

Have you Heard.....?

Thornton Curtis, Burnham and District Newsletter

August to October 2021 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:

Carole 531226
Peter 531252

Or email:
enquiry@thorntonhuntinn.co.uk

Diary of Events

St. Lawrence Church Services

Church services are the first and third Sunday of each month at 9am. Everyone is welcome.

Village Night

Cancelled until further notice.

Deadline for next newsletter:
October 15th 2021

Grimsby & Scunthorpe Telegraphy's

The Grimsby Telegraphy can be pre-ordered for any day(s)
Monday to Saturday.

The weekly Scunthorpe Telegraphy is available Thursday.

All papers can be paid for on a daily or weekly basis &
collected during pub opening hours.

To place an order, please get in touch.

Thornton Hunt Inn

Parish News

It is lovely to welcome all the new people to the village, many of whom have joined the village WhatsApp. If you know of any others who would like to be part of this very useful resource then please ask them to contact Rosie on 07795095270 and she will add them to the group.

Playing Field - The summer holidays will soon be upon us and children will be out and about playing. Hopefully next summer holidays the playing field will have some equipment in place for them to enjoy. Chloe and John are looking after the pieces we have so far and Ian will be repainting them sometime soon. The Parish Council have given the go ahead for me to enquire about a grant to purchase 6 more stepping stones, a swing and some rubber crumb for beneath the swing. The total cost will be in the region of £1,000 so fingers crossed. If everything goes to plan and the Parish Council are satisfied that all health and safety measures are in place then the equipment will be sited along the northern hedge together with a picnic table and a litter bin, leaving the centre free for football or other ball games. I will keep you updated.

The new footpath along Station Road is coming along nicely, and should be completed by the end of the year. Thank you to all those who have trimmed their hedges and overhanging trees, as this has made the job a lot easier and will enable the path to be reinstated where it has disappeared over the years. Now we have a path it is hoped more villagers will use it. Thank you to the Parish Council for their continued efforts over many years to have this project put in place.

The Community Speed Watch team is working really well with fewer motorists being caught during their sessions. Sadly, though, there are still many times when cars speed through our village, often the same offenders. With more volunteers we could have more teams out there so if anyone would like to join, contact our coordinator Graham Thomis on 07771718826.

Parish News

Parish Council. The next meeting is on Tuesday 7th September at 6pm. If anyone has any issues they would like to raise please contact the clerk Mrs Hoggard on 01652 688530

Living in a village can be a little lonely for some and especially during the strange times we've been living through recently but it gladdens the heart to see the help and support being given by quite a few folk to those who are perhaps struggling with their gardens, window cleaning, shopping and cooking. Well done Thornton Curtis, we may only be a few but we pull together when required.

The recently refurbished village seat looks lovely, thank you to Julian for the wood, Sue for the paint and Ian for renovating it. (The village notice board is in great need of attention if anyone would like to tackle it?!).

The Snow Warden is having a break for a month or two, having packed his snow shovel away with his anti-freeze and sacking! However, he will return, and in the interim he just reminds everyone to stay safe and plan journeys with care.

Followers of Snake Davis may like to look on YouTube and watch Snake perform two beautiful pieces using the superb acoustics in the church.

Church News

It is with great sadness we record the death of The Rev. Mike Page-Chestney on Thursday 15th July 2021. Mike and Sue supported our Church wonderfully during the 13 years without a permanent incumbent and he will be fondly remembered in the village. Our thoughts and prayers go to Sue and their family.

With the ripening of the corn we wish the farmers a fruitful harvest and keep our fingers crossed that we will be able to hold our Harvest Festival this year and the wonderful auction of produce afterwards. The money raised from such events helps us to keep our beautiful church open and in good repair. Sadly, due to Covid, we have been unable to fund raise but now with lockdown being removed we should be able to return to some sort of normality.

Message from our Vicar - Rev'd Peter Green

Robert Burns talked about the "the best made plans of mice and men"

Well, I don't know what plans the church mice have been making but the plans of the humans at church to get back to services without facemasks and social distancing and with singing in the services without having to stand outside were put back when the government decided to delay the easing of lockdown restrictions. However, one church member was heard to say we endured it for this long one more month won't make much difference. Sometimes we can be so wrapped up in our own worlds that we forget the bigger picture, this can be especially true when it comes to God we can get so wrapped up in our own lives that we forget the enormity of God and as the saying goes if you want proof that God has a sense of humour, just tell him your plans for the future. Here's to a time when we can live and worship without the hindrance of the virus.

Wildlife at the Abbey

Diamonds are girl's best friend or so the saying goes, but if you do not have any, pearls will have to do.

I do not mean cultured pearls or south sea oyster pearls, but pearls that may be growing in crustaceans near Thornton Abbey

These are freshwater swan mussels that live in our reservoir lake. They are not easily seen as they burrow in the mud and have a siphon tip exposed above the mud, through which they suck up to 2 gallons of water a day. Over a life span of 12 or more years they can grow to 6 inches; shells are quite thin and very mixed in colours from light tan to green and blue.

The broken shells on the bank are left by seagulls & cormorants. These dive in the lake, bring the mussels and break the shells to eat. Then you know you have them.

They tend to live in colonies and stay in one place in the water. This makes it easier for pearl hunting. You then have to go 6 to 10 feet down, dig in the mud and pick the right mussel and find the valuable pearl inside.

Secret British Resistance in Thornton Curtis

In great haste and in the utmost secrecy, in the summer of 1940 Britain established the Auxiliary Units the world's first resistance organisation ever to be established in advance of an invasion. The highly trained volunteers prepared to be Britain's last ditch line of defence during World War Two.

The Thornton Curtis Patrol included:

Sergeant **Thornton Farrow**

08 Jul 1886 - 20 Aug 1968

Farmer

Northfield Farm, Thornton Curtis,

Made to Sergeant 31st December 1942. Father of Charles Farrow.

Corporal **Samuel S. Hall**

10 Jan 1888 - 1955

Company secretary

North Street, Thornton Curtis

Made to Corporal 31st December 1942

Private **Charles Farrow**

22 May 1915 -

Cowman

Northfield Farm, Thornton Curtis

Son of Thornton Farrow

Private **Alfred Harriman**

11 Apr 1907 - 10 Oct 1987

Dairy farmer

Northfield Farm, Dam Lane, Thornton Curtis

Private **William Stanley Sergeant**

30 Dec 1885 - 07 May 1954

Farmer

Church Farm, Thornton Curtis

Not surprisingly, farmers and landowners, who knew their local landscape intimately, were considered a premium. Farmers were not only best placed to know the capabilities of their own workers, they were also able to select the best man for the job. Sometimes this would be the one who was the best mechanic. At a time when motor vehicles were still a novelty outside towns, it was often only farmers who had the mechanical knowledge to maintain tractors and, of more use to a resistance force, to damage them. Also, at a time of extreme fuel rationing, farmers could be sure of extra coupons and villagers would think nothing of tractors trundling back and forth.

As the immediate invasion crisis passed, the Auxiliary Units continued to expand and in July 1942 the Auxiliary Units received their own training manual. This guide to applied mayhem was a Top-Secret document and, considering that many Auxiliary Unit recruits operated under the cover of their reserved agricultural occupations, it was disguised as an agricultural supplies diary - The Countryman's Diary 1939. Its cover read 'Highworth's Fertilisers. Do their stuff unseen until you see RESULTS!'

A chapter included as an aid to calculate the precise amount of gelignite required to destroy a particular target ended, 'If in doubt, double the calculated charge!'

The Thornton Curtis Patrol stood down on 03 December 1944.

*With acknowledgements to Coleshill Auxiliary Research Team (CART) © 2009-2020 and
Resisting the Nazi Invader by Arthur Ward*