

# Michelmersh & Timsbury Village Newsletter

July ~ August 2009

## VILLAGE INFORMATION

### Police

Phone 101

**08450 45 45 45** (Ask for the Force Enquiry Centre)  
For urgent calls **ONLY** use 999

### Churches:

St Mary's Michelmersh

St Andrew's Timsbury

Rector: The Revd Canon Bruce Kington 368335

### Parish Council

Clerk: Peter Buist 368061

Chairman: Bob Davis 368118

WEBSITE: [www.michelmershandtimsbury.org](http://www.michelmershandtimsbury.org)

### Test Valley Borough Council

Romsey 527700 : Andover 01264 368000

Web site: [www.testvalley.gov.uk](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk)

TVBC Councillor Tony Ward 01794 389649

Email: [cllrtward@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:cllrtward@testvalley.gov.uk)

### HCC County Councillor

Andrew Gibson

MP Sandra Gidley MP: 511900

Jubilee Hall 368976 : Warden/Bookings 368492 :

Tree Warden Mr B Raines 368435



Who are these? See page 3

Items for the Newsletter for September - October 2009 before **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August** please.

Contributions to the Editor at: The Old Chapel, Chapel Lane Timsbury, SO51 0NW

or preferably email:- [mike.koscian@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.koscian@btinternet.com)

The Newsletter is produced for the Parish Council and distributed by volunteers every two months

For information contact the Editor, Mike Koscian Tel: 01794 368577



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**EDITORIAL**

Who is interested in the future of the Village and wants to know what is happening? It would appear very few of you! The audience at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> May totalled exactly 10! What a waste! This was your opportunity to find out what has and will be happening and to question our Parish Councillors, together with Test Valley and Hampshire Councillors. Please give the Village Fun Day more support. This is your chance to enjoy yourself and meet your fellow villagers. The village is what you make of it. Let's make it a fun and vibrant place to live in. What a joy it was to listen to The Romsey Singers rehearsing in the Jubilee Hall on the 20<sup>th</sup> May. It was an excellent evening and the money raised went to the Jubilee Hall funds. Many thanks to them for inviting the village to participate, let's hope it becomes an annual event.

Along with a number of other villagers, I visited The Island at Greatbridge in May. It was advertised in the last Newsletter. What a wonderful afternoon out. The weather was fine, the gardens were stunning and the tour around the Trout Farm was very interesting. Did you know they produce around 20 ton of trout per week? I certainly didn't! The money raised was in aid of St Andrew's Church ceiling fund. In the last Newsletter Pitts Cottage was mentioned. Thanks to Pat White who tells me – *'Two bungalows were built in 1962 next to an existing bungalow, Alveston, which adjoined the Rectory in Manor Farm Lane. They were advertised as Plots 1 & 2 Manor Farm Lane, subsequently called Raglands and Delamoor. The area occupied by these was formerly Pitts Cottage.'* I believe the lane was called Pitts Lane at that time and there was also a Pitts Pond. Why did the name change from Pitts Lane to Manor Farm Lane?



My thanks to Patrick Collins, who used to live in Rudd Lane and now lives in Witney, for providing the picture on the front cover (only part shown) and the above. It is the Timsbury school roll circa 1915. Anyone recognise anybody? How different things must have been then. I must also thank Peter Pritchett-Brown for arranging the printing of this issue whilst I was on holiday.

Finally don't forget the 'Michelmersh & Timsbury Walkers', who walk every Thursday starting at 10:00a.m. This is normally followed by a Pub Lunch. The walks are open to all. For further details please see the Village Web Site at <http://www.michelmershandtimsbury.org/index.php> or contact Kath Davis on 01794 368118

**Mike Koscian**

**Village Weather**

	Average Overnight Temperature	Minimum Overnight Temperature	Average Day Time Temperature	Maximum Day Time Temperature	Rainfall mm
April	6.3	-1	16.4	19	40
May	9.6	4	18.6	25	21

## ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH TIMSBURY



The main event of the last few months has been the "Trout and Tea" in aid of church funds, at the Island, Greatbridge. The weather was very kind to us this year. Our thanks to Sarah and Christopher, for allowing us in to view the

gardens and the trout farm, and especially to Christopher and his duty staff-member, who gave us the guided tours and commentary on the fish farm. Also a big thank you to all those who helped out in various ways- not least the ladies who provided us with tea and cakes! I don't think we have the final tally yet, but about £300 was raised.

Easter services were well attended, and, as ever with our major festivals, the church was beautifully decorated.

For the future months, after the Family Service in August (second Sunday) we shall have a barbecue at my house. All are, of course, welcome, but I do need to know if people intend

to come, so I can get the catering right, so please let me know.

Further ahead, in the late autumn and early winter, in those dark weeks before Christmas, we intend to hold an Alpha Course, led by Canon Steve Pittis, of Winchester Cathedral. You may have seen notices about this course in other areas. It is primarily aimed at people who want to find out more about the Christian Faith, but in an informal setting and with no pressure.

Over 2 million people in the UK and 13 million worldwide have now attended an Alpha course; an opportunity to explore the meaning of life, running in tens of thousands of churches of all denominations across the world.

Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting over about ten thought-provoking weekly sessions. More information can be found at <http://uk.alpha.org/>

**Dr John Glasspool PCC Secretary and Churchwarden**  
**01794 368017**  
e-mail [churchwarden1@btinternet.com](mailto:churchwarden1@btinternet.com)

## THE FRIENDS OF MICHELMERSH CHURCH

At the AGM in May, David Simmonds was elected Chairman with Peter Pritchett-Brown as Vice Chairman and Roger Wilson as Treasurer. Thanks were expressed to John Chambers and Tom Robley, the retiring Chairman and Treasurer for their service during the past two years. Mary Lees remains Secretary.

In his Annual Report, John Chambers reviewed an enjoyable programme of interesting talks and the traditional Harvest Supper in September and Carols in the Barns on Christmas Eve with Michelmersh Silver band.

Life Membership was bestowed on Graham Tongs living in Australia whose family history has been described in earlier editions of this Newsletter. Our other Life member is Andrew Archibald who made a very generous donation to the Friends following his participation in the London Marathon last year.

### COMING EVENTS

#### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July General Meeting

Followed by a Talk by Major Teresa Harris of the Salvation Army

**Mary Lees**

Following their AGM in June more than forty of the Friends of Michelmersh Church were hosts at Michelmersh Barns to the well-known archaeologist Frank Green. He gave a fascinating talk on the Heritage

& Archaeology of the New Forest National Park. Previously for many years archaeologist with Test Valley Borough Council, Frank now holds this post with the National Park. He described how the Park manages the New Forest and the plans to maintain it for the future. More than 34,000 people live within the New Forest National Park, making it the most densely-populated national park in England. It has a unique historic, cultural and archaeological heritage. William the Conqueror set aside the Forest for a royal hunting ground more than 900 years ago and centuries of grazing by deer, ponies and cattle have shaped the landscape together with ship-building, salt making and 500 years of military coastal defence. He told of the amazing history of the forest and the plethora of ancient artefacts still being discovered and unearthed. Unusually for a national park, almost half of the land is in public ownership - 'vested in' the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and managed by the Forestry Commission and it is the largest remaining area of lowland heath in Europe..

Members of the Friends of Michelmersh Church now look forward to a programme of events including on 9<sup>th</sup> July a talk on the Work of the Salvation Army by Major Teresa Harris.

**Peter Pritchett-Brown**

*Michelmersh & Timsbury*  
*Ryes*  
*Twinning Association*

**A SPECIAL FRENCH WEEKEND**

It was 27 years ago when the football teams of Michelmersh & Timsbury, and Ryes (a small village near Bayeux in Normandy) first met. 2 years later the villages were officially twinned and they have never looked back. The football element of the alternate visits was dropped and a convivial social exchange replaced the sporting justification.

It was the French who were hosting this year, and their visitors from Hampshire arrived in Ryes late on Friday afternoon, 1<sup>st</sup> May, for a reception in their Mairie. Ryes' Committee President, Marie-Christine Perier, gave a



welcoming address to which Michelmersh and Timsbury's Chairman Nigel Mayor responded by saying how pleased everyone was so be in Ryes and how much they were looking forward to the special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend celebrations.

The following day at 5.30 am (4.30 am British time!) the alarm call was to

board the coach and by 11 o'clock everyone was under the Eiffel Tower!! A trip up the Tower was followed by a boat ride on the Seine, a picnic lunch in the Jardin des Tuileries

(near the Louvre), a surprise ride on the RER to the Notre Dame Cathedral and a lovely walk on the South bank to the Jardin des Plantes. Paris was to be seen at its crowded best on a French Bank Holiday week-end with wonderful "people watching" opportunities from our coach as we made our way to a popular Parisien restaurant for a celebratory dinner.

Afterward, a trip round the Avenue des Champs-Elysees and the Arc de Triomphe ended under the Eiffel Tower which fortunately coincided with a fantastic display with the Tower lit up by flashing "fairy" lights. Magnifique! Fatigued but happy we arrived back in Ryes at 2.00 am on Sunday!!

Later on Sunday after typically "unsubstantial" French lunches, everyone gathered at 2 o'clock by the Salle des Fetes in Ryes (their equivalent of our Jubilee Hall), to bid each other a fond farewell. Chairman Nigel Mayor thanked the Association's hosts for their fantastic hospitality and for a very special weekend of celebration. Amongst some hilarity Marie-Christine tried on her gift of an English Twinning Association T-Shirt as we entered our cars and left with our hosts to the ferry.

A calm crossing back to Portsmouth followed, where plans were already being discussed for the return visit of the families from Ryes next year.



**Nigel Mayor/Peter Pritchett-Brown**

### **3<sup>RD</sup> ROMSEY SCOUT GROUP**

A very special year for scouting in Braishfield...2009 marks a very special year for Braishfield scouts as it will be one hundred years since a troop was first started up in the area. Baden Powell's idea to start up a youth organisation for boys in 1907 was very popular and the idea caught on quickly amongst the young population of the Test Valley. Today there are nearly 800 young people in Romsey Scout Groups and 400,000 young people aged 6-25 enrolled in scouting in the UK.

The roots of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey Scout Group can be traced back to 1909 since when the troop has provided a great opportunity for boys and more recently girls to enjoy the principles of scouting and adventure.

To celebrate this momentous occasion 3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey Scouts will be holding a centenary event on the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> September. Events on the afternoon of the first day will include commemorative tree plantings in Braishfield and Timsbury followed by an open air service of rededication for the Group flag and an evening b-b-q.

The centenary celebration will be a great opportunity for scouts young and old to get together and enjoy the

fellowship of this great organisation. If you are an old Beaver, Cub, Scout, Explorer, Wolf Cub, Venture, Rover or Senior Scout, a member of the Exec Committee or a Leader from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey Group you will be most welcome to come along and join in the fun. Perhaps you have a relative or friend who you know was once a part of the Braishfield Group and would like to catch up with the progress of today's scouts.

There will be photographs and scrap books on display charting the last 24 years of scouting in Timsbury and Braishfield. If you have any pictures or memorabilia it would be wonderful to include this in the presentation.

Scouting is about the great outdoors and so there will be an informal camp overnight on the 5<sup>th</sup> September for those who would like to stay over.

To find out more about this event there is a special e-mail address which is [scouts3rdromsey@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:scouts3rdromsey@hotmail.co.uk) . or call James Lafferty on 07768 126461

Don't forget to look out those old photographs!

**ST. MARY'S, MICHELMERSH**

~

**ST. ANDREW'S, TIMSBURY**

**in the United Benefice of Braishfield**

**Rector: The Revd. Canon Bruce Kington,**

**The Rectory, Braishfield**

**Telephone: 01794 368335**

**Day off: Tuesday**



Dear Friends,

With the news so full of the evidence of untrustworthiness of some Members of Parliament, I hesitate to take the matter any further. However, I think it important to underline, in the words of the Bishop of Winchester's Presidential Address to the Diocesan Synod recently, that the office of a Member of Parliament is an honourable calling; that we need our politicians and should be praying for them regularly. It is sad that, through the inappropriate behaviour of some, the integrity of the majority has become besmirched, and we are tempted to cry out, "A plague on all your houses!"

Perhaps what is happening at the moment provides an unparalleled opportunity to re-evaluate just what it is that we expect of our politicians and, indeed, of all who find themselves in positions of leadership in high places. Jesus makes it clear that the highest office anyone can hold is to be a servant of others. We have a government, not to serve the ends of those who hold office within it, but to serve the needs of the country. The same principle holds in every organisation that exists for the benefit of others. How can we call our leaders back to this ancient principle? I suggest that we need to return to a sense of God's presence and interest in every facet of our daily lives. The prophet Isaiah, in some wonderful words at the end of chapter 40, has this to say:

"Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and complain, O Israel,  
'My way is hidden from the LORD;  
my cause is disregarded by my God'?"

Do you not know?  
Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God.  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He will not grow tired or weary,  
and his understanding no-one can fathom.

He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.  
Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;  
but those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint."

What a vision for our Parliament! What a vision for our people! What a vision for ourselves!

Yours sincerely, Bruce Kington, Rector.

**CHURCH SERVICES**

**July/August 2009**

**St Mary's, Michelmersh and St Andrew's, Timsbury**

Also *All Saints* Braishfield, *St John's* Farley Chamberlayne and *All Saints* Awbridge

✠	Michelmersh	Timsbury	Braishfield	Farley Chamberlayne	Awbridge		
<b>July</b> <b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b> Trinity 4	9.30 am Morning Worship	11.00 am Morning Prayer	8.00 am Holy <u>Communion</u> 9.30 am Family Service	6.00 pm Evening Prayer	9.30 am Holy Communion	<p>✠</p> <p><i>Details are understood to be correct when printed.</i></p> <p>✠</p> <p><b>COMPLETE UP TO DATE DETAILS OF ANY LAST MINUTE CHANGES TO SERVICES, CAN BE FOUND IN THE UNITED BENEFICE MAGAZINE 'FIVE ALIVE' AVAILABLE FROM ALL CHURCHES, PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY &amp; THE VILLAGE WEBSITE</b></p> <p>✠</p>	
First Service – Awbridge – 6.30 pm							
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b> Trinity 5	6.00 pm Holy Communion	11.00 am Jam Family Service	9.30 am Morning Prayer	8.00 am Holy Communion	9.30 am Morning Worship		
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b> Trinity 6	6.00 pm Evening Prayer	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.00 pm Evening Prayer	11.00 am Family Service	9.30 am Holy Communion		
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b> Trinity 7	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.00 pm Evening Prayer	9.30 am Holy Communion	11.00 am Morning Prayer	9.30 am Family Worship		
<b>August</b> <b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b> Trinity 8	9.30 am Morning Worship		8.00 am Holy <u>Communion</u> 9.30 am Family Service	6.00 pm Evening Prayer	9.30 am Holy Communion		
First Service – Awbridge – 6.30 pm							
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b> Trinity 9		11.00 am Family Service	9.30 am Morning Prayer	8.00 am Holy Communion	9.30 am Morning Worship		
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b> Trinity 10	6.00 pm Evening Prayer	8.00 am Holy communion	6.00 pm Evening prayer	11.00 am Family Service	9.30 am Holy Communion		
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup></b> Trinity 11	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.00 pm Evening Prayer	9.30 am Holy Communion	11.00 am Morning Prayer	9.30 am Family Worship		
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup></b> Trinity 12	11.00 am UB Holy Communion Eldon						
✠	<i>Michelmersh</i>	<i>Timsbury</i>	<i>Braishfield</i>	<i>Farley Chamberlayne</i>	<i>Awbridge</i>		✠



## St Mary's Michelmersh

# FLOWERS

If you could spare a few moments occasionally,  
your help with decorating the church  
would be enormously appreciated

Assistance is needed & very welcome - please ring Mrs Sue Holden 368596



MICHELMERSH & TIMSBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY  
**27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SHOW & VILLAGE FUN DAY**

**Saturday 18th July 2009 - 12 noon**

Some of the attractions -

**Preschool** will have activities for the little ones, as well as their popular BBQ;

**Twinning** with their now famous crepes and petanque.

**Test Valley Croquet Club** try Croquet

**Test Valley Nursery** for unusual plants

**Scouts** will be testing your tent erection ability.

**Sports Club** – goal scoring skills

**Friends** – books stall

There will be tombola, cake stall, tea and cakes and of course ....

**Michelmersh Silver Training Band**

**PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO ENTER THE SHOW**

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Class F70 Using coloured tissue paper create a flower

Class F71 A painted butterfly

**b) 8 to 14 years – The Tony Broster Cup**

Class F72 Create and animal real or imagined using vegetables.

Class F73 A small plate of flapjacks to your own recipe

**More information may be obtained from Show Secretary Wendy Thorpe 368719**

If your organisation hasn't joined in ring **Kath on 368118** or email [kathdavis@btinternet.com](mailto:kathdavis@btinternet.com).

## THE PLIGHT OF THE CUCKOO

For most villagers in Michelmersh, the song of the cuckoo is something that is taken for granted, however recent reports indicate that cuckoos are suffering a dramatic decline, partly as result of the effects of global warming.

The cuckoo winters in equatorial Africa and returns to Britain in mid April. Interestingly the cuckoo's arrival in my corner of the village is like clockwork, for over the last ten years it has always broken into song on the 16<sup>th</sup> April! The song of the cuckoo is actually the mating call of the male bird, whereas the female bird has a burbling call which is only sometimes heard.

Our local cuckoo lays its eggs in the nests of hedge sparrows, however this spring, the warm weather allowed hedge sparrows to nest early, before the cuckoo arrived. For this reason our local cuckoo went mute whilst waiting for hedge sparrow to lay a second clutch of eggs, a few weeks later. Whilst some people may believe that there are lots of cuckoos in the countryside around our village, this birds territory may extend over several square miles and the cuckoo that sings in Timsbury, is likely to be same cuckoo that sings in Awbridge.

Hearing the cuckoo is no proof that there is a cuckoo about, for what you might be hearing is the cuckoo caller. The male cuckoo's call is relatively easy for one to mimic and on occasions I have attracted in to my garden to the amusement of neighbours, the amorous attention of several female cuckoo as well as the angry chatter from a territorial male.

The cuckoo's plight is partly due to this bird's clockwork nature, for unlike other migratory birds, it is a strict time keeper and appears too rigid in its behaviour, to adapt to

the early breeding of the resident hedge sparrow, brought about by unseasonably warm springs. Having just experienced a very cold winter, many villagers will remain sceptical over whether global warming is actually happening. What caused such a cold winter may be open to speculation however at one point this winter, temperatures over the Arctic were reported to be 60 degrees higher than they should be! This was attributed to exceptionally hot air moving at high altitude from the drought stricken super heated equatorial regions towards the polar regions, where the air cooled and sank. In essence it was this, that forced cold air beneath to be dispersed in winds which have brought us a bitterly cold winter. Simplistically it was the equivalent to the fridge door popping open under pressure, chilling the mice who live under the fridge, whilst thawing out the ice cubes and Christmas turkey, leaving the mice in a pool of water.

No doubt some readers will think I have gone totally cuckoo, however scientists predict that if rates of global warming continue at their present course, a sea level rise of over 20 metres could occur in about 30 years, which I reckon would put the Bear and Ragged Staff on the shore of Southampton Water.

If there is one way to reduce carbon in the atmosphere and increase cuckoo numbers, then it is to plant more trees. Unfortunately exactly the opposite is actually happening as huge tracts of tropical forest are felled in countries such as the Congo, destroying the very habitat the cuckoo relies upon to spend the winter.

**The Green Man**  
**Bryan.J.Raines tel 01794 368435**

## MICHELMERSH AND TIMSBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Spring, as you might expect, is a very busy time for gardeners and this has been no exception for the Society - Since the last newsletter there have been five events enjoyed by members.

On a rather cold Monday evening in April twenty four members went to visit the clematis garden owned by Val Le May Neville-Parry. She started collecting 10 years ago but really began in earnest when she retired 7 years ago and has held the national collection of clematis montana for the last 3 years.

The garden is located 7 miles west of Cadnam and, despite being on a slope with poor soil in a windy location, 190 clematis thrive there. However they are given a good start in life with lots of compost, water and bone meal. There were two particularly pretty pink clematis on the house itself 'Veitch' and 'Sir Eric Saville'. After a wander around the garden we were treated to tea or coffee and delicious homemade shortbread, included in the price of the outing, the proceeds of which all go to the Salisbury Hospice.

**Wendy Thorpe**

At our May meeting, Bob and Ann Brown gave a comprehensive talk on growing and getting the best from **Specimen Vegetables**. With Chris Hewlett they were Harrogate Show Champions in 2008. Chris Hewlett and Bob Brown live next door to each other in Broughton. We heard Celery is most easily grown in raised beds, a favourite is Evening Star' utilising John Innes compost. Creating vertical tunnels from plastic pipe will encourage height and reduce damage from pests. Despite threatening weather and even some showers the **Annual Plant Sale** broke all records. Renowned amongst knowledgeable gardeners for the bargain prices and quality of the plants on sale over £700 was raised to be shared between the Jubilee Hall and Society funds. Thanks go to our members for all their efforts in sowing and growing such a variety of produce. For the first time additional publicity was achieved by an entry in the Romsey Advertiser "What's On" column which was also much appreciated and encouraged increased attendance.

June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> saw the '**Grand Gloucestershire Outing**' arranged with great flair by John & Jane Chambers. John said "*The German military strategist Clausewitz maintained that time spent on reconnaissance is seldom wasted and this certainly proved to be true for the Horticultural Society's visit to the gardens in Gloucestershire. The time spent on the two preliminary visits and the finding of a satisfactory hotel ensured the smooth running and success of this venture*".

Intrepid members set out for a two day visit to see five glamorous gardens in this picturesque county.

After a spell of amazingly tropical weather the temperature dropped a little which made walking round the gardens more pleasant in the sunshine. First was the **Painswick Rococo Garden** a fascinating step back to a flamboyant and sensual period of English Garden Design. About 5 miles away we drove to **Misarden Park**. The 17th century Manor House stands high overlooking the Golden Valley. There were Spring flowers, shrubs, fine topiary (some designed by Edwin Lutyens) and, within the walled garden, herbaceous borders, roses, fine specimen trees and a newly planted parterre.

After booking in to the Rodborough Hotel we visited **Holcombe Glen Cottage**, a steep hillside garden leading down to 3 acres with waterfalls and a bog garden. The following morning to **Owlpen Manor House**, long been recognised as one of England's most romantic manor houses. The estate, steeped in 900 years of history, forms its own remote and picturesque wooded valley under the edge of the Cotswold Hills. Our last port of call was Malmesbury. Ian & Barbara Pollard (also known as 'The Naked Gardeners) bought Abbey House and have made it a home for their family of three. The **Abbey House Gardens** has beautiful plants from daffodils, crocus, tulips and iris in spring through the county's largest private collection of roses – well worth a visit!

### **Annual Rose Show**

On June 8<sup>th</sup> The Michelmersh & Timsbury Horticultural Society was pleased to welcome David Stone, Head Gardener of the world renowned Mottisfont Rose Garden to judge their Annual Rose Show.

In a number of classes he suggested to Wendy Thorpe, show organiser, that perhaps in addition to the first, second and third categories the remainder should all be given "Highly Commended"! Following his careful assessment and naming of winners he gave a fascinating talk on the origin of the names given to many rose varieties and their historical connections going back centuries. He told of Graham Thomas who during his lifetime saved and revived many National Trust gardens that had deteriorated through lack of care. He had also worked with Gertrude Jekyll.

Show Class winners include Mary Robley who took home the Presidents vase for her 'Queen of the Show' specimen and the Lidster Davis Plate. Sue Holden won the Kim Hunt Bowl and Ann Dowland won the Nancy Watkins Cup for flower arranging..

The Society looks forward to the Annual Show coinciding with the Village Fete on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Peter Pritchett-Brown**



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## MICHELMERSH & TIMSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### **New Chairman**

At the Annual Parish Council meeting in May, Rory Fitzgerald announced his decision not to seek re-election to the post of Chairman of the Parish Council. In the subsequent election, Bob Davis was voted in as Chairman and John Rhodes as Vice Chairman. The outgoing chairman was thanked for the work and time that he had given over the past years as chairman of the Council. Rory of course remains as a Parish Councillor.

### **Pocket Park**

The Pocket Park at the end of Mannyngham Way is in need of a little care and attention and the Parish Council heard from Bryan Raines, our Parish Tree Warden, of his plans for coppicing later in the year. Once the sap has fallen and the bushes have been cut back new fencing and a gate to the park will also be erected.

### **Cycle Way**

The latest section of the cycle way through the village to Romsey was opened on 13 June with a number of Councillors and their families attending and taking part in a cycle ride along the route. This venture is gradually bringing safer cycling to our roads especially for family groups out for some recreation at the weekends.

### **Grant to St. Mary's Church**

Once again the Parish Council has been pleased to provide a grant to St. Mary's Church to help towards the upkeep of the Churchyard. The Church attracts visitors from near and far and it is a credit to the friends and supporters of the church that the grounds always look neat and tidy.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

This year the meeting held in May was rather poorly attended. That did not stop some important topics being raised and the Parish Council will be considering a number of issues raised at the meeting including the speed of the broadband service to the village, affordable homes and a further extension to the 30 mph speed limits on some village lanes. The future of the Barns was also raised at the APM and those attending heard that additional trustees were required.

### **Planning Matters**

An application to rebuild elements of the Gas AGI plant at Bunny Lane got no objection from the

Council, but TVBC was asked that conditions on noise, leakage detection and lighting be made. The application received permission from TVBC with conditions on noise mitigation measures and lighting columns to be used. Two applications to alter the design of houses on the Tilebourne site got objections from the Council on the grounds of no justification and increased traffic. This subsequently went to the Planning Committee and despite some robust arguments against by the Parish Council Chairman and our Test Valley Borough Councillor, the Planning Committee granted permission.

A revised scene for Mayfly Cottage, Manor Lane was considered that not only saw a new dwelling but the retention of the existing. The Council saw no justification for the retention of the existing dwelling and made an objection. An amended plan for an outbuilding at Oak Tree House got no objection.

A revised scheme for the Coach House at the Old Rectory was considered and while the Council was pleased to see the change made to the first floor window, the still had concerns about the position of the boiler flue and objected. Also a revised plan for the demolition of the existing garage and erection of a detached building at Barn Cottage, Michelmersh got no objection provided that the new building remained ancillary to the house.

Recent applications given permission by TVBC include: a tractor shed at Kimbridge; changes to the house design at Sunny Bank; a first floor extension over the garage at Valley View, Rudd Lane; two dwellings at Blundells, Rudd Lane and a timber fence at The Manor Farm House, Heron Lane.

### **Parish Council Meetings**

Meetings of the Parish Council will take place on 22 July and 23 September. Meetings are normally held in the Jubilee Hall and start at 7.30 p.m.. Parishioners are invited to attend and may speak in the "Open Period" at the start of the meeting. Agendas for the meetings are posted on the Parish notice boards (at the Jubilee Hall and at the top of New Road) and on the village web site,

[www.michelmershandtimsbury.org](http://www.michelmershandtimsbury.org)

**Peter Buist Parish Clerk**

[peterbuist@aol.com](mailto:peterbuist@aol.com)

**01794 368061**

## MOTTISFONT ABBEY NEEDS MORE GARDEN STEWARD VOLUNTEERS

Mottisfont Abbey, a stunning medieval priory near Romsey, is one of the National Trust's most famous and popular Hampshire properties. Over 200 staff and volunteers care for the house, gardens and surrounding estate, which lie in an idyllic setting on the River Test, a haven for wildlife and walkers. The tranquil location belies a bustling and friendly interior, where people of all ages and backgrounds enjoy working together to ensure Mottisfont's visitors enjoy a great day out.

If you have an interest in helping visitors enjoy the gardens and grounds of Mottisfont please do get in touch as they are always on the lookout for volunteer Garden Stewards (especially at weekends). The minimum commitment is half a day per fortnight. Full induction and training is provided; for more information, or to apply, send an email to [helping.mottisfont@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:helping.mottisfont@nationaltrust.org.uk). Or contact Mike Hudson Tel: 01794 344038

## MICHELMERSH SILVER BAND

### **BRASSED OFF? – I CERTAINLY WAS!**

By the time you read this our biggest musical project by far of 2009 will have run its course. I refer of course to the production of **'Brassed Off'** with RAODS in the Plaza Theatre. Some of you may recall that, as a non-musician, I had intended muscling in on the action in a very small acting role. Unfortunately for me, an unscheduled stay in Truro Hospital having shattered my ankle whilst walking in a Cornish bluebell wood on holiday, and a 7 week period of non-weight bearing put paid to that plan, sparing audiences and cast alike. We all hope that those of you who managed to see the play enjoyed it – it was certainly a huge challenge getting actors to 'play' instruments, musicians to 'act' in character and to choreograph the movements of both groups - on stage and off. I hope you agree that the challenge was more than met under the direction of Heather Whitham and the musical direction of our own Roland Wright.

The income generated by the Brassed Off run

is certainly very welcome as we have now completed the first phase of the refurbishment of the new Band Hall in Timsbury. The builders have now partitioned off the main hall to create a reception area with a Music Library and store cupboard, with doors leading to the main Rehearsal Room. The old kitchen and toilet areas have been completely gutted and replaced to create a refreshment/individual tuition area and committee room with attached male and female toilets. With new drains, wiring and insulation installed, we are now set to move on to phase two – a heating system and replacement windows - as and when funds are available. We plan to hold an open day to invite all of you to view the changes made in the near future – watch this space and village notice boards.

Our next concert will be the Remembrance Concert in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal to be held in the United Reform Church, Romsey on Wed. 11<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.

**Claire Topp**

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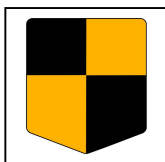
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## SPORTS CLUB NEWS

### JUNIOR FOOTBALL

The Club is still looking for players, particularly for the new under-8s team, and helpers for the 2009/10 season. Anyone interested should contact Berny Higgins on 01794 884846 or 07887 987723.

### MEN'S FOOTBALL

Pre-season training will commence in the first week of July, probably on the Wednesday. The Club will run teams at a variety of levels, and so caters for players of all abilities and ages [and levels of fitness!]. Why not come along?

The first team will again compete in "Hampshire League 2004", the highest division in Hampshire outside the FA's pyramid system. The seconds will play two divisions lower, in the Southampton League's "Senior" division. The thirds are in the Southampton League's lowest Junior division; and a team for those born before 1 SEP 74 will play in the Southampton Veterans League.

Off the pitch, a successful "Race Night" was recently held. As usual, the event was run in conjunction with a local charity, and on this occasion the Club was able to hand over £400 to the XLP Trust.

Also off the pitch, an 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary programme was published at the start of

last season, on the anecdotal evidence [from more than one person] that a "Marsh" team took the field in 1928. Quite possibly one took the field earlier than that, but no record of the fact has yet been unearthed. Copies can be ordered from Robin Goodland [01794 368849].

### THE "NEWBRIDGE RACING" MICHELMERSH & TIMSBURY VILLAGE QUIZ

A trophy for this event was donated to the parish in 1984 by Newbridge Racing, then operating from the former Timsbury Garage. The trophy was last contested in 1997, between twelve parish clubs and societies, with the top three teams from each of two semi-finals contesting the final. It was won by the Club's Youth Club Section, and has remained in the Club's trophy-cabinet ever since, because no one troubled to organise subsequent competitions. Well, it's up for grabs again! This time, the whole event will be held on one evening, 10 OCT 09, in the clubhouse. The entrance-fee of £5.00 per person [six per team maximum] includes a hot supper. There may be the odd question on sport insofar as the answer is general-knowledge, but otherwise not! Those interested in competing should contact Robin Goodland (01794 368849).

**The Malthouse**  
Stockbridge Rd  
Timsbury, Nr Romsey  
Telephone 01794 368303  
Real Ales - A la Carte menu - Bar snacks

**Carol's Carvery**  
Monday - Friday 12-2.30 pm ~ 6.00 - 9.00 pm £5.95  
Saturday & Sunday 12.00 - 8.00 pm £7.95

Quiz nights Sundays July 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>  
Live Music  
Saturday July 4th The Beer Can Chorus  
July 18th Irish Hooley night with The 9 Foot Sargeant

See [www.malthousecarvery.co.uk](http://www.malthousecarvery.co.uk)

## VIEWFINDERS OF ROMSEY CAMERA CLUB

The club year finishes in July and each year culminates with the annual club barbecue in George and Margaret Marsh's beautiful garden, with its extensive views over the Test Valley.

We then have a short summer break before our Club Exhibition in Stockbridge Town Hall, this year on 22 and 23 August, which precedes the start of the new season at the beginning of September. Please come along to the exhibition in Stockbridge Town Hall and see our best work of the year.

The club has now been in existence for 40 years – moving from Romsey to the Jubilee Hall in Timsbury in 1982. We are having a special lecture in the Crossfield Hall in Romsey to celebrate this event, given by world renowned photographer Tom Mackie. He's a good speaker and his photographs cover a wide range of subjects. The poster in the hall gives further details, so please come along and celebrate with us. Tickets are available now by e-mailing [viewfinders@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:viewfinders@hotmail.co.uk) or by telephoning 01264 361185 or 01264 860386.

I have included for you here Pam Bradley's winning monochrome image for the Les Fredericks Print Trophy "Exbury in Spring", a competition on a set subject and for this year for prints the subject was 'Black and White'. The judge felt that it was a picture that needed to be in black and white, with the strong light on the white flowers captured against the dark sky.

All our meetings, except for the outdoor events, are held in the Jubilee Hall on Tuesdays, starting at 7.30pm. Please come along to any that interest you.

### Programme July - September 2009

**7 July:** AGM

**14 July:** Butterfly walk led by George Marsh

**21 July:** Successful audio visual sequences shown

by member John May

**28 July:** Barbecue in Margaret & George Marsh's garden at Houghton

**22/23 August:** Annual exhibition of members' work in Stockbridge Town Hall

**1 September:** "Wigan 10 Exposed", images taken by one of the most successful clubs in England

**8 September:** Members evening "Entering digital images in competitions" led by Jill and Mark Koernich

**15 September:** Print of the Year trophies judged by Rosie Armes

**22 September:** Print lecture by John Tilsley

**26 September:** "An Evening with Tom Mackie", held to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in the Crossfield Hall, Romsey

**Margaret Kirby Publicity Officer**



## THE ROMSEY SINGERS

present

### MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING

on **Sunday, July 5th** at the **Michelmersh Barns**

Gates open at 6.30 for picnics - bring a chair

Concert begins at 7.30pm

Tickets £8 from:-

Romsey Heritage and Information Centre, Tel. 01974 512987

or Fliss Edmunds, 2, Hill Farm Cottages, Rudd Lane, Michelmersh. Tel. 01794 368078

or at the gate.



## OLD MICHELMERSH FARM TRUST

We are most grateful to all the members and friends who joined in our working party at the Old Michelmersh Barns on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May. Their great efforts in clearing brambles, moving stones and painting walls have helped to transform the place ready for this Summer's events.

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust was held at the Barns on 21<sup>st</sup> May where it was agreed that two sub committees be set up: one to look after general maintenance and improving the facilities within the

buildings and the second to manage the various events held there each year. The Trust welcomes more active members who would like to join either of these sub-committees.

If you would like to contribute a little of your time and energy you are guaranteed a most worthwhile experience! Please contact Tony Roberts, Tel. 368387 or email [tony.roberts@freenet.co.uk](mailto:tony.roberts@freenet.co.uk) or Elaine Roberts at [elaine.roberts@cielec.com](mailto:elaine.roberts@cielec.com) for further information.

**Elaine Roberts**

## BROUGHTON AND MOTTISFONT COMMUNITY BUS

Do you know there is a Broughton and Mottisfont Community Bus? This is run by volunteers and can be used by anyone in Michelmersh and Timsbury. The bus passes through our village on the following journeys:

On the **first Wednesday** of each month it travels to **Southampton** and can be caught at the **Jubilee Hall** at **09:40** returning for **15:00**.

On the **second Wednesday** of each month it travels to **Winchester** and can be caught at

The **Bear and Ragged staff** at **13:20** returning for **16:10** and The **Jubilee Hall** at **13:25** returning for **16:05**

The fare to Winchester is £3.45 for an adult and £1.70 for under 16s.

The fare to Southampton is £4.05 for an adult and £2.00 for under 16s.

These fares are the same whether the journey is one-way or return and children under 5 are free. If you have a FarePass it is valid on these scheduled journeys. The bus does not run on Bank Holidays.

Local community groups can also hire the bus at £1.60 per mile.

For further information please contact **Pam Dawkins 01794 301203** or **George Vaughan 01794 301045**.

## THE JUBILEE LUNCH CLUB

We meet in the Jubilee Hall on the third Thursday of each month (excepting August) and a lunch costs just £3. A main course, a scrumptious pudding and a cup of tea or coffee – there's value for you!

Do get in touch with Peter & Sue Pritchett-Brown who do their best, with plenty of help, to organise the menus, finances and members! You'll be most welcome but they'd like notice for organising the preparation of the meals.

For more information [email peterpb@btinternet.com](mailto:peterpb@btinternet.com) or [telephone either of us on 368890](tel:368890)

There are no obligations apart from the fee if you attend – just let us know in good time. Do give us a ring and come along to see if you like it. We shall be meeting on Thursdays July 16<sup>th</sup> and on September 17<sup>th</sup> after we've all had a break.



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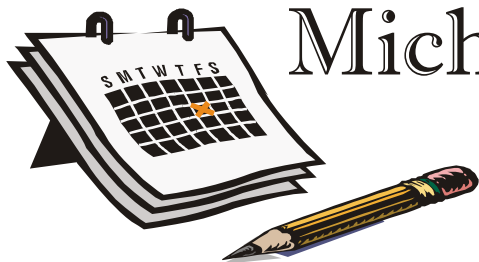
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# Michelmersh & Timsbury Diary

## July/August 2009

The Village Website carries updated information: [www.michelmershandtimsbury.org](http://www.michelmershandtimsbury.org)

### July

Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Romsey Singers	The Barns
Thurs	9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Friends of Michelmersh Church – The work of the Salvation Army	The Barns
Tues	14 <sup>th</sup>	10 – 12	Test Valley Mobile Police Office	Jubilee Hall CP
Thurs	16 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm	Jubilee Lunch Club	Jubilee Hall
<b>Sat</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Village Fun Day</b>	Playing Field & Jubilee Hall
Wed	22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Jubilee Hall

### August

Tues	11 <sup>th</sup>	10 – 12	Test Valley Mobile Police Office	Jubilee Hall CP
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September		October	
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	Hort Soc	Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	Hort Soc
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch Club	Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch Club
Weds 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Parish Council	Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	Friends
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup>	Friends Harvest Supper	Weds 28 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council

*Main Hampshire school holidays:*

**Summer Holiday 23 July ~ 2 September, Autumn Half Term 26 Oct ~ 30 Oct**

*Details of Church Services see Page 7*

*also in the United Benefice magazine 'Five Alive' available from all churches and the **Village Website: [www.michelmershandtimsbury.org](http://www.michelmershandtimsbury.org)***

*Please submit entries for the September/October 2009 Issue **before Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August***

*The Editor would like to express his appreciation & thanks to Peta Hunt for proof reading and Jane Finnimore and all her team for Distribution. Also to Peter Pritchett-Brown for assisting whilst I went on holiday.*

Every effort is made to ensure that diary details are correct when compiled but confirmation should be obtained from event organisers.  
All advertisements & contributions to the newsletter are accepted at face value and the Editor cannot vouch for their accuracy.  
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor © Michelmersh & Timsbury Village Newsletter 2009

*If any reader has knowledge of stories, anecdotes or the history of our village, the Editor of this newsletter would most appreciate hearing of them for possible future articles.*

*Please contact me on either 01794 368577 or [mike.koscian@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.koscian@btinternet.com)*