



THORNHILL HOUSE

Newsletter Winter 2017



EDITORIAL *Hilary Hull writes*

Welcome to the winter edition of the newsletter. For the first time this is being produced by the Management Support Committee which I announced in the last newsletter. The newsletter goes to all households in Great Longstone as well as being available online and sent by email. So it is with some trepidation we are taking over from Penny Feinstein who has undertaken this work for so many years and to whom we give our very grateful thanks for all she has done for and given to Thornhill House. The next article tells you more about her personal contribution.

In so many ways Thornhill House, its residents, staff and volunteers benefit from the support of so many people and from each other. What Penny has done over the years with the help of her husband shows how individuals help, while Ed, who you will read about and who is so representative of all the staff, has his own way of giving support. Kath Skidmore gave support to Thornhill House as a volunteer long before she became a resident and those of us linked to Thornhill House in many ways know the home as somewhere which is safe and always friendly.

From all this support there is warmth which keeps us all going, especially with the shorter days and longer nights to come.

It is one year since Thornhill House received its 'outstanding' rating by the Care Quality Commission and I am sure that if there were to be another inspection now the result would be the same although we will never be complacent. By the help we give to each other everyone's life is improved.

We plan to publish the next newsletter in the spring. We would really like to hear from you, our readers. Your thoughts, suggestions, articles, ideas for articles, letters or photographs may be sent to me for the next publication. We will try to do justice to your input. *address on back page*



A BIG THANK YOU PENNY FEINSTEIN *Alison Stuart writes*

For the last fourteen years Penny Feinstein has been the editor of the Thornhill House Newsletter and has in this role, taken responsibility for the production of forty two editions. She has been helped in this by her husband Alan who as a retired journalist, has done the layout and production of the newsletter. Penny has also

overseen the printing and distribution to the local community and to further afield. Penny says she retired from her job as a secondary school teacher in London and in 1993 came to live locally. Penny was introduced to Molly Thornhill who she believes had a talent for recruiting people to fit into vacant roles. She was asked to take over from the retiring editor, Michael Isherwood. His last copy was 2003.

Penny initially used the existing format with interviews of residents and staff, activities and events. She produced three editions a year. She said it was not an arduous task, but she always had to make sure that she kept her calendar clear the month before a deadline.

Penny says that of all the interviews she conducted her favourite was always with residents. Sometimes they had a relative with them to help and she found this very interesting too.

Penny has also helped at Thornhill House with coffee mornings, garden parties and other events. She says she finds the home magnetic and would hate to lose touch now that she is retiring as editor. This offer of help has been

**This year's
CHRISTMAS FAIR
will be on
SATURDAY DECEMBER
16th
2 pm - 4 pm**





quickly snapped up and we are hoping Penny will join the informal gardening group and continue to help at events such as the Christmas Fair.

Penny has a family of adult children and grandchildren who will no doubt appreciate her additional spare time.

Once again, thank you Penny and Alan for all the hard work you have done over the years and we hope to continue to see you at Thornhill House.

KATHLEEN SKIDMORE

Kath was born in Youlgreave and was the youngest of four children. She attended Lady Manners School. Her father was a fluorspar miner. He played the organ in his spare time and bought an organ for £4 to encourage Kath to play as well. When first married in 1953, Kath and her husband moved in with her in-laws at Top Farm on the Hassop Estate. She became a farmer's wife. This was quite different from working in the bank. Kath would help around the farm, milking the cows and assist with calving too. She would even help her husband in his hobby of sorting fluorspar from the spoil heaps that had been left behind from the old lead mines. They would relax together with a pick and shovel, sieving out the mineral and then sell it on to a regular buyer. Great days!

Kath had two sons. One is now a doctor, married to a nurse, while the other works in The

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Since the last newsletter Thornhill House has welcomed four new residents: John Holden from Alfreton, Joyce Cuppitt from Chesterfield, Susan Newbould from Millstone and Kath Skidmore from Rowland. We hope they all enjoy living at Thornhill House.

We were sorry to see Mary Cooper leave us for another care home. Very sadly we said a final goodbye to Rhoda Lawton and Betsy Allsop. We will miss them both and send our condolences to their families and friends.

Sarah Slack's 8lb 4oz baby boy born on 17th February 2017 is called Ellis Roy Slack. Emily Naylor has returned after giving birth on 12th December 2016 to Riley John Mason who weighed in at a bouncing 9lb 4oz. It is good to have both mothers back at Thornhill House.

Netherlands developing computer software. He married a Netherlander; they have two bi-lingual sons. Kathleen has been a widow for 26 years. However, while still at the farm she had begun playing the organ again and taking lessons at the age of 70. Always part of the community and active in the WI, Kath attends St. Giles Church in Great Longstone and is a member of the University of the Third Age.

Kath was living alone in her old farmhouse on the Hassop Estate when she had a fall. The stone floor was carpeted, but she knew at once that she was in trouble with her hip and needed an ambulance. When the postman called and she heard the letterbox rattle, she called for help - LOUDLY. A neighbour was alerted who stayed with her until the ambulance arrived. Her operation was carried out the next day. Following hospital, she had six weeks rehabilitation at a care home in Dronfield. Kath was able to be mobile using a walking frame so was transferred to Gernon

and there were 14 steps to the first floor. The stone floors also gave cause for concern. So she made the decision; she wanted to live at Thornhill House.

Kath had connections with Thornhill House going right back to the early development of the nursing home. As a friend of Molly Thornhill she helped to raise money to provide the residential home in memory of Molly's late husband John. In recent years, Kath had been a volunteer, doing tea and coffee and visiting residents on Friday mornings. Over the years, Kath has noticed how the needs of those living at Thornhill House have gradually changed. It used to be that residents just needed a little support to retain their independence. However, now that people are staying in their own homes for longer, when they can no longer manage, they often need nursing care. On moving to Thornhill House, Kath feels very positive about this new phase of her life. Kath now enjoys playing the piano and since coming to Thornhill House may even renew her hobby of painting. There are some lovely paintings hung in her room and this interest may give her the confidence to become involved with other creative activities as well. She greatly enjoys the outings, visits and other entertainments available at Thornhill House. Knowing many of the staff and residents

DONATIONS

- In memory of Margaret Rowland - £280.00
- In memory of John Agg - £236.25
- In memory of Rhoda Lawton - £330.00
- Charities Aid Foundation - £500.00
- Mrs Park - £100.00
- Birchfields (National Garden Scheme) - £102.00
- Longstone Church - £65.00
- Anon - £145
- Anon - £10,000 (specified for services to residents)





at Thornhill House has enabled Kath to settle in quickly. She is very happy and recognises the effort that is made to make all new residents very welcome. Making the move to Thornhill House was not an easy decision but Kath now believes that she has lots to look forward to and will be able to remain independent, knowing that she is safe and secure in her new home.

*Interviewed by
Di Humphreys-White*

Christmas party on the 11th December. This year the Carousel Theatre Company bring us Cinderella, glass slippers and ugly sisters abound, Oh, no, they don't! Oh, yes, they do! Santa will be there to bring joy and presents. At our annual Christmas fair on December 16th you'll find all the usual stalls, cakes, tombola, and of course Doug's bottle grab as well as our craft stall. There is a hive of activity at the moment with residents

FROM ARMY TO PARAMEDIC VIA THORNHILL HOUSE

Ed Talbot hails from Chesterfield and went to Brookfield Community School developing a love of rugby along the way, playing for The Army and Chesterfield Rugby Club. His post school experience began when he signed up as an army reconnaissance soldier before his 16th birthday, but he grew up fast gaining experience in a range of skills while based in Germany. After 4 years in the army, he was ready for a change and widened his experience with a number of jobs. Returning to this area and meeting Vicky Orton, a carer at Thornhill House, changed everything. He had a new career plan by then, to become a paramedic, but gaining appropriate qualifications and experience is no easy matter. This is where Thornhill House has played a significant part. Vicky encouraged him to gain an understanding of the role of a carer and Ed first became a volunteer in October 2016 and then a bank carer at Thornhill House in January 2107. Now his only job, he is able to work 3 X 13 hour shifts a week, and also attend Chesterfield College. First came a level 2 and now a level 3 course, and he has to obtain high grades if he is to be accepted on to the degree course in Paramedical Science at Sheffield Hallam University. He envisages working throughout his professional education. Meanwhile his relationship with Vicky blossomed into marriage in October 2017 when they tied the knot at the chapel in Little Longstone. They are both so busy with work and college, that they don't have nearly as

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 you buy in this way.

ACTIVITIES *Claire Chable writes*

2017 has been a very busy year. Residents have enjoyed trips and talks as well as visits from many different animals from donkeys to meerkats. November brought Thunder the Barnsley Husky. This large fluffy dog was loved by all as he went from room to room. A trip to Crich Tramway Museum reminded us all of times gone by. The outing to Debenhams in Chesterfield was a great success with everyone admiring the sparkly Christmas dresses, even Doug! A number of residents entered the Great Longstone photograph competition. They didn't win any prizes but hope to enter again next year. The end of the year is here again, time for fun and frivolity. The celebrations begin on the 1st December with putting up the decorations in time for the

making Christmas decorations and cards to sell. There will also be a raffle. So buy, buy, buy and good luck. Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who work hard to make the Christmas fair an enjoyable afternoon. We have lots more entertainment and trips over the Christmas period. Bakewell Choral Society and Eyam Brownies are due on the 7th, James Collumbine on the 18th and Annie Fotheringham on the 21st December. The children from Great Longstone School will also come to entertain us. The Christmas trips will be to Buxton shopping centre and lunch at the Millstone Inn in Hathersage. Thank you again to all the volunteers; without their help none of this would be possible. 2018 promises more entertainments and maybe big spiders instead of meerkats, and hopefully the return of Thunder.





much time with each other as they would wish – or much time with the two miniature black pigs Ed gave Vicky as a wedding present! A quick chat with Ed enables one to appreciate that there is an important role for a cheerful and capable young male carer working with our male and female residents. For him, there has been the discovery of a fulfilling job while getting that relevant experience for his career plan. Ed would like to personally thank Di Duncan for giving him the opportunity to work at Thornhill House as without this he would not have been able to get back into education and strive towards a future as a Paramedic.
Interviewed by Phyllis Palmer

BUTTERFLY AND BUMBLEBEE GARDEN
Joy Thrower writes



Once a month I help the gardening group at Thornhill House. We support the gardeners who do the heavy work in the gardens around the house. If you visited the home during this summer you will have seen flowers and vegetables grown by the residents with the help of Claire Chable. Despite everyone's efforts around the house, I noticed that there is an unattractive piece of ground surrounding the equally

unattractive generator shed. Having read about the decline in numbers of butterflies and bumblebees, I thought we could do a little conservation work here by making the area not only interesting to these insects but also be a source of interest to residents and visitors too. Some people fear bumblebees, but I learned that bumblebees don't swarm like honey bees, they are not aggressive and won't interrupt your picnic like wasps. It is only the female that stings and then only if threatened. So despite some reservations the residents and staff agreed that our group could set about our little bit of conservation. We have cleared the ground and have planted butterfly and bumblebee friendly plants as well as bulbs for some spring colour. Now we wait for the warmer weather for

the new garden to blossom. The residents are looking at ways of decorating the shed which will announce to visitors to the home that this area will be of special interest not only to butterflies and bumblebees but hopefully to you.



RESIDENTS' & RELATIVES' GROUP *Hilary Hull writes*

A while ago, what was then the House Committee established monthly meetings for residents, relatives and carers. These meetings were designed to give an opportunity to discuss any issues relating to the care and the environment of Thornhill House. Attendance is purely voluntary and over time a few residents and relatives have attended. We have covered such topics as the home's internal and external environment, health and safety, food and activities. Because the Management Support Committee have concentrated more recently on the butterfly and bumblebee garden and how to produce this newsletter, these meetings have not taken place but we plan to re-establish them in the new year. We will publicise the program and would be particularly keen to know if there is anything you would want to talk about. Residents perhaps feel they have other channels to express their views or ideas about changes they may like to see but this is a further opportunity to do so and for the Management Support Committee to take forward those ideas. The meetings will be at 4 pm on the last Tuesday of each month. Please send your thoughts and ideas to me at this address.

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100 Club Winners			
Date	Name	Village	Prize (£)
15 July	Mrs J Gledhill	Little Longstone	25
28 July	Prof J N Tarn	Stanton in Peak	50
12 Aug	Mrs J Holden	Great Longstone	10
26 Aug	Mr R C Field	Great Longstone	25
9 Sept	Mr R Heaf	Gloucester	10
23 Sept	Mrs J P Holden	Great Longstone	25
7 Oct	Miss M Cockburn	Sheffield	10
21 Oct	Mr M E Webster	Chesterfield	50

