

# Thurton Thunderer

Issue 3

April / May 2007

## Remember the slogan for the Parish Plan ?



**“Your village needs you”**

### **We are at it again!!**

Now we have produced three issues of the Thunderer and have processes in place, including our efficient distribution team, the Parish Plan Committee feel it is time to look at some of the other actions still to be tackled.

At our recent committee meeting it was agreed that the following actions would be progressed:-

1. Resurrecting the directory/welcome pack which used to be produced for Thurton some years ago. Any help with information for the directory will be greatly appreciated.
2. Set up a team of people prepared to keep the village tidy (Litter Pickers). A Volunteer Coordinator is needed to organise this team for Thurton. A list of willing volunteers has already been established as part of the Parish Plan so if you can help to put this team together and coordinate Litter Picking in Thurton, please contact 480163.
3. Form a project group to protect wildlife habitats.
4. Research the viability of a shop in the village.

We have our first reader's letter, see page 6, we invite contributions to debate this subject.

A plea to all you busy people out there, can we have your forthcoming events to include in our next issue? There is a lot going on!

Please note we are changing our cut-off date for material/copy. In future it will be the 10th of the relevant month.



### **Village Sign Questionnaire**

Many thanks to everyone who responded to the above questionnaire. The response was 31% and the Parish Council will discuss the findings at the next PC meeting on Thursday 29th. March, regrettably too late to report for this edition of the Thunderer. We will keep you posted.

**New Compost bin scheme for 2007**

We all know that composting at home is a great way to reduce waste going into landfill and is good for your garden. Residents in Norfolk can now take advantage of a new cut-price compost-bin scheme that has been launched in the county.

The new scheme is supported by Norfolk County Council and all the districts. The compostbins retail at £8, £10 and £20 for the 2201, 3301 and 2501 sizes respectively (the 2501 bin is of a different type to the others). Delivery is free.

Anyone interested in the offer can order by phoning 0845 077 0757. Alternatively, go to [http://www.recyclenow.com/home\\_compostin\\_g/in\\_your\\_area/scheme\\_authorities/norfolk.html](http://www.recyclenow.com/home_compostin_g/in_your_area/scheme_authorities/norfolk.html) where you can order online direct.

**Choose to reuse**

Although Christmas now seems a long time ago to many of us, we are probably wondering what to do with unwanted presents and things we want to change in the new year. We are all familiar with recycling as a form of sustainable waste management, but how many think about passing things onto charities?

South Norfolk Council promotes charity shops through its website and encourages people to donate unwanted items to charity shops when possible. There is also a national campaign - Choose2Reuse ([www.choose2reuse.org.uk](http://www.choose2reuse.org.uk)). This campaign aims to encourage people to take unwanted items to charity shops as well as reusing second-hand goods.

South Norfolk Council also publicises the Association of Charity Shops on its website [www.charityshops.org.uk](http://www.charityshops.org.uk) or tel 020 7255 4470 where you can find out where your nearest charity shops are.

In addition to this there is also South Norfolk FreeCycle where you can pass on a broad range of unwanted goods to others in the area by posting them on to the user-group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southnorfolkfreecycle/>

**Pesticide notification**

Do you live adjacent to sprayed fields? Would you like to be notified when spraying is going to take place?

Are you a farmer or grower who would like to improve relations with your neighbours by providing this information in a quick, easy way, at low cost?

Panztel is a company operating a service known as eziContact, which allows farmers to notify residents when they intend to spray. Panztel began the service in New Zealand over five years ago, where regulations require that all spraying must be preceded by electronic notification.

The benefit of the service is that at least residents are told what is going to happen, local authorities get fewer complaints and the farmer/ sprayer benefits from improved public relations.

If you would like to try this system, Panztel can arrange an initial pilot in your area free of charge.

Panztel [www.ezicontact.com](http://www.ezicontact.com)

Tel 0845 453 4152

Pesticide Action Network UK

[www.panuk.org](http://www.panuk.org)

Tel 020 7065 0905

**AVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORT FOR PARISHIONERS**

Beccles & Bungay Area Community Transport (BACT) provides transport for people living in Beccles and surrounding villages (including Thurton) to whom other forms of public transport are not easily available.

Use of the service is open to the young, old, able-bodied or infirm. The majority of journeys undertaken are for transporting passengers to medical services and day centres on behalf of the local authorities, but many others are for shopping, family visits and similar.

The organisation is operated on a non-profit basis with the aim of covering costs and providing a continuing service in the area.

How to get in touch with BACT

The Riverside Centre

The Staithe

Bungay

NR35 1BF

Telephone: General enquiries and

Dial-a-ride and mini-bus hire enquiries 01986 896896

Car transport requests



01986 895665

### **St Georges Day at Thurton**

We shall be celebrating St Georges Day again this year . We are holding this on Saturday April 21st as the 23rd falls on a Monday.

- Car Boot
- Cake stalls
- Bric-a-brac and other stalls
- Games
- Refreshments
- Grand Draw to take place at 2pm

Proceeds in aid of church funds.

Contact Eileen Leathers 480271 to book a car boot or stall (£5.00 each)

**COME AND SEE US AT ASHBY & THURTON VILLAGE HALL ON SATURDAY 21st APRIL from 10.00am to 2.00pm**

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE ON OUR NATIONAL DAY**



#### **Thurton, Ashby & District WI**

Thank you to everyone who helped, donated or attended the WI jumble sale on the 17th March. Your support was most appreciated.

Our next WI meeting on 5th April, commencing at 7.30pm is open to anyone who would like to attend. Christine Adams of Ware Hall is giving a talk on "The House that May Built" This tale should be most interesting! There is no entrance fee, refreshments will be served and we would love to see you there. No obligation to join.

The following meeting, on Thursday 3rd May, at 7.30pm, will be held at Thurton School due to Local Elections being held in the Village Hall. At this meeting members will discuss the resolutions for the National WI AGM to be held in London.

### **Ashby & Thurton Village Hall**

The AGM for the Village Hall will be held on 29th May 2007 at 7:30pm. All villagers and regular users of the hall are invited to attend so that they may see what the Village Hall Committee have achieved and what the plans for the future are. Anyone who is interested in forming a Fund Raising Committee or who want to come onto the Village Hall Committee are invited to the cheese and wine event which will be held after the AGM.

The last fund raising event was held on Saturday 10th March. The group "Twice as Nice" were booked for the event and gave everyone who attended a very lively evening. The Committee would like to thank everyone who bought tickets and donated prizes for the raffle.

### **THURTON FOUNDRIES LTD**

Many of you may have noticed the large chimney "cupola" which was the last in southern England, has gone. Those of you who have lived in Thurton a long time will know there has been a cupola in the village for approximately sixty years.



Ian Capps, Managing Director, decided to invest in two electric melting induction furnaces, it is hoped these will be more environmentally friendly to the village. Currently we are undergoing large changes to enable greater efficiency and are moving our customer base into a niche market which requires higher value specialist iron, steel, bronze and aluminium castings.

Visitors are always welcome to come and view the new furnaces.

Please contact Ian or Emma Capps on 480301.

## GARDENING NOTES FOR APRIL AND MAY



These are two busy months in the year as everything needs sowing and caring for over this period. Sowings of all the main vegetables and flower seeds can be made now. Red beet, parsnip, carrot, lettuce, radish, spring onions, turnips, peas and beans should all be sown now. Successional sowings can be made in May if required. Cauliflower, cabbage, kale and leeks for winter use can be sown in a plant bed ready for transplanting later. Cauliflower and cabbage plants raised over the winter can be planted out now. It should be time to plant potatoes now and give these a top dressing of Growmore or a similar fertilizer once they have been planted. The rain will wash this in and help get a good crop. In May runner beans and sweetcorn can be sown once the danger of frost is over.

Annual flower seeds should be sown where they are to flower to give summer display. Roses should be treated with a top dressing of Toprose or a similar good fertilizer to encourage a good show of bloom later. Watch out for greenfly and mildew if the weather becomes warmer and treat this accordingly. In May seeds of biennial flowers such as wallflowers, canterbury bells, sweet williams etc can be sown to provide plants for transplanting in the autumn. Also in May tidy up the spring flowering bulbs by tying the leaves in bunches, but do not remove these too soon as this can affect next years bloom.

In the greenhouse bedding plants should be coming along well ready for planting out in May and June. Tomato plants should be growing strongly now and ready for planting outside in May or in the greenhouse. Only ventilate when the weather is suitable. Feed tomatoes as soon as the first truss has set.

This is a busy time with lawns, treat with a moss killer if necessary or a combined moss killer and fertilizer. If weeds are a problem use a combined feed and weed fertilizer. New lawns can be sown now before the weather becomes too dry in late May and June. Mow regularly now but not too low at first. Sweep off worm casts before mowing as these can damage mower blades. I wish you all good gardening.

Jim Leathers



## THE GEORGE & DRAGON

In a recent conversation with Peter Ford who is the co-owner of the George & Dragon, the Thurton Thunderer was informed that a site meeting will take place on 20th March 2007, soon after which a contractor will be appointed to complete the car park and ground works to the rear of the pub. This work is expected to be completed within two weeks.

The restoration of the bar area is well under way and should be completed at the same time, so that the opening of the pub is expected to take place in the spring. Work on the restaurant annexe to the rear of the pub will be completed at a later date.



### ONE FOR SORROW, TWO FOR JOY



Goes the old English counting crows rhyme. The idea was that the number of crows or magpies you saw told what your future held for you.

There is some truth in the old rhyme since rooks and other crows pair for several years and maybe for life; a single bird probably means that it has lost its partner or maybe hasn't found one yet.

You cannot look up into the sky in Thurton without seeing crows or rooks and they have caught the interest of a Norfolk naturalist and EDP columnist, Mark Cocker.

What do we know about them?

- They have been here longer than we have, since we had elephants and lions in Norfolk and the earliest UK remains are in Norfolk and Suffolk.
- In the past people used to eat them and there is a historical Somerset recipe for rook pie. This came before the famous Monty Python "Rook Restaurant" sketch.
- They are probably not harmful to agriculture. They almost never kill lambs and they probably destroy harmful grubs. Magpies and crows will take dead rabbits and road-kill (known as 'scrapeaway' food in our house) and thus tidy up the place. Rooks concentrate on earthworms but may go for cereal or root vegetables if growing nearby.
- All the crow family will 'mob' other predators such as foxes, buzzards, kestrels and sparrow hawks.
- For many years we've had a rookery in Thurton. Since the year 2002 they have produced between 58 and 69 young rooks and seem to be maintaining their numbers. Their favourite trees are poplar, oak and plane trees. This is different to crows, which will nest on pylons, while jackdaws will nest on chimneys and on ruins. There are communal winter roosts which they can share with jackdaws, crows and magpies.
- They have an old-fashioned family division of labour. The males gather the nest material and bring in the 'bacon' ie the food. The female does all the incubating, which for rooks, takes about 32 days.

Look out for Mark Cocker's next book coming out in the summer entitled 'Crow Country' which will say more about crows and the Yare Valley

## Chris Dring

**Little Fish** – alternate Wednesday mornings during term time, meeting at the Village Hall at 10.30am, for all under 5's. Dates are: April 18th, May 2nd and 16th. More details from Angie 480477 or Rosalind 480440.

**Explorers** – alternate Friday evenings during term time, meeting at the Village Hall at 7pm – 8.15pm, for all 7 – 11 year olds. Fridays 27th April and 11th and 25th May. Contacts for more details are Angie and Rosalind (see above).

**Thurton Holiday Club** – August 6th – 12th, at the Village Hall, for all 5 – 11 year olds, and over 11's and adults helping.

It is time to start making plans, so if you would like to be in on the beginnings of our 2007 holiday club – just contact Angie or Rosalind (see above).



### Church Services:

April 1 <sup>st</sup> (Palm Sunday)	11.00	Holy Communion
April 6 <sup>th</sup> (Good Friday)	10.30	All age pilgrimage meditation
April 8 <sup>th</sup> (Easter Sunday)	11.00	Holy Communion
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	All age service at the village hall
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00	Morning Prayer
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	Group Service in the Rockland Benefice
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	Holy Communion
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Benefice Family Communion at Bergh Apton
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	All age service at the village hall
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	Morning Prayer

**Speeding Traffic****R**eader's Letters

I am writing in to your magazine to see if other villagers share my opinion on the serious matter of motor vehicles speeding through our village. I live on Ashby Road and even though the speed limit is 30mph and the school is situated at the bottom of the road, there are still many motorists who do not observe the speed limit and race up and down the road. I am sure that Ashby Road is not the only one in the village with this problem and feel it would be beneficial to gather other villagers opinions on the matter and possibly take further action, if appropriate. In the meantime may I take this opportunity to ask motorists to take heed of the speed limits within the village.

*Karen Bonsell*

THURTON PARISH COUNCIL warmly invite you to attend the following:-  
Annual Parish Meeting on 19th April, AGM on 17th May. Both meetings to be held at the Village Hall starting at 7.45pm.

**THURTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA**

May 12th Bingo Evening at the  
Village Hall

“Eyes down” at 6.30pm

Does your group need A GRANT?

There is a lot of information for grants available from many sources. For more information telephone the Community Funding Officer at South Norfolk Council on 533642.

***A Railman's Tale***

**M**y career in the railway industry started before I was born, I was always destined to be a railman.

My family has been involved with the railways for a very long time; going back as far as my great-grandfather and numerous other relatives.

Ashford in Kent, my birthplace, was the focal point of the Southern Railway which originally started as South East and Chatham Rail, which eventually amalgamated with other smaller companies to become Southern Railway.

My earliest recollection was waiting for my dad at the main entrance of the Ashford Railway Works, where steam locomotives and carriages were made. When the hooter sounded for the dinner break the gates opened and hundreds of craftsmen filled the road on their way home to their break.

When I left school I became an apprentice to my Uncle Reg whose business was the sign-writing for new locomotives and carriages. After completing my training in 1972, I joined the Southern Region of British Rail as a painter/sign-writer.

In 1975 I transferred to BR Eastern Region, Norwich from where in 1989 I then transferred to the Ipswich Depot ...

*Trevor Head*

To be continued



## Girlguiding

The Girl Guides (now known as Girlguiding UK) has been around since 1910, what is often overlooked is that within the movement are a group of young women over the age of 14yrs who are the Ranger Guides, Young Leaders and Young Guiders that make up the "Senior Section" This section was formed in 1916 and thus has already celebrated 90yrs and is now looking forward to the Guide Centenary in 2010. The Senior Section is for those that wish to specialise in leadership skills or simply wish to "look wider" about the world and people around them!

Girl Guiding Thurton or the Thurton Senior Section has been running since 2000 and was set up to provide this age group with the opportunity to continue their hobby by running their own unit and be able to expand their guiding skills, whilst continuing further education and as they enter the workplace as adults.

### THEREFORE GUIDING IS ALIVE AND KICKING!

This is what Thurton Senior Section believes and feels about Guiding today, it is about having fun, learning many skills and trying new activities whilst working towards awards that are relevant to today's young women.

It gives you lots of challenges and makes you start new things and make new friends in a safe, girls only space.

It's about young women that meet up regularly to perform both physical and mental activities within groups to team build and bond.

The Senior Section is made up of young women who are prepared to learn new things and are always up for a challenge!

We are a wide range of women who are found all over the country and one unit may cover a wide area. The Young Women can be at school work, college, university or doing other things as well as guiding

Guiding is thought provoking and great fun!

And there's plenty on offer for every age:

<b>Rainbows</b> yrs	5-7 yrs	<b>Leaders (Guiders)</b>	18-65
<b>Brownies</b> 18+ yrs	7-10 yrs	<b>Trefoil Guild</b>	
<b>Guides</b> yrs	10-14 yrs	<b>Link</b>	18-30
<b>Senior Section</b> Uni	14-25 yrs	<b>S.S.A.G.O.</b>	Whilst at

(Student Scout and Guide Organisation)

We've done: Night Hikes, Environmental work, Disability awareness, International evenings, Music and Dance, Community Service, Archery, International Camps, Crafts, Leadership skills, AIDS awareness, Fire lighting skills, Skin care, stress busting techniques and massage to name but a few, so go on

And see more of what Modern Guiding is about at [girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk](http://girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk)  
Or contact Ruth Everett 538231

**Loddon Singers**

are hosting a party! It will be Open House at The Hollies, Loddon High Street, on Saturday 12th May, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm for anyone who enjoys a bit of music and singing. Admission is free and there will be free drinks and nibbles. It's an event for individuals, families and groups of all ages - all who come will share in an evening of singing, fun and enjoyment. If you'd like more details, call 528482.

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Loddon-on-Call

Spring Bazaar & Grand Prize Draw

Loddon-on-Call is a scheme working in conjunction with the East of England Ambulance Service providing a potentially life-saving first response to medical emergency 999 calls

The scheme operates through a team of trained First Responder volunteers who endeavour to offer 24 hour 7 day medical care prior to the arrival of the ambulance. The area covered by the service includes 24 villages surrounding Loddon.

The team has been in operation since April 2006 and during that time have averaged over 40 calls per month.

The scheme has financial commitments to keep a vehicle maintained and fuelled together with providing First Responders with identity clothing etc. The Group are totally dependant on fund - raising events and donations to provide funding. To this end Loddon-on-Call is holding a **Spring Bazaar and Grand Prize Draw (which will include various Craft Stalls)** at **The Hollies, Loddon on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2007 from 10am to 2pm.** Tickets for the draw are available from various outlets in Loddon and surrounding village shops and will also be on sale at the door or can be obtained by calling: 521049.

To ensure an on-going service can be maintained we welcome new volunteers to join our team. If this brief article sounds interesting and you would like to know more about our activities please call: 528899 or 07775 940171.

None of us know when such help may be needed!

**Advertisements welcome, for rates**

Contact [ivan.chadwick@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ivan.chadwick@tiscali.co.uk) Or in person to 21, Mill Close, Thurton.

**Deadline for all material is 10th May 2007**

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