

THORNHILL HOUSE

Newsletter Autumn 2018



EDITORIAL

Hilary Hull writes

I write this as longer and darker nights advance, but hopefully we will be warm and cosy in our homes and eschew any 'beasts from the east'. As always, there have been changes to members of staff at Thornhill House. As our carers move on to further education they can take with them positive thoughts of the warmth and welcome of the home and its residents. Our articles reflect some of the many activities of the home. The residents remember the long hot summer and new residents bring their life's experience to the Thornhill House community. We also learn just how much members of staff bring to the home like Ann, who gives service to many local communities. We are always aware of change, which can be two edged. Perhaps we do not like change as it means things could be unfamiliar and creates apprehension but it can bring new interests and opportunities. My experience of life at Thornhill House is that there is regular change of some kind but it is always undertaken

for the benefit and comfort of everyone. Once more we introduce a trustee to you his time we hear from James Duncan who shares the responsibility of overseeing the home's management. We wish to give a formal thank you to everyone who supports Thornhill House financially. This is through the key events we have during the year and, for example, via the 100 Club. Much of this money goes towards residents' events and activities. We also receive individual donations, often in memory of a resident or to provide something special in the home. When a donation is made with a specific request for its use it is always honoured by Di and her staff. When there is no stated designation for a donation there is a full discussion to decide how best the money is spent to improve facilities for all residents. As we approach the end of the year and, of course Christmas, the Management Support Committee members wish all residents, relatives friends and staff a very happy and enjoyable festive season and new year.

JOHN & JOAN PERRY

Joan featured in a 2016 newsletter, so now that John has joined her at Thornhill House we spotlight more of their life together. John was born in



1930 in Birmingham and attended primary schools in Shropshire and Leicestershire. When he passed the 11+ he was evacuated to Ludlow Grammar School. He enjoyed country living but returned to Birmingham in 1942. Perhaps because of his disrupted education he left school at 16. He got a job at Henry Wiggins, a specialist metal company and worked in the process development laboratory. In 1948 he was called up for National Service, and after basic training joined the Army Intelligence Corps. Between 1949 and 1950 he served in Vienna and on the Yugoslav border where he formed some strong friendships. He returned to his job at Henry Wiggins on demobilisation and it was there that he met Joan. Joan was educated in Rounds Green in the Black Country. She too passed the

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday December 8th

2.00 - 4.00 pm

tombola, grab-a-bottle, cakes,
teas, gifts, mulled wine



THORNHILL HOUSE 100 CLUB WINNERS

Date	Name	Village	Prize (£)
7 April	Mrs C P Taft	Great Longstone	50
21 April	Mrs J Gledhill	Little Longstone	25
5 May	Mr T E Green	Great Longstone	10
19 May	Mrs J H Stevens	Great Longstone	25
2 June	Mr J W McKenna	North Wingfield	10
16 June	Lord Hattersley	Great Longstone	25
30 June	Mrs J A Green	Great Longstone	50
14 July	Mr J M Beard	Great Longstone	10
28 July	Mr A Feinstein	Calver	25

John continued to work as a part time consultant. Their children, who were by this time widely scattered, had given Joan and John eight grandchildren; four of Julian's in Australia, two of Jilly's in the

Enrolled Nurse at Huddersfield Royal Hospital. She met her husband George through family connections and soon after she qualified, they married and she came to live in Tideswell. She started nursing at Newholme Hospital, but baby Thomas came along quite soon, and she chose to stay at home to look after him and their two daughters born soon afterwards, whilst they were young. In 1976 she and George bought the village shop in Tideswell, and she sold groceries, hardware as well as homemade hot pies, sandwiches and cups of tea for visitors to the village. Meeting the needs of older residents was important to her, so she looked out for them and provided them with a service. With a young family, and

11+ and went to Oldbury County High School, little did she know that many years later she would return there as a teacher. When Joan left school she was employed as a laboratory assistant at Henry Wiggins. Later she gained certificates in physics at Birmingham Central Technical College. Joan was a keen sports woman, taking advantage of her work's sports facilities. She participated in athletics and became a Worcestershire ladies cross-country champion. As a motorcycle enthusiast Joan travelled to work on a BSA Bantom. When John met Joan he was student in metallurgy. They married in 1955 and Joan continued working until the birth of their three children, Julian, Jilly and Christopher. When all three children were at school Joan decided to train as a secondary school teacher specializing in fine art and pottery. In 1980, the children having flown the nest, John's new job as a director and general manager of a glass making firm took them to Sheffield. John's work involved a great deal of travelling. He visited China, India, Japan, and Indonesia. Meanwhile, Joan taught English to Asian ladies and a WEA art class. The couple moved to Great Longstone in 1987 where Joan formed an art class in the village hall. Joan enjoyed village life; she worshiped at St. Giles, helped with the village fete and was a keen gardener. After retirement in 1992

West Midlands and two of Christopher's in Somerset – and a lot of travelling to visit them all - so Joan and John decided to move to Ludlow to be nearer to two of the families. Unfortunately Joan found it hard to settle. She became ill and they decided to move back near to Great Longstone. In 2016 Joan became incapacitated by illness and moved to Thornhill House. As John spent most of his day with Joan, it was natural that when he lost his mobility he joined her at Thornhill House. Their biggest joy of the week is when Jilly comes from Sutton Coldfield and they join her for the day at their Baslow home. Both John and Joan enjoy family visits and this summer took great pleasure in attending their granddaughter's wedding.

MRS ANN SMITH

Meet Mrs Ann Smith, winner of a 2018 Tideswell Community award and also a valued member of the kitchen team. Ann would be justified taking it easy at home after a full and demanding life, but she chooses to have a part-time job, as well as working for charities and playing a full part in the local community. She was born and grew up near Huddersfield. Her mother was a nurse, her father a vicar. She left school at 16 to train as a State



voluntary commitments in the community, it must have been a very busy time for the family. When taxes changed, it was financially not worth carrying on and they sold the shop. She moved on from there to work at a Bakewell nursing home, preferring to do nights as "you were your own boss". She was also part of their care relief team in the locality. Only when her husband fell ill with cancer in 2003 did she give up this work. Tragically, her son Thomas also died of cancer ten years later. Brought her up in the Christian faith by her father, she credits him for her lifelong commitment to the church and she

COMINGS AND GOINGS We are pleased to welcome two new residents - Yvonne Palmer from Rowland and Paul Williams from Bakewell. Three of our young carers, Vicky Talbot, Ed Talbot and Tilly Brooks have left for university. We wish them success in their studies, (Tilly and Vicky will remain on as bank carers). Replacing them are Egle Vasklevaite, Jenny Brown, Mary Lingard and Robyn Shattock and our new bank carer is Claire Newbould. We are sorry to lose Nurse Gail Eric who is moving to Bournemouth and Sheila Wardman who is choosing semi-retirement.

remains an active member of the Mothers' Union. Always willing to help out especially at Tideswell Wakes Week, she does a lot of baking, and serves teas and coffees. Like her mother, she got involved in the St. John's Ambulance from an early age; a cadet at 7 years old, much later a teacher, and eventually rising to be a superintendent. Somehow she also found time to be a Scout leader. Even before the death of her husband, she had started raising money for cancer research - initially by going on sponsored walks, now it's more baking. Her gratitude to Ashgate Hospice for their support when Thomas was ill, means she also fundraises for them. Ann is a lady who feels young at heart and regards her job at Thornhill House as right for her as she is part of a caring environment. She has thoughtfully moved on from personal tragedy and although she is devoted to her two daughters and their families, she makes sure that she does not lean too heavily on them. She is happy to go on outings to the theatre and

cinema and even on short holidays by herself, and has always enjoyed her hobbies that include tatting and reading (especially Agatha Christie). Ann's community award is richly deserved.

JAMES DUNCAN -TRUSTEE

I have been a trustee at Thornhill House for over 10 years. I first became involved with the house through my late grandmother, Christine Crowther, who was one of the founding trustees. As she was stepping down from her duties, both at Thornhill House and elsewhere, I was asked if I would step into her shoes and continue to contribute to the role the house plays in the community. At the time I was working in NHS procurement, setting up multi-million pound clinical and corporate contracts to help save money and ensure best value for tax payers' money. As I worked closely with colleagues in all care sectors, I joined the Thornhill team of trustees with a good knowledge of how NHS funding operates. Having had our first child (and since then two more) I decided to retrain as a teacher, a job which I continue to do today. Now in the role of assistant principal at a large secondary academy, my hours in the classroom have reduced as my

I was delighted when John joined Thornhill's trustees two years ago. I now live in Sheffield with my wife who works for The Yorkshire Ambulance Service, and our three children who all attend local schools. I thoroughly enjoy my role as a trustee at Thornhill House, not least because the ethos behind the home is so positive and inclusive. Trustees have an important role in all charitable organisations and at Thornhill House it is no different. Ultimately the trustees have overall responsibility for everything in the home. We are responsible for the correct legal administration of the home, to ensure the house acts reasonably in all matters, to safeguard and protect the residents, staff and all assets. Moving forward, the trustees plan carefully for the future of the home, ensuring that the supply of care services available is meeting local community demands. We need to ensure that national and local funding arrangements balance with fees paid by residents ensuring the home is financially viable. We remain committed to ensuring the care provided in the home is of the highest possible standard and are always looking to support our incredibly committed matron, Di and her equally committed team, with their ideas for improvements throughout the home.

GENEROUS DONATIONS have been received for the benefit of residents in memory of:

Bryan O'Connor
Robert Cumming
Sheila Blyde
Bill Needham

Other donations have been received from:

Mrs Walters
St. Giles church.

time leading and managing multiple teams has increased. The job is hard work but very rewarding, allowing me to make a difference to the lives of so many young people. I grew up in Bakewell, attending Lady Manners School from 11-18, where I met a good friend, John Wright, grandson of Molly Thornhill, the home's founder.

Lucy Wright writes
A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who supports Thornhill House. Our fundraising events and the '100 Club' make a real difference to enhancing residents' lives. The money raised often goes towards their activities and entertainments. Individual donations and donations from families in memory of a resident are carefully and thoughtfully used by Di and her staff to give the greatest benefit to our residents.

A SUMMER IN THE GARDEN

Claire Chable writes

The long hot summer granted our wishes as we spent our time in the garden trying to keep cool by eating ice cream. The pelargoniums and pansies we nurtured grew into strong plants filling the garden with colour and fragrance. The many visitors to our Open Garden Day and the June Garden Party admired our work and £325.86 was raised to spend on interesting activities. Later in the year the garden hosted a return visit of the donkeys, Barney and Pumpkin, who were a great hit with everyone as they patiently received our petting and pampering. We enjoyed our trip to the ice cream parlour at Tagg Lane and the landlady at The Barrel, Bretton made us very welcome with homemade cakes and beer. The weather was good and the views across the valley were spectacular. We soaked up local history and culture on our trip to Buxton Museum and Art Gallery. We hope that our art work may yet adorn the walls of the Art Gallery as we are considering entering the Derbyshire Open Exhibition in 2019. Thanks to the use of an adapted taxi it was a great pleasure for Joe to be able to meet his family at Ashover Show in July. Joe really enjoyed meeting old friends and the tractor he had restored. John and Joan were delighted to be able to make a visit together to Buxton Museum. We are all becoming experts in local history, geology and scenery with our visits and the talks from Sally Mosley, local newspaper columnist, and Bob Billing, local geologist. The end of the year is always a busy time. It is also a time for gift giving and helping others. Together with our Tuesday craft volunteers we have been knitting poppies for this display to commemorate a hundred years since the end of the First World War. We



are selling the knitted poppies as brooches to raise money for the Royal British Legion. We are also looking forward to trips to Debenhams in Chesterfield to see the Christmas decorations and party dresses. We will hold the Christmas Fair on Saturday 8th December and our Christmas party with a pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk" on Thursday 13th December. We are looking forward to visits from the E y a m Brownies and children from G r e a t Longstone School also our Christmas lunch at The Crispin on December 18th. As 2018 comes to an end we

happily await 2019 when we plan to make more improvements to the garden and grow more of our own bedding plants. We will continue our programme of trips, talks and anticipate a visit from a Knight-in-Shining-Armour!

RESIDENTS' & RELATIVES' FORUM

Hilary hull writes

In past newsletters we have written about the residents' and relatives' meetings. These are an opportunity for residents, relatives and friends to meet to talk about specific elements of life at Thornhill House. We have had one or two interesting meetings this last year and next year we plan to hold four meetings when the agenda will be open rather than a set topic. We will publicise this well in advance and will welcome anyone wishing to attend. We are aware that there are other opportunities to raise any issues about the home either in a residents' group or individually with the matron and we hope that you will always feel comfortable to do so.



Happy Christmas to all our readers

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

The editor welcomes contributions from residents, relatives, friends and staff to the Thornhill House newsletter. Our next edition will be May 2019. Please send your comments or suggestions to the editor hilary.hull@btinternet.com or via a member of staff. Deadline: Friday April 26th