



**TATTERSHALL THORPE JUBILEE  
GROUP**

**2020 – 2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

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The extremely wet spell of weather has continued from last year into the present one. Fields flooded, blocked drains, septic tanks over topped and much surface water on the roads. Potholes seem to have proliferated overnight like mushrooms. It will take a superhuman effort on the part of the County Council to get on top of the problem.

In early January we had a visit from Victoria Atkins, our Member of Parliament. Apparently it was one of her routine constituency meetings to meet residents and to discuss any outstanding issues. The meeting took place in the Blue Bell. Leaflets advising of the event had only been hand delivered the previous day, but with such short notice turnout was fairly small

Also in January we had a training evening at the Camp on CPR and Defibrillator use. Around 20 residents attended, which was very pleasing. The speaker brought all the relevant equipment with him and the session lasted for 2 hours. The views of those taking part was that the evening had been very worthwhile and it had given them the confidence to carry out the procedure should the occasion arise.

A new handrail and fence has been constructed along the ditch side of the Charles and Diana area. The EMIB Judges saw the ditch as a potential health and safety risk and had indicated that they would prefer to see a barrier installed, even though the ditch is completely dry throughout the summer period. We hope they notice it when they return this year.

The Union Flag was flown on the 31 January to commemorate our leaving of the EU. Whether one was a Leaver or a Remainer , no one can deny the historical importance of the occasion.

The repeated heavy rain and it's subsequent flooding which has been a major factor in the weather from early November right through to the end of February was the contributing cause of a road accident involving a large lorry carrying sand, which came off the road and overturned in Pauls Lane. Water masking the edge of the road was blamed. The incident was judged sufficiently important to warrant a slot on BBC Regional News. The road edge has had to be rebuilt using sand bags after the area had dried out. Flooding has also been a major problem in North Road with water coming from adjacent land and totally overloading the drainage system causing water to constantly flow over

the tarmac surface and to form a mini lake at the end of the road. It has been agreed that remedial works will be carried out later in the year. This also proved to be no easy task, as the location of the water outfall into the ditch could not be found for some considerable time.

Two more volunteers have joined the Thorpe Community Speedwatch team. The afternoons training took place with fellow residents from both Tattershall and Conningsby at the local Police Station. We were hoping to get back checking for speeding vehicles during the spring and summer but the arrival of the Corona Virus put paid to that, in fact it terminated all events for some time, because of the lockdown. We resumed activities in late July.

With February came the first hints of the devastating Covid 19, the consequences at first were slight, but soon the restriction of movement were gradually increased, and by mid March confinement to the property, with just short periods allowed for exercise became the norm. The gravity of the situation was made very clear with the construction of a mortuary to accommodate 400 bodies in disused RAF buildings close to the Lincolnshire Nature Reserve, thank goodness it was never needed. The Parish Council's March meeting was scheduled to take place in the Church as the Village Hall was closed, but even this was did not materialise, and the meeting took place on line.

All village functions had to be cancelled, the Nostalgia Evening, the Annual Parish Meeting and also the Railway Day. The NHS at this time was experiencing severe shortfalls in protective wear so several residents joined up with a group, Horncastle District Scrubs, to gather material and make essential items. One resident of Chapel Lane made over 90 items of PPE. The need for older and the more infirm residents to self isolate themselves to keep safe from the virus caused considerable problems for some, especially when it came to shopping for food or to obtain medicine etc. The Teare family, Jess, Mark and children Archie and Monty visited nearly every property in Thorpe, knocking on doors and offering help in any way they could and leaving behind a printed note detailing the way that they could be contacted. We know that many people are offering help to their neighbours in these difficult times, but to do what they proposed was magnificent to say the least, and many residents took them up on their offer. Then surprise surprise, on Easter Sunday they went around the village delivering Easter Eggs to some of the older and more vulnerable, all of this at their own expense. One pensioner living alone reported that receiving the Easter Egg was the nicest thing to have happened this

year, it really cheered some up at a particularly low time. The appreciation of the entire village is recorded here. The Parish Council every year award the Manning Trophy, this goes to a person or group judged to have given time or work for the benefit of the community, and this year it has been awarded to the Teare family. The general lockdown prevented the normal presentation of the trophy and so a fairly informal ceremony took place at their home later in July, with several residents in attendance.

The village hand clapping at 8pm on Thursday evenings in appreciation of the work of the NHS and other key workers, has been extremely well supported, and numbers taking part grew steadily week on week.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day celebrations were more muted than intended this year. Fifteen residents observed a 2min silence at the War Memorial, taking care to observe the 2 metre social distancing. Several groups of neighbours celebrated in their front gardens in the afternoon with long distanced picnics and a catch-up on village gossip. The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ Day was a quieter affair but still several residents gathered at the Memorial to mark the occasion .

The Police attended an incident at the old wartime huts located in Carr Woods, it was thought to be linked to children playing in them and getting into mischief. The consequence of this was that the County Council ruled that the site be made secure, which proved to be extremely difficult, or completely cleared. It took just two days to demolish the old buildings which had stood for 75 years plus.

More static mobile homes have been situated in the caravan park behind the Blue Bell. It has recently changed ownership, and is now licensed for 16 units. New lighting, driveways and bases for the new homes has been installed.

The village footways had again become extremely narrow and overgrown in places. The responsibility for their upkeep lies with the County Council, however they declare that the village footways are very low on their list of priorities and therefore very unlikely to be done. Three years ago the Parish Council covered the cost of clearing and edging the path from North Road to the old railway crossing at Tattershall. The actual original width of the tarmac path is 4ft and in some areas 5ft. To clear them completely would be a monumentally difficult and expensive task as much of it is covered in several inches of soil and debris, and well beyond the recourses of the Parish Council.

This year we are again edging the paths, hoping to achieve a width nearer to 3ft. The works were completed over the course of 3 weeks and now everybody is able to walk and use their mobility appliances with ease, much to everyone's delight.

Ian Wadsworth of Chapel Lane joined the Parish Council in July. He will represent Tattershall initially as there is no vacancy in Thorpe.

The partial ending of the virus lockdown on July 4<sup>th</sup> has allowed the reopening of the Farm Park, with the Blue Bell following soon after, signs that normal lifestyles are slowly returning. Thorpe Camp opened later in the month.

A new mystery sticker was placed on the Post Box, designating it a 'Priority Post Box'. Upon enquiring from the postman, he declared that he did not know the reason. However some time later we were told that our post box was the designated box for the posting of Covid Test and Trace Samples.

The Blue Bell Trophy for the best kept garden has been awarded to Alistair and Liz Mcaughly of North Road. They are relative new comers to the village, but they have worked wonders in their new garden making it a delight to see.

The oak post supporting the village sign has seen better days and had started to rot, it had been a bit on the wobbly side for quite a while. It has been replaced with a new larch one, which should weather over time. The Parish Council has paid for the sign itself to be repainted at the same time.

The return of the virus in the autumn came as an unpleasant reminder that the remainder of the year was to be a worrying time, Remembrance Day being one of the first to suffer the consequences of the new restrictions. The ceremony was scheduled to take place as in past years but because of a new virus lockdown imposed a few days before, it had to be cancelled. On the day however when the wreaths were laid, approximately twenty residents did attend for the 2mins silence and to everyones surprise, two clergy arrived, - they said as private individuals to say a prayer. A much abbreviated service then took place with social distancing observed.

The area covered by the 30mph speed restriction has been extended beyond Pauls Lane towards Tattershall, and a new illuminated speed

monitoring device has been purchased for the village at a cost of around £2000. Our District Councillors, Stan Avison, Martin Foster and Alex Hall, have donated a large proportion of the money, with the remainder coming from the Jubilee Group. Our Committee has written to the Councillors thanking them for their support. It is hoped that this will reduce the amount of speeding traffic within the village.

Our Christmas tree looked absolutely magnificent this year. Resplendent with the new coloured lights it brightened up the darkest of nights.

This year has been a testing time financially for the Jubilee Group. We do not have large outgoings but we do have some commitments, annual maintenance and new batteries for the defibrillator, wreaths for the memorial, small repair items around the village and this year a contribution to the purchase of the speed sign. We hope this coming year with the help of the new vaccines will see the return of some normality to daily life, and our community events resuming to help restore the village funds. The Thorpe Music Fest has been rescheduled for the coming year.



A year of social distancing: Clapping for the NHS, Manning Trophy presentation, Remembrance Day