



**TATTERSHALL THORPE JUBILEE
GROUP**

2019 – 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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This is our second year of producing an Annual Review, from the comments gathered, residents seem to be reasonably happy with last years format. The Parish Council donated £50 towards the printing cost.

The Community Speed Watch Group, which was set up at the end of last year had it's first trial outing on 12th March, to say that it went smoothly would be rather an over statement, but it was judged a success by those taking part. Now that everybody is familiar with the procedure there is certainly more confidence that it will all be conducted more professionally next time. The actual sites where checks on speeding vehicles can be made are strictly controlled. In Thorpe we have four approved areas, at the Old Forge, at the entrance to Thorpe Camp, one in Chapel Lane and one in North Road

The village has three new flags to start the year, A St Georges Flag, a Union Flag and a Lincolnshire. However the first to the top of the flagpole was the Commonwealth Flag on 11th March.

Following on from the archaeological excavations carried out at North Road Farm last year, the survey group held an open meeting at Coningsby Community Hall at the end of April. It consisted of an illustrated talk and a display of the items found, mainly pieces of pottery, bones and fragments of leather. All dating from the time of Roman occupation around 300 AD.

North Road bus shelter has been tidied up. The cheap plastic windows have now been replaced with toughened glass. A considerable improvement, we can now see through them again.

Tattershall Farm Park has again made the headlines, winning another major award this year. They were voted Best Farm Park in the UK in the Adventure Awards Section. All credit to them as they were up against some pretty big opposition.

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on the 1st May. This year our speaker was Eran Bauer from Kirkby on Bain, and the subject of the talk was The Discovery of Mustard Gas at Woodhall Spa. Euan is an authority on the event, and was involved with the clean up of the area. He was able to give a very detailed picture as to how events unfolded at the time, and was able to give us an insight as to how huge a task it was to clean up the area safely. The talk included an illustrated display of the entire clean up

operation, plus there were several maps of the area on display, depicting the area as it was in the 1940s and how it is now.

After a short break for tea, coffee and biscuits the Annual Parish Meeting continued with 20 plus parishioners in attendance. The subjects covered included Meet the Neighbours and the Railway Day. The community speed-watch project was debated and the results of the exercise discussed. Within the 30 mile limit, vehicles travelling under 35 miles an hour were discounted, a small proportion of cars were found to be travelling in the high 30s, with one doing 43 miles per hour. It is pretty certain that vehicles are going at greater speeds as they approach, but the fact that we have to display a speed-watch sign is enough to slow them down.

We have again entered the East Midlands in Bloom and Best Kept Village competitions, we always hope to do better than the previous year. This year we have tried to make a few more improvements:-A new fence around the big flower bed at North Road, the old chicken wire fence has been consigned to the skip, new windows in the bus shelter, a new map of the village and the area adjacent to the Charles and Diana Tree has been cleared of brambles, we are hoping to grass it over and plant it with snowdrops and daffodils for next years display. The Blue Bell has been much enhanced with the concrete flower troughs and hanging baskets placed on the frontage. Our thanks go to Alan Stratford for his determination to improve the appearance of the site.

Remembrance Day was also discussed at length. After last years lack of information about proposed timings of the service and what the British Legion thought of any changes and also the reluctance for any dialogue between the Clergy and the Parish, those present had a fairly frank exchange of views on the subject. Many were unhappy about the old 1pm start – it often started early as the clergy were unwilling to wait, causing many to miss the beginning of the service. It was decided that in future we would have the event at 11am. When put to the vote this was unanimously agreed whether there was a member of the clergy present or not.

It was also agreed at the meeting to request the Parish Clerk to write to East Lindsey District Council on our behalf in order to congratulate the staff at the Waste Disposal Site, Kirkby Lane, on their attitude to work and helpfulness to all who use the site. The new Minor Injuries Service was also mentioned. Based in Horncastle, it is open to all, no appointment necessary, 8am-6pm Monday to Friday. Telephone 01507 522477.

Margaret Pocklington gave a brief talk on the recent discovery of the Roman wells at North Road Farm.

Both the District and Parish Council Elections, which were due to take place on 2nd May were cancelled as there were insufficient prospective candidates to fill the number of places available. There are four available seats in Thorpe, therefore the three who stood for election were declared elected without a contest. The councillors representing Thorpe are Betty Harvey, Norman Leggate and Serv Coulber. James Stanley, who did not stand for election has since been co-opted to join the Parish Council as our 4th representative.

The heavy rain and subsequent flooding in June caused devastation in the wider area, but Thorpe escaped any major disruption, suffering only minor problems at the usual spots at the bus shelter and the North Road junction.

The 22nd June was the date of the Jubilee Group's strawberry cream tea, which was held at Betty Harvey's. The entertainment was provided by the Dreambells. It was a beautiful day and the eighty plus audience thoroughly enjoyed both the excellent cream tea and the superb performance of the singers.

The annual village clean-up in preparation for the East Midlands in Bloom judging was carried out on 30th June. After half a days' hard work the whole area looked pristine. When the East Midlands in Bloom judges were taken around a few days later it was a credit to all those willing volunteers. After going around the village the visiting inspectors were taken to the fishing lakes and wild life areas. Hopefully they were suitably impressed. Before leaving they were served tea and cream scones and they viewed a small display of photographs and other items pertaining to the village.

Contractors carting loads of grass along the main road caused mayhem in early July. A tractor travelling at speed managed to part company with it's trailer on the bend close to 'Get Stuffed', it skewed across the road and overturned, distributing it's contents into the garden of Keepers Cottage. Luckily no other vehicle was involved, nor persons hurt. The road was closed for several hours whilst the damaged trailer and spill load were removed.

The 1940's weekend at Thorpe Camp and our Railway Day are timed to happen at the same time. The weather for the whole period was warm and

sunny and attendances at both events were very good. Parking at these events is always a problem for the Camp, and even with the use of John Meanwell's field they struggled to cope. On the Saturday morning there was a short ceremony at the Camp in memory of Mike Hodgson who died last year. The Railway Day at Mark Smith's proved to be a bumper occasion, the well tried formula proved to be as popular as ever. The Jubilee Committee has resolved to spend some of the proceeds from the day on obtaining more cutlery and crockery to finally dispense with single use plastic.

Some residents had expressed a wish to explore the feasibility of forming a village gardening club and consequently a meeting was arranged at the Blue Bell in October. The attendance was good, and it was agreed that they would meet once a month to chat and agree a way forward.

The results of the East Midlands in Bloom were made public on 18th September at their prize giving event in Chesterfield. Steve Wattam, Serv and Janet Coulber made the journey to represent the village. It is quite a prestigious occasion with representatives from towns and villages in Rutland, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire. Thorpe increased it's score by one point, we had hoped to do slightly better, but overall we were happy with our Silver Gilt award. Every year the Judges' make suggestions for improvement, some of which are not practical in our context.

Ownership of the Blue Bell Caravan Park has recently changed and alterations to its infrastructure have already been taking place. Meet The Neighbours this year reverted back to it's original format, with quizzes and the dependable Beetle Drive. It proved to be a very enjoyable evening though numbers of residents attending were less this year. The Blue Bell Trophy was awarded to John and Joan Hudson. It was decided to judge the event in future years on a rotational basis, 1st year in the spring then the second in the summer and autumn in the 3rd year. Hopefully this will increase the scope for future winners.

Firework Night was celebrated on 1st November at North Road Farm courtesy of Steve and Norman Leggate. The large bonfire took a considerable amount of encouragement to spring into life due to the wet weather but did eventually provide a great display. A large number of people attended, although in the darkness it was sometimes difficult to know who you were talking to. Soup and burgers were on offer, plus the fireworks. Close to £1000 was raised in aid of the Butterfly Hospice.

The annual Remembrance Service this year was timed to start at 10.55am in order to have the 2mins silence at precisely 11am. I think it worked well. It was well attended as usual, around 60 residents were present. The service was taken by both Roy and Margaret Done. John Smith sounded the Last Post and Reveille. The Jubilee Group served tea and coffee afterwards with cakes provided by Sheila Smith and Janet Coulber. It is great that so many continue to support this occasion year on year

Whatever the weather. Whilst on the subject of the weather, October and November have seen the heaviest and most persistent rainfall that can be remembered, with many fields flooded and the River Witham close to overflowing in places. On one particular night 1 inch of rain was recorded. You are encouraged to sign up to the Environment Agency Flood Warning Service- Call 0345 988 or visit www.gov.org/flood

The Parish Council have agreed their Budget spending for the coming financial year. They had already agreed to purchase new Christmas Tree lights for the 2019 season. For 2020 they will fund the printing of this Report. The post supporting the Village Sign has become insecure and is to be replaced, and whilst it is down the wrought iron work on the sign itself will be cleaned of rust and repainted before it is replaced. During the year the Parish Council have also agreed to side – up the footways, it is hoped that this will continue to be done on a 3 yearly cycle.

The Christmas Tree this year was again donated by Steve and Norman Leggate and it was put up by the regular group of volunteers. It was a fair sized tree, but as Steve pointed out his trees don't stop growing. The main problem was securing the tree in a howling gale, the usual stakes held it for less than 2mins and we had to resort to using guy ropes to keep it upright. More lights have been added this year which have made it look a little more festive. There was surprise competition from an alternative tree at the Blue Bell Bus Shelter, over the Christmas it was dressed in all it's finery.

The Annual Parish Meeting for 2020 will be held at the Camp on 6th May at 7pm. Prior to the event there will be a talk by Simon Dalgleash on the RAF Fire Service, Blood Transfusion Service and the First Responders. This should be of great interest to residents.