

THURLASTON CHRONICLE

2024

***YOUR
ROUND UP OF
VILLAGE
NEWS!***

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Parish Council, Village Hall,
St Edmund's Church, Fete, Ramblers,
Coffee Mornings, Ladies Club, Books,
Progressive Supper & More!

YOUR STORIES!

Reunion, SUPing,
Caravan Club
Village Squire
Pre-Flight Checks!

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Report from the chairman & planning committee

Thurlaston Parish Council began a new term in May 23 after the conclusion of the previous four-year cycle, with the following villagers now having been in post for 12 months:

- Chair/governance/finance: Holger Allroggen
- Planning: Robert Ashford
- IT/website/H&S/emergency plan: Lee White
- Conservation/walls/footpaths/staffing: Gary Smith
- Complaints/roads/lighting: Andrew Fairgrieve

The major areas of work spanning 2023/24 thus far for your new Parish Council have been local planning applications; a new village design code; updated local emergency plan; interaction with Tritax; liaising with Rugby Borough Council as regards South West Rugby Housing Development design options; and new development challenges.

BUDGET

The Budget for 2024-25 [numbers in £ excl VAT] is as follows:

Regular costs [impacted by inflation!]:	-9,084
Website migration costs [rolled forward]:	-2,500
Anticipated Planning Legal Costs:	-10,000
Total Budgeted Cost:	-21,584
Precept 2024 - 25:	+22,856
Projected Balance end of year 2024 - 25:	+31,000
This means an increase in TPC share of council tax of 25%.	
*[2023: -10.7%, 2022: -30.7%, 2021: +269%]	

A huge thank you to Meenaxi Patel for help with setting the budget and precept for the year.

COMMUNITY GRANT

Regarding our discussions with Tritax, these have included suggestions to reduce the visual / sound impact of the warehouses. We have also been developing a long list for applying for a Community Development Grant of around £32,000.

This might include solar power in the village, wheelbarrows for village display, a new parish notice



board, a new bus shelter on Coventry Road; shelving for the old bus shelter to accommodate the book-swap hub; and projects for Village Hall including the installation of a shed and a covered outdoor area at the rear.

Our clerk Sylvia Jacques can be contacted by emailing: parish.clerk@thurlaston-pc.gov.uk

Holger Allroggen
Chair, Thurlaston Parish Council

PLANNING UPDATE

Thurlaston Parish Council's Planning Sub-Committee has worked on a number proposed developments and policies over the period 2023-2024.

The Thurlaston Meadows Bungalow Scheme, with proposals for 40 (later reduced to 35) bungalows on the care home's land and Patrickfield, saw the Parish Council receiving 90 letters of objection and 2 of support, submitted from 75% of households. This planning application was rejected by Rugby Borough Council in October 2023.

A Thurlaston Meadows Extension Scheme providing enhanced central facilities, including 11 new bedrooms with a net gain of 7 bedrooms and no increase in overall capacity, was approved by Rugby Borough Council in October 2023, subject to the condition that the wall and entrances from Main Street remain unchanged.

Tritax Symmetry meanwhile put in 55 planning applications (starting with R16/2569) for 7 large warehouses with 167,311m² floorspace; units 1 and 2 (30,435m²) already built; units 3 and 4 (55,160m²) under construction; 625 dwellings (currently outline permission only); and to relax the original planning conditions for the development, including raising the height of units 1 & 2 by 3m, delaying the construction of cycleways and changing the speed limit.

LOCAL PLAN

Rugby Borough Council's local plan, which covers 2011-2031, needs to be updated for 2021-2041 (or possibly 2021-2050).

Thurlaston Parish Council responded to the initial consultation **opposing** any expansion of Symmetry Park and development at Blue Boar junction - and **supporting** town centre regeneration, climate change policies and design codes.

The local plan is driven by the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) produced for Coventry and Warwickshire Local Councils in November 2022, which sets targets for residential and industrial development until 2050.

ONS (Office for National Statistics) predictions for Coventry vastly overstated city growth leading to local councils agreeing to take overspill. HEDNA also sets targets for strategic B8 warehousing.

Coventry and Warwickshire is a 'Golden Triangle' for distribution.

Rugby's industrial and small warehouse land supply of 158 ha is adequate until 2042. But additional strategic B8 warehousing in Coventry and Warwickshire of 551ha and 184ha needs to be found for 2021-2041 and 2041-2050, with the split between councils left to them. The focus of strategic B8 growth is in the N & W of the sub-region, but with a greater potential role for S Warwicks.

RICHBOROUGH PROPOSAL

A proposed development for 28 ha of B8 Commercial warehousing has been put forward by Bryson (owner), Howkins & Harrison (agent) and Richborough Commercial (developer), on land either side of Main Street between Coventry Road and the bridge over the M45 into Thurlaston.

A village survey elicited 96 replies from 83 separate households, all of which were strongly opposed it.



Accordingly, Thurlaston Parish Council have hired a barrister, Ashley Bowes, to help resist this development, engaged with Rugby Borough Council, and contacted the local press.

We will respond as forcefully as we can if it makes it through to RBC's 'preferred options' in July. RBC recognises that the HEDNA recommends such development should not be located in close proximity to residential areas (or accessed through them).

Robert Ashford
Chairman, TPC Planning sub-committee
planning@thurlaston-pc.gov.uk

Remember you can find Parish Council information including meeting agendas and minutes, parish council accounts, planning information and details about village groups and activities at:
www.thurlaston-pc.gov.uk



VILLAGE HALL

In 1946 a Thurlaston resident, Miss M Stanley, donated a small piece of land to be held in trust for a village hall. The hall was constructed by putting together two Nissen huts and wood-cladding the structure.

Despite its humble beginnings the hall has served the residents of Thurlaston very well for over 70 years. The hall is the hub of our small community and is home to the village pub, church coffee mornings, the Girl Guides and the Thurlaston Ladies Club, as well as a number of other village functions and activities.

Residents of this village regularly use the hall for family celebrations and we also seek non-resident hires. Income is generated from village activities, which include the Progressive Supper, the village fete, the quiz night, tea and cake events as well as from hires.

The deed of gift stipulates that the hall should be managed by a committee of seven people who

are also trustees. We are legally and fiscally responsible for maintaining the hall and have over the years carried out a number of improvements.

The committee are all unpaid volunteers who give their free time to ensure the continuity of this facility. Mary Cook in particular as the Chairperson has been very dedicated to the successful running of the hall as well as managing the bookings.

However, after 13 years' involvement, Mary has decided to resign from her position of Chair but has kindly agreed to retain the position of bookings manager. She will be

sorely missed. We are therefore looking for another villager to volunteer to be the Chairperson. In broad terms this person chairs the committee meetings six times a year including the AGM; and is responsible for ensuring that the committee organises necessary maintenance and regulatory activities.

This is a key position and without it the future of the hall could be in question. If you are able to fill this position please send an email to our secretary Shirley Hall at: thurlastonvhs@gmail.com

Thank you from the Committee:
Mary Cook - Booking Manager;
Bridget Rothwell - Treasurer;
Shirley Hall - Secretary; Sally Wise, Selina Larque, Judy Douglas and Sarah Poirier (additional trustees).

Our webpage can be found under 'Thurlaston Village Hall' on the Parish Council website:

www.thurlaston-pc.gov.uk



A MERRY THURLASTON CHRISTMAS!

The annual gathering for carol singing around the stocks once again added to the celebrations for Christmas in the village. Accompanied by the clarinet playing of Paul Jacques and Gill Wood, this was followed by a walk down Main Street and Church Walk on a route to the village hall, taking in a walk-past to admire the superb Christmas decorations at Eileen's house. The festivities then continued with Christmas songs and carols at the village hall, with the bar open thanks to Irene - our much loved host of bimonthly village pub nights - and nibbles contributed by everyone who came along to enjoy this wonderful festive tradition. There was a collection of cash and vouchers for Rugby Young Carers and a good time was had by all!

It has been a fairly uneventful year for St Edmund's during which we have held our regular services twice a month, with Evensong on alternate months. Our reflective prayer group continue to meet faithfully on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 with a small but committed congregation.

We held a Myton Hospice coffee morning which raised £986 for the hospice and our monthly coffee mornings in the village hall also bring in vital income for the church.

We are managing to make ends meet but with an old listed building there is always the danger of unexpected repairs having to be done, and indeed in time we will need to replace the roof for £155,145 at today's prices, with the likelihood of inflation driving the cost much higher. Our rent from Church House helps us to meet our portion of the parish share every month. It is estimated that the church costs £1,148 per month to run.

During the year we unfortunately lost our organist and since then have been managing with recorded music and a TV screen, with an organist coming in for special services and for Evensong. He played at our St Edmund's Day service when we also were pleased to have St Andrew's Community Singers in attendance.

Our organ is no longer able to be played so we use our excellent piano instead.



ST EDMUND'S CHURCH

The year ahead may see changes as I will be retiring and there will almost certainly be a period of interregnum. I have enjoyed my 7 years here and am sorry to be going.

Thank you to all the villagers who support St Edmund's, to the faithful members who keep the church running through illness and age and to the village fete who donated £900 last year.

Patricia Townshend, Vicar

VILLAGE FETE 2024



The Thurlaston fete team decided to go for the big one again in 2023 and moved into Main Street as well as Church Lane.

We had stalls all along Main Street as well as in Church Lane including books, bric-a-brac, raffle, the children had a stall selling used toys, and we had water and wine, plants and produce, a Ladies Club stall and the BBQ was back. We used the Church for the cake stall and strawberries and cream, with teas in the Village Hall, Pimm's in the Church grounds and music by Paul Jacques, and not forgetting Thurlaston Meadows allowing us to use their garden for a children's play area.

We had some "outsiders" who gave a donation and a raffle prize. These were popular: miniature gardens in glass domes, ceramics ware, a woodturner with lots of interesting items and something for the dogs, chews. And of course, the apacacs.

Taking place 1st July 2023, the theme was "Country Village Crafts" and also the Coronation of King Charles III, so lots of crowns. We had handmade bunting thanks to the bunting-making team - Ronnie, Mary, Anne and Sylvia - with flags in abundance, plus scarecrows with a Coronation theme. Leamington Spa Ukelele Band in Main Street created a very jolly atmosphere.

We gave the Church and the Village Hall £900 each. It stayed dry and was very successful: residents said how much they enjoyed the day.

At the time of going to press we're all set for 2024 with an Abba and Olympic theme! Watch out for details of the 2025 fete, will it run again? It depends on you to help beforehand, during and afterwards for the clearing up on the Sunday. If you would like to support us in keeping this fabulous tradition for future years, get in touch!

Sylvia Jacques, Fete Organiser
sjacques5@talktalk.net
& fete team Mary, Ronnie
John and Robert

50 years on...



Sparing you the details of how it came about and the efforts to get there, what may be of interest is that, half a century later, when we meet all are almost instantly recognisable to one another. Yes, 50 years older but now wiser (hopefully). Most had lost some hair, some had put on a pound or two, but the experiences shared, now faded and dormant with time, were rekindled as if it was yesterday.

Last year seven of us, all living locally, attended an impromptu meeting at the Railway Club on Hillmorton Road. The squad that toured was 22 so it was agreed to contact as many as possible with a view to having some sort of 50-year reunion in November 2025.

Last year I took a call from an ex-pupil whom I have met fleeting over the years after leaving Dunsmore School for Boys (now Ashlawn) back in the 80s. “Would I like to meet up with some of the U15 Rugby Team that I coached?” back in the mid-seventies he asked, and if so, could he pass my details on?

“Of course!” I agreed, as the thought immediately conjured up fond memories of a squad of lads that toured Trinidad & Tobago in November 1975.

A second meeting followed in November in which 14 made it, additionally two are based in Scotland, two have not been traced so far, two sadly have died and the two sent their apologies.

I have many good memories from my time as a sports teacher especially in Athletics and Rugby but more so that group of lads in 1975.

Dave Owens

DUNCHURCH BOUGHTON TRUST

The Trust has continued to provide financial support to Dunchurch Boughton C of E Junior Academy by administering the Trust established by Frances Boughton. Since federation of the Infant School with the Junior School the Trust now includes both schools in its remit.

Most recently this has been through provision of funding for a Pastoral mentor within the Junior School. Ms Donnellan, Headteacher reported: “We cannot thank you enough for the funds to secure an additional pastoral mentor. This has made a significant difference to the school; identified pupils have transformed their behaviour (their parents are beyond delighted). One parent has asked if the appointed colleague can be with

their child next year too, as he has made such a positive impact on their life in school. We have additional capacity at break and lunchtime, meaning safeguarding is more secure as a school. It has made such a difference...THANK YOU!”

The Trust has also committed to updating the library within the Infant School by transforming the existing IT suite into a library and area for quiet small group learning.

The school hopes this will continue to encourage a love of reading and the practice of reading for pleasure which may have decreased following COVID restrictions. Additional books and equipment have already been funded through PTA fundraising.

The Trust continues to support the maintenance of the Haven, an outdoor learning area with pond, seating area, fire pit and wildflower planting.

ACCOUNTS

There has been a reduction in the total value of funds, as expected by the current economic climate. However, the Trust is still receiving income from the funds, therefore are still in a good position to be able to continue to support both schools.

Trustees: Phil Freeman, Celia Jones, Chris Sarson, Rebecca Shields, Tim Wainwright, Clare Cherrett, Fiona Stevenson.

Trustees Report

SQUIRE 2023/24

“ I was asked to reflect on my time as Thurlaston Squire 2023/24 for the Chronicle. Firstly it is a great village tradition to have a Squire each year. Who, what, why, when, how?

The squire is chosen by the retiring Squire... no need for an election, thank goodness. What does the Village Squire do? There is no job description other than to keep the traditional bottle of 1966 red wine safe and not to lose the chain of office.

The pendant on the 'gold' chain states "Invino Veritas" ('in wine, there is truth') and shows an ancient person with a stag on their head holding a spear and a green shield with a background of crossed arrows topped by an alligator. What does this signify? Perhaps someone could research the

Archives to establish the truth. When does it all happen? Just prior to the Annual Fete being opened the current Squire makes a short speech introducing the surprised new Squire, outlining the reasons behind the choice of Squire. The regalia is handed over plus a small gift, and the new Squire kicks off the Fete.

So, what has the year meant for me? The Fete took on a new look for me, being able to chat to many people rather than be on a stall. I took part in several community events during the year to share the profile of Thurlaston e.g. • The Homestead View "Community Design Event" organised by Homes England in July 2023 in Cawston. • Rugby Town Centre 'Walk Around' Oct. 2023. • Rugby Library Event for Mother Language Day. February 2023. • Transition Town Rugby,



Design for a Sustainable Hub, August 2023. • Most recently, engagement over Community Sustainability. It has been an honour and a privilege to be the Squire, keep it up Thurlaston it is a great tradition.

Brian Coleman 2024

THURLASTON POOR'S PLOT CHARITY

To relieve the poor in Thurlaston, 43 acres of land were set aside in 1728 to enable residents of the village to grow crops to support their families.

Just over an acre today is allotments which may be rented. These can be found by turning right out of the village and they are on the left, just past the cottages. The remainder of the land continues to be rented to two local farmers, providing an income to the charity.

Over the last year, the trustees have facilitated work to tidy up the allotments and create a small area of hard-standing for cars to make it easier to access the site.

There is an area of trees to the east which could become a community corner for the village in some way, for example with benches, and ideas for this are welcomed. A code is available for the allotments gate for those who want to visit and if there is enough interest, the trustees will consider adding a secondary gate for access. To contact the trustees regarding this or taking on an allotment, please email the clerk catsabine@outlook.com

The charity has been contacted by developers and the trustees are exploring with a solicitor the creation of a document to safeguard the land for the future.

The charity's remit is to relieve either generally or individually persons resident in the parish who are in need, hardship or distress. Requests which are for the general benefit of the community will also be considered.

EDUCATION GRANTS

Additionally, the charity offers grants of up to £300 to any young person leaving secondary education to embark on the next stage of their education or an apprenticeship. One of these was awarded in the last year.

The current trustees are Roland Robinson (Chair), Jenny Cooper, Paula Irish, Selina Larque, Rev Patricia Townsend and Sheena Ashford. The clerk is Cat Sabine.

Meetings take place twice a year in the Village Hall and the date of the next meeting is 7.30pm Monday 16th September 2024.

Anyone wishing to find out more, contact the charity or submit a grant application, can find all the details on the Thurlaston parish website under the Community Information heading at: www.thurlaston-pc.gov.uk

Trustees Report

THURLASTON RAMBLERS



The Thurlaston rambling group has been active for at least 30 years and the village archives have a record of historical walks. I am the keeper of the 'Red Book' - a record of the walks.

The walks take place monthly and are organised by a different volunteer each time. The date of each walk is published on the Thurlaston net and everyone is welcome to take part. Those who do not want to walk are welcome to join us for

lunch, which is usually at a pub local to the walk. Since the last issue of the Chronicle our walks have been in:

- April 2023: Henley in Arden and Preston Baggott. Lunch at the White Swan.
- May 2023: Hunningham with lunch at The Red Lion
- June 2023: Brandon and Brinklow, lunch at The Royal Oak in Brandon
- July 2023 Welford with lunch at the Four Alls

- August 2023: Hunningham and lunch at the Red Lion
- September 2023. Great and Little Brington. Lunch at Althorp, Coaching Inn
- October 2023: Crick and lunch at the Red Lion
- November 2023: Ryton Pools and lunch at the Three Horse-shoes
- December 2023: Walk cancelled because of rain. Lunch at the Queen of Hearts in Daventry
- April 2024: Stratford upon Avon (pictured left at Holy Trinity Church) with lunch at the Dirty Duck
- May 2024: Corley Moor with lunch at The Red Lion.

As you can see the walks have been varied and interesting. It is an opportunity to see new places and enjoy the company of other villagers. It would be great to see new residents joining these walks.

Mary Cook
Walking Group Coordinator

THURLASTON NEWS

- **Parish Council & Village Website**
www.thurlaston-pc.gov.uk
- **Thurlaston Village Facebook group**
www.facebook.com/groups/thurlastonwarks
- **ThurlastonNet email group:** Join by emailing listmaster@thurlaston.net - subject: SUBSCRIBE and provide your name and postcode.

DEFIBRILLATOR

Thurlaston has an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) located in the old telephone kiosk on Main Street not far from the bus shelter. It is available 24/7 for anyone who needs it: Dial 999 and wait for the access code to release the AED, turn on the defibrillator and follow its instructions. Further details can be found at: www.thurlaston-pc.gov.uk



1st Dunchurch Guides meet at Thurlaston Village Hall on Wednesday evenings offering activities for girls aged 10-14. Find out more and register at: girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

An update from...

THE BUSY PEOPLE'S BOOK GROUP

The Busy People's Book Club started around 18 months' ago. Our idea was to have a very informal group, open to all, that acknowledged everyone's busy lives, with absolutely no judgement for anyone too busy to read a selected book.

Our members all agree that we would like to expand our usual reading material and consider new genres.

Our group has evolved over the months and whilst some people manage to make most meetings, others dip in and out.

FRIENDSHIPS

Our gatherings are very loosely based on what we read and our discussions evolve to cover all sorts of areas. We recommend books between us, but also films, podcasts and TV programmes. New friendships have been formed and a few bottles of Prosecco consumed!



We usually select two books so people can decide which they prefer to read - some manage both, some neither. So far some of the titles we've read include: Lessons in Chemistry, The Dry, The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo and Mrs England. It's not highbrow.

We read in different formats with some preferring Kindles or audio books to the traditional paperback. We've dipped into non-fiction occasionally too.

We don't meet on a specific day, we just try and find a date that the majority can make every six to eight weeks. We are all ages and are at different stages of life which is interesting and brings different perspectives.

If this sounds like your sort of thing, we'd love to see you! Please contact Claire 07795 012029 or Mikala 07841 288706.

NEWCOMBE & 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, opposite the Scott statue and Mops.

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

As with all old buildings last rebuilt in Victorian times, there is a constant requirement to repair and refurbish. Following the completion of the new roof over the kitchen/bathroom areas in 2022, it was discovered that the ceiling insulation

in No's 4, 5 and 6 was inadequate. This was rectified last year and was a major building expense.

Also, following the completion of the new roof, we have now fitted internal wall insulation to the external walls of the bathrooms. Reports back from the residents indicate that there is a definite improvement in warmth.

Routine maintenance continued with the kitchens of No's 2, 3 and 5 being redecorated. Also the front room of No 2 was redecorated and the bathroom floor was resurfaced.

Heating of the Almshouses is by electric storage heaters. One of

these was replaced by a more modern, more controllable equivalent and this year we are doing a survey of all the heaters to establish if improvements can be made throughout.

The six Almshouses have been fully occupied throughout the year with no indication that any of the residents intend to move out of their accommodation.

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

***Walter Harvey
Trustees Report***

LADIES CLUB

The Thurlaston Ladies Club has, once again, had a successful programme of speakers, outings and social events combined with fund raising.

In March we had a speaker from **Warwickshire Search and Rescue Service**, a voluntary organisation which liaises with the police and fire services to search for vulnerable missing persons within Warwickshire and beyond. They are one of 36 teams in the UK and work in the lowlands. They are on call 24/7 every day of the year. A very needed charity, tracking down lost persons who might otherwise die of exposure.

In April, Catherine Pritchard, who spent all her working life in the **fashion industry**, talked of the many processes necessary in the designing and making of garments. She gave us a very enjoyable and lively talk interacting well with her audience as it is a subject that interests us all. She also brought along some exhibition garments which she had designed and made, based on Tudor fashions but, unfortunately, they were not for sale.

In May, Gillian White, the historian, visited us again. Her enthusiasm for her subject is always very catching and so, also, entertaining. This visit she spoke of **William Cavendish**, said to be the most dissolute man in London during his time. However, he was largely responsible for the creation of Chatsworth House.

Our very popular day out this year in June, was organised, as usual, by our blue badge guide, Kay. First we visited **Sezincote House** with its lovely garden and orangery where most of us sat for a drink whilst admiring the view and waiting to be shown round the small but beautiful house. Then on to the **Arts and Craft Museum** in the delightful Cotswold town of Chipping

Camden and finishing with tea in Shipston on Stour and an opportunity to look round its shops. At the village fete in July the club ran the Gifts and China stall and raised £243.

In September we spent the afternoon at **Chedham's Yard in Wellesbourne**. It is a collection of workshops, garden and visitor centre and the site won the BBC Restoration Village competition in 2006. We saw the blacksmith at work and the wood turner and were shown the wheelwrights yard where we admired all the old tools of the trade. Again, the visit concluded with tea/coffee and homemade cake.

In October, Paul Jacques entertained us demonstrating his large collection of **saxophones**. Paul was very interesting and amusing showing his wide knowledge of the instrument and we all had a happy afternoon. Paul also enjoyed himself as he offered to come along again next year and bring a friend and musician with him.

In November we had our **charity meeting**. Anne and Kathy organised a tombola with prizes given by members. This year the theme was Christmas food and everyone was very generous both bringing lots of prizes and buying tickets. This was accompanied by a cream tea with generous amounts of jam and cream. For our Christmas lunch, we went to Stoneleigh Golf Club. The caterers provided a lovely three course meal and we thank Jackie Harvey, with the help of Walter, for organising it all so well.

Our **Winter Warmer** in January 2024 consisted of delicious homemade soup and crusty bread, butter and cheese. Our thanks go to all the committee for their hard work and to all our members who make our meetings so friendly and enjoyable.

We are advertising our meetings each month on the Thurlaston net. Why don't you find one that looks interesting and come along.

Judy Douglas

COFFEE mornings

The coffee mornings in the Village Hall have now been running for ten years! They are held in the morning of the third Friday of the month and welcome all villagers and passers-by who care to join us. Freshly made coffee is served and all donations go to St Edmund's church.

MYTON HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING

The annual coffee morning in aid of Myton Hospice took place in St Edmund's Church on 1st December last year. This is a very enjoyable event and we amazingly raised over £980 for this important charity. Thank you so much to the organising team who run the stalls, sell Christmas cards and provide coffee, and particularly to Angela who delights us with the first taste of Christmas music. This year's coffee morning is 29th November, and we hope that you will be able to support us then.

VILLAGE ARCHIVES



Story time! Ever read someone's biography and been surprised, intrigued, inspired? The collection of albums, papers, articles, tapes (audio and VHS), memorabilia, maps, books and recorded reminiscences, which we call the Thurlaston Village Archives, is the Thurlaston Village biography.

I understand it was pioneered by David Eastwood and Jess Cummings some 50 years ago and over the years quite a few people have made valuable contributions either by donations or volunteering time. It tells a story of the people who have lived on this plot of land for over 1000 years. A story of creativity, compassion, and fortitude.

It actually starts with Lake Harrison that covered a large area in the Midlands but is first recorded with the arrival of the Normans around 1066, then the great plague in the 1600's, agriculture and associated trades, Pipewell Monks, the Enclosure Act of 1700's, aristocratic ownership, return to public ownership, world wars (WWI and II) and now modern 'progress' (reservoir, M45, 'places of employment'), inclusion of a care home and complicated by Covid but still the community thrives, conservation area, listed buildings, protected trees and all.

As I prepare to move on from being the Archive Curator, I invited a

representative from the Warwickshire Records Office and the Archive Curator from Stretton-on-Dunsmore to visit and review our archive Material, in May 2024.

The outcome was more than I could have expected. They were both impressed by the amount of material, the quality, the organisation and storage of the material. The official archivist for Warwickshire said: "I really enjoyed the visit today and seeing what you have achieved with the Thurlaston village archive is a revelation. Many congratulations on

The archives offer an invaluable resource for those researching their family, house or community history

a wonderful collection. I have visited a number of community-based archives, and I can confirm that Thurlaston's is one of the richest I have seen. It is well organised and kept in favourable conditions compared to many others."

Our supporter from Stretton-on-Dunsmore wrote to say: "I am very impressed by the material in the Thurlaston Archive. It has been extremely well cared for and stored. This archive is of particular interest to local people and those whose ancestors lived in the village. It offers an invaluable resource for all those researching their family,

house or community history. I consider it exceptional in the standard of research that has already been undertaken over an extended period and the wide-ranging nature of the material. As a result, I consider it to be of importance not only locally, but also regionally, and it could even attract national researchers."

Following on from that visit and the documented response, there may be a possibility of funding for the ongoing work of the collection. An application will be made soon.

We should also record a big 'thank you' to the Village Hall Committee for allowing the archives to be kept in a secure, reserved place in the hall.

Apparently a lot of villages have their archives stored under beds and in wardrobes!

The TPC will be looking for someone or a group of people to take this work forward with the ongoing support of the Records Office and our neighbours at Stretton. Could that be you? Do you have a particular interest or passion that could be part of a team? We have a display day coming up in August, look out for the date and see the story of Thurlaston. Ready for inspection!

Brian Coleman
Thurlaston Archives Curator

PRE-FLIGHT CHECKS!

Back in May I was sitting by our wildlife pond and noticed a dragonfly larvae which had come out the pond and climbed up the reed and was emerging from its final larval stage moult.

They lay their eggs in ponds and once they hatch the larvae can live in the water for up to 2 years and moult numerous times during that time. I feel incredibly lucky to be there at the right time to see the magic that then happens.

Photo 1: The dragonfly has emerged and you can see the moult behind it. Its body has not yet stretched into the elongated body that dragonflies have. Its wings are still closed.



Photo 2: Shows its wings open and drying out but not yet separated.



Photo 3: The wings are open and separated and the body is more elongated. It stayed there for over an hour, gradually getting more elongated and flexing its wings in readiness for its first flight.

Photo 4: Its wings look slightly blurred where it's flexing them ready for take off. You can see the moult on the left; it's hard to believe the dragonfly whose body is now fully elongated with wings spread out and looks so much larger than the moult, emerged from it a relatively short time ago.

I stayed watching until it took off on its maiden flight, which I captured on video. Nature is amazing and this was magical to watch.

Sue Winton



THANK YOU FROM THE THURLASTON CHRONICLE TEAM

We hope you enjoy the 2024 edition of the Thurlaston Chronicle! We would like to thank all our contributors for taking the time to share their stories and photographs, and the Parish Council for supporting the Chronicle team with content and funding for this annual publication.

As ever the aim is to provide a record of the year and a celebration of all things Thurlaston and what makes our village a great place to live. If you have any comments or would like to send in a report or photographs for next year, which will soon come around, we'd love to hear from you!

Sue, Gill & Paula
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PROGRESSIVE SUPPER!

The lovely Sue Winton stepped down from the Progressive Supper organisation in 2023 and the new team took over – Karen, Mikala with Ev and Maz continuing to help. Sue is a tough act to follow, and we were all nervous!

We had 48 people (24 couples) wanting to take part so required hosts for 6 starter tables, 6 mains and 6 dessert and coffee.

As always we had lots of people offering to host which was wonderful, many not minding which course they hosted. This made our job so much easier – thank you everybody.

It was great to welcome the regulars who support this lovely Thurlaston tradition most years, and people who had either not taken part for some time, people who've lived here awhile but not taken part before and people who had only just moved into the village.

We went for a late April date, after the clocks went back making for lighter evenings. This was appreciated by

lots of people. Our hosts did us proud as always, the food served at every venue was praised highly with our hosts kindly catering for those with dietary needs.

From the lovely comments the organising team received via personal messages and Thurlaston net the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and an impressive £364 was raised for village hall funds.

Thankfully everything went smoothly, with no organisational hiccups – phew!

We look forward to even more people attending next year. If anyone has any ideas on how to increase participation or how to improve this event in any way, please contact one of us. See you then!

Mikala, Karen, Ev and Maz

Ev Murphy: evmurphy@hotmail.com

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Up the creek with a paddle at Draycote Water Sailing Club...

“ On a lovely but rare fine day in April I finally plucked up the courage to book a tuition and paddleboarding session. I arrived with knees knocking, fully expecting to get wet! Two more women joined me and I was really pleased to know that I wasn't the only novice.

My previous lesson was in 2019 on the River Avon near Bath. On that occasion I had a very good instructor and an hour and a half's one-to-one attention as someone had failed to arrive. To my delight I managed to stay on the board and absolutely loved the peace and tranquillity, gliding along without much effort at all.

Having promised myself I would buy my own kit and keep it up, here we

are four years later having only tried a couple of times whilst on holiday.

When I discovered Draycote Water Sailing Club were offering paddleboarding sessions I couldn't resist and despite my fears, managed to stay on the board, eventually getting to my feet, and again absolutely loved the peace and sound of the water gently lapping around me. Wonderful!

Draycote Water SC offer tuition and a variety of options, either to use their boards (6 in all) and kit on a first come first served basis, or join as a member. My safety briefing and session cost £30 and was worth every penny! ”

Marilyn Hobday

Draycote Water Sailing Club claimed the Royal Yachting Association's prestigious 'Club of the Year' title in 2024 after winning the Young Person's category and then the overall title to the delight of its members, who include a number of families in the village.

The club helps children to get afloat through beginners' courses, fun weekly sessions and racing. Draycote Academy, led by coach Steve Irish, of Thurlaston, then supports those wanting to compete at the highest level.

The club also runs courses for adults with a warm welcome for anyone who would like to find out more about its activities. Call in at the waterside reception or visit: www.draycotewater.co.uk

REMEMBERING RON DOUGLAS

It was with great sorrow that I lost Ron, my husband of 63 years, happy years, in February. When he retired at 61 years we knew that we needed to move to a less remote house whose upkeep would also be less daunting.

Ron's great friend Murray Cumming and his wife, Jess, who older residents in Thurlaston will remember, were very keen that we move to Thurlaston and Ron agreed that it was an ideal village in which to retire. We moved to Beech Drive in 1994.

Ron enjoyed playing golf twice a week and following the plans of the lady who landscaped the garden on paper and listed where every plant should be placed. He loved the garden and whilst fit enough spent many happy hours looking after it. He enjoyed parties and joining in the Progressive Suppers.

Like many retired couples we took the opportunity to see much of the world, booking our own holidays



Ronald W Douglas
1931 - 2024

initially and then cruising with Noble Caledonian and finally having lazy holidays in the sun. Ron liked the sociable times but he was, at heart, a home loving, gentle man. He always said he was never bored and could always find plenty of things to do. It was a great blow when he fell in the garage and broke his leg during Covid. We thought he had recovered so well but after he fell again and broke his hip, the hospital discovered that he had an infection in the metal work from his first fall.

In his latter years, Ron was the oldest man in Thurlaston and

was very proud of this fact. I want to thank all the gentlemen of Thurlaston, who took the time to visit Ron or who just stopped in the street to talk to him. It meant so much to him to have chats with men as well as ladies and to know that friends cared about him and were willing to give up their time to talk to him.

Judy Douglas

RUGBY YOUNG CARERS

Thurlaston has been supporting RYC's for well over 12 years now and Christmas 2023 was no exception. My request for donations or gift cards went out and the response was, as always amazing. Your generosity meant I was able to give all the young carers a Gift Card and as there were a few over I gave them to Becky who runs the groups to be used as prizes when they have quizzes etc.

The children were so pleased to receive them following their Christmas meal. A gentleman had offered to cook a traditional Christmas roast for both age groups of YCs, so about 50 children sat down to a fabulous meal together. They all loved it and for once were able to sit and be waited on whilst chatting to their friends rather than looking after a family member.

There is a small group of us from the village who do craft workshops with the carers. These are very popular with both the younger and older children as they get very little time to do this type of activity or in fact just be children.

The latest one was this May and was very popular and as always the children were a delight to work with. The workshops are always on a Tuesday afternoon 4-6pm, if you feel you would like to come along and help please contact me by emailing suew@kingsleyhouse.net

As many of you know I also support them by making greetings cards which I sell by having a 'pop up' stall in the bus shelter every once in a while to raise some much needed cash to help fund activities for them. I'm hoping the weather will improve so I can have one in summer 2024!

Thurlaston villagers also support them by making one off donations, asking for a donation when selling items and of course those that give up their time to help at the workshops. Your generosity makes such a difference to children who spend much of their time caring for others and they are really touched by the kindness of people they don't even know.

Thank you, Sue Winton



ON THE ROAD

...with Thurlaston Caravan Club & Stuart Boulton

It was at a regular 3rd Friday Coffee Morning in the Village Hall, that I happened to be sitting next to the Village Archivist, Brian Coleman, who had a photograph album recording the history of Thurlaston Caravan Club.

There were some familiar faces, with Kathy and Dave Owen the only present residents, who described Thurlaston Caravan Club as "Good Fun". They informed me the first rally was in April 1992. Heather Tebbit, who was the Village Postmistress, was the driving force behind the Club's creation. Unfortunately following her death in 1997 and with members leaving the village, the Club ceased. There were regularly six caravans and one tent of Thurlaston residents, occasionally augmented with friends. In those six years there were 9 rallies, within a 50-mile radius of Thurlaston.

The first was at Sacrewell Mill Farm, near Peterborough. A typical format was to arrive Friday, and on Saturday visit the nearest city, stately home etc. followed by an evening gathering, joining tables together in an awning, eating, drinking and playing UNO. Sunday was a morning walk before returning home. At Fotheringay, it was a 3-mile walk to the pub: Oxford it was in the snow: Radway up Edge Hill: Ullesthorpe to the garden centre.

As to our motorhome, it is not solely used for holidays abroad and we also attend rallies within the UK, but how do we choose? The Caravan and Motorhome Club (CMHC) organise 'pop-up sites', such as the one we attended in August 2019, 'Countryfile Live at Castle Howard'. The campsite, with facilities and evening entertain-

ment, was opposite the event entrance. CMHC has Centres, which tend to be county-based, and organise rallies, including 'pop-up sites'. West Surrey organise one to coincide with the Hampton Court Flower Show. It is next to the Thames and on the same site as the free Park & Ride into Hampton. One year we went to the Flower Show, another the Palace.

Avon Centre coincide one with Bristol International Balloon Festival, in a school playing field next to the arena. Unfortunately, the year we went not one balloon was launched because of the weather. We took the opportunity to visit SS Great Britain. Cheshire Centre run one alongside the Royal Cheshire Show, and Somerset Centre, one to coincide with Somerset Winter Carnivals, which claim to include the largest illuminated procession in the world!

We have attended others associated with Firework Festivals, in Catton Hall; and rallies in stately homes, Arley Hall: Clumber: Eastnor: Thoresby and Weston Parks: and Sandringham for the Platinum Jubilee. Independently we have used the motorhome to attend events such as Chester Mystery Plays.

To my knowledge there are at least seven caravan, campervan or motorhomes in the Village. I am not suggesting that we resurrect the Thurlaston Caravan Club, but it may be useful to swap experiences of places we have pitched our aluminium and glass fibre reinforced shells.

Stuart Boulton

Village views...



Every village was required by law to have stocks as a form of punishment for minor offences like swearing and drunkenness!



Draycote Water - visitor centre and sailing club just a short drive or a car-free cycle ride or walk away from Thurlaston!



Draycote Hotel & Whitefields Golf Course: 18 holes and another fantastic leisure location on our doorstep!

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