

# Thurlaston Chronicle

May 2012

Issue 33



Main Street ...Thurlaston... 1960's.....

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## **Introduction**

Hello again to all our readers in Thurlaston, from those on the A45, the B4429 and those just off the A426 by the Draycote Country Park and of course those in the main village, all 130 homes.

There are some significant things going on this year including the Queen's 60th Jubilee, the 2012 Games and our own census. Lots to get involved with.

When we first took on the task of publishing The Chronicle we expressed thanks to Bob Brooks for the many years he had edited the publication and following that time it was guaranteed that the first person to respond to the issue of each subsequent Chronicle was Bob with complimentary and encouraging remarks, which were always much appreciated from one who had spent so much time at the 'coal face'.

Bob had prepared a three part 'short history' of Thurlaston, part 1 appeared in last year's issue and the 2nd part is included in this issue (the 3<sup>rd</sup> is to follow), please read this article as it represents a lot of research and offers a great reminder of our past.

Bob passed away this year and so we have asked family friend Marilyn Watts to express a few thoughts, and they follow this introduction.

The Thurlaston Chronicle is not only part of our heritage, as it serves as a record of village life in the Village Archives, but also we hope it informs and encourages people in the village to value the type of community life that is sometimes under threat these days.

Those who have lived in Thurlaston or the surrounding area for a number of years will remember Thurlaston House Hotel... for different reasons. Those who went to the discos will remember the good times; the locals will probably remember the noise. The front cover is a representation of the Hotel that stood at the side of the road as you entered the village. How does that relate to today's street scene? take a look on the rear cover and note that the end of the hotel was approximately in the middle of the road called The Gardens.

We would encourage you to take notice of Walter Harvey's article on Broadband in Rural Areas even if the title means nothing to you it could have a big impact on the future of the village.

Enjoy the read and please let us have your feedback.

Barbara and Brian Coleman

### **Bob Brooks 1931 – 2012** (Marilyn Watts)

Bob lived in Thurlaston for 35 years until his death in January. During that time he worked tirelessly for the village and there could not have been an area of village life that did not benefit from his contribution (yes, even the Ladies Club – he helped with the accounts). For many years Bob was chairman of the Parish Council when maybe his finest hour was leading us into winning the 'Best Kept Village' award, achieving standards which remain to this day. He was also treasurer for the Village Hall, chairman of the Poors Plot charity, auditor for St Edmund's Church, member of the Alms Houses committee, one of the founder members of the Men's Club and with Heather Tebbutt, enthusiastic in planning the Village walks – which were usually suitable for dogs, Bob was rarely seen out without his beloved collie.

Bob was involved with the Fete for many years, as treasurer and 'voice' of the PA system, he also enjoyed playing his part in the early pantomimes, he particularly enjoyed being Master of Ceremonies, complete with gavel, at the Old Time Music Hall show, and who could forget his appearance as Father Christmas with Vivien as the Fairy who nobody loved!

As well as the local walks Bob organised walking and train holidays abroad for friends in Thurlaston, he had encyclopaedic knowledge of the European rail network and on one memorable trip to Switzerland we surely travelled every wonderful mile of the Swiss railways. Other expeditions followed including walking in the Pyrenees, the Loire valley, Minorca, Venice and nearer to home a jaunt around the Isle of Wight.

Bob had been a Bank Manager for most of his working life and his many skills were used to help make Thurlaston a good place in which to live, but whatever he did, he always had the quiet support of Judy. He was a big man in every way and the loss to Judy, his lovely family and the village is great. In his later years Bob reduced his activities (but not his interest) in Thurlaston, for he had the

wisdom to know that for a village to grow and 'move on' younger people need to come on the scene with new ideas and fresh enthusiasm.

We used to joke that after his passing a statue would be erected in the Village Hall garden of Bob in Churchillian pose complete with pipe and faithful dog.

Well, no statue (so far) but lots of happy grateful memories. Goodbye Bob and Thank You.



### ***Reports from Active Social Groups in the Village***

#### **Thurlaston Ramblers** (Mel Harley)

April 2011 to January 2012

We are indebted to Cyril Holcroft for organising the village walks for 6 years since 2006.

I didn't realise when I volunteered to take over the job from Cyril that I would be handed the "Big Red Book"...a bit like the television program "This is your life" this red book is "This is your life Thurlaston Ramblers"

The opening entry was January 1988 when eight people and four dogs walked to Dunchurch via the Toft and back.

So many well known villagers have organised walks and written a brief account in this book, almost a quarter of a century. Alas some are no longer with us.

To organise a village walk each month is a tall order for any one person, as each walk must be researched and walked before it is announced. Checking out the paths is not too difficult, but sampling the food, beer and wine to ensure it is up to Thurlaston standard can be very taxing!!

My thoughts for future village walks will be to ask villagers if they have a favourite walk, it must start and finish at a good pub.

Have you got a favourite walk?

There is a hard core of about 8 people. But the numbers can be as high as 18 depending on the day and place. Distance is normally between 3 and 5 miles

## **2011**

**April** Badby - Blue bell walk through Badby Woods to the Masters Inn.

**May** Frankton- to the Friendly Inn at Frankton some walked there and back.

**July** Hatton - Canal and country walk based on the Waterman Inn.

**August** Crick - Country paths and a climb up Crack Hill for spectacular views and back to the Red Lion Inn

**September** Dunchurch – Something a little different, up the Toft in the early evening to the Cinnamon Lounge. Great fun walking back in the dark!

**October** Hunningham – Along the river Leam and through Cubbington woods to The Red Lion Inn

**November** Braunston – Part canal and part country paths back to the Boat Inn

**December** No one was brave enough to venture out

## **2012**

**January** Ryton Pools – Starting and finishing at the Three Horse Shoes Inn at Bubbenhall

**February** Leek Wootton Starting and finishing at the Anchor Inn, on a warm dry day

**March** Dunchurch for an “Indian” at 6 pm in the Cinnamon Lounge.



There is a full program of walks each month for **2012** which will start from the bus stop at 10.30 am. Everyone is welcome.

## **Thurlaston Ladies Club (TLC)** (Judy Douglas)

The TLC has had another very satisfactory and enjoyable year. Our afternoon speakers have included a very interesting talk on Upton House by Barrie Bemand. It made us all want to visit and look at the paintings once again with much more knowing eyes.

Gillian Andrews returned to tell us of the fascinating life of Sarah Siddons. Gillian is now quite an elderly lady who played young girls in Children's Hour plays when many of us were avidly glued to the radio. She still has all the go she had then.

Gill Frazer bought an old vicarage with her husband, in a small village and found that the community presumed that she would carry on all the village functions that the previous owners had carried out. Not wanting to upset her neighbours she took on her new role along with bringing up four small children and carrying on her journalistic career when ever possible.

Glenys Gayton ran a family bakery which she had inherited from her husband and his ancestors and apart from the lovely bread she brought with her she won everyone's heart with her stories.

As usual we had two evening meetings which we throw open to the village to join us along with a glass of wine. Simon Coates returned to show us his pictures and videos of Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Tetons. Unfortunately, no one requested that the altar light was turned off and so the quality of the pictures was not what they should have been. If you were there you share the blame with the rest of us!!

Tim Porter was also a returning speaker along with his slides and music. He is extremely knowledgeable as a historian and a musician and an excellent speaker. The turn out for this meeting was disappointing, partly as it clashed with a local council meeting. We need to get together on dates in future as this has happened before. We have to book such speakers over a year ahead, which doesn't help.

Our day out to Hardwick Hall was fun and it was good to see some gentlemen and lady non-members, joining us. You are always very welcome.

The summer picnic was also well attended and the lovely homemade food gratefully received. Our January meeting 'Winter Warmers' thought up by Jackie Harvey, was also well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. Five different homemade soups were available plus lovely bread, cheese and pickle, finishing with a cup of coffee.

Our teas at the village fete made a staggering £385. Ladies were very generous with their homemade cakes, the sun shone, and the fete committee brought in the people. The organisation was also much improved this year thanks to the new equipment in the kitchen for which we thank the fete committee and the village hall committee.

They say the way to a man's heart is through his stomach but I think the same can be said of ladies!!

We gave to two charities this year. £500 to Rugby Young Carers and £100 to Compassion in World Farming.

We would love to see more villagers coming to our events. No one will expect you to join unless it is your decision to do so after a few visits.

### **Thurlaston Pub Nights (Beer Tree)**

Just as a reminder, Pub Nights or Beer Tree evenings take place in the village hall on the first Friday of the month as a general rule but as a timely reminder the Beer Tree sign is displayed corner of Main Street and The Gardens during the week of the Pub Night. It is a great opportunity for Thurlaston villagers to relax and chat, find out what is going on and put the world to rights, meet old friends make new ones.

### **Thurlaston Progressive Suppers**

The date for 2012 is October 13<sup>th</sup>, please put in your diary or appropriate electronic device to remind you. You do not have to be a master chef....it is not a competition, however it is a good way to renew old acquaintances and make new contacts in the village. If you have not participated in the Progressive Supper before this would be a good year to give it a try.

### **Thurlaston Art and Craft Show.....September 2011** (David Cooper)

We were delighted that so many came along to the show that we put on in the village hall in September. I had initially chatted about the idea to a couple of villagers who I knew were interested in art and crafts, and was quickly directed to several others whose activities at the time I knew nothing about. Eventually we had 14 exhibitors, all from the village, demonstrating a wide variety of work they had done, ranging from drawings and paintings, to textile art, upholstery work, embroidery, tapestry, patchwork and quilting and lace making. Many were rather apprehensive of putting their work on show, in some cases for the very first time. We also wondered what interest there might be, but we agreed that if nobody came to the show we could happily discuss amongst ourselves what sort of thing we liked doing and our time would not be wasted.

We borrowed some enormous display screens from Vivien Sharp that we easily covered with paintings. Many table demonstrations surrounded the screens that



were placed down the centre of the hall, and by having the entrance through a small marquee at the back of the hall this left just enough space for visitors to sit and sample homemade cake and teas. The weather was fine, and in the event the garden took the overflow of visitors. I had asked everyone exhibiting to write a short description of their artistic interest and what they were displaying. The results were incredible, fascinating and varied, and I think that it was putting a copy of these onto the Thurlaston net that attracted such an interest.

Several items were sold and the 10% donated by the sellers paid for the cost of the marquee and enabled us to give a donation to the village hall. No charge was made for the tea and cakes, but a donation box collected £264.00 that went to Rugby Young Carers. All the exhibitors enjoyed themselves and were amazed by the interest shown in what they did. Maybe in a few years time we might do it again!



Visitors at the exhibition.

## **Church Report for “The Thurlaston Chronicle” 2012** (Rev’d Malcolm Garrett)

It has been a delight to be vicar of St Peter’s and St Edmund’s over the last year. I am immensely appreciative of the welcome you have given me, and I thank God for what I hope is a growing mutual affection. I really do enjoy ministering here.

Notable changes in the Parish over the year have been the growth in ministry resources from myself and my wife Mary to include Morris Rodham (aka ‘Archie’), Clive Harper and David Charles-Edwards. I have been enormously grateful for their support, which goes far beyond just covering for me so I can get a holiday now and then! Some of you may well have shared with David in his ministry to the Nursing Home on our behalf that is, I know, much



appreciated by residents and staff alike. The Church Council has been working to consider what it is that God would have us do, having brought such a comparative wealth of resources to a relatively small parish. Exciting times ahead!

In reviewing our life and work as a church over the year, we started out by looking at the Diocesan Mission Purpose:

- Worshipping God,
- Making New Disciples
- Transforming Communities

and seeking to discern how we can offer inspiring worship which will meet the needs of as many in the community as we can, how we can help others to explore Christian Faith most appropriately, and how, as Jesus' disciples, we can best contribute to the community in which we live (and sometimes work) to the benefit of all.

Drawing on recent work on church growth, analysing the implicit values of successful, healthy, growing churches, the Diocese (spearheaded by our own 'Archie') is encouraging all churches in the Diocese to apply 8 key values which are essential in all healthy, growing churches. They are:

- Empowering Leadership
- Gift-oriented ministry.
- Inspiring Worship.
- Passionate Spirituality.
- Holistic Small Groups.
- Need-oriented outreach
- Loving relationships
- Functional Structures

We have been seeking to discern how we might best develop these qualities in our understanding of being church in Thurlaston to make Christian faith more accessible to others. We have begun a popular, nationally known course called ALPHA which is a practical introduction to the Christian faith.

Feedback from this course has been positive and Morris will be running it every term from now on. Do come along or invite somebody who may be interested.

A taster supper evening for the course with a humorous talk entitled 'Christianity: Boring, Untrue and Irrelevant?' will take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 3, The Gardens (tel 07506731892 for more details).

Whilst recognising that the existing style of worship in St Edmund's has nourished and sustained many people for many years, and continues to do so; in an attempt to meet the spiritual needs of others who may prefer something a little less traditional, the Church Council have approved the formation of an additional church congregation, initially meeting in a home; which will be based upon the 8 values mentioned above from the outset. This will be called

'SEARCH' (standing for 'St Edmund's Additional Rural Church', and will initially be based in the home of Morris and Judith (3, The Gardens).

A web-site with more details will be created over the summer months ([www.s-e-a-r-c-h.org](http://www.s-e-a-r-c-h.org)). Please contact Morris (07506731892) for more information. This new church congregation is fully part of St Edmund's and St Peter's Churches, just as the other services which are held at different times are still part of the same church.

We're always interested to hear the views of the community we serve about whether we're providing what will meet peoples' needs. Do feel free to be in touch if you want to contribute to this.

Malcolm Garratt, Vicar  
810274

## ***Reports from Thurlaston Village Management Groups***

### **Parish Council Chairperson's Report**

Village Meeting March 8<sup>th</sup> 2012

It has been a very active year for the Parish Council in dealing with the **Proposed Expansion of the Warwickshire Nursing Home**. We have been in continual discussions with the owners of the Nursing Home and the Borough Council Planning Officers. As you will all know Planning Permission was granted for the Amended Plans on Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012.

I do believe that the Parish Council have achieved good results on your behalf even though the outcome was not the ideal one we would have liked. We have protected the Victorian Walled Gardens at the South side and prevented demolition of part of the Wall bounding the garden. We have also hopefully prevented a very wide opening into the Meadow on the North side with preservation of the Wall alongside Main Street. Although there is to be a single storey building on the North Side of the site we think that it will be screened by the preserved wall and trees facing Main Street which have to be retained unless diseased then replaced. The bulk of the Meadow is retained and I think that it is now better protected against any further development thus retaining the green open space within the heart of the village.

Our main concern was to minimise the changes in character within the Conservation Area, this I think we have achieved despite the lamentable attitude of the Borough Council's Planning Department. Although the Nursing Home is in the centre of the Conservation area the Planning Department refused our repeated requests for a Conservation Specialist opinion to be obtained. This was despite the active support of the CPRE and local Borough Councillors. There was also the refusal to notify people and allow further consultation after the amended plans were submitted. I was disgusted at the lack of discussion at the Planning Committee. Not one Councillor raised the question of a Conservation opinion.

I am considering whether the Parish Council or I as an individual should make a **formal complaint** about the Borough Council's handling of the Planning Process. It will not alter their recent decision but may result in them being more attentive in giving proper support to a Parish Council in the future. They appear to be entirely disengaged from the need to embrace the Localisation Agenda & Legislation that are currently being finalised.

During the year we successfully had the **crossing refuge on the B4429** completed so that it is now much safer for all crossing the road. The majority of the roads in the village bar Church Lane have been surface dressed. We are in contact with the County Council Highways department to ensure that Church Lane is on this coming year's schedule.

**Car parking** – we have had extra No Parking signs purchased for and put up on Main Street and Church Lane and we will continue to obtain data on why people park in Thurlaston rather than on Draycote. We are still waiting for Severn Trent to keep their promise to us to erect a brown sign at the entrance to the village directing traffic for Draycote to go via Dunchurch.

We continue to arrange for **grass cutting** to be done by our own contractor rather than the Borough Council, which has given us a better result – I hope you all agree.

To mark the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** we have had specially designed by our own Viv Sharp a Commemorative Mug.

We regularly meet with other Parish Councils and both Borough & County Officers and Elected Members at Divisional Meetings to raise issues on your behalf and to take those to task if we think that they are failing you. All of this on a precept of £3,500.00 per year – what a bargain I hear you cry! It's now 4 years without any increase to you the Council Tax Payer.

A final request - some of you may have seen the e-mail from Walter Harvey about the Broadband upgrade for Warwickshire. Please complete the survey as he has suggested the link is :<http://www.cswbroadband.org.uk/> By doing this we can show that there are enough people and or businesses in our village that would benefit from faster and more reliable Broadband.

I wish again to thank on your behalf our hard working Parish Clerk Bryan Spann who as always has worked so diligently for the Parish. Also my thanks for the support and help given to me from your Parish Councillors Helen, Walter, Andrew & Gary.

Barrie Bemand Chairman Thurlaston Parish Council 7/3/12

## **Village Hall Committee Report** (David Cooper) March 2012

The Village Hall Committee of Management was initially put in place in 1946 to manage the deed of gift of the land and property made by Mabel Caroline Sutton Stanley, then of the Mill House, to the Parish Council. Over the subsequent 65 or so years many villagers have served on the committee whose chairmen have included Joyce Worrell, Jess Cummings, Joan Sullivan and

Brian Bowsher. Our main aim remains to manage the hall for use by the village, and we were delighted that in the last year the hall was used on nearly 100 occasions, from pub nights to table tennis and from polling days to private parties. We are very fortunate to have this super facility in the village so please continue to use it, and encourage others to do so. Irene Spann, our booking clerk Tel: 52288, will be very happy to take your enquiries.

The Pub Nights continue to be expertly run every other month by Irene. We have to thank once again Kay Thorpe and Helen Creery for the two very successful Progressive Suppers held this year. It has often been difficult to get sufficient numbers for the Spring supper, so it has been decided to hold just the one Progressive this year, on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October, so make a note in your diary. Steve Murphy headed for the fifth year a wonderful Village Fete, and very generously donated half the proceeds from the afternoon's events to the Village Hall funds. As you will know he has decided to step down, but his legacy of ideas, enthusiasm and commitment, will surely sustain subsequent organisers for many years to come. The Christmas Lights Party combined again with the December Pub Night proved very popular with all ages.

The Village Hall accounts for 2011 are displayed on the notice board. Our main income comes from the hall and equipment hire charges (£651), the Progressive Suppers (£474), the Village Fete (£1115) and the Pub Nights (£313). There was no major expenditure this year other than the usual running and maintenance costs of the hall. We bought a few more Christmas lights and believe it or not there were 950 lights on the Stocks Lane oak tree this year.

I would like to thank our committee for all of their contributions this year. We were very pleased to welcome Helen Creery who joined us during the year to be a liaison with the Parish Council.

#### 2011/2012 Committee Members

David Cooper	Chairman	810443
Dawn Whitmee	Secretary	
Bob Hobday	Hon. Treasurer	
Irene Spann	Booking Clerk	522882
Sue Winton		
Lee Wise		
Helen Creery	Parish Council Liaison	

#### **Poor's Plot Charity Report** (Cathy Owens)

Records from 1872 show that all the land known as "poor's Plot" was all allotments and there were 43 people renting the land. Rent at that time was 4/6d (just under 50p) a half year. Today the rent is £5.00 per year. If you would like an allotment please contact the clerk who will put you on the waiting list.

Accounts for 1907 show there was a balance of £105.15.10 (approximately £105.75) quite a lot of money for that time.

Minutes of May 1914 show that the land was then used by farmers and 41 people in the village were receiving coal, supplied by Mr. Pridmore coal supplied Moira Scream Cobbles (from the Leicestershire mine).

In 2011 all land was being used and we have 7 allotment holders and 2 farmers. All rents have been collected.

Help has been given to a number of people in the village either with fuel allowance or payment for Life Line. Anyone needing help please contact a Trustee or the Clerk.

The AGM has been held, the accounts have been ratified, and we have a healthy balance at the bank.

### **Dunchurch Boughton Endowed Trust.**

Trustee Governor Report (Abbreviated)

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

It was reported at the village meeting in March that the Trust had maintained its value over the past twelve months and generated additional income.

Areas being considered for funding by the Trust include additional fencing, ceiling repairs, replacement of some kitchen equipment, computer server repairs and carpet cleaning.

New equipment purchases includes computers and projectors and significant repairs to the safety matting area around play equipment.

### **Dunchurch Almshouses Charity Trust Report** (Walter Harvey)

This is the Newcombe and Spier Almshouse Charity.

For those who are not aware the local almshouses are a terrace of six small houses in Dunchurch between the Dun Cow and the church, adjacent to the Scott statue and opposite Mops the hairdressers.

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

After the busy and expensive year of 2010 the trustees had a more routine year in 2011. The kitchen walls of all six almshouses were insulated. Routine maintenance continued for the plumbing in the various kitchens and bathrooms. The bath in number 6 is to be replaced by a shower.

In October 2011 no. 3 and no. 1 had damp through the gable end wall and this was treated externally in the Autumn. There is also rising damp and to treat this will require the tenants of No's 1 and 3 to move out for 2 or 3 days. This work is scheduled for warmer weather to suit the tenants.

The Charity funds remain in good order and enable the trustees to maintain comfortable albeit limited accommodation for the residents.

## **Neighbourhood Watch** (Tony Mennell)

Another year passes without major incident, well done to the vigilant ones (please note not vigilante) who have reported unusual incidents.

It is worth noting that villagers who use the Thurlaston web should take care when responding to each other's email messages especially where details of holiday absences and even personal security details have been given. 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

## ***The Year of the Jubilee***

### **Celebrations**

At the start of the Jubilee celebrations there is a Pub Night (aka Beer Tree evening) on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012 please come along as usual or if you have not been before there is a special welcome for you, just turn up and drinks will be available for purchase.

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012 it will be a special day. An occasion being masterminded by Andrew and Unni with help from a lot of villagers so keep your eyes on the Thurlaston web or Notice Board for details and be prepared for a good day in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee.

### **Celebration Mugs**

The Thurlaston Diamond Jubilee Mug (Barrie Bemand).

If anyone is the inspiration then it's David Cooper! This all came about after he gained his award from the Rugby & District Arts Society for his superb pastels. A mutual friend called Frank Drewett invited David to see his wood turning rather than his etchings! When David visited Frank he saw a large collection of commemorative mugs, there were some for sports clubs, villages, schools including Eton, university Sports Clubs and Colleges at Oxford & Cambridge. David mentioned this to Andrew Henning who contacted me. As I knew Frank Drewett it was agreed that I would contact him and discuss the possibilities. Frank Drewett is a former teacher from Rugby School, who is a skilled wood turner and has been acting, for many years, as an agent for a China Factory in Stoke on Trent. He introduces organisations to them that wish to have memorabilia produced. When I visited Frank in mid December 2011 he showed me his collection of over 50 mugs – all made in English Porcelain with individual designs, pictures, written scripts and motifs. The mugs were all manufactured by a family company that has been going for over 85 years and surviving



despite the downturn in the Potteries. Three brothers own and run the company – one is the artist and designer, one the porcelain maker and the other is the finance director. Their late father had reinvigorated the business after returning from the Second World War, he was an Arnhem veteran.

The only questions in my mind were how could we afford to buy them, who could we possibly ask to design a suitable motif and how soon would we need to act?

Frank said that time was of the essence as there would be a lot of publicity about the Diamond Jubilee after the Christmas & New Year break.

Frank lent me 4 of the mugs which I brought home and photographed, sending photos to other members of the Parish Council. It was quickly agreed that we should try and get a special commemorative mug for the village to mark the Diamond Jubilee. So I visited Viv Sharp and together we agreed on design.

I suggested that the Village sign would be a good design for the front face and Viv gave me her original artwork. Having seen the other mug designs I quickly realised that a brief history of the village could go on the rear face with an explanation of the village sign on the base. As a symbol of Her Majesty's

Diamond Jubilee I asked Viv to design a simple logo with the dates 1952 to 2012 with ER2 on the inside of the lip and if you picked up the mug as a left hander it would be a bit of fun to have a sketch of the stocks on the other side. For the village history I read 'Under the Beer Tree' by Edna Mitchell plus a copy of a School project from 1948 by Joyce Baugham. I also spoke with Robert Footitt about his memories of the village. The only blank I drew was about the Stocks – no one knows when they were first constructed. We know that Bob Mitchell repaired the present stocks. Is there anyone who knows when they were first built? The next problem was to edit the text so that it would fit on the back of the mug.

I spoke with Frank Drewett who suggested I talk directly with Graham Lockett about the artwork. Graham asked me to take Digital Photos of the artwork and e-mail it to him which I did. We also discussed the cost of each mug – this depends on the number of colours. To keep the costs reasonable for a small production run we agreed that the printing would be in Black & White. This was just before the Christmas holiday and Graham told me that they were already working 6 days a week to keep pace with orders.

I attended the Carol Singing in the village hall after the Christmas Lights were switched on. All I had was the idea and photos of the artwork with me. But when I showed people they were really interested and my Intranet Notice brought in over 100 orders from you within a few days. A wonderful response. So typical of Thurlastonians!

The first week after New Year Graham sent me the artwork in Black & White and I must say that I was very disappointed with the result. The main logo was 'greyed out' with too little contrast. The printed texts were fine.

So another phone - call to Stoke on Trent. One of the great delights with this sort of project was that I was dealing with a family firm who have a real interest in producing a high quality product that satisfies the customer. Graham, being one of the brothers who own the firm is also the head of design. He readily agreed that the village image had come out poorly and then immediately said

‘I’ll do it in Digital 5 Colour for the same price as a two colour mug. How does that suit you?’

So we now had an original designed commemorative mug in full colour that was affordable. Because I still had concerns that there was no actual mug yet produced Graham said that he would send me a single Proof mug to check that I was happy before final orders were placed with them. He also removed another worry – that was did we need to pay for the mugs on delivery i.e. before we had taken any payment? His response surprised me. ‘Andrew [his brother] will send you an invoice after you have received the mugs’. Brilliant! And what trust shown to a new customer for what was a small order.

About 10 days later I had our Proof copy. It was just as I had hoped. That’s when I notified the village that the time had come for final orders. Yet again a wonderful response from you! Over 60 extra orders in 48 hours.

So final orders were submitted and 10 days later Andrew Lockett phoned me to say they’re ready.

Lynne and I motored up to Stoke on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March and met Graham & Andrew Lockett at the factory. Despite the recession in the pottery industry there are still many small producers. Edwards & Lockett is the company name but they are also trade as ‘Edwardian China’. They are a niche manufacturer dealing with many small customers such as us but also with major institutions such as Liberty of London and The Royal Academy of Arts in London making special one- off productions.

Just a few days before, Lynne and I had visited the David Hockney exhibition at the Royal Academy – a wonderful, memorable experience. Hockney had been given all the exhibition rooms, an almost unheard of honour for a living artist. Whilst there, we had seen the memorabilia on sale including porcelain mugs. Now we know that Edwards & Lockett make them as we saw one in the factory at Stoke on Trent.

Within 5 minutes the mugs were safely loaded in the boot of our car for the return to Thurlaston. Andrew Lockett told us that his father had always insisted that his sons treat small customers like us as special. They will accept any size of order for plates and mugs, even making single items on occasions. That may well explain how they have survived and even expanded over the past years despite the many closures in the pottery industry. Plus of course their attention to detail, their courtesy shown to customers and the quality of their porcelain. I hope that all of you who now have your own Village Diamond Jubilee mugs are happy with them. It has been a really interesting project to organise and given me the opportunity to talk to and meet with a successful family firm continuing the proud traditions of our China Industry into the Twenty First Century.

Barrie Bemand

## **The Flicks...? At the Village Hall...? In Thurlaston...?** (Yvonne Lovell)

So what’s the story? Having recently, accepted a First Aid tutor role, at Percival

Guildhouse. My other-half, Elton, bought me an expensive bit of kit that enables me to display my multi-media course on a flip screen/white wall. We tried some DVD's on our wall at home and it was BRILLIANT! Particularly the quality of the sound wired up to the amplifier. AWESOME!

**Homemade movies?** My son, James, enjoys making movies and so with his good school friend, Oliver Shaw, they wrote and produced a witty,, and slightly spooky, movie inspired by their love of 'Dr Who'. For two eleven year olds, I was WOWED with what they had created...the props, the costumes, the acting, and the special effects. All, with just a Video camera, Moviemaker software, time, creativity, VOILA! We previewed this, at a recent private Christmas party and it was highly received.

I then thought, it would be nice to share this with our Thurlaston population, their friends and family, and to invite them, to 'contribute' a short movie, for future, cinema evenings. We watched James and Oliver's composition first. Along with a main movie, to see the response and *show-off*, what is possible?

The day arrived, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February. Typical, the day they forecast snow and boy, did it! Many people cancelled, but this did not stop 'The Lovells'. 'The show must go on' - and I couldn't re-arrange. My children wouldn't let me...I had bought lots of food and made a tray full of Bread pudding...and WE WANTED TO DO IT!

Well, how exciting, when people started arriving. First we watched 'Johnny Carrot's Christmas'. Had an interval to refuel on high-calorific, tummy-pleasers, before relaxing to the talents of Rowan Atkinson's gaffes, pratfalls and buffoonery, in his debut of 'Johnny English'. Okay, we didn't have a full-house - not many people knew about us, but we were comfortable, social, relaxed, in a room of ambient, attentive, chortling viewers. The behaviour of our younger audience members was exemplary!

**Eclectic Cinema?** I wanted a catchy, memorable name for the event. To represent what it's all about, and 'Eclectic Cinema' seemed fitting! Also, Its similarity in name to the old creepy-looking, Victorian 'Electric Cinema' in Birmingham - can anyone remember that?

We're looking forward to sharing our eclectic mix, to an audience, who would like to enjoy them too! We even allow you to bring your own tippie - after all its Saturday night! You can purchase a slice of hot pizza to go with it, or skip supper and just have pizza with us, veggie soup, popcorn, chocolate, cake and more!

**Thank you?** I must say a big thank you to our Village Hall key holder, Irene, for her abundance of support, energy, enthusiasm and encouragement. My supportive team, Elton, for making the most professional and handsome COP (computer operator and projectionist - He'll kill me when he reads this). James and Oliver, for their inspiring movie and running of the Snack shop. Finally my daughter, Priya - just so she doesn't feel left out!



James and Oliver

### ***The Year of the 2012 Games***

Well done to any villagers who have tickets to the 2012 Games. Please let us know which events you are going to and if you are prepared to write something for next years Chronicle.

How does it begin for the competitors? With a dream, a lot of determination and skill (supportive parents are probably quite useful as well). Whether Alex will end up at an Olympics one day or not here is his experience with one of the most competitive sports in the Games.

#### **Hockey** (Alex Winton)

Hockey is a much overlooked sport in the UK, with the competitive sport scene being dominated by the likes of Football, Rugby and Cricket. It is rarely publicised on the TV at any time outside of the Olympics, stories never make it to national papers and if you wanted to find out more on the BBC website, you have to click on 'More Sports' before getting to the Hockey section. So how did I come to play Hockey and why do I think it's on the rise?

My first introduction to hockey was in year 7 at Princethorpe College. I was never the Rugby kind of guy, not having the bulky build necessary to excel as a forward, or the speed to compete as a winger. So I switched from doing Rugby in P.E. lessons to Hockey instead. I immediately knew I had found a sport which I really enjoyed and could do well at. I joined the after school club early in Year 8 and made it into the U14 A team in my first year of playing. I have continued to play hockey throughout my schooling to where I am now in Lower Sixth, playing for my school's 1<sup>st</sup> XI. Some great memories from playing at school include winning the Independent Schools Association Nationals Cup in Year 9 and finishing as runners up in the county tournament in Year 10. However, the most definitive memory of my school hockey was taking part in a sports tour to

South Africa, where we spent 2 weeks playing against schools, as well as the Langa Township, in Johannesburg and Cape Town, as well as doing the usual tourist stuff like visiting Table Mountain and going on safari!

I joined Rugby & East Warwickshire Hockey Club at about the same time that I began going to after school training. One of my friends was already a member so I went along one cold and wet Friday night with him to see what it was like. Needless to say I loved it, despite the bad weather, and decided to carry on going. From this junior training I was spotted by the "Fathoms" manager who asked if I wanted to join the team and play every Saturday. Now you're probably wondering what fathoms is, it's basically a mixture of adults and juniors on the same team, in order to develop the juniors skills and ability. I played as a part of this for two seasons before I was invited to play my first game for a full men's squad. I had only played one game for my club's 6<sup>th</sup> XI before I was whisked up to play for the 5<sup>th</sup>s for the rest of the season. Since then, which now is 3 years ago, I have moved rapidly through the teams, until making my 1<sup>st</sup> XI debut this season.

I have also been selected and played for Warwickshire for 2 years as part of the county squad. This year I also managed to achieve regional trials that will be happening at the end of April. I am hopeful to be selected for the full Midlands squad!

So why is Hockey becoming such a big sport? In Rugby alone, the number of youngsters turning out on a Friday night to training has increased from around 50 when I first started going 5 years ago, to around 160 regulars every week. On a national level, each year tens of thousands of people travel to Birmingham to watch the Men's and Women's Super Sixes indoor tournament. It has also rapidly become one of the Olympics most watched sports, with all matches sold out for this year's event!

I'd be happy to answer any questions should anyone have an interest in taking up Hockey or visit <http://www.rewhc.co.uk/website/> for information on training days!

## ***The Year of the Thurlaston Census***

### **The Census**

Further to last year's Chronicle we are planning to issue a Census questionnaire during July this year as a follow up to the census taken in 1992 and 2002. It will contain some straight forward questions about residents and life styles. We also expect to include some questions about the emergency Evacuation Plan that the Parish Council is preparing i.e. in the event the bridge over the M45 is impassable. We would encourage you to take part in the census, the more people that participate the more value there will be to results. Claire Jinks will be part of the team behind the census (she was part of the last two census programmes) she will be working with Alex Winton who is one of our active teenagers in the village.

### **Broadband in Rural Areas** (Walter Harvey)

I suppose it was the bringing of piped water and electricity, and then the telephone, to country villages that made them more habitable and attractive places to live. It is the bringing of the Internet to these villages with reliability and high speed that is the current major improvement. It will not be long before a sound internet connection will be regarded on a par with the supply of electricity and water as a basic essential utility.

Thurlaston is not deeply rural, but even so it is a car/bike ride or a long walk to reach shops or professional services. For a village like Draycote the journey time is much greater and that is one reason why Draycote will be getting an optic fibre internet connection later this year.

It may seem strange to declare broadband a utility on a par with water, but access to the net has become a requirement, if not for survival, for taking part in society. Banking and public services have moved online, and with telemedicine, healthcare will follow suit.

You will have seen how the Thurlaston Net e-mail service is binding village social life together. The gathering of the team for Diamond Jubilee celebrations, village walks, ladies club activities, repair and maintenance services, lost animals and accidents to residents, all recent topics discussed here, replacing the village shop or village pub gossip of yesteryear.

Many residents use Skype to hold videophone calls with their families who are overseas or in distant parts of the UK. As faster broadband becomes more widespread this technique will be used from the home to hold discussions with medics or other professionals such as financial advisers or solicitors, avoiding the need for travel to their offices, which benefits both one's pocket and the environment.

The ability to find and purchase items online and then have them delivered to the home also saves a lot of travel.

Modern television sets will connect directly to the Internet, and if the broadband speed is high enough, one can use the various i-players to select your own TV programmes. Most daily newspapers are now available on the net and these versions will include short film clips of events.

So, having (a) preached to the converted and (b) antagonised the "what's wrong with picking up the phone" group, what is the objective of this article?

The objective is to have a majority of residents encouraging the bringing of an optic fibre cable from the Dunchurch telephone exchange at least as far as the cabinet which is on the pavement outside "The Latch" on Coventry Road. This should provide the residents of Thurlaston with download speeds of between 24 and 40 Mb/sec instead of the current speeds which are between 1 and 7 Mb/sec.

Fibre-optic cable is expensive to install and, similar to a bus service, will only be run into the village if a majority of people indicate that they will use it. This cable is not installed by internet service providers, such as Virgin, Plus, TalkTalk, etc., but by telecoms providers who then rent out the cable to the internet service providers.

There is a current campaign by central government to bring fast broadband to rural areas. To this end they are providing a chunk of money which has been added to by W.C.C. and R.B.C. to help fund the cable costs. However the



telecoms providers will still have to provide about two thirds of the total capital cost. These telecom providers will only invest in areas which show a keen interest to have the cable.

A survey is currently being carried out by W.C.C. to establish which rural areas have a majority interest in receiving high-speed broadband. The results of this survey will determine where the money is spent.

I have sent out two requests on Thurlaston Net and then sent a follow-up to residents for whom I had an e-mail address and who had not responded. I have been disappointed that only 38 out of a possible 130 or so households have indicated that they completed the survey. Even if you do not use the internet much or at all, it is an important service to the village and to future residents of your house.

The survey is at [www.cswbroadband.org.uk](http://www.cswbroadband.org.uk) and if you run a business from home please do both surveys.

Please make a note of your current internet speed, found as part of the survey, and send the value to me at [walter.harvey@virgin.net](mailto:walter.harvey@virgin.net). I am compiling a record of all the speeds in various parts of the village so that we can try and discover why some households already have much better service than others.

Please take part in the survey and send me the results of your speed test. Any queries, my email address is above or telephone on 01788 817971, Walter Harvey.

### **“Come and see”** ....with all its implications...

The story we are going to tell turned out well for the willing invitee, and for many people in this country and abroad. Angela Youngman Stewart, who lives near the entrance to the village, was invited by her husband some years back to “come and see”... a beautiful house in Sevenoaks, Kent that had been owned by Beatrice Hankey. She had gathered a group of ladies together in 1902. The group was called ‘The Knighthood’ and over the years its members brought relief to people and places in great need e.g. in Cannock Chase at the time of the miner’s strike in 1912. Here Beatrice hired a hall, gathered the cold, hungry and poverty stricken miners together and gave them friendship beginning with warm cocoa around a hot fire..

In World War I the Knights made ‘Home Huts’ for the soldiers who were preparing to go off and fight.

In the times of depression in the Welsh valleys they were there again giving warmth and friendship. There are many other examples of such activities, which could be mentioned...

The Knights became known as the Blue Pilgrims because of the blue sashes and headdresses they wore. Later men also became members. There are around 200 members in this country and on the continent and some in Bangladesh. After all these 110 years we wonder who could be the leader of such an organisation.... It is at present our very own Angela, who has now been a member for well over 40 years and has been able to take part in visits of friendship and reconciliation in Germany, in Northern Ireland and Belarus. Her

own particular 'quest' is to be alongside the developing new group in Bangladesh whose members want to help street children and victims of natural disasters.

There have been some eminent members in the past viz., Canon Raven, Regius Professor of Divinity in Cambridge, Archbishop George Appleton and lady Elizabeth Basset (one time lady in waiting to the Queen Mother)....although Angela points out most are ordinary folk and the leader has always been a woman. So what links the Knights or Blue Pilgrims? They are like-minded folk who want to live out their Christian faith..Angela describes the organisation as a 'big Christian family with no edges'. We are sure if you wanted to find out more, Angela would be delighted to hear from you.

So when someone says to you 'come and see' it could open up great new opportunities!!

Have you got a similar story to tell where a simple invitation has led to a major project? Let us know please.

### **Archive Alive!** (Brian Coleman)

Every now and then we blow the dust off the village archives and get them out either to display them at the annual fete or in this case to research a school project. Here we see Harri Ogilvie aged 10 (on the left) with his brothers Freddie and Tommy finding out about Draycote reservoir, the history of the land before the water arrived and it's construction.

Other villagers have been finding out about their historic buildings over the past twelve months. If I can help by giving you access to the data we have I will.



### **Last Summer in Thurlaston.....**

The Village was resurfaced  
But what became quite plain

The men who tarred and gritted  
Forgot to do Church Lane.

Clerk Bryan did his utmost  
Town Hall it was to blame  
The boss who baked the budget  
Left nothing for Church Lane

The surface worsens daily  
Church path is such a pain  
I've grown to like the rustic look  
That's come upon Church Lane! ..... Marilyn Watts

## **A Short History..continued (Bob Brooks)**

### **The Romans, the Vikings and the Normans**

In A.D. 43 the Romans invaded Britain with an army of 40,000 men. They had originally tried to conquer the island in 55 B.C. but had been discouraged by the awful weather and the blue painted savages who fought them savagely. They were to remain for 400 years and in that time left an indelible mark on the country. There are no known traces of the Roman occupation in Thurlaston, but their main highway, now the A5, and an important settlement at Tripontium are nearby. It is inconceivable that our ancestors remained impervious to the Romans and especially their taxes during the 400 years they occupied Britain.

In what is now England, Roman life prospered. Essentially urban, it was able to integrate the native tribes into a town-based governmental system. Agricola succeeded greatly in his aims to accustom the Britons "to a life of peace and quiet by the provision of amenities". He consequently gave private encouragement and official assistance to the building of temples, public squares and good houses. Many of these were built in former military garrisons that became the *coloniae*, the Roman chartered towns such as Colchester, Gloucester, Lincoln, and York (where Constantine was declared Emperor by his troops in 306 A.D.). Other towns, called *municipia*, included such foundations as St. Albans (*Verulamium*).

Chartered towns were governed to a large extent by a system based on that of Rome. They were ruled by an *ordo* of 100 councillors (*decurion*). who had to be local residents and own a certain amount of property. The *ordo* was run by two magistrates, rotated annually; they were responsible for collecting taxes, administering justice and undertaking public works. Outside the chartered town, the inhabitants were referred to as *peregrini*, or non-citizens. they were organized into local government areas known as *civitates*, largely based on pre-existing chieftdom boundaries. Canterbury and Chelmsford were two of the *civitas* capitals.

In the countryside, away from the towns, with their metalled, properly drained

streets, their forums and other public buildings, bathhouses, shops and amphitheatres, were the great villas, such as are found at Bignor, Chedworth and Lullingstone. Many of these seem to have been occupied by native Britons who had acquired land and who had adopted Roman culture and customs.. Developing out of the native and relatively crude farmsteads, the villas gradually added features such as stone walls, multiple rooms, hypocausts (heating systems), mosaics and bathhouses..The third and fourth centuries saw a golden age of villa building that further increased their numbers of rooms and added a central courtyard. The elaborate surviving mosaics found in some of these villas show a detailed construction and intensity of labour that only the rich could have afforded; their wealth came from the highly lucrative export of grain.

Roman society in Britain was highly classified. At the top were those people associated with the legions, the provincial administration, the government of towns and the wealthy traders and commercial classes who enjoyed legal privileges not generally accorded to the majority of the population. In 212 AD, the Emperor Caracalla extended citizenship to all free-born inhabitants of the empire, but social and legal distinctions remained rigidly set between the upper rank of citizens known as *honestiores* and the masses, known as *humiliores*. At the lowest end of the scale were the slaves, many of whom were able to gain their freedom, and many of whom might occupy important governmental posts. Women were also rigidly circumscribed, not being allowed to hold any public office, and having severely limited property rights.

One of the greatest achievements of the Roman Empire was its system of roads, in Britain no less than elsewhere. When the legions arrived in a country with virtually no roads at all, as Britain was in the first century A.D., their first task was to build a system to link not only their military headquarters but also their isolated forts. Vital for trade, the roads were also of paramount importance in the speedy movement of troops, munitions and supplies from one strategic centre to another. They also allowed the movement of agricultural products from farm to market. London was the chief administrative centre, and from it, roads spread out to all parts of the province. They included Ermine Street, to Lincoln; Watling Street, to Wroxeter and then to Chester, all the way in the northwest on the Welsh frontier; and the Fosse Way, from Exeter to Lincoln, the first frontier of the province of Britain. Thurlaston villagers, living as they did near the junction of the Fosse Way and Watling Street, must have been very aware of the Roman rule.

In 410 A.D. the Emperor Honorius wrote his (in)famous letter to all cities in England telling them to look after their own affairs in future. Roman rule was effectively over, but even before the indigent population received this letter, Saxons were infiltrating the country and Thurlaston would have noticed the deterioration of the structure of the State and the influx of pagans. The Dark Ages had begun and little is known of the 200 years that followed. One can only assume that in Thurlaston, life went on as it had done for many centuries before - sowing seeds in Spring, weeding in the Summer, harvesting in the Autumn and desperately trying to keep

warm and avoiding starvation in Winter.

At least, the majority of the English had Christianity to console them, as missionary work started at least as early as 314 A.D. and by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> C. a system of dioceses with bishops heading them had been established. Some people continued to worship the Roman and pagan gods, however, as they had served them well over many millennia. The Saxons, Jutes and Angles came and were absorbed into the native Celtic population, whilst Thurlaston (Þórleifstún), at last, was named after a grandson of King Alfred the Great who had connections with the village. His name was Turchitel (among other recorded variations of this name), hence Turchitel's Ton (ton is a Saxon word for a dwelling) became Thurlaston.

The West Saxon Annals (part of the "Anglo-Saxon Chronicle" that Alfred began around 890), tell us that the Vikings (also known as Norsemen or Danes) came as hostile raiders to the shores of Britain. Their invasions were thus different from those of the earlier Saxons who had originally come to defend the British people and then to settle. Though they did settle eventually in their newly conquered lands, the Vikings were more intent on looting and pillaging; their armies marched inland destroying and burning until half of England had been taken, and it seemed as if there was no one strong enough to stop them. However, just as an earlier British leader, perhaps the one known in legend as Arthur had stopped the Saxon advance into the Western regions at Mount Badon in 496, so a later leader stopped the advance of the Norsemen at Edington in 878. This time, our main source is more reliable; the leader was Alfred of Wessex. Thurlaston was on the extreme Eastern edge of Alfred's kingdom which was defined, more or less by the ancient Roman Watling Street (A5).

The village must have seen many incursions by the war-like Danes or Vikings over the period when Alfred and the Danish leaders were fighting to maintain supremacy over Southern England. It can't have been a very happy place to live, but it did survive and as the centuries passed Thurlaston became bigger and a more important agricultural centre.

In 1066 there was a more fundamental upheaval when William the Bastard, a descendant of the Vikings who had harried the Eastern coastline of England for generations won the Battle of Hastings and started a merciless regime to change England to his own views. A rising at York in which the Danes also took part was easily crushed and the land harried unmercifully in revenge. Duke William showed that he meant business; he ruled with ruthless severity. On his absences in Normandy, he left strong, able barons to deal with any rebellions, including powerful church leaders such as Lanfranc of Canterbury. Through attrition, in the futile attempts at resistance, the old Anglo-Saxon aristocracy was severely depleted. The years 1066-1075 were a period of trial and experiment, with serious attempts at cooperation between Saxon and Norman, but these attempts were entirely given up in favour of a thoroughly Norman administration. By 1075, the only Anglo-Saxons to remain in authority were clergy. By 1086, other than small-

estate holders, there were in the whole of the land only two Englishmen holding estates of any dimension.

By the time of William's death in 1087, English society had been profoundly changed. For one thing, the great Saxon earldoms were split: Wessex, Mercia, Northumbria and other ancient kingdoms were abolished forever. The great estates of England were given to Norman and Breton landowners, carefully prevented from building up their estates by having them separated by the holdings of others. In addition, William's insistence that the prime duty of any man holding land from the king was to produce on demand a set quota of mounted knights produced a new ruling class in England, one entirely different from that which had been in place for so long. The peasants of Thurlaston must have wondered how they were going to survive in all this apparent chaos, but survive they did, probably with the help of the Church, for they supplied food to an important monastery in Pipewell, Northamptonshire.

At this time Thurlaston a 5-hide vill, was in 1086 divided into two parts, 2½ hides (held freely before 1066 by Wlgar) being then held by the Count of Meulan, and 2½ (formerly held by Baldeuin) were held by Hubert of Hugh de Grantemesnil.) The Count of Meulan's Warwickshire estates mostly passed to the Earls of Warwick, of whom one fee was held in Thurlaston in 1235–6 and 1242–3,) and again in 1316. The Earl of Warwick was stated to be lord in 1372, and again of a knight's fee in 1401.

The subtenant in 1235–6 was William le Franseiz, and in 1242–3 John de Thurlaweston, who held of Roese de Verdon. Theobald de Verdon was in possession in 1316, his subtenants in the following year being Simon son of Margery and John de Derset. In 1337 the fee was held by Hugh Daunsere of Theobald de Verdon the younger. Theobald's widow held it in dower in 1360, when there were several tenants and the reversion was to Thomas de Furnivall, whose mother was daughter and co-heiress of Theobald by his former wife. At the death of William de Furnivall in 1383 the fee was stated to have been formerly held by John Derset, but though the Talbot Earls of Shrewsbury came into possession of the Furnivall estates through female lines they do not appear to have maintained this mesne lordship in Thurlaston. The Dersets (later Dorsets) continued to hold the manor; William Derset of Thurlaston was a justice of the peace in 1434, and in 1528 William Dorset made a conveyance of the manor. In 1533 he and his wife Margaret settled it on trustees, including Edward Cave of Winwick, whose daughter and co-heiress Mary married Thomas Boughton, lord of Cawston. Their son Edward Boughton ran into debt over his great house at Cawston, and on his death in 1589 his Thurlaston estate was sold to meet his creditors. It was probably bought by the Leighs of Dunchurch, and descended with that manor, the Duke of Montagu being lord of both in 1730, about which time he owned 1,307 acres in Thurlaston, with 20 tenants.



The estates of Hugh de Grantemesnil passed to the Earls of Leicester, but as there is no record of this earldom in connexion with Thurlaston, Dugdale is probably right in identifying the Grantemesnil portion with that of which Wigan the Marshal was enfeoffed by Henry I, and of which a quarter of a knight's fee was held of Ralph, Wigan's son, by Roger de Torlavestone de novo feffamento in 1166. Ralph son of Wigan held 1 ploughland (waignagium i caruce) in Thurlaston in 1198, and Stephen de Segrave 10 virgates in 1226–8, of William de Cantilupe, who had been enfeoffed of the Marshal property by William, Ralph's son. In 1232 Stephen was stated to hold these 10 virgates by serjeanty of the king, of the fee of Willoughby, having been granted them by William son of William de Cantilupe in 1228. This manor continued with the Segrave family for over a century, and at the death of John, the last male Segrave, in 1353 passed, through his daughter Elizabeth, to her second husband Sir Walter Mauny, who held it of the Earl of Warwick at his death in 1372. His daughter Anne, Countess of Pembroke, was his heir, but the manor was held to pass to Thomas Mowbray, 1st Duke of Norfolk, Elizabeth Segrave's son by her first husband. He was banished and died in exile in 1399, when his son Thomas was a minor. Thomas Derby and Thomas de Rempston were successively appointed stewards and receivers of the ducal manors in the hands of the Crown. Thomas, 1st Duke, granted an annuity to his esquire John Wilcotes, including £5 from the issues of the manor of Thurlaston. After the death of the last Mowbray Duke of Norfolk in 1477, it passed to the Lords Berkeley, who were descended through Isabel, daughter of the 1st Duke, who married James, Lord Berkeley (1424). Sir Maurice Berkeley, grandson of James, had licence of entry to his estates without proof of age in 1507, and by his will dated 1 May 1520 left a life interest in Thurlaston, held of 'the heir of Cantelow', to his widow Katherine, with remainder to his brother Sir Thomas Berkeley; he died in 1523. Sir Thomas's son, another Thomas, died in 1534; his posthumous son Henry and his wife Katherine granted the manor, with view of frankpledge in Dunchurch, to Alice widow of Sir Thomas Leigh, lord of Dunchurch manor, in 1572, from which date this manor has descended with Dunchurch. (Part 3 next year...Elizabeth and the Lord Protector...)

## **Thurlaston Fete** (Sue Winton)

For the first time in 2011 scarecrows started appearing about the same time as the bunting went up! They brought smiles to many faces and created a talking point for the week before the fete. The weather was on our side which helped create the setting for a great day. Cutting the ribbon to open the fete was carried out by George Shaw who at 94 is an inspiration to us all with his enthusiasm and energy.

Bryan Spann became the new Squire as a thank you for all the work and effort he does for the village. Bryan will hold the gold chain for a year together with

‘that’ bottle of wine of which we heard the history of in the last Thurlaston Chronicle.

Belly dancers performing on Main Street was a first for Thurlaston and the outgoing Squire, Steve Murphy was happy to show his natural rhythm which in his words ‘didn’t look natural at all’! As has become a tradition the nursing home grounds were full of children running around and having a go on all the games whilst mums and dads sat on the lawns relaxing. The ladies of the village once again put on excellent refreshments in the village hall and church grounds.

Veryan Housom, with the help of Mrs Innes once again ensured that the church looked beautiful with the floral displays. The church also played host to the village archives, which are maintained by Brian Coleman.

Into the evening and again Andrew and Unni Henning had us all on Main Street singing and dancing until late and the Thurlaston BBQ Team made sure all were well fed.

Many people make our fete possible and there are too many to mention individually but it certainly brings out our community spirit and makes Thurlaston a great place to live.

**THURLASTON FETE 2012 is on Saturday 7th July** and will have an Olympic theme. We hope that the scarecrows will appear again ‘sporting’ Olympic attire to go with our theme for the day. During the afternoon of the fete there will be Thurlaston’s own version of some popular Olympic sports as well as all our usual stalls and games. The Team are busy planning the day and ‘A Bit of A Do’ which once again will involve dancing, barn dancing, so dust off those boots!

## Contacts

### Parish Council

Clerk to the Parish Council. Bryan Spann (522882)

Chair	Barrie Bemand	(2011 – May 2012)
Vice Chair	Helen Creery	(2012 May onwards)
	Walter Harvey	
	Andrew Henning	
	Gary Hartfield	

### Local Borough Councillors

Graham Francis  
Ian Lowe  
Howard Roberts

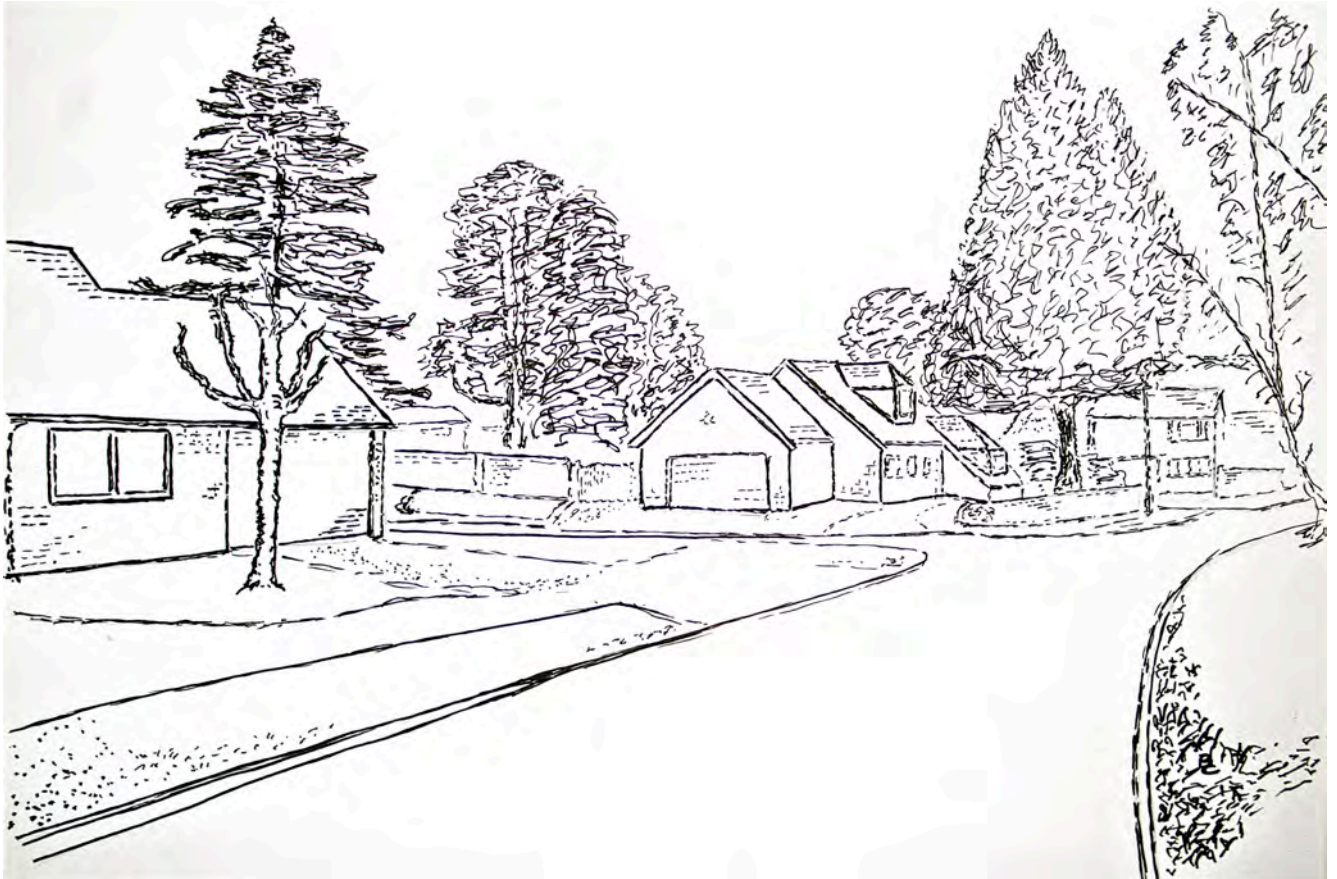
### Warwickshire County Councillor

Robin Hazelton

### Member of Parliament:-

[Jeremy Wright MP.](#)

Mr Wright holds regular surgeries – please contact Paula Barnes on 01926 853650 in order to arrange an appointment.



**Main Street, Thurlaston. 2012**

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