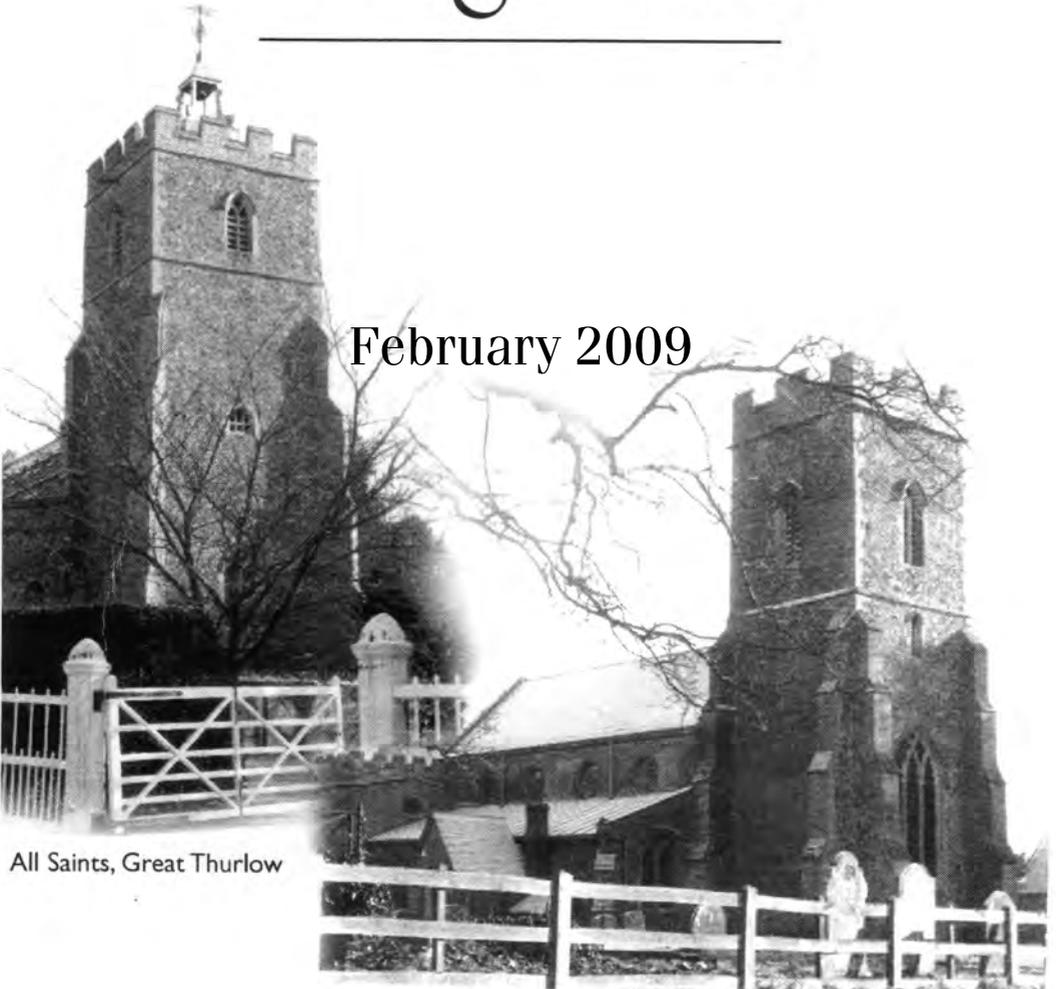


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# THE Village Link

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February 2009



All Saints, Great Thurlow

St Peter's, Little Thurlow

News and views from Great and Little Thurlow  
plus The Little Bradley Column

Free to every residence (£3.50 p.a. when purchased)

## ***THE VILLAGE LINK***

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Village Link deadline 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Email: [villagelink@aol.com](mailto:villagelink@aol.com)

***From the Rector...***No sooner do we leave the season of Epiphany and we are, after a short respite, into the Season of Lent. Many people now come to the TRADITIONAL PANCAKE PARTY at the Rectory where there is “open house” and pancakes from 6.00 p.m. until 9.00 p.m. All are welcome and it’s fun to welcome people across the Benefice. ASH WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> February sees the beginning of Lent in earnest. Many who come to the services that day join in the “ashing” ceremony, making the sign of the cross with the Ashes of last year’s Palm Crosses. They are burnt and the ashes mixed with a little olive oil to make a paste and the mark is a sign of our Lenten observance and a sombre reminder that “we are dust and to dust we shall return”. There is of course a great opportunity before our demise to consider how we live our Christian calling and Lent also reminds us of the sacrifices that we may make and a reminder of the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. The churches have no flowers and the colours are purple or sackcloth. However you observe Lent it’s a time for spiritual growth and development of our souls. There is also a time of accounting! Parish treasurers and PCC’s meet to approve the accounts, fill in returns and elect officers. We are short of representatives on the Deanery Synod! If you wish to know more about that, talk with a member of your PCC. Ask yourself is there a little time you can commit to help those who run the Parish Church from day to day and at weekends. You will be welcomed. The numbers may be small but Christ dealt with small numbers of people and still the word spread. At the end of St. Luke we Christians are called to be “witnesses” of the message of Jesus and we are called to do something about equipping ourselves for the task. Our presence with other Christians on a Sunday is a good start. ***John Eley, Rector***

### ***QUIZ NIGHT FISH AND CHIP SUPPER***

***IN AID OF LITTLE BRADLEY CHURCH  
AT THE GARDEN BARN, LITTLE BRADLEY***

***Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 7.00pm***

***Tickets available from Mirjam Gault 01440 783756 or Thurlow Stores –  
Adults £8.00, Children £5.50***

***Please bring your own drinks and glasses with you***

*Nature note.* I looked up (we don't do that enough) and caught sight of a large raptor soaring slowly over the village the other day. Must be a buzzard, I thought. A few years ago that would have been a good record here, but happily they are now firmly re-established in these parts and a not uncommon sight. But something nagged at my mind. It was twisting and turning in flight in an unusual way, and weren't the wings rather too slender, too angled and elastic for a buzzard? Wasn't the underwing also rather pale and boldly patterned? Then I caught sight of its long forked tail, glowing rufous in the bright light of this frosty winter day. Of course, a red kite! This was my first for the village and I punched the air like a footballer. The red kite is truly a charismatic bird, capable of breathtaking aerial manoeuvres which it executes with feather-tip control, and it is made more remarkable by its fluctuating history in Britain, which is more of a commentary on changes in our social habits than theirs. In Tudor times the kite was a common bird of our towns and cities, an urban scavenger living off the plentiful carrion and refuse, with a particular reputation as a snapper-up of unconsidered trifles, including bizarrely items taken from washing-lines. 'When the kite builds, look to lesser linen', as Shakespeare warns in *The Winter's Tale*, and indeed underwear has often been found lining their nests, along with gloves, scarves, handkerchiefs, socks and hats! But as our cities became cleaner and more hygienic there was less waste to feed on and so the kites moved into the countryside where they fell foul of the game interests that were becoming ever more influential then; they were thought to pose a threat to pheasants, partridges and grouse and were persecuted almost to the point of extinction. In the 1980s the population had dwindled to only about 30 birds, limited to a wild stronghold in the Welsh mountains. Social attitudes to conservation were then changing, however, and there have since been a number of deliberate reintroduction programmes to establish kite colonies in the Chilterns, Northamptonshire, Yorkshire and Scotland. These have thrived and of course we now produce ample supplies of carrion again, this time by the sides of our roads. The latest population estimate of kites in Britain was a very healthy 3,000 or so, a hundredfold increase in about 30 years. Who knows? Peregrine falcons have re-entered our cities and are living happily in central London, feeding on the pigeon, gull and starling flocks. Buzzards have returned to East Anglian woods. Ospreys have re-colonised old haunts in Scotland and are even spreading to English waters in the Lake District, Rutland and elsewhere. Maybe the kites will once again grace our skies, and the view I had the other day will be less a rarity. It would be no less an occasion for celebration, though.

*Jeremy Mynott, Lavender Cottage*

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**CHRISTMAS CONCERT.** The Christmas Concert was held in Great Thurlow Church on Saturday 20th December. The church, including 45 extra chairs was full. The total raised was £1,500.00. This has been divided as follows: £500.00 to All Saints, Great Thurlow. £500.00 to The Children's Hospice at Milton and £500.00 to The Thurlow Hunt Supporters Club. Thanks goes to all those who helped and supported the Concert. All seemed to enjoy the Concert, the mulled wine and the eats afterwards in the Barn.

*Jane Sheppard*

**YOUR CHANCE TO HELP 'SAVE A LIFE'.** Every year in the UK 27,000 adults & children are diagnosed with leukaemia. For many of these patients a bone marrow transplant represents the only possible long-term cure.

Without an unrelated bone marrow transplant they may die and many more donors are urgently needed. The Anthony Nolan Trust is, therefore, urging more people to think about becoming donors in order to offer the chance of life to these patients. The Anthony Nolan Trust is working together with Great Wratting near Haverhill resident Robert Mason (01440 783 882) whose daughter, Sorrel received a life saving bone marrow transplant two years ago. Sorrel was diagnosed with Leukaemia and was told that her only chance of a full cure was to find a bone marrow match. She is now a happy and healthy toddler who has everything to live for. However there are still 16,000 patients who have yet to find their life saving match and rely on a complete stranger to come forward and join the bone marrow register.

The session will be taking place on: **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 4:00 – 7:00pm, Clements Surgery, Greenfields Way, Haverhill.** Robert is trying to encourage as many local people as possible to come forward and sign up.

*“We are extremely grateful for the chance that Sorrel has been given by her bone marrow transplant and by organising this clinic we are hoping to give something back.*

*“There are thousands of people who are searching for a bone marrow donor and we want to encourage as many people as possible to join the Anthony Nolan Register and maybe give someone a chance of life.*

*“It is so easy to join the Register. All we are asking for is a little bit of your time to come to the clinic we are running on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February. It could make a real difference to someone’s life.*

*“I myself have joined the Register. All that happens is that you give a blood sample and fill in some forms – it’s as simple as that.*

*“If you could see the difference it has made to Sorrel’s life, you would know without a shadow of a doubt that this is a worthwhile thing to do.”*

Debby Jepps from the Anthony Nolan Trust emphasises: "The Anthony Nolan Register can never be big enough, we are always in need of more donors to come forward. It is so important that if you are eligible to join the register, to think seriously about it; the more people we have registering, the more chance we have of finding those life saving matches for patient's that desperately need them. We are delighted to be working together with Robert and his family and are extremely grateful for their help and support in our life saving work." The main criteria to join the Anthony Nolan register are: must be aged 18-40, be in good health, weigh more than eight stone (51kg), not be severely overweight and be willing to donate to any patient you may ever match. Once you have joined, you will remain on the register until your 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. For more information, please contact the Anthony Nolan Trust at [www.anthonynolan.org.uk](http://www.anthonynolan.org.uk) or call 020 7284 1234.

**WE CAN ALL DO SOMETHING WORTHWHILE AND GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

***Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Project Walks.*** Regular monthly walks are organised by the Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Project along different sections of the Stour. Bookings recommended as places are limited. Please contact us for further details and an advance programme: 01473 264263

[www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org](http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org). ***Next Walk - RAIL RAMBLE, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>***

***February 10.30 - 3.00pm , £3.00, children free.***

We'll take the train from Sudbury to Bures and then take the long way back taking in the stunning scenery along the Stour Valley Path. Bring a packed lunch - this will be a long walk! Approx. 8 miles - ***Moderate + (Walkers will need to pay their own train fare - adult fare approx. £2.20)***

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***POLICE REPORT.*** The Bury Rural South team have all enjoyed getting out and about in our Mobile Police Station. It has meant we have got an instant venue in which to meet residents of our various villages. The dates, times and locations are advertised in the regular Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter and we also put posters up in the villages as well. It has been an excellent way of getting to know people who have no specific problems but come to the van to have a chat and put a face to a name. We also have a supply of purse bells and leaflets on various crime prevention matters. It is quite cosy once inside and we have even had dogs visit too (with owners of course). If you spot the van in your village then please do stop and say hello to whoever is on board, we are always pleased to see you. On February 21st we will be at Whepstead Community Centre between 10.30 and 11.30 am and Stoke By Clare in front of the shop between 2 and 3 pm. On the 22nd we will be at Clare Country Park between 10.30 and 11.30 am and again between 2 and 3 pm. On the 23rd we will be outside Hundon Community Centre between 10.30 and 11.30 am and at Stansfield Village Hall car park between 2 pm and 3 pm. Hope to see you soon.

PC Ruth Horton  
PC Trish Sinclair  
PCSO Alex Foster  
PCSO Debs Carroll-Beer

Monthly statistics are available on the Suffolk County Council website. Just go into [www.suffolkcc.gov.uk](http://www.suffolkcc.gov.uk) Put in the field Crime Statistics then click on interactive crime summary xls.

Please consider registering with Police Direct on [www.suffolk.police.uk](http://www.suffolk.police.uk) which will enable you to receive relevant information about crime and policing issues in your area.

The Police non emergency is 01284 774100, or you can e-mail us at [stedsruralsouth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:stedsruralsouth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)

***Please dial 999 if immediate response needed.***

***If you wish to report criminal activity in your area anonymously please ring the Crime Stoppers number 0800 555111***

**GREAT THURLOW AND PINAFORE SMITH.** Those familiar with the comic opera HMS Pinafore of Gilbert and Sullivan fame may recall the name of Sir Joseph Porter KCB. He introduced himself with the song below with acknowledgements to Sir W.S. Gilbert the great satirist. Somehow things don't change much do they? If reference is made to Kate Atherton's excellent history of Gt. and Lt. Thurlow "Past and Present" there is a paragraph about the Rt. Hon. W.H. Smith MP, Lord of the Manor of Gt. Thurlow circa 1885. He became First Lord of the Admiralty along with other Ministerial appointments. He was to inspect the Royal Navy at H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth and H.M.S. Pinafore was top of the hit parade at the time. A strict instruction was issued to the Port Admiral that on "no" account was anything from Pinafore to be played by the band during his inspection. By the time the instructions got down to the Royal Marines Director of Music it read "play anything from Pinafore". As the Rt. Honourable alighted from his carriage at Admiralty House the bank struck up "stick close to your desks and never go to sea and you may all become rulers of the Queens Navee". He was not amused, to coin a phrase. The opposition were quick off the mark to bestow him with the nickname "Pinafore Smith". He never lived it down at Westminster. However his name lives on in perpetuity. The legacy is in the form of the newsagents and stationers W.H. Smith & Son which he founded and is seen in the High Streets of our towns to this day. It seems that politicians were fair game then as now viz Rory Bremner and Matt. A Pocket Borough was a sinecure seat in the pocket of a Prime Minister and was given to honourable gentlemen who bolstered party funds to a large degree!! They were never elected. It was not long ago, but before Emily Pankhurst, that to qualify to vote a man had to own land or property and around that time a small house in Ipswich could be purchased for £10, so not so many men had the vote. To give a financial perspective of those times circa 18C, the lowest denomination of coin was a half farthing, one eighth of a penny. It would purchase a loaf of bread. The Queen Anne penny was a substantial coin 35mm across and 3mm thick, in today's measure: it would buy a jigger of gin (mother's ruin) so £10 was quite a substantial sum. The half farthing disappeared in 1902 and the farthing in 1960. The last minting was 1956, although the number minted was 1,996,800. Today a 1956 farthing is worth about £25 to coin collectors as so few survived the withdrawal from circulation. Relatively then it was a low volume minting.

The Pinafore song of Sir Joseph Porter KCB was Gilbert's Rory Bremner of W.H. Smith so the libretto is reproduced here but with a Monty version of the last verse to bring us up to date here in the village. Perhaps Lord Mandelson will in turn find his Fingalls Cave! Or should we write another song for Sir Joseph Porter KCB as aye Monty Banks.

***PAPERS – Early morning delivery of daily and Sunday newspapers, also magazines, comics etc. Tel. Mary 783585***

Sir Joseph Porter KCB introduced himself with this song in HMS Pinafore:

When I was a lad I served a term as office boy to an attorneys firm.  
I cleaned the windows and I swept the floor and polished up the knocker on the big front door,  
I polished that knocker so carefuller they made me the ruler of the Queen's Navee.

As office boy I made such a mark that they gave me the Post of a Junior Clerk  
I served the writs with a smile so bland and I copied out the letters in a big round hand  
I copied out the letters in a hand so free that they made me the ruler of the Queen's Navee.

At serving writs I made such a name that an articled clerk I soon became.  
I wore clean collars and a brand new suit for the Pass examinations at the Institute  
Those Pass examinations did so well for me they made me the ruler of the Queen's Navee.

Of legal knowledge I acquired such a grip they took me into the Partnership,  
That Junior Partnership I ween is the only ship that I ever have seen  
But that sort of ship so suited me that now I am the ruler of the Queen's Navee.

I became so rich that I was sent by Pocket Borough into Parliament  
I always voted my Party's call and I never thought of thinking for myself at all!  
I thought so little they rewarded me by making me the ruler of the Queen's Navee.

Now landsmen all whoever you may be and you want to rise to the top of the tree  
\*If your soul isn't fettered to a colour TV take the dog for a walk so it can have a pee,  
Sit tall in the saddle and never go to sea, so you  
all become rulers of the Queen's Navee!!  
\*apologies to WSG.

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**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL** – Charter for Older People. In October last year a charter setting out Suffolk's own set of rights for older people was signed. The Charter was put together by Suffolk's Older People's Strategic Partnership Board. It outlines the rights that older people in Suffolk are entitled to enjoy, the opportunities they should expect and the responsibilities and aspirations of those who provide their activities, services and support. The document can be seen in full on [www.suffolk.gov.uk/CareAndHealth/OlderPeople/PartnershipOlderPeople.htm](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/CareAndHealth/OlderPeople/PartnershipOlderPeople.htm). Roadshows to publicise the Charter will be held across the county.

**Thurlow School News.** ‘Join the Club’ would seem to be the mantra for this term at Thurlow School with many new activities being introduced over recent weeks. In addition to the well established after school tennis on a Monday and JAM (Jesus and Me) on a Thursday, children can now take part in recorder club (Tuesdays), Come and Make Music (Wednesdays), Dance Club (Thursdays) and Art Club (Fridays). This enhancement of the curriculum appears to be very well received with most activities being fully subscribed. School certainly isn’t what it used to be as I seem to remember I couldn’t wait to go home at the end of the day when I was that age! Visitors to the school have included a martial arts instructor who came in to give a basic martial arts class for all children on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January, whilst on the 28<sup>th</sup> all children were invited to take part in a Jazz Dancing session. Also this month a representative from the Sports Partnership came in to lead fitness sessions with Class 2 as well as awarding a class 3 pupil with a speed stacking award. Well done to all you active children for setting an excellent example to so many parents whose New Year’s resolutions to get fit may already be falling by the wayside. Finally, Class 3 have already embarked on a term’s musical tuition from choirmasters from St Edmundsbury Cathedral. This is part of the ‘Sing Up’ Chorister Project which will culminate in pupils taking part in a concert in the cathedral at the end of term. Thurlow is one of only four schools in the area to have been invited to take part in this project and rightly we feel very proud to be included. I look forward to giving you a future progress report in due course.

*Jean Newlands, Parent Governor*

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*W.I.* The January meeting of Thurlow WI began with new president Jill Steele welcoming all present and wishing them a Happy New Year. She thanked Anne Roberts for guiding us for the last three years. During December twenty one gifts were delivered to our over eighties and cards and letters were on show from the grateful recipients. The sum of £55 was raised in lieu of the exchange of Christmas Cards. This has been sent to help fund the supply of clean water in the African Countries.

Thanks are due to Pauline Crooks for producing the 2009 programme. Anne Roberts had attended the Resolution Meeting at Risby to hear this year's four chosen resolutions and to make an informed choice on which two were most worthy of going through.

Two members will go to Chevington to enjoy an Italian Day which includes lunch.

Our speaker was Rex Freeman on Growing Old Disgracefully. He gave an example of growing old gracefully which was so boring. When he retired he determined to try new hobbies, join clubs and take Saga Holidays to see more of Britain as well as continuing to play tennis and being involved in many music concerts. He urged us to keep going, get new interests and meet people of all ages and he was full of praise for our young people. Winners in the draw were Anne Patient, Ann Tipper and Pauline Crooks.

Next month it is Birdscape by Jeremy Mynott, our star speaker, 11th February in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. All bird lovers and others of both sexes are very welcome.

*Iris Eley.*

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**THE POST OFFICE AND VILLAGE SHOP** – We wish all our customers and villagers a prosperous New Year and, if you please, some savings can be made by doing some of your weekly shop in the Village Store. It saves petrol and we have the essential needs – if you are not a regular, give us a try. We have salt for the water softener and you can bank at the Post Office and use the cash dispenser for your needs if not through the Post Office Associated banks. We are handy for the I.D. photos for passports, driving licences and identity passes. The Post Office offers a range of financial services Tax free ISAs, Insurances on house, contents and road vehicles, well worth a quote when shopping round. First and second class postage rates increase by 3p on 6<sup>th</sup> April. Why not beat the crunch by putting some stamps into reserve at the current lower prices, it can be quite a saving. The new reverse designs on the 2009 issue coinage are coming into circulation. Get the children to draw a shield based upon a T shape 40mm across the top and 50mm on the stalk and join up the sides to the shape of a shield. Then place one of each value of coin around the perimeter and they will see the Royal Crest come to life. It is emblazoned complete on the reverse of the £1 coin.

*Monty and Patricia Banks*

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**LACKFORD LAKES** – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February World Wetlands Day Guided Walk, 10.30am to 12.30pm. £3. Pre book. 01284 728706. email [lackford.education@suffolkwildlifetrust.org](mailto:lackford.education@suffolkwildlifetrust.org).

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