



North Thoresby Community News and Village Directory

Edition 7 March-June 2023

Editorial

This is a packed and very varied edition, reflecting many aspects of our village life. There are interviews with Headteacher Tom Hawkins and Julie Frankish, manager of the New Inn. Claire Cooper, New Chair of the NTCEA, reviews the group's activities in 2022. Multi-talented, Claire has lived all her life in the village and has made a major contribution to the organisation from the 1940s Event to the present.

'A Gem Discovered' tells the story of how a draft copy of a book on the Lancaster crash in the village in 1943 has now been published. We report on two villagers reaching their 100th birthdays before Christmas. Di King takes us behind the scenes to explain how the wonderful Pop In Lunch Club operates, the ladies of the WI give us recommendations for a 'Good Read' and Jenny Hippisley recommends a recipe to try out.

Teacher Heather Howard explains how Academy pupils triumphed in a national competition and 'Honouring Dave Barnett' reports on the Memorial Bench dedication and Dave's legacy to the community. There are photographs of some of our groups – the Art Group, Football team and Knit and Natterers and some beautiful line drawings by Brian Cliffe and the late John Toyne. As always, there is full information about the activities and events of our community groups.

There are Parish Council Elections in May so please take note of the drop in event in the Village Hall on Monday 6th March, 6.30pm to 8.30pm. We thank our advertisers for their support in enabling this self-financing and purposefully old fashioned publication to provide information about, and a record of, the life of our community. **Ian Wright, Editor.**

Academy Pupils Win National Award

In September 2020, the year 5/6 Riordans class started a STEM project as part of a Rolls Royce competition that had been entered. The project was 'From Seed to Fork'. The whole project centred around the pupils setting up raised beds and growing their own fruit and vegetables. From these they were to produce a meal for the guests at the Village Pop-In. We started the whole project with a visit to the local allotments, to see what magic can happen in a small space.

The project started incredibly well, with onion boxes being used for the raised beds, filled with soil and manure (locally produced) and planted out by 6 teams of pupils, including the younger members of the school. Then Covid halted everything. We had months where there were only keyworker pupils in school and the country felt as though it stopped. In July 2021 we were able to set up an outdoor pop-up shop with home-made jams, scones and cakes, but this was the closest we got to creating a meal due to social distancing rules.

However, September 2021 saw the start of the new academic year and we were full steam ahead for the Big Soup and Crumble take over. We used as much school grown produce as we were able to – we were also donated some windfall cooking apples and picked some hedgerow blackberries. The rhubarb had been pulled, prepared and frozen at the end of September, so at the beginning of the 'Pop up week' the Riordans dug up all the potatoes, the onions had been dug in July and dried out so were peeled for French onion soup.

The Riordans prepared French onion soup, pumpkin soup, chunky vegetable soup, the crumble topping for the puddings, and made bread rolls and discovered the delights of making their own butter.

As a result of this project, we were finalists in the Rolls Royce Schools prize and at the presentations in December 2022 we were awarded the Eden award which had a prize of £2500 attached to it and a day at the Eden project for the year 5/6 class. We are hoping to use this money to subsidise a residential trip to Cornwall in July.

Heather Howard



A Year of Events

A Review of the Activities of the NTCEA in 2022

The North Thoresby Community Events Association is run by a small group of dedicated committee members, who came together to successfully run the final 3 years of the 1940s Event (2017-19), and have since organised a variety of events and activities.

We operate on a strategy of a 'virtuous cycle'. We hold events which educate and entertain and are valuable in their own right as places where members of the community come together. They raise funds which are then ploughed back for community benefit through the establishment of a Community Fund. Since we have been able to operate again in September 2021, we have committed over £4,000 to community activities, amenities, supporting community groups or donating to good causes. We also help fund new activities, such as the Community Singing Group. Recently, together with the Village People £600 was given to site a bench in memory of Dave Barnett, in the Memorial Garden, which owes its existence to Dave's foresight. We also look beyond the village to support good causes, with £950 for two Children's Charities, being raised this December by the joint efforts of the Methodist Chapel, and the NTCEA.

We feel that collaboration with our many and varied existing village groups is important and can be mutually beneficial. In June last year we organised The Village Festival which involved virtually all our community groups and consisted of 12 varied events over a 14-day period. It was a great success and events were very well attended throughout. There were open days at the cricket and bowls clubs and 80 people packed out the New Inn for a fund-raising quiz to support Ukrainian refugees and their hosts in the village.

The second Fun Dog Show held at the end of July at the cricket ground was again a success and enjoyed by all, even if we did get rained on! The 2023 show is in the early planning stage, but we hope to expand the event so there is more to see, going forward. The Horticulture Show had its best year yet since we revived it in 2018. The village started having Horticulture classes as part of the hugely successful 'North Thoresby Horse & Foal Show' in 1924 so it really is a long-standing tradition here. Unfortunately, participation dwindled around the time of the Millennium, so the decision was made not to continue with it. We are now thankful that, with everyone's support and enthusiasm, we can hold the show to raise funds for the village. In alternate years, with the Parish Council, the proceeds from the Horticulture Show buy the Christmas tree which stands outside the Village Hall for everyone to enjoy.

The NTCEA Newsletter & Village Directory is growing with each publication. This was the idea and passion of Ian Wright, the Editor, who rightly so believes it to be a very good way of communicating information to everyone in the village along with Grainsby and Waithe and providing a 'hard copy' record of our history.

'The News' reflects a busy, active and thriving community and gives detailed reports, future plans, times and places of the regular activities and contact details of all the community groups in the village. One of the main roles of the News and Village Directory is to ensure that the programmes and activities of the community groups, who play such a crucial role in the village, and other groups who hire the Village Hall are easily, and regularly accessible, in a handy booklet, to all in the Parish.

Throughout 2022 we held a variety of concerts in the Village Hall. These 7 events were very much enjoyed by both the performers and the audience. We would always like to see more of you come to these concerts though! We are currently planning two more over the next few months so will publicise the details once they are confirmed. Tickets are available from McColls in advance, or on the door on the night if there are any left. Tables are set out so you can sit with friends and bring your own drinks and snacks. Unfortunately, the Movie Nights never recovered their support after covid, but if interest increases, pilot evenings may be tried.

The Village History group, held every other month in the Village Hall, continues to be very well attended. We usually have presentations from expert speakers but very occasionally our own village history experts will do a talk for us. These are wonderful evenings for sharing memories of the village in years gone by seeing what we had through old photographs and postcards, which are now available in a booklet to buy in McColls.

The History Group work has also led to very promising prospects of archaeological investigations in the village during 2023. We are now awaiting full and appropriate permissions to investigate further, with expert assistance from the County Archaeologists. This will be a very exciting project and we will endeavour to fully involve villagers in the process.

The NTCEA are currently planning our events for 2023 and as always, they will be advertised in this newsletter, on [Facebook.com/norththoresbyevents](https://www.facebook.com/norththoresbyevents) and our website at [norththoresbyevents.co.uk](https://www.norththoresbyevents.co.uk).

Thank you for your ongoing support. We wouldn't be able to do all of this without you.

Claire Cooper Chair, NTCEA

Honouring Dave Barnett

Memorial Bench Dedication Ceremony.

On a crisp winter's morning, January 22nd, more than 60 villagers, together with his wife Maureen and many members of Dave's family, gathered in the Memorial Garden to honour the man whose vision, imagination and determination created the beautiful Memorial to the 8 young airmen who tragically died when their Lancaster bomber crashed into the centre of the village on October 4th 1943. The Memorial itself was dedicated in September 2005.

What follows below is a summary of my tribute to Dave made during the dedication.

'We are here to dedicate this memorial bench in honour of Dave Barnett and to recognise and symbolise his commitment to, and contribution to, the life of our community over many years.

Dave came to the village at the turn of the century, and quickly made a mark on village life. With his great pal, Des Green, he introduced the May Day fête and formed the 'Village People' (which operates to this day) to help disadvantaged villagers and those in need. He spent 10 years on the Parish Council, many as Chairman.

Dave and Des, initiated and led the village 1940s Event for a decade and Dave also did sterling work as a member of the Parochial Parish Council, negotiating bureaucratic minefields to obtain substantial grants for the maintenance, and improvements, at St Helens.

He was extremely knowledgeable about WW II – no one knew more about 'Bomber County'. Remarkably, during the process of organising the ceremony, I had sight for the first time of a draft of a book Dave had been working on with the late Tim Stone, on the subject of the Lancaster crash of 1943. This is a remarkable piece of research [and is explained in detail in a separate section of this edition of 'The News']. It will shortly be published by the Village History Group.

Dave's greatest legacy is the Memorial to those young men who perished here – 80 years ago this coming October. My understanding is that the airmen were initially commemorated by a small plaque, but Dave had greater ambitions.

After securing grants from several sources, the Scottish artist Alan Potter was commissioned to design and build a memorial. He embedded himself in the community and held workshops with villagers and children. [I have recently had email exchanges with him and there is more information about the memorial in the book].

Dave instinctively understood the importance of community. That people need activities, places, spaces, ceremonies, celebrations, entertainment and cultural experiences where they come together to collaborate, to build friendships, trust, mutual support and civic pride'

IW

Additional details: As part of the ceremony, Kitty and I each read passages which had been part of the 2005 ceremony and Des Green led us in a short prayer. Dave and Barbara Cooper, who do such a great voluntary job in looking after the garden, helped Maureen unveil the bench. Refreshments in the Village Hall followed. The Bench was purchased by North Thoresby Events Association and the Village People.

Maureen Barnett with Dave's son, Steve, daughter Helen, and grandchildren Charlotte and Olivia.





North Thoresby Art Group

Front Row, L to R: Marjorie Jackson; Debra Thomas; Ursula Lindley; Karen Stott; Judith Goodey. **Back Row**: Jackie Newborough, Peter Nilsson; Paul Fletcher; Martyn Pidgen; Jean Hargreaves; Lynn Wood.



The Lovely Ladies of the Knit and Natter Group, Left to Right: Ann Loftus; Angie Padley; Winn Nilsson; Joyce Burns; Des McCulloch; Susan Andrews; Joan Jackson; Sheila Martin; Jean Plaskitt; Alison Robinson; Pauline Andrew; Freda Clark; Margaret Gibson

A Gem Discovered: A Lancaster and A Village

In early 2023, during the process of organising the location, siting and dedication of a memorial bench in honour of Dave Barnett, I was given a draft copy of a short book of 50 pages or so, by Dave's wife Maureen. I had often heard that Dave and Tim had been working on a research project of the fateful Lancaster crash in the village on October 4th 1943, and Dave had given a well-received presentation on 'Bomber County' to the village History Group. For his part, Tim always brought his collection of documents and photographs to display as part of our 1940s event, so I knew that both were deeply interested in this period of history and possessed significant expertise. Dave had been responsible for the creation of the Memorial Garden, dedicated in September 2005, and highlighted later in the book. I believe that Tim was also an able ally in this achievement too.

As I examined the manuscript, it quickly became clear that some editing, design and proof reading work would soon get it ready for publication. Maureen did a marvellous job of the proof reading and thanks to Joyce Erswell for her checking too. The village History Group has had recent experience of producing booklets on village history, so we have been able to make pretty rapid progress through to the publication stage.

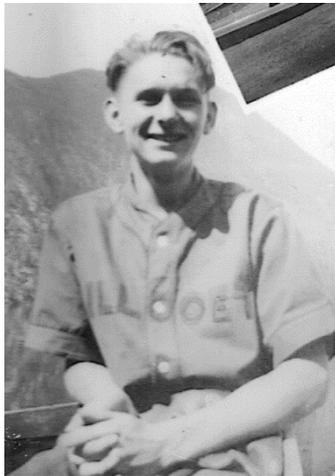
The 56-page book, 'A Lancaster and a Village', is a remarkable piece of research, containing for example, biographies of the 8 young airmen who perished on October 4th 1943, and recollections of villagers, then children, still living in the village in 2013.

Dave and Tim begin by giving us a background to the characteristics of the Lancaster bomber, the history of the plane (ED583) that crashed, followed by illustrations of the workload of raids made by 100 Sqn based at RAF Grimsby, near the village of Holton-le-Clay.

In the second section, the authors introduce us to the crew of the plane on October 4th and, as they were not the regular crew, how that came about. The following section takes us through the tragic events of October 4th 1943, an aerial photograph shows the location of the crash and an explanation of the probable causes of the crash are given. The creation of the Memorial Garden is explained and illustrated.

The longest section of the book is given over to meticulously researched biographies of the 8 members of the crew, utilising their service records, letters and photographs. Finally, the perspective of the village, and villagers, is discussed with a wonderful collection of recollections from villagers.

The book demonstrates great dedication and many, many hours of painstaking research. It records young men of great talent and bravery, removed from home and loved ones, who undertook demanding training and endured enormous physical and mental pressures. The book is driven by the sensitive empathy of its authors. Many of us in the village will know the bare-bones facts about the Lancaster crash but here Dave and Tim give us the much bigger, and deeper, picture.

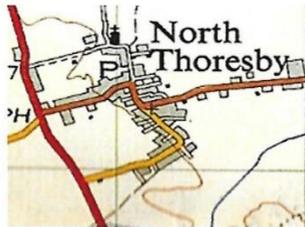


Above: Tommy Morgan, the 23-year old pilot of the Lancaster, born in Oregon, USA, and raised in Canada.

With both Dave and Tim sadly no longer with us, it's difficult to know exactly when the project began and ended, nor to know the exact nature of their collaboration. Publishing their work, and bringing it to a wider audience, simply had to be done, and it is a fitting tribute to them. At the core of the book is a human story. Dave and Tim were clearly moved by the fate of these eight young men, and that empathy extended to the whole generation that fought, and were victorious, against the monstrous evil of Fascism and authoritarianism. **IW North Thoresby History Group**

A Lancaster and a Village

David Barnett and Tim Stone



How to obtain the book

The 56-page book on the Lancaster crash in the village by the late authors Dave Barnett and Tim Stone will be available from McColls from March 9th and at the History Group meeting on that date. See more details below. **Price £5.00 All proceeds to the Community Fund.**

Because it is difficult to estimate demand, there will be a small first print run of 30 copies available from McColls and History Group meetings and once this is sold out, orders and purchasers details will be taken at McColls, with delivery date of next printing given, which will never be more than 4 weeks. Contact Ian Wright for enquiries.

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North Thoresby History Group: The Archive Centre

The development of the Archive Centre continues. Already decorated and carpeted, we now have storage cupboards and filing cabinets in place and have started moving in selections of the documentary records which have been accumulated over many years. These include Parish records from North Thoresby, Grainsby and Waithe giving comprehensive records of births, marriages and deaths in the village over four centuries. Nineteenth century census records and copies of early Parish Newsletters for the village in the nineteenth century are also invaluable. We will be putting these records to use in some of our meetings this year. Next moves are to make the room look like an archive centre, with the walls displaying copies of old photographs or postcards, copies of posters etc. **IW**

History Group Collaboration with the University of Lincoln (Part 1)

We are currently collaborating with a team of researchers at the Universities of Lincoln and Lancaster to develop some community-driven 'engagement events' related to the medieval history of the Duchy of Lancaster. See the link below for information on the Duchy and the 'Great Cowcher' project especially.

The earldom of Lancaster was a vast state within a state. In 1399 the heir to the Duchy, Henry of Bolingbroke, seized the throne as Henry IV. One of his first acts was to stipulate that the Duchy should be held separately from all other Crown possessions and descend through the Monarchy as a private estate. This continues to this day. The 'Great Cowcher' was a survey, in 1402, of all the land in the Duchy. It is second only to Domesday Book as a record of medieval landholding and the lives of ordinary people.

Part of this medieval land holding was in North Thoresby so the translation of the survey and its publication will throw light on our village history. In our archives we have around 40 cases in the records of our Manor Court relating to property owned by the Duchy.

Researchers are submitting a large bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund scheme and have ear-marked some funds to develop events with North Thoresby. These events could include archaeological sessions and/or arts workshops to create legacy items for the village. If the larger bid is unsuccessful, the researchers will work with us to identify smaller pots of funding that could help us deliver these events. **IW**

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/news/a-state-within-a-state-the-making-of-the-duchy-of-lancaster>

History Group Collaboration with the University of Lincoln (Part 2)

We have also been invited to take part in a pilot project which is being led by Carenza Lewis (of Time Team) at the University of Lincoln. The project is called '**Health and Heritage: Have a think, have a go, have a say**', and the aim is to look at what role community heritage groups might have in supporting people's mental health. Lincolnshire County Council is a partner in the project, alongside the NHS, Centre for Ageing Better, Community and Health Research Unit and others. It's hoped that this will be the start of a much larger project - funding for this is being sought by means of a bid to the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the result will be known in the Spring.

What would this mean for our group? In the early Summer 2023 there would be an initial workshop, to explain more about the project and what the project is trying to achieve, and next steps. After that, during the Summer and early Autumn we would be asked to carry out workshops with people in our local communities to run activities and collect data about how heritage can help support mental health. There would be a final workshop to get the group's feedback, insights and recommendations for future work. If the bid is successful, we would receive a grant to support our activities of between £1000 and £3000, and there will be lots of support offered by the project team to help us where we need it. So, potentially a very exciting project – we must hope that the bid for funding is successful. **IW**

History Group Programme for 2023

Our programme begins on Thursday, March 9th, 7.30 Village Hall, with **County Archaeologist and Historic Places Manager, Ian George's** presentation. '**Managing Lincolnshire's Historic Environment.**'

We will meet bi-monthly, second Thursdays of the month (perhaps with one or two extra sessions between) thereafter. Currently, I have commitments in principle to present from Lisa Brundle, Lincolnshire Archaeology Finds Officer, Mark Gardiner, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Lincoln, and Jon Fox, author of 'The Witham: Lincolnshire's River'. Exact dates to be published in due course. We will also have 'in-house' sessions, completing the visual tour of the village in old postcards and working with documents. Because of rising costs, we have slightly increased entrance to the sessions to £3.

The big ambition is to get some practical archaeology done in the field behind the Church and after 15 months of discussion with Church authorities at County level, we seem to be very close to getting the permissions. **IW**



The New Inn

Julie Frankish, the manager at the New Inn, has been a great help to 'Events' in its fund-raising activities, laying on a great spread for 2 of our charity quizzes – and is very enthusiastic about community involvement, both for the restaurant and bar and personally, as she 'lives above the shop.' So, early in February, she invited me for a chat to give me an insight into the philosophy and aspirations of the business.

The fortunes of the New Inn (which dates from around the time the railway arrived on the edge of the village in the 1840s) have certainly dramatically turned around since the experienced owners, Lorraine and Malcolm Russell, bought, and transformed, the business 4 years ago. Owners of the Tilted Barrel in Waltham, they have invested heavily in creating a classy and classic environment in the restaurant, which is the priority of the operation. It has undoubtedly returned to its position as a great asset to the village. Julie is full of praise for the Russells, who she says are very 'hands on', visiting the business everyday, setting the standards and creating a very happy working environment.



The New Inn Manager, Julie Frankish (centre) with chefs Dan Blow (to her right) and Cameron Coulan, with staff members Hazel Kerrison and Jane Hill (right).

The restaurant is the priority for the business and the bedrock for its revenue, notwithstanding the cosy and friendly bar area and pool room for the local team and visitors. Ingredients are sourced from local seasonal produce and everything is 'homemade' on the premises. Menus reflect the seasons and happily cater for the full range of dietary requirements.

Experienced chefs, Dan Blow and Cameron Coulan, both formerly at Stallingborough Grange, have been resident at the New Inn for 18 months and this provides important continuity. Julie describes the menus 'as a mixture of fine dining and pub classics' and variety is added by a Specials board where Dan and Cameron like to 'show-off' a little.

The proof of the pudding' is that bookings for Sunday lunches are now always sold out. 'We strive for consistency', Julie says and we aim to establish a reputation as the best in the area. There is a great deal more potential here, she says, we have a paddock at the back and outdoor food facilities, potentially opening up the wedding market. In the summer months we have bands playing at Sunday lunch.

Julie's enthusiasm and ambition comes through at every stage of our chat. With 24 years in the business, much at the Black Bull in Brigg and including having her own pub, 'The Whistle and Flute', she clearly has many talents, – including gaining an Honours degree in English literature from Hull University, six years ago. With such experienced and committed owners and dedicated management, the New Inn is clearly in very good hands.

Julie Frankish was speaking with Editor, Ian Wright.



In Focus: Tom Hawkins

Executive Headteacher, North Thoresby and Utterby Primary Academies

Tom Hawkins celebrated 5 years as Headteacher of the federated academies of North Thoresby and Utterby at the start of term in January. Having seen the challenging and exciting work the schools do, and having worked closely with Tom when 'Events' have supported the schools, I thought it would be interesting to speak with him about contemporary primary education, and for villagers to get an insight into a world very different to the education most of us received.

I first asked Tom to clarify the term 'federated' and also to explain exactly what belonging to an educational Trust brought to the schools.

'Federated', Tom explained, simply means, one school on two sites. North Thoresby currently has 100 pupils (the maximum capacity is 104) and Utterby is full, with 70 pupils. Teachers work across both sites and children move between sites. There are benefits of scale – for example the school minibuses, Utterby children have the benefit of a change of scenery and residential camps and out of school visits and activities are shared. In all, there are 16 members of staff and four and a half full time teachers. At North Thoresby there are 4 classrooms which are used flexibly, depending on the number of children in the smaller classes. Utterby is smaller with only three 3 classes.

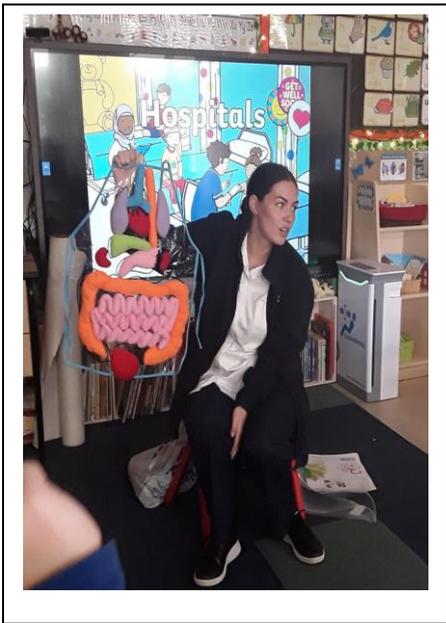
Belonging to the Academies Enterprise Trust brings great benefits in the challenging and demanding environment set within the National Curriculum. The Trust is one of the largest in the country, with 58 schools spread across the regions, approximately 50/50 secondary and primary. The local schools are part of the 'Northern Primaries' cluster of 10 schools and receive an enormous amount of support from the Trust.

The cluster has a Regional Educational Director and there are regular visits to the school, on-line meetings, face-to-face meetings at Principal level and immense support and expertise provided – on matters ranging from management and administrative issues to curriculum support. Tom describes the Trust as 'critical friends' and invaluable in an environment where the level of knowledge, detail and expectations are higher than ever under the 4 headings under which the school is inspected: Quality of Education; Leadership and Management; Personal Development and Behaviour and Attitudes.

This neatly brought me to asking Tom about the aims, aspirations and practises of contemporary primary education. I suggested to Tom that the central curriculum question over the last 50 years or so, has been how to satisfactorily combine the attainment of fundamental skills – literacy, numeracy and so on – so as to equip all children for the world of work, with the more holistic values of character, values and citizenship, tolerance, care for others, spiritual and physical growth, moral questioning, honesty and so on. Over and above this, is the issue of teaching style – how to combine classwork (often in quite large classes) with the aspirations of individualised learning.

Tom immediately referred me to the starting point – the National Curriculum of 2014. Tom reflects positively on this landmark, despite the negativity which surrounded it at the time – that it was much too challenging and raised the bar too high. Tom's own view is that it was the first deeply researched national offer and once the underlying principles are understood it makes a great deal of sense. The curriculum detail and content gets 'scaled up' in the specific context of each school. For example, content and process (knowledge and skills) are developed with the aim of enabling pupils to become effective historians or scientists.

This process of planning in the local Academies is guided by three principles – asking the questions: is the learning exercise Purposeful, Practical and Powerful (will it 'stick' with the pupils?).



The award-winning 'From Seed to Fork' project, explained in detail in a separate article, illustrates these principles. The pupils learnt about the cycle of food, nurturing and producing a harvest and how to prepare a meal, homemade butter, bread rolls, soups and crumbles.(using sharp knives). They experienced re-using/re-cycling pallets to make strawberry planters, vegetable planters and trellises. This involved using tools: saws, hammer, screw drivers and measuring accurately. New skills have been learnt as all the pupils in KS2 took seedlings home to grow and took part in bulb planting gifts for elderly resident of the village.

The year 5/6 pupils in the school all learnt the ukulele as part of the project and gave a performance and sing-a-long at the Pop-In. These are all things that can be continued in the school and have ensured that the project is self-sufficient.

The experience and expertise of parents is a well-used resource, as is that of local businesses. Visitors include parents who are nurses, dentists, firefighters and scientists among many others. Field trips widen experience, encourage the creation of aspirations and help make important connections – for example, a visit to the County Show links agriculture, engineering and crafts.

Other trips included a visits to Eureka Science Museum and the National Space Museum to link with the science topics of the term, as well as trips to the beach linked to geography themes of tourism and natural processes. All help to bring the learning to life.

Imagination is needed to help pupils get through the rather 'dry' stages of learning in the early stages of reading and numeracy. It is important that homework is accessible and reasonably enjoyable. Much home learning is now set through online learning platforms and is largely game based to keep it both enjoyable and interactive. Although reading a book remains the most valuable thing that can be done between parent and child to further their learning.

Technology has made the learning experience much more individualised. Each pupil has their own Chrome book which they can take home. Artificial Intelligence software enables teachers to set tasks which are both class-based and pitched at the right level for each pupil. Teachers can monitor each child's progress and can intervene, setting new tasks and testing reading, spelling or maths. Typically, pupils can come in, in the morning, settle to do some work on the tablets before registrations. Ninety percent of pupils reach their chronical age targets.

In terms of the more holistic values there are challenges in Lincolnshire as diversity is limited, so the pupils need to have a rich 'cultural diet' of awareness about the wider world. Each term's medium term plan of learning contains specific "global links" and each week children have an assembly linked to a recent national or international news event.

School inspections were held at North Thoresby in January 2020 and at Utterby in November 2021. Tom describes the expectation levels as going through the roof. The challenges, including the incredibly difficult times through the covid outbreak, were met full on, and both schools were rated Good across the four criteria mentioned earlier.

I came away from my conversation with Tom, and peeps into classrooms, incredibly impressed by the confident sense of purpose and positivity which underpins the education that pupils enjoy (in all senses of the word) at the federated academies. The detailed planning and creativity this demands is clearly both very challenging for the staff, and also very rewarding. It's amazing to see the detailed planning and structures that are in place, created by a dedicated and imaginative staff, under strong leadership, to so successfully deliver the objectives set out in the National Curriculum – and to produce a very, very happy school. **IW**





North Thoresby Football Team, February 11th v Grainthorpe. Back row left to right: Jamie Cook (manager); Mike Smith; Lawrence Pargeter; Michael Braithwaite; Jason Cooper (vice chairman/ groundsman); Andy Hunter; Billy Wright; Josh Plaskitt; Dave Bedlow (Secretary/Treasurer).

Front row, left to right; Sam Graves; Ellis Topliss; Danny Cant; Darren Hargreaves; Matty Blanchard; Jim Birkwood; Archie Miall; Marc Musgrove.

Andy's Carpet Cleaning Service

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March	
SATURDAY 4 TH 7.30PM	SCRUFFY
WEDNESDAY 8TH – SATURDAY 11TH 7.30PM	THE GOOD LIFE
SUNDAY 12 TH 3PM – 7PM	LOV YOUR VENUE FESTIVAL
SUNDAY 12 TH 8PM	ELLIOTT MORRIS
WEDNESDAY 15 TH 7.30PM	FATHERHOOD
FRIDAY 17 TH 7.30PM	SIMCHA KINDERTRANSPORT – THE CONCERT DOCUMENTARY
Saturday 18 th 7.30pm	THE CARPENTERS EXPERIENCE
TUESDAY 21 ST 7.30PM	NORMAL
FRIDAY 24 TH 7.30PM	WE ARE WHAT WE OVERCOME
SUNDAY 26 TH 3.00PM	CARLOS BONELL – 1000 YEARS OF MUSIC
TUESDAY 28 TH 7.30PM	SUB:VERSION AND SURGE
April	
SUNDAY 2 ND 11AM-3PM	Easter Craft Fair
SUNDAY 2 ND 7.30PM	Film: Get Carter
FRIDAY 14 TH 7.30PM	Door to Door Poetry
SATURDAY 22 ND 7.30PM	Bon Joe V
MONDAY 24 TH 7.30PM	The Fureys
May	
WEDNESDAY 10TH – SUNDAY 21ST	JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT
FRIDAY 26 TH 7.30PM	SENSE & SENSIBILITY
SATURDAY 27 TH 7.30PM	ARTHUR SMITH
WEDNESDAY 31 ST 7.00PM	OPEN MIC NIGHT

Visit www.louthriverheadtheatre.com for more info.



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01507602089 www.little-louth.com



My wife and I are so pleased to know that you are celebrating your one hundredth birthday on 15th December, 2022. This brings our warmest congratulations and heartfelt good wishes on such a special occasion.

Charles R *Camilla R*

Mrs. Eileen Watson

Eileen Watson: Centenarian

Villager Eileen Watson celebrated her 100th birthday on December 15th 2022. She was born in Sheffield to Harold and Millicent Spencer and had two younger siblings, Pamela and William. She trained as a shorthand typist before joining the WRNS in WW2, where she was based in Scotland. She met her husband Ron at a dance at the Sheffield City Hall & they were married two years later in August 1947.

Hazel, her first born, arrived in July 1948, followed by Andrew & Paul. Following Ron's retirement, they moved to North Thoresby 35 years ago, to be nearer to their daughter and settled in Smithfield. Ron and Eileen travelled widely, frequently to Australia, Papua New Guinea and Portugal. Eileen enjoyed gardening and did voluntary work, delivering Meals on Wheels. Ron pre-deceased Eileen in 2002 and, with the onset of macular degeneration, Eileen's activities became more limited. Her great joy was listening to 'Talking Books'. Eileen is a very proud Nan and Great Grandmother of 8. She enjoyed her 100th birthday with family from around the world at the New Inn, and was on great form. She was thrilled to receive a birthday card from Charles & Camilla. Sadly, she has been very poorly since Christmas.

Robert Simons December 18th 2022 – February 9th 2023

On December 18th 2022, villager Robert Simons celebrated his 100th birthday. I had first visited Robert in the summer of 2022, with a historian from the University of Lincoln, to speak with him about his time in the Home Guard, beginning as a 17-year-old in 1940. His grasp of detail from so long ago was amazing and, from then on, I visited Robert for a half-an-hour chat virtually every Monday afternoon. He was a mine of information about rural life, the village as it was, personalities, life in wartime Thoresby and on dating changes and developments in the village. He was also extremely well informed on wider historical subjects and current affairs. A lovely, thoughtful, very bright gentleman.

Robert was born into a farming family in neighbouring Grainsby – he had an older brother, Henry, a sister Margaret and younger brother John. He was an excellent student at Louth Grammar School and gained very high grades at 16 in his School Certificate Exams. He was due to take Civil Service Exams before the outbreak of war intervened. His destiny was to work in agriculture, first on the family holding then cultivating a market garden in the village, on the current nursery site. Robert had a wide range of interests – flying model aircraft, fishing, bowls and a passionate love of Bridge. He had continued to be active in the latter two well into his 90s.

He married in his late 40s in 1969, to a fellow Bridge player, Kathleen, and became a wonderful stepfather to David (then 17) and Lynn (14) and subsequently a loving grandfather to Lynn's children James, and Robert, recently married to Aliah, and based in Vancouver.

Robert was an uncle to Margaret and Len's children, David and Jane and saw them frequently. He was a loving father-in-law to David's wife Helen and Lynn's husband Dave.

Sadly, Robert developed pneumonia after Christmas and passed away, after complications, on February 9th

A remarkable man, a life fully lived.



A Day in the Life of North Thoresby Pop-in Lunches

The two main cooks have chosen the menu: two courses since Covid, one to do main course and one to do the pudding. Shopping and possibly some prepping Tuesday and Wednesday.

Arrive village hall 8-8.5am and unload car and prepare the kitchen, hostess trolleys, pots and pans.

The table laying team arrive 8.30-8.45, often Di and Dave Butterfield, Kitty and Ian Wright and Dave Bedlow. Those of you who come to the lunches will appreciate this, as the hall now looks bright and welcoming. Hopefully now is time to have a quick coffee together and a gossip.

Cooking now in full swing and the veg cook arrives to prepare a mountain of potatoes and vegetables. Favourite meals are cottage pie, different mince and veg in season, casseroles and sausage and mash. Favourite puddings are sponges and strudels. With cooking now well underway possibly time for a sit down and coffee.

At about 11.30 the rest of the team arrive, the amazing dish washers and the waiters, an important link to our guests who also begin to come in at that time. Now there is a real buzz in the hall and in the kitchen. Full of happy smiles and chatter, all helping each other.

When the guests have had their meal, cup of tea or coffee and the important social time, the volunteers have their meal, another important time to chat and socialise. We do the last wash up and tidy away, all working together, and leave the hall with a day well spent at about 3.00 to 3.15pm.

Di King

Top Salon (Unisex)

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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 Des Green 01472 840160
- **Church Tabletop Sale:** Second Saturday of the month. Des Green 01472 840160

North Thoresby Art Group: Meets every Tuesday 1-4pm in the Wesley Centre to offer advice and encouragement to each other. Members work in a variety of media and bring their own materials and equipment. £5 per session. **Further information** please contact Judith Goodey on 01472-840461

North Thoresby Primary Academy Headteacher: Tom Hawkins 01472 840295 contactus@norththoresbyprimaryacademy.org www.norththoresbyprimaryacademy.org

North Thoresby, Grainsby and Waithe Parish Council

Website: parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/NorthThoresbyGrainsbyandWaithe

Email: norththoresbyparishcouncil@gmail.com

North Thoresby Village Hall Hire from January 2023: First increases in 8 years and due to substantial increases in electricity and heating oil. 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

The Community Choir 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month Wesley Centre, 7.30 £2.50 a session.

The Community Choir has quickly become established with over 30 members. Graham Burrell puts the group through their paces with great skill and humour. Early repertoire includes Bridge over Troubled Water, Fields of Gold and Edelweiss. All ages welcome – great voice not necessary.

Contact: Anita Briggs 840803 briggsa2@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Council Drop In, North Thoresby Village Hall

Monday 6th March, 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Elections are being held in May for all District and Parish Councils across the country, including ours (North Thoresby, Grainsby and Waithe), so if you would like to represent your local community by becoming a Parish Councillor and learn more about the role & the election process please drop in for a chat with current council members and your District Councillors - Terry Aldridge (Independent) & Phyll Smith (Labour).

All are welcome to stand for election to the parish council and we would particularly like to see members from the various village and Community groups joining the council to ensure all interests are represented. We would also appreciate your feedback as to what you would like from your Parish Council going forward. **All welcome - call in, ask questions and share your views. Refreshments available.**

Parish Council: Scarecrow Trail 1st - 8th May

Theme is **'The Coronation.'** Entry forms will be delivered to every home. Competition to be judged by villagers. Prizes donated by North Thoresby Homecare and Lincolnfield's Nursery.

Community Event, Sunday 7th May

Following Coronation Day on the 6th there will be a community event the following day, jointly organised by Events and Parish Councillors. Details to follow.

Sociable Soup Thursday 16th March and Thursday 20th April

Drop into the Village Hall for Soup, Cake, Tea and Coffee.

All Welcome. No Charge. Discretionay Donations. 12.30 -2.00

St Helens and the Methodist Chapel: Walk of Witness

Good Friday 7th April. Short service at the chapel, 11.00am followed by the 'Walk of Witness' from the chapel to the church.

A Good Read: Ed: I invited the ladies of the North Thoresby and District's Book Club to recommend a 'good read' to villagers – one husband also chipped in.

The Joy of Reading

Reading, a hard won skill, achieved by years of effort by ourselves, teachers, parents and friends, all devoted to enabling us to receive information, wisdom, education, pleasure, humour, joy and insights into places and lives far distant and times past, by the 'simple' act of passing our eyes over a system of lines and curves to facilitate knowledge.

What a joy, and a superb method of conveying thoughts to others, across time and space. I acquired reading at primary school and used it initially to access information and knowledge. Reading to study was both a pleasure and a pain, but so interesting. Now I am older, reading allows many adventures into the lives and times of others. How satisfying to learn of a time in history I feel guilty about being ignorant of, or to explore a place or topic briefly alluded to on TV or radio or in the press. **Angela Hawkins**

Joanne Harris (author of *Chocolat*): **A Cat, a Hat and a Piece of String.** An intriguing collection of short stories, some witty, some sad, some scary, bound together in various ways...she leaves it to the reader to find the links. A great book for those who read when going to bed, as you can read a whole story before sleep takes over! Harris is a magical storyteller. Not a popular book with most of the group....but judge for yourselves! **Sue Sanchez**

'The Crossing Places,' Emily Griffiths: One of the Dr Ruth Galloway Mysteries, a series of novels set in north Norfolk, featuring a forensic archaeologist. Likeable characters, set in an atmospheric landscape. **Linda Dickinson**

'And the Mountains Echoed' Khaled Hosseini. A moving look at the lives, loves and hardships of a group of people from Afghanistan bound together in a riveting and often amusing narrative. **Val Manning**

'The Reading Room' by Nisha Adams. A reading list is found in the community around Wembley. Friendships are forged as the books are discussed. The local library and community are saved and, of course, this leads to more books to read.' **Marjorie Jackson**

Kate Atkinson recreates 1926 London nightlife in her latest novel, **'Shrines of Gaiety,'** an enjoyable romp with dark undertones. **Alf Manning**



The Square from the North
Brian Cliffe 1995



The Square, North Thoresby
Brian Cliffe 1995

North Thoresby & District Bowls Club

Bowls is a simple game, based on some fairly natural physical movements. It's easy to learn. The object of the game is to get your bowls nearer to the jack than your opponent. The jack is a small spherical target placed 25m to 35m away. Sounds too easy? We made it harder by adding a bias to the bowls which makes your bowls turn as they race over the bowling green. The bias is created by the shape of the bowl. Different model bowls turn in different ways. Some run almost straight. Some turn like crazy. Which sort would suit you?

It has always been the case that anybody calling in at the club would find a member who would help them learn to play. The learner should dress in casual clothes with flat-soled shoes. Bowls vary in size to suit the size of your hand. We have plenty for you to try.

Bowls season starts at the end of April and runs until September. We have social bowling during the week at various times and on Saturday afternoon starting at 1:30pm. We compete in two leagues and have matches on Tuesday night and Wednesday afternoon. We also have internal competitions.

For further information call Malcolm Huson on 07701386540 or email us at Norththoresbybowls@gmail.com. **During the bowling season you can follow the internal competitions on Facebook. Search for North Thoresby & District Bowls Club.**

North Thoresby and District WI Meetings 7.30pm in the Wesley Centre on the first Tuesday of the month. Visitors are always welcome.

March 7th 'My Glass is always Full' Joy Wood

April 4th: 'Tracing Your Family History' Fiona Poulton

May 2nd: Resolutions and Competitions

June 6th: 'A Trip in the Desert', Barbara McKinnell

Another Book Recommendation

'The Rosie Project' Graeme Simsion. A light-hearted, very funny love story. The narrator, who is on the autism spectrum, tells the story of his search for a partner, his 'Wife Project', using a questionnaire. He mistakenly thinks Rosie has been sent as a candidate. She is *definitely* not what he is looking for, but their relationship slowly develops. A book to enjoy along with its sequels.

Kitty Wright

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. Melissa Porter 07840 125623
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

Village Community Choir: Alternate Thursdays. 7.30pm. Anita Briggs 840803

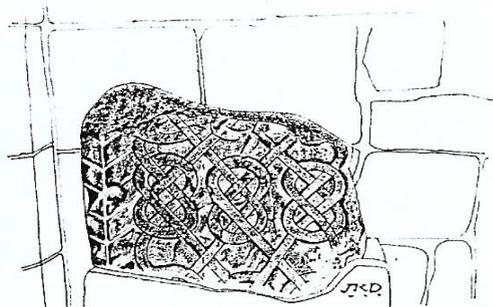
North Thoresby Methodist Church: Regular Events

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.

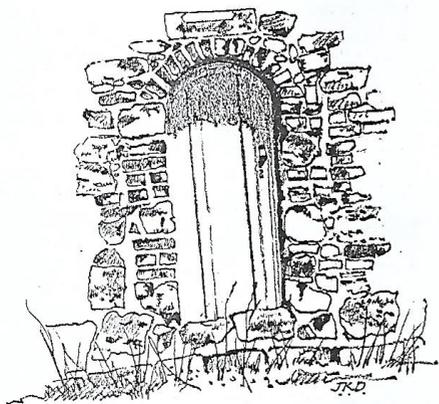
- Monday : Bible Study and Fellowship at 7.30pm.
- Tuesday : Informal Worship round the coffee table - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9.45am.
- Tuesday : Coffee Morning Pop-In. Coffee and Chat raising money for charities. 10.30 - 11.30am.
- Thursday : Get-Together fortnightly, September to Easter at 2pm. 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.



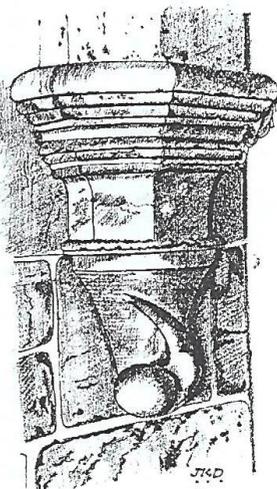
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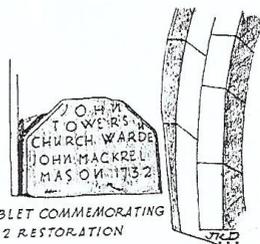
FRAGMENT of SAXON CROSS



PRIEST'S DOOR



CORBEL-ST HELEN'S CHURCH



TABLET COMMEMORATING
1732 RESTORATION

These lovely line drawings by the late John Draycott of aspects of St Helens Church were created in the 1970s to accompany a collection of recipes compiled in the village.

Reproduced by the kind permission of Janet Draycott.

Chocolate and Coffee Sandwich Cake

3 ozs Margarine. 3 ozs Caster Sugar. 3 Eggs.
6 ozs. S.R. Flour. 2 Teasp. Baking Powder.
1 Tablesp. Coffee Essence or 1 Tablesp. Cocoa Powder (or more to taste).
2 Tablesp. Milk.

Cream together the margarine and sugar, add the beaten eggs and gradually add the sieved S.R. Flour and baking powder.

Stir the coffee essence or cocoa powder into the milk and then gently add to the cake mixture. Spoon into a well-greased sandwich tin and bake in a moderate oven for approx. 20 minutes. Decorate cake when cold.

This recipe comes from a collection of recipes collected by Helen Pidgen and Hazel Newell, both still living in the village, from ladies in the village in the 1970s to raise funds for Church repairs. It was chosen (and tested) by Jenny Hippisley and originated with her mother-in-law, Mrs M. Hippisley.

North Thoresby Football Club

Playing in the East Lincs Combination league, the football team have played 11 games so far and are currently 4th in the league (of 12 teams) with 24 points and with 2 games in hand on the league leaders.

Dave Bedlow: 07548127162

St Helens Church

Weekly services each Sunday 10.00am. Information on notice board in the Village Square.

Contact: Ian Wright, Editor
iangwright@hotmail.com
01472-841786 07488355297

NTCEA Website:

<https://www.norththoresbyevents.co.uk/>

NTCEA Facebook:

@norththoresby events

Copies of 'The News' are delivered to every home in North Thoresby, Waithe and Grainsby with additional copies in McColls and Village Hall.

A digital version reaches a much wider audience.

Additions for the Digital version of the Community News and Village Directory

These are rather random additions. In the future, it will be valuable to give more thought to how the printed version and digital version can complement each other and some research on the extent of digital access across the community.



Pop-In Christmas Lunch helpers



Pop-In Christmas Lunch helpers enjoy their own lunch.



Sarah Durrant: A stalwart of the Pop-in





Pupils and staff from the school enjoy their meal and gave an hilarious version of the 12 days of Christmas.



Dave Bedlow, Secretary of the Football and Cricket teams, reaches a milestone.

Judith Goodey, organiser of the Art Group.



Martyn Pidgen and Lynn Wood



Karen Stott and Pete Nilsson