

# Garthorpe and Fockerby Village Newsletter

March 2022 email me at [garthorpefockerbynews@gmail.com](mailto:garthorpefockerbynews@gmail.com)

Next month I'm going to try and make a list of local businesses connected to the village. I've had enquiries if this could be done, please email me your information for your free advert, name telephone number and what services you provide. We have a lot of new people to the village who will not know who you are! Come on folks it's a free advert!

Many thanks to Ron Gilleard for his three-part tribute to Amazon Bridge and Joe Gilleard. Extraordinary story and well told Ron.

## **Platinum Jubilee Picnic Celebration**

Just in case you are wondering if Garthorpe and Fockerby are going to arrange celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration we are!

Several meetings have taken place looking into the funding and planning of the event. Representatives from the Parish Council, Village Hall Committee, Friends of Garthorpe and Fockerby, supported by St Marys and this newsletter. Several ideas were floated about whether it should be a street party, village hall or playing fields event, we considered road closures etc and decided the park was the place to be!

The celebration picnic will be on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June at Garthorpe Playing fields and the gates will open at 1pm. Lots of work is going on to secure funding for food, and as

more information is clarified it will be published on social media sites and the newsletter. We are looking to contact each household to try and firm up numbers as this is needed for funding purpose. It is intended to be a family event and to have games for children, we want to include as many ideas as possible and as many volunteers as possible. Friends of Garthorpe and Fockerby are submitting funding bids .... watch this space.

## **News from the Parish Council**

The parish council minutes are online [www.garthorpeandfockerbypc.org.uk](http://www.garthorpeandfockerbypc.org.uk)

and I am not permitted to replicate them here. Next meeting is **19.04.2022**.

I've checked the road closures, and none appear to affect this village.

SSE Keadby Wind Farm Community Fund provide £1800 to the parish council, as from 1 April 2021, support small un-constituted groups with a micro grant of up to £300, this is for projects that will enhance the quality of life for residents. All grants which will promote community spirit and encourage community activity. It is not available for constituted groups or where SSE funding is already been accessed. If anyone would like the application form and list of Do's and Don'ts then please email the Clerk, [clerk@garthorpeandfockerbypc.org](mailto:clerk@garthorpeandfockerbypc.org)

This funding, it's easy to apply for and has helped produce this newsletter, don't waste this resource, take advantage whilst it is available.

### **Walking in Lincolnshire. Time to get walking again**

Thanks to Nichola, the parish council clerk for sending this.

<https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/links> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Lincolnshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'. With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy, So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)

[john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)

### **News from the village hall**

John' Staff's talk about Scunthorpe United delighted and surprised his audience – even those who were not natural football fans! – as he mingled themes of music, fashion and world events with the fortunes

of the "Irons". Thank you, John – it was a great evening.

### **"Garthorpe Past & Present"**

#### **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

We end this season's series of talks on a strong local note on **March 3<sup>rd</sup>** when **Brian Woolhouse** will lead an informal evening to view and discuss old images of the village and local area, some never or rarely seen before!

(If you were looking out for "The Story of Gilleard's", this will be in the next series, winter 2022/23)

Look out for notices about a "Pub Night". A new beer chiller and pump is in our sights – come and help put it through its paces. Meanwhile those who hire the hall for other activities are as busy and inventive as ever; see elsewhere in this newsletter.

If you are now the holder of a Lucky Numbers ticket for 2022, cross your fingers. The first two draws of the year will be announced this month. Apologies for the delay but volunteer ticket sellers have been working as fast as they can.

Contact options for the Village Hall are: [Facebook](#), or [email](#), or telephone **01724-798699**, or speak to any Committee member: Jonny Martinson, Sammie Simms, Jo Smith, Sam Peel, Debbie Martinson, Ellen Rollitt or Jiggy Lloyd.

### **Other Village News**

#### **Skerne Foundation**

Attention all school leavers. Are you about to go onto further education?

If this applies to you then read the below

**The Skerne Foundation** gives small grants to pupils who are in further education (either college or university) and

live in Garthorpe, Fockerby and Adlingfleet areas

Mary Ramsden lived at Fockerby Hall and when she died in 1743 she left money in her will to be used for the further education of the children in the above areas.

The Skerne Foundation meets annually in May and awards grants to pupils about to go onto further education. Even though the amounts are small they help to provide books, equipment, travel expenses etc.

The grant must be applied for yearly, and you only need a letter of attendance from the college or university you are attending that year.

If you are in your last year at secondary school and would like more information about the Skerne grant and how it will help you or to apply for grant, please contact: -

Jane Walbank – 01724 798889 or email [janewalbank5@gmail.com](mailto:janewalbank5@gmail.com)

Adlingfleet residents please contact  
[amandajharding@me.com](mailto:amandajharding@me.com). -01724  
798575

### **Friends of Garthorpe and Fockerby**

#### **Pantry on the Isle**

The scheme continues to be well supported in the village and it is hoped that we will increase our services to include Adlingfleet within the scheme from April 2022.

Currently all 30 boxes are allocated and a waiting / reserve lists are being used to ensure that the groceries are not wasted.

### **Important information**

**Collection times have been changed** to reflect that most of the participants collect their allocated box between **4.45pm and 6pm.**

Therefore, please ensure you collect by 6pm and should this not be possible please inform me directly- Jen- **07980310312.**

### **Victoriana's**

Victoriana's pop-up eatery will re- open on **30th March** between 10.30am and 1pm. We hope to see you there!

### **Garthorpe and Fockerby Parish Council Notes**

The parish council met on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2022; the council discussed:

Co-option of Debbie Martinson as councillor

Grant for the Queen's Jubilee from NLC  
K-COM fast speed internet

Incredible Edibles

Horse signage

Code of conduct- from NLC Contract for  
Grass cutting of the parish council  
verges/ Public foot

Resignation of Chairman/ councillor

Debbie was elected as a new member of the parish council. Application for the Jubilee Grant will be made by the Parish Council this is believed to be £250. These funds are to be used to purchase bunting. K-COM has been invited to present their service at the next PC meeting in April. The company look for expressions of interest within the community before they bring their services into the area- Epworth etc have taken the upgrade they provide. Incredible Edibles have achieved

Postcode Lottery funding for the Jubilee, and this has included Garthorpe and Fockerby- this will be making hanging baskets (free of charge) for houses that would like to participate, bulbs and other plants will be given to organisations within the village for dispersal. Horse signage will be reviewed at the next meeting. Councillors will be asked to sign the code of conduct from NLC this include declaration of interest. The Parish grass cutting contract was awarded to Marshland Enterprises Ltd. It was discussed that the quality of work delivered by John Smith was far superior to the last company. At the end of the meeting the Chairman, councillor John Smith resigned and would step down on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 sighting that his work commitments were far greater currently and this had led to his decision.

### **Garthorpe and District Royal British Legion**

Garthorpe and district Royal British Legion will be holding their annual Royal British Legion Big Breakfast.

This will be held in the Garthorpe and Fockerby Village Hall on **Saturday 5th March between 9am - 11 am.**

Cost is £6 for this you can have cereal, fruit juice and cooked breakfast. A children's portion is available and priced at £4.

If you just want to call in for a tea/coffee you can.

Please do come along and support this event you will be made most welcome, it's open to everyone.

The Garthorpe and District Royal British Legion are organising a commemoration

day.

This will be on Saturday **14th May**. Full details will be on Garthorpe Village Hall Face Book page and April's newsletter.

### **St Mary's Church**

#### **Coffee morning**

St Mary's church will be having a coffee morning to celebrate "All Mothers" on Saturday 26th March between 10.30am - 12. We hope to see you there.

#### **Plant sale**

St Mary's with Garthorpe & District RBL will be holding their annual plant sale on **Saturday 7.5.2022 10am till 12.00.**

Donations of plants towards the Sale will be most welcome on the day before but further information will follow.

#### **Mobile library**

On North Lincs website it only shows Bay Horse times. It does not show Margrave Lane as it is calling at Luddington and Garthorpe Primary School

#### **Incredible Edibles**

January was a quiet month for Incredible Edibles, but the pace has picked up in February. We managed to bid and receive a grant from The National Lottery Community Fund to use to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. It was the fastest turn-a-round yet as Amanda (our Secretary) applied for it on the Monday and it was granted the following Friday. We have been busy having meetings to plan our contribution to the Jubilee celebrations and will be preparing, planters, hanging baskets and bulb planting on verges in the Jubilee colours in all the Marshland Villages this includes Fockerby and Garthorpe. The verges will be a legacy of colour for future years that will mark this unprecedented occasion.

Dates have been planned at various village halls when residents can join in to plant a planter or hanging basket, take it away and display it at the front of their house. The planter/basket, compost and plants are free of charge. The only "ask" is that you water and maintain it, then together as a team we can create a wonderfully incredible splash of colour throughout all the villages. It's also a chance to meet new people and bring the community together as these types of celebrations always do.

Look out for these dates in The IEM News Spring 2022 Edition which will be landing on your doorstep very soon, (if it hasn't already landed) Garthorpe is in the village hall on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

Within this leaflet is a programme of events covering the next 6 months, so do have a look and join in. We are a non-membership, non-profit group which means "If you eat - You're in". How to contact IEM is on the back page of this leaflet, why not give us a ring and join in.

### **Riverbank Litter Picking**

If the amount of rubbish collected from the riverbank is anything to go by then we are having a positive impact with our litter picks.

The pick which took place on February 12<sup>th</sup> saw us collect a shocking 26 bags of rubbish plus lots of larger items. Much of the rubbish is hidden by the reeds but it is much better not to be there at all.

### **Willow Weaving workshop.**

The Willow Weaving workshop was held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February from 10am to 4pm at Garthorpe Village Hall and was fully booked. It was to make a "melon" basket who knew how hard it was to make a basket and how many stages it involved. It is a very skilled

profession and sadly one that is not now practiced to the same extent that it was 100 years ago. Our marvellous tutor (Alison), a willow farmer from Gainsborough, was an excellent teacher and was blessed with bags (or should I say baskets) of patience as well as a sense of humour. She kindly donated to IEM a book about the history of willow weaving in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. Today most of the willow produced in this country is grown in Somerset.

Everyone enjoyed the workshop and there will be one craft workshop per month throughout this year. Some very interesting projects are planned so watch out for our advertising.

We can be found on Facebook (Incredible Edible Marshland) or by phoning Nigel our co-ordinator on 07901165349. Our website will be up and running soon giving another place to search for our activities and news. Posters are up in each of the villages for forthcoming events and these can be found as follows: -

Garthorpe - on the notice board attached to the tree outside the old pub "The Bay Horse".

### **Future Foray**

Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> at Garthorpe Village Hall 7pm - 9pm. Arm Knitting -who needs knitting needles when you can use your arms? No previous experience necessary. Learn how to knit your own unique blanket to take home and treasure. A choice of colours is available but this session needs to be prebooked and the colour chosen the week before so the tutor can obtain the colours requested. Cost £35.00. All you need to bring is your arms!!

Friday March 11<sup>th</sup> at Swinefleet Village Hall 6.45pm - 8.45pm. Gardening - making a homemade windowsill propagator. Cost £10.00.

Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup>. Litter picking on the riverbank 9.30am to 12.30pm (or part of this time). Meeting place to be arranged depending on how far the 26<sup>th</sup> February litter pick progresses to. This is an extremely rewarding activity which contributes to a clean environment.

Friday March 18<sup>th</sup> at Garthorpe Village Hall 7pm – 9pm. Cookery for adults and children accompanied by an adult – Cookies and cakes icing challenge. Cost £10.00.

Friday March 25<sup>th</sup> at Garthorpe Village Hall 7pm – 9pm. Cookery for adults and children accompanied by an adult – three layered pizza (the picture of this looks spectacular). Cost £10.00.

Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup>. Litter picking on the riverbank 9.30 – 12.30 (or part of this time). Again, meeting place to be arranged depending on how far the 12<sup>th</sup> March litter pick reaches. Come and join in. The river is part of the place we all live.

Please could you send me any contributions by **the last day of the month**. the cut off time is 2pm. The information is correct at the time of writing this, please check any websites for further information.

Again, thanks to Jiggy Lloyd, David Graham, Nichola Ingleton, Emma Davies, Incredible Edibles Bridget E, Bridget B and Ron Gilleard who regularly contribute to the newsletter.

Date	Time	Event	Cost	Venue
		<b>March 2022</b>		
TUES 1.3.22	7.30-8.30pm	Serpafit	£2.00	Village Hall
WEDS 2.3.22	7.15-8.15	Yoga	£5.00	Village hall
THURS 3.3.22	9.30-11.30am 5pm-6.30pm 7pm for 7.30pm	Playgroup Pantry on the isle On Your Doorstep Garthorpe Past and Present	£2.00 £5.00 £2.00	Village Hall
FRIDAY 4.3.22				Village Hall
SAT 5.3.22	9am-11am	British Royal Legion Big Breakfast	£6.00	Village Hall
MON 7.3.22				Village Hall
TUES 8.3.22	7.30-8.30pm	Serpafit	£2.00	Village Hall
WEDS 9.3.22	7.15-8.15pm	Yoga	£5.00	Village Hall
THURS10.3.22	9.30-11.30am 5pm-6.30pm 7.30pm	Playgroup Pantry on the isle Indoor Bowls	£2.00 £5.00 £2.00	Village Hall
FRI 11.3.22	7pm-9pm	Incredible Edibles Cookery workshop	£10.00	Village hall
TUES 15.3.22	7.30-8.30pm	Serpafit	£2.00	Village Hall
WEDS 16.3.22	7.15-8.15	Yoga	£5.00	Village Hall
THURS 17.3.22	9.30-11.30am 5pm-6.30pm 7.30pm	Playgroup Pantry on the isle Indoor Bowls	£2.00 £5.00 £2.00	Village Hall
FRI 18.3.22	12.10-12.30pm	Mobile library		Bay horse only
FRI 18.3.22	7pm- 9pm	Incredible Edibles Cookery Workshop	£10.00	Village Hall
MON 21.3.22				
TUES 22.3.22	7.30-8.30pm	Serpafit		Village Hall
WEDS 23.3.22	7.15pm-8.15pm	Yoga	£5.00	Village Hall
THURS 24.3.22	9.30-11.30am 5pm-6.30pm 7.30pm	Playgroup Pantry on the isle Indoor Bowls	£2.00 £5.00 £2.00	Village hall
FRI 25.3.22	7pm-9pm	Incredible Edibles Cookery workshop	£10.00	Village Hall
SAT26.3,22	10.30-12.00	Coffee morning		St Mary's Church
MON 28.3.22				Village Hall
TUES 29.3.22	7.30-8.30pm	Serpafit	£2.00	Village Hall
WEDS 30.3.22	10.30-1pm 7.15pm-8.15m	Victoriana's Pop-up Eatery Yoga	£5.00	Village Hall
THURS31.3.22		Playgroup Pantry on the isle Indoor Bowls	£2.00 £5.00 £2.00	Village Hall
FRI 29.4.22	7pm-9pm	Incredible Edibles Cookery workshop	£10.00	Village Hall
FRI27.5.22	7pm-9pm	Incredible Edibles Cookery workshop	£10.00	Village Hall

## **The building of Amazon Bridge Memorial.**

### **Part 3.**

I left Garthorpe at 8.30 am on Sunday the 10th October 2021, having loaded my truck, over the past few days, with all the tools and equipment which I thought we would need, plus a few smaller fixings etc. The other members of the team were flying out; two from Leeds Bradford airport and one from Heathrow, but I was driving down. I was in Calais that evening, having covered about 260 miles. Next day I covered 530 miles to Chambéry in eastern France, and on Tuesday I covered 610 miles. Having driven from Calais or Zeebrugge to Cassino, in two days, on seven previous occasions, I had told myself that I would never attempt it again and, this time, would take a leisurely three days, but I was so keen to get there that I just went for it, and pulled into the Hotel la Pace car-park, in Cassino, at around 7.00 pm. and was warmly greeted by the proprietor Pino Valente and his wife Lina who are old friends. Had a shower, went for a pizza, then bed.

Next morning I rang George who, along with Chris and Sammy, who had arrived ahead of me, and were staying at the Hotel Rocca, a hotel just outside Cassino, and arranged to meet at the memorial site at 8.00 am. When we arrived, we saw that the excavations for the foundation of the memorial had already been started and the site cleared, by the local building company, hired by Cassino Adventure, to be, as far as Italian officialdom was concerned at least, the builders of our memorial, but who would merely dig and then concrete the foundation, leaving the rest to us. Technically, as non - EU citizens without work permits, we shouldn't have been doing the build at all, so we had to be careful not to draw any

unnecessary attention to ourselves, and make it appear that we were merely overseeing the work. We set out the excavation properly, did all we could by way of unloading the truck etc. and then waited for the digger and driver to return and finish the excavation. We waited all day but nobody came. Andrea, the Cassino Adventure manager, told us that they would be arriving later, then later told us that the engineer, who was overseeing the job, couldn't come until tomorrow and so that the digger and driver would come at the same time as the engineer.

Next day, Thursday 14th October, we were on site at 8.00am, expecting and hoping that the engineer and digger driver to be there any minute. We were anxious to get the excavations finished so that we could concrete them on the Friday and be able to lay bricks over the weekend. If we couldn't get them concreted before close of play on Friday, we would have to wait until Monday to get concrete, and Tuesday before we could lay bricks, costing us four days. We waited all day, with Andrea assuring us that they would be coming soon. The engineer arrived at 5.00 pm and the digger and driver 10 minutes later. We weren't optimistic that we would get the excavations finished that day, ..... but we were wrong. The engineer was satisfied with the position of the memorial, as we had set it out, ( he had to ensure that the foundation would carry the weight and that the structure would be at least 2 metres from the public highway ) and the digger driver, Mario, went to work. In 50 years on building sites, I have never seen a better digger driver. In no time he had the foundation dug and cleaned out with no need get in with a shovel to clean it out. He then pushed our universal beams into the ground in the position we had set out. It was dark when we finished, but we were ready

for concrete, and were assured that it would be there at 8.30 next morning. It arrived bang on time and Mario and his mate levelled it. We helped them lift their reinforcement in and they helped us put our reinforcement in, they put a final finish on the concrete and then left. I will never knock Italian workers. They were brilliant. We spent the rest of the day getting set up for FINALLY laying bricks. We were now in charge of our own destiny as it were.

From then on, things went really well. We had the brick work finished in four days and the whole thing was completely finished by 25th October. Everyone seemed to be pleased with our efforts. We had had so much help from Cassino Adventure staff, and some long-time friends from Cassino. We simply couldn't have done it without them. They bent over backwards to help us. To me it felt like my whole previous life, and decades in the building trade, had been merely a preparation for doing THIS job.... in THIS place. Like the circle was now complete. Like I had done my duty to Joe, which, whilst in awe of what all the sappers did on that night in 1944, was my main motivation in building the memorial.

George, Chris and Sammy drifted off, over the next couple of days, leaving me alone to enjoy a day touring the battlefield sites with my mate Pino Valente, and resting up. I had a farewell meal with old friends Fulvio and Rosa and also with Pino and his wife Lina, said goodbye to bar-owner Diego and his wife Maria, and then at 8.30 am on Friday 29th October, with a heavy heart, I set course for Garthorpe, replicating the route and itinerary of my outward journey, arriving back in Garthorpe, mid afternoon on Sunday 31st October, exactly 3 weeks since I had left, having covered 3014 miles in total.

I first visited Cassino, with my dad and two sisters, back in 1983, and have been there about 20 times (I have lost count) in all, including driving there eight times. It has become more of a pilgrimage than a holiday and I have made a lot of friends, both Cassino residents and fellow pilgrims. It's like being a member of a club. And it has all come about because my dad fought around here for 8 week's ish in 1944. He spoke about Cassino, and specifically Amazon Bridge, all the rest of his life. I knew the name of Cassino, and the names of the surrounding villages, Aquafondata, Caira, St. Elia etc. when I was 5 years old, and knew what my dad had done in Italy. He fought in Italy until November 1944, and then spent two years in Greece, but although he revisited some of the other places he had been at, further north in Italy, once again, in 1983, (and never returned to Greece) he was only interested in Cassino and Amazon Bridge. I think he considered that to be the high-water mark of his time in the army, and certainly considered himself fortunate to have come through that ordeal. The rest of his life was pure profit after that.

In 1988 my dad and I were putting the finishing touches to the renovation of the house I now live in, but which my mum and dad were, then, about to move into. It was a house which had never had a name, or at least not in living memory, and had been derelict for a number of years. I told them that they would have the honour of naming it, to give it some thought, and when they had decided on the name, I would have a name plaque made. Quick as a flash, my dad said "Oh we've already chosen a name. We want to call it 'Amazon Cottage'.

Thanks for reading this account. I hope that you enjoyed reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it.

Ron Gilleard



A personal tribute to my dad which I fixed to the inner face of one of the pillars. I hope that other relatives of Amazon Bridge builders will follow suit.

