



Rippingale News

www.RippingaleVillage.co.uk

NOVEMBER 2007
[EDITORIAL: MARY MORGAN]
18 PINFOLD CLOSE

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

SERVICES:

SUNDAY	4	GROUP MEMORIAL SERVICE <i>[For those who have died in the Ringstone in Aveland Group]</i>	6.00pm
	11	SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE	10.15am
	18	NO SERVICE AT ST ANDREW'S <i>[See Noticeboard for details of other Services in the Group]</i>	
	25	Evening Prayer	6.00pm

CHURCH CLEANING: Eva Patrick and Florence Grime

CHURCH FLOWERS: Mrs C Bladon

200 CLUB - WINNERS September

Drawn at The Bull Inn on the night of the Harvest Supper

£20	Mrs L Webb [186]	
£10	Mrs P Page [149]	Mrs S Burt [12]
£ 5	G Wilson [100]	B R Shields [29]
	N Beever [187]	C F Gibbons [62]
October	£20	Mrs J Lack [153]
	£10	Mrs L Hall [42]
	£ 5	Mrs S Lynn [44]
		Mr D Gearing [180]
		Mrs D Gearing [193]
		Mrs M Whiten [184]
		Mrs R Atkinson [97]

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their Subscriptions. We have a few places left [none of the "empty" numbers came up on the two Draws above]. Anyone interested in having another or new number, please contact Alyson Jones OR Mary Morgan. Subscriptions are just £13 per year.

HARVEST SUPPER - 6 October. Thanks to everyone who supported this event held in The Bull Inn we made a profit of £154.76 for church funds. A special "thank you" goes to Sue Atkinson and her staff who fed us all so well. GIFT DAY YES - it's that time of the year again! Thanks to the support last year, we raised £936 which went towards the redecoration of the church interior. This was completed in March at a cost of £6300 This year we are asking for donations towards the running costs of the church. Most people are unaware that it costs £200 per week to keep the church "alive". This includes, lighting and heating. We also have to pay a water bill, although little is used, and we have to pay the Diocese of Lincoln our Parish Share, which is over £4000 per annum!!

Hopefully you will receive an envelope together with this Newsletter which may be handed in at the church on Saturday 24th November between 10.00am and 12 noon, OR delivered to the following addresses:

1 Pinfold Close 18 Pinfold Close The Post Office/Stores The Bull Inn

Of the £936 raised last year, £200 was refund of Tax. SO, if you are a Tax Payer and are prepared to put your name and address on the envelope it would be greatly appreciated.

CONGRATULATIONS CONGRATULATIONS CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Judy Watson on her licensing as a Group Reader and look forward to welcoming her to our Services. *[See Page 2 in the Newsletter for more details by Fr Graham]*

PARISH COUNCIL [Clerk - Sheila Scholes - 440200]

PLANNING

Cardyke Farmhouse, Long Drive, Rippingale, Conversion of Barns to form two dwellings.

No objections raised.

HORSE RIDING ON FOOTPATHS

A further complaint has been received regarding horse riders on the pavements - *PLEASE ride on the road - horse manure on the pavement is not pleasant!*

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF POST OFFICE

The Parish Council fully supports the campaign of objection to the proposed closure of the Village Post Office and is grateful to the many residents who are showing their active support in an effort to retain this service.

NEXT MEETING: 8 November 2007 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Members of the public are always welcome.

RINGSTONE IN AVELAND GROUP READER - Explanation by Fr Graham

"Reader ministry in the Church of England is a special form of accredited lay ministry. After about three years part-time, but intensive and demanding study, a person is licensed and commissioned by the Bishop for Reader ministry in the Church. A Reader can preside at Morning and Evening Prayer, at All Age Worship, can help administer holy communion, but not preside at the Eucharist [only a priest or bishop can do that]. Readers also exercise ministry in Residential Homes, and take holy communion to the sick and housebound in their homes. After additional study, a Reader may be authorised to preside at Funerals as well. But the main emphasis of Reader ministry is as a Minister of the Word, and to this end a Reader will proclaim the Gospel at the Eucharist, and be licensed by the Bishop to deliver homilies at any service, and to teach. Into this ministry Judy Watson was admitted, licensed and commissioned on 13 October by Bishop John, the Bishop of Lincoln at his Cathedral Church at Lincoln. As a sign of this validation by the Church, Judy was vested in the distinctive blue scarf of the Reader. Though Judy is from Kirkby Underwood, she is a gift for the whole Group, and has been licensed for the whole Group [and not just, or even, Morton, as erroneously suggested by one diocesan newspaper!] From 14 October, Judy has been functioning in our Group as a Reader. That's what she will be doing. What we will be doing is to lend her our support, our good wishes and, most importantly, our prayers, for this exciting new ministry upon which she has embarked."

RIPPINGALE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

CHRISTMAS FAIR Sunday 18 November from 2.00pm - 5.00pm. There will be various stalls as well as Father Christmas visiting during the afternoon. Anyone wishing to have a craft stall at £5.00 each, please contact Angela. There will also be a Tombola Stall. Anyone wishing to donate anything, please contact Angela to arrange collection or deliver to 27 High Street, Rippingale.

CINEMA CLUB "Shrek the Third" will be showing on Wednesday 28 November. Doors open at 6.30pm with the film starting at 7.00pm prompt. Admission is FREE so come along and enjoy the film. The Tuck Shop is available for drinks, sweets etc. Parents do not need to stay as the children will be supervised.

SECRETARY The Committee is in need of a new Secretary. If you enjoy writing letters etc. and feel you would like to contribute a little spare time in helping to keep your Village Hall running, then please contact the Chairman, Sue Misselbrook.

200 CLUB for September/October	£20	Richard Lee [195]	
	£10	Ken Cotton [76]	Lorraine Wilcox [176]
	£ 5	D Fuller [92]	Peter Johnson [65]
		Dorothy Waters [8]	J G Lowe? [73]
	£20	G Wildmore [117]	
	£10	D Rouse [55]	M Coddington [54]
	£ 5	Pat Read [34]	L Hall [30]
		J Tailor [106]	J Elliot [25]

RIPPINGALE POST OFFICE & STORES

"A little bit from the shop"

"We would like to take this opportunity to give our personal thanks to all who have helped in the fight to keep the Post Office counter in Rippingale Stores. As a village community, and we include ALL of the villages in that, you should be proud of yourselves and the amount of support you have given. It is clear that without that support we would not have become the "thorn in the side" that the Post Office wish they could remove! I have heard from the powers that be that Rippingale has outweighed any other office with its response and that really is incredible when you consider the size of the population. Special thanks must go to the VDC, The Village Website, Simon and Michelle Joint, Martin Lock, Jim Latham, Ginger Flatters and the staff at the store. Without these community focused people, the campaign would never have started and I believe that we should all applaud their commitment. I know that nearly the whole community have offered support in one way or another and I apologise for missing anyone. Amanda and I have carried this news since late August and it has been an incredible strain on us. We are now optimistic that we can pressure the Post Office to reassess the information that they hold on us against their closure criteria. We will not know the outcome until the first week of December. Could be a very interesting Christmas! Once again, we thank you all."

Simon, Amanda, Georgia and Pippa Deane

RINGSTONE PLAYERS

Present a Pantomime - "Snow White", Friday and Saturday 11 & 12 January 2008 at Edenham Village Hall. Ticket details next month.

RIPPINGALE & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

Our last two meetings have not been very well attended, but we hope you will come to our next meeting on Wednesday 14 November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall when Stephanie Lee will be giving a talk entitled "Anchors in the Garden". This talk is aimed to help with garden design, particularly borders. Our talk this month was given by one of our members, Gerald Blacoe, on Cacti and other Succulents. Although there is not possibly the following for this type of plant, a lot was revealed on their growing and appeal and those who could not make it, missed out on a very good talk.

RIPPINGALE & DISTRICT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We had a really good fun evening at the Village Hall on Thursday 4 September. The Speaker was Malcolm Darby who brought along his keyboard and he set us a musical quiz which was good fun and got us all relaxed and in a good mood. Also at the meeting we had a visit from the village Postmaster, Simon Deane, with Phil Rippingale and Jim Latham of "Friends of Rippingale Post Office", to talk about the possible closure of the Rippingale Post Office. We were all quite upset about the closure as we are all worried for the elderly and disabled who will all need the PO regularly and it will be pretty near impossible for them to walk to Morton and back - some 6 miles round trip. We all agreed to sign petitions etc. The next meeting is on 1 November when we will have a talk by a Hat Maker and celebrate the 60th Wedding Anniversary of the Queen and Prince Phillip. The competition is for the best hat.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION - Station Street

I delivered the Newsletters to the Distributors one morning and, thanks to the efficiency of Pam Burgess, received two telephone calls within hours. Thank you to Helen Martin, 83 Station Street AND Michaela Berry of 110 Station Street who will share deliveries from November. *Mary Morgan*

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - Information received 11.10.07

A number of distraction type offences have occurred in the Lincolnshire Forces area, at Deeping St James, Bourne and Boston, where bogus officials are purporting to be from British Gas or the Waterboard. A young male with fair hair was seen, wearing a jacket and trousers, with an Irish accent in suspicious circumstances, heading towards the village centre of Dowsby.

As a result of this incident whereby a member of the public was defrauded of a large sum of money, this message is sent to highlight the problem of offences committed from abroad with local victims. The offence is part of a long running scam, whereby victims receive correspondence advising them that they have won the Canadian Lottery, then asked to pay an administration fee to release their winnings. Victims have arranged payment via an electronic bank transfer then hear nothing more. There are numerous variations on the same theme, eg a similar scam with the French National Lotto, and a horse racing syndicate, where victims are invited to place bets via a credit card hotline with a guaranteed win, only to find that their credit card accounts have been emptied and the offenders have vanished without trace. The offenders tend to target elderly vulnerable people. Please contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team or Force HQ Tel: 01522 532222 if you have any information regarding this fraudulent offence. *Margaret Ayres*

IF WE LOSE THE POST OFFICE, WE LOSE THE SHOP!

Closure of Rippingale Branch Post Office

By the time you read this, we expect that everyone in the village will know that Rippingale is scheduled to lose its 'Branch Post Office' at the shop. **If we lose the Post Office, the shop will no longer be viable and we will lose that as well!** An Outreach service will not in any way serve the needs of the village and will not keep the shop alive!

The consultation ends on 12th November 2007 by which time ALL petitions, letters and emails must be RECEIVED by the Post Office – that's only just over a week from now (1st November).

A major thank-you from the 'Friends of Rippingale Post Office' for all the support and help that so many of you have already given so far.

At the time of writing (Sunday 14th October) the petition in the shop is doing very well with over 800 signatures, but the Downing Street online e-petition to the Prime Minister is sadly lacking. We need more than 200 signatures for action to be taken, and it currently stands at less than 180. We do hope that we will have exceeded 200 by the time you read this but there are many prominent names missing. If you have access to a computer and an email address and haven't yet signed, PLEASE do so now! (Remember to click on the link sent to you in an email from the e-petitions website otherwise your signature will not be accepted). The address of the e-petition is " <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/Rippingale/> ", or go to the village website and follow the links.

To date (14 October) the "Friends of Rippingale Post Office" have not only organised the petitions and letters, but have carried out an intense media campaign highlighting our fight both locally, and nationally with a number of interviews including a slot on "Calendar" on Yorkshire Television as well as local radio stations and press releases. Some 250 villagers turned out on a wet Saturday morning to see Quentin Davies MP, and his probable successor to parliament Nick Boles, Conservative PPC for Grantham and Stamford, who visited the shop on 13th October. The planned walk to Morton Post Office along the A15 on Wednesday 17th October should disrupt traffic enough to make national road reports as well as news. To date we are the strongest action group in the country – let's keep it that way!

What can you do to help?

The simplest thing is to sign both petitions. The shop petition has copies in the Bull and at the Doctors' Surgery as well as at the shop.

To sign the Downing Street Online petition to the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, visit the following site.

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/Rippingale/>

Write your own letter or email – one letter or email is worth a 100 signatures. There are ideas and bullet points that you can use in your letters on Rippingale Village website and at the village shop.

Easier still, you can send a pre-written letter, either a form letter, available at the shop, or download and use one or more of the template letters on the village website. All you have to do is add your name and address and sign.

The addresses to send to are:

Att Mark Partington
Network Development Manager
Post Office Ltd
FREEPOST CONSULTATION TEAM

Post Watch
FREEPOST POSTWATCH

Attn. The Honourable Quentin Davies MP
The House of Commons,
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

Visit the village website (www.RippingaleVillage.co.uk) for the email address for Nick Boles and other email and postal addresses and suggestions.

Friends of Rippingale Post Office - FORPO@RippingaleVillage.co.uk
Contacts - Phil Rippingale and Jim Latham

STOP PRESS Thursday 18th October 2007 (Thank you Mary)

Protest walk to Morton Post Office – Wednesday 17th October

The walk was a tremendous success; more than 100 villagers started from Rippingale Post Office, and 85 reached Morton.

We had very good coverage from BBC Look North, ITV Central and ITV Yorkshire Television News teams, with coverage in both lunchtime and evening news editions. It is unfortunate that both ITV channels let the post office representative, Michael Dalton, get away with evading Rippingale's specific case, and not pointing out that Outreach is not a workable alternative.

A big thank you goes out to all those who came on the march, those who gave their time to act as marshals and to the Police who provided escort cover.

Outreach

PO Ltd say they're not forcing anyone to walk to Morton as they are giving us an "Outreach" Service!

The options are; 1 - asking Simon to Host a counter in the village shop with a business partner, 2 – other premises like the Village Hall or The Bull hosting a counter, or 3 – a mobile office visiting the village.

PO Ltd visited Simon a month before the 1st October closure was announced, introduced him to a potential partner, who then made what can be best described as an insulting offer, guaranteeing the shop wouldn't survive.

The service would be for 13 hours a week only, and all would be very limited – no post over 2 kg, no special delivery, no business banking, no transactions without a bar coded bill, no foreign currency. Is this what you want? It is certainly of little or no use to the local businesses.

Online E-petition to the Prime Minister

We have made the minimum 200 signatures required; the target is now **500**. If you haven't signed yet and are able to do so, now is the time to do it – the more signatures, the greater the impact and response from Number Ten. If you do not have an email address, please see below. – there's no excuse!

Internet Surgeries

For those who would like to sign the petition to the Prime Minister but do not have access to the internet or an email address, we plan to set up drop-in surgeries where you can come and get signed up. Please ask at the Shop for more details or contact any member of "Friends of Rippingale Post Office" who will be pleased to help.

This isn't a bluff

If Simon loses the Branch Post Office, it will be financially impossible to keep the shop going and it will close.

If we lose the Post Office, we lose the shop

Friends of Rippingale Post office

Jim Latham Phil Rippingale

AND FINALLY

NOTICE SEEN IN A LAUNDROMAT:

Automatic washing machines - Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out!

DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER 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