

Thurton Thunderer

Issue 2

February / March 2007

Now that Christmas is behind us “a Happy New Year” and welcome to the second issue of the Thurton Thunderer.

What is the background to the name of the newsletter has been asked by several and has been guessed by some. During discussions about the title for the newsletter “The Thurton Times” was mentioned, which led onto the fact that “THE TIMES” was called “THE THUNDERER” when it first started. The story goes that one of the reporters said it would be “a thundering good read”!! We felt the Thurton Thunderer had a certain ring about it and decided on the name. From the feedback we believe that the first issue was well liked and may be a “thundering good read”? Please write in and let us know.

When we decided how big to make the newsletter we thought we would have trouble in filling the pages, how wrong we were! Although we are small there is a lot going on and we hope to include even more as time goes by. Please let us have your ideas, articles and comments, perhaps we can have readers letters - let us know what you think because the Thunderer is for the residents by the residents.

Landmark change: As reported in our first issue under the heading “Stop Press” on the back page, the cupola at Thurton Foundries has now come down. There will be an article about the Foundry in the next issue.

**You see it,
in the morning**



**You see it not,
in the evening**



THE GEORGE & DRAGON

Sally and Clive at the George & Dragon have informed The Thunderer that the reconstruction and rebuilding at the pub is continuing now that the Christmas holiday is over. It is hoped that the garage to the right of the pub will be demolished shortly as it is in a dilapidated condition. Work on the inside of the pub and rebuilding the barn at the rear, which will become the new restaurant, is underway. Also, the groundwork to the rear, which will become the car park, has been started.



They apologise for the delays but Sally and Clive want all work, both inside and outside the pub, to be completed before re-opening to avoid disruption during trading. If there are no more set-backs they hope to open for business this coming Spring.

Sally and Clive are looking forward to giving all customers, old and new, a warm welcome.

ASHBY & THURTON VILLAGE HALL

A Pre Christmas party was held at the Village Hall on 3rd December and what a fantastic evening it turned out to be. The hall rocked all night to the music of Cedarwood, who are a very talented group. The thanks of the Committee go to all who attended and to all the people who donated the lovely raffle prizes which helped to make the evening such a success. A special thanks go to the Foundry and John and Maureen Capps who helped with the organization of the event and for their very generous donation to the Village Hall Refurbishment Fund..

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Another party is planned for Saturday 10th March 2007.

at the Village Hall

Dancing to the live band .

"TWICE AS NICE"

60s & 70s Night

7.30pm to Midnight,



Tickets £6.00 each from Keith Wells on 480071. Please book early to avoid disappointment as this event promises to be another fun packed and sell out occasion.

Bring your own drink and food for your table.

Raffle prizes would be appreciated.

WARNING Beware of this scam. If you receive a card through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) saying they have tried to deliver a parcel to you and require you to contact them by phone on a **0906** number for delivery instructions **DO NOT CALL THEM.** This scam involves a high-rate premium phone line. If you call you will be billed £15 as soon as their answer phone cuts in. Also there are bogus callers reported in all areas of the county purporting to be from Anglia Water. Don't let them in before checking their identity with Anglia Water, free phone 0800 145 145



Police non-emergency number 0845 456 4567





ASHBY & THURTON VILLAGE HALL

YOUTH CLUB

The village hall has two clubs, on alternate **Fridays**

with two age groups, one following another:

for high school yrs 7 & 8: **7.15 pm - 8.45 pm**

Then for school yrs 9, 10, 11: **8.30 - 10 pm**

Older ones can come earlier as Helpers by arrangement, to be with siblings / friends

IT'S A GREAT PLACE TO GO - CDS, PS2,

FOOD, FOOTIE, FRIENDS, FUN - WELCOME!

DATES: FEB 2 (not on 9th -half term); **MARCH 2, 16** (outing) **30**, April **20**.

Organized by youth worker Jacqui Hill, employed by the Bramerton Group of Churches

The club is a socializing community youth club

for people of any faith or none. However, some evenings will explore youth issues (in a fun way !) including Christian perspectives. An open forum—all views respected.

Club nights have games; outdoors in summer, but also chill time on bean bags, latest CDs, table tennis, table football, foam football, Playstation 2 or Singstar, graffiti boards, sometimes craft stuff. A fun relaxed atmosphere - it's ok to turn up alone!

Trips out – Quasar megazone, bowling, climbing, abseiling, gigs; Lifts provided.

(subsidies available) + **OPTIONAL ACTIVITY CAMP AT HORSTEAD** in May.

Cost £1 per session on hall nights, which includes snacks and drinks.

Jacqui: 528534 or 07854 436535 or jacquihill@uk2.net

Thurton Short Mat Bowls Club

We meet Monday and Wednesday evenings, 7.30-10.00pm at the Village Hall and take part in both the Winter League (mostly in South Norfolk) and the Summer League (playing teams all over Norfolk). We enjoy practice "roll-ups" at the Village Hall on evenings when there are no league fixtures.

All are welcome, beginners or players, to come along and have a go.

Contact Denise on 480402

Thurton Little Fish

Anyone between 0 and 5 years of age can come to Little Fish at the Village Hall and please bring your Mummy, Daddy or a Grand Parent too! We have a short service, with a story time and songs, then a play time and a drink and biscuit. Do come – we start at 10.30am on Wednesday morning. February 7th and 21st, March 7th and 21st.

Thurton Explorers

Explorers (7 – 11's) meet on alternate Friday evenings in term time at the Village Hall from 7pm – 8.15pm on February 9th and 23rd, March 9th and 23rd.

(For more info contact Angie on 480477).

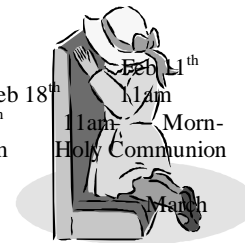
Last term the Explorers, Little Fish, both the youth groups - Halos and Rockaholics, their families and friends saved coins in Smartie tubes, for their harvest gift, wanting it to be used to make a difference in the world. The aim was to raise £20 for an Oxfam alpaca package, but the final total was £163! We gave eight alpaca packages to the poorest families in Peru to make a real difference in their lives.

Thurton Church Services

Feb 4th 11am Holy Communion
10.30am Benefice Service at Yelverton Church
All Age Service at the Village Hall

March 11th 10.30am Benefice Service at Framingham Pigot Church
March 18th 11am Mothering Sunday Service
25th 11am Morning Prayer

Feb 18th 11am Holy Communion
Feb 25th 11am Morning Prayer
March 4th 11am Holy Communion

**ALL WELCOME GROUP**

Sophie Garner Jazz Quartet

Friday 16th March 2007

Doors open 7.30pm

For tickets contact Tricia 480695

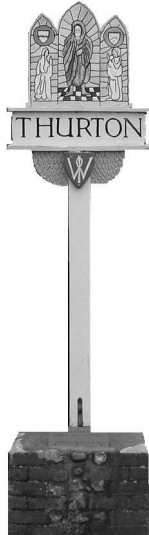
Prices are:-

In advance Adults £6.00 Concessions/ Children £5.00

On the door Adults £7.00 Concessions/ Children £6.00

Bring your own drink

Thurton Village Sign



In 1973 the Thurton, Ashby & District Women's Institute started putting aside money for a special item and a village sign was voted for. The sign was in celebration of the National WI Diamond Jubilee in 1975. There was difficulty in getting planning permission and there was a dispute of ownership of the original site in the centre of the village. Eventually permission was granted for it to be erected at the present site as the land was owned by the South Norfolk District Council.

The 10ft 6in sign was designed by Mr Harry Carter, of Swaffham, who incorporated the depiction of the stained glass windows in St Ethelbert's church in Thurton. These windows were originally in Rouen Cathedral and were obtained by Lady Beauchamp of Langley Hall and installed in the church. Mr Carter was given the go ahead to carve this and build the sign. He was a well known schoolteacher and carver from Gresham School at Holt and had carved many village signs. This was in the very early days of village signs -Young's the builders from Chedgrave built the plinth and Capps Foundry cast the original metal nameplate, which was stolen. The present brass plaque was commissioned to replace the old plate commemorating the Diamond Jubilee. Mrs E. Leathers unveiled the sign in 1976. Rev Kit Chalcraft conducted a service of dedication and blessing. Many years later it was refurbished by Mr Pat Stanley and then again by prison inmates of Wayland Prison as a project by their woodwork teacher. Unfortunately the sign is now beyond repair. As we do not have the funds to replace and maintain it, the WI has reluctantly handed the responsibility of the sign over to the Parish Council. We now look forward to seeing a new village sign in the not too distant future.

Thurton, Ashby & District WI. The next WI meeting will be held at the Village Hall on Thursday 1st February 2007 at 7:30pm.



Women's
Institute

The guest speakers will be John Ford and Brian Patrick who will be talking about "The life and times of Adrian Bell...the farmer, writer, EDP columnist and crossword compiler for THE TIMES. Visitors and guests are welcome to attend.

Thursday 1st March, there will be a special demonstration by talented local florist Nicky of "Flowers & Tiaras by Nicole" on the theme of "Flowers for the Church". Anyone interested in the art of flower arranging is very welcome.

The WI Jumble Sale is to be held on Saturday March 17th at the Village Hall. Doors open at 12 noon, admission 20p. Items of jumble and bric-a-brac etc can be brought to the Village Hall from 10am onwards on the day or collection can be arranged by contacting Jill on 480553 or Irene on 480802. Thank you.

Visitors, guests, new friends and neighbours to the village are welcome to attend any of our meetings and events.

Parish Plan updates



The Parish Plan updates will be reported on within the sections of the areas charged with the actions:-

Parish Plan Committee

We are still in existence and are the team involved with the newsletter, plus some new people, which is great. Going back to the plan, the committee have so far completed the following actions:-

- 1 The Plan was launched at the Annual Parish Meeting on April 27th 2006
- 2 Copies of the plan were distributed to
 - a) All households in Thurton
 - b) Relevant County and District Councillors and officers
 - c) Member of Parliament
3. Ashby & Thurton Village Hall Management Committee advised of the views of Young People on improvement to the Village Hall
4. Investigate the possibility of producing a newsletter -now in production
 - a) Include existing clubs and societies - not all in yet
 - b) Publicise Parish Council activities and decisions
 - c) Contact people who have offered to help with the newsletter, this

we have started for the second issue

Parish Council

Recycling: In addition to the recycling site at Bergh Apton we have a bottle bank located on the George & Dragon PH car park. Please do not leave bottles when the bottle bank is full as this may result in loss of this facility. Gardeners are encouraged to compost garden waste. However, garden waste may be taken to the Bergh Apton site. A new brown bin is supplied by SNC but there is a charge for this service.

Street Lights: The Parish Council has decided not to proceed any further with street lights as the cost was prohibitive.

Public Transport: We continue to lobby for better transport. A car sharing service is available, tel: 08700 111199 or www.carshare.to. Timetables are available at both bus shelters and a link is available on the Parish Council website www.eastspace.net/thurton/home.asp.

Employment opportunities: There is a link to Jobcentre Plus on the Parish Council website.

Road Safety: The Parish Council are continuing to lobby for road improvements. The school has been asked to look into safe routes to school by County Councillor Gunson.

Postal Service: Complaints have been made about the standard of service on parishioners behalf. The Post Office have replied that they are sorry we are not happy. The Post Office will address our complaints. We still await a reply as to whether they will supply post boxes with larger apertures.

Thurton School: A successful meeting was recently organized by the County Councillor about the school to be built later in the year. The Village

Hall Committee is liaising with the County Council over the licence for use of the playing field by the school.

Dog Bins: It was decided not to purchase additional dog bins at present as we also have to pay to have them emptied.

Salt Bins: Two salt bins are being purchased as replacements for the existing bins which have been damaged.

Litter Bins: We are awaiting the delivery of 2 bins which will be sited near the bus shelters.

Thurton Parish Council

Next Parish Council meeting will be held on 29th March 2007 at the Village Hall at 7.45pm.

On 3rd May 2007 there will be elections to the Parish Council.

Officially the present Council will stand down and are likely to offer themselves for re-election. We are at present short of 1 Councillor and any parishioner is welcome to be nominated.

Present Councillors are :- John Capps Chair, Chris Popplewell Vice Chair, Paul Byrne, Chris Stratton, Peter Martin, Jan Whitehouse.

However, if there are already 7 nominations for the 7 vacancies there will be no need for an election.

SOUTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL DISTRICT & PARISH ELECTIONS Thursday 3rd May 2007

Nomination papers sent to Parish Clerk	Thursday 28th February 2007
Receipt of nomination papers	no later than noon on Wednesday 4th April 2007
Closing time & date for Postal Vote Applications	no later than 5.00pm Wednesday 18th April 2007
Issue of Postal Votes	from 9.00am on Friday 20th April 2007
Day of Poll	from 7.00am to 10pm Thursday 3rd May 2007
Current members retire	Tuesday 8th May 2007

Thurton: A village of Change



Although it seems hard to imagine, our village wasn't always a stop along the direct route from Lowestoft to Norwich. It was once a quiet little village without a tarmac diameter. There were, in fact, three shops here in 1925, however they have all been converted into houses due to the lack of business from one small village; along with the Post Office. Now we have none which seems ridiculous as the rest of the village seems to have accommodated to the modernization of Norfolk and a local shop would be a benefit to local people and people travelling on the bypass. Surely there would be enough business now the size of the village has increased. The engineering works and foundry owned by Arnall Capps used to shoe horses, make saddles and coffins and repair agricultural machinery but now makes a variety of cast products including fireplaces, this is due to the use of larger more technical equipment in farming and having no use for working horses.

In my time here I've been surprised by still having an ice-cream man, yet I hear there used to be a baker, butcher, sweet-man, scissors-grinder, mole-catcher, pack man and muffin man come by regularly as well. The "business" village it seems has retired along with the salesman and has now become a much less busy place as supermarkets take over.

However, the George & Dragon has shut for refurbishment with a promise of a better return making sure even the leisurely aspect of Thurton is up-to-date.

Moreover, Thurton School is being rebuilt again to hopefully accommodate more pupils and provide better facilities and equipment.

Hopefully these changes will benefit Thurton making it a well suited village for modern family life.

Candice Rudd

Aged 15 years

"11 Says" Assembly

As our regular "11 Says" assembler for Thurton has moved away from the village, the Church Council are looking for a replacement. We need one or two people to help put together the "11 Says" and bring the Thurton copies back to a house in the village. Arrangements are already in place for distribution from there.

"11 Says" assembly takes place every 2 months on a Saturday 9.00am to 10.45am at Bramerton Village Hall. If you would like to help or want more details, please contact Ros Limbach on 480440

Warming News for Householders

Are you eligible for a Government grant to help warm up your home or reduce your fuel bills?

Government funded grants of up to £2,700 (this goes up to £4,000 if oil fired heating is fitted) are available to homeowners and private tenants receiving certain income related or disability related benefits or credits, to provide heating and insulation measures to improve their homes.

Warm Front will organise and pay for all work up to the value of the grant. This scheme is funded by the government and managed by Eaga Group Ltd. All you have to do is call **free on 0800 316 2814** (between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday or 9am to 5pm on Saturdays) to find out if you are eligible. If you are not eligible we offer a Benefit Entitlement Check to see if you are eligible for any benefits. You will be guided through the process by a trained advisor.



Are you fed up with crime and nuisance makers in your area and want to do something about it?

Join the largest voluntary group in the country and help make your town or village a safer and more caring community – join Home Watch (Neighbourhood Watch). Forget about the stories of nosy neighbours twitching behind the net curtains wanting to know about your private business or being vigilantes on patrol – that is a load of rubbish! **The facts are if you are a member of a Home Watch you are less likely to be a victim of crime.** Who says so? The crime reports in police records say so.

There are some people who shun the opportunity to help their fellow neighbour and sadly they are usually the same people who expect help from others when times are hard. The Home Watch Administrator is very sad when checking crime reports to see that crime has occurred where Home Watch does not exist, because it could have made a big difference. It takes so little effort to be in Home Watch and yet people are still under the impression that crime happens to other people and if they pay their taxes and insurance that is all they have to do to protect themselves. Come on, get the benefits given to the other Home Watch groups that are enjoying this FREE service, which makes them aware of criminal activities and be given information about what to do to avoid being a crime statistic.

So what exactly is Home Watch? It is simply a group of residents coming together to create a safer and more caring community. This is achieved by forming a group of neighbours (members) that is run by the members and supported by the police. The Home Watch groups vary in size; from a few houses to whole towns and villages. A Co-ordinator is elected from the group who acts as the point of contact through which the police communicate giving timely and accurate information, which is passed on to the members. The information not only helps to protect residents but the information, which comes back from the members to the police, has resulted in many criminals being arrested. At present there are about 5000 Home Watch groups across the county with a total membership of over 70,000.

Don't be left out of this important chance to make a difference – sitting at home moaning about how it used to be will not make a halfpenny's worth of difference, but joining a group which actually does something, will make a difference.

If you want more information on Home Watch in the South Norfolk area contact John Broughton on 01379 650 773

The Threat to our Rural Post Offices – can we do anything ?

Age Concern asked older people what the Post Office meant to them:

- 99% of older people in rural areas consider their local Post Office to be “a lifeline”.
- 56% of over-60s in the countryside fear that Post Office closures will leave them isolated.
- 76% of older people are worried about losing essential services if their Post Office closes.
- 73% feel that they wouldn't be able to access similar services in their local area.

Some of the facts:

- The £150 million annual Government payment for rural Post Offices ends in 2011 and will not be increased.
- 39% of sub-postmasters in rural and urban areas can see “no future whatsoever” for their businesses.
- The Post Office Card Account (POCA) is a simple account which allows the receipt only of benefit, state pension and tax credit payments. POCA is used by 4.3 million people every week to access their pension and benefit. Department for Work and Pensions will not confirm the extension of the POCA contract with the Post Office beyond 2010.

'Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others.'

(Philippians 2:4)

There are several things an individual can do and, if enough people do it, it could make a difference. These actions will cost little more than time and a small inconvenience initially. Here are some of the ways in which we could make a difference:

- STAMPS: only get them from the Post Office.
- POST OFFICE CARD ACCOUNT (POCA): if you receive a state pension, request payment to a POCA (Contact Pension Service 0845 60602656).
- VEHICLE LICENCE: renew it at the Post Office if they are able to do it (some cannot).
- BANKING: access your Bank Account at the Post Office and ask your Bank about it if you cannot.
- BUREAU DE CHANGE: when you travel see if you can get your currency via the Post Office.
- PAYING BILLS: pay your utility bills at the Post Office.
- FISHING PERMIT: get it at the Post Office.
- EASY ACCESS ACCOUNT: open a National Savings Easy Access Card and Pin account.
- ASK: what other services are available from your nearest Post Office.

The rural Post Office has been called a lifeline and we should make an effort to preserve the lifeline for as long as we need it.

Gardening Notes 2007



I have been asked to write some notes for the Thunderer and hope that these will be of help to you.

February This month is usually the quietest of the year but there are still things that can be done if the weather is right. If you have fruit trees, now is the time to spray with a winter wash to give the trees a good start for the new year but do not spray in frosty conditions. If the weather is favourable, peas can be sown using either Feltham First or Fortune. Broad Beans 'Aquadulce' can be sown up to the end of February for early crops. Various crops can be sown under glass, cauliflower, lettuce, cabbage etc. onion sets and shallots can be planted.



In the greenhouse several seeds can be sown if you can keep the temperature at 60-65 deg F, tomato and seeds of bedding plants such as Antirrhinum, Pansy, Salvia Tagetes and Lobelia to name a few. The above temperature is necessary to produce strong, sturdy plants. Check on storage of bulbs and corms that you might have, if there is mildew, powder with sulphur dust. Sterilize any empty greenhouses to have a clean start for the new season. Seed potatoes should be ordered now to avoid disappointment later.

Making a list of seed requirements will save time later and also avoid buying seeds you may not need. At present prices, it can be expensive to have wasted packets of seeds. Lawns should be left alone unless the weather is very good when aeration and scarifying can be carried out. This is a good time to check all garden tools, mowers etc so that you are ready for Spring, when it arrives.

March is a busy month and there is much to do if the weather will allow. Broad Beans and Early Peas can be sown now and small sowings of vegetables, such as red beet, carrots, parsnips, leeks, cabbages, brussel sprouts and lettuces etc. It is worth risking a small sowing of these but if the weather does turn cold later some crops run up to seed, so only make small sowings this month. In the flower garden hoe or fork around plants to encourage new growth and top dress with a suitable fertilizer such as Fish, Blood and Bone which I find is very good. Roses should be pruned now if you have not already done so. Remember to collect up any clippings of roses and the leaves to prevent the spread of disease to the new growth. In the greenhouse corms of begonias can be planted and seeds of bedding plants can be sown. If you have tomato plants growing keep a temperature of 65 deg F. Lawns can be worked on, if the weather is suitable. Moss-killers can be applied now and followed with a fertilizer later. Use a combined fertilizer and moss-killer if possible to save time. If mowing is necessary, cut with the blades set high and do not mow if there is a danger of frost as this can damage the grass.



Happy gardening!
Jim Leathers



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Changes to Sunday Bus Services

Sunday buses to Norwich now leave Thurton at 0922, 1122, 1322, 1522 and 1722.

Sunday buses now leave Norwich Bus Station at 0950, 1150, 1350, 1550 and 1750.

Sunday buses to Loddon, Beccles and Lowestoft now leave Thurton at 1005, 1205, 1405, 1605 and 1805.

Sunday buses now leave Lowestoft (to Norwich) at 0822, 1022, 1222, 1422 and 1622.

All these buses are operated by First as service X2.

Note:- previous service X71 no longer operates as it is replaced by these new times.

The new Sunday X2 also operates on Public Holidays and a full timetable can be obtained at the Norwich Bus Station. These new times started on 31st December 2006 and are now operated without funding from Norfolk County Council.

There are no changes to the First weekday X2 timetable but don't forget Anglian Bus and Coach still operate the evening X2 service to Norwich.

Monday to Saturday evening buses to Norwich leave Thurton at 1950, 2150 with an extra bus on Friday and Saturday at 2253.

Monday to Saturday evening buses leave Norwich Bus Station at 2015 and 2240 (also serves Riverside and Castle Meadow). If you need bus timetable information for anywhere in England you can call Traveline on 0870 608 2 608

Advertisements welcome, for rates

Contact ivan.chadwick@tiscali.co.uk Or by hand to 21, Mill Close, Thurton.

Deadline for all material is 19th March 2007

Printing sponsored by Ian and Emma Capps, Thurton Foundries Ltd.