

# THORNHILL HOUSE

## Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 1

Spring 2016

### Editorial

## Teamwork

During January and February this year telephone callers will have heard a different voice if they asked to speak to Matron. This is because nurse Pauline Oldfield was covering Matron Di Duncan's planned sick leave.

The six week interim went very smoothly. During this time there were no changes among the residents, and only one staff change when one of our bank staff joined us permanently.

The success of this arrangement was down to excellent communications at all levels, an efficient and meticulous practice of record keeping, a loyal staff who knew what they were doing and all round goodwill and support.

This support came from all sides: there had to be someone to cover Pauline, if necessary, and that person had to be a nurse, and Louise, who is a qualified nurse, liked the idea and accepted the responsibility; Stephanie-Jane Kenning who used to be Matron here was available for advice, Emily in the office came in for particular praise from Pauline as did Lucy Wright for the Trustees. Pauline said that she felt particularly confident of the support given by Thelma and by all the rest of the staff.

All this reflects the findings of the report from an un-announced

## Welcome and Congratulations

Welcome to Norah Hall who came from Stockport to Thornhill House to be nearer her family and to Jean White from Baslow who came to Thornhill House to join husband Joe, who came here in September.

Many congratulations to Norah Hall and to Elsie Green who both celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in April.

CQC inspection from last September.\* As part of the inspection they noted that one member of staff said *"The team has a positive attitude and I feel I can speak to the manager about anything at all."*

Very many thanks to all those concerned, and congratulations on their response to the recent temporary changes.

Di is back in with us now, and her usual busy self!

\* Indeed, that inspection had nothing but praise for Thornhill House and it can be seen and borrowed by asking Emily in the office. It makes very satisfactory reading!

## Norah's Story

Norah is enjoying the antics of a pigeon on the bird-stand outside her window when she turns to the matter in hand—that is, to talk about her life to the Newsletter. "My name is Norah Georgina Hall (Norah with an H) and I was born in Bramhall near Stockport."

Norah was the eldest of nine children, two of whom, sadly, died in early childhood, leaving Norah with 6 younger brothers and sisters. There was a pair of houses on Bramhall Lane called Normanville and Saxonville, and Norah's family lived in Normanville. The house had a big garden and Norah recalls marking it out as a tennis court.

She went to primary school in Bramhall, "It was in a private house and we were downstairs at first, and then as you got older you went upstairs where there were desks and it was

## Date for your Diary

June 17\_The Summer  
Garden Party  
See page 3.

more like school." From there Norah went to Stockport High School. "I particularly enjoyed reading...Shakespeare, Dickens... I wasn't much good at maths." She would have liked to be a nurse, but aged 16, she was too young and her mother suggested that she went to Stockport Secretarial College.

After she qualified she got a job with Hollindrakes, a car firm that sold and hired out cars. "I took the bus to work. I wasn't on the shop floor. I and three others worked upstairs looking after the paperwork." The next job she took was in a bank where she also made use of her secretarial skills. "I liked working there, but there was nowhere you could sit down or leave your things. But it wasn't all banking, there were week-end walks and things." She moved to a different branch of the bank in Ardwick, and now Norah talks about a party where she met a young man called Douglas who was on leave from army service. They went for a walk together, but it got very wet, so they sheltered in a hollow... and they both decided to keep in touch.

Douglas was still at Reading University when they met and Norah was living at home with her family in Manchester. Then Douglas' work took him to Windsor where he was a teacher. Norah's father didn't approve of girls leaving home "You never know what might happen!" Norah and Douglas got married and had three children.

The World War 11 years were not easy for Norah. Douglas was away from home training cadets, and Norah was at home looking

after the children.

Douglas survived the war, but, sadly, died in 1997.

As the family grew up to go their ways Norah went back to work using her secretarial experience and became secretary to the Registrar of Manchester University in Oxford Road. She stayed in the job for about 15 years during which time she learnt to drive.

In retirement Norah took up golf as a hobby and continued to play from the age of 59 into her 80s!

She now has 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren; and her son lives in Wensleydale, and both her daughters live in Great Longstone which is how Norah came to live in Thornhill House.

That brings us up to date, except to say that on April 23<sup>rd</sup> she and the family celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Congratulations Norah!

## Obituary

We are sorry to report the death of Sheila Blyde, aged 90. She died on March 4, having lived in Thornhill House since July, 2009.

Sheila was a person who liked to be active, and was regularly seen at the Home's snooker table, or walking briskly, rain or shine, round Great

Longstone. As a young woman she excelled at sport and was the swing bowler for the English Womens' Cricket team. Her only regret about Thornhill House was that it had no stairs!

## Donations

Brian Parker- Garden scheme foundation £33

Grand Charity £3283

Christmas Fayre £525

Longstone Parochial Church Council £150

100 Club £800

DVP Wright £150

Anon. £272

Very many thanks to all our friends and well-wishers for their loyal and generous support.

## Staff News

Welcome to Emma Brewster from Bakewell who has joined our staff bank.

The staff at Thornhill House have established a good link with De Montfort University, Leicester, which, in association

### **Thornhill House 100 Club winners**

Date	Name		Prize (£)
7 Nov	Miss E. Hirst	Antrim	10
21 Nov	Mr. D. Gordon	Monsal Head	25
5 Dec	Mr. P. Thornhill	Rowland	10
19 Dec	Mrs.J. Household	North Walsham	100
2 Jan	Mrs. K Thornhill	Sherwood	25
16 Jan	Mr. A.G. Grant	Gt. Longstone	10
30 Jan	Mr. R.Heaf	Chapel en le Frith	25
13 Feb	Mrs. J. Crossan	Gt. Longstone	10
27 Feb	Mr. C. L. Stephenson	Gt. Longstone	25
12 Mar	Miss E. Hirst	Antrim	50
26 Mar	Brig. C.E. Wilkinson	Ashford in the Water	10

with their care home, Loros, offers training which is relevant and useful to staff at Thornhill House. They run several evidence-based courses such as Symptom Management at the End of Life, or Chronic Heart failure and Holistic care. Pauline and Louise have completed a course there, Thelma and Heidi have completed Verification of Death training, and Claire and Louise are to complete this.

Emily, our Administrator is completing her NVQ 4 in Business Administration. This is an ongoing process. English and maths were covered in NVQ3, while NVQ4 includes a definition of Emily's job role and functional skills such as use of the computer. Emily works with an Assessor and the course leads to a Diploma "and it's hard", she says. Go for it, Emily!

Our full time carers are undergoing fire extinguisher training in the next few weeks, and all staff have recently undertaken Dementia training.

Ruth Rogers retired at Christmas after nearly 20 years at Thornhill House. She originally came as cook and then she spent many years as a carer. She hopes still to be a volunteer for trips and events. We thank her for all her service and wish her well in her retirement.

\* \* \*

Pauline talks about her experience as temporary Matron. *I felt it a great honour that I was asked. Of course, there was fear of the unknown, but I knew I could count on the staff. I gave a lot of thought as to how to deal with things without calling on Di, and that worked out well.*

## The Summer Garden Party

This is always an enjoyable event. Tables with plants seeded and potted up by our residents, a home bake stall, Tombola, a Lucky Bottle table. There will be a craft stall with cards, book-marks, and other artefacts made by our residents, eats and drinks, friends to chat with...

It's an occasion that raises money for Thornhill House and a good time is had by all.

*PS. Claire has arranged a residents railway trip from Rowsley to Matlock for 24 May. She could do with a volunteer or two. Any offers?*

*The first thing I noticed was the amount of paperwork, but everything has to be recorded- if it's not written down it hasn't happened!*

*I doubled up as nurse and matron, but that wasn't stressful. Sometimes people did talk to me about problems, but they could be ironed out.*

*I went to a Trustees meeting and was interested to hear how the Home's finances were managed.*

*I recognised the different levels of responsibility, but it all ran smoothly.*

*I said lots of prayers before I started...and they were answered.*

*I enjoyed it and I would do it again!*

Many thanks, Pauline

## Activities

Claire Chable writes:

*From New Years to Many Years.*

After Christmas parties and New Year traditions, 2016 began with Celebrations for the Chinese New Year of the Monkey. We discovered our Chinese birth signs, dragons, tigers and dogs. In the craft sessions we made a lion mask and took it in turns to dance to traditional music, finally we ended the day

with Chinese food and a well-earned rest.

Following our star signs we gazed at the stars with David's huge telescopes, we looked closely at the moon and sun. This afternoon was greatly enjoyed by the more scientific among us. We are looking forward to having more afternoons like this. Suggestions have been; demonstrations of model trains and a talk on the geology of the Peak District.

We started two long term projects for 2016. The first being a Scrap Book recording our outings, parties and activities, our aim being to record the exciting activities and projects we have at Thornhill House. We also have an embroidery project the letters spelling out Thornhill House. We are hoping that this will also be a shared project, which will be displayed in the building when it's finished.

April is a big month this year as two of our residents will turn 100. To celebrate this great achievement we are organizing a Tea party on the 12<sup>th</sup> April with linen table clothes the best china, music and old fashioned party games.

When the weather improves we are out and about again riding the steam train to Matlock, nurturing our seeds into plants for the garden and to sell at our Summer Garden Party on the 17<sup>th</sup> June. By then our new apple trees should have settled in their new position in the garden. Apples in the autumn, among lots of things to look forward to this year.



**Douglas Walker**

**and**

**Elsie Green**

**celebrate the Chinese New Year with the Lion masks they made.**

**See Activities page 3.**

