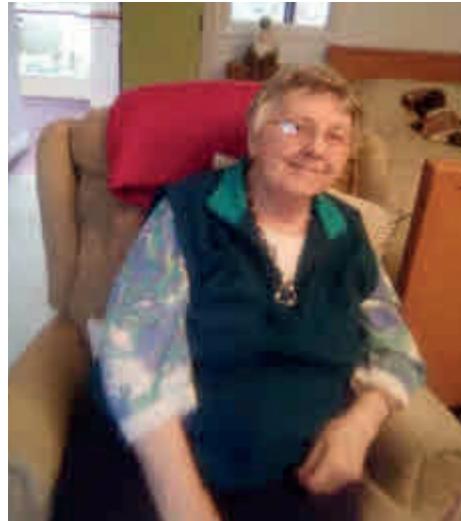


families. It was the forerunner of the schools psychological services. Joyce worked there for a number of years until she got married and moved to Chesterfield. There she worked for The Frank Merrifield Special School. She found the need to become involved with pre-school children and was a founder member of the Pre-School Playgroup Movement. She later started groups for children with sight and hearing loss.



When Joyce had her son she stayed at home until he was 16 before returning to full time work however, she maintained her interest in and played an active part in her specialist advisory role. When she did return to work she went to Mansfield, and worked mainly sorting out correct secondary school placements. It is clear to me that Joyce became very influential in the voluntary sector. When she found an unmet need she set about forming an association, for example, when her husband, who was an engineer, was diagnosed with Paget's disease, there was little information available in the UK, so she joined a tiny group in Manchester to form the Paget's Association. She was also on the board of governors

for the Council for Voluntary Services and the board of the Chesterfield Royal Hospital as representative for voluntary associations. She was instrumental with others in raising £1,000,000 to get the first M.R.I. scanner in The Chesterfield Royal Hospital. Joyce retired at 60 with arthritis but continued in her voluntary and advisory work. Joyce has many interesting stories to tell, both funny and sad, of her time working in child guidance. Joyce is adjusting to her need to let go and be cared for. She is hoping that when she has achieved this she will be able to make a contribution to the life of Thornhill House.

### VOLUNTEERING

Anne Webb writes

My interest in volunteering at Thornhill House arose from my appreciation of those who visited my parents when they lived miles away in Dorset. It was reassuring to know that someone would call in when we were unable to make the journey. After retiring from my work with students. I volunteered at a day centre for elderly people, so had already come to value how much I could learn about their interesting and varied lives. On moving to Great Longstone, I learned of the local energy put into planning and raising the money for Thornhill House. I felt that I wanted to contribute to this village achievement. Meeting with residents has been a real pleasure. As a newcomer to the area I was introduced to the history of local villages

and gained an insight into living and working in the Peak District. I have learned that many residents have been involved in voluntary work of various kinds and have generously given of their time and money over the years. As soon as I entered Thornhill House I was struck by its welcome and positivity. There is a buzz of activity; whether it's music, games, talks, or arts and crafts. The members of staff are busy but always have time for a kind word. I visit each week to chat with the residents about things that interest them. I have also accompanied residents on afternoons out, helped with crafts and read stories. Currently I sit on the management support committee. I assist our local artist Claire Chable who runs a varied programme of activities as you see from her article on page 3. Residents' trips are a most enjoyable, with the extra bonus of tea and cake. There is always scope for volunteering at Thornhill House: serving coffee to residents, helping with gardening in the summer, assisting with fundraising or working on administration and organisation. I find my time here to be most rewarding and I'm sure others of you would enjoy bringing your skills and experience to the work of Thornhill House.

100 CLUB WINNERS			
date	name	village	prize
4 Nov 2017	Mrs J Rowson	Great Longstone	£25
18 Nov	Mr P Thornhill	Rowland	£10
2 Dec	Mr B Graham	Grindleford	£25
16 Dec	Mr P Rowson	Great Longstone	£10
30 Dec	Mrs J Austin	Weston super mare	£25
13 Jan 2018	Mrs D Thorp	Stoney Middleton	£50
27 Jan	Mrs K Skidmore	Great Longstone	£10
10 Feb	Mrs P Doncaster	Barlow	£25
24 Feb	Mrs J Crossan	Great Longstone	£10
10 March	Mrs J Austin	Weston super Mare	£25
24 March	Mr N Casey	Great Longstone	£10

# THORNHILL HOUSE

## Newsletter Spring 2018



### EDITORIAL

Hilary Hull writes

On looking at the contents of our spring newsletter, I am aware of all the opportunities Thornhill House offers and everything the staff and residents contribute to each other and to those connected with the home. There are always opportunities to try something new. All Claire's work with the residents, gives them chances to see something different and to try new skills. Seeing an opportunity and going for it is how Joyce has lived her life and continues to do so at Thornhill House. In her career, Tilly has sought opportunities to do new things, to expand her skills and now Thornhill House is a part of that. Anne, in undertaking volunteering, has broadened her interests and become part of Thornhill House and the community of Great Longstone. In each newsletter we plan to bring you a profile of the one of the trustees. Other than Lucy, who most of you will see coming into the house during the week and myself from the management support committee, the trustees are very much in the background but play a very

significant part in the overall management of Thornhill House. We feel it is important that you know who they are. Lastly an apology to Kath Skidmore. In our November 2018 newsletter we told Kath Skidmore's story. We didn't reflect her story accurately. Kath's father was an organist on a much more formal basis than just playing in his spare time and having encouraged Kath to learn to play piano bought her one. Kath bought an organ for £4 after she was married and gave her piano to the Methodist minister's wife at Youlgreave. Kath feels it is very important that she was brought up and is known as a Methodist but because she has an ecumenical perspective of faith she is happy to attend all the local chapels and churches.

### LUCY WRIGHT CHAIRMAN THORNHILL HOUSE TRUSTEES

Phyllis Palmer writes

The current chairman of the trustees of Thornhill House is Lucy Wright, daughter of the founder, Molly Thornhill. This much will be widely known but readers will be interested to know more about Lucy and her role. Thornhill House is a charity with a board of trustees responsible for the operation of the home. The board consists of nine trustees with a wide variety of skills and experiences. They meet four times a year to hear and discuss reports about the

functioning of the home, set a budget for the year and make decisions necessary to ensure the secure future of Thornhill House. Between meetings trustees undertake various responsibilities connected to



their particular skill. From the initial conception of a local residential and nursing home, to its opening in 1994, and its operation, Molly Thornhill was ably assisted by her daughter and sons. They became trustees alongside key local people. Lucy says that she feels immensely proud of her mother's achievements in seeing the need for a home and the courage to make it a reality. The mantle of Molly's dedicated service to the community has passed to her daughter where she continues to honour her mother's legacy. She took over as chairman from her brother Patrick in 2016, having already been a trustee for 18 years. Looking to the future, Lucy is very pleased that the

### SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

Saturday JUNE 16th

2.00 - 4.00 pm

### OUR OPEN GARDEN

Sunday JUNE 24th

1.00 pm onwards

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

Since the last newsletter Thornhill House has welcomed Les Dean from Darley Dale in February and John Perry from Baslow in April.

Sadly we said a final goodbye to Eugenia Ridgeway, Ruth Prime, Robert Cumming, Bryan O'Connor and William "Bill" Needham. They are all very much missed and our thoughts are with their families and friends.

We have new staff - Esther Weir and Gail Eric as bank nurses and Tilly Brooks as a bank carer. Two staff have returned from maternity leave - Sarah Slack and Shelby Bradwell. Louise Dibble will return shortly after her maternity leave and we are happy to learn that Rebecca Cocker has had a baby boy called Eli.

board of trustees now includes several younger members who bring the perspective of their generation. Lucy was born and brought up in Great Longstone by parents with a strong commitment to the community. Having studied violin as well as piano from an early age, on finishing school she went to the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. There she met her husband Mike who is a double bass player. She followed him to Scotland after graduating, and for the next twenty years, both played professionally in orchestras in Scotland and then in Cardiff, Wales whilst bringing up three sons. In 1997, due to Mike's work, the family were able to move back to Great Longstone. This was three years after Thornhill House opened and Lucy welcomed the opportunity to get more involved and having more time to devote to her growing family. Now she is also revelling in the blessing of grandchildren. Lucy's passion for gardening has benefited Thornhill House. Lucy supported Molly in fundraising by holding plant sales and then went on to run a small plant nursery in the village for a number of years. Lucy is very keen that the ethos of the home established

by Molly continues to be honoured. Key to all this has been working with a dedicated team of staff led by a matron. Currently leadership comes from the amazing matron, Di. Lucy meets with Di every week to discuss matters that each wish to raise about what's happening at Thornhill House. The direction is always to secure the very best for residents and staff. How thrilled Molly would have been that all these efforts resulted in Thornhill House being awarded 'outstanding' in the last CQC inspection.

### TILLY BROOKS

*Interview by Hilary Hull*

You will know Tilly as a younger care staff member who joined Thornhill House in January this year. At Thornhill House Tilly is adding to her post school experience before going on to further training. Tilly was a pupil at Lady Manners School and left in 2016 taking a very varied gap year before going to university. She was a nanny for the children of Lady Edward Manners at Haddon Hall then moved on to travelling in south east Asia ending up teaching English in Cambodia. In 2017 Tilly began a chemistry degree at Leicester University but "only lasted a term" she said. She realised that the course had an academic focus whereas her

interests lay with people. Tilly has supportive parents who encourage her to do what she feels is right for her, so leaving university with no specific plans was a bit daunting. Tilly's mother is a physiotherapist undertaking sessions at Thornhill House so Tilly was familiar with the home. There was a vacancy for a 'bank' carer and not knowing really what to expect, Tilly began work as a carer at Thornhill House. She acknowledges that the general view of care work can be a bit grim but she has surprised herself about what she can do, how she can help, to the extent that she feels everyone should have the sort of experience she is having. The rest of Tilly's work colleagues have had a huge impact on her as she is so very conscious of their kindness, their ability and willingness to show compassion. This is one of the main things she has gained from her work. She is learning that there are people willing to give in a way she has not previously experienced. She has learned about the instinctive nature of the relationship between carer and resident. The difference in thinking between Tilly and her peers and between herself and the residents at Thornhill House is another lesson learned. Now she has a better understanding of why that might be and she has benefited from being able to chat easily and freely with residents. Tilly's previous interest in mental health issues now extends to wanting to know more about the mental health of elderly people. This she will add to her knowledge of physical and practical care of elderly people as she furthers her studies.

## ACTIVITIES

*Claire Chable writes*

2018 started with a bang, with an outing to the new Buxton Cinema to see the block buster *The Greatest Showman*. The volunteers and members of staff at the venue were extremely helpful in getting everyone to their seats. The musical was enjoyed by all, if a little loud for some. In a more educational vein everyone enjoyed a talk by a young man from Buxton museum. He brought a selection of multimillion year old fossils from Derbyshire as well as prehistoric flint axes and Roman pottery found in the area. These objects were passed around for all to handle and examine; a very interesting afternoon. Later in March *Animal Magic* returned, this time bringing a snake, a tarantula as well as the cute and cuddly meerkats.

The brave residents held and stroked the animals. In April Jane Littlefield kindly gave her time and skills in glass moulding to help us create beautiful glass decorations. The residents' creative endeavours will be placed in plant pots and used to decorate the trees in the garden enhancing our home grown floral displays for this year's Open Garden event on

24th June and for everyone's enjoyment. After our successful trip to David Mellor at Hathersage in April, we are

## DONATIONS

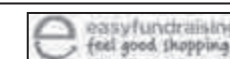
100 Club: £1,000  
Masonic Charity: £2,210  
In memory of Betsy Allsop: £250  
Coffee afternoon and raffle: £692.83  
In memory of Eugenia Ridgeway: £536.89  
In memory of Ruth Prime: £500  
Henry Wright: £150.00  
Anonymous: £284.00

now looking forward to trips for ice cream at Tagg Lane Farm, and tea and cakes with a possible glass of beer at The Barrel at Bretton in June. But before all this we are planning



a small celebration for the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle on May 19th. Afternoon tea and cake will be in the best china and Prosecco will be served all around to toast the happy couple. All hands will be on deck in June to get ready for the garden party on Saturday 16th and work will have stared on this year's well dressing reflecting the colours of Derbyshire: Mam Tor, Winnats Pass and Blue John. We hope this year's garden party and well dressing are successful, enjoyable and profitable. We look forward to long summer days in the garden surrounded by our art and the results of our hard work.

## WILL YOU HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR RESIDENTS' ACTIVITIES ?



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/thornhillhouse>

By using this website when you buy goods online; the seller will make a % donation to Thornhill House. It won't cost you an extra penny and will go towards enhancing the lives of the residents. Just click on this website and it will explain the process. Businesses like Amazon, Ebay, Debenhams, Marks and Spencer and many more participate in the scheme. Everyone at Thornhill House will be very grateful if

## JOYCE CUPITT

*interview by Alison Stuart*

Joyce came to Thornhill House a few months ago for respite care, having been unwell. She didn't intend to stay, but expected to return to her home in Old Brampton when she felt better. It was difficult to make the decision to stay for residential care, but she felt unable to look after herself alone. She told me that she did not want this article to be about her past, but about her future. All her life she has believed in the three A's; *adjust, accept* and *achieve*. In her new situation this is proving a challenge. *Acceptance* that she cannot return to her home has been hard but she believes that she is nearly there. *Adjustment* is the current aim. *Achievement* will be in making a contribution to the life of Thornhill House in the future. However, it would be remiss not to talk about Joyce's interesting and remarkable life. At 91 she is still a formidably clear thinking lady. She tells me that she was born on Christmas Eve in Bolton in 1926. She had one brother. Her Father was an industrial chemist and had served in the war in a machine gunner group using haphazard bullets in an experimental way. He was insistent that as a woman she must get a professional qualification. During the second world war there was not much choice, so she went to train as a teacher although she didn't want to teach. When she qualified the Bolton education officer sent for her and asked if she would be willing to be child guidance officer in a new service. It was a new idea to give psychological and educational advice to troubled children and