

Garthorpe and Fockerby Village Newsletter

February 2022 email me at garthorpefockerbynews@gmail.com

Every month I print 171 newsletters to be distributed to each house hold in the village. There are 12 sent by email to various organisations including individuals, Parish Council, Friends of Garthorpe and Fockerby and St Marys church. It is also shared to other websites and social media platforms. Staggeringly there have been 5032 hits on the village Hall site last year!!! It is also on the Parish Council website. I am very surprised! In December on the Village Hall site there were 1615 views. If you want to share any good news, send me an email.

Next month I'm going to try and make a list of local businesses run from the village. I've had enquiries if this could be done, please email me your info 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!

We've all had a difficult time these last 2 days with no electricity in the village. Thanks to those villagers Simon, Lesley, Jiggy and Tina for opening the Village Hall for hot drinks and facility to charge phones etc. Special thanks to Sam for making the emergency arrangements with the generator a more permanent solution. You are a star! Thanks to Jonny for sorting the generator

News from the Parish Council

The parish council minutes are on line www.garthorpeandfockerbypc.org.uk

and I am not permitted to replicate them here. Next meeting is 31.1.2022. The Clerk to the Parish Council has no updates this month. I've checked the road closures and none appear to affect this village.

SSE Keadby Wind Farm Community Fund provide £1500 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 local 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

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.

News from the village hall

The next "On Your Doorstep" talk at the Village Hall will be: "Scunthorpe United – Then and Now" Thursday 3rd February

John Staff, author of the much-acclaimed book "The Official Centenary of Scunthorpe United", is teaming up with **James Moody**, Supporters' Liaison Officer to tell us about the history of the Club and contemporary issues in football including youth opportunities and

community activity. Aspiring players in the village, secondary age or older, and their parents are especially welcome! **Doors open at 7; talk starts at 7.30; £2 including refreshments.**

The requirement for face masks is no longer in place so we have taken down the notices that we were obliged in law to display. Wearing a mask is now a matter of personal choice. Good ventilation continues to be recommended.

If you have not yet renewed your Lucky Numbers ticket, or want to join but have not done so, please do get in touch (see below). We hope to have the new membership list finalised in February so we can get on with both the January and February draws.

By the time you receive this, the talk about Scunthorpe United will be imminent (**February 3rd**) or “past history”. The next after that will be:

“Garthorpe Past & Present”

Thursday 3rd March

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)

Installation of a new chiller & pump for the bar is “in hand”. Once done, we will be running more entertainment events. Look out for notices.

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.**

Sharing Barrow

At a meeting with [Incredible edibles it was decided not to continue with the sharing barrow this spring. There was £91.07 left in the fund for the barrow/ book box fund. Permission has been sought from the Parish Council to donate this to the village hall. This was carried out by bank transfer. Thanks to Jo Smith for all her hard work last year and making sure it was always well stocked.

Classes in the Village Hall

The classes are beginning to recommence please see the table at the end of the newsletter.

Other Village News

Clear up after your dog

I have been asked to include this information again as the situation has deteriorated.

There have been some heated comments on social media. Please clear up after your dog. It is no longer an isolated instance or on one street it is everywhere. Villagers are prepared to submit photographic evidence to the council, so clear up after your dog as you are responsible and it will end up with a fine.

The Public Space Protection Order is one of the tools the council employs to control the minority of irresponsible dog owners. There are three separate parts of the Order: Dog faeces left by any dog should be removed immediately by the person in charge of or responsible for the dog. Dogs are excluded from enclosed children’s play areas and other designated such as schools.

A single person cannot have more than four dogs in their sole charge.

A person who fails to clear up dog faeces may be offered an on the spot £80 fixed

penalty notice or on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000.

Please respect the village and clear up after your dog.

Rural Crime Prevention Advice

Social media has loads of advice on preventing vehicle theft in January.

Follow these simple rules to protect your car.

Be aware of carjackers-The fact that you're in the car isn't always a deterrent to someone trying to steal it. In traffic, drive with the doors locked and when queuing leave enough space in front of your vehicle to enable you to get out of a tight spot.

If your vehicle is bumped from behind, wait to pull over – find somewhere safe and preferably where there are people. If you don't know the person who has collided with you; they could well be hijackers. If you're at all suspicious, consider calling the police.

If someone threatens you, it's better to hand over the keys to the vehicle than become a victim of assault. Then call 999 as soon as possible, and ask for the police.

If your car is stolen, some modern vehicle alarm and tracker systems have the facility to isolate or shut down fuel systems, bringing the vehicle to a halt and leaving the thief high and dry.

Keep the keys safe

Vehicles today are by and large more difficult to steal than ever, unless the thief can access your key or fob to clone them. Keep your keys safe, out of view when at home, and away from your front door. It's not uncommon for car keys to be stolen from inside your home by thieves fishing for them with a stick and hook through the letterbox.

Keyless entry

Cars with keyless entry unlock automatically when the key comes within a short distance of the car. This can be from inside a pocket or bag. If you have to push a button on your car key to open your car, you don't have keyless entry.

Keyless car theft or 'relay theft' is when a device is used to fool the car into thinking the key is close by. This unlocks the car and starts the ignition. Thieves only need to be within a few metres of your car key to capture the signal.

When at home keep your car key (and the spare) well away from the car. Put the keys in a screened or signal-blocking pouch, such as a Faraday Bag.

Reprogramme your keys if you buy a second-hand car. Turn off wireless signals on your fob when it's not being used.

Transit vans are being targeted by thieves in North and North East Lincolnshire. Keyless entry keys to be stored in faraday boxes or bags in house to prevent the signal being picked up outside address. Improve security measures where the vehicle is stored like CCTV, lighting, alarms. Extra vehicle security such as steering locks, trackers. Consider a distinctive marking on the van so we can distinguish a vehicle should false plates be added. Make sure you deal with well-known recovery agents, mechanics etc.

Read more advice here:
<https://www.humberside.police.uk/protect-your-vehicle>

#IsleofAxholme

#NeighbourhoodPolicingWeek

On 23.1.2022 Sergeant Jackson and the team held a Farm watch meeting for residents of Garthorpe and surrounding area, what an amazing turnout!! We had

approximately 35 residents attend to discuss issues in their rural community from Poaching offences, burglaries, van thefts and ASB.

Safety and security advice were given, My Community Alerts signups completed, and Humbertalking and Neighbourhood watch sign-ons and surveys complete. The new sheep marking scheme was discussed by our Wildlife officer and we had a training session on it also.

It was great to meet so many people and put some names to faces.

The new PCSOs were introduced to the residents and answered any concerns which were raised in the open forum.

Friends of Garthorpe and Fockerby

Pantry on the Isle

There are now 30 residents on the register for the Pantry on the Isle. If you would like to join the reserve list, could you please let Jeni Knowles know. Please provide your full name address and phone number. If anyone on the main register has a family emergency or holidays you may be phoned at short notice on Wednesday or Thursday morning. The cost is £5.00 per week. Please contact Jeni on 07980310312 if you are interested in taking part in 2022.

Christmas Decorations

Sadly, when the wooden Christmas Trees around the village were collected, we noticed that quite a few had been tampered with (batteries missing, broken lights) and some were also sadly damaged structurally. A lot of time and effort is put into making these and putting them up/maintaining them and if the same happens next time, then unfortunately we will have to stop decorating the village at Christmas which would be really unfortunate.

Looking Forward

On a lighter note, we are looking ahead to some events this year and if you have any thoughts or ideas about what you'd like to see happen or any projects you'd like to get off the ground please message us on our Facebook page -

@friendsofgarthorpeandfockerby

Victoriana's

It will re-open in April 2022. Victoriana's staff would like to thank all residents for their support over the past months.

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 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.

Incredible Edibles

Continuing with our craft theme we are holding a Willow Weaving workshop on 19th February. There are places for 8 people and we already have enough interest to run a second workshop.

The cookery sessions are continuing, the first one being on 11th February – the theme is Valentines day when cakes and cookies will be made and delicately iced. In 2022 all cookery workshops will be open to all (male & female) and this includes children (minimum age 12 with a parent). Why not make it a family outing and come away with valentine foodie gifts to give to your loved

one? The themes for the next few months have been decided but we are always open to suggestions as we like to try to include everyone. What would you like to learn to make?

We have had great feedback about the few litter picks we were able to do last year (2021), and we are happy to tell you that the first one of 2022 took place on January 15th. A big thank you to Bridget Elliott (a valuable Incredible Edible Committee member) who organises these litter picks

First Riverbank Litter Pick of 2022.

The first riverbank litter pick took place on Saturday January 15th. It was a great start to 2022 with eleven people joining in, including some enthusiastic, accompanied, youngsters. It was very good turnout given that it was a very foggy and frosty morning, but at least everyone was safe and visible through the mist in their hi-vis. We started at the same point as last year, near Anchor Row Cottages, Whitgift, as we are hoping to fit in enough sessions this year to cover all the riverbank as far as Kingdom Lane in Reedness. It was interesting to see how much rubbish had appeared since we last worked the area, and we managed to fill 17 sacks, as well as a couple of wheels and some other large random items. Well done Team! The rubbish is collected by the street cleaning team at East Riding Council. Although the picks are from 9.30 to 12.30 you are not obliged to stay for the whole time, as any time you can spare all helps us to improve our local environment.

The riverbank can be rough underfoot so stout footwear is advisable, as well as appropriate clothing for the weather and please bring gardening type gloves to protect your hands. We are able to lend you hi-vis tops, and litter picking gadgets, all of which are washed and sanitised in between sessions. The picks will go ahead unless the weather is very bad, heavy rain for example. If in doubt on the day, or if you have any questions the contact number is 07901 165384. Please note that this number

is not manned all the time in between pick days. Dates for February are 12th and 26th. The meeting places will be decided by how far we get on the previous session and will be announced nearer the time. Come and join us and make a difference.

Bridget E - Incredible Edible Committee Member. Bridget Bramley – Minutes Clerk (IEM)

Future Forays.....

- Fridy 11th February – Cookery workshop at Garthorpe Village Hall 7pm – 9pm. All welcome including children 12 and above accompanied by a parent. Theme to be Valentines day, cakes and cookies and icing. Cost £10 per head.
- Saturday 19th February – Willow Weaving workshop (making a basket) at Garthorpe Village Hall 10am – 4pm (coffee and tea provided – bring a pack-up). Cost £35 per person. Fully Booked.
- Friday 25th March – Cookery workshop open to all at Garthorpe Village Hall 7pm - 9pm. Making a three layer pizza twist. Cost £10 per head.
- Friday 29th April – Cookery workshop open to all at Garthorpe Village Hall 7pm – 9pm. Preparing BBQ marinades. Cost £10 per head.
- Friday 27th May – Cookery Wokshop open to all at Garthorpe Village Hall 7pm – 9pm. Making the Jubilee Pudding. Cost £10 per head.

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, Emma Davies, Incredible edibles and Ron Gilleard

Date	Time	Event	Cost	Venue
		February 2022		
TUES 1.2.22	7.30-8.30pm	Serpafit	£2.00	Village Hall
WEDS 2.2.22	7.15-8.15	Yoga	£5.00	Village hall
THURS 3.2.22	9.30-11.30am 5pm-6.30pm 7pm for 7.30pm	Playgroup Pantry on the isle On Your Doorstep “Scunthorpe Utd-Then and Now”	£2.00 £5.00 £2.00	Village Hall
FRIDAY 4.2.22				Village Hall
MON 7.2.22				Village Hall
TUES 8.2.22	7.30-8.30pm	Serpafit	£2.00	Village Hall
WEDS 9.2.22	7.15-8.15	Yoga	£5.00	Village Hall
THURS10.2.22	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 11.2.22	7pm-9pm	Incredible Edibles Cookery workshop	£10.00	Village hall
MON 14.2.22	11.35-11.50 11.55-12.15	Mobile library		Margrave Lane Bay Horse
TUES 15.2.22	7.30-8.30pm	Serpafit	£2.00	Village Hall
WEDS 16.2.22	7.15-8.15	Yoga	£5.00	Village Hall
THURS 17.2.22	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 18.2.22				
SAT 19.02.22	10am -4pm	Wicker Workshop Fully booked	£35.00	Village Hall
MON 21.2.22				
TUES 22.2.22	7.30-8.30pm	Serpafit	£2.00	Village Hall
WEDS 23.2.22	7.15pm-8.15pm	Yoga	£5.00	Village Hall
THURS 24.2.22	9.30-11.30am 5pm-6.30pm 7.30pm	Playgroup Pantry on the isle Indoor Bowls	£2.00 £5.00 £2.00	Village hall
THURS 24.2.22				Village Hall
MON 28.2.22				Village Hall
THURS 3.3.22	7pm for 7.30pm	On Your Doorstep “Garthorpe Past and Present”	£2.00	Village Hall
SAT 5.3.2022	9am-11am	British Royal Legion Big Breakfast	£6.00	Village Hall
FRI 25.3.22	7pm-9pm	Incredible Edibles Cookery workshop	£10.00	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 2.

At 4.40am on 13th May 2014, a group of people met, as planned, in a field on the eastern bank of the river Rapido, one mile south of the town of Cassino, in Italy.

It was still dark, and a mist hung over the river, but the sky was lightening behind Monte Trocchio, to the east, as it would have done at 4.40am on the 13th May 1944, exactly 70 years earlier. They were a mixed group, mostly British, but with a small Italian contingent and at least one Swiss. Some wore medals on their left, denoting that the medals were their own, some on their right, denoting that the medals had been awarded to others, mainly fathers in this case. Although mainly civilian, there was also an RAF bugler among them and three other servicemen.

They ranged, in age, from mid-70's down to mid-20's.

They made their way across the field, as sappers had done 70 years earlier, using phone torches, to the riverbank, getting their feet wet from the dewy grass, and all gathered around a cross of poppies which had been laid on the grass. The babbling waters of the fast-flowing River Rapido could be heard but, in the gloom, not seen. A mile away, in the Benedictine monastery on Monte Cassino, lights shone and bells tolled, calling the monks to morning prayer, and adding to the eeriness, and weight of historical significance, of the occasion. Hairs stood on end and shivers were sent down spines.

Several people carried wreaths and small wooden crosses. John McCrae's 'In Flanders Fields' was read, followed by 'Binyon's Lines', 'They shall grow not old' etc., the RAF bugler struck up with the most moving rendition of 'The Last Post' that many of those present had ever heard. Then at 5.00am exactly, one minute's silence was observed, followed by 'Reveille' and the laying of wreaths.

For some in the group, it was their second or third time, for others their first, but for all, it was especially poignant because it was 70 years ago, to the minute, that officers and sappers of 7, 59, and 225 Field Companies of the Royal Engineers, had, on this very spot, built, and declared 'open for business', a Bailey bridge, codenamed 'Amazon'. The three servicemen present, all in their 20's, were representatives of those three units.

The group included several sons and daughters of veterans of Amazon Bridge, including me, Ron Gilleard.

Afterwards, as the group made their way back to their hire-cars in the, by now, only semi-darkness, a group within the group, including yours truly, were talking about the courage of the sappers who had built 'Amazon' and how shameful it was that no memorial existed to their efforts that night, and of course, many nights before and after. Despite the fact that it is the most celebrated action in the annals of the Royal Engineers, the regiment had not seen fit to build any memorial, and so, there and then, we resolved, to remedy that.

We all then went back to our hotels, and back to bed for a couple of hours.

The small group met again later that day, over a pint, and decided to form the 'Shiny 7 Association', all the men, except me, being ex members of the post-war equivalent of 7 Field Company (post-war called 7 Field Squadron), and I was accepted as an honorary member. One member was a retired colonel, but all the others were former NCO's in 7 Squadron.

The first things we needed to do were a). get some funding, b). try to acquire a suitable site and c). come up with a design. The funding and the design were relatively easy, but time consuming. Eventually, after jumping through all the hoops, and having a retired colonel on board, we persuaded the Royal Engineers Association to stump up the cash. I produced drawings for several different designs, put them to the committee and one was chosen.

Acquiring a suitable site was a different experience completely. Being purists, we wanted to build the memorial on the actual bridging site (although in hindsight, this site was wholly impractical for several reasons) but eventually had to look elsewhere because that site was owned by several different members of a family, and that it would be a legal nightmare to buy it. Several other sites were considered and then discounted for one reason or another. So after about 4 YEARS of searching, we still didn't have a site.

Then seemingly from nowhere, a fledgling business called 'CASSINO ADVENTURE', who run an outdoor pursuits business, including white-water rafting on the river Rapido, offered us a small piece of land close to their main entrance. It wasn't an ideal location in some ways, being 600m north of the Amazon Bridge crossing site, and on the other side of the river (the German side in 1944) from the bridge construction site, which had been our preferred option. However, the site offered to us was in a large lay-by just off the main road from Cassino to St. Angelo, and so, would be easily 'visitable' by battlefield tourists, with plenty of room for a couple of coaches, for example, and/or several cars. After a further 6 months of deliberating, we decided that a memorial ANYWHERE, was better than no memorial at all, and accepted Cassino Adventure's offer.

Ironically, Cassino Adventure's premises occupy the former 'Point 36', the German strongpoint which overlooked the Amazon Bridge site, and whose garrison, on 12th/13th May '44, did their utmost to prevent 'Amazon' being built, and it's builders seeing the sunrise that morning

The intention had always been to let 7, 59 and 225 Squadrons build the memorial and maybe handle logistics, with us in a purely advisory/supervisory role, and with me getting to lay a brick or two just for the really up for that, but couldn't commit to a time scale. Months turned to years and still we couldn't get a firm commitment from

them. Eventually, mid-2020, we decided that, if we were to have it finished for May 2022, the 78th anniversary of the action, we would have to build the thing ourselves. I had designed the memorial in such a way that I knew that I could have built it on my own if I had had to, and although I was happy to let the army do it, I was always keen to have as big a role as possible, purely because of my link, via my dad, to Amazon Bridge.

We decided to source all materials in the U.K. and have them taken to Cassino by lorry before the end of the one-year transition period after Britain left the EU, because it would be easier, paperwork-wise. The materials were bought and assembled in Garthorpe, and the steel fabrication completed, but then Covid prevented them being shipped to Italy, so we just had to wait AGAIN. The end of the transition period passed on 1st January 2021, so we were in uncharted waters. We got ourselves a good freight forwarder from Hull to hold our hand through the export minefield. We had to get an EORI number to send the goods, and they had to be received by someone in Cassino who also had an EORI number. We got ours, on line, within 15 minutes but although several of our friends in Cassino, applied for one, it took 10 WEEKS before the first one was issued. But, at last, on 17th September 2021, the materials were picked up in Garthorpe by an international haulier, and two weeks after that, we got the phone call from an Italian friend, who was acting on our behalf, that our materials had arrived on site, nearly seven and a half years after we had resolved to build a memorial. We were ready to 'rock n roll'.

In next month's newsletter, read the final instalment (promise) about the actual construction phase of the memorial, (which I had intended to cover here, but thought it would have been too long).

