



THE Village Link



December 2009



All Saints, Great Thurlow

St Peter's, Little Thurlow

News and views from Great and Little Thurlow
plus The Little Bradley Column

Free to every residence (£3.50 p.a. when purchased)

THE VILLAGE LINK

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FROM THE RECTORY.

Rembrandt painted an exquisite small picture of “The Flight into Egypt”. It hangs on the walls of the local museum at Tour in the Loire Valley. The museum was once the home of the Archbishop of Tour. The story it depicts of Jesus being taken by his parents to Egypt to keep him safe from King Herod who ordered the slaughter of the children under two years old, it is found in St Matthew Chapter 2 vv 13 – 15 and in no other Gospel. Here Matthew sees the repetition of the events which happened before the Exodus when another king was killing Jewish children and as Moses had been hidden in the bulrushes and saved, so now Jesus is to be saved by flight and God’s purpose will be fulfilled, because he will call his son out of Egypt. We always have to remember how Matthew was concerned to see Jesus as a fulfilment of God’s promise in the scriptures and so bring the Jewish people along with him. Like many paintings Rembrandt used the story as a topic for his art and in turn to help tell the story of Jesus in a way people would find easy to understand in a visual sense. The painting was probably also commissioned by a benefactor depicting a story which may have had special significance for them, we may never really know.

Frozen in time is this small family unit, resting on their way to exile, their only other living companion a donkey. A story of flight so often depicted in newspapers the world over as refugees leave their own home in the hope of finding a better or safer life for themselves in another place. Today we have seen families leaving their homes in Cumbria because of the floods. Not so long ago it was families leaving their homes in Italy after a devastating earthquake. Africa, Pakistan and many other countries experience the flight of families in times of trouble. We have been reminded of families fleeing what was East Germany after the wall came down. It is amazing how the family unit is still the strongest bond for many of us in times of hardship.

As we continue through Advent to Christmas when we recall the birth of Jesus Christ, pictures of all kinds and exhibits of all kinds will depict the Holy Family. A family, which like so many of our families, comes to experience pain and suffering in so many different ways. Our prayers go out for those who have suffered tragic and unexpected loss this year. I hope the reminders of the Holy Family as we see them depicted will also remind us that we are all members of a larger family, the human family and God’s creation which he has raised to the hope of eternity through belief and faith in his son Jesus Christ. God’s promise made to his people over thousands of years and finding fulfilment in Christ is for all of us and as we gather this Christmastime as families I hope we will look out to those whose happiness this Christmas may not be as complete

as our own and through our actions to them they may see something of God the Father who Created and redeems us all in Jesus Christ.

I know we will not all be able to see the “Flight into Egypt” depicted by Rembrandt in France but we need not travel that far. Go to Little Bradley and find the delightful small window in the chancel there which depicts the story. The children may be able to tell you how they know it is set in Egypt. Happy Christmas. **John Eley**

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH NEEDS A SCRUB. Brilliant support has been offered so far in Great Thurlow and surrounding villages in the Benefice, to help give All Saints here in Great Thurlow a jolly good clean. I would love to hear from anyone else willing to help on 12th December 2009, starting at 11am at the Church. If you would like to get together for a bit of a 'social' and a giggle while we bring a fantastic sparkle to one of our most beautiful churches that John commutes around, give me a call. I will supply fresh cake, tea and cleaning kit to all those attending on the day!

Tim Knappett - 01440 783654

CHRISTMAS AT THE VILLAGE SHOP

The Shop will be in festive mood with its Christmas decorations from the beginning of December to brighten the days and especially the dark evenings. Once again our policy is to stock local produce whenever possible. This includes brandy and rum butters, cranberry sauce, redcurrant jelly and some special variety marmalades like English Breakfast, Earl Grey and others with their distinctive flavours from Butterworths of Bury St. Edmunds. We have a range of nice wines in for Christmas as well as chocolates, nuts and nibbles.

Christmas trees will be available from Saturday 5th December. A few have placed an order for a certain size, otherwise we should hope to meet the demands for different sizes.

There will be a nice spread of the favoured Rothbury Christmas Cards. However there is also a very nice line in cards with a frontice “Christmas Greetings from Thurlow, come and have a dekkko.

Could you please be so kind and leave us a list of your seasonal needs for fruit and vegetables, plus any other requirements so that your order can be prepared for you to be collected when convenient and so avoid the supermarket crush!

Just to remind you, we shall be closing at 2 o'clock (1400) on Christmas Eve and opening again at 0830 on Tuesday 29th December. We shall be closed on New Year's Day so please make sure you have bread and milk to last over the five days. Please order in advance to help us to make sure.

There will be a snifter for you to enjoy with us on Christmas Eve, so come in and “splice the main brace” with us.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL.

Patricia & Monty Banks

NATURE NOTE

There was a very well attended quiz in the Village Hall last week and one of the subjects on which we were questioned was ‘Garden Birds’. Pressure – what pressure? (Well, I’d have been thrown off the team if I’d messed that one up). In fact they were mostly straightforward and I think most teams did pretty well, but one bird that caught a few people out was a slightly blurry picture of what looked like a large thrush. If you peered at it carefully you could just make out a pale stripe over the eye and some grey on its back and nape, which is the real give-away. It was a fieldfare, so named because the Anglo-Saxons thought it ‘fared’ or travelled over the fields. They have just been faring a long way, in fact, since they are now arriving in Thurlow in large numbers from the continent, particularly from Northern and Eastern Europe. As soon as the berry crop gives out there or hard weather arrives they head off over the North Sea for Britain to spend the winter here, gorging themselves on rowan, hawthorn and ivy berries in the hedgerows and foraging for worms and beetles on the open fields. The first sign of their presence they usually give is a clamour of harsh *chack-a-chack* calls as a flock comes over and settles in a tall tree before descending to the ground. They are quite gregarious birds and you can often see mixed up in the fieldfare flocks a smaller cousin called the redwing, which does indeed have red flanks and underwings and also a conspicuous white eye-stripe. But fieldfares are not only large, they are also aggressive and if there is a competition for food they will boss redwings, blackbirds and starlings quite ruthlessly.

Someone said rather grumpily to me on quiz night – after getting that one wrong, I fancy – of course fieldfares are not really garden birds, are they? But in fact they are, or at least will be a bit later in the winter when they have cleaned up on the hedges or if we have a hard frost to seal up the soil. That’s the time they move into those gardens where there are fallen apples on the ground and then you get a real feeding frenzy right in front of your eyes. I suspect they get a bit tipsy on some of the rotting and well-fermented apples and they then seem tempted to spend more of their energies unsteadily fighting off other fieldfares rather than enjoying the fruits at their feet. It gets somewhat like a rowdy scene in the bar in one of those westerns where everyone ends up fighting their neighbours but can’t quite remember why when they are nursing their sore heads afterwards.

Jeremy Mynott

DEDHAM VALE AONB & STOUR VALLEY PROJECT – Festive Frolics in Clare – Sunday 20th December 10am – 12.30pm. Get in the festive spirit as we follow Rudolph’s clues to find the treasure, try your hand at making natural Christmas decorations and traditional tree dressing. One for all the family to enjoy and not a walk this time! Includes mulled wine and mince pies. For more details - tel. 01473 264263, www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org.

NEWS FROM THURLOW SCHOOL. _As ever we have lots going on at the school. In September we welcomed 21 new children to Class 1, as well as 6 children to other classes in the school. They have all settled happily.

By the time you read this you will have noticed that we have been provided with a much needed new roof for the school. This project includes a generous amount of insulation so hopefully will reduce our electricity bills! We also look forward to not having to mop up frequent puddles from a leaking roof! We completed a Travel Plan for the school in February this year setting out our aims of reducing traffic congestion and encouraging children to walk at least part of the journey to school thus providing a healthy start to the day. The Travel Plan group still meets regularly and its membership grows with every meeting. It includes representatives from the school and Pre-School [parents and staff], the community, Little Thurlow Parish Council, the Estate, a Local Authority Travel Plan Advisor, a Traffic Management Engineer and our school bus driver who is also a representative of Great Thurlow Parish Council.

However, traffic issues remain a constant challenge and we continue to try out ways to reduce the amount of cars ‘dropping off’ children in the morning and ‘picking up’ children at night. For some time we have been encouraging a ‘Park and Stride’ scheme from the Village Hall and the uptake on this has slowly improved with on some days up to 15 cars parked there. Parents have recently had ‘Walking Bus’ training and we are soon to start our own ‘Walking Bus’ from the Village Hall to school just as soon as volunteers have their CRB [Criminal Records Bureau] checks in place. [The ‘Walking Bus’ is a group of children escorted by parent volunteers]. We hope lots of parents and children will take advantage of this scheme. Could I ask that residents of The Street remember the ‘Walking Bus’ when putting their bins out on Wednesdays as in many places the pavements are narrow and bins could be an additional hazard? Kevin Shipp, Traffic Management Engineer has proposed traffic calming measures and initiatives to make the footpaths safer which will begin in April 2010 if he receives the desired amount of funding. We look forward to these improvements making the pavements and roads safer for everyone. Our plans for a new classroom are at a standstill as we await planning permission. This means that building work will not start this term as we had originally hoped but are optimistic that this will happen early in the New Year.

On a happier note, we have recently received a Healthy Schools Award and held a Healthy Schools Day in November to celebrate and explain to parents what we do to make our school a healthy place for our children. Preparations for forthcoming Christmas Festivities have begun. These start with an Advent Assembly led by Reverend Ely on December 1st. Our Christmas Concert will take place at the Village Hall on Thursday 10th December followed by a Pantomime Theatre Group visit on Friday 11th December – a treat for the children after all the effort we know they will put into the Concert! On Monday 14th December we are providing a Hannukah Jewish Festival of Light Day for the children during which we will learn about Jewish customs at this time of year. Our Christmas lunch on the 16th is followed by a Christingle Service at Little Thurlow Church. Finally, I mustn’t forget our Christmas Fayre at school on Saturday 12th from 12-00pm to 2-00pm . See you all there! **Ros Bunting, Headteacher**

Thurlow Estate Farms. The cattle at Thurlow Farm are now housed and the calves weaned in preparation for the new calving season due to start on 1st January. Late rains combined with mild temperatures, have resulted in wheat and barley going into winter in good shape, though not as forward as we would normally expect owing to late germination. The mild evenings and freshly emerged crops provide an appetising meal for the Thurlow rabbit populations. Similarly, the pigeons are starting to graze on oilseed rape plants with great enthusiasm. You may be noticing some of the plants turning brown in colour, this is a result of powdery mildew on the plant. Wheat is being loaded out of the new grain store. Prices have increased slightly, owing to the weakness of the sterling against the euro, making exports more competitive. However, the current price of approximately £100 per tonne is a long way off the £180 we were achieving two years ago. With such volatile markets we try to minimise risk by selling regularly over a 17 month period for each harvest. The first 40 acres of sugarbeet has been harvested at Balsham. Sugarbeet yields approximate between 25 – 30 tonnes per acre. Due to the nature (and cost) of the machinery required, the harvesting and haulage to British Sugar at Bury St Edmunds is contracted out. Sugarbeet is traded through a fixed price or quota system. On top of the fixed rate, there is a premium payable for sugarbeet which contains in excess of 16% sugar content. The sugarbeet will be harvested by Christmas and the land ploughed, cultivated before drilling with spring barley. Sugarbeet is a good breakcrop and leaves beneficial trace elements in the soil ideal for a following cereal crop. With the winter crops all fully emerged, the farms spray off the cross-field public footpaths to allow easy identification of the routes.

Thurlow Woodlands. The recent rain has made working in the woodlands more difficult. As a result, felling has now stopped for 2009 and all timber extracted. Efforts are now concentrating on firewood production and preparing Horseheath Racecourse for the point-to-point meetings which commence in January. There remains a good stock of seasoned 12” hardwood and 8” softwood firewood. For those of you with sufficient storage space, there is a good stock of unseasoned timber available to purchase. For further information please contact 01440 783591. A recent inspection undertaken by the Forestry Commission and Natural England at a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) near Great Bradley, concluded that Natural England’s target of 1.0m re-growth during the first growing season had been satisfied. This level of growth was achieved through a sustainable deer management scheme and sound stool protection measures. As part of the ‘checklist’ for joining the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS), it is advised that all woodland management records are kept on an electronic format. Currently, many of the woodland records and maps are held on a hard copy only, thus the exercise of transferring this data onto an electronic format is currently being undertaken. In addition to this, it has been suggested that a physical survey of each compartment and sub-compartment is required, and the information updated to the database. The compartment inspection will allow the planning of woodland management operations over the next 5 – 10yr period.

Thurlow Estate Management Limited. There are a number of small refurbishments being undertaken in Great and Little Thurlow. A survey of the damp-proof course of 135 Pound Green is required before submitting a Listed Building application to replace the existing damp proofing. The barn at Horseheath Racecourse which provides the jockey changing facilities, weighing room and members enclosure is being repaired ahead of the point-to-point season. The runners and riders board is also being repaired. At the time of writing 113 people have confirmed their attendance to the Annual Estate Party. The event at Hall Barn is kindly provided by the Vestey family by way of a thank you to the Estate employees. All those who have not yet replied to the invitations sent out for the pantomime on 29th December, please do so immediately to ensure transport, tickets and catering can be arranged. For further information please contact Sharon Blackwell at the Estate Office on 01440 783661. Properties to let: Reading Room, Gt Thurlow (Detached, 2 Bed, OFCH, Garden, Off-Road Parking). 2 Lit Low Cottages, Carlton (Semi Detached, 3 Bed, OFCH, Garden, Garage). 91 School Terrace, Gt Thurlow (Semi Detached, 2 Bed, OFCH, Garden, Off-Road Parking). For more information please contact the Estate Office (01440 783661).

Thurlow Hunt. The Opening Meet was very well attended. Thank you to all those who kindly donated towards the Earl Haig fund. The Thurlow Hunt Supporters Christmas Party is being held on Saturday 5th December at Hall Barn, Great Thurlow. For more information please contact Clare Laurie on 07775 816815. The Thurlow Hunt Supporters Christmas Concert is being held on Saturday 19th December at All Saints' Church, Great Thurlow, followed by refreshments in Hall Barn. For more information please contact Jane Sheppard on 01440 783209. The Thurlow Hounds will meet at Great Thurlow Hall at 11.00am on Boxing Day.

Thurlow Shoot. Weather conditions have not been ideal for shooting so far. A bright and low sun angle on the first day followed by winds gusting up to 50mph on the last outing provided some very testing sport. The Estate has agreed for The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust to undertake a survey of grey squirrel populations by comparing two non-SSSI woods. Pheasants are fed in both woods during the shooting season. However, in one wood the squirrels are controlled and in the other no control is undertaken. The survey seeks to investigate the movement of grey squirrels.

Estate Office Christmas Opening Hours: 24th December – close at 12.00noon. 25th – 28th December – closed. 29th – 31st December – 9.00am – 10.00am. 4th January 2010 – normal office hours.

AND FINALLY..... What cheese would you use to disguise a horse.....mask-a-pony!

On behalf of Thurlow Estate we wish all readers a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

RAF STRADISHALL WWII, cont...

Last month the plan showed a rare overview of the airfield soon after it was completed in 1935. The Officers' Mess was accessed from the A143 being well outside the perimeter. What is missing is the lane down from the main road to the Guard Room at the main gate. This was an existing bye road which originally went through to Cocks Lane. Sodium refers to the directional landing lights to the main runway which could be approached from either direction whichever was into wind. Apart from the built up area it is now High Point Prison, with its accommodation. The airfield still exists as an MOD (Ministry of Defence) Training Area. It provides scope for exercises for TA Units and Cadets.

The hangars are long gone. They were the achilles heel of the Short Brothers and Harland Stirling bomber aircraft. The multiple opening doors to the hangars were limited to 100ft width. In 1935 winged four engined large aircraft were but a pipe dream. The Whitleys and Wellingtons of the late 30s would pass comfortably into the hangars. The Short Stirling was the first of the heavies to come into service. Their wing span was limited to 96ft so they could just get under cover for servicing and repair. This limited its circling to 12000ft and as a result was easy prey for Luftwaffe fighters and radar controlled ack-ack guns. In the early days of operations losses were frequently of 10-12% quite unsustainable.

The ethos of stick in the muds and old hats at senior level, new ideas on strategy and tactics from the front line squadrons, took a long time in being approved and implemented. Fortunately there were some exceptions. Air Chief Marshall Sir Hugh Dowding C in C Fighter Command, had put in place a sound defence plan before the start of hostilities, as did ACM Sir Edgar Ludlow Hewitt C in C Bomber Command 1938-1940. Both these very experienced officers had at some time clashed with Churchill. He didn't like being stood up to. He had certainly distinguished himself as an Army Officer as well as in politics as the First Lord of the Admiralty. It was under his initiative in WWI that the trench war stalemate was broken with the introduction of the "tracked vehicle tank water carrying". This was the cover story to prevent the German spies finding out what they really were. It was from the Navy estimates that their development was paid for. They came into service as "landships" and their early crews were sailors. The six-pounder sponson guns were also naval pattern.

However WSC was not versed in air matters but was still loath to admit it. Sadly the prowess of some of these capable senior officers was not recognised. It was King George who insisted that Hugh Dowding was rewarded with a Peerage after his retirement as C in C Fighter Command. As it was his tenure was extended. Churchill liked his "yes men" and those with whom he found disagreement got promoted sideways, like AVM Keith Park whose 10 group sustained the brunt of the Battle of Britain so successfully. He needed the quick reaction of the squadron scramble. He saw no benefit in Leigh-Mallory's big wings. They took too long to form up and, despite Douglas Bader's leadership, were frequently too late into the attack. Churchill liked Big Wings. Park was posted to Malta, Leigh Mallory was promoted and took over 10 group and so on and so forth.

Monty Banks

THE COCK INN, LITTLE THURLOW

Today's building in the late Georgian style derives from a much older one, probably of 16th century origins, which had a centre range and two cross-wings, with first floor rooms in the roof space. The northern wing is later than the south one and somewhere on one of the studs (now plastered over) there is said to be carved the inscription '1614'. In the 18th century the walls were raised and most of the roof was rebuilt.

In 1580 Sir Stephen Soame, a wealthy grocer and alderman and twice Lord Mayor of London, acquired the Manor of Little Thurlow, which had within it a large part of the property in the village and it is likely that the Cock was part of this estate, remaining so until it was bought by the brewers Greene King in 1934.

The road running through Little Thurlow was a major route from Colchester to Newmarket and present inhabitants may be surprised to learn that the volume of traffic it carried in the past was relatively more than it does today (but only relatively and rather more slowly!). It was well positioned on this route to be a successful inn, though there is no certain evidence of its use as such before 1674. But on 8 May 1674 William Soame esquire agreed to lease the messuage called the Cock Inn to Robert Butcher of Little Thurlow, to run for 12 months at a rent of £11. After that there is a succession of owners, though there are many gaps in the record that can be traced through surviving documents. Then in the census of 1841 we hear that Thomas Sparrow was living at the Cock, who passed it on to his son William Sparrow. In 1852 Ambrose Rowling was granted a ten-year lease at a rent of £52 10s 0d. By the terms of the lease he was required to keep in good repair its buildings (which included a brewhouse, stables and coach house) and its land; he was not allowed to fell any trees on the land and was obliged to put on the fields any muck produced on the premises.

Various bills show that meetings of the Soame charity were held at the Cock Inn in the nineteenth century and the Misses Soame gave annual dinners there for their tenants. The bill for the dinner held on 6 March 1889, for example, came to £8 18s 0d in total, including food for 23 persons at 3s a head (30p in our present currency), 12 quarts of beer at 6d a quart (that's 5p for 2 pints), 14 bottles of wine at 5s each (25p), dessert at 7s 6d (37.5p), 10 cups of coffee at 3d each (2p), 4s 6d worth of spirits (22.5p), and tobacco and cigars costing 7s 6d (37.5p). Those were the days!

In 1888 Miss Soame leased the Cock to Greene King for five years, with the right to sublet, and the rent was £45 for 'the fully licensed public house known as the Cock Inn' together with 12 acres of land. Their first tenant was George Brown, who combined the occupations of innkeeper and baker. He was followed in turn by Charles Nelson, Albert Bradnam and Frank Raynor, and in 1912 the innkeeper was John Rowlinson, who was himself followed by three other members of his family, the last leaving in 1971. Meanwhile the ownership of the Inn had been acquired from the Soame estate by C.F. Ryder in 1899, who sold it on to Greene King in 1934 for the grand sum of £1,275.

After the line of four Rowlinsons the next tenants were Dennis and Ann Atherton, who took it when they said some confused older customers just put a heap on money on the counter and said 'Help yourself'! In 1996 they handed over to Christine and John Seaman, who have in turn just retired in October 2009 and their successors are Giles and Janie Reardon Smith.

Jeremy Mynott

THE VILLAGE SHOP. Last month's Village Link contained another gentle reminder from Patricia about the need to use or lose the local shop. With the opening of another massive supermarket in Haverhill we all need to consider where our loyalties should lie. How many of you reading this will say "Yes, the Village Shop should stay open". How many, in reality, are actually using it? I am as bad as anyone else, but I have determined to spend at least £5 extra per week in the shop. Who will join me? Try the cheese, try the ham, look at the price of the sweets. Work out the cost of driving to Haverhill and think where would you get a pint of milk and a bottle of pop, if there was no Village Shop.

We have an excellent Village garage, the refurbished Cock is a delight, let's not lose another local amenity.

Well, I've rambled on too long – must dash to the shop, it's about to close..... **Rod Pass**

NEWS FROM FRANCE. Here we are at the end of October. It has been glorious month with almost continuous sunshine. Today it is 24 degrees and, with the exception of two or three days in the middle of the month when it dropped overnight to almost freezing and then a couple of days when the temperatures were 17 degrees day and night (very odd), it has been a truly beautiful month. The Vidange was able to proceed at leisure and the air hung heavy with the smell of grape juice. Most of the harvesting is carried out by machine these days so you miss the excitement of the workers arriving en masse and making a colourful picture. The special machine goes up and down the rows and every so often empties its load into a small tractor and trailer, which in turn toddles off and empties into a large road vehicle, this then makes for the nearest cooperative. Most of our local grapes are treated in this way rather than the more superior Chateau wines which have their own distilleries. The lorries return a few days later loaded with crushed skins etc which are tipped onto the fields and used for fertiliser. Nothing is wasted and all returns to the soil. Here endeth the lesson! Hard to believe Sunday is 1st November. Best wishes to all. **Sylvia & Len Robinson**

W.I. At the AGM the Committee all agreed to serve for another year. The boxes for the children in the poorer countries were collected. Members will now collect items to send to the troops abroad for Christmas. President Jill Steele gave out notices of future events and said that this year instead of exchanging Christmas Cards money will be collected and sent to the Seamen's Mission.

Our speaker was Andrew Jackson, the title of his talk Surprising Suffolk. This was a journey through Suffolk, the slides showing some of the least well known places, refreshing memories for some of us, and introducing places to others.

Lucky winners this month Margaret Ince, Arline Vollam and Diana Allin.. We meet up again for our Christmas Celebratory Meal and will be back at the hall on 12th January to hear David and Marian tell of their visit to the Great Wall of China. Visitors always welcome, Village Hall 7.30pm. **Iris Eley**

POLICE NEWS. We have a new Community Support Officer working from Clare Police Office. PCSO 3219 Kayla Packman has taken over from PCSO 3141 Debs Carroll-Bear and covers the villages of Kedington, Barnardiston, Withersfield, Gt Bradley, Lt Bradley, Gt Thurlow, Lt Thurlow, Gt Wrating, Lt Wrating and Cowlinge with Pc 18 Trish Sinclair. Kayla has previously served as a PCSO with Thames Valley Police in the Reading area prior to joining Suffolk.

We are currently looking to recruit a volunteer from the community to work with the Safer Neighbourhood Team at Clare. For more information on becoming a volunteer, please contact Police Support Volunteer Co-ordinator on 01473 613570 or email [Rachael Thacker \(policesupportvolunteers@suffolk.pnn.police.uk\)](mailto:policesupportvolunteers@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)

A few people have told us there is some uncertainty as to which Officer covers which village. In essence we operate as a team covering all 32 villages but each Officer does have individual responsibilities for certain villages. These villages are their primary responsibility for certain tasks such as maintaining contact with Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators and community engagements. These details can be found on our website under 'Meet the team': www.onesuffolk.co.uk/safersuffolk/stedmundsburyruralsouth.

SNT Priorities:

Speeding continues to be one of our priorities for this month and we continue to conduct checks at different locations throughout our villages. We will be running a joint initiative with the local Speed watch scheme between the 23rd & 29th November at various locations.

Burglary Other Building (Outbuildings) is our second priority for this month. This month we will be continuing to patrol identified areas and visiting small businesses to offer crime prevention advice.

To view this months SNT priorities and public events please visit our website via www.onesuffolk.co.uk/safersuffolk/stedmundsburyruralsouth

The next SNT tasking meeting is Wednesday 2nd December 2pm at Ixworth Fire Station. This is open to the public.

The following arrests have been made this month (07/10 – 06/11):

One male arrested and cautioned for assault in Chevington

One male arrested and charged with Drink /Drive in Stoke By Clare

One male arrested and charged with Drink/Drive in Chedburgh

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team is:

Sgt Kevin Horton 566

PC Ruth Horton 704

PC Trish Sinclair 18

PCSO Alex Foster 3140

PCSO Kayla Packman 3141

PCSO David Matchett 3218

The Police non emergency number is 01284 774100, or you can e-mail us at stedsruralsouth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Please dial 999 if immediate response needed.

If you wish to report criminal activity in your area anonymously please ring the Crime Stoppers number 0800 555111

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Little Thurlow Parish Council met on 17th November and were joined by County Councillor Jane Midwood who reported that she would be raising the problem of parking at Thurlow School at the next SCC Development Control Meeting. It was noted that on 18th November representatives of the Parish Council would be attending a site meeting which had been arranged with SCC Highways Department regarding traffic issues in the village.

Councillors had all examined the NW Haverhill Consortium of Landowners Planning Application for the construction of a relief road and Outline Planning Application for a residential development etc. The Clerk will be sending the Parish Council's comments before the end of the Consultation Period. The East of England 2031 Scenarios for Housing and Economic Growth will also be commented on.

The Budget for 2010/11 was approved, with the total Precept required being noted as £4973. Councillor Heather Hunt will take on the role of Chairman of the Parish Council from January 2011. The next meeting will be held on 15th December 2009, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

M. Hawkins, Parish Clerk

THURLOW BRADLEY AND DISTRICT PRE-SCHOOL. The children have been enjoying themselves as normal this term, thanks to the hard work of our staff during the time over at Grampian Foods social club while the new building is being constructed. Thanks to their efforts and some parents, the transition has been smooth and children are being transported to accommodate everyone as if it was all happening in Thurlow still. The new building is progressing very well and is on target to open after the Christmas holidays, with final decisions about fitting out the fantastic space for the children being made – we have started choosing rugs so the hard work should be behind us now. This term we have 23 children attending pre-school sessions with four children joining us after their morning and lunch at 'big school'. All of last term's leavers seem to have settled in well to life at the Primary School and we look forward to seeing them all 'over the fence' when we come back home after the New Year.

Mat Cowell

THE POPPY APPEAL. From House to House collections in the Bradleys and Thurlows, static collections at The Cock, Thurlow Stores, Thurlow School and the Estate Office as well as the collection at All Saints' Church on Remembrance Sunday and wreaths bought, the magnificent sum of £897.74 was raised for the Royal British Legion. Sincere thanks go to everyone who contributed.

Sam Sheppard

HIGH DIVE EMMA. On 29th August this year, Emma Rebhon, one of the grooms living at Great Thurlow, undertook a parachute jump from 13,000ft in order to raise money for the Alfie Long Appeal. Alfie, as readers of The Echo will recall, has several health problems. Local people, clubs etc have launched an appeal to help raise the £25,000 needed to adapt his home to suit his needs. So far, Emma has raised approximately £900 but has some sponsor money still to come. If you feel you would like to help please do. Donations can be left with Patricia at the Village Shop.

Margaret Ince



CHRISTMAS CONCERT



**Saturday 19th December 2009
6.30pm
All Saints' Church, Great Thurlow**

**Followed by mulled wine and
refreshments in Hall Barn
(by kind permission of the Thurlow
Estate)**

**Tickets £10 (under 16 free)
(there will be no collection during the
Concert)**

**Proceeds shared between All Saints'
Church, East Anglian Children's Hospice
at Milton
and Thurlow Hunt Supporters' Club**

**For tickets contact Jane Sheppard 01440
783209 or
Patricia Banks (Thurlow Stores) 01440
783214**

THURLOW SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



Saturday 12th December 2009
12pm – 2pm



Free Entry



Crafts
Raffle
Refreshments
Cake Stall
Games
Santa's Grotto



And much more.....

Enjoy Christmas in visual clarity with

Billson Opticians

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alexandertalbot@btinternet.com

www.tree-feller.com



Woodchip &
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A LITTLE LOCAL KNOWLEDGE...

**WHEN YOU'RE LOOKING TO SELL
YOUR PROPERTY YOU NEED AN
AGENT THAT UNDERSTANDS THE
LOCAL MARKET.**

Cheffins are specialists in village and rural property, so we're confident we can achieve the **maximum** possible value for your home.

We provide wide coverage, with five strong market leading offices throughout the region as well as powerful national marketing through the London Office and leading websites.

So, if you're looking for a skilled, motivated and highly experienced team to sell your property – you'd better talk to Cheffins.

Call our village and rural specialist:

Sam Cooke on 01440 707076

email: sam.cooke@cheffins.co.uk

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Registered Farrier

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For a free, concise report as to whether
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Email: enquiries@jfkservices.net

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NO DELIVERY CHARGE

Why not give
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FREE RANGE GEESE**

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**Tel: 01223 290907
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TKHeat
105 The Hill, Thurlow
Kevin@TKHeat.co.uk

**Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year
from Kevin at TKHeat.**

**Thank you for your custom in
2009 & see you in 2010!**

**TKHeat will be on-call over
the Christmas & New Year
period.**



01440 783654

07966 208794

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

We offer a professional and
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Please telephone Zara or Francis at

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Hands on help to suit your needs
and at your pace.

**Please call to discuss or arrange
an appointment**

**Carol Warden
Tel: 01440 783455**

INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS. This is a brief guide, intended especially for newcomers to the villages, with information about the facilities and services available locally and some useful telephone numbers and addresses.

Emergency

Emergency telephone 999
Police Response (any officer, non-emergency)
01284 774100,
stedsruralsouth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Police Direct messaging service (information only) 01473 613997,
police.direct@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Local Refuge in case of major disaster or if village cut off: Thurlow Village Hall; key-holder Diana Allin, 89a Hill House, Gt. Thurlow, 01440 783560

Suffolk Fire Service 01284 558888

Hospitals
West Suffolk (Bury) 01284 713000,
A/E Department 01284 713333
Addenbrookes (Cambridge) 01223 245151

Doctors
The Christmas Maltings & Clements Practice (Cornish), Camps Road, Haverhill
08444 773543
Selby Practice 01440 702010
Stourview Medical Centre, Crown Passage, Haverhill 01440 761177

Haverhill Social Services 01440 764949
Citizens Advice Bureau 01440 704012

St. Edmundsbury BC Emergency Planning
01284 763233
Floodline: 24 hour with recorded update 0845 9881188
EDF electricity main cabling (24 hour) power cut and emergency, Helpline 0800 783883
Anglia Water water/sewerage (24 hour)
08457 145145
British Telecom faults (24 hour) 0800 800151
Suffolk Radio (BBC FM 103.9 or 104.6)
01473 250000

Other useful contacts

Parish Clerks:
Little Thurlow, Molly Hawkins 01440 783259, mollyhawkins10@aol.com
Great Thurlow, Diana Allin 01440 783560. nilla.home@tiscali.co.uk See Parish Council Notice Board in front of the Village Hall for further information and dates of meetings etc.

St. Edmundsbury Borough Council:
General enquiries 01284 763233

Website www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk

Haverhill offices 01440 702271

District Councillor: Robert Clifton-Brown, 01440 783562, robert.clifton-brown@stedsbcc.gov.uk

Waste Management 01284 757320 – bin collection is every Wednesday morning alternating black bins one week and brown and blue bins the next. Environmental Health (pest control) 01284 757054

Suffolk County Council:
General enquiries 08456 066067
Website www.suffolkcc.gov.uk
County Councillor: Jane Midwood
01440 821428,
jane.midwood@councillors.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Thurlow Estate Office -
Agent: Tim Barling 01440 783661
Assistant to Agent: John Frank
01440 783661

Chemists:
Boots Chemists 01440 702058
Co-op Pharmacy 01440 702079
Sainsbury's Superstore Pharmacy
01440 708043

Useful contacts cont...

Vets:

Swayne and Partners, 84 Hamlet Road,
Haverhill -01440 702007

Lida Vets, 162 High Street, Newmarket
01638 560000

Hawkedon Veterinary Surgery
01284 789428

Age Concern: Mary Hilton 01440 783649

Libraries:

Haverhill 01440 702638

Bury St. Edmunds 01284 352545

A mobile Library visits the village on
alternate Mondays, stopping at Sowley
Green, 150 Bury Road 11.00 – 11.10am,
Great Thurlow 109 Bury Road 11.15am –
11.40am, Little Thurlow School 11.50am –
12 noon and Lt. Thurlow Green 1
Coronation Villas 12.45pm – 1.00pm

Transport

Local Bus Service:

Current timetables are on display at
Thurlow Stores

Dial-a-ride 01440 712028

Taxis: several operate from Haverhill – see
Yellow Pages

Local facilities

Thurlow Stores & Post Office, Mrs. Patricia
Banks 01440 783214

Opening hours: 8.30am to 5.30pm each
day, except Wednesdays and Saturdays
8.30am – 12.30pm. Closed Sundays and
Bank Holidays.

Newspaper delivery: Mary Atherton
01440 783585

Plumbing Services: TK Heat
01440 783654, 07966 208794

Thurlow Village Hall bookings: Diana Allin
01440 783560

Churches: Great Thurlow (All Saints),
Little Thurlow (St. Peter's). Part of the
Stourhead Benefice which includes the
Bradleys, the Wrattings, Barnardiston and
Kedington. Rev. John Eley 01440 710216

CEVC School, Little Thurlow, Head
teacher Ros Bunting 01440 783281
Thurlow Pre-School. Secretary Mat Cowell
mathew.cowell@sky.com
Thurlow Mother & Toddler Group: Rosie
Winner 01440 702182 and Helen Smith
01440 783272

Thurlow Sports Club, secretary Allan
Loveday 01440 707416

Thurlow Fayre: Janice Klimcke 01440
783626 and Diana Allin 01440 783560

Thurlow Garage (Great Thurlow)
01440 783248

The Cock (Little Thurlow) Janie &
Giles Reardon-Smith 01440 783224

Local Societies

Women's Institute: President Jill Steele
01440 783310

Village Hall Committee: Chairman Janice
Klimcke 01440 783626

Carpet bowls: Ella Ainsworth
01440 783349

Outdoor bowls: Peter Thomas
01440 783700

Woodcraft Folk (children's activity for ages
5-13): Diana Allin 01440 783560

Stourhead Benefice Monthly Service Rota, December 2009

Rev. John Eley 01440 710216

Steve Diddums 01440 710225

6 th Dec.		9.30 Kedington HC	11.00 Lt. Thurlow SW	11.00 Gt. Bradley HC		
13 th Dec.		9.30 Kedington SW	9.30 Barnardiston HC	11.00 Gt. Thurlow HC	11.00 Gt. Wratting SW	
18 th Dec.						7.30 Gt. Wratting Carol Service
20 th Dec.			10.00 Benefice Service Gt. Wratting	3.00 Gt. Bradley Crib Service	4.00 Kedington Candlelit Carol Service	6.30 Lt. Wratting Carol Service
24 th Dec.		3.00 Kedington Crib Service	6.00 Lt. Bradley Carol Service	7.00 Barnardiston Carol Service	9.30 Gt. Bradley Christmas Communion	11.30 Kedington Midnight Mass
25 th Dec.		10.00 Gt. Wratting HC	11.15 Lt. Thurlow HC			
27 th Dec.	8.00 Kedington HC		11.00 Lt. Bradley HC			

john.eley5@btopenworld.com

GREAT THURLOW PCC DRAW CLUB – November winner – H. Banks

Dates for your diary: Lt. Thurlow Parish Council Meeting 15th December, 7.30pm

PAPERS – Early morning delivery of daily and Sunday newspapers, also magazines, comics etc. Tel. Mary 783585

Thought for the month – When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR, SECRETARIAL STAFF, CONTRIBUTORS AND DISTRIBUTORS.