

THORNHILL HOUSE

Newsletter November 2019



EDITORIAL

Hilary Hull writes

In our winter newsletter, we look forward to Christmas present and look backwards to Christmas past with the residents' memories. There will be more from them in the next newsletter. It has been a very busy year when staff have worked extremely hard to keep the home a special place for residents, relatives and everyone who works there. As we send good wishes to all for the year ahead, we spell out our view of Thornhill House.

Happiness: always to be found at Thornhill House

Activities: always something new to try

Poppies: on our wonderful new calendar

Puppy: a regular visitor

Yuletide: the festive season

Caring: what the staff do best

Home: a home from home

Respite: short term support for people and their carers

Individual: everyone is valued

Staff: always caring and helpful

Trips: an activity residents enjoy

Memories: our page 3 article

Age: welcoming the experience of age

Social: the warm and welcoming atmosphere of Thornhill House

RICHARD THORNHILL TRUSTEE

Interviewed by Alison Stuart

Richard Thornhill is the second of John and Molly Thornhill's four children, David being the eldest followed by Richard, Lucy and Patrick. He lives with his wife and two younger sons aged 15 and 10 in Great Longstone in his grandfather's house and where Richard was brought up. He has an older son and daughter and a new grandson in Australia. Richard was educated in Baslow and Sheffield and then went to Shrewsbury School. Richard has been vice chairman of Thornhill House for all of its 25 years. He told me that his family were originally farmers. His grandfather started to specialize in egg production and his father developed this to include processing hens and starting a meat

production business. Doing this on a large scale was revolutionary at the time and by the early 1970's the business was concentrating on chicken meat production, processing and packaging using local labour. When he left school, Richard was keen to join his father in the family business. His special interests were languages and the technical side of the business. He spent some time learning different parts of the ever growing business, including accountancy and working in a French poultry processing factory where he furthered his technical knowledge and became proficient in French. When his Father became head of The British Poultry Federation, Richard accompanied him to international meetings in France and to the EU in Brussels where he acted as translator because of his knowledge of the business»

Christmas Fair

Saturday December 7th

2 - 4 pm

**cakes, tombola, raffle, grab-a-bottle,
games, gifts, refreshments**

and its technical terms. Sadly in 1983 Richard's father died age 57 and following his death the Longstone poultry business was sold but Richard continued to have an interest in it until it closed in 1987. Richard then moved on to start his own business. His training in engineering and accountancy lead him to an interest in environmental engineering and air pollution control. Richard was the founder of the current business he works in and the inventor of the process it markets. The business has developed and patented a novel solution for the energy efficient processing of waste products in meat production and the control of environmental pollution in the production process. He describes himself as an "engineer primarily interested in environmental problems" Richard's mother, Molly Thornhill, widowed in 1983, continued to live in Longstone taking an active part in the church and village life until she died in 2013. When a friend's elderly mother needed residential care and had to leave the village Molly became aware of the lack of local care for elderly people. Molly then conceived the idea of a care home for local people. Molly and her family and local people started to raise funds. Richard helped his mother with the initial fund raising and took a prominent role in the design of the building, the room layout and was involved in the necessary

requirements for a care home. The plans came to fruition on 16th May 1994 and Thornhill House was opened. Molly Thornhill became the first chairman of the board of trustees and Richard the vice chairman, a position he has held ever since. He told me that he introduced his colleague John Mckenna to be the first bursar and John put Thornhill House on to a solid financial base with his accountancy skills. Thornhill House continues to meet the Care Quality Commission (CQC) rules and regulations that challenge the nursing home sector to improve. Thornhill House was granted the CQC's outstanding rating in 2016 and continues to maintain the highest of standards. Richard attributes this to the quality of the matron and her staff and the care they give. The low staff turnover at Thornhill House is credited to the strong team spirit and to the leadership not only of the matron but also to the chairman of the trustees. Richard feels the strength of the home is not only that the trustees/directors act voluntarily giving their time and expertise but also the not-for-profit charity status where the income generated is spent on the residents and the running costs of the house. Richard says that Thornhill Houses spends a higher proportion of its income on staff wages than in most care homes and also continues to invest in staff training ensuring that all training undertaken not only

meets CQC standards but is also tailored to the residents' individual needs. Richard says that Thornhill House focuses on maximising the quality of care while maintaining its financial viability – not the other way round. Richard's hope for the future is that the local community will become more involved in the running of the home as was Molly Thornhill's vision that Thornhill House would be grounded into the fabric of the village – for the community by the community.

LISA SHIRT - CARER

interviewed by Phyllis Palmer

When Lisa's children got to an age when she felt that she could go back to work, she decided on a change of career. A friend recommended she work at Thornhill House as a carer. After talking to the matron she decided to give it a try and started work in June 2019. She says she has absolutely made the correct choice and loves working at Thornhill House. She described starting work. Firstly came the 6 induction shifts working alongside someone else, and then committing to doing a number of shifts including 2 night shifts a month. Dealing with night shifts she compared to caring for a new baby! She is now working towards her care certificate, which features a number of training sessions on moving and handling, fire safety,»

food hygiene and infection control.

Meeting Lisa, it is clear how her life so far has admirably prepared her for the fulfilling role of a carer. She is a warm, outgoing person who lives with her family: husband Ian - a butcher, daughter Rachel, 17, doing her "A" levels at Lady Manner's School, and son, Harry 13. Their home is in Tideswell, where she was born as Lisa Bothamley. However, her family moved to Hyde in Manchester when she was 7 years old because of her father's work and she remembers the upheaval of moving and going to a new school where she could not understand what the other children were saying. She always felt an outsider although things got better at secondary school. What really made a difference to her was being a member of the Cheshire battalion of the Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade. She played a specially adapted glockenspiel in their marching band and loved going on the summer camps. Leaving school at 16, Lisa went to Tameside College to learn hairdressing, continuing her studies up to level 3 at Derby University in Buxton. She moved back to Tideswell at 18 and lived with her grandmother, and also met her husband to be. She then worked as a hairdresser at Sylvia's in Hebdon Court in Bakewell. When her daughter was born, she gave up her work. Life as a young mum kept her very occupied as she also took part-time

jobs and was a guide leader for 10 years. Now busier than ever, she and the family always look forward to their summer holidays abroad.

MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS PAST

From the residents and collected by Anne Webb

Most of our residents remembered Christmas when they were young to be a very quiet affair - menfolk away at war, no lights, restricted food, even bombs dropping over Sheffield in December. Lack of convenient transport meant that people couldn't visit distant relatives or local towns for shopping and anyway shops sold little beyond necessities. However, several happy memories stood out. Carol singing was most popular, whether congregating on the

village green, crossing fields to outlying farms or knocking on doors in the villages. The Church played a large part, especially midnight mass and Christmas services with choirs. Churches usually organised a party for all villagers with music but no alcohol. On Christmas Eve, children enjoyed dressing the tree with cones and paper chains. Christmas day was a local friends and family day. Distant relatives might make the journey once a



year to catch up on news. Residents remember the smell of baking from the kitchen. Locally reared goose was common, turkey being for the wealthy. The stocking contained little - sugar mice or pigs, an orange or apple and for lucky children an occasional embroidered hanky and a silver three penny piece in a purse. For small farmers, of course, Christmas Day was much the same as any other, with many chores to be done. The radio was an important source of music and for many the lunch had to be over for»

the King's Speech at three o'clock. In the afternoon there were family games and a walk in the snow. Boxing Day was also subdued for most people, with many recovering from the » festivities before returning to work the next morning.

Despite the commercialism and cost of today's Christmas, most residents agreed that times are better now. Enjoyable food, attractive decorations, family visits and the fun and laughter from television.

Some quotes from residents:

"When Tideswell church clock struck midnight we would walk the fields to sing in three local villages, returning home about 4 am."

"We had mince pies in the big houses. Some of them were awful. I much preferred my mother's."

"Our parents would do the best they could to make it a happy time."

"On Boxing Day we would go by steam train to Sheffield to meet my sisters."

"It was a lonely time for me as I had no close relatives."

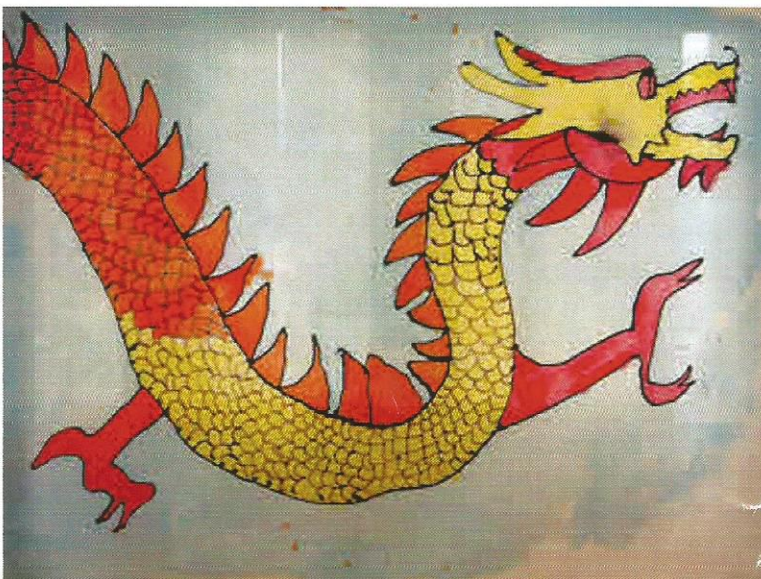
"I loved carols on the green with the Sally Ann band."

BEES & BUTTERFLIES

Joy Thrower writes

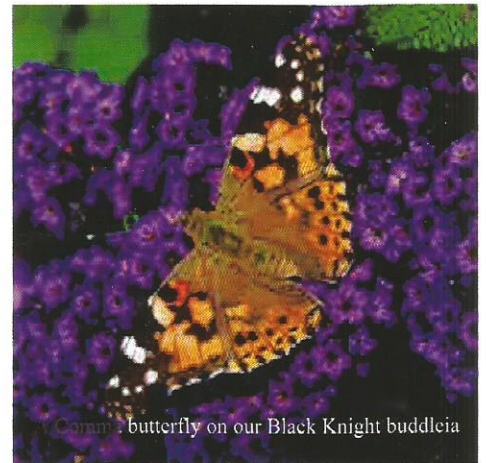
Two years ago the management support committee began work on the piece of ground outside the generator shed to create a haven for bees and butterflies. This year we are pleased to report that Tortoiseshells, Red admirals, Commas, Painted ladies and a Hummingbird hawk moth have been spotted feeding on the plants. There have been lots of bees too but so

far naming them is something we have to learn. The garden is looking a bit sad at the moment after all the rain but come springtime our bulbs should



CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

The editor welcomes contributions from residents, relatives, friends and staff to the Thornhill House newsletter in Arial font, single spaced and no more than 400 words. Our next edition will be May 2020. Please send your comments or suggestions to the editor hilary.hull@btinternet.com or via a member of staff. Deadline: Friday April 24th 2020.



Comma butterfly on our Black Knight buddleia

burst through the mud to welcome the new year. We have fixed an insect hotel on the shed and two large decorative insects to encourage six legged guests into the hotel.

THORNHILL HOUSE CALENDAR

The residents with Claire's help have been busy this year collecting photographs and making art work to adorn a calendar for 2020. Here is February's picture to highlight the end of the Chinese New Year celebrations on February 8th. It is the residents first attempt to produce a calendar and they hope to sell them to raise funds for Thornhill House. They are on sale in the foyer and will also be on sale at the Christmas Fair on Saturday December 7th along with lots of Christmassy things to buy and do. Come and enjoy the afternoon. Buy a calendar, have a go at tombola, win a bottle of wine, buy a present or two or just come for a chat and a cup of tea or a glass of punch. Money raised is to continue the work of the home which was the vision of its founder Molly Thornhill.