Grindon & Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Working for the benefit of all our residents

Newsletter January 2024

Our Village Communities: Grindon; Thorpe Thewles; Thorpe Leazes; The Elms

Introduction

Welcome to the January edition of the Parish newsletter. In this edition we provide on update on activities since the last newsletter and detail coming events; we include an article on the Thorpe Thewles History Group and articles of potential local interest.

Recent Improvements to the Parish

Multi-tier planters have been located near the village green, and crocus bulb patches have been planted.

The Play Park has been updated following successful lobbying by the Parish Council and is a significant improvement from the facility previously provided. The swings have been replaced and a new goal net has been installed and ground works undertaken to fill and level areas around the goal net.

The Parish Council has secured agreement from Stockton Council for the speed limit at each entrance to the village to be extended and for the gateway chicane to be relocated to further address speeding. Stockton Council will schedule works imminently.

Further Planned Work

Stockton Council will install 15 dropped kerbs to improve access throughout the village for those with mobility issues or pushchairs.

Paving edges around the village will be re-established with overgrown grassed areas cut back to create a crisp clean edge between grass and paving.

The village green posts will be cleaned and repainted.

Our Villages

The Parish Council rely on volunteers to plan and deliver improvements to Our Villages. Our ambition is high, we want Our Villages to be picturesque; we want them to be highly decorative, covered in beautiful flowering and planting displays; we want 'Our Villages' to be a great place to live. However, our ambition will only be possible if supported by volunteers, and we have had limited support to date.

Can you spare 1 hour once or twice a month to undertake volunteer activities? Do you have ideas of activities that would improve the village?
If so, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Thorpe Thewles History Group

Besides our afternoon talks this year, Thorpe Thewles History Group have been involved in two research projects - recording Frosterley marble and medieval graffiti in local churches as part of a Belief in the Northeast Project and learning how to use online map and LiDAR resources with DigVentures while writing a village atlas of Sadberge. Both have been interesting and enjoyable, and you are welcome to join us on one of our outings to see what it all involves.

We are also thinking of hosting a free drop-in session looking at LiDAR, which gives a really accurate 3D image of the shape of the land and has led to some intriguing finds in Thorpe Wood.

If you fancy bringing along your laptop to find out more about LiDAR and free map resources, or would like to join one of our research trips, contact us on tthg@gmail.com so that we can set it up.

Picture Stockton Archive

There are some lovely old pictures of Stockton and the surrounding area that some may find interesting. Visit https://picturestocktonarchive.com

A Defibrillator for Grindon

Residents attended the December Parish Council and advised of some medical emergencies in the Grindon area which many know is a popular route for walkers, runners and cyclists. Local residents have personally responded to medical emergencies pending arrival of emergency teams.

The Parish Council agreed to the residents requests to help source a defibrillator for the area. Should you have any ideas for fund raising activities to secure a defibrillator please let the Parish Council know. In interim we are contacting likely bodies to ask for grant funding for this critical device.

We will provide an update in our next Newsletter. There is a defibrillator at the side of the Parish Hall.

A look back at recent Events

The Parish Council's Social Activities Committee have hosted several successful events in the past few months including a Halloween Trail; a Halloween party for children; a Christmas Fayre; a Choir evening; and a Childrens Christmas Party with a visit from Santa.

The Choir Evening provided very successful with funds raised being utilised to fund the Childrens Christmas

Party and, in agreement with the Choir, to provide a Donation of £250 to the Salvation Army Foodbank in Stockton.
The Parish Council would personally like to thank the Choir for donating their time for an excellent evening and for all attendees for supporting the event.

We would love to hear ideas for future events from residents and to hear from those wishing to volunteer to assist planning and delivery of future events. Please see contact details at bottom of this newsletter or pop along to the Social Activities Committee to share your ideas.

Dates for your Diary

Current scheduled events.

- **Parish Council meeting:** held monthly in the Parish Hall on every 2nd Tuesday from 6:30pm.
- **Social Activities committee:** held monthly in the Parish Hall on every 3rd Tuesday from 6:30pm
- **Secret Darlington** (a talk from Thorpe Thewles History Group) 25th January 1:30-2:30pm
- **Italian Wine and Food night –** 9th February, 7-11pm
- **Trouble at the Gates, Trials and Tribulations of Tollgate Keepers** (a talk from Thorpe Thewles History Group) 29th February; 1:30-2:30pm
- **The Lost Stations between Middlesbrough and Redcar** (a talk from Thorpe Thewles History Group)– 14th March 1:30-2:30pm
- **Pie & Peas and Bingo** 19th April 7-11pm

What's On at Grindon Parish Hall

Coffee Morning – every Friday

A coffee morning is held in the Parish Hall every Friday 10:30-12 noon. All are welcome, no need to book just turn up for coffee/tea, home-made cake and scones and great conversation. A chance to meet friends and neighbours, both existing and new.

Other regular events include

- **Circuit Training** – Mondays at 6.30. Contact: dannyzap@hotmail.com for information.
- **Art Group** – Tuesdays 1.30 – 3.30pm - £4.00 per session. Contact 07517 504467 for information.
- **Thorpe Thewles History Group** – normally 1st Friday of the month; for further details contact Sarah Hillier on 07826063058.
- **Thorpe Thewles Ladies Pop Choir** – held on Wednesdays 19:00-20:30. Please contact Pauline Plenderleith 07816 208335 before coming along.

Other regular village activities:

- **Thorpe Thewles Cycle Group** – meets at the bus shelter every Saturday at 10.00am.
- **Red Hot Chilli Steppers** (walking group) - meets at the bus shelter every Sunday at 10.00am

Everyone is welcome to join these events.

The Parish Hall is available to hire, either for a one-off event or regular events. If anyone wishes to hire the hall for an event, please visit the Hall at www.grindonparishhall.co.uk or contact Sophie Lord sophie_lord89@hotmail.com for information.

Your feedback and suggestions

The Parish Council welcomes feedback and suggestions.
You can raise issues through the following routes:

- Using the contacts listed below.
- Raising issues at the Public Forum held at the beginning of each Parish Council (2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm at the Parish Hall).
- Speaking to your Councillor.

G & TT Parish Council:

Current Councillors:

Michelle Davies	*07715 899113*
Jeff Gillson	*07824 625990*
Paul Hamblett	*07827 964198*
Alison McGee	*07958 431051*
Rory Moffatt	*07730 871496*
Gareth Rees	*07709 013640*

Clerk:

Chris Chapman *07734 288912*
email: thorpe.grindon@outlook.com

Parish Council Website:
https://grindonandthorpethewlespc.chessck.co.uk

Join us on Facebook: Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Residents Information.

Our Facebook site provides useful information for residents. In early December the Facebook site proved highly successful in raising awareness of an individual who was trying car and house doors throughout the village, during late night/early morning. Live notifications and updates were provided by several residents. The individual was apprehended by the police and stolen items retrieved.
Should you encounter similar activities you are encouraged to use the COPA App (Cleveland Online Policing App) available from your App Store.
We are sure residents would also be grateful to receive any notifications posted to our Facebook site.

Grindon Parish Hall – a registered charity

The Hall is seeking a Treasurer and a Secretary. If you are interested in either of these voluntary roles please contact Chris Chapman 07734 288912 for info.