

littleport *Life*

**CHRISTMAS 2015
& NEW YEAR 2016**

December 2015

January & February 2016

**ALL ABOUT LITTLEPORT
PEOPLE PERSONALITIES**

GROUPS CLUBS

ORGANISATIONS

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**DIRECTORY OF
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**COMMUNITY
MAGAZINE**



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Please submit adverts to cathy@littleportlife.co.uk

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to your latest issue of Littleport Life! This time of year we are pleased to cover the high days and holy days for all Littleport's residents; with the celebrations including the annual pantomime by the very excellent Littleport Players! As you can learn from our feature, you can catch them at more than one venue in the village – like the Ex-Services Club as well as the Village Hall.

Back in the summer we ran a survey for the 'Town Team' group and given the positive response a Farmers Market is now established, and flourishing, on the first Saturday of every month, from 9 til 1 in the old Adams's shop now the Heritage Centre in Main Street.

New business has opened and older businesses have expanded since the last issue of Littleport Life.

We have a new pavement cafe and the delicatessen is due to move into the Lloyds Chemist premises giving more space for its stock of Eastern European food and drinks. YPL continues to thrive with many out-of-towners attending its auctions and visiting the new antique and curios stall holdings at the YPL Indoor Arena. The Cycle Shop is also attracting people from other places outside of Littleport's boundaries.

It's Wonderful with its eclectic collection of delightful items with which to spoil yourself or give as gifts to friends is also doing well in premises next to the Sharman's Garden Centre down Camel Road. Littleport's other gift shop – The Other Shop, has now moved into Holmes Furnishers where you can enjoy a browse or purchase items when you are considering more practical matters such as floor coverings!

People are very well provided for in Littleport on many levels but we can't forget the animals who are so important to many residents. In the Autumn edition we featured Jurassic Bark, and this time we take a look at the charitable work that goes on alongside the usual retailing at Creature Comforts.

There are just so many community minded individuals, businesses, organisations and groups active in the village that it's a hard job to cram even some of the information about them all into the pages of Littleport Life! However we shall have a go as usual and hope that you find much to interest you and give you that warm feeling inside no matter how cold it may get outside.

On behalf of the Littleport Life team I wish you all the joys of the season,
Lyn

Editor, Littleport Life

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LITTLEPORT'S ADAMS COMMUNITY MARKET

A big thank you for everyone who has been supporting Littleport's new community market.

You have been coming out in your droves to support this new town centre initiative and it has been fantastic to see the town look so busy. People have made some lovely comments on social media and it is great that so many residents have had the chance to see inside the beautiful Heritage Centre which is the perfect setting for our community market. We really hope that you will continue to support this market and please keep spreading the word.

For regular updates on which traders are attending, please check out the facebook pages of Littleport Town Team which had 2,411 views in the first three weeks for the market!

Now that the town centre is beginning to have a buzz about it again it has prompted the group to turn their attention to the condition of the street furniture and the town centres general appearance.

We are now beginning a tidy up campaign and hope that by the time you read this article, you will have already noticed a difference.


As well as assisting the volunteers at the Heritage Centre to set up the market, the Town Team has been looking ahead to organise its next

event – Celebrate Christmas – which is being held on Saturday 5th December. We aim to bring you lots of family fun and entertainment and yet another reason to come into the centre of town and support your local shops and businesses (plus of course your new market!).

Check out our facebook page for further information.

[facebook.com/littleporttownteam](https://www.facebook.com/littleporttownteam)

***Cllr David Ambrose-Smith
Chair of Littleport Town Team***



**Littleport's
Adams Community Market**
1st & 3rd Saturday Each Month
9 am to 1 pm

Traders confirmed for Saturday 7th November are:

- Gourmet Brownie**
Delicious selection of homemade brownies
- The Shed Farm Shop**
Various artisan mustards, preserves, sauces, dressings, oils, curds and cordials plus local eggs
- Cheese and Pie Man**
Wide range of cheeses including local brands plus award winning pies
- Kidds Kitchen**
A range of homemade sweet and savoury bakes
- Adams Flowers and Plants**
Something to brighten up your home and garden
- Guest Stall**
Handmade, novelty chocolates

Next Market – Saturday 5th December
Join us as Littleport Celebrates Christmas and Order/Buy your food for the festive season here for a truly Local Christmas Dinner.

Please note, there will be no market in January, but the monthly markets begin again on 6th February 2016 and thereafter on the first Saturday of each month

A LETTER FROM OLLIE

Hello everyone – do you remember my last letter to Littleport Life?

I'm the rather handsome black Labrador who wears a purple coat and I've come to live in the centre of Littleport with my 'partner' Ruth. I'm a Canine Partner who was specially trained to help Ruth live an independent life. She tells me I'm very clever as I load the washing machine and help her shop at the supermarket.

We've been together for 18 months now, and I can honestly say I know every street in the village. My favourite place to visit is the open space at the Leisure Centre.

Since I last wrote to you I've passed my big exam

which lasted 3.5 hours in June, and now I'm planning to go for Gold. At the end of October I went back to school in Leicestershire to learn how to give demonstrations and Ruth learned to speak to groups of people about me and Canine Partners.

I helped Ruth to have a really splendid holiday at Balmoral in the summer and we also went to Yarmouth for a few days. I travel by car and am really quiet when we're on a journey.

You may ask if I have settled well in the village. The answer to that is a really big "Yes". I love it here because you're all so friendly. Thank you for making me so welcome. My favourite places

are the Leisure Centre, all the Churches, the Library, the Co-op, the Bargain Centre, the Post Office, the coffee shops, the dentists and the surgery and chemists. You don't seem to mind when

I visit, and I certainly love meeting you. If you don't know me yet please say hello. You'll know it's me if you see a big black dog wearing a purple coat.

Cheerio, Ollie.

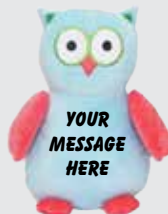
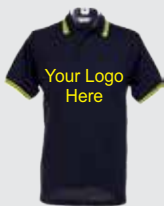


NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

FREE - Street Signs

To establish a Neighbourhood Watch scheme is very easy and normally there is just one cost involved; that of providing the street signs that usually are placed on convenient lampposts. For most schemes two signs are required at the cost of £12 each. Littleport Parish Council has kindly donated money so that residents within the Parish of Littleport can establish a scheme without this additional cost. Although the funds are expected to last for some months, it is however a case of 'first come first served' and thus it would be wise 'not to put off until tomorrow what can be done today'.

It is of course an established fact that neighbourhood watch helps to reduce crime in a locality and it is for this reason that most insurance companies provide a discount on household premiums – so what have you got to lose! For more information contact the secretary, Kevin Evans, on 01353 614892 or kevin.g.evans@ntlworld.com



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THE HISTORY OF PEACOCK'S MEADOW

Back in November, a second meeting was convened to discuss ways to go forward with the regeneration of the land at the back of Parsons Lane and Limes Close that belongs to the Sanctuary Housing Association.

Sanctuary were looking at building more houses some years ago but decided against it, thus leaving this land as nature intended. A grant was made to enable some fruit trees to be planted but with access becoming difficult for human beings, the space developed itself into a haven for wild-life and plants. More recently some residents of Littleport brought the existence of this natural haven to the notice of their neighbours and instigated a move in the village to

facilitate its continuation as a green space where all can enjoy this pleasant environment. It was also mooted at the first meeting that the space could be named the 'Woodland Garden'. A committee has now been set up to ensure that the gardens are going to be looked after, and promoted so that everyone in the village is aware of this newly accessible amenity, not just those with access to the internet! This new amenity first saw light of day through questions asked about this piece of land, and access to it, of their fellow Littleportians on the Littleport Notice Board Facebook page. There is now another page called Living in Littleport.

The chair Deborah Curtis-Watson



has now set up a Peacock's Meadow Facebook page so that the community can take part in offering ideas for the gardens. Some of the first planned activities will of course be a litter pick. The committee's aim is for the garden to be a well-used area for residents to appreciate the wildlife and flora, and Sanctuary have promised to put up signs at the entrance in Limes Close and also along Parsons Lane showing how to find the gardens. Sanctuary have also promised to put a gate up in the Limes Close entrance which it proposes to have locked at dusk.
Susan Green

Local campaigners have won a victory for people power, writes Deborah Curtis-Watson

The previously unsigned and neglected community woodland garden behind Parson's Lane now has a new sign to promote use of the space.

The garden even has a new name, A poll of local residents has come up with the delightful name of Peacock's Meadow. This is in recognition of the fact that the Peacock family originally donated the land as allotments for local residents. These allotments were in use for many decades. A committee has been formed to ensure future protection of the site. Further improvements to the site are planned. Meanwhile residents are invited to use and enjoy this lovely space.

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Heart-warming Stories from Littleport...

Here we bring you a tale of one family's life and times during the 20th Century...

Elaine Lee tells us this is In Memory of Jack Lee, General Builder, Station Road, Littleport

It was February 28th 1912 when Nellie Lee gave birth to her sixth child, a boy they named Jack. The labour was long and the birth difficult, and Susie who was 13 was running in and out of the room obeying orders given by the village woman who came to assist in the birth. Susie was also looking after the younger children and trying to keep them out of Dolly Crabb's way who not only acted as the local midwife but was also called upon to lay out the dead ready for the local community to pay their respects. In fact Dolly had been called out the night before and lacking in sleep was extremely irritable.

The family's home was situated along the riverbank in Little Ouse. There was a kitchen scullery where there was an open range fire which doubled up as a cooker, a small front room and a bedroom, a ladder that led to the upstairs area where all the children slept. Sheds and outhouses had been built outside for other uses.

Beales worked on the local farm, he had a plot of land with the house and kept a goat, a pig and chickens. The goat provided the family with milk, the pig would be fattened and killed and the chickens provided eggs and a Sunday dinner. The family's vegetables were grown on this land too. Beales was the horse keeper earning ten

shillings a week, two shillings more than the average labourer as he had to work seven days a week and longer hours to look after the horses. Beales started work at 6 am and finished at 8pm during the summer months, the children had to feed the livestock and tend to the vegetable patches. Beales believed in hard work and all his children had to do their share.

'Susie did not flinch at skinning the two rabbits left on the side which would make up the meal for the evening'

While Nellie rested Susie set about all the chores her mother would have carried out on a daily basis. Although the weather had not been particularly cold that February, fierce gale force winds had caused the Fens to blow and everywhere was covered in black dust. The floors of their home were compressed mud with rag rugs, these had to be swept daily for the house was constructed of a brick base, clapperboard frame and a tin roof; this menace of the Fens found its way on to all surfaces.

Susie did not flinch at skinning the two rabbits left on the side which would make up the meal for the evening,

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for she had watched her mother from an early age. She was proficient at preparing any birds or fish they trapped and making them into pies. The washing was done in one of the outhouses; the brick copper had a fire underneath which boiled the water, a scrubbing board and hard soap was used. There was a fair amount of washing that day, and after struggling with the mangle to relieve the clothes of as much water as possible. Susie hung the clothes on airers which dangled from the ceiling in the hope they would dry.

‘Jack’s older brother Ernest was making paper chains out of scraps of paper stuck together with flour paste.’

Beales had secured a large amount of turf and Bob who had just turned 11 was busy keeping the fires going. There was also some bog oak which was to be used sparingly.

The house had no running water. The only source was the river. Bob was not strong enough to work the pump so all afternoon he had been lowering buckets tied to a piece of rope into the dip hole. Bob was a slight child and tired easily. This chore was soon passed over to Bill who at 9, not only collected the water, but boiled it in pans on the fire.

Nellie was a strong woman and refused to ‘lie in’ as staying in one’s bed of confinement for two weeks after childbirth was called, and three days after giving birth she left her bed.

December 23rd 1916

Jack’s older brother Ernest was making paper chains out of scraps of paper stuck together with flour paste. Freda who was 10 had the job of decorating the room with the finished product. The gloves knitted by Freda, Susie and

‘The local community could not recall a worse winter, the land was frozen as was the river;’

Nellie in the evenings were wrapped in brown paper ready to be handed out after church on Christmas Day. The large cockerel had been killed and was hanging in the shed ready to be dressed for their dinner. The youngest child, Percy, who was just two years old, was bemused by all the unusual activity.

Bob who was 17 years old, and had been working on the farm since the age of 12 had biked to Ely with the sole purpose of buying oranges for the Christmas treat. His spirits were low that day despite the festive season. Bob would be called up soon like so many of the local lads he knew. And news of Stanley Barrett’s death had come as a great shock to Bob for they had shared so many boyish pranks, resulting in a good hiding from their respective fathers.

More recently there had been the horror of Alfie Barker being sent home after only two days at The Battle of Festubert. Bob heard that he spent his days propped in a chair with a faraway look in his eyes then screamed in terror through the night.

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Green lights all the way



The local community could not recall a worse winter, the land was frozen as was the river; it felt as if the area had come to an icy standstill. Bob was so cold he must have felt he was on the point of collapse as he entered the Rose and Crown on Forehill.

The warmth of the pub hit him as he made his way through the smoky atmosphere to the counter. It was a Saturday so Bob had just been paid and felt he deserved a small bottle of barley wine to warm him against his return journey of 8 or more miles.

Bob was more than merry by the time he left, he had enjoyed several

‘The lighter men had cleared a large patch of ice on the river to enable the barges to move freely in and out their moorings.’

barley wines in the company of Horrie Rolfe, they wished each other the compliments of the season and Bob set off on his bike.

The lighter men had cleared a large patch of ice on the river to enable the barges to move freely in and out their moorings.

Bob was feeling extremely light headed as he glided down Forehill on waterside, and due to the incline of the road and the icy conditions he lost control.

Bob’s body was brought to the surface an hour later. He had had gone straight under the thick ice and was unable to save himself.

April 1937

The large house by the railway station in Littleport was £605 and Jack had haggled for two months over the price - but old Bill Clarke would not be moved. Jack needed a large house for he had plans. He was running a successful painting and decorating business now employing several men

Jack was sweet on Jessie the butcher’s daughter!

and he needed storage space. The house had two large front rooms, a kitchen and scullery plus another two rooms, one of which would be his office. Upstairs there were five bedrooms and a bathroom, it was ideal. Jack moved his parents in to end their days in comfort so that in the fullness of time the harsh living conditions of their past life would become a distant memory.

Jack was sweet on Jessie the butcher’s daughter!

He would bide his time on that but one thing was for sure, that was the girl he was going to marry.

Jack married Jessie in 1944 the war having held up marriage plans. They went on to have four children. Beales died aged 85, Nellie died aged 92 in the comfort of their home which is still owned by a member of the Lee family.

In Littleport Cemetery is a stone which quite simply says:

‘Our Dear Boy, Robert Lee, December 23rd Age 17, 1916.’

Elaine Lee

THE STORY BEHIND ‘COLEBYS’ THE SHOP IN GRANBY STREET!

When July arrives, I always know that I will be volunteering myself for stewarding the Littleport 10k run which starts off and finishes at the Leisure Centre, writes Cathy Gibb.

During one of my stewarding patches for the 2015 run, which happened to be the final stretch of the route on Camel Road, I encountered an enthusiastic spectator who asked if I had seen his brother Harry run past yet after describing him to me. He hadn't made it to Camel Road at that point, so telling me that his name was Jake we got chatting. I realised then that I was speaking to none other than one of the Coleby brothers from the famous shop in Granby Street, so I just had to find out more!

By the way, Jake's brother Harry at 69 is an experienced seasoned competitor and he finished the 10k race in a respectable time of 1 hour 2 minutes and 18 seconds.

When I met up with them both again they certainly had plenty of fascinating stories to tell and showed me some brilliant tale-telling old family photos including one of their dad Sid in army uniform, and Jake as a cute young boy.

I wondered why brothers Jake and Harry decided not to follow in their parents' footsteps and run the Coleby's family business? Jake thought a moment then said; "It was because we witnessed at first hand

the sacrifices and the hardship that our parents had gone through and I can tell you they would literally have to count every penny." He continued; "Nowadays people say they are hard up, but they really don't know the meaning of the word, never mind what it's like to struggle. We were poor and we certainly didn't have it easy either."

"I remember when my father returning from the war in Belgium opened the front door and came in and I called out, 'Who are you?' and when he said he was my dad I said, "You are not my Dad". And because his dad wasn't around, it



Jake Coleby with his parents when his dad came home for the last time on leave until the end of the war.

was every Sunday night that “I used to bawl my eyes out because I knew my mum, who worked at the shirt factory would always take me to Grandmother Harley (and that is a story in itself) who brought me up for the rest of the week.

“In fact, I hadn’t seen my dad for 7 years, and being an only a child at the time - I didn’t know any better. My dad got demobbed and came home, and I vividly remember him saying that he had spent the last six years on the receiving end of everyone’s tether always telling him what he should or shouldn’t do. He certainly wasn’t going to put up with it anymore, so he decided to take the plunge and start up his own business and that’s how the Colebys shop came into being.”

The Colebys shop was the front room of the premises, and my dad Sid, ‘El Cyd’ as he was called from that well known Charlton Heston film yet



my dad was more sensible than the character Heston played. Dad was trying to stop everyone killing one another by talking to them. You could say he was a bit ahead of his time,” said Jake.

“Dad started off as a barber and I remember how his customers threw a wobbly when he put his prices up from a shilling to one and sixpence.

(5p to 7.5p) Then Jake continued;

“Dad rented the property from a man called Major Crane, but he only called himself Major because he was in the Home Guard. Dad was an apprentice when he went to war, and we are talking about a grown man - that is how it was in those days. He was born in 1911 so you are looking at a 28 year-old. When he returned home he went back to Mr Dobson who ran the hairdressing business where he originally worked and told him that he was now going to work on his own. Mr Dobson got so angry as it meant that Dad would be in direct competition with him, especially being situated just round the corner. Dobson was old school in that he believed in the master/servant relationship as they used to have in those days.”

The original name of the shop used to be A.S.G.Coleby and Son Hairdresser and Tobacconist with licence to sell tobacco, but he didn’t even have a board up to say what the shop was selling.

“I will tell you how hard it was! When Dad first set up in business he started by selling a few razor blades and he just couldn’t afford to buy the stock. Our parents didn’t have any money

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at all, but the branded razor blades in those days was Wilkinson Sword. Well my mother (Margaret) got on her bike and rode to Ely Market and she bought some Wilkinson Sword razor blades which she brought back and father sold at a ha'penny profit. That's how it was in those days," Jake emphasised.

'Now on first visiting the building it was like being on the set of the period drama, The Forsyte Saga.'

"He had a 7 year-old young son and a year old baby boy and just come out of the armed forces. We were living at 24 Wisbech Road at the time until 1954. The building which is now called the Colebys went up for auction as the previous owner Major Crane had died, and I recall my dad telling us a story that he had gone to the bank to try and raise the money and he was given a certain amount which enabled him to bid for the premises. Now on first visiting the building it was like being on the set of the period drama, The Forsyte Saga. It had 16 rooms, two staircases, a servants quarter, plus huge wooden doors with brass door knobs and there were even the old red quarry tiles which was quite the thing in those days.

In 1948 dad bought 24 Wisbech Road for £250 and sold it for £800 in 1954. The massive 16 roomed house we mentioned he paid £2,000 for and remember in those days people

were earning roughly £7 a week. It left Dad short and my mother nearly had a nervous breakdown she was so worried about whether they would ever be able to pay that money back. Don't forget in this neck of the woods our saying is 'we cut our cloth accordingly', where we only buy what we need and not what we want," stated Harry who told me that the Colebys shop was very popular, not only selling fishing tackle when it was in season, but toys during the winter time. People weren't well off in those days, so their mum set up a Christmas Club Book where customers would pay weekly amounts towards buying presents for their children at Christmas time. Harry also told how the family used to sit in the scullery and his father would place himself in the living room which looked into the shop and where the customers who lived off the land would come into the shop. They were so trustworthy that instead of coming out to serve them their dad allowed them to serve themselves and then put the money in the till, and they could even help themselves to change. That was how it was in those days.

In 1987 Sid and Margaret Coleby eventually retired, and the family business was finally sold to a prison officer from Norwich whose name escapes Jake, but who asked to trade under the Colebys name.






Harry is a welder by trade and Jake is a mechanic, and neither of them have had any desire to move from their beloved Littleport. After all Jake, built his own bungalow in 1964,



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and with the help of his brother Harry dug all the footings out by hand with a spade, while Harry, gutted and refurbished his own home.

If you ever meet up with the brothers, you will find that they are the most knowledgeable people going when it comes to their beloved Fens. You can spend hours learning all about how the Fen accent cannot be copied because it has so many different accents in it. Then there is the often heard 'Fen Tigers' name for fenland people. This could have stemmed from when they were draining the Fens using what were usually termed drains and ditches that the Fen people called dykes - hence the workers were called Fen Dykers, who were so fierce in their opposition to the land drainage scheme, sabotaging all efforts, that the name got changed to Fen Tigers. The Mildenhall Fen Tigers

'It was perhaps no coincidence that their Mother was into bikes because she happened to be one of the Harleys of Harley Davidson fame'

founded in 1975 is a successful speedway club but back in the day, the Coleby brothers were also part of a successful cycle cross scrambling team called the Fen Tigers and were unbeatable in their heyday. Both their parents were also keen cyclists with mum Margaret becoming the Fen Tigers club's chair. At the time

the Colebys couldn't afford a car and rode a tandem to get around. Jake even remembers being put into

***And Jake piped up;
"Yes Sir. I had an
ancestor hung in that"***

a side car so they could take him wherever they went.

It was perhaps no coincidence that their Mother was into bikes because she happened to be one of the Harleys of Harley Davidson fame, Margaret Jane Harley in fact.

Jake Coleby also explained that if his English teacher had any belief in his abilities and had encouraged him having passed six GCE O levels in English Language, English Literature, French, Latin, History and Maths, that he could have become a very good journalist, but was rather over qualified for the manual labouring jobs going in Littleport.

His history teacher Leon Kitchen who originated from the North of England announced that the pupils were going to do an article on the Littleport and Ely riots and asked if anyone knew anything about them.

And Jake piped up; "Yes Sir. I had an ancestor hung in that".

Teacher Kitchen said: "Did you really?" "Yes Sir I did", replied Jake who to this day has never forgotten his teacher's reply as he walked down the aisle of desks and put his hands on Jake's shoulders and said "Oh I just touched a part of history".

Harry played football for Littleport Reserves as a defender, but suffered

a leg injury off the field, falling off a ladder during work, that forced him to give up the game. He showed me pictures of his parents and one that particularly stood out was his father at the end of 1945 taken in Brussels when the war finished. His father was sent to Belgium to help clean up because of the devastation caused by the Nazis and there is a picture of a coffin of a Belgian resistance leader. "I have only gone by what our father has told us that on May the 8th World War II stopped in an instant, but they were still fanatical Nazis and still fighting onwards. Apparently when the war finished this Belgian resistance fighter thought it was safe to surface because the war was done and the Nazis murdered him. And so they gave this man a proper military send off."

Their father Sid Coleby was able to celebrate a special surprise 80th birthday party, but passed in 1994 on New Year's Eve at the age of 84, while their mother Margaret lived for another six years and passed at the age of 86.

The Coleby brothers have so many tales to tell that it would have taken up all the pages of this magazine, but they are just one of the many whose families make up the history of this village and where so many more people now are coming to live and experience the pleasures of Littleport Life!

Cathy Gibb

Colebys is currently still trading in Granby Street and has a strong internet presence. Plenty of goodies for pets and fishing enthusiasts! It is however up for sale. Phone: 01353 860419. Email: besttackle@aol.com



Jake and Harry's Father is in this photograph of the troops liberating Belgium.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE UPDATE

The women's Institute has had a busy time of late, as this is the Centenary year of the Women's Institute in this country, the idea for the WI came from Canada in 1915.

Littleport's Women's Institute started in 1922.

To mark the centenary we have held a Garden Party with members from other Institutes in the Ely federation invited, a lovely day with beautiful weather. We held an exhibition in the Adams Heritage Centre, with artefacts from both past and present, made, or collected by our members, some items from our archives and many photos all these and much more were on display along with panels 'Celebrating womens lifves in the Fens'. These panels were a project supported and financed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, many members contributed to this project with a working party from each WI trawling through years of committee meeting minutes as well as minutes from the regular meetings to glean any useful or unusual fact. Members also visited some older members of the community to record their memories, all this along with photos was collated and miraculously turned into 12 very interesting panels. The result of three years work, but well worth it, so we hope you manage to see them. These panels had an official launch an April at Prickwillow, the launch was performed by Dame Stella Rimmington, with guests from the Heritage Lottery Fund and many other county dignitaries. Early June saw us at the Fun Fair held

at the Leisure Centre in our usual role of serving tea and cakes, a good day, weather favourable and lots of customers.

Our monthly meetings continued as usual, Ruth Sindall showed us how to ice Easter cakes in March, this contained some very useful tips.

In April Paul Cannan from Aspel Nursery made hanging baskets for the garden which was very informative, and enjoyed by all. May brought us the chance to make sun catcher with beads, which was highly enteraining when the beads began to fall off wires with some not so nimble fingers trying to replace them!

Mrs Rispen from Sandringham WI came to talk tus in June taking the role of Mrs Ware of the 1920's, dressing as such, who met Queen Mary, an avid supporter of the Institute, wanting to start a group in Sandringham, where the Queen became President, a tradition which still stands today.

At the Ely federation group meeting, we were presented with the Trophy for coming second in the competition with Cup Cakes made by Diana Tooke and Rosemary Coleman.

We look forward to the coming months knowing that we have a varied programme planned.

Details of our meetings can be obtained from President J Bird, on 01353 863823, or the Secretary M Dennis on 01353 861298 or come to our meetings on the second tuesday of the month at the Village Hall at 7:15pm.

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Pictured with Shofiqul Islam



AN INTERVIEW WITH PHIL MALKIN

Littleport's Roving Reporter interviewed the founder of YPL aka Young People Littleport, Phil Malkin, to find out about how YPL is run and what is being provided for the community it was set up to serve.



She found Phil in his small office in the large industrial unit in Henry Crabb Road, by name the YPL Indoor Arena.

On the subject of some charity shops' high prices, Phil said, "What we have found now is that when we talk to the general public they believe that charity shops are becoming very expensive, but we at YPL have always maintained cheap prices when it comes to items like clothes and household basics trying to make everything more affordable for everyone.

As for the auction side, the people donating their items currently

receive 80% of the takings, while we get 20%, and we are very happy that people continue to support us.

"When we moved our charity shop from the Main Street premises it helped us to save some of the overheads, and we utilised space in Granby Street.

It now also houses our bike sales, hire and repair shop.

We are now building up YPL to how it used to be, and our popular twice weekly auction is usually packed out."

Phil continued, "I really feel now that we have found a good balance here, and we have evolved as a charity because we believe in providing employment for our local young people."

Phil then gave me a grand tour upstairs showing me their amazing new shopping area worthy of the trendy Portobello Road Market or Camden Passage in London that he's called The Salvage and Trading Post which has been running since July. You could say it is like an amazing Aladdin's cave full of retro furniture and wondrous sought after items. Units are rented out to the traders at very affordable rates, and it is yet another innovative idea that boosts the Littleport profile for the better. In the run-up to Christmas, YPL's Festive Fayre started on Friday 27th

November, and the children had the chance to see Father Christmas and receive a gift free of charge.

***'As we would all agree,
volunteering of any kind
keeps you in touch with
the community and you
can make an impact
by bringing back that
community spirit while
helping others'***

A New Year Children's Show which is geared towards Primary School aged children is scheduled for Saturday 2nd of January 2016 from 2 to 5 pm. When you book a ticket for £2 it will be refunded to you when you give it up on the door. All those who attend are guaranteed the refund. See YPL for details and about registering your child/children through their website or Facebook page.

As everybody knows YPL is a charity run by volunteers and they are always on the lookout for more people to run the tea or charity shop, to help with the auctions and other charitable activities.

As we would all agree, volunteering of any kind keeps you in touch with the community and you can make an impact by bringing back that community spirit while helping others.

Any organisation or club wishing to use the facilities at YPL should contact Phil by email yplittleport@btinternet.com or mobile number 07947823446.

Cathy Gibb

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MEMBER OF:





The Field Theatre Group are delighted to announce that they have received a Heritage Lottery grant for activities to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Littleport and Ely Riots.

Following on from the success of our recent community projects, Littleport Festival Fourteen and The Horseman's Word, residents are invited to participate in a variety of fascinating project strands.

The project, entitled Riot in the Blood will involve the creation of a 'digital narrative' which will document the riots and the events leading up to them. The Field will recreate the events, using stills photography and a narrative. We are looking for residents of all ages to participate in this: as technicians and crew, re-enactors

or researchers. We are particularly interested in hearing from anyone who is a descendent of any of the convicted rioters, as these links to the present day form an important part of the project.

We will also be leading a procession in June of next year, to lay wreaths on the unmarked grave of the five hanged men from Littleport.

There are activities for families too. A series of costumed re-enactment walks combined with a treasure hunt for younger children will take place around Littleport during May of next year.

Anyone who is interested in taking part please contact.

*The director, Field Theatre Group.
thefieldtheatregroup@hotmail.co.uk*

LITTLEPORT EVENTS

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Littleport Events – Joanne Coe

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If you have any old spectacles we can recycle them to help this vital programme, they can be left at Wades, Boots or Tesco opticians in Ely, or use the contacts below.

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For more details of Lions clubs please contact David & Jenny Ellis 01353 664318 / 07817 592438 Littleportlionsclub@yahoo.co.uk or go to the website www.e-clubhouse/sites/littleport Facebook: Littleport Lions Club, Twitter: @LittleportLions



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FROM THE BRINK OF CLOSURE....

One day, twelve months ago, I spoke with the manager of the Littleport Leisure & Community Centre, Andy Rutterford, and warned him that unless we were prepared to make a few changes, the Centre would have to close that afternoon.

I have witnessed, during the last year, the hard work, dedication and real passion for the Leisure Centre, by the staff. A never ending stream of volunteers are gradually helping to turn our primary community facility around into a profitable business. It is becoming a place where members and customers want to be. Attendance numbers are climbing and we are receiving encouraging feedback from the users of the Centre.

Ok, the carpets are worn, the showers need an overhaul, lights need replacing, the catering facilities are no more than a domestic kitchen, the list goes on, and I have not started on the condition of the building itself.

What luck we have had, to be included in the new £34m Schools Campus Project! We can look forward to moving into a brand new Leisure &

Community Centre building, financed and equipped by our County Council. Our Parish Council are to reassign the new 130 year lease to the current Leisure Centre & Community Trustees, as custodians of the new centre, fields and the brand new six acre amenity field.

There will be further managed changes taking place over the next few months in preparation for the move into the new Centre in January 2018. Staff and volunteers cannot be expected to fire fight indefinitely.

Change is constant and we must continue to react quickly to new ideas, keep our programme fresh and offer attractive activities and amenities, while making sure that we have a sustainable business.

I'm proud to be part of the current Littleport Leisure & Community Centre, but I would like to pay tribute to all of the people who have been involved over the years.

David Ambrose Smith
Chairman of Trustees
Littleport Leisure and Community Centre.

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Café Church: 5pm on 3rd Sunday (none in December, 17th January & 21st February)

- a more informal service for all ages, lasting about 1 hour & including afternoon tea.

Flower & Friendship Club: 7pm on last Monday of month – none in December of January, 29th February)

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A MESSAGE FROM ST GEORGES CHURCH

Following on from my message in the last Littleport Life, I'm pleased to report that a great time was had by all at our two open weekends. Teddies & the Tower went very well with all teddies descending in either a 'plane or a hot air balloon. And our very first Pet Service was huge fun with the dogs, the cat, the guinea pig, the tortoise and the bull... yes, a bull called Shaun who was very well behaved when we came out to see him and surrounding Shaun, we ended the service on the grass. (Pet Service will be repeated next year).

Part of the purpose of the open weekends was to talk to people about reordering the inside of St George's church. The reordering isn't being suggested on a whim, there are some major issues about the floor, heating and the bells. Undertaking a project like this is very expensive which will mean applying for grants from a wide range of grant making bodies. All of those grant making bodies though have one thing in common – they need a Statement of Need. That is, a detailed reasoned argument why the building should be updated and/or altered.

This is where the people of Littleport come in. I and other members of St George's need to know:

What do you think about changing the interior of the church?

What sort of Community activities would you like to see happening in the church?

How would you feel about using the main part of St George's as a venue for wedding receptions?

Or a Community cinema?



Or a coffee drop in?

A venue for a Saturday market?

Open daily for personal prayer and reflection?

All these and more could be on a Statement of Need and would add real substance to grant applications. As I said last time, please don't be perturbed by these ideas. The church is intended to be a living building; that means a building which reflects both the gospel of Jesus Christ and all Jesus means to the world and a place of gathering for a community's many and varied activities.

If you would like to make a comment, please either speak to someone when you see them, contact us through the church website (www.littleportparishchurch.org.uk) or Facebook page or drop us a note.

For Christmas services – please see the website or ask for a copy of What's On! either in paper form or by email. And as the Christmas season is upon us, we need to recall that Christ was born not in a swanky hotel with all the latest gadgets, but in a stable round the back of an inn. Christ came to where ordinary folk were and he does still – may the Christ child light up your heart this Christmas.

With every blessing,
Rev'd Howard Robson.

A MESSAGE FROM: ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH

My daughter Sarah was a Christmas baby born on 21st December. She will celebrate her 23rd birthday this year and will no doubt have Doctor Who merchandise top of her wish list.

I am not just 'Mummy' as Sarah still insists on calling me, I am her primary carer as my lovely girl has a learning disability and is dependent on my assistance.

Being a carer is at times challenging especially when there is no-one else to help at home.

I have been very thankful over the years for the various kinds of support groups and respite care on offer that have kept me going and helped me feel a little less alone in the task since my divorce.

I am grateful for a loving Sister and Dad who are always only a phone call away for a chat and the occasional helping hand.

People often say to me, "I don't know how you do it all, looking after Sarah and being a full-time Minister." The answer is, I don't know any other way of being as Sarah is my only child and this is my 'normal'. (*If there is such a thing as normal?*)

That is not to say that I don't get a bit ragged now and then wishing that I only had to get myself up and ready



instead of both of us on my rest day from Circuit ministry.

There will of course be many carers in and around Littleport reading this who will have a pretty good idea of the personal cost of looking after dependent relatives, the over-riding motive being that we love them.

There will also be those who care for friends and neighbours with no familial ties and yet the same commitment and care applies. Trying to find appropriate and reliable respite care is not easy in today's economic climate. Added to that the issues of quality of care and safeguarding the vulnerable, the outcome is that many carers keep on coping putting extreme pressure on marriages and other family relationships.

Christmas can be a lonely time for many people when it would seem that almost everyone else is having a jolly festive time with friends and family. For many carers there is no respite just because it is the Christmas holiday.

Spare a thought for a friend or neighbour; you could offer to sit with the person cared for a couple of hours to give a carer a break or the chance to do some shopping, whatever it maybe.



Christ came as the Servant King and Christians are called to follow his example.

But whether you believe or not, showing kindness to a neighbour especially one in need is a very decent thing to do and need not be confined to the Christmas season either.

We invite you to join with us as we celebrate Christ's birth once again at St John's Methodist Church.

We wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a hopeful New Year.

Many Blessings
Reverend Joanne Sherwood



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Over this last year we have reflected on the various times and seasons. Spring, Summer, Autumn and now we are in Winter!

Littleport is now surrounded by fields that have been harvested: some already planted and the first green shoots showing signs of life for a New Year, the earth looking forward and waiting for the rain, sun and heat to go through another season

At the Vine, in October, we as one local newspaper described it "took a step back in time" with a walk through experience of the life of Jesus.

More than 600 children visited from local schools along with staff and learnt what it would have been like to live in the times of Jesus. Jesus made an impact when he was here on earth and touched the lives of people he came into contact with. More importantly this impact is relevant in our lives today.

As we reflect on a year that is almost finished what has it brought for us?

For some it will have brought

happiness, sadness, fame, fortune! One thing that is sure, it has passed quickly. As we grow older time seems to accelerate, the grey hairs come quicker, the joints creak. We think of the words of the Bible in the Psalms where the psalmist says: Lord what are human beings that you care for them, mere mortals that you think of them? They are like a breath, their days are like a fleeting shadow. As we reflect on the person of Jesus, and how the seasons come and go, perhaps we may be asking ourselves: What does the New Year hold for us? As we move into the Christmas season and our thoughts once again turn to presents and food, let us think of the real meaning of the season. The birth of Jesus, the One whom we see lying wrapped in swaddling bands is the same Jesus who 33 years later would be taken and crucified in order to make a way back to God for us.

Wishing all the citizens of Littleport the compliments of the season from all at The Vine Community Church.

Greater Littleport & District NEW SPIRITUALISTS' SOCIETY

As Jesus was recorded as saying by his follower John, God is a Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. This statement is at the heart of our Spiritualist philosophy. And as Paul stated some years later after Jesus had been killed by the Roman occupiers of his country, Israel, we are all spirit beings here in the physical body. What is more, Paul also reiterated that there are many gifts of the spirit with which fact we Spiritualists are happily cognisant. We also accept wholeheartedly that Paul received a great deal of communication from Jesus after he was deemed dead to this life. The clue to the core beliefs of Spiritualism is in its name – spirit, spiritual, plus an 'ism' meaning appertaining to spirit and spiritual...

However, for all that all pervading focus on spirit and life after death in spirit, it places emphasis on rationalism and therefore seeks to provide a constant proof of these facts within its religious practices. Like the early Christians before the Council of Nicaea constrained Christianity, branding those with differing views as heretics, we focus on the example and teachings of Jesus' life, the resurrection and the promised life hereafter.

There is no evidence for the legend that the Council decided on the



canon of books that make up the Old and New Testaments, but they did intensely debate the existing biblical texts and interpreted the New as their doctrine aka the Nicene Creed. Those bishops who refused to accept it were banished... It was decided that a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, a Christ Mass, would replace the pagan Saturnalia. This enabled the mid-winter licentiousness to continue under the auspices of the Established, orthodox, Church of Rome. The date? December 25th.

In the Bible the seasons are only ever referred to as summer and winter. Winter's darkness, damp and cold, has ever cried out for some contrived warmth and light – of the spiritual kind as well as physical. And hope for the return of sunnier, longer days. What better than to celebrate the birth of the one who was born

to bring spiritual light and warmth to the world with everlasting life; and why not around the time of the shortest day and longest night. If only it could have truly replaced barbarism and materialism with the message of peaceful co-existence and love for all fellow human beings that had actually happened, and had not been pressed into service as just a ploy to curry popular favour. A ploy with dire consequences for many outside the Roman Church over millennia. Particularly in its persecution of Jews...

Born a Jew, in which tradition babies' births were recorded only as the nearest holy day, Jesus' birth date was not remarked in eye witness or later narratives of his life and work, but according to some distinguished scholars it works out as near the Jewish New Year in September. An auspicious time of year indeed! December 25th continues to be

popularly singled out for merry-making, but whatever date Jesus was delivered, we shouldn't forget the significance of the angels who appeared in a blaze of light to those shepherds watching their flocks at night, more likely at harvest-time, who told them that they brought news of great joy; the birth of a bringer of peace and love and everlasting life for all who walk the earth.

Here in Littleport in the heart of the English countryside, we ask the Great and Holy Spirit to grant comfort and joy for all, with health and a measure of happiness throughout the winter months and for God to help us make it a 'Happy Christmas' every day. Amen.

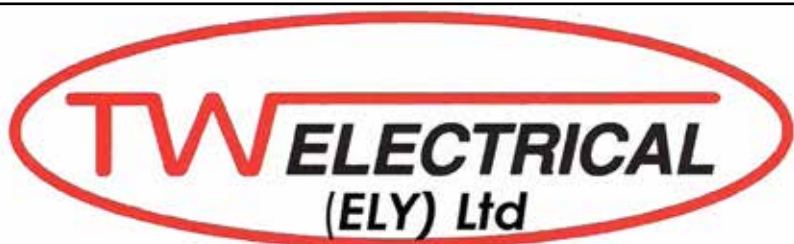
Words to the hymn 'Help us make it happy Christmas every day' are in the New Spiritualists' Society Little Blue Hymn Book.

The Most Reverend, The Primus, NSS.

CANCER CONNECTIONS CLUB NEW VENUE

The club for people touched by cancer is having a meeting on Friday December 18th. Organised by Bev and Sue Scott for many years meeting at the Methodist Church Hall and the Day Centre, they now welcome you to their home at 4 Meadow Court at 6.30pm.

**Enquiries: Bev Scott: 01353 860356
or Barbara Hunt: 01353 862133**



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THE LITTLEPORT PLAYERS STILL ENTERTAINING LITTLEPORT

It all started in 1994 when Littleport resident and pantomime script writer Gladys Rose wanted to stage Aladdin.

Keen actor Paul Allingham, who had an impressive acting record going back to the days when he started out with a group in Croydon called The Magdalen Players, felt confident enough to produce the show.

Money to cover the production costs was hard to come by, but everyone chipped in and rallied round.

Haddenham Drama Group lent the backdrop and an Aladdin's lamp; Albert Ware of the then Littleport Paint Shop loaned trellising which was covered with black bin bags and all the flowers for the scenery were supplied by Grenville Goodson, then proprietor of the greengrocery and florists.

Percy Coulson, Chair of the Village Hall Committee and Caretaker Reg Jones also lent a hand by putting cardboard up at the windows so as to keep the light out.

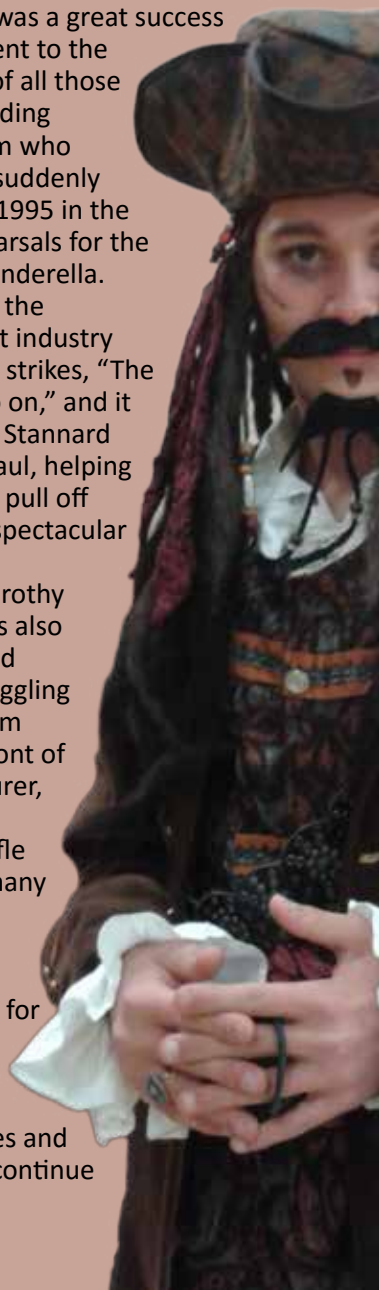
Rehearsals were held both at the Methodist Church and St George's Parish Room, and extra entertainers were brought in which included The Samara Ballet Dancers and Paul Allingham's musical colleagues. These talented men were keyboard player Frances and drummer Nigel Smith who provided their own arranged musical accompaniment for the panto.

The show, which was performed in March 1995, was a great success and a testament to the great efforts of all those involved including Paul Allingham who sadly passed suddenly in December 1995 in the midst of rehearsals for the next panto, Cinderella.

As they say in the entertainment industry when tragedy strikes, "The show must go on," and it did when Eric Stannard stood in for Paul, helping the Players to pull off their second spectacular pantomime.

Paul's wife Dorothy Allingham was also very active and supportive, juggling many jobs from working as Front of House, Treasurer, and running numerous raffle events with many women from the WI which helped raise needed funds for The Littleport Players.

The tradition of pantomimes and musicals still continue



S:
T

in Littleport despite having to cancel this summer's musical show because "We couldn't financially afford it," Ponts Hill Bizzy Lizzie Salon owner and Littleport Players Director Karen Booth told Littleport Life Magazine.

Director Karen, who came to live in Littleport many years ago from Faversham in Norfolk said; "People don't realise how costly it is to put on a show these days.

You are looking for at least £2,500 just to hire the halls for rehearsals and putting on the shows alone. We are really lucky to have Sheila Goodall who makes all the costumes and the majority of us give our time up for free just to make it happen.

"We are constantly having to run money raising events from bingo, selling made up hampers at the salon, to cake stalls etc. The Ex-ervicemen's

Club kindly donates us money when we put on a shortened version of our panto or musical at the Club which really does help fill the coffers," revealed Karen.

Karen's daughter Chelsea first became a Littleport Player



Cast members getting ready to perform

at the age of just 11, and now at 24, seeing her on stage, you wouldn't believe that she was once a very shy young teenager.

"I encouraged Chelsea to get involved in acting because I knew it would help her grow as a person, and now you just can't get her off the stage," said a delighted mum Karen, who admitted too that it was her daughter Chelsea who had encouraged her in turn to step out of her comfort zone and become the Littleport Players' Director instead of sticking to her usual hair and make-up artist role.

"At first directing was really nerve wracking. For the first two shows I shadowed Becky Green who is currently directing Cats and Peter Pan for the Campaign Amateur Theatre



The entire company - always entertaining

(CAT) Company, Ely. She has been in so many shows and has a lot of experience, and is even qualified enough to be a drama teacher, but holding down a full time job she chooses not to.

"I have to admit that every time I direct a production I always say 'never again', yet on the first night when I stand at the back and watch it all unfold I think how really good it is which just gives you such a buzz. There is nothing really like it," said Karen, who mentioned that the company don't write their own script which means having to pay about £300.00 for the copyright every time they put a pantomime on.

The Littleport Players has seen many actors come and go. The excellent Jack Byng has started a new life living and working in the Midlands. Daniel Goulding has now gone to university to study acting, but Megan Bidecant who has played many a leading lady role alongside the 2014 Best Youth

Actor George Harrison has returned from London university to study in Cambridge and returns to the cast. It is thanks to Megan that 9 year old Millfield School pupil Kira Simmonds (who she used to babysit as a 4 year old) joined up, and along with her school mates Hannah Townsend and Lexi Dews play very convincing sailors in this season's Pirates of the Panto.

Sadly one the longest running local drama groups which spanned 60 years spell which comprised of 180 productions and donating thousands of pounds to Charity, Lakenheath Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS) had to fold due to lack of members which has seen a few join Littleport Players. This a major problem that seems to plague most drama groups and Littleport Players is not any different.

"We tend to struggle to find male actors – which is the story of my life," joked Karen who continued; "We do attract the younger boys, but we tend to have great difficulty holding on to

them from the ages of 16 to about 25/26, and it is because of that that we are extremely limited to what shows we can actually put on."

It would be a sad day for Littleport if we were to see the end of the Players. They are constantly on the lookout for actors and according to Director Karen Booth, "You don't have to be good - just enthusiastic" and who added that some financial assistance wouldn't go amiss either if they are to keep the community entertained for years to come.

Just log on to their Facebook page and you will find out details of how you can get involved and lots more information about these dedicated entertainers proud to be called, 'The Littleport Players'.

Cathy Gibb



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THE RESCUE PONY: GINGERBREAD'S STORY



Unlike Anna Sewell, who wrote *Black Beauty*, I do not know the early days of Gingerbread. She came into my life one hot, dusty August, after a friend had told me how, while he waited for the London train, he gave his lunch to a thin little chestnut pony living by the railway station, that always seemed hungry.

I decided to investigate and found a small, bony but very pretty 10 hand chestnut mare in a bald paddock with only a bucket of water for company. After tracing the old chap who owned her, I discovered she was only 2 years old and "vicious" and was to be sold to our local dealer at the weekend. I felt that with training, good food and correct care, she would make a good driving pony and on the spot offered him £50.00. To my surprise he accepted and I negotiated the rent for his bald paddock until I could move her. Both her life and mine changed overnight. I contacted an old friend called Stan who, in his younger days, was a horse keeper for a local

farmer, and asked him to help me break her in for driving. Together we spent about three weeks feeding, grooming and giving her some tender loving care. I called her Gingerbread as her deep chestnut coat shone like copper as her health improved daily. She accepted his training easily using an old sack filled with straw as a saddle and soon learned to take the bit and respond to the long reins. I went to Wisbech Market with Stan and purchased a small flat cart, together with harness and within a couple of weeks she was merrily 'trotting out' with Stan and I around the village. She soon learnt the way to my house where she was allowed to graze on the lawn and also where Stan lived, as his wife Nell was always ready with some apples and carrots.

'I DISCOVERED SHE WAS ONLY 2 YEARS OLD AND "VICIOUS" AND WAS TO BE SOLD TO OUR LOCAL DEALER AT THE WEEKEND'

Gingerbread was very good on the roads as the noise from the railway station had made her used to loud sounds, bangs and squeaky brakes. Changes had to come to Gingerbread when I was ill. As I was a helper for the Elysian Riding for the Disabled at Paradise Farm, Ely, run by Ms Enid

Bedford, I asked her if she would take Gingerbread to Paradise while I was recovering as she needed exercise and care. The cart and harness went with her so the training could

EVERYONE IS VERY
FOND OF HER AND
BRING APPLES AND
CARROTS AS A
REWARD FOR HER
HARD WORK

continue. Her new friends in the field were very curious as she was so small, but a big chestnut mare called Shamrock became her best buddy and they spent many hours together watching the riding lessons and general yard routine. At first Gingerbread was quite nervous of so many children and events, but

gradually relaxed and became a favourite to be used for grooming practice by the smallest pupils as they could reach her back very easily. She soon learned to stand still whilst loading was in process and knew exactly where we were going to each ride. The passengers were able to take a second set of canvas reins fitted to her halter and steer her round the course. I was always in control using the leather reins but Gingerbread knew what to do without any instructions! Sometimes we do about 10 to 12 rides during a morning's work and she never makes any fuss while waiting patiently for events to happen. Everyone is very fond of her and bring apples and carrots as a reward for her hard work. She soon knows when the sessions are nearly over and is



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looking eagerly for her treats. Although Gingerbread is now 31 years old, she is as keen to work as ever. She seems to know when Tuesday morning has arrived and is always waiting at the gate as she knows Jo the stable girl will have her breakfast ready.

I NEVER DREAMT THAT I WOULD BE SO PROUD

When I arrive with the harness, she is eager to start her work. Frankie, Sue and Debbie who take turns leading while the driving is in progress, tack her up and she is put to the cart ready to go.

When the session is over and the treats have all been eaten,

Gingerbread is taken back to her field to join Cody, Tigger, Candy, Ginny, Lee-Roy, Smudge and Micky. After a roll in the fresh grass she wanders off to join her friends and they pass the afternoon munching away together. Gingerbread is an invaluable part of our team at Elysian Driving for the Disabled and gives so much pleasure to all the drivers who take part each week.

We have just learnt that Gingerbread will be qualifying for a long service award which is so well deserved. We are the only group that offers the driving as a therapy as all our drivers are so disabled.

I never dreamt that I would be so proud of an animal that cost so little and who has given so much to all.

Iris Copsey



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3 tbs Mincemeat
A few Almond nut slices

Method:

Line a 7" sandwich tin with greased
foil

Line tin with rolled out pastry, trim
round rim

Spread with jam then mincemeat on
top

Cream margarine and sugar



Mix together ground almonds and rice
Add to creamed mix with beaten egg
Spread mix into case evenly
Decorate with sliced almonds and
pastry star shapes that are made
from the trimmings.

Bake: Moderate oven 375F Gas 4-5
for 40-45 minutes

Serve with cream or plain yoghurt.

PUMPKIN SOUP RECIPE

Ingredients:

1 medium size pumpkin, hollowed out to use the flesh
4 onions, peeled and chopped finely
6 large carrots peeled and finely grated (food processor does it properly)
3 medium potatoes peeled and cubed
4 oz butter to be melted in a large saucepan
One and a half pints of chicken stock or water and stock cubes
Large shake of mixed herbs
4 spring onions peeled and finely chopped
½ teaspoon of chilli or according to taste
1 pint full cream milk
Shake of salt and pepper, according to taste

Method:

Put butter into a saucepan and then prepare all the vegetables and stock
Melt butter and then add onions, stir and coat and then add pumpkin
Stir and cook till soft and squashy. Add carrot and stock and stir to mix
Add herbs followed by salt and pepper. Bring to the boil and then turn down to

simmer gently for half an hour.

Add potatoes and spring onions and continue to cook gently for half an hour
Add chilli a little at a time, testing taste each time (makes it spicy).

Leave to cool and then press and then puree $\frac{3}{4}$ of the soup. Then using a potato masher, squash remainder before returning puree back into the saucepan.

To Serve: Heat gently adding milk according to the thickness required and serve with bread or rolls to dip.



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- ✓ We run a variety of adult learning courses/sessions at the centre and at outreach venues. This is in partnership with Cambridge Regional College & Family Learning.
- ✓ Health run services including Midwives, Health visitors, Well Baby Clinic, Baby Massage, Baby Essentials and Speech and Language
- ✓ Access to 1:1 Family Support services, parenting courses, signposting, help and advice

January's timetable will include Level 1 & 2 Maths & English for parents, First Aid at Work, Paediatric First Aid, Mindfulness Course, ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) ♦ Play 2 Learn (Stay & Play Session for children 0-5), Toddler Time (learning together- how to support toddlers to learn, grow & develop), please see our latest Timetable for more details.

Contact us

Littleport Children's Centre (on the site of Littleport Primary School)

Tel: 01353 612770, **Email us** Littleport.ChildrensCentre@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Find us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/elylittleportandsuttonchildrenscentres

www.cambridgeshirechildrenscentres.org.uk



Millfield School Littleport

A Letter from Deborah Hannaford Headteacher



I should like to extend a very warm welcome to staff, children and parents who are new to Millfield; I hope very much that by the time you read this, the new members of our school community will feel very happy and settled.

We are all enjoying our newly expanded building and loving the additional space it has given us. Just one week before the start of the new academic year, the builders left our site having been with us for nearly a year and a half. The project included 4 additional classrooms, a new staff room, meeting room and a redesign of our front entrance and administration rooms. I have to say Coulson builders were a pleasure to work with, and the project ran pretty smoothly and to time. It felt a little 'manic' towards the very end, trying to get new furniture into classrooms and offices over the summer break, with just one week to relocate and sort out the offices and admin area, but over time the memory has faded and it was all worth it!

I am delighted to say that this year

we are expanding our music provision with instrumental teaching to all of our year 3 children – they are throwing themselves into it with great enthusiasm! In addition, we are embarking upon the teaching of modern foreign languages - our year 6 children will be learning Spanish and those in years 3, 4 and 5 learning French.

I should like to extend a very special 'thank you' to FP McCann Ltd who kindly donated £2000 to the school. You can see in the picture below, some of our reception children and their teacher, Mrs Hopkins, receiving the cheque. Following the completion of our building project and the landscaping of parts of the grounds, we plan to set up an Allotment Club. We shall use the money to get it all set up - for purchasing timber for raised beds, a potting shed and other necessary items of gardening equipment. We will get the area set up over the autumn term so that in the new year, all will be ready for the launch of our Allotment Club at the start of the growing season. Thank you.



Littleport Community Primary School

When The Rugby World Cup came to Littleport!

We all enjoyed our Rugby World Cup activities in October. It was a wonderful experience with children learning a huge amount about all the countries taking part. Each class 'adopted' a country and then learnt about the language, food, geography and culture of countries from Samoa to Argentina and from Fiji to South Africa. On the Friday we all travelled 'around the world' visiting each country and finding out more about each place through quizzes, displays and even tasting the food! BBC Radio Cambridgeshire also found out about our initiative and came to broadcast from Littleport. It was very exciting! We also enjoyed opening our doors and seeing so many of you at our Family Fun Day in October. There was a real buzz around the school as children and parents took part in cultural and international activities such as samba drumming, crepe making, Mexican artwork and speaking Swedish! Everyone also

enjoyed archery, glockenspiels, instrument making, library activities with Littleport Librarian Louise Aldridge, ICT, and e-safety activities, as well as having fun in the Children's Centre. Our thanks to Ms Hoal and Ms Fox for organising the day, as well as to the PTFA volunteers who provided tasty soup and bread for everyone. Gracias, Merci and Tack! We have been very pleased to welcome prospective Foundation Stage parents to our school, with Year 5 students giving wonderful school tours and answering questions. We have also welcomed Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) from all over Cambridgeshire to come and learn about how children develop English skills; and they have also dropped into class to see the teaching and learning. We are also working with the Faculty of Education, Cambridge, to train student teachers, and which we are delighted to be able to do.



Love talking rubbish?

Littleport is looking for volunteers to help spread the word about recycling within the community.

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There is a comic book series called 'God Hates Astronauts' and it's now the name of a Littleport group of talented musicians, keyboard and lead vocalist singer Christopher France and drummer Jordan Powell aged 17 and 18 respectively.

Christopher and Jordan explained that the name of their group doesn't portray their opinions or their genre of music and they don't wish to be pigeonholed either. Jordan says he prefers not to have their own music-making labelled, but that they can produce some 'mean cover versions' which apparently go down well at their live college gigs.

"I can't stand today's chart music. It really has no meaning. We make music for us, and if it pleases other people, then that's fine by us."

The band was initiated while they have been attending Cambridge Regional College. They told

Littleport Life that they have excellent and supportive music tutors including Ben Pringle of the Time Team signature tune fame who had expertly and skilfully mixed and matched these young musicians together. Three bands were formed, one of which was 'God Hates Astronauts' that also comprises bassist, 17 year old Nathan Jackson and 20 year old guitarist, Alex Penny. They were originally fronted by a female singer who shared vocals with Christopher, but when she left to work outside of their particular musical circle he just stepped up as lead vocal which now suits their style and sound of music. These innovative music makers are wary of the music industry. They have their feet firmly on the ground and are very grateful that they have had the backing of their families.

"The important thing is that we have always focused on

our musical education. We want to learn the best we can before performing in front of an audience,” emphasised Christopher, who first started playing the piano at the age of 4. Although he lost interest and concentration for a while, when he was fourteen his interest was reignited and “It’s been the best thing that I’ve ever done,” said Christopher.

They told us that their current Level 3 course is made up of three diplomas, where they study Grade 5 theory that sees them spending most of their course work analysing classical pieces; what instruments to use; how the textures form, as well as transposing music and making their own arrangements and compositions etc.

It is no surprise that Jordan was destined for musicdom. His father Matthew was a pretty good drummer himself who fed his young sons Callum and Jordan on

a healthy musical diet of The Who and AC/ DC considering the late great Keith Moon to have been a legend in his life time.

Callum despite being a good drummer decided to become a chef, so with the appropriate catering qualifications under his belt he moved into the catering business where is now a chef at the Newmarket Race Course restaurant.

“I was raised on music like Genesis, Pink Floyd, and that is where my interest of the keyboard came from. Then in my early teenage years I became a bit rebellious, but now being less hormonal, I started to listen to stuff like Metal. As a child one of my influences was keyboard player Keith Emerson, of Emerson Lake and Palmer, but I can always happily sit down and listen to a Sex Pistols album,” revealed Christopher, who’s now developing his voice to work with rock music.



Asked what makes 'God Hates Astronauts' different and unique from any other groups today.

They replied, "We don't like to be musically limiting, but we are really still discovering ourselves. For instance, we have five songs and those songs are each very different in their own way."

They will be working on putting out an EP soon which may or may not include the first song they wrote 'Jump Suit'.

"You know I purely write songs so I can get 'Distinctions' on my course," joked Jordan.

Jordan's bedroom at home has been transformed into a small studio where they record demos and jam together. Their stage dress is the shirt and tie look. "We like to be presentable, but usually it ends up being a very sweaty kind of gig... We have done a few gigs including the Manea Gala.

There were five other bands who played music like either Country or Ska, but we were the youngest group there, and although we felt a bit intimidated, the audience really appreciated our music," said Jordan.

"It is surprising how popular we are with the all - round universal music," said Christopher which prompted Jordan to interject, "I don't want to fit in to what the music industry is producing."

Christopher then continued, "We have our own originality, and when we do cover versions of songs. We try and make the music more interesting and

challenging, but the audience are still able to recognise the song and they really like it".

"Our college audiences are very clever because they do recognise that the group have altered a certain popular song, but they do enjoy our arrangement or rearrangement of the song", commented Jordan who is thinking of pursuing a career in music as therapy.

On a more sombre note, both musicians spoke for their group members and every other budding musician when they said how lucky they were to have got into the music courses when they did because there is every likelihood that these courses will be phased out.

They said, "In fact there is a dearth of cultural activity generally, and we are really worried that music courses will be dying out. We did look into this in one of our Musical Outreach lessons where we looked at everything else, and not the music itself. We watched a documentary about how much money is being pumped into primary schools for them to have access to instruments. It was £250 for the whole school for a year. What does that buy? An expensive guitar case."

They are hoping to travel to New York in the New Year.

God Hates Astronauts have their own Facebook page and you can catch them at Babylon Gallery, Ely on Friday December 18th.

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As well as other fund-raising efforts, like the annual fun dog show that this summer just gone raised nearly £700, they hold a monthly raffle that raises much needed funds for the Alzheimer's Society, an organisation dear to their heart. Alison's mother,

once an active top bowls player is living with the disease and is looked after at home by her family. The couple's suppliers generously donate all the super goodies that go into the prize hampers every month, and tickets are available to buy and enter the prize draw from the shop for just £1.

The shop is located a couple of hundred yards up Hale Fen when you turn off the bypass almost opposite the end of Camel Road. If you're coming through the village, when you get to the end of Camel Road it's a right and then a fairly sharp left across the A10.

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Working together to improve community safety

It has been a while since our last update but during all of this time it has been business as usual dealing with an array of emergencies, leading to a very busy year so far. During this year we have had a couple of changes to our crew which has now given us vacancies to fill.

Want to be an ON CALL FIREFIGHTER?



In order to apply you must live or work within 5 minutes of your local fire station.

We are currently looking for people who can be on call during the daytime, anytime between 08.00 and 18.00 most days of the week.

You would be joining a team of ordinary people doing an extraordinary job for their community. If you are up for the challenge and the extra income that comes with it call us on 01480 444 500 to request an application pack.

To find out more, go to our website www.cambsfire.gov.uk

Come to one of our information evenings

To ensure that we are providing the best information for potential recruits wishing to join the on-call service, we are inviting potential recruits to on-call firefighter

WINTER WEATHER DRIVING TOP TIPS:

With the arrival of the winter weather we attend many more road collisions. Many drivers get caught out with the arrival of frost, fog and snow. Driving safely with regard to the road conditions is a must. Visibility is also greatly reduced with the short days so please allow more time for your journey and ensure all windows and lights are clean and working.



TEAM AWARD

At the end of last year the team here at Littleport attended Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescues awards evening after winning the Services Team Award for the stations outstanding commitment in working together to maintain fire cover and serving the community as firefighters. This was achieved through the dedication and commitment of every firefighter on our station who when required went the extra mile to work together, not forgetting their families who also make a commitment by being supportive and understanding.

EVENTS:

We will be holding our Christmas Bingo again this year on Tuesday 22 December in the village hall. All of the proceeds go the Firefighters Charity and all of the prizes have been very kindly donated, for which we are ever grateful and thankful. Please come along and enjoy the fun.

Just a few Recent incidents:

Crews attended an incident involving a Tractor and trailer which had overturned. The driver had sustained a number of injuries from this large heavy vehicle and required freeing from his cab. Crews used specialist lifting and cutting equipment during this challenging incident to release the driver. Following the completion of this incident the crew had no time to rest as they were immediately mobilised to another road collision involving a car which had collided with a tree. The crew again used the cutting equipment to free the injured driver.

A call for help reporting a person in difficulty in the river saw our crew use our water rescue equipment. The person had fallen into the water and was unable to get to the side or get out due to reeds and other debris. The crew managed to bring the person to safety. Apart from being cold the person had no other injuries.

A frantic rescue attempt played out in Norfolk following a call to a car which had crashed into a river trapping the driver. The crew worked in extremely difficult and demanding conditions in the cold muddy water to free the person from the upturned vehicle. Resuscitation was carried out before the arrival of Air ambulance to give them the best chance of survival but unfortunately they died later in hospital.

A chip pan set fire to the kitchen of a house in Ely when the occupier became distracted for just a few moments. They sustained minor injuries whilst trying to tackle the blaze. Crews from Littleport and Ely wore breathing apparatus and used hosereels to extinguish the flames. The kitchen was extensively damaged.

NEVER leave any cooking unattended even for a short while. Should it catch fire remove the heat, get out of the property and call the fire service.

Go and test your SMOKE ALARM now, it may just save your life!!

May we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the staff here at the fire station who will be working on call throughout the festive season.

Watch Commander
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For more information go to www.cambsfire.gov.uk

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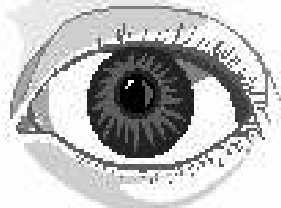
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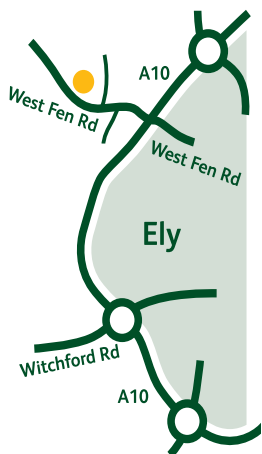
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EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS * * REPORT * *



ECDC Corporate Plan

A new Corporate Plan covering the next four years has now been agreed by the ECDC Full Council.

The document builds on the authority's 100 Day commitment to bring more detail to how the Council will improve the district for residents and businesses in East Cambridgeshire through the following six priorities:

- * Delivering a financially sound and well managed Council
- * Genuinely affordable housing
- * A fantastic place to live
- * Improving local transport
- * Improving infrastructure
- * New Jobs and Funding

To deliver on these priorities, the authority will be working on a number of areas which include:

- * Freezing the East Cambridgeshire element of Council Tax for 2016/2017.

- * Support more Community Land Trusts throughout the district.
- * Aim for a 60 per cent recycling rate and ensure bins are put back tidily.
- * Oversee delivery of the multiplex cinema.
- * Deliver the leisure centre in Ely and review and support leisure services throughout the District.
- * Push to ensure the Ely Bypass is built.
- * Keep free car parking in our city and town centre car parks.
- * Seek to increase car parking spaces at Littleport Station and Angel Drove, Ely.
- * Use the business rates retention fund on business development to create new jobs and opportunities for young people.

East Cambs Aiming for Gold Standard

With East Cambridgeshire setting a high standard in tackling

homelessness, the District Council has been asked to host the National Practitioner for Department of Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) Housing Gold Standard.

Steve Tong, the Practitioner for the East of England and Kent, will be based in the Housing Options team for three days a week where he will help authorities work towards the Gold Standard.

He will also be assisting East Cambridgeshire with their goal of reaching Gold Standard status by September 2016 – a standard which is currently held by only two authorities in the UK.

The Gold Standard – funded by the DCLG - sets the bar for local homelessness services, protecting the country's most vulnerable when they face losing their home.

Littleport Barclays Bank Closure

Despite all our efforts to encourage Barclays to rethink their decision to shut down our branch, the doors closed on 9th October for the last time. We would just like to thank all the Barclays customers who wrote to appeal against the decision, and also to the organisers and supporters of the protest in the Main Street on Saturday 15th August.

We still believe that it is extremely important for our community to have a banking facility within the Village and are in the process of approaching other financial institutions regarding the viability of setting up a branch in Littleport.

Official Opening of G's Growers Mushroom Farm

On 21st October we all attended

the official opening of the recently completed May Farm Mushroom Facility which is situated approximately 3 miles out of Littleport along the Mildenhall Road.

This impressive state-of-the art facility, was built by G's Growers in supply partnership with Tesco, to increase the availability of UK grown fresh mushrooms.

Construction of the farm started in 2012, with the building of 12 growing tunnels and associated facilities. The first mushrooms were picked in November of that year, and a further 12 tunnels were added in 2013.

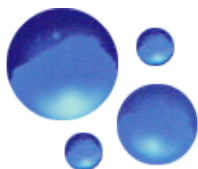
The most recent phase has just been completed, and the farm now comprises 48 tunnels, along with cold storage and packing facilities

May Farm grows white button, closed cup and large flat mushrooms, which are hand-picked, 365 days per year. Mushrooms actually double in size every 24 hours, and even keep on growing once they are picked.

May Farm produces 165 tonnes of mushrooms each week for sale through Tesco stores across the UK, and has reduced food miles through bringing production to the UK for products that were previously sourced from Europe

G's is an incredibly exciting place to work, and being at the forefront of modern food production means it's fast paced, stimulating and rewarding. They work with the biggest food retail brands in the UK and Europe and want people who will do what's right for G's and their customers.

May Farm has created 300 new full time jobs, and G's Growers are very



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keen to encourage applications for vacancies from members of the local community.

G's offers all staff a place to learn and grow with careers and job opportunities in Food Manufacturing, Engineering, Farm and Harvest Management, Agronomy, Technical and Quality Assurance, Operations, Logistics, production, Supply Chain, Marketing, Innovation and Customer Insight, IT, Human Resources and Commercial to name but a few.

G's currently has a range of vacancies available across their various sites. For more information on vacancies available please visit their website at www.gs-fresh.com

We would like to take this opportunity to everyone in our Community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Health, and Prosperous New Year

David Ambrose Smith
Jo Webber
Christine Ambrose Smith
Paul Cox

CHRISTMAS POST

Littleport Scouts are once again willing to deliver your Christmas cards in Littleport. Post boxes are available in the following: The Barn, Holmes Furnishers and Sigma Embroidery & Printing.

The cost is 25p per card

LITTLEPORT DIGITAL CAMERA CLUB

*Do you own a camera,
but never quite get the
photographs you
aimed for?*

Why not come to our camera club which meets in the library on the first Tuesday afternoon of every month at 1pm. We're a small group of Littleport people with varied knowledge which we share among the group.

At the moment we're collating a 2015/16 photographic archive of the village with each member choosing a few streets to photograph. This is going quite well and we're now discussing the format for the collection.

Library staff have made the library a welcome space and add their expertise and encouragement.

If you visit at any time you will see a small selection of our work on the wall. So never mind what level of experience you have or how small your camera is, come and share your camera knowledge (or lack of knowledge) with us.

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Wicken Village Hall, Wed 9.30am (PureStretch)
Witchford Village Hall, Wed 6.30 & 7.30pm
Sutton, The Pavilion, Thurs 9.30am
Wicken Village Hall, Thurs 7pm
Witchford Village Hall, Fri 9.30 & 10.30am

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A poster for the Soul Canos Soul and Motown Showband. It features a collage of four photos: a man playing a guitar, a woman in a black dress, a woman in a black dress, and a man playing a guitar. The text 'Soul Canos' is in a large, stylized font at the top, with 'SOUL AND MOTOWN SHOWBAND' in smaller text below it. 'Also featuring' is written in a bold font. 'Big Ron Tee' is written in a large, bold font on the right. At the bottom, it says 'Friday 18 December' and 'Ticket £5 7pm' in large, bold, yellow and orange letters.

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A poster for Sammy K's All Star Tribute Show. It features a collage of four photos: a man with sunglasses, a man playing a guitar, a man playing a guitar, and a man playing a guitar. The text 'Sammy K's' is in a large, stylized font at the top, with 'ALL STAR' in a smaller font below it. 'TRIBUTE SHOW' is written in a large, bold, blue font. At the bottom, it says 'Thursday 31 December' and 'Ticket £12 7pm' in large, bold, red and blue letters.



Littleport Rotary Club — Quarterly Update

Our President, **Bram Holland**, known to many, as the leader of the **Salvation Army Church**, presided over Race Night. **Bram's wife Loraine**, with her culinary skills played a major role in the provision of Supper **Clive Webber wife Jo** and team produced another great Race Night Further Credits Below —

Race Night

The Annual Littleport Rotary Club race night proved yet again that the generosity of the Littleport residents remains as steadfast as ever despite these austere times.

Over 150 attended the event which, as ever, was held at the village hall. Special thanks go to Rotary wives, our sponsors Raffle prize givers, Littleport Rotarians.

Below: Very Busy Village Hall

Bottom: The bar



Busy kitchen Rotary Ladies including the Mayor of Ely preparing the Supper.



Plans and Donations

Support: Although there remain a few pledges to be settled up, the club has already raised almost £2,500 from the evening's entertainment, a new record for the club. This money will be used to support local charities as well as the East Anglian Children's Hospice and the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Plans are already underway to repeat the success next year and the team at Littleport Rotary Club has already started planning for two new and innovative fund raising activities in 2016 which will enhance the monies raised through the clubs more traditional events.



Next Up — *The Xmas Tree* — Hopefully on November 29th already chosen in Elveden Forest by Paul Cox and Donny Buckingham that's Tree # 15

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

Pub Quiz!



Wed. 20th Jan 2016

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7.30pm start and max 4 per team

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DIARY OF EVENTS

DECEMBER '15

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | The Crown Inn | Quiz Night | 7.00 pm |
| 5 | Branching Out | Christmas Dance & Disco Fundraiser at Little Downham Village Hall featuring Blue Thunder Band. Tickets £10. Licenced Bar available. | 7.30 pm - 11.45pm |
| 5 | Ex-Servicemen's Club | The Business | 8.45 pm - Late |
| 5 | St George's Church | Christmas Fayre including Littleport Community Choir Singing at 11.30 am | Starts 10 am |
| 5 | The Crown Inn | Mark Josfe | 8.30 pm |
| 6 | Leisure Centre | EABCC Dog Show (Indoors) | All Day |
| 6 | Leisure Centre | Roast Carvery | 12.30 pm - 2.00 pm |
| 7 | Leisure Centre | Over 60's Bowls Tournament | 5.00 pm |
| 7 | Littleport Society | Open Meeting - Village Hall - A Festive Concert with Littleport Lyrics | 7.30 pm |
| 8 | The Women's Institute | Christmas Party - Competition: Homemade Christmas Decoration - Village Hall | 7.15 pm |
| 10 | The Swan | Local Vocalist Kathryn Buck - Singing Songs from 1930's to the current day - Advisable to book - Venue - Restaurant part | From 7.00 pm |
| 11 | Flower Club | Christmas Practical Evening | 7.30 pm |
| 11 | Leisure Centre | Blood Donors | Two Sessions |
| 12 | Ex-Servicemen's Club | Mel Stevens | 8.45 pm - Late |
| 12 | Leisure Centre | Christmas Party Night | 7.00 pm |
| 12 | The Crown Inn | Freddie Hall Band | 8.30 pm |
| 13 | Leisure Centre | Tea with Santa | 3.30 pm - 7.00 pm |
| 18 | Leisure Centre | Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament | 7.30 pm |
| 19 | Ex-Servicemen's Club | Bob's Christmas Bingo followed by Club Disco | 7.00 pm - Late |
| 19 | The Crown Inn | Don't Panic | 8.30 pm - Late |
| 20 | Ex-Servicemen's Club | Children's Family Disco and Father Christmas - £2.00 Entry to Members & £12.00 Non Members | 4.00 pm - 6.30 pm |
| 20 | Leisure Centre | Roast Carvery | 12.30 pm - 2.00 pm |
| 20 | Leisure Centre | Quiz Night in Aid of Littleport Lions Korfbal | 7.00 pm |
| 20 | St George's Church | 9 Lessons & Carol Service including Littleport Community Choir | 6.30 pm |
| 23 | Leisure Centre | Family Christmas Disco | 10.00 pm |
| 23 | Sharman's Garden Centre | Xmas Crafts with Littleport Events. You must book for a ticket @ £2 per child. Special offer Hot drink (Coffee/Tea) Mince Pie or Cake £2.50 | 10.00 am to 12pm |
| 24 | Ex-Servicemen's Club | Club Disco - Free Entry to Member and Non Members | 7.00 pm - 12 am |
| 24 | The Crown Inn | Disco | 7.30 pm |
| 26 | The Crown Inn | Big Cheese | 8.30 pm |
| 27 | Leisure Centre | Christmas Sports Challenge | 11.00 am |
| 29 | Leisure Centre | Pantomime | 7.30 pm Start |
| 31 | Ex-Servicemen's Club | Rocking Revival - Tickets entry only, including the lounge. £10.00 Members & £12.00 Non Members | Doors Open 7.00pm |
| 31 | Leisure Centre | Family New Year's Eve | 8.00 pm to 2.00 am |
| 31 | Swan on The River | Quiz & food £25 in aid of East Anglia Air Ambulance | 7 pm Start |
| 31 | The Crown Inn | The Last Train | 8.30 pm - Late |

JANUARY '16

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| 3 | Leisure Centre | EACA Dog Show (Indoors) | All Day |
| 5 | Littleport Society | Film Show - "Memories of the Fens" - a film by students of Abbey College, Ramsey | 7.30 pm |
| 9 | Ex-Servicemen's Club | The Thomas Jay Trio | 8.45 pm - Late |
| 10 | Leisure Centre | East Cambs Carpet Bowls Tournament | All Day |
| 10 | Leisure Centre | Quiz Night - Proceeds TBC | 7.00 pm Start |
| 11 | Leisure Centre | Over 60's Bowls Tournament | All Day |
| 12 | The Women's Institute | Speaker: John Bedford - Farming In The Fens - Competition: Photo of Local Area - Village Hall | 7.15 pm |
| 13 | Leisure Centre | Prize Bingo | 6.30pm |
| 16 | Ex-Servicemen's Club | Bingo | 7.30 pm til Finish |
| 16 | The Crown Inn | Krusty Whiskas | 8.30 pm |
| 17 | Ex-Servicemen's Club | Andy's Quiz Night | 7.00 pm - Late |
| 17 | Leisure Centre | East Anglia Old Sheepdog Show | All Day |
| 17 | Leisure Centre | Roast Carvery | 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm |
| 23 | Ex-Servicemen's Club | Club Disco & Karaoke | 8.00 pm til Late |
| 23 | The Crown Inn | Guns v Abba | 8.30 pm |
| 24 | Leisure Centre | East Cambs Carpet Bowls Tournament | All Day |
| 30 | Ex-Servicemen's Club | The Scurtts | 8.45 pm - Late |
| 30 | Leisure Centre | Prize Bingo | 6.30pm |
| 31 | Leisure Centre | Roast Carvery | 12.30pm to 2.00pm |
| 31 | The Crown Inn | Thomas Bainbridge | 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm |

FEBRUARY '16

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| 2 | Littleport Society | AGM + "Old Littleport" - Exhibition and Slide Show (Village Hall) | 7.30 pm |
| 6 | Ex-Servicemen's Club | Gentlemen's Evening - Tickets £10 | Doors open 7pm |
| 7 | Leisure Centre | Quiz Night - Proceeds TBC | 7.00pm Start |
| 8 | Leisure Centre | Over 60's Bowls Tournament | All Day |
| 9 | The Women's Institute | Quize Night - Peter Allen - Competition: Paperweight | 7.15 pm |
| 10 | Leisure Centre | Prize Bingo | 6.30pm |
| 13 | Ex-Servicemen's Club | Valentine's Night Entertainment | 8.00 pm - Late |
| 13 | The Crown Inn | The Last Train | 8.30 pm - Late |
| 14 | Leisure Centre | Roast Carvery | 12.30pm to 2.00pm |
| 19 | Flower Club | AGM | 7.30 pm |
| 20 | Ex-Servicemen's Club | Summerland | 8.45 pm - Late |
| 20 | Leisure Centre | Badminton Tournament | All Day |
| 20 | The Crown Inn | Hush | 8.30 pm |
| 21 | Leisure Centre | Badminton Tournament | All Day |
| 27 | Ex-Servicemen's Club | Private Party | |

| | | | |
|----|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 27 | Leisure Centre | Prize Bingo | 6.30pm |
| 28 | Leisure Centre | Judo Competition | All Day |
| 28 | Leisure Centre | Roast Carvery | 12.30pm to 2.00pm |
| 28 | Leisure Centre | Quiz Night - Proceeds TBC | 7.00pm Start |

MARCH '16

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1 | Littleport Society | Maureen James - "Chafer Legge, Ratty Porter & Granny Hall -The Old Fenland Storytellers -Speaker Dr Maureen James | 7.30 pm Start |
| 5 | Ex-Servicemen's Club | Private Party | |
| 5 | The Crown Inn | VT11 | 8.30 pm |
| 8 | The Women's Institute | Speaker: Ruth Sindal - Marzipan Roses - Competition: Artificial Flower - Village Hall | 7.15 pm |
| 9 | Leisure Centre | Prize Bingo | 6.30pm |
| 12 | Ex-Servicemen's Club | The Feds | 8.45 pm - Late |
| 13 | Leisure Centre | Roast Carvery | 12.30pm to 2.00pm |
| 14 | Leisure Centre | Over 60's Bowls Tournament | ALL DAY |
| 19 | Flower Club | Julie Woods | 7.30 pm |
| 20 | Leisure Centre | Quiz Night - Proceeds TBC | 7.00pm START |
| 26 | Leisure Centre | Prize Bingo | 6.30pm |
| 26 | The Crown Inn | Bondy | 8.30 pm |
| 27 | Leisure Centre | ECSSC Dog Show (Indoors) | All Day |

APRIL '16

| | | | |
|---|----------------|--------------|---------|
| 1 | Leisure Centre | Blood Donors | All Day |
|---|----------------|--------------|---------|

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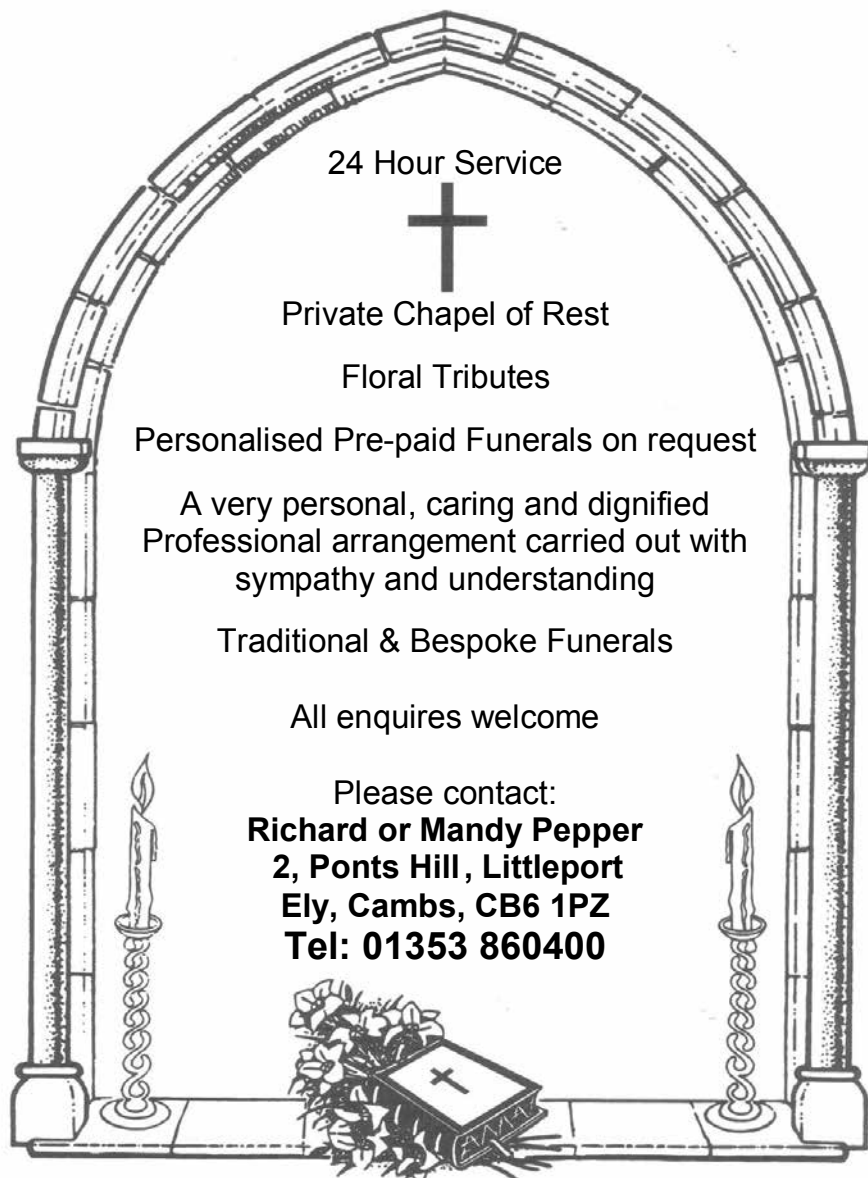
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| East Cambs. | Main Switchboard | 01353 665555 |
| District Council | Out of hours emergencies | 07710 978900 |
| | Report Fly Tipping: Mark Mehaffey | 01353 665555 |
| Utilities – (Emergencies) | Anglian Water | 0845 7145145 |
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| | 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 |
| Samaritans | If you need help | 0845 7909090 |
| Schools | Littleport Community Primary | 01353 860235 |
| | Millfield Primary | 01353 861612 |

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