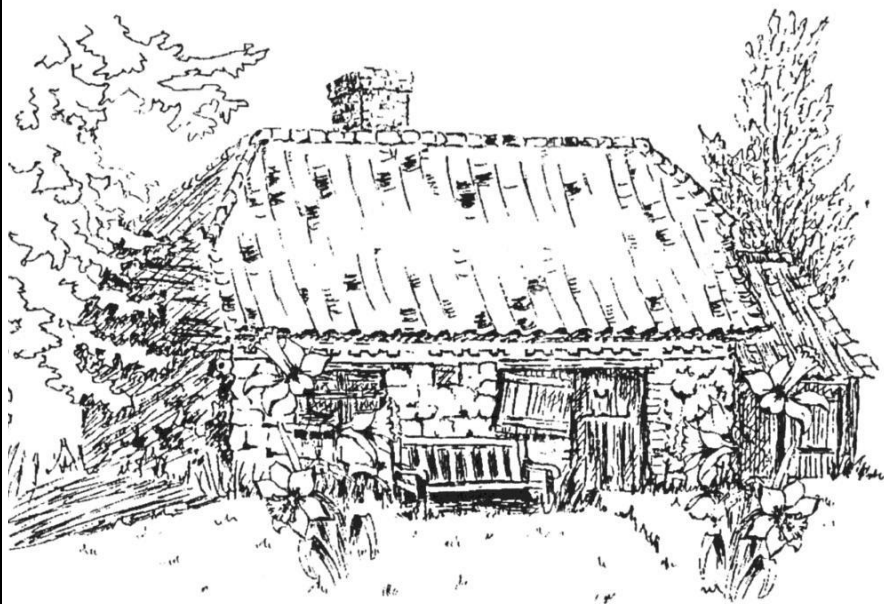


# The Thriplow Journal



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## EDITORIAL

Where does the time go? Daffodil Weekend and Easter are both over for another year and as I'm writing this the longest day of the year is only six weeks away!

Our AGM was held in April and attendance was a bit disappointing but that may have been because the AGM was held on the day before Good Friday and Easter holidays got in the way. I have included the Chairman's report given at the AGM in this journal so that all members have the opportunity to read it. You will see that we are, as always, looking for new committee members. We can have ten but currently there are only seven.

At the AGM it was agreed that subscriptions will increase to £15 per year per household. These are now due and ways to pay are shown on page 16 where you will see that we are trying out a new way of collecting the subs to save those who distribute the journals from knocking on every door. Please, if you pay on line remember to use your surname as the reference.

The committee have met and elected officers for the coming year – as shown on page 7.

At a recent committee meeting it was suggested that some members may prefer to have electronic copies of the journal rather than paper copies. If anyone would prefer to receive the journal via email in future please let me know by emailing me at [david@easthope.email](mailto:david@easthope.email) This would, of course, help by reducing our ever increasing postage costs. However, there is no obligation to have electronic copies.

Not all of our members live in the UK. John & Sue Turner live in Tasmania and last year John said that he would be happy to receive the journal via email. As he had always received paper copies I sent him a paper copy of the last journal to complete 2024 and said that I would send email copies from now on. In this journal is an email received from John & Sue together with some photographs taken in their garden which they have kindly given permission for me to reproduce.

There is also another interesting article from Shirley.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

*Pat Easthope*  
Journal Editor

## DAFFODIL WEEKEND 22/23 MARCH 2025

The Society's preparations for Daffodil weekend start some time beforehand. Shirley and the committee decide on a theme for the display in the gazebo and Shirley then has to sort through the archives and put together a display. Geoff makes the necessary arrangements with the blacksmiths, John who comes on the Saturday and Peter on Sunday, and a rota is produced asking for help during the weekend. Some volunteers are needed to supervise the gazebo and answer questions from visitors while others are needed in the Smithy to supervise the safety of visitors and to welcome and chat with them.

The gazebo is erected on the Friday afternoon. It is a four person job but this year Geoff and David found themselves on their own. It was a particularly windy day and they managed to get it ready to raise but needed some strong help to get it fully up. Paul Earnshaw and some of the daffodil weekend team were enjoying a quiet drink outside the pub and Geoff went across to ask them for help. Paul and three others came across and helped get the gazebo fully erected. Geoff and David were just about to peg it down when a strong gust of wind turned the whole thing upside down. Geoff and David were extremely grateful when their helpers came back and helped get it upright and fully secured. .



John with his 2 apprentices in the background

The Smithy was popular with visitors and everyone was kept very busy .

Sales of horseshoes, etc. over the weekend amounted to £263.30

*Many thanks to Kerstin Rivett who redrew our sign which definitely caught the attention of passers by.*



Angela Rimmer, Shirley Wittering & Bernard Meggitt  
Enjoying a coffee break outside the gazebo

*David leaving after his turn at the Smithy'*

After the visitors have left the big clear-up takes place. It is amazing how everyone pulls together to get the clear up done so quickly. It had rained on the Sunday afternoon and our gazebo was too wet to be taken down so David & Geoff took it down on Monday when it had dried.

The committee offer their sincere thanks to all those who helped us this year.



## Chairman's Report to the AGM on 17.4.2025

Thank you all for coming this evening.

The Society has had a good year. Since the last AGM a year ago some well attended meetings have heard about the History of Duxford Airfield, Shackleton's Endurance Expedition, The Real Margaret Thatcher, our village pub The Green Man, Ghosts of Thriplow's Past and the history of the Air Transport Auxiliary with a talk entitled "Grandma Flew Spitfires". Unfortunately there were two meetings I couldn't attend as I was away – the first one was held at the Church when Kit Jackson spoke about the history of Thriplow church and afterwards everyone enjoyed a strawberry tea. The second was a visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum when member Mary Forster-Lewis was the guide. I understand that I missed two very enjoyable events.

We've also survived another Daffodil Weekend and sincere thanks are due to all who helped the Society's efforts before, during and after the weekend. Here I must mention four members of the Daffodil Committee who were enjoying a quiet drink at the pub while Geoff and I were erecting the gazebo. Four people are needed for this job but as we were the only two there we thought we'd do our best. We'd got it half way up when a gust of wind got underneath the roof and blew it upside down. Geoff went across to the pub to ask for help and 4 rescuers came to our aid. It was then that I learned that there are some advantages to getting old. Our helpers took one look at me and said "We'll get on with it - You just tell us what to do".

I'm also pleased to report that two projects the Society has been involved with finally came to fruition in time for Daffodil Weekend. The Smithy now boasts a weathervane and the newly refurbished village sign received many complimentary comments. The Daffodil Weekend Trust awarded grants for both of these projects. The sign cost more than the grant and the weathervane less but the Trust allowed us to use the residue from the weathervane grant to fund the additional cost of the sign and also declined our offer to return the balance of around £55. Sincere thanks are due to the Trust for the tremendous support they have shown.

The Journal continues to be well received and Pat is grateful to all contributors. Not everyone has time to write articles but Pat would also welcome ideas that could be followed up.

We are currently considering the provision of an archive room in the village. The cricket club hope to make a planning application for a new club house and it has been suggested that we might like to include our archive room and join them in making a joint application. It is still early days and I must thank Richard Taylor for leading the Society's input into this project. Richard, would you like to tell us where we are with the project?

*Richard said that the cricket club hoped to submit a planning application in the next 2 – 3 weeks. They would like to be able to erect their new building during next winter – and so would we – but there is the problem of funding. The archive room is expected to cost in the region of £80,000. We will be applying for grants from various sources and Daffodil Weekend have indicated that they would be supportive. There are some plans on display which members might like to look at after the meeting.*

David said that there the archive project may be entitled to some of the Section 106 funding that would come to the parish from the development of the Grain Store Site which the developer would have to pay but there could be other claims on these funds so at present it is impossible to know how much we would be likely to receive.

*David then continued with his report*

I'm sorry to be reporting the deaths of members since the last AGM. Pauline Hopkins, Peter Yates (our former treasurer) and Oliver Walston from Thriplow, Robin Dring and Robin Cox from Fowlmere and former member Anthony Cooper from Great Shelford.

Tonight all committee members stand down and a new committee is elected – if you would like to help on the committee please put your name forward. A committee meeting will be arranged as soon as possible at which the officers for the coming year will be appointed and the next issue of the journal can then be finalised and printed.

The committee for the last 12 months has been Shirley Wittering, Ann Robertson, Judy Murch, Geoff Axe, Richard Taylor, Pat and myself. Rowan Turpin was also welcomed onto the committee at our March meeting.

I am very sorry to report that both Ann and Shirley would like a break and are not seeking re-election to the committee although they will both remain



as members. Ann joined the committee in 2022 and has been our webmaster, secretary and a valued member of the programme committee. Work and three young children are keeping her extremely busy although she has said that she would be happy to provide suggestions to the programme committee. We also owe her a vote of thanks for hosting our committee meetings for the past 2 ½ years.

Shirley, along with her husband Bill and Peter Speak (from Church St) were, I believe, the prime movers in the foundation of the Thriplow Society in 1992. Shirley Geoff and I are the only remaining founder members. I was 52 at the time and, looking at Geoff, I think he must have still been in short trousers. The first journal issued in the Autumn of that year lists Shirley as the Secretary and joint editor of the journal. In 1996 Betty Parker is listed as the secretary but Shirley continued as one of the joint editors until the end of 2018. That's not all – she has served as our chairman and for many years has been our archivist as well as being a leading light on the programme committee. It is impossible to put into words how much Shirley has done over the past 33 years and how much she means to the Thriplow Society.

I now have to mention that we are looking for new members of the committee. We can have 10 committee members but without Shirley and Ann we will be down to 6. We meet every few months and our meetings are very informal and don't last too long.

At present, apart from Rowan, we are all rather ancient and would welcome a mixture of some younger and some more mature members with some fresh ideas. Later this evening we will be electing our new committee and I would invite you to put yourself, or someone else, forward. If you would like more information please speak to one of the committee

I will finish, as usual, by thanking most sincerely the committee for their support over the past year.

*David Easthope*

*Richard Taylor reminded the meeting that if anyone was undecided about joining the committee they would be welcome to attend a committee meeting as a guest before making up their mind. Simply let one of the committee know that you would like to attend a committee meeting.*

*There were no further questions or comments.*

As David mentioned in his report, the whole committee stand down at the AGM. All previous committee members except Shirley and Ann were happy to be re-elected.

David asked if there were any nominations from the floor and Gordon Dennison expressed his willingness to join.

Hanna Roberts proposed and Paul Rogers seconded that Judy Murch, Gordon Dennison, Geoff Axe, Richard Taylor, Rowan Turpin and Pat and David Easthope be re-elected en bloc. This was agreed unanimously.

## COMMITTEE

At committee meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April the officers for the coming year were elected.

Chairman	David Easthope
Vice Chairman	Geoff Axe
Treasurer	Judy Murch
Secretary & Membership	Pat Easthope
Journal editor	Pat Easthope
Webmaster	Rowan Turpin
Refreshments	Richard Taylor
Committee member	Gordon Dennison

### Others

Shirley Wittering, although no longer a committee member, is happy to continue as our Archivist with Richard Taylor as assistant archivist.

Pat offered to support Judy as assistant treasurer if and when needed.

Programme Sub Committee – As the programme is prepared until the end of 2025 the programme committee members will be decided at a later date

If any members attend other meetings where the speakers have been good and would be suitable for one of our meetings the committee would love to hear about them. Even better, of course, is if any member has a talk they would like to give at a meeting. Our best attended meetings are always when the speaker is from Thriplow, Heathfield, Fowlmere or one of our surrounding villages.

## FROM JOHN & SUE TURNER IN TASMANIA



Hello Pat and David

Just received an unexpected copy of the magazine. That was a lovely thought to do that, thank you very much.

Tasmania is about the closest that you can get in this part of the world to having a similar climate to that of England. We're on the north coast, about 1.5 km as the kookaburra flies in a bee line to the coast. The benefits of that is that 200 km north of us is Melbourne, and in summer it can be in the high 30s or even 40 degrees, but here we are flat out passing the mid 20s, while Hobart or the west coast etc can equal Melbourne's temperature.

In central Australia grows a flower called Sturts Desert Pea, can't possibly grow them here - unless you have a hothouse. Picture attached. This year Sue has about 13 flower pots going with desert peas in full flower, so thought I would send a bit of sunshine to you both.

All the best for the new year.

Regards  
John and Sue

Having asked John for permission to reproduce his photo's and email he replied "Yes, of course you can. Can't get away from my English upbringing - *Escape to The Country* is on TV as I write - although my Dad was born here."

Very shortly afterwards he sent another message "*Just a thought - would you like some sunflowers to go with it? We have one in the garden known as Teddy Bear Sunflowers.*" Of course I said yes please.

John says these are a bit different to the usual sunflower, having up to 9 or 10 flowers on a plant.



Another photo from John which he says was taken a few years back. Sadly the Japanese Maple to the right of the garage has since lost a battle with a sawblade, as it was affecting the performance of the solar panels behind.



## The Thriplow Church Corbels - Faces from the past

Every year Thriplow holds a Daffodil Weekend Festival. Last year was its 56<sup>th</sup> year when we had over 12,000 visitors and raised a lot of money for local organisations and three local charities.

The Thriplow Society mounted a display in the Church of the men who had fought and died during the two World Wars. While I was there the churchwarden came up to me and mentioned that many of the visitors had asked about the faces high up under the roof, (corbels). This intrigued me and I tried taking photos with my mobile phone. They were minute, no good at all. I asked my grandson, who I knew was keen on photography and had a telephoto lens, if he could photograph the corbels for me.

The following weekend he turned up and took photos of all of the corbels, he sent them to me and I tweaked the brightness and contrast on my computer so they looked clear and easy to read.

There were ten - two angels, two women and six men, all of them supporting the roof timbers. We had an interesting time trying to work out who they each represented.

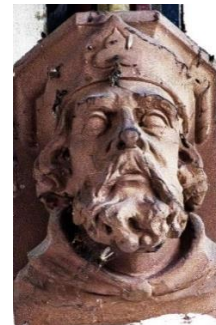
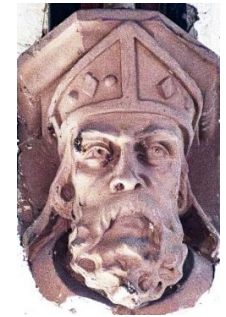
The Angels were obvious as they had wings, do Angels have a gender?



The women were more difficult to sort. The first woman looked a bit like a Nun, the second was young and pretty, her eyes half shut, perhaps a Saint?



The first two men were a King, Fleur de Lis on his crown, and a Bishop.



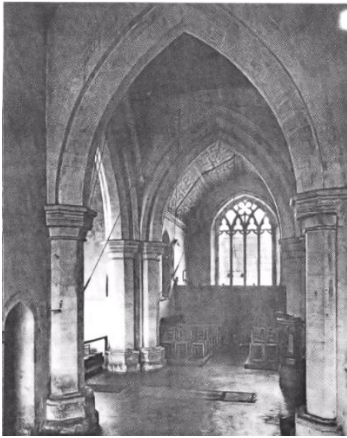
The next two men looked like a Merchant, and then perhaps a Monk, though I'm not sure about all that hair and a beard.



Then a rich merchant, or perhaps a Lord, and a worker or artisan, with his knotted scarf around his neck. One further item of interest is that some faces had their eyes open and some had them shut – curious.



Perhaps you think differently, although the corbels were made around 1876 by Mr Whitehead of Royston, they look like real people. I contacted the firm of Whitehead's but was told that the documents were destroyed when old Mr Whitehead retired.



There are further carvings in Thriplow Church. Under the tower are four faces on the four columns of the crossing.

These are not mentioned in the review of repairs needed so we can assume they are medieval.

The photo on the left was taken in 1920 and shows the crossing under the tower.

The faces below look down on us from the crossing in the middle of the Church, they date from the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

MEN



*From the north-west*



*From the north-east*

WOMEN



*From the south-west*



*From the south-east*

Who were they?

*Shirley Wittering*

## RECENT MEETINGS

January 16<sup>th</sup>. In her talk "The Ghosts of Thriplow's Past" Shirley Wittering told us about the houses in the village that reputedly have ghosts. They are, of course, older houses and range from small cottages to large manor houses. There was an excellent attendance and afterwards the audience joined in by telling their own ghostly experiences, not all in Thriplow but nevertheless we enjoyed hearing about them. Audience participation definitely enriches our meetings and we hope it continues.

February 20<sup>th</sup> - Tim Young "Granny Flew Spitfires"

Tim told us about the achievements of early female pilots and how, later women pilots became invaluable in the war effort

The Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA), founded at the outbreak of World War II, was a civilian organization which made an enormous contribution to victory by taking over from service pilots the task of ferrying RAF and RN warplanes between factories, maintenance units and front-line squadrons.

The ATA's women's section would not have been founded without the persistence of Pauline Gower MBE who persuaded the powers that be that many women who were highly talented and qualified pilots (some as instructors and also some held commercial pilot's licences) could perform an equally important and useful role in ATA. The women received the same rate of pay as the men. They flew a variety of planes but were particularly good with Spitfires. The Maidenhead Air Transport Auxiliary Museum, part of the Maidenhead Heritage Centre, has the largest collection of ATA artefacts in the world. Tim recommended visiting the museum if in the area.





## WEATHERVANE

Members living locally may have spotted the new weathervane on the Smithy.

The suggestion to erect a weathervane on the Smithy was first put forwards by Shirley Wittering in January 2022. The committee thought this was a lovely idea



First we had to obtain parish councils' permission which was duly given. As the Smithy is a listed building we then had to apply for Listed Building Consent. The application was made in May 2023 and permission granted, but with conditions which were finally fully discharged in March 2024. An application had been made to the Daffodil Weekend Trust for a grant to cover the cost and we were delighted when this was agreed and an order for the weathervane could finally be placed. The design 'Blacksmith / Farrier & Horse' was selected by the Thriplow Society committee as being very appropriate for our Smithy. The weathervane spent most of the winter inside the Smithy as bad weather delayed its erection. Thanks are due to Douglas Sheldrick who managed to get the weathervane mounted on the Smithy roof in time for Daffodil Weekend.

### Programme Change – 17<sup>th</sup> July

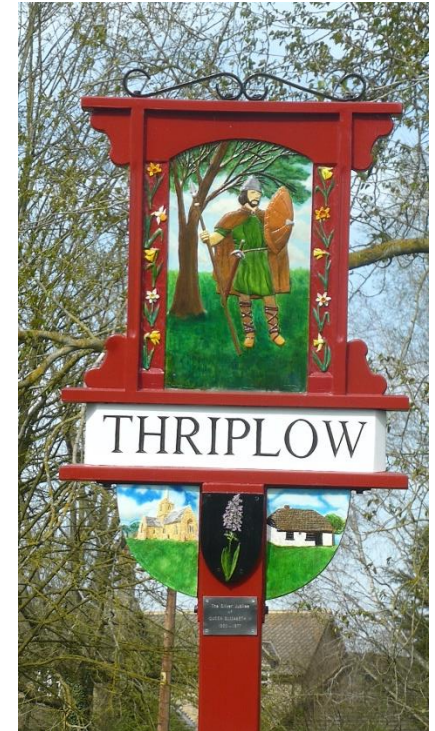
"In Florence Nightingale's Footsteps" Unfortunately Lucy Williamson is no longer able to attend on 17<sup>th</sup> July. Instead Society member Richard Taylor will tell us about "Rebuilding a pair of cottages in Middle Street"

## VILLAGE SIGN

Thanks to a grant from the Daffodil Weekend Trust our village sign has been completely refurbished and is now back in place and looking as good as new.

The sign was first erected in 1978 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. It was paid for by funds left over from the Silver Jubilee celebrations the previous year. The sign was designed and made by Harry Carter of Swaffham. It was first refurbished in the winter of 1992/93 and our second Journal, Vol 1 No. 2 issued at that time, states that the work was carried out by Harry's grandson, David, supervised by his father, Tony Carter of Whittlesford.

This year the work was again carried out by Harry's grandson David, assisted by his daughter Bryony. Four generations of the Carter family have now worked on the sign.



When taking down the sign it broke in two and David discovered that it was in a much poorer state of repair than he first thought as rot had got into the sign in several places. All of the rotten parts have been replaced and the sign re-carved and painted by David and Bryony.

Harry Carter was related to Howard Carter, the archaeologist who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamen. The museum at Swaffham has several rooms dedicated to the Carter family and is well worth a visit if you are in the area. The museum is in the centre of Swaffham and is open Monday – Thursday 10 – 4 and Friday & Saturday 10 – 1. Last entry is half an hour before closing. It is also open every Bank Holiday except Christmas and the New Year.

*Pat Easthope*



## GLEANINGS

We were sorry to learn that long time member Robin Cox from Fowlmere died on 5<sup>th</sup> April. Sincere condolences are sent to his wife Maureen and the family.



### Fowlmere & Thriplow Sloe Gin Competition 2024

Thriplow parishioners enjoyed success in this competition. Martyn Corbet was the winner for sloe gin made in 2024, Jane Gough came second and Bernard Meggit third. Bernard also came second in the Vintage section. Congratulations to them all.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

At the AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> April it was agreed that, with effect from the date of the AGM subscriptions will be £15 per household per annum

### HOW TO PAY

1. Cash or cheque (payable to The Thriplow Society) please put in the envelope supplied with this journal and complete the details on the front of the envelope. Envelopes can be delivered to Pat at 6 Lower Street, to Judy at 8 Lower Street or they can be left at the shop. If you are unable to deliver the envelope please call Pat on 208401 who will arrange for it to be collected.

2. On line- Bank Sorting code      20 17 19  
Account Name                      The Thriplow Society  
Account number                  50 86 42 93

Please use your surname as the reference when paying on line

If you receive the journal by post and wish to pay by cheque please send it to 6 Lower Street, Thriplow, Royston, SG8 7RJ



*Every day that passes, passes into history*