

# The Village Link

Great Thurlow – Little Thurlow – Great Wratting

March

2016

Great Thurlow Hall  
Spring Garden Open Day

April 3rd, 2 - 5 pm

## **FARMERS' MARKET**

**Thurlow Village Hall**

**Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**10:00 am to 13:00 pm**

An opportunity to buy high quality local produce and  
crafts

Come and relax with a cup of tea, homemade cakes and delicious  
bacon rolls!

Editorial co-ordinator Alison Coffey 783478	Advertising Rates (per quarter page) Single advertisement - £10 Six months advertising - £40 Twelve months advertising - £65
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The Editor

Welcome to the March issue of the Village Link.

Great Thurlow Hall is holding a spring garden opening on April 3rd in aid of the NGS with teas in the church in aid of Great Thurlow Church. The daffodils are truly stunning and this year benefit from some new planting. Come and have a lovely afternoon out whilst helping to support a very worthwhile charity.

Planning for the Thurlow Fayre is well underway but your help is always needed. We particularly need help with manning on the day. Please do get in touch if you can spare even an hour - it all helps!

**The Farmers' Markets are up and running again on the last Saturday of the month. This year** they are being run by the Village Hall Committee. Please come and show your support and get in touch if you would like to have a stall (details inside).

Finally I wanted to say a huge thank you to Kevin Crowson, the previous editor of the Village Link, for all of his hard work and service to the village over the past years in so many ways, not only through the Village Link but the Thurlow Fayre, Gt Thurlow PCC and Gardening club to mention only a few. Kevin takes with him our very best wishes and thanks for all that he has done. Kevin, you will be sorely missed!

Website

**Don't forget to check out the Thurlow website.**  
Keep looking as the site is updated regularly.  
[WWW.THETHURLOWS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.THETHURLOWS.ORG.UK)

Contact

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR THE VILLAGE LINK

To contact The Village Link Team please email  
**TheVillageLink @TheThurlows.org.uk**  
View The Village Link Online at [www.TheThurlows.org.uk](http://www.TheThurlows.org.uk)  
Copy Deadline 15th Of Each Month



# Thurlow Village Hall

## FARMERS' MARKETS 2016

**Last Saturday of the month from  
10:00 am to 1:00 pm**

Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Saturday November 26<sup>th</sup> 2016  
December to be confirmed



Great Thurlow Hall NGS Spring Garden Open Day

Sunday April 3rd

2 pm to 5 pm

Great Thurlow Hall will be having a Garden Open Day in aid of the National Garden Society with home-made cakes and teas in the church from 2 pm to 5 pm

*Please come along and enjoy the vast array of many types of daffodils, especially beautiful along the river walks*

## Going Batty in Great Wrattling

After two weeks all the scaffolding was up around Great Wrattling Church but when the men from Valiants lifted the first tile what did they discover – a bat!

Despite the FIVE bat surveys, the bats had managed to fool the experts. English Nature was contacted and work came to a halt. No more work can be done to the nave and chancel roofs until the bats have left –probably in mid-March. Meanwhile work can continue on the roof to the tower and the first tranche of the LPOW Roof Repair grant has been received and is being spent wisely.

The repairs to the wall can also go ahead and this is being funded by money raised at the fete. A section of the nave wall is bowing and there were concerns that it may not be able to bear the weight of the new roof. The wall is therefore being pinned and repaired.

So work will continue for longer than originally planned and the scaffolding may not be coming down until August.

However services will continue and we hope that you will join us to celebrate on Easter Day.

Sharon Brandon

## LITTLE THURLOW PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

**At February's meeting councillors agreed to send donations of £40 each to Age UK Suffolk, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service and St Edmundsbury Newstalk.** The Council will also give financial support to the Thurlow Fayre by hiring a marquee and will share the cost of cutting the grass on the Sports Field with Great Thurlow Parish Council and Thurlow Sports Club.

It was noted that, following investigations, the Parish Council could not borrow money to lend to another organisation, but it was agreed that it would give wholehearted support to the Community Group in their efforts to buy The Cock.

Other matters discussed included the future of the Thurlow Pre-School building and road safety near The Square. The two agreed poles for the Vehicle Activated Signs should soon be in position.

There were no comments on a Planning Application to fell a Tree at Church Farm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016, 7.30pm at Thurlow Village Hall.

Agendas and full Minutes are always available on the Parish Council Notice Board and on the village website <http://www.thethurlows.org.uk/cms/parish-councils/little-thurlow-parish-council>.

*Molly Hawkins*

### Correction!

**Our apologies to Mick Erridge who was renamed in last month's Village Link when we thanked him for donation of his labour for the replacement seat outside of the school.** Mick had sourced two large slabs of seasoned oak sourced from Brain Jaggard of Weston Colville for the beautiful seat.

**Mick is also known as Mick the Mower and not only does "Anything in Wood" but can also repair and refurbish petrol garden machinery.** Mick can be found at Pound Green House Little Thurlow or call 01440 783455

# Ryan's Recipe

Thank you for the feedback from my first article for the chicken, leek and mushroom pie I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I do! For this month I have chosen my personal favourite dessert - a sticky toffee pudding with a caramel sauce!

- 350g pitted dates
- 350g water
- 2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 100g butter – diced
- 300g soft brown caster sugar
- 3 eggs
- 285g self-raising flour
- 20g baking powder
- 1 vanilla pod / or 1 tsp vanilla essence

For the sauce

- 75g water
- 500g soft brown sugar
- 1 litre double cream

Firstly, preheat the oven to 170c/ gas mark 4. Then, using a regular sized saucepan bring the water, dates and vanilla to a slow boil, add the bicarbonate of soda, remove from the heat and allow to cool. Once cool, drain the excess liquid using a colander and keep the dates to one side.

Cream the butter and sugar till white and fluffy in a large mixing bowl or a food processor, then slowly add the eggs till smooth, scraping the bowl regularly to be sure to mix it all together. If this looks like it is starting to split add a little flour and mix slowly.

Slowly start folding in the flour, baking powder and dates alternately till all the ingredients are thoroughly mixed.

Now line a baking tin with baking parchment and pour the mixture in using a wooden spoon to spread the mixture evenly. Bake for 40 minutes. Once cooked, check using a butter knife and poke the cake, if the knife comes out clean its ready!

For the sauce, bring the water and sugar to the boil and reduce to a dark caramel, (be careful with this as sugar at the boiling point can be dangerous!) add half the cream and whisk till smooth, remove from the heat and whisk in the remainder of the cream.

To serve personally I think it is great with Cornish ice cream but that's my preference, custard would also work well!

Happy Cooking!

# Thurlow Fayre

Following last year's success the Thurlow Fayre Committee is already hard at work **planning 2016's event!**

This year the Fayre will take place on Sunday September 4th in Thurlow Recreation Ground.

The Fayre Committee needs your help! Help is not only needed on the day but all year in the planning and preparation of the event, which is still the biggest single fundraising event for village and other local charities.

Please come along to the next committee meeting on Tuesday 22nd March at 7 pm in Thurlow Village Hall if you would like to help with the organisation of the event, or if you have any ideas for new attractions or stalls. If you are new to the village it is a great way to meet people and feel involved!

All help is gratefully received!

Please get in touch for further details, contact Alison on 07773631222 or email [alison.coffey26@gmail.com](mailto:alison.coffey26@gmail.com)

We look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you,

The Thurlow Fayre Committee

Thurlow Life - Past and Present Facebook page

**follow the link...**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thurlow/>



## FARMERS' MARKET UPDATE

Farmers' Markets will take place as usual on the last Saturday of the month during 2016 (see our advert for the dates).

However, we need to tell you about some important changes to the organisation of the markets. From March, we, the Village Hall Committee, will be managing the markets ourselves. Previously, this was done for us by an organiser who is now relinquishing the role.

You will be pleased to hear that the present stall holders will be returning and we also wish to attract as many new stall holders as possible. This can be on a regular or 'one off' basis. The hire cost is £12.00 per stall – a £3.00 reduction on the previous fee. In addition we will waive the charge for first time hirers for their first market. This will provide an opportunity to give it a try without incurring any costs. Please spread the word to anyone you know who might like to run a stall or consider having one yourself. We need to know details before the actual day.

Enquiries to Ros Bunting 01440 783528 or any other Village Hall committee member (Diana Allin, Kate Griffiths, Heather Hunt, Anne Patient).

We will continue to sell teas, coffees, homemade cakes and bacon rolls.

The Thurlow Farmers' Markets present an opportunity to buy high quality local produce and crafts and provides a community event where we can relax with a cup of tea and chat to our neighbours. As we no longer have a village shop this becomes increasingly important. Please continue to support them, thank you.

The Village Hall Committee.



### THURLOW WI REPORT

Jeremy Mynott, our resident bird expert came to our February Meeting to tell of his latest visit to the Scilly Islands, a place he has been going to since 1972. His slides took in all the aspects of these islands as well as the birds. Dawn Abbey thanked him and said it is a place she has often thought about visiting.

Since our last meeting some members and friends had spent a morning at West Suffolk College enjoying a Pamper Session followed by lunch prepared by the students. Four members went to a Soup and Natter Lunch at Park Farm and hoped to go again sometime.

We welcomed ten visitors and held a much larger Raffle than usual which meant that an equal number of guests and members went home with a prize.

Next Month should be fun when we hear of the Fun and Frolics of a walk on Artiste (from Inspector Morse to Calendar Girls). Do come and join us March 8th Village Hall 7:30pm.

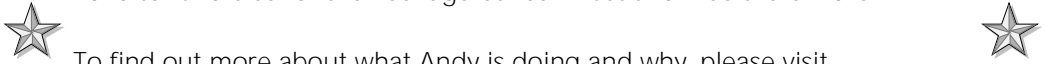
*Iris Eley*



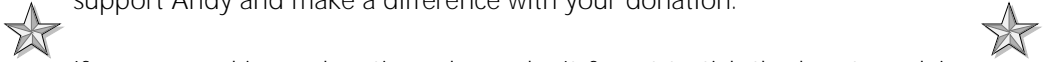
## LONDON MARATHON



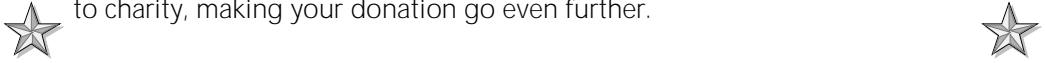
Our own Andy Quick is running the London Marathon on the 24th April 2016 to fundraise for the Teenage Cancer Trust and Free the Children.



To find out more about what Andy is doing and why, please visit <http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/AndyQuick> where you can also help to support Andy and make a difference with your donation.



If you are making a donation, please don't forget to tick the box to reclaim Gift Aid if you're a UK tax payer. Virgin Money Giving will pass this on in full to charity, making your donation go even further.



Good Luck Andy!



### *Farm*

This time of year the majority of the work for the Farm is centered on hedge cutting and ditch maintenance. This is an annual task which takes up a huge amount of time and resources but is essential to the upkeep of the Farm.

If we are unable to get on the fields to cut hedges due to ground conditions, Farm staff concentrate on vehicle and building maintenance, again this quieter time of year allows us to make sure everything is in proper working order prior to harvest.

We have managed to apply our first application of liquid fertilizer to part of the oil seed rape crop and are just waiting for the fields to dry up a bit to do anything more.

### *Hunt*

The Hunt is now meeting three times a week but as always, at this time of year, there are restrictions on where they can go due to the ground conditions.

The Cambridge Point to Point, went very well last weekend with 10 runners per race and one of the best attended days in a long time. The going was good to soft. The Estate team, who maintain the racecourse, are well on their way to finishing the repairs to the jumps and course itself in preparation for the Thurlow Point to Point. This is always a mammoth task to undertake and made more difficult due to the wet weather we have been experiencing.

We have made further changes to the layout of the Point to Point Course this year to include a new start and first jump as well as altering the layout of the parade ring. Initial feedback from the Cambridgeshire meeting was that it is now a more spectator friendly venue.

### *Property*

The renovation work to the property on Bury Road is almost complete and it will be available to rent by the end of February. It is a three bed semi-detached property.

We are also looking at various improvements to private drainage schemes across the Estate and other renovation projects are in the pipeline for this year.

We currently have several three-bed and one four-bed property to rent in and around the Thurlows. For further information please call the Estate Office on 01440 783 661.

## *Woods*

There are two areas of thinnings work for Aspect Forestry to finish off but we are still waiting for the ground to dry before we go back into the woods.

We have made the decision, partly due to the way that the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme has developed, that we will be undertaking the minimum amount of forestry work this year in addition to the normal cutting of the rides.

Please be aware that we are expecting to finish our firewood delivery season this year in mid-March so please call the Estate Office on 01440 783661 or email [firewood@thurlowstate.co.uk](mailto:firewood@thurlowstate.co.uk) to order your load of seasoned hardwood before then.

## *Shoot*

The shooting season has come to a close and the Keeper is now looking to start repairs and maintenance to release pens. We will also look at re-sighting several of the pens to give the pheasants fresh ground to live on.

The keeper will also be breaking down the remaining feed hoppers and water drinkers and then rounding them up to be washed down/sterilised before being stored up before they are put back out in the summer.

Finally, the game strips that provide cover and food for the birds throughout the shooting season have topped and the farm will start to plough in the stalks and husks, in preparation for the new crop to be drilled in May time.

Pigeons are now starting to flock up and target the crops so the Keeper is spending time patrolling the arable land moving them on.

## *Events*

The dates for the remaining Point to Point meetings at Horseheath are as follows:

- 1). The Thurlow Hunt Point to Point - Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February
- 2). Puckeridge - Saturday 28 March 2015

Tickets are £10 on the gate and as always there will be various trade stands as well as hot and cold snacks and the beer tent and we very much hope that you will come and enjoy the racing. For further information please visit [www.thurlowhunt.co.uk](http://www.thurlowhunt.co.uk)

# Community Bid for The Cock, Little Thurlow



Help purchase your pub!  
We need your investment!!

As you will be aware, following the registration of The Cock, Little Thurlow as a community asset, the community has come together to save the pub and formed a steering committee to lead the community bid to purchase the pub.

The business plan can be seen on our website:

<http://www.thurlowcommunitypub.co.uk/>

We are inviting you to invest in this great opportunity to help save your village pub. We are aiming to raise £400,000 to buy the freehold and re-establish the business as a fantastic popular pub owned and supported by the community.

To do this we need your help!

We are asking for either donations or for investors to come forward and buy shares at £50 each.

For more details please see the website or contact Alison Coffey on 01440 783478 or via email on [alison.coffey26@gmail.com](mailto:alison.coffey26@gmail.com)

**Nature note: In Praise of Brambles**

‘Nature is so uncomfortable’, complained Oscar Wilde, ‘... it’s damp and full of dreadful black insects.’ That expression of urban distaste seems increasingly to be the mission statement for those who would apply the ethos of the health and safety movement to the care of our rural environment. People are always wanting to ‘improve’ the countryside and make it safer, neater and cleaner – more suburban and more under our control, that is. Brambles are a case in point. Brambles are threatening. They can grow rampantly, sending out writhing suckers that start new rootlets wherever they touch the ground. They form dense thickets and impenetrable barriers. They have fierce thorns that can prick, scratch and tear. They can trip you up and block your way. It’s easy to think of them as invaders to be repelled, in case they take things over. I’m sure that fear is what inspires local authorities, landowners and gardeners alike to regard them as an enemy to be eradicated where possible. Hence some of the large-scale clearances of bramble patches I’ve been distressed to see in Suffolk this winter.

But brambles are a wonderfully rich resource. They provide shelter and food for a great variety of wild life. Butterflies like red admirals, commas and peacocks all nectar on their whitish flowers, as do bees and a host of other insects. Several rarer butterflies also lay their eggs on those well-protected bramble leaves that their caterpillar larvae will later feed on: holly blues, green hair-streaks and grizzled skippers. As do a huge range of moths, which rejoice in such delightful names as garden tiger, buff ermine, marbled carpet, scalloped oak and Hebrew character. How could you deny a square meal to any of those? The juicy fruits – which in fact are not true fruits but are made up of all those little black segments, technically ‘drupelets’—sustain lots of birds from August into the autumn, especially warblers and other migrants that need to fatten up for the long journeys ahead of them. Small mammals use them as safe refuges and corridors. In short, there is a whole chain of life dependent on them.

They have long been a resource for humans, too. The body of a Neolithic man (from maybe 5,000 years ago) was unearthed in 1911 at Walton-on-the-Naze and the contents of his stomach revealed that his last meal had consisted of blackberries. We still go blackberrying today, one of the last traditional acts of foraging to survive into the modern world, either to eat the fruits direct or to convert them into jams, jellies and tarts. The blackberry also has great medicinal properties. Hippocrates, the ancient Greek physician who gave his name to the professional Oath doctors still take, treated gout and other maladies with concoctions from the leaves, while the medieval herbalists applied them to help soothe burns and swellings. And we now know blackberries are a great source of vitamin C, while their compounds are also used in cancer research.

So, spare that bramble and let a little wildness into your life.

Jeremy Mynott  
Lavender Cottage

# The Dedham Vale and Stour Valley: Landscape Wonders

We would like to invite you to the AONB and Stour Valley Forum Conference 2016 at The Venture Centre, Lawford, Manningtree CO11 2JE <http://www.venturecentre2000.co.uk/find-us>

Thursday 12 May 2016

The event will include presentations on the work of the AONB and Stour Valley team and from partner organisations about their work in the area. In the afternoon there will be an opportunity to undertake site visits or to take part in a work shop.

9:30-10:00	Arrival, registration and tea/coffee
10:00-10:10	Welcome to the Forum: Robert Erith TD DL, Chairman of the Partnership
10:10-10:20	Why Outstanding Landscapes matter? Cllr Nigel Chapman, Chairman of the Joint Advisory Committee
10:20-10:40	The business case for our treasured landscapes Work of the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project: Simon Amstutz, AONB Manager
10:40-11:00	Highlights of the work of the AONB team over the last 12 months and future plans The Wildlife in the Stour Valley: Neil Catchpole, AONB Countryside Officer
11:00-11:15	<b>What have we got, why it's important and what we can do to support it</b> Question & Answer session, panel made up of speakers, Chaired by Robert Erith
11:15-11:40	Tea/Coffee break and networking opportunity
11:40-12:00	River Stour Otter Survey: Darren Tansley, Water for Wildlife Officer, Essex Wildlife Trust
12:00-12:20	A report into otters on the Stour Giving Nature a Home Mark Nowers, Conservation Officer, RSPB
12:20-12:40	How the RSPB encourages wildlife in the Stour Valley What the Landscape can reveal about the past Dr Richard Hoggett MCI fA, Senior Archaeological Officer
12:40-1:00	The archaeology of the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley landscape Question & Answer session, panel made up of speakers, Chaired by Robert Erith
1:00-1:05	<b>Chairman's closing remarks</b>
1:05-1:45	Buffet lunch and networking opportunity
2:00-4:00	Site Visits (SV) and Workshops (WS). Further details over the page.
SV1	Wildlife and landscape in the Dedham Area (2.00-4:30pm)
SV2	What the RSPB does for Wildlife in the Stour Valley (2.00-4:30pm)
WS1	What can we do to conserve and enhance the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley (2:10-2:45pm)

If you plan to attend the Forum Conference please complete and return:

Name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Requiring lunch (yes or no, please be aware we will require a £4:00 donation):

Preferred Site Visit/Workshop:

Dietary/Access Requirements:

E: [simon.amstutz@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:simon.amstutz@suffolk.gov.uk)\_T: 01394 445225



# Suffolk Walking Festival

## 14th May - 5th June 2016

The 2016 Suffolk Walking Festival kicks off on Saturday, 14th May and continues for three weeks until Sunday, 5th June. The varied programme of 77 themed walks across the county range in length from a gentle stroll of one mile, to a challenging 60 miles in 24 hours and will take place along Suffolk's glorious coast, through scenic, gently undulating countryside and around our medieval towns and villages.

The annual walking festival is a partnership project supported by all of Suffolk's local authorities and is spearheaded by the Discover Suffolk project at Suffolk County Council. This year's festival launch, which is sponsored by Suffolk Coastal District Council, takes place at RSPB Minsmere on the Suffolk coast. The event will also mark the launch of Suffolk's Year of Walking, which starts in May 2016 and ends in May 2017.

**"The Year of Walking will be celebrating two of my very favourite things: walking and Suffolk" says Lesley Dolphin from BBC Radio Suffolk and patron of the festival. "The aim is to inspire people to build more walking into their everyday lives and to discover what fun it is!"**

**"We are delighted that this year's walking festival marks the beginning of Suffolk's Year of Walking" adds Cllr Goldson, cabinet member for health at Suffolk County Council. "The purpose of the initiative is to celebrate walking in the county, promote walking events and encourage new walking opportunities. The festival does a wonderful job of demonstrating how easy and inclusive walking is, and what a fantastic county Suffolk is to walk in. It is making a very positive contribution to our ambition of becoming the most active county in England."**

There are three lots of challenge walks planned, which have been sponsored by the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Mega Challenge, for the ultra fit, is a walk which will be undertaken over a 24 hour period, covering 60 miles from Lowestoft to Felixstowe. The Classic Challenge, a firm favourite among regular festival goers, is made up of five walks of between 11 and 14 miles each. As with The Mega Challenge, the route goes from Lowestoft to Felixstowe, but will be at a rather more sedate pace and spread over five days. The Mini Challenge consists of three walks of around nine miles each: Oulton Broad to Beccles, the 'Trimley Loop' and a walk ending with refreshments at the National Trust's Sutton Hoo, near Woodbridge.

Other walks include two stress-relieving mindfulness walks; a 'prambling' walk for parents with prams; photography, birdwatching and Pilates walks; a gentle stroll for sufferers of dementia and their carers, a walk which includes views of early marsh orchids, a speed-dating ramble and the ever-popular 'Horrible History For Families' in Ipswich.

Some include a cream tea or other refreshments and all are an informal and sociable way to explore the county, meet like-minded people and to indulge in a leisure activity which benefits both body and soul.

To view the full walks programme and book tickets, visit the festival website [www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk) Brochures will be available from Suffolk tourist information centres.



## March - April 2016 Church Services

		Date	Day	Time/Event	Time/Event	Time/Event	Time/Event
Monthly Church Service Rota	6th	March	Sun	09:30 HC Kedington	11:00 HC Great Bradley		
	13th	March	Sun	09:30 HC Little Bradley	09:30 SOTW Kedington	11:00 HC Great Thurlow	
	20th	March	Sun	10:00 HC Benefice Barnardiston			
	27th	March	Sun	08:00 HC Kedington	09:30 HC Little Thurlow	11:00 HC Great Wratting	18:00 ES Kedington
	3rd	April	Sun	09:30 HC Kedington	11:00 HC Great Thurlow		
	10th	April	Sun	09:30 HC Barnardiston	09:30 SOTW Kedington	11:00 HC Great Bradley	

### Prayer needs and home Communions

If you are in need of prayer, or are aware of someone who needs to be included in prayer, please contact the Rector. There is no need to go into detail and no-one will be mentioned by name in intercessions unless they give their permission but you can be assured that you or the person you bring forward will be prayed for. The same applies if you, or someone you know, **hasn't been able to come to Communion because of illness and would like to receive. In these cases you can still be included by the Rector or a member of the ministry team bringing Communion to you in your home.** For all pastoral matters please contact Rev. Derek Hollis on 01440 763066.

The Benefice service rota is also provided online at [http://www.stourheadbenefice.org/Stourhead\\_Benefice/Service\\_Rota.html](http://www.stourheadbenefice.org/Stourhead_Benefice/Service_Rota.html)



## *What's On!*

Dates For Your Diary!

Month	Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Information
March	2nd	Wed	11:45 to 12:10	Mobile library	109 Bury Road Great Thurlow	01473 263838
March	2nd	Wed	12.45 to 13:05	Mobile library	Thurlow Sports Club Little Thurlow	01473 263838
March	2nd	Wed	14:00 to 14:20	Mobile library	Coronation Cottages GW	01473 263838
March	8th	Tue	19:30	WI	Thurlow Village Hall	
March	15th	Tue	19:30	Little Thurlow Parish Council Meeting	Thurlow Village Hall	
March	22nd	Tue	19:00	Thurlow Fayre Committee Meeting	Thurlow Village Hall	01440 783478
March	26th	Sat	10:00 to 13:00	<b>Farmers'</b> Market	Thurlow Village Hall	
March	28th	Mon		Point to Point	Horseheath Racecourse	
April	3rd	Sun	14:00 to 17:00	Great Thurlow Hall Spring Garden Open Day	Great Thurlow Hall	Alison Coffey 01440 783478

Please send details of your local events for us to add  
to the What's On calendar!

*OUR RECTOR WRITES*

There is a tale about a young lady going into a jeweller's shop and asking to see what gold or silver crosses they had. Presented with various types, she asked if they had "one with the little man on it". What she should have asked for, of course, was a crucifix. It is normal to refer to the cross as a crucifix when it bears the figure of the crucified victim. The "little man" she referred to is Jesus of Nazareth, who Christians believe to have been the Son of God and Saviour of the world.



At this time of year in the church calendar we think about the significance of what happened on that cross. We read again about, and think about, the events of the **final week of Jesus' life, his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the Last Supper he celebrated with his friends, followed by his arrest and trial.** On Good Friday we reflect on the crucifixion, and think about the horrific events of that day. The whole area was under Roman occupation, and so Roman government prevailed, but there were tensions between the Roman and Jewish authorities. **Why, we may wonder, is the day referred to as "Good Friday", when it's the day Jesus died.**

The "redoubtable" Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander, as she has been called, wrote a hymn which helps to explain: "He died that we might be forgiven, he died to make us good, that we might go at last to heaven, saved by his precious blood. There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin, he only could unlock the gate of heaven and let us in". So says the hymn "There is a green hill far away." As a child I wondered why a green hill should have a city wall.

Only later did I understand that the word "without" in this instance means not lacking, but outside: "there is a green hill far away, outside a city wall." Born in Dublin, the daughter of an English army officer, she wrote most of her hymns before her marriage to William Alexander, who rose to the highest position of **Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland**. "There is a green hill" is one of a series which she wrote to help explain to children the various clauses in our Christian creed, in this case the crucifixion.

Leslie Badham, once Vicar of Windsor and Chaplain to the Queen, in his book **"Verdict on Jesus"** wrote **"Jesus, of course, raised no army, left no monument, wrote no book, yet after two thousand years more people are interested in, familiar with, and influenced by, his life and teaching than by the career and writings of any other man alive or dead"**. **The existence of the historic figure of Jesus of Nazareth is not questioned by serious scholars.** Badham quotes an historian when asked what single individual had made the most permanent impression on the world **"It is interesting and significant, that an historian like myself, with no theological bias whatever, cannot portray the progress of humanity honestly without giving him foremost place."**

Scripture is silent about the physical stature of Jesus. He probably wasn't especially tall or small, but in terms of what he achieved he was no "little man". Death was not the end of the story for him, and the tomb in which he was laid was found to be empty on the Sunday morning of Easter. As death was not the end of the story for him, so too we believe it will not be the end of the story for us. A very happy Easter to you all.

Derek Hollis.

**"Verdict on Jesus"** by Leslie Badham was published in 1950 by Hodder & Stoughton, ISBN 0-340-15718-6.



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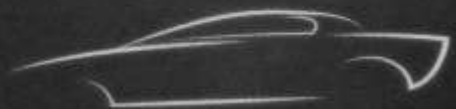
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INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS. This is a brief guide, intended especially for newcomers to the villages, with information about the facilities and services available locally and some useful telephone numbers and addresses.

Services and Societies in Thurlow	Telephone
Thurlow Garage – Ray Sharrod	01440 783248
The Cock Inn	01440 783224
Plumbing Services – TKHeat – Kevin Crowson	07966 208794 01440 783654
Parish Clerk – Little Thurlow – Molly Hawkins	01440 783259
Parish Clerk – Great Thurlow – Diana Allin	01440 783560
Thurlow CEVC School – Head Teacher	01440 783281
Tiddly Tots – Zoe Hunt Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon during term time	078911 46931
Thurlow Fayre – Alison Coffey	01440 783478
Thurlow Gardening Club – Dawn Abbey	01440 783646
Thurlow Sports Club Secretary – Allan Loveday	01440 707416
Thurlow Village Hall Committee – Ros Bunting	01440 783528
Thurlow Village Hall Bookings – Diana Allin	01440 783560
Thurlow Womens Institute – President Dawn Abbey	01440 783646
Thurlow Tennis Club—Andy Quick	01440 783070

Services and Societies in Great Wrating	Telephone
Neighbourhood Watch — Clare Egloff	07780724798
Red Lion, Great Wrating – George and Linda Sykes	01440 783237
The Great Wrating Book Group – Jean Newlands	01440 783111
Great Wrating Email Tree — Dawn Fisk— dawn.fisk@btinternet.com	01440 783993
The mobile library service stops at Coronation Cottages from 2.00 to 2.20 pm every 4 weeks, on Wednesday afternoons	01440 702638

Emergency	Telephone
Police Response – any officer, non emergency	101
Police Response – Emergency	999
Suffolk Fire Service	01284 558888
UK Network (Electricity) 24 hour Emergency helpline	0800 7838838
Anglian Water 24 hour Emergency Helpline (water/sewage)	08457 145145
British Telecom 24 hour fault reporting	0800 800151
Floodline 24 hour with recorded update	0845 9881188
In case of disaster or village is cut off, go to Thurlow Village Hall. Key Holder is Diana Allin – 89a Hill House, Great Thurlow	01440 783560

Community Contacts	Telephone
Churches – Stourhead Benefice – Rev. Derek Hollis	01440 763066
Haverhill Social Services	01440 764949
Haverhill Citizens Advice Bureau	01440 704012
St Edmundsbury Borough Council Planning	01284 763233
St Edmundsbury Borough Council	01284 763233
St Edmundsbury Borough Council (Haverhill office)	01440 702271
County Councillor – Mary Evans	01284 789478
Suffolk County Council General Enquiries	08456 066067
District Councillor - Jane Midwood	01440 820360
Age UK - Mary Hilton	01440 783649
Thurlow Estate – Tim Barling, Agent	01440 783661
Thurlow Estate – Tom Duffin, Assistant to Agent	
Libraries – Haverhill	01440 702638
Libraries – Bury St Edmunds	01284 352545
A mobile library visits the villages every 4 weeks on a Wednesday stopping at Sowley Green, 150 Bury Road from 11:30-11:40 am; Great Thurlow, 109 Bury Road from 11:45-12:10 pm; Little Thurlow, Thurlow Sports Club from 12:45-13:05 pm and Great Wratting, Coronation cottages from 14:00 –14:20 pm.	01473 263838
Suffolk Radio – BBC FM 103.9 or 104.6	01473 250000
Refuse Collection Bin collection is every Friday morning alternating black bins one week and brown and blue bins the next.	01284 757320
Environmental Health and Pest Control	01284 757084

Health and Wellbeing	Telephone
Doctors – The Christmas Matlings and Clements Practice	01440 269366
Doctors – Selby Practice	01440 702010
Doctors – Haverhill Family Practice	01440 702010
	01440 703667
Chemist – Boots, Haverhill	01440 702058
Chemist – Sainsburys Pharmacy	01440 708043
Chemist – The Co—operative Pharmacy	01440 702079
Hospital – West Suffolk (Bury St Edmunds)	01284 713000
Hospital – West Suffolk Accident and Emergency	01284 713333
Hospital – Addenbrookes (Cambridge)	01223 245151
Vets – Swayne and Partners (Haverhill)	01440 702007
Vets – Lida Vets (Newmarket)	01638 560000
Vets – Hawkedon Veterinary Surgery	01284 789428
Church Wardens	Telephone
St Mary's Church, Great Wratting—Simon Corbett	01440 783698
St Mary's Church, Great Wratting—Ben Stanton	01440 783103
St Peter's Church, Little Thurlow—Robin Vestey	T.B.A.
St Peter's Church, Little Thurlow—Iris Eley	01440 783534
All Saints Church, Great Thurlow—George Vestey	01440 783240

Great Wratting Parish Council Contacts	Telephone
Chair – Gavin Acheson	01440 783515
Councillor – Anthony Lundrigan	01440 783817
Councillor – Dawn Fisk	01440 783993
Councillor – Steven Robinson	01440 783131
Councillor—Diana Curtis	01440 783898
Councillor - Keith Turner	01440 783460
Vacancy	
Parish Clerk – Emma White—gtwrattingpc@yahoo.co.uk	07792455030
If you would like information about joining Great Wratting Parish Council, please contact the Parish Clerk. <a href="http://www.parish-council.com/greatwrattingparishcouncil">www.parish-council.com/greatwrattingparishcouncil</a>	

Little Thurlow Parish Council Contacts	Telephone
Keith Bunting – Chairman	01440 783528
Chris Field –Vice Chairman	01440 783697
Will Griffiths	01440 783496
Chris Lowe	01440 783891
Andrew Dickson	01440 783385
Jessica Hale	01440 783190
Geoff Patient	01440 783693
Molly Hawkins—Parish Clerk	01440 783259

Great Thurlow Parish Council Contacts	Telephone
Peter Thomas—Chairman	01440 783700
Conrad Hawkins —Vice Chairman	01440 783259
George Vestey	01440 783240
Stan Cook01440 783532	01440 783532
Rod Pass	01440 783610
Naomi Watts	To follow
Jane Sheppard	01440 783209
Diana Allin—Parish Clerk	01440 783560

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