



DECEMBER 2020 TABLET

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First memories of the Thursford Collection - We asked some of you to give us your first memories of the Museum. Here they are:

"I can remember when the museum first opened, possibly in the early seventies, when the focus was on the traction engines, many of which were operational back then. On Sunday mornings we were led from one fairground organ to the next and they played a tune on each of them. And you used to see George Cushing driving around the vicinity in his elderly Morris Minor. Not a flashy modern car as one might have expected, given his status".

"My Dad used to fill a bus full of British Legion members every year to go to the Thursford Carol Concert. It was a key date in the yearly calendar in the village of North Elmham. If the Canaries were playing at home that day it was a struggle to fit both events in, but neither would have been missed for the world!"

"When the organs started it was a working farm. At first, they did not start playing until half past three so it did not clash with Chapel, Cars parked all the way down the Street on the side of the road. Once when we came back from Chapel we could not get into Lower Farm because a coach was parked in the yard! We could not get in to milk the cows!"

"In the 1960s word got around that there were some fairground organs at Thursford. They were played after Chapel on Sunday afternoon. Many times, we had been visiting family and not been able to get home with three tired children, as cars and sometimes coaches were blocking Clarks Lane. A lot of money was collected in the tins for Cancer Research."

"When the Church tower was in need of repair, Miss Ellicot (chief organiser at Thursford who also ran the St. John's - this was in the Old School Hall) arranged a rota to make scones and cake and serve them in the hall. Margaret Ross and the St John cadets helped with the teas. it was very popular and a good boost to funds."

"In 1977 a charitable trust was set up to preserve the collection, it was in a barn with a big corrugated iron door and a dirt floor, much has changed but the main auditorium is still in the same place."

“Before the Museum car part was made, at Sycamore Corner there was a meadow. There was a cricket pitch there. This was where the Thursford village team played”.

One Sunday evening about 35 years ago just before Christmas, a blizzard sprung up! The road quickly filled with snow. There were only a few coaches at the Museum but they were unable to get out. We spent an hour and a half on tractors trying to clear the road. The Mitchell family met the Plumbly family half way from the Crawfish end. Some cars got pulled away safely but the coaches decided to stay overnight in the end.”

Eds note: Thanks to contributors - Mark, Hazel, Mary, Heather, Bryan, Kevin and Di.

Budgens in Holt re-invents itself

In June, Budgens in Holt, which had served the town for more than 30 years, was burned down in a devastating fire, caused by an electrical fault. The blaze left the town with no supermarket with the nearest ones being in Sheringham, seven miles away and Fakenham. Now, a new ‘pop-up’ store has opened in the town to provide a stop-gap while a replacement Budgens is built on the site of the old. The temporary store, which is about half the size of the original Budgens and located in its carpark is expected to operate for around 15 months but will retain planning permission until January 2022.

A Very Different Race for Life with Sylvia, Jan and Sherri for Cancer Research U.K.

As it has been impossible to organise the usual big events for Cancer Research U.K. this year because of COVID the charity’s income has been drastically reduced. So, Sylvia, Jan and Sherri decided to register and walk along the coastal path starting at Blakeney to raise some money. This was especially to thank the Oncology staff at the Colney Centre at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and to remember all those undergoing radiotherapy during the first lock down including Steve, as well as all those who have had their treatment or surgery postponed because of the virus. Steve and Sylvia’s daughter set up a Just Giving page the ladies reached their target of £500 on 14th November including Gift Aid. The walk took place in September - well done ladies!

We asked you to let us know what some of your favourite Christmas present memories are...

“Well, it had to be Mr Potato Man. He came in a small box with colourful plastic features to prod into a potato – shoes, arms, hat, ears and so on. The potato was not included in the box but I had no problems with selecting the largest jacket in the store cupboard. Mr Potato Man arrived via the chimney. Great fun.”

“My memory is a bit sad. I remember the first year of WW2 that my Christmas pillow slip was much less exciting than the one Santa had brought the previous Christmas, just a few bits and pieces and a couple of pairs of hand knitted gloves. Not until years afterwards did I discover how my mother had wept as she was filling it.”

“I worked for a few years for the toy factory Peter Pan. They invented Plasticine over 100 years ago. Plasticine is the perfect modelling material for children of all ages! It never dries out and it can be mixed to make new colours! I loved it!”

“Does anybody remember the Trix Twin? An amazing, if you are a young lad (which I still am at heart) three rail system, which enabled you to run two trains independently on the same track. There it was on Christmas Day, all set out by my father on a green baize board, complete with a conveyor which moved coal from a hopper to feed the trains in a siding. The extra joy was to find out after Christmas that Trix Twin had gone bust that year. The

company's sad loss was my gain. The local toy shop was crammed with bottom basement priced accessories, just within the scope of carefully saved pocket money!"

"I remember my favourite Christmas present which I received when I was 3 or 4. It was a sweet shop which my mother had made out of hardboard painted white. It had a counter which came up to my waist and a unit of shelves behind with my name painted on the top. My father had a friend who worked for Mars so the shop was well stocked with all sorts of sweets. Needless to say, it was very popular with friends who came round to play!"

"My memory of receiving my first bike for Xmas is the only one that remains from my childhood. That might be so because I recently found photos of me being overwhelmed by that gift."

Eds note -Thanks to contributors: Anne, Bev, Chris, Jan, Amrei and Di.

End of a Year 1942 Continuing my family history research, I came across a very interesting cutting from the Crusader – a paper published for those at war in the desert. "Nineteen forty-two is just about finished. Twelve solid months of desert fighting have gone down in the book as a record of one of the strangest battles in history; a record of men and machines, of a defeat that turned into a victory. And then one memorable day we saw the Prime Minister, he came right to the front. Winnie with his sunshade and big cigar. He made us all feel better." The article has a photograph of a soldier taking the Christmas cakes out of the oven. The oven is the desert sand!

A message from Kerry Food Production Club Chairman on plans for 2021

It has been a most unusual year for the Food Production Club - and everything else! - but I hope that you have all had some success with your growing efforts. As I write, we do not know exactly what the next year will hold, but we are ever optimistic from the Food Production point of view. It is the 80th Year since we started (as part of the 1941 Dig for Victory Campaign) and we had planned to make it exceptional - for all the right reasons! And we are still hopeful. For all those of you who renewed during 2020, your membership has been extended until the end of 2021. (If you're not sure whether you renewed, please get in touch). As always, if anyone has any thoughts on events or activities, please do let me know, and if you would like to join our committee, we would be delighted to have you. The Club has already worked out its programme and the Schedule for the Annual Show on 24th July. Friday 26th March, 6pm – 8pm: combined Social, Seed and seedling Swap, including our 10 minute AGM: venue to be confirmed in the next Newsletter. Time to (hopefully) meet up, to exchange any extra seeds and seedlings we may have, to have a bit of a social. The AGM will happen at 6.05pm and be finished by 6.15pm (latest – we're very quick: we just need to vote in officers to the committee for the next year and to confirm the accounts). The date for the Annual Plant Sale has been set for 6th May 2021.

Very Berry Year



What a season it has been for the abundance of berries! It's a well-known

saying that an abundance of berries spells a hard winter. However not necessarily the case – it is more usually a result of a good pollination year. Berries will disappear overnight. The bird berry eaters mostly our own two Thrushes, Blackbirds (including the continental ones) and Scandinavian Redwing and Fieldfare often in flocks will rob a tree of all its berries at either end of the day. A lot of fruit can then drop too and the rodents will then plunder the fallen harvest - rats, voles and mice - all excellent climbers and tending to be nocturnal. Foxes are also known to eat low lying fruit or where easy climbing is possible.

Pic - Sherri

Our Fakenham Medical Practice leads the way...in a message from the surgery...

“We are very pleased to announce that Fakenham Medical Practice has been chosen as a Wave 1 go early site for Norfolk with regard to administering the COVID-19 vaccine produced by Pfizer BioNtech. Our expected delivery date is Monday 14 December. This means that the first dose can be given that week with the second dose being given the week commencing Monday 4 January. In the first cohort we are to vaccinate all over 80s who are ambulant i.e. can come to the practice. As this is very short notice, we will be calling the over 80s this week to book an appointment for next week and the week commencing 4 January. Please ensure you can attend both appointments when offered your appointment slot. We will only get a delivery of 975 vaccines. As we have more than 1000 over 80-year-old patients we have clinically prioritised each patient, so please do not be alarmed if you do not receive a call from us. All calls will be made by 1800 on Friday 11 December. You will be contacted for our next batch of deliveries as soon as we know the date. The clinic times are Tuesday 12-3pm, Wednesday 12-3pm, Thursday 12-2pm and Thursday 5.30-7.30pm. As you can imagine this is very time intensive and we will not be taking any bookings if patients call us. We will be diverting staff to make these calls so you may experience longer wait times on the phone if you are calling for a routine appointment so please use the online system to send in a form where possible. We are very excited and proud to be given this opportunity to be able to start vaccinating our patients earlier than planned and our staff are looking forward to welcoming you to the practice to receive the vaccine.”

Eds notes: Thanks to the excellence of the team at Fakenham Medical Practice we are now at a big advantage. We will not have to make the journey to the NNUH for vaccination. Secondly, if the NNUH is inundated with COVID cases after Christmas this could adversely affect their vaccination programme.

News from our friends Jill and Maurice Perry formerly of Clarks Lane. “Just to let you know that on June 3rd we moved from Wells-Next-Sea to North Creak” Jill said “Bit hairy during lockdown but we did it and have been renovating ever since. Beginning working from home in the New Year.” Maurice and Jill run Norfolk Decorative Lighting providing Antique Chandeliers and Antique Lighting to clients in the UK and internationally.

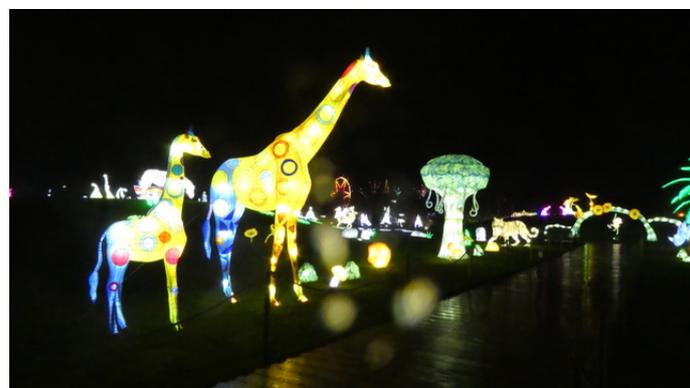
Charities who have benefited from Thursford Residents support. Thanks to everyone who supported Chris and Di in their Charity raising efforts, Chris raised £200 from his

delightful pen making efforts. This will go to Crisis at Christmas. Di raised £90 from her Christmas Wreath making. This will go to Tapping House the Norfolk Hospice at Hillington.

A visit Thursford's Enchanted Journey of Light We passed through the Engine Room and delighted in all the moving animals. We then went through the Light Show and onto the Balloon and Spinning Stall (Father Christmas's house was safely locked). We then went out into the tunnel of light with the fairground rides and stalls and on to the most incredible parkland of animals, flowers, trees and birds and into Ice World. Well done to Thursford for completing such a complex project so successfully. A treat for any age. For a really good look at the Enchanted Journey go to www.thursford.org.uk
<http://www.thursford.org.uk/news-1.html#news1>

Thursford was featured on "Songs of Praise" on Sunday 13th December and how lovely that was.

Pic - Chris



COVID Research work

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funded research project based at the University of Southampton is looking to recruit members of the public to take part in a large-scale survey on the preventative behaviours people are taking to avoid catching COVID-19 and the long-term effect of those that have suffered from COVID-19 during the pandemic. To make findings as meaningful as possible, the Research Team are hoping to get a broad range of participants from across the UK. This is the link to the survey: <https://pharma.unige.ch/limesurvey/index.php/326544?lang=en>.

Dr Richard M Clarke. *Research Fellow (RTO Covid-19 project), Primary care, Population Science and Medical Education Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton*

Listen in to Carols recorded in Thursford at St Andrews

In our November Tablet we featured on the fabulous music of Teresa Williams and Ervin Munir. Ervin hosts Rock The Lobster music nights (currently Facebook Live sessions twice a month), works with Playing for Cake (www.playingforcake.uk) and is in a band called Cutting the Mustard (www.cuttingthemustard.band). He is a singer, guitarist, songwriter and producer. Teresa is a pianist and plays mostly as an accompanist. She also does musical direction of events and coaches singers. Teresa, Ervin and their musical friends have enjoyed many a happy Saturday afternoon playing in St Andrews. They have now, very kindly, put together a Carol Concert for the village. You will find it on the village website www.thursford.org <https://youtu.be/9IDqyVoioa8>



[Thursford Church Carols Dec 2020](https://youtu.be/9IDqyVoioa8)

A selection of traditional Christmas carols

[youtu.be](https://youtu.be/9IDqyVoioa8)

Recommended Ramble - great late year walk around Blickling. Starting point (NR11 6NT) is the main car park near to Blickling Hall, go due north from here then turning right (Weavers Way) to track along the north side of the lake and continuing around the side of the Hall and back to where you started. In all just over an hour. If you fancied something more challenging then you would turn left once through the field along Weavers Way and through the wood and onwards to Buck Common and the Tower. Continue until you return to the Main Car Park. Muddy Boots Café is near the main car park so provides an opportunity for some refreshment either inside or outside. Toilets too. Things to

spot on the way – magnificent oak trees. History of Blickling Hall – it was the home of the Boleyn family The present house was designed in 1616, and was built on the site of the original hall owned by Sir John Falstaff.



St Andrews News

There will be a Eucharist Service on Christmas Day at 11.00 at St Andrew's. A small work party has been meeting over the past few weeks to clear up and tidy the churchyard, cutting back undergrowth, clearing dead wood, strimming nettles etc. ready for the Spring. We hope to get the overgrown hedges cut back in the New Year.

Leaflets are being distributed in the village to all households to thank everyone for their help with the now completed St Andrews project. This is a massive achievement for a small community. Incredible to think that just 10 years ago St Andrews was an "At Risk" church and now it has wonderful facilities and is in tip top condition as well. A future plan the church has is to provide lighting along both sides of the path leading down to the church entrance. The Quinquennial inspection of the church is due soon, and as always its an anxious time. The inspection will flag up any repairs works needed on the church. Let's hope for a "clean bill of health!".

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS RELEASE - 10 December 2020

Stick to Tier 2 restrictions to Protect Norfolk

Public health, local government, health services and blue light officials across Norfolk have urged people not to be complacent, remember the tier two guidelines and continue to work together to help stop the spread of coronavirus during this festive season. Following the second national lockdown, infections have been plateauing across the county but there are signs that they may be beginning to rise again. The hope provided by the beginning of the vaccination programme has raised optimism but the surge prior to lockdown should remind everyone that people must not become too relaxed in many areas of their daily life. Everyone wants to enjoy Christmas but the best way for everyone to do that safely is to stick to the Tier 2 guidelines and for people to support businesses in a responsible way.

Dr Louise Smith, Director of Public Health for Norfolk, warned: "Dr Louise Smith, Director of Public Health for Norfolk, warned: "The lock down has brought some benefit to the figures in Norfolk and they have

returned to those now similar to pre lockdown levels. This is good progress but we are at a pivotal moment for the county on where we go next in our fight against the virus. "I'm concerned that people might feel they are keeping to the rules, but that they might be following Tier 1 restrictions, not Tier 2. The greatest risk for the spread of infection is mixing between households and I worry that people are meeting up in groups of six in homes and in shops and restaurants. In tier 2 households cannot mix in restaurants, and pubs and bars must close unless they are operating as restaurant. We all want to support our local businesses, to comply with the Tier 2 rules, as the rules that are there to keep us all safe. The best support we can give to these businesses is to keep to the guidelines when we visit, so they as a business can confidently meet the Covid guidelines. I know that many people, businesses and organisations have found it tough over the last few months but the restrictions are there to stop the virus from spreading. The measures are in place to protect everyone and we must remember this. Only by working together can we protect Norfolk."

The seven-day incidence of the virus in Norfolk for the week to December 4 was 99 per 100,000, up from 94 the previous week. There are currently 226 people being treated in hospitals in Norfolk and Waveney, up from 182 the previous week.

Cllr Andrew Proctor, Chair of the Local Engagement Board and Leader of Norfolk County Council, said: "Christmas is fast approaching, and rules will be relaxed for five days, so we need to think about our actions now so that we can reduce the risk as much as possible over the festive period. Do not forget that regardless of this relaxation, the Tier Rules – currently Tier 2 – still apply. Please do keep supporting our local businesses and enjoying the build up to Christmas but do this in a safe way – keep making space, observe social distancing, cleaning your hands and wearing a mask". We can still celebrate but we need to do it differently this year.

As a result of reports and feedback, this Friday (11 December 2020) between 5pm and 9pm, local authority Environmental Health Officers, Covid support staff and neighbourhood police officers, will be making visits to a number of venues in each district, to offer additional advice and guidance and make their expectations clear around the restrictions. They will be looking to engage, explain and encourage people to adhere to the guidelines but where this fails they may take enforcement action where it is proportionate to do so.

District statistics - Rates per 100,000 for the week to December 4 (previous week in brackets):

- Breckland: 72 (62); Broadland: 102 (125)
- Great Yarmouth: 126 (86); King's Lynn and West Norfolk: 93 (86)
- North Norfolk: 70 (85)
- Norwich: 122 (122); South Norfolk: 111 (99)

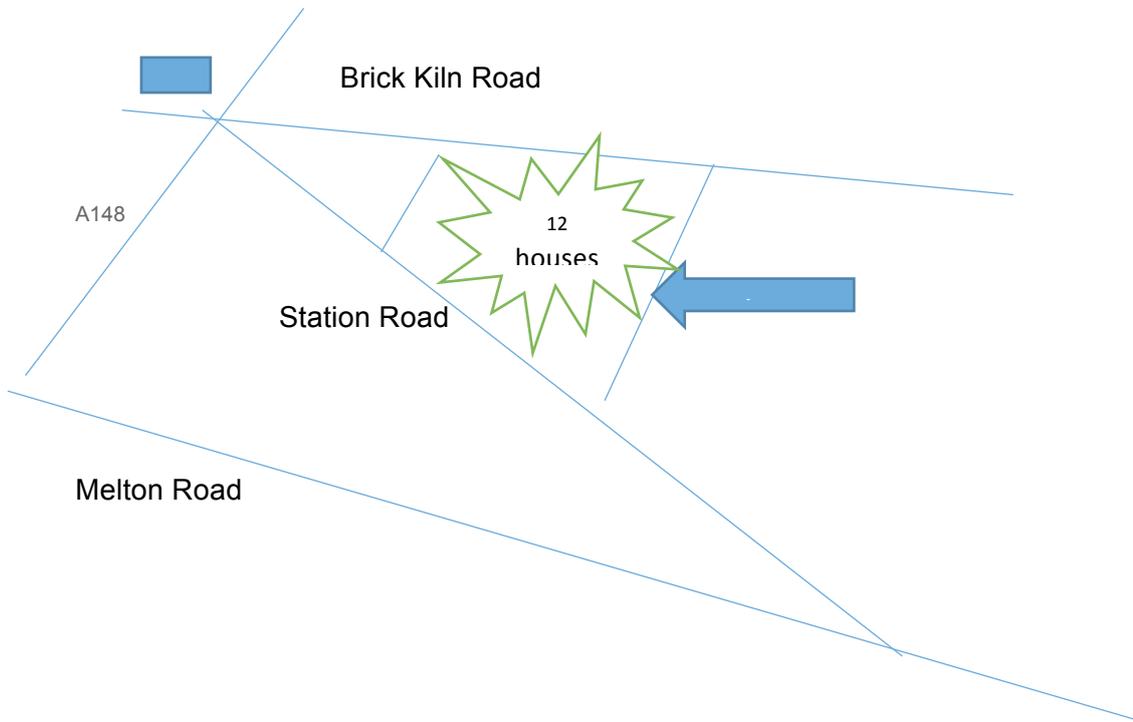
At the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th December 2010

Council votes to increase precept by £750 The Parish Precept is the money the Parish Council asks the District Council to collect annually from the householder council tax bill. Once collected by the District Council it is passed back to the Parish Council to help them run the services in the parish. The expenses of the Parish Council have been rising over the last couple of years and so the increase was seen as necessary.

Red Horsechestnut trees on village green likely to be felled Following a tree inspection the trees were seen as dangerous. It is likely that the one nearest the Street will have to be felled where the one to the south could be partially saved. The work will cost a lot of money and so councillors asked for a second quote to be obtained. The trees were planted in 1953 to mark the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. There was some discussion about whether or not replacement trees should be planted in the same area where the roots could be diseased. Further advice would be taken on the matter.

Differences of views on the new proposed affordable housing scheme in Thursford North

Norfolk District Council have been contacted by a landowner who has put forward through a developer a scheme to build 12 houses in Thursford. The development, in the countryside, would be permitted under what is known as the “Affordable Housing in the Countryside” Policy. What makes the scheme viable are two things: The houses would be secured, in perpetuity, for those applicants with a local connection although its likely that two of the 12 houses built would be sold on the open market. Secondly with such developments the landowner receives £10,000 per plot, far less than the cost of a building plot but equally far more than the current agricultural value of the land. The scheme planned is on a triangle of land between Station Road and Brick Kiln Road. There were varying views among Parish Council members and it was agreed to consult with the community before making any formal decision about the proposal. Please let one of your councillors know what you think of this scheme or let the editor know and your views will be forwarded to the Parish Council.



Highway Rangers visiting at the beginning of January. The Rangers do all sorts of jobs such as clearing the gutters of leaves, washing signs and repairing potholes. Please let the Parish Clerk know of any work which needs to be done in your area.

New village website is now fully accessible. Thanks were given to Chris who had worked hard to bring the site up to date with recent legislation requirements. Most usefully you can now see the website fully on any device you have.

Village Green Archway. Planned as a project to commemorate the Great War, it is hoped that the archway will be erected in the Spring. It will stand against the wall of the Old School.

Thursford Tablet is published by Thursford Parish Council, currently mid-monthly. Contributions to the Tablet are welcome by the Editor Di Dann didann@outlook.com

For your views on the Affordable Housing Scheme or any other parish matters contact the Parish Clerk Kerry Harris, Tel 01328 822583 kerry_thursfordpc@yahoo.com

Please remember if you need help at this challenging time Thursford Assist (TA) has been set up to temporarily support our residents in need. Whether its occasional shopping, dog

walking or collection of medicines given them a call! Please telephone 01328 878476 or 07826067935