

THRUXTON TIMES

JANUARY 2010
(Editor : John McKenzie 772788)

Dates for your Diary

Thurs Jan 14 Art Group in Hall (see para.)
Sun Jan 17 **Magic Tea Party** (see para.)
Wed Jan 20 W.I. in Hall (see para.)
Wed Jan 27 Gardening Club (see para.)
Wed Feb 3 Parish Council : Hall 7.30pm

This issue is being prepared with **SNOW** falling, roads blocked, dire warnings not to go out, and so on; BUT we shall proceed, in the hope that our dear readers will get their copy, sooner or later. Sorry if it's "later".

Don't forget **The Magic Tea Party** in the Hall on Sunday 17th Jan. from 4-6pm. This is for all children who have parents or grand-parents living in the Parish. More details in last month's issue, and on notice-boards.

The Hall Trustees regret that the **12th Night Party**, on 6th Jan....which was a complete sell-out...had to be cancelled (yes, weather) but there is a good chance that it will be re-organised for a date in the Spring. w.t.s.

The Carols by Candlelight service in the Church was an excellent event, and the subsequent donation from the PCC to the Andover Crisis centre, of £229.90, was, like the Remembrance Sunday result, well above the previous year. Thanks to all.

W.I.REPORT Instead of a formal meeting in December we enjoyed a lovely meal at THE GEORGE, which got us in the festive spirit. We have a full programme of events for 2010, starting with our Jan.meeting on Wed.20th at 7.30pm when Mr.Gregory will start the year off with an illustrated talk on "**Fun with Notices**". Any visitors are assured of a warm welcome, so why not come along and find out more about the W.I.

Library teas (and the Van) were cancelled on Jan.6th so the next fixture should be **Jan 20th**. Still only £1.20 for as much tea/coffee and home-made cake as you can consume in an hour. The Van is in attendance from 3.10 to 3.35pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy a chat with friends and neighbours.

Singing for Fun will recommence on Thurs. 14th Jan, with another session on 28th Jan. all at 2pm in the Machin Room (Hall) .

If you enjoy singing do come and join us. Enthusiasm, not vocal prowess is what is needed. £1.50 per session
Details on all the above from Julia 771625.

Village Association This year's Fête will take place on Sun.June 6th, and planning is about to start. The committee is very small and could do with a few extra members, particularly as, this year, we hope to run a **Flower Show** as well. If the latter event goes ahead it will probably be held on Sept. 12th in the Village Hall. If you can spare a few hours over the coming months please do give Richard Ward a ring on 771625.

At the **SCHOOL** the last week of term saw the departure, to semi-retirement, of Mrs. Jackie Glover, who had been head since 2004. The staff organised an external event at which Mrs.Glover received a presentation: then on the last day there were further presentations from Governors, parents, and pupils. Mrs.Glover said it was "a superb school" and her years there had been the highlight of her teaching career. She now hopes to pursue some other academic work. Coincidentally there was an OFSTED just before the end of term and the verdict of the notoriously tough examiners was " a good School with outstanding features" Not a bad valedictory for Mrs.Glover and a great encouragement.

Gardening Club Our next meeting will be in the Hall on Wed. Jan 27 at 7.30pm.

Our speaker will be Mr.Kelvin Mason, who will talk on **Bedding Plants and Annuals**, so gear yourselves up for another gardening year – it will soon be Spring !

(You heard it from Gill first. Ed.)

Thruyton Art Group Our painting sessions start on Thurs. Jan, 14th at 7pm in the Machin Room, and then again on Thurs. the 28th. If you are a budding artist do come along and join our friendly group.
More info from Gill on 772896.

A WARNING from Neighbourhood Watch. Beware of any call from Jamaica where you are told that you have won money in the lottery. The callers pretend to be lawyers or Bank officials to persuade people that they are genuine. However they ask for fees up front to to pay for taxes or processing fees. They are very persuasive and have got people to pay large sums of money. **DO NOT CO-OPERATE WITH THEM IN ANY WAY.** Ring **CRIMESTOPPERS** on 0800 555111 and report their call .

Jeremy Bally 772896.

Parish Council EXTRAORDINARY meeting

This was on Tuesday 5th January, to consider response to the latest (3rd) application to use land at Thrupton Down as “**Travelling Showpeople’s Quarters**”.

The fact that about fifty people, apart from the Councillors, turned out on a decidedly bleak, snowy evening, seemed to reflect the agitation generated by this scheme. Charles Milner-Williams chaired the meeting, with Councillors Davis, Phillipson, Foynes, and Bradbury in attendance. The Chairman asked for a “well-behaved meeting “...and got it. The applicant, Mrs.Connors-Squires, addressed the gathering and accepted that applications such as hers, no matter where, always seemed to attract strong opposition. She sought to allay the worries about noise, expansionism, and detriment to the environment. Mr.Alan Leslie led for the objectors. The site was in open countryside, bounded by active farmland. Such a development would directly go against the Borough Plan. There were suitable “brown – field” sites available. Mr.Campbell-Johnstone, who farms in the area pointed out that adjacent land is used for training young horses. “An urban semi-industrial activity “ close by is totally inappropriate. Mr.Brian Mellor pointed out that the two previous applications had been turned down unanimously, and this one,if anything, seemed bigger. Mr.Gordon Brockman, emphasising the fact that there are now to be **three families**, each with a large caravan, referred to a similar site, which he passes regularly, as an absolute “eyesore “. Mrs.Connors-Squires, responding, agreed that that particular site was badly run, but sought to reassure the meeting that there need be no worries on that score at Thrupton Down, were she to obtain planning permission. All present were informed that, as this is a new application, previously lodged objections are disregarded. **Do not assume that comments on the previous applications will be carried forward to this one. They will not be.** Mrs. Connors-Squires continued to field the objections - there would not be storage of fuel,except in the vehicles’ fuel tanks. There would be no need for generators as Southern Electric would be laying on a supply. There was a frequently expressed fear in the Hall that conditions laid down by TVBC in granting permission (if so) would simply not be enforced. Several speakers quoted examples of this. Finally, the Chairman declared that the Parish Council would now

have an open deliberation and vote. One by one the Councillors summarised their reactions to the application. There was respect for the evident sincerity of the applicant, and her courage in coming, unsupported, into the bear-pit. But in each case the final view was that, whatever the merits of the application *per se*, it was just in “**the wrong place**”. Hence unanimous decision to oppose. John Davis and Charles Milner-Williams would complete the necessary formal papers in time for the 8th January deadline.

The keenly anticipated **Twelfth Night Party** was another victim of the weather, but Chris Rome is hoping that a date can be found **in the Spring**. Usually the **Village Quiz Results** are announced at this gathering, but here they are :- Prizes to Rich & Denise Head 90 : J.Bally 89 : Steve Davis 87. Honourable Mentions to Chris Rome 81: Gillian Whiting 80 ½ : Claire Nash 80; Whittingtons 78 ½ . Contact John Davis for prizes 772711. He comments that 154 Sheets were bought, and this is highest so far. All surplus goes to Hall funds. Thanks to all who took part.

We are asked to note, even at this early stage, that the next **Progressive Dinner Party** will be held on Saturday April 24th. (Jeremy 772896)

It has been drawn to Editorial attention that this is the time for **RESOLUTIONS** and my contributor lists the following features (in no particular order) of our Village life : Art Group; W.I (90 this year) ; Exercise groups: Village Association: Parish Church : Village Hall ; Mothers& Toddlers The Sports Group : Bridge Club : The Parish Council : Table Tennis Club. Gardening Club: Allotments association .Parent/Teacher Assocn. Bound to have missed something out, but not intentional ! The point is, if we could all try to support some of these (or even all) it would do wonders for our communal life. Most get covered here but don’t hesitate to phone the Editor for info., or Margaret Davis on 2711.

Weather etc. Those of us (**me**) who like to think we can second-guess Mother Nature, and confidently assert that the Stream will not rise until early January are suitably chastened when it jolly well rises on 5th December. Any bets when it goes dry again. I’ll say July (never learn). About 25 years ago, passing Bridge Cottage, we observed icicles shaped like swords and 3 feet long hanging from the eaves. Must have been pretty cold ! As our girls were quite young we amused them by breaking one off, and kept it in the freezer till we got tired of it.