

The Village Link

Great Thurlow – Little Thurlow – Great Wratting

March

2015

Great Thurlow Hall Spring Garden Open Day

March 29th, 2 - 5 pm

Thurlow Playground Community Fundraising
Easter Crafting Day
Saturday March 21st



Thurlow Village Hall - 11am to 2pm
Drop in anytime to make some Easter gifts and cards. Adults
and children welcome.

£3 entry per person. Tea, coffee and juice available

Editorial co-ordinator Alison Coffey 783478	Advertising Rates (per quarter page) Single advertisement - £10 Six months advertising - £40 Twelve months advertising - £65
Administrative co-ordinator Kevin Crowson 783654	Back Page Advertising Rates (per month) Full Page Colour - £50 Half Page Colour - £30 Quarter Page Colour - £20
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Junior Reporter Vacancy	
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The Editor

Welcome to the March 2015 issue of the Village Link.

This month sees more village events held in the hope of having a good time and raising some money at the same time. The Thurlow Playground Community Fundraising Committee is holding an Easter Craft Day on March 21st- do come along and make some lovely crafts and cards as well as contribute to a worthy cause. The Committee is charged with having to raise £40,000 and every contribution counts.

Great Thurlow Hall is holding a spring garden opening on March 29th in aid of the NGS with teas in the church in aid of Great Thurlow Church. The daffodils are truly stunning! Come and have a lovely afternoon out whilst helping to support a very worthwhile charity.

The Thurlow Fayre Committee is also appealing for new members to share the load of organising Thurlow Fayre. Please do have a look at the roles and see if you could take one on. The Fayre is a major contributor to local clubs and societies who depend on the funds received.

Spotted a common theme? As a community there is a need to continually fundraise to support the villages and all of the fundraising requires volunteers. Volunteering is not onerous. It is a great way to meet people, do something different, fun and useful and to be a part of the community. Could you help?

Alison

Website

Don't forget to check out the Thurlow website.
Keep looking as the site is updated regularly.
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
Copy Deadline 15th Of Each Month



Newspaper Deliveries



The Post Office and Stores in Stradishall will consider delivering papers to The Thurlows and Bradleys if a sufficient number of people are interested.

They are looking for another 30 households to make it feasible

If anyone is interested please let Best One Stradishall Convenience Store have your contact details and potential newspaper requirements. You can contact them on 01440 820125.

Thurlow Gardening Club

invites you to an

Open Evening and Talk

Great Thurlow Hall Gardens Throughout the Year

Friday March 13th

by Head Gardener Stephen Moore

Thurlow Village Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start



Turn up on the night, £2 entry to cover cost of tea and cake. Stephen will tell you how he maintains the garden, what plants thrive where and may even have some top tips for you to take back to your own garden.

Your gardening questions will also be answered.

VILLAGE LITTER PICK - GREAT AND LITTLE THURLOW

Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd March 2015

Volunteers wanted to help with the spring litter pick.

If you would like to help please contact

Molly Hawkins on 01440 783259 or email mollyhawkins10@aol.com.

GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the annual parish council meeting held on 22nd January 2015. Full minutes are available from the Parish Clerk.

LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS: Cllr Mary Evans, SCC

Maple Farm Wind Turbine – TV Reception

There has been poor TV reception within the village which is likely to be linked to Maple Farm Wind Turbine. Mary recommended an email is sent out via the email tree to determine actual number of homes affected.

Vehicle Activated Sign

A suitable location will be identified for a VAS within the village before an assessment by a local engineer is done. The Council is keen to share the cost and VAS with surrounding villages.

Broadband

Mary agreed to forward contact details of a person who can help in securing broadband to the village.

St Edmundsbury Borough Council: Cllr Robert Clifton-Brown

There are no new planning applications for Great Wrattling.

Locality Budget will need to be allocated by May elections.

Police Report: PSCO Anthony Welford

No new crimes have been reported for Great Wrattling between the period 06/11/14 and the 22/01/15.

General Information:

In Little Wrattling there have been two crimes:

- **Criminal damage to a vehicle which has been scratched.**
- **Theft of Lead and Pickett Fencing.**

There have been some dwellings burgled in rural villages where rear UPVC doors have been forced to gain entry.

GREAT WRATTING PARISH WEBSITE

Cllr Anthony Londrigan confirmed the 'go-live' date for the new design website will be at the PC meeting on the 14th May 2015.

VILLAGE LINK

Cllr Diana Curtis has kindly offered to take over the responsibilities of the future Village Link articles. She will liaise with the village seeking new ideas for articles.

HIGHWAYS

U7137 Withersfield Road, Great Wrattling - Carriageway repairs

Concerns have been raised and sent to SCC on the recent repairs to the U7137 Withersfield Road.

FINANCE

The Clerk supplied a bank reconciliation and copy of bank statement to show the balance up to 21st Jan 2015 of £9,507.87. It was approved by all Parish Councillors. All confirmed the 2015/16 Precept will remain the same as the previous year.

OTHER MATTERS:

Parish Clerk Vacancy

The Council were advised that Emma, the Parish Clerk is looking to stand down. The Council thanked Emma for all her hard work over the years and wish her every success in the future.

Emma has agreed to continue her role until the vacancy is filled; if you are interested in applying or would like further information please email her at gtwrattingpc@yahoo.co.uk.

Vacancy details:

Position: Part-time Parish Clerk

Role: Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Hours: Approximately 5 hours a week (maximum 25 hours a month)

Salary: Between £9.00 and £10.30 per hour, according to skills and experience

Holiday: 28 hours a year

Meetings: Six scheduled Council meetings a year plus Annual Village Meeting

Councillor Vacancy

The Parish Council has one vacancy for a Parish Councillor and any interest should be addressed to the Parish Clerk via email.

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2015

The PC meeting dates and community events have been confirmed for 2015 and are now advertised on the village notice board, Village Link and website.

Transparency Code for Councils with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000

All councillors have noted and read the transparency code. Procedures will be put into place.

Great Wratting Parish Council

LITTLE THURLOW PARISH COUNCIL

At the February meeting Councillors welcomed The Mayor of St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Councillor Robert Everitt, who thanked the Parish Council for its work on behalf of the village.

It was noted that the *Pre-School* was threatened with closure. Councillors agreed that the Pre-School is a village asset that they should actively seek to support for the future.

The problem with *drainage/flooding on Church Road/Broad Road* has been partly solved by the much appreciated clearing of ditches by Thurlow Estate.

Damage to the grass bank near Farthing House - for safety reasons, Councillors were opposed to making a one-way road.

Damage to edges of Little Thurlow Green - it was agreed to keep this monitored.

The *broken Rights of Way sign* between The Firs and Larkspur has been reported and will be replaced in due course.

There were no objections to *Planning Applications* for re-thatching Church Farm House and alterations to The Old School House.

As part of the Parish Council's *annual donations*, the following Charities will be sent £35 each under S137: Age UK, St Edmundsbury Newstalk, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, Headway Suffolk, Magpas, EACH and Samaritans BSE.

Full minutes of the meeting will appear on the website and on the Parish Council Notice Board in due course.

The date of the next meeting is 17th March 2015.

Molly Hawkins, Little Thurlow Parish Clerk

Thurlow Playground Community Fundraising Update

The Committee has been busy in applying for the grants for the new play equipment with a total budget of about £40000 needing to be raised.

We are pleased with the fundraising so far, with £17,663 now awarded and other grants expected by end April 2015. Local fundraising has been very successful and Dawn Abbey has planned more local events - see the Easter Crafting Day for one.

Our plan is for the reconstruction to take place in the summer with completion aimed for at the end of August.

With your support we should reach our target!

Many thanks,

Andrew Dickson - Chairman

THURLOW WI REPORT

We welcomed ten visitors to our February meeting. "Thurlow W I Goes West" was the title of this year's talk by Jeremy Mynott. "West" was in fact New York's Central Park. Jeremy once again focused on all the birds he saw there. Delightful colourful slides were accompanied by humorous commentary as always and Jeremy was warmly thanked by Molly Hawkins. The money collected from the draw will be sent to the RSPB.

Arline Vollam gave notice of all future events which included the Annual Meeting in Bury St Edmunds which she and Iris Eley will attend. There was a good supply of prizes in the monthly draw which were evenly distributed amongst visitors and members.

This month we say farewell to Anne Roberts, a former President and Vice President, a very loyal member who will be greatly missed. She is moving to Bury St Edmunds.

Next month it's "Name That Tune" which should be fun! 10th March at the Village Hall, 7.30 pm Do come and join us.

Iris Eley

Thurlow Gardening Club

THURLOW GARDENING CLUB REPORT

This month's meeting was hosted by Tom and Jean and we welcomed two new members to our group. We did some planning for the open evening on March 13th which you must come along to as it will be interesting and fun and we will learn lots from the head gardener from Great Thurlow Hall.

We discussed fruit growing this month and now is the time to prune fruit trees and bushes. Chillies should be started off now, although they do need some heat to get going. We will be growing some interesting varieties from the James Wong seed collection this year including asparagus pea, New Zealand spinach, cucamelons and a few others too. Thanks to Jeannie and Steve for sharing their seed packets with us, we will share how we get on in a few months' time.

Despite all of the detailed planning that was done in January for our plots, it still seems that we never have enough space. Hey ho.

Please do come along and visit us at the village hall on March 13th at 7pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Dawn Abbey (783646)

Thurlow magazine

All the school have been very busy in January. Let's find out what they've been doing:

Class 4 has been up to a lot of new things recently like looking at things about Charles Darwin and evolution. Also they have been writing about extinct animals and made up their own plants!

Class 3 has been making puppets of all different things. They made them up from scratch. They even painted them!

Class 2 has a new teacher helping Miss Meechan. Also they have been writing their own stories about Jack and the beanstalk.

Class 1 met Elsa (from Frozen). Their topic is about winter and they have been having fun in the snow! They also tried freezing things in ice and they have been building an ice castle out of plastic cups and other materials.

Alyssa and Larna

JEWELLERY WORKSHOPS

Join a small workshop and make necklaces, bracelets and earrings

Groups of up to four or individuals welcome

Get together with friends and have a fun time

Introductory offer of £7.50 per person for 3 hour session plus beads used at cost

A good selection of glass beads and pendants available

Refreshments included

Samples will be available to give you ideas and inspiration

Workshops held at:

1 Foundry Bungalows.

Wrattling Road

Great Thurlow

(Opposite the recreation ground)

Contact Phyllis on 01440783010



Thurlow, Bradley and District Pre-school
Website: <http://www.thurlowpreschool.com/>
01440 783688

Please note we have a new website address and design!



Our bag 2 school collection last week collected 120 kg and raised £48. Thank you to everyone for your donations.

Sainsbury's Active School Vouchers

We are collecting the Sainsbury's Active School Vouchers from 28th Jan – 05th May 2015. We are able to exchange these for active exercise and cooking equipment. If you have any that you would kindly like to donate to the preschool, please do so by dropping them in, thank you!

Activities Planned

As the weather will (hopefully) be improving soon and turning milder, the children will be helping and getting stuck into planting, tidying and growing our vegetable garden. We will be learning about the different types of vegetables and the importance of looking after them. Once ready, we also enjoy tasting them and making delicious homemade soups. Look out for our recipes and photos.

After the February half term we will be celebrating the events of lambing, Easter and **of course Mother's Day. Much of our planning follows children's ideas on a daily basis.** We encourage the children to bring in something of interest to them to talk about which we call 'show & tell'.

For information on the Preschool please contact Helen on 01440 783688

Calling all budding young journalists and story tellers.....

The Village Link is still looking for junior reporters. If you would like to contribute an article or story or report on an event you attended we would be delighted to hear from you! It doesn't have to be long and doesn't matter if you don't want to write for every issue.

Get in touch with Alison on 01440 783478 or email the Village Link!



Jacob's dream is to have the love of a family who will read him lots of stories

Could you be the one he is waiting for?

The dreams of many young people in care are often heartbreakingly simple, of everyday things most children take for granted: a sense of belonging, the love of a family, home cooking and a bedroom of their own.

Over 740 children are in care in Suffolk. They need someone who can understand what they have been through, look at the world through their eyes and provide warmth, consistency and emotional support. This is where you come in. If you are looking for a new challenge, have patience and compassion you could provide a child with the secure home life they need to thrive and achieve.

The Fostering and Adoption Service particular need people to come forward to care for brothers and sisters to grow up together, children with disabilities or more complex needs, foster carers for children over the age of 11 and adopters for children over the age of 3.

We know that many people can be hesitant to come forward and take the next step, but please be re-assured that we will respond quickly and sensitively and answer any initial queries that you have.

Myths abound about who can foster or adopt. You may be:

- Any age over 21
- Married , single , separated, divorced, or in civil partnership
- Lesbian , gay , bisexual or heterosexual
- Renting or a home owner
- Disabled
- Of any ethnicity, race, religion or culture, already have children or not

Contact us today on: 01473 264800

dreams.suffolk.gov.uk

fosterandadopt@suffolk.gov.uk

Tales From the Garden in February
by
Dawn Abbey

A mixed month I have to say, with some days that you would believe were spring and then some really awful cold, snowy days that were clearly winter. Let's not mention the rain that turns my garden into a swamp, I am bored of talking about it now. So what is a gardener supposed to do in this kind of mix up? Crack on and stop moaning is what I told myself and here is what I have done so far:

Shallots are in, sweet peas and broad beans are sown. Trellis is up for a passion flower I planted last year, fruit bushes are pruned and fed with some potash (thanks to some great advice from my neighbour and John Archer shield winner Tom); potatoes are chitting and my bargain fruit trees are ready to go out in the wonderful clay soil.

I have especially enjoyed watching the bullfinches who have stripped my honeysuckle of berries and now pop in and out of the garden, although not as often as I would like.

Unfortunately I had to rehome my hens as Mr Ratty and family have been tunnelling and I want to get that under control (eradicated ideally) so I hope the chooks are enjoying new 5 star accommodation and laying in gratitude.

I can't wait to cut the grass but I suppose that will have to wait till March. Meantime I am patiently awaiting the arrival of Daffs and Tulips. Bring on the spring, we love you x


 Great Thurlow Hall NGS Spring Garden Open Day
 March 29th
 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*

Farm

This time of year the majority of the work for the farm is centred around 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 then the 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 all of the oil seed rape and malting barley crops and are now just waiting for a spell of warmer weather to get the crops away as they are currently being held back by the cold.

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-siting several of the pens to give the pheasants fresh ground to live on for their time in the pen.

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 will be 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.

Woods

We have awarded the contract for next year's forestry operations to Aspect Forestry and they will hopefully commence work in early April with the aim to have completed all operations during the drier summer months.

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@thurlowestate.co.uk to order your load of seasoned hardwood before then.

Property

We are in the process of going out to tender on several renovation projects for 2015 and so will have a large program of works to oversee.

We are also looking at various improvements to private drainage schemes across the Estate, this is resulting in environmental improvements.

We currently have several 3 bed properties to rent in and around the Thurlows, for further information please call the Estate Office on 01440 783 661.

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, which was rescheduled due to bad weather, went very well last weekend with 10 runners per race and a very good turnout at the gate. 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 harder this time round as they only have two weeks between events rather than the usual four.

We are delighted that the Point to Point course is able to hold events again after its year off in 2014 and we hope that it is now better than ever.

Other Events

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

Saturday 28th February – Thurlow Hunt Point to Point.

Saturday 28th March – Puckeridge Hunt Point to Point.

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.

REMINDER and PLEA

If you are on the recreation ground with your dog please make sure you clear up behind it as there has been a considerable increase of dog faeces found, which have had to be picked up and disposed of.

Please ensure that you pick up your dog waste and deposit it in the red dog waste disposal bin situated by the road hedge in the car park.

It would also be helpful if dogs are kept off the main playing areas and walked on leads around the perimeter or on the top bank.

Thank you
Thurlow Sports Club

Thurlow Fayre 2015

The next Fayre meeting will be on Thursday 5th March 7.00pm at the Village Hall to make a final decision on whether the event will definitely go ahead this year.

Although the Fayre is fortunate to have a number of long standing committee members who have contributed to its success over many years, it does however require further people from the village as individuals or representing the community groups who have been recipients of donations to come forward to fill the roles below. With the workload being shared between the different roles, organisation should be manageable and not too onerous or dependent on any one individual.

If nobody comes forward it is likely there will be no Fayre this year which will be a major loss to the community as the Fayre is a vital source of fundraising for many of the village groups. The main village beneficiaries who have received donations from the Fayre over the last 10 years from 2004-2014 are:

Gt Thurlow Church	£7,350
Lt Thurlow Church	£7,050
Thurlow Village Hall	£4,625
Thurlow Village Link	£1,525
Thurlow W.I	£4,300
Thurlow School	£3,050
Thurlow Preschool	£4,050
Thurlow Toddler Group	£750
Thurlow Sports Club	£5,400
Thurlow Youth Football	£3,100
Thurlow Tennis Club	£1,750
Thurlow Play Area	£3,500

Hopefully these numbers will convince you as a resident who cares for the village and also our newcomers who have chosen to come and live in Thurlow to come and help and sustain the facilities that we should all be proud of.

Positions that have been filled so far and representatives of different village organisations are as follows:

Vice Chair	Denise Russell
Site Organiser	Chris Field
Treasurer	Allan & Susan Loveday
Craft Stalls	Will Griffiths
Produce Show	Kevin Crowson
Committee	Heather Hunt
Bottle Stall	James Woricker and Joanna Lowe
Grand Draw	Heather Hunt
History Tent	Iris Eley
Village Link	Alison Coffey
Thurlow W.I Tea Tent	Dawn Abbey and Janice Klimcke
Classic Cars	Ray & Naomi Sharrod
Thurlow Tennis Club	Andy Quick & Tom Fenner
Thurlow Youth FC BBQ	Tony Williamson
Thurlow Preschool	Hayley Price
Thurlow Primary School	Vicky Hogg

These are the roles that need to be filled:

Thurlow Fayre Committee	Role/Duties
Chair:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair monthly meeting Agree agenda with Secretary Co-ordinate milestones Health & Safety Programme schedule
General Secretary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type up minutes of meeting and circulate Draft programme Tea Tent marquee, all other tents, toilets Contact Suffolk CC Road Traffic order for cones Event insurance for Fayre St John Ambulance East Anglian Air Ambulance Skip hire Contact for enquiries
Bookings Secretary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book acts for main ring and music Book all side shows & stalls Ensure all exhibitors have Public Liability Insurance
Publicity Officer:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise advertisements in local press Issue press releases both before and after Fayre
Sponsor Officer:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek sponsorship opportunities within local community Thank you letters and invoice
Grand Draw & Bottle Stall Officer:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise Door to Door sale of draw tickets within village Organise Door to Door collection of bottles Printing Draw Tickets Source Draw Prizes
Village Liaison Co-ordinator:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise list of helpers for day of Fayre Gate, Car Boot, Car Parking, Side Stalls Liaise with Thurlow Estate

Thank you,

Thurlow Fayre Committee

The Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust Award

We are pleased to report that a good number of entrants, of very high standard, were received for the 2014 Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust award. It was a difficult decision, but the award was presented to Anya Heath from West Wrating. Anya is studying Architecture at Nottingham University. She was presented with a cheque from the Trust for £800 to help with course materials, in front of the RAF Memorial stone at Weston Woods Farm. Congratulations to Anya, we wish her every success in the future.



The trustees felt a special award was well deserved by Rhiannon Beale, from Thurlow. Although her application fell outside the trust criteria, the generosity of the Lloyd family made it possible to make a contribution to help Rhiannon with course materials. Her chosen vocation is a very worthy one as she studies at Bedford to be a reception class teacher. Future youngsters could not be in better hands!!

We wish you the best of luck.

We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September 2015. A scholarship is awarded each year and the amount is approximately £800. Broadly speaking the degree course should be from one of the following: architecture, engineering, geography, history, law, mathematics, sciences, medicine and veterinary medicine.

The applicant must be living in one of the following parishes: Great Thurlow, Little Thurlow, West Wickham, Carlton cum Willingham, West Wrating, Weston Colville or Withersfield. The award is intended to be of assistance in the purchase of books, materials, equipment etc. Final decision and award will be made immediately after 'A' Level/Baccalaureate results and University offer are known.

For further information about the trust and award please contact:
Jonathan Drury on 01223 290968

The application form and supporting documents have to be received at the latest by 31st March 2015.

For an application form please apply via email to:
peterandruthlloydtrust@yahoo.co.uk

The Plight of our Native Hedgehog

(Erinaceus Europaeus)

Hedgehog numbers have declined by a third in the last decade in both rural and urban areas. In



the early part of the last century, hedgehogs were abundant throughout Britain, with an estimated population of perhaps 30 million in the 1950s. By 1995 the population was estimated to be only about 1.5 million. Hedgehogs can shrug off their reputation as ponderous, slow moving creatures - according to research they can walk about a mile every night in search of food and mates. In six years time there may not be any hedgehogs left.

Reasons for decline

Why hedgehog numbers are falling is not known for certain. However, there are likely candidates and probably all are involved including more intensive agriculture with larger fields and the loss of hedgerows and permanent grassland. The use of pesticides too reduces the amount of prey available. In towns and villages smaller and tidier gardens may have reduced suitable urban habitats. Badgers are a natural predator of hedgehogs. When the habitat provides sufficient cover and foraging opportunities badgers and hedgehogs can coexist, but when there is no safe refuge and the prey that the two species compete for are scarce, hedgehogs may be in serious danger.

Last year 1,488 hedgehogs were killed on our roads in Suffolk. Radio tracking studies have shown that males move about more than females and in springtime there will be increased activity as they look for mates. Interestingly in the autumn the roles are reversed and it is the females that amount to three quarters of the road deaths. This is likely to be due to females needing to forage more to increase their body weight after the rigours of raising young before hibernation.

Gardens have become too tidy, paved over for parking or enclosed within impenetrable fences or walls. Hedgehogs need these areas to be reconnected and improved by planting hedges, providing areas for shelter or simply making small holes in fences or walls so they can move freely around in search of food and mates.

What you can do to help

With spring around the corner, hedgehogs will come out of hibernation thirsty and hungry and need to quickly replenish fat used up during the winter months. Shallow bowls of fresh water placed around your garden, and perhaps a feeding station would be very helpful.

We have seen so many injuries caused by raking hedgehogs in a bonfire pile, and from strimming. Always check your bonfire before lighting and the area that you are going to trim.

Hedgehogs are known as "The Gardener's Friend". If we all do a little, we can achieve a lot for hedgehogs.

Biddy Bigland

OUR RECTOR WRITES

Leicester's Spence Street swimming baths were the usual venue for the annual scout swimming gala. Not that I was ever a scout, but my father was involved with the gala for many years, as an impartial score keeper. On numerous occasions I accompanied him as a child and sat with him at his desk, **watching as he recorded the details of the results of the individual races. From time to time a "runner" would be required to take a message to one of the judges, or to collect a result, or take some more blanks out to replenish the starter's pistol. Not that I was much of a runner either, come to that! Father was eventually awarded a "thanks badge" from the Scout Association for his efforts – and those of you who are into scouting will know what one of those is.** Whether or not we have been involved in scouting to any great extent, I expect that most of us will be familiar with the words of the scout motto **"Be Prepared"**. That the words of that motto begin with the initials of the founder of the movement is of course no accident.

Being prepared is a good idea for all of us, and not just for the scouts. My late mother always filled a kettle with water before she retired to bed at night, just in case when she got up in the morning the water supply had been cut off, so that at least she had enough water to make a pot of tea. I often do the same before I go to bed – when I remember! I keep a few dozen household candles in the house, and a calor gas lamp, ready for those occasions when the power fails. Where I used to live, the cooker was all-electric, and so I decided to make provision in the kitchen to be able to use a gas ring when there was no electricity. In the depths of winter I have been known to drive around with a shovel in the boot of the car along with my wellington boots, just in case I become stranded in snow and have to dig it out. I like to be prepared.

There will, I imagine, always be times when we are caught out by events which we haven't anticipated. In recent years many people have had their homes devastated by flooding. In some years we face drought – **and as I remember someone saying after one such summer "we weren't prepared for that either."** Some years ago I was spending a few days with my parents just after Christmas and got up to find that four or five inches of snow had fallen during the night. Suddenly it seemed that the whole country had ground to a halt, as police and motoring organisations were at pains to point out that roads were treacherous, and that only those whose journeys were absolutely vital should even set out. What, I wonder, do our fellow Europeans on mainland Europe make of this, our once great nation, crippled by a few inches of snow, and with reports coming in some years of our councils running out of salt and grit for the treatment of the road network? If it happened more frequently, of course, people might argue, we might be prepared for it and take it all in our stride.

Life is a bit like that too. Sadly from time to time our lives are marred by traumas and tragedies we **haven't anticipated and prepared ourselves for. We know all too well, don't we, what someone means when they say "You should prepare yourself for the worst"?** As Christians we have resources at our disposal to help us be prepared for all that life throws at us. The options are there to make ourselves better equipped, if we so choose. Christianity offers us purpose and hope in a mixed-up world, the presence and peace of God in our daily lives, and the comfort and help of our fellow Christians. We can see life here as a kind of journey through this world to life in the world beyond death. If we stay in close contact with God then we shall be able to find Him much easier when we need him most.

The Bible urges its readers to be prepared. Saint Peter told his readers to be ready always to give account for their hope as Christians. Jesus promised to return to earth again one day. Not this time as a helpless little baby in a stable, but as a triumphant conqueror. He told people to take care to be **ready for his return in power and triumph to judge the world. Now, two thousand years later, we can't say we weren't given adequate time to prepare.**

Derek Hollis

NATURE NOTE

I made a little trip into the Brecks the other day to have a look for some of our more unusual winter visitors. It was one of those bitter, raw days that sucked the warmth out of you if you stood still for more than a couple of minutes, so I marched energetically along the river bank, waving my arms about and generally advertising my presence to anything watching. Not a good idea if you are bird-watching and I scarcely saw a thing, though I did hear a small flock of siskins buzzing and wheezing in the tree-tops. **Well, that's a start. Siskins are small yellow seed-eating finches that congregate noisily on the alder trees and have a cheerful, extrovert presence on a cold day.** By now I was warming up from the exercise anyway. I slowed down and made myself more a part of the landscape – to be able to see before I was myself seen. I was looking for two very shy birds that would be easily disturbed.

I was lucky with one of them. Peering out from behind a tree, I scanned the tops of the hawthorn bushes in an open field, and there sure enough on one of them was a starling-size bird, a ghostly pale grey all over except for a piratical black eye stripe. From time to time it would swoop agilely down on some small prey, maybe a mouse or a large beetle, and then fly back up to its perch to dismember it. A splendid great grey shrike, a bantam-weight predator, probably escaping from hard weather in Scandinavia or Eastern Europe. The Latin name is *Lanius excubitor*, **which literally means a 'butcher-bird sentinel' and that just about sums it up.** They always sit up like that to keep a good look-out all round **and they sometimes maintain a 'butcher's larder' nearby where they impale their prey until they are ready to eat it.**

The other bird required both luck and a bit of fieldcraft. Hawfinches are huge finches that have a very top-heavy, stumpy appearance and look in silhouette rather like little parrots. They have massive bills that can crack open cherry stones but their favoured food is hornbeam or beech mast, not hawthorn berries as you might expect from their English vernacular name. The Latin name is both more accurate and more fun, *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* **(that is, 'kernel crusher, kernel-crusher'). Despite their striking appearance they are very hard to find and almost impossible to watch from close range.** The best thing to do is to locate a hornbeam copse and then position yourself in hiding a long way off. I did that, but after about half an hour the cold was seeping back into my bones and I was beginning to think longingly of home, tea and my log fire. Then, quite suddenly, a couple of birds flew up from the woodland floor into the hornbeams and I got a clear view and a rush of adrenaline that cheered both body and soul.

Jeremy Mynott
Lavender Cottage
12 February 2015



Mar to Apr 2015 Church Services

		Date	Day	Time/Event	Time/Event	Time/Event	Time/Event
Monthly Church Service Rota	1st Mar	Sun	9:30 HC Kedington	11:00 HC Great Thurlow			
	8th Mar	Sun	9:30 HC Barnardiston	9:30 SOTW Kedington	11:00 HC Great Bradley		
	15th Mar	Sun	10:00 Benefice HC Little Bradley				
	22nd Mar	Sun	8:00 HC Kedington	9:30 HC Little Thurlow	11:00 HC Great Wrattling	18:00 ES Kedington	
	29th Mar	Sun	9:30 Benefice HC Kedington				
	5th Apr	Sun	9:30 HC Kedington	11:00 HC Little Bradley			
	12th Apr	Sun	9:30 HC Barnardiston	9:30 SOTW Kedington	11:00 HC Great Bradley		

The Benefice service rota is also provided online at http://www.stourheadbenefice.org/Stourhead_Benefice/Service_Rota.html

What's On!

Month	Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Information
Mar	4th	Wed	11:45 to 12:10	Mobile library	109 Bury Road Great Thurlow	01473 263838
Mar	4th	Wed	12.45 to 13:05	Mobile library	Thurlow Sports Club Little Thurlow	01473 263838
Mar	4th	Wed	14:00 to 14:20	Mobile library	Coronation Cottages Great Wrattling	01473 263838
Mar	5th	Thur	19:00	Thurlow Fayre Committee Meeting	Thurlow Village Hall	Allan Loveday 01440707416
Mar	10th	Tue	19:30	WI meeting	Thurlow Village Hall	Iris Eley
Mar	13th	Fri	19:00	Thurlow Gardening Club Open Evening	Thurlow Village Hall	Dawn Abbey 01440 783646
Mar	17th	Tue	19:30	Little Thurlow PC meeting	Thurlow Village Hall	Molly Hawkins 01440 783259
Mar	21st	Sat	11:00 to 14:00	Easter Crafting Day	Thurlow Village Hall	Dawn Abbey 01440 783646
Mar	21st and 22nd	Sat and Sun		Great and Little Thurlow Joint Village Litter Pick		Molly Hawkins on 01440 783259 or email mollyhawkins10 @aol.com
Mar	26th	Thur	19:45	GWPC meeting	Wheel Cottage, The Street	Parish Clerk gtwrattlingpc@ yahoo.co.uk
Mar	28th	Sat		Puckeridge Point to Point	Horseheath	
Mar	29th	Sun	14:00 to 17:00	Great Thurlow Hall Spring Garden Open Day	Great Thurlow Hall	Alison Coffey 01440 783478

Dates For Your Diary!

Wartime memories of Thurlow

As 2015 is the 70th Anniversary of VE Day and the ending of the 1939-45 War in Europe, some memories of growing up in Thurlow during the war years.

Early indications that there was a possibility of war, was the building of the RAF base at Stradishall, which was completed in 1938. This was marked by an Open Day on Empire Day, 24th May 1938, attended by several thousand members of the public from a wide area. Although most of the airfield was in the parish of Hundon, it was decided by the Air Ministry to name the base as RAF Stradishall, to avoid any confusion with RAF Hendon. The first aircraft to arrive were two squadrons of bombers, Handley-Page Heyfords, heavies and Vickers Wellesley medium bombers, also a Miles Magister a communications light aircraft.

Next was the large scale army manoeuvres to take place in the area. A Royal Artillery unit was camped in the field behind the village hall, with field guns and tracked towing vehicles, also several light tanks and armoured cars were in the village. They were visited by the then War Minister, Rt Hon Mr Hore-Belisha. My aunt and uncle, were living in Bridge Cottage at the time, and on the departure of the troops found that their orchard was stripped completely of all the fruit!

September 1939 saw the outbreak of war, the outdated aircraft at Stradishall had now been replaced by two squadrons of Vickers Wellington bombers. Next was the formation of the Local Defence Volunteers, members signed on at the Reading Room; also the Civil Defence, was formed: Air Raid Wardens, Special Police constables and the Auxilary Fire Service. The Fire Service was based in the garages at the Rose & Crown and consisted of a Coventry Climax pump which was towed by a Morris Cowley car. Two concrete pillboxes were constructed, one on the Crown Hill and one in the Walks at Pound Green. This one still exists.

The first Army unit to arrive in the village was a Royal Artillery Searchlight unit, this was located on the big park, between the Little Thurlow Hall Walks and the island. The troops were living in Bell tents and the power for the searchlight was provided by a large mobile generator. Us youngsters spent a lot of time up the park with the soldiers.

The Local Defence Volunteers had now received their uniforms and rifles and were renamed **the Home Guard, holding their parades at Mr Sargent's builders yard in Lt Thurlow, also now equipped with Spigot mortars an anti-tank weapon.**

Following the Dunkirk evacuation, and the threat of invasion, another army unit had arrived in the village. Another artillery unit, with a battery of medium howitzers, the guns were towed by 10 ton Matador lorries and were located in gun pits dug by the soldiers in the Walks at Lt Thurlow Hall. As the searchlight was close by, this was now moved to the Bradley Road opposite the old Newmarket & Thurlow Kennels, where the soldiers were now living in hutted accommodation, where the searchlight now remained for the rest of the war. We used to watch the beam sweeping the sky helping the returning bombers on their return from raids on Germany, also saw the beam picking up enemy bombers on their way to London. (To be

continued...)

The picture shows John's class from the school in Thurlow taken just before the outbreak of war.



This is the first in a series of articles from John Rowling, originally from Great Thurlow, with memories of growing up in the village during the war. Thank you John for sharing this fascinating bit of local history with us, Ed.

Remembering the Men of the Village Link

Rod Gibson of Kedington is researching the names and backgrounds of the men on our local war memorials. In order to commemorate their memory the sounding of the Last Post and Reveille, together with the ringing of the relevant church bells will be organised on each of the 100th anniversaries of their deaths. If you have any information or memorabilia that would add to the stories, and particularly any family photos that might include any of the men please contact Alison at thevillagelink@thethurlows.org.uk. Thank you.

Rod Gibson

Here is the fifth in our series:

JEFFREY, Tom, Pte., No. 14806

11th Bn. Suffolk Regiment

Tom was born in Great Wrattling, to George and Sarah Ann Jeffrey, née Starnes, of 92 School Terrace, Thurlow. The 1911 census shows him living with his parents, George, age 47, Farm Labourer, Sarah Ann, 48, brothers, Arthur, 25, Farm Labourer, Walter James, 22, Bricklayer Labourer, Charles, 19, Bricklayer Labourer, Tom, 14, Farm Labourer, and Harry, 6. George and Sarah Ann were married in the 4th quarter of 1885 and the entire family with the exception of Harry were born in Great Wrattling. Sadly two of their eight children died as infants. Tom enlisted in Haverhill.

Tom landed in France on 25th July 1915.

Tom was subsequently awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British and Victory Medals.

Killed in Action 8th August 1918

AGE 22

It is likely that Tom was originally in another Suffolk Battalion as he arrived in France on the same day as the 8th Battalion and the 11th Battalion did not arrive until 9th January 1916. The following is an extract from the 11th Battalion War Diary for the 8th August 1918, but casualty figures are only given at the end of the month and relate to the entire month. Le Sart, 8th, 2am Bn. moved to assembly point at (map ref) to form an advance guard to the 61st Division, as other reports had been received that the enemy had withdrawn his line. 6.20am Bn proceeds over the top to get in touch with enemy, going through the 2/65 Royal Warwicks who had occupied the enemy front line. LE SART occupied without resistance at 7.30am. D Coy and A Coy on right established a line approx (map ref). C Coy and B Coy on left held line approx (map ref). LOXTON FARM was occupied by enemy but was found to be held too strongly for attack without artillery assistance. 7.00 pm have line heavily shelled for 7 minutes. Touch was kept with enemy throughout the day but he did not retire further. No counter attack by enemy. The casualty report for the month shows 11 men killed (includes Tom), 10 of them on the 8th and 6, including Tom, with no known grave. 310 men and 11 Officers wounded, 230 by being gassed, including 7 Officers, and 2 men missing (probably killed).

The Ploegsteert Memorial commemorates more than 11,000 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the sector during the First World War and have no known grave. Most of those commemorated by the memorial did not die in major offensives, such as those which took place around Ypres to the north, or Loos in the south. Most were killed in the course of the day-to-day trench warfare which characterised this part of the line, or in small scale set engagements usually carried out in support of the major attacks taking place elsewhere. The memorial was designed by Harold Chalton Bradshaw, with sculpture by Gilbert Ledward. The memorial was unveiled by the Duke of Brabant on 7th June 1931.

Commemorated: Ploegsteert Memorial. Panel 3



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For further information contact Andy Quick at
andyquick01@gmail.com/783070 or Richard Shipp 07852187734



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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
Thurlow Pre-School – Helen Frost (thurlowpreschool@hotmail.co.uk.)	01440 783688
Thurlow Mother and Toddlers – Ond Zoe Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon during term time	077872 92294 078911 46931
Thurlow Fayre – Allan Loveday	01440 707416
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 Iris Eley	01440 783534
Thurlow Tennis Club—Andy Quick	01440 783070

Services and Societies in Great Wrating	Telephone
Neighbourhood Watch –TBC	
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
District Councillor – Robert Clifton-Brown	01440 783562
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
Age Concern – Heather Hunt	01440 783573
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	01284 757320
Every Friday early morning – Black bin on week one, blue and brown bin week two alternating	
Environmental Health and Pest Control	01284 757084

Health and Wellbeing	Telephone
Doctors – The Christmas Maltings and Clements Practice	01440 269366
Doctors – Selby Practice	01440 702010
Doctors – Stourhead Medical Practice	01440 761177
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 – Petra Stephenson	01440 783384
Councillor – Steven Robinson	01440 783131
Councillor—Diana Curtis	01440 783898
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. www.parish-council.com/greatwrattingparishcouncil	

Little Thurlow Parish Council Contacts	Telephone
Keith Bunting – Chairman	01440 783528
Chris Field –Vice Chairman	01440 783697
Will Griffiths	01440 783496
Heather Hunt	01440 783573
Chris Lowe	01440 783891
Andrew Dickson	01440 783385
Jessica Hale	01440 783190
Molly Hawkins—Parish Clerk	01440 783259

Great Thurlow Parish Council Contacts	Telephone
Peter Thomas—Chairman	01440 783700
Stan Cook—Vice Chairman	01440 783532
George Vestey	01440 783240
Conrad Hawkins	01440 783259
Naomi Sharrod	01440 783923
Rod Pass	01440 783610
Jane Sheppard	01440 783260
Diana Allin—Parish Clerk	01440 783560

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