

LITTLEPORT

MAGAZINE

www.littleportlife.co.uk

ISSUE 43 WINTER 2016

Your Community Magazine

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- The Leisure Centre

COMMUNITY!

- Neighbourhood Watch
Needs you!

...AND MORE!

Also includes **WHAT'S ON
IN LITTLEPORT!**



LOOKING BACK AT 2016 & FORWARD TO 2017

Welcome

Welcome to your winter issue of Littleport Life!

Well the season of good cheer is upon us, and it's good to know that all the usual activities and amenities are going on in this great village, many of which are featured in this winter issue of Littleport Life.

It's also good to know that Littleport life is also supported by our local press in its reporting, and by the Ely Standard column devoted to all things Littleport, penned by your Littleport Life magazine editor, every week!

As we look to the new year unfolding, it's always nice to take a look back at what was happening since that last year began.

And in this edition of your magazine you'll find a few pleasant reminders - especially the Martin's School reunion on page 46.

All the clubs and groups mentioned are always pleased to have new people join them, like Neighbourhood Watch for instance, always on the look-out for more keen street road co-ordinators, page 40, or the friends of Peacock's Meadow.

Plenty to enjoy in this winter issue of Littleport Life!

Lyndy

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Littleport Town Team celebrates a year of progress



Clr David Ambrose-Smith

A new market, community based activities and improved communications are just some of the successes of a year of work by the Littleport

Town Team and their partners.

After organising events to celebrate Christmas and Easter and distributing newsletters, the small team of volunteers is now looking to help improve the general appearance of the town centre

This will be done via a signage and street furniture review in the New Year while more work will be done to promote the Adams Community Market and organising events.

David Ambrose-Smith, Chair of the Littleport Town Team, said: "We have had a very busy year promoting Littleport through a wide variety of events and activities. From the fantastic new market to support we have had for our art trails,

it has been wonderful to see residents, communities and businesses supporting their town. We are not complacent as we know there is a lot to do, but despite our numbers being small we are determined to make a difference.

Our next project is to work to improve the general appearance of the town with the Parish Council. This will involve looking at the signs and street furniture to see what can be improved. We will also be looking to celebrate Christmas again with a special event on Saturday 5th December and we'll have more news on that closer to the date. We are also open to any new ideas our residents and businesses have to improve the Town Centre so please get in touch if you think you can help us."

The Littleport Town Team was created as a result of the Government led, Mary Portas initiative, which focused on revitalising town centres.

For more information on the Town Team please call 01353 665555 or visit: www.eastcambs.gov.uk



New Taxi Firm in Littleport!



It's always nice to hear about new businesses and services in the village – and to include any extra information about them that comes to light!

Well, the new taxi service in Littleport run by David Allen is one such.

When someone needed to be conveyed to Littleport Village Hall from Chettisham on a Thursday night to attend the Spiritualist meeting there, this taxi firm came up trumps!

The fare in question was disabled curate, Rev Wendie Perry, and she needed a wheelchair friendly vehicle.

There was none to be found, either in public transport or for private hire it seemed that Wendie would be stuck!

Then someone thought of the new Littleport Taxis.

Yes, they would and could do the trip both ways.

Rev Wendie said that the young local man who drove the cab was courteous, charming and very helpful.

Needless to say that she will be using that service again!



The Flower Arranging Club

Our Meeting in October commenced with a tribute and one minute silence for our great friend and member, Maureen Cox, who died after a very short illness. Maureen will be greatly missed by all of her friends and members of the club. A great lady with a big heart and always willing to help.

Barbara Collins was our demonstrator that evening. Barbara has visited us many times, and each time we enjoy her displays and skill more and more. It was a very good meeting, with lots of wonderful arrangements and guidance for members.

Our year has gone well. We are gradually picking up new members, and more will always be welcome.

Our year started with demonstrator Adele Kent in April.

A new 'Area Demonstrator' Joanne Randall came in May, and although nervous of the occasion to start with, gave a wonderful demonstration.

In June we had Melissa Sheldrake who was about to take her 'National Demonstrator's Test' so she did two arrangements that she would be attempting for the test and we thought she would do well.

Now the July meeting was a real treat. Brenda Tubb came along, not just demonstrating beautiful flower arrangements but filling the Village Hall with laughter with all her anecdotes of life.

In September, another new demonstrator, Wendy Goodliffe, came along, and she was also very nervous



but settled down to give us a very good demonstration and we would certainly ask her back.

We had a full house for National Demonstrator, Nick Grounds, in November.

So all in all it has been a very good year, and I am sure that we will continue to grow in numbers and the Littleport Flower Arrangement Club will thrive.

If anyone wishes to have more information about the Club please contact either myself on 01353 860102 or our very versatile Secretary Pam Sole on 01353 863421.



Remembering Maureen Cox

8th February 1943 – 19th September 2016



Littleport lost a popular and well-known member of its community in September.

Maureen Cox, much loved mother of Darren and Sam, and beloved wife of District and Parish Councillor Paul Cox, passed away after a short illness bravely born.

Maureen came to live in Littleport from Southery on her marriage to Paul, and soon afterwards they built the house they have lived in ever since.

When their children came along Maureen and Paul made some good friends of other parents, but particularly with Margaret and Barry Constable

with whom they shared many activities and even holidays. When Margaret was tragically killed in a car accident in 1980, Maureen drew even closer to Margaret and Barry's children Jason and Sharon.

Having been a full-time mum, when her children were old enough, she went back to work.

Maureen was employed by a tobacco kiosk company, and when Tesco decided to sell cigarettes themselves, rather than use franchised vendors, she was quickly invited to work for them.

Firstly, in the cash office at Newmarket, and then into Customer Services, where

her expertise coupled with her friendly manner, endeared her to colleagues and members of the shopping public alike.

Maureen was always interested in community affairs and supported Paul in his community work, as well as being a part of Littleport's Rotary Club. A keen gardener and lover of orchids, Maureen was a valued member of the Littleport Flower Arranging Club.

Maureen remarkably never took a day off work and was still putting in some hours with no plans of complete retirement.

Her funeral took place on the 4th October at the Fenland Crematorium in March, which was packed with her friends and family. Tesco laid on a coach which was over-subscribed and told employees that they could attend that day with no loss of pay.

A reception was held at Littleport Village Hall.

One of the managers at Tesco wrote these words to Maureen's family:

Maureen was a wonderful person and a hugely loved colleague. Lovingly known as 'the Queen of our Service Desk'. She was quite simply one of the greatest characters, friend and colleague that you could ever wish to meet. Always incredibly cheerful and positive, a brief encounter with Maureen would brighten up anybody's day. She was one of life's truly amazing and simply wonderful people.

At her funeral, her son Darren gave a wonderful talk about his family life with his mother, and in conclusion said:

Mum you were simply the dearest, kindest, generous, loving mum anyone could have wished for. Even at the end, positive, hopeful, accepting and scarcely a tear. Rest in peace Mum. Forever in our thoughts.



Maureen and Paul on their wedding day

Littleport Town FC Optimistic About The New Season

By *Cathy Gibb-de Swarte*

We are already into the new footie season, and no we are not talking about the elite of the professional world alias Barcelona, Real Madrid, Manchester United and City, Arsenal or Chelsea et al, but none other than our local amateur side Littleport Town FC who everyone should come and support down at the Leisure Centre's playing field.

They are a hard-working and hard tackling side who give their all, and don't command obscene amounts of money like their professional counterparts, but in fact have to keep down a full time job which invariably rules out some of the players not always being available for match days which can often be a managerial nightmare.

Littleport Town's early poor run of league results belies their promising cup form, and according to their Player/Manager Jamie Gayfer, he is very optimistic about the current season.

"We have a great squad and have attracted some good players like former Swavesey midfielder Michael Jordan, 17 year old Harry Walker who has been really impressive, and Liam Heaps who left Ely Crusaders has been of our outstanding players so far.

"We are also very fortunate to retain the services of top experienced players like the versatile cricketing duo James South, and club captain Nik Marsh, Alan White (formerly on the managerial team

last season) and Dan Bell to name but a few, but really we've retained 90% of last year's squad who are a great bunch of players. That isn't to say that we are not on the lookout for new players which we are always on the lookout for," said Town's Player/Manager Jamie, who also puts himself on regular footballing duty which does give Town that extra impetus up front.

Realistically Jamie believes that it wouldn't be a disaster if Littleport Town were to finish mid-table this season, but as the 2016 Creake Charity Shield 2-1 winners over Easton Socon Reserves 2-1 and the Junior Challenge Cup beaten finalists the team believe they have every chance to produce yet another superb cup run which really would make it another season to remember.





Littleport Rangers are thriving!

Littleport Rangers was founded in 2009 and in its short history has reached the chartered standard, which is the FA's benchmark for grass roots football. As well as providing a fun and safe environment for children to play football, we provide FA qualified coaches with CRB checks, child welfare and first aid certificates. Our aim is to focus on player development with age appropriate training sessions. We currently have three teams in the Cambs FA mini soccer league - *writes Nathan Mitchell.*



The U11's coached by Billy Holmes, are sponsored by Ely Clean and Rumbles. The U9's are coached by Nathan Mitchell and are sponsored by Manit Contractors and Niagri Engineering and the U8's coached by Andrew Pendle are sponsored by Mil-Ken Travel and Edward Thackray UK Ltd.

All our teams have got off to a great start this season with some big wins and great performances in the opening games.

We play in the Cambs mini soccer leagues in different age groups.

Most of our players are from Littleport with three at the moment from Ely, Pymoor and Mepal.



Anybody who would like to get involved with the club, including playing, sponsorship, fundraising or running a new age group, don't hesitate to contact us.

We are a growing club, and we have just relocated our summer training and home games to Pymoor Rec, giving us more space and access to some great facilities, and winter training being held at the Ely Astro turf pitch on Downham Road allows us to train through the winter months.

We train on Wednesday evenings at 6pm.

For more info visit
www.littleportrangersfc.co.uk

You can also visit our Facebook page and follow us on twitter: @lrfcjuniors

Littleport Lions



We are looking forward to Christmas and one of our events is Breakfast With Santa at The Almonry, Ely on 22nd, 23rd and 24th Dec.

Tickets are selling out fast so go to our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/breakfastwithsanta2016), our website (www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/littleport), email breakfastwithsanta1@yahoo.co.uk, or phone David & Jenny Ellis 01353 664318 / 07817 592438 to book your children's places. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is Adults £3.50 and Children £6.50. Every child will get a present.

We will endeavour to book you the day you want to come, but as it is such a popular event so please bear with us. It really is "First come - First served".

We had an enjoyable day at Littleport Leisure's Funday with our Tombola and a car boot pitch. We are planning more fund raising events, but if you have a good idea for fundraising or a charity we can help with, come and approach us.

For more details of Littleport Lions club contact:

David & Jenny Ellis: 01353 664318 / 07817 592438 / alfieellis@yahoo.co.uk

Facebook: Littleport Lions Club

Twitter: @Littleport Lions

Website: www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/littleport

Littleport Town Cricket Club

Summer 2016 and the cricket season was well under way



Father Christmas will be joining us for an evening of traditional carols and mince pies on 22nd December. We will also be joined by Gaz Bell and Rev Nick Brown, our mediums for the evening.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m £2 entry

Raffle, 1st prize a Christmas hamper

Stalls including hand made Christmas cards, candles and more.

Littleport Village Hall, Victoria Street, we look forward to seeing you all

All welcome

Children Free



For more information please contact members of the church council, Linda Brown or Della Thompson

Wrestling for charity



Little Miracles is an award winning Cambridgeshire and Suffolk based charity and parent led support group for families with children that have autism, additional needs, disabilities and life limiting conditions.

We are based in Ely and put on weekly sessions every Saturday for our members. We offer different themed sessions with a sports hall, sensory room, cinema room, arts and crafts room, general toys/ play room and a quiet room to mention a few. Themes often include Avengers, Halloween, Harry Potter, Dr Who, Star Wars and many more.

We also put on special trips for our members to Legoland, Cadburys World, Duxford, Harry Potter World and other great places. This is all voluntary run and funded through various events and fundraisers throughout the year from car boot sales to Balls in Cambridge Hotels.

We are very fortunate to have won this year's Cambridge News Community Charity of the Year award and have some excellent local Business partners and sponsors in the local area.

To help raise funds for our next trip we are holding a Family fun Wrestling show at the Littleport Leisure centre on Sunday 18th December at 2.00pm which should be a fun and exciting day for all the family. There will be hot food and licensed bar on the day, foam fingers, masks and toys for the kids and lots off boo's and cheers! Also confirmed for the day is a visit from Santa who may just take to the ring himself!

Plenty of opportunity for the children to meet all the wrestlers after the event and have their photos taken with them and Santa in the ring. There is already confirmed a 20 man over the top rope rumble, a mixed tag team match and the world championship will be on the line in the main event!

There will also be a raffle held on the day with some fantastic prizes including an Apple TV and other electrical goodies so it's an event not to be missed.

Only £5 a ticket and all proceeds are going to Little Miracles.

Please feel free to see our website – www.littlemiraclescharity.org for more details or for ticket enquiries for the wrestling just pop in to Littleport Leisure Centre where the tickets are on sale, but with a limited number left definitely book early to avoid disappointment.

Alex Knowles



BASKETBALL CUP FINALS

On Saturday 8th October the second semi-annual Littleport Basketball Cup Finals took place at Littleport Leisure Centre. The event started at 6pm with a third place trophy game between hosts Littleport Zalgiris and Mildenhall High Town Pirates. While the Zalgiris were leading most of the game, the Pirates continued to pressure the hosts and had a one point lead in last quarter. However the Zalgiris men held their composure and managed to claw back the lead and secured a rather comfortable win and received a third place trophy that can be inspected at Leisure Centre's Hall of Fame. MVP for the game was Paulius Adomaitis who scored 15 points, shooting three 3 point shots during the game.

Immediately after the game a three point shooting competition took place. There were 8 participants, 2 from each team. The winner was Daivaras Visinskis from Cambridge Svyturys, second place went to Bronius Preidzius also from Svyturys and third place went to Jonas Pranevicius from the Littleport Lions team. Best results was achieved by Daivaras Visinskis during the semi-final shoot out scoring 10 out of 20.

At around 8:30 the main trophy game started between another Littleport team, Lions and guests from Cambridge - Svyturys. Lions gained an early lead holding onto it through the second quarter but then Svyturys improved their game and were leading for the most of the remaining game. The last couple of

minutes produced a real thriller with a few lead changes and dramatic foul free shots being missed by Littleport Lions players which ultimately cost them a win in this game. Final result was 86:80 with a Svyturys win and collecting the main trophy. Game MVP was elected Ovidijus Visinskis.

Overall the evening again proved to be a success with really close and competitive games and fun for all of the spectators that turned up to watch the event. The next replay for both cups will take place in May 2017, follow us on public facebook group Baltic Sport: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/583252855126061/>



LOCAL KUNG FU CLUB GETS GRADING SUCCESS IN 2016



Your local Kung Fu club 'Hung Kuen Shaolin Kung Fu' enjoyed great success at our grading held on Sunday 23rd of October at Littleport Leisure centre - writes *Kaira Smith*.



We promoted eleven students to the grade of first yellow belt, one to second green, one to first blue, and two to the senior level of second blue. The Littleport children did especially well and represented the village excellently in front of the head of our school Master Ang, who travelled all the way from Manchester to judge the grading.

We have been in the village of Littleport less than a year but have been overwhelmed with the enthusiasm of our students and their willingness to learn our unique martial art. Hung Kuen Five Animal Style is an ancient martial art with drills and techniques finely honed

over hundreds of years, focussing on self-defence and fitness. Our sessions involve training in cardiovascular exercises, strengthening tendon, ligament and muscles, allied to speed, power, agility and flexibility.

We are a husband and wife partnership of instructors, and have been taught directly by Master Ang, 10th Degree Grandmaster, and Founder of Hung Kuen UK.



Our sights are now set on the annual Hung Kuen tournament and representing Cambridgeshire in sparring and forms. We welcome new students at any time, and train Thursdays at the YPL Performing Arts Centre, Littleport, children 5:30-6:30pm and adults 6:45-8:00pm.

www.hungkuencambridge.co.uk



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Be prepared to be audited!

Here at St George's we have begun

discussing how our parish church might be updated internally to make the church building more appropriate for today. This process is a bit complicated, but quite manageable and the result will hopefully be a building fit for the next 100 years (St George's was last reordered in the 1860s so no, nothing of the interior is what we might call original). In case you are thinking it isn't necessary, the wooden floors are becoming dangerously rotten which in itself means wholesale changes, but it is a good opportunity to rethink the other facilities. This would include re-hanging the bells which are not usable because of wear in the headstocks.

So, enter 'The Community Audit' - this is the means by which we find out what you, the people of Littleport, would like to see in your parish church. What sort of facilities do you feel would make the church user friendly and versatile; the sort of place where we can enjoy all manner of community activities as well as a good place for formal and informal worship. All you have to do is answer some questions when we see you, and we'll record your comments onto a laptop. There will be an electronic version where you can reply online, and a paper version. So please give some thought to what you would like to see. Meeting rooms? Open space in the main church? What else can you think of?

And speaking of events, a date for your diary is Saturday December 3rd when we will be holding St George's Christmas Market from 10am until 2pm. After the very successful Craft and Art Fair in September, some stall holders will be returning as well as church activities being represented, and weather permitting, the outdoor crockery smash will take place with the team 'seasonally dressed'.

All this talk of community activities for Christmas may sound like we've forgotten why the church was built back in the 1500s and later extended in the 1860s; but we haven't. The church is here because of the Gospel of Jesus Christ who came to this world 2000 years ago. He wasn't born in a fancy palace, but nor was he born somewhere remote away from human society. Christ was born in the middle of the human community, in an inn - where else do you find such a melting pot of humanity and its goings on? For some people the Messiah has yet to come; for others a holy God would never come to a world such as this. But the Christian Gospel proclaims that Christ has done exactly that and that he did so right in our midst. I realise that personal circumstances for some mean that Christmas is a difficult time, but please don't forget the message of Christ amongst us, whoever we are. And we look forward to welcoming you at St George's with, or without, its faulty floor!

With every blessing,
Rev'd Howard Robson

A Christmas Message from St John's Methodist Church

My late Mum was a genius at cryptic crosswords and had an extraordinary gift for numbers. I too love word puzzles but alas did not inherit a head for maths, my sister Alison got rather more of those genes I think.

Acrostic poems and puzzles are an ancient literary device in which the first letter of each line spells out a word or phrase. Acrostics were used in the Bible's Old Testament particularly in the Psalms and remain today a useful way of remembering something important.

The most famous acrostic used in the church is ICHTHUS which in greek means 'fish', but also uses the initial letters to spell out 'Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour'.

Below is my own Christmas Acrostic:

Celebrating Christ's birth
Hope for the world
Reconciliation and peace between
 peoples and nations
Immmanuel, God with us
Sharing the Good News of God's love for
 the world
Thankfulness for family and friends
Memories of Christmas past and those
 we have loved
Anticipation of what the future holds
Shining Christ's light in the darkness

Why not have a go at your own acrostic, spelling out what Christmas means to you? Try to think of the positives rather

than the negatives, just one word for each is sufficient or be more creative if you prefer.

We are looking forward to celebrating once again the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ at St John's Methodist Church and invite you to join us for our Christmas events and services of worship, details of which you will find below.

Carol Service

10.45am, Sunday 11th December

Alternative Carols & Music

6.30pm, Saturday 17th December

Christmas Day Service

10.30am, Sunday 25th December

Christ's peace and blessings to you all.

Reverend Joanne Sherwood



The Vine Fellowship

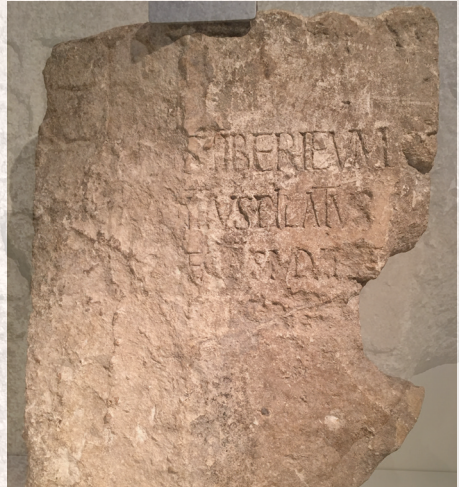
“Evidence That Demands A Verdict”

As well as being the title of a book by Josh McDowell, this statement is very relevant for those of us who have been doing the Alpha course at the Vine Community Church. In our second session we learnt from a barrister, Nicky Gumbel, how we can trust the documents that make up the New Testament as reliable accounts of historical events that took place around 2000 years ago. Nicky pointed to sources outside the Bible as well as discussing the gospel texts themselves:

“The first-century Jewish historian Josephus wrote this about Jesus: ‘There was about this time Jesus, a doer of wonderful works.’ And [Josephus] then goes on to talk about the crucifixion of Jesus and his alleged resurrection.”

Nicky then went on to say, “Now, of course, the New Testament was written a long time ago, and people say: ‘How do we know that what we have here hasn’t been changed over the years?’ And the answer is we do know, through a science called ‘textual criticism’.

Essentially, the way textual criticism works is like this: the more manuscripts that you have,



WORK	WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPY	TIME LAPSE	COPIES
HERODOTUS	486–428 BC	AD 900	1,300 years	8
THUCYDIDES	c. 460–400 BC	c. AD 900	1,300 years	8
LIVY'S ROMAN HISTORY	59 BC–AD 17	AD 900	900 years	20

Pontius Pilate was the fifth Roman Procurator of Judea, serving in that capacity from 26–36 CE. Sources describe him as a cruel and unsympathetic ruler who was insensitive to Jewish religious feelings. According to the New Testament, he was the one who sentenced Jesus to be crucified. The inscription presented here is the only object from his time that bears his name. It was found reused in the staircase of the Roman theater of Caesarea, the provincial capital; it was probably originally set into a temple built in the city in honor of Emperor Tiberius.

... building in honor of] Tiberius ... Pon]tius Pilate ... Praefect of Judea

Latin dedicatory inscription
Caesarea, 26–36 CE, hard limestone

and the earlier they are, the more you can be sure about what the original said.”

Nicky pointed out that no one questions the authenticity of these other documents, but none of them match the reliability of the gospels, accounts and letters which make up the New

Testament. For example, the earliest copies of manuscripts we have concerning Herodotus and Thucydides, which were written around 488-400 BC are AD 900, some 1300 years after they were written! And we only have 8 copies of each! There are over 24,000 copies of New Testament texts and the earliest date back to AD 130 and were written between AD 40-100!

Last week I came back from a tour of Israel. It was so good to be able to visit the actual places where Jesus was born, was brought up and met people's needs so wonderfully. We are told that He was crucified "under Pontius Pilate". In the past, one of the many things people doubted was if Pontius Pilate even existed at all - until 1961, when this stone was found. I took this photo of it when I was in the museum in Jerusalem. The explanation is above.

With this and a vast amount of other evidence it is wonderful to know that when we put our faith in Christ we truly are trusting in a sure foundation!

My Simple Prayer

To the Big G in the Sky,
To whom I worship and pray -
It's a long, staggered, road I walk to you.
From first breath, to finally my death,
Along the way many temptations lay -
To you Lord I pray to not let me stray.

Sinners many upon my journey I shall meet,
Some may wish to hurt or do me wrong -
To you Lord I pray to keep me strong.
For when my journey does come to an end,
My body does one last final fall -
My soul you'll meet in your justice hall.

I pray to you that I stand tall,
For as a sinner fell -
I turned my life right around,
Made my friends and family proud
I pray to you Lord and hope -
Through your gates I will pass.

And finally, I meet friends and family,
Loved ones from my life's journey -
In my past, long time missed,
I finally greet as once again we meet.
And I will say -
Amen.

Jeff Greenfield

St John's Methodist Church



High Street, Littleport

Sunday Services:

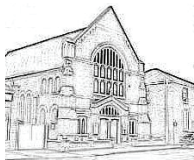
10.45 am – weekly

6.30 pm – weekly except 3rd & 4th Sundays

3rd Sunday 5 pm Café Church

4th Sunday 5 pm At St Georges

For details of Café Church, Flower & Friendship Club & Coffee Mornings, please see our notice board



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Alive in Christ..... Worship, Mission and Service



Greater Littleport & District New Spiritualists' Society

These three winter months mean different things to different people. In the religious sense, while we as basically Christians enjoy Christmas as a celebration of the birth of Jesus and a new light coming into the world 2,016 years ago, Judaism, the religion Jesus was born into, celebrates the festival of light called Chanukah, that Jesus would have enjoyed too. Jesus who grew up to be a miracle worker must have thrilled as a child to the then 500 year-old story of how the oil in the temple menorah, a 7 branched 'candlestick' symbolising God's presence, had only been enough to light it for a few hours, and yet it burned bright for the whole week. He would have learned how the invading Syrians had placed statues of Greek gods in it 3 years before, and tried to make the Jews worship them, as well as a statue of their king, Antiochus. This was a step too far - and led to a bloody revolt, victory, and the recapture of the temple in Jerusalem. It had then required reconstruction and consecration, and then this miracle occurred, commemorated by Chanukah.

We know that many other belief systems have festivals at this time of year, and we can only just imagine those ancient primitive living conditions and hardships before the advent of modern luxuries like electricity and modern medicine. And many were the superstitions surrounding the seasons of the year, the sun setting and moon rising, with no knowledge of the global shape of our

world or our planetary system, that have given rise to some practices that endure to this day.

Then we have the New Year – again based on the chronology of Jesus's birth, it will turn 2017 six nights later. Jesus would count that as being 5,777 until 9 months after that, when it will become 5,778.

We like to think that our Christian Spiritualist practices are based on respect for others' beliefs, while proving that things we call miracles do still happen. We talk about the miracle of birth, of nature, of the world in which we live and the myriad physical manifestations of God.

St Paul says in his letters to the church in Corinth writing in about 55 AD - or in his calendar, 3,816; 'If there is a natural body there is also a spiritual body. The manifestation of the Spirit is given to men (everyone) for their benefit.' He also states that 'God has given miracles and gifts of healing.'

We practice mediumship/communication with those in spirit, and healing, as part of our religion. All are welcome to come to our meetings in the Village Hall every Thursday evening to hear a short address, followed by a demonstration by guest mediums. Healing is also offered afterwards.

We pray that you and yours have a wonder filled winter season with all good things.

*On behalf of Rev Nick Brown and everyone
at GLADNeSS*

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Music and the Salvation Army



Music forms an integral part of Salvation Army worship and evangelism. Bands, songster brigades, youth choirs and

worship groups are an important part of church life and public events.

For many non-Salvationists they are the most recognisable feature of The Salvation Army. Early Salvationist musicians drew upon a rich heritage of British singing and band playing, including contemporary church and temperance bands. Our founder William Booth was keen to distinguish the music of The Salvation Army from other church music, which he considered overly sophisticated.

He issued guidelines to bandsmen and songsters to produce simple songs with an emphasis on strong, clear 'soul-saving' messages. He also believed Salvationists

'must sing good tunes' and didn't 'care much whether you call it secular or sacred. I rather enjoy robbing the devil of his choicest tunes'. For this reason Salvationist musicians moved away from solely using traditional hymns and began to set new words to Victorian songs, such as popular music hall melodies.

Audiences recognised and liked these contemporary songs and so this was an effective way of spreading the Christian message. With brass bands introduced to get people's attention and to make a loud noise when they were preaching on the streets! Today, as well as brass bands (which are still used in some Salvation Army churches) music in a worship service can include choirs (both adult and junior) and more modern worship music using instruments such as guitars, keyboards and drums.

Salvation Army churches always try and reflect their local communities and so a worship service may also include styles from other countries such as an African choir or a steel drum band.





The Active Learning Trust



Littleport & East Cambs. Academy & Highfield Littleport Academy

Residents of Littleport will be aware of the exciting new building project that is going full-steam ahead on the site adjacent to the Littleport Sports Centre. The Active Learning Trust is delighted to be part of the project, which will include a secondary school, a special school, and a brand new sports centre.

The Active Learning Trust already successfully runs 17 schools in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, including two secondary schools, a special school and 14 primary schools.

The Trust intend to keep the local community updated on progress, and hope to forge strong links in the Littleport area.

Mr Jason Wing and Mr Simon Bainbridge have been appointed as executive heads of Littleport & East Cambs Academy and Highfield Littleport Academy respectively. Both are experienced headteachers who currently run the Neale-Wade Academy in March and Highfield Ely Academy in Ely. They will be leading a team of specialist staff that will deliver high quality education to students across a broad and balanced curriculum.

Highfield Littleport Academy will be the area nominated special school, and will work closely with Highfield Ely Academy (which is also an Active Learning Trust school).

The Trust believe that a school uniform is an important way to give students a sense of belonging and a pride in their appearance. For the first cohort of students - those who join the new schools in September 2017 - the Trust will be funding part of the school uniform free. Blazers, ties and a PE shirt will all be provided. So that students retain a connection to the local community within their new uniform, the school colours of the two primary schools in Littleport will combine in the school tie, navy and sky blue. Other colours will be navy and grey.

It is hoped to arrange a site open morning, so that all members of the local community and interested parties can view site progress and meet key people. This is provisionally scheduled for a Saturday morning in February 2017, but more details will follow.

In the meantime, please keep in touch and follow progress via the following links:

Website:

leacademy.org / highfieldlittleport.org

Twitter:

[@leacademy](https://twitter.com/leacademy) / [@highfieldlittle](https://twitter.com/highfieldlittle)



Millfield School



This is the first edition of Littleport Life this academic year, and since the last edition we have had the summer holidays and the lovely weather. That all now seems an age away and Christmas is on the horizon.

At the end of September, our Year 6 children had a fantastic experience on their residential visit at PGL in Caythorpe, Lincolnshire. With 3 members of staff, they spent 2 nights away from home taking part in activities such as rifle shooting, abseiling and high ropes.



‘Character building’ is a term that could be applied to such a visit; but somehow that suggests high levels of anxiety and being forced to do something you really are too scared to do. Yes, going to PGL is an opportunity to try new things, ‘push yourself to

the limit’; but nobody is forced to do something they don’t want to do and it’s also great fun.



This is the first year for a very long time that I haven’t joined them, and I felt I was missing out on something quite special. Seeing our children in a different light, seeing them learn new things about themselves and each other, and seeing the sense of satisfaction and pride they feel when they have tried something new or overcome a fear, even if they decide they don’t like it and won’t ever do that again. For me that’s crawling on my hands and knees through dark tunnels!

Family Learning, for parents, has really developed at Millfield this term, which I am really excited about. Last summer we ran a course called ‘Keeping up with

the Children' which concentrated on Maths. It was so popular that it is being run again for another group of interested parents after half term. In addition, and until Christmas, we have 'Let's Talk' where parents learn about a whole range of different ways to communicate with their children, and then have time to try things out in school.

We have a number of new members of staff who have joined us this year. Nicki Clark, Kate Fulford and Sarah Gower are Teaching Assistants, and Sarah Cort is a reception teacher. In addition we have a new position in school; a Family Support Adviser, and Tara O'Loughlen is now our FSA.

The role is to support families in a whole range of things such as helping get their child to school on time every day, supporting them with how to manage them at home when things might get tricky, visiting them at home to talk about other things that may be of worry and causing stresses in the home such as rent arrears and housing issues.

When we were thinking about the new role we wondered whether we had the need for a full-time position but how wrong we were! I am really proud that we have recognised the pressures that families are under and have thought 'outside of the box' to try to make a difference in our

own small, but quite different way. Already Tara has supported a number of children and their families in very different ways and I know they have really valued this. At a time when a whole range of services are being cut within society, schools need to take risks and step into areas where perhaps they haven't had a role in the past.



And finally, we have a new school prayer, which incorporates the values of The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust, slightly tweaked so that all our children can engage with it. We think it works for all of us at whatever stage we are in our lives.

'Today and every day, I shall do my best to be brave, try hard, join in, play fair, have fun, be kind and feel proud.'

Deborah Hannaford
Principal

Littleport Community Primary School Riots!

Yes! This summer in the spirit of commemoration of the people who took to the streets to protest their lot, Littleport Community School pupils re-enacted this important part of their village's history.

Along with other groups, the children in period costume set off from the site of former pub, The Globe. Dozens of angry residents had gathered there for the monthly benevolent club meeting to discuss the hardship being caused by the astronomically rising prices of grain and the prevalent dire poverty that meant people couldn't afford to buy any bread to eat, their staple diet. Despair turned to anger and they spilled out onto the street and went on the rampage, eventually marching to Ely.

The groups - led by trustees of the Adams' Heritage Centre, Grenville



Goodson and councillor Debra Jordan, punched the air and chanted 'bread or blood' as they were guided through the town and shown where many of the rioters lived and worked.



The youngsters were also shown an exhibition inside the Heritage Centre organised by the Field Theatre Group, which detailed the events before, during and after the riots, including the subsequent trials, and terrible sentences meted out and the hanging of William Beamiss, George Crow, John Dennis, Isaac Harley and Thomas South.

Cllr Jordan says that the history of the riots is an important part of Littleport life. She said: "The events we've had here have been brilliant; we've had descendants of some of the rioters come along, even one from New Zealand. It's taken months of research into the court trials and it took about a week to put the exhibition together."



Quieter time at the school chess club!



Grenville Goodson with pupils raring to go on the Riot Walk!

Littleport's Sigma, Red Shoes Accounting and Fenland Spirit Services in the spotlight!

2016 turned out to be quite a year for Littleport's businesses, and particularly for the Sigma Embroidery & Printing Company.

In a surprise move, they swapped the smaller premises they occupied in Main Street for their neighbour's larger retail outlet, the Bargain Centre, earlier in the year. This was a good one as it seems to have brought them more work, and recognition, not only for the good work they produce, but for their involvement in many charity ventures and enterprises in the village.



Kim Oakhill, Manager of Sigma

“We do quite a bit for the community by getting involved with projects like Foodbank, plus special events run by Littleport Leisure Centre, and we are part of the Littleport Town Team which sets out to improve and to help promote various enterprises within the village,” said Sigma’s Manager Kim Oakhill who’s dog Charlie, a Cockerpool, and working



colleague Jamie Cranwell, participated in Cathy Gibb-de Swarte’s 22 press ups in 22 days challenge to raise Post Traumatic Stress Disorder awareness in August this year. This effort alone won them the ‘Best fun video’ out of all the other videos that were uploaded to YouTube, who ranged from Stephen Cole’s Alpacas, the Fire Fighters at the Fire Station, Littleport Town FC, Littleport Players, the Officials running the Stuart Seekings Charity Cup Final at Ely City FC, the Littleport Brass Band, and many more.

Ten years ago, Sigma was initially run by the Alpaca Lifestyle Farm man himself, Stephen Cole, before he retired, the Ship family then ran it before Kim about three years ago.

The business has continued to progress, thanks in part to the invention of new technology, and since the expansion to larger premises, it has enabled Kim to increase the work force to 4, welcoming Owen Timmins who joined his colleagues Jamie, Janine Darnell and Georgina King in October.

“We have bought a new computerised embroidery machine and hope to be accepted for a Leader Grant to the tune of £8,000 towards a two-headed machine which costs £20,000,” Kim told Littleport Life Magazine, who then explained what

Sigma Embroidery & Printing was all about and why they had received one of the most prestigious awards of the year.

"We embroider and print on items like polo shirts, caps, sweatshirts, hoodies etc., for lots of clubs and groups, plus we also do personalised presents for people for special occasions like Christmas and Birthdays.

"Our main goal now is to get more clubs and groups linking onto our website buying on line, and Owen is responsible for making our website more user friendly and accessible to more clubs and groups like Littleport Runners. We are not limited to working for just local groups either, having been given an assignment from a decorative glass company in Wales where we embroidered their logo on their work clothes," revealed Kim.

The company was the winner of the Judges Award category in the Ely Standard newspaper's East Cambridgeshire Business Awards 2016.

Afterwards Kim said; "We weren't expecting to win considering the top companies we were up against, but what a fantastic achievement for a small business like ours, and I couldn't have done it without my hard-working staff."

Kim's company had also been shortlisted as a finalist in three different categories, namely Commercial Business in the Community, Employer of the Year and Small Business of the Year. But they were not alone!

At the Awards, at which John Elworthy, editor of the Ely Standard, gave a great speech, held 'to celebrate the district's leading companies and entrepreneurs'

in the Lady Chapel at Ely Cathedral in October, other Littleport-based businesses were honoured to be finalists.



John Elworthy

In the 'Small Business of the Year' category were Red Shoes Accounting of Littleport, who actually give their considerable financial expertise to Littleport Life!

And in the 'Customer Service Award' and the 'Online Business of the Year' Littleport's own Fenland Spirit Services Ltd., were well-deserved finalists.

Stuart and his wife Carol, perhaps best known for her excellent bee-keeping, retired from his day job as an on-call vehicle breakdown mechanic with a national company and set up their own home-run family business in January 2015.

As Stuart, who has extensively trained as an agricultural and horticultural engineer, with further training in large machines and vehicle maintenance, says, "We aim to provide a happy and efficient experience for your over-worked lawnmower, ride-on, garden machinery, car or boat!"

To avail yourself of Sigma, Red Shoes or Fenland Spirit Services, please see their adverts in this issue of your Littleport Life!

A Christmas Pudding

A pound of flour and a pound of crumbs
A pound of currants and a pound of plums,
A pound of suet, some sugar and spice
And candied peel if you think it's nice.
A little bit of salt and mix all dry
Then beat the eggs 'til the froth runs high.
In go the eggs with milk from the cow
And all to be done is the stirring now.
I have a stir and you have a stir,
A stir for him and a stir for her.
There is an old saying, I've heard tell,
You'll have luck if you stir it well.
Round and round with the spoon we go
A stir on top and a stir below,
Pop it in the basin, tie the cloth with string,
We've made a Christmas Pudding
And it is fit for a king.

Iris Copsey



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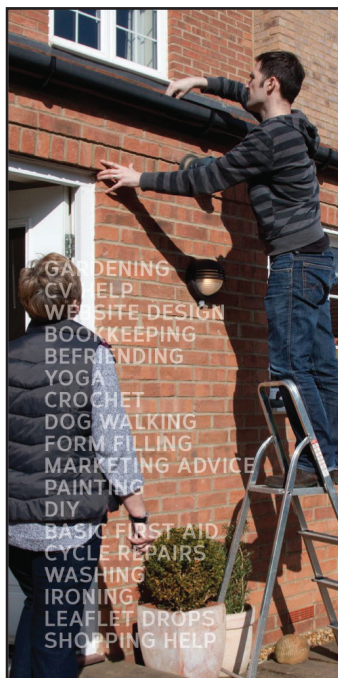
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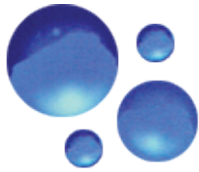
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Peacocks Meadow. What is it? And where is it? You'd be forgiven for asking, because Peacocks Meadow is Littleport's best kept secret.

In 2012 a one hectare area of land behind Parson's Lane was planted with native species woodland trees as part of the Planting Parishes Initiative.

Unfortunately, shortly after the planting had taken place, the main access point from parson's Lane was blocked off by a resident who leased the access strip from the landowner, Sanctuary Housing. Luckily there is another access point in Limes Close car park.

But for four years the young trees languished untended and neglected, while most Littleport residents were unaware of the existence of this potentially lovely public space. In 2015 a Friends of Peacocks Meadow group was formed, to promote awareness of the garden, and to work towards improving the sadly neglected space.

There are plans afoot for many improvements. These include improved access, the creation of a wildlife hedge, woodland bulb planting, and improvements to the drainage and habitat

generally. There is even a plan to create a community herb garden. It is hoped that local schools will begin to use the space as a learning resource.

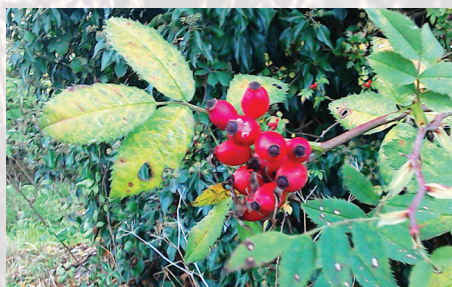
This autumn, Littleport Rotary donated hundreds of crocus bulbs which have been planted.

But trees don't prune themselves, bulbs don't plant themselves and brambles and weeds stubbornly refuse to clear themselves. This lovely pocket woodland park needs people to lend a helping hand. Why not join our small but enthusiastic band of volunteer gardeners and nature lovers, and help to transform this space into the tranquil oasis it promises to be.

The new year is a great time to make fresh resolutions. If you care about the natural environment and your community, could be your chance to make a real difference.

Peacocks Meadow has a Facebook page where you can find details of our news and plans. You don't have to be an expert gardener. You don't have to commit a great deal of time. But if you would like to become involved in any of the exciting developments in Peacocks Meadow please contact the committee via our Facebook page.

Deborah Curtis



Angela Wilson

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The Littleport Lullaby

The new song 'Littleport Lullaby' was written by John Rees, founder member of the folk group, Hobson's Voice. He tells Littleport Life that, "I had always wanted to write a song to tell something of the pioneering medical treatment begun at Littleport and continued at Ely, because I knew a wonderful person who had benefitted, and his wife who had served there. So, after reading the Littleport Life article from Joan Sharpe, it led to me meeting her and her husband Bill. Their memories and words were the basis for the song, which I hope people in Littleport, and further afield, find enjoyable and satisfying.

Hobson's Voice are hoping to record it in Spring 2017, along with our arrangement of the poem 'Littleport' (sometimes referred to as the 'Littleport Anthem') which some of those in the audience in the Littleport Village Hall, where the song was first performed, very kindly and trustingly asked us to do. We shall let you know when everything is done and available."

Many a baby was born in the old RAF
now Princess of Wales Hospital in Ely.

In this lullaby, a new Littleport mother
sings to her tiny baby in the stillness and
quiet of the pre-dawn.



John Rees with Hobson's Voice

Littleport Lullaby

1. Hello, little darling, my little baby girl,
As I hold you in my arms for your very
first night;
Tomorrow, in the light, the world will
rush on in,
But tonight it's just you and I.
2. You're my little honey from a lovely
little town,
And you'll grow up on a land fine as
any,
Where water and the sky will please
your little eyes;
You'll be proud when you say, "I'm
Fenny"!
3. Born you were in a miracle place,
Where once young men lay in pain;
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4. You'll hear tales of angry, hungry
men,
Of families torn apart;
And you'll hear of a son who saved a
Fenland town,
But his dying broke his mother's
heart.
5. And now, little darling, tomorrow's
nearly here;
You'll be held in the arms of your
loved ones, oh so many;
Tomorrow, in the light, the world will
rush on in,
But tonight, you're my little Fenny"

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Adams Heritage Centre

Come as a visitor - Leave as a friend!

In 2014 the well-loved JH Adams Ironmongery shop was transformed into Littleport's very own Heritage Centre

The Adams Heritage Centre is Littleport's only dedicated venue for exhibitions and displays highlighting all aspects of our town's history.

So what can you expect when you come through the door? Adams has hosted an exciting range of special events, exhibitions and displays in the two short years since it opened. The centre also holds a community archive of materials and artefacts donated by residents. Adams is also an information point for local and regional events of interest. We also stock a wide range of local interest books, CDs and DVDs for sale.

The beautiful interior has been used as a location for three films. And the centre is also used as a meeting space for community groups throughout Littleport.

Adams Community Market is held on the first Saturday of every month. As well as

bringing much-needed funds into the centre, the market sells prime products from a range of specially sourced local producers.

So it's a busy little place. But most importantly this is your heritage centre.

It belongs to you ... the community.

We need volunteers to help Adams fulfil its potential as a vibrant community amenity.

Whether you have a passion for local history and heritage, or you are looking for local interest books, or you just want to browse the stalls in our thriving community market, you will be sure of a warm welcome.

Above all, If you would like to be involved in keeping the Adams Heritage Centre at the heart of our community please contact us or leave a note in our post box.

Contact us via the Facebook page:
Adams Heritage Centre.



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Neighbourhood Watch AGM Speakers Sat 22/10/2016

Neighbourhood Watch isn't busybodies twitching net curtains - it's civic minded people keeping a watch out for the safe-keeping of their neighbours!

Littleport Neighbourhood Watch was represented at the County AGM back in October when Lyn and Cathy Gibb-de Swarte and Kathy Ingram attended.

Chair John Fuller welcomed all those attending at Police HQ Hinchbrook Park, Huntingdon.

Police Commissioner Jason Ablewhite gave us his overview – and interestingly told us that Cambridgeshire is considered a low crime region.

Mental Health is becoming a bigger issue and costing most money on the front line with up to 50 hours of police time per day spent supporting people with MH in custody.

Unfortunately he reported that incidences of reported Domestic Violence have rocketed.

Royal protection costs the force a lot because as he pointed out, we have Prince William in Cambridge and Her Majesty the Queen often visits Newmarket to see her horses.

Parkside Police station is the most expensive police premises in UK and only 25% of it is used. There are thoughts of combining Police and Fire premises to reduce costs and improve communication and efficiency.

Police services will focus highly on victims and witnesses in the future.

Volunteer groups such as Neighbourhood Watch, Speed Watch and Countryside Watch are essential and provide valued support to police services. Jason Ablewhite will appoint a full - time officer to oversee all of these voluntary organisations.

The use of tablets while on the beat allows police to save heaps of time.

Reporting of crime continues to be 101 with the addition of AVANTI code word

for NHW. This service is being improved all the time.



Chief Superintendent Vicki Skeels

Following him, Vicki Skeels, who is Chief Superintendent for the County Constabulary thanked us all for our NHW contribution.

The Chief Superintendent stated that the police force aims to be transparent and open in its operation.

She continued by saying that policing has changed a lot since she joined 28 years ago. It now attracts highly educated graduates, unlike in the 80's when new recruits walked the beat for 2 years.

Back then there was little need for body armour or technology. Pubs used to close at 11 and the active part of policing was fending off brawls as people jostled for a taxi home! Car crime was high and domestic abuse took place of course, but was poorly reported.

Armed robberies were common but police themselves were unarmed.

Traffic wardens who used to be attached to the police as civil staff, were kept busy with car towing schemes which were commonplace.

Now the police force has to deal with counter terrorism as a top priority.

Protecting vulnerable groups and focussing on averting risk takes up much of their time. There is a change in crime patterns – crime has reduced, but the demand on resources remains high

owing to safeguarding, sexual abuse cases and cybercrime. There is less car crime and bald tyres but more concern as to who is driving a car and who their passengers are, for instance if a car is stopped for a traffic violation and a 24-year-old male is seen to have two 15-year-old girls in the back...

Cybercrime is so big that officers are needing to be updated on digital policing methods. Fortunately, there are some IT graduates who may be earmarked for more tech policing jobs.

Out of 45,000 calls per year, approximately 7% is domestic abuse, 5% drink related and about 4-5% vulnerable adult/child situations.

There is a high level of forensic input, for example number plate recognition.

If there is a demonstration/protest due, the ethos is 'no surprises' so police will approach the group to intervene before any chance of escalation.

CCTV helps to provide evidence.

PPE has improved to include body armour, batons, and firearms.

Intelligence led policing helps to spot



patterns of crime, for example tracking newly released prisoners.

Financial pressures have led to more collaborative work – police helicopters and dog training takes place with other forces. Police careers appear to be shorter resulting in a transient police force apart from PCSOs who appear to be staying longer.

Future expectations of the Police Force remain unchanged emphasising sensitivity, integrity and respect with collaboration with, and from, the public.

The Chief Superintendent highlighted the new challenges in our neighbourhoods include people trafficking, cybercrime, sexual abuse and terrorism and extremism.

Neighbourhood policing is now focussed on vulnerable groups such as those with mental health issues, the elderly, children, homelessness and engagement with youngsters. Building trust with the local community allows people to develop confidence in the police force and there is evidence with marginalised groups that such encounters help this relationship.

There are 150 PCSOs – a strong investment to continue. Also three mental health experts are aiding the provision for this vulnerable group at times of crisis. Collaboration with ambulance service is aiding the smooth handling of such situations.

Rebecca Tinsley is Cybercrime Security Advisor with the Cambs Constabulary, and gave a talk that covered a lot of ground.

Cyber dependent crimes are those



Rebecca Tinsley discusses Cyber Crime

involving the internet to commit the crime, e.g. fake emails posing as your bank.

Cyber enabled crime can include drug dealing online.

Public Wi-Fi – do not use public Wi-Fi. Pineapple operates as a pretend local Wi-Fi and steals your passwords etc. as you use your computer.

There are 3.4million types of connective devices in the world!

There were 6 million cybercrimes dealt with by Cambridgeshire Constabulary in the last year. You are more likely to be targeted online than offline.

80% cybercrime is preventable by updating anti-virus software and regular software updates, strong passwords and backing up data.

Call Action Fraud for such crimes on 03001232040

After these presentations, the 2016 AGM took place.

We could do with more Neighbourhood Watches around Littleport. If you find all this interesting and are interested email editor@littleportlife.co.uk and your enquiry will be dealt with asap!

The Littleport Branch of the Royal British Legion



The Royal British Legion is the UK's leading Armed Forces charity and one of its largest membership organisations.

Members get

together through the network of branches and clubs all over the country and overseas to participate in social, fundraising and welfare activities.

Littleport Branch committee meets on the third Thursday of the month, except January and February (no meeting), at 20.00 hours, at the Ex-Serviceman's Club, Pontois Hill, Littleport.

NB The Littleport Ex-Serviceman's Club is not a Royal British Legion Club and the Littleport Branch of the Royal British Legion is not involved with the running of the club.

Membership, of the Royal British Legion, is open to everyone. If you have an interest in the objectives of the Legion and want to help and support for those who have served and their families, come and join us. We welcome men and women of all ages, whether they have served in the Armed Forces or not.

Legion membership ensures that:

- Remembrance is kept alive and that the sacrifices our brave Service men and women have made are never

forgotten.

- The ex-Service community have a voice and that their concerns are brought to the public eye.

Becoming a member also provides the opportunity to get involved in a wide range of activities and events held locally, regionally and nationally throughout the year.

If you wish to contact us or to report any inaccuracies or omissions on this site, please email us.

About the Royal British Legion

We provide financial, social and emotional care and support to all members of the British Armed Forces - past and present and their families. The Legion is also the national Custodian of Remembrance and safeguards the Military Covenant between the nation and its Armed Forces and is best known for the annual Poppy Appeal and its emblem the red poppy.

Founded in 1921, the Legion is not just about those who fought in the two World Wars of the last century, but also about those involved in the many conflicts since 1945 and those still fighting for the freedom we enjoy today.

Visit www.britishlegion.org.uk for details of our national initiatives.

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Littleport Leisure Centre

Looking back at many New Years' Eves!



Since we opened in 1994, we have held a New Year's Eve party every year.

On two occasions we have held two events, one for families, and one for adults only.

During the life-span of this current Centre, approximately 6,000 people have partied in the new year somewhere within our building.

In 2,000 the Millennium celebration night had over 750 people partying until 4 am. It was a great evening organised by an efficient committee and a testament to the dedicated staff who mostly worked from 7pm until 6 am. While everyone was singing Auld Lang Syne, and watching the firework display, they tirelessly re-stocked the bars and washed the glasses, so customers were not kept waiting.

Other years saw a more modest affair with 180 to 220 people dancing the night away to the records played by the disco.

Due to popular demand, the DM Roadshow, hosted by Derek Timbers, played at many a New Year here, as have Elite11, Harbour Lights Roadshow, CD Roadshow and Shady Nights among others.

We also had our own in-house disco with David Murfitt hosting much fun and games for all to enjoy.

In the early years, we were frequented by many more families, so we arranged a supervised soft play and bouncy castle

room - and supervised football in the main sports hall. Parents happily danced and socialised safe in the knowledge that their children were being well looked after and enjoying themselves within a safe environment.



Fun at the Leisure Centre

We have tried parties with a buffet, party platters made to order or simply ordering food from the kitchen. Whatever choices we've offered, it has only pleased some of the people some of the time, and so this year for the first time ever, we are allowing guests to bring in their own feast/buffet/sarnies etc. I hope that people will bring a good selection, so I can go around, have a little chat with members and guests, and just maybe sample their wares!

This year as you know will be our last in this building. We have live music from that fantastic local music group the Off Beats as well as David Murfitt back on the decks for one last time.

Whatever you are doing on December 31st may I take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year 2017.

Andy Rutterford, Centre Manager



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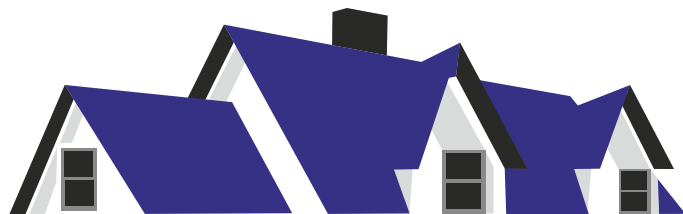
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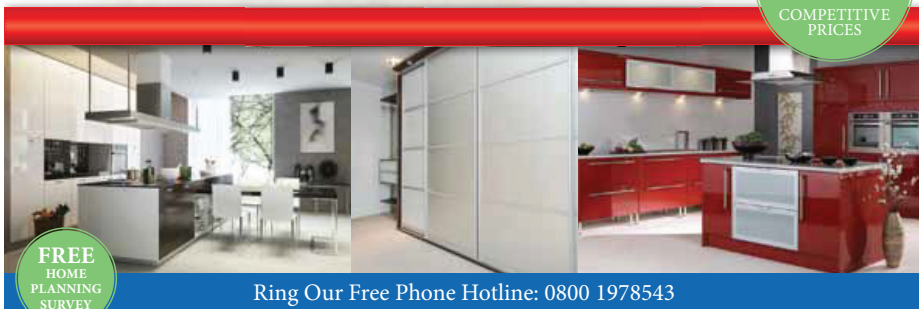
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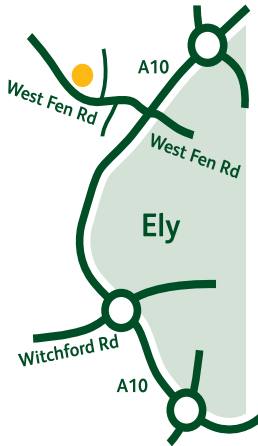
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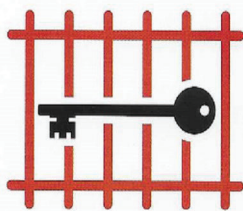
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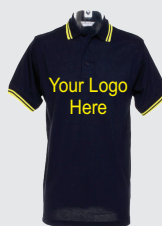


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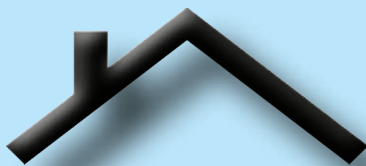
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Martin School

Reunion 50 years on

Linda Barker attended and reminisces

We held a school reunion on Saturday June 18 2016 at the Royal British Legion, Littleport. (The Ex-Servicemen's Club)

Having had a reunion for the class of '66 in 2001 we decided to this time extend the invite to other years either side of ours. There was a very good response and former pupils of the Martin School took great delight in meeting each other and meeting three of their teachers.

Mr Harrold Partridge who taught the boys woodwork, Mrs Penny Morton a form teacher who also took the girls for needlework and Mrs Jean Browning who was then Miss Wilson. Miss Wilson taught Rural Science and Physical Exercise/Games. Mr Partridge and his wife no longer live locally and their son kindly arranged for them to be there.

They didn't travel quite as far as one of the pupils, Anne Goodge now Mrs Porter. She had travelled with her husband Stuart from Pennsylvania, USA for the occasion. Both being Littleport born and bred and married in St John's Methodist Chapel Littleport, they celebrated by going to the service the day after the reunion which was also their 45th wedding anniversary. Anne a former pupil of class '66 had made that journey with her husband 15 years ago for the last reunion.



Fun with the raffle

An exhibition of photos was on display, the Littleport Society kindly lending their boards. In 1965 a panoramic photo was taken of the teachers and pupils and we managed to name almost everyone on it which gave great interest.

One friend said you didn't need music (which there wasn't) as the sound of endless talking was a joy to hear. There were approximately 130 pupils and partners at the event. So many memories and such a lot to catch up on.

However a few of us who were in the school





Happy reunion

choir did give a little rendition of “Men till the fields of Littleport”, a poem set to music by the late Catherine Browning wife of the late headmaster Robert Browning, which was sung by our school choir in the 60s.

The poem was written by Elizabeth Fleming, a lady from Scotland whose brother lived in Wellington Street, Littleport.

We also held a few minutes’ silence to think of our school friends who left this life far too soon, and also of our teachers who had passed away.

A small entry fee to cover the cost of the buffet and a raffle with over 50 donated prizes raised £300 for the Poppy Appeal. Janice (Taylor) Butcher, co-organiser, worked extremely hard providing the food and making a very special cake along with helping me to track everyone

down for the event. Susan (Powell) Wilson, Jane (Banyard) & Ben Fisher and Mel Butcher also helped to make the reunion such a successful night.

In conclusion Linda (Wilding) Barker tells us:

The Martin School was opened in 1956 and became Littleport Village College in 1972. In 1981 twenty pupils and staff walked the 23 miles to Shire Hall, Cambridge in protest at its closure. As a parent I was one of the eighty who went by coach and two petitions signed by Littleport residents, and parents of the 478 pupils, were handed in. Despite the protests secondary age pupils were transferred to Ely, and the Village College became a community primary school.

The school was later demolished and a new school for infants was built.





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Littleport Rotary Club — Update



Another highly successful Race Night —A Family Charity Social Evening, was held at the **Littleport Village Hall** on Friday 7th Oct **We raised £2000 for Rotary causes**

Littleport Rotary have been engaged in providing some **50,000** Crocuses which have been planted by Rotarians & school children in **Littleport and Little Downham**

Thousands of primary and secondary school pupils were planting the purple crocus bulbs in October as part of a project by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) to stamp out polio across the globe.

The [Grow Your Own Crocus](#) project was launched by the RIBI to help educate children about — a crippling disease that kills and paralyses young children. The purple crocus symbolises the purple dye that is painted on the fingers of children to show they have been immunised.





If you want to have a chat about becoming involved in Rotary, call
David Ambrose Smith on: 01353 861010

If you want to find out more about our Rotary Club. **Take a look at our web-**
site: www.littleportrotary.org.uk Paul Cox

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Looking Back at 2016 with the Women's Institute



Since the 2015 celebration of 100 years of the formation of WI, things have been a little quieter this year.

This has enabled one of our talented members to address the problems of the village sign. Miriam Farrell, along with a few other members, have been working hard and progressing with the renovation.

We have had some very interesting and entertaining speakers, including talks on West Stow Saxon Village, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, home delivery pre-cooked meals, and a talk with exercise demonstration by Poss-ability. There were demonstrations of how to make marzipan roses (some were not so rosy, but fun), Indian cooking with delicious samples, beauty treatment, a talk and demonstration of Tudor Costumes, and a quiz by Peter Allen.

At our 94th Birthday Party, we had an amusing talk about early school life and its little quirks, followed by a ploughman's supper and singing by Kathryn Buck.

Tuesday November 8th was our AGM, and a talk was given by farmer John Bedford.

We have enjoyed many visits to other WI's as well as outings run by one of our valuable committee members.

The craft afternoon held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Day Centre of the Village Hall have been very popular and productive.

The WI also support the Black Horse Drove Community by organising teams to go to their popular quiz evenings.

A full programme has been planned for 2017.

Dates for our next four meetings are 13th December 2016, 10th January, 14th February and 14th March 2017, in the Village Hall at 7.15 pm.



Littleport Fun Day 2016

This quarter's special winter recipe - Christmas Cookies

2 oz sugar
4 oz butter
½ tsp salt
1 lemon rind, grated
2 oz ground almonds
2 eggs, beaten
¼ pint milk
4 tsp baking powder
1 lb plain flour
1 tsp powdered ginger
Icing to decorate if required

Method: Cream butter and sugar. Add remainder of ingredients and mix well together. Turn out onto a floured board, knead and roll to ¼ inch thick, and cut out to desired shapes.

Place on a greased baking sheet. Put in the centre of a hot oven for 12 to 15 minutes. When cold, decorate with dribbled icing or cut out pastry patterns.

Iris Copsey



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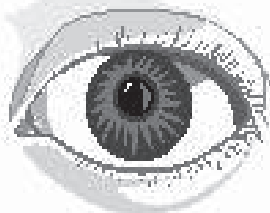
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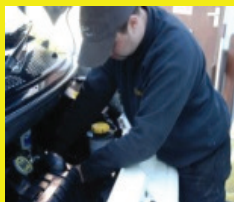


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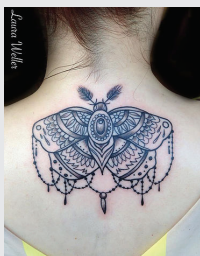
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Proprietor Beynur, a superb innovative tattooist himself, happened to spot Laura's artwork on Facebook, and immediately offered her an apprenticeship. She attributes her success to the Studio itself, thanking her colleagues for always encouraging and pushing her in a job that "is not just work, but a passion which has now become my life," Laura told Littleport Life.

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Presentation of money raised by Crowning Around to East Anglian Air Ambulance and PULSE - defibrillators for Littleport Medical Centre



The Crowning Around event 2016

Kaitlin Duffern promoted a big event, the Littleport Christmas Fair, at the Leisure Centre in November supported by many local businesses, trades-people and private individuals with a super raffle to raise money for gifts to those children in hospital.

They are looking forward to rising to every occasion again in 2017 when there will be another Crowning Around, as well as all the other activities they enjoy associated with their love of all things motorbike.



Mark Robinson collecting on 'the door' all proceeds to charity

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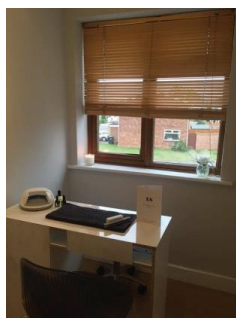
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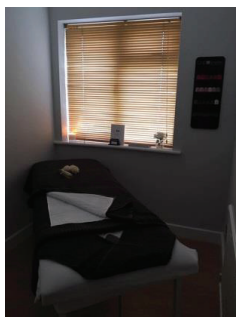
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We have regular social activities and our Timebank is a great way of getting to know people in the community, make friends and share your passion or skill. Join Littleport Timebank and discover how much satisfaction, fun and joy Timebanking can bring.

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Community Spirit in Littleport!

ThePort youth group celebrated its 1st year of providing a wonderful service to the youth of Littleport last August! Almost 800 people turned out to support the day, a £1000 plus fund-raiser for ThePort organised by Joanne Coe. They continue to meet regularly every week to give youngsters some old-fashioned sociable fun.



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We have had a couple of ideas as to what the Performing Arts Centre could be used for: Children's Cinema Nights/Computer Games Night.

We would welcome your ideas but these will need to be supported by volunteers to run it. Please let us know what ideas/suggestions you have.

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What's on in Littleport

LITTLEPORT LEISURE CENTRE EVENTS

EVENTS LISTED FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

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04/12	SUN	EABCC DOG SHOW (INDOORS)	ALL DAY
04/12	SUN	ROAST CARVERY	12.30pm to 2.00pm
11/12	SUN	ROAST CARVERY	12.30pm to 2.00pm
16/12	FRI	TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER TOURNAMENT	7.30pm
16/12	FRI	CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHT	7.30pm
18/12	SUN	CHRISTMAS RAFFLE	2.00pm
18/12	SUN	ROAST CARVERY	12.30pm to 2.00pm
18/12	SUN	AFTERNOON OF WRESTLING IN AID OF LITTLE MIRACLES	2.00pm
18/12	SUN	QUIZ NIGHT IN AID OF LITTLEPORT LEISURE FUN DAY	7.00pm
20/12	TUE	PANTOMIME - CINDERELLA	TBC
21/12	WEDS	CHRISTMAS BINGO	7.00pm
23/12	FRI	TEA WITH SANTA AND DISCO AND GAMES	3.30pm to 7.00pm
28/12	WEDS	CHRISTMAS TEXAS HOLD 'EM TOURNAMENT	TBC
30/12	FRI	CHRISTMAS SPORTS TEAM CHALLENGE	12.00pm
31/12	SAT	NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY - WITH THE OFF BEATS	8.00pm to 2.00am
08/01	SUN	EACA DOG SHOW (INDOORS)	ALL DAY
08/01	SUN	ROAST CARVERY	12.30pm to 2.00pm
15/01	SUN	OLD ENGLISH SHEEPDOG SHOW (INDOORS)	ALL DAY
22/01	SUN	ROAST CARVERY	12.30pm to 2.00pm
12/02	SUN	ROAST CARVERY	12.30pm to 2.00pm
26/02	SUN	ROAST CARVERY	12.30pm to 2.00pm

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE EVENTS PLEASE CALL RECEPTION ON 01353 860600 AS THEY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION CHECK THE LEISURE CENTRE'S FACEBOOK PAGE

THE PLOUGH & HARROW PUB EVENTS			
DECEMBER			
03/12	SAT	RICH YOUNG	9.00pm
10/12	SAT	ROCKNAUTS OR MEMPHIS UNDERGROUND	9.00pm
14/12	WED	QUIZ NIGHT	9.00pm
17/12	SAT	MAN ALIVE	9.00pm
19/12	MON	POOL COMPETITION	7.30pm
24/12	SAT	JACEN UNPLUGGED & LANA	9.00pm
31/12	SAT	NEW YEAR'S EVE DISCO	9.00pm
JANUARY			
21/01	SAT	GRAHAM BUXTON	9.00pm
28/01	SAT	BEERBELLIES	9.00pm
FEBRUARY			
04/02	SAT	ELVIS TRIBUTE ACT	9.00pm
25/02	SAT	THE OFF BEATS	9.00pm
THE CROWN INN EVENTS			
DECEMBER			
03/12	SAT	BIG CHEESE	8.30pm to LATE
10/12	SAT	THE SPREE	9.00pm to LATE
17/12	SAT	MEADOW LANE	8.00pm to 11pm
31/12	SAT	DISCO	7.30pm to LATE
JANUARY			
SEE THE CROWN INN FACEBOOK PAGE FOR DETAILS			
FEBRUARY			
04/02	SAT	GREG	8.30pm to LATE
07/02	TUE	QUIZ NIGHT	7.00pm
11/02	SAT	MARK JOSFE	8.30pm to LATE
18/02	SAT	ZIGGY	8.30pm to LATE
25/02	SAT	RENDITION (ALSO CELEBRATING THE LANDLORD ROB'S BIRTHDAY)	8.30pm to LATE
26/02	SUN	CARL CHAPMAN	3.00pm to 7.00pm

THE SHIP INN, BRANDON CREEK EVENTS			
02/12	FRI	LIVE 'MAT IN THE HAT' PHIL CRAWFORD	8.00pm to LATE
23/12	FRI	LIVE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL, THE BAREFOOT DOCTORS	8.30pm to LATE
THE SWAN ON THE RIVER EVENTS			
31/12	SAT	NEW YEAR'S EVE DISCO & BUFFET TICKETS £20 ADULT, £10 CHILD	8.00pm to 1am
WI DATES			
13/12	TUE	VILLAGE HALL (see page 70)	7.15pm
EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB EVENTS			
DECEMBER			
03/12	SAT	PRIVATE PARTY	
10/12	SAT	ROCKING REVIVAL	8.45pm
17/12	SAT	THE SQUATTERS	8.45pm
18/12	SUN	XMAS KIDS PARTY	4.00pm to 6.30pm
23/12	FRI	PETE MORLEY CHARITY DARTS	
24/12	SAT	CHRISTMAS EVE DISCO	8.45pm
31/12	SAT	NEW YEAR'S EVE GO JOHNNY GO	8.45pm
JANUARY			
07/01	SAT	ELVIS PRESLEY TRIBUTE GIG (ANDY COULSON)	8.845pm
28/01	SAT	(MOTOWN) DISCO	8.00pm
FEBRUARY			
11/02	SAT	VALENTINE DINNER & DANCE (TICKETS PRICED £10.00)	8.00pm
THE FLOWER CLUB EVENTS			
Littleport & District Flower Club - 7.30pm Village Hall - <i>Second Friday of the month</i>			
09 December Christmas Practical Evening			
No meeting in January			

MEDICAL CENTRE:

Contact Details, Opening Hours and Clinics

St George's Medical Centre is located at Parsons Lane, Littleport, CB6 1JU

The Surgery telephone number is 01353 864100

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

Monday to Friday 8.00am – 12.30pm 1.15pm – 6pm

Saturday & Sunday CLOSED

For medical emergencies outside of normal surgery hours, call 999, or the surgery number 01353 864100 to be put through to the out of hours service.

USEFUL CONTACTS



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



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