Lee, D Murfitt, G Norman, A N Wright.

Also present were the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and one member of the public.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND COMMUNITY ISSUES:

Members were concerned about the ongoing problems regarding the new access and parking for the houses fronting the open spaces at Woodfen Road/Parsons Lane. It is understood that work is programmed to rectify the issues next month.

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Chair has been invited to attend the Annual Reception for Council Chairs next month

APOLOGIES & ABSENCES:

Apologies for absence from Councillors Gardiner and Padgett were approved. Councillor D I Ambrose Smith would arrive in due course following another meeting.

MINUTES:

The reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings 15th December 2014, the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 22nd December 2014 and the Planning Committee Meeting held on 5th January 2015 were confirmed.

FOLLOW UP DIARY.

The Clerk reported on the response from ECDC Planning Department on the complaint about Oak Lane. Members were dismayed at the response and the Chair will respond.

A Letter regarding the Ely Leisure Village has been circulated to all Parish Councils.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Councillor Wright reported on his attendance at a seminar on Budget proposals which showed a balanced budget using a net use of reserves £285K this year and £785k next year which will be approved in February. The new homes bonus is equivalent to 6 years rates. It is not known what effect the demise of the Tesco project will have. Councillor C M Ambrose Smith reported on a £15,000 grant to Ely and Soham Dial a Ride. It is a necessary service. She reported a suggestion to build a station at the Potters Site near Queen Adelaide and currently there are very few facts about this.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Emails sent by Councillor Divine have been circulated to all councillors.

TRANSFER OF THE PADDOCKS:

Members reviewed the Section 106 Deed of Agreement between ECDC, CCC, Canon Kirk Property Limited, National Asset Loan Management Limited and Littleport Parish Council. Members agreed to respond that the agreement should be amended to allow the possibility of the land to be used for buildings for sporting/leisure, e.g. a sporting pavilion, and associated roadways and parking.

Councillor D I Ambrose Smith arrived.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY:

Councillor C M Ambrose Smith reported that Councillor Richard Hobbs would like to attend a future council meeting to discuss the levy. Members reviewed the document and Councillor Wright proposed that under Section 3 adding the upgrading of all existing major Leisure and Sporting facilities within the district. Seconded by Councillor Norman and carried. There were two abstentions.

Digest by: Littleport Life Editor.

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GOODBYE TO OUR VILLAGE BUTCHER

This April Littleport has to say farewell to its butcher's shop after it's been open for 97 years. For 47 of those Mr Andrew Binks has been Littleport's butcher. He will still be supporting and supplying the cafe run by his wife Jenny in Wellington Street. His cheerful service to the village will be missed.





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We have a top of the range Fitness Suite complete with qualified Gym Instructors. At present you can enjoy unlimited access to the Gym, day or night, for just £25.00 per month. To use this facility you must be a member of the Centre and for further information regarding this please contact Reception on 01353 860600.

We also have a range of Fitness Classes throughout the week starting with Pilates on a Monday evening from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. This class costs £4.50 for Members and £5.00 for Non-Members. If you're feeling a bit more energetic then why not try our Street Fit Dance Class, this is also on a Monday evening from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Street Fit costs £4.00 for Members and £4.50 for Non-Members.

Tuesday's brings us Circuit Training in the Gym area and this class is from 6.30pm to 7.30pm and costs £3.80 per session. If you are unsure which exercise class you would like to try why not combine them all with the Hour of Power on a Wednesday evening from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. The cost of this class is £4.00. On Thursday's we have Zumba from 7.30pm to 8.30pm and this class is £3.50 for Members and

£4.00 for Non-Members. There is no need to book for any of these classes just turn up on your chosen night.

We also offer Fitness sessions for children aged 11 to 14 years on a Monday and Tuesday evening from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. The sessions are run by our qualified Fitness Instructor Jamie Spalding. Each session costs £2.55 for Members and £3.05 for Non-Members.

If you are a more mature person then why not come along to Zumba Gold on a Wednesday morning or Gentle Keep Fit on a Friday morning from 10.30am to 11.30am. These classes recreate all of the original moves of Zumba and Keep Fit but at a much lower intensity. The cost of each class is £3.20 per person.

For further information on these classes or any other activity please visit our website www.littleportleisure.com or contact Reception on 01353 860600. You can also become a friend of 'Littleport Leisure Centre' on Facebook.



TIME TO BANK SOME LITTERPICKING



The Littleport Timebank members wanted to do something positive for the community, and so with this in mind, we decided that undertaking a litterpick was a positive way that everyone could get stuck in, and get involved.

With input from Cambridge County Council, Amey Cespa and East Cambs Council, the date and location was set for half term so that even our youngest members could participate.

The weather was bright and sunny and volunteers from the Timebank, Cambs County Council, East Cambs Council, Amey Cespa, local business, AC Tree Surgery and Garden Care and those who had heard about it through Facebook and word of mouth came along to join in.

Meeting on Parsons Lane outside St Georges Medical Centre, we split up into

pairs and armed with our specially printed Littleport Timebank hi-vis vests printed by local company Sigma embroidery, gloves, littergrabbers and waste bags, we set off! We were surprised by how much we were able to collect around the medical centre, towards the highstreet, around St Georges church and up to the end of Parsons Lane, and within 2 hours, we had collected 30 bags of rubbish and litter! A great job done and a sense of satisfaction that we had helped tidy up our doorstep. We rounded off a productive morning with bacon rolls donated by the Cambridge Housing Society and free refreshments from YPL, and are looking to plan the next pick for the summer time.

If you want to find out more, please get in touch with the Timebank Co-ordinator at: caline.easey@chsgroup.org.uk

LITTLEPORT LIONS CLUB ACTIVITIES

Littleport Lions Club have been very busy during the autumn and the run-up to Christmas with fundraising and took a well earned break over the holiday period to recharge the batteries.

We met again on 1st Feb at our new comfortable meeting place, The Grange, Grange Lane, Littleport at 2pm and discussed, amongst other topics, fundraising events for 2015 and also beneficiaries to receive our help.

Anyone is welcome to attend our meetings and if you have a cause near to your heart, please come along to our meetings. The meetings upto Easter are Sundays Feb 1st, Mar 1st and April 12th. Our meetings are very light hearted and fun, and families are welcome.

I mentioned in an earlier edition of Littleport Life that Lions are celebrating their Centennial in 2017 and one of the challenges set is that Lions around the world serve 100 million people and our club will be part of that goal. As a small club we will only make a small contribution but as someone once said; Every journey starts with the smallest step. But if every club, small or large, works together then the journey will be achieved, and we will all make a difference to the local community.

Our name (Lions) was not selected at random, neither was it a coined name. From time immemorial, the lion has been the symbol of all that was good, and because of the symbolism that name was chosen. Four outstanding qualities -Courage, Strength, Activity and Fidelity -



had largely to do with the adoption of the name. The last of these qualities, Fidelity, has a deep significance for all Lions. The lion symbol has been a symbol of Fidelity through the ages and among all nations, ancient and modern. It stands for loyalty to a friend, loyalty to a principle, loyalty to a duty, loyalty to a trust. Our motto is "We Serve".

For more details of Lions, which have clubs in cities, towns and villages all over the British Isles, contact David Ellis 01353 664318 / 07817 592438 alfieellis@yahoo.co.uk or visits our website:

www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/ littleport

"We Serve" Help Local Lions -Help Local People.



ChildLine Fundraising Event

Littleport Timebank and Littleport Children's Centre welcome you to their joint fundraising event in aid of Childline

There will be a raffle, tombola, face painting, Mrs Melody, cake stall, circus skills, Timebank stall, local organisations and activities plus much more...

-Wednesday 8th April 2015,

10.30am to 1.00pm at Littleport Children's Centre

For more details contact: Timebank on 07702517746 or Littleport Children's Centre on 01353 612770

www.cambridgeshirechildrenscentres.org.uk



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We are looking for Meet and Greet Volunteers who can spare a few hours on a regular basis (Saturdays).



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Please speak to a staff member on 01223 729180 or email helen.bentley@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEARING HELP?

Volunteers needed in Fenland

Cambridgeshire Hearing Help volunteers run drop-in monthly hearing help sessions and make home visits to housebound hearing aid users to provide NHS free batteries and a hearing aid maintenance service with advice about hearing loss.

Volunteer - learn a new skill and join the friendly team.

Training course starting in March, in March 2015

Contact Melanie Lombardi on 01223 416141 or

enquiries@cambridgeshirehearingehelp.org.uk. www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk

LITTLEPORT YARD SALES ADD TO LITTLEPORT LIFE!

Joanne Coe organises yard sales that raise hundreds of pounds for deserving charities.

Joanne spoke to Littleport Life and said, "Over the last year my fundraising has become a non - stop marathon of events. Almost £800 was raised in December when more than 360 people attended a Disco & UV puppet show I organised at Littleport Leisure Centre and this was handed over to Littleport Fun Day Committee

Littleport Town FC also challenged me to raise £1000 in 3 months.

After selling sweets, running photography sessions plus selling a few items on Facebook along with bag packing on Xmas Eve at the Co-Op, Wisbech Road. I was delighted to give our Littleport Town Football Club £1,211.

I received thanks from Bob Bowditch, the Chair of LTFC. "

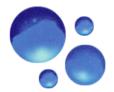
Joanne tells us that many more events are planned throughout 2015.

Easter disco with bingo - Easter holiday activities - Summer holiday activities.

Not forgetting those Yard Sales 2015!! Nearly new sales are planned through the year with a few more family nights and possibly another Christmas Disco/Show.

All of these events are advertised on the Face book page called Littleport Events - (Joanne Coe)

All money raised goes to local community groups



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Millfield School

I'm sure you'll agree that last Christmas now seems an age away. However I would just like to mention our visit to St George's Church. We went as a whole school for a lovely celebration of Christmas.

The children sang songs, we had a few readings and poems and Reverend Howard joined us in a relaxed but really enjoyable celebration. The Church was sparkling with the trees that different members of the community had decorated and it was just 'great'! A special thank you to Howard, who visits school to lead assemblies, joins in with our after school running club and makes us so welcome at his Church.

The spring term is often quite short and as this was the case this year, it felt very busy. As a whole school we are engaging in a big writing project based on the books by Shaun Tan, but especially 'Eric'. If you don't know his books, then I recommend them to you as they have appeal for all ages.

Already the children are very excited and engaged in their learning. Eric makes collections of things that are important to him and our children have been doing the same. These will form the basis of our art and ICT curriculum. Some of the black and white drawings and photos the children have made or taken of 'found' objects are very thought provoking. At the February half term we exhibited the work to the children's parents and guardians.

Well done to our Y6 children who were so successful in their Bikeability in those cold weeks in January. They battled on through wind and rain!

Our building extension work has begun



and progress is looking good. The building contractors started on January 5th and are due to finish late July. So far there has been very little disruption to the running of the school day; parents have been very accommodating in how they drop off and collect their children at the start and end of the day. So a big thank you for that!

Deborah Hannaford

Headteacher



Supporting Millfield Primary School

Like all schools, Millfield has a band of volunteers who help raise funds to supplement the school budget. We are known as the Millfield School Association - or MSA for short. Over the past few years we have given money to buy IT equipment, digital cameras and guided reading books for the school library. Alongside these day to day purchases we have now started saving for new playground equipment which will be needed once the new extension has been completed. So this year we would love to see you at some of our fundraising events, even if you have no connection to the school. We are hoping to provide something for everyone, starting with a Quiz Evening with bar and Fish and Chip supper on Friday 15th of May, 7pm for a 7.30pm start, up to 6 people per table - £8 to pre-book or £10 on the night (Fish and Chip supper will need to be pre-booked please). To book a table and supper please contact Dawn Holmes at 'The Other Shop' on 01353 860985.

Also on our calendar for later in the year will be our Summer Fair. This year we are

going to hold this event on Saturday the 11th of July. Put the date in your diary and watch this space for further information.

Jane Hipkin and Sarah Hartshorne, Co-Chairs MSA





LITTLEPORT COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Littleport Community Primary School Headteacher John Cattermole writes:

Our aim is to provide an excellent education for all of our children, helping them develop the confidence, skills, curiosity and understanding to grow and progress academically, socially and emotionally. Learning opportunities are created in class, in our wonderful school grounds, around the school, on visits and by guests who come in to work with the children.

We pride ourselves in developing the 'whole child', and our personalised approach to learning means that children are supported, challenged, stretched and inspired in a wide range of exciting learning opportunities through our broad and balanced curriculum.

As you'd imagine, academic progress, learning and excellence are key for everyone, and so is the chance to shine in sport, music, the arts and all other areas of learning. We want all of our children not just to reach their potential but to exceed our expectations, be the best and 'spread their wings and fly'.

Our success is based on our passion for teaching and learning. Our professional and supportive staff work closely with patents, families, governors volunteers, outside agencies and the wider local community to bring about the best possible provision for our pupils. Learning and enjoyment happen throughout

the day; we offer a wide range of extracurricular clubs in sport, the arts, music, dance, gardening, ICT and Math — all provided free of charge to all ages.

Littleport Community Primary School is committed to safegarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff, parents and volunteers to actively share this commitment. Our Designated Persons for Child Protection are the Headteacher and Mr Newton, the Inclusion Co-ordinator, and Mrs Fox, the Children's Support Worker.

Our school is a special place with modern learning facilities, in a modern building which we share with Littleport Community Pre-School and the Children's Centre.

We were happy to welcome back everyone in January to start the new year. We also welcomed Mrs Warman, our new Office Manager. She is enjoying being here with us and meeting parents and welcoming visitors to our school office.

Curriculum Newsletters

Children are regularly given newsletters containing information about the curriculum and in these they will be told about what they will be learning, events, reminders and so forth – there's plenty to look forward to! Do please look at these letters with your child and talk through it with them. Home Learning information will be sent home. Our school website also has more information about learning, wider school life, letters and key dates for you.

Things to come.

Forest Schools Lessons

Children in Foundation and Year 4 will be exploring the outdoors, learning about nature and took part in a range of practical activities each week of the spring term, with Mrs Hutchison, our visiting Forest Schools teacher. This is a very exciting initiative, which happens whatever the weather! All children will need warm clothes, wellies/outdoor shoes and waterproofs.

School Clubs There's plenty on offer! 'British Values' – what do you think?

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, schools are being encouraged to think about 'embedding British Values'. We are looking at our approach to this. We wanted any thoughts or ideas on this subject for school — so we asked you to send us on a slip we sent out to you single words, phrases, sentences — anything at all linked to life in the UK in 2015.

Littleport Community Primary School Parsons Lane Littleport Cambridgeshire CB6 1JT

Thank you for your response.

Tel: - (01353) 860235 Fax: - (01353) 863781

http://www.littleport.cambs.sch.uk/

A RUNNING ROUTE FOR LITTLEPORT

You may have noticed some new circular distance marker signs around the streets. Good, because they mark out the new running route around Littleport starting and ending at the Leisure Centre. You don't need to book it, just turn up and see how you do around the 5 kilometre route. The route goes to Wisbech Road, Woodfen up to Parsons Lane, through Upton Place to Highfields and down Ely

Road, Station Road, Ponts Hill, Silt Road and back to the Leisure Centre.

It all came out of the Littleport Health Action Plan. It was decided that a running route would be "A Good Thing" and with the help of Andy Rutterford and East Cambs District Council, the way markers are in place. 'Littleport is Running' wrist bands have been bought through Sigma and they are available to participants plus all the children who attend Littleport Community and Millfield Primary schools' running clubs will get one too. The advantage of a planned route means you can assess your times and you can of course time yourself walking the route if that's a better option.

Please note that people using the route are responsible for their own safety.

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DIARY DATES

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IVIANC	П	
06	The Crown Inn – Lee Pashley as Robbie Williams	
08	Leisure Centre – Carvery – booking required	12.30-2pm
08	Leisure Centre – Quiz Nite in aid Littleport Badminton Club	7pm
09	Leisure Centre – over 60's Bowls Tournament	9am-5pm
13	Leisure Centre – Poker Tournament	8pm
14	Leisure Centre – Bullseye Competition	8pm
14	The Crown Inn – Hush	
15	Leisure Centre – Mothering Sunday Lunches	12.30-2pm
20	The Crown Inn – The Last Train	
20	Flower Club – Mrs Jane Ellis	7pm
21	Ex-Servicemen's Club – Get Back	8.45pm
22	Leisure Centre – Carvery – booking required	12.30-2pm
23	Littleport Methodist Church - Flowers & Friendship	7pm
28	The Crown Inn – Thomas Bainbridge	
28	Ex-Servicemen's Club – The Business	8.45pm
29	Leisure Centre – ECSSC Dog Show (indoors)	8.30am-4pm
29	Leisure Centre – Quiz Nite in aid Ely Silver Starlets	7pm
APRIL		
04	Littleport Methodist Church – Easter Coffee Morning	9-11am
04	Leisure Centre – Family Easter Party	6.30-9.30pm
05	Leisure Centre – Easter Egg Hunt	11am
05	Leisure Centre – Carvery – booking required	12.30-2pm

04	Littleport Methodist Church – Easter Coffee Morning	9-11am
04	Leisure Centre – Family Easter Party	6.30-9.30pm
05	Leisure Centre – Easter Egg Hunt	11am
05	Leisure Centre – Carvery – booking required	12.30-2pm
10	Leisure Centre – Blood Donor Sessions	2 sessions
11	The Crown Inn – Ian Coulson as Elvis	
12	Leisure Centre – EACA Dog Show (indoors)	8.30am-6pm
13	Leisure Centre – Over 60's Bowls Tournament	9am-5pm
18	Ex-Servicemen's Club – New Band – Retro	8.45pm
19	Leisure Centre – Carvery – booking required	12.30-2pm
25	The Crown Inn – Krusty Whiskers	
26	Leisure Centre – Quiz Nite in aid Littleport Town FC	7pm

MAY

02	The Crown Inn – Crowning Around (Bike Show)	12 noon
03	Leisure Centre – Carvery – booking required	12.30-2pm
04	Leisure Centre – EABCC Dog Show (indoors & outdoors)	7.30am-5pm
09/10	Leisure Centre – TA Agility Dog Show (outdoors)	All day
09	Leisure Centre 21st Birthday Celebrations	TBC
09	Ex-Servicemen's Club – Take 2	8.45pm
16	The Crown Inn – Regardless	

MAY CONTINUED

17	Leisure Centre – Carvery – booking required	12.30-2pm
17	Leisure Centre – Quiz Nite for Littleport Com. Primary School	7pm
18	Leisure Centre – over 60's Bowls Tournament	9am-5pm
22-25	Leisure Centre – Trikes Weekend	All day
22	The Crown Inn – Five Ska	
23	Ex-Servicemen's Club – Rockin' Revival	8.45pm
31	Leisure Centre – Carpet Bowls Tournament	9am-7pm
31	Leisure Centre – Carvery – booking required	12.30-2pm

n-5pm
pm

The Crown Inn - Last Sunday of the month 3 pm to 6 pm Live Entertainment - Normally 8.30 pm to late

NEW DIRECTION FOR OLD ROAD



Parish Council Transport Spokesperson, Councillor Francis J Brown, is pleased with the progress being made at the much discussed Sandhill Bridge junction of the back road between Littleport and Queen Adelaide.

Councillor Brown has played a major role in securing the changes at this junction in response to the number of incidents that have occured on that road.

At the end of last year work was completed on making the junction safer and more visible to the road users.

"It took some time to get what we wanted, but I felt it important to fight for

it on behalf of the village and the Parish Council" he said.

His work with other agencies did not however end there, and he has regularly in touch with them and is now able to sav:

"I am pleased to report we have as a Parish secured a reduced speed limit on that particular section of road, taking it down from the national speed limit. I feel the combined measures on this section of road will benefit the safety of its users, after all this is what we are here to ensure" Councillor Brown said in conclusion.

USEFUL CONTACT	S	
Cambs County Council	General Enquiries	03450 455200
	Highways Department	03450 455212
	Street lighting (Balfour Beatty)	01954 233322
Citizen's Advice Bureau	Ely Branch	0844 2451292
East Cambs.	Main Switchboard	01353 665555
District Council	Out of hours emergencies	07710 978900
	Report Fly Tipping: Mark Mehaffey	01353 665555
Utilities – (Emergencies)	Anglian Water	0845 7145145
	EDF Energy (Electricity)	0800 7838838
	Transco (Gas)	0800 111999
Medical	N.H.S. Direct	0845 4647
	Princess of Wales Hospital	01353 652000
	Dentist Michael Young	0844 3756454
Parish Council	Enquiries, Village Hall hire, Allotments	01353 860449
Police	Enquiries / non urgent crime	101
	Chief Inspector Russ Waterston	
	D.I.Donna Wass, Inspector Paul Ormerod	
	Sgt Will Davis, PCSO Jonathan Hall	
Samaritans	If you need help	0845 7909090
Schools	Littleport Community Primary	01353 860235
	Millfield Primary	01353 861612

Medical Centre: Contact Details, Opening Hours and Clinics

St George's Medical Centre is located at Parsons Lane, Littleport, CB6 1JU
The Surgery telephone number is 01353 864100

Surgeries are by appointment only which can be booked by telephoning, attending in person or online (register for online services first). Ring before 10am for essential home visits.

Surgery Opening Hours are:

Monday to Friday 8.00am – 12.30pm 1.15pm – 6pm Saturday & Sunday CLOSED For medical emergencies outside of normal surgery hours, call 999, or the surgery number 01353 864100 to be put through to the out of hours service.

Connections Cancer Club

Connections Cancer Club is a small friendly group of people who meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month at The Day Centre, Littleport Village Hall from 10:00 to 12:00pm

We offer support, friendship and time to those families affected by cancer in any way. We have planned some social events in the near future. Why not come along and join us, bring your ideas and have a chat over a cup of tea!

Contact: Bev & Sue Scott: 01353 860356































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