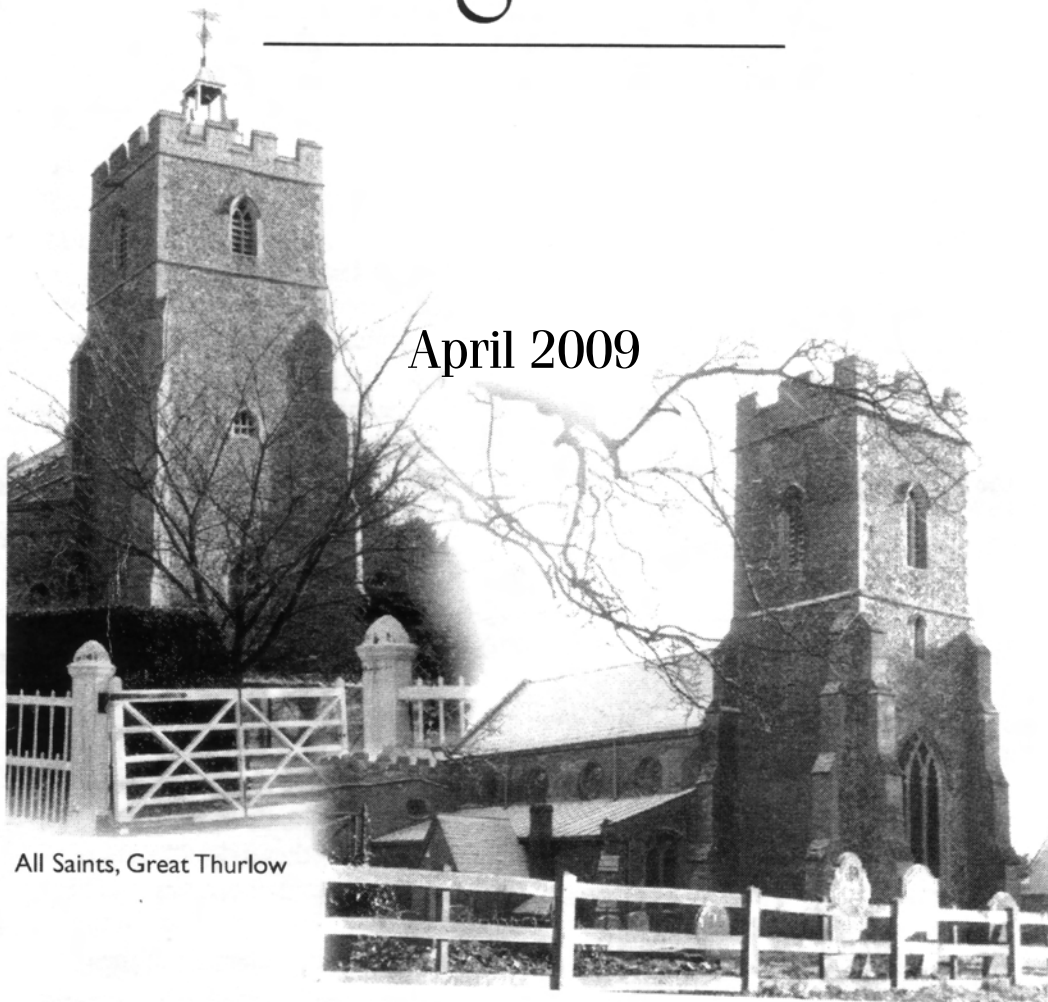

THE Village Link

April 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

Editorial co-ordinator

Conrad Hawkins 783259

Reporters

Gt. Thurlow

Margaret Ince 783117

Lt. Thurlow

Iris Eley 783534

Lt. Bradley

Diana Curtis 783898

Village Link deadline 15th of each month. Email villagelink@aol.com

FROM THE RECTOR.

Bishop Nigel Stock our Diocesan Bishop is joining us on Saturday 11th April, EASTER SATURDAY, to lead us in our Service of Light and Renewal of Baptismal vows. This will be at Kedington church and will start at 6.00 p.m. It is not a long service but includes candles and fireworks, just a few!! All are very welcome to this event and it is aimed very much at the FAMILY. **EASTER DAY** is on 12th April and we have our main celebrations at Little Thurlow at 11.00 a.m. and Kedington at 9.30 am, these are Family Services together with Holy Communion. We do hope that as many FAMILIES will attend as possible. **Holy Week** will have begun with the services as set in the rota at the back of the Link. The various events in our Lord's last week before his Resurrection are recalled in these events. The entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, The Last Supper on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in all its' solemnity. The Service of Light on Easter Saturday and then the joy of the Resurrection on Easter Day. If you work through Holy Week you will be celebrating it with Christians throughout the world. Every year brings us all our own specific involvement with our thoughts and meditations about Jesus. Who was he? Why did he have to suffer? How could God let it happen? Much has been said and written over two thousand years, some have made it a lifetime's study others have accepted the simple faith approach. In the end the overwhelming love God shows the world is revealed and the sources of true power and authority revealed. We live very much in the temporalities of this world and it is the events in this life which very much affect us in so many ways, we cannot ignore them. The good things are easier to cope with, the bad things are more difficult to place in the great scheme of things. As Christians we look again and again at the life of Jesus, His joys, His sorrows, and in some ways these reflect our own. What ever our present status quo, Jesus walks with us. The values of this world and those we have come to see as the values Christianity challenge us with are, at times, in conflict, there are also times of unison, being a Christian is a challenge in so many ways. There are many uncomfortable elements, repentance, confession, forgiveness, challenging the values both personal and corporately of the world in which we live and of course sacrifice. Isolated and alone these are difficult crosses to bear, but within the community of faith and the Church, the journey becomes that little bit more bearable. Nourished by sacraments and prayer and holding Christ before us, we can be surprised by joy, the joy of Easter.

John Eley, Rector

NATURE NOTE. At last, it feels like spring! And for me the sounds of spring are as important as the sights – indeed, from early March we literally *hear* the spring arriving as the volume of bird song increases daily, building up to the early morning crescendo in April and May when the full orchestra is playing right outside our windows. People sometimes ask me what my favourite bird song is, so here’s my ‘top ten’, listed in ascending order (as they do in all such competitions in show-business):

10. Skylark – the poets’ favourite (‘Hail to thee, blithe spirit’) and also the musician’s (‘Lark Ascending’), amazing for the duration and zest of its aerial song.

9. Swallow – a cheerful twittering as it swoops and glides round our houses, the real sign that summer has arrived again.

8. Robin – that sweet and gentle ruminative song, with us all the year round.

7. Nightingale – incredibly rich and powerful outpourings, the Nessum Dorma of bird song, but one to celebrate rather than live with.

6. Blackcap – a wonderful purity and simplicity; listen for it in the blackthorn down the Drift from about 3 April.

5. Song thrush – his loud repetitions seem so confident and life-affirming. Often sings from your roof-top.

4. Garden warbler – rather like the blackcap but richer and more complex. Unlikely to be in your garden (despite the name) but we have a few in our woodlands.

And now for the top three (it’s getting exciting...):

3. Blackbird. Could there be anything more mellow, soothing and uplifting; a woodwind virtuoso; we have one in every garden here, and what’s more, they come free with the property!

2. Curlew. A surprise, perhaps, but I love the wild, bubbling song of the curlew on the moors or heathlands; I associate it with space, freedom and joy unconfined.

And the winner is (wait for it...):

1. Woodlark. Not as well known as its cousin, the skylark, but quite common now in the Brecks, the Suffolk coastal Sandlings and forest clearings in the Thetford Forest area (the nearest ones to us are probably those at Cavenham Heath, just 40 minutes away). The song is a series of subtle variations on a simple fluting theme, delightfully conveyed by its French name *alouette lulu*: piercingly beautiful trills interspersed with deeper, yodelling *lu lu* notes, and often choreographed with a slow circling song-flight. My personal number one. Gold medal!

Jeremy Mynott

Dedham Vale Walk – Alhamstone Bluebell Bliss, Sunday 26th April, 10am to 12.30pm. John McGlashen of Coppins Farm, Alhamstone, welcomes us to a morning wandering the wildflower meadows of and around his farm, and tells us about the conservation work he has been undertaking. We also explore the area around Clees Hall and Parkhill Wood on our walk, approximately 3 ½ miles. Tel. 01473 264263, www.dedhamvalessourvalley.org.

THURLOW SCHOOL NEWS. Coasting towards Easter and with Spring well underway, we would like to offer you a few lines to keep you up to date with events at Thurlow School. Red Nose Day for Comic Relief is very much in the news as this goes to print, and it therefore seems timely to keep you abreast of the good work that the children and staff carry out for many good causes throughout the year. As well as doing something silly for Red Nose Day on 13th March, just before half-term the children took part in a ‘Step out for Children’ challenge for Action for Children. Thanks to their endeavours and the very generous sponsorship of families and friends, they managed to raise over £400 for this very worthy cause.

With signs of Spring greeting us at every turn the children will turn their attention to their immediate outdoor environment on 2nd April with their very first ‘Eco Day’. This will form part of the school’s aim of achieving ‘Eco School’ status and will involve caring for the grounds around the school, the school pond and wildlife area and some planting projects under the guidance of Mr Mason from Sturmer Nurseries. For some time now all the children have been seeking ways to recycle, travel to and from school in a sustainable fashion and reduce food waste – a valuable lesson for all! Also this month, St Edmundsbury Cathedral welcomed the children of Class 3 to enjoy the spectacle of the cathedral and take full advantage of all that its Discovery Centre has to offer. At the end of the month the children will return once more, this time to join in the ‘Sing Up’ Concert which is open to the parents and friends of the participating schools. More of this next time. With Mothering Sunday coming up soon (and over by the time you read this), the THSA will be holding a Mother’s Day stall offering the children the opportunity to purchase those secret gifts that will be so gladly received on the 22nd. In celebration of this special day the canteen will also be holding a special themed lunch in the preceding week. The THSA will also be supporting the Easter Egg Hunt and Assembly on 3rd April as will the many parents and friends of the children as the Easter Bonnets, baskets and eggs are prepared in the lead up to the event. A special Easter Service will be held in Little Thurlow Church on April 1st reinforcing the significance of this time in the Christian calendar.

And finally a plea. As in previous years the school is collecting The Tesco ‘Computers for Schools’ and Sainsbury’s ‘Active Kids’ vouchers which can bring in many much needed resources to the school. If you have any to spare then please drop them in to the school or pass them on to any of the children or parents coming into school. Thank you in anticipation of your continuing support and may Peace be with you this Eastertime.

Jean Newlands, Parent Governor

**NIGHTINGALE WALK – LACKFORD LAKES - Tuesday 28th April, £3,
7.30pm to 9.00pm. Pre-book. 01284 728706**

THURLOW ESTATE. Finally the chance to rejoice in the arrival of some good weather and the huge difference that it has made to everything around us. It took until the middle weekend in March for the warmth to start getting in to the soil and giving the plants the impetus they needed. The fields were transformed from looking very limp and uninspiring to resembling somewhere that might produce a half-decent crop; the soil dried sufficiently and the last of the spring crops were in the ground by the middle of the third week of the month: later than we might have wished for but at least they are in the ground. Towards the last day of the Hunting Season a long standing member of the local farming community related that he had never seen crops look so bad for this time of year; we can just hope that we are not going to be made to pay for last year's bumper crop. As mentioned, we have just bid farewell to yet another Hunting Season which although curtailed by the bad weather of winter, was very successful and hopefully brings us another season closer to the striking of the current ban from the statute books.

The Hunting Act 2004 has continued to prove to be a thorough nonsense which has served to do nothing more than demonstrate the depth of ill-informed prejudice in certain quarters giving them (the anti-hunting loons) licence to prey upon a perfectly representative cross-section of society who are going about their lawful business. Mr Cameron has promised a free vote if he is elected to office and the success of this will depend upon as large a majority as possible.

The work to Pelican Farm is nearing completion and I regret that it still manages to attract the attention of local thieves; it has been broken into twice since the last Estate article made reference to this. One item that might be of general interest is that the water pipeline scheduled to start construction in January 2010 has now been deferred for a further year. The water company responsible for the construction have been very uncommunicative but once further information is available it will be published in this article.

Finally, the Thurlow Woodlands staff have completed this year's planting of Edmund's Wood and the oak avenue along Temple End Road. They have now turned their attention to tidying up the beech avenues which leave Great Thurlow in the directions of Withersfield and Great Wratting. This work is perhaps long overdue and should serve to significantly enhance the approaches to the village as well as the overall village setting.

Iain Fleming

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

Tel. Mary 783585

THE THURLOWS 2010. Longer-term residents of the Thurlows will remember the very attractive volume, *Little Thurlow 2000*, produced in the year 2000 to celebrate the millennium. The volume was a great success and sold out quickly, so that copies have become prized possessions. We are now planning an even more ambitious volume to cover both Great and Little Thurlow in a matching format, with the original Little Thurlow sections completely revised or replaced and new essays and interviews commissioned to cover Great Thurlow. As before, householders will each be asked if we can photograph their homes (with themselves standing in front!) and will be invited to be 'interviewed' by one of a very friendly local team who will then produce a summary of each interview for inclusion in the book so that we can build up as complete as possible a picture of the villages as they are now. Please expect a phone call or visit about this in the near future and please join in. We shall also be including as many as possible pictures of life in the villages in times past so if you have any wonderful old photos please contact one of the organising team, who are: Iris Eley, Mary Hilton, Jeremy Mynott, Peter Thomas, Rod Pass, Rachel Vestey, and Molly and Conrad Hawkins. Grants are being sought to fund this project with a commitment already having been made by County Councillor Jane Midwood through the Suffolk County Council Locality Budget. We hope to publish towards the end of 2010 and, best of all, there will be a grand launch party to which everyone will be invited and a free copy of the volume will be presented to each household represented. **The Thurlows 2010 Team**

At **LITTLE THURLOW PARISH COUNCIL'S MARCH MEETING** Councillors noted that the damaged bridge over the weir had been repaired and that some of the reported pot holes had been filled in. Suffolk County Council Highways Department are to be asked to look into the possibility of repairs being carried out to the lay bys in the single track road from Little Thurlow Green and also whether the makeshift ones could be made up in the same manner. It was noted that St. Edmundsbury BC Planning Department had no objections to the felling of two poplar trees at Corner Cottage. Support is to be given once again to the Thurlow Fayre in the form of the hire of a marquee for the tea tent. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 21st April 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. **M. Hawkins, Parish Clerk**

GREAT THURLOW PARISH COUNCIL met 18th March and was attended by five Councillors, County Councillor Jane Midwood, WPC Sinclair and Mr Roy Banks. Mr Banks and Mr Hawkins reported on the present position regarding the proposed Community Speedwatch Scheme. The proposed Village Book was discussed and volunteers are needed as interviewers. Jane Midwood was thanked for her offer of financial help. General problems with Highways were discussed, namely potholes, the condition of the surface of the roads in the area, the continued problem of parking on Crown Hill obstructing the pedestrian access to the pavement. It was agreed to contact SCC again, with a view to meeting on site to discuss the possible changes that need to be made. Thurlow Fayre had approached the council for support this year, it was agreed to support them together with Little Thurlow Parish Council, quote to be obtained for

portable toilets and Marquee hire. Michael Hoare to be approached to act as Internal Auditor. Next Meeting on 3rd June 2009, preceded by AGM. **D. Allin, Parish Clerk**

JOINT VILLAGE LITTER PICK – Weekend of 25th/26th April 2009. Volunteers are needed to help in Great and Little Thurlow. All necessary equipment will be available from Kevin Beal at Mungo Lodge and your help would be much appreciated

THURLOW VILLAGE HALL committee is looking for a new Treasurer as John Tipper is retiring at the end of March 2009. The Hall is an essential part of our Village Life. If you are interested and able to help with this task, you do not need to join the committee, although we would welcome you! Please contact Janice Klimcke on 783626.

THURLOW FAYRE COMMITTEE met on March 9th and started preparations for this year's Fayre on September 6th 2009 In order to spread the workload we need more Committee members. We have members as Secretary, Chair and Treasurers, but need more people who can offer support in the planning stages and on the day.

Please contact Diana 783560 or Janice 783626 if you are able to help.

Our next meeting will be May 7th 2009 in the Village Hall.

W.I. President Jill Steele welcomed all to the March meeting and congratulated member Arline Vollam on winning the Federation Quiz by gaining 94 marks out of a hundred, one of only two people in the Federation to be successful. Notice was given of future events including the Music for a Summer Evening which four members will attend. Two members will accept the invitation from Haverhill W.I. to join them for a Celebration Lunch. Notice was given of a weekend in Harrogate in September being organised by the Federation. Our speaker was Rosemarie Jacobs who came to tell of her experiences as a Corset Consultant. She kept us amused with her tales of her clients and the many strange circumstances she found herself in. Wine and cakes were served to celebrate three birthdays all in the same week. Lucky draw winners were Ann Tipper, Margaret Ince and Janice Klimcke. Next month it is Name that Tune with Linda Scoles who is paying her third visit to us on 14th April, Village Hall, 7.30pm, visitors welcome.

Iris Eley

COTTAGE ON EXMOOR – 3 bedrooms, sleeps 5 in picturesque village of Dulverton, the 'Gateway to Exmoor'. Perfect base for bird watching, walking, riding, fishing, kayaking etc. High spec. home, conveniently located near award-winning gastro-pub. Book through agent www.cottages4you.co.uk reference ESU. Then call owners for 10% "friends" discount 01440 783259

AGE CONCERN – OUR LOCAL SERVICES. Late last year Age Concern Suffolk's West Suffolk Help Centre moved to a new location at The Risbygate Centre, 90 Risbygate Street, Bury St Edmunds. This also gave us an opportunity to extend our opening hours and we are now open 9.30 am to 1 pm, Monday to Friday mornings. Why not pop in and see our friendly customer service staff or telephone us on 01284 757750? "Our Help Centre staff have a wealth of information at their fingertips." Said Helen Taylor, Information Manager. "They are friendly and understanding people who are good listeners, and we welcome questions on any subject related to retirement. We have lots of information about local services for older people and if we can't help, we often know someone who can. We look forward to welcoming friends old and new to our new, larger room at the Risbygate Centre". "This move does not affect our other services in Bury St Edmunds" concluded Miss Taylor. "We still have our charity shop in St Johns Street, and our Saxon House Active Ageing centre on the Moreton Hall Estate. Other Age Concern services provided locally in Haverhill include Greenfields, our Day Centre in Camps Road, home helps, benefits advice and we can offer a free home visit to any older person who wants to discuss issues of concern. We can also make regular telephone calls to lonely older people through our Telephone Befriending Service. If you would like further information telephone Age Concern Suffolk on 01284 757750.

HOUSE AND GARDEN FAIR IN AID OF ASTHMA UK

Tuesday 12th May, 10am – 4pm
CHILFORD HALL, LINTON
Entrance £3.50

Come and shop for everything from glassware to garden accessories and swimwear to smoked salmon

WEST SUFFOLK CRUSE

Awareness in Bereavement Care Course

To be held at 90 Risbygate, Bury St. Edmunds IP33 3AA

16 sessions in the Autumn, starting with essential attendance at the first all-day session on Saturday 12th September 2009. This will be followed by sessions on two further Saturdays and ten Thursday evenings. This course is for people with an interest in supporting and caring for bereaved people; it is primarily intended for potential Cruse volunteers though other applicants will be considered if there is spare. It develops basic counselling skills to be used in bereavement support work and is accredited by OCNW at Level 2. For further information, dates, cost etc please contact West Suffolk Cruse at the above address or via our website at www.suffolkcruse.org.uk, or ring **01284 767674**.

ST EDMUNDSBURY RURAL SOUTH SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM.

With April and Easter looming, here's hoping that we see a change for the better in the weather. As I write this (in March) it is still falling below zero at night and it is important to monitor all elderly neighbours and relatives. Don't assume that any vulnerable residents are getting visitors – try to make it your responsibility just to pop in and ensure that they are warm enough. If you feel that someone does need assistance, then we have a Homeshield scheme, which could probably help – please ask us if you find an elderly person in need. With the heating on constantly please monitor your fuel consumption as the rural area is still experiencing heating fuel thefts and no fuel would not be good with temperatures still falling into minus degrees!

Hopefully on a lighter note we are getting out and about with the new Mobile Police Station so please watch your village notice board, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and Parish Councillor for advertising when it is in your village. Dates already booked are as follows:

Dates in March:

Friday 20 th –	10am – 11am Withersfield (The Green) 2pm – 3pm Poslingford (The Church)
Saturday 21 st –	10am – 11am Great / Little Wratting (The Public House) 2pm – 3pm Wixoe (The Church)
Sunday 22 nd –	2pm – 3pm Cavendish (The Green)
Monday 23 rd –	11am – 12.30pm – Chedburgh (The Public House) 1pm – 2pm – Depden (The Green) 2.30pm – 3.30pm – Brockley (Village Hall)
Tuesday 24 th –	12pm – 1pm – Hargrave (Village Hall) 3pm – 4pm – Cowlinge (Village Hall)

Dates in April:

Monday 27 th -	10.00am – 11.00am – Barnardiston (The Green) 2.30pm – 3.30pm – Denston (The Church)
Tuesday 28 th -	10am – 11am – Brockley (The Green) 2.30pm – 3.30pm – Stradishall (St Margarets Place)

With speeding still a huge issue with the villages, you will all be pleased to hear that Clare has a speed gun now, which we are all out and about using. We will be stopping any speeding cars and issuing tickets or cautions. Please continue to complain about the potholes in the roads, but please do it to Suffolk County Council – we can't help with this as it is a Highways issue but realise it's incredibly irritating – we suffer as well!

The anti social behaviour that has been seen in a couple of villages after Christmas seems to have calmed down a bit – hopefully due to our constant presence and patrolling.

The Police non emergency 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

LOOKING BACK ON 69 YEARS AS A LOCAL BOY by **Monty Banks** – The Spring of 1940 saw a small boy of four and his mother taking up residence in Cherry Tree Cottage, next door to Cherry Tree House, the then residence of a Mr. Copplestone. The cottage was part of his estate which included some pastures surrounding which were farmed by Mr. Hopkinson, owner of adjacent land. On the other side of the road was an enormous barn, part off an old farm complex in the ownership of the Ryder family. Brian Rooks used to work there of and on. The barns were old timber framed structures probably dating from mediaeval times. A Dutch barn frontage had been added at a later date. This provided good coverage for stacking wheat and barley at harvest time for later threshing during the winter months. An abiding memory was the plethora of rats playing hide and seek in the stacks. Sadly dear old Mr. Copplestone passed away in 1943. The old cherry tree at the front of the house died and was cut up for fire wood. On settlement of his estate, Greene King acquired the property and opened it up as the Cherry Tree Inn. It became a favourite watering hold for aircrew and officers from the Aerodrome. It soon became the satellite Officers' Mess. Senior non-commissioned officers adopted the Royal Oak, now the flint garreted residence at the junction of the road down to Little Thurlow.

There was an absence of mains to the house and cottage at the outset. Water was pumped up from a well and lighting was by splendid mantle lamps, silver plated with tall glass chimneys. The radio was powered by accumulators as batteries were soon unobtainable with wartime constraints. There was an electricity supply to the cottage from a superb diesel engine belt driving a large generator in the engine shed next to the house. A combination of Mr. Copplestone being hard up and the onset of the war meant no diesel oil to power the engine. Sadly now long gone, it was a magnificent example of a stationary engine – copper and brass gleaming and beautifully maintained : old Copplestone's pride and joy. He was, I recall, an archery historian and he displayed a fine collection of bows, arrows and fletching gear around the house. I remember him showing me a long bow which he assured me was used at the Battle of Agincourt.

We had moved to live there for the duration of the war. My father had his first posting to Stradishall in October 1939. He found the cottage was available so moved us up to be close. We came from Maidstone in Kent which county would have been quickly under the Jackboot had we not debagged Georing in the Battle of /for Britain during the Summer of 1940 and had Hitler invaded us. As Wellington said at Waterloo "a damned close run thing". We soon established a rapport with the Whiteheads at the farm where there is a modern bungalow now with, I believe, a family continuity. The eldest son called Stanley quietly, with undoubtedly a soft spot for mother, supplied us with milk every day and the occasional half pound block of farm butter. Mother was quickly recruited onto a watch routine at the station in the code and cipher section during the hours of daylight. Stanley used to look after me during the holidays. He taught me many skills around the farm. I could split hazel for thatching stays and also stack and wet wheat straw for drawing straight onto a loop stick to take the bundle up the ladder to the stack thatcher. During harvesting I was up on the cart (being small) loading the sheaves pitched up to me, to make a load. It was then back to the stack yard and the easy bit, unloading into the elevator which took the sheaves up to the stacker. He was

very skilled and made his stacks rounded at each end. They always looked nice like that. Most of the pulling, be it ploughing, harrowing, carting and drilling was done literally by horse power. There were three fine horses, Prince a Suffolk Punch, Blossom a Shire and Winston was a Clydesdale. I became a dab hand at using the cutting knife, a wide flat blade with its wooden handle in the same plane as the blade to cut across the hay stack about a foot width. This was convenient to fork into the cradles in the stable for the horses to feed themselves. Chopped mangles were put in the mangers and a scoop of oats quickly disappeared! They were marvellous at work, seldom requiring telling. At harvest time they would move on between shocks as we loaded the cart and they always knew the way back to the stack yard from any of the fields. The Whiteheads lost quite a few fields when in 1935 a purchase order was made to develop the airfield. Stanley bought a tractor from the proceeds, only to have to lay it up during the hostilities due to fuel shortages.

By the time I was six I was the proud owner of a suitable bicycle. Quite on my own I was around the district on it. There was little or no traffic because of petrol rationing. Beyond the barns opposite by a couple of fields was the perimeter track punctuated with dispersal circles. I managed to make my number with members of the maintenance crews. Of course the aircraft were fascinating to a small boy. When the Flight Sergeant wasn't about, they would show me the salient parts of their charge. By this time 214 Squadron were equipped with Short Sterlings. To me they were huge. I think I was about eight then and about as tall as the tail wheel. The Stirlings procurement specification from the Air Ministry was overtaken by events. It was too slow with a very low ceiling and a limited capacity. It was sadly easy meat for German fighters equipped with sophisticated radar for night interception. They were soon replaced by the Lancaster, a very different kettle of fish.

By the time that Chedburgh became operational, Father had to locate there to get the intelligence section up and running. He was able to live at home for much of his time there, being so close. However, the Winter of 1943 was severe. Having a bath at the cottage was a performance. Hot water came from the copper in the kitchen, no back boilers then. It had to be bucketed into the bath. He had retained his room in The Mess and was able to get a proper bath there. He could just on this occasion drive his Standard Flying Nine along the road despite the snow. He had had his bath and donned Number Ones for a reception in The Mess that evening. With a little time at his disposal he decided to call at the cottage to see us and have tea. As he turned onto the Bury road just past Whiteheads farm, a marauding Junkers 88 came over low and commenced to machine gun anything moving. With everything under snow it was difficult to identify aircraft at dispersals, they were all camouflaged with snow, so seeing Father's car going down the road it was fair game. Dad was quick off the mark, jumped out of his car and dived into a snow drift. The JU88 hedge hopping to avoid radar detection was soon past at 300mph. The air gunner was a lousy shot, missing the car and Father, who, having extricated himself and the car, arrived home furious at having got his brand new RAF great coat all wet and himself refrigerated after the warmth of his hot bath. Towelled off and a press of his trousers, it restored his disposition to normality with probably an amusing anecdote at the cocktail party in The Mess later. *To be continued*

HEDGEROW SURVEY – Volunteers are still needed for the Great Thurlow Survey which will now take place in 2010. There is a training meeting at Lackford on Saturday 9th May from 9.15am to 12.45pm. Anybody interested should telephone 783259.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH – This continues to progress and there is now a Committee in place and, thanks to County Councillor Jane Midwood, two speed guns have been purchased. Six neighbouring villages, namely Great Thurlow, Little Thurlow, Great Wrattling, Withersfield, Great Bradley and Cowlinge, have all agreed to support the scheme in principle and together will form the ‘Southern’ Unit. Each village will have a Parish Council Speedwatch co-ordinator. As mentioned in previous Links, we now need volunteers and anyone seriously interested in offering to help promote this deterrent to speeding in our villages is invited to a meeting in Thurlow Village Hall on 6th May at 7.30pm. This is not a general public meeting, only for those potential volunteers who will have a final chance to hear from and question the Police before committing themselves for training. These schemes have been very successful elsewhere in the Country so if you would like to help please contact Conrad Hawkins on 783259 to book your place.


THE FUTURE FOR SUFFOLK – The Government is insisting, through the Boundary Committee, that the administration of Suffolk County has to be improved. It is to be run on a larger more “efficient” scale which means that local Districts and Boroughs such as St. Edmundsbury will be absorbed. Currently Suffolk County Council is recommending two options a) a single Suffolk unitary authority comprising the existing county and b) an Ipswich and Felixstowe unitary authority and a Rural Suffolk unitary authority comprising the rest of the county. However, there is another option which is not being considered by the Boundary Committee, although it is the choice of St. Edmundsbury, Forest Heath and Waveney Councils and that is for the rural part of Suffolk (excluding Ipswich and Felixstowe) to be divided into two, Rural East and Rural West. If this was considered we would naturally be in the Western Region and our local administration would most likely be centred on St. Edmundsbury. If you would like more information on the two part option enquiries should go to Sue Roper on 01473 264358 but details on the three part proposals can be obtained from Sally Easton on 01284 757033. If you wish to have your say on all these options it is important that you make your views known.

WEST SUFFOLK HOUSE – **Your council services are moving.** Your Suffolk County Council and St. Edmundsbury Borough Council services are moving from 30th March 2009 to West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St. Edmunds IP33 3YU. Borough Offices (St. Edmundsbury Borough Council) Angel Hill, close 3rd April 2009 and Shire Hall (Suffolk County Council) Raingate Street closes 9th April 2009.

A FOCUS ON REDE HALL FARM PARK – Rede Hall Farm Park is a working farm lying in 72 acres of farmland on which great Suffolk Punch horses graze peacefully. It is a quiet and secluded spot, even though it is only six miles from Bury St. Edmunds on the road to Haverhill. The farm is owned by Chris and Nigel Oakley and they first opened the farm park to promote the Suffolk Punch horse. The park was for many years a popular local visitor attraction but it closed in 2000 because of foot and mouth restrictions. Chris and Nigel considered selling up, but instead they converted some farm buildings into holiday cottages helped by EEDA and Defra funding. Chris and Nigel still breed, train and break the Suffolk Punch horses and train people to handle them. They also take them to events such as the Nowton Park Country Fair and they are still used commercially, for example to deliver beer to pubs in Bury St. Edmunds. It is a tremendous success story of how a couple have managed to keep a traditional farm going and promote a rare farm breed by seizing new opportunities. Contact 01284 850695, chris@redehallfarmpark.co.uk.

SUFFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST COMMUNITY BARN OWL PROJECT – In brief, the aim of the project is to increase the population and range of the much-loved barn owl that has declined to worryingly low levels. We are able to do this through offering land management advice, erecting barn owl boxes in suitable locations and monitoring barn owl populations. In 2009 we will be monitoring nearly 1000 next boxes in Suffolk. As Barn Owl populations are still relatively low in south Suffolk, we plan to focus our attention in this area, which is why we are asking for help. For more information contact Steve Piotrowski or Tracey Housley on 01473 890089.

Personal Computer Training
in your own home



Troubleshooting Internet connections
Focus on your tasks using MS Word etc.
Create your own documents, templates
PC housekeeping tips, backup and filing
Handy hints on e-mail. Internet use
Hands on help to suit your needs
and at your pace.

**Please call to discuss or arrange
an appointment**
Carol Warden
Tel: 01440 783455

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

Cheffins

cheffins.co.uk

GARDEN OPEN DAY FOR THE THURLOW CHURCHES.

On Sunday 12th July the sun will shine and the garden at **Great Thurlow Hall** will be open for lunch and an afternoon of entertainment on behalf of All Saints Church, Great Thurlow and St. Peter's Church, Little Thurlow. The purpose is threefold - first to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the full complement of six bells at All Saints (the last bell, a treble, was added in 1959); secondly, to welcome as many of our friends from the Stourhead Benefice as possible; and thirdly, to do a little fundraising towards the annual quotas of the two churches. There will be an 11.00 o'clock service at All Saints, after which all are welcome to join the party in the garden. Lunch will be in the form of a barbecue and there will be lots of entertainment besides. The bells will ring – Allan Mayle, team captain at Clare and one of the foremost peal ringers in the country will, with his team, ring a peal that includes 5,040 changes; there will be garden tours organised by the Head Gardner, Stephen Moore, plus croquet, tennis, badminton, a treasure hunt, a dressing up competition for children, magic shows, a bouncy castle and much more. Ticket prices are £7.50 for adults, £20.00 for families (with one or more children over age 10), £5.00 for concessions and children under age 10 free. Ticket prices include a free welcome drink. Please come, and bring as many of your friends with you as you can! Tickets available from Thurlow Stores in due course.

All Saints PCC & St. Peter's PCC.



Registered Farrier

Neal Tredinnick DipWCF

Standard and Veterinary Remedial Work
Undertaken
Competitive Rates with Friendly Reliable
Service

Large and Small Yards Catered for
Farrier to Many Professional and Olympic
Riders

Full Set: £60 - - - Trim: £20

Please call: 07816 670411

(Please leave a message if no answer)



TKHeat

105 The Hill, Thurlow
Kevin@TKHeat.co.uk



Registered
Business

£39*

Oil Boiler Servicing

01440 783654

* Parts not included.
See website for terms & conditions.
www.TKHeat.co.uk

07966 208794



BE WISE - LOOK AFTER YOUR EYES

BILLSON OPTICIANS

10, QUEENS SQUARE, HAVERHILL

01440 7 1 4 4 4 1

55, High Street, LINTON 01223 891333

**NEW PATIENTS WELCOME
NO REFERRAL NECESSARY**

TEAM Flitwick



For quality.....

- ⊙ DOMESTIC HEATING OIL
- ⊙ INDUSTRIAL HEATING OILS
- ⊙ FARM AND COMMERCIAL FUELS & LUBRICANTS
- ⊙ BOILER MAINTENANCE
- ⊙ FUEL CARDS

Contact our Sales Office:

TELEPHONE:

01440 761365

UNIT 2, HAZEL STUB DEPOT,
CAMPS ROAD, HAVERHILL, SUFFOLK CB9 9AF



Tree Surgery Services

Fully Qualified and Insured
for all types of felling,
climbing & reduction work.

Also Hedges and Lawns

For friendly advice & quote please call

Alexander Talbot on

01440 762855 / 07979 620488

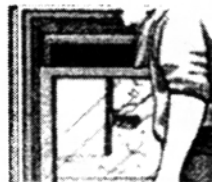
alexandertalbot@btinternet.com

www.tree-feller.com



Logs delivered
Woodchip Available

SHINE. WINDOW CLEANING SERVICES



WINDOW CLEANING
GUTTERS
CONSERVATORIES
PATIOS + FACIAS

**PLEASE CALL FOR
A FREE QUOTATION**

JOHN MARCHANT

No 8 ROSE HILL, WITHERSFIELD

TEL/FAX: **01440 760916**
MOBILE: **07850 141663**

FULL PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

Wickhambrook - Haverhill

341

Monday to Saturday

from 25th April 2009

	Operator:	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC
	Service:	341	341	341	341
	Notes:	1	1	1	1
Wickhambrook, Thoms Corner		0920	....	....	....
Lidgate, Pond		0925	....	....	....
Cowlinge, Three Tuns PH		0930	....	....	....
Great Bradley, Matthews Lane		0944	....	1210	....
Little Thurlow, Church Road, Pound Green..		0948	....	1214	....
Great Thurlow, War Memorial		0950	....	1216	....
Withersfield, Nunns Corner, War Memorial ..		0955	....	1221	....
Haverhill, Chapplewnt Road		0958	1058	1224	1358
Haverhill, Hanchett End, Sainsburys		1000	1100	1226	1400
Haverhill, Haycock Drive / Notley Drive		1003	1103	1229	1403
Haverhill, Chivers Road / Strawberry Fields ..		1006	1106	1232	1406
Haverhill, Princes Way / Windsor Terrace.....		1010	1110	1236	1410
Haverhill, Camps Road / Health Centre		1012	1112	1238	1412
Haverhill, Bus Station		1015	1115	1241	1415

	Operator:	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC
	Service:	341	341	341	341
	Notes:	1	1	1	1
Haverhill, Crowlands Rd		1037	1137	1337	1437
Haverhill, Princes Way / Windsor Terrace.....		1039	1139	1339	1439
Haverhill, Chivers Road / Strawberry Fields..		1043	1143	1343	1443
Haverhill, Haycock Drive / Notley Drive		1046	1146	1346	1446
Haverhill, Hanchett End, Sainsburys		1049	1149	1349	1449
Haverhill, Chapplewnt Road		1051	1151	1351	1451
Withersfield, Nunns Corner, War Memorial ..		....	1154	....	1454
Great Thurlow, War Memorial .....		....	1159	....	1459
Little Thurlow, Church Road, Pound Green..		....	1201	....	1501
Great Bradley, Matthews Lane .....		....	1205	....	1505
Cowlinge, Three Tuns PH .....		....	....	....	1511
Lidgate, Pond .....		....	....	....	1516
Wickhambrook, Thoms Corner .....		....	....	....	1521

What the notes mean: 1 - Sponsored by Suffolk County Council

Operator Contact: ABC - ABC Cab Co. 01440 712712

Further Information - call Traveline 0871 200 22 33

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 Iain

Fleming 01440 783661,

Assistant to Iain Fleming: 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

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

Pub, The Cock (Little Thurlow): John and
Christine Seaman 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

Rev. John Eley 01440 710216. Steve Diddums 01440 710225. Geoffrey Vollam 01440 783121

First Sunday 5 th . April PALM SUNDAY		9.30 Kedington Palm Sunday Communion	11.00 Gt Bradley Palm Sunday Communion	11.00 Lt Thurlow Reading of the Passion		
HOLY WEEK SERVICES	6.00 p.m. Lt Wrattling Compline. Mon, Tues, Wed	10.00 Kedington Holy Com. Wednesday	7.30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Kedington HC & Footwashing	Good Friday Gt Bradley 12 Lt Thurlow 1 Gt Wrattling 2 Kedington 7.30	Easter Saturday Easter Vigil with Bp Nigel 6pm Kedington	
EASTER DAY Second Sunday 12 th . April		9.30 Kedington Holy Com.		11.00 Little Thurlow Holy Com.		
Third Sunday 19 th . April			10.00 BENEFACTIVE SERVICE Gt Wrattling			
Fourth Sunday 26 th April	8.00 Kedington Holy Communion	9.30 Lt Bradley Holy Communion	11.00 Gt Thurlow Service of the Word	11.00 Gt Wrattling Holy Communion		6.00 Kedington Evensong

Thought for the month: In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man, if you want anything done, ask a woman.

Margaret Thatcher

All Saints Church PCC Draw Winner March – M. Hawkins

Dates for your Diary: Little Thurlow Parish Council Meeting 21st April 2009
 Joint Village Litter Pick 25th/26th April 2009
 Community Speedwatch Volunteers Briefing 6th May 2009
 Thurlow Fayre Committee Meeting 7th May 2009
 Great Thurlow Parish Council Meeting 3rd June 2009
 Garden Open for the Thurlow Churches 12th July 2009

Little Thurlow village website is www.littlethurlow.org