Grindon & Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Working for the benefit of all our residents

Newsletter October 2023

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

Introduction

Welcome to the October edition of the Parish newsletter. In this edition we provide on update on activities since the last newsletter and detail coming events. We also introduce '**Our Villages**' – a campaign we are starting to further enhance the Village / Parish. If you have any ideas or comments, please contact us (see contact details at end of the Newsletter).

Recent Improvements to the Parish

Wynyard Woodland Park improvements include new waymarked trails; new signage and information panels; and free Wi-Fi around the station house and tea-room. Download the Love Exploring app to play fun games, follow trails and more.

The Council has invested in a portable water container to ensure we can effectively maintain the flowerpots and bedding areas in the village.

Four new multi-tier planters have been purchased and will be planted. The Parish Council is hoping to secure funding to enable more planters to be purchased further improving the look of the Parish.

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

The Parish Council has secured agreement from Stockton Council for investment in the play area and installation of new equipment, work is due to commence imminently.

Further Planned Work

The Parish Council is continuing to further secure Stockton Council support to address issues in Astral Park and Henley Drive; and to implement measures to reduce speeding in the village.

The Parish Council has approached Stockton Council to request some flower beds be provided and planted on some of the grassed areas around the village. We have additionally asked for some overgrown areas to be cut back and replaced with bee/butterfly friendly flowering shrubs and borders. These will make a significant improvement to the appeal of the village, and we hope the Council will agree to proposals.

Bulb planting is scheduled for the October half term during which two new bulb areas will be created.

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

Parish Councillors are introducing an 'Our Villages' campaign. Stockton Council are doing their best, but their resources are limited and therefore activities such as routine maintenance and litter picking are less frequent than previously.
Parish Councillors believe that if we are to make the best of our village, we all need to take responsibility. At its heart 'Our Villages' is all about collectively working for the benefit of our residents; it is about looking after our physical environment; it is about watching out for our neighbours.; it is about making 'Our Villages' a great place to live.
Parish Councillors will use the campaign to seek to secure external funding and support from other bodies, and success of this is contingent upon being able to evidence 'Our Villages' in practice.

Volunteers have recently:

- Moved large piles of bark chippings to improve the walkway down the side of the church; and to provide more stable parking at Hell Hole Lane.
- Trimmed back overhanging trees/bushes to make the walkway more accessible.
- Cleared soil deposits from around the traffic calming 'chicane' at the north of the village and removed all weeds/litter from the area.
- Cleared pathways from overgrown weeds.
- Undertaken litter picking around the village.

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.

Stockton Council Mobile Library

Did you know the village currently benefits from a Mobile Library Service. It turns up at the Parish Hall between 12 noon and 12:15pm every 4 weeks. Next dates are 20th Oct; 10th Nov; 1st Dec and 22nd Dec. If the service is not used it is more likely to be cancelled – so

please use the mobile library to ensure the village can retain this service.
Please contact the Library Service on 01642 528045

TeesFlex Bus Service

The Parish also benefits from the TeesFlex service; an on-demand, shared bus service for the Tees Valley. Users can hail a vehicle from a smartphone app to a choice of destinations at times to suit.
Tees Flex bookings are made on a first come, first served basis, with the software cleverly grouping customer demands together in real time.
The service has been extended for a further 18-months, so please use or risk losing this service.
Visit www.TeesFlex.co.uk for more information.

Dates from our Diary

The Parish Council's Social Activities Committee seek to arrange village events that enable inclusion for all. On 3rd September we held our Summer Fete and will be seeking views from residents about next years Fete.

A Spanish Wine and Food night was held on 29th September. Attendees enjoyed Tapas and other Spanish foods, while tasting and learning about Spanish wines. There was also a raffle and spot prizes.

Dates for your Diary

Current scheduled events.

- **Parish Council meeting:** 10th October from 6:30pm in Parish Hall (held monthly on every 2nd Tuesday).
- **Social Activities committee:** 17th October from 6:30pm in Parish Hall (held monthly on every 3rd Tuesday).
- **Diwali celebration:** Sat 21st October, 6-8pm. Indian dance performance and food. Tickets /info from Richa Sharma 07934 905341.
- **Halloween**: A Halloween trail will be held, and the Council will pay for the Hall and provide support to parents wishing to hold a Kids Disco.
- **Choir Recital at Thorpe Thewles Church.** To be held in early December.
- **Xmas Fayre**: and a visit from Father Christmas

Volunteers are needed, please contact Alison McGee if you can help plan and deliver village events.

What's On at Grindon Parish Hall

Regular activities 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.
- **Coffee Morning** – every Friday 10.30 – 12.00, £2.00 covers coffee/tea, home-made cake & scones, and great conversation – just turn up!
- **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.
- **Sunday Soundbath** -8th October 4-5pm.

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.

If you have any ideas for future social events, please do let Councillors know, or pop along to the Social Activities Committee to share your ideas.

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, then please contact Sophie Lord sophie_lord89@hotmail.com for information.

Your feedback and suggestions

The Parish Council welcome feedback on this newsletter and on suggestions for further social activities or improvements to the Parish.
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

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