

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TEAM

Parish Council Office
New Green Avenue
Thurston IP31 3TG



Tel: 01359 232854

e-mail: thurstonnpsg@hotmail.com

THURSTON – PAST, PRESENT ... AND FUTURE

It has been 15 years since the publication 'Aspects of Village Life' was published to celebrate the millennium, so if you are new to the village, you may enjoy this light hearted insight into village life of Thurston, past, present and future!

Did you Know?

In 1676 there were 190 adults living in 40 dwellings mainly around the Great Green area. In 1801 Thurston had a population of 354 which doubled in 50 years to 790 residents in 1851, the reason: the railway had come to Thurston in 1846. Today there is a population of around 3250 spreading from Great Green /Church Road (the original centre) to Heather Close/Mere Farm.

The Victoria dates from around 200 years ago evolving from beer house to coaching house, with the Fox and Hounds being built to enhance the life of the railway travellers somewhere around 1846. The Black Fox, one of the many beer houses to be found around Great Green, remained in the ownership of one family from the mid-1800 until its closure in 1991. **Did you know** that the brewing of beer was often done by the women of the village?

The Women's Institute began in 1919 meeting at the new village hall (Cavendish Hall - 1912) whilst the Mothers Union of St Peter's Church began in 1898. These organisations supplemented incomes, created more formal social occasions and gave many voluntary hours to enhance the lives of the residents during the World Wars.

Interesting Facts:-

- An earlier Recreation Ground used a horsebox as the pavilion which was substituted in 1921 (when the present Ground was purchased from St Peter's Church) by a trench with enclosed corrugated iron fence surrounding the same.
- The National School was started in 1869 (now the present church primary school).
- When St Peter's Church tower collapsed in 1860, all five bells remained intact (the ones you hear today).
- The Methodist Church built in 1872.
- Thurston had a sweetshop in 1930 together with five coal merchants.
- In 1940 there were 15 steam trains a day taking troops to Bury St Edmunds.
- In 1941 there were 77 resident farm workers (13% of the village population)
- The piggery became The Hambros
- In 1963 the Parish Council were discussing the need for integrated sewage connections, street lighting and a footpath along Barton Road.

The Future

As you can see, the village has seen enormous changes; the invention of steam railways being a huge catalyst for change, together with the two World Wars and the car. We have new challenges in 2015: population growth and increased health issues, the cost of housing and the effect of internet shopping on our roads. You will be aware of the Neighbourhood Planning Team who is committed to addressing these future challenges and we ask for your continued engagement as we formalise the results of the village surveys within our local planning document whilst looking to the needs of 21st Century Thurston.