

THORNHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2022

Well, we welcome another year and sincerely hope it is better for everyone than the last couple of years ... not least that the pressure can come off the NHS and all the key workers that have kept us going during some very hard times.

1. Christmas Happened Around the Tree



I am delighted to say that, despite Covid's best efforts, Carols around the Christmas Tree happened with a bang, and the telephone box got a hat! Thanks to everyone who made it happen – a great community effort – with special thanks to the Ukulele Folk for leading the singing. So nice to put all the sadness away for a while and remember what meeting up with friends and neighbours is all about.

2. Defibrillator News

This is of course up and running in the Church porch and I am delighted to say that so far we haven't needed it – long may that continue. However, in case of emergencies we are very lucky to have it there and now that Covid is causing less disruption to face to face meetings training is being organised. A number of people have already put their names forward to attend. If you haven't yet done so please let Deirdre know and she'll add your name to the list. (dpmccumiskey@gmail.com or 07836 639511). It is quite a long list and it may be that a number of sessions will be needed More information will come out when venues and dates are arranged.

3. The Queen's Jubilee Celebrations – 3rd/4th June 2022

We are in the start-up process of arranging a Thornhaugh Event to celebrate the Jubilee along with the rest of the Nation. Louise Molesworth is leading the working party and she has received a number of offers of help – thank you so much and it's great to see that as normal Thornhaugh is up for a party!

A preliminary meeting has been held and ideas put forward about what we might like to happen - something to look forward to in June. The meeting discussed the possibility of an event on Saturday evening and a street party on Sunday. In the end it was decided that the street party on Sunday 5th June would be best, with perhaps another evening event in September. At their last meeting the Parish Council confirmed that the basic costs of the Jubilee event can be met from Parish Council Funds so lots to discuss at the next meeting meeting watch this space.

4. Speed Limits

We still have a problem with speeding cars through the village (don't forget it is 20mph within the village, and 40mph on Russell Hill towards the A47) , and sadly a lot of those ignoring the limits seem to be residents – we cannot always blame those who occasionally use Russell Hill as a “rat run”. I guess familiarity breeds contempt but even on familiar ground tragedies can happen. So just a reminder of why speed limits are in place in the village, not an exhaustive list and I have no wish to make this newsletter “down-beat” but we do have a problem so

1. The difference driving at 25 mph makes compared to driving at 20 mph. From the same braking point, at the place you would have stopped when driving at 20, you are still going at 15 mph when driving at 25 mph - and if you are pedestrian, that would have serious consequences!
2. The probability of killing someone triples if you hit them at 25 mph rather than 20 mph. And increases sevenfold if you are driving at 30 mph and increases 31 times if you are driving at 40 rather than 20.
3. There is a reason the speed limit is 20 mph - pedestrians, children, pets, lack of footpaths, people coming out of driveways, poorly lit at night, etc.
4. It's not all about hitting people or other cars either - lower speeds reduce noise and pollution.

Please help by keeping to the speed limits through the village and don't believe "it can never happen to me....."

5. Litter Picking Heroes

Our Litter Pickers are still working for us – going out in all weathers to keep Thornhaugh and the surrounding areas clear. They have joined forces with Wittering to widen the benefits. Our thanks go to all of those who go out and do this ... you can help not just by joining them (although please do if you can) but also by not creating litter yourselves and picking up any you see as you go about your daily lives.

6. Highways England

A meeting has been held, yet again, with Highways England about the layby on the A1 Northbound carriageway. This has been a cause for concern for many years both from the fact that lorries park on the footpath but also from a cleanliness and health and safety point of view. Highways England cannot confirm that they will close the layby (which we have requested) but they have agreed to ensure that it is maintained and cleaned properly, with appropriate signage asking lorries not to park on the path. Let's wait and see.

7. Hanging Baskets

Sadly OpenReach/BT have told us that we must not use the telephone poles for our beautiful hanging baskets and the Autumn ones have now been taken down. They will be sadly missed. If anyone has any ideas of an alternative way of keeping the floral displays around the village, please let us know..

8. Business as Usual

Of course, the normal business of the Parish Council has continued and hopefully everyone will have been kept up to date via the minutes of the meetings. These are always put on the Parish Council website and now that we are lucky enough to have Living Villages continuing you can read them in there. Election year for the Parish Council is here and you will receive a separate note about being part of the process and we encourage you to think about being part of the council if you have the time and inclination.



CHRIS SMITH
Chair, Thornhaugh Parish Council
25th February 2022