

**LITTLEPORT**

*Life*

**MAGAZINE**

[www.littleportlife.co.uk](http://www.littleportlife.co.uk)

**ISSUE 50 AUTUMN 2018**

*Your Community Magazine*

**AUTUMN SPECIAL**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

ECDC Councillors' report back to Littleport PC

Littleport Parish Council News!

Littleport People

Littleport Sports

Littleport Leisure

Littleport Community Groups

Littleport Services

Littleport Businesses

*...and more!*

**Includes:** Littleport Advertisers & What's On



# Welcome

## Welcome to your autumn special edition of Littleport Life!

You will find all your favourite groups and activities featured along with informative advertisements from our supportive businesses and entrepreneurial individuals who live in Littleport.

It's the funding from those advertisers that actually enables this magazine to be produced and distributed after it's put together by volunteer journalists and administrators, professionals in their own fields of expertise, and delivered to your door by volunteer Littleportians as soon as it gets printed!

This autumn we are pleased to present the latest news from our East Cambs District Council and our Littleport Parish Council letting us know all the work that's been being done on our behalf to make our lives that much better.



*Inspector Paul Rogers addresses the meeting*

Most of our councillors both on ECDC and the parish council were at an innovative village hall meeting in August. And although we didn't have any room in our magazine this quarter to report on it, those councillors along with their fellow Littleport residents were there to listen to the police telling us how they are working to make Littleport a safer and even more pleasant place to live and work in. It was absolutely

crowded with lots of questions being asked and answered and lots of suggestions put forward, that were promised to be taken up and looked into, and action taken.



*Sergeant Mark Rabel listens to parish council leader Clive Webber opening the meeting*

The suggestions were obviously accepted as within hours police patrols were seen around the village and one troublesome spot by the Harley Memorial has seen a change in outdoor open public space drinking etc.

We were told that 101 was the number to report non-urgent worrisome activities on and 999 for crimes in progress.

Inspector Paul Rogers addressed us first after leader of the parish council Clive Webber opened the event. Sergeant Mark Rabel is the officer in charge of the Littleport initiative by the way.

This issue is another bumper one! A biggest and best magazine for the biggest and best village in England!

*Lyn*

Lyn Gibb-de Swarte  
Editor





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# Littleport Lions

## Autumn Update from the Littleport Lions

The Lions Club of Littleport hosted a concert at The Grange, Littleport.

The Littleport Community Choir serenaded the residents and visitors for the afternoon and had a singalong at the end "Proms Style"

The Lions gave donations to The Grange and the Choir, and we all enjoyed a sumptuous buffet tea.

### And Coming up - a date for your diary!

The Lions Club of Littleport are once again hosting Breakfast with Santa at The Almonry in the High Street Ely on Friday 21st, Saturday 22nd and Monday 24th December 2018 at 8am/08.00 GMT.

The cost is Adults £3.50 & Children £6.50 (all children get a present from Santa)

Bookings start on September 10th

Email: [breakfastwithsanta1@yahoo.com](mailto:breakfastwithsanta1@yahoo.com) or mobile 07817 592438

And if you have any good quality soft toys or teddies you want to get rid of, we would like them for our 'Win every time' Tombola at Ely Market Square on lighting up night.

(Same email or phone number.)

Thank you

For more details of Littleport Lions club and events contact;

David & Jenny Ellis 01353 664318 / 07817 592438

[lionscluboflittleport@gmail.com](mailto:lionscluboflittleport@gmail.com)

Facebook; Littleport Lions Club

Twitter; @Littleport Lions

Website; [www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/littleport](http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/littleport)

# Bob Bowditch Reports on Littleport Football

*LTFC are on the brink of a new season at Littleport. We currently have 6 teams ranging from under 8 to adult, playing in the Cambs Leagues, essentially grass roots football.*

Unfortunately recently we have suffered in Littleport with a lack of volunteers, and coaches. It seems people are so busy today chasing around, there is less time to volunteer.

We were one of the largest clubs in Cambridgeshire with 3 adult teams and colts in every age group. Back in 1906 when LTFC was formed it is said that it took 10 years for the idea to materialise. Nonetheless we carry on providing football in the village, along with Rangers doing the same.

Littleport Rangers just like Littleport Town FC will also be playing their home games at Littleport Leisure. Their Secretary Katie Pendle is looking forward to the new season and as she told Littleport Life:

"The Colts team are now in the A league 11 v 11 playing their games on a Saturday, and we've taken on 2 teams with the Under 7's run by Nathan Mitchell and David Morgan will be managing the Under 10 team."





## *A Dispatch from the Royal British Legion*

# **BATTLE'S OVER**

***In August 1914 the then Foreign Secretary made the statement 'The lights are going out all over Europe. We won't see them lit again in our time!'***

In 2014 the Littleport Branch of the Royal British Legion held a candlelit vigil to commemorate the centenary of the last hour of peace. This year, on Remembrance Sunday, we are holding a second event to commemorate 'Battle's Over.'

Battle's Over is a national event during which beacons will be lit across the nation. Littleport has a beacon and, thanks to the parish council, the beacon lighting will be at 6.55 pm on Remembrance Sunday November 11.

For those unsure of the location of the beacon it is sited on Camel Road, next to the Scout Hut, and by the entrance road to the Littleport Leisure Centre.

The public are invited to attend the event and light a candle to peace. Or at least, if not a candle, a torch, or even a smartphone, but turn the noise off please!!

The Littleport Band are providing two buglers to play 'The Last Post', and the names of those men of Littleport who died in the Great War will be read out.

The service will last a few minutes only but will be made all the better by a large turn out from the community.

*Garth McGowan*



*Her Majesty lays a wreath at the Cenotaph*





## Looking back at the Summer Activities of the Littleport W.I.

*Despite all the heat, roadworks and holidays, our activities have all gone ahead as planned.*

Towards the end of April, our members visited the Mushroom Farm at Little Ouse. After being suitably gowned in white protective overalls and hats, we were taken on a guided tour of the factory, through the stages of growth, to the end product in a container that was ready for sale. It was explained how the spores are kept at different temperatures and lighting to obtain maximum output. Vast staging of them were kept in sections through the factory ending with the packing and sorting and distribution records.

We never realised how interesting a mushroom could be!

In May, a group of members visited the Houses of Parliament going on a guided tour of the departments and enjoying a lunch in the café. All part of our celebrating 100 years of Votes for Women.

The May meeting welcomed our speaker E. Johnson and other members from Soham Heritage & Tourism about the English Civil War. She demonstrated how they were dressed, displaying all types of clothing through the times and also what remedies and herbal medicines they used to help illness and recovery.

Later in May some members had a trip to 'Behind the scenes at Thursford' showing how they get ready for their Christmas performances and the work involved. This was followed by a visit to Langham Glass to see the work of the glass blowers and watch how they melted and formed their products. This was organised by the Isle of Ely Group.

Our June meeting held in the tennis season was very appropriate as M. Goodman came to show us how she strung the rackets for all the top players, not just at Wimbledon but all over the world where the famous players were competing. We were given the chance to use her equipment and try for ourselves to thread and tighten the strings.



Hard on the fingers to keep a grip, one racket was enough.

In July we persuaded the popular local Ely farmer John Bedford, to come and tell us his life of running a busy agricultural farm that has been in his family for many years. Now semi-retired, he enjoys helping out with many tasks and showed us relics and artefacts he had found on the land over the years including stone age axes, flints and old coins.

We also were invited to Ely Northwold WI meeting to hear their speaker Jason Middleton talk about 'Pearls and their origins'. He showed us many different types of beautiful necklaces and shells explaining how they formed and were collected.

A busy summer, interesting and educational.

Autumn is now here.

In October, we have Malcolm Burby talking about 'Cambridge Folk Tales' and our AGM is in November.

If you're interested, please contact our President, Pat Ollive: 01353 854830 or our Secretary Linda Whytock: 01353 863761.



*The WI visit the mushroom factory!*

# Eat Well With The WI

## Devilled Mushrooms

*(Serves 4)*

*(205 Calories per portion)*



### Ingredients:

- Butter – 20g (3/4 oz)
- Button mushrooms – 175g (6oz) sliced
- Plain Flour – 15ml (1 tbsp)
- Fresh Milk – 150ml (1/4 pint)
- Worcestershire sauce – 10ml (2 tsp)
- French mustard – 5ml (1 tsp)
- Tomato puree – 15ml (1 tbsp)
- Wholemeal toast – 4 slices buttered, to serve
- Fresh parsley – Chopped for garnish

### Method:

1. Melt butter in a saucepan. Gently cook mushrooms for 2 minutes.
2. Stir in flour, cook for 1 minute then gradually stir in remaining ingredients. Heat stirring continuously until sauce boils. Cook for 2 minutes. Serve on hot toast, garnished with parsley.

# LITTLEPORT & DISTRICT FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CLUB

***Since our AGM in February the Club has progressed forward with a few more new Members joining the Club in March.***

Our new year of Membership started with Area Demonstrator Barbara Collins returning to us with her demonstration of 'Joys of Spring'. As usual Barbara gave us a full evening of beautiful arrangements, design and flowers, Barbara's personality shone through and a good evening started our year off well.

April saw Julie Woods with her designs of 'After the Rain' and a new Demonstrator to the Club Susan Horne came in May with her title of 'Floral Mayhem'. A good evening with a new Demonstrator who will be asked to return.

An old favourite, Tim Meakin, returned to us in June and as ever Tim gave us a wonderful evening of 'Having Fun with Flowers' Tim is not a NAFAS Demonstrator but always gives an entertaining evening and a very fun evening was had by all.

Jacqui Aldous, an Area Demonstrator, returned to entertain us in July, Jacqui had not been with us for some years but proved she had lost none of her entertainment value with her title of 'That's Entertainment Act 3'. We will certainly not leave it so long to have her again.

Normally the Club has a break in August but this year we had a Workshop in the Village Hall on the 18th August from

10am to 3pm when Adele Kent, the Chair of JDS&E Committee of the East of England Area of NAFAS and an Area Demonstrator, came to tutor a group of 25 Members two designs that they later took home with them.

What a lovely happy day was had by everyone, it was so good also to have a Professional Tutor doing the Workshop, Adele worked her magic and even the basic beginners went away with two beautiful arrangements.



Everyone who went along said what a lovely day it had been, and please could we do it again. So hopefully another will be arranged next year.

The Club has enjoyed a good few months with good membership and many visitors, we do though need volunteers to come onto the Committee for the Club to progress further, so please if you think you could help in any way contact the Chair Pam Hayes on 01353 860102 and have a chat.

# THE LIBRARY PRESENTS

***On Sunday 7 October you can enjoy a dramatic and innovative production of Shakespeare's Henry V at Littleport Leisure Centre. This fast-paced and dynamic show brings to life the legendary Siege of Harfleur and Battle of Agincourt.***

The production has been created by professional national touring company Librarian Theatre and is both a perfect introduction to Shakespeare and an enjoyable adaptation for those more familiar with the play. The show is suitable for ages ten and over. Tickets are £7 (full price), £5 (students and senior citizens) and £4 (under 16, unwaged, registered disabled).

On Saturday 3 November at 2pm, Littleport library will host a fantastic two hour mosaic workshop led by Carolyn Ash. Learn mosaic techniques, have fun and create your own piece to take home. All materials are provided along with inspiration and advice.



The event is open to adults and children over 3 years of age. Tickets are £5 or £2.50 for concessions.

Another wonderful workshop will take place at Littleport library on Saturday 8 December at 2pm when you can join UK Champion Illustrator Si Mitchell for a fantastic two hour illustration workshop. Si creates funny and colourful artwork with loads of character. You'll learn to create illustrations for your own series of crazy and fun characters and put them into a comical story. Si has produced work for the BBC, Channel 4 and the band Green Day. The session is suitable for ages seven and over. Tickets are £5 or £2.50 for concessions.



For more information about all these events and to buy tickets pop in to Littleport library or visit [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/arts](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/arts) The Library Presents programme brings quality arts activities into market towns and villages across Cambridgeshire. It is delivered by Cambridgeshire County Council and is funded by Arts Council England.

To join the mailing list for monthly updates or if you wish to volunteer to help at any of these events please email [thelibrarypresents@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:thelibrarypresents@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)



# Littleport Rotary Club — Update

In July, we started a NEW ROTARY YEAR

The inauguration of a new president



At the end

of June **Tony Summersgill** became the president of the Littleport Rotary Club.

A recent Golf tournament at the, **Sheringham Golf Club** organized by Rotarian **Colin Every**, raised over £2000 for Rotary Charities.

**Southery Play Group —**

**Tony Summersgill** is President for 2018-2019

The Southery play group needed help with equipment The Rotary Club of Littleport donated £500 to purchase new equipment. The Team gave a presentation at the Rotary Club in July, the picture on the left Shows the group after the presentation.



Southery Playgroup team **Sarah Armstrong** center

**Lendwithcare**, Rotary District 1080 is one of many Rotary districts worldwide working to make the World and our Communities a better place. Microfinance is one of an extensive range of projects aiming to

reduce poverty and disease and to improve education and world peace. The Rotary Club of Littleport together with, partnership within local microfinance institutions, provide loans to entrepreneurs, in central Africa etc, to date we have donated £2000

**SEE also** <https://www.lendwithcare.org/groups>



At Aquafest Rotarians Ian Burrows & James Armstrong provided a new activity at our stall — Slot Car Racing or more commonly Scalextric the event was very busy . We raised £150 for charity

**Coming UP.....**

We are planning a further Quiz night in October, together with 20,000 more Crocus' being planted in the autumn, as a reminder to the eradication of Polio — see over.....



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](http://www.littleportrotary.org.uk) **Paul Cox**

The current status of the program to eradicate the crippling disease of Polio from the Planet is shown in the article below —The original program in the fight against polio was started 20 years ago by Rotary international

There continues to be a small number of Polio cases in Afghanistan and Pakistan, one more than this time last year, but with such low numbers it is difficult to draw any inference from this.

### **Afghanistan**

There been seven cases this year, the last being on 3 March. This month the Afghan government (with the support of the Taliban) vaccinated 10 million children using 70,000 volunteers, an amazing effort for a poor country with little infrastructure riven by conflict.

### **Pakistan**

There has been one case of Polio in Pakistan this year on the border with Afghanistan. Both countries are making a huge effort to reduce the risk to this cross-border population, in 2017 1.87million people were vaccinated in these areas.

### **Worldwide**

What is probably less well known is that 50 countries are still being protected by the vaccinations against Polio. A huge amount has been learnt by the WHO (World Health Organization) as a result of Rotary's effort to eradicate polio. As a result the system which has succeeded in most parts the world is now being engaged in the eradication the other diseases such as —



Tuberculosis, Malaria, and other acute respiratory diseases. The Bill Gates foundation have calculated that this has saved at least 100,000 lives per year on the back of the polio program. Below Immunisation of a child in Afghanistan.



### **District 1080 EndPolioNow Co-Ordinator**

**Simon Gorton** — commented — Every time I research the current position I am amazed at the scale of the efforts to remove Polio and other diseases as a threat to humanity. Although the financial cost is fairly high what I find inspiring is the sheer effort by volunteers around the world to eradicate this disease for the sake of their fellow humans.

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE LITTLEPORT SOCIETY

*The Spring edition of The Littleport Society Magazine was a Black Horse Drove Special Edition, which detailed the history of the Drove its shops, pub, and school, as well as Carol Driver's memories of living on the Drove.*

Every resident of the Drove received a complimentary copy of this 20 page special. If anyone has any anecdotes or stories of living on the Drove please let us know and we can include them in future magazines.

The Littleport Society Magazine is published quarterly and is always packed with illustrated articles about Littleport and its surrounding fens, a must for anyone interested in our past, so don't miss out, membership of the Society is only £3 per adult; £2 Seniors; of £5 family – contact Membership Secretary – Bruce Frost at 18 Upton Lane or e-mail [bruce.frost@btinternet.com](mailto:bruce.frost@btinternet.com)

A recent acquisition for the Archive was a small collection of Comins sale catalogues. One was for the sale of the live and dead stock belonging to David May of Black Horse Drove, dated 10th October 1924.



*The former Black Horse pub which gave the Drove its name.*

The sale included two Hackneys named "Kitty" and "Fanny", as well as a Shire stallion called "Crouchmoor Speculation."

Several Littleport farmers were noted breeders of Hackney horses, foremost amongst them was the Flanders family. The most renown of their Hackneys was named "Flanders Fireaway." It was described as "of perfect symmetry, excessive strength, and unrivalled action," and it could command high stud fees. The horse was such a celebrity that when William Flanders sold him in 1826 it was said the buyer gave him "a gold sovereign for every day of the year."

Another interesting item donated is a copy of the Lincolnshire, Boston and Spalding Free Press dated 18th April 1938. It contains a full page spread of Hall, Cutlack and Harlock announcing that it had taken over Mills Brewery (Wisbech) Ltd. The page also had a potted history of the Forehill Brewery, Ely, with five interior photographs. A fascinating source for anyone interested in the history of brewing in the area.

## BOOK REVIEW

*"Mysterious Littleport"* by Deborah Curtis Watson

I was once told by a publisher there were two main reasons for going to print. Either it's a darn good read or that the content should be preserved. This book covers both criteria. "Fascinating" is the best description for this account of the uniqueness of Fen culture. Deborah writes in a very congenial way to reveal Fen and Littleport superstitions, horsemanship, magic, medicine, ghosts and folk lore. I defy



anyone to read this without great interest and not to say, "I didn't know that!" Once I started to read I found it hard to put down. A wonderfully easy to read record of Littleport and Fen life that may otherwise be lost. I give it 10/10.

Review by John Taylor



*The Old Library at The Grange - said to be haunted by an invisible phantom 'pincher'. This picture appears in the book that is reviewed by John Taylor, and there is mention of this phantom in one of the chapters in that book.*

£3.50 from the Littleport Society at The Barn (open Tuesday afternoons from 1.00 p.m. until 4.00 p.m.), or our bookstall at the monthly Open Meeting in the Village Hall.

### **THE LITTLEPORT SOCIETY EVENTS**

Held in the Village Hall 7.30 pm.

4 September - Mike Petty – Looking back on Cambridgeshire

2 October – Eddy Edwards – The Train that Hovered

6 November – Carol Pooke – Edith Cavell – Saviour or Spy

10 December – MONDAY – Jonathon White (Organist) – Christmas Concert

## **Littleport Leisure hosts an exercise class for Cambridge MS Society every Monday Morning!**

Since we began a few of months ago the class numbers have risen to 14 and our excellent trainer Adam varies the seated exercises and has set up new equipment in a separate training room that we can all use.

Motomed machines, spin bikes, battle ropes even a ski machine. Every week after the class we adjourn to the café for coffee / lunch and enjoy a social hour or so putting the world to rights. Please email Bob - Cambridge@mssociety.org.uk if you would like to join us on Monday mornings 11.30 – 12.30.



# East Cambridgeshire District Council Annual Report

Councillors for Littleport: David Ambrose Smith, Christine Ambrose Smith, Jo Webber and Paul Cox

Littleport Annual Parish Meeting, Monday 21st May 2018

## 1.0 Introduction

We set out in 2014 to create a customer driven, efficient Council with a “can do” and “open for business” culture in everything we do. 2014 seems like a very long time ago - that’s testament to the sheer volume of delivery of East Cambs District Council in the last 4 years. The Council is unrecognisable from that of 2007.

We believe we are a nimble, dynamic, pro-active, forward thinking, entrepreneurial authority that *delivers* at pace for our residents.

Our zero percent rise for the East Cambs element of Council Tax has continued for five years in a row, our nationally recognised record on preventing homelessness, our low management costs and our Community Land Trust programme make us national outliers for all the right reasons. We are the smallest of the five second tier authorities in Cambridgeshire we are punching well above our weight. It’s true, small is beautiful!

## 2.0 Achievements in 2017/18

### 2.1 Housing

Community Land Trusts (CLTs) are the preferred way of delivering affordable homes in East Cambs because developments are led and controlled *by* the community, *for* the community. The CLT programme is really taking off with new CLTs forming across the district.

- The first Community Land Trust homes are now occupied in Stretham, where the CLT owns 23 homes, forever, for local working people to live in their own community, at *genuinely* affordable rents (currently around 69% of open market prices)
- Building is well and truly underway at Soham CLT - 13 homes, 8 of which will belong to the CLT
- Haddenham CLT has been granted permission for 54 homes, 19 of which will belong to the CLT. Loan funding has been granted by the Combined Authority to East Cambs Trading Company which will accelerate building of the site to a two year timeframe; it also keeps the money from the building of the development in the public tax payer purse
- Kennett CLT voted in support of moving ahead with their planning application for 500 homes, 150 of which will be owned by the CLT in perpetuity. The community benefits from Kennett CLT are huge:
  - £140m total investment in Kennett
  - £23m on site infrastructure - roads, footpaths, cycleways, traffic calming, landscaping, drainage, utilities etc

- £10m in S106 and CIL payments, incl £6.75m in new school buildings
- £2m in village centre buildings, incl GP surgery and pharmacy, and/or dentist, food store, cafe etc
- £2.5m investment in open space, community sport and leisure facilities
- £6m in buildings for employment on the Enterprise Park
- £100m in new homes - all sizes and tenures
- Significant green infrastructure - 28 acres of green space, incl playgrounds, woodland, open space, 3 acre village green, footpaths, cycle tracks, all to be gifted to the CLT in perpetuity
- Enhancement of and access to scheduled ancient monument - Howe Hill
- Improved transport infrastructure - new perimeter road to take traffic away from the village, improvements to Bell Inn crossroads, upgraded train service with more frequent passenger rail services between Kennett, Cambridge and Ipswich, improved car parking at the railway station
- 150 genuinely affordable homes owned by the CLT under their allocations policy
- For villages and communities wanting to set up a CLT, East Cambs District Council offer a grant to help CLTs get started as well as practical and ongoing support
- Building of the King's Row development, by the District Council's trading company, on Barton Road in Ely is getting closer to completion. The development will provide around £1.7m to the public purse as well as nine open market homes and two affordable homes which will be let through a CLT structure - East Cambs CLT. It is looking like it's going to be a really high quality development that we can all be proud of. Just for the record, it has been delivered with only one lost car parking space in Barton Road, but we have increased the number of spaces in other Ely centre car parks to more than make up for that loss and we continue to look for other additional new spaces in central Ely
- The Council has developed a new Local Plan which should be fully adopted later this year

## 2.2 Infrastructure

### Ely Bypass

Building of the Ely Bypass continues with the road set to open in October this year, with a contribution of £1m from East Cambs District Council which is coming from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments from housing developers. You may have heard that the cost of delivering the bypass has risen to £49m. The type of contract the County Council entered into was designed to bring forward the date of opening - if the Council had chosen a traditional fixed price contract the build would have started up to 18 months later and the cost would have been the same or more, because of the delayed start time. Local tax payers will not be paying more than was originally agreed - in 2011 the County Council committed to fund the total cost through borrowing,

which was then expected to be £28.7m. The County Council did a good job at proving the economic business case and bringing in external funding - £22m from the Growth Fund (via the Local Enterprise Partnership), £5m from Network Rail and £1m from East Cambs District Council. Therefore, the County Council only has to borrow £21m, which is £7.7m less than originally planned.

#### **A14 Upgrade**

East Cambs District Council is also contributing to the A14 upgrade which is well underway and due for completion in 2021.

#### **A10 Upgrade**

East Cambs Councillors have campaigned and lobbied the County Council to upgrade the A10. The A10 corridor study, together with a secondary report, looked at current transport challenges and future requirements to support planned growth. Recommendations from the study include:

- Dualling the A10 between Ely and Cambridge
- A new Park & Ride north of Waterbeach
- Relocation and expansion of Waterbeach Railway Station
- New cycle routes, including between Ely and Cambridge

The work to secure funding and get the project delivered now moves to the Combined Authority.

#### **New Car Parks**

We have built two new commuter car parks at The Dock in Ely (128 spaces) and at Littleport Railway Station (79 spaces). We have also frozen parking charges at both sites as well as at the Angel Drove car park in Ely. The Ely ticket pricing is roughly half the cost of Ely Railway Station car park - the car parks are a facility for local residents, not a money making project!

#### **Free Car Parking in City and Town Centre ECDC Car Parks**

We continue to provide free of charge car parking in Ely and town centre car parks owned by East Cambs District Council and this has been enshrined in the Council's constitution.

#### **Flood Defences**

Of particular importance to this area, Cllr Mike Bradley and Cllr Anna Bailey have been working to raise awareness of the Environment Agency's "Great Ouse Tidal River Baseline Report" which sets out the long term requirement to shore up the flood defences; Mike has been appointed as Member Champion and the Council will seek to influence the various sources of funding to help secure the investment needed to protect the £1.2bn of economic assets in the area, not to mention the people!

#### **Ely Leisure Village**

We've had the opening of the cinema and Ely Leisure Village in May last year - a hugely popular venue for residents of the district, which included building the A10 underpass at no cost to tax payers.

#### **New Leisure Centre - The Hive**

The Hive district leisure centre on Downham Road in Ely opened to the public on 14th May, two weeks early - built with no external borrowing and with no impact on Council Tax.

#### **Mepal Outdoor Centre**

Mepal Outdoor Centre has been put out to tender and is set to reopen in mid 2019 with an emphasis on "fun" activities! The District Council will remain the freehold owner of the site. This will provide a modest income to the Council, instead of the current cost burden of c.£2k per month in site security and general costs of ownership.

## 2.3 Services & Campaigns

### Health & Social Care Services

East Cambs Councillors have campaigned for a full Local Urgent Treatment Centre at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Ely, and we have pushed for new GP Surgery space and accommodation for older people when the hospital site is redeveloped.

At a county level, Cllr Anna Bailey has initiated and championed the Neighbourhood Cares pilots in Soham, which are an attempt to radically transform the way that people with social care needs are supported. The idea is to embed social care support from *within* the community, to plan and deliver support on a community wide basis. Neighbourhood Cares is based on a health model in the Netherlands called Buurtzorg, which has successfully reduced costs by around 40%. Small, local, non-hierarchical teams are empowered, trained and skilled to deliver flexible, responsive support on a 24/7 basis. The pilots are progressing well and will be subject to external, independent audit to measure their success.

### Recycling and Waste Collection

The District Council has begun a second new trading company, East Cambs Street Scene, which is now running the Council's contract to deliver waste and street cleaning services with a new fleet of vehicles. Bringing the waste in house has saved the Council c.£240K in procurement costs alone. You may be interested to know that the new waste contract costs the Council just £1 per week, per household - fantastic value for money. Bringing the waste home has enabled us to offer residents a second blue recycling bin for a one-off fee of £25 with no additional ongoing cost for collection. Anyone wanting a second blue bin can order one by telephoning 01353 665 555.

### Fly-tipping

Through East Cambs Street Scene we are also undertaking a mass clean up of the whole district to clear all fly tips on public land. Environmental Crime officers will accompany the waste collection crew to gather evidence to issue fines or take enforcement action. We will be taking a robust enforcement and prosecution stance against people who blight our communities by fly-tipping from now on, and there will be an accompanying publicity campaign.

### Eradicating Single-Use Plastics

We have launched a "Purge on Plastics" campaign to eradicate single use plastics within the Council and its trading companies, and also to encourage and impassion others in communities across the district to do the same.

### Markets Expansion

Ely Markets, which are now operated by the Council's trading company, are going from strength to strength and have been expanded to include special markets and the new mini-markets. Markets now operate 6 days a week in Ely.

### Housing & Homelessness Prevention

Our Housing Team is nationally recognised for its prevention work in helping to support people before they are threatened with losing their home. This year has seen the opening of the Ely and Littleport Community Hubs - a safe space for people to get advice and support on a whole range of issues. It is an integral part of the unique way that our Housing team prevents homelessness and we will be opening new hubs throughout the coming year.



## **Economic Development**

We've seen healthy growth in new businesses and job creation in the district which has resulted in a rise in the Business Rates Collection Fund. Lancaster Way Business Park has gained Enterprise Zone status which incentivises businesses to locate in the district. We have also supported apprenticeships, both directly at the District Council as well as through encouraging businesses.

We are also placing new emphasis and importance on creating high quality jobs close to housing areas through a new policy called "work to live, not live to work." We want to break the cycle of people having to travel ever further from where they live to get to work - this new policy, combined with Community Land Trusts which provide genuinely affordable homes for people in their own community, is our vision for helping people to have a better quality of life that doesn't have to be dictated by the length of their commute.

### **3.0 Combined Authority**

2017 has also seen the setting up of the Combined Authority, of which East Cambs District Council is a constituent member. It is attracting significant new funding to the county and it presents huge opportunities which we are working hard to make sure East Cambs benefits from.

### **4.0 Budgeting for the Future**

The Council has a budget of just over £10m in net operating expenditure. The main Revenue Support Grant from central Government continues to reduce - £660k in 2017/18 down to £11.5k in 2019/20. The Council has been planning to cope with the reduction in grant for a number of years now, and has been reducing costs and increasing income to ensure it has a balanced budget into future years.

The business rates retention scheme that was intended to replace Revenue Support Grant has not yet been implemented by central Government. The Council was part of a pilot business rates retention scheme that came to an end last year.

The Council is in the fortunate, but well planned, position of having a balanced budget for this year and for 2019/20, and with a promise to freeze its share of Council Tax for a sixth year in April 2019, it is the only Cambridgeshire local authority to be in this position.

The Council has healthy reserves of £1.012m (10% of the net operating budget); the Council also holds reserves in a fund called "Change Management Reserve" which is to help cope with the fluctuations and uncertainties of income in future years and is used to help deliver a balanced budget.

In 2020/21 the Council has a budget gap of £2.2m - this is not unusual three years ahead; the Council will continue to focus on savings and new income streams to close this gap, including new sources of income through its trading company activities.

The budget for this year and our medium term financial strategy (MTFS), are, we believe prudent.

- The MTFS assumes no dividend payments from the Trading Companies
- It includes a healthy fund for continued Local Plan development
- The trading company loan is on track to be repaid by March 2021

- We are investing in IT, the waste fleet, and the Depot at Littleport
- Our reserves at 10% of expenditure are at a healthy level
- The Council currently has no borrowing, but with big plans this will need to change; borrowing will *only* be undertaken as and when it is absolutely necessary and to facilitate delivery of our plans (e.g. £6.5m loan from the Combined Authority has just been agreed to deliver Haddenham CLT and will be repaid within a two year timeframe)

The budget gap of £2.2m, the lack of clarity about the business rates retention scheme, uncertainty about the effect of the national Fair Funding Review and the Rural Services Delivery Grant, means we cannot let up.

In May 2019 the Council has all out elections and will be reducing from 39 Members down to 28; it will be critical for the new Council to carry on the good work of the last four years.

If we are in a position to still be involved, we won't look to rely on Government or anyone else to get to a continued balanced and healthy position. We will bridge the gap, through our collective efforts.

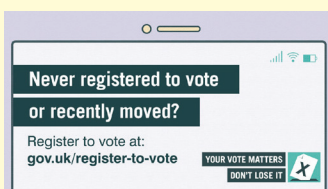
We must keep looking for efficiencies, and look to reduce our draw from the Surplus Savings Reserve over the next two years; we must keep attracting new businesses to the district, to increase business rates income in the area; we must forge ahead and be ambitious with our commercial activities that benefit residents of our district. There are huge and exciting opportunities for the Council in our trading activities and they are integral to our success and ability to keep fees and charges and Council Tax as low as possible whilst also providing fantastic services to our residents.

### **A message from your Littleport District Councillors**

The four District Councillors are also elected Parish Councillors, and David, in addition, is our County Councillor. This has proved to be immensely valuable and we have been able to fight hard for our community, because we have knowledge of every issue both at Parish and District level. We work as a team and are recognized as such by our colleagues. We are involved with many community groups & projects in Littleport and use our networking contacts to good effect.

If you would like to contact one or all of us, we will be pleased to hear from you and will do all that we can to help.

David Ambrose Smith	01353 861010 / 07885 202381
Christine Ambrose Smith	01353 861010
Jo Webber	01353 862293
Paul Cox	01353 860628 / 07831 833217



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## Summer 2018



### Local Policing and CCTV Cameras

We are still improving and extending the areas covered by our CCTV system ... we currently have a bid in for funding for an additional 6 cameras (along with renewing some of the older ones). These new cameras are infra-red (ie work at night) and have number plate recognition capability. The Police too now have direct remote access into the system and can view not only live footage but can access all recordings. To give you some idea of the amount of money the system costs, we have, in the last year, spent approximately £30,000 to bring our system into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and it is definitely helping the Police catch and prosecute criminals.

We hosted a public meeting in August on behalf of the Police to assist residents in voicing their concerns over various instances of anti-social behaviour that we have been experiencing in the village and, following that meeting, the Police, along with the East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership and the Parish Council, have produced a Littleport Prevention Plan which can be found on our website (<https://www.littleportparishcouncil.gov.uk/its-your-business-follow-up-repo.html>). One of the main themes is for residents to reclaim areas that have, recently, become hotspots for anti-social behaviour so we're looking to you to perhaps organise and run some community events around the Church Green throughout the year. Please let us have any ideas so that we can try and support you with market stalls etc.

Unfortunately, there has been a spate of mindless vandalism at our play parks, in particular, someone thought it would be fun (!) to take an axe to a seesaw which has resulted in excess of £1,000 being spent on repairs.

We are still looking to extend the Neighbourhood Watch scheme throughout the village and would like to hear from anyone that may be interested in setting up a group in their road. The Parish Council have put aside a small fund for the purchase of signs for new schemes too.

### The Community Hub

Just a reminder ... East Cambridgeshire District Council, working in partnership with the Parish Council, are now running a monthly community drop-in event on the first Thursday of every month between 10am and 1pm in the Village Hall. If you need to talk to someone/need advice on debt, alcohol misuse, drug dependency, housing/homelessness, benefits, mental health, domestic violence etc representatives are there for you to talk to. No need to make an appointment, just drop in. Hot drinks and food are also freely available.

### Paddocks

As you may remember from our last Newsletter, at long last, after many years, the transfer documents have now been signed by the Parish Council and ECDC so work can start on bringing them into use as a Green Open Space for all residents of the village. The consultation document is currently being worked on and as soon as it is available for use we will be posting it on our website. Please keep an eye out on Facebook as we will post a link as soon as it's ready. The more responses we receive the better informed we will be in creating an area which, we hope, will be well used by everyone.

### Local Highway Initiative Bid

We have submitted a new bid for this year's round of LHI funding for an additional 2 MVAS units. The data that these units capture will help us evidence areas of speeding in the village which in turn will help us build a better case for further traffic calming to be installed, by the County Council, in problem areas. We should know the outcome of our bid in November.

### Christmas Lights

The Parish Council have taken up the remit of installing, enhancing and maintaining the festive lights. We're really hoping that, with the help of the previous Village Lighting Committee and the 363 Motorcycle Club (building on the excellent work that they have done in the past), over the course of the next few years we will be investing in renewal/repair of the infrastructure, purchasing new lights and extending the areas where the festive lights will be installed. This is a definite "work in progress" and we would like to thank all those people who have helped in the past and we fervently hope that they will continue to help so that come Christmas time the village will be awash with festive lights in celebration of the festive season.

### Working Groups

Transport and Access : These groups are still meeting regularly and have produced some really detailed work, which will be put into the Littleport Transport Plan setting out a clear vision for the village. The worked-up plan is due to come to the Full Parish Council meeting in December for ratification. Once ratified this will be formally lodged with the District Council to assist them when it comes to future planning applications etc. Again, thank you to all those who have contributed to the work of both groups from taking photos to working through ideas on how to improve transport and access around the village.

### Parish Council Office

We now have in post a new Deputy Clerk! Vikki Austin has joined us and has settled in very quickly. She is proving invaluable in updating and maintaining the website and getting relevant information about events etc out to Facebook and Twitter.

We now have the "What's On" calendar operational on the website but we really could do with more groups giving us information about forthcoming events so that we can continue to update this. If you could provide us with dates, times, cost, age groups, location, link to any posters etc that would be really useful. It doesn't matter whether they are regular groups/events or one-off's the more information we have the more we can publicise for you. Send your information to Vikki on [info@littleportparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@littleportparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Vikki has over 20 years experience in local government from a cashiering perspective along with Communications and PR expertise. Both Su and Vikki are undertaking additional training courses this year with a view to the Parish Council applying for Quality Council status next year. If we are successful in obtaining this, it will enable us to explore other avenues for funding etc.

### Summing Up ....

The Parish Council is constantly trying to improve and are always happy to hear your views on our performance. Please take the opportunity to make contact direct or via our contact page on the Parish Council website should you wish to comment, require our help or want to work with the Parish Council.



Su Field  
Parish Clerk on behalf of  
Cllr Clive Webber – Parish Council Chairman

## **"Protecting Our Community Is Everyone's Business"**

Cambridgeshire Constabulary is committed to providing a Police presence to local neighbourhoods and has an East Cambs Neighbourhood Policing Team who are based at Ely Police station.

Our Neighbour Team at Ely is managed by Sergeant Mark Rabel who has recently been placed in post.

The recent concerns by the community in Littleport are a priority for the local Team to address. Meanwhile we encourage any incident to be reported to the Constabulary. We need as much information as possible to be effective in the patrol plans that are being established.

The public can report concerns using the **101 telephone system (999 in emergency)** or alternately via the Constabulary website <https://www.cambs.police.uk>. Using the website, there is provision to report information anonymously.

[Crimestoppers-uk.org](http://Crimestoppers-uk.org) | Crimestoppers UK | Report Crime  
Ad [www.crimestoppers-uk.org/0800](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/0800) 555111  
Call Us Anonymously or Fill in the Anonymous Online Form. Help Prevent **Crime**.  
Help Report **Crime**. By Phone or Online. Contact **Crimestoppers**. Services:  
100% Anonymous Phone Line, 100% Anon Online Form, Advice: Community Safety.

# ST GEORGE'S CHURCH



*Now here's a question: What do a teddy bear tombola, jewellery, different types of gin and quilting*

*have in common? Answer; St George's Arts and Crafts Fair of course!*

By the time you read this, we may be looking forward to the Fair or it may have happened (September 22nd), but whichever it is, thank you for all your support. The Arts and Crafts Fair is deliberately timed to coincide with Harvest Festival time. That's because harvest is a time of celebrating all that has grown and giving thanks for it, and crafting is a celebration of human creativity too, using our skills to make, recycle and enjoy. It is interesting when we see a random collection of activities coming together to be bigger than the sum of their parts. When we share an activity, its often the unplanned sharing which makes it all the more creative - the conversations or observations we never imagined having.

But autumn is also the time when we remember, and this year Remembrance is especially poignant, being one hundred years after the end of the Great War. There will be a special concert at St George's on November 10th by the New Cambridge Singers performing Durufle's Requiem; (reserve tickets via [vicar@littleportchurch.org](mailto:vicar@littleportchurch.org))

I've been reflecting upon the human ability to create alongside our ability to destroy; we hold the two in tension. For some, history is a steady progression of improvement whilst for others history is a balanced cycle, good deeds counterbalancing the bad. The Great War was a shock to those who believed in humanity's

ability to shape for good our destiny and as for balancing good and bad, I wonder how many beautifully made handicrafts it takes to counteract the dead of the first World War. I don't mean to be glib, but this isn't about balancing good and bad. When bad things happen, they leave us stunned and we yearn for the goodness that we feel has been lost. After the Great War they said simply it should never happen again; and they were correct. But happen again it did.

When Jesus walked around Galilee and beyond, he did have a plan which involved going to Jerusalem, but this was no more an unbending plan than it was idle wanderings. He met all sorts of people, quite deliberately, told them about God and those people realised that they shared much more in common than they thought. They also realised that Jesus spoke directly into their life; their personal experience of life with the choices, good and bad, which life presents. The Christian Gospel derives its strength from its unceasing relevance; that what Jesus said remains as true today as ever it was. So, the good stuff, the creating, the unexpected sharing, the harvest if you like, is good because we partner God's creative force in the world and the bad stuff? Well, we need His help with that. These days it's hip and trendy to explore new ways of doing church - several such activities happen at St George's for which I make no apology. But perhaps it is an ancient prayer we need now; "Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. Amen".

With every blessing,  
**Reverend Howard Robson**



# Greater Littleport and District New Christian Spiritualists' Society

***A Spiritualist meeting has been going on in the village since 1998. Yes, it is what is called a 'suitcase church' but many of the best religious gatherings have been a moveable feast!***



And even where there is a fixed venue that was built for the purpose, however large or small, there has always been an outreach, whether for home visits to the sick, to offer prayer and spiritual succour to those who cannot travel to it, or meetings that are set up either singly or at regular intervals, to take the message out to a wider community than the one that regularly visits that place of worship, praise and prayer.

Every Thursday at Littleport Village Hall, Littleport's Spiritualist minister, bishop to the NCSS First Minister, The Right Reverend Nick Brown - supported by his parents, Linda Brown, usually seen first welcoming attendees as they come through the doors that open at 7pm, and in the background, Francis Brown, who it's reported makes a good cup of tea after the service, that begins at 7.30pm - leads the spiritual event.

There is always an address By Rev Nick, followed by a demonstration of mediumship by a guest medium.

Mediums are sensitives who have developed their innate ability to be the conduit through whom discarnate individuals who have passed over to the higher realms may communicate their thoughts back to loved-ones they left here on the earth plane.

This is done in a space that each week is consecrated by the minister as sacred through the opening prayer.

But although a religious Christian Spiritualist enclave, and dealing as all religions do, with matters of life and death, it is often a space filled with laughter and good humour as well. All are welcome.

For more information go to our website: [www.newchristianspiritualistsociety.com](http://www.newchristianspiritualistsociety.com) or Facebook: New Christian Spiritualists' Society and Greater Littleport and District New Christian Spiritualists Society.

May God bless and keep you. Make His face to shine upon you and give you peace.

From the desk of the First Minister, Primus, NCSS



*NCSS tea and chat after the service*

# Vine Community Church

## Support your local churches

**You may need us one day!**

*It's September! - a month reminding me of my career as a primary teacher. After a Summer holiday relaxing with my family and preparing for the new school year, it was back into classroom life and the exciting process of guiding children's learning and seeing them perceptively gain in confidence as well as knowledge and understanding.*

But September's also a great time to be in church. There's enthusiasm and energy as we meet again, all together after six weeks or so when many were away on holiday. It's a great time to come along to church for the first time if you've never been before.

**So why come to church? Is it just to meet to enjoy each other's company?**

Well, we do enjoy that, but that's not really why we meet. Firstly, we come to worship God. We recognise him as our creator and Lord and, if we are Christians, we believe that he sent his son Jesus to die on the cross to take away the barrier of sin that stops us from interacting with him. We believe that only through Jesus can we approach God. And Jesus' resurrection from the dead at the first Easter gives us the certain hope of life after death.

Secondly, we try to bring the news of Jesus to others. We do this because Jesus himself told his disciples to 'go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Matthew 28, verse 19).

**How do we, at the Vine, do this in practice?**

We talk to friends and neighbours, of course, but we also try to show love through practical action. So amongst us there is a Street Pastor, working at night in Cambridge to help young people, often drunk. We have bikers in the Christian Motorcyclists Association and we visit those in prison. We organise financial advice through CAP (Christians Against Poverty) courses, we open our doors to people who are lonely or those with problems and run a Coffee Break on Thursday mornings. We visit those who find it difficult to come to church because of age or infirmity.

**So how do our older people fit into this? Surely they don't do all these things?**

No, but they show their love for God and their fellow humans by faithfully attending church and, more importantly, by praying. About this time of year our churches celebrate Harvest, when we thank God that he provides abundantly for all our needs. **The Vine Harvest Family Service will be at 10.30 am on Sunday, 23rd September.** We will be delighted if you join us then.

Oh, apologies if you're not reading this in September. But actually, it's good to come to church at any time of the year. Why not try it?

**Ken Hobday**

*The Vine Community Church*

## 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



### **The Redeemed Christian Church of God**

**New Covenant House, Littleport, Ely  
11 Victoria Street, CB6 1LU**

#### **Service & Times - Weekly Meetings**

**Sunday Service:** 10:00am - 12.00pm

**Wednesday:** Interactive Bible Study,  
7.00pm - 8.00pm

#### **Special Services:**

First Sunday of the month:

Thanksgiving Service:

10am - 12.00pm

Fourth Sunday of the month:

Hour of Divine Touch:

11.00am - 12.00pm

**M:** 07469699557 / 07469699554

**E:** [info@rccgnch.org.uk](mailto:info@rccgnch.org.uk)

[rccgnch.org.uk](http://rccgnch.org.uk)

## **St John's Methodist Church**



*High Street, Littleport*

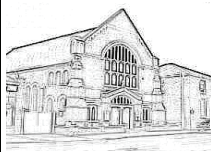
#### **Sunday Services**

**Morning:** 10.45am – weekly

**Evening:** 6.30pm – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month  
5pm – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, at St George's

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

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



*- Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals by arrangement*

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

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

# A Message from St John's Methodist Church

*A Special Guest Feature from a Methodist Deacon*

## God in the pain

Two student presbyters at The Queen's Foundation give testimony to God working for good even through their difficulties

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 (NRSV)

### *How Rachel Leather came closer to God*

For many people when they encounter difficulties, rather than questioning both the benevolence and existence of God, crises can bring them into closer relationship with God.

This was certainly my experience when my 11-year-old son, Jared, suffered a traumatic head injury. Up until that point I had kept God at a nice safe distance. Then, in recognising my own vulnerability and pain waiting in the children's hospital, I reached out and discovered God had been there all along.

I knew immediately that this reaching out would be life-changing; it had been a risk to allow God to get through my impenetrable layers. But I started to acknowledge God speaking through word, song and especially other people. I knew God was asking me to give voice to my potential.

Eighteen months later I started training to become a local preacher, and last year all of my family's lives changed when I became a student presbyter at Queens. I made no bargains with God to heal Jared; this was not quid pro quo. I believe there are some things God cannot do: God could not intervene to stop the accident that caused Jared to fracture his skull.

But I do believe that in all things God works to the greatest good, and out of the most horrific circumstances, God steps in and pours out love.

There have been no promises that life will now be easy, but throughout Jared's recovery and beginning my training I have found myself noticing God's presence in a way I previously failed to observe. Because I don't live in a constant mountain-top state of spiritual ecstasy (who does?), I have learnt to notice God's presence even when I don't feel it. To rephrase a very cheesy song, love really is all around.

### *How Moses John felt God's personal call*

My father is a church leader in India and so from a very young age devotion to Scripture, prayer and church life were normal for me. I have great respect for my father and seeing his Christian faith lived out amidst the opposition of an overwhelmingly Hindu culture inspired me greatly. You could say I inherited my faith from him.

However, it wasn't until I was involved in a serious motorbike accident when I was twenty, that I was forced to stop and really consider my faith. What would have happened if I had died? Was I following the purpose that God had called me to? During the days of my recovery in hospital I made the decision to follow Jesus, not just for my father, but because I had felt a personal call from God.

Two years later I followed that call to study theology in England. I planned to gain some good training and return to my father's churches in India. Very often, though, God challenges our pre-conceived ideas and brings us to (uncomfortable) places where our faith is stretched.

In the following years, I met and married my wife Kim and our first child, Joshua, was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect. Through these and other difficult circumstances we learned that "all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

We also felt the Lord's call to remain and minister in the UK, including the Spirit's more recent guiding into ministerial training. I now have four young children of my own and I teach them in the same way as my father taught me. For now their faith is inherited from me, but one day, God willing, it will become a strong and personal calling of their own.

### ***Testimony***

You could use these questions for personal reflection and conversation.

- What are you grateful to God for this week?

- Where do you see God doing things in your life, or in other people's lives?
- When and where have you encountered God?
- How did you come to faith?
- What makes you feel close to God?

***Rachel Leather and Moses John from the connexion, the free magazine of the Methodist Church, [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)***

***To receive a free copy, visit [www.bit.ly/the-connexion](http://www.bit.ly/the-connexion)***





## Littleport Judo Club news!

*Littleport Judo Club is all set with a very busy autumn schedule coming up which includes a visit and masterclass from British Olympic judo competitor Ashley McKenzie in November, as well as hosting the Eastern Area British Schools Judo Championship in October.*

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018 - morning**  
**ASHLEY MCKENZIE - A JUDO MASTERCLASS**

We have managed to book Ashley to come along to Littleport and deliver one of his famous judo master class sessions.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018 - afternoon**  
**NAGE NO KATA**

A chance to attend an afternoon session looking at Nage No Kata - and hopefully an opportunity to be examined for those who want to be. An essential kata for all level of judoka.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2018**  
**LITTLEPORT JUNIOR AND SENIOR OPEN + DAN GRADING**

BJA level 3 event - with groups for juniors, seniors and master judoka, including an open grade and kyu grade section. Also, a competitive Dan grading for all 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu and above looking to grade up!

To find out more about Littleport Judo Club visit their Facebook page and send a message or contact the club secretary Ros Edwards on 07483 223458



Ashley McKenzie OLY



## 363MCC

Littleport's 363 Motor Cycle Club have received Thank You letters from East Anglian Air Ambulance having raised many thousands over the years with their annual Crowning Around event.

They also take time-out to enjoy their bikes and in the summer had a ride out to Hunstanton among other enjoyable biking pursuits!





# Children in Need

# DISCO

**Derek Timbers will be hosting the disco at the Ex Servicemen's Club on SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER.**

All money raised will be donated to the BBC Children in Need appeal. The FANTASTIC INTERCITY DISCO is supplying the music. This event will start at 6 pm until late.

Games and competitions are early on for the kids then music all the way to finish. HUGE RAFFLE! ENTRY ADULTS £5

Joanne Coe says that her youth club, ThePORT's room will be open.

Joanne put the call out to the members "As a Youth Group could we please start gathering some raffle prizes. It would be fab to help Derek raise as much money as possible for a good cause.

Bottles of wine, gift vouchers if your parents, friend, family own or work in a shop or restaurant.

Gift boxes, sweets, toys... The usual raffle type prizes.

All donations very much appreciated!"

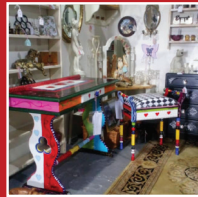
## Little Betties is open for business in Littleport!

*At Unit 11 in Oak Lane Littleport (sat-nav CB61RS, and mobile for more info: 07984 473168) you will find 23 individual traders plus a huge showroom full of goodies for sale.*

Candles, enamel signs, upcycled furniture, object d'art, retro, antiques and one of a kind painted furniture pieces amongst other attractions for the collector.

Proprietor Philip Martin must be pleased with his new outlet where he says, "There is something for everyone."

The showroom is open daily from 10-4pm.



**Many different  
bijou shops in one  
magical place!**

# Timebanking in Littleport

***Before I tell you of our events and projects it is undoubtedly best if I tell you about being a Timebank member. It is probably easiest to imagine a circle of friends where each friend has either a talent or some spare time.***

From there further imagine you need a small fence that needs a coat of preserver and that one friend offers to do it. That friend earns a “Time Credit” which has no expiry date but can be used at any time to request some sort of talent/task from any other member of the “friends”.

Now imagine that circle of friends being somewhat larger (over a hundred in Littleport) with a system that keeps count of your credits (administrated by the CHS group), requests for help or offers of assistance.

These exchanges vary from simply meeting for a chat (befriending) to helping to mow a lawn or paint a fence and many more things (including making Tea!) We have also taken part in organised events such as Litterpicks or marshalling for the Littleport 10K run.

The time credits can be used to pay for your exchange requests, at the Littleport Leisure Centre or exchanged to a more formal Token that can be spent in various ways with corporate members such as certain cinemas etc.

My personal experience with Timebank has been a strange journey for me. I

have nearly always worked alone and am not really the social type. From that position I have hugely expanded my circle of friends and have found that by using my knowledge to help others I have also helped myself and it has opened doors that would have definitely remained shut otherwise. If you haven't guessed already I totally recommend Timebank to everyone, from those who are a bit lonely to those of the genius persuasion.

We are fortunate enough to be able to hold an informal coffee morning at Adams Heritage Centre from 10am to around 11:30am on a Thursday morning. We do make note of who has attended, as just going earns you a time credit, and any exchanges done or requested.

We will also be trailing a similar evening meeting from 7pm to 8:30pm on the first Thursday of the month starting on 6th September, again at the Adams Heritage Centre.

This evening meet is intended to include those of us who work normal(ish) hours into the group and enable them to get the latest information on exchanges offered/required and any projects in the offing. I am looking forward to this start-up event and hope we can increase the regularity of the evening sessions.

During our Timebank sessions some people stay throughout and others just pop in for a few minutes. Anyone who is interested in finding out more about

Timebank can either drop in to one of our gatherings, have a tea/coffee, and we will be pleased to assist with any questions. Alternatively you can visit our facebook page and gain information from there.

Some of the members wanted to start art/craft sessions. After a trial or two we now have a regular craft group, once again at the Adams Heritage Centre, from 2pm to 4pm on the 1st 3rd Saturday of each month.

This is now well established and has worked on a number of projects that include lap blankets and fiddle muffs, the village red white and blue Pom-Pom bomb and the repainting of the village sign, in conjunction with the WI, some of the members were also involved in the recent "Button Tree" project that was organised by the Field Theatre Group.



*The Button Tree*

The next craft group project, due to start in September, will enable some people to spend time credits, joining in, and will be a large community built mosaic for the Peacocks Meadow Community Garden, near Limes Close. The first two sessions will be used to enable people to make their own mosaic coaster to take home,

which is again an opportunity to spend time credits even if you should not want to take part in the full project.

The follow-on sessions will then be used to build the Community Garden Mosaic. Earlier in the year we organised, along with the Field Theatre Group and Adams Heritage Centre, a Sparrow box build session.

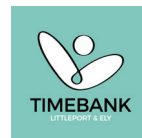


*Sparrow Boxes*

This was well attended and there are now many more bird boxes than before. The three groups also held a splendid "Toad Shelter" build with many of the finished items finding homes in the Peacocks community Garden. We are hoping to run two more similar events later in the year. These will be "Bat Boxes" and "Hedgehog Hog Boxes".

As you may expect, we have to make a small charge for the materials, which we usually source from Mike & Tina at the "Woodmakers " yard in Camel Road.

*Phil Robinson*



# Cathy Gibb-de Swarte takes a look at



***YPL is a well-established charity which has been going since 2007 and continues to provide a good service for the Littleport Community.***

You will find them down Henry Crabb Road housed in an indoor area either busying themselves over yet another popular auction or regularly cooking a hearty meal plus preparing yummy food for anyone who visits their welcoming cafeteria courtesy of chef Dee Moffat.

The YPL premises also has an upstairs treasure trove for lovers of retro as well! In fact Dee runs her 'Dee's Delights' upstairs, from what is called The Salvage & Trading Post. There you can find reasonably priced retro, shabby chic furniture, lamps and ornaments.



And recently joining the other stall holders is "Shabbi Ali", alias Allison Wheeler, who runs another shop full of collectables down at a 2d Saxon Business Park next door to LG Car Sales (one of Littleport Life's regular advertisers) both of which are doing very well sales wise.

Allison told Littleport Life about her recipe for success: "I think the key is variety... Not just sticking to one era or fashion, whilst keeping a firm focus on what's right now.



In fact each piece on sale has a little bit of my personality mixed in, hence the name Shabbi Alli, which hopefully creates an interest and a little bit of passion for that special something. I like to think that Shabbi Alli leaves a little bit of sparkle wherever she goes."

YPL does have another outlet which is much closer to home in Granby Street where the old Doctors Surgery used to be. YPL's 'The Tea Shop' offers a children friendly space where parents can order a cooked meal, while their children safely play to their hearts content with all the toys which are made available to them. Their opening times are from 9 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday and everyone's welcome to also browse around their second-hand wares where you might well pick up a bargain or two to your liking. YPL also encourages any children's



groups to use their Performing Arts Centre, for instance ThePort recently ran a successful Cinema session.

The 'Wise Warrior Kung Fu' group are already working out with evening summer sessions for children every Thursday from 6-8pm, and they're now scheduling their winter programme for both children and adults.

Fitness Instructor Dan Burling (DJB Fitness For Beginners & Winners) also uses the premises for his 1-2-1 movement screening classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 am which is becoming very popular too.

***The Performing Arts Centre has a sprung dance floor, ballet bars and a mirrored wall making an ideal professional dance studio environment.***

These premises are available to any children's groups who can book up and hire by either contacting YPL by email: [yplittleport@btinternet.com](mailto:yplittleport@btinternet.com) or telephone Phil: 07947 823 446 or 01353 864 611.

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

Volunteering is always varied and rewarding especially round Littleport because it keeps you in touch with the community, and what is going on. Also, you have an impact on bringing back the community spirit while helping others.





# WWT - Welney Wetland Centre

***Late summer and autumn brings a host of species to your local Wetland Centre, resulting in a busy time for the reserve team, as we ensure the habitats are just right to receive them.***

For the birdwatchers, this is the best time to look out for migrating birds, as they travel from their summer breeding grounds to warmer climes for the winter.

By lowering the water levels on the pools, we can create muddy patches as ideal feeding areas for wading birds, looking to refuel on their journeys.

This is the exciting time of year when you are not quite sure what may turn up. Past autumns have brought greenshank, curlew sandpiper, whimbrel and spoonbills.

Project Godwit has seen another successful year with a total of 38 hand-reared black-tailed godwit chicks being released into the wild. The wild population was boosted by the return of nine headstarted black-tailed godwits, from their wintering grounds, in southern Europe and northern Africa, to the area they were released last year.

This is a huge bonus as we were not expecting them to return until at least their second year. Keep your eyes peeled for godwits with coloured leg rings as they venture further from the Washes to begin their migration southwards. Please send any sightings to [www.projectgodwit.org.uk](http://www.projectgodwit.org.uk)

Another bird which has become increasingly associated with the Washes is the common crane.

The past few autumns have seen a common crane spectacle, with increasing numbers of cranes soaring across the skyline and feeding on the reserve. They will hopefully be joined by our family of cranes with their, now fully grown, chick which successfully fledged in June.

It is not just the birds on show. September is the peak time for the willow emerald damselfly. A recent coloniser to the UK and the reserve, these glistening emerald green damselflies favour the willow trees along the paths, often perching on leaves and branches.

Other dragonflies and damselflies to look out for include common and ruddy darter, migrant hawkler and the banded demoiselle.

Come October it is time to say goodbye to the cattle. They have spent the summer grazing the Washes, creating tussocks and bare ground for feeding passage and overwintering birds, and will be returning next spring. October may be your last chance to explore the Summer Walk, depending on water levels.

Look out for later summer flowering plants such as redshank and water mint, butterflies like gatekeeper and ringlet as well as cormorants roosting on the wires overhead.

This is the time that numbers of wildfowl increases, with the arrival of wigeon, pochard and pintail plus greater numbers of mallard, tufted duck and teal. Wigeon in particular arrive in good numbers, feeding along the banks and pool fringes.

Listen out for their charismatic whistling calls as they graze the washes, creating low 'bowling-green' areas known as wigeon lawns. October also sees the return of whooper and Bewick's swans for the winter and late October the first 3.30pm Swan Feeds start.

November is the perfect time to come along to an evening floodlit Swan Feed. With the water levels low before the winter flooding, the pools in front of the Main Observatory can take on a definite 'Swan Lake' appearance.

Throughout autumn it is all hands on deck for the reserve team as volunteers and staff carry out essential conservation work before the winter water levels rise. Tasks include: coppicing and pollarding of trees to encourage new growth, strimming vegetation on the islands and in front of the hides in readiness for next spring, topping with the tractor and mower around pool edges to create ideal open areas for feeding and roosting birds.



# Littleport Leisure Officially Opens!

***On July 28th the official opening of Littleport Leisure was made by government Health Minister Stephen Barclay MP.***

The Minister gave a speech congratulating everyone concerned for their hard work that had brought the amenity to the village of Littleport. Manager Debra Jordan, who is also a parish councillor, did a magnificent job of laying on the morning's reception and welcoming visitors that included the Mayor of Ely, Michael Rouse, and fellow parish councillors - and Littleport's Cambridgeshire County Councillor David Ambrose-Smith - to the grand opening.

The entertainment was by local musician SaxyAl playing a grand selection of tunes on his saxophone in the luxurious bar and dining area. Everyone who attended this special occasion for the village said how much they enjoyed the morning and how all the Leisure staff were extremely helpful and welcoming.

This event followed the also newly established and hugely successful Littleport Parkrun which attracted 167 participants on that day and has seen an increase in numbers every week since.





*MP Stephen Barclay officially opens Littleport Leisure*



*Manager of Littleport Leisure Debra Jordan*



*SaxxAI entertaining visitors to the grand opening of Littleport Leisure*



*Littleport Leisure opens - commemorative plaque*



*Parish Councillors Christine Ambrose-Smith and Susan Green enjoy refreshments*



# ThePORT



## Joanne Coe tells us about all the activities ThePort have enjoyed.

ThePORT Youth Group have been super busy over the last few months. We have been to visit residents at Laburnum Lodge, helping to decorate cakes and supported the Open day in August.

Youths have also been to The Grange several times helping to serve residents with treats. Weekly activities have continued, increasing during the Summer holidays with a very successful and thoroughly enjoyed day in Wembley at the X-Factor Auditions. Bounce Trampoline Park was also enjoyed by all.

National Citizen Service Students joined us in August to help run a cinema session at YPL for all ages. Students also visited Laburnum Lodge and made a huge difference in the community woodland gardens called Peacocks Meadow.

Moving forward, we expect an increase in numbers from September as the new Primary School Year 5 can join us weekly. Planning and provisions have been on-going for several months.

We have had amazing support from the Sanctuary Group, The Rotary Club and many local residents who keep us topped

up with newspaper, wool, glass items and craft materials. All staff and our youths would like to thank the community for their continued support.

**ThePORT Youth Group**  
**Monday's 5pm- 6.30pm**  
**£1.50 from Sept 18**

Please see ThePORT and also Littleport Events - Joanne Coe, on Facebook for regular updates.





# Millfield School



***As I write this, the school year has come to an end- I would say we have survived the year, but what would be more appropriate would be 'we have survived the heat!' It has been another busy term with lots of wonderful enrichment activities taking place that will hopefully give the children lasting memories.***

Our Year 1 and 2 children had the opportunity to take part in a sleepover in the school hall- very exciting when you are 5, 6 or 7 years old and may never have slept away from home. The children took part in a range of outside activities, had tea around a fire, had a good night's sleep in the hall, enjoyed breakfast together- all in all, a good time was had by all!



These 2 year groups also enjoyed a day trip to Banham Zoo on another occasion.

Our reception children had a wonderful day at the Sea Life Centre at Hunstanton as part of their learning linked to sea creatures.



Following a few weeks work, Year 3 and 4 children produced some very special information leaflets about the Fens and the plants and wildlife that make up the very special environment in which we live. A visit to the Great Fen started off this learning and the impact of the day was evident in the leaflets the children put together.



Year 5 visited an inflatable planetarium– in the school hall! This was an exciting way for them to enhance their learning about the planets and solar system. The home learning projects that were linked to this were amazing- thank you parents and grandparents if you helped with these!

Our end of year whole school performance was a little different this year -'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. I have to say the children all did an amazing job – they learnt their words well, expressed them clearly and with expression and sang their hearts out! A Shakespeare workshop for a day certainly paid dividends.



Friends of Millfield always do so much to help raise funds for the school and help out in other ways. Recently the children brought in coins of small denominations to complete a picture, with the proceeds going to the school- we call this 'Coin Art'. Special thanks must go to the BP M&S garage who kindly donated a tasty breakfast for all our Year 6 children during Sats week- thank you for the croissants, pain au chocolat etc!



**Deborah Hannaford**  
*Headteacher*





# Millfield Nursery

**Flexible sessions available**

**8am-5:30pm**

**Children admitted from 3 years old**

**To arrange a visit or receive further information  
please contact:**

**Millfield Nursery, Grange Lane, Littleport**

**[nursery@millfieldprimary.org](mailto:nursery@millfieldprimary.org)**

**01353 865053**



# Littleport Community Primary School News

## LCPS Mission Statement

Our commitment is to be an outstanding school for all, where children love to be; gain a lifelong thirst for knowledge; are continually challenged; grow as individuals; empathise fully with others; play a productive role in the local and global community; achieve their full potential and gain the vital skills and confidence to 'spread their wings and fly'.

## LCPS Vision

Our vision for the school is that we will

- constantly continue to improve and be judged as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, children, parents/carers, staff and our community
- expand the provision we provide for the children in our community
- ensure that we have good succession planning for our excellent leadership of the school
- continue to develop strong and effective links with other schools, reviewing all options available to us.
- build on our Research School status to ensure we are aware of local and national evidence for school improvement, learn from initiatives and experiences and share this knowledge across the school network
- encourage children to respect themselves and others, take care of the environment and make healthy choices
- create a safe, vibrant, well maintained school that allows everyone the space to grow and express themselves

## LCPS Values

As part of work about our school logo and motto, we revisited our school values.

Children thought about the initials 'LCPS' for our school and came up with words that begin with these letters that sum up what life is all about at Littleport Community Primary School.

We shared the suggestions with Staff, Governors and our elected pupil representatives on the School Council, and everyone voted for the best words.

Finally, our School Values were determined as:

**L - Learning and Laughing**

**C - Creative and Challenging**

**P - Persevering and Proud**

**S - Self-motivated and Successful**

We are very proud of these values, as the words have been created by the whole school community and they sum up perfectly what we want our learning experiences to be like and how we want our pupils to be.

These values underpin our teaching and learning and provide an environment which prepares our pupils as confident, happy citizens and learners for life.

**From September 2018:**

**Acting Headteacher, Adam Rivett.**

**Deputy Headteacher, Nick Clark.**

**Assistant Headteacher**

**Assessment Lead, Kim Holtby.**



# Littleport Band is steeped in history

***Bill Sharpe, who along with his supportive wife Joan, and their companionable dog Billy, was relaxing in their cosy Littleport home, when I visited.***

In the course of conversation, talking about his involvement with the Littleport Brass Band, I asked him how he got into music, and who influenced him?

His father Sidney, whose nickname was Sam, was an excellent tuba player who worked for the Metropolitan Police force in London and also played for the Metropolitan Police Band, and following in father's footsteps, at just 8 years old, Bill took up playing the cornet.

Bill admitted that he didn't practice when he should have done, but there again he wasn't given any lessons either. One tip he had from his Dad which he still remembers to this day was "You really can't go wrong if you just play long notes."

Bill would constantly listen and memorise music which is how he says he became such a good musician.

"I did what I wanted to do and I had some great times, but I truly wish I made a career out of music", said Bill.

"The family lived in Finborough Road, Earls Court, before the war broke out, and young baby Bill moved with his parents and sister Betty up to Littleport in Camel Road that Bill recalls was then surrounded by fields.

Bill first played for Littleport and stayed with them, despite being conscripted into the RAF for 2 years. Then he was in the Lakenheath Band before they amalgamated with the Newmarket and Brandon Bands



*Bill in his full uniform*



*Bill in with his Tuba*

to become the Forest Heath District Band enjoying yearly trips playing in Germany.

Bill now 85, is currently with the Ely Military Band and plays the tuba, having given up the cornet.

“You need less puff to play the tuba and we are in dire need for bass players” says Bill.

The Sharpes continue to support the Littleport Brass Band regularly by attending their Christmas concerts despite Bill not being such an active player with them anymore.

In fact Bill and Joan’s three children, Graham, Beverly and Simon kept the musical family tradition going by playing for Littleport Brass Band. Even their granddaughter Eleanor (now in her 20’s and living in Milton Keynes) would be called upon to play the ‘Last Post’ on Armistice Sunday either at the war memorial or in St George’s Church.

Graham, now 54, was a very good tuba player and he was only 17 when he joined the Artillery Band. Their daughter Beverley (56) played the tenor horn, and their youngest, son Simon (42) still plays the cornet for the Littleport Brass Band.

One wall of Bill and Joan’s hall is covered with band pictures from the past - a lovely reminder of what great musical times the family shared.

In 1932, the Littleport branch of the British Legion formed a Littleport Silver Prize Band only for the name to be changed to The Littleport Town Band in the 70’s.

Joan told me that she didn’t have any interest in music whatsoever until she met Bill! She came to love music as well as Bill.

“But the Band always came first in our household, so both me and another band member, George Elsegood’s wife Doris, used to call ourselves the ‘band widows’. Invariably we were left alone while our husbands cleared off to pursue their musical interests.

“There were many times I’d have to get the 3 children washed, feed and clothed before getting all of us ready and out of the house and travel to Hunstanton where Bill and his band members would regularly play. I wouldn’t see Bill for the whole day, so in order to occupy and amuse the children I would repeatedly walk them up and down the promenade which tended to tire me rather than the children” Joan said smiling as she remembered.

The Council paid for the band to play on the green at Hunstanton, and in Ely’s Jubilee Gardens.

“The British Legion Band which became the Littleport Town Band was so rigid in its rules those days that they wouldn’t

allow women. It all changed under the tutelage of band player and member Brian Hall. Women’s Committees were being formed around the country, and here in Littleport we organised many events from dinner dances to bingo to raise money as well as playing in the bands.

Violet Cooper, Phyllis Neal and Joan Sharpe are the 3 remaining members of that Women’s Committee.

The hut behind the Ex-Servicemen’s Club is in fact owned by Littleport Brass Band who bought it in 1947.

There used to be two huts and an open access, and both the Guides and Red Cross



*Band Baton*

also used the premises before one of the huts got knocked down.

There were a lot of band members who came from the Salvation Army like Tom Sallis (who's now passed over) and George Elsegood who was the conductor.

Littleport Band used to have concerts on the green, and they played every time there was a feast week too.

“Do you know I met Bill when I was 17 and he was 22 I would do anything for him being young and in love. I would religiously clean his baritone for him which meant getting all the saliva out of the instrument, but when he later on swapped it for a tuba I said to Bill, ‘If you think I’m cleaning that monstrosity of a thing out – you’ve got another think coming. In fact being silver plated I’m able to clean it in the bath for him,” said Joan, who will be celebrating their 63rd wedding anniversary this year.

Bill still enjoys playing but not so much these days practicing only on a Tuesday at Ely. And already the Ely Military Band have a few dates booked, so why not go along and enjoy their Patriotic Concert on Sunday 14th October at Ely College, or their Remembrance concert at the Ely Market War Memorial on Sunday 11th November at 11.30 am? They will be finishing the year with their highly entertaining Christmas Concert on Sunday 16th December from 2.30 pm to 5 pm.

Tickets for their Tea ‘n’ Tunes and Christmas concerts are £6.00 which includes seasonal refreshments. You can buy your tickets either from Burrows Bookshop, The Passage, Ely or from their Band Secretary Mr Malcolm Fletcher 01353 663324 or email [malfletcher09@talktalk.net](mailto:malfletcher09@talktalk.net)

Just to round this tale off, The Littleport Society has uncovered some very

interesting information involving one of the original Littleport Brass members Charlie Key who went to Australia on the emigration ticket and even took a band out there. Charlie went on that post-war emigration scheme where you could go to Australia for just £10. A baton with the inscription ‘Presented To E.A Dring- From the Littleport Town Bandsmen – Nov 1916’ was found in Australia and sent back to The Littleport Society who proudly have it on display. Edwin Arthur Dring (born 1863) was one of the founder members of Littleport Brass Band in the early 1880’s and was elected to become their first bandmaster.

In the Littleport Society Magazine Issue 74 Autumn 2009, Roger Rudderham’s article entitled Teddy Dring And The Littleport Town Band wrote about the baton...

‘At a meeting of the Littleport Town Band in November 1916, held to discuss a concert in aid of the band’s funds, a presentation was made to Mr Teddy Dring of a silver mounted baton, inscribed “Presented to E.A. Dring from the Littleport Town Bandsmen Nov 1916”. The presentation was for the tremendous work he did to bring the band to a state of efficiency and for his zeal in assisting members and stimulating others. Mr Dring remarked that it was a labour of love and it had “always given him the greatest pleasure to foster the love of music in others.” When the presentation was over Mr Dring took up his baton and “was soon wielding it in the conduct of the band.”...

***Cathy Gibb-de Swarte***

# Our House

## The Madness Musical, came to Littleport!

***The Littleport Players is an amateur theatre company whose superb performances merit a professional London theatreland venue.***

Luckily for us locals, their cast and crew's almost limitless talent was on display at Littleport Village Hall in July for their latest production, Our House - The Madness Musical.

And the hall itself was magically transformed into a top intimate theatre experience for the audience akin to the Donmar Warehouse in Covent Garden. The set and staging was a masterpiece and the orchestra pit sited pure genius.



*Madness our house cast*

The script written by Tim Firth is inspired by some of the hits composed and sung by the two-tone ska group Madness that open, close and punctuate the action of this modern morality tale romcom set in the late 70's early 80's.

However, the clever storyline and its foot-stomping musical score is underpinned by the one song not from Madness but by Labi Siffre – 'It must be love!'

The twists and turns of the plot both spoken, sung and danced by some of the most talented performers you could ever wish to see, were beautifully presented without exception.

It's a well-nigh impossible task to praise any cast member more than another, so I will just relate the names of all those concerned with this hugely successful presentation that had the audience applauding all the song and dance routines, laughing at the, sometimes ribald, jokes, and getting quietly choked at the sad parts where you couldn't hear a pin drop.

Especially when Nikki Scott aka Sarah sang her song, and Darren Hitchings, as the ghost of Joe's Dad, spoke of his fears for his son, and sang Simple Equation.

And while all the cast delighted on the many upbeat numbers, Jack Byng's singing and dancing skills as Emmo, reminded me of tough-guy Jimmy Cagney's Hollywood musicals!

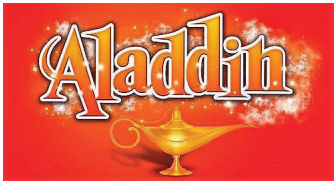
Equal credit for a wonderful show goes to all concerned! George Harrison, Nikki Scott, Megan Bidecant, Chelsea Booth, Darren Hitchings, Becky Green, Jack Barry, Jack Byng, Ethan Nelson, Jack Wright, Erin Malkin, Charlie East, Isabel Frammingham, Jessica Gillett-Woodley, Sue Caller and the supporting actors.

The Madness Band were fantastic with Musical Director Mark A.J. Checkley on keyboard, Melody Bell on a second

keyboard, Suzy Richardson on sax, clarinet and flute, 16 year-old Eddie Weedon on trumpet, Harry Fiske on the bass and Josh Green on the drums.

Congratulations to the show's Director, Karen Booth, Musical Director Mark A.J. Checkley, Choreographer Nikki Scott, P and C Sound/Lighting, Wardrobe created by Sheila Goodall assisted by the cast, and the amazing Props also by Sheila Goodall, with Sue Caller and Sam Wright.

The set was provided by Scenetic Ltd, the marketing by Becky Green, and the warm welcome to the event was provided by the Front of House hosts Lisa Malkin and Helen South.



And now for The Littleport Players next performance! It is the much-looked-forward-to pantomime in December, Aladdin, that auditions on the

**2 September - Millfield Primary School**

**2.00-2.30pm - ages 8-12**

**2.30-5.00pm - ages 13+**

**3 September - Millfield Primary School**

**7.-00-7.30pm - ages 8-12**

**7.30-9.00pm - ages 13+**

Becky Green says: If this is your first time auditioning/performing with us, then please contact me in the first instance - email [rebekahgreen2016@outlook.com](mailto:rebekahgreen2016@outlook.com) Please do not just turn up at the auditions.

*Lyn Gibb-de Swarte*

## Riding School's 1st anniversary in Littleport

*Rebecca Mitchell has been riding horses since she was 3 years old! She still competes every weekend in dressage and eventing, always finishing in the top three!*

One year ago she started a riding school with 2 ponies behind her house at 175 Wisbech Road, and now has 7 lovely good-natured animals.

They are all picked for their qualities that cater for all levels of skill from beginner to more experienced riders and Rebecca has pupils from 4 to 56 years of age.

### For more info

[www.lilyviewequestrian.co.uk](http://www.lilyviewequestrian.co.uk)  
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*Rebecca rides Haverlands Jackpot in competition*



*A young pupil learning to jump on Minnie*



# News from Ely Roller Skating Club

*Littleport Life has sponsored one of the trophies for an event taking place on September 15 and 16.*

The Ely Roller Skating Club will be holding their first ever competition at the University of Cambridge Sports Centre.

The event will be attended by over 200 skaters, competing for 14 clubs coming from all over the country. Skaters will compete in solo freestyle and figure events as well as team figure events. For some skaters this will be their first ever competition and they will skate in Basic Skills events, others have been skating for many years.



*Ely Roller Club at Littleport Leisure*

The competition has been organised by Ely RSC's coach, Brian Paddington and his wife Carol, as well as a team of volunteers from the club. The whole club has taken part in fundraising efforts which have raised enough money to pay for all the medals. We have been fortunate to receive sponsorship from Littleport's

community magazine, Littleport Life, local business and skating families for the trophies for all 25 events.

The club has a small committee, but the event could not take place without the volunteers from the club who will be helping run the event on the day as well as running various fundraising efforts. Ely RSC has a competition squad of around 35 skaters ranging from 6 - 59 years old.

This year has already topped last year's amazing results at British Championships. We now have three British Champions, two of whom are skating abroad for Team GB in the Autumn. We also have a number of skaters who finished in the top 5 in Championships so are now part of the GB squad. Please find us on Facebook or Instagram.



*Coach Brian Paddington and Ely Roller Club*



# Littleport's Successful Parkruns!

## James Lee tells us how it all started

***The need for a Parkrun in East Cambridgeshire has been known for a few years now, but several failed attempts in Ely have proven there simply has not been a suitable venue to meet the needs and requirements.***

Matt Holmes of Littleport had the idea to set up an event in Littleport in September 2017, and made some initial enquiries, and on the suggestion of myself, applied for a grant from the Parish Council to part fund the setup costs. Ongoing building works at Littleport Leisure prevented the project going any further in 2017.



*James Lee explains the route to newcomers*

Early 2018 I enquired what was happening to be told Matt was to move away from the village and Charlotte Sygmuta, a fellow Ely Runners member had taken on the idea, having been involved in the most recent Ely application.

At this point I came on board and as Charlotte was not a Littleport resident

she had no local knowledge as to who, what, where or when. So I then had a meeting with 'Let's Get Moving East Cambridgeshire', securing more funds after Ely Runners matched the Parish Council's donation hitting our set up target.



*James Lee in the centre in red, seated is Danny Norman he has done 601 parkruns so far!*

This has allowed us to have a surplus of funds for extra kit and replacements when required. With building works to the car park dragging on, our hoped Easter roll out slipped by, and the Parkrun Ambassador wanted to see the venue completed before any application was submitted.

The final meeting and risk assessment was completed early May with the date set for 23rd of June, and we had an event. Now we are moving fast... The core team of volunteers we had collected from mainly Ely Runners who are now giving up their own Saturday Parkrun to train people for the roles required to

demonstrate their competence to the Ambassador.

The final two requirements being to completely take over the running of another Parkrun, which was carried out on the 16th of June at March, and to run a test event which was the day after that at Littleport. We were there but it was down to the wire! So on the 23rd we had an overfull volunteer team of 23 and 133 finishers for the most fantastic first event. All of our volunteers from that week were runners, who have committed to help Littleport establish itself.

Littleport will be into its 11th Parkrun on Saturday September 1st and the statistics so far have been quite amazing.

Since the Littleport Parkrun started on 23rd June up to Parkrun Number 9 there have been 709 participants who completed 1,366 Parkruns covering a total distance of 6,830 km, including 290 new Personal Bests.

*In order to keep this free activity going in Littleport, local help is still needed from anyone willing to give up a couple of hours of their time on the odd Saturday. You can volunteer as a marshal, or become a time keeper, or help setting up and taking down the course.*

*You can find all the information you need when you log onto [www.parkrun.co.uk/littleport](http://www.parkrun.co.uk/littleport) or Facebook: Littleport Parkrun.*

*You can enjoy getting fit too by either running, walking, pushing your baby in a buggy or have your young children accompany you, or even have your four-legged friend join you in the fun too.*

*Every Parkrun is free, but you have to register beforehand where you will be given your very own barcode which allows you to run/walk anywhere in the world, and the camaraderie amongst participants and marshals is second to none.*

*Everyone getting ready to run!*



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Mick, one of the owners, along with business partner Tony, says; "We've been thinking of doing this for a while. We get a lot of referrals from our large base of plumbers and builders that we deal with, so when the opportunity arose to build the showroom attached to our existing building we decided to go for it. There is nothing like it in the area without going into Cambridge and we have a large car park so it's really easy to park without the hassle. We

also have a large plumbing, heating and electrical side of the business and intend to do far more DIY products - so this will give us a chance to expand on that as we'll now have more space in main shop. And we also have a few ex display items left at bargain prices so worth a look". Check out port plumbing on [www.portplumbing.co.uk](http://www.portplumbing.co.uk), also on facebook and Instagram, phone no 01353 860093.





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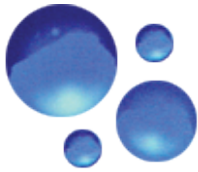
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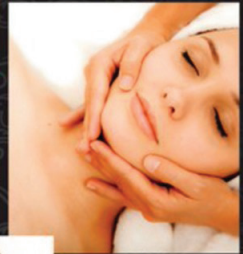


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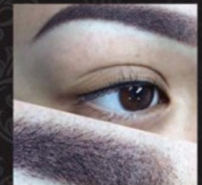
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Veterinary Group Limited

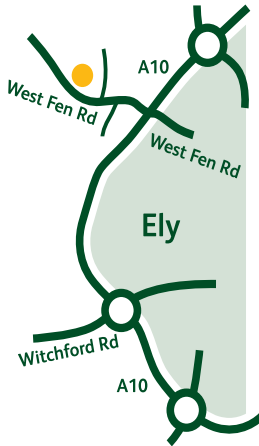
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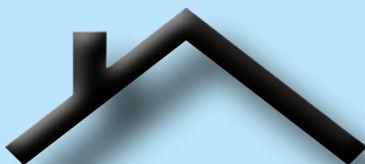
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Haddenham, Wed 6pm & 7pm  
Sutton, The Pavilion, Thurs 9.30am  
City of Ely Bowls Club, Thurs 6.30pm  
Wicken Village Hall, Thurs 7pm  
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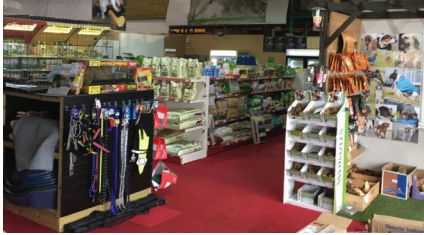
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**Natasha Chambers**



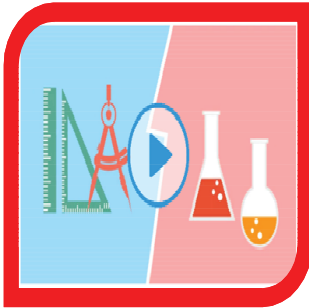
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**Email:** [info@redshoesaccounting.co.uk](mailto:info@redshoesaccounting.co.uk)

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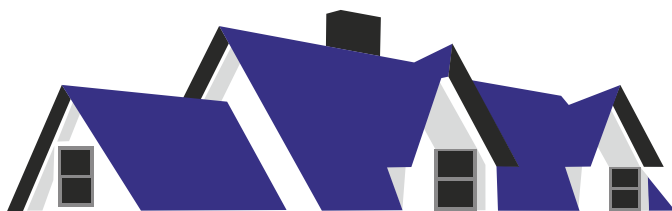
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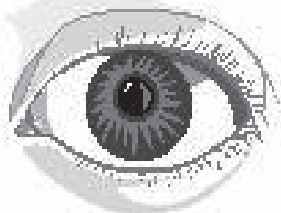
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EMAIL: [littleportexservicemensclub@btconnect.com](mailto:littleportexservicemensclub@btconnect.com)**



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

# Have some spare time? We would love you to come and volunteer for us!

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What we can offer you...

- Fun and laughter in abundance
- A supportive environment focused on making sure you get out of it what you want
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Why volunteer for Branching Out? This is what one of our volunteers said:



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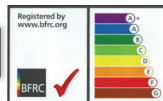


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**Manager@BusyBeesLittleport.Org.Uk**

# What's on in Littleport

## LITTLEPORT & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

21/09	FRI	DULCIE LOFTING – DEMO: ODE TO AUTUMN	7 PM FOR 7.30 PM
19/10	FRI	WENDY GOODLIFFE – DEMO: INSPIRED BY NATURE	7 PM FOR 7.30 PM
16/11	FRI	OPEN EVENING – NATIONAL DEMONSTRATOR – TONY BROWN – DEMO: THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS	7 PM FOR 7.30 PM
14/12	FRI	PRACTICAL EVENING	7 PM FOR 7.30 PM

## LITTLEPORT EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB

### SEPTEMBER 2018

01/09	SAT	PRIVATE PARTY	
08/09	SAT	TBC	
15/09	SAT	JUST ANDY	8.45 PM - LATE
22/09	SAT	PRIVATE PARTY – ALL DAY	
29/09	SAT	TBC	

### OCTOBER 2018

06/10	SAT		
13/10	SAT	C.I.N. DISCO	8.45 PM - LATE
20/10	SAT	BACK IN TIME	8.45 PM - LATE
27/10	SAT	PRIVATE PARTY	
28/10	SUN	HALLOWEEN KIDS DISCO	4 PM – 6.30 PM

### NOVEMBER 2018

03/11	SAT	KENNY + THE MOTIVES	8.45 PM - LATE
10/11	SAT	ROCKING REVIVAL	8.45 PM - LATE
17/11	SAT	AFTER MIDNIGHT - BOB GARWOOD'S CHARITY NIGHT	8.45 PM - LATE
24/11	SAT	JUST ANDY	8.45 PM - LATE

### DECEMBER 2018

01/12	SAT	JUST US	8.45 PM - LATE
08/12	SAT	TBC	
15/12	SAT	PRIVATE PARTY	5 PM – 11 PM
22/12	SAT	TBC	
23/12	SUN	KIDS XMAS PARTY	4 PM – 6.30 PM
31/12	MON	AFTER MIDNIGHT	8.45 PM - LATE

## THE CROWN INN PUB

### SEPTEMBER 2018

01/08	SAT	R&R REVIVAL VINYL DISCO	8.30 TILL LATE
02/08	SUN	MEAN EYED CATS	3-6PM
08/08	SAT	STEALER	8.30 TILL LATE
15/08	SAT	FREDDIE HALL BAND	8.30 TILL LATE

16/08	SUN	GLITZ	3-6PM
22/08	SAT	FREE JUKEBOX NIGHT	8.30 TILL LATE
23/08	SUN	DANSTAR	3-6PM
29/08	SAT	ROCKIN' TJ	8.30 TILL LATE
30/08	SUN	THOMAS BAINBRIDGE	3-6PM

**OCTOBER 2018**

06/10	SAT	THE LONELY	8.30 TILL LATE
13/10	SAT	GREG	8.30 TILL LATE
21/10	SUN	CARL CHAPMAN	3-6PM
27/10	SAT	WHITE CHALLIS	8.30 TILL LATE
28/10	SUN	GRAHAM BUXTON	3-6PM

**NOVEMBER 2018**

03/11	SAT	TBC	8.30 TILL LATE
11/10	SUN	MIKKI JONS	3-6PM
17/10	SAT	ED CUSICK	8.30 TILL LATE
18/10	SUN	BONDY	3-6PM
24/10	SAT	CARL CHAPMAN	8.30 TILL LATE
25/10	SUN	GOODGES ACOUSTIC	3-6PM

**THE LITTLEPORT SOCIETY**

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

04/09	TUES	MIKE PETTY – LOOKING BACK ON CAMBRIDGESHIRE	7.30 PM
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**OCTOBER 2018**

02/10	TUES	EDDY EDWARDS – THE TRAIN THAT HOVERED	7.30 PM
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**NOVEMBER 2018**

06/11	TUES	CAROL POOKE – EDITH CAVELL – SAVIOUR OR SPY	7.30 PM
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**DECEMBER 2018**

10/12	MON	JONATHAN WHITE (ORGANIST) – CHRISTMAS CONCERT (Meetings held at the Village Hall)	7.30 PM
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**THE PLOUGH & HARROW PUB - Tel: 01353 863512**

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

01/09	SAT	NEIL DUROSE (SOLO ARTIST)	9 PM
08/09	SAT	THE 142's BAND	9 PM
12/09	WED	QUIZ NIGHT	FROM 8.30 PM
15/09	SAT	KARAOKE	9 PM
22/09	SAT	ELVIS TRIBUTE	9 PM
26/09	WED	OPEN MIC NIGHT	FROM 8.30 PM
29/09	SAT	ZIGGY TRIBUTE TO BOB MARLEY	9 PM
30/09	SUN	FAMILY FUN DOG SHOW	1 PM ONWARDS

## OCTOBER 2018

06/10	SAT	THE BEER BELLIES BAND	9 PM
13/10	SAT	THE LEGIONNAIRES BAND	9 PM
17/10	WED	QUIZ NIGHT	FROM 8.30 PM
20/10	SAT	KARAOKE	9 PM
27/10	SAT	ETON RIVALS BAND	9 PM
31/10	WED	OPEN MIC NIGHT	FROM 8.30 PM

## NOVEMBER 2018

03/11	SAT	HALO BAND	9 PM
10/11	SAT	BLUE THUNDER BAND	9 PM
17/11	SAT	MAN ALIVE BAND	9 PM
24/11	SAT	THE OFFBEATS	9 PM
28/11	WED	OPEN MIC NIGHT	FROM 8.30 PM

## WI

11/09	TUES	BIRTHDAY PARTY	7.15 PM FOR 7.30 PM
09/10	TUES	MALCOLM BUSBY – CAMBRIDGE FOLK TALES	7.15 PM FOR 7.30 PM
13/11	TUES	ANNUAL MEETING – MAGGIE MCGOWAN – PAPER STARS	7.15 PM FOR 7.30 PM
11/12	TUES	JACQUI HUGGINS – POETRY AND MUSIC	7.15 PM FOR 7.30 PM

## WWT

### SEPTEMBER 2018

05/09 WED DUSTY'S WILDLIFE RANGERS

Here's your chance to become a fearless Wildlife Ranger like Dusty Duck. There are loads of exciting challenges waiting for you this summer, including pond exploring, bug hunting and owl pellet dissection. Or why not try your hand at moth identification. Grab your free log book and start your expedition. It's a wild day out for the whole family! - Included in admission.

11/09 TUES WADERQUEST - An evening talk by WaderQuest, 7.30-9.30PM  
hosted by the Friends of Welney group. £3PP, (£2 Friends of Welney members)

### OCTOBER 2018

(DAILY FROM SAT 20/10 SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER) - SWAN FEED 3.30PM

Join us for our fantastic commentated swan feeds in the afternoon. The sight of hundreds of swans and ducks being fed at WWT Welney is enhanced further by the flight in of more swans at dusk shortly after the feeding time.

09/10 TUES DENVER SLUICE COMPLEX EVENING TALK

An evening talk by Dan Pollard of the Environment Agency about how the Environment Agency manage the River Ouse from the sluices just south of Downham Market, hosted by the Friends of Welney group. All welcome.

Funds raised go towards WWT's work at Welney.



**(OCTOBER-FEBRUARY) HARE WALKS**

Description: Join us for a guided walk out on Lady Fen to get close to the hares and other wildlife. Find out how creating wetlands has been so successful at WWT Welney and enjoy watching the hares that also take advantage of this protected site as they get ready for the spring boxing.

2-3pm Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays Booking essential.

7.30pm start, £3 (£2 Friends of Welney Members).

**20/10 SAT TO 28/10 HALF TERM FAMILY FUN**

Pick up a backpack and explore the reserve to watch our amazing spectacle of swans and ducks. Make sure you join a commentated swan feed to find out about the lives of the amazing swans their incredible journeys! See website for details.

**24/10 WED SWANS AWAKE 3.30pm**

Join us before dawn breaks across the washes to watch thousands of swans wake up from their roosting sites on the reserve. With a warden, watch them take to the skies as they fly out to feed in the fields for the day. It's worth the early start! Dawn event, see website for individual event times. £12per adult, £5per child, Breakfast options – Cooked breakfast £8.25, Bacon butty £4.95. Booking essential. (Daily from Saturday 20 October)

**27/10 SAT SWANS AWAKE 3.30pm**

**NOVEMBER 2018**

**6.30PM (THURS-SUN EACH WEEK FROM 1 NOVEMBER) - FLOODLIT SWAN FEED**

Description: Experience the evocative sight of swans gliding on the floodlit lagoon after dark.

The commentated floodlit

feed is an event that can be enjoyed by the whole family as the swans get their last feed before it is time to tuck their heads under their wings for the night.

**WILLOW WEAVING WORKSHOP 10AM – 4PM**

Join expert willow weaver Jane Frost for a day teaching you how to create garden structures and basket forms from natural materials. Places are limited so contact Jane Frost to book at [jane@frostart.co.uk](mailto:jane@frostart.co.uk) or on 01353 861944. (£60per person, booking essential).

**03/11 SAT WILLOW WEAVING WORKSHOP 10AM – 4PM**

**10/11 SAT WILLOW WEAVING WORKSHOP 10AM – 4PM**

**13/11 TUES QUIZ NIGHT**

An evening quiz, hosted by the Friends of Welney group. All welcome.

Funds raised go towards WWT's work at Welney.

7.30pm start, £3 (£2 Friends of Welney Members)

**17/11 SAT SWANS AWAKE 3.30pm**

**18/11 SUN SWANS AWAKE 3.30pm**

# MEDICAL CENTRE:

## Contact Details, Opening Hours and Clinics

St George's Medical Centre is located at Parsons Lane, Littleport, CB6 1JU  
The Surgery telephone number is 01353 864100

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

Monday to Friday 8.00am – 12.30pm 1.15pm – 6pm  
Saturday & Sunday CLOSED

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

## USEFUL CONTACTS

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

