

# HAVE YOU HEARD

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THORNTON CURTIS AND BURNHAM



*'The season of mists and mellow  
fruitfulness'*

This certainly describes the season of autumn, symbolising abundance of crops and fruit, the beautiful misty mornings and the end of the harvest before preparing for winter. It's been a wonderful year weather wise and now we're thrown into the frantic preparations for the coming Christmas season. But before we go there, let's reflect upon some of the great things which have taken place in our wonderful community.



## VILLAGES IN BLOOM AND PLANTING AROUND THE PARISH

The winning of the Bronze award from the Villages in Bloom scheme was a real feather in our caps, and with all the extra bulbs that have been planted, organised this year by Phil, and more planters around the village provided by the Parish Council, alongside the continued support of BCCRP to help to maintain the station with the help of Ian and Carole, we are hoping for even greater results.



Having the involvement of children is a lovely asset to the scheme and there are plans afoot to provide some raised planters in the playing field for children to grow vegetables. There will be more news about this from Suze in the next newsletter.



The bulb planting was a wonderful community event involving so many, especially young children. The churchyard will look amazing in the spring.

The Parish Council is applying for a grant to purchase self watering planters and can also include some hay baskets or hanging baskets for people who would like one or two for next year to add to our Village in Bloom evidence. If you're interested in joining in or would like more information about the planters or baskets or have suggestions as to where they could be sited contact Phil Borrill 07956544485.



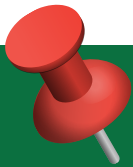
## REMEMBRANCE 2025



A big thank you to Tessa and Mary who have been adding to our magnificent display of poppies, ably assisted by Gilly who helped add the final few before Ian and Graham once again erected it over the lychgate.

It looks truly amazing this year and such a fitting reminder of all those of who gave so much for us.

The names of the fallen from the two World Wars were commemorated at the lychgate at 11 o'clock on Tuesday November 11th.



## NOTICE BOARD

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday January 5th 2026 6.30pm in the church and all are welcome.

Thank you for continuing to support the food bank by leaving donations in the container in the entrance to the church. Christmas will be particularly hard for some families so if you are able to pop some items in they will be gratefully received.

Ian has recently completed a training day to enable him to monitor and inspect the playground equipment and ensure it is always safe to use. If anyone notices anything untoward whilst in there playing, could they notify Ian immediately please.

if you would like anything including in the newsletter please contact Carole or Rachel , it's your newsletter and here for everyone.

A reminder that litter pickers and red collection bags are available for anyone wishing to help clean the hedgerows and pathways, and if a photo is taken to record the activity it can be included in the portfolio we are preparing for the Villages in Bloom 2026.

Someone will be missing a medium black fleece jacket Musto Snugs which was left in church after the harvest supper and auction. There was also a pair of tan gloves from the auction with it. Contact anyone from church to collect it.

Another reminder for new residents or for those who may not know , the village defibrillator is housed at the back of the Thornton Hunt. The Parish Council are in the process of ordering some signage for it to ensure public awareness.

## POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

Our local PCSOs have asked that we remind all residents to notify the police if they have a break in or notice anything suspicious and they will respond. Recently there were two incidents which were not reported for whatever reason.

We are very fortunate in our area that we have this support and both Richard and Oliver are really keen to support in every way they can.

**If it's a non emergency phone 101 or Richard's mobile 07464649809 (PCLawson) or 999 for urgent assistance.**

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## CHURCH NEWS

The latest news on the repair work of the finials and lightening conductors is that an inspection has taken place and we are now awaiting a start date.

That was the good news about the church.....however, since the harvest festival a large crack has appeared above the sink area and below the window which has moved the mullion about 12 mm and left the fixing rods loose. Ian has managed to extend the rods and refixed them, but the gap up the sides of the glazed panel needs pointing with lime mortar. We are seeking advice and will keep you informed.



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# CHRISTMAS



**\*\*Thank you to those who designed a Christmas card for the village, we will be reproducing them at the beginning of December and delivering to each household\*\***

There will be 'Carols around the Font' on Wednesday December 17th at 6.30 pm with mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies to maintain stamina for singing.

This is a free event to thank everyone for their continued support of the church and the community and all are welcome.



The **Christmas morning service** is at 9.30am and will be a communion service. Rev Pat Barlow will be joining us which is lovely.

If anyone would like to read or sing or take part in any way please contact Carole before December. Father Christmas always calls in and leaves gifts for the children attending the service but he does like advance notice to ensure he doesn't miss anyone. As he's so busy at this time of year he has asked Carole to collect the names and she'll pass them on to him and his elves.





## ON THE FARM



In a few weeks time Winter will be upon us; however, we can cherish the memory of a wonderful Autumn. It is a critical period on the farm as we harvest this year's crops and drill next year's. One could say, a double workload that relies on favourable weather and we have been blessed with a 'goldilocks' scenario....not too wet, not too dry, with benign temperatures conducive to healthy growth from freshly drilled seeds.

There is always a downside! This years cereal crops suffered from sustained dry weather from April to August compounded by poor root development...a product of a very wet 2024 Autumn, with yields 1 ton/hectare down on our 5 year average. Sadly, the laws of supply and demand do not apply selectively in the UK because wheat is a global commodity and what a small island off the North-West coast of Europe produces is of little consequence.

By comparison, root crops (potatoes and sugar beet) have delivered large yields. In the case of potatoes, we are not entirely sure what has caused the natural phenomenon of tuber enlargement continuing long after crops have been flailed to stop growth. Consequently, we are majorly over our predicted tonnage with boxes and storage difficult to source and, not least of our problems, the laws of supply and demand definitely do apply to potatoes!

Fortunately, the majority of our crops are grown on contract; however, there is a significant tonnage that will be subject to an overloaded market. It does beg the question as to why the UK imports 500,000 tons of frozen chips from Belgium when the country is more than capable of being self-sufficient.

Finally, I return to a subject mentioned a few months ago...Inheritance Tax. An utterly foolish policy, due to be implemented next April, but with consequences already arising in farming and family businesses beyond agriculture. No one is investing in their businesses because there is little confidence in the future and because any improvement or expansion will, inevitably, be subject to taxation. Sales of concrete, generally viewed as a benchmark of business activity are at their lowest for 60 years.

Moreover, within the context of Agriculture, farming wealth is contained within its principal asset, the land, from which it earns a very meagre return and which has now become a financial millstone. The government has yet to grasp the distinction between wealth and income.



## FROM THE SNOW WARDEN



The final word comes from your Snow Warden, as he prepares for the dark months ahead and perhaps some severe weather. Standing water and pot holes are current hazards which are causing great concern. He's particularly concerned about the driving during the dark and perhaps icy evenings . He has a few tips to keep us all safe. Allow extra time to clear frost and condensation from windscreens before setting out and ensure the screen wash is topped up. Check all your lights are working correctly and the glass is clean, and when the weather is bad take your time , slow down and keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front. In and around the village keep an eye on elderly friends and neighbours and offer help with shopping and clearing driveways should the weather deteriorate. Wear something bright when out walking or cycling and remember...stay safe.

**We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to writing to you in 2026.**