

LITTLEPORT

Life MAGAZINE

www.littleportlife.co.uk

ISSUE 53 SUMMER 2019

Your Community Magazine

Summer's Here!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Littleport People
Littleport Sports
Littleport Leisure
Littleport Community Groups
Littleport Services
Littleport Businesses
...and more!

Includes: Littleport Advertisers & What's On



Editor

Lyn Gibb-de Swarte
Email: editor@littleportlife.co.uk

Deputy Editor

David Barker
Email: dbarker@tutordocor.co.uk

Advertising Manager/Photographer

Cathy Gibb-de Swarte
incoming advertising manager Joy Tod
Email: advertisingmanager@littleportlife.co.uk



Distribution

Vikki Bullock
Email: distributionmanager@littleportlife.co.uk

Secretary

Post vacant
Email: secretary@littleportlife.co.uk

Treasurer

Chris Hook
Email: treasurer@littleportlife.co.uk

Webmaster

Christian Mayne of www.watchthedot.com
Email: webmaster@littleportlife.co.uk

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Welcome

Welcome to your Summer edition of Littleport Life!

On behalf of the committee without which the magazine wouldn't happen, I would like to thank all our loyal advertisers who appear in our pages. It's their financial contribution that pays for all the practical necessities involved to get the magazine produced from start to finish.

In this issue you can find all the services you need locally in our advertisers' directory listed on page 5.

And it goes without saying, that everyone here engaged in your magazine's production are unpaid volunteers doing it for love of the Littleport community it serves.

Speaking of which, there are very many groups set up in the village that are also voluntary, and they are represented in the pages of Littleport Life every quarter.

There are lots of people doing lots of good things well-worth reporting, but we only have a limited number of pages, so include what we can space permitting!

The list of contents on page 4 directs you to news from old-established Littleport community organisations including the WI, the Flower Arranging Club, Rotary, ThePort, Peacock's Meadow and messages from the churches and primary schools, as well as other activity and special interest groups.

The Littleport Motorcycle Club held its regular fundraiser at the Crown Inn and you'll find that featured on page 38.

And this quarter you can also enjoy stories about the MS Society, a budding tattoo designer who lives in Littleport and the local footballer picked for England international duty.

The fact is that Littleport has a great deal of talent and talented people living and working in the village. 20 artists have exhibited their work at a recent exhibition in Main Street featured on page 58 - and many who have moved away for various reasons but who still have what I will call 'The Littleport Effect' imprinted on their lives.

Among all the good examples that come to mind of that TLE is Littleport born and bred John Taylor! He has written a best-seller, *I Will Find You*, that is getting rave reviews around the world! As if to illustrate my point, Jack Mason of the USA's *Midwest Review* is quoted saying, "...riveting tale of mystery and intrigue which starts in Wartime Fenland near Ely and then moves halfway across the globe to Australia. Touching, funny, sad and filled with drama."

By the way if you'd like to read a copy you can buy it from amazon mail-order.

The fascinating article on page 53 by Maureen Fresco about Fenprobe also mentions how those moving out of the area still like to retain their links through that local talking articles and news service!

Enjoy your summer, enjoy your Littleport Life magazine whether reading it in Littleport or somewhere else in the world via our website www.littleportlife.co.uk

Lyn

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Littleport Life Needs You!

We are looking for a treasurer for the magazine. Our present treasurer is going to have to step down and would be pleased to ease a community spirited person who can spare a couple of hours a month into the voluntary post on the friendly committee. If you think you could be the one we need, please contact Chris Hook at treasurer@littleportlife.co.uk



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BLACK HORSE DROVE PHONE BOX TRANSFORMS!



Before



During

It was a couple of years ago that the Committee of the Black Horse Drove Community Centre was informed that the East Cambs District Council had provided a Rural Settlement Grant to the hamlet. Discussions were held to try to decide how best to benefit the Community from the available funds and it was decided to convert the old telephone box into a lending library.

BT produced 8 different styles of the traditional red phone boxes between 1920 and the 1980's, although a couple of designs were actually made from concrete. The most common type of kiosk, the K6 went into production in the 1930's, with one of these ending up here in Black Horse Drove. The Black Horse Drove phone box was made by W MacFarlane & Co (Saracen Foundry) from Glasgow, somewhere between 1945 and 1965. During its active life it was once filmed for the television news due to being the least used phone box in the area!

The phone box was in a poor state of repair. It was listing due to subsidence, part of the door was rotten, the paint was flaking, many of the panes of glass had been broken and the interior was filthy.

In the spring of 2017, local farmer Richard Tod, together with Paul Blakeway-Long, used a digger and rubble to correct the subsidence. Rebecca Blakeway-Long cleaned the phone box of algae and dirt with plenty of hot water and a stiff scrubbing brush.

It wasn't until 2018 that works seriously got underway. Richard and Paul once more adjusted the lean of the phone box and Paul donned protective gear and sanded down the paintwork – a filthy and gruelling task, leaving him red from top to toe.

Meanwhile, teenagers from Black Horse Drove and Ten Mile Bank, who were undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, removed and helped to clean the remaining glass panels, together with Rebecca and Joy Tod.

Rebecca sourced official BT paint and replacement glass on-line, discovering that everything needed to repair a K6 type phone can still be purchased. She and Paul then spent a sunny Saturday painting the kiosk with pink undercoat. A couple of days later, the red top coat was applied, after which Paul was able to replace the glass panels.

Rebecca contacted local builder Glen Spalding and asked him to repair the door and to hang shelves inside the phone box. Glen duly did this and Rebecca was then able to paint the repaired door.

The finishing touches were added by Paul changing 2 of the old, illegible "Telephone" signs with new plastic replacements and with Rebecca filling the shelves with second hand books. More books have since been added and residents have started to use the new library.

An official opening ceremony was held at 11am on Saturday 26th January 2019, with Paul making a short speech and cutting the ribbon. This was followed by tea and cakes in the Community Centre.



After



Official opening

Littleport and District Flower Club

It has been a very positive 2018 for the Club with new members joining and a very good programme of demonstrators new and old entertaining the members at our meetings.

The Club's AGM was held on the 15th February at Littleport Village Hall when 38 members attended, with apologies from a few members who were not able to attend, and the evening started with a meal provided by Fairways Catering of Littleport which started the evening off well.

The President Louise Richards presided over the AGM and welcomed everyone. Louise thanked all members of the Committee for their continued efforts on behalf of the Club and members for their continued support.

The outgoing Chair Pam Hayes in her report also thanked her Committee for their continued input into helping to keep the Club on a firm footing. Pam said that she felt the time was right for her to step back from the Chair at such a positive time in the Club and hoped that the incoming Chair Carol Weyman and her Committee would continue with all the efforts and good work that had enabled the Club to grow and reach 57 years. Pam also emphasised the importance of people coming forward onto the Committee to make sure that the Club would continue in such a positive way.

In her report to the Club as Programme Secretary, Pam Hayes reported on the good year we had just had and informed the Club of the year ahead when demonstrators old and new would be returning to give us another happy year of continued flower and friendship.



Chair Carol Weyman being presented with her badge by Club President Louise Richards.

The Treasurer Helen Fordham assured the Club that we were in a reasonably good position, but the membership fees would have to be put up to £33 for the coming year to cover the rise of affiliation fees, demonstrators fees and the cost of Flowers. Visitors fees would stay at the cost of £5.

After the Raffle Carol Weyman was presented with the Chair's Badge and June Bird wished her a happy first year on behalf of all the members present.

Louise Richards presented the outgoing Chair Pam Hayes, with a beautiful flower arrangement and a garden voucher on behalf of the Committee and Members for all of her efforts over the past 4 years in the position of Chair.

The Club meets on the third Friday in the month at Littleport Village Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm start and welcomes new members and visitors to all our meetings. For more information please contact the Secretary Sue Constable on **01353 861012** or Chair Carol Weyman on **01353 360289**.

Peacock's Meadow Summer Update!



Well, Summer is well and truly upon us and the gardening fairies have been busy in the Peacock's Meadow community garden.

Over the winter months we have planted a new wildlife hedge. And community volunteers, Andy Coe and Stuart Palmer (of Fenland Spirit Services) have nobly trimmed and cut the grass and verges. This regular cutting is gradually eradicating the brambles.

Youngsters from The PORT youth club have also put in some very hard work in the garden. We have also shaped and pruned the young trees, allowing them the space to grow. The Littleport Crafters are creating a beautiful mosaic art work which will be installed later in the year. All members of the community are welcome to take part in this project. The crafters meet in the Adams Heritage Centre on the 2nd Saturday of the month, from 2 until 4 pm to work on the mosaic.

Peacock's Meadow is Littleport's only woodland garden. It is also the only green space managed and maintained by the community.

We need more proactive volunteers for our committee. If you would like to become involved in shaping the future of the garden, fund-raising or organising community events, we'd love to hear from you! If committees aren't your thing you can still get involved. We hold regular work parties throughout the year. All are welcome and we often have entire families getting 'down and dirty' with us. It's a great way to get some fresh air and exercise, and of course, to meet new friends. You can do as little or as much as suits you. And you'll have the satisfaction of helping to create a beautiful green space for future generations.

To find out more about how you can get involved please contact: **t.c.curtis@btinternet.com** or send a message via the Peacocks Meadow Facebook page.

The Rising Sun - Japan revisited

An account by Linda Barker

In April 2018 my husband and I visited the country that held my father prisoner of war for 3 years and 6 months. The country today is much different now to how it was then.

Ikuno is a small town in the mountains of central Hyogo Prefecture, Japan.

The main industry was mining, producing silver and copper and during the war it served as a prison camp called Osaka #4.

In August 1945 my father came out of the copper mine he'd been forced to work in. He was 24 years old. The prison gates were open and several Japanese soldiers had committed suicide by hari kari. It was a little while before he realised that the war was over. Japan had surrendered, an Atom bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima on 6th August.

The bomb was reported as being like another sun, it appeared as a fireball with tremendous heat of about 10,000 degrees. The hot flash emitting from it was furious, radiating near 4 km around. The blast flash is said to have been visible on the island of Shikoku some 50 km away. In Miyajima some 19 km away, window panes were broken into pieces and dust shot up



Linda Barker in Japan

several thousand metres into the sky. The city was still on fire 2 days later. Those anywhere near the the impact instantly perished and thousands of people suffered over the next few days, weeks, months and years from the terrible legacy of radiation and its associated diseases.

Then on the 9th of August another bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. That was when Emperor Hirohito declared the surrender of Japan. The Americans

took control of the country and transported the surviving frail prisoners of war to the many ships that were sent to take them home. My father travelled from Osaka, entering by train through the devastated remains of Hiroshima in an open topped carriage, not knowing the effects of the radiation fall-out that he was subjected to. The ship he boarded was the HMS Implacable which returned him home.

71 years later my husband and I travelled from Osaka through the landscape of mountains and bamboo forests, that I wouldn't think have changed over the years, and there we were standing next to the remains of the dome in Hiroshima. The memorial peace park consists of a flame in the centre and children's peace monument all in alignment with the dome. The flame will continue to burn until the day there are no more atomic bombs on earth.

The haunting sound of the peace bell gave a very sombre atmosphere, which is only fitting. Inside the museum there were lots of photos showing before and after; also display cases with many items ravaged by the fire including children's clothes and a child's bicycle.

This experience for me was a strange one. The thought of war, which I am so lucky to have never experienced, is so wrong for humanity, yet without this terrible event I would not have been born as my father would not have survived.

Death warrants had been issued for the prisoners.

The Japanese people are still grieving today from what happened on that day in 1945.

The country and the people from our experience was totally different. An extremely clean, high tech, organised country with the most gentle, respectful, kind people who go out of their way to help to make your time in their country as enjoyable as they can.

For more information about my father Harry Wilding's story, there is a book.

'A Nice Box Full of Memories' is written by my daughter Justine, and it is available from The Littleport Society. (Upstairs at The Barn, in Main Street Car Park, every Tuesday afternoon.)



Harry Wilding Linda's Father

LITTLEPORT BRASS



Ian Knapton was appointed
Musical Director in September 2018

Ian grew up as part of a musical, brass banding family. His enthusiasm for playing in bands started when he began playing the horn with the Corsham Band in Wiltshire at the young age of 5 years old. When Ian was 14 he took up the solo trombone seat with the band, holding the position for four years until he moved to Barnsley in South Yorkshire to study for his degree in Band Studies.

Ian decided to stay in Yorkshire and started his conducting career in November 2000 with Emley Band, taking them back to contesting after four years of absence. Ian followed this by becoming the resident conductor at Harworth Band under their professional conductor John Davis where he enjoyed 2 memorable years.

In November 2003 Ian joined Ireland Colliery Chesterfield as their Musical Director. At this point the band was

close to folding with only 10 players around the stand. Under his direction the band rebuilt itself and competed in March 2004 at the Midlands area with 28 players. Since then it successfully competed at the Area contest every year, achieving better results year on year.

In 2011 Ian led Ireland to the National Finals for the first time in over 20 years, a feat that was repeated in each of the following years to 2014. Ireland Colliery, under Ian's direction, was promoted for 4 consecutive years from the 4th Section up to the 1st Section in 2015.

Ian is a believer that every person should have the chance to shine and this was the key to 12 years of success with Ireland. He developed players of all abilities to achieve success and with the help of a few other people created a great organisation with a firm base to carry on financially and securely.





Ian was a key person in developing the Ireland Colliery name, putting on successful theme nights and developing key relationships with a brewery to hold the bands own annual contest and beer festival which ran for 10 years.

After 12 years of great success with Ireland, Ian felt it was time to move on and accepted the role of Musical Director with the Lindley band in Yorkshire in November 2015. Ian lead the band to its highest contest result at the area for 20 years with a 3rd place finish in the 1st section in 2016, which secured the bands safety in the section.

But after a year with the band Ian moved on and accepted the role of Musical Director with the Kippax band in November 2016, who are one of the longest running brass bands in the world founded in 1814. In his period with the band he lead them to 5 contests and achieved 5 awards along with some great concerts. Sadly due to relocation and family commitments Ian had to resign from the band in June 2018.

Throughout Ian's 33 years of playing he has played as a guest and a member

with a number of bands including the likes of Rothwell, Carlton Main Frickley, Unite the Union and Yorkshire Coop Brass Band to name a few. Ian also has conducted bands as a guest MD on numerous occasions. A highlight was conducting Yorkshire Coop Brass Band and the world famous Katherine Jenkins, in front of 80,000 people, in the centre of the pitch at Old Trafford for the Super League grand final in October 2008.

In August 2018 Ian accepted the role of Musical Director with Littleport Brass and is looking forward to the challenge ahead.

Thanks to www.littleportbrass.co.uk for this biopic

Littleport Brass Events

Sutton Proms! Saturday, July 6 at St Andrew's Church, Sutton, from 7pm – 10pm.

Brass by the River! Sunday July 14, Ely Riverside from 2pm.

Concert by the Sea! Sunday July 28, Hunstanton from 2pm.

ThePORT

Youth Group

This is a social group for all in the current school year 5 and above. Mondays Year 5/6 - 4.15pm -5.30pm Year 6/+ 5.30pm - 7pm £1.50

Our aim is to let the youth run the group and decide what activities are planned from week to week - darts, pool, tuck shop, hot food, Wifi, music, TV and games are just a few of the activities.

With the support of the youth and the community we are now in our 3rd year and still growing.

If further information is required, please contact Jo on **07988477255**



Jo Coe has a chat with some of the youth



Some of the older members of The Port

Joanne Coe Citizen of the Year!

On May 13th tireless founder and organiser of Littleport's youth initiative ThePort was presented with the accolade 'Citizen of the Year' by the Parish Council at its annual general meeting in the Village Hall.

Joanne Coe is much admired and loved by all the youngsters that she helps by providing the weekly activities and special events throughout the year.

Joanne said "The constant support I have received from the community and particularly from parish councillors Christine and David Ambrose Smith and Joanne and Clive Webber is very much appreciated.

I am absolutely honoured and delighted to have been awarded Citizen of the Year!"

Last year Joanne was recognised in the Ely Hero Awards, a finalist of 3 nominated for the Ely Hero title, and



received the Community Champion Award on June 25, 2018.

In 2017 Joanne was the recipient of Police Commissioner Jason Ablewhite's certificate of recognition for her work with young people supported by funding from his department.

Littleport must be very proud and grateful too for the dedication and hard work undertaken voluntarily for the benefit of the youth of the village by Joanne Coe.



Joanne Coe, Citizen of the Year Award at the parish council meeting May 13th 2019



**'Supporting adults with learning disabilities
to live active and fulfilling lives'**

Susan Wiggans, Branching Out's General Manager, is pleased to tell Littleport Life that the Branching Out Charity Shop is now open on Sundays between 10 and 4 as a result of feedback from our customers.

As a charity serving people with learning disabilities in Littleport and across East Cambridgeshire and the region, we are delighted that our charity shop is now open seven days a week.

Shoppers can expect good quality items at bargain prices in our shop at 12 High Street, Littleport. Most items are priced at £1, £2, or £3.

We have recently started an eBay shop which is also based in Littleport, where we can raise as much money as possible from our donations so the charity can continue to provide the best quality service for the people we support.

Donations to our shop can make a huge difference, here are some examples of what your donations can pay for:

£2 could pay for staff training needs to support
8 people for 1 day

£3 could pay for equipment needed to support
6 people for a week

£5 could pay for free transport for 2 people for 1 day

If anyone is interested in more information on volunteering in the shop please email

admin@branchingoutuk.com

or call Chris on 01353 863221



Buy

Volunteer

Donate

Now Open on Sundays 10am – 4pm

New to Littleport **New** to Littleport Life!



*David Barker
Educational
Consultant
Tutor Doctor*

David Barker - your new deputy editor!

It could be thought of as paradoxical that I, a brand-new-comer, and life-long out of townner, should find myself contributing to Littleport Life Magazine. Most believe that it is important to remain open to life's paradoxes and possibilities. This is definitely a new possibility for me! I'm definitely in a new space, a new place, and I'm loving it.

This possibility began to unfold for me a few weeks ago when Lyn Gibb de Swarte, current editor of Littleport Life, resident and ex-skater, paid me a visit, at my request. You see, I have recently moved here (if you hadn't already guessed) having, at last, broken free from the education system in which I had been ever-present for about 30 years. (100% attendance!) And pursuing a life-long dream, had started my own business that's called Tutor Doctor, Mildenhall.

I had contacted Lyn to see if there was a way in which I could contribute to the magazine. Lyn filled me in on many aspects of life in Littleport, past and present and was very happy to help.

We spoke about my upbringing and my years in the big southern metropolis aka London, and how I'd arrived there in my late 20s, to teach (primary) and how I was only a stone's throw from the now bright, shiny and new, Olympic Park. Of how I'd spent many years teaching, enjoying the feeling of community, connection and contribution that teaching brings.

My motivation then, as now, has always been to try and make a positive difference to the lives of young people. Over the last 30 years, I have worked with primary age pupils, from reception age to Year 6, and I have taught at a postgraduate level on a teacher training course I helped to set up. I have worked in senior leadership roles and I have worked with pupils with special educational needs at both the primary and secondary levels. I once also started a brand-new school in what I think is record time - 4 weeks from scratch!

I am really enjoying being here. For one so used to brick and concrete and closed-in spaces, the fens are a revelation of flat-land, soft light and big sky. I am regularly astonished by the open spaces and just have to stop what I'm doing and stare. I am enjoying getting to know people here, all kinds of different people, some larger than life characters, some quiet, but all caring, all concerned about the same things, all wanting community and connection. All mindful about where they are and how things are. I get a real sense of people caring about their communities and caring about each other.

And so to return to my starting paradox. Although I have been here a short while, and am by no means an expert, I can say a few things about Littleport. It has a little-known and fascinating history; its many active community groups give it a real community feel; it has good schools and a warm neighbourly feel. It is a place where nature takes its time and unfolds to her rhythms. It is a place where people spend time to talk, spend time to get to know each other and would rather help than hinder.

Although I'm new to life in Littleport and Littleport Life is new to me I am loving being here. Say hello if you see me!

David

Littleport Players



2019 EVENTS FOR LITTLEPORT PLAYERS

DISCO INFERNO

A 70s Musical

11, 12, 13 July 2019 7.30pm

Doors open 30 minutes before
Littleport and East Cambs Academy

Directed by **Karen Booth**

Musical Direction by **Mark A. J. Checkley**

Tickets **£10.00 per person**

Box Office:

Online – www.ticketsource.co.uk/littleportplayers (online booking fee applies)

In Person – **Bizzie Lizzie and Bargain Centre, Littleport**

Email – rebekahgreen2016@outlook.com

We regret no tickets can be reserved on the door

Refreshments available

SLEEPING BEAUTY – PANTOMIME

5-8 December 2019

Littleport and East Cambs Academy

AUDITIONS

Sun 1 Sept 19 – 1000-1300 hrs – Millfield School, Littleport

Mon 2 Sept 19 – 1900-2100 hrs – Methodist Church Hall, Littleport

Do you like singing, dancing and acting? Fancy taking part in our next pantomime? Join us as we embark on our next adventure for our forthcoming annual pantomime Sleeping Beauty. It's fun, it's loud, it's upbeat and most of all it's amazing ☺. Why would you miss it? If you would like to audition, please register an interest with us first by emailing rebekahgreen2016@outlook.com or call **07799604209**. We'd love to see you!

We are always on the lookout for new members to join us off stage too. Do you play a musical instrument? Do you have an interest in the technical, stage management or set design side? May be you like making props or applying stage make-up? How about marketing or social media advertising? If you have an interest in any theatrical and think you can help us, then please let us know. Email rebekahgreen2016@outlook.com or call **07799 604209**.

The 
Littleport Players
presents

DISCO

Inferno

Book by Justin Sepple

Musical arrangements by Brett Foster & Jim Coyle

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
Musical Theatre International (Europe) on behalf of David Spicer Productions
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe
www.mtishows.co.uk

Directed by Karen Booth
Musical Direction by Mark A.J. Checkley
Choreography by Nikki Dyer

TICKETS
£10.00

11-13
July
2019

Online - www.ticketsource.co.uk/littleportplayers (small text: small text: booking fee applies)

In Person - Bargain Centre & Bizzie Lizzie, Littleport

Email - rebekahgreen2016@outlook.com



BOOK NOW!

7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm)
Littleport and East Cambs Academy
Refreshments available



SPOTLIGHT ON THE LITTLEPORT SOCIETY

Treasured Memories

'The poetry of history lies in the fact that once, on this earth, once, on this familiar spot of ground, walked other men and women, as actual as we are today, thinking their own thoughts, swayed by their own passions, but now all gone, one generation vanishing into another, gone as utterly as we ourselves shall shortly be gone, like ghosts at cockcrow.'

G.M. Trevelyan

This famous historian's quote underlines the importance of preserving memories and records of local people. The Littleport Society has a vast collection of old photographs, letters, and printed village records. Conversations recorded on cassette tape 20 years ago are now expertly digitised for preservation long into the future. Our digitised film records preserve moving images of a life that will one day be lost. One of our volunteers has been adding newspaper reports about Littleport to the Society's archive for over 30 years. Imagine Littleport residents, your descendants even, in 50- or 100-years' time being able to listen to your memories of village life or see how and where you used to live.

Most importantly, the Society's records give ordinary people like us a name, a face, and details of real lives lived. Records of politicians, wealthy landowners and royalty have been preserved down the centuries but the activities of groups like The Littleport Society preserve knowledge about the lives of all of us, of the majority.

The Society's recorded conversations with Littleport residents recently caught the eye of Britain's best-selling Family History magazine, featuring in the March edition of 'Who Do You Think You Are?' with a whole page spread about the project.

The Littleport Society has more than 1200 members locally and across the globe. Many more people around the world can trace their families back to Littleport. For this reason, two of our expert volunteers are working hard to produce an online catalogue which will list every item the Society holds. People anywhere in the world will then be able to go online and see details of what we have and contact us for copies or for photographs of objects. With many

thousands of items to list this is a mammoth task but is well on the way to completion.

Did you grow up in Littleport? Have you traced any of your family tree back to Littleport? Do you live here now and want to know what your house or road looked like 50 years ago or even longer? If so, come along to The Barn in Littleport which houses the Society's archive and collection. It is open on Tuesday afternoons from 1.00 pm until 4.00 pm. Helpful, friendly volunteers with a wealth of knowledge will be there to help you discover your story.

The Littleport Society provides a programme of monthly Tuesday evening talks and events at the Village Hall, Victoria Street, Littleport. Next up, on June 4th at 7.30 pm Paul Howe will be talking about 'The Birds and the Bees – Insights into Animal Behaviour' and on July 2nd at 7.30 pm Chris Carr will be revealing all about 'Boudicca and the Two Empires.' All welcome. Free entry, refreshments.

For family history information and details of events and how to join The Society see www.littleportsociety.org.uk

Follow us on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/littleportsociety/>





Littleport Women's Institute

What goes on at the W.I.

Littleport Women's Institute is a tiny part of the largest women's organisation in the country.

We are a section of the Isle of Ely Federation of Women's Institute, this in turn is affiliated to the National Federation of Women's Institutes which has its office in London.

The list of activities and aims etc., is very long.

Our meetings are held once a month on a Tuesday evening in the village hall, and consist of a certain amount of business, i.e. reports of meetings, treasurer's report, correspondence. Invitations, and up and coming events. Then this is followed by our Speaker. This can be on any subject apart from (religion or politics) and can consist of a talk, film show, demonstration or debate, usually followed by a Question and Answer Session. We usually learn something useful and most sessions are peppered with humour. After our Speaker we have a break for refreshments and a short time for socialising.

When the break is over, time is spent finalising arrangements for events, outings and other things that we take part in.

Birthdays of members are announced (they receive a small gift) and results of

the raffle and the competition which is held at each meeting. Members do not have to take part in the competition, but many do and the points awarded are accumulated and a prize awarded at certain stages. The evening is often rounded off with one of the members reciting an amusing tale.

As part of the Isle of Ely Federation we are frequently invited to the meetings of other Institutes in the group. This is enjoyable as we then meet other like-minded women and hear different speakers etc., great networking.

The Isle of Ely Federation has its office in March where they organise a variety of meetings and events to which we are all invited, in particular the annual Federation meetings are very enjoyable and well attended as after the business they always provide a Speaker of a very high standard. In the past these have included many television personalities, local dignitaries, local radio personalities and much more.

So if you feel that there may be something in our meetings for you, why not give us a try. You would be most welcome. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.15pm in the village hall.



Littleport Community Primary School News

There have been a number of inspirational events happening in school recently. I am extremely proud of the work that has been produced by children as well as the efforts of staff who have organised the activities. The children have thoroughly enjoyed all of the learning experiences and it was wonderful to be able to involve parents and the community in a number of the events too. Below is just a flavour of life at Littleport Community Primary School over the spring term.

Anglia Ruskin University Visit

Year 6 visited Anglia Ruskin University to learn more about life as a student. They had the opportunity to meet and question some current students to find out about the subjects you can study, how often you go to lectures and the careers university might lead to. Later in the day they had the opportunity to explore the university campus. It was really exciting to see the new forensic science block, the art gallery and theatre. However, the wide range of cafes and restaurants caused the most excitement! After lunch, they designed their own universities and then presented them in a real lecture theatre. They really impressed the staff with their creativity and confidence.

Alison Hoal (Phase Leader)

World Book Day

During World Book Day, the whole school focussed on a beautifully illustrated book, *The Lost Words*, by Robert McFarlane and Jackie Morris. Many words which are used to describe the natural environment have been left out of children's dictionaries in recent years to make room for new words. The book is a collection of acrostic poems in the form of spells to bring back words such as bramble, conker, adder, etc. Across the school, the children wrote their own poetry and created their own art and music.

Esther McLeish (Phase Leader)

Early Years Foundation Stage

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage are learning so much and growing both in stature and in confidence all the time. They are currently being inspired by tales, old and new. Stories are opening the door to new worlds where they discover exciting characters, real and imaginary settings and the many ways that stories unfold and impress themselves upon our lives and bury themselves in our hearts. The children have chosen their own favourite stories to retell either orally, through writing, drawings or using technology.

The spring term has also seen the introduction of 'The Bookworms Club' which gives a weekly opportunity for parents and children to spend time reading in the school library. It is well attended and both the children and parents are enjoying the time spent together.

Our own 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party' celebrated the story of *Alice in Wonderland* – the range of imaginative hats was truly amazing! The children enjoyed the story and games, but especially the tea, with sandwiches, cakes and blackcurrant tea served out of real teapots into real cups and saucers!

Anne Ovens (EYFS Leader)

PE

Over the year, children at Littleport Community Primary School have taken part in a variety of sporting activities, not only in their PE lessons but also in clubs run by staff and children. In the Autumn Term, Year 5 children were trained to become Playground Leaders. They have started leading a variety of activities for younger children in the school: Football, Netball, Gymnastics, Dance, Multi-Sports and Speed Stacking are to name just a few. The children have also taken part in some inter school competitions in Football, Cross Country, Tag-Rugby, Hockey, Orienteering and Netball. Next term they will take part in Tri-Golf, Rounders and a Get Active Festival. There has been a large number of children in Year 6 wanting to support PE in school that the Sports Ambassadors manage a variety of sporting jobs: Reporters, Club Leaders, Change 4 Life, Digital Competitions and Playground Leader Manager. Last week saw the celebration of School Sport in the Key Stage 2 Games Day. They travelled to LECA to take part in some competitive sports against other children in their classes. Some local clubs also got involved in promoting sport and the children enjoyed taking part in Korfbal and Taekwondo. KS1 children have their Games Day to look forward to next week. School Games Values are very important in school and the children are awarded bands when they show specific sporting values - these include: Teamwork, Honesty, Self-Belief, Passion, Respect and Determination. Children nominate others in their class and all are very proud to be awarded them.



STEM Week

STEM week has become an annual event in centres of education across the country: a time to promote exploration of Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths among our young students. Here at LCPS we grabbed the opportunity to exalt this area of learning with the young people we work with. We created a bespoke timetable of learning and exploration to engage and enthuse, excite and energise: learning begins with curiosity; we wanted to inspire the children to ask questions about the world around them.

Each class had a mission: Year 5 and 6 had to design the most aerodynamic, best looking and longest flying aeroplane. Year 3 and 4 had to create a boat from recycled materials and test whose would float the longest. Reception, Year 1 and 2 all worked their hardest to create an animal from recycled materials. The children had to go through rigorous design and testing stages in order to see who would be victorious.

In Chemistry the children took part in a range of activities from creating lava lamps, testing the acid/alkali content of various household items and solving crimes using forensic techniques. All of the children in the school had the opportunity to explore permanent change by tie dying a t-shirt. It was amazing to see the results of their experiments on the Friday! Assembly was a sea of colour!

Physics, Maths Technology and Design all came together in the Construction Room where the children had to create a marble drop...long and fast for the middle

school; slower the better for the upper. The younger children had the challenge of bridge building: whose would carry the heaviest truck?

Our Biology focus was the digestive system

From there the children moved to an exploration the contents of owl stomachs! Our intrepid investigators got stuck in identifying bones and discussing diets. They also got to meet some feathered friends in real life: a bird of prey flying overhead proved an experience not to be missed! The older students also heard about what it is like to be a real-life archeologist!

The children had a terrific week full of opportunities to explore, ask questions and discover more from the world of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The culmination of their effort was enjoyed by the great swell of parents and carers who came to the museum that was open on Friday after school: this gave the children a chance to show what they had done and to look at what other parts of the school were up to!

Research School

Our status as a Research School continues to benefit the children through the professional development opportunities presented to staff. There has been a drive to improve standards in writing across the school using the Education Endowment Foundation guidance reports and we will be working with Alex Quigley, author of Closing the Vocabulary Gap to enhance writing even further. For more information on the role of the Research School, please visit <https://researchschool.org.uk/cambsandfens/>

I look forward to the exciting and engaging learning opportunities that lie ahead for the summer term!

Adam Rivett

Headteacher, Littleport Community Primary School.
Director of East Cambs and Fenland Research School



Mark
Your
Calendar

Littleport Leisure Open Day is Back!!

Littleport Leisure will again be hosting it's annual Open Day on Saturday 22nd June. We have moved from a Sunday to a Saturday and we are extending the day into the evening with 'live' music. The day begins at 11.00am and we will have the return of some of the old favourites along with some new ideas to entertain you. This is a great opportunity for all of the community to come together, have a great time and take a look around our new building if you haven't already done so. We are very proud of our new facilities and we would like you to be too!



Millfield School



In my 8 years as Headteacher at Millfield, the Highfields housing development has always been 'in progress' – sometimes there has been lots of building activity and at other times, the building sector has been going through quieter times. In the last few months it feels as though, all of a sudden, the Highfields development is nearing its completion. How true this actually is, I don't know, but certainly houses have been springing up on the Grange Lane side of the development. As many of you will know, Millfield was expanded only a few years ago to accommodate the increasing numbers of children who will live locally. We have been in the luxurious position since then of having spare classrooms but this year we have had many more children joining the school mid-year than ever before and for some year groups there is a waiting list. From September we will be having an additional 2 classes to take the extra children so our spare classrooms are gradually filling up!



For the last couple of years, our music curriculum has been developing and we have been working closely with Cambridgeshire Music to increase the opportunities for our children to learn musical instruments free of charge. Our Y3 and Y4 children learn recorder, our Y5 learn ukulele and Y6 children have had the opportunity to learn trumpet or baritone horn. It's really wonderful to see children playing instruments together! A Y5 class entered a competition open to all schools in Cambridgeshire to compose and perform their own song. Our children were successful in being chosen with 8 others to perform their song in a celebration event at the Corn Exchange in Cambridge.

Deborah Hannaford
Headteacher



Remembering the Dead of Littleport

Now that the Centenary of the signing of the Armistice has passed it would be easy to forget the reason for the signing of the Armistice and why we hold Remembrance Sunday.

Many years ago my wife and I started to visit the battlefields, cemeteries, and memorials to the dead of the Great War. When I joined the Littleport branch of The Royal British Legion I decided to make an effort to find and photograph the cemeteries and memorials to the men from Littleport listed on our war memorial. I was unable to visit all of the memorials, one is in Baghdad for example, but with the help of other people I managed to get photographs of the majority. These photos, together with what local information I could gather, and extracts from the Battalion war diaries from the period they died, have been gathered into a document that now resides with the Littleport Heritage Centre and is available for anyone to read; though copying is forbidden.

Over the next few issues of this magazine I intend to précis the information present in the main document. Please remember these men.

Harry Starling, *2nd Battalion Suffolk Regiment*, reported Missing in Action on 27th August 1914 at Le Cateau. He was not recorded as a prisoner of the Germans and so was presumed dead. He is commemorated on panel 21 of the Menin Gate, leper.

Bertie Lord, *5th Dragoon Guards (Princess Charlotte of Wales's)*, was Killed in Action on 31st October 1914. He is commemorated on panel 5 of the Menin Gate, leper.

William Cheney, *Lance Corporal, 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards*, was Killed in Action on 14th November 1914. He is buried in Grave 6, Row J, Plot IV, Sanctuary Wood Cemetery.

These are the men of Littleport who died in 1914. Part of the original British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F) 'The Old Contemptibles'.





Update on The Lions Club of Littleport

The club is growing and we hope to enrol our 20th member very soon.

We meet at the Adams Heritage Centre in Main Street, in Littleport, usually on the first Sunday of each month.

Our Easter event at the Almonry in Ely was very successful, lots of children enjoyed hunting for Easter eggs and crafts with a Tombola for the adults and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

On a more sombre note, our headquarters in America sent nearly \$100,000 to help alleviate the disaster in Mozambique.

Lions Club International respond to local and international disasters and also send special mobile equipment that turns dirty water into clean drinking water in minutes.

We take clean drinking water for granted in this country, but lots of Indian villages

now have new drinking pumps in villages paid for and installed by Lions' donations.

On a local note we collect used spectacles to be sent to third world countries as well as to homeless charities in the UK.

They can be left at Loach & Wades and also at Adams Heritage Centre both in Littleport.

"Thank you Lions" said a 93 year old gentleman in Honduras, "I can now read my bible for the first time in 15 years."

We will have a stall at Aquafest in Ely on Sunday 7th July, so come and say hello and have a go at our 'Win every time soft toy Tombola!'

For more details of your local Lions Club contact; David & Jenny Ellis
07817 592438 or email:
littleportlionsclub@gmail.com



Happy Easter Egg Hunters

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH



So, the Bible... On Desert Island Discs, the Bible is one of the books available to the castaway and in the film 'The Day After Tomorrow' a survivor wants to keep hold of a Bible; not because he believes it, but because the Bible is somehow special. Many people think the Bible is special, including many who don't necessarily embrace its message.

Here at St George's we take studying the Bible very seriously. Carol Swain has run a weekday group for many years and there is also a Thursday evening bible study group which has run for three years. We've studied a wide variety of books; we looked at the Psalms and how Jesus used them, Mark's Gospel and others including a verse by verse study of the book of Revelation. Recently we've been looking at what are called the Minor Prophets at the end of the Old Testament and the last one was Haggai.

Who? Haggai is very short, the book not the man; only two chapters and it tackles the matter of the people's attitude to rebuilding the Temple in Jerusalem. In short, some had returned from Babylon to rebuild the temple which had been destroyed and after making a really good start, their enthusiasm was failing. It was all a bit difficult really, rebuilding walls and gates and stuff and anyway, what they had managed to build wasn't as good as the temple used to be; and they thought, probably never would be.

I suppose it is human nature to remember criticism rather more readily than praise and I think that for many people, the words 'Prophet' and 'Bible' conjure up images of ranting and shouting and a general

putting down of everyone who isn't considered Godly enough.

Well, that's not exactly true. Criticism there certainly is, but there's massive encouragement too and Haggai goes to great lengths (in just two chapters!) to praise the people for their achievements as well as telling them not to give up.

There is nothing minor or insignificant about Haggai, the Minor Prophet; his message is as real today as ever it was. As we seek to work for the good of the community of Littleport, we need to trust in all the good that is being achieved whether it is in youth work, working with families, the lonely and the disadvantaged as well as establishing relationships with people for their own sake. Even people who on the surface appear to have no real needs. At the informal services at St George's we sometimes use the words, 'goodness is stronger than evil'. Whatever our concept of evil (a whole other bible study topic) we all recognise goodness when we see it. Goodness is stronger than evil and we should trust in all the good that we do see.

The desert island castaway also finds the complete works of Shakespeare; so, betrayal, war, dreams, angst, love - nothing has changed. Whilst it's important to understand how and why the Bible was written in the way it is, its message is as real today as ever it was so give the Bible a go, and why not join, or ask to start, a study group? Haggai, amongst others, would be really pleased.

With every blessing,
Rev'd Howard Robson

Vine Community Church

God's Plans Are For Good, Not Evil

Do you believe that? When we have terrible things happening in our lives are we able to see the whole picture and know that God's plans are for good? The Bible says, "'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord, 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.'" (Jeremiah 29:11). While this verse may be comforting for you in your situation now, it is also good to look at it in terms of the good that we can see over the centuries.

I was fascinated by a book I read last year called *How Christianity Changed the World* by Alvin J Schmidt.

Schmidt takes us back to what happened in the early years of the church after Christ had risen from the dead and His followers had been empowered to spread the good news that Christ saves us all. As people came to believe in Christ their tastes and life style changed, as they were motivated by love and God's beautiful standards. They stopped attending the bloody gladiatorial events, infanticide decreased, babies left out to die were taken in and adopted, and so on. Because they were so different and not judgmental but just going in a different direction, they began to be persecuted. Their morals did not fit in with the society they were living in. Did you know that Emperor Nero used Christians as street lamps by covering them in oil and setting fire to them? And yet they persevered and 300 years later, after so many had lost their lives through persecution, Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire.

Schmidt then goes on to show how many good things were influenced or initiated by Christians over the centuries that followed: the sanctity of life, the elevation of women, charity and compassion, hospitals and health care, the abolishing finally of the slave trade and so on.

Sadly, we know that many calling themselves 'Christians' have done great evils, bringing disrepute to the church. But Jesus warned about them in the Bible, he said; "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matthew 7:15)

Many through history have also used religion as a tool for oppression. Not what Christ taught at all when He said, "Do not lord it over others"! Clearly mistakes have been made over time. However, we need to remember that the good things we enjoy in our society are largely the result of a Christian way of thinking and Christian values. Immense good has been accomplished over the centuries. If we sincerely seek we shall find a plethora of examples of virtue that have changed the world.

In these days of political upheaval and intense debate through social media we risk throwing out what is good when we think that we can go it alone without God's love and wisdom. His plans for us really are for our good. He really does love us.

Nancy Collens



THE LITTLEPORT CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALISTS

A message from the founding
minister NCSS



Prayer and Me

I decided that this communication to you, had to be on a personal level, because prayer is very personal!

Now you might say that I am stating the obvious.

But we know that prayer is something about communication between us as individuals experiencing all of life's ups and downs, and those elevated and loving beings on the other side of life, in the spirit realms of light, who hear our prayer requests and hurry them to those who do the healing and succouring work of the Most High, the Great Spirit, God.

The saints and ministering hosts of angels as they are called by most religious belief systems.

Outside of Spiritualism, prayer is often an ordered and pre-set format - even prescribed to be said, or made, at set times.

Agreed, Spiritualists do have some prayers in the form of hymns and spiritual songs, that are written down and used at various times in services etc.

But we do not have a set rote of things we should say to God at any one particular, prescribed time.

When we pray, we know that we can formulate our own thoughts and have

sweet communion, without anyone else having to tell us what to pray and how.

Of course, there are prayers that were given to our forebears in ancient days, that are so magnificent - and simple in their expression, that they were obviously received after being given them by inspiration from On High.

And these special prayers have been in daily use ever since. Those who recorded these words that have been learned off by heart, may not have known themselves that they would be so important for literally thousands of years, to millions of people from all over the world.

These learned prayers are the bedrock of so many people's daily lives that the original mediums would have been perhaps overwhelmed had they been apprised of the consequences of delivering the words of prayer that they heard.

Moses delivered the prayer repeated ever since by individuals, and groups of individuals, in times of trouble, times of joy and celebration, and just as a daily prayer regardless of situation or condition, in mundane everyday life mode.

Jesus relayed a prayer that he told his followers to use in much the same way, as he and they, had been used to reciting the former.

Both prayers have had good use as what I call, emergency prayers. Prayers you can use in an emergency when you need help and can't get your own thoughts together.

I have a prayer that I say when I wake up, and when I lay me down to sleep. The same words, that I would say, are like an affirmation for me about what my conscious life rests on.

In fact, I shared this prayer, the first lines of the prayer Moses relayed, on my website www.lynguestdeswarte.com on a page called unsurprisingly, 'Prayer and Meditation.'

It says, 'blessed are you Lord, Lord, our Spirit (God) you are One. Blessed are you Lord, King for eternity.' Jesus would have said in Aramaic (common Hebrew dialect) Baruch atoy adonoy, adonoy elohenu echod. Baruch atoy adanoy, melech le'olam ve'ad (ch sound as in the Scottish 'loch').

Going back to all those people around this globe on which we presently reside, and the myriad languages in use, it's good to know that as Spiritualists, we understand that the language used in prayer is, in actuality, irrelevant, for the language of Spirit is universal.

All thought is a series of symbols, images that are translated into the different languages that our nationality causes us to learn and divides us country by country; not so on the Other Side.

Take that word 'blessed' translated from Hebrew. If we are speaking English, In the 'Lord's Prayer' it translates as 'hallowed' - (as in 'Hallowed be Thy Name' when Jesus must have said 'Blessed is The Name' - as there was no actual name given to God back then. Nevertheless, the Lord and all the angels, and those in Spirit, hear and understand us anyway!

Our Spiritualist understanding abhors the fact that people have been killed over the centuries, for using the 'wrong' language in which to pray - or read the Bible.

But I digress. Prayer is so important to me because I know it connects me with the infinite - the world unseen that surrounds us even as we live our lives here. As I send my thoughts out, I know too that my prayers for healing and easement are heard and have been acted upon. I have been helped so many, many times, it would take a book to log all the instances. And this is not just for me. It works for everyone.

Inspirational prayer, conversation between you and the Spirit of Love and Light and all the saintly intercessors, will help you as it helps me.

Most Rev Lyn Gibb-de Swarte NCSS

Facebook: Littleport Christian Spiritualists

Littleport Spiritualism

**THURSDAY NIGHTS FROM 7PM
LITTLEPORT VILLAGE HALL**

All are welcome to our weekly meetings filled with healing, Proof of Survival & Philosophical content. Judge for yourself what Christian Spiritualism is all about and come join the happy band!

- Rev Nick, Senior Ministry Leader

Each week I work hard to bring quality, genuine mediums to our group. I also work hard to promote the work of our group.

- Rev Wendie, Deacon & Mediums Secretary

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL!

A Message from St John's Methodist Church

Once again, I am coming to the end of my time working in Littleport. What a wonderful place it is. I have enjoyed working with my Christian colleagues as well as meeting new people through baptism and funerals. All with different experiences of life and yet have shown me so much of what life is about and how they cope.

We have been shocked recently by the evil killing of people of faith in the most unexpected places. The attack upon the Mosque in Christ Church, New Zealand, the massacre of the Christians and the burning down of churches in Nigeria and the killing of Christian tourists in Sri Lanka. All these events have caused us to become aware again of the evil that lives within people. Our thoughts and prayers have already gone out to those who have lost loved ones in such a shocking way. It also tells us in today's world what it means to be a person of faith.

The other shocking event was the fire at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. For the people of France, it was a shocking event which hit at the very heart of French culture remembering that France is a secular country. Already complaints have surfaced at the amount of money that is going to be spent on the repairs. The money should be given to the poor.

These laudable sentiments have a hint of hypocrisy as the billion pounds raised by well-meaning people would not have been done had there not been a fire.

Just to put it into perspective, the World Health Organisation have spent fifteen billion pounds in aid this year alone, plus, of course, what all the other aid agencies spend of your generous giving.

As is necessary when writing in advance for your community magazine summer issue, spring was truly under way as I address you. And there was a temptation to become sentimental about the wonderful new life that is springing up. As Easter was later this year, we were able to take advantage of the idea of new life. The church talks of resurrection as new life – God's life being evident in the world. So belatedly may I wish you joy post Easter, a blessed summer, and a continuing experience of hope and new life.

Rev Bernard Arnold



Vine Community Church Meetings

Toddler and Baby Group with Parent and Carers

Monday 10 to 11.30

Contact Julie: 07790 304099

House groups

Tuesday evenings, and Wednesdays at 10.30 am

Coffee Break

Thursday 10.30 to 12.00 with homemade cakes.

Morning Worship

Sunday 10.30 am with Creche and Stars.

All welcome, for further information on any of the above please leave a message on **861478** and we will return your call.

The Vine Community Church.
Globe Lane, Littleport, CB61PW



St John's Methodist Church



High Street, Littleport

Sunday Services

Morning: 10.45am – weekly

Evening: 6.30pm – 2nd Sunday of each month

5.00pm – 4th Sunday, at St George's

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

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

Minister: Rev. Bernard Arnold (01353 720347)

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals by arrangement

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



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

Rotary Club of Littleport — Update



Rotary Club of Littleport's second Quiz Night. This took place at the Village Hall, Friday evening 5th Oct. where the Club played host to over 120 guests. Amongst the guests, were the Littleport Players Quiz team, entertained—the Rotary Club members—who in turn, responded by making a donation to the Littleport Players.

The **Littleport Players** were invited to a recent Rotary Club Meeting —see right

Lisa, Chelsea, Karen and Rebekah

receiving a cheque for £500 from **Treasure Paul Cox**



Next Quiz — 25-10-2019



Littleport Scouts

In early April we had an really interesting visit to the club by a couple of people, **Julie Double** and **Darrel Gardiner** seen above with **President Tony Summersgill**, from Littleport Scouts to see how we might be able to work together to help raise money for the boys and girls at Beavers/Rainbows/Cubs/Brownies/Scouts/Guides—some really great ideas—stay tuned..

A donation of £250 was made to Therapy Dogs Nationwide

Rotary donate £250 to Therapy Dogs Nationwide in the light of their recent presentation to the Club. This was felt to be a very worthwhile charity to support. The presence of these wonderful animals works magic in locations where there may be confusion or illness. Some of the local dogs were taken to a RAF Lakenheath family day. The presence of the dogs was a highlight



for every one.

Incidentally the Helicopter see left and above

Is a £90m **Osprey** often see flying around the area.

A donation of £500 was made to Rotary KidsOut Day.

We will be hosting an event on 31st May 2019 primarily in aid of the National Rotary KidsOut Day.

Every June, the Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland together with KidsOut take over 25,000 disadvantaged children on a fun day out. The children visit the seaside, theme parks, adventure playgrounds and zoos, giving them all wonderful memories to cherish for a lifetime.

Shelter Box

We have just donated a **ShelterBox** to help victims of Cyclone Idai in southern Africa. This is actually the third we have donated in this Rotary year (July 2018 to June 2019). The first was to help following the earthquake in Sulawesi, Indonesia and the second following the floods in Kerala, southern India. All three were devastating to those in the regions affected. Each ShelterBox costs £590, so that's £1770 - all raised with the support of people like you.

Cyclone Idai Update

Circ.20/04/2019

A team is now in Chikwawa, one of the worst-hit districts of southern Malawi. They've visited families living in collective center's to understand how ShelterBox can help.

At collective centers across Malawi, conditions are crowded and cramped, putting people at increased risk of disease, violence and even trafficking. Emergency shelter is desperately needed. to give families the space and tools to recover in privacy.

We expect support may include emergency **ShelterKits** so families can repair or create shelter, as well as water filters and mosquito nets to protect themselves from diseases.

Right now, we are talking to local partners in all the countries affected to understand how we can help. As Rotary International's project partner for disaster relief, we're in close contact with the District Governor for Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. We're also working with Habitat for Humanity, who are helping to provide shelter aid in Chikwawa.

Your support

More than 86.000 people have been forced to flee their homes after heavy rains and flash flooding devastated villages across southern Malawi. Throughout March 2019, rain continued day and night causing Malawi's largest river Shire to burst its banks and flood neighboring communities. For many displaced families. the situation deteriorated further when cyclone Idai tore through the country.



Lend with Care

Throughout the developing world there are numerous entrepreneurs who want to get going but simply don't have the funds in place to start. We're not talking about big business but the woman who wants to run a local market stall, the man who wants to bake and sell bread, the electrician who wants to set up a repair business in other words the so called "little people" who, in many cases, are the backbone of a country's economy.

This is where "Lend with Care" steps in - the entrepreneur approaches his local micro-finance unit whose partner is Lend with Care. If the idea has promise the loan is granted and the business gets under way.

These are modest sums but your local Rotary Club has so far donated £2,650 to this cause which has so far created loans amounting to over £11300 with repayments to date at over £9,100. Most significantly we have helped 244 entrepreneurs get started in turn creating a further 97 jobs. A truly wonderful scheme and we are delighted that our involvement has helped achieve so much.



The poster features a background image of wine glasses filled with red wine. At the top left is a shield-shaped logo with a stylized plant. At the top right is the Rotary Club logo. The text on the poster reads: "The Rotary Club of Littleport presents at The Anchor Little Downham", "Call My **WINE** Bluff", "Friday 31st May 2019 7:30pm", "An evening of Good Food, Wine & Good Company", "Welcome glass of bubbly", "Three Course Dinner", "Wines to enjoy with each course", "In aid of 'Kids Day Out' and other Rotary Charities", "Tickets £39.50", and "Contact Rotn. Gary Hartwig : gary@packwell.co.uk Mobile: 07776 208155".

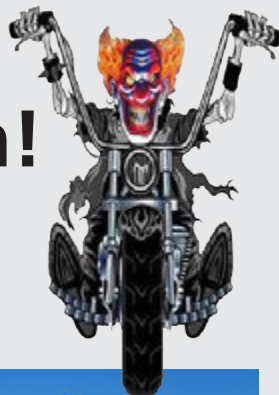
If you want to have a chat about becoming involved in Rotary, call

Ron Bradney on: 01353 864949

If you want to find out more about our Rotary Club. **Take a look at our website:** www.littleportrotary.org.uk **Paul Cox—Design Studio**



The 363MCC Does it Again!



On Saturday May 4th the annual Crowning Around bikers meet with music, stalls, raffle and competitions was a resounding success despite the blustery fen weather!

In fact the usual fly-over by one of the RAF's WW2 aircraft had to be cancelled because of the inclement conditions.

As President of the 363 Motor Cycle Club Mark Robinson said after the event: 'A massive thank you to all who attended Crowning Around Bike Show braving the freakish weather! Massive thanks also to all of the club, the club friends and helpers, and to the staff at the Crown – for all your hard work, well done and thank you.

Massive thanks also to Alan King of Eastern Build and Joinery, Beynur and Cindy Kaptan of Beynur's Tattoo Studio Littleport for your massive donations. And thanks all of you who sponsored and donated to us.

Without you all the show would be nothing.



President 363MCC Mark Robinson



all photos: Cathy Gibb-de Swarte

SUMMER FIRE SAFETY TIPS

As the weather brightens up and the sunshine starts brightening our weeks, we welcome the longer, brighter nights and the opportunity to enjoy summer days and nights in the garden.

When powering up your BBQ's and putting out the garden furniture for the summer season, be sure to take note of our top tips to ensure you have a fun and safe summer in the garden.

- If cooking outdoors, always check BBQs over after winter storage. Keep them on level ground and ensure they are sited away from sheds, fences, overhanging foliage and property.
- Keep children and garden games well away from the cooking area and never leave the barbecue unattended.
- If you have a bonfire, build it well away from buildings, tents or other flammable objects and make sure it is properly out when you leave.

- When out in the countryside, extinguish cigarettes properly and dispose of them responsibly – never throw a lit cigarette into a field or wooded area.
- Don't forget to stay safe around our county's waterways and if you see someone in trouble in water, call 999 immediately with clear details of your location.
- When out camping or using a tent, never use candles inside or nearby and always discourage smoking nearby. Never cook inside a tent.

For the latest news, incidents and safety advice, or to contact us, log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk. Sign up to email alerts and find us on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook or call 01480 444500

HOW TO PREVENT OUTDOOR FIRES

OUR TOP 7 TIPS...

1.  Ensure cigarettes are completely out
2.  Don't throw cigarettes out of car windows onto grass verges or vegetation
3.  Put disposable barbecues on bricks, don't place directly on grass
4.  Don't leave glass bottles lying on the ground - the sun's rays reflect through the glass and can start a fire
5.  When camping, don't leave your campfire unattended and make sure it is completely out before you leave it
6.  Use barbecues on a hard, flat surface away from grass, shrubs or fencing
7.  Talk to your children about the dangers of starting fires outside



CAMBRIDGESHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



Cathy Gibb-de Swarte tells us some heart-warming human-interest stories from the weekly Littleport Parkrun and how some are running the Littleport 10k for the MS charity on July 28!

Parkruns have now become such a phenomenon that the whole world and their dog are taking part every Saturday morning just to experience that 'get fit fix' and Littleport is part of that global phenomena.

Such a regular event does encourage that community spirit of togetherness, fun and feel good factor. If you turn up regularly and meet the many Parkrunners, walkers, babies being pushed in buggies by their parents, children and many happy doggie companions on a regular basis, you do get to find out more about the people who turn up, and it seems that everyone really has a story to tell. I've met some amazing powerhouse athletes from the likes of Ely based runners who include Lisa Redman (Long), Lauren Thomas, Justin Smith, Amanda Murfitt, James Lee, Ashleigh Blackman-Doyle, to name but a few, who are likened to those battery operated toy bunny rabbits in the Duracell adverts, who never stop running. These doughty Parkrunners just constantly rack up the mileage be it 5k, 10k, half marathons, marathons, tri marathons and win sack fulls of medals. Then there are those who are just happy to arrive every early Saturday morning who love the challenge of completing a 5k circuit and comparing times with fellow Parkrunners and walkers afterwards.

And you never know who you are sharing a Parkrun with and the brave stories they have to tell.

Every Saturday, Henry Wright would turn up to Littleport Parkrun and week after week his times would improve and he was getting healthier, fitter and quicker. I didn't realise Henry was taking up running to get fit for this year's London Marathon in memory of his young 4 year old son Douglas and raising money for CLIC Sargent, the UK's leading cancer charity for children and young people.

"CLIC Sargent was the glue that held us together and they were so important to our family," said Henry who wanted to do something tough, not just for his son Douglas, but also to help with his own physical and mental well-being which has taken a beating over the past few years. And Henry's training and running various distances including Littleport's Parkrun paid off and he finished the London Marathon in a punishing time of 6 hours 18.58 minutes. Then there is another amazing Parkrunner Naomi McCombie, an Operations Director at Ely's Atrium Fitness Centre. Naomi has survived bowel cancer back in 2013 and still has to have regular check-ups as well as taking part in a clinical trial. Always a cheery soul she loves a challenge, especially when it comes to local Parkruns, and already boasts 19 under her belt, and has even achieved a New Personal Best of 31.15 in March of this year.

Littleport resident Ann Schofield is a tenacious Parkrunner who is happy to be part of such a healthy activity but admits



Henry Wright with his London Marathon medal



David Murfitt briefs 1st time Parkrunners by the bike shelter



L-R David Marshall, Ashleigh Blackman-Doyle, Laura Baker, Cathy Gibb-de Swarte

being a MS sufferer does have its drawback.

"You have your good and bad days which can be unpredictable" Ann told Littleport Life.

Ann who was born with a deformed hip has been told by her doctor that exercise can help and already she has seen signs of improvement.

"I never took up running at school because I was always the chubby kid so I wasn't built for the sport, but then I was inspired by March Parkrunner Lisa Forrest, who inspired me to take up Parkrunning and I haven't looked back," said Ann, who knows she is not fast but more the steady pace kind of Parkrunner, but she has courageously agreed to be part of a MS charity team competing in Littleport's 10k event on Sunday July 28th.

Making up the team is 37 year old local refuse collector Jamie Gayfer who is joint Manager of Ely City Reserves and has played football for both Littleport Town FC and Ely City Reserves for 20 years.

Ex-Littleport Town FC goalkeeper David Rollings achieved a good finish in the Saucony Cambridge Half Marathon in March and successfully ran the 10k last year. Ashleigh Blackman-Doyle, a Special Needs Teacher in Ely enjoys running since taking it up last January. She wanted to challenge herself when she reached her 30th birthday by running 12 half marathons in 12 months winning 30 medals and is on course to

complete her goal. Ashleigh's friends are Parkrunners Verity Fretwell and Laura Baker. Verity who superbly ran and completed the London Marathon in 5 hours 00.55 is a 1 to 1 Teaching Assistant at Littleport Primary School, while Laura is also a Teaching Assistant at Highfield Ely Academy. Both women started running at the same time as Ashleigh.

Amanda Beavis who is getting into her running stride agreed to run the Littleport 10k again having accomplished it last year and in terrible torrential rain and blustery wind. Amanda's young son Stanley will also be part of the MS team running for his Nanna in the fun run at 10 am. Clare Andrews became the 9th member and admitted that she hasn't run a 10k before, but looking at her excellent Parkrun results and getting into her stride, her team mates will be there willing her and Ann over the finishing line.

Bob Bragger, Group Co-ordinator/Chair of the Cambridge & District MS Society Group told Littleport Life that the Society purely survive on donations only and are indebted to a local lady whose husband is a MS sufferer and who raised over £800.00 on her birthday. And on June 22nd they will be holding their first ever MS Motorcycle Show with Harley Davidson donating a leather jacket to auction, plus people donating to enjoy a ride on a motorbike.

Sigma Embroidery are donating 5 running caps for the participants.

The MS Society and Littleport Leisure



Since starting the MS Society exercise class at Littleport Leisure 12 months ago, the number of people registered to join us has grown to 16.

The session starts with chair-based exercises and progresses to using equipment such as motomed machines, balance bars, boxing gloves and with the help of volunteers Mike and Pauline together with our instructor Adam, we assist people that use wheelchairs and walking aids on to spin bikes, something that they would never have thought they'd do!

We usually all then adjourn to the café afterwards to put back the calories that have been burnt off...

The staff at Littleport Leisure together with the local community support our group

really well. And we have organised ceramic tile workshops for the disabled, taken part in quiz nights and been the recipient of the bowls club charity days.

Cathy Gibb-de Swarte and Ann Schofield are currently raising a team to take part for us in the 10k run on July 28th.

This support means a great deal to us so we are very happy to organise the first MS Society Motorcycle Show as part of the Littleport Leisure Open Day on June 22nd where the Harley Davidson group, Fastec Racing and the Spinney Abbey Monk & Disorderly Cider are all supporting us! So bring the family down for a fun day out.

Bob Bragger

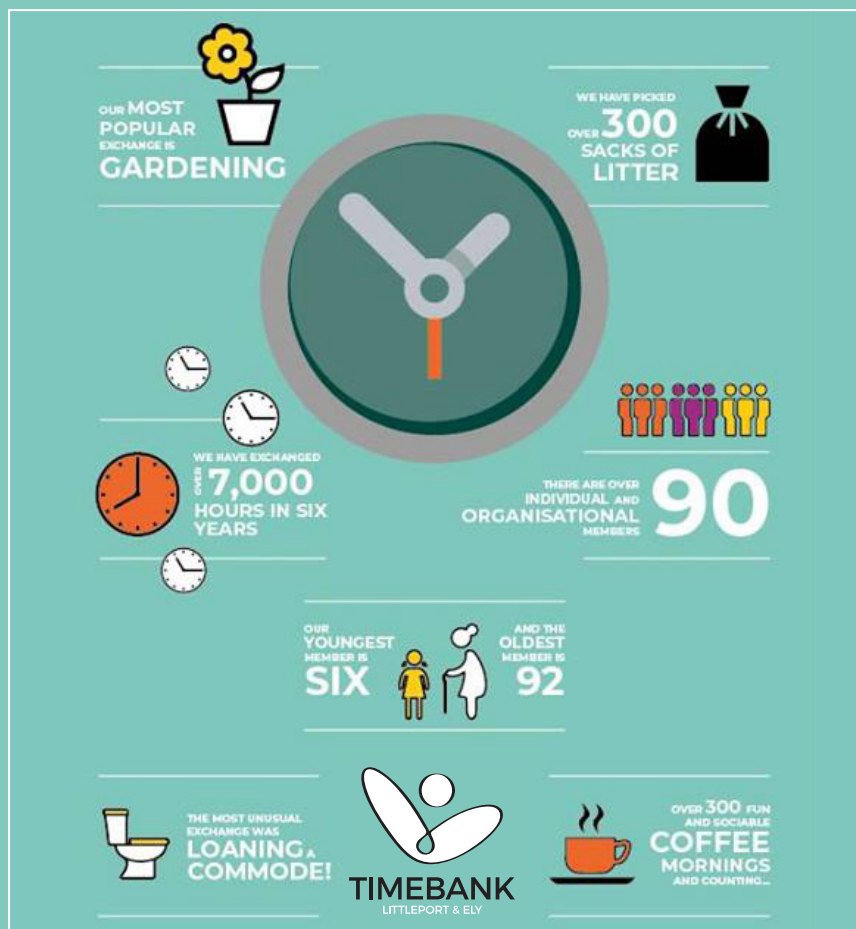
Cambridge & District MS Society Group.



L to R: Ann Schofield, Bob Bragger and Ruth Bragger in the cafe at Littleport Leisure after a Saturday Parkrun

TIMEBANK TOP FACTS

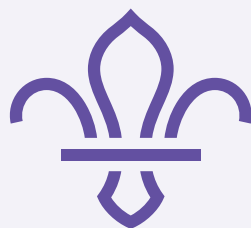
LITTLEPORT AND ELY



A simple way of explaining some great Littleport & Ely Timebank statistics - all members should be really proud that you contribute to its success.

Phil Robinson a member of Timebank says: "And these numbers do not include all of the trips out and about by groups of friends that have met through Timebank Since I signed up my life has changed, so much for the better. A quantity I find incalculable."

Littleport Scouts Group



Going above and beyond the call of duty!

Two Littleport residents have received awards for their services to young people in the Scout Movement

Husband and wife Mike and Diane Philbey received the Bar to the Silver Acorn and 30 years' Chief Scout's Service Award respectively for their work supporting young people and adults in the Scouting movement. "I didn't expect it, to be honest" says Mike. "It was in recognition of the new sections we have opened here in Littleport." There are now two groups per age group - the second Beaver Colony opened in 2017, the second Cub Pack in 2018, and a second Scout Troop started up earlier this year.

At the 1st Littleport Scout Group we have just launched a second Scout Troop and now have spaces available any young people who wish to become Scouts. Anyone aged 10 1/2 to 14 is welcome to join us on a Tuesday evening from 7.30pm to 9pm at the Littleport Scout Hut, Camel Road.

Come and have fun whilst learning and learn whilst having fun.

"As the Group Scout Leader I get the award but it really is down to work of my brilliant leadership team who run these groups every week," he adds, modestly.

Mike has been Group Scout Leader - ie the person in charge - at Littleport

for eight years, but his involvement with Scouting goes all the way back to 1967 when he was a Cub Scout himself. Since then he has held various roles, including being a Scout Leader in London and then in Littleport when the family moved to the village in 1994.

Diane had been a Guide when she was growing up, and then joined Scouting as a Cub Scout Leader after seeing the enjoyment Mike got out of helping the young people and taking part in activities such as camping. "I thought, if you can't beat them, join them!" she says. She has held various positions with the youngest of the Scouting sections - Beaver Scouts - from leading a group in Littleport through to more senior positions within the Ely District and Cambridgeshire County sections of Scouting, and is now the Assistant County Commissioner for Beaver Scouts.

The pair received their awards during the St George's Day parade, which took place at Ely Cathedral on Saturday 20 April. Diane says: "It was a wonderful ceremony and I feel honoured to have been involved with such a great global movement for so long."

Mike and Diane's sons grew up in Scouting, and one is now a Beaver Scout Leader in Ely. Offering opportunities to experience the great outdoors and learn new skills is what motivates Mike and Diane to keep on volunteering. "Plus, I still really enjoy it," says Mike. "I love the camping and showing kids new things such as campfire cooking, that many would not experience otherwise."

"I am so pleased that Mike and Di have been recognised for their contribution to Scouting. They have done so much, not only for the children but also for the leaders in Littleport and beyond," says Julie Double, one of the Littleport leaders. "They both go above and beyond in all they do."

Louise Parfitt

Scouting is growing in Littleport. There are two groups for each section - Beavers, Cubs and Scouts - providing opportunities to learn new skills, get active and have fun for young people aged between 6 and 14. Leaders have a great time too - there are opportunities to learn new skills (that look good on a CV!), meet other like-minded people, and support our children to flourish. If you are interested in finding out more - either about how you can get involved or on behalf of a young person in your care - please email info@1stlittleportscoutgroup.org.uk





Welney Wetland Centre

For wetlands, spring and summer brings new life. Will you discover something new at your local Wetland Centre this season?

With a successful spring the efforts of the busily nesting birds will be rewarded with the hatching of their chicks. In early summer watch avocet, lapwing, redshank and common tern chicks as they become more adventurous, feeding in the shallow water. Ducklings and cygnets will be following their parents around the pools and ditches, sometimes catching a lift on the backs of mum or dad. Whilst in the hides, look up to see swallows and house martins swooping in, feeding their growing young. On the feeders at the Visitor Centre juvenile sparrows, goldfinches and reed buntings are fed by their attentive parents. Through the spring and summer months it's not just birds that can be seen from the hides as the Washes are home to around 600 cows. Their munching habits help manage the vegetation, creating perfect tussocky patches for nesting and feeding birds. As the cows head down to the water's edge to drink, watch their hooves squelch the mud. These poached areas are

ideal for feeding waders and their young. Look out for the reserve team riding trial bikes through the Washes, as they carry out their daily count of the cows.

Whilst enjoying the summer sunshine, why not venture along the Summer Walk, through the Washes to the River Delph? Listen for the songs of warblers, like the unmistakable chiffchaff and Cetti's warbler as they proclaim their territories. Being out on the Washes really gives you a sense of the wide open landscape and allows you to enjoy the peace and tranquillity.

During the summer season the Washes burst into colour, with bright wildflowers such as great willow herb, flowering rush and marsh woundwort. Butterflies, bees and other insects will also be in abundance, nectaring on the profusion of wildflowers. Why not see how many butterflies you can spot and take part in the Big Butterfly Count (Fri 19 July to Sun 11 August)?

Warmer days increase your chances of seeing dragonflies and damselflies on the wing; June to August is the height of their activity. Up to 21 species have been recorded on site. Be on the lookout for larger hawk dragonflies patrolling the paths and ditches,

Yellow wagtail – Kim Tarsey





Four spotted chaser – Kim Tarsey

darters perched on branches soaking up the sun, as well as the dainty blue damselflies skimming over the water.

Want to know what is living under the water surface? With all the equipment available at our two platforms, try your hand at some pond dipping. With each sweep of the net you may discover damselfly nymphs, pond skaters, ramshorn snails or even a water scorpion. With lots to learn, at weekends and select days during spring and summer holidays guides are on hand to help you with identifying those trickier critters.

Discover the nocturnal life on the reserve during our popular Bat and Barn Owl



Yellow loosestrife bee – Georgette Taylor

evenings. As the sun sets, barn owls hunt over the wetland meadows. Bats emerge to feed, sometimes flying right over your heads. Pipistrelle, noctule and daubenton's are just some of the eight bat species to watch and listen out for as we head out along the paths. We return to the Centre to see moths fluttering around the light traps; from large, colourful hawk moths to tiny micro moths, smaller than your finger nail. For all details about events throughout the period go to our What's On page at www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/welney/

Photos credit: WWT



Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd

At TNS you can find the products you need, at a business that's local to you.



Walk behind lawn mowers are in store, set up and ready to go, from quality brands such as Stihl and Stiga, to give your lawn that perfect finish.

After you've mown the grass you can give it some TLC with After Cut products, plus grass seed and lawn feed and weed to ensure you have a lawn to be proud of.

FloPro watering accessories, Resolva, to tackle the weeds, plus Kent & Stowe and Draper hand tools are all available to finish off the look.

There's even great value composts – pop along to take advantage of the amazing offer of 3 Westland 70 litre Multipurpose compost bags for only £12. This fantastic offer is still running, owing to popular demand.

All of this under one roof and experts on hand to answer your questions on machinery, plus our carry to car service, means you don't need to go anywhere else.

You can't rely on the weather but you can rely on quality products and good customer care at TNS.



Your local branch is Wisbech Road, Littleport.

Call in today, phone on **01353 863038** or click **www.tnsgroup.co.uk**



Christie Hart

has designs on tattooing

There are some amazing local youngsters in Littleport. Take 20-year old Christie Hart. Christie didn't have the best of starts in life when at the age of 17 months she was diagnosed with spinal sclerosis. She underwent operation after operation even having a metal rod fused into her spine. Having overcome all that Christie who has been drawing from the age of 7, has now created an amazing portfolio of her tattoo designs and wants to start her own tattoo business in the near future.

"When Christie was old enough she got a tattoo, but she just didn't want anyone's design. She wanted her own design, and now she sports all of her own bar one on her body," said proud Mum Carmen.





Littleport Town FC's Will Rolls Picked for International Duty!



Will Rolls of Littleport and England

Centre back Will Rolls is part of the Littleport Town FC team that finished 4th narrowly missing promotion in the 2018/19 season. A key figure in the side that stepped up to the plate to keep the club going after some personnel difficulties at its start with some 1st team players leaving, he is now called up for international duty.

Impressing the England Deaf International Team Football Manager, Dean Humphrey, at a cup game between Peterborough Deaf and Fulham Deaf, Will was selected for the team playing in the 2019 European Championship held in Crete from June 2-16.

Finishing in the top 2 of the 4 groups participating qualifies Will, who has 4 Caps, and his team, for the World Cup in South Korea! Will's group is England, Ukraine, France and Sweden.

Will's memorable first international match was a 3-1 win played against the British Army.

Will has also played against a Celebrity X1 for a charity.

The England Deaf International Football Team is self-funded.

They get no financial support from government sources or national governing body... This puts a lot of pressure on the players and coaches before they even start playing a game!

The squad train together once a month at various venues around the country requiring them to find the money for transport, accommodation and all other related expenses. Then as Will points out, there are more and more friendly matches in the growing fixture list too. This should be a happy circumstance unencumbered by worries about funding!

Will says: "My experiences have been fantastic so far! Representing my country means so much to me. I want to make my country proud and bring the trophy home!"

Cathy Gibb-de Swarte



England Deaf International Football Team

Getting Fit at Littleport Leisure



REPLAY

01353 373800

Camel Road
Littleport

Gentle classes aimed at individuals who might be new to exercise, less active or experiencing a physical ailment or medical condition. The classes, due to their structure and nature, will also offer the opportunity for socialising and interaction with like minded individuals

FIRST CLASS IS FREE! (excluding lunch and water workout)

Light Lunch

Aerobics

Table Tennis

Boccia

Water Workout

Curling

Indoor Cycling

Gym

Timetable

MONDAY - The Next Step 12.45pm-1.45pm £3

A gym-based session for those who need monitoring and guidance whilst exercising - ideal for beginners, exercise referral patients and those requiring rehabilitation

MONDAY - Water Workout 5pm-5.30pm (Hydrotherapy pool - changing rooms open from 4.45pm-5.45pm) £5

A gentle low impact water based class to help strengthen muscles and increase mobility.

PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL

TUESDAY - Activities 11am-1pm £3

Boccia, Curling and Table Tennis or why not add a light lunch for £8 up to 1.30pm

THURSDAY - Indoor Cycling 10-10.45am £3

A gentle class for people who enjoy cycling

THURSDAY - Aerobics 11-11.45am ~£3

Low impact rhythmic aerobic exercise inclusive of stretching and mild strength training routines

Littleport Life is looking for someone to join our family of volunteers to help on the committee as secretary. Outlined here is what that position actually entails.

The role of the Secretary is to support the Chair in ensuring the smooth functioning of the Management Committee. The Secretary's tasks include:

ENSURING RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATION

1. To prepare agendas in consultation with the Chair (and chief officer).
2. To circulate agendas and any supporting papers in good time.
3. To receive agenda items from other committee members.
4. To check that a quorum is present.
5. To minute meetings and circulate the draft minutes to all committee members.
6. To ensure that the Chair signs the minutes once they have been approved.
7. To check that committee members and staff have carried out action(s) agreed.
8. To circulate agendas and minutes of the annual general meeting (AGM) and any special or extraordinary general meetings.
9. To ensure up-to-date records are kept of committee membership.

MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETINGS

10. To ensure arrangements for meetings are met (booking the room, arranging for equipment and refreshments, organising facilities for those with special needs, etc).

OTHER DUTIES

11. To sit on appraisal, recruitment and disciplinary panels as required.

QUALITIES AND SKILLS REQUIRED

12. Organisational ability.
13. Experience of committee work and procedures.
14. Minute-taking experience
15. Good communication and interpersonal skills.
16. Impartiality, fairness and the ability to respect confidences.
17. Approachable and sensitive to the feelings of others.
18. Well organised and an eye for detail.
19. Ability to work well with the Chair.
20. Good time-keeping.

TIME COMMITMENT: The role of Secretary requires an estimated commitment of about 2 hours per month.

If you are interested and want to find out more, please contact us via the email addresses on page 2.

Littleport's Maureen Fresco relates

The Story of FENPROBE

Now a member of the Talking Newspaper Federation

The story began in the mid 70's. Tony May, then a young man living in Stretham with his family with a good job as an inspector at Marshals Airport in Cambridge, gradually began to lose his sight. Finally in the late 70's his sight went completely and he became registered blind. There are many hardships to be faced living with blindness but one he didn't reckon on was not being able to pick up the Ely Standard, and read it. Tony could keep up with national news on radio and tv, but the local news had to be read to him by his wife Carol. As he sat listening one day, he had his eureka moment.

Ely and Village news on tape so that he and others could listen to it at their leisure. He also wanted the news to be entirely free.

Tony had always been technically minded - to the end of his life, he relied heavily on his computer and the internet. Sadly he died later, but left a lasting legacy. Talking News as they became called were in their infancy at this time and Tony had arrived at the idea quite independently.

Nowadays, nearly every community has its own Talking News Service, and we have a national charity organisation, The Talking News Federation, to which nearly all TN's are affiliated and which provide much information and advice on setting up, technical help and so on. Back then Tony was on his own. Tony and Carol could not afford to start the service themselves - so he enlisted the help of local organisations, shops, public houses and the press. Wherever he felt money could be raised, bottles appeared



Harry and Maureen Fresco with recording equipment that had to be stored at their home

on counters everywhere in the district. The first bottle filled, and then broken was on the bar of Tony's local the Red Lion at Stretham. The District Manager of Watneys officiated and with the contents of the bottle and donations received during the evening raised £203 enough to buy several tape recorders and tapes.

Volunteers from Campaign Amateur Theatre In Ely were recruited and at Christmas 1978 the very first tape went out to a dozen registered blind. The tape started with a message from the Mayor followed by excerpts from the news, read by founder members of Fenprobe all sounding very professional.

Photos overleaf - the story continues on page 56

FENPROBE Celebrated 40 years

Photos by Ely Mayor Michael Rouse



Ely Standard editor John Elworthy covers the story!



L-R Chair Bill Pickess Secretary Janet Smith President Richard Hobbs



Town Crier Avril Hayter-Smith and her Bellman, husband Graham at the celebration

In the early days the tape came out monthly and contained a mixture of news, general interest items and interviews. After a year or two, Fenprobe went over to tapes consisting entirely of news, not just snippets, but full items from the Ely Standard. The Ely Standard had yet to come on the scene. This was recorded fortnightly, plus a magazine tape of local interest every month.

However Tony May's ambition was for his listeners to enjoy a full 60 minute news tape every week, and in the early 90's we finally realised this goal.

Since then Fenprobe has produced a 60-minute news tape 51 out of 52 weeks each year. We charitably give our volunteers Christmas week off!

36 years after the first pub bottle was opened in Stretham, Fenprobe, a registered charity, sends a weekly news recording to around 50 people who are blind and partially sighted, living mostly in Ely and surrounding villages. I say mostly because when our listeners move out of the district, they quite often ask for the tapes to be sent to their new address. Some of our tapes have even gone to the USA!

We have 6 teams who record in rotation. Prior to 2010 five teams recorded on a Thursday afternoon and the 6th team recorded on a Friday night by volunteers who are at work during the week but still like to be the part of the service.

We all read in the evening now which will be explained later. On Thursday morning, the Group Editor buys 2 copies each of the Ely Standard and Ely Weekly. He or she then cuts out news items and re-arranges them on A4 paper to make it easier to read and gets rid of the problem of paper rustling! Some items are re-edited to make them shorter, but if a court case is reported, then it has to be read in its

entirety for legal reasons. We must not forget to put in all the gory and sensational bits either! In the early day editors tended to leave those bits out, as if blind people needed to be sheltered - they soon put us right. Mostly it all goes smoothly, but I well remember a couple of times when the edited news did not arrive and two of us were cutting and pasting as the readers read. Don't panic! Don't panic! Time is of the essence you see. Thursday evening at 5 pm sharp, the crew assembles, usually 3 or 4 readers and a recording technician. Reading the news takes about 1½ hours and then the memory master stick has to be copied. In the old cassette days, the whole process took at least 2 ½ hours.

The team works as a production line. The memory sticks are quickly tested on a player and put into wallets, into postal sacks and finally taken to the post office for next day posting.

For many years each of our teams recorded in their own homes, so we had to have 7 sets of recording equipment one for each team and one for the Magazine Editor. This meant we could not afford to invest in the quality equipment our service deserved.

Copying was done in volunteers houses and for many years my husband and I had to put up with a row of fast copiers and piles of cassettes on our top landing (see photo) But in our 20 years we made the transition to a well-designed studio, were able to invest in one high quality set of equipment for the production and processing of our news tapes. The Cambridge Housing Society made premises at Bedford House, St Mary's Street, Ely, available at a small rent.

Brian Gowler who was registered blind and his wife Annie were the essential back room staff in the studio, sorting the wallets and maintaining

the listener register, and making a clean set of cassettes and wallets ready for the next week's production. Sadly Brian has now died, and we cannot thank him and his wife enough for all the work they did for so many years.

All this is a far cry from the birth of Fenprobe. Money was very hard to come by, and when Janet Smith our Secretary and I joined in 1981 we were very often down to small change, even on one day a match box.

The Treasurer for many years was Henry Howell and we used to joke about his stinginess, but he always remembered the day of the match box and made sure Fenprobe became financially secure.

We are also very thankful to our past President Maurice Hobbs who during his term as Mayor, made us his charity, which gave us financial stability, and raised our profile immeasurably. His son Richard Hobbs is now our President.

Donations from Ely Lions, Ely and Littleport Rotary Clubs, Soham Pumpkin Fair, Radio Cambridgeshire, The Outlaws and many other organisations, as well as the ECDC, City of Ely Council and many personal donations have helped to keep this free service going for almost 40 years.

Perhaps the most creative and rewarding feature Fenprobe produces is the magazine tape. We have had many talented editors over the years, then a period without one.

Four years ago, Linda Franklin, our listener representative on the committee, who is herself registered blind, started to make a magazine. She, and Peter Wilkinson, produced a bi-monthly magazine of interview and travel features which has revived interest.

Reporting for the magazine is like radio reporting, description is all. Our listeners cannot see, and we are their eyes. You cannot

say, "Here is a wonderful float" you need to say why it appears wonderful.

Switching on the Christmas lights. My husband Harry and Janet recorded with rain pouring down their arms and necks on one occasion. They were real drowned rats. Then they had to spruce up and get to the Beet Club to receive a donation!

Ely Hospital Sunday Parade was a real favourite and Mary Howell, our first chairperson reported with enthusiasm.

Maudy Thursday 1987 was recorded by Ron Barber. Many of you will remember Ron, he was the voice of the Littleport Show, and a wonderful commentator.

Many of our listeners particularly enjoyed nature talks. One of our founder members Harold Coleman lived in Littleport. Although blind, he made many bird song tapes and enjoyed doing interviews for the magazine.

Who are our listeners, and how do we get them? Some come when they are first registered as blind. We used to receive regular information from the Visual Impairment Team in Cambridge, who work alongside Camsite, The Cambridge TN. However, thanks to the data protection act, this information is not freely available, so a good proportion came from other listeners or chance meeting with sighted people who know of our service e.g. hospital drivers, vigilant and informed carers, nurses or relatives who have seen leaflets in the library or doctor's surgery. Contact the Fenprobe Secretary: 01353 861153

One of the most repeated compliments we get is "Fenprobe is my lifeline, I look forward to it every week". We used to say, "We speak to them at their fireside from ours". This is not strictly true now we have a studio, but we hope the atmosphere remains the same. The dedication of our volunteers certainly does.

May Holiday Art Exhibition by Littleport Artists

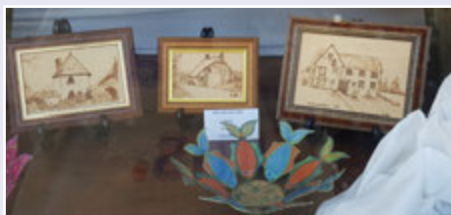
The holiday weekend in late May saw 20 artists all domiciled in Littleport showing their work at the Adams Heritage Centre in Main Street.

This was a free exhibition - with all pieces available to purchase, and of course to accept commissions.

The Littleport artists exhibiting were:

John Lyons (paint and sculpture) **Magenta Kang** (textiles) **David Kennedy** (Paint) **Suki Hoyle** (sculpture) **Ian Stevens** (leather) **Fiona Lidgley-Robinson** (Mixed media) **Caroline Forward** (paint) **Mellymade Designs** (textiles) **Ro Asplin** (painting) **Audrey McFarthing** (textiles) **Jo Law** (paper) **Barbara Hunt** (jewellery) **V.A. Hunt** (paint) **Gillian Gibb** (textiles) **Linda Packer** (textiles) **Lin Bennett** (pyrography) **Felicity Hoyle** (ceramics) **Megan Stevens** (leather carving) **Jurgen Dorries** (furniture maker) **Stewart Rogers** (painting).

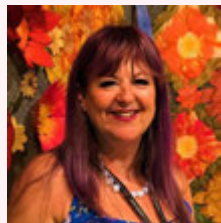
The artists taking part and the art-loving residents of Littleport give thanks for all the help that has been given by a Trustee of the Adams Heritage Centre David Porter, and Ian Stevens and Curator Jenny Stevens in getting this spectacular exhibition mounted.



Photographs of Adams Heritage Centre window dressed with examples of exhibitors' work taken by Cathy Gibb de Swarte



John Lyons artist at work



FOCUS ON A LITTLEPORT ARTIST **Melanie Missin-Keating**

St Georges Church, Little Thetford CB6 3HD

Friday 26th July 2019 – preview evening, by invitation

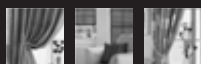
Saturday 27th July 2019 - 10.00 - 17.00

Sunday 28th July 2019 - 11.00 - 16.00

A journey through the life's work of textile artist, Melanie Missin – from where she started, to her practice today. This autobiographical exhibition will chart Melanie's quest to keep textile traditions alive, including works by her mother that were her first inspiration, key pieces she has created throughout her career and projects she is currently developing.

Melanie Missin has been sewing and crafting for over 40 years. Over the past 10 years she has been making patchwork quilts and has now moved into textile art. Melanie runs regular classes and workshops from her studio at 16 Main Street, Littleport, and also gives talks and workshops to local and national groups.

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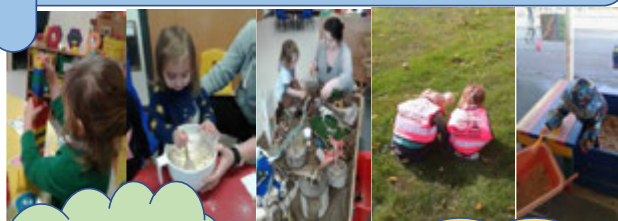
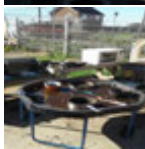
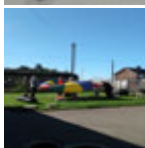
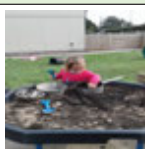
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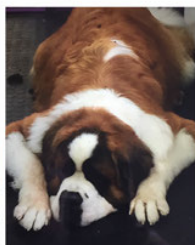
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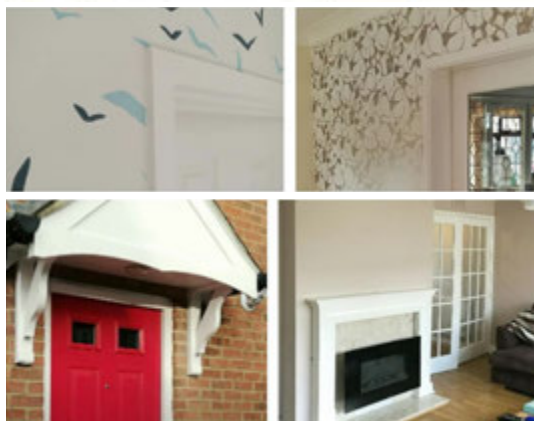
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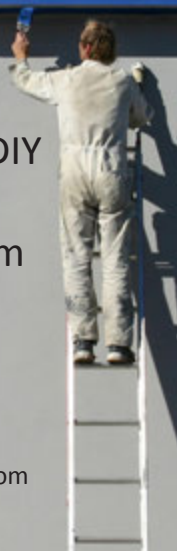
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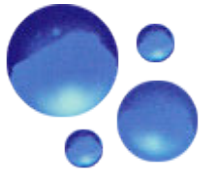
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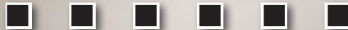
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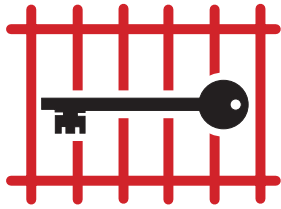
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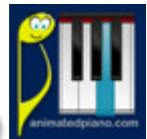
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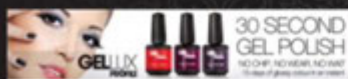
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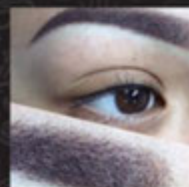


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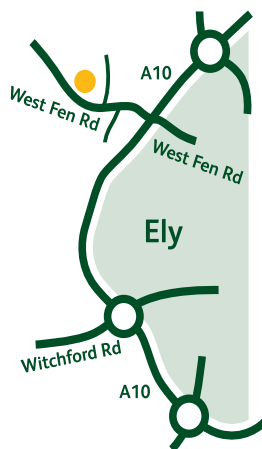
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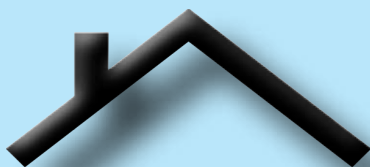
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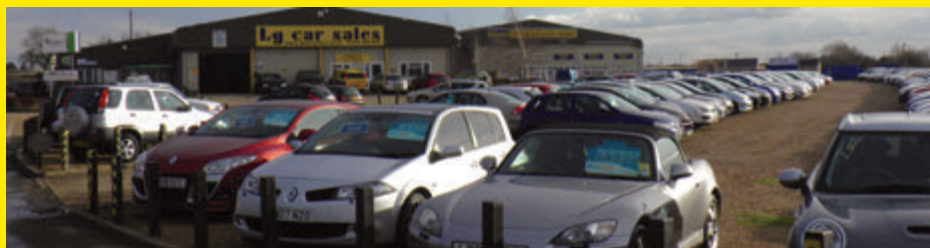
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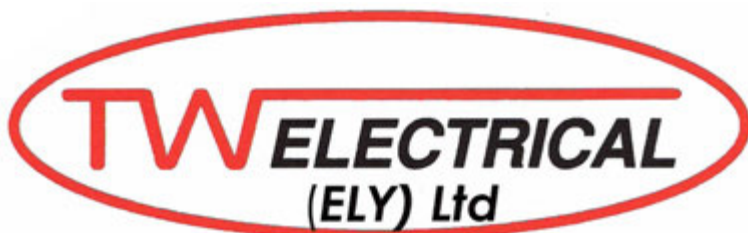
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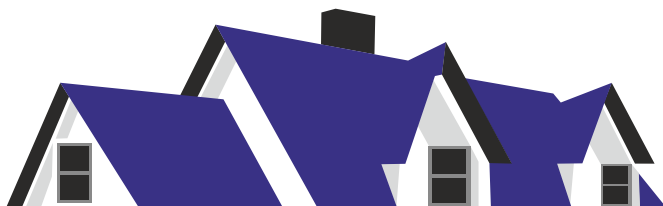
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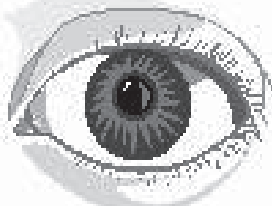


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What's on in Littleport

LITTLEPORT & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

JUNE 2019

21/06 Fri Demo 'More Bloom In Flowers' By Brenda Tubb 7pm for 7.30pm

JULY 2019

19/07 Fri Talk 'Here And There' By Kath Doggett 7pm for 7.30pm

LITTLEPORT EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB

JUNE 2019

01/06	Sat	Private Party	
08/06	Sat	After Midnight	8.45pm – Late
15/06	Sat	Private Party	
22/06	Sat	Private Party	
29/06	Sat	Raven	8.45pm – Late

JULY 2019

06/07	Sat	T.B.C.
13/07	Sat	T.B.C.
20/07	Sat	Private Party
27/07	Sat	T.B.C.

AUGUST 2019

03/08	Sat	Just Us	8.45pm – Late
10/08	Sat	Go Johnny Go	8.45pm – Late
17/08	Sat	T.B.C.	
24/08	Sat	T.B.C.	
31/08	Sat	T.B.C.	

THE CROWN INN PUB

JUNE 2019

01/06	Sat	John Seatan	8.30pm - Late
02/06	Sun	Carl Chapman	3pm – 6pm
08/06	Sat	Dan Star	8.30pm – Late
09/06	Sun	Goodges Acoustic	3pm – 6pm
15/06	Sat	Mikki Jons	8.30pm – Late
16/06	Sun	Brian Spence	3pm – 6pm
22/06	Sat	Bethan	8.30pm – Late
29/06	Sat	Greg	8.30pm – Late
30/06	Sun	Ultimate – Girlband	3pm – 6pm

JULY 2019

06/07	Sat	Hush	8.30pm – Late
07/07	Sun	Graham Buxton	3pm – 6pm
13/07	Sat	Intrigue	8.30pm – Late
14/07	Sun	Thomas Bainbridge	3pm – 6pm
20/07	Sat	The Platforms	8.30pm – Late
21/07	Sun	Carl Chapman	3pm – 6pm
27/07	Sat	Karaoke	8.30pm – Late

AUGUST 2019

03/08	Sat	Glitz	8.30pm – Late
10/08	Sat	John Seaton	8.30pm – Late
11/08	Sun	Brian Spence	3pm – 6pm
17/08	Sat	Rock Out	8.30pm – Late
24/08	Sat	Ultimate Girlband	8.30pm – Late
25/08	Sun	Dan Star	3pm – 6pm
31/08	Sat	Greg	8.30pm – Late

THE LITTLEPORT SOCIETY

JUNE 2019

04/06	Tues	Paul Howe – Talk about The Birds and the Bees	7.30pm
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JULY 2019

02/07	Tues	Chris Carr – Boudicca and the Two Empires	7.30pm
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THE PLOUGH & HARROW PUB

JUNE 2019

01/06	Sat	Elvis Tribute	9pm
05/06	Thurs	Bingo	7.30pm
08/06	Sat	Karaoke	9pm
12/06	Wed	Quiz Night	8.30pm
15/06	Sat	Flava Disco	7.30pm
22/06	Sat	T.B.C.	
26/06	Wed	Open Mic Night	8.30pm
29/06	Sat	Iron Fist Band	9pm

JULY 2019

05/07	Fri	VT11 Band	9pm
10/07	Wed	Bingo	7.30pm
13/07	Sat	Flava Disco	7.30pm
17/07	Wed	Quiz Night	8.30pm
19/07	Fri	The Lighwaves Band	9pm
20/07	Sat	Karaoke	9pm
24/07	Wed	Open Mic Night	8.30pm
27/07	Sat	Halo Band	9pm

AUGUST 2019

03/08	Sat	TNT Band	9pm
07/08	Wed	Bingo	7.30pm
10/08	Sat	Karaoke	9pm
14/08	Wed	Quiz Night	8.30pm
17/08	Sat	Mr E (Solo Artist)	9pm
25/08	Sun	Family Disco	6.30pm
28/08	Wed	Open Mic Night	8.30pm
30/08	Fri	Graham Buxton (Solo Artist)	9pm

WI

JUNE 2019

11/06 Tues Fran Saltmarsh – Here Comes The Bridge 7.15pm for 7.30pm
Competition – Wedding Photo

JULY 2019

09/07 Tues Soham Tourism – The Tudors 7.15pm for 7.30pm
Competition – Holiday Souvenir

AUGUST 2019

13/08 Tues Harriet Maddox - Sweet Charity 7.15pm for 7.30pm
Competition – Corsage Or Buttonhole

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SAT 1 & SUN 2 JUNE 2109

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LIST OF EVENTS JUNE-SEPT

For More Details On All These Events Check The Website Or Contact The Centre.

www.wwt.org.uk/Wetland-Centres/Welney/

For more news of upcoming events, features, competitions and much more go to our Facebook page or website www.littleportlife.co.uk

MEDICAL CENTRE

Contact Details, Opening Hours and Clinics

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The Surgery telephone number is 01353 864100

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Saturday & Sunday CLOSED

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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
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Dentist		0844 3756454
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