

# Thurlaston Chronicle

2019



Pipewell Cottage, Thurlaston, Warwickshire.

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue

October 1979.

Issue No. 1

THURLASTON CHRONICLE



Pipewell Cottage

Published by Thurlaston Parish Council, Warwickshire.

**First issue** published in A4 format and contained 7 adverts, a competition, a demographic description of the village, a list of 22 people leaving the village and 10 people moving in, and all on just 10 pages!

## **Contents**

### **Introduction**

#### **Council/Trustees/ Community Reports**

Thurlaston Parish Council Chairman's Report  
Thurlaston Village Hall Committee Report  
Thurlaston Pools Plot Charity Report  
Dunchurch Almshouses Trust, Trustees Report  
Dunchurch Boughton Endowed Trust Trustee Governor Report  
St Edmund's Church Report  
History Group/Village Archives  
Village Security/CCTV

#### **Community Leisure Groups**

Thurlaston Ladies Club  
Thurlaston Ramblers  
Village Friday Morning Coffee  
The Village Fete 2018  
The Progressive Supper 2019  
Christmas Lights Party 2018  
Village Quiz 2019  
Myton Hospice Support  
Pub Nights

#### **Miscellany of reflections and village news**

The First Thurlaston Chronicle  
The Rugby Local Plan  
The New Website  
The Thurlaston Net.  
New to Thurlaston  
The Village Map  
Following a Dream  
Village Centenary Sale  
Community Spirit

## Introduction

Anyone passing through Dunchurch this summer would have seen the handcrafted decorations made by the Women's Institute who are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. All of us in our village will be delighted that these creative ladies worked their magic in Thurlaston too – just in time for our annual fete.

Also prominent in the news this summer has been the commemoration of D-Day and the Normandy landings during the Second World War 75 years.

The Thurlaston fete though is going to concentrate on another major twentieth century milestone - the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo moon landing. (wow it only seems like yesterday for me).

Our own milestone this year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first issue of the Thurlaston Chronicle. Judy Brooks has written an article about the start of the publication. Do read it; it says a lot about this publication that comes out each year and records some of the life of the village.

With acknowledgement to Mary Binney, the Parish Chair at the time of the first Chronicle, I include her introduction to the new publication (spot the similarities with life today...)

*“At the March 1979 Annual Parish Meeting it was suggested by Dr. Smith, and carried, that an annual October newsletter be considered. Your Parish Council has organised this trial issue, and would welcome constructive criticism. We hear the phrase “rural deprivation”, and rural life is certainly threatened. Within 20 years, 3 Thurlaston farms have been submerged by the reservoir, the motorway has cut through Main Street, our elms have died, and now there is talk of an airport at Yardley Chase, coal mining nearby and even the possibility of an industrial estate. We treasure what is left of the agricultural heritage. There is still evidence of a healthy, caring community spirit and bonhomie. Long may they flourish!”*

Also please read the article at the back end of the Chronicle about the ‘sale of the century’, when lots of land and buildings were sold off to the public... 1919 another centenary of an event.

What are the big news items today? Brexit and The Local Plan. I think we remain undecided over the former and now realise that the latter has ‘landed’ and we have to make the most of it to try to preserve the legacy the Thurlaston that has evolved over centuries. I believe keeping the village life vibrant can be compared to a relay race. Volunteers have to carry the baton of responsibility, creativity, community.... and be prepared to hand the baton on at the right time. But it also needs willing people to pick up the baton from those who need a break, or want the opportunity to do other things. It doesn't have to be a ‘life sentence’. Instead it is an opportunity to work together to create a quality life style. Which brings me to... if you think The Chronicle should continue for another 40 years please consider being part of the production team.

My thanks to the contributors, to Sue Winton, Gill Dakin, Colin Cook (Production team) and David Cooper for the cover illustration.

Happy reading.

**Brian Coleman**

## **Council/Trustees/ Community Reports**

### **Thurlaston Parish Council Chairman's Report**

Thurlaston Parish Council met every second month last year. Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7:00pm. It has been a year of significant change on the Council. Keith Boardman, who came aboard when Mary Cook stepped down, has been elected Chairman. Mary has given many years service to the village and her contribution and her efforts in the various roles she had are truly appreciated. She continues to contribute to village life by being very active on the Village Hall Committee and overseer of the Ramblers group.

During the Spring there were concerns that there might be a lack of interest in new members joining the Council. Our worry was that we would not have sufficient members to form a council – something that has never happened in the past. Our own Parish Council helps Thurlaston keep its strong independent identity. Without our own Council we would come under Dunchurch or Rugby BC. Basically we would become a suburb and never get our own Parish Council back and as a consequence we would not have a voice in decisions made on our behalf.

I am delighted that those concerns were unfounded. The Council has new members and together they will continue to reflect the issues and concerns of the villagers of Thurlaston.

Since joining the PC Keith has taken an active role in making sure the Thurlaston Website progresses. Norman has put a lot of work into this project but because of the time and energy taken up by the Rugby Local Plan and the DB Symmetry application it's fair to say the website has taken longer than expected to get up and running. We expect in the very near future that the new website will be completed and an announcement will be made when it is ready to go out to everyone.

Helen Creary and Norman Lines looked at planning applications as they came in and passed comment onto Rugby Borough Council on whether they thought the application was appropriate or not and the reasons why. Selina Larque resigned at the time of writing this report due to a change in her circumstances at work and other commitments. We thank her for her input over the last year and wish her all the best for the future. Sylvia our Parish Clerk is kept busy keeping us all in shape and making sure we're kept up to date as issues arise in between meetings.

Parking within the village continues to be a bug bear but hopefully things might improve for some residents. We have established good relationships with our local Neighbourhood police team and they are now coming into Thurlaston once a month. Sylvia publicises the visit schedule. On the first police visit it was evident how some motorists were parking their cars inconsiderately and, in some cases, illegally.

Particular attention is being paid to cars being parked partly on the footpaths, forcing pedestrians to walk into the road around the cars which is dangerous and not acceptable, especially when we have elderly neighbours and people with pushchairs and young children. The Police have advised us they will take action and support us to eradicate this problem so if you have friends and family visiting, perhaps you could point this out to them and save them getting a ticket.

CCTV for the village has been talked about over the last two years. Robert Ashford has been looking into this and how it would work and more recently Keith has taken an interest. Their conclusions can be seen later in The Chronicle.

On behalf of the village, I would like to thank all those who help in so many ways to organise different groups and social events. In particular there are the Pub nights organised by Brian and Irene Spann, Progressive Supper Night organised by Sue Winton, Angela Bull and Marilyn Hobday, The Fete is organised by Sylvia Jacques and her team and the popular Coffee Mornings are coordinated by Jenny Cooper which raises money for the church and other charities. And let's not forget the Village Hall Committee.

I mention these groups because they raise funds for the village. There are also the other groups. The Thurlaston Ladies Club – which also donates to the village - is very active organising great trips and talks, The Thurlaston Ramblers have a regular monthly stroll topped off by lunch, The History group and those villagers who look after the archives are busy making our collection more accessible. All these people help to keep the social activities and traditions in the village alive. So, once again a big thank you.

I think it's fair to say that there is a lot of positivity and good will in Thurlaston, all created by input from ourselves, and this far outweighs any negativity that sometimes crops up. This is what helps make living in this village such a pleasant experience.

Earlier this year I decided to step down as Chairman of the Council and as a councillor. I would like to say how much I have enjoyed serving the villagers of Thurlaston. I would also like to thank my fellow councillors and the Clerk to the Council for their help, their support and their hard work. They are a great team to work with and the meetings are always enjoyable and interesting, It has been a privilege to be a part of this group. I wish the new Council all the best for the future.

### **Steve Murphy.**

A vote of appreciation to Steve Murphy was proposed by Norman Lines who thanked Steve for his work on the Parish Council and his general contribution to activities within the village. Norman listed Steve's contributions:

- Served for the last four years. Two of them as Chair.
- He had previously served for eight years.
- An excellent front man and so approachable to villagers.
- His sense of humour kept us sane.
- He kept us to a good schedule at PC meetings.
- And.....a thoroughly nice genuine chap.

And to warm applause Norman said that Steve would be a loss to the Parish Council .

## Thurlaston Village Hall Committee Report

We have an enthusiastic and energetic team of people who help to run the village hall. However, we always welcome new committee members. We have welcomed Judy Douglas as a new Committee member. Judy is on The Ladies Club (TLC) committee and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our team.

Village Hall Committee AGM scheduled for 1st May, the existing members are required to stand again for re-election. Anyone wishing to join the Committee, please let me know.

[thurlastonvhc@gmail.com](mailto:thurlastonvhc@gmail.com).

We are very grateful to those organisations and individuals who raise money to keep the hall going. We could not manage without your efforts, so a big thank you.

We have purchased a wall mounted catering urn which seems to be well received. We have also purchased, with help from Thurlaston Ladies Club, four more small Gopack tables. The ladies who organise events are finding the long tables difficult to manoeuvre. Hopefully the smaller tables will help to solve the problem.

There are a number of ongoing repairs necessary. New lights for outside and a new front door. Repair is needed to the ceiling in the men's loo. This is an old structure which is in need of constant repair and upgrading. If anyone is interested in seeing our accounts, we do publish them on the Village website. If you would like a copy, please let me or Simon our Treasurer know. [thurlastonvht@gmail.com](mailto:thurlastonvht@gmail.com) (Treasurer) or [thurlastonvhc@gmail.com](mailto:thurlastonvhc@gmail.com) (VH Chair).

Our garden takes some maintenance. The front garden has been maintained voluntarily by a small group of people and they would welcome more volunteers.

This year we plan another tea party in August. I hope we have good weather again. Last year we had wonderful support from volunteers to help and also to make cakes. We will be asking again this year.

Norman Lines has advised that funds may be available from The Landfill Community Fund. Organisations and groups within the village could be eligible for assistance. We would qualify as we are within a 10 mile radius of a landfill site. Quite large sums of money have been secured by a variety of groups such as Churches, Village Hall Committees and even cricket clubs. The application process is straightforward but requires a concerted effort by a few people. At the next Village Hall meeting Norman has agreed to provide more information regarding the process to the committee.

This village hall along with the church is the hub of our small community we are grateful for your ongoing support.

**Mary Cook**

## Thurlaston Poors Plot Charity Report

With a grant of 43 acres of land, the Poors Plot Charity was founded in 1728. The land was divided up so that the poor of the village could grow crops to help support their families. Only a few plots now remain, these are referred to as the "allotments". The rest of the land is rented to two tenant farmers and together they provide the charity with its income.

The charity is registered with the charity commission and its objectives are:

**"To relieve either generally or individually persons resident in the Parish of Thurlaston who are in condition of need, hardship and distress"**

Until recently money was mainly distributed to people of the village for help with winter fuel bills, coal and electricity etc. We are strictly bound to the conditions of the charity but are always looking into ways of using a portion of the income to benefit people in the village.

Last year we increased the level of Educational Grant available towards any young person resident in the village who is going on to further education of any kind, from £250 to £300. If anyone would like some financial assistance towards their further education then please contact the charity secretary, or one of the trustees.

The Poores plot email address is [thurlastonpooresplot@outlook.com](mailto:thurlastonpooresplot@outlook.com)

Anyone who wishes to apply for a grant, please send an email to our clerk at this email address and she will send you an application form. If you prefer you can contact one of the trustees, all details are available on the village notice board, or can be obtained from the clerk. Please note that all grants and applications for them remain strictly confidential.

The next meeting of the trustees will be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019. Currently the Charity has a very healthy financial position of £38,164.00

We currently have a vacancy for two trustees. Please consider becoming a trustee and help us to spend the trust money in ways that meet the needs of villagers.  
We only have two meetings a year, so it is not an onerous commitment.

## **Dunchurch Almshouses Trust, Trustees Report**

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, opposite the Scott statue and Mops. The charity was founded in 1690 and has run continuously since then. It is for the benefit of Dunchurch and Thurlaston residents and Thurlaston Parish Council appoints one trustee. As with all old buildings last rebuilt in Victorian times there is a constant requirement to repair and refurbish.

The major expenditure in 2018 was for the refurbishment of number two. There was a full refurbishment of the bathroom plus new flooring in the kitchen, lounge and hallway. Redecoration throughout and new carpet in the lounge. This came to £8000.

Number three had some damp-proof work and subsequent redecoration plus a new storage heater in the lounge. This came to £2500.

Number one also had a new storage heater and new shower door totalling £1700.

Minor work in the other almshouses brought the total to £13,500.

Number six became vacant in June 2018 a new tenant moved in in January 2019.

In November 2018 we had the quinquennial inspection report for all six almshouses. This is a very detailed report by chartered surveyors on every aspect of the buildings external and internal construction and cost £1800. Fortunately, it discovered no major problems but highlighted items like blocked drainage gutters and slipped roof slates which require attention before problems develop.

During 2018 expenditure exceeded cash income by some £3000 but our long-term investments provide reinvested income to cover temporary annual deficits.

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

**Walter Harvey.**



## **Dunchurch Boughton Endowed Trust Trustee Governor Report**

The Trustee Governors are responsible for administering the Trust fund left to the junior school by a local benefactor Frances Boughton, after whom the school was named. Since the last meeting the trust has contributed to the updating and refurbishment of the computer room. Improvements included new flooring, enough computers to provide one per child and a new screen being placed in the room so that all the children could see instructions clearly. This has been completed.

Looking forward the Headmaster would like to make improvements to the outdoor quad area which he felt was underutilised. Improvements including better and more versatile seating, a stage for drama and an area for sporting activities. The trustees have agreed this is an area we could look to support and it is being investigated further.

**Greg Irish.**

## **St Edmund's Church Report**

*"Worshipping God, sharing the love of Jesus and serving our community."*

This is what we are all about, and it has been another year of doing this together at St Edmund's, for which we thank God.

As a combined parish of St Peter's and St Edmund's, we continue in our efforts to care for God's creation by working towards the Eco-church bronze award and I hope that the congregation will enthusiastically take up the 2019 Lent challenge of doing something **extra** to live an eco-friendly life. The village is invited to participate in this too and there are suggestions at the back of the church if you need ideas. Even though Lent is well under way, they are suggestions that can be used at any time!

Much work is needed on the building of St Edmund's, the roof being the biggest item and it is expected that we will need to raise funds over the next few years to cover this.

St Edmund's is supported by a dedicated group of parishioners and, materially, by other villagers, but unless the congregation expands, it may wither, as it needs younger members to pick up the baton. A congregational initiative has recently begun a Reflective Prayer time on Wednesday mornings. At present it consists of those who attend St Edmund's but we are praying that other villagers will start to come. It is tragic to think that St Edmund's may eventually have to close because of lack of support.

I would again like to record my enormous gratitude to all who contribute so much to the running of this parish and the events that take place here. It is so easy to take them for granted those who perform the myriad tasks around keeping this church going.

It remains for me to thank you all for the support you have given St Edmund's in the last year. God bless you.

**Reverend Pat Townshend**

## **Thurlaston History Group /Village Archives**

The Archives are a social record of the village, photographs, maps, stories, etc. It is a resource that has built up over many years and the priority is to preserve and protect. Additionally we aim to make the material accessible and, more recently, to extend the resource through the efforts of the History Group which is convened by Claire Jinks. Access to the Archives is via the Curator (currently, Brian Coleman) and they have been viewed regularly at annual events, plus by special request, and of course at the History Group Meetings. If other groups e.g. TLC, schools etc. or individuals, would like a 'viewing' please make contact.

The History Group meetings are due to reconvene in the autumn so keep an eye on the Thurlaston Village website for details. The aim for the future is to preserve the resource and increase accessibility to it via the Internet.

Topical comment. The Property Developers that are active in our locality use display boards in Public Consultation sessions to promote their case. There is a notion that we should mount our own 'public consultation' to promote the rich historic value of this area and invite Rugby Borough Council and parties that are interested in sensitive/responsible development of the countryside to come and view. Anyone wanting to participate in this please contact me.

A timeline for the village is in the early stages of production, it will show the significant events of Thurlaston in comparison to the major events of the UK, again if you have historical dates or data please let me know.

**Brian Coleman...** Thurlaston Archives Curator

## **Village Security/CCTV**

Robert introduced the topic and having investigated CCTV in the village, last year's response was positive, and he has subsequently drafted a policy for the Parish Council to consider.

Since then Keith Boardman and Norman Lines have researched the implications of a CCTV system, and Keith reported their findings to the meeting. Their brief was to ascertain not just the implementation costs, but to develop our procedures for the day-to-day running of the system and in particular how we would collaborate with Warwickshire Police and members of the public.

The meeting was reminded the purpose of the CCTV system should be to:

- Deter criminal activity;
- Deter vehicle speeding;
- To facilitate crime detection and apprehension of wrongdoers;
- Provide CCTV footage to Warwickshire Police if they so requested.

Meetings were held with police representatives at both community and county levels, and a CCTV specialist from a company that installs local authority systems. In particular we reviewed the 31-camera system installed at Polesworth, North Warwickshire.

Warwickshire Police noted that Thurlaston is a low incident crime area, and therefore the community's focus should be on deterring and detecting high value burglaries and theft. Tacit with this was a recommendation to have an ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) enhancement to the basic CCTV system.

Warwickshire Police confirmed that the Parish Council would need to act as Data Controller under the GDPR legislation. It would be our responsibility to manage the CCTV system, including the searching for video extracts, and their encryption onto portable storage devices such as DVDs or USB memory sticks. The Data Controller would need to be licensed by the Home Office – a three-day training could be provided at a cost of circa £200 + expenses.

In order to operate the scheme, the village would require 2 or 3 resident volunteers, perhaps on a rota, who would make themselves available at relatively short notice to support system commitments following an incident, public, or police requests. The overall implementation cost would be approximately £2,500 rather than £1,350 as originally budgeted in 2018. Maintenance costs would be £120 / visit + component costs, if out of warranty.

Views from the village meeting were welcomed. Having heard all the new information and the difficulties, increased cost and monitoring required, a show of hands was called for and just one person was interested in the project and the monitoring. On this basis it was agreed that, at this time, the proposal should not be progressed further.

The Parish Council will take this information and make a formal statement regarding CCTV post the PC meeting in May. The PC will continue to pursue mechanisms to make the village a safer place. Reducing vehicle speeds, enforcing considerate parking are ongoing activities.

**Robert Ashford and Keith Boardman**

## **Community Leisure Groups**

### **Thurlaston Ladies Club**

We have had another very successful year and now have a membership of 44. Our subscription is only £10 annually and this year, with our fundraising we have given £900 to charity. They include Friends of St Cross, Acorn Children's Charity, Hope 4 and the local Donkey Sanctuary. We also donated £200 to Thurlaston Village Hall towards the new smaller tables. These tables are such an asset to the Ladies Club who found the large tables impossible to manhandle.

In March, we welcomed back Peter and Margaret Preece with yet another selection of wonderful wildlife pictures which Peter had taken in Spain. They never cease to entertain us with both the photography and stories.

In April Francis Freeman gave an excellent insight into her family's management of the ten-acre woodland they had acquired in Warwickshire. We were delighted to see so many local visitors attend the meeting and they were not disappointed. David Price, another old friend of the club came in May to give us an illustrated talk on 19<sup>th</sup> century Paris and the Sophisticated Ladies of the Night.

Kay always organises wonderful outings for us and in June she surpassed herself. We visited Tetbury and then went on to Chavenage House, an Elizabethan property very near Tetbury. This house is used in many historical dramas, most notably in the series Poldark.

We were conducted on the tour mainly by one of the daughters of the current owners, the Lowseley-Williams. She gave a marvelous, and hilarious account of the house through the ages. This was followed by a delicious cream tea made by the other daughter of the house.

We made £403.40 for the village fete by selling, in the church, gifts and china items with a blue theme and also strawberries and cream. Following the outing, in August we went to the Lutterworth Golf Club for a summer lunch.

In September a very altruistic lady, Heather Alford, talked about her volunteering work in Nepal and donated her fee to the Leprosy Mission. Many people in Nepal still shun folk with leprosy when it can be and is cured at the mission hospitals. In October, Dr. Debbie Wright, the Hedgehog Officer from the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust talked about the life of the hedgehog and how we can help with their preservation by having suitable habitat in the garden and also giving them the means of travelling from one garden to another in order to find a mate etc. There don't appear to be many in Thurlaston.

Our charity meeting in November followed the lines of the previous year, as this had been a success. We had a cream tea and a raffle for about 8 Christmas hampers, all items donated by members. We also had a small Bring and Buy. December is always the Christmas lunch. We went back to the Bell at Ladbroke. It has changed hands but some ladies thought it was even better than previous visits.

The first meeting of the new year is always a Winter Warmer. This year we served homemade soup, bread, biscuits and cheese. It is a very social event and most members attend.

We think our programme combines good speakers with social events involving food which always proves popular. During the year we have prompted ladies to help the committee with clearing the hall and washing up and this has been a great help.

Our thoughts have been with two committee members this year. Both Jackie Harvey and Margaret Whitfield have undergone intensive treatment for cancer. It is wonderful to see their health gradually improving.

Once again, we reiterate that visitors are always welcome to our meetings and it has been great to see that quite a few villagers have responded.

**Judy Douglas.**

## **Thurlaston Ramblers**

Thurlaston Village walks take place once a month and are open to all residents and invited guests. This is a tradition in the village that goes back thirty years. There is a Rambler's Book that records details of all the walks. The keeper of the book currently is Mary Cook. Each month a different resident is responsible for organising a walk with lunch. Details are posted on the Thurlaston net a couple of weeks prior to the walk and residents are invited to contact the organiser if they wish to take part. You can opt just to have lunch if walking isn't your bag.

This year began with a walk in March organised by Mo and Peter Steer. We walked the Angel's Flight of locks in Hatton with lunch at the Lock Cafe. We were very lucky with the weather as it only started raining as we neared the walk's end.

In April it was Mary Cook's walk around the Warwickshire golf course with lunch at the Anchor Leek Wootton. The weather was very good that day and dry underfoot. David Cooper's walk in May took us to the beautiful village of Combrook with lunch at The Antelope in Lighthorne.

These walks are great fun, excellent exercise and there is the opportunity to get to know other Thurlaston residents socially. The Thurlaston Ramblers book will shortly be given to the village archives as an interesting history of the walks with photographs of those taking part. The walks date back to January 24<sup>th</sup> 1988, when eight village ramblers - and four dogs - walked the Toft/Dunchurch circuit.

**Mary Cook**

## **Monthly Coffee Mornings**

The monthly coffee mornings, held by St Edmund's in the Village Hall, continue to be very popular. They take place on the third Friday of every month from 10am until 12 and everyone is welcome.

## **The Village Fete 2018**

Organised by the same team as in 2017, the 2018 Fete featured some exceptional scarecrows and decorations.

One of the highlights in 2018 must have been the Ukulele Band, they played some jolly music during the afternoon and although people did not dance in the street, there was a lot of foot tapping. The Rugby Beekeepers had a stall and visitors were fascinated to see the bees producing the honey. There was the usual selection of stalls and activities, manned as always by willing volunteers but overall takings were slightly because of the expected exodus at 3pm because of the World Cup match.

During last year we bought several small gazebos for the stalls, made a contribution for the new Marquee, which has been a great success, and had the floor of our storage shed repaired. Profits from the Fete were shared between the Village Hall and the Church.

As the Chronicle went to press the 2019 Fete was taking place and the theme is the 50th anniversary of the Moon Landing. Some very creative interpretations of the spaceman theme appeared around the village prior to the fete.

This year Ronnie Carvell and Janet Chinn join the Committee to help with the Fete.

If anyone is interested in helping with the Fete next year, there are many jobs to do before, during and after the event. Please talk to me or email me.

**Sylvia Jacques**

## **The Progressive Supper 2019**

Once again the weather played a part in this year's Progressive Supper, unlike last year there was no snow but the wind tried to blow us all away and the rain tried to dampen our

spirits. But we certainly didn't let it! The evening ran smoothly with only the odd directions needed in the dark on Main Street.

Sadly some of our regulars couldn't make it this year but for those that did it was lovely to welcome new faces who it looks like will become 'regulars' posting comments on Thurlaston.net like:

*"Thank you to all the organisers for a great evening. I love living here!!"*

*"Thank you so much to everyone for a great evening. Our first progressive supper and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, wonderful hosts and excellent company."*

It was great that some of last year's 'newbies' hosted courses too. Without our hosts it just couldn't happen. The great food and company made for another very sociable evening, which is what the progressive is about. New friends were made and many of us caught up with those friends we don't see often, even though we live in the same village! Although our priority is to have an enjoyable evening, any profit from the evening is donated to the Village Hall Fund which is always very well received by the VH Committee.

To those who are new to the village this is a great way to get to know people, make friends and have a truly sociable evening. We try to keep the date of the Progressive to a similar time each year but this can change due to Easter, Bank & School Holidays and Mother's Day, all details are put out on Thurlaston net in good time. We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to the 2020 Progressive Supper.

### **The Progressive Team**

## **Christmas Lights Party 2018**

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December we had the traditional switching on of the Christmas lights at the Oak by the Stocks. Jill Woods, with her clarinet, accompanied the carol singing.. The lights were illuminated and then Father Christmas appeared and led everyone to the village hall where a warm welcome awaited. The hall looked amazing, thanks to the VH Committee who decorated it. The mulled wine, prepared and served by Irene Spann and Marilyn Hobday, was gorgeous. The tradition of 'bring a plate of food to share' soon filled a large table and enjoyed by all. Martin Dakin and Peter Wilson provided the music for the annual sing-a-long, the compere for the evening was the one and only Steve Murphy who encouraged young and old to join in with the carols enthusiastically. Once again the tradition of donating presents to Rugby Young Carers by the families of our village makes for a very special Thurlaston evening. This year an amazing 90 presents were collected and taken by Sue Winton for distribution to the Young Carers.

## **Village Quiz 2019**

It has become a custom to arrange the Village Quiz for a dark winter's evening. What else is there to do other than enjoy banter and camaraderie on a cold February night? And so it came to pass that five village teams - affectionately known as Densa, The Better Halves, The Baby Brains, Still my Favourite Things, and the Garden Baggers - undertook intellectual

battle over ten rounds of questions organised by last year's volunteers, ostensibly declared as the Beech Nuts.

Actually it was not just ten rounds but twelve, if a couple of blockbusters are included. The evening was one of two halves – five rounds per session with a blockbuster left on the tables in each for people to mull over.

The first blockbuster concerned decoding British Prime Ministers and USA Presidents tabled as twenty phrase anagrams; the second half required the deciphering of forty cartoon characters.

Each round had a theme – like Colors, posing intellectual questions such as what is the centre colour of Nobbly Bobbly ice cream, or what are the colours of Hufflepuff House. Even more serious rounds were tabled such as on Literature, historical Henrys, Ships, Sport, Local Knowledge, and even European national anthems. Not always easy but interesting. We believe cheating was kept to the usual acceptable limits, if only we knew what they were.

At half time brain relief was provided by various cold food platters including cheeses, meats, vegetable nibbles and dips.

The end of the evening was time for reconciliation – scores were totted up and friendships rekindled after battle. The declared winners were The Baby Brains; their title was obviously a decoy. The real winner was actually the Village Hall, its kitty was bumped up by £158. Many thanks to all those who made such an enjoyable and memorable evening, and contributed to providing raffle prizes.

And so the challenge will continue. We are all most grateful to Lois Back and her team who, at a weak moment, volunteered to organise the next Village Quiz on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020.

**Nigel, Claire, Kay, Kath & Keith (the Beech Nuts)**

## **Myton Hospice Coffee Morning**

The annual coffee morning in aid of Myton Hospice took place at the end of November. We were very pleased to raise £513 for this important charity. Very many thanks to all who helped organize it and all who supported it!

A date for your diary - the next Myton Hospice coffee morning will be on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

## **Pub Nights**

Another mainstay of Thurlaston community life is the Pub Night.

It was started about 16 years as a social event rather than a profit making enterprise.

The revenue goes to cover the cost of the licence fee which is issued for each evening. But any funds left over are donated to the Village Hall Fund.

The event is usually held the first Friday of alternate months. To give everyone sufficient notice a Pub Sign (painted by Vivian Sharp) is erected on the corner of Main Street and The Gardens during the week leading up to the Friday.

It is a great way to relax in good company, to get to know new residents and how to take advantage of village life.

Many thanks to Irene who organises the event assisted by Bryan.

## **Miscellany of reflections and village news**

### **The First Thurlaston Chronicle**

The first edition of the Thurlaston Chronicle was published 40 years ago this year in 1979.

It was compiled by Mary Binney, the then Chair of the Parish Council after Dr. Smith suggested an October Newsletter be issued. This was a trial issue.

It contained reports from The Parish council, the Village hall Committee, the Ladies Circle, the Poors Plot Committee, an interesting small piece on demography and the extent of the Parish council, a census of traffic along the A45 and many more small bits of information. Other items included a list of people moving into the village and those moving out. There was also a competition ‘ answers to be put in a sweet jar in the village shop” (Happy Days!). One item that caught my eye was that the Parish Council was concerned about the possibility of an industrial estate in the area and its effect on the village...nothing changes.

Included in the first edition were six advertisements for local enterprises - revenue which funded the cost of production. It was on A4 paper with a coloured cover and a drawing of Pipewell Cottage by Mary Harwood. Mary Binney collated it and her husband Michael printed it. I was the Parish Clerk at the time and know how much enthusiasm and thought Mary put into it. It was a great success.

Over the years with modern technology the Chronicle has become a much more sophisticated publication but the content is largely the same with reports from local organisations and other clubs and societies that have formed over the years and now includes articles on local history, interesting holiday experiences, poems and even jokes etc. Always a good read.

The Thurston Chronicle is a little gem, each edition gives a contemporary picture of the village and over the past forty years it has become a piece of local history. Many people have kept every edition. It conveys the message that Thurston is a stimulating place with something for everyone and a great place to live.

Many thanks to Mary for starting the project and thanks to the editors who continue the tradition, Lucy May, Bob Brooks and Brian Coleman. Long may it continue.



# Judy Brooks

## The Local Plan

At the Village Meeting Norman Lines reported that the Inspector reviewing the Local Plan showed concern for the scale of the proposed buildings as seen in Brian Coleman's mock up. The inspector had also expressed concern regarding the lack of consideration to the proximity to a conservation area. He called for main modifications in these areas, but the planner's responses showed very little change.

The decision to adopt the local plan was subsequently made by a majority of the 42 RBC Councillors. We need to continue to target these people with our continued concerns and clearly show our strength of feeling. Individual letters demonstrate this. These serve to enforce the parish position. If you are worried about huge lorries getting lost in Rugby, then let them know. The example of the Amazon warehouse in Coventry was quoted. Traffic chaos is happening with drivers trying for short cuts often directed by misbehaving Satnavs. Brian Coleman explained that db Symmetry has been taken over by Tritax who buy land, build and run businesses whereas db Symmetry buy land, build and move on. Colin Reeves gave the information that there could be 3000 vehicle movements in three hours. This was as a result of checking statistics. Need to check where the new Councillors views are, when they come into office.

## Thurlaston New Website

Our new Thurlaston Parish Council website has been under discussion for over a year and we are pleased to report that since last December significant effort is being put into the website design and content. Keith Boardman has joined the Parish Council and he has offered to manage its implementation. Indeed, he is very grateful for all the support numerous folk have provided in both providing information and reviewing content. This work is coming to fruition; various people are currently reviewing the site. We'll publicise the launch on the ThurlastonNet and possibly with a flyer which will provide any necessary guidance. The design principles of the website, however, will be intuitive and we believe will be a positive addition to communication tools for our village.

We have followed latest Government eCabinet recommendations and have been successful in securing a Gov.uk domain name on recognition of being the official website for the Parish of Thurlaston in Warwickshire. Our full web address (URL) is <http://www.thurlaston-pc.gov.uk>.

The Parish Clerk will also have a new address: [parish.clerk@thurlaston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@thurlaston-pc.gov.uk) and eventually she will move all correspondence from the old to the new address. Pro tem both addresses will be available.

The project has focused on the need to ensure compliance with the Government's Transparency Code. We have therefore made available all our relevant policies and procedures, and documented records of Parish Council meetings, income & expenditure, audit, and governance statements. We shall also make available all planning applications which we receive from Rugby Borough Council, and comments and responses we make about them to the Borough Council.

However, there is much more. We are providing details of our village events, charities, clubs, groups, together with local area amenities and public services. Village Hall

information and bookings will be available on the website using the same Teamup calendar as now. We will continue to use the Yahoo Group email service, known as ThurlastonNet. Subscribing and unsubscribing, and general guidance information will be on the new website.

Our new website is a launch pad for us to build on – it is *for* the community and will be managed *by* the community, not any one single individual. We shall be putting in place a structure of support people who will be able to upload and make changes to content. It's important it is kept up to date as a contemporary and vibrant source of information. In essence we are planning to make the website our one-stop-shop.

The website went live in April 2019.

## **Keith Boardman**

### **The Thurlaston net**

Noel and Mary have announced their retirement from the management of the Thurlaston net at the end of July 2019 which, Noel reminded us, was initiated at the time of the Coventry/Rugby Airport Proposal. It has stood the village in good stead for the 17 years since. Well done you two and thank you for your contribution to village life. The facility will now be covered by the new website.

### **New to Thurlaston**

We moved to Thurlaston on the 11th of May 2018, and here I am writing about our experience as newcomers to the village on our 1st anniversary. What a year!

We had always admired Thurlaston and said how much we would like to live here.

I remember the day that we first found the footpath that runs down into Patrick's field, it was on an early morning walk and as we went through the gate at the bottom and it opened out to a misty spring morning with views of the water we knew we had stumbled upon a special place and that we would love to have this walk on our doorstep.

When we saw The Paddocks for sale we knew we had to view it. When I stepped inside I knew we had to buy it. Then when I heard that the owner's surname was Foster, as was the previous owner's surname, it seemed destined to be ours. By a strange coincidence my maiden name was also Foster!

In the run-up to the move, we excitedly drove past our 'new house' most weeks in fact.

Knowing what we know now about Thurlaston.net and what a great way this is to communicate what is going on in the village, we would not be surprised to hear that we were once included in an update 'The black Audi is here again driving slowly through the village loitering near Pudding Bag Lane!'

Moving in day arrived and despite the shock of arriving to see the bungalow behind us being demolished before our eyes we started supervising the removal men. Whilst we were stood on the drive we had so many people walk past, stop, introduce themselves and welcome us to the village.

It was such a warm welcome that it totally distracted us from what was going on at the property behind- Thank you to everyone who said hello that afternoon, it made such a difference to us.

As village newcomers, we thought we would watch and learn for a bit and see what went on in Thurlaston. We would go to the Fete but wouldn't get involved in our 1st year..... two months later we were putting up bunting and helping on the bookstall, and we were loving it. What a great way to get to know everyone!

One sunny afternoon a couple knocked on our door, introduced themselves, and invited us to a BBQ to meet some more people from the village. What a fab evening! As we walked,

(well honestly staggered would be a better description) back to our new home we felt incredibly lucky, not only were we now living exactly on the doorstep of one of our favourite walk routes but we had met some great people who now a year on we call our friends – thank you, you all know who you are.

So, by the time The Progressive supper came along, we felt as though we already knew lots of people.

However, thanks to Sue and her team's planning we made our way around the village and enjoyed a great evening with couples that we had never seen or spoken to before. We had a fun night, wonderful hosts, great dining companions and fascinating conversations. We are looking forward to next year's supper and hosting a course ourselves.

When people ask us if we are happy in our new house we say, 'Very! we didn't just buy a house, we have a new lifestyle, a community and something money can't buy - fabulous new friends!

## **Charles and Tracey Powiesnik**

## **Thurlaston Village Map**

The village map was created in 1991 in response to an initiative by Rugby Borough Council which challenged the villages in the Rugby area to make a map which represented their village in the way they saw it.

To most people in the village in 1992 the stories behind the pictures on the map will be familiar ones, but future residents will need a guide so here it is...

At the start of the tour of Thurlaston in the top left corner where the traffic island situated where the M45 and A45 will be obvious.

- Petrol pumps representing the garage owned by David Thorpe. He sold Q8 (Kuwait) petrol, then to the right,
- Houses on "Thurlaston Turn" and a Citroen that was often parked there..
- Foxes have been seen in the field to the right; they lived in a covert near to the tunnel under the tunnel on the right hand side of the map...
- The M45 with a selection of vehicles that could be seen on the road which links to the M1 south bound to London approximately 85 miles away.
- In the 'foxes field' is a picture of a cup that was won by the village in 1985 for being the Best Kept Village in Warwickshire.
- Into the village past the "Mr. Therms" logo which commemorates the introduction of North Sea Gas to the village in 1992.
- Main Street is followed over the bridge which crosses the M45.
- On the left there is a bride and groom who represent two weddings that took place in the village in 1990. One was Malcolm Baugh, a widower, to Joyce Worrall a spinster whose mother had lived in the village nearly all her life and who had died at a great age not long before. The other was the son of the shopkeeper to the daughter of family that lived near to where the bride and groom are placed on the map.
- Opposite the Bride and Groom are the trees that are situated in the Gardens and Beech Drive, with "Sam" a well-known and loved Border Collie who lived in The Gardens.
- Opposite at "Franvery" is an equally loved white cat.
- The first road on the right is Stocks Lane named after the stocks which can be seen under the Oak Tree.
- At the other end of Stocks Lane is a pool which is now gone but is shown on the map because local legend has it that it was once a place where nags and witches were tied to the ducking stool and thoroughly wetted as a punishment.
- The other pool was a privately owned pool recently constructed by the owner.

- Stocks Farm which was virtually the only building in the lane until the 20<sup>th</sup> Century is now converted into a spacious house.
- The cottages represented immediately below Stocks Farm lie in Main Street and were originally a public house and butchers shop, both are now private houses.
- Beech Drive on the right is a 1970's development but to the right is another pond on which there are ducks
- Next on the road is Church Walk formally called Kiln Lane because it led to a clay pit and the local brick works.
- There are often horses in the field at the end of church walk next to a well-used footpath leading to Dunchurch.
- Sophie the West Highland Terrier lives here, as does Heather Tebbutt represented by a bunch of heather. Heather is a Parish Councillor like her father before her and kept the village shop at one time before retiring to her bungalow built in the garden of the shop.
- The shop and post office is on the corner of Main Street and Church walk opposite a row of old cottages which are next to the most prominent house in the whole village the thatched "Old Forge" which still has the blacksmith's bellows in situ
- Opposite is "Malt House" formally the village shop but was (at the time of the map) occupied by Edna Mitchell who is the doyenne of village historians.
- The next road on the left is Biggin Hall Lane which winds its way through the fields and becomes a bridle way and eventually finishes in Draycote. It is an ancient road because it is believed that the monks of Pipewell who are portrayed had a Grange at the end of it. There is now modern housing there including a house called "Honeywood" hence Pooh Bear and Cockerills Farm complex on both side of the road. This is Biggin Hall which lies on the site of the former monks Grange.
- There are lots of rabbits in the hedgerows here. The tennis court has alas fallen on hard times and is no longer used.
- Just off the map is a chicken farm.
- The footpath running alongside Biggin Hall back to Main Street runs past a pool belonging to Patrick's Field where the youngsters erected a sign many years ago warning "Beware of the crocodiles". This has become such a noted feature that it is mentioned in some handbooks of walks of the Rugby area.
- Also in Biggin Hall Lane is the Beer Tree (now gone) where it is reported that men of the village drank the beer that they had bought in village alehouses to save carrying back to their homes the heavy full containers.
- The Steamroller belongs to a local man who keeps it at Biggin Hall Farm when it is not trundling around the roads to be exhibited at rallies.
- Back on Main Street next to Malt House is Mill House where Vivian Sharp the designer of the map lived.
- Behind it surrounded by contemporary cottages is Thurlaston's landmark the Mill now converted to a dwelling house. The sails are a 'legal' fiction as they were taken down in the 1920's when the conversion was first attempted.
- Next road on the right is Church Lane and on the corner Stanley's Farm formerly the home of Miss Stanley a benefactress of the village who gave the land on which the Village hall stands. Church lane is the focus of village life, with both the church and village hall in close proximity. The village fete was always held outside the church until moved to Main Street some years ago.
- A walk along the footpath leading to Draycote water is enlivened by the braying donkey who lives in the adjacent field. Church Lane leads to a bridle path leading to Toft and Dunchurch.
- On the way is Well Cottage another source of water for the village before mains water was installed.
- Passing the Manor House (then the Warwickshire Nursing Home) on the left and the old village pump on the right, you reach Pudding Bag lane where on the corner is Thurlaston's oldest house, Pipewell cottage.
- The three cooks in a pudding basin represent the three families by the name Cook(e) who lived in the lane.
- The apples and cat represent Jess and Murray Cumming who lived at "Appleby" and have another well loved cat and the accordion represents Tom Cook who as well as being the church organist led the carol singing at Christmastime when the lights on the oak tree at the stocks are turned on with some ceremony.

- Going past the end of the footpath from Biggin Hall lane on the left you come to Moat Close on the left and Gray's Orchard on the right
- Although a relatively recent development Moat Close is a short road of great beauty with weeping willows and a splendid show of daffodils in Spring.
- Gray's Orchard is a private road with yet another pond is full of symbolism on the map.
- The witch used to top a house called "Coven Hey" the home of our local Borough Councillor, he kept bees in his garden
- The flying carpet advertises the fact that a dealer in Persian carpets once lived there.  
**(Neville Boughton-Thomas)**
- The Parish clerk Mrs. Lucy May is represented by bottle and quill pen.
- Further on another private swimming pool is portrayed and opposite is "Little Mead" the home of the Wass's noted Scots
- The road ends at Footit's Farm which enjoys magnificent views over Draycote Water which is a man-made lake now serving the community with facilities for walking, birdwatching, sailing and fishing.

**RG Brooks** 17<sup>th</sup> March 1992 ..updated April 2019 **B Coleman**.

## **Following a Dream**

I first started playing hockey when I was six years old. I persuaded my mum to take me along to Friday night juniors at Rugby and East Warwickshire Hockey Club. I wore a pair of tracksuit bottoms, a pair of football shin pads, trainers, and I used a borrowed hockey stick. Mum went off to the Merchant pub with some friends and I had a great time.

When I was 10, I was asked to join the under 12's Warwickshire hockey junior development centre. I was really disappointed not to progress further at that age but it made me more determined to get better and fitter. Since that time I've done further Warwickshire hockey training and then progressed into the Midlands performance centre aged 14.

Last May bank holiday I was invited to join the under 16's England training for a taster day, that really whetted my appetite for the real thing. In August last year I was selected to play in Futures Cup, a big tournament in which the UK is divided into four regions. I was playing for Mercia Links. We won the tournament, but more importantly from there I was selected to go for training and further selection camps with the under 16's England squad. From September to November the squad was whittled down from 40 to 28. Last October I found out that I was in the main squad of 28 and since that time I've represented England against Ireland, Scotland and the Netherlands. We won comfortably against Ireland and Scotland but the match against the Netherlands was an enormous challenge. The Dutch U 16 team are amazing, perhaps it's the chocolate sprinkles they have on everything! They all seemed at least a foot taller than us, faster, more powerful and fitter and we lost all three of our games against them.

I couldn't have done any of this without the support of amazing coaches. I started off with Richard Allen at REWHC. Dex (Colin Dexter) who ran Legends Summer camps was inspirational and arranged for me to meet Helen Richardson Walsh, one of my hockey hero's. At school Mrs. Smith has always supported me and most recently Sue Sutton the REWHC ladies 1st team coach has guided me through the last 3 years. I've also played with amazingly supportive teams, working my way up through the ladies section at REWHC.

Over the years parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles have done lots of taxiing and have spent hours on the side of the pitch in the wind, rain and very occasionally burning sun.

Being part of the England under 16's team is really hard work, but it's an amazing experience. We spend weekends away in Lilleshall, which is in Shropshire, having a mixture of games, fitness and game analysis on video and athletes meals which don't include puddings!! I'm usually absolutely starving for about three days after coming back from camp. I also have a mountain of sweaty kit for mum to wash.

While I write this I am keeping an eye on my emails waiting to find out whether I've been selected to play for England against Belgium and Germany away from home. There will only be 18 of us in the squad and if I am lucky enough to be selected we will be travelling together as a team to Baden-Baden in Germany and Brussels in Belgium. It would be an amazing experience to round off a whirlwind year.

## **Emma Allroggen**

*Editor's note: Emma - many congratulations on behalf of the village, well done.*

## **Village Centenary Sale**

A century ago (in fact on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1919) an area/properties known as 'outlying portions of the Dunchurch estate incorporating Dunchurch, Thurlaston, Cawston and Church Lawford' was offered for auction at the Co-operative Hall Rugby, with local auctioneers James Style and Whitlock.

The estate had been in the ownership of the Duke of Buccleuch and his ancestors for over 200 years. Twenty-four lots in Thurlaston were offered for purchase including, a Butcher's Shop, Plough Temperance Hotel, Grocer's business, Biggin Hall farm, Dairy Farm, Hensborough Farm etc.

All these properties were sold and have been resold over the years or even sunk below the waves of Draycote water.

In the description it describes Thurlaston as follows. *'The air of this locality is most salubrious as during the last two centuries a large number of the inhabitants lived to be over 90 and some considerably over 100 years of age'*. I wonder what effect the Local Plan will have on this record?

If you want to see if your property was included in this sale get in touch.

## **Community Spirit**

Jackie O'Neill thanked the villagers for all their support since she moved into the village and particularly since her husband, Eamonn died. Everyone she has met has been supportive and in particular Sue and Greg Winton and Lois and Tim Back. Jackie also apologises for the mess in the lane during work on her house..

Norman Lines said he thought that Jackie's words epitomised the spirit of the village and he thought this was an indicator that the village was in good shape as a caring community.

## Contacts

### Parish Council Thurlaston

	2018/2019	2019/2020
Chair	Steve Murphy	Keith Boardman
Councilors	Helen Creery Selena Larque Keith Boardman Norman Lines Sylvia Jacques	Helen Creery Norman Lines John Bretherton Steve Lewington Sylvia Jacques
Parish Clerk		

### Rugby Borough Council

Dunsmore Ward

Deepah Roberts  
Howard Roberts  
Peter Eccleson

### Warwickshire County Council

Howard Roberts

### Member of Parliament

Kenilworth and Southam  
(includes Thurlaston)

Jeremy Wright MP



Leek Wooton, Thurlaston Ramble April 2019



Rogation Walk around Thurlaston  
(beating the bounds)



The 2018 Fete Scarecrow competition had a variant called a crow scarer as an entrant in the form of a mobile with animal shapes hanging on it. The mobile was subsequently passed to Brooke School in Rugby where it has been enjoyed by staff and pupils.

July 2019