

**North Thoresby
Grainsby & Waithe
Community News
& Directory**



EDITION 9
**November 2023
to February 2024**



Top: Pupils from the Academy visit the Eden Project.

Bottom: Villagers gather to celebrate landmark anniversaries for Thoresby Homecare and Top Salon



Above: Members of the Parish Council. Sitting, from left: Simon Baxter (Parish Clerk), Cllr Buckenham (Chair). Standing from left: Cllrs Howard, Jones, Snell, Spence and Marshall. Not Present: Cllrs Gallop, Berryman, Gale.

Below: A crowded Village Hall for the Horticultural Show

Welcome

In this edition, we celebrate landmark anniversaries for two village businesses which have contributed enormously to community life, and are much loved. The Academy reports on the great adventure to the Eden Project and we feature the marvellous paper sculptures of villager Martyn Pidgen. Our sports teams all had successful 2022-23 seasons. Organisers Claire Cooper and Sue Sanchez, report on the terrific success of this year's Horticultural Show.

We publish an appeal from the Grimsby Samaritans for volunteers, publicize the role of the Patients Participation Group at our GP Surgery and record the great success of the Macmillan/Marie Curie Cream Tea Afternoon. We cover the archaeological dig by the village History Group which took place early in October and our Village Directory section contains all the details of what's on, when and who to contact and, of course, information about Christmas Events.

We have a feature introducing the new Parish Clerk, Simon Baxter, which also outlines the multi-faceted and crucial role of the Parish Clerk and touches upon the fundamental principles which guide the conduct of the Council. We are pleased to provide a communication platform for the Parish Council and you will find details of how to obtain Parish Council Minutes, information about Council Surgeries and how to contact the Council. In addition, an important inaugural article from the Parish Council outlines their priorities and current activities. We thank the Council for a financial contribution to the production costs of this publication, which has enabled us to include a splash of colour. We thank our loyal advertisers – this publication would not possible without you.

We believe a printed Parish Newsletter has an important community role in communicating key information to all residents and as a record for the future. Our pages reflect the vitality of the expansive network of community groups who perform such an important social, cultural and psychological role in individual and collective well-being and which have been contributing to making this a special place to live for many years.

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Thoresby Homecare: A Legend

The Hippisley family business, Thoresby Homecare, celebrate 40 years of operation this October and, on Tuesday 17th October, the NTCEA presented a plaque to commemorate this landmark, on behalf of the village, with many villagers in attendance.

There are many definitions of 'legendary.' The one that suits our purpose here, is one that refers to someone, or some group or organisation, that does something particularly well, is memorable, well-known, well-respected, remarkable, admired. Cliff, Jenny and Amanda are much too modest and unassuming to see themselves in this light, of course, but legendary they are.



There are many reasons for this – immense knowledge, experience and expertise in their trade, great customer service, attention to detail, sheer hard work and survival in an age where their like have become so rare. Amanda has been a very important part of the business, having trained and worked as a joiner, she has worked alongside Cliff for 30 years.

Homecare is something of a tardis – for those of you who remember Dr Who – a shop much smaller than most living rooms, expands to 5 additional stores, stocking approximately 20,000 different items – including around 1 million screws, and £150,000 of stock. Anything not stocked, is soon obtained. The business is not just, or even primarily, a DIY store, it serves the building trade, which is its greatest source of income, and enables it to stock so much. The sheer scale of this enterprise, and the ability to know where everything is, and its price, is a miracle of organisation, and memory.

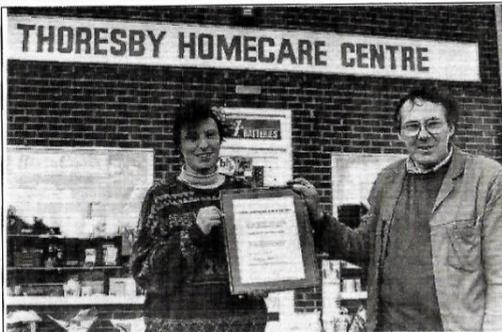
The Hippisleys go back in the village a good while before Homecare was established. Cliff arrived in the village in 1960, when his parents bought what had been Broughton's store for many decades and ran a grocery

store and post office. Sixteen-year-old Cliff worked for Day Bros hardware store in Louth, gaining valuable experience of the trade. In 1966, he joined the family business, introducing his own hardware range. By this time, Jenny and Cliff's paths had crossed, in 1963, and they married in 1968 with children Amanda (1971) and Jason (1973) following.

For the next 17 years Cliff ran his own branch of the business, mostly operating a mobile door-to-door county round, covering a vast area of local villages, as well as filling in as a temporary postman or newspaper deliverer if required. He speaks of very long days, including delivering into the early hours of Christmas Day. Nevertheless, this was a successful business, partly because the competition gradually faded but primarily because Cliff estimates that he was working 100 hours a week. Cliff speaks of the trust the customers showed in leaving doors unlocked for him to drop things in. To this day, delivering orders to the door is a significant part of the business.

Evening Telegraph Special Supplement

THORESBY HOMECARE CENTRE Winners of the DIY STORE OF THE YEAR



A winning team! Amanda and Clifford Hippisley at Thoresby Homecare Centre with their Home Centre of the Year award.

THORESBY Homecare Centre is a founder member of the Home Centre Campaign, an initiative started by the British Hardware Federation to promote independent hardware stores.

As a group, the campaign now has more outlets than the large national companies - its members number more than 900, all of whom participate in regular promotions sponsored by manufacturers.

From the Evening Telegraph
March 1994

In 1983, Cliff's parents retired and, literally, the Homecare business was built. Along with Sally's hairdressing salon, the business started, temporarily, in a little premises across the road, while a cottage next to the post office was pulled down, along with a little 'pot shop' – until the

present building housing Homecare and Top Salon was finished. It took another 13 years for Cliff to build the family home next to the shop and in the meantime, they lived in Waithe.

The business has seen great changes in products and lifestyles, for example, dustbins were once a big-seller, hundreds a year, and around 100 gas heaters every winter. Secondary glazing was once a staple product. Until recently, Homecare was open 7 days a week and there's still a lot of time put in. Cliff's idea of relaxation is to go and work on the lovely parcel of land he has in the village!

In 1993, Homecare won a national award when the magazine Practical Householder conducted a survey and readers wrote in with tales of shopkeepers performing heroics for their local villages and towns. A shortlist of 45 stores was drawn up and the three expert judges toured the country, visiting each store. Five regional winners were selected and then a national winner – Thoresby Homecare – with the title of best high street hardware store. Quite an accolade.

One testimony, of a resident at that time, neatly encapsulates what makes Homecare so special, and it goes beyond the aspects of an efficient business to a human quality that knows no measure. Margaret Templeman wrote, 'I am disabled and can't get out very often. I have an electric buggy and so I can get to his (Cliff's) shop. It doesn't matter what I want, he will bring things outside for me to choose and always brings me a bag of sticks to light my fire. He even puts them in the shed. It isn't just me he's nice to, I have never seen him any different. If he hasn't got what you want, he will get it for you quick. If anyone is living on their own and a bulb need changing or a fuse has gone, he will take what is needed and fix it, all for nothing.'

Although 'Health and Safety' has put some of these acts of kindness off limits, I'm sure I am not alone in having experienced multiple kindnesses from people I consider good friends, and I rarely visit the shop without having a good natter – especially about village history.

We are very privileged to have Homecare, and such lovely people, in the village. **IW**



Two views of the cottage that was taken down and the current Homecare and Top Salon built on the site. Top view is possibly pre WW1. The building which until recently housed the Post Office is on the left.

Academy Report: Cornwall Adventure Trip

In July, the Year 5 and 6 children from North Thoresby & Utterby Primary Academies embarked on an amazing adventure trip to Cornwall. The children had an incredible time, participating in activities including surfing, exploring the Eden Project and visiting Bodmin Jail.

On their first day, following their long journey down, the children arrived at their accommodation and settled in. They then spent the afternoon exploring the surrounding area and seeing a bit of the goings on of a working farm. In the evening, the children investigated the local wildlife and took part in a bat and beaver spotting activity.

The next day, the children went to the Eden Project. This was part of the prize the school won for taking part in the Rolls-Royce Schools Challenge the previous year. The children took part in the Rainforest Rangers workshop, embarking on a quest of discovery through the Rainforest Biome that reveals how the rainforest can provide what they need to survive. Surrounded by expedition survival equipment, maps and plant samples, the Education Officer assisted the children in their preparation for this survival challenge.

The activity encouraged the children to think about how plants are adapted for life in the tropics, how they can be used for human survival and how indigenous people have adapted them for their own everyday use and why the rainforest is important for all of us. The children were amazed by the different biomes and had a great time taking part in all the activities and exploring the site. That night the children had a make your own pizza party for tea followed by a murder mystery.

On the third and fourth day, the children went to the Newquay Activity Centre for a day of surfing and Cornish Challenge Beach Games. They had a fantastic time learning how to surf and catching some waves. The children capped off their first day at the beach with a trip to a nearby "Giant Slide" and after the second beach day back at the accommodation

it was an evening of different problem-solving challenge activities and a barnyard BBQ.

On the morning of their final day, the children visited Bodmin Jail. They learned about the history of the prison and took a tour of the cells. They then said goodbye to Cornwall and made the long journey home.

The children had an unforgettable time on their trip to Cornwall. They learned new skills, made new memories and had a lot of fun. The trip was a huge success, and we are grateful to all of the staff and volunteers who made it possible. A special thank you to Mrs Howard, Miss Wilson, Mrs Williamson, Mrs Carr, Mrs Lawrence and Phil the Coach Driver from PC Coaches for ensuring the most amazing week for the children. Also, a big shout out to Vision Garage Services, Louth Road, New Waltham, and the Sew & So's Sewing Group in North Thoresby for their generous donations to support the cost of the trip.

Can you help us to identify this event and any faces?



The village History Archive has many photographs like this (1960s-early 70s?), but without dates, details or names of those involved. In our History Group February meeting we will be displaying photos and hoping to get more information.



Martyn's Marvels

Villager Martyn Pidgeon is renowned for his remarkable paper installations for schools and churches and, in 2022, for the entrance of Hobbycrafts at the NEC. He is fascinated by the different effects that can be produced by folding, cutting and gluing paper – everything is reduced to form and texture, creating light and shade.



His passion started many years ago when he worked with a group of school children to create a tabletop display – starting with small figures to illustrate the story of Good King Wenceslas. The next Christmas the figures were waist high and soon life-sized.

A constant question is how long does it take? Martyn answers that it varies and whether things go to

plan! The heads are made first and hours can be spent getting the features right – and the variety of hairstyles. Each figure has a personality of its own.

Martyn's figures can be seen at the annual Art exhibition in the Wesley Centre and are often on display in local churches. The photographs here were in Ludborough Church during the recent Coastal Churches festival. A unique and amazing art form. **IW**

Poppyhead Treasures of St Helens

One of the treasures of St Helens Church are the 'poppyhead' carvings



- a term applied to the carved finial (ornament) of a wooden 'box' pew or bench end. Poppyheads might be carved to represent anything, from animals, birds, grotesque mythological creatures, angels, saints, religious symbols, and human figures. St Helens poppyheads feature the initials of those who paid to have a private pew. Local historian, Bob Kershaw, has dated the poppyheads in St Helens Church to the 1550s, originally part of enclosed seating for wealthy

members of the congregation and which survived the Victorian 'restorations' by being transferred to the newly installed nineteenth century bench seating. **IW**

The Samaritans: Can you help?

The Samaritans offer a confidential and judgement-free listening service 24/7 to all, and this fantastic organisation cannot run without volunteers. Volunteering at the Grimsby Samaritans for the past four years is one of the most fulfilling things I have ever done and I thoroughly recommend anyone who is considering it to give it a go!

There are a number of ways you can get involved. There are listening volunteer positions - these are the people on the end of the phone when a caller dials our number.

There is a comprehensive training and mentorship program which ensures everybody has the skills and confidence needed for this rewarding role.

There are support volunteers who work in our Samaritans charity shop on Alexandra Road - even a couple of hours a week can make a huge difference.

There are also support volunteers who fundraise for us in the community - we are a locally run branch and whilst we are under the umbrella of the national organisation, we have to fundraise locally to contribute to our ever-increasing running costs.

If you'd like more information on any of these positions or have any ideas as to how we could fundraise in your community, please feel free to call me for an informal chat on 07584306616 or email becky_sanchez@hotmail.com

To use the Samaritans service, please don't hesitate to call 116123.

Thank you.

Becky Sanchez

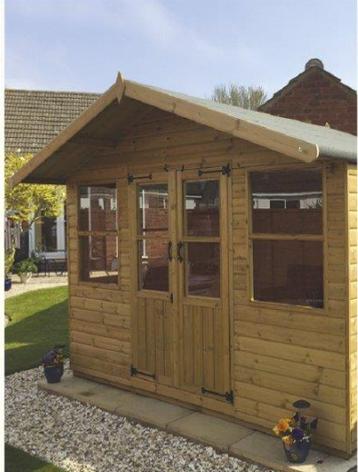


Two great concerts in July. Martyn and Jack, the Washboard Resonators, are with us again on December 2nd



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The Role of a Parish Council Clerk

It is sometimes commented on that a Parish Council Clerk is the 'engine room' of said Council. The Clerk being the Council's principal executive and advisor and in smaller councils (like ours), they are also the officer responsible for the administration of its financial affairs.

I met Simon Baxter in the meeting room of the Village Hall on the first Thursday of October. With that unerring habit I have of great timing it was also a Thursday when the 'Pop In' was in full swing ('Sociable Soup' is the 3rd Thursday of each month). Having skipped breakfast, the lovely aromas coming from the kitchen as I walked in had my mouth watering almost immediately.

But I wasn't here to eat (although it looked lovely and was very busy in the main hall). No, I was there to have a chat to our new Parish Clerk, who introduced himself to me as Simon as he offered a welcoming outstretched hand and beaming smile.

Many in the village will no doubt be aware of the significant changes to the Parish Council of North Thoresby, Waithe and Grainsby recently. Indeed, 2023 will possibly be marked in history as the only year when there were three distinct iterations of our Parish Council.

The local elections of May 2023 saw a new Council (which meets on the first Monday of each month) take office. As there were fewer candidates than seats (including those for Waithe and Grainsby), no actual election was held. Simon (a trained Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer) took up the post of Clerk in June 2023. We thought it might be informative to chat to Simon about the role that the Parish Clerk has in the working of a Parish Council, and it was this mission that had brought me to the Village Hall that October afternoon.

But before we get to the work of a Parish Council Clerk, let me properly introduce you to Simon. He has a background in Accountancy and was a Civil Servant for 15 years, working for the Department of Health and the Receivers Office, where he was a Deputy Receiver dealing with corporate fraud and Limited companies who failed.

Simon left the Civil Service and became a School Business Director and School Governor, as well as forming part of the Senior Leadership Team. On occasion, Simon would cover teachers who

were not available for teaching duties. “It was not easy” he told me. “It was far more difficult than I’d have imagined!”

When COVID hit in 2020, some of Simon’s friends (Parish Clerks themselves) suggested he train to become one. His experience, training and knowledge would, they suggested, make him an ideal candidate for this crucial – indeed pivotal – role in local government.

Simon had stood back from full-time work but remained sitting as a Justice of the Peace for some years in Hull, Grimsby and as far afield as Sheffield when needed. Taking a cue from his friends’ suggestion, he researched the complex role of Parish Clerk and decided to complete the training.

For Simon, the work/life balance we all speak about is key to an enjoyable life. Working as a JP for 30-40 days a year, usually as the Presiding Justice (the one in the middle of a 3 person ‘Bench’), Simon knew he could be of value to a Parish Council and when he saw the Vacancy at North Thoresby, applied for it.

The process to become the Clerk for our village was completed and he took up the post in June 2023. He speaks eloquently and with passion for openness and transparency, and obviously believes that his role is to be part of an open and efficient Parish Council.

He told me, with a wry smile; “I want to say how much support and good wishes we’ve had since I’ve been here from almost all of the village”. For him, the changes that have been made, and those ongoing, to the way the Council is run are to help make the Council more efficient, open, and informative of where, and how, our Village Precept is spent by those running the Council.

“It is right that those in the village ask questions of the Parish Council and hold us to account” he tells me. “We now publish monthly accounts outlining where and what money has been spent, but obviously due to legislation we can’t always reveal as much as we would like, or have been asked to do, as this could break GDPR.”

[For those that do not know, the GDPR is the ‘General Data Protection Regulation’ and is often called the ‘toughest privacy and security law in the world’, imposing stringent obligations onto organisations who target or collect data related to people in the UK. If an organisation breaks the GDPR rules, it can lead to sanctions.]

“We expect to be asked questions, and obviously hope that they’ll be asked in a politely enquiring manner. The Councillors are unpaid volunteers and we are obliged to show where the money from the Precept goes. We hope to make savings of around £5,000 this year, but it might not be possible.” The Council are currently working with an external auditor who are reviewing the accounts and spending from recent years to ensure that this new Council can move forward from a position of certainty.

Simon, as well as being the Clerk, is also the ‘Responsible Finance Officer’. A role he is well suited too considering his background. “We aim to turn a deficit into a surplus as soon as we can” he tells me. To this end, every member of the Parish Council vote on all spending “even down to paper and pens” he says as that wry smile returns.

The Clerk has many duties and legal obligations, but they can basically be classified into three distinct areas of Parish Council work: Ensuring there is compliance with legal duties, delivering the council’s strategic purpose and carrying out the business of the council.

The Clerk is an advisor to the council and assists in the formation of overall policies whilst also ensuring that the legal duties of the Parish Council are complied with. It is the Clerk who ‘summons’ the Councillors to a monthly meeting and publishes the dates in advance so any member of the public wishing to attend has enough notice to do so. The Clerk will take notes during ‘key’ meetings where the Clerk’s presence is required, and these notes will then be published and available to read in print and online.

The Clerk has oversight of the administration of the council and its workings, has a role in health and safety, the financial management of the council and where appropriate, staff management. This is not, by the way, an exhaustive list. There is even a bulleted point which states (in the piece I read) “*Carry out such other responsibilities and functions as shall from time to time be required by the Council*”. No wonder then that they hold titles of ‘Proper Officer’ and ‘Responsible Financial Officer’ among others!

Living near Hull, Simon travels to the village when necessary. “I see my visits here as enabling villagers to come and have a chat if they want to” he says. It allows him to be visible and available for questions and points of interest important to the village.

“I know not everyone is IT equipped” he says. “Many want or need the paper copies to read so it’s important we distribute them in order that as many as possible has an opportunity to review them.” (Copies of the minutes can be found inside Morrisons, on the Notice Board and inside the Village Hall, as well as online.)

He tells me, “We have a legal duty, but also a moral duty, to be open and transparent. People will disagree with us and will ask us to explain our decisions” and I posit that this is a requirement, even a benefit; of community involvement. Simon agrees, “I’m part of a council who want to work with everyone as far as possible, whilst at the same time following the rules and regulations imposed upon us as a local Council.”

He appears earnest in intent, speaks about openness and transparency, of offering the chance to air grievances and explore differences, and of explaining (as far as is possible) the decisions made, and the reasons behind them, to the village.

Simon is keen to work with the Councillors and Village and wants to create the best atmosphere for such collaboration as possible. Knowing how heated and intense working at the Parish Council can be, I leave wishing him well and hoping that the Village and the Parish Council can move forwards with the best interests of the village at the heart of all they do.

The aromas from the kitchen were floating about and the Hall was still buzzing with laughter and chatter and the sounds of companionship. I left with many hopes for the future of our lovely and special community.

The Parish Council

Despite a number of obstacles placed in our way, we are a strong team who are determined to make the parish a great place to live. We are blessed to work alongside volunteers who are passionate in bringing about positive change. This isn't just councillors but the many volunteers who trim hedges, weed pavements, sweep roads outside their house or maintain public planters/spaces. When you look around, you realise just how many wonderful selfless parishioners there are. So, in our first piece in the parish newsletter we would like to share what we are doing to make a difference.

As soon as the councillors took office, we carried out a full review of the finances and administration in order to identify where savings could be made, and how a new slicker council could evolve. As a result, we have saved over £2000, an imminent finance report will explain how this was achieved.

After a full review of banking systems, we have made significant changes to the security of your money and created an anti-fraud and risk policy to ensure maximum protection over every penny in the public purse. We will continue to look for ways to make significant savings and, this year, we aim to reduce spending on Christmas by 100% and, as a result, Christmas will be a community event. Look out for details about this coming soon. Also, after a little persuasion, we can look forward to the tractor run coming through our village again this year.

Your Parish Council.

Parish Council Minutes

Copies of the PC Minutes are available from: Morrisons, The New Inn, The public phone box, Grainsby Church. Or direct from the clerk: clerk@norththoresby.com 07814 443058

Regular **Parish Council Surgeries** are held so you can meet the Parish Councillors and speak to them directly. Please keep an eye on the Parish Council Website for further details. **To contact the Parish Council** you can use the email addresses on the Parish Council Website for individual Councillors or the clerk clerk@norththoresby-pc.gov.uk, or drop any communications into the letter box at North Thoresby Village Hall.

Horticulture Show 2023

What a fabulous show we had this year! With around 375 entries, from well over 100 entrants, it was even bigger than last year! The show is growing year on year which really is wonderful to see, and this year we raised an outstanding £650 for the community fund.

Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who supported the show, be it by entering or visiting, and especially to our team of volunteers who worked so hard all day and the judges who were wonderful. We literally couldn't do it without you. Special thanks to Scott for stepping in at the last minute to judge the cookery classes. We hope it wasn't too much of a chore to taste all of those delicious entries!



There was a queue forming at the door waiting for us to open to the public at 1:15pm which was great to see. Everyone viewed the exhibits including the bumper display of flower arrangements which thankfully had survived the terrible rain the day before. Refreshments were served by our kitchen ladies and the raffle was drawn with some lovely donations of prizes

from our local businesses. Trophies were awarded to the winners of the relevant categories. Four-year-old Gracie Robinson (pictured) was awarded The Lee Cup for most points in the children's classes. This trophy was donated by Mr & Mrs Arthur Lee, previously of Riseholme, Station Road, when Mrs Lee was on the committee for the Horticulture Show and was also Chair of the Lindsey Federation of Women's Institutes in the 1960s. Mr Lee's father founded Lees Furnishers of Grimsby in 1901.

We're working on ideas for the 2024 show already and we hope to see you there on Saturday 14th September. **Claire Cooper and Sue Sanchez**

North Thoresby History Group Archaeological Dig

After a protracted planning and preparation period, we eventually broke ground on the morning of Thursday 5th October, in what is known as Bond (or Bound) Croft Field, directly north of St Helen's Church.

Why is this area of so much interest to local historians? The terrain, with numerous hollows and a distinct 'platform', suggests human activity, with two ponds to the east, evidence of what were once fishponds. The location, near the Church, would be a typical location for a manor house in a medieval village and we know from the Duchy of Lancaster (land owned by the monarch) survey of its land in 1608, that there was a manor house in the village (somewhere), the base of the steward, who supervised the estate.



There is a large 'bluestone' (glacial erratic) in a hollow in the field (photo shows Anita Briggs and Claire Cooper clearing the stone and metal detecting around it). It is linked in historical sources to the holding of the manor court (sometimes referred to as the Moot Stone) and to ancient ceremonies associating magical powers to the stone. One source, John Smith of Caistor, in the mid-nineteenth century, quoted local 'rustics' saying that 'Ivery year for a long while after the folks cam' fra far an' wide to a grand feast about the stanes, an' they were whipt till iverybody went wicked wi' prosperity'.

In February-March 1962, an excavation in the field was undertaken by members of North Thoresby Young Farmers Club. A record reports a rubbish pit (around the stone) containing green and heavy brown glazed pottery, dated late 14th to 17th century, mostly jugs, pancheons (large flared bowls) and cooking pots with a few large sherds.

Ruairidh Grieg has recently given me another interesting reference, (Folk Memory, Walter Johnson, Oxford 1908), 'An old lady, born in 1819,

told me that in her childhood the village fair of North Thoresby was held near the church, in a field which had a large bluestone in the middle. Around this stone games were played. Villagers borne a little later could tell nothing of the custom'

Recent LADAR (Laser Detection And Ranging) images have given us encouragement by indicating feint outlines, broadly rectangular, in shape

in the south-west of the field. In October, 2022, I invited Stephen Fuller, a 'dowser' (someone who uses a diving rod, often L-shaped to detect underground water or other objects) to come and look at the field and within 10 minutes he indicated an area, 45cm or so underground, where we might find something, – and we did – a laid section of chalk, perhaps foundations?.



The field is owned by the Church of England, and Joe Gibson, Church

Warden of St Helens, quickly gave us permission, but it took another 9 months for this to be ratified at county level. Once this was obtained, things moved quickly.

David Start, archaeologist and frequent presenter at the History Group, (seen right briefing the team) agreed to provide expert supervision. Late in August, we obtained a 'geophysical' survey with ground penetrating radar from Professor Derwin



Gregory of Bishop Grosseteste University (seen above with History Group member David Naylor), free of charge. I also brought Stephen Fuller back for a second look, and using both the science and the 'mysterious', we pegged out 3 rectangles as a starting point for our excavation. David produced an extensive list of tools and equipment we would need and a team of over 20 volunteers was soon assembled, and a rota organised. Farmer Sheila Kent, who leases the field, kindly moved

her cattle out, and we were all set. Luck was on our side as the 4-day dig took place in a beautiful spell of weather.



So, what were we hoping/expecting to find? On one level, we were simply aiming to add to our knowledge about life in our village which has stretched over millennia, but foundations and/or a floor of a building would be great! The process was equally important, giving members of the History Group – and others – the opportunity to get practical experience and to work in a team.

David Start's experience and expertise was key to the process, everything was done systematically and recorded photographically at each stage, with careful readings of locations and levels made at every stage. Basically, the process is to dig trenches, in our case, 2 metres square, in layers (or spits to use the archaeological term), first layer takes off the turf, then successive layers of approx. 10cms. Each layer is sieved or sifted by hand, looking for any artifacts, such as pottery which can be dated.

We began by opening up two trenches and working through the layers with teams of diggers and sifters working from 10-4 each day – generally 8 or so on site at any one time. On the first day, 4 spits down, we uncovered an area of well-laid chalk 'cobble' pavement, in two sections, with a few large pieces of flint mixed in. The second trench had revealed two large fragments of medieval pottery, but no 'pavement'. Over the next 3 days we enlarged Trench 1 which eventually revealed a large area approx. 8m wide. Trench 2 ultimately revealed little. A third 2m by 2m trench was opened up on Day 2 and revealed more chalk cobble pavement, with a section of random stone cobbles loosely laid – similarly with Trench 4, opened up on Day 4. A silver William III coin of 1697 was found in this last trench – a terrific find.

It was wonderful to have four classes from the Academy visit (photo at top of page). They were given a background to village history and one

class was able to get involved in the sifting of soil. They were fascinated and curious. Numerous villagers called by and on October 21st I did a tour and explanation of the site for a group of villagers.



So, what have we discovered? Any opinion needs to be provisional because the findings in the trenches have not been analysed. First of all, we have discovered something not revealed before. We have three areas of chalk 'pavement' (the largest area shown left), The chalk has been laid with care - the stone cobbles in Trenches 3 and 4, much less so - and the flint in the chalk usually appears to be random and breaks up an otherwise relatively even surface. The pavements do not obviously provide evidence for domestic buildings (or any buildings). Trackways have been discussed as a

possibility, but the chalk pavement cobbles are very rounded and show little of the wear and tear of wagon traffic or even of boot wear, and wet chalk would soon show marks. The random large flints, jutting up, are problematic for this theory.

In short, we don't have any convincing interpretation! And this is not surprising given the small window we have revealed and the nature of historical interpretation, which depends on building a picture based on a variety of evidence. What we have is a bigger story. This was very much an exploratory exercise and a great team effort. We also succeeded in involving many members of the community – and hopefully inspiring some future archaeologists. We will return!. **IW**

Forthcoming History Group Meetings, second Thursday of the month, 7.30 Village Hall (except Feb 2024) £3 to incl refreshments. All welcome:
9th November Prof Mark Gardiner, Medieval Farming and Ridge and Furrow.

11th January 2024 The Archaeological Dig and its findings

9th February Identifying Old Photos of NT and conversations with longstanding Residents and Introduction to Archive Centre. Held in Wesley Centre.

Forty years at Top Salon: Some Memories by Sally Silvester (in her own words)

'First of all, I would like to say a BIG "Thank you" to all my lovely clients, past and present. An extra-special "Thank you" to those of you who have been with me for all 46 years of business! You will remember where it all began, in a little old shop called "Hazel's" (which was co-incidentally my mother's name!) From the large, broken picture window which fronted



the road, we could see Highfield Farm (now Highfield Road). It was a regular occurrence for the cows to be lead through the village, past the shop. I always held my breath and prayed that none of the sizeable beasts crashed through the very fragile window!! We also had regular visits from the gypsies selling their wares.

In my youth, I was so frightened of them that I bought a length of lace for three times my weekly rent!! The gypsy said "keep it in your till and it will never be empty"! I still have it 46 years later and the old till that it lives in!

The old shop had to be demolished to make way for the new building. Clifford and I shared business premises, during construction, in what had used to be the butchers across the road. It was like going underground to work, as there were no windows, no heating and large meat hooks in the ceiling! What a relief when Top Salon (as it is now known) was ready to move into! I cannot believe that it is 40 years ago that my special friend and first employee Sue West and I spent hours decorating the new salon, ready for opening. Our elevated position with lovely views over the allotments and playing field, adding to the relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Over 40 years, there have been many staff who I would like to thank for their contributions to the success of the business. Special thanks must go to long serving Jo and Lilli, and my current right-hand lady Anneka. Here's to many more years of welcoming new and established clientele.'

We add our thanks to Sally for her many years of serving our community, with a friendly smile and welcoming manner.....not to mention her wonderful hairstyling to make us all feel like new!! She well deserves recognition in the form of a splendid plaque outside her business, presented by the NTCEA on behalf of the village.



North Thoresby Playgroup

Located at the Wesley Centre every Monday (term time only) from 9:30-11:30 We welcome everyone and cater for children of all ages up to school age. We play inside and outside and we try to have a fun theme for the week. We have messy trays and roleplay areas, we have arts and crafts, snack time and story time to end the session. We are a voluntary service and run for the children in the village and the wider community and hope you can join us soon. **Emma Carey 0791009757 Facebook : North Thoresby Playgroup**

Switching on of the Christmas Lights, Sunday 3rd December - with singing from North Thoresby Primary Academy and Community group stalls. Refreshments available. Village Hall Open 4.00pm, lights switching on 5.30pm. Christmas Tree and lights provided by North Thoresby Community Events Association. More information to follow.

Christmas Charity Tractor Run, Sunday 17th December - raising money for Cancer Research UK. There will be collection buckets to support the Tractor run. Times to be confirmed nearer the date. Village Hall will be open for refreshments and warmth!!



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NOVEMBER – Saturday 4 th 7.30pm	Comedy Hot Spot
Wed 8th – Sat 11th 7.30pm	Tick Tick Boom Musical
Sunday 12 th 3.00pm	Baroque Alchemy Concert Society
Friday 24 th 7.30pm	Billy Joel Tribute
Saturday 25th 2.30pm & 7.30pm	Louth Playgoers Concert
Sunday 26 th	Christmas Craft Fair
Tuesday 28 th 2.30pm & 7.30pm	The Greatest Showman Singalong
Wednesday 29 th 7.00pm	Open Mic Night
DECEMBER – Tuesday 5 th 2.00pm	Sing Out Louth Afternoon Tea Concert
Friday 8 th 7.30pm	Steve Walker Swing Band
Monday 11 th 7.30pm	Chapterhouse – A Christmas Carol
Thursday 14 th – Friday 15 th	Box Clever - Macbeth
Friday 15 th 7.00pm	Elf Singalong
JANUARY 2024 Friday 12th – Sunday 21st	Snow White – It's Panto time again!
Monday 22 nd – Tuesday 23 rd	Box Clever – Romeo & Juliet
Saturday 27 th 7.30pm	Watch that Scene – Abba Tribute
Sunday 28 th 6.00pm	Songs for the Soul
Wednesday 31 st – Friday 2 nd FEBRUARY	The Addams Family
Saturday 3 rd 7.30pm	Sound of Music Singalong
Sunday 4 th 7.30pm	Tony Moore – AWAKE
Friday 23 rd – Saturday 24 th 7.30pm	New London Opera Company

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The Pop In Crew At the Big Summer Lunch

Pop In Luncheon Club Dates, Thursdays 12 noon 2nd

November; Christmas Lunch: 14th December; 4th January; 1st February; 29th February

Sociable Soup Village Hall 12 noon-1.30pm

Everyone Welcome. No booking necessary. Soup and roll with Cake, tea or coffee. Any further information phone Heather 01472 841127. If you have any specific dietary requirements please contact Heather.

Thursdays: 16th November; 21st December; 18th January 2024;
15th February; 21st March; 18th April.

North Thoresby Embroidery Group

Dates for meetings 2023-24: November 18th; 27th January; 24th February; 23rd March. 10am-3pm Wesley Centre. The cost of each class is £15. A lovely welcoming group.

Contact: Jacqui Toyne 01472-840246 or Sheila Greenhalgh 01472-602902

Call out for Gardeners - we are looking for a couple of volunteers to assist with the plants around the village Hall. The amazing Joyce Erswell has done it for years and does an incredible job and wishes to continue doing so, but we are looking for help with the larger shrubs and plants. Please drop a note through the village hall letter box or contact us on clerk@norththoresby.com

North Thoresby Bowls Club

The outdoor bowling season has come and gone. The bowling green has been scarified, aerated, seeded and top dressed. It will now rest and recover ready for next season.

What a great season we had again. Our social bowling was very active as usual and our Thursday evening Australian Pairs internal league was lots of fun. It was also a great year for competitive teams. We play in two leagues. We played well in the Louth Wolds League and a great final game result meant we were league Champions for 2023. Congratulations to everyone who has played for that team in 2023.

In 2022 we were promoted to the Premier Division of the Grimsby and Cleethorpes League. For the 2023 season we were under no illusions, it was going to be very challenging for us. It was no surprise to us that the games were very difficult, with exposure to some very fast and some difficult bowling greens and the higher skill level of the players we encountered. It is fair to say that we have had our ups and downs, but we stuck at it. When it came to the last game of the season we needed 3 pts to avoid relegation.

We were playing against Cleethorpes 'B' on a very fast green which does not suit some of our players who have learnt their game on slower, shorter, trickier greens. Our opposition was very strong. Our team morale was excellent. As the sun went down that night at Cleethorpes Bowling Club, something special happened - it was the home team who were in trouble. We ended up winning on two rinks and that final result means that we will be playing in the Grimsby & Cleethorpes Premier Division again next year.

Bowls is healthy and fun. There are no age restrictions. We have plenty of room in our club for anyone who likes to challenge themselves by learning a new skill. Come and give it a try. New members are always welcome. No previous experience required and we have spare equipment for you to use. Saturday afternoon is our regular social gathering with refreshments! Pop along to see us whenever you see us bowling.

For more information about North Thoresby Bowls Club call **Malcolm on 07701386540 or Tim on 01472 840142**. Or you can follow us on our Facebook page – search for North Thoresby & District Bowls Club.

North Thoresby Cricket Club

The 2023 league season saw North Thoresby compete in Grimsby Midweek Division 2, resulting in us finishing 2nd from 8 teams. On reflection, with some weather interruptions and being on the wrong end of some important coin tosses, we probably should have won the league! Runs and wickets were spread fairly evenly across all players during the season. Alex Shreeve topped the run scoring with 221 runs and bowler Andy Richardson was top wicket-taker with 10 victims. A great year had by all involved and we hope our team spirit and ability creates an even better year next season.

Special mentions to our volunteers who keep our ground tip top condition throughout the season and a big thank you to our sponsors for their continued support. Great achievement by all involved at North Thoresby CC. Plenty of projects planned at the ground in hope for another successful season in 2024! **Jim Birkwood. Contact:** Dave Bedlow davebedlow9@gmail.com

North Thoresby FC

At the end of last season the club won the Junior Challenge Cup and after finishing 2nd in division 2 of the East Lincs Football Combination last season the club were promoted to division 1 and have made a great start to the new season. After 4 games they have wins against Market Rasen, Louth Town Development and Grimoldby with a draw against Ludford. With 10 points they are sitting in 2nd place but with tough games ahead. The club have a strong squad of 32 players who will be up to the challenge. **Contact:** Dave Bedlow davebedlow9@gmail.com

Thoresby Singers

We meet in the Wesley centre at 7.30, usually on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, and finish at 9.00. No singing experience is needed, no auditions, just enthusiasm and a willingness to learn.

Autumn Concerts: Tuesday, 31st October, 7.30, Louth St. James with Louth Male Voice Choir, for breast cancer awareness charity.

Saturday, 16th December 3 pm Methodist Chapel, North Thoresby.

Friday 1st December, 7.30, Marshchapel St Mary's Church, with Louth Male Voice Choir.

Contact: Anita Briggs briggs2@yahoo.co.uk

Village Groups that meet regularly in the Wesley Centre

Knit and Natter: Every Monday afternoon from 2- 4pm. Margaret Gibson 840698

Women's Institute: 1st Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. Linda Dickinson 840030

Art Group: Tuesday 1 – 4pm. Judith Goodey 840461

Needlecrafts: Various dates Jacqui Toyne 840246

Parent and Toddlers: Mondays 9.30am. Emma Carey 0791009757

Facebook : North Thoresby Playgroup

Rainbows and Brownies: Friday Rainbows 5–6pm Brownies 6-7.30pm
norththoresbyrainbowbrownies@gmail.com

Sew & So's: Friday 9.30am. Heather Howard 841127

Carpet Bowls: Friday 2pm. Edna Procter 840340

Village Men's Group: Every Thursday 10 – 11.30am. Graham Pearson 841812

'Inner Voice': Contact Denise Padbury 07881 422648

Thoresby Singers: Alternate Thursdays. 7.30pm. Anita Briggs 840803

North Thoresby Methodist Church: Regular Events

Minister Revd. Susan Chambers Tel : 01472 696113. Apart from Sunday worship and Bible Study, events take place at the Wesley Centre. Sunday : Service every week at 11am. In the Chapel.

- Monday : Bible Study and Fellowship at 7.30pm.
- Tuesday : Informal Worship round the coffee table - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9.45am.
- Tuesday : Coffee Morning Pop-In. Coffee and Chat raising money for charities. 10.30 - 11.30am.
- Thursday : Get-Together fortnightly, September to Easter at 2pm. Contact Lynne Dudgeon 01472 840720
- Saturday : Collection for Food Bank. First Saturday of each month, 9.30am to 11am.
- All are welcome at all these events. Just turn up or for more information please phone: Lynne Dudgeon 01472 840720; Elizabeth Kershaw 01472 840009; Faith Faulkner 01507 363626; Kathy Hart 01507 363626.

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Regular Activities in the Village Hall

- **Yoga:** Weekly, Mondays - 1.30/3.00. Janice Davy 01472 879828
- **Exercise 2 Socialise:** Weekly, Wednesdays - 9.30/10.30. Mary Ramsden 07837168454
- **Slimming World:** Weekly, Fridays - 9.30/11.00. Sharon Grove 07801928671
- **Tai Chi:** Weekly Fridays 1-2 pm Josh 07964712246
- **Church Bingo:** Last Friday of the month November, January, February. Des Green 01472 840160
- **Church Tabletop Sale:** Second Saturday of the month November, January, February. Des Green 01472 840160
- **Pop-In Luncheon Club** Generally 1st Thursday in the month (not Christmas lunch). Contact: Di King diking216@btinternet.com

North Thoresby, Grainsby and Waithe Parish Council

Website: parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/NorthThoresbyGrainsbyandWaithe

Email: norththoresbyparishcouncil@gmail.com

North Thoresby Village Hall Hire Main Hall: Non-Profit organisations £12 per hour; Commercial £15. Main Hall Day rate (up to 8 hours): £60. Block booking discounts available. Calculations of length of booking need to include setting up and taking down time. **Contact:** Mark Wilson 0798442487 mark.caretaker@yahoo.co.uk

NTCEA Present a welcome return for the fantastic

Washboard Resonators

Village Hall Saturday December 2nd

7.30 Tickets £7.50 from Morrisons

'Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.' Leo Buscaglia

'No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.' Aesop

St Helens Church

Weekly Services each Sunday 10a.m. Information on Notice Board in The Square.

Saturday 2nd December 10-00a.m. till 4-00p.m.

Christmas Spectacular "Fairy Tales "

Sunday December 17th 6-00 p.m. Traditional 'Lessons and Carols'

Sunday 24th December. Christmas Eve. 3-00 p.m. Christingle service.
and 6-00 p.m. Christmas Holy Communion.

North Thoresby and District WI

Autumn Coffee Morning: Saturday 4th November Village Hall 10-12
Crafts, Raffle, Bric-a-Brac, Books, Coffee/Tea £1 Entry

North Thoresby and District WI

Meetings 7.30pm, Wesley Centre on the first Tuesday of the month.

Visitors are always welcome. **Contact:** Linda Dickinson 01472840030

November 7th Craft Evening

December 5th Waltham Choral Society in the Chapel

January 9th Games Night with Faith Supper

February 6th AGM and Crazy Raffle

March 5th Running a B&B Irene Ward Kendall

North Thoresby Methodist Church

Thursday Get-Together Autumn Programme

The Thursday Get-Together meets in the Wesley Centre at 2pm. fortnightly from September to Easter. All are welcome. Just turn up or for more details please phone: Lynne Dudgeon 01472 840720 Elizabeth Kershaw 01472 840009 Ruth Constant 01507 607324

Nov. 9th Elsie Butler Memories and Reflections; Nov. 23rd Nicki Hobern India;

Dec. 8th Christmas Celebration

'Not until the creation and maintenance of decent conditions of life for all people are recognized and accepted as a common obligation of all people and all countries - not until then shall we, with a certain degree of justification, be able to speak of humankind as civilized.' Albert Einstein

Wesley Centre Pop In Coffee Mornings and Charity Fundraising

Each Tuesday morning the Methodist Chapel holds a pop-in coffee morning in the Wesley Centre from 10.30 – 11.30am. There is coffee/tea/biscuits and a lot of chat. Some bring their knitting, others bring books or jigsaws to swap, others just chat. It is a friendly, easy-going occasion.

There is no charge; we collect a donation to give to various charities. Each time £50 is reached we move on to another charity. Anyone can suggest a charity of their choice. We try and keep a balance between international, national and local charities, and Christian ones. Recent contributions have included donations to Christian Aid, the Methodist overseas aid charity "All We Can", Action for Children, the Motor Neurone Disease Association, the Humberston Hydrotherapy Pool and Harbour Place in Grimsby. We also have a bright yellow china pig into which we put our 5 pence pieces which go to an orphanage in Kenya. All are welcome to stay for as short or long a time as you wish.

North Thoresby Methodist Chapel: Christmas

Saturday 16th December at 3pm in the chapel: Christmas Music for a Saturday Afternoon by the Thoresby Singers. Refreshments. Collection for Action for Children **Christmas Eve** Candlelight Carol Service at 6pm in the chapel **Christmas Day Service** at 10am in the chapel

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you who supported the Macmillan/Marie Curie Cream tea afternoon held on the August Bank Holiday Monday. All together £1000 was raised - so I have been able to send £500 to each of the charities. Thank you again, Heather.

The Community News and Directory is produced and published by the NTCEA ('Events') and financed predominantly by advertising. Copies are delivered to every home in North Thoresby, Waithe and Grainsby and an expanded digital version (with more in colour) appears on our webpage and is distributed via our data base. To be added to the database contact Ian Wright.

Surgery Patient Participation Group

A Patient Participation Group is a group of volunteers (usually numbering 6 or so), who are patients of the surgery and want to help it work as effectively as possible for the benefit of patients, doctors and staff. The NHS requires every Practice to have a PPG.

Our PPG contributes ideas, feedback and suggestions to improve patient experience and it is important that the PPG is representative of the patients it serves. If you would like to attend our next meeting or to know more about our PPG, please contact the surgery on 01472 840202 and speak to a receptionist.

PPGs vary because they develop and evolve to meet local needs of their Practice population and may, for example, include either or all of the following:

- Helping to improve communication by assisting in the production newsletters or leaflets that provide patients with information about their health and how to access services.
- Together with members of the Practice Team and other partners, participate in the organisation of health promotion events so that patients can have really good understanding of their health and how best to look after it.
- Acting as a 'critical friend' to the Practice, by helping it appreciate and understand what patients are thinking and are saying about issues, such as, opening hours, telephone systems, requests for home visits, repeat prescriptions and the range and type of services provided within the Practice.
- Signposting patients to available support or providing services such as volunteer transport, befriending and support groups.
- Influencing the services that are provided, and their development in a way that is best for patients.
- Undertaking appropriate survey or research to find out what matters to patients, and discussing the findings with the Practice.

Our next meeting is going to be held on Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at Holton-le-Clay surgery, at 2pm.

Hannah Carr, Assistant Practice Manager, North Thoresby Practice
Phone 01472 840202 Practice Code C83061



North Thoresby FC Winners of the Junior Challenge Cup 2022-23 Season



This is one of many photographs of North Thoresby that we have collected in the History Archive in the Wesley Centre – but no date or names. Can you help us?

If you have an idea for an article, or piece you would like featured in a future edition, please drop us a line as we would love to feature as much local content as we are able to.



1891.

"ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER"

1891.

January	February	March
Sunday... 1/11/91	Sunday... 1/24/91	Sunday... 3/1/91
Monday... 1/12/91	Monday... 2/1/91	Monday... 3/2/91
Tuesday... 1/13/91	Tuesday... 2/2/91	Tuesday... 3/3/91
Wednesday... 1/14/91	Wednesday... 2/3/91	Wednesday... 3/4/91
Thursday... 1/15/91	Thursday... 2/4/91	Thursday... 3/5/91
Friday... 1/16/91	Friday... 2/5/91	Friday... 3/6/91
Saturday... 1/17/91	Saturday... 2/6/91	Saturday... 3/7/91
April	May	June
Sunday... 1/22/91	Sunday... 5/12/91	Sunday... 6/1/91
Monday... 1/23/91	Monday... 5/13/91	Monday... 6/2/91
Tuesday... 1/24/91	Tuesday... 5/14/91	Tuesday... 6/3/91
Wednesday... 1/25/91	Wednesday... 5/15/91	Wednesday... 6/4/91
Thursday... 1/26/91	Thursday... 5/16/91	Thursday... 6/5/91
Friday... 1/27/91	Friday... 5/17/91	Friday... 6/6/91
Saturday... 1/28/91	Saturday... 5/18/91	Saturday... 6/7/91

H. H. VEASEY,
 Grocery, Provision, Drapery, and
 Boot Stores,
NORTH THORESBY.
 Sole Agent in the district for the Tower Tea.

July	August	September
Sunday... 7/1/91	Sunday... 8/1/91	Sunday... 9/1/91
Monday... 7/2/91	Monday... 8/2/91	Monday... 9/2/91
Tuesday... 7/3/91	Tuesday... 8/3/91	Tuesday... 9/3/91
Wednesday... 7/4/91	Wednesday... 8/4/91	Wednesday... 9/4/91
Thursday... 7/5/91	Thursday... 8/5/91	Thursday... 9/5/91
Friday... 7/6/91	Friday... 8/6/91	Friday... 9/6/91
Saturday... 7/7/91	Saturday... 8/7/91	Saturday... 9/7/91
October	November	December
Sunday... 10/1/91	Sunday... 11/1/91	Sunday... 12/1/91
Monday... 10/2/91	Monday... 11/2/91	Monday... 12/2/91
Tuesday... 10/3/91	Tuesday... 11/3/91	Tuesday... 12/3/91
Wednesday... 10/4/91	Wednesday... 11/4/91	Wednesday... 12/4/91
Thursday... 10/5/91	Thursday... 11/5/91	Thursday... 12/5/91
Friday... 10/6/91	Friday... 11/6/91	Friday... 12/6/91
Saturday... 10/7/91	Saturday... 11/7/91	Saturday... 12/7/91

This calendar, from a North Thoresby Village Store, was distributed to customers at Christmas time 1890, ready for the New Year. Strangely, we can find no other references for H.H. Veasey, Grocery, Drapery and Boot Stores.



Come and join us for a magical afternoon at the Community Christmas Light Switch On!

Date: Sunday 3rd December

Time: 4pm onwards

Location: Village Hall.

This festive event is not to be missed! We have stalls run by many different community groups, where you can find unique gifts and treats for your loved ones. By supporting these stalls, you will be helping them raise funds for their important work within the community.

Get into the spirit of the season with joyful Christmas singing! Feeling hungry or thirsty? Don't worry, we have delicious refreshments available to keep you energized throughout the evening.

So come along and join us on Sunday 3rd December from 4pm. Let's unite as a community, celebrate together, and light up the village with festive cheer!

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