

TUNSTEAD AND SCO RUSTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER January 2012



Welcome to 2012

This edition of Tunstead's newsletter casts a reflective eye over the Christmas festivities in all its varied forms: from the passion and solemnity of St Mary's services, to the vivacity and humour of the Primary School's rendition of Oliver, linked by lights, wreaths and festive bakes. Our home-grown amateur historian allows us to sample some of the hundreds of artefacts unearthed in our area; we discover chess in action; and a brief round-up of the Parish Council's latest meeting. There are two competitions: firstly, 6 of the most highly-decorated Christmas lights adorning our village are captured—can you identify them? (Their street locations are revealed at the bottom of p4.) In addition, also on p4, there is the first of a series of competitions for which a prize is dangled! Happy reading!



S & V News

Home delivery of newspapers and magazines in Tunstead and neighbouring villages.

Give us a call on

01603 737185 (Vicky)

01603 737867 (Steve) Mobile: 07776 022323



Do you like watching Crime Scene Investigation?

Wish you could have a go? Now YOU can



CSI Night - Saturday 28th April 2012

At Church Farm

Come and investigate the Crime Scene, experience the finger printing and even wearing the overalls!

Work as part of a team of 6 to solve the mystery. Make up your own team or come and make up a team.

Prizes for the best team and best individual will be presented

This event is TICKET ONLY (£15 each. Includes buffet.) Obtain yours by calling 01603 783377.

Organised by Tunstead Village Hall & Recreation Ground Committee, Charity No.297565



NEWS FROM TUNSTEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tunstead's Twist at Christmas

The children from Tunstead Primary School prepare to celebrate Charles Dickens' bicentenary of his birth on 7th February 2012 with their musical interpretation of Oliver Twist.



Although performed predominantly by the children in years 5 and 6, younger children were involved in the opening scene, singing, "Food, Glorious Food" and, in the finale, "Consider Yourself". Having auditioned for the parts, the older children had just three weeks to learn and perfect their lines, something that would have challenged even the most experienced actor. The resulting two performances, shown before Christmas, were a resounding success with everyone enjoying themselves. The artful dodger was played by Molly Gamble; Bill Sikes by Jake Aldridge; Fagin by Harry Keen; Catherine Hunter played Nancy and Daniel Borrow played Oliver.



See page 4 for our Dickens East Anglia quiz and win a £5 book token!

The friends of Tunstead Primary School held a very successful and enjoyable Christmas Fayre on Friday 2nd December, raising an impressive £925.

A jumble sale will be held in the school hall on 10th March from 10am-noon. All welcome. Any donations of clothes, bric-a-brac, books, toys, etc., will be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at school during the previous week.

ST MARY'S AT CHRISTMAS

Carol Service 30 people travelled through one of the worst nights of the year to attend the Carol Service, which was conducted by Father Anthony Long. Readings were read by Mr Peter Talbot, Mr Tim Pallister and Barbara Wharton. After the Service mulled wine and mincepies were enjoyed by everyone. The collection of £100 was divided between E.A.C.H. and The Children's Society.



Midnight Mass

Midnight heralded in Christmas Day with the glowing candlelit windows welcoming 70 people. The service was conducted by Father Anthony Long, and James Clarke, resident organist, led the congregation in Carols. The 70 voices sang with gusto, reminding us that Christmas is a truly special time. The Readings were read by Father Anthony and Church Warden Barbara Wharton. In all it was a wonderfully uplifting evening to welcome the coming of the Christ child.

LOCAL RESIDENTS

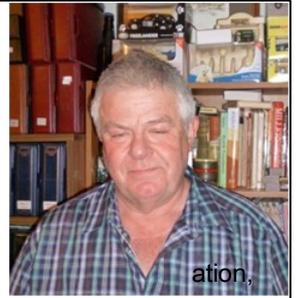
"To walk into history is to be free at once, to be at large among people."

So wrote Elizabeth Bowen in 1935, and her sentiments are echoed by **Arnie Williamson**, amateur sleuth of the fields around Tunstead and Sco Ruston: in describing some of his 'finds' he becomes animated, thoughtful and inspiring. His passion began at the turn of the millennium when, accompanying a friend with a metal detector, he was immediately smitten with the possibilities of connecting with Tunstead's history. With permission obtained from the fields' owners, and with his eyes firmly fixed to the ground, he has since uncovered a vast array of historical artefacts; and discovery is matched in equal enthusiasm by the perusal of, identification of, chronological placement and possible explanation of existence.

Over the years he has collected a wide range of leaden and ferrous items, pottery shards and shaped flints, ranging in age from at least 5000 years old to fairly modern day. His Neolithic flint axes (featured in the Parish Plan) were discovered on the banks of a local stream and suggests the existence of a settlement in Tunstead; the lead artefacts include animal crotal bells – some small enough to belong to hawks; weights which were once worked on yardarms, and a large quantity of shot, the sizes of which range from small arms pistols, to muskets and rifles. These differ in shape: some completely spherical, and some that had clearly hit an object, if not their intended target, and one or two even bearing teeth-marks – and thereby hangs another fascinating tale.

And there, of course, is the nub of the hobby – it is the lives behind the objects, the human interest woven into the discoveries that drives the passion, sharpens the observations and reaches out over the years to other times. To Arnie, a fragment of clay pipe, a metal button or buckle or a silver coin denotes a passage in Tunstead's history which helps widen our understanding of our local heritage.

If you possess a similar enthusiasm and a cache of artefacts, Arnie would be delighted to hear from you. Contact him on 01603 738830 or email him on a.k.williamson@btinternet.com



From adversity comes opportunity. So it was for Tunstead resident and former garage worker **David Wright**: 13 years ago the ladder supporting David collapsed, causing him to fall, resulting in serious and permanent injury to his back. Time for a career change: swapping spanners for floral foam, David developed his long-term interest in floral design, undertook a floristry course and graduated from Easton College, and discovered a skill and a passion for floral arrangements which has seen him travel throughout the Eastern counties as a Demonstrator for the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies.



One of the enduring images of the season is undisputedly the Christmas wreath: glossy foliage supporting sumptuous blooms and glorious berries. This season David has assembled 200 such wreaths, each one unique in its design. Although most have been sold from his house in Market Street, many more went at Christmas fairs.

Browsing his website (www.wrightflorist.com), you see the inspiration in his artistry, especially in his 3D designs, usually commissioned for funeral tributes. Wedding bouquets, marquee and church designs are also among his portfolio.



Janet Sharp of Market Street, pictured right, is also in demand at Christmas time. She makes the most exquisitely iced cakes and mouth-watering mince pies. She works at the aptly-named Old Barn Restaurant in Wroxham Barns.

C/o The Shambles
Westwick Road
Worstead
Norfolk
NR28 9SD

Phone: 01692 536381

NCC was successful in its bid to secure Government funding to help provide improved **broadband speeds** and access across Norfolk. It has been awarded £15 million, which it will match. We urgently need to show what the actual demand in rural Norfolk is: the more people who register their interest now (closing date March 31st), the stronger will be our position in gaining an improved service. Support the Better Broadband for Norfolk campaign by registering your interest online at www.norfolk.gov.uk/

By now every household in the parish will have received a copy of the **Parish Plan**; many thanks to NRCC for their generous funding for its production.



The **village hall** plan has had to be amended due to its overall size being altered to take account of internal changing rooms, and has been re-submitted for planning permission; the Council obviously supports this application. The Council would like to hear from anyone who may know the history of the **village sign** – was it originally carved by Harry Carter? (At the time of his death in 1983 he had carved over 150 signs in Norfolk; his name remains synonymous with village signs.) A competition is soon to be held in Tunstead School to design a new sign – hopefully the best of these will be displayed in the next newsletter. A short questionnaire will accompany this newsletter with regards to Tunstead 's day of celebration to honour the **Queen 's Diamond Jubilee**. Please take time to read it and respond.

Several parishioners have complained about the deterioration of many of the village 's **hedges and ditches**. Whilst the clearance of ditches is the responsibility of Norfolk 's Highways, the Council will be contacting the landowners whose hedges are the cause of blocked gullies, as well as encroaching onto the road.

So far the winter weather has not required much in the way of **road-gritting**, but in the event of a cold snap, be warned that the NCC 's gritting routes do not include the section of road between the school and the 3 Horseshoes in Scot-tow. Time and resources obviously prevent blanket gritting; it is NCC 's policy to keep "one route into all of Norfolk 's villages ".

Chess Tournament

Broadland chess club hosted a chess tournament for teams at their new venue – The Kings Head in Coltishall – on Monday 5th December. There were five teams playing: Aylsham, Broadland Swallows, Broadland Swifts, UEA I and UEA II. The tournament took the form of an all-play-all with each player having 15 minutes in which to play all of their moves. A lot of good chess was played in a fun and friendly atmosphere. One of the aims of the tournament was to give competitive chess experience to players who are new to chess. This seemed to be a success with all of the players enjoying their evening. The tournament winners were Broadland Swallows but the main winner was chess.



Paul Badger, from Market Street, runs the Broadland chess club. If you play chess and are interested in joining, contact him on 01603 737572

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Dickens East Anglia Quiz

1. Where in Norfolk was Peggotty's house and in what way was it unusual?
2. Where in Norfolk was Little Miss Mowcher when she heard that Steerforth had eloped with Emily?
3. Where in Suffolk did Sam Weller meet Job Trotter?
4. Which town in Suffolk was the inspiration for Eatanswill?
5. Name the newspapers of the Blues and Buffs.
6. Which 2 novels are the source for the above questions?

The first correct entry to suebdaisy@supanet.com will win a £5 book token.

Apologies: the editor apologises to Ian Matthews of The Olive Branch for the poorly worded 'admonishment 'of the Tunstead residents who don 't support the bar; there was never an intention to criticise the bar.

The Parish Plan publication team apologises to Molly Aldridge (p23 plan) for inadvertently naming her Kate.

*Answers to Christmas lights quiz:
1. Market Street 2. Manor Close 3. Fletcher Close
4. Crowgate Street 5. Manor Close 6. Fletcher Close*