

**AbbaFAB - Summer is really here!!**



**Thornborough News**

**August - October 2024**

Edition 43

# Thornborough Village Hall Annual Review and Chairman's Report - June 2024



## Prime Objective:

The village hall management committee have met their prime objective of keeping Thornborough Village Hall open for use by villagers and village organisations.

## Income:

Our normal income to the year ending March 2024 was £9,899 from 2 main sources; **lettings** (£6,835) and **the 59 Club** (£3,045). **The 59 Club** subscriptions have increased following a concerted effort from the committee to sign up new participants (2023: £2,305). There are **still a few spaces available** – please **contact one of the Committee** if you wish to support us in this way **or head to our 59 Club page on the Thornborough Village Hall website:**

**<https://thornboroughvillagehall.com/page/59-club>**

We have also managed to secure a few new regular repeat bookings which give the Hall much needed visibility in terms of future revenue.

We are very grateful for the continued support from the TPC and their annual £1,000 grant.

## Grant Applications:

During the past year, we have successfully applied for and been granted £6,400 toward the new infrared heating system and a further £85,700 toward the general refurbishment. These amounts have been supplemented so far with £15,000 from the Fundraisers Group (and still more to come) due to their tireless efforts in running the many events the village enthusiastically supports. Thank you to everyone!

## Refurbishment:

Following the installation of the damp proof course during early 2023, we installed new efficient heating in time for the winter. After a few hiccups, this system now works well and is remotely controlled so can easily be switched on or off for each booking.

Work is now well underway on improving the kitchen, toilets and storage facilities, and Liz Julier and Sue Kenyon are finalising the 'accessorising' details in terms of crockery, curtains and new furniture specifications. I'm sure the whole village will be delighted with their new look hall when completed. A special mention to Sue Kenyon who is ably managing this project for us.

Once the refurbishment is completed, we will have invested in excess of £125,000 in the hall since March 2023. Both the committee and the fundraisers should be incredibly proud of what their combined efforts have achieved.



**Please make a note in your diary  
for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September for  
the reopening party!**



### **Accessibility Audit:**

During the year we commissioned a full accessibility audit of the hall and its' facilities in order to ensure we are compliant with current regulations, and to also provide us with recommendations on practical improvements to improve our community inclusivity. Some of these recommendations have been included within the refurbishment and others will be part of an ongoing programme. Our thanks go to Steve Coppins for leading this project.

### **Broadband:**

Despite many unfulfilled assurances, **we eventually secured high speed fibre broadband from Gigaclear for the hall on a free of charge basis.**  
***This has since been networked to both the school and the church and will be free to use for all.***

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the Committee for all their help and support, to David Telford for his work as Honorary Treasurer, to Liz Julier for her role as Hon. Sec, and to Steve Coppins for his detailed efforts in securing the FCC grant.

Steve Wilkins  
Chairman

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## Reflections from the Rectory by Rev'd Jacqueline Dove

During my ordination Bishop Steven addressed us with these words:  
“...Remember always with thanksgiving that the people among whom you will minister are made in God’s image and likeness.... Pray therefore that your heart may daily be enlarged.”

With the help of God’s Holy Spirit my heart is daily enlarged as I easily see the image of God in those I minister too. I therefore find it heartbreaking that often those who have suffered a run of tragic loss feel it must be because they have done something wrong, that somehow they have brought it upon themselves. The truth is bad things happen to good people and the unfairness of this galls our sense of justice. So, we can either harden our hearts against God for allowing this injustice or take the blame ourselves. We are wired as humans to make sense of things, and so we want to give meaning to suffering, for it to at least have some kind of purpose. Libraries are full of books trying to make sense of how an all-powerful, loving God allows senseless suffering. I think we don’t really know the answer to this all-important question.

Perhaps instead of blaming God or blaming ourselves, we can accept that bad things happen to good people without understanding why. Loving-kindness (*“Hesed”*) is God’s primary response to suffering and, with the help of God, it can be ours too. I find that in response to suffering, God’s Holy Spirit moves me to weep, like those at the ‘weeping wall’ in Jerusalem as I mourn with those who mourn. Christians believe that God came down from heaven and ‘pitched his tent’ amongst us and experienced this suffering first hand. God on a cross is perhaps the closest we get to any kind of answer. Being with those who are suffering perhaps is the answer.

The suffering which comes hand in hand with being vulnerable humans, who are not always in control of what happens to us, is compounded by the suffering caused by selfishness, by the absence of loving-kindness. There is also the suffering caused by the abuse of power and oppressive systems. Suffering is a given. Rather than trying to make sense of it, the more important question is how do we respond to it. Do we harden our hearts and turn our back on God and others or do we allow it to break our hearts wide open that our “hearts may daily be enlarged. “

# St Mary's Church – Services, News & Events



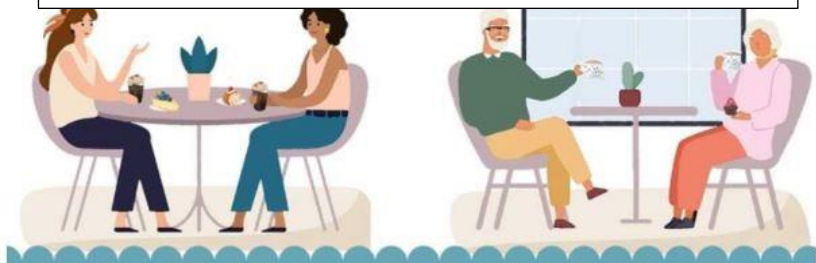
August	4th	11am	Joint service, Church and Chapel at St Mary's
	18th	9am	Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion
	25th	4pm	Messy Church
September	1st	11am	Joint service, Church and Chapel at the Chapel
	15th	9am	Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion
	22nd	4pm	Messy Church
	29th	11am	<b>Benefice Holy Communion at Beachampton</b>
October	6th	11am	<b>Joint service, Church and Chapel</b> <b>Harvest Thanksgiving at St Mary's</b>
	20th	9am	Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion
	27th	4pm	Messy Church

## News and Events

***Porch sales take place the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, 10-12 noon.*** This is an opportunity to support the church by buying home-made and home-grown produce. There is also the opportunity to chat over a free cup of tea/coffee, and new people to the village are guaranteed a warm welcome. The book corner in the back of the church continues to be well used, thanks to David for keeping the books in order.



*1<sup>st</sup> Weds every month at Village School  
whilst Village Hall is refurbished*





## Thornborough Methodist Chapel

Is Christianity exclusive or inclusive? Well it's both! Jesus, in the bible, says 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me' (John 14:6). The way to God, and heaven, is only through putting our trust in Jesus and so is exclusive but the invitation is to everyone in the world and so is absolutely inclusive. You the reader are invited – will you put your trust in Jesus?

Our usual activities continue as normal:

**Drop-In:** Held **every Wednesday** in our lounge area between 10.30am-12.30pm.

Anyone can pop in for a chat, meet/make friends and have free refreshments.

*On the second Wednesday of the month, we hold a Bring & Buy sale.*

**Messy Church:** The Chapel, along with the church, holds a Messy Church for children from babies to 11year olds and their parents on the **4th Sunday of the month** in the chapel room. Please contact Katy Morris on 07904 958033.

**Meet & Eat:** For £5, this popular monthly event consists of a two-course lunch followed by coffee, mints and a quiz. If you'd like to come, please contact Katy Morris to book a place.

**Lyrics and Lunch:** Another popular monthly event is a time for carers to come with their loved ones, who have dementia, to share singing well-known popular songs and some kind of meal/snack and a short thought for the day. If you are interested, please contact Katy Morris for details.

**Chapel Meeting Room:** To hire, please call Louise Springall on 02180 816887.

**Chapel Garden:** Please feel free to come and see the garden at the back of the chapel. There are a couple of pews and a bench to sit on.

Here are some of our future services. Please come along, you'll be most welcome.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 11am – United service in church

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August 11am - Preacher Tim Edworthy with Communion

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 11am – Preacher Paul Kybird

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 11am – TBC



## Thornborough Infant School Update

It's that time of year again, where we say goodbye to our wonderful Year 2s. The oldest children in the school have said their goodbyes and are off to their new schools, ready for a new adventure. A particularly enthusiastic, positive bunch, they will be missed enormously. However, as we say cheerio to one year group, we ready ourselves to welcome the new batch of Reception children who are ready and raring to learn. We can't wait!



The last month of the school year brought the usual exciting school events: sports day, end of year performances and class parties. You may have also seen us out and about enjoying the greenery our lovely village has to offer, including taking part in the national Big Butterfly Count on the cricket field. The children were delighted to count eleven butterflies, information which has been fed back centrally in order to support biodiversity moving forwards.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in a Community Café this year. The money raised has allowed us to buy books and bikes for the children, arrange visitors to the school and subsidise trips out, including to Warwick Castle and The Living Rainforest. Your support is appreciated enormously.

Next year, we will be looking to remove and replace the very dated play equipment on our back playground. **If you would like to be part of our fundraising efforts, we would love to hear from you!** With Mrs Passenger now at the helm as Headteacher permanently, we are looking to continue to develop the lovely connection the school has with the village as a whole. **If you would like to pop in for a chat and a look around, please do feel free to contact the school office on [office@thornborough.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@thornborough.bucks.sch.uk) or 01280 812 219.**





## Thornborough Cricket Club Update by David Owen



The busiest summer in Thornborough Cricket Club's recent history has fairly raced by, and it is hard to believe it is August already! On the field, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI are steeling themselves for their expected battle against Premier League relegation, having risen a level since 2023. The league is very tight this year and there is no reason why we shouldn't attain our objective if we hold our nerve. The A team have achieved a level of consistency that had eluded them in recent seasons. Their efforts mean that they now stand an excellent chance of winning promotion.

Meanwhile, the inaugural season of the Club's new suite of youth teams has been a triumph under the indefatigable helmsmanship of Michael Ballinger, Daniel Harrison and their many helpers. Still to come is the grand finale – the ***very first Thornborough Junior Cricket Festival on August 25 and 26***. We hope to see many of you at the ground over the Bank Holiday weekend for this event that will bring visiting teams to Thornborough.

In order to cement this year's progress, much attention has been focused in recent weeks on laying the groundwork for an artificial wicket to be installed at the Sir Harry Moore Playing Field during the autumn and winter months.

A big step forward was taken at the July Parish Council meeting, when permission was given for the Club to apply for the grants needed to fund the new wicket. This was after a detailed discussion of the pros and cons of the project and its potential impact on the village and ongoing local environmental and biodiversity initiatives, in which Club stalwart Chris Cox played a full part.

An issue is also emerging regarding the ash trees and hedge that line the Back Street end of the ground. Expert advice on this will soon be needed. **If anybody has relevant expertise, or wants to get involved with these or other Club projects, please contact Chris or groundsman Andy Checkett.**

It only remains for me to wish everyone an enjoyable rest of the summer and to underline that your support for our teams is always appreciated.

**David Owen – Secretary.**

# **ENTRIES are OPEN for the Thornborough Fun Run 2024**

**This year sees the return of the very popular  
kids 1 mile fun run as well as the  
annual 5 and 10 mile routes.**

**We look forward to seeing as many of you as  
possible walk, jog, run, support or volunteer!**

**If you are able to spare a couple of hours to help  
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## **Thornborough Parish Council (TPC) Report on Thornborough Village Pond & Biodiversity by Cllrs Richard Dove, Lynn Morgan July 24**

TPC is pleased to report that following the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust “BBOWT” Survey completed last Autumn on our Village Pond we have a good start in improving Biodiversity in Thornborough. As you are aware, the Pond is a focal point in the Village. The survey was to provide expert opinion on the Pond as a habitat for wildlife and we were delighted to find out that the work required to improve the Pond is far less intrusive than originally anticipated.

The response to our questionnaire circulated to all residents in the Parish in preparation for the Annual Parish Assembly in May 2024 has also provided TPC with encouraging support in improving Biodiversity in the Parish.

Our Biodiversity Policy states ‘The Parish Council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues. It will, where possible, involve the community in biodiversity projects to maintain and improve the local environment. The Parish Council will communicate and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website and Parish communications’.

We are a few steps ahead in implementing our biodiversity policy with the wildlife habitats provided by the Village Pond, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in Pilch Lane, and Thornborough & Coombs Woodlands. We now need to move forward by taking up the offers of help as provided via the questionnaires, begin to identify where individuals are already improving habitats in their gardens and offer guidance and help where this has been requested.

First steps forward in improving biodiversity in Thornborough:

- TPC representatives to attend BBOWT ‘Achieving Diversity’ conference in Aylesbury in September 2024.
- The WI (Women’s Institute) are hoping to arrange an open talk on encouraging biodiversity in 2025 that would be open to anyone (male or female) that would like to attend.
- TPC will be following up on offers from residents to test pond water samples, identification of birds and insects, (with training to be arranged if needed).
- TPC to seek grant funding for information boards by the Pond, and a larger Community Noticeboard by the Village Hall.
- Individual offers of help with Work parties to be followed up and dates to be arranged and publicised.
- Areas of possible wildflower seeding to enhance pollen opportunities for bees and other insects to be identified.

We hope that you have enjoyed the view down the pond from the bridge by the village hall which resulted from trimming back the trees during our last Pond Work Party in June.



The stream outside the School was also cleared of dominant rushes to keep the water flowing and to allow other water plants to flourish. A repair to the 'bung' which controls the outflow from the pond was also carried out.

**WATCH OUT FOR THE NEXT WORKING GROUP**

And please let us know if you would like to be involved.



## **Thornborough now has public Wifi around the Village Hall!**

As part of the Village Hall refurbishment works (and supported by Thornborough Parish Council, St Mary's and Gigaclear), some free public wifi hotspots were recently installed on the village hall.

It is intended for use by anyone in the local vicinity including the Church and the School. One hotspot, deliberately put close to the entrance to the school (you might have seen the new white box mounted on the chimney) is intended for use by parents / carers collecting their children from school.

The wifi is called **'Thornborough public Wifi'** and can be accessed directly via that name or using the QR code on the right. The more people who use it the better!

Thornborough public WiFi







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## Thornborough & Thornton Fundraisers update by Gwynne Grayson

We have been very busy preparing for AbbaFest on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>, and it was worth all the hard work everyone put in. The feedback has been “terrific night”, “what a party!”. If you weren’t there you missed a great event.



Thank you to everyone who made it happen and for those of you who came to support the cause. We raised over £40,00!

We are now planning **the Celebration Opening of the Village Hall on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September**. Book it now, ***there will be lots of family fun including Fancy dress, Horse racing*** - yes really! As well as evening entertainment, plans are still developing, so do come and join in. ***Donations by Local Businesses for the raffle or Tombola would be very gratefully received!***

Following this, on the **evening of Friday October 11<sup>th</sup>** we are hosting a **50/50 sale of quality clothing** (good condition, just unloved or outgrown) - this is the ultimate way of recycling locally! You set a price and donate 50% to the funds. Further info will follow.

For all the fantastic gardeners Thornborough is lucky to have, the date **for Open Gardens is booked for June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 2025**. We will arrange meeting in the New Year, but all those people who said “next time” we need you! Can we beat the number of gardens we opened last time?

And a final Diary Date - **May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2025, Thornborough and Thornton Production of David Copperfield**. This will be a big production with local thespians taking on Dickens characters - don't miss it!

Please accept thanks from all on the Committee for all your support at the events, it makes it all worthwhile.

Gwynne Grayson 07970 026953



## Thornborough Parish Council (TPC) Report

TPC has met twice since the previous edition of the newsletter was published on 19 June and 16 July. The minutes of both meetings are available on our website: [https://www.thornboroughparish.org.uk/Agendas and Minutes 36577.aspx](https://www.thornboroughparish.org.uk/Agendas%20and%20Minutes%2036577.aspx).

### Thornborough Community Resilience (emergency planning)

TPC was pleased to note, and would like to say thank you, for the several offers of assistance in the event of a major Emergency in the Parish. Opinions gathered from the Parish Questionnaire were discussed at the Annual Parish Assembly in May.

Ideas and strategies suggested, in the event of a major emergency in the parish, ranged from physical support, comfort and help to transport and planning.

**Currently your Parish Council is very short handed – we urgently need two more members.** *Sadly, because of this we are not able to manage all the projects we would like to - and Thornborough Community Resilience (emergency planning) is one of those things we cannot lead on at the current time.*

More details are available for anyone wishing to take on this project. TPC is happy to discuss this further and can make information from the questionnaires available to those interested in taking this further.

### Parish Asset Maintenance and Repairs

The approved priorities in the village for this year were the renovation of both village pumps; the memorial bench on the green in front of the school and the TPC noticeboard. Progress has been dogged by the relentless rain - the memorial bench and noticeboard work has now been completed. Weather permitting, the pumps are next in line as soon as the contractor is available. TPC has also funded various plumbing-related repairs at the Sir Harry Moore Sports Pavilion. Although the need to repair the felt on the Playground gazebo roof-wasn't anticipated, TPC approved the required funding.

### Artificial Wicket Approved

The proposal developed by Thornborough Cricket Club (TCC) for the installation of an artificial wicket at the Sir Harry Moore Sports Field was approved by TPC at its recent meeting. TPC congratulated TCC on the success it has had in building on the ECB Allstars and Dynomo schemes to establish its current extensive youth provision. TPC wishes TCC every success with securing the required grant funding for the artificial wicket. We also wish to publicly record our thanks to the TCC Groundsman for cutting the grass around the pavilion building – this task was previously undertaken by the preschool.

## Buckinghamshire Council Funding Support and Financial Help Initiatives

There are various initiatives that Buckinghamshire Council is keen to encourage parish councils to publicise to within their communities.

- **Bucks Rural Business Grants** - please visit [About the Bucks Rural Business Grant \(BRBG\) | Buckinghamshire Council](#) to apply.
- **Bursary Programmes for Young People** - please get in touch to find out more via [youngfutures@heartofbucks.org](mailto:youngfutures@heartofbucks.org) or by calling **01296 330134**.
- **Cost of Living Crisis Support** – please visit to find out more: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living/>
- **Energy Doctors** – provides advice on energy reduction consumption and costs for low income households, **phone 0800 107044** to find out more.

Alison Robinson

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## WI Report by Suzanne Osborn

Another busy few months at the WI!

Whilst the WI is a strictly non-political organisation its very roots are based in political campaigning. At our



May meeting we invited our prospective

parliamentary candidates to speak on our annual WI Resolution 'Dental Health Matters'. We were delighted that Callum Anderson, Labour (and now our newly elected MP) and Dominic Dyer, Liberal Democrats joined us in person and Amanda Onwuemene, Green Party sent a statement.

It was an interesting evening of debate and a real opportunity to ask questions for both WI members and villagers who joined the meeting.

Liz Julier, president, was lucky enough to attend the WI AGM at the Royal Albert Hall and found 5,000 women singing Jerusalem extraordinarily moving. At the AGM Liz was able to raise our concerns that the root causes of dental health were not being addressed by the WI resolution, which many other WIs agreed with. The resolution was passed and we look forward to seeing what progress can be made over the next year. The three key speakers *at the* AGM focused on Domestic Violence and Coercive control; Nazir Afzal *OBE*, Melanie Brown aka Scary Spice and Timothy Watson who played Rob Titchener, Archers in the high-profile domestic abuse storyline between 2013 and 2016. The speakers were both excellent and thought provoking.

At our June meeting Steve Wilkins spoke on 'Wine beyond the Label'.

Who knew Dom Perignon was a Monk, one of the many interesting facts Steve conveyed over the course of his talk which was followed by a very nice chilled Chapel Down Rose, to be recommended.

In July our very own Jo Bursell spoke on "Centaur, Oracles and Byzantines a Fortnight In Greece" She brought along a relic from this trip. Jo is a fascinating speaker who really knows her subject and brought it to life.

August usually takes the form of a garden party visit. This year we hope to visit Kathy Browns amazing garden at Stevington, albeit in September!

We also have our monthly meeting 6<sup>th</sup> September where Ian Scott-Hunter will share his memories of being a royal footman and we are assured he will be discreet, loyal and humorous. And our 2<sup>nd</sup> October meeting Roger Mason will speak on 'Votes for Women' and the suffragettes a topic very close to the WI heart. As always visitors are most welcome - no charge but a donation to the tea & cake pot is most welcome!

<b>"Must Have" Diary Dates</b>		
T'boro Junior Cricket Festival	Harry Moore Playing Field	Sun-Mon 25-26 August All Day
Bucks County Show	Weedon Park, Aylesbury	Thurs 29th August 8-6pm
T'boro Annual 5&10k Fun Runs	Village Green	Sun 8th September - 10am
Village Hall Reopening Party	Village Hall	Sat 21st September - all day?
50/50 Fashion Party	Village Hall	Fri 11th October
Bonfire Night	TBA	Sat 2nd November
2025		
T'boro & Thornton David Copperfield Prod'n	Village Hall	Fri-Sat 9th & 10th May 2025
T'boro Open Gardens	Around the Village	Sat-Sun 14th & 15th June 2025



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## LOCAL EVENTS DIARY – SAVE THE DATES

EVENT	WHERE?	WHEN?
<b>Chapel Weekly Drop-In</b>	<b>Chapel</b>	<b>EVERY Weds - 10.30-12.30</b>
<b>T'boro Cricket Club</b>	<b>H Moore Playing Field</b>	<b>EVERY Sat - 1.30-5.50pm</b>
Woodlands Volunteers	The Old Depot, Coombs	Sat 4th Aug - 9am
Joint Service, Church & Chapel	St Mary's	Sun 5th Aug - 11am
Community Café	Village School	Weds 7th Aug - 2-4pm
WI monthly meeting	St Mary's	Weds 7th Aug - 7.30pm
TCC T'boro Junior Cricket Festival	Harry Moore Playing Field	Sun-Mon 25-26 Aug - All Day
Messy Church	Chapel	Sun 25th Aug - 4pm
<b>Bucks County Show</b>	<b>Weedon Park, Aylesbury</b>	<b>Thurs 29th August 8-6pm</b>
Woodlands Volunteers	The Old Depot, Coombs	Sat 1st Sept - 9am
Joint Church Service	Chapel	Sat 1st Sept - 11am
Community Café	Village School	Weds 4th Sept - 2-4pm
WI monthly meeting	St Mary's	Weds 4th Sept - 7.30pm
<b>T'boro Annual 5&amp;10k Fun Runs</b>	<b>Village Green</b>	<b>Sun 8th Sept 10am</b>
TPC Meeting	The Pavilion	Weds 18th Sept - 7pm
<b>Village Hall Reopening Party</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>	<b>Sat 21st Sept - all day?</b>
<b>Final copy date for next Thornborough News</b>		<b>Sat 28th Sept</b>
Messy Church	Chapel	Sun 22nd Sept - 4pm
Community Café	Village School	Weds 2nd Oct - 2-4pm
WI monthly meeting	St Mary's	Weds 2nd Oct - 7.30pm
Woodlands Volunteers	The Old Depot, Coombs	Sat 5th Oct - 9am
<b>Church &amp; Chapel Harvest</b>		
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>Sun 6th Oct - 11am</b>
Messy Church	Chapel	Sun 27th Oct - 4pm

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**Thank you as always to all our volunteer distributors.**

**Please contact Sue on 07305 009991 if you can help with  
arranging & delivering TNews.**