

# Have you Heard.....?

Thornton Curtis, Burnham and District Newsletter

**April / May 2016**

## **Edition of Have you Heard...?**

Specifically for Thornton Curtis, Burnham & District compiled with news and events relevant to our community and surrounding area.

If you have any news or events which you wish to have publicised, call:

Marian 531558

Carole 531226

Peter 531252

or email:

enquiry@thorntonhuntinn.co.uk

**Deadline for next newsletter:**

**May 15<sup>th</sup> 2016**

## **Diary of Events**

### **St. Lawrence Church Services**

9.15am (communion) - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

**Church Open Days** - 1<sup>st</sup> Wed, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat, 4<sup>th</sup> Sun (9-4 pm)

### **Village Night**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month at Thornton Hunt Inn from 8.30pm.

A chance for you to meet your neighbours and members of our community for a drink and chat.

**4<sup>th</sup> April Parish Council Meeting**

**5<sup>th</sup> May Snake Davis and his Jazz Trio**

Tickets £16.50 per person. Please contact Marian

Weightman 01469-531558 or Carole Couch 01469-531226

**28<sup>th</sup> Oct Ceilidh by the Little Band**

Tickets £12.50 per person. Please contact Marian

Weightman 01469-531558 or Carole Couch 01469-531226

***This newsletter has been sent electronically to residents on the village database. If you would like your next issue this way please contact the Thornton Hunt Inn.***

***For your information: BT had been blocking this email over the last 3-4 issues. I believe this has now been resolved but if you are still not receiving the newsletter please contact BT.***

**It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Jim Newbigging on the 16<sup>th</sup> March after a long battle with cancer.**

**The thoughts and well wishes of the community go to Wendy, Carole, Chris and Ian and all other members of Jim's family.**

**The funeral service and committal will be held at Woodlands Crematorium, Scunthorpe on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 1.20 pm**

## **Parish News**

The next **Parish Council Meeting** is Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00 pm in the church.

Anyone is welcome to attend and bring ideas or comments to the attention of the council.

The much awaited **Snake Davis Concert** will be held in the church on **Thursday May 5th 2016**.

Tickets are £16.50 each which includes canapés during the interval and a fabulous concert by the Snake Davis Trio. There will be a bar and doors open at 7pm to begin the first session at 7:30pm.

Tickets are available from Marian 531558 and Carole 531226.

The eagle eyed amongst you will note that **May 5th** is also the date of the **Police Commissioner Elections** and the polling booths will be in the church...but in the porch area not in with the concert!

Just a gentle reminder to all dog owners. It is the responsibility of every dog owner to clean up after their pets and dispose of the waste in the correct places. We are having a few issues once again with one dog owner in particular who is leaving a lot of mess on a daily basis. The dog warden has been informed and the situation will be monitored. Everyone should be able to go for a walk in and around our village without having to sidestep dog waste. Please help to keep our environment healthy and clean for all to enjoy.

### The Bard of Burnham!!

When the Plum Tree Blooms

Oh little bird in the plum tree singing  
You have no idea of the joy you are bringing

x X x

Sing it loud because it is your spring little bird  
Go on sing it out loud like we have never heard

x X x

Oh little bird we sometimes catch a glimpse of your  
Breath against the cold but sunny morn  
Some people are still in bed but they are missing out  
On your vocals this hour of dawn

x X x

Oh little bird we thank you for your tunes  
And please remember to come back and nest here

When the plum tree blooms

x X x

John Hawker. Burnham

### St Lawrence Church News

Our thoughts and prayers also go to the family and friends of Rev Tony Cave who also passed away recently. Even though Tony had retired he came to our Church for a number of years and took our services with us. He was a lovely gentleman who will be greatly missed.

As many of you know we are still without a vicar and although we have been fortunate enough to have the services of a number of retired clergy of the last few years we are now experiencing some difficulty in finding one who is able to attend on a fortnightly rota as Rev David Martineau had been doing. David has decided it is time to reduce his workload and therefore will no longer be taking our services. He gave a great deal to Thornton Curtis and we were very lucky to have him for as long as we did.

On a more positive note we are still working closely with the Diocese to try to appoint a vicar who will be shared amongst six parishes. One sixth of a vicar is better than no vicar at all! We will keep you informed of progress.

**As many of you will already know sadly Gwen Farrow MBE has passed away. Gwen was a mainstay of our village for many many years and will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers go to her family at this sad time. We have included some of the eulogy given at her funeral service and written by her son John.**

I am going to tell you a life story that begins almost in another time. In a small country village in the fenland of east Lincolnshire, Yarburgh near Louth, at the time of mother's birth, was still very rural and relied on its farming community. Mum was born into a large farming family, being the youngest of 8 with 6 sisters and one brother and delivered by the local midwife who had come down the fen road as the church bells rang for evensong.

As a little girl growing up she was looked after by her sisters and spoiled, and adored by her aunts. She became a very advance little girl, starting in the one room school before she was 5 and soon became the teacher's pet. She loved reciting and acting in school concerts (these were traits that would come in very useful in later life)

This idyllic time at the village school came to an end with the school closing, then having to go to big school at Louth, but nothing daunted her and she soon passed her 11 plus to get into Louth Girls Grammar School and was given a new bike to get to Louth.

This must have been also a sad time, for my Grandma, who after bringing up the large Grasham family, died in her 50th year, when mother was only 11.

I do not think she enjoyed the grammar school very much, but did like English and History.

She left school at 15 as her sisters had left home and she was needed to look after grandpa.

With the war looming, and having met father who was about to go off to Palestine in the Sherwood Rangers Cavalry Regiment, she then had the idea that she would like to join the Armed Forces so in August 1940 she joined the A T S. After training in York, she saw service in NE England, Wales, Scotland and on front line on Sth Coast. I think she really enjoyed this time making lifelong friends who became aunts and uncles to us as children.

Father having got back to his farm at Frogmoor, Thornton Curtis in the summer of 1943, was still smitten with Gwen and they got engaged. 6 months later they married in January 1944 at St Giles Church Scartho. They decided to honeymoon in London, an odd choice in the light that London was in the middle of The Blitz, it's said that they spent more time in the underground at night than in their hotel, but they must have had a real good time, because 9months on from their holiday Gwen had her first son.

And so began a new chapter in her life still only 22, now a farmer's wife on a busy mixed farm, she brought with her an understanding of that way of life and a strong sense of community, caring about her village and having pride in the county of Lincolnshire.

She was never going to be a stay at home farmer's wife, even now having 2 little toddlers. In 1946 she joined the newly formed Thornton Curtis W I, in those days meeting at Thornton Hall in the old industry workshops under the 1st president Mrs Smethurst. Mum had great enthusiasm for the W I and in her 70yrs of being a member achieved a lot, this culminating in her being presented with an M B E by the Queen in the birthday honours list on June 1993. It has been said by a member that Gwen WAS Lincolnshire and Humberside W I.

With the retirement of grandpa Farrow from farming in 1948, the family and farming moved down to Thornton Abbey, and by 1953 our family was complete. I guess we were the famous 5!

She always said that the 30yrs she spent at the Abbey were her happiest years of her life, bringing up the family and being a busy farmer's wife in such a special place.

Other interests included the British Legion, attending London Cenotaph Remembrance day and being a keen poppy seller. When it came to fund raising she was a demon raffle ticket seller, you had to be very quick not to get caught!

Mother leaves a large family, the 5 of us and our partners, her 12 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren are a living legacy and she will be sorely missed....