

Little Melton



Little Melton Parish Council newsletter

Issue No 39

January 2017

The end of an era

Richard Sinclair has been our Parish Clerk for over 40 years and retires at the end of 2016. The PC thanks him for his dedication to the village over such a long period! Richard is staying in the village and we hope to see him **and others** on the next Litter Pick (March 25th - details on notice boards nearer the date and website). District Council wards are changing and in 2019 we will move to the same ward as Hethersett and will have the same District and County councillors. This is a sensible change and we plan to share clerical services with Hethersett, who are currently reviewing their needs in view of their large housing developments. In the meantime the Parish Council will manage with the aid of a locum Clerk, temporary clerical assistance and help from volunteers. People have already come forward to help manage the four notice boards in the village and to process the vehicle speed data as recorded by the speed signs.

And the start of a new era

2017 will see the occupation of some houses in the new developments. This will increase the number of houses paying council tax and combined with some reductions in clerical costs will reduce the Parish Precept by 5%. The developers will eventually make a contribution to the Play Area and this is fortuitous because the current equipment is nearing the end of its life and has been repaired over many years by volunteers. The PC has consulted with children at the school and believe that the planned new equipment will meet the needs of a wider age range than at present. It is also hoped to provide a practice goal on additional land behind the tennis court, generously offered by the Evans-Lombe Estate. The Parochial Charity and Community Trust have offered to lend money to the PC, to enable work on the new equipment to start soon.

The Internet had not been invented when Richard started as village Clerk - now everything has to be published online (the Precept and Accounts are available on the PC Duties section of the website). We hope to update the website to Joomla CMS and would appreciate help from volunteers with graphic design and PHP skills.

We want to make PC meetings more accessible to people and will be conducting the official business between 19:30 and 20:00, from 20:00 we will have an open chat about any matters that people wish to raise. We will also be moving back to the Village Hall. The next meeting is on Monday the 9th Jan—please come along if you would like to contribute to the future of the village in any way. Much of the PC business is now conducted online, so we will reduce the number of meetings to six per year. The meeting in March is the annual Parish Meeting—which always has been open to all Parishioners. There will be a lot happening during 2017 and we will use the Facebook group (link on the PC website) to issue updates between newsletters.

Little Melton Pre-School Nursery



The nursery has enjoyed another busy festive season, especially being part of the church decoration event again this year, and watching the nativity play at the primary school. It is always lovely to feel part of our wider community in the village.

The committee is continuing to plan a lot of fundraising events for the spring - we are in the process of arranging a craft fair at the primary school on Saturday 18th March - look out for the notices around the village! We always really appreciate it when members of our local community come along to support us. Any money raised by these events is totally spent on improving the facilities and activities we offer.

Anyone interested in a place for their child at our nursery is always welcome to pop in for a visit, there is no need to pre-book simply come along when we are open - Term-time - each weekday morning 9.15 to 12.15.

Little Melton Mothers' Union

A very Happy New Year to all our members and their families!

We have a very varied programme of talks and events planned for 2017 and we welcome all interested ladies and gentlemen to come and join us as guests (and perhaps become members!) A joint meeting is being organised with Hethersett Mothers' Union in the Spring and we are looking forward to hearing before too long an account from Sue and Liz of their recent visit to a Christian orphanage in India. There will be the usual coffee morning to raise funds for Mothers' Union projects in different parts of the world. We usually meet on the first Monday of the month at 1.30 pm in the Village Hall but because of the Bank Holiday our **January Meeting will be on Monday 9 January and will be our AGM.**

OUR MOBILE LIBRARY In Norfolk we are very lucky to have a wonderful Library and Information Service. Not only books but CDs and DVDs and a whole range of useful information. As a rural county, we not only need library buildings but also mobile vans. The service calls once a month on a Wednesday and has an extra stop at the school 15:00 to 15:45—see the back page and the PC website for dates and times.

Hethersett Hub Café for people with Dementia, their families, friends and carers on the third Tuesday of the month from 10 am—12 noon at Hethersett Methodist Church Hall. Call Stephen 07808329102 for more information. For transport call Richard 01603 814343.

Friends of Little Melton Church

A very Happy New Year to all our members and Supporters!

Thank you to all who help us to continue our work in keeping our lovely church in pristine condition for future generations. We were able to play a vital role in obtaining a government grant for the restoration work recently carried out on the Tower. Please do encourage anyone interested in the church (built c.1300) to join the Friends—Membership is from as little as £10 per year per household and due January each year – you decide what you would like to give! New members and new ideas are most welcome and our events are advertised on the village notice boards and in “Good News” magazine so watch this space!

Annetta Evans

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, LITTLE MELTON

The **repairs to the tower** should be completed. The cost has been met by a grant from The Listed Places of Worship Fund and £10,000.00 raised locally by the friends of Little Melton Church. Our thanks go to both those groups for the help and funding we have received.

The **Mid-Norfolk Family History Society** has undertaken a **survey of the gravestones** in the churchyard. A copy has been presented to All Saints. We will be making further copies as soon as possible one of which will be kept in the church for visitors to use.

Shared lunches were enjoyed after the Harvest Thanksgiving and the Remembrance Day services. The sponsored cycle ride raised over £450.00. Throughout the year we have also been providing support to The Ashcroft Project for young people with mental health problems and the Norwich Foodbank as well as donating to refugees in Calais. The 200 decorated jars looked lovely in the church at the busy Christmas period.

On **14th January** we will be holding our annual **Church Quiz** in the **Village Hall at 7.30**. Tickets at £6.00 per person can be bought on the door. We need teams of 8 people, but if you are not in a team they can be made up on the night. Refreshments will be provided but bring your own drink and glasses.

The **OIL ECONOMY GROUP** places a bulk order every 3 months and gets the best price.

The next ordering date is **7 February** —order forms are 25p and available from the shop.

LITTLE MELTON PAROCHIAL CHARITY exists to help any Little Melton resident who is in need of financial assistance. Help given in the past includes chiropodists' fees, children's school bus fares, fuel costs, essential house repairs, medical charges. All enquiries are treated with utmost confidentiality, just call—Jean Chamberlain 812031, John McDonald 810321 or Chris Doggett 812146.

MEDITATION There is a weekly meditation group at Nogg's Barn, White Lodge Nurseries, School Lane—Wednesdays 7.30-9.00pm . Please contact Chris Starr on 01603 819006 for further details.

Events

- Jan 9th **Mothers' Union**, Village Hall 1.30 pm AGM
- Jan 9th **Parish Council Meeting**, Village Hall 7.30 pm (8 pm open discussion)
- Jan 14th **Annual Church Quiz**, Village Hall 7.30 pm
- Jan 25th **Mobile Library**
- Jan 26th **Meltonians**, Village Hall 2.15 pm
- Feb 6th **Mothers' Union**, Village Hall 1.30 pm
- Feb 7th **Oil Economy** last order day, forms from the Shop
- Feb 22nd **Mobile Library**
- Feb 23rd **Meltonians**, Village Hall 2.15 pm
- Mar 6th **Mothers' Union**, Village Hall 1.30 pm
- Mar 13th **Parish Meeting**, Village Hall 7.30 pm
- Mar 22nd **Mobile Library**
- Mar 23rd **Meltonians**, Village Hall 2.15 pm
- Mar 25th **Litter Pick**, Village Shop 09:30

Mobile Library times

(Route No. CEN 346)

- 09:35** Near to 93 School Lane
- 10:00** Shop
- 10:20** Braymeadow Lane
- 10:45** Crossways
- 11:30** Ringwood Close
- 15:00** School

The **Book Group** is still going strong, and meets about every 6 weeks. For further details please ring Joan Wheatley on 01603 812668.

VILLAGE HALL

Helen Symonds (01603 810671) manages bookings for the Village Hall. Full details of regular events are on www.little-melton.org.uk (see Village Facilities) and there is an email address for bookings there.

- * **Short Mat Bowls** Tuesdays 2.30-4.30pm and Thursdays 8-10pm. £2.50 per session. All you need is a pair of very flat shoes to avoid wear and tear on the carpets. Ring Chris Starr on 01603 819006 for more details, or just turn up.
- * **Mothers' Union** 1st Monday of the month, 1.30pm. Please contact Branch Leader Allie McClean 01603 946656 or littlemeltonmothersunion@gmail.com
- * **Meltonians** - usually meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 2.15pm for a very entertaining talk by a speaker followed by refreshments and a mardle. Ring John Turner 01603 811750 to learn more.
- * **Powerhoop** classes at the hall 6.30 pm and 7.30pm on Tuesday evenings. 45 minutes workout with a weighted hoop (so easy to keep up). 15 minutes hooping and movement and many other muscle, strength and cardio routines with the hoop.
- * **Fitcamp Challenge** is 4 weeks of interval and circuit training, in a fun, supportive environment. The classes are designed to improve fitness and health through community motivation, laughter and nutritional education. All abilities welcome!

This newsletter is published by **Little Melton Parish Council**. Please contact the Clerk, at clerk@little-melton.org.uk, if you have questions or items to be published in the April 2017 edition.

Other PC contacts and information are at www.little-melton.org.uk