

# Village's charm is mix of old and new

Thurmaston's appeal is there is something for everyone

**I**T'S a mixture of the old and the new which gives a Charnwood village its charm.

From the rustic appeal of the old church ruins to a multi-million pound shopping centre and picturesque scenery, Thurmaston has something for people of all ages.

And while Thurmaston might not be a name that is known to many outside Leicestershire, it's home to an internationally-recognised brand, Walkers Crisps, which has a factory in the village.

Thurmaston is a village which respects its heritage - while not being afraid of striding in to the 21st century.

The old church ruins, off Melton Road, and the magnificent Drummer Boy bronze statue, which stands proudly in Garden Street at the entrance to the Recreation Ground, are testament to the fact that Thurmaston is proud of its history.

A village enhancement scheme will further protect Thurmaston's identity for generations to come.

But the fact Thurmaston has attracted High Street stores to its shopping centre shows it is prepared to compete against Leicester and encourage people to visit.

And it's well worth popping along.

Once you've done your shopping and had a bite to eat at the Thurmaston Shopping Centre, you could then sample the delights of the village.

These include the wonderful Drummer Boy Statue (pictured), which was unveiled in May 2005, and was highly commended in the 2006 Charnwood Borough Council-run Design Awards Landscape category.



It is in memory of soldier William Lane, a recruit in the 39th Regiment of Foot (Dorset), who was shot in the stomach and arm in November 1822 while walking to Leicester through the village to visit his new-born son with his drum slung across his back.

A gravestone in the grounds of St Michael's Church, in Melton Road, pays tribute to Mr Lane, who is something of a legend in Thurmaston.

His tribute is at the entrance of the Garden Street Recreation Ground, which had new playgrounds created as part of the Thurmaston Parish Council Millennium Project.

It is also the site of the Village Green, created through funding from Charnwood Borough Council, Thurmaston Parish Council, the Countryside Agency under the Doorstep Green grant scheme and Leicestershire County Council's FLAG.

The village is also opening a new gateway to the scenic Watermead Park at the back of the Memorial Hall - and this could increase visitor numbers to the extremely popular attraction this summer.

Thurmaston offers leisure facilities from football and rugby pitches to a bowling green, floodlit tennis courts and the Elizabeth Park Sports and Community Centre.

This includes a multi-purpose sports hall/function room, bar and conference room - as well as a new playground area.

Thurmaston is proving to be an increasingly popular location for families and developers have realised this as the new homes being built on Sandiacre Drive suggest.

To find out more about what Thurmaston has to offer, log on to one of the following websites:

[www.leicestershirevillages.com/thurmaston](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/thurmaston)  
[www.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/thurmaston](http://www.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/thurmaston)