



# Rippingale News

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## DECEMBER 2007

[Editorial : Mary Morgan]  
18 Pinfold Close

**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH** Priest in Charge - Revd G P Williams [Fr Graham 01778 571474]

### SERVICES AT RIPPINGALE

Sun	2	Eucharist	6.00pm
	9	Eucharist	9.30am
	16	<i>NO SERVICE AT ST ANDREW'S</i> <i>[See Noticeboard for other Services in the Group]</i>	
	23	Carol Service	6.00pm
<b>Mon</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Midnight Mass</b>	<b>11.30pm</b>
Sun	30	<i>GROUP SERVICE AT DUNSBY</i>	<i>10.30am</i>

### SERVICES IN THE RINGSTONE IN AVELAND GROUP

Sun	2	<i>Christingle</i>	<i>Morton</i>	<i>3.00pm</i>
	16	<i>Carol Service</i>	<i>Hacconby</i>	<i>3.00pm</i>
	23	<i>Carol Service</i>	<i>Kirkby Underwood</i>	<i>3.00pm</i>
		<i>Blessing of the Crib</i>	<i>Morton</i>	<i>3.00pm</i>
		<i>Carol Service</i>	<i>Morton</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>24</b>	<i>Carol Service</i>	<i>Dunsby</i>	<b><i>7.00pm</i></b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>24</b>	<i>Midnight Mass</i>	<i>Morton</i>	<i>11.30pm</i>
<b>Tue</b>	<b>25</b>	<i>GROUP SERVICE</i>	<i>Dunsby</i>	<i>10.30am</i>

CHURCH FLOWERS: No flowers during Advent. The church will be open all day on Saturday 22nd December for the decorations for Christmas. Should anyone not be able to manage this day, please contact me and I will let you have the key. *Chris Bladon 440812*

CHURCH CLEANING: Eva Patrick and Florence Grime

**200 CLUB** The November Draw will take place once all subscriptions are collected. Results will be published in the January, together with the December Draw.

At the Service of Remembrance in November, a total of £88.50 was collected for the RBL.

### METHODIST CIRCUIT "ANGELS TELL OF HAPPY EVENT"

This year the Rippingale Village Carol Service will be on Tuesday 18 December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The Revd Colin Martin and Richard Bailey will lead and the Offertory will be in aid of The National Children's Homes. We invite you to stay afterwards for light refreshments and a chat.

### SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY - THE BULL INN MONDAY 3 December at 3.00pm. *Everyone welcome.*

### RIPPINGALE & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

It was most encouraging to see more members at the November meeting. They were rewarded by Stephanie Lee telling us how to pull a garden together and make the most of shrubs and hard landscaping. Next month we have Geoff Stebbings telling us about A E Bowles' garden at Myddelton House. Accompanying this will be our Christmas Buffet and it would be appreciated if members could bring contributions - sweet or savoury. The "Open Gardens" next year will be on the first weekend in May [the Bank Holiday] and will be open for two days, Saturday and Sunday. Anyone who wishes to open their gardens, please contact Chris Bladon.

## **PARISH COUNCIL [Clerk - Sheila Scholes - 440200]**

### **RESIGNATIONS**

It is with much regret that the Parish Council accepted the resignation of two of its members: Cllr Melvyn Patrick, Chairman, and Cllr Phil Read. The Parish Council wishes to express its sincere thanks for the long service given to the village by these Councillors. Their commitment to the local community has been total and they will be greatly missed. Cllr Patrick has set a very high standard as Chairman of the Council and his expertise and management have been invaluable. Cllr Read's efforts in overseeing the maintenance work done in the village have been great. The Council wishes both of its former members well, and is particularly grateful to the Chairman for continuing to work on its behalf, despite his illness.

As a result of these resignations, there are two vacancies to be filled. A Statutory notice has been published to this effect. If it is the wish of parishioners to hold an election for Councillors, Notice should be given to the Monitoring Officer by 29 November. If no election is called, the Parish Council may Co-opt two new councillors. Anyone interested in becoming a Co-opted member, should contact the Clerk, in writing, The Old Station, Rippingale, PE10 0TG.

The Parish Council does not meet in December.

**Date of next meeting is Thursday 10 January 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Members of the Public are always welcome.**

### **RIPPINGALE & DISTRICT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

The November meeting was held on 1 November in the Village Hall. The meeting was very different in order to give the Queen and Prince Philip our congratulations for their 60th Wedding Anniversary later in the month. In order to celebrate this magnificent event the theme of the meeting was hats. The speaker was Dorothy Wood who showed us why hats were so expensive at the bespoke end of the market, telling us about the materials needed and the equipment and the time it took her to make a hat - one week, so we could see why the cost was so high. As it was a celebration members were asked to put on their best clothes and hats and to "strut their stuff" as though guests at a wedding. All the members look wonderful and the outfits were amazing. The evening was enhanced with a lovely cake, iced by Beryl, and a glass of bubbly to drink a toast to the lovely couple - after all the Queen is a member of the WI! Our next meeting is on 6 December and is a Christmas party. The meal will be provided by the Committee - so come along in your glitzy and enjoy a good evening.

### **RIPPINGALE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE** Disco by Fantasia and "The Grumpy Old Men" live band will be playing on 31 December, starting at 7.30pm, until late. The Bar will include barrel beer and lager, as well as the usual bottled drinks. A tuck shop will be supplied for the children.

Prices are Adults £6, Child £3. All children under 16 must be supervised by an adult.

**PLAY - "PINNOCHIO"** The NTCTouring Theatre Company will be performing Pinnocchio at the Village Hall on Tuesday 8 January 2008 starting at 7.00pm. This looks to be a very enjoyable evening for both children and adults, so please come along. If this event proves to be popular it could be the start of many more, SO please support it.

Prices are Adults £5, Child £2.50. *Places are limited, so please book early.*

**CINEMA CLUB** There will be no Cinema Club in December. The next viewing will be on 30 January 2008, the film to be decided.

<b>200 CLUB - November</b>	£20	P Wiseman [50]	
	£10	B Lambert [141]	J Stubley [89]
	£ 5	B Fichett [59]	I Middleton [113]
		H Gadsby [15]	Mr Frost [43]

### **RINGSTONE PLAYERS**

The Pantomime "Snow White" at Edenham Village Hall [School Lane, Edenham]

Friday 11 January 2008 at 7.30pm, and

Saturday 12 January at 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Tickets Adults £5 and Children [12 and under] £3.50

Box Office: Deeping Travel [Bourne] Tel: 01778 423224

## UGH UGH UGH UGH

Yet again, there have been complaints about dog fouling on pavements in the village. The roads which seem to suffer most are Middle Street, Station Street and High Street. Will owners of dogs **PLEASE** make sure they clear up after their pets. It is possible, of course, that the animals fouling the pavements do not have their owners with them. Please make sure your pets are not allowed to roam the streets.

## NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTORS

It's that time of the year again. I am sure you will join with me in thanking my sterling distributors of the Newsletter every month. All I do is put them through their door! They are

Wendover Close	Fred Whiten	13 issues	
East Street	Florence Grime	40	
Doctor's Lane	Faith Balaam	15	
Station Street	Michaela Berry	35	[Bottom end]
	Helen Martin	25	[Top end]
Miller's Close	Rebecca Main	29	
Eric Page	Barn Farm/Fens	20	
Goldfinch Rise	Phil/Pat Read	29	
Dovecote	Shaun Newcomb	55	
High Street	Derek Diess	45	
Middle Street	Sylvia Scheinpflug	44	[and half of Pinfold]
Pinfold Close	Sylvia Stewart	17	

*I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas*

## AND FINALLY

A little Christmas giggle - taken from "A Wayne in a Manager" by Gervase Phinn

It is often the Three Kings who steal the show, and the highlight of one Nativity was with their entrance. Someone had really gone to town on the costumes for the little boys who came in clutching their gifts tightly; they were resplendent in gold and silver outfits, topped by large bejewelled crowns that shone brilliantly under the stage lights.

"*I am the King of the North,*" said one little boy, kneeling before the manger and laying down a brightly wrapped box. "*I bring you gold.*"

"*I am the King of the South,*" said the second, kneeling before the manger and laying down a large coloured jar. "*I bring you myrrh.*"

"*I am the King of the East,*" said the third and smallest child, kneeling before the manger and laying down a silver bowl. "*And Frank sent this.*"

## DEADLINE FOR JANUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER

**SATURDAY 15 DECEMBER 2007**

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER **MUST** BE IN BY THE ABOVE DATE, OTHERWISE I CANNOT GUARANTEE THEY WILL BE INCLUDED

*ITEMS FOR THE GROUP MAGAZINE ASAP PLEASE*

**MWM**

# Friends of Rippingale Post office

By the time you read this, we may already know the fate of our post office.

At the time of writing, the 6-week consultation period has just ended on November 12<sup>th</sup> and we have been reflecting on how the campaign has gone. There have been some very positive aspects to take away from it; not least, the way in which our community has joined together in support of the campaign with offers of help and turning out at events. Some great new friendships have also been made.

The end of this article gives important information about the 3 weeks following the end of the consultation period.

## THE PROGRESS SO FAR

### Petitions

Our thanks to everyone who signed the petitions in the village and on the Downing Street website. We are very pleased to announce that the village petition ended up with 1,147 signatures. The Number Ten e-petition was very successful, ending on the 10<sup>th</sup> November with 818 signatures, placing us 255<sup>th</sup> out of 8,708 petitions. We managed to eclipse many nationally and regionally-based petitions, a real testament to the feelings that the closure announcement has generated. We await a response from the Prime Minister's Office.

### A Private meeting with Post Office Ltd. on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November

We asked Post Office Ltd to attend a public meeting; they declined but agreed to a private meeting with FORPO members Jim Latham, Mike Hallas, John Warman and Phil Rippingale, accompanied by Martin Hill, Leader of Lincolnshire County Council and Quentin Davies MP. They would not allow sub-postmaster Simon Deane to attend the meeting. The meeting raised as many questions as it answered; the Post Office refused to divulge any of the financial data which it used to take the decision to include Rippingale in the programme of closures. However, they did say that the data was taken from just 4 weeks in May, before Simon Deane took over the shop and while Michael Moles was running down the business and generally concentrating on moving his family down to Devon. We did receive an assurance that the closure was not a 'done deal' and that financial data from September and October would be used to review our case.

### The Public Meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November at the Village Hall

Our thanks to all those who attended. The evening gave us a chance to bring residents up to date with progress so far; we also gave a brief outline of the anti-closure document and recruited some troops for the Rugby trip!

### Trip to Rugby to present anti-closure document to PO Ltd & Postwatch

Once again, our thanks to all those who turned up to wave us goodbye; even more so, our thanks to all those who made the trip. Anyone who's tried to convoy in a group of 3 or 4 cars will appreciate how difficult it would have been with 10 cars but we managed to keep within about ½ mile of each other for the entire trip!

### Thank You

Although we cannot thank everyone individually, our sincere thanks to all those who turned out for the Quentin Davies visit, the walk to Morton, the public meeting, the trip to Rugby and to all those who wrote protest letters to Post Office Ltd., Postwatch and various politicians. It really did make a major difference to us and the campaign and helped bolster our enthusiasm for the work ahead.

There are many people that we wish to thank for their offers of help during the campaign. We make no apologies for the length of the list. Our only fear is that we should forget anyone; our humble apologies to anyone we have missed but there have been so many, we couldn't always keep track. Groups of individuals are listed alphabetically.

### Delivery of flyers

Many helped with delivering the three flyers around the villages. They are :

<b>Aslackby</b>	Alan and Davinia Pickering
<b>Dunsby</b>	Angela Boyfield
<b>Dowsby</b>	Sally Reed and her family.
<b>Kirkby Underwood</b>	Hilary Magill, Margaret Wild, Susan Anderson,

## **Rippingale**

Judy Watson and Frances Hawkins.  
Angela Adams, Margaret Ayres, Tim and Chris Bladon, Derek Diess,  
Shane and Skye Flatters, Eric Jessop, Angela Keen, Sylvia Stewart,  
Nick Williams and Anne Wood.

## **Parish Newsletter**

Our thanks to Mary Morgan who very kindly extended the deadline for November's edition so that we could give further details of progress and a report on the Walk to Morton.

## **The staff at Rippingale Stores.**

Sally Flatters, Estelle Haymes, Daniella Maslin, Dot Sayer

## **Political support**

Our campaign profile has been raised significantly by the involvement of the following;  
our thanks to them all for finding time in their busy schedules to come and support us.

The Rt. Hon. Quentin Davies MP  
Nick Boles Conservative PCC for Stamford and Grantham  
Martin Hill, Leader of Lincolnshire County Council  
Andrea Webster, SKDC councillor for Aveland ward

## **SIGNS - Many thanks to...**

Simon and Michelle Joint at Viking Signs of Grantham for donating the 5 large roadside signs.  
Alec Gadsby, for helping assemble signs and putting them up on the A15 & Fen Crossroads.  
Martin Lock, for providing the large posters on the hoarding at the shop.

## **The Walk to Morton**

Ginger Flatters very kindly provided the scaffolding and boards and erected the hoarding at the shop, provided the timber for walk placards and supplied a variety of equipment that was used on the walk by the Marshalls and various vehicles. A major contribution for which we are indebted.  
The trailer for carrying mobility scooters back to Rippingale was kindly loaned by John Lindsay.  
Our thanks also to John Scholes for the loan of high-visibility reflective jackets and to the Walk Marshalls Barry Flatters and Kevin Dodge, under the stewardship of Ginger Flatters. For the fact that we all got safely to Morton, we thank the Police in Bourne South Division.

## **Public meeting – Our grateful thanks to :**

J.H. Wand of Bourne for donating the use of their sound and lighting rig & van at very short notice.  
Village Hall committee members Angela Adams, Angela Keen, Sue Misselbrook and Phil Read for assisting with set-up on the evening and for providing refreshments.

## **Rugby trip**

Special thanks to all those who came and waved us off and those who came on the trip, particularly for those who provided transport. They are Anthony Andrews, Jane Boyes, Ian and Estelle Haymes, Del and Wendy Headland and Michelle Ryan.

## **last but not least...**

A special mention for the following : -

Mike Hallas, for his work, from first draft to final copy, on writing the entire document that we presented to Postwatch and Post Office Ltd.

Jim Latham for writing all the press releases, briefing the press at all times and for being a very able spokesman for the campaign.

John Warman, for the large amount of time he spent keeping the village website up to date with the latest news, press releases, photos and event reports and for much of the background administrative work.

## **What Happens Now?**

The three week period from the end of the Public Consultation Exercise (PCE), November 12th to December 3rd is crucial to the future of our post office.

We understand that Post Office Ltd. will have reviewed all the material they received and reached their provisional decisions during the first week. Postwatch will have done the same.

In week 2, the two sides get together to compare provisional conclusions. Postwatch say they will make sure that criteria for the closure programme has been followed, as well as taking into account all aspects of the protest material.

At the end of week 2, PO Ltd. will have separated their responses to the PCE into three groups... 1) Those that they have decided WILL close, or be offered Outreach; 2) Those that will remain open - because they got their information wrong or they accept the protest case put forward against closure or 3) Those where there are still credible reasons for further review; the case is unclear or figures and information needs to be rechecked.

Those cases requiring further review will be addressed in week 3.

Final decisions will be announced after December 3rd.

We cannot afford to wait until December 3rd to plan our responses to the three options - we're still at work, discussing and deciding on what we should do depending on what the news will be - and we can't make ANY assumptions.

Dealing with this phase of the closure process may be particularly difficult - there may be some aspects that that we don't want PO Ltd to be aware of at too early a stage.

However we will endeavour to keep everyone up-to-date with what's happening, most probably via another public village meeting.