

# The Village Link

Great Thurlow – Little Thurlow – Great Wratting

May  
2012

## THURLOW DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2-4 JUNE 2012

*Closing date for tickets 15<sup>th</sup>  
May, but tickets are going  
fast!*

*All events FREE to Thurlow  
residents.*

### The National Gardens Scheme Great Thurlow Hall – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012

Very kindly Mr & Mrs George Vestey once again opened their garden as part of the Suffolk NGS, with over 150 visitors through the main gate. Not only does this raise funds for charity but a team of church helpers provided refreshments in All Saint's Church, Great Thurlow on the day.

A big thank you to Alison for making all of the cakes, Margaret for organising the teas and coffees, and the team of helpers during the 5 hours in which the church was open. They raised £190 for All Saints Church PCC.



## The Village Link

Email: [TheVillageLink@TKHeat.co.uk](mailto:TheVillageLink@TKHeat.co.uk)

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## The Village Link

Well, as I compile the May issue of The Village Link there is torrential rain! April Showers! Wow! I don't know what is happening but when will it stop!

Regular readers may have noticed that over the past couple of months Sacha Davies (Junior Reporter) has not had any articles published. Sadly this is due to ill health but I'm happy to say that she is on the mend. Get well soon Sacha.

The remaining craft categories for the Thurlow Fayre – Produce & Craft Show 2012 will be in next month's issue. Sorry for the delay!

The July issue will contain pictures of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in the villages. If you take a picture and would like to share it with our readers, then please email it to [TheVillageLink@TKHeat.co.uk](mailto:TheVillageLink@TKHeat.co.uk).

*The Editor*

## Womens Institute Report

Thurlow WI members have taken full advantage of forthcoming events organised by the Federation. Two members will go on the visit to Grimesthorpe Castle in April, two will join Barrow WI for a five mile walk in May, four will go to Norwich to visit Dragon Hall and three hope to go on the trip to Southwold for the day and also see a play at the theatre, both of these events in July.

President Ann Tipper then introduced Hannah Kingston and her sister Louise (Molly's Daughters) who had filled a table with unglazed pottery for us to decorate. After a short explanation of how to do this we all settled down to concentrate on our masterpieces. The most popular items were the small jugs but others decorated ring stands plates and bowls. We now await to see the finished fired items which Hannah assures us will surprise and please us.

Winners this month were Rosemary Allcock and Anne Patient. Next meeting speaker to be arranged Village Hall 7 30 pm

*Iris Eley – Little Thurlow Reporter*

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depending on entrants, and will be judged on the most original costume.

We are delighted that the brilliant Haverhill Silver Band will be with us again this year. The Band will be presenting a range of music chosen specially for the Jubilee celebrations.

Many other favourites such as bowling for pig, the cake stall and white elephant will all be there to be enjoyed!

Come along and visit the stalls, catch up with friends and neighbours and join in the fun. The event will be officially opened at 1pm by a surprise 'royal'.

Everyone is welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

*John Mayhew, Chairman, Fete Committee*

## Thurlow Gardening Club News

The April meeting of the Thurlow Gardening Club was hosted by Kevin Crowson, 105 Crown Hill, Great Thurlow.

The meeting started with a tour of the gardens, including the front rose garden, side and courtyard gardens, followed by the main garden area at the rear of the property, which is home to a green house, vegetable garden, fruit cage, chickens and bees.

This winter the greenhouse had been completely cleared and set up again from scratch. Using raised wooden planters filled with top quality soil supplied by Chris Field of Field Compost Ltd and a number of new beds in the garden created ready for summer.

As always, the gardening club meets on the second Friday of each month from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Dawn Abbey is hosting the May meeting. For details please call Dawn on 01440 783646.

*The Gardening Club*

## Great Wrattling Jubilee Village Fete 1pm – 5pm on Saturday, 2nd June at The Hall, Great Wrattling

This year's Great Wrattling Fete takes place on the Diamond Jubilee weekend. In honour of this special celebration, our traditional afternoon of family fun takes on a Royal theme and includes a number of extra special treats.

In addition to our fabulous country teas, traditional Pimms and thirst quenching beers, this year you can also enjoy our Jubilee hog roast.

All children attending will receive a union jack flag, a jubilee fruit cocktail and access to our bouncy castle – all free of charge. The children's competition is a 'Royal Fancy Dress Parade'. Children will compete in age groups

**1st Burrough Green Brownies** meet weekly in Brinkley during the school term.  
For girls aged seven to ten.

The Brownies went aboard a pirate ship and had great weekend of adventure!

At the end of March we headed off to the Jarman centre in Newmarket, for a weekend of fun based on the theme of pirates! Friday evening was party night with lots of fancy pirate costumes and some fun pirate party games.

The girls enjoyed some great crafts, as well as orienteering their way around the many acres of grounds to bring them to the pirate's treasure. We enjoyed a fantastic campfire on the Saturday evening with plenty of singing and marshmallows. Sunday saw a very enjoyable session of archery, with a brilliant instructor, whose instruction enabled every girl to hit the target.

We stayed in a purpose-built holiday house on a secure campsite which is owned by Girlguiding Cambridgeshire East. You can find out more about the Jarman centre by visiting [www.cambseastguides.org.uk](http://www.cambseastguides.org.uk)

If anyone would like more information, or would like to register a girl who is not yet 7 please contact:

*Margaret Whalley 01638 716939*

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## The Rector Writes

In the year 1473 a boy was born in Poland who was later to be recognised as the founder of modern astronomy. The boy, Nicolaus Copernicus, was sent to school by his father, a wealthy merchant, and following his father's death, by his uncle, who became a bishop. At seventeen, Nicolaus attended the University at Cracow, where he learned mathematics and astronomy. Later he went to Italy, and spent time at the Universities of Padua and Bologna, studying medicine and church law. A number of thinkers in Italy were already beginning to question the old teachings of Ptolemy that the sun went round the earth, and that the earth was the centre of all things. Nicolaus Copernicus was

convinced that the sun did nothing of the sort. So when he returned home, apart from healing the sick and using his legal knowledge in the service of the Church, he devoted his time to proving that the sun did not go round the earth. He had no telescopes, and few instruments or tools at all, apart from his own eyes, and his genius and schooling in mathematics. Yet he went on to show mankind how the solar system functions, with the sun 'standing still' in the midst of it, the planets revolving around the sun, and the earth turning on its axis once a day, which makes it appear that the sun is going around the earth. Copernicus wrote a book about all this, but was reluctant to print it because its ideas were so revolutionary. He feared that the philosophers and the Church had believed so firmly that the sun went round the earth that they would be very angry if he were to upset all their ideas. The new ideas put forward by Copernicus were eventually published by his friends, just in time for him to hold a copy in his hands on his death-bed in 1543.

These were dangerous times for people with revolutionary new ideas. Men were burned at the stake for saying that the earth was merely one of the planets, and Galileo Galilei, who was born in the same year as William Shakespeare, 1564, was thrown into prison for supporting the views of Copernicus. The Church was much perturbed by his theory that the earth revolved around the sun. The sale of Galileo's book, published in 1632, was forbidden and he was threatened with torture unless he would swear that everything he had said in his book was false. Galileo was by this time an old man, and could not bear the thought of torture, and so he yielded, and took an oath that all the ideas in the book were false. Later of course the world was to discover the truth in his ideas. It is useless to try to suppress the truth by persecuting the people who tell it. Galileo became blind in 1637 but worked on despite his illness until he died in 1642.

I remember as a child that on rare occasions I had to be kept away from school, and it came as something of a surprise to me to realise that school still carried on even when I wasn't there. I suppose I had assumed that if I wasn't at school, there was no school! When we are small we tend to assume that

the universe is centred upon us, and that everything revolves around us. It is only later that we come to appreciate that life still goes on without us when we're not around, when we're ill or away on holiday, for example. In fact, none of us is indispensable, and life can, and will, go on without us if need be. Our churches often contain a long list of Vicars or Rectors, and that serves to remind me that the Church existed in these villages many hundreds of years ago, and that, with God's blessing, it will continue to exist long after I have left. It came as something of a shock to the world to be told that the earth revolved around the sun. As Copernicus and Galileo puzzled over the workings of the solar system, and found the sun to be at the centre, so we need to realise in humility that human beings are not at the centre of the universe. We did not create God, but He created us. God is not here to serve us, rather we are here to serve Him.

Sometimes, when I was away from school, as I sat at home, I would be given a box full of old photographs to look at, which used to fascinate me. They were mostly of members of my mother's family. Sometimes, though, I would sit and do a jigsaw puzzle. Until quite recently I used to have lots of jigsaw puzzles and would very occasionally sit and do one. Some completed puzzles used to hang on the Vicarage walls. One or two puzzles, I would find as I did them, were incomplete, having lost an odd piece over the years. Many faithful worshipping Christians would say that their lives were incomplete until they discovered God's love for them and began to take Him seriously. If you feel that there's something missing in your life, try making time for God. If you do, you may find that your life is changed for ever, just as the world of astronomy was changed in spectacular fashion by the discoveries of Copernicus.

*Derek Hollis.*

# Jamie Moran

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Great Writing

## Do You Want To Have A Better Understanding Of Your Faith?

This year's Lent Course attracted twenty people from five churches across the Benefice and we were very pleased to welcome members from 'Church in the Field,' Kedington for the first time. The topics in 'Hanging on the Torch' raised some thought provoking and challenging issues regarding the place of the church in modern society and where we go from here as Christians, both nationally and locally.

Feedback, both during and after the course, welcomed the opportunity to discuss current issues but also highlighted a need for more biblically based content. Derek has agreed to our running a short 6 week course of biblical study centred on Mark's Gospel. We are calling it 'On Your Marks', thereby shamelessly jumping on the 2012 bandwagon (the games, hopefully not the TV series!). Coincidentally 'On your Marks' is also the Scripture Union theme being followed by the joint Kedington churches children's Holiday Clubs this year and the title of a pamphlet containing a modern translation of the gospel, that will hopefully soon be available locally for anyone who would like one.

In these sessions we will start by looking at the place of Mark's Gospel in scripture, e.g. who was 'Mark', who did he write for, when and why? We will then look at the teachings of Jesus through the nine of his parables Mark records for us. There is no course booklet, no cost, no limit on numbers, all you need is a Bible.

We hope to hold sessions in the Chancel at Kedington on Tuesday mornings (11am-12noon) and evenings (7.30-8.30pm) with tea and coffee available after. The sessions would begin on Tuesday 6th June.

**Do you want to start to get a better understanding of your faith?  
Then get On your Marks!**

*For more information please contact Kathy and Steve on 01440 710225 - sandkidd@talktalk.net*

## Euston Rural Pastimes Event Sunday 10th June 2012 10am – 6pm IP24 2QH

Come and join us for very special Country Fair, at Euston Park our Rural Pastimes Event which showcases quality crafts and country skills. 2012 is our 21st show year. With three large show rings there is something happening throughout the day, from Royal Mail coach, working dogs obedience skills, horses and hounds. Vintage tractors, steam engines and stationary engines, Classic and Veteran cars and motor bicycles. Heavy horses and foals, showing and judging. Morris Dancers and a variety of music through the day.

The 2012 Flower Festival in St Genevieve's Church has the Diamond Jubilee theme - The Decades of the Queen's Reign. This is open with free entry on Saturday 9th June and Sunday.

New for 2011 was the children's arena with a variety of animals and activities especially for our smaller visitors plus the Sheep Show - as seen on U tube. 2012 brings the world famous Imps Motorcycle Display Team showing their incredible and breath taking driving skills.

Treat yourself to a two course lunch with wine and coffee/tea @ £10 per head in the Old Kitchens tel: 01842 763660 all bookings in advance for lunch.

Entry to the show is £8 per adult, £2 for children 5 to 12 years, under 5s are free. Fuller information is on our regularly updated website [www.eustonruralpastimes.org.uk](http://www.eustonruralpastimes.org.uk).

We are grateful to Duke Harry and the Duchess of Grafton for their endless support and allowing use of the grounds at Euston Hall for this superb one day charity fund raising event. All proceeds go to the St Nicholas Hospice in Bury St Edmunds and the 5 local churches. The organising committee and helpers are all volunteers

A great day out for all the family, bring your dog, on a lead please. An excellent selection of food and drink available all day. Free car parking

## **Thurlow Estate Farms Limited**

The Thurlow herd have been moved out to their summer grazings in the meadows around the Thurlows – much to the delight of the cows and their calves. They will spend the rest of the summer outside being rotated between areas of pasture to ensure that one area is not grazed too heavily.

Since the introduction of the hosepipe ban recently it doesn't seem to have stopped raining so between these welcome showers the Farm has been trying to spread the remaining applications of fertilizer. The sprayer drivers will then come in and spray off any broad leaved weeds that have emerged along with the crops.

Over the next six months, we will be changing some of our wheeled tractors/ combines to tracked vehicles and changing our sprayer boom widths to 40 meters. This will mean selling some of our current machines at a farm sale on the 17th May. Hopefully, some of the replacement machinery will be here in time to show the children who attend our annual school day (countryside learning day) on the 13th June.

## **Thurlow Hunt**

The last event of the 2011/12 Hunting season was the Keepers and Earthstoppers annual dinner which was held last week and very well attended by all those who have kindly helped out with the Hunt over the last year.

The Thurlow Hunt is saying goodbye at the end of this month to their First Whip, Harry Beeby, who is going on to be the First Whip at The Fitzwilliam and we all wish him well in his new role.

We will be welcoming in Paul Davis, originally from the Avon Vale, who will be starting in early May as the Thurlow Hunt's First Whip; I'm sure that you will see him around the Thurlows.

## **Thurlow Property**

We have now received the quotes back in for the six larger property renovations. The respective contractors, who have been awarded the contracts, will be undertaking the works through April and May with expected completion dates for all the properties in early June.

The annual external redecorations program will commence as soon as weather conditions allow.

## **Properties to let**

2 Motts Cottage, Great Thurlow. 2 bed recently renovated property with OFCH.

84 Thurlow Road, Great Wrating. 2 bed semi detached property with OFCH.

If you are interested in being notified of any other properties that are coming up in the future please call the Estate Office (01440 783661)

## **Thurlow Shoot**

The control of vermin continues with magpies being particularly targeted at this time of year as this is the time that they cause the most damage to nesting birds by taking eggs from the nests of others.

The keeper has begun the process of putting out the pens in preparation for the arrival of the pheasant poults: this is an ongoing process and ties in with the repairs of the static pens in some of the woods.

The keeper has also begun to incubate pheasant eggs which should be hatching in early May.

## **Thurlow Woodlands**

The Thurlow Woodlands team, have moved onto some first thinnings of two areas of outlying woodland on the Estate. A first thinning is one of the most important woodland operations of any young woodland. It involves freeing up the canopy of the better growing trees, by removing their surrounding, weaker, competitors. We will also be taking the opportunity to remove the "growing" tubes from the now established trees as well as crown lifting.

Please be aware that Firewood deliveries have now ceased until July. This gives us an opportunity to renew our stocks and give the chopped firewood a chance to dry out properly before we recommence deliveries in July. We do however take log orders throughout the year so you can book a load of logs now to be delivered anytime after the 1st July. If you order a load of logs now for delivery in July or August we are offering a £5 discount.

## **AND FINALLY.....**

David received a parrot for his birthday. The parrot was fully grown with a bad attitude and worse vocabulary. Every other word was an obscenity. Those that weren't expletives, were to say the least, rude. David tried hard to change the bird's attitude and was constantly saying polite words, playing soft music, anything he could think of. Nothing worked. He yelled at the bird and the bird yelled back. He shocked the bird and the bird just got more angry and more rude. Finally, in a moment of desperation, David put the bird in the freezer, just for a few moments. He heard the bird squawk and kick and scream - then suddenly, there was quiet.

David was frightened that he might have hurt the bird and quickly opened the freezer door. The parrot calmly stepped out and said "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'll endeavour at once to correct my behaviour. I really am truly sorry and beg your forgiveness." David was astonished at the bird's change in attitude and was about to ask what had made such a dramatic change when the parrot continued, "May I ask what did the chicken do?"

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## **Little Thurlow Parish Council - meeting of the 17th April.**

Councillors noted the Parish Council Precept for 2012/13 as £5401.

A successful joint Village Litter Pick was noted with at least thirteen black bags of rubbish being collected, as well as some car tyres, a battery and even the under tray of a car. The Parish Council would like to thank all those who took part and also Kevin Beal for the use of Mungo Lodge for a collection/drop-off point for this event. It is hoped that another Litter Pick might be held in November. Councillors discussed St. Edmundsbury BC Vision 2031 with one matter of concern being any increase in traffic through the village which could be caused by the proposed building of many more houses in and around Haverhill.

It was noted that the 30mph sign and street light in front of The Firs had become obscured by a hedge and that this matter had been reported to Thurlow Estate who had agreed to investigate.

Councillors were advised that approval had been given by Thurlow Estate for a sweet chestnut tree to be planted on the Recreation Ground in memory of Pauline Crooks.

Full Minutes of this meeting will appear on the Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall. The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting which will be held on Tuesday 15th May 2012 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.15pm.

*M. Hawkins, Parish Clerk*

## Diary Dates

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Information</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>18:00 - 20:00</b>	<b>Home Security Workshop</b>	Wickhambrook Memorial Hall (CB8 8XR)	County Councillor Jane Midwood 01440 821428
	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>20:00</b>	<b>Casino Night Egg Roulette</b>  <b>In aid of the Thurlow Churches</b>	The Cock Inn	Tim & Kevin 783654  See back page
	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>20:15</b>	<b>Little Thurlow Annual Meeting of the Parish</b>	The Village Hall, Thurlow	
	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>18:45</b>	<b>The Annual Great Wrattling Village Meeting</b>	The Parish Room, St Mary's Church	Parish Clerk gtwrattlingpc@ btinternet.com
	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>After Village Meeting</b>	<b>Great Wrattling Parish Council Meeting</b>	The Parish Room, St Mary's Church	Parish Clerk gtwrattlingpc@ btinternet.com
<b>June</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Sat</b>		<b>Great Wrattling Village Fete</b>	Hall Farm, Great Wrattling	Linda Reading 783376
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sat Sun Mon</b>		<b>Thurlow Diamond Jubilee Celebrations Weekend</b>	See Centre Pages	See Centre Pages
	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>14:00</b>	<b>Great Wrattling Diamond Jubilee Picnic</b>	Hall Farm, Great Wrattling	Petra Stephenson 783384
<b>July</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>14:00</b>	<b>Great Bradley Church Fete</b>	Great Bradley	Sue Ireland 01440 783595
<b>Sept</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Sun</b>		<b>Thurlow Fayre &amp; Car Boot</b>	Great Thurlow Sports Ground	Allan Loveday 01440 707416

## Monthly Church Service Rota

Date	Day	Time/Event	Time/Event	Time/Event	Time/Event
6 <sup>th</sup> May	Sun	9:30 Kedington Holy Communion	11:00 Great Bradley Holy Communion	15:00 Little Thurlow Holy Baptism	
13 <sup>th</sup> May	Sun	9:30 Little Bradley Holy Communion	9:30 Kedington Service of the Word	10:00 Great Wrattling Service of the Word	11:00 Great Thurlow Holy Communion
20 <sup>th</sup> May	Sun	10:00 Barnardiston Holy Communion	12:00 Kedington Holy Baptism		
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Sun	8:00 Kedington Holy Communion	9:30 Great Wrattling Holy Communion	11:00 Great Bradley Holy Communion	16:00 Kedington Evensong
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Sun	9:30 Kedington Holy Communion	11:00 Little Thurlow Jubilee Service		
10 <sup>th</sup> June	Sun	9:30 Barnardiston Holy Communion	9:30 Kedington Service of the Word	10:00 Great Wrattling Service of the Word	11:00 Little Bradley Holy Communion

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# DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS PROGRAMME OF EVENTS IN THE THURLOWS

## **SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2012 - 2PM TO 4PM - FAMILY TREASURE HUNT**

Starting and finishing at the Sports Field – **free entry**.

A Treasure Map and Clues will be available at the start. All entries will go into a prize draw and commemorative Jubilee gifts will be given. All children must have adult supervision. Refreshments will be supplied.

## **SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2012 - 11AM - CHURCH SERVICE AT ST PETER'S, LITTLE THURLOW**

Afterwards refreshments will be served in the garden of The Old Vicarage (by kind permission of Mrs Biddy Bigland).

## **SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2012 - 7.30PM - FIFTIES THEME DANCE**

WITH “THE UGLY DOG SKIFFLE COMBO” AT HALL BARN, GREAT THURLOW.

Refreshments will be included and there will be a licensed pay bar. **Admission for Thurlow residents will be FREE**, by ticket only. Some tickets will be available for family and friends at a cost of £10 each, these will be on a first come, first served basis (see page 16 for ticket application).

## **MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012 - 8PM - GRAND HOG ROAST PARTY AND FIREWORK SPECTACULAR**

IN THE GARDENS OF GREAT THURLOW HALL (by kind permission of Mr & Mrs George Vestey). Music from Tom Ogden's Disco and a licensed pay bar. **This event will be FREE to Thurlow residents**, by ticket only, but some tickets will be available for family and friends at a cost of £10 for adults, £5 for age 5 years to 16 years, under 5s free (see page 16 for ticket application).

## **MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012 - BEACON**

The Thurlows will be participating in a project whereby 2012 beacons will be lit across the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, UK Overseas Territories and the Commonwealth.

The Beacons will be lit between the hours of 10pm and 10.30pm and Her Majesty The Queen will light the National Beacon in London at 10.30pm.

The Thurlows' Beacon will be sited in the meadows to the south of Great Thurlow Hall, it will be lit in co-ordination with the firework display and be visible to all those attending the Hog Roast Party.

# DIAMOND JUBILEE TICKET APPLICATION

## SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2012 HALL BARN DANCE

Please supply tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Resident adult (free)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Resident under 18 (free)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Visitors @ £10

## MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012 HOG ROAST AND FIREWORK DISPLAY

Please supply tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Resident adult (free)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Resident 5-16 years (free)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Resident under 5s (free)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Visiting adult @ £10  
\_\_\_\_\_ Visiting 5-16 years @ £5  
\_\_\_\_\_ Visiting under 5s (free)

NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER

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**PLEASE NOTE: it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the free tickets are used by THURLOW residents only.**

**RETURN YOUR APPLICATION BY 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012 TO THURLOW STORES OR TO THE SECRETARY AT MELTON HOUSE, GT. THURLOW, CB9 7LE. For more information telephone 01440 783259 or email [mollyhawkins10@aol.com](mailto:mollyhawkins10@aol.com)**

## Nature Note

It isn't often I see a new bird in Thurlow nowadays but I did have one the other day. I was walking along the river bank between Great Thurlow and Wratting when a large brown bird took off from a fence post and glided over the meadow. I was close enough to see the intricate detail of the plumage on the wings, richly chequered with darker and lighter markings and with buffy patches shading almost to orange. The flight was distinctive too: it started quartering the fields in an almost choreographed sequence of manoeuvres – glide, circle, pause, tilt, glide again ... and everyone now and then it would spy something in the grass and without warning drop like a stone on its prey. All the while it kept me in view, swivelling its head almost back to front as it twisted and turned in flight, and giving me a steady baleful stare from its fierce yellow eyes set in a rounded head. It was an owl, clearly, but an unusual one that hunts by day not by night. We have tawny and little owls regularly in the village, more often heard than seen, and quite often a ghostly barn owl wafts through just as the light is fading; but this new visitor was something different, a rare short-eared owl. 'Short-eared' is a bit of a misnomer in fact. It does have a couple of tufts of feathers on top of its head that look like ears but those are just for display and have nothing to do with hearing. Its real ears are invisible, embedded in the skull beneath the feathers and positioned asymmetrically either side of the head to help it locate tiny animal sounds below with pinpoint, and usually deadly, precision. Anyway, these feather tufts are quite a good identification feature because you can see them at some distance and the only other owl that at all resembles the short-eared is another very rare one, the long-eared, whose tufts are much more prominent. I've seen one or two of these long-eared owls here over the years too, but they are very hard to spot since they are more nocturnal and spend most of the day well camouflaged in the depths of dense foliage or pressed tight against the trunk of a tree.

Our month January is named after the Roman god Janus, who was said to face both ways, back to the old year and forwards to the new one. But in terms of the natural world April is the real double-facing month – the spring hinge between winter and summer. Just as this wandering short-eared owl was heading back north so our summer migrants were arriving here from the south. As I walked back to Thurlow along the river I heard chiffchaffs and blackcaps singing in the trees and then as I reached Great Thurlow church there high over the barn were the first swallows of spring, three of them, wheeling through the sky and twittering sweetly, the promise of another summer to come.

*Jeremy Mynott*



**10th Annual Duck Race** on the River Stour in Kedington on 7 May 2012.

Ducks race at 1 pm. in aid of Kedington church restoration fund.

Following a dishonorable discharge from the Navy and a short term in prison, Bannatyne says that even at 30 he was penniless and didn't

have need of a bank account.

With two failed endeavors (growing Christmas trees and raising budgerigars), at 20 Branson founded a small mail order record retailer on the back of credit cards and called it Virgin.

JK Rowling saw herself as 'the biggest failure' she knew. When on a train an idea 'fell in to her head' for a story but she didn't have a functioning pen, and was too shy to ask to borrow one.



## Is there a business in you?

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You might have been made redundant; you may have had time out to have children; you could be long term unemployed; or you may have been ill. Whatever your circumstances we are here to help.

TIME: 9.30am to 3.00pm

DATE: Monday 21st May 2012

VENUE: Great Barton Village Hall, Elms Close, Great Barton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. IP31 2NR

COST: FREE - including buffet lunch

BOOK: Call - 01284 757109

MORE INFO: Email – [event.bookings@stedsbcb.gov.uk](mailto:event.bookings@stedsbcb.gov.uk)

[www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/businessinyou](http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/businessinyou)

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**Wednesday Steak Night** - 2 people eat for £24.85; inc bottle off wine

**Monday 30th April Monday 14th May & Monday 28th May** - Over 60's Lunch: 2 People eat for £11.95

**Friday 11th May** - Casino Night: Tickets £5 per person including buffet; in aid of All Saints Church Great Thurlow & St Peter's Church Little Thurlow

**Thursday 17th May** - Curry Night; 2 Courses for £10.95

**Thursday 24th May** - Supper Club Evening; 2 courses for £11.95; where people can meet other sociable diners

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& Sports Massage Therapist

**Make that call: 01440 783342 or 07791 837114**  
Send me an email: [clairefoy@btconnect.com](mailto:clairefoy@btconnect.com)

**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.

<b>Services and Societies in Thurlow</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Thurlow Village Stores and Post Office – Naomi Sharrod	01440 783214
Thurlow News – Naomi Sharrod	01440 783923
Thurlow Garage – Ray Sharrod	01440 783248
The Cock Inn – Symon Watts	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 – Roz Bunting, Head Teacher	01440 783281
Thurlow Pre-School – Helen Frost (thurlowpreschool@hotmail.co.uk.)	01440 783688
Thurlow Mother and Toddlers – Claire Yallop and Helen Morley	01440 783975
Thurlow Fayre – Janice Klimcke and Diana Allin	01440 783626 01440 783560
Thurlow Gardening Club – Dawn Abbey	01440 783646
Thurlow Sports Club Secretary – Allan Loveday	01440 707416
Thurlow Village Hall Committee – Janice Klimcke	01440 783626
Thurlow Village Hall Bookings – Diana Allin	01440 783560
Woodcraft Folk – Activities for ages 5-13 – Diana Allin	01440 783560
Thurlow Womens Institute – President Ann Tipper	01440 783090

<b>Emergency</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Police Response – any officer, non emergency	101
Police Response – Emergency	999
Suffolk Fire Service	01284 558888
EDF (Electricity) 24 hour Emergency helpline	0800 783883
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

**Copy deadline, as always is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

**[View The Village Link online at www.littlethurlow.org](http://www.littlethurlow.org)**

<b>Community Contacts</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
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 – Jane Midwood	01440 821428
Suffolk County Council General Enquiries	08456 066067
Age Concern – 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 on alternate Mondays stopping at Sowley Green 11.30-11.40am, 109 Bury Road, Great Thurlow 11.45-12.10pm and Little Thurlow Green, 1 Coronation Villas 12.45-1.00pm.	
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

<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Doctors – The Christmas Maltings and Clements Practice	08444 773543
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

<b>Great Wrattling Parish Council Contacts</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Chair – Gavin Acheson	01440 783515
Vice-chair – Phil Stainer	01440 786462
Councillor – Linda Reading	01440 783376
Councillor – Petra Stephenson	01440 783384
Councillor – Jackie Edmonds	01440 783322
Councillor – Steven Robinson	01440 783131
Councillor – Caroline Togher	01440 783876
Parish Clerk – Jayne Whittaker <a href="mailto:gtwrattlingpc@btinternet.com">gtwrattlingpc@btinternet.com</a>	07795007523
If you would like information about joining Great Wrattling Parish Council, please contact the Parish Clerk. <a href="http://www.parish-council.com/greatwrattlingparishcouncil">www.parish-council.com/greatwrattlingparishcouncil</a>	

<b>St Mary's Church Great Wrattling Church Wardens</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Simon Corbett	01440 783698
Ben Stanton	01440 783103

<b>Services and Societies in Great Wrattling</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Neighbourhood Watch – Linda Reading	01440 783376
Red Lion, Great Wrattling – George and Linda Sykes	01440 783237
The Great Wrattling Book Group – Jean Newlands	01440 783111

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**Email: [info@moojuicedairy.co.uk](mailto:info@moojuicedairy.co.uk)**

*\*subject to area, max. of 7 pints*

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Tel : 01638 508845

Westley Waterless, Newmarket  
e-mail : [napierfz@aol.com](mailto:napierfz@aol.com)



# eggs ROULETTE

Casino Night returns to  
The Cock Inn, Thurlow  
in aid of the Thurlow Churches.

Tickets are £5 per person,  
which includes a finger buffet.

Available from Thurlow Stores, The Cock Inn,  
or Kevin & Tim 783654

Eggs kindly donated by Thurlow Stores!



## CASINO NIGHT

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 8pm



# Family Treasure Hunt Saturday 2nd June

2 to 4 pm  
at The Sportsground  
Great Thurlow

## Find the clues around The Thurlows

All Children must have adult supervision

Refreshments supplied

collect your maps from the sportsfield  
between 2 & 4pm

Part of the Diamond Jubilee  
Celebrations in Thurlow