

Your Community Magazine

Welcome

↑ / elcome to your Spring edition of Littleport Life.

There is always lots going on in Littleport, and every season has its fair share of activities. Littleport Life is here to focus on as many of these as possible in its pages, albeit constrained by considerations of space. And this Spring as always there are many village based clubs and organisations that are holding events, both regular and as one-offs, and some of these appear in the 'What's On' pages at the back of your magazine.

Neither can we overlook the churches and their input into village life. St George's heads the religious section of your magazine as befits the parish church, and the long established Methodist church, as well as more recent congregations of other denominations, are also represented.

The old established Women's Institute is thriving, and you can read about their activities along with the Flower Club, and newer groups like YANA, the You Are Not Alone project and Timebank are to be found featured in your current issue of Littleport Life. Then of course there's news from the Littleport Rotary club furnished by their dedicated officers and other altruistic groups such as First Responders, Neighbourhood Watch and Littleport Lions.

Littleport is a hotbed of talent and entrepreneurship as a glance at those advertising their businesses in Littleport Life demonstrates. Everything you need can be sourced in your home village, from home improvements, roof, interiors and exteriors, to services from head to foot, Hairdressing to chiropody! Littleport Life is turning the spotlight on a couple of those, and please bear in mind the space available governs how many advertisers we can feature.

In fact, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our advertisers whose financial support in placing their ads with us ensures that Littleport Life is printed, and all the willing volunteers who thereafter ensure that your magazine is distributed around the village.



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		Width	Height
Full Page	Portrait	122.6	184.6
Half Page	Landscape	122.6	90.0
Half Page	Portrait	59.2	184.5
Quarter Page	Landscape	122.6	43.0
Quarter Page	Portrait	59.2	90.0

Advertising Rates

Book 1 issue; Quarter page, £27 Half page, £46 Full page, £83 Book 4 issues; Quarter page, £94 Half page, £164, Full page, £292



Littleport Independent Food Bank is open between Tuesday's and Friday's between 10am - 12 noon at St. George's Church Littleport.

Vouchers can be obtained from the Littleport Primary Schools, St. George's Medical Centre, Vine Fellowship, YANA and St. George's Church.

If you have any gueries please come and see us at the Church or contact Susan Green or Elaine Law on Facebook, alternatively ring 07933190856



LITTLEPORT & DISTRICT FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CLUB

Two years ago this March the Club was on the verge of closing but with a lot of hard work from a new Committee and the enthusiasm of the existing Members at the time, we have managed to come forward to 2017 with a healthy Club and a lot of hope for the coming year with the promise of new members joining us in March for the beginning of the 2017/18 programme. This is a very good sign especially as we will be celebrating our 55th Anniversary in September, so we as a Club are looking forward to the celebrations of this momentous occasion.

So many Clubs are having to close because of lack of interest in people coming forward to be on the Committee so we are very lucky to have got this far. 2016 year was a very successful one with wonderful Demonstrators, two of which were new to the NAFAS Area and both proved very entertaining and successful in all of their designs, we had many old friends back to demonstrate as well, and our November Open Evening with National Demonstrator Nick Grounds proved a great success, especially as we did not have an Open Evening in 2015, but a lot of old friends came back to us in 2016. There were over 90 people in the Village Hall to watch and

enjoy the craft and entertainment provided by Nick. The Members put on a really first class buffet and a good evening was had by all.

In December we always have a practical evening where our members are able to come along and create their own interpretations of designs provided by the Club Committee; this year we had 20 Members turn out for this and a really happy evening was had by all with everyone going away happy with what they had done. Two non-members also asked to come along and they will be joining the Club in March.

At our AGM in February there will be 35 members present to firstly enjoy a meal and then participate in the formal proceedings. From this we hope to move forward to a further year of friendship, wonderful demonstrations and hopefully new members. As always we will be looking for people to come forward to sit on the Committee as without these the Club would not be able to go forward.

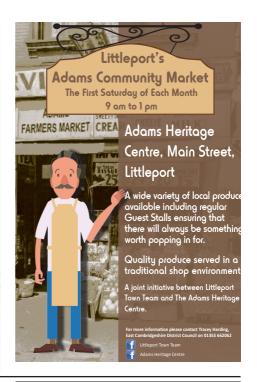
To all the Members we have we thank you for your support over the past two years and look forward to your continued support.

To anyone wishing to come along to either join or visit the Club we meet in Littleport Village Hall on the 3rd Friday in the month, and our first meeting of the new year's programme will be on Friday 17th March 7pm for a 7.30pm start when our Demonstrator will be David Wright, an old friend of the Club who always gives a versatile demonstration of six designs, along with his cheerful chat. Visitors are welcome to come along for a charge of £5. We have coffee and biscuits at the end when all the designs are raffled.

For more information about the Club please contact Pam Hayes, Chairman on 01353 860102 or Pam Sole, Secretary on 01353 863421.

Pam Hayes

Chairman.Littleport & District Flower Arrangement Club.



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Neighbourhood Watch

Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Watch is about local people working together to create safer, attractive and friendly places to live, places where crime is less likely to happen and people are less likely to turn to anti-social behaviour.

There is no set Neighbourhood Watch Programme because each group is owned and run by its community. Every community has its own needs and Neighbourhood Watch groups are exceptionally well placed to meet them. After all, who knows what a community needs better than the people who live in it?

Neighbourhood Watch schemes can vary in size from a few houses to a large estate. They are generally led by a volunteer coordinator from the local area/community who takes on the role of linking the community to the police. By being more aware of local issues, sharing information and advice, local residents are able to develop closer links while reassuring and supporting vulnerable households.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch Working Together

Anyone can reach the police quickly and easily in an emergency by dialing 999, or in a non-emergency on 101. So why have Neighbourhood Watch to liaise with them? The simple answer is that it helps you and your neighbours give your local police a much clearer sense of your current and emergent needs

and local issues. Neighbourhood Watch group members know their communities well and can develop an even deeper knowledge by talking to their neighbours and finding out what matters to them. Police and other organisations can then take action based on this knowledge.

The police do not run Neighbourhood Watch schemes, but are glad to get input and clear guidance on local needs from them. Watch members are active citizens who want to help their communities. The police need the support of active citizens to help prevent anti-social behaviour and, if it has occurred, to bring those responsible to account.

If you're interested in getting involved with a Neighbourhood Watch, the first thing to do is check whether there's a group in your area already. You can do this by checking the national Neighbourhood and Home Watch website www.ourwatch.org.uk or contacting your area NHW representative by posting a request on the county website www.cambsnhw.org.uk.

Alternatively contact your Local Policing Team via www.eCops.org.uk or the local policing pages. Kevin Evans, East Cambs secretary is always willing to help with any questions that you may have and to assist you setting up a new scheme kevin.g.evans@ntlworld.com

The PORT



The PORT opening hours are-

ThePort Youth Café

Monday 4 to 5.30pm Primary school yr 5/6

The Port

Thursday 5.30 to 7pm College vr 7+

Based at Littleport Leisure Centre Entry just £1 Find us on Facebook: ThePORT 07988477255 - Joanne Coe

The PORT currently has 164 registered members which is fantastic!

Each week a variety of games are on offer such as Table Tennis, Table Football, Air Hockey & Pool. We also have an Xbox One.

Music is always available along with Wifi.

Hot Food and a fully stocked Tuck shop offer a variety of goodies.

Our dedicated staff provide a structured but relaxed environment for youths wishing to socialise with friends. The PORT is a much needed Group within our Community our youths are more than happy to support other groups - We currently support Littleport Time Bank, The Food Bank and have supported Yana over the last few months.

Youths also deliver Littleport Life Magazine to over 600 residents.

Cricket in Littleport - Update

Nik Marsh is captain of Littleport Cricket Club and is happy to share some information about what it's like to be a part of this sporting tradition here in Littleport. And he tells us, "After a slow start, losing the first 8 games of last season, Littleport came back to win the last nine on the bounce beating all of the three teams that got promoted from division one!

We are looking to continue this year where we left off from last season. We are due to start the first week in May.

Pre-season nets began in February.

The club is always looking to recruit new players from any age group or ability. Everybody is welcome.



Bowler of the Year Jinna South

There's plenty for youngsters to learn, including how to prepare a cricket wicket and outfield, plus plenty of training sessions.

We are more like a family than a team and our ages range from 16 to 60 within the club."



Norman South presents Nik Marsh with Club Man of the Year

And finally he says, "For any information please contact myself, Nik Marsh, Ish Arora (club secretary) or Chris Darnell (club chair)

We expect to have a good year following on from previous others. In the past five years, we have won two league titles, a cup competition, two cup finals and won promotion three times." A fine record indeed. We all wish the club good luck for the coming season.



Chair, Chris Darnell & Captain Nik Marsh

Littleport Leisure Centre They also Served



As I have mentioned in some of my previous articles. I have been associated with the Leisure Centre since 1989, when as Secretary of Littleport Town Football Club I wrote to the Parish Council asking for a new sports pitch for the football and cricket club, as the owners of Highfield were not allowing us to renew our lease on the old Highfield sports field. Since those early days when under the Chairmanship of Grenville Goodson, a working Committee was formed to look into the feasibility of not just a sports field, but a fully equipped Sports & Leisure Centre, there have been many people who have given their time and expertise to the Leisure Centre and I would like to reflect upon some of these people and what they did.



Grenville Goodson at the Littleport Society Open Day, 2013

The First Chairman was Grenville Goodson, who chaired the first meetings and helped form several working subcommittees, Grenville was followed by Andy Wright, who was the driving force behind what we have now. Andy spent numerous hours with Council Committees

and with Council Officers putting together a proposal for the funding for this building and fields. Andy was supported by what was then called "The Gang of Four" which was Andy, John Crane, Jane Binks and Mick Willett. These four were the decisions makers, so that changes were not held-up by waiting for the next Committee meeting, all major decisions were presented to the Committee for their views, but the "Gang of Four" had the authorisation to implement changes that needed a quick answer.

This Gang of Four were well supported by a string of Committee members. who all played a big part in helping to implement the decisions which resulted in what we have now. Many of you will remember Dennis Thurling; Dennis was the Committee Treasurer and unless we could have secured the services of the Governor of the Bank of England, we could not have had a better money man. Dennis looked after every penny and ensured that correct records were kept for anyone to inspect. We also had the services of Ron Bamber or as some referred to him as Tannov Mouth. Ron was the public voice of the leisure centre, he would broadcast all updates on the project at every opportunity mostly on his hand-held tannoy or at any venue that had a microphone.

I cannot list all the Committee members, but I must mention one last member of the original Committee and that is Norman South. Norman (now in his eighties) was and still is one of Littleport's most famous sporting son's. Norman played County level football, cricket, table-tennis and badminton, and apart from supporting Charlton Athletic, Norman's views on sport are well respected.



Norman South carrying the torch, 2013

Norman was responsible along with a couple of other people for the range of sporting activities and facilities which we have in this current building. I for one hope that Norman will enjoy the new centre and continue to support it.

Following Andy Wright as Chairman came one of the most respected men in Cambridgeshire football, and that was Mick North, I was lucky to have known Mick for many years as a football referee and County Competition Secretary with the County FA. Mick loved the leisure centre and he would drop down and have a little chat with me and other members of staff nearly every day.

Mick was a great motivator and he would make everyone feel at home within the centre. He would listen to everyone's views and suggestions and he liked nothing better than to give one of the Duty Managers a night off so that he could be the Duty Manager and form a closer relationship with members. Unfortunately Mick's reign as Chairman

was tragically cut short when he died in a car accident on Christmas Eve 1999.

Following Mick's death, Brian Hayes, who was a serving committee member was asked to take over the reins. Brian was a very meticulous person who was on numerous committees within the district and whilst not a sporting person, Brian put a great deal of his time and efforts in securing the funding required to upgrade our smaller sports hall, making it a better venue for music and theatre.

It was also under Brian's leadership that the Fitness suite had its first major refit along with a dedicated sports manager.

When Brian stepped down in 2004 we then had a period of instability with several Chairmen stepping in and due to many personal reasons we were changing the Chair on a fairly regular basis, but every person who took the Chair, added something to the centre and their efforts have been much appreciated by staff and members.

During this period, there was one constant, and that was Committee Secretary, Elaine Ellis. Elaine first joined our Committee in 1997 as the representative for the Scouts and Guides, but Elaine through her dedication and loyalty to the centre has been supporting us for approx. 19 years, not only has Elaine been a very efficient secretary and minute taker, she has also helped out at busy social events, been Chief Marshall at the annual 10K run and it was Elaine who kept me company biking around the village in the pouring rain mapping out the route for this well received race. She has also been responsible for obtaining the Centre sponsorship from some local companies.

Andy Rutterford

The Rolll of Chairs

Grenville Goodson	1991-1992
Andy Wright	1992-1997
Mick North	1997-1999
Bryan Hayes	1999-2004
Gary Booth	2004-2006
Lee Matthews	2006-2008
Terry Thornhill	2008-2009
Deb Duffield	2009-2012
Daniel Rutterford	2011-2013
Brian Paddington (Vice)	2013-2014
Eluned Santos	2014-2015
David Ambrose Smith	2015- present



Current chairman David Ambrose Smith. Councillor Christine Ambrose Smith with MP Steve Barclar



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Where There's a NEED, There's a LION

Whenever a Lions club gets together, problems get smaller. And communities get better. That's because we help where help is needed – in our own communities and around the world – with unmatched integrity and energy.

The World's Largest Service Club Organisation

Our 46,000 clubs and 1.4+ million members make us the world's largest service club organisation. We're also one of the most effective. Our members do whatever is needed to help their local communities. Everywhere we work, we make friends. With children who need eyeglasses, with seniors who don't have enough to eat and with people we may never meet.

Where There's a NEED, There's a LION

When it comes to meeting challenges, our response is simple: We serve.

In over 200 countries, in hospitals and senior centres, in regions battered by natural disaster, in schools and eyeglass recycling centres, Lions are doing community volunteer work, helping, leading, planning and supporting. Because we're local, we can serve the unique needs of the communities we live in. And because we're global, we

can address challenges that go beyond borders.

We want everyone to see a better tomorrow.

That's why we support sight programmes and services including vision screenings, eye banks and eyeglass recycling. Provide eye care services to those at risk of losing their sight. And raise donations through campaigns like SightFirst and Campaign SightFirst II.

We believe everyone deserves a healthy life.

From providing Health Programmes that focus on hearing loss to supporting efforts to control and prevent diabetes, Lions volunteers are working to improve the health of children and adults around the world.

We empower the next generation.

Whether it's providing youth volunteer opportunities and leadership experiences in a Leo club or sharing a message of peace through our Peace Poster contest, our Youth programmes invest in the future by reaching out to young people.

We serve local communities – and protect the planet.

From performing hands-on community

work and service projects to providing emergency assistance, our community and environment programmes improve our communities – and protect the environment.

We are among the first to respond when disaster strikes.

Our Disaster Preparedness and Relief Programmes enable Lions to help local communities - and contribute to Lions relief efforts in other countries - in the event of a natural, man-made or healthcare emergency.

Now you know what we do, go and join a local Lions Club...

Taking a look back at the winter festivities as we look forward to spring!

Father Christmas came and made a special appearance at Littleport Lions Clubs Breakfast with Santa at The Almonry, Ely on 22nd, 23rd and 24th Dec.

Over 210 people came to the event and had a great time. After their breakfast Santa came and gave every child a present. Our photo shows some of the children with Santa.



For details of Littleport Lions club and the work they do in the community contact:

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

Facebook: Littleport Lions Club

Twitter: @Littleport Lions

Website:

www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/littleport



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ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

By the time you read this 2017 will be well under way, but please just think back to

New Year's Day. When I was a child I always found New Year's Day really flat; it was all over then and everything was back to normal Of course when I was a child I reasoned like a child and now I've grown up, hopefully things are different. In the ancient world including the world of the bible, the calendar was directly linked to your ruler – hence references to XYZ year of King ABC's rule so lots of separate calendars. There were celebrations heralding the New Year and almost certainly people expressed their hopes for what would be achieved. Today we have our New Year resolutions and new plans, holidays to book, perhaps this is the year we can do whatever it is we've been saving for. It is worth reflecting however that the end of 2016 was a very different looking world to the one we had begun with - how things change. And what will January 2018 look like? We'll have to see.

One of bible readings for New Year's Day was from the book of Numbers. The book charts the experiences of the children of Israel as they continue their journey with the Lord; how they get it right or not. Throughout however, the Lord never gives up on them and as scripture unfolds we see the Lord walking with his people time and time again. Even a potted biblical history tells us that whatever our

plans are and/or whatever happens, God wants and needs to be involved. That neatly demonstrates an inherent tension within Christianity. What we know and value is real because within all that is good, God has made himself known, but God calls us to explore the yet unknown as well. There is nothing new with the Lord; the question is how comfortable are we with the tension between staying put with the familiar and exploring yet more, both as individuals and together in our community?

Here in Littleport we have significant areas of hope for 2017. The Foodbank is now established through the various partner organisations; we are very grateful for the support the Foodbank has received which has been of real benefit to client users. The new high school opens in September and the shadow governing body is already making an impact. Wireless broadband has been beamed from St George's tower to Black Horse Drove and we hope to develop that this year. And Littleport Churches Together is meeting in new ways for prayer and praise to the God who walks with his people – watch out for the publicity. So as we progress through 2017 I hope we will recall that the Christ child grew up and that he did so to walk with us and us with him

With every blessing

Reverend Howard Robson

A View from the Methodist Manse

You might have guessed from my previous contributions that I like animals, nature and wildlife. When my sister and I were children, our parents bought a Ladybird book of Wild Birds to keep us occupied on long holiday walks in North Wales. Spotting birds and looking them up distracted us from aching legs and feet.

I have kept my interest in wild birds as an adult although it is difficult finding time to get out and about birdwatching in my current role. However, I do enjoy watching the birds that visit my garden to feed. This year I hope to take part for the first time in the Big Garden Birdwatch organised by the RSPB over the weekend of 28th-30th January. This involves recording the number and type of birds that come into your garden for a designated hour of your own choosing and submitting your findings online. Further information on this can be found on the RSPB website if you are interested.

All this reminded me of one of the most popular hymns remembered from childhood, once sung in school assemblies and Sunday school classes up and down the land. 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' was written by Cecil Frances Alexander an Irish Poet and author of many well known hymns. Married in 1850 to William Alexander, the Protestant Bishop of Derry, Cecil had four children and with the help of her family established a school for 'deaf and dumb' children (not a description that we would use today of course).

It is easy to understand why All Things Bright and Beautiful became such a childrens' favourite, as the words vividly describe the beauty and wonder of the natural world. Here's the first verse and refrain, just to remind you:

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

Each Little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings, He made their glowing colours, He made their tiny wings.

Thankfully, many hymn books dropped the most politically incorrect verse (by 21st century standards) a long time ago, referring to the 'Rich man in his castle, the Poor man at his gate'.

Now and then this hymn is chosen for a funeral service which sometimes seems to me an odd choice. Essentially it is all about life and the beauty of creation and perhaps sounds a bit too cheery for a funeral. But it is a hymn that certain generations feel at home with in worship and its joyous simplicity gives people a sense of being uplifted at a very sad time. The words give us permission to smile and be thankful for the beauty of nature, enabling us to count our blessings in times of loss and not just when everything is going well. When I am feeling fed up and frustrated, (Yes, it even happens to Ministers) something as simple as watching the birds and seeing their bright colours makes me smile and provides a welcome distraction from the challenges I may face.

Many Blessings to you all during 2017.

Reverend Joanne

The Vine Fellowship

On Conversion! By Terry Yaroslaw

At the age of 16, I began my apprenticeship as an electrical maintenance engineer at the AEC, where the famous Route Master London buses were made. Today they might be used for weddings or school proms. At 18, I became a Christian. It didn't take me long to realise that the language people used in the factory was very different to the language people used in church!

I was keen to share my faith with people I worked with. In the Bible, Jesus was happy to talk to fishermen and farmers using terms they would understand. Sometimes his opponents saida that Jesus mixed with the wrong sort of people. Would Jesus feel more at home talking in a factory or a church? I realised I had to use words for the factory rather than church words.

Eventually I became a minister and was determined to keep speaking

in terms people would understand. Back in the 1970's, all gas appliances had to be converted from town gas to North Sea Gas. So conversations in the village changed from discussions about the weather to 'have you been converted yet?' Christians describe the decision to follow Jesus as a conversion. That was the question I asked in a newsletter to the village: "Have you been converted yet?"

My conversion changed me from an anti-Christian, anti-church person to a believer in Jesus. As I read the Easter story in the Bible, I recognised my need to change. If you have a Bible somewhere in your house I would encourage you to see for yourself in one of the gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. Or talk to someone who you know who puts their faith into practice, who hopefully will describe it using language that makes sense to you today.

A Message from Littleport **Christian Spiritualists' Society**

We are pleased to say that our regular Thursday evening meetings - 7.30pm at the Village Hall are becoming even more popular with around 25 to 30 people attending every week.



Thursday spiritual night out in Littleport

We are Spiritualists, which means basically that we believe that not only is there life after death, but that it's provable through mediumship, communication between this world and the next, from those gone before and loved ones left here.

When we meet for such a demonstration of this, we do so in a religious context, not that of a television studio or theatre. Not that good mediumship is to be decried, wherever it takes place, or the mediums denigrated who take our message of that universal life after death out to the general public. But ours in Littleport is specifically conducted within the framework of our religion.

How is this expressed? Our meetings in Littleport consist of an opening prayer,

an address from the minister, and a demonstration of mediumship followed by a closing prayer. In America, where Spiritualism began, this is the service format they call a 'message service'. Messages are relayed to members of the congregation through the visiting medium, from people they can identify as known to them from the personal details and shared memories given.



Rev Nick Brown introduces medium Gavin Smallev

Like every religion in the world, Spiritualism has its different groupings. They all agree on a set of principles given by the medium and teacher considered the Mother of Spiritualism in this country, Emma Hardinge Britten. The philosophy of our religion is based on these principles, but with a particular difference for congregants of the New Christian Spiritualists' Society. We state that there is 'liberty of interpretation' and that 'we follow the teaching and example of Jesus who is our Lord and Saviour'.

There are many churches around the country and overseas that operate under the umbrella of the New Christian Spiritualists' Society, some with their own buildings, and some like Littleport in community halls. The choice of service format is theirs as we have no rules and regulations as behoves a liberal Christian attitude.

Over and above everything else, we try and live out the two commandments that Jesus offered his followers that stands good for all time. To love the Lord thy God with all thy soul, with all thy heart, and with all thy mind. And to love one another.

The established churches will not accept us because we do not accept the article

of faith that they require their adherents to sign up for. It strikes at the root of our understanding, that we, being members of the Human Race, are all spirits in a physical body who come from the spirit, and return to spirit as spirit individuals after we shed our physical body. We therefore can't agree that the only way to get eternal life is to be a Christian.

If you would like to come to a meeting you would be welcome. For lots more information you can find us on Facebook Greater Littleport And District New Spiritualists' Society, and the NCSS itself has a website, www. newchristianspiritualistssociety.com



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Need a venue? Go to Littleport Library

Littleport Library has been a part of the community for many years, and offers great services from free internet to photocopying.

The library is also the meeting place for several of the local clubs. The Littleport Digital Camera club and the Family Lego Club meet at the library every month. Last year also saw many fantastic events that were enjoyed by many of our residents. The adults enjoyed the ever popular Opera Dudes and Casting the Runes while the children of Littleport enjoyed Roald Dahl's birthday party and screenings of Frozen.



The success of these events shows that the Library is a fantastic venue. The great news is that the Library can be hired out for events. For more information simply pop in and have a chat with the librarians.

St John's Methodist Church



High Street, Littleport

Sunday Services: 10.45am – weekly

5pm - Café Church on first Sunday of each month 6.30pm – on the 2nd & 3rd Sundays of each month

4th (& 5th) Sundays, at St George's

Café Church:- a more informal service for all ages, lasting about 1 hour & including afternoon tea (5th March, 2nd April & 7th May).

Flower & Friendship Club: 7pm on last Monday of month

Coffee Mornings: 10-12noon on the first Saturday of each month

(4th March, 1st April & 6th May).

Minister: Rev. Joanne Sherwood (01353 662426)

- Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals by arrangement

http://www.elyandnewmarketmethodists.org.uk/littleport

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

Pies, Pints and Puddings – the 3 P's come to The Ship Inn, Brandon Creek

The Ship Inn at Brandon Creek has been successfully run by Father & Son hosts, Keith and Mark Thomas for nearly 5 years, serving their numerous Great & Little Ouse river customers and those residents from the main A10 corridor between Ely and Kings Lynn. They have now decided it is time for a renewed focus and a change of direction with their menus. They have achieved acclaim 2 years running as national runners-up in the "Free From" eating out awards. Keith, as a diagnosed Coeliac, has always insisted that the whole menu was available Gluten Free and now there are regular customers from all over East Anglia coming to eat with the confidence they can safely eat the full menu range, which is made with non-gluten containing ingredients.

From 7th March 2017 however the Chefs will be concentrating on producing a wide range of freshly baked, individual, Homemade PIES, served with vegetables and chips, mash or new potatoes. There will be an extensive, though unpredictable, variety of pies daily, dependent amongst other things upon available local fresh ingredients, the Chefs own ingenuity and of course ultimately, what the customers have not already chosen from any particular days baking - "so get there early to avoid disappointment". You can expect a 22 | Littleport Life Magazine

variety of (around 10) meat, fish, vegetarian and exotic & seasonal, freshly cooked pies every day.

If pies are not your style, then there will still be a limited choice of other favourites such as Fish & Chips and on Sundays - a traditional Roast with all the trimmings and of course our children's choices. Importantly – everything will continue to be made using Non-Gluten Containing Ingredients, so that the many valued customers looking to eat Gluten Free, will not be disappointed. In fact surely they will be excited to have access to Gluten Free pies. All other allergens can be catered for with minimal advance notice.

You know the saying. "If something's worth doing, it's worth doing properly".

A pie is definitely worth doing properly. Don't forget to book – especially at weekends – 01353676228.

Those river users amongst you, may or may not be aware that our Little Ouse riverbank was completely re-built by the Environment Agency Contractors last summer, so we now have 150m of pristine free moorings along the bank. With ample car parking as well, you will always be made to feel very welcome at The Ship with its selection of Pies, Real Ales and Puddings!!



THE SHIP INN, BRANDON CREEK, PE380PP -01353676228



Our work in schools



Teaching fire safety in schools

We provide free fire safety education to children in primary and secondary schools within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Our fire crews, community fire safety officers and community champions carry out interactive educational workshops in schools and at fire stations, reaching out to thousands of Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 children every year.

Operational staff use their training, experience and expertise to deliver fire safety messages in a sensitive and reassuring way to ensure children understand the importance of home fire safety without becoming unduly worried about a fire happening in their home.

The workshops are also carefully managed to reduce the risk of their natural curiosity about fire developing into an interest in deliberately lighting fires.

The skills and knowledge gained during the free educational workshops can be used by young people throughout their lives and into adulthood.

They are encouraged to share these important messages with their friends and families, helping to make them safer from fire in the home too.

School events providing interactive learning for children and young people

Our staff deliver fire safety workshops that teach young people about preventing, detecting and escaping safely from fire in the home.

Each primary school workshop lasts approximately 60 minutes and pupils work in small groups to complete a variety of activities with a focus on audience participation.

In some areas, schools participate in a Safety Zone programme which will see

Year 5 and 6 pupils visit a fire station to take part in a range of interactive workshops run by the fire service and partner agencies, all focused on staying safe.

The education for secondary school children can be delivered either at an assembly or in a classroom; the duration can be adapted to suit the requirements of the school. The topics include the consequences of arson and a specific education scheme is run around water. safety.

Before the visit schools are contacted to confirm arrangements and explain, in further detail, how the workshop will operate.

Consideration is given to any additional special needs requirements to ensure the workshop can be adapted to allow every pupil to fully participate in learning.

Fire safety at home

Although our aim is to make children 'fire safe' by teaching them about the dangers of fire and smoke, responsibility for making their home safer is very much placed with parents and guardians.

This approach is especially important for younger children who could easily become overwhelmed or anxious if left feeling they are solely responsible for keeping everyone safe.

It also means that they do not put themselves at risk by trying to deal with fire hazards themselves. Make sure your family has a fire escape plan and knows it should a fire occur in your home.



Littleport Community First Responders

Were you aware that there are people in the village who may turn up to help you should you call for an ambulance? We are known as Community First Responders or CFR's.

KEEP
CALM
IM A
FIRST
RESPONDER

What are Community First Responders?

We are people who all have an interest in caring and supporting those of you that are experiencing medical emergencies that require an ambulance crew to assess you.

From the recent news reports you will be aware of the increasing workload of the Ambulance Trust so we are here to help with certain emergency treatments to support you until they arrive.

CFR's originally were brought together in order to provide CPR and defibrillation to those people who were reported to have suffered a cardiac arrest but our remit has gradually extended to include anyone who may have chest pains, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties, suspected strokes (CVA/TIA) or fitting but even this list is the shortened version.

All CFR's are fully vetted by the Ambulance Trust. We all have DBS checks and are cleared by Occupational Health. The original training lasts 3 days and has assessments that have to be passed before we can start responding. We then do a shift with an Ambulance crew to see how they work and experience the reality before we really get going! Then finally we 'buddy' with an experienced CFR for a few shifts before being 'out there' on our own.

Even then, that's not the end of it! There are training evenings every month of which six a year have to be attended. We all have to go through reassessment every year, which is based around scenarios and then every three years we do a complete reassessment including written papers.

Not only are we here to help but we also raise funds for our group. All our equipment and uniforms are paid for through fund raising.

The group has actually been up and running for about ten years. Originally there were three Responders but they gradually reduced to one who has been working alone for about four years but we are so pleased to now have four in the team and the ability to raise our profile once more.

We would always welcome anyone who is interested in joining us. The more cover we can provide to the residents of Littleport, the better!

Donation from DA Construction!

We recently received a donation from D A Construction and Joinery in Littleport which covered the cost of an essential piece of equipment that we have been without for a couple of years now, so we are extremely grateful to Alan and his team and are looking forward to meeting up with them when it arrives to express our gratitude.

Any assistance anyone can offer with fund raising, again, please let us know. We are currently looking to raise funds for uniform - tops, trousers and fleeces and an updated defibrillator.

Invite us to talk

We plan to attend as many community events as we can so you can get used to seeing us, so please feel free to invite us. We are keen to promote CPR awareness and are willing to come and teach or present to those of you that are interested. We have a Facebook page (please have a look and give us a 'like') and we are also members of the Littleport Notice Board so can pick up messages from there too. Please think of us when planning any awareness events as we would love to come along and either teach or give a talk about what we do or what we offer as Responders.

We also work very closely with the Ely Responders so there is occasionally some 'cross border' working so please look out for them.

Should you call for an Ambulance and a responder appears on your doorstep, please welcome them, they are here to help. They will be wearing a high visibility vest jacket and be carrying East of England Ambulance Trust photographic Identification which you should inspect before allowing them entry to your house. They will also be carrying very distinctive Ambulance kit bags.



There are currently four responders who provide cover for as many hours as possible despite their own busy schedules.

Introducing ourselves to you.

Barbara Knott - CFR, Littleport Group Cambridgeshire Co-ordinator. South group trainer and Cambridgeshire representative on the Volunteer Advisory Forum.

Sounds a mouthful but I have been a volunteer in the village for eight years and took on the role of Co-ordinator seven years ago.

By day I'm a Resuscitation Officer at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn. I have been a nurse for 33 years and have been working with the Ambulance Trust in both a teaching and responding role for many years. I previously responded for my Community when working and living in Kent.

I have lived in the village for almost nine years after relocating from Kent so my husband could work as a Paramedic based out of Ely.

We are both passionate about providing good patient care so we both work closely with the Responders and support their training running the monthly sessions in Soham for Littleport, Ely, Soham, Witchford, Wicken and Cottenham to name just some of the other groups within what is known as the 'Ely Cluster'.

Ryan Hart - CFR

I have been responding for around six months now and also respond for the busy Further Education College in Cambridge where I work.

Being a responder has shown me just how important it is to be there to help within the first few minutes of a '999' call, whether it be as simple as reassurance or by providing oxygen for chest pains or breathing issues. Working with the Responders has been amazing and it's very reassuring knowing that there are others out there who are as likeminded as myself.

Lesley Marsh

I'm a carer and also work for a pharmacy. I haven't been a CFR for very long although I have been interested for a long time. I became 'active' just after Christmas and have been doing some 'buddy' shifts with Ryan.

I like helping people when they aren't at their best, which sounds a bit strange but I like to feel I can be a calming, reassuring presence when someone is feeling particularly anxious, stressed or vulnerable when unwell. I look forward

to helping and meeting people in the local area not just when unwell but at awareness and fund raising events.

Richard Grosvenor

I moved to Littleport almost 1 year ago with my partner and baby daughter. I'm a big supporter of the CFR scheme and wanted to get involved to give something back to the community in which I and my family live. I have been involved in first aid since the age of 12. I have also served with the Royal Air Force and the Territorial Army.

I have a caring nature and like to help others.

You won't have actually seen me in a responder role as yet as I only qualified just after Christmas and am waiting to do my initial Ambulance shift, but I look forward to getting out there as soon as possible.

Richard is the person behind our Facebook page and has recently been the point of contact with D A Construction and Joinery Ltd who donated the funds for our new piece of equipment.

So please, keep a look out for us around the village, and on your doorstep should you need help.





Active Learning



The Littleport and East Cambs Academy site continues to develop on a daily basis. Since our last site visit in early January, windows and internal walls have been fitted and numerous meetings behind the scenes have decided furniture choices, IT systems, staffing ratios and lots more.

The recruitment drive for the Academy has also been very successful with interest from nearly fifty candidates. The interviews for the positions will be in the next few weeks and, of course, The Active Learning Trust will be recruiting the very best teachers from the selection process.

The uniform has now been decided and the website where you can view it is: www.totalclothingshop.co.uk/leca. We are very happy with the final product and initial feedback from students and parents is very positive. The Trust will also be providing the blazer, tie and sports polo free of charge to the first cohort. A pop up shop will be available in Littleport in the summer term for students to try on the uniform and for parents to place initial orders. A date and place for this will follow in due course.

The transition programme for Year 6 students is now in full swing with students attending question and answer sessions and secondary taster lessons so they can begin to get a feel of what Academy life will be like. In the summer term, the newly recruited team of teachers will also visit primaries to

meet the students and to get to know them. Scott Gaskins, Head of School for the Academy, will also be visiting the students over the next few months. In February he met them for the first time in his current school, Neale Wade Academy, where he asked them choose the colour scheme for their Academy. The most popular choices were then taken to a final fit meeting the following day and will indeed be seen on the walls when the Academy opens.

The first Parent Forum meeting took place in January with another one scheduled for the 22nd February





Millfield School



By the time you are reading this, we shall be quite a way into 2017- nevertheless, a 'Happy New Year' to you all! I sincerely hope it is a peaceful one for you.

Have you noticed now, when you go into supermarkets or stationery shops, the shelves have plenty of colouring books, for both children and adults-'mindfulness' books. There is no hiding from the fact that resources and funding allocated to mental health services have been cut back drastically and there has been a spotlight in the media on children's mental health.



I wonder how many adults set themselves a new year's resolution around healthy eating or perhaps drinking less alcohol or giving up smoking! With all of this in our minds, we planned the first week back after Christmas to have a whole school focus on 'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind'. The children covered in detail aspects of the Personal, Social, Health and Emotional curriculum as well as the science aspects of choosing a healthy diet. During the week Rev. Howard, who is a regular visitor to school and whom the children know well, spent time in every key stage 2 class talking to the children about how faith helps him and others to keep their minds and bodies healthy. In addition we had a new type of day for us- 'A Day with a Difference'.



This was on the Friday at the end of the week and most of the adults in school put on an activity or workshop that, in a sense, followed on from Rev. Howard's discussions. It was focused around what we do, as adults, in our spare time and that help us relax and give us pleasure.

We had dog walking (you may have seen us walking through the village through the snow blizzard!), yoga, sewing, drams, singing, craft, meditation, cooking, smoothie making as well as a whole range of other things.



The children had a wonderful time and hopefully they will have taken something from it that will give them pleasure. A special thank you to Co-op and Tesco who provided fruit, vegetables and ingredients free of charge as well as staff who gave their time to run workshopsit was much appreciated.



So much can be gained from being still and quiet and from occupying ourselves in meaningful activities, rather than having things 'fed' to us and organised for us-this is something children need to learn to appreciate and perhaps parents and grandparents can help in this.

Deborah Hannaford Headteacher



Littleport players have an exciting year ahead!

We are delighted to announce the next couple of shows that the Littleport Players will be performing in 2017

13 -15 July 2017 - NUNSENSE THE MEGA **MUSICAL** - Fancy being a singing nun? Or a singing monk? Then this comedy musical with male/female parts, lots of great songs and dances (including a nun's tap dance) is the show for you.

8-10 December 2017 - PETER PAN THE **PANTOMIME** - a story we all know and love - with lots of male/female parts for both adults and children.

Director Karen Booth says: "We are all very excited and look forward to a fun filled year. We will continue to hold several fundraising events throughout the year, including an Easter Hamper raffle and a Bingo night etc.

These events will all help towards costs, and certainly any local sponsorship from businesses would be most appreciated and welcomed. We haven't managed to find a new Stage Manager yet but we are on the case. We will certainly miss Rick Forward after all these years as he helped to make the Players what they are todav."

Spotlight on Costumiere Sheila Goodall

Mention The Littleport
Players and instantly
you come up with
names like actors
George Harrison,
Megan Bidecant,
Becky Green,
Chelsea Booth,
Nikki Dyer, and
Director and Make-up

Artist Karen Booth. They are all superb entertainers and creators in their own right, and come this April they will know if they have won any of the three NODA awards for which they have been them nominated, their quite outstanding 2016 summer musical, Avenue Q, which saw two extra shows put on by popular demand

Behind all the glitz and glamour, there is one unassuming person who doesn't particularly like the limelight, but Littleport Life Magazine managed to track down their superb costume creator extra-ordinaire, Sheila Goodall.

Sheila has been nominated for a NODA "Best Technical 2016 Award for the outstanding Avenue Q musical for which she made superb life-size handheld puppets. Avenue Q has also been nominated for Best Musical Award for 2016 and Cinderella has also been nominated for the Best Panto.

"I've been sewing since I was a child, when my mother first taught me as a 4 year old. She used to sit me on her knee, and I would sew, while my mother would work the treadle, which as a very young

child, I thought it was a pretty fun thing to do."

Sheila and husband Mike came to Littleport in 1972.

"When we moved up here, I got involved with the Southery Pantomime first, and then I was invited to make bridesmaids and wedding dresses with a bridal company in Ely, and from there I set up my own business.

"After retiring, I offered Becky Green all the odds and ends of material which they could use for costume making, but having then enquired whether they needed any help, she said that all their seamstresses had left, so you could say that was the beginning of costume making for The Littleport Players and Aladdin was my first project.

"I get help from Karen Walker who does turn ups and sews on buttons," said Sheila, who revealed that planning the design and coming up with ideas usually takes 3 months after discussing it first with the Director, Karen Booth.

"I have to do everything as cheaply as possible by looking round the charity shops like YPL, Emmaus, Branching Out, where I find our material for the costumes. I mainly pick up curtains or sheets which I then cut up and design accordingly, so really you wouldn't know that they do in fact make some brilliant costumes.

"Becky and Chelsea who are our fantastic duo act always have an input as to their costumes which really does help. There is the odd occasion when The Players come up with some outrageous ideas but I still somehow come up with the goods.

"And there are so many costume changes, and at such a fast rate, it is usually me going up to the actors ripping the Velcro off for another change.

"I have to say that the Avenue Q puppets for which I am nominated owe so much to their operators, the actors who brought them to life!"



Rod and Bear having a moment

As for the future, Sheila says, "I feel that having more child actors in our

pantomimes and musicals has heightened the profile and interested more people in the village, but it would be good if even more people come and support The Littleport Players.

"My youngest son Ryan he used to do the music for the panto, and is now a music teacher living away from home in the Cambridge area, and it is through my son that I got to know Sarah, George Harrison's Mum, and in fact I made her wedding dress.

In conclusion Sheila said, "I really do hope we win at least one of the three awards we have been nominated for," as she proceeded to take me upstairs followed by the mischievous doggie Alfie, showing me round her immaculately well-ordered work room, with knitting and sewing machine at the ready for yet another major production by the Littleport Players.

Cathy Gibb-de Swarte



The cast of Avenue Q

Spring Forward in 2017 with the WI

The WI held its AGM in November 2016. After the annual report and treasurers report for the year ending 2016, the vote was taken for the coming year's committee. The president and secretary wished to retire, and so this was attended to first, although they were both willing to remain on the committee. The new president was then voted in. Rosemary Coleman is now president and Linda Whytock is the new secretary.

Ms G Crawford also retired and Ms D Tooke will replace her.

The 2017 programme was set and looks to be very interesting with talks and demonstrations, including The history of the National Stud at Newmarket, The life of Lord Fairhaven, Cup Cakes with a difference! And lots more.

2016 ended with the December meeting and a 'Bring and Share' supper with

entertainment by the Breckland Hand Bells. Some members had a go at bell ringing, which was very entertaining. This was followed by carol singing.

In January we visited the beautiful country of Australia with the help of Tony Bridgstock and his film of their Trip. February was, as always, our annual Quiz Night competing for the Linda Harvey Salver.

The Craft Meetings that are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the village hall have been well supported, and all are welcome.

More information about the Littleport WI and joining can be obtained From Ms J Bird 863823 or Ms P Ollive 864830

Spring meeting dates are March 14 and May 9, Summer, June 13, all at 7.30pm at Littleport Village Hall, Victoria Street.



Iris Copsey's Easy Peasy Cottage Pie

Ingredients:

1lb potatoes plus 1 sweet potato 2 tbs sunflower oil, 1 chopped onion 2 chopped carrots, spoonful peas 1lb fresh beef mince, 3 sliced small mushrooms

Half pint beef stock or gravy, 1 tsp sugar 1 tbsp Worcester sauce, 3 oz grated cheese Salt and pepper.

Method:

Cook potatoes until tender, then mash. Stir in 2 oz of cheese.

Heat oil in large saucepan, add onion and carrots

And cook until softened. Add mince breaking it up

With wooden spoon, cook for 10 mins till brown.

Add mushrooms and peas, cook for 5 more minutes.

Add stock, stir in sugar and Worcester sauce. Season to taste, reduce heat, cover, simmer 20 mins.

Preheat over to 2000c/400f, gas 6.

Spoon meat mix in oven proof dish.

Spread mash over mince, working round side

Filling in the middle last.

Fluff up with a fork and sprinkle on rest of cheese.

Put on baking tray into centre of oven for 20 mins

Until topping is golden brown.

Serve hot with any green vegetable.

A LOVELY WINTER WARMER.

Fenland Heroes

There are three Fenland Heroes whose fame all men should know. The first is Hereward the Wake, who fought the Norman foe.

The second Fenland Hero is Cromwell, who 'tis said. Did drive a King from power and ruled the land instead

The third is Dutch Vermuyden who drained these Fens fair. Before that they were marshlands and no crop flourished there.

Fen dwellers suffered ague, with ills from odours rife

That rose from stagnant waters, a hazard to their life

Vermuyden fought the waters, then Cromwell fought the King, And Hereward fought the Normans, so let us tribute bring.

Salute our Fenland Heroes, hurray for these brave men,

Their names shall live forever, 'twixt mere and marsh and Fen

Iris Copsey



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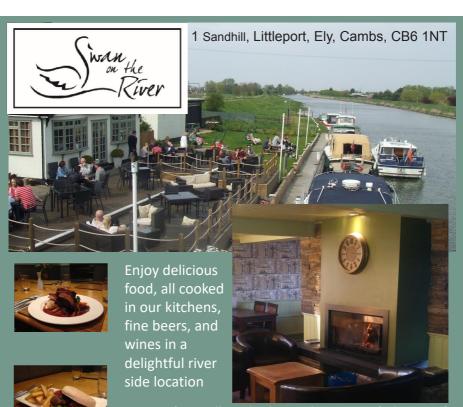
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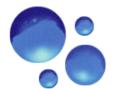
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End of an Era

It was the end of an era for Littleport as we know it, when The Old Butcher's Shop Café in Station Road, finally closed its doors on December 8th 2016. Before that, the actual butcher's shop in Main Street had shut due to its proprietor's retirement.

Those two establishments that served Littleport so well, had been owned and run by that popular and hard-working couple, Andrew and Jenny Binks



I caught up with them at the local Ex-Servicemen's club in Ponts Hill one lunchtime recently, and we sifted through some photographs which they were happy to share with our readers.

"Now we have the photos in sequence," instructed Andrew, explaining, that "most of the people in the pictures are all dead now, and that includes many of our customers" who we know regularly enjoyed buying his freshly cut joints of meat at Cox's Butcher Shop.

"I closed the butcher shop in Station Road in 1991, and I moved up to the Main Street premises which I rented from Bill on a lifetime rent for as long as he was alive. And of course he lived for a very, very long time. During that spell, Jenny had been made redundant from her previous employment and she kept complaining about being bored. And so I decided to buy her a burger van. We pitched it up at Hilgay in a layby and business just took off."



This is the then young and handsome Andrew Binks who was learning his trade.

"We also used to park up at the Ely City football ground on Saturday match days serving cooked burgers and then returned on Sundays for the car boot sale fraternity," said Andrew, who was pleased as punch to admit they were the first people to own a burger van that ran off solar panels instead of diesel, and that Jenny did all the electrics on it.

Five years on having sold the van, the Binks decided to move into the catering business with Jenny working from home after having had their whole kitchen modified And Andrew continued, "Once again it was a booming business with Jenny making me pies for the Butcher's shop, and churning out masses of catering orders from weddings to funerals and Christmas dinners "





William Henry Cox's Soldier's Pay Book

It wasn't until Andrew was driving through the village one day that he turned to Jenny and said "There is a nice little shop there where you can do all your catering and cooking instead of from home, "

Andrew commented, "And surprisingly enough the café started to do really well, attracting even outside trade including the Henry Crabb Industrial Estate workers, and the trikers and bikers who we opened up for at the weekends"

But as Jenny said, "The café was getting too busy and too hard and we were getting too old and we only employed my daughter. One of the main reasons we packed up was I was getting concerned about Andrew's health because anytime I was working there Andrew had to be there too and with opening hours from 6 am to 1 pm it was really taking its toll. However it was a fantastic business, and anyone taking it on can build it up and made a really good go of it."

Jenny had been in catering all her life having originally owned and run a guest house on Ten Mile Bank for a while called Store Cottage.

They are now enjoying their retirement together.



This picture was just taken after the war. On the left is Don Harrington who had the Butcher's Shop in Southery. The middle gentleman is William Henry Cox, and on the left is Ron Cleveland before he owned the shop and was in partnership with Andrew.



Here is Ron Cleveland during one Christmas time selling turkeys.

Melanie Designs in Littleport

I met up with highly gifted textile artist and tutor, Melanie Missin (Keating) living here in Littleport, who has taken quilting, fabric dyeing and sewing to another level.

Melanie teaches at 'Be Crafty' in Ellington, and 'Button Up and Stitch' in Wisbech, and often gives talks for the WI. Melanie is also giving a two-day workshop in Kent and is due a visit to Romford Embroiderers Guild.



Her work is proving so popular that people are flocking to sign up for her extremely successful and fun workshops.

Melanie recently held a beginner's patchwork 6-week course that started in January, and will be running one again soon. Another workshop on offer is 'Getting to Know Your Sewing Machine' one of which is scheduled for Monday 6th March at 6.30 pm.

Melanie's Mellymade Designs shop is in Main Street.

Melanie told Littleport Life, "Last

September me and my husband Adi bought the shop next door to where we live on the corner of the Main Street opposite the Bargain Centre which has certainly transformed my hobby into a welcome business which has always has been my ambition.



"I feel so privileged that I can now share the knowledge I learnt from my gifted mother who was an exceptional pictorial quilt maker with others.

Melanie's best friend, Julie Parr, passed away from cancer last year.

"Julie was always there for me giving me encouragement whenever I needed it."

"Julie always loved everything that I created and produced, and she would often come to one of my workshops which was quite an honour for me. So, I decided that in her honour I would hold a 'Julie Parr Day' on Friday 31st March. All eight places available are taken up, but I am already planning to hold another 'Julie Parr Day' later in the year.



"And on that special day, in Julie's memory, we are going to be making small guilts for terminally ill children with cancer, and I will personally be delivering them to Addenbrooke's Hospital which I know Julie would totally approve of," concluded Melanie.

Everyone is welcome to go along to 'Melly's Sewcial Day' which is held every Thursday morning from 10 am to 3pm where you can get creative at just £5.00 a session. You can also find out more, and how to get involved, by checking out Melainie Missin's website: www. mellymadedesigns.com or email her: mellymadedesigns@gmail.com

Cathy Gibb-de Swarte

LITTLEPORT BRASS AND ROCK VOX CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT



On Sunday 11th December at 7pm in St George's church, Littleport Brass and Rock Vox Choir held a Christmas concert. the first of what will hopefully become an annual event. It was a lovely festive event attended by over 120 people of all ages. Littleport Brass had a varied programme playing both traditional and modern pieces. Rock Vox played both traditional and modern music and Rock Vox gave a superb performance and had some lovely solo pieces as well. Refreshments were provided by St George's Church.

Littleport Brass would also like to thank Joan Sharpe for her brilliant effort in distributing posters and collecting raffle prizes. The following local companies donated prizes which we were extremely grateful for:

- Co-Op Main Street
- **Adams Heritage Market**
- **Bargain Centre**
- Rimas Shop, Main Street
- The Other Shop
- One Stop, Wisbech Road
- **Littleport Ex-Servicemens Club and** the Club bingo members

Be our eyes and ears on care in Cambridgeshire

Lizzie, is one of our local Healthwatch Cambridgeshire volunteers and is helping us with a new project to look at how health and care services communicate with people who have a sensory loss.

Lizzie's told us "I am a service user myself and have disabilities so I rely on good healthcare and support, such as having a good relationship with the GP."

We need your help to talk to more people about Healthwatch and find out what care is like for them. Our Community Listener volunteers are people like you - you know the place you live and the people in your community.

 You will listen to people who have used local health or care services.
 This may be your family, neighbours and friends, or people you meet within your local networks. You may visit local groups, chat with people and record what they have to say.

We will give you training and support, as well as paying agreed out of pocket expenses.

As a Community Listener, you could also train to take part in our visits to local health or care services. We have a legal right to visit places that provide publicly funded health or care services, to see and hear how people experience care. In the last year, we have visited Addenbrooke's and Hinchingbrooke Hospitals.

Contact Heather or Elizabeth for an informal chat on 01480 420628, email enquiries@ healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk or visit www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk





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Beynur's Tattoos Get Bigger!

Beynur Kaptan is continuing to make quite an impact in the world of tattooing attracting top artists and picking up prestigious awards year by year. This successful local business has decided to expand.

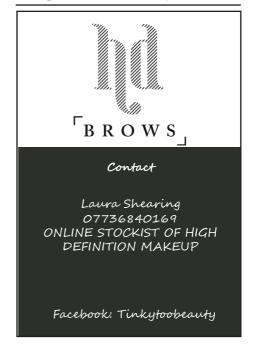


"We are leasing out what was the hairdresser's shop next door, and joining the two shops together as one amazing studio," said Beynur, as he showed me round the premises which will incorporate a small retail area selling custom-made jewellery, after-care cream, crazy hair dyes and sought after alternative designer teeshirts

"We will be hiring a body piercer/ receptionist, and hopefully another tattoo apprentice will come on board later in the summer.

"By expanding our premises we will have more room to accommodate many different guest artists from around the world, who specialise in 50 | Littleport Life Magazine many fantastic unique styles. The guest artists will normally stay 1 week at a time, and this will give our clients a great opportunity to have their very own special body art created by one of our top visiting tattoo artists.

"Currently we have 6 artists which includes myself, and even though the majority of our clients travel from all over the UK just to come here, we have had customers arrive from France, Romania and Germany just for a tattoo and now with body piercing being on offer, it can only be great for all the other businesses in Littleport," concluded Beynur.



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Littleport Rotary Club — Update

About Us

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland is the association of Rotary clubs within England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. We have over 1,800 clubs consisting of more than 50,000 men and women from all walks of life.



Our clubs are based in local communities where members meet on a regular basis to enjoy friendship, networking and to plan projects that will benefit the lives of others. Clubs utilise the skills, expertise and dedication of their members to help improve the lives of people in communities both at home and abroad. We are community champions who stand up for our communities both locally and overseas. We support those who need help, we strive to improve lives and we bring about positive change in our neighbourhoods. Every event, initiative or project that we run – whether it is local, national, international or online – is rooted in the notion of community. This is because we believe that society works better when communities work together

Local— Our clubs carry out a huge range of <u>activities and projects at home</u> aimed at improving and building community spirit. Many charities are appreciative of their local Rotary club for the money they receive through initiatives such as sponsored bike rides, Christmas collections and swimathons. A huge amount of hands on work is also carried out by members, such as organising and supervising days out for disadvantaged children, volunteering at local residential homes, and working with schools to run competitions. The list of local projects and initiatives is endless. Each Rotary club individually tailors the projects they get involved in to their community's specific needs.

National —Across Great Britain and Ireland, clubs often come together to collectively support our national initiatives such as Know Your Blood Pressure Day and Community Emergency Support, which provides assistance to communities following major emergencies or disasters. Our clubs support a range of national charities and often collectively support other national initiatives such as Children in Need. We also pull together to help communities elsewhere in Great Britain



International —Our members carry out a wealth of international programmes and activities all over the world, reaching out to people in need. In many countries, millions die of starvation and from diseases that could be prevented by clean water, proper sanitation or medicines. Rotary members in Great Britain and Ireland use their skills and links to clubs in other countries to alleviate some of the causes of poverty. Other projects include eradication of hunger and malnutrition; reduction of child mortality, disease prevention and education for all. When natural disasters strike, anywhere in the world, Rotarians are usually the first people to take action, organising collections and raising large sums of money for the various charities that are best equipped to provide relief for those in need.

History — The first Rotary club was founded in 1905 when four friends met in Chicago to discuss how they could work together to help the wider community. Rotary has since grown internationally to more than 1.2 million members across 200 countries. In 1914 the organisation moved across the Atlantic and the British Association of Rotary Clubs was established. The association was renamed Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland in 1924.



The 2016 Polio Project — **Grow Your Own Crocus 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. The 50000 Crocuses planted locally, should be coming up any time soon!

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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Store is Thriving

Number 1 Main Street, Littleport, was once Fred Brown's Bridal Shop. But then two years ago it was transformed into a convenience store, Costcutter.

Costcutter's friendly proprietor, Thillaivarothayan Poopalsingam, says he's no stranger to country life himself, having been born and brought up in a small village in Sri Lanka.

"My brother-in-law has a corner shop in Cambridge, and he used to run convenience stores in both Soham and Waterbeach," so I got an idea of what it was like said Thillaivarothayan, who didn't have an easy start after moving into their new shop in 2015.

"We bought the shop in March, and began trading in July, and then we were broken into just before Christmas time.

Realistically we know these are the risks you have to take when running a store, but I really didn't expect it to happen in a village like Littleport, so it really was a bit of a shock," said Thillaivarothayan, who says since changing the times of

trading there seems more of an uptake of customers especially on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Costcutter now opens at 6.30 am but they are literally the last shop to close at 10.30 pm which is very convenient, if you happen to run out of milk, nappies, toilet paper or need the gas card or electricity key charging and topping up.

"If there is a certain item a customer needs, we do order it in, which is what I think running a local village shop is all about - looking after its customers," stated Thillaivarothayan, who went on to reveal why he had in fact left Cambridge to come and live in a village like Littleport.

"I knew there were other well established businesses in Littleport, but I also know that Costcutter has a good reputation as convenience stores go, so it prompted me to take up the challenge, and my wife Shiva Gowir and I are pleased we came to live and work in this friendly village."

Cathy Gibb



Here are 5 useful tips for preparing your garden equipment this Spring from

Carol Palmer of Fenland Spirit Services

- Wash out old pots and trays using a weak cleaning solution and dry thoroughly before using. This will help to minimise disease and get rid of pests which overwintered inside.
- Clean or wipe down secateurs, loppers etc., and consider getting them sharpened and adjusted to improve their performance. It'll save you money in the long run and give cleaner pruning cuts.
- Clean out grass cuttings from under your lawnmower, remove old fuel and refill, check oil too. Perhaps arrange a service with Fenland Spirit Services.
- Fix fences, gates and other wooden structures. They may

- also benefit from a colourful repaint.
- Help your environment by creating a compost area for garden waste using either a ready - made compost bin or maybe old wooden pallets. You can also install water butts to collect spring rainfall in case we have a dry summer. If you already have one, check the downpipe connection is secure.

By following these simple tips now, you will prepare your garden for the summer ahead so you can enjoy the sunny days -if we're lucky enough to get some.

Carol Palmer Fenland Spirit Services 0775 383 6499



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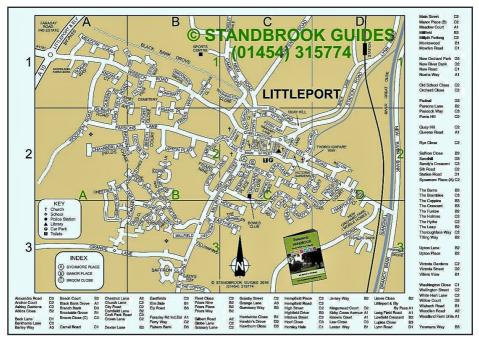
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What's on in Littleport

LITTLEPORT LEISURE CENTRE EVENTS

MARCH			
03/03	FRI	BLOOD DONOR SESSION	ALL DAY
04/03	SAT	PRIZE BINGO	6.30pm
10/03	FRI	TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER TOURNAMENT	7.30pm
11/03	SAT	RACE NIGHT - BENEFICIARY TBC	8.00pm
12/03	SUN	ROAST CARVERY	12.30pm to 2.00pm
15/03	WED	PRIZE BINGO	6.30pm
18/03	WED	CHARITY DISCO FOR CANCER RESEARCH UK	7.30pm to Midnight
19/03	SUN	QUIZ NIGHT IN AID OF LITTLEPORT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE	7.00pm
26/03	SUN	ECSSC DOG SHOW	ALL DAY
26/03	SUN	CARVERY & MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL	12.30pm to 2.00pm
APRIL			
01/04	SAT	PRIZE BINGO	6.30pm
07/04	FRI	TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER TOURNAMENT	7.30pm
08/04	SAT	FOOD THEMED NIGHT	TBC
09/04	SUN	EACA DOG SHOW	ALL DAY
09/04	SUN	ROAST CARVERY	12.30pm to 2.00pm
09/04	SUN	QUIZ NIGHT IN AID OF RUN DAY ATTRACTIONS	7.00pm
12/04	WED	EASTER PRIZE BINGO	6.30pm
15/04	SAT	WHIPPETS DOG SHOW	ALL DAY
15/04	SAT	CHILDREN'S EASTER DISCO	6.30pm to 9.30pm
16/04	SUN	CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT	11.00am to 1.00pm
22/04	SAT	70's/80's DISCO	8.00pm
23/04	SUN	ROAST CARVERY	12.30pm to 2.00pm
29/04	SAT	LIVE MUSIC - ACT TBC	8.00pm
30/04	SUN	QUIZ NIGHT IN AID OF LITTLEPORT PLAYERS	7.00pm

MAY				
05/05	FRI	TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER TOURNAMENT	7.30pm	
06/05	SAT	CAT SHOW	ALL DAY	
06/05	SAT	PRIZE BINGO	6.30pm	
07/05	SUN	CAT SHOW	ALL DAY	
07/05	SUN	ROAST CARVERY	12.30pm to 2.00pm	
13/05	SAT	KARAOKE	8.00pm	
17/05	WED	PRIZE BINGO	6.30pm	
20/05	SAT	FAMILY WRESTLING EVENT	ALL AFTERNOON	
21/05	SUN	ROAST CARVERY	12.30pm to 2.00pm	
21/05	SUN	QUIZ NIGHT IN AID OF LITTLEPORT COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	7.00pm	
26/05-2	8/05	TRIKES WEEKEND	ALL WEEKEND	
JUNE				
02/06	FRI	TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER TOURNAMENT	7.30pm	
04/06	SUN	FAMILY FUN DAY	ALL DAY	
FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION CHECK THE LEISURE CENTRE'S FACEBOOK PAGE OR				

CALL RECEPTION ON 01353 860600 AS THEY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

THE PLOUGH & HARROW PUB EVENTS

MARCH				
04/03	SAT	MEMPHIS UNDERGROUND BAND	9.00pm to 12.00am	
07/03	TUES	POOL COMPETITION	7.30pm	
11/03	SAT	FLINT MOORE BAND	9.00pm to 12.00am	
15/03	WED	QUIZ NIGHT	9.00pm	
18/03	SAT	TANTRIS BAND	9.00pm to 12.00am	
25/03	SAT	DELTA PILOTS BAND	9.00pm to 12.00am	
APRIL				
01/04	SAT	TBC		
04/04	TUE	POOL COMPETITION	7.30pm	
08/04	SAT	THE BLONDE & THE BEARD BAND	9.00pm to 12.00am	
12/04	WED	QUIZ NIGHT	9.00pm	
15/04	SAT	KARAOKE	9.00pm to 12.00am	

22/04	SAT	HOLD FAST BAND	9.00pm to 12.00am
29/04	SAT	WHICKEY TWIST BAND	9.00pm to 12.00am
MAY			
06/05	SAT	GRAHAM BUXTON	9.00pm to 12.00am
09/05	TUE	POOL COMPETITION	7.00pm
13/05	SAT	MAN ALIVE BAND	9.00pm to 12.00pm
17/05	WED	QUIZ NIGHT	9.00pm
20/05	SAT	TBC	
27/05	SAT	TBC	

FREE POOL on Monday evenings from 7.00pm to close. WINNER STAYS ON.

THE CROWN INN EVENTS

MARCH				
04/03	SAT	THE FREDDIE HALL BAND	8.30pm to LATE	
11/03	SAT	BONDY	8.30pm to LATE	
12/03	SUN	GRAHAM BUXTON	3.00pm to 6.00pm	
18/03	SAT	ROCKOUT	8.30pm to LATE	
26/03	SUN	THOMAS BAINBRIDGE	3.00pm to 6.00pm	
APRIL				
01/04	SAT	BIG CHEESE	8.30pm to LATE	
02/04	SUN	MARK JOSEF	3.00pm to 6.00pm	
07/04	FRI	KARAOKE	8.00pm to LATE	
08/04	SAT	BECKY RAYNER	8.30pm to LATE	
15/04	SAT	PHOENIX SHOW BAND	8.30pm to LATE	
16/04	SUN	CARLA GARY	3.00pm to 6.00pm	
22/04	SAT	ALAN BECKS	8.30pm to LATE	
29/04	SAT	MOCK ROCKERS	8.30pm to LATE	
30/04	SUN	MARTHA'S WOOD	3.00pm to 6.00pm	
MAY				
06/05	SAT	BIKE SHOW	11am to LATE	
13/05	SAT	CARL CHAPMAN	8.30pm to LATE	
20/05	SAT	TNT ft LUI	8.30pm to LATE	
21/05	SUN	FREDDIE HALL	3.00pm to 6.00pm	

27/05	SAT	BAREFOOT DOCTORS	8.30pm to LATE
28/05	SUN	GOODGE'S ACOUSTIC CIRCUS	3.00pm to 6.00pm

Weekly updates also available on The Crown Inn Page on Facebook

THE SHIP INN, BRANDON CREEK EVENTS

16/06	FRI/	UP THE CREEK BEER FESTIVAL - INCLUDES	ALL WEEKEND
17/06	SAT	LIVE MUSIC & REAL ALE	ALL WEEKEND

THE SWAN ON THE RIVER EVENTS

14/04	FRI	KARAOKE	8.00pm

WI DATES

14th March, 9th May and 13th June, all at 7.30pm at Village Hall, Victoria Street.

EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB EVENTS

18/03	SAT	MARK STEELE (back by popular demand)	8.45pm to LATE
25/03	SAT	REGARDLESS	8.45pm to LATE
16/04	SUN	KIDS DISCO (£2.00 per child)	4.00pm to 6.00pm
17/06	SAT	ROCKIN' REVIVAL (Members £6, Others £7)	8.45pm to LATE

THE FLOWER CLUB EVENTS

Littleport & District Flower Cub - 7.30pm Village Hall - 2^{nd} Friday of the month

17/03	FRI	DAVID WRIGHT DEMONSTRATOR	7.00pm
31/04	FRI	TBC	7.00pm
19/05	FRI	TBC	7.00pm

LITTLEPORT SOCIETY EVENTS

07/03	TUE	KAREN NEWTON - 'EAST ANGLIAN CHILDREN'S HOSPICE'	7.30pm
04/04	TUE	RODNEY TIBBS - 'ICELAND - HOTTER THAN YOU THINK'	7.30pm
02/05	TUE	RICHARD CARTER - 'HISTORY OF LAW & ORDER IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE'	7.30pm

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

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East Cambs.	Main Switchboard	01353 665555
District Council	Out of hours emergencies	07710 978900
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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
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Millfield Primary		01353 861612



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