



Thornage Parish Council

Parish Council and the Village.

Website: <https://thornagepc.wixsite.com/thornagepc>

Welcome to the 18th edition of our Thornage Parish Council newsletter.

This is the first edition of the Newsletter since the unexpected death of John Smart and the Parish Council would like to note with respect the many areas he served the Parish of Thornage, including as Councillor & Chairman of the Parish Council and Church Warden. Our sincere condolences go to his wife, Sue and family.



Update from the September Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Council is once again up to full strength: **Jerry Cox** was co-opted to the vacant position after the recent resignation of Cllr Paul Hendrick.

Matters discussed included updates on the increased visibility of the B1110 footbridge as the hedge had recently been cut but concern at the rapid deterioration of the Thornage/Hunworth footbridge at Beck Farm. Councillors received an update on plans for the Common: from next year approximately half the space will begin the process of rewilding and the other half will be managed as now. You will probably notice tree work being undertaken to revitalise the trees planted some years ago.

2025-26 Budget and Parish Precept

We will be discussing and agreeing our budget for the 2025-26 Financial year at our **next Parish Council Meeting on 11th December in Gregories Barn at Thornage Hall**. We will review all areas of spending. We invite you to come along to the December meeting and understand the Precept setting process. There is always an opportunity to ask questions or express concerns at the meeting.

Thornage Common

In the Spring we will begin to act on proposals for an alternative management programme for the Village green or Thornage Common as it also known. This is a very exciting project and will demonstrate the village's desire to enhance the green spaces in our Community.

There will be two aspects to the management. Firstly, an area of the Common to the southern end will be left uncut through the early part of the growing season. It is hoped that this will encourage native wild flowers to flourish amongst the grass. There has been evidence of this prior to cutting in previous years. We anticipate cutting some meandering paths through this area to improve the experience. This area will then be cut in late summer and the hay removed. This process allows the wild flower seeds to fall to the ground and re-establish the following year. The Thornage Hall team have kindly offered to cut and remove the grass and further underlines the great spirit of cooperation that is building in our community. It is important to note that the rest of the grass area will be cut as it is now to allow access for everyone to enjoy this valuable asset.

Secondly some hedgerow and tree maintenance work will take place over the next few years starting with the North edge adjacent to the water meadows. Hopefully this will improve the experience for visitors to the green by opening up the vista over the meadows and up to Thornage Hall which is a beautiful view. The work will be mostly carried out by a professional team with some assistance from volunteers.

Also after consultation with the Astley Estate, it is intended to create access across the water meadows from Thornage Hall to the Common. Although the exact route has yet to be confirmed this will allow access to the Common without the need to go along the road which as we all know is narrow and potentially dangerous.

Newsletter 18 – November 2024. Comments are invited on the contents of this Newsletter – or any other matter you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish Council.

Contact Details - Parish Clerk – Kerry Harris. Tel: 01328 822583

E: thornageparishcouncil@gmail.com Post: 89 The Street, Barney, NR21 0AD

Hopefully these changes whilst quite modest will improve the experience of visiting the Village Green whilst improving Biodiversity of the village.

It is important to note any costs for the project fall within the current budget. Anybody that would like to assist with this project or other volunteer activities in the village please contact the PC.

Friends of Thornage

Thankfulness for the harvest this year began with the Harvest Festival service at All Saints Church followed later in the evening by the social Harvest Supper. The event was a great success and hosted by Friends of Thornage with more than 60 people attending from Thornage and neighbouring villages. The church was decked out with a harvest bounty and floral decorations. There was home cooked lasagne, apple crumbles, pies, bread and salads for supper. All decorations and food were generously contributed by local people including Thornage Hall. The evening entertainment was provided by excellent local talent. The event opened with a positive harvest message and tradition from Thornage Hall, followed by 2 local soloists, then harmonies by The Sam Smith Singers. The evening was rounded off by local band The Dungarees with their final song being a rousing rendition of "500 Miles".

Ticket, bar and raffle sales raised money towards the Friends of Thornage funds - this contributes towards items in the village such as the speed camera, defibrillator, notice board and bench amongst other things. Monies also go to helping keep the church open for further village events and activities.

We will soon be asking you to participate in a **village consultation** to determine community needs and wants for the future. Further information on the Friends of Thornage page on the website: <https://thornagepc.wixsite.com/thornagepc/>

All Saints Church

October started with The Harvest Service at All Saints. A generous donation of non-perishable food items was taken to Briston Food Bank. A big thank you to all who donated. This was followed by the Harvest Supper a great success and hosted by Friends of Thornage. More than 60 people attended. Thornage Hall and neighbouring villagers were entertained by excellent local talent.

The **Village Coffee Morning** is now on the 4th Saturday of the month 10.30am - 12pm.

We are now planning our **local film night** on **Friday 1st November**.

Keep an eye out for more information about another village get together leading up to Christmas

The PCC would like to remind villagers that we have now moved the **Thornage service** to the **4th Sunday of the month at 9.30am**.

All Saints **Christmas Carol Service – 22nd December at 4pm** with mulled wine and mince pies.



Thornage Hall

Events

Every Wednesday, 4.30-5.30 we are running **Chair Yoga sessions** at Gregories Barn. Villagers are welcome to attend for a suggested donation of £5 to cover the cost of the instructor, Toni. Contact Dan Earp or the Parish Clerk for further information.

Monday 23rd December: Carols in the Cow Barn – Time tbc.

Norfolk Christmas Fair.

Please come along and support Thornage Hall Independent Living at this year's **Christmas Fair**. **30 stalls** brimming with great present ideas including many of the wonderful products made at Thornage Hall.

The Parish Council is very grateful for the support that Thornage Hall gives, by printing this newsletter – a cost the Parish Council would otherwise have to bear.

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