



Thurlaston Chronicle

June 2011

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Introduction.

Thank you for the feedback on last year's edition of the Thurlaston Chronicle, keep it coming.

Well it's all happening in this issue, we will be looking at what has happened in the past 12 months, changes that have happened in the last 2000 and in 10 years, some big events that are happening later this year and a brief look at some new /unusual happenings in the village....a young lady's bid to play for the England football team, a venerable DJ; the mystery to many that is the village intranet and a 45 year old wine.

If you have an interesting hobby, charity, sport, past time, passion, holiday destination, please let us know.

Our thanks to Vivien Sharp for her garden view as the illustration on the cover.

Barbara and Brian Coleman...The Gardens

Thurlaston Parish Council Report

The past year has again been a busy one for the Parish Council we have discussed problems as varied as:-

- o Should there be a crossing refuge on the B4429 opposite the Thurlaston turn?
- o Should the proposed development of the Thurlaston Nursing Home with sheltered housing go ahead?
- o What can we do about car parking on Main Street?

Our brief includes being responsible for grass cutting in the village, street lighting, public footpaths, the Village Hall and advising Rugby Borough on Planning Applications be they for your extension or Severn Trent's redevelopment of Draycote Visitors' Centre. We also raise concerns with the Police, Rugby Borough Council and the Warwickshire County Council on your behalf. We do this by attending the quarterly Dunchurch Divisional meeting and by phone, e-mail and letter. We also question them and hold them to task on your behalf in the same way.

All of this on a Precept of £3,500.00 per annum and we have kept this the same for 3 years, and unlike other councils our services to you suffer no cut backs!

We know that there are many pieces of land in the Village that may be thought suitable for future development. The recent proposals to develop the Nursing Home with both extra residential beds and some sheltered housing is still undecided as I write this. Under the Rugby Borough Council core strategy our village is still classified as an Essential Needs Community. This means that any planning application for new housing has to meet a local need. The new Council strategy is possibly going to strengthen this by putting a legally binding condition that any future owner of a new property must meet the local need criteria.

At the same time the Coalition Government is bringing out the Community Right to Build legislation that give the freedom to local communities to develop and build in villages like ours as long as a referendum is held with 75% support for the project. We are still waiting for details of this legislation to be confirmed.

The Government is also wanting to devolve more decision making to the community. Our local planning officers are well aware of this and already some of them are more responsive to our wish to informally discuss planning matters with them on your behalf.

We shall have to see what opportunities the Government's plans bring us but I know it will most likely need us to have more resources ie money and people on the ground. I believe that exciting times may lie ahead for all Parish Councils. I think that on local issues we are often better informed and better placed to make decisions for our community.

The proposed changes in ward and parish council boundaries does affect Rugby. However there are no proposals to change our Parish boundary. I do not think that it would benefit our village to be shoe-horned in to a neighbouring larger parish. Economies of scale might save money but would lose our local voice. I believe that we punch well above our weight in our area on your behalf.

By the time you read this your Parish Council membership will have changed and you will have a new Council. Firstly I wish to thank my former fellow Parish Councillors for all the hard work that they have done on your behalf. Secondly I want to express my thanks for their support to me during my two spells as Chairman. I hope that you will all feel able to approach your Parish Councillors about local issues that concern you not just at the village meeting but throughout the year. Remember all our Council meetings are held in public and we welcome your attendance not just for Extraordinary meetings.

Barrie Bemand....Biggin Hall Lane.
Chairman Thurlaston Parish Council

Thurlaston Poor's Plot Charity

All rents have been collected for this year and we now have more allotment holders than we have had for 20 yeras. We have no vacancies at this time but if you wish to be put on the waiting list please contact the clerk, Kathy Owens. Rent for an allotment is £5 per year.

We have an annual spare income of about £1500 and reserves of £28000. If you or a neighbour in the village (or outside with Thurlaston connections) need financial help please contact either me or Kathy Owens. If there is no other source, the scope where we can help is very wide. Please don't worry about asking. Everything will be considered and is in complete confidence.

Our big problem is our name. There is a small prize - paid for by the Trustees not the Charity - for anyone who can suggest a better one. Please call at Trevek, Church Lane, phone 816322 or email steve.watts13@tiscali.co.uk

Steve Watts....Church Lane

Dunchurch Boughton Endowed Trust. Trustee Governor Report .

The Trustee Governors are responsible for administering the Trust Fund left to the Dunchurch school by a local benefactor Frances Boughton, after whom the school was named.

Report from the meeting of 31st March 2011.

The Trust had performed well over the last 12 months reflecting the recovery of the stock markets in general.

Following discussions the Trust was asked to contribute to the following:

1. £4,000 towards the cost of a new computer server.
2. £4,000 towards the cost of new classroom visual projectors.
3. £10,000 to cover the cost of resurfacing the school playground.
4. £3,000 to help towards continuing the running of the Rock Solid Club.

The above contributions were all agreed by the Trustees.

The next meeting is planned for the 3rd November 2011.

Greg Irish, Main Street.

Newcombe and Spier Almshouse Charity

Report of the Trustees 2011.

For those that are not aware , the local almshouses are a terrace of six small houses in Dunchurch across the road from the Dun Cow towards the Church and adjacent to the Scott memorial.

The charity was founded in 1690 and has run continuously since then. It is for the benefit of Dunchurch and Thurlaston residents. Thurlaston Parish Council appoints one Trustee.

The Trustees had a another busy and expensive year in 2010. We are still carrying out the work that arose from a 5 year survey, which was completed at the end of 2008. This year we tackled two of the most expensive items, the rebuilding of the slate roof and the demolition and rebuilding of two gable end chimneys. Since the building is Grade II listed we had to obtain listed building consent for this work. This involved brick by brick detailed drawings of the gable end chimneys so they could be rebuilt to exactly re-model the originals. This work was completed in the autumn of 2010. Although expensive, this work should give another 30 years or so of the main structure before further attention will be needed.

The lady who lived at No 1 for sixteen years at the age of 97 became too frail to be on her own and moved to a nursing home. A lady who has lived in Dunchurch for many years, and was on our waiting list has now taken her place. Before the new resident moved in, taking advantage of this break in tenancy, the almshouse was refurbished with a new kitchen, new bathroom and rewiring throughout. Our resident "handy man" also refurbished the kitchen in one of the other almshouses and the bathroom in another and carried out numerous other routine repair and maintenance jobs during the year. The Trustees endeavour to maintain comfortable, albeit limited accomodation for the residents.

Walter Harvey (March 2011)....Main Street

Thurlaston Ramblers January 2010 to March 2011

We left off in the last Thurlaston Chronicle report at the point of our visit to the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham. Following that successful visit there was a hiatus due to wet ground conditions so that it was March before we ventured forth again and even then we chose to walk at Daventry Country Park using the hard track round the lake.

In May we had a day out at Cannock Chase where we did a linear walk finishing at the Chetwynd Arms for lunch. The rest of our walking was at Easenhall, Thurlaston to Frankton, Hatton, Braunston/Willoughby, Leek Wooton, Thurlaston to Grandborough and Ashby St Ledgers in February 2011.

Our numbers do vary depending on the time of year etc, but we average about ten people.

In March 2011 a party went to Stratford to do a guided walking tour of the town, this was organised by Helen Creery and guided by Kay Thorpe and was much enjoyed by all who took part.

Once again we would like to emphasise that these walks are for anyone who would wish to come regardless of age or gender. They are advertised via Thurlaston Net (see later article in the TC) and all you have to do is to respond appropriately.

The distance covered varies between three and five miles and this generally takes between one and two hours. They are always organised to finish at a pub where the party has lunch. What a great way to spend a day!!

Cyril Holcroft who has organised these walks since 2004 has now stepped down from this role. Mel Harley has now become co-ordinator and a number of people have volunteered to organise at least one walk a year. So everything should carry on without a hitch.



Cyril Holcroft....Main Street

Thurlaston Ladies Club Report for 2010/2011

The TLC has had a very enjoyable and successful year with a range of interesting speakers.

The evening meetings, which are held in St Edmund's church twice a year, are proving very popular and it is pleasing that they are well supported by the village.

- o Deborah Brady, the Fleet Street photographer brought many of her lovely photographs for us to see.
- o Nicky Cockayne and her Birds of Prey were excellent; and how good to see young people in the audience.

If anyone has a topic or speaker to suggest we should love to hear from you.

Two very popular daytime speakers were,

- o Maggie Cotton, a percussionist and long-term member of the CBSO who gave a fascinating talk about her career and life with the CBSO and,
- o Gillian White, a university lecturer and historian who spoke to us on Bess of Hardwick. Her enthusiasm for, and knowledge of, her subject rubbed off on us all, hence our day out at Hardwick Hall this June (2011). We hope many villagers and friends will join us.

We visited Calke Abbey last June for a very enjoyable day out.

The summer picnic in August was well attended with plenty of delicious food.

In January it was 'Tea in the Village Hall' ... Ritz style. Best china, home made cakes, scones with lashings of jam and cream, choice sandwiches, varieties of tea were all up to the highest standard. Many have asked for a re-run ASAP.

The fete teas made a record amount of money for the fete funds last summer after an exhausting afternoon by all helpers. Well done.

During the year we made sufficient money through raffles and the 'Bring and Buy' to donate £500 to charity. This year it was a charity dear to Angela Stewart's heart " the Bangladesh Knighthood Fellowship"

Very sadly we have lost two of our founder members this year, Margaret Pannel and Sheila Back. In spite of their ill health they attended meetings whenever possible and always helped enthusiastically. We shall, and do, miss them very much.

We appreciate all the help we receive from the village and friends but of course we would love to see a few more new faces. Coming to a meeting, which sounds interesting to you will not result in any pressure on you to join us as a yearly member. We would just be delighted to see you.... and your £2.00 visitor fee.

Judy Douglas.....Beech Drive

THURLASTON FETE 2010

They say the sun shines on the righteous but we proved it shines on us as well! What a fabulous day it was, all made better by the weather which made sure the crowds were well up on 2009 . I cannot remember seeing so many children in the village enjoying the games and stalls laid out in the Nursing Home grounds which again we were kindly allowed to use by Richard and Gerrie Perry. The grounds provide a safe traffic-free area for the kids to run around and burn off energy.

The weekends before the fete saw the bunting engineers skillfully climbing trees and walls setting the scene for the fete along with the tent erectors putting up the new marquees behind the Village Hall.

We were grateful to Dunchurch Silver Band who stepped in at the last minute when another group dropped out, and they played on far longer than originally asked. All the stallholders did a marvellous job selling their wares and trying to make sure they had nothing left to take home. A lot of hard work goes into collecting books, bottles, plants etc beforehand and big thanks goes to those who put so much effort in the weeks before the fete even though some of you were unable to be there on the day of the fete.

It was good to see Mary Binney and Jill Cookerall showing the two apprentices, Maggie and Mikala, how to model the clothes on the clothes stall (next year we might have a cat walk). Veryan again made sure the church looked beautiful with the flower arrangements which along with the archives and the Pimms stall provided a nice relaxing area for people to enjoy.

As her last duty as the Squire, Claire Jinks opened the fete and also chose the new squire for the coming year. Now previous villagers who have been squire will tell you this is a "tongue in cheek award" given to someone deemed worthy of the title.

CODSWOLLOP This is a very prestigious award which from now on needs to be taken very seriously and the holder of the chain shown the utmost respect and even perhaps provided with a small salary. The maids in the village should courtesy each time they meet him and the men folk should offer him a drink. (I can't remember if I mentioned who the new Squire is but apparently he's completely wind-swept and interesting).

Thanks to Claire for thinking of me, for once I was stuck for words as it was completely unexpected. By the end of the day I had a big lump in my throat, not from anything emotional you understand but from the medallion on the chain hitting me in the Adam's apple every time I moved. Also with having short legs my shins are badly damaged from this medallion which has led me to wearing shin pads (last worn in 1989 when I could play football).

Lee Wise has agreed to be Thurlaston Paparazzi taking photos around the village so we can record some of the events each year.



The 'bit of a do' in the evening proved a big success with singing and dancing on Main Street going on until nearly midnight. Andrew Hemmings with his assistant Uni provided the entertainment with Andrew first singing solo to us all and then getting everyone singing and dancing. The Thurlaston male voice choir certainly ruined Elvis's Suspicious Minds though someone did say one of the men was in tune (in tune with what? – they didn't say). A big thanks to Andrew, a lot of planning went into the preparation to make sure the evening was a success.

Our chosen charity this year was Rugby Young Carers; a donation from the 'evening do' £1,360.79, along with £352.00 (the proceeds from the concert held in the church on the Monday after the fete), meant we could hand over a cheque for £1,715.00 to Rugby Young Carers. Thank you to all who donated or participated in the auction, the money will now be used to provide breaks and trips for children who for various reasons are the main carer in their home.

The afternoon proceeds from the fete raised £2,082.87 which was shared equally by the Church and Village Hall Groups.

This year from the community equipment fund we have been able to purchase a quality portable sound system for use in the Village Hall and the Church for various social events. Being portable means the equipment is not left on site for obvious reasons but it is available for every villager to use in these two places.

Finally, a big thank you to all of you from the fete team for your involvement and making sure the fete was a success.

Steve Murphy.... Main Street

Church Report

Rev'd Malcolm and Mary Garratt have made a significant impression on our parishioners and villagers in general due to their wholehearted participation in village activities as well as the services. We are pleased to report that to the end of 2010 the attendance at our regular services has increased by some 20 %. We include the following resume of the report from Malcolm to the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, 27 March, 2011.

"As the Annual Meeting arrives, I have nearly completed my first year in office, as Priest-in-Charge, Chair of the PCC, Governor of The Harris School and Dunchurch Boughton Junior School, and trustee of a number of charities in the Parish. The year has been extremely busy, getting to know people and systems and seeking to discern where my unique contribution can be made.

The impression I have has been very positive. The parish is in good heart, the finances generally sound, though maintenance and development spending has eaten substantially into reserves. There is plenty to be done, not least, at both churches, developing our work with children and families and the 25 to 40 age group, all of whom are under-represented in our congregational profiles.

The work of development, as opposed to maintenance, began after a period of looking, listening and learning, with a PCC Away Day in October. Supported by the Archdeacon Missioner, we looked in some depth at vision, values and the characteristics of Healthy Churches. The PCC and St. Edmund's Committee have both now agreed to use the "Characteristics of a Healthy Church" as a model for development effort.

I would like to record my grateful thanks to all those who have made such a splendid contribution to the life and work of both churches over the year. Without team work the parish would be much diminished and I certainly could not do everything myself. I am particularly grateful to Gordon Collett who, as sole Churchwarden, has supported my induction and led the Parish through the vacancy with energy and effort above and beyond the call of duty."

Finance, Thurlaston Church

The detailed accounts for the year are attached to the Annual Parish Report and are available from any committee member. The overall weekly collections and regular giving have increased by 36 % during the year. However we are mindful that following the last two quinquennial reports we have spent over £30,000, therefore reducing our reserves to the present £12,804. Church members have continued to support charity contributions to Myton Hospice, Hope4, Christian Aid, Warwickshire Carers Support, SOCS (Syrian Orthodox Community School in Bethlehem). Our contribution to the Diocesan quota was £5,000, the total quota for the whole parish being £27,348.

The Church

All scheduled regular and special church services have been maintained and there has been an increased participation in sharing of both educational and appropriate social activities in conjunction with the village hall.

We have welcomed some new residents to our services including the newly appointed Archdeacon Missioner for Coventry Diocese. The Venerable Morris Rodham has moved into the village and we look forward to him and his wife Judith sharing with us. Morris will explain more about himself elsewhere in the "Chronicle".

We have also been pleased to welcome the retired Canon David Charles-Edwards and Alison his wife to the village and to our congregation.

Longer term Finance

In looking to the longer term funding it is clear that, whilst we are improving our income in the short-term, neither we nor the church in general can on its own raise the larger sums needed to maintain our Class I and 2 buildings in first class condition for future generations. In Thurlaston alone we need to look to invest £150,000 for the long term in preservation, and improvements to, the house and church. There is however a gleam of hope in the Government's new proposal to encourage us to consider an investment through our Wills of 10 % to charitable causes.

Village Contact Coffee Mornings

We would like to start an informal coffee morning at the church from 10 a.m. to 12 noon (preferably on Wednesday after the prayer meeting, but maybe a Thursday). The objective is to provide a venue giving a contact for those who live alone in the village. A surprising number of residents do so and contact is easily lost. We should of course welcome other residents who may be available to come and provide additional company. We need a few helpers to form a rota so as to officiate not more than one morning a month. It is not intended that this activity will involve any religious faith services. If you can help, please contact me.

Michael Binney (01788 810358)

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood watch is the best known and most effective example of the community working together to prevent crime, and improve the quality of our lives. Statistics show that houses in active Neighbourhood Watch schemes are nearly 100 times less likely to be burgled than without the scheme.

The scheme is about bringing neighbours closer together and involving them in local life, and improving community spirit. From my limited experience of Thurlaston I know that in the majority of cases this already happens and people look out for one another, and I for one am very grateful for it.

It is for that reason that when I was asked to be the village co-ordinator for the scheme I was glad to accept.

If you have any concerns or wish to make comment on issues pertaining to neighbourhood Watch please feel free to contact me ...

Tony Mennell 01788 522931

P.S. It is important to remember that when you see something that concerns you , dial 999 and let the Police check it out, don't challenge someone who is behaving suspiciously and put yourself at risk

How does it happen?

In this section we are concentrating on some of the unusual things that happen in the village...

It's a man's game! ...isn't it?

Most will have a view on football some positive (even fanatical) and some less so, but here is a story worth reading about one of our villagers - a teenager who is taking on the stereotypical world of men's football

Did you know that later this year, Hope Powell's England team will be in Germany for the FIFA 2011 Women's World Cup? Did you know that England were quarter finalists in the last World Cup in 2007? or that they were crowned runners-up in the 2009 European Championship in Finland? Probably no is the answer; however it is not surprising when very few women's matches are televised or reported, but that may be about to change.

2011 certainly promises to be a captivating year for everyone involved in the game. The FA is introducing a new semi-professional elite league, called the Women's Super League (WSL), comprising of eight clubs and will be played during the summer showcasing England's best players. Games will be regularly televised live alongside a weekly highlights package through broadcast partner ESPN. The concept was developed to enable players in this country to earn a good living from the game whilst allowing WSL clubs to develop new revenue streams and support for women's football. It is also an excellent inspiration to girls like me who are aiming for that level of football, or the ones who would love to get into the sport.

I first started playing football when I was five. I joined the after school club at Dunchurch Infants and soon found I had a talent as well as a passion for the game. When I was eight I was still playing at school and wanted to put my skills into practice, so I joined Rugby Town Girls Football Club. I trained on Saturday mornings for a few months before I participated in my first season of Sunday league football. I played for Rugby Town for four years and during much of that period my dad was my coach. I was often told to attack and defend at the same time! One distinct memory was when I played as goalkeeper and we had only six players for a seven-a-side game. We were given a corner and since I was the only one with the kicking power and capability to take it I had no choice but to run from one end of the pitch to the other, take the corner, and sprint back again. Mad but true!

At the age of eleven I was spotted and selected to trial for Leicester City U12's squad, I wanted to take my football to the next level to get closer to my ultimate aim of playing for England. I was accepted after trialling and my first year was challenging but enjoyable and rewarding. At the end of the season, I was offered a contract – in other words I had secured a place for next year in the U14's squad.

Now I am fourteen and in my third season, I have progressed and matured in my football and am ambitious about making the best of the time I have. Being dedicated is vital; you have to be serious, especially since there are many early mornings causing sacrifices in your social life.

I have achieved a lot in the past three years including, attending an England regional camp and captaining the U14's side for this season.

I am proud that despite the pressures of school life and exams I have continued to have my love for football. I hope that the near future holds great prospects for me and that women's football can start and take more of a common place in society.

Emily March, Main Street

The Full History of that Special German Red Wine

T'was on a dark and stormy night ... sorry that comes later. When Lynne & I had been living in the village for 2 years I got involved in the Fete. Sid Platt, Mike Sharp and I were running the Tombola Stall.

The week before the Fete we collected bottles as usual from around the village. On the Friday night before the Fete we met in The Forge to put numbers on the bottles donated for the Tombola. To our surprise one bottle that I had collected was a 1966 German Red Table Wine. Sid & I thought that this was an Iconic Bottle celebrating England's famous World Cup victory over Germany so we decided that we should keep it from the Tombola and auction it.

This turn of events has led to this bottle raising over £500.00 in its career!

The first auction resulted in Lynne buying it. She decided that she would give it back for the following year. So started its fund raising life.

The second year again Lynne succeeded in buying it. Although the day had been fine, on the walk home down Biggin Hall Lane at midnight - 'T'was a dark and stormy night!' - it was pouring with rain. You can imagine our shock, nay horror on entering our house I discovered the 1966 bottle had lost its label!! It had been washed off by the rain.

I went straight out armed with an umbrella & 2 torches and retraced my steps. There it was on the road outside Biggin Hall Farm. It had been run over so I picked up all the pieces. There were tyre marks over it which I recognised - using Sherlock Holmes methods - we had been offered a lift home by Paul & Fay Bates who stopped in their car on Biggin Hall Lane only for them to run over the label! But no recriminations! I had found the label. Without it after all what was a 1966 German Red Table Wine worth?

At home Lynne stuck the pieces back on the bottle securing it with Cling Film. Two years later Viv Sharp carefully restored the Label to its original condition.

Over the following years the bottle generated approximately £500.00 at auctions at the post-Fete 'bit of a do'. Each year the purchasers donated it back for the auction. Gradually consortia were formed to place the highest bids. Then worryingly a consortium from outside the village - from Dunchurch - no less, tried to buy it! Thankfully they were rebuffed and so it remains in the village till this day. When the bidding started to get up to vary large silly amounts of money we decided that the bottle should be presented to the Squire each year for safe keeping.

But you may ask who had a 1966 German Red Wine in their keeping for almost 30 years? It is only this year that I now have the full story. I had collected the bottle from Robert Foottit at Draycote Fields Farm. Robert's late father Ted, well known to many older residents in the village, lived in what is now Bridlington Grange. He had an extensive wine cellar. When he died his children divided up his wine collection. The 1966 Red was one of those bottles that had survived unnoticed until the day that Robert donated it for the Fete.

Ted Foottit was active in the village along with his friend, the late Pat Hossack and they both took part in the Village Fete running the Tombola. How fitting that one of Ted's bottles should resurface many years after his death and play such an important role in the Fete.

Questions still remain unanswered ; why did Ted buy a German Red wine? Was it to celebrate the 1966 World Cup victory? Did he lay it down for posterity? And will the 1966 Red make its return to village life once again in the form of fund raising?

That remains one of the great unknowns of Thurlaston.

Barrie Bemand (Feb. 2011)...Biggin Hall Lane

www.thurlaston.org.uk

Thurlaston website and Thurlaston Net.

(the latter being a mystery to many ...even those who try to use it...but a very effective way to keep in touch.....so this is how it happens..)

Way back in 2002, when we were being threatened with an airport on our doorstep, it was also a time for celebration. It was the Queen's Silver Jubilee. After plying us with a few glasses of wine, the late Mike Sharp, who was of the opinion that we needed a village website, persuaded us to create one.



Since then, it has been added to considerably, and now has masses of information that is useful for villagers. Go to <http://www.thurlaston.org.uk> and click on the village sign to enter. You will then see near the top of the page several rows of buttons linking to the different web pages available. Some of these buttons link to mini websites, such as "Local

Government", where you have details of County Council, Borough Council, Parish Council, Parish Council Minutes, and even information on bin collections.



The village hall page is where you can enquire about, and make a booking for the hall. Researchers also use the extensive genealogical information on the "Census" mini site.

Another adjunct to the website is the village mailing list, through which villagers exchange information. If you live in Thurlaston, you really need to be a member of Thurlaston Net to know what's going on in the village. It's very simple to join – just go to:- <http://www.thurlaston.org.uk> and enter as before. To join Thurlaston Net, click on the 'Thurlaston Net' button near the top of the page, then just fill in the simple details on the

form, such as your name and your e-mail address, and then click the button which says 'Join Now'. That's all there is to it. Mail sent to Thurlaston Net is not made public to anyone outside the mailing list, and any information you give, such as your name and your e-mail address, will remain confidential.

After this, you will receive an e-mail giving you more information on Thurlaston Net.

If you change your e-mail address subsequently, just go back to the same place and click on the button which says, "Change my e-mail address".

Written contributions for the web site are welcome from any group or organisation in the village. We will happily write a webpage for you and publish it.

Regrettably the Internet is not free and hosting on a server etc has to be paid for. The good news is that you don't have to pay for it! Anything purchased from the website shop or through any of the links to Amazon pay a small commission to Thurlaston.org.uk, yet there is no extra cost to you. Your help would be greatly appreciated as currently expenditure exceeds income!

Should you have any other queries, please e-mail them to webmaster@thurlaston.org.uk

Mary & Noel....Main Street

(Editor's note. We are very grateful to Mary and Noel for maintaining the Thurlaston website and Net. The Intranet is increasingly becoming an everyday communication tool and who knows that one day soon we will be reading the Thurlaston Chronicle on a small hand held device. There can also be found on the net emails from villagers giving details of reliable trades services. If you are not connected please think about it)

ARCHIE'S ARCHIVE

What happens when you are the 'new boy (and girl) on the block' in the village?...read on



Judith and I arrived in Thurlaston in August 2011 to find that I had already been given a nick-name! Word had got out that an 'Archdeacon' from Coventry Diocese was coming to the village so the name 'Archie' was part of village folklore before we'd even arrived!

Well.... that showed us straight away that we were moving into a village where people have a good sense of humour, so

that made us feel at home straight away!

Why Thurlaston? Well.... it's a bit of a long story really. It's certainly very different to what we've been used to. We've never ever lived in a village, and we've been in Leamington for 25



years. I've spent the last 13 as vicar of a church which served the most disadvantaged in society.... drug addicts, alcoholics, recovering offenders, victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, those in severe financial debt and the homeless. The church raised over £2million for projects of one sort or another. It was a growing church with the 20s-30s age range the fastest growing part of it. But then the new Bishop arrived and created a new post in the Diocese called Archdeacon Missioner, whose role would be strategic development and implementation across 248 churches in the Diocese (including Thurlaston!), enabling them all to fulfil our Mission Purpose: Worshipping God, Making New Disciples, and Transforming Communities. Somehow I ended up with the job!

But why Thurlaston? Well.... many people in rural areas were saying that the Diocese did not understand ministry in villages. So, I turned down the house on offer in Coventry and said I needed to live in a village somewhere to address this issue. So we hunted for over 6 months trying to find an affordable house in a village within 20 minutes drive of Coventry. We eventually found the one in The Gardens, Thurlaston, which was significantly cheaper than the last Archdeacon's house so it worked out well....though we've had to downsize a lot from our large 6 bedroom Victorian vicarage in Leamington and fill the garage with wardrobes that wouldn't fit in the new house!



How have we found it? We were quite emotionally torn in leaving Leamington after so long, and having to leave behind a church and community we loved, as well as 3 of our 4 married children and 2 grandchildren also. BUT..... the people of Thurlaston are BRILLIANT!!!!!! People have been so friendly! We haven't picked up even a hint of the 'You haven't been in the village 20 years yet so you're not one of us' attitude. Quite the opposite. Everyone has been really friendly, and we've loved the social get-togethers arranged in the village... progressive suppers, Beer Tree, Games nights - all great! So we want to thank you all for making us so welcome and helping us to make the transition to village life!

Rev Malcolm Garratt has also been very welcoming and is not threatened at all with having the Archdeacon Missioner living in his patch! Indeed he has welcomed us and the potential contribution to ministry in the village we can bring. We are very grateful for his relaxed attitude and look forward to working with him more.

Oh.... and by the way.... my original name is 'Morris' if the 'archie' typical name of 'Archie' starts to wear off!

Love and God bless

Morris Rodham....The Gardens

(The Venerable Morris Rodham, Archdeacon Missioner, Coventry Diocese
Mountain Leader, Dancer, DJ Light provider, Musician and Tree Climber for Christmas Lights)

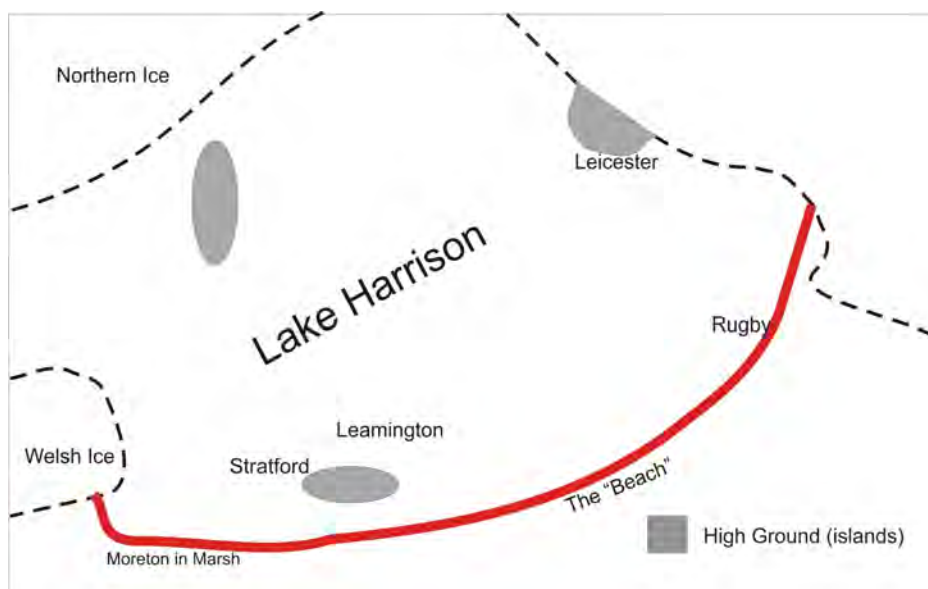
We live here but how did it all happen?....

A SHORT HISTORY OF THURLASTON

Thurlaston in Pre-History (Part 1)

The earliest evidence we have of Midlands is less than 700m years ago (compare that with the age of the earth - 4,600 million years ago) but we can't find what was happening before that. Patches of early rocks appear, sticking through a cover of younger rocks, around the edges of the Midlands, in Charnwood Forest in Leicestershire, The Longmynd, Caer Caradoc and the Wrekin in Shropshire, and in the Malverns. It is not easy to work out the age relationships between these isolated blocks. From a study of these rocks, what do we learn about the environment of the time? Some of the oldest give evidence of an atmosphere short of oxygen. The earth's atmosphere was different from that of today and red rocks where iron oxides exist occur late in the Precambrian story. (The Precambrian is a very long period of earth history ending 550 m years ago.) By examining these rocks we can tell they were formed about 66°S in the southern hemisphere. We've been moving northwards ever since! These early rocks show much evidence of volcanic activity. Caer Caradoc, the Wrekin and Charnwood Forest have volcanic rocks which can be dated. Charnwood's rocks suggest a 550-600m years-old island-arc and subduction system similar to that around the Pacific rim today. The Longmynd, in contrast, has a great sequence of sediments, sand, silt and mud that was deposited in shallow seas, eroded from a barren land with no soil to hold the weathered rock down. There is no life on earth but fossilised raindrops can be seen perhaps left by an April shower 565 million years ago and mud cracks can be found in the rock the result of a baking hot sun. There is little evidence of life on earth until the very youngest of these rocks, but on some surfaces in Charnwood Forest soft bodied creatures like sea-pens and jellyfish are found in shallow sea deposits. The oxygen level had built up sufficiently for creatures to exist.

In the last 2 million years we have the Ice Age when Welsh and Irish Sea Ice, Pennine Ice and Vale of York and North Sea Ice covered the Midlands up to thicknesses of 1000ft. As it melted great sheets of meltwater covered our land area and at various stages great freshwater lakes were ponded back by the ice. We seem to be able to recognise at least three advances of these ice sheets separated by warmer interglacial phases. The penultimate glaciation (Wolstonian) (140,000 yrs ago) ponded back a lake which flooded the present sites of Nuneaton, Leicester, Stratford, Rugby and Coventry and the ice reached Moreton in the Marsh. At one time this ice reached the outskirts of London. Then, 10,000 years ago, the ice melted.



One of these glacial advances had an important significance for Thurlaston, although it would be many thousands of years before its importance became significant. The final advance came as far as South Warwickshire. It seems that it was one of the thicker ice sheets, but

eventually it started to melt and retreat northward. As it did so, it deposited all the detritus and gravel which it had collected on its way South in an extensive moraine on which Thurlaston now stands. A huge lake, which some geologists call "Harrison Lake" was formed by the meltwater and this got bigger and deeper as the ice retreated.

Eventually, the pressure became too great and the water broke through in two or three places - Watford Gap, Fenny Compton and Moreton in Marsh. The floods spread over a great swathe of Warwickshire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire, leaving what became a fertile plain. The legacy of this event for Thurlaston was a free draining soil overlaying gravel beds which are a valuable industrial resource combined with an elevated situation saving us from floods.

Although there is no evidence, it is likely that as the climate warmed and the ice retreated, first plants started to re-establish themselves, then smaller animals and eventually humans, who would have used the land bridge from the Continent of Europe, which was still in existence at this time. They would be roaming bands, who followed their food and took temporary shelter where they could, rather than making permanent settlements, which came much later.

For many thousands of years after the ice receded after the last Ice Age (which we are still coming out of in the 21stC), progress of both flora and fauna was slow. The land dried out and as the climate warmed, first grass and then other forms of vegetation flourished followed by trees, until the land became covered with vegetation. About 6000 years ago, Britain became separate from the rest of Europe and then came a fundamental change as about 5000 years ago, people started to farm the land and at the same time started to make rudimentary tools from flint - the Neolithic Age had arrived and Mesolithic man - who were hunter gatherers, slowly absorbed a more sedentary way of life, although this took about 2000 years. It is not very fanciful, given the advantages of the site, to imagine that these people formed a settlement where Thurlaston now stands.

For about 3000 years, little changed in this area and then bronze tools and weapons appeared from Continental Europe. Bronze is an alloy of tin and copper, both of which are plentiful in Britain, so the culture quickly changed and by 2000 B.C. flints were a thing of the past. The Bronze Age lasted for about 1500 years to be superseded by the Iron Age which came in about 650 B.C. and lasted until about A.D. 43. The culture, how the world was viewed, dress and religion all changed during this period. From a society which dressed in furs and used flint tools and weapons at the beginning of the period it had changed to a society in which women would wear long woollen skirts and short tunics and men wore knee-length wrap-around skirts, or kilt-like woollens, as well as tunics, cloaks and even one-piece garments. They were also clean-shaven, long-haired and wore round woollen hats. Flint knapping had given way to blast furnaces and hunting and scouring the countryside for food had given way to sophisticated farming. The people who lived here were "Modern".....

Bob Brooks. The Gardens

Editors note....We will continue to track the development of Thurlaston in the next issue. Bob has prepared a history to the present era and we look forward to reading the next instalment.

Census 2012

The National Census has just been held in 2011 and who knows How it happened or what it will reveal? or how the information will be used. We had our own Census in 2002 and it revealed some interesting facts, see the article reproduced below. Please think about joining in another census next year to see how life has changed in our village. If you are interested in helping and planning it please let me know.

"Thurlaston Census 2002

Ten years ago, we asked everyone in Thurlaston to complete what we called a "Census Form". This asked about the respondent's ages, when they came to the village, what jobs they did and many other questions, which when collated gave us a picture of Thurlaston that is valuable for the archives.

This year we did the same asking many of the same questions so that comparisons could be made, but adding some more to reflect advancing technology. We missed one we should have asked, however and that was about people's access to digital television, either via a set top box or by satellite. Maybe we will remember in 2012!

Last time 70% of you answered our requests for information and this year virtually the same proportion answered.....69.83% to be precise. Because 30% did not give us the information requested (and we did not press anyone to respond) the census flaws. But the results are still interesting and valuable as an archive.

For instance, in 1992, 87 of us were working and 59 were retired. 2002 the retired population outnumbered those working...73 respondents working and 76 retired. The village had aged and this was shown by the analysis of ages, 35 being over 61 or over in 1992 compared with 63 now.

What was surprising was how people had moved into the village in the past 10 years far more than any decade before since 1950 or before and 10 households had moved in the past two years which is more than in any comparable period under review. The village is obviously changing, as it needs to, to remain vigorous and viable.

When we looked at the stats which indicated our living standard it was not surprising to find that we enjoyed a high one, with an average of 1.95 cars per household 70% of homes having at least one personal computers (with 86% of those being connected to the internet) and 116 mobile phones in 73 houses an average of 1.59. Everyone had a fridge and virtually everyone had a TV telephone, washing machine tumble drier, and freezer. This was not the case 10 years ago when the results for all these aids to modern living recorded figures between 86% and 97%. The most notable increase was for dishwashers, an increase from 60% to 73% in 10 years.

Some technology has not made an impact though, as only 19 households owned a DVD player. Perhaps we would prefer to go to the cinema! We also asked where you preferred to do your non-food shopping and it was perhaps not so remarkable that Leamington Spa was preferred by most of you by a large margin, 44%, compared with the next best which was Rugby, 19%. Coventry came next with 10%, with Solihull, Northampton and Stratford on Avon vying for the next few places. No one used public transport to go shopping, and the survey showed that 49 households never used it for

any reason. Of those that did many used it for leisure travel and six used it for daily commuting.

Finally pets. It will not surprise anyone that we recorded 24 dogs in the village and only 18 cats. Other pets mentioned were horses, tortoises, guinea pigs, rabbits and goldfish. We were disappointed that nothing more exotic turned up.

Claire Jinks and Bob Brooks"

Watch out for the census next year!!

Brian Coleman

The Happenings

Village Fete 2011

This year's fete group is Sue Winton, Gill Daikin and me, and if the truth is known there is a lot of organising for three people to do. Ideally we could do with one or two more on board to help, so if you would like to come onto the fete committee contact one of us and we can have a discussion to see if it's for you.

As many of you know already, the proceeds for the afternoon are split between church and village hall groups to cover their various running costs etc.

This year's evening do will be similar to last year with Andrew Henning at the helm. We are planning on having a barbeque this year on Main Street – more details to follow, but this year we are having "bring your own drinks".

Again we are supporting Rugby Young Carers because we think it's such a worthwhile local cause so we'll be having a bucket collection to cover what we would normally make when we run a bar.

Last year we purchased a Bose sound system for the village; it can be used in the church and the village hall simply by plugging into an electric socket. It is also available to all villagers for private functions in the home or even to try if you are thinking of buying one. The purchase of this was from the community fund which we started 3 years ago to buy equipment for the fete. The title community fund has caused confusion occasionally so we will be calling it something else in the near future.

Finally, a big thank you to all of you from the fete team for your involvement and making sure the fete is a success.

Steve Murphy Main Street

Village Panto 2011

Many of you already know that we are hoping to put on another Village pantomime this year.

Keep the date: 7th to 12th November (inclusive)

This exceedingly amateur production is really good fun to attend and/or to take part in.

Those who have taken part previously and those who have attended have said what fun it is.

This – like its predecessors will not be a conventional pantomime. Liberties are taken with well known Panto concepts; lots of songs (often nothing to do with the plot but songs we all know and like to sing, audience as well). A few well meaning references to Village matters and some people.

Rehearsals start in mid-September and are minimal.

If you have not yet heard of it please contact Vivien Sharp (814976) to offer help or to ask what you might be able to do.

You may be surprised at the number and range of things which need to be done – and that almost anybody can make a valuable contribution. We hope you will enjoy it. Early bookings are essential. The Village Hall is not called Albert and the stage takes about one third of it !!!

Vivien Sharp Main Street

Contacts:

Parish Council

Clerk to the Parish Council. Bryan Spann (522882)

Chair	Barrie Bemand
Vice Chair	Helen Creery
	Walter Harvey
	Andrew Henning
	Gary Hartfield

Local Borough Councillors

Graham Francis
Ian Lowe
Howard Roberts

Warwickshire County Councillor

Robin Hazelton

Member of Parliament:-

Jeremy Wright MP.

He holds surgeries for this area and constituents should call Paula Barnes to arrange an appointment 01926 853650

barnespa@parliament.uk

wrightjp@parliament.uk