



Rippingale News

www.RippingaleVillage.co.uk

JANUARY 2008

**[Editorial: Mary Morgan]
18 Pinfold Close**

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Priest in Charge – Revd G P Williams [Fr Graham 01778 571474]

SUNDAY SERVICES

6	Eucharist	6.00pm
13	Plough Sunday – <i>GROUP SERVICE</i>	10.30am
20	<i>No service at St Andrew's – See Notice board for other Services in the Group</i>	
27	Evensong	6.00pm

FLOWERS: W/B 6TH & 13TH Mrs Shorter
27th & 3 Feb Mrs M Whiten

CLEANING: Bryony Harrison and Pam Burgess
HELP!! Florence Grime and Eva Patrick have been cleaning the church for a number of years now – in fact six months of the year. They now feel that they are unable to continue, so we are looking for volunteers. Please contact the Church Secretary, Mary Morgan if you feel you can give a few hours a month.

200 CLUB WINNERS	NOVEMBER	£20	Mr/Mrs G Buxton [173]	
		£10	J Elliott [36]	T Pridmore [172]
		£ 5	P Boyce [108]	I Misselbrook [3]
			T Pridmore [35]	S Atkinson [122]
	DECEMBER	£20	Mrs J Glover [152]	
		£10	Mr Davey [118]	J Warman [167]
		£ 5	Mr/Mrs Carter [15]	Mrs S Horton [52]
			Mr R Jessop 68]	T Gibbons [125]

We still have vacancies. Anyone wishing to either join or have an extra number, at a cost of £6.50 for the last half year, please contact either Mary Morgan or Alyson Jones.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

To Sue and Ebon Atkinson.

It was Christmas Party time again. Every year Sue and Ebon invite the Senior Citizens of the village to a super party. On 3 December we arrived before 3pm to a really wonderful welcome – drinks all round on the house, music playing to get the guests in a jolly mood. When we finished saying “hello’s” to all the guests, we were ushered in to the restaurant. The tables were beautifully decorated creating a really comfortable atmosphere. The food was first class and the waiters kept us supplied with drinks. After the meal, Sue got us all singing Carols etc. The staff and helpers gave us a happy party. We finished off with a Raffle with really nice gifts. Sue is an excellent hostess. *Lucy Francis*

PARISH COUNCIL [Clerk – Sheila Scholes – 440200]

A MESSAGE FROM THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN

"It was with much sadness that at the last Parish Council meeting I had to resign as Chairman owing to ill health. I would like to thank all past and present Parish Councillors for their sterling work and dedication to the village of Rippingale, and for the positive help to me as their Chairman. We are very lucky to live in such a wonderful part of Lincolnshire and such a pleasant village with such a good quality of life. I would like to wish the future Chairperson every success, as I do to the new Councillors to be elected. Finally, I would like to thank the Clerk to the Council who has been extremely proficient in her position and has been of great support to me. Wishing you all every success for the future and to say what a pleasure it was to have been on the Council for the past eight years. I wish you a healthy and happy 2008."
Melvyn Patrick

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL IS THURSDAY 10 JANUARY 2008 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL. Members of the public are always welcome.

RIPPINGALE & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

For the members who braved a cold evening they were rewarded with an interesting and enlightening talk by Geoff Stebbings on Myddelton House, the home of E A Bowles. Geoff, who was Editor of Garden Answers brought free issues of this magazine along with a sister publication Garden News. He also generously gave an assortment of seeds to keep us busy next year. Many thanks go to everyone who brought contributions for the buffet and helped with the organisation. It is hoped that more members will come to hear Cliff Curtis give a talk on Snowdrops and Hellebores on Wednesday 13 February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The "Open Gardens" 2008 will be held on the weekend of 3/4th May.

RIPPINGALE & DISTRICT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Christmas Party for the WI was held in the Village Hall on 6 December. The Committee provided a cooked meal, various lasagne and vegetarian dishes and a variety of wonderful desserts. Nearly all the members were able to attend a very good party, which included a visit by Santa. Messages were received by Betty MacMillan from President Sylvia Stewart, who was in the USA visiting her new granddaughter.

RIPPINGALE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

200 CLUB WINNERS – DECEMBER

£20	B MacMillan [7]	
£10	J Coddington [53]	M Scarborough [14]
£ 5	P Taylor [47]	J Scholes [44]
	Paul Johnson [51]	Faith Balaam [6]

NORTHUMBERLAND THEATRE COMPANY presents the play "Pinocchio" on Tuesday 8 January 2008. Doors open at 6.00pm – show starts at 7.00pm prompt. Ticket prices are Adults £5, Children under 16 yrs £2.50. There will be a licensed bar/children's refreshments. This looks to be a very enjoyable evening for all the family, so please come along and support it.

CINEMA CLUB

Next viewing is on Wednesday 30 January showing "Surf Up". Doors open at 6.30pm, film starts at 7.00pm. Refreshments will be available. Free Admission, everyone welcome.

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 [under 12 yrs] £3.50
Box Office: Deeping Travel [Bourne] Tel: [01778] 423224

RIPPINGALE POST OFFICE & GENERAL STORES

UPDATE from Simon Deane

Tuesday 4 December

I received a call from Mark Partington, Network Change Manager for the East Midlands. During this conversation, I was told that Rippingale would not appear on the closure list due to be published on Tuesday 11 November. This was because Postwatch had objected to the closure of this Branch and the process would take another 4-6 weeks before we would have a decision. Obviously I was delighted to hear this news and waited for my posters to be delivered.

Tuesday 11 December

The Posters arrived at 9am by Special Delivery and they, indeed, stated that the decision for Rippingale had been put on hold, due to a request from Postwatch. At 10am we gathered outside the Store and passed on this information around 80 people who had gathered to discover our fate. Although there were a few disappointed that we had not had a reprieve, the general consensus was at least we had been given some additional time to lobby our case and that this would be heard at a higher level. At 10.30am Jim and I met Nigel Hallam to do a live interview on BBC Radio Lincolnshire. As we started, it became clear that Nigel was getting a different story from his Producer through his earpiece. I don't know how this sounded live on air, but for the remainder of the interview confusion reigned. After this interview we met outside with journalists from Calendar, BBC Look North, BBC Radio Lincolnshire, Hereward Radio fm and The Local newspaper. Several calls later, we discovered that the PO had, in fact, announced our closure along with all other outreach sites for East Midlands at the same time as the full closures. I called Mark Partington who hadn't a clue where this had come from, so I called the Press Office who wouldn't talk to me, but got Mark to call again saying that closure in principal had just been agreed, although at that time he was unable to confirm one thing or another. After spending the whole day on the 'phone trying to explain to journalists the confusion, we came to the conclusion that, indeed, we would be closing and that the PO had completely bungled their own criteria of informing Sub-postmasters before the Press!

Wednesday 12 December

Several calls to Martin Hill, Quentin Davies and Nick Boles, who had all been given the same information as me that we were on hold for further consultation.

Thursday 13 December

I received a letter from the Director of Network Change saying that no decision had yet been reached and indeed we were on hold. I passed this letter to the Press who then again tried to get a response from the PO. Again, they were told by the Press Office that we were definitely to close. We hopefully have enough to go forward with a judicial review via LCC and I am hoping to hear from Martin Hill the results of the legal advise he is being given. It is certainly prudent to note that both North Lincs and East Anglia have had the exact same bungle take place, even though their decisions were made two days after ours. Do these people ever learn? Quentin Davies has now taken this matter further directly with the PO Minister and we are in touch most days. I have put a complaint in with the Chairman of PO who has instigated a full investigation into the process of what has occurred and I will, of course, keep you all up to date as I get the news. This may be before you get to read this, but at least you are all aware now of how the PO treats both customers and Sub-postmasters.

I hope you have all had a good Christmas and hope that 2008 is kinder to all of us. Thanks to the team for their devotion to the cause and thanks to everyone of you

who has offered support in doing things from marches to petitions to wishes of good luck. Every gesture has been fully appreciated by myself, Amanda and the Girls.
Simon Deane.

STOP PRESS Thursday 20 December

Communication from Network Change Office confirming that no decision on the future of Rippingale as a branch or outreach has yet been taken. *Simon*

AND FINALLY

A Recipe for a Happy New Year

Take twelve whole months.

Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate, and jealousy.

Make them just as fresh and clean as possible.

Now cut each month into twenty-eight, thirty, or thirty-one different parts, but don't make up the whole batch at once.

Prepare it one day at a time, out of these ingredients:

Mix well into each day:

- One part of faith*
- One part of patience*
- One part of courage*
- One part of work.*

Add to each day one part of hope, faithfulness, generosity and kindness. Blend with one part prayer, one part meditation and one good deed. Season the whole with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play and a cupful of good humour. Pour all of this into a vessel of love. Cook thoroughly over radiant joy. Garnish with a smile and serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness.

YOU'RE BOUND TO HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER TUESDAY 15 JANUARY 2008

**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