Garthorpe and Fockerby Newsletter

February 2025 email me at garthorpefockerbynews@gmail.com

News from the Parish Council

The parish council minutes are online www.garthorpeandfockerbypc.org.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings of the Parish Council as observers only, but a period of 15 minutes is allocated for a Public Forum at the beginning of each meeting.

Garthorpe and Fockerby parish council have started the process to buy some new benches for the graveyard and are beginning work in the ashes garden.

The parish are also buying 3 new bins for the playing field.

Garthorpe and Fockerby parish council are also looking into funding to help purchase deterrents to decrease the amount of speeding traffic through the villages. If you do notice any speeding vehicles residents can report the offenders by taking their registration number and reporting to 101 or submit a report online at https://www.lincs.police.uk/

If you would like to contact the parish council please email the clerk at clerk@garthorpeandfockerbypc.org.uk.

The next Garthorpe and Fockerby parish council meeting will be on **Friday 21.2.25** at 6:45pm at Garthorpe village hall.

Notified local road closure

03/02/2025 -21/2/25 24hrs Road Closure Carr Lane, Garthorpe Axholme North OCU group

News from the village hall 19th January 2025

There was a busy build-up to Christmas with a good turnout for the talk about the Flixborough Explosion and, thanks to SSE Keady Wind Farm support, a Christmas party for more than 30 children which included a professional entertainer, food, music and a visit from Santa. We don't aim to make money with children's events but to keep them affordable - and fun!

Thank you to the generous donor (who wishes to remain anonymous) for their very kind donation of £100 to the village hall. It is good to know that the hall is valued for its contribution to village life.

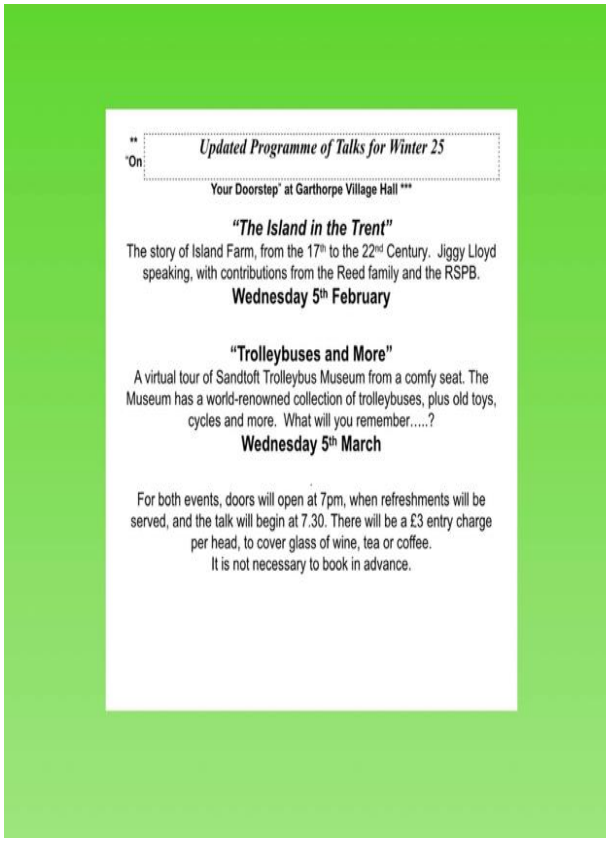
The annual accounts have been finalised, audited and submitted to the Charity Commission. There will be an AGM (open to all) soon; look out for notices.

The new kitchen……? It was weather-tight before the Christmas break (phew!!). Once we hear about the final bit of grant money, work on the interior will start. Meanwhile we are shopping around for the best catering units to buy; we even enlisted a village hall contact who lives in Somerset to inspect a possible supplier in Bridgewater on our behalf!

Any questions? For enquiries about the Village Hall you can use Facebook, or garthorpevh@btinternet.com , or telephone

01724-798118, or speak to a Committee member (Jonny Martinson, Jiggy Lloyd, Sam Simms, Joanne Smith, Samantha Peel, Charlie Parsonage, Emma Davies and Leona Swan.)

Some of the events that take place at the hall are run by organisations that hire the hall, and not by the Committee. For questions about these, please contact the organisation concerned.



Warm up your Sunday – Winter Warmer Brunch

This winter there will be a series of Winter Warmer Brunches at the village hall. The hall open and heated 9.30 to 11.30. Free unlimited tea, coffee and Sunday papers; (TV according to demand)

Bacon and/or sausage butties starting at £2.50. Veggie and gluten-free options &Takeaway for those in a hurry

Sunday 26.1.25, Sunday 9.2.25, Sunday23.2.25 & 9th March

Many thanks to SSE Winter Warmth Fund for making this possible.

Lucky Numbers

In the upcoming weeks, committee members will be contacting you to renew your Lucky Numbers.
If you're new to the village or just haven't been in the draw before but would like to join, here is how it works -
£5 per number for the year. (you can have as many as you like)
We do a monthly draw, where 3 numbers are drawn -
1st prize £20, 2nd prize £10, 3rd prize £5
In December we draw an extra 3 numbers
1st prize £50, 2nd prize £25,3rd prize £25.
All winners are announced on the Village hall Facebook page and in the newsletter every month, & winnings are delivered directly to you. Proceeds go to our wonderful Village Hall.
The preferred method of payment is by Bacs If you message the village hall committee, they will send you bank details. If you would like a house call, to pay by cash, let us know.
Many Thanks & remember you must be in it to win it!!

Lucky Numbers Christmas Draw

1st prize £ 50 Craig Gelder.
2nd prize £25 Rob Garbut.
3rd Prize £25 Rory Bradwell.

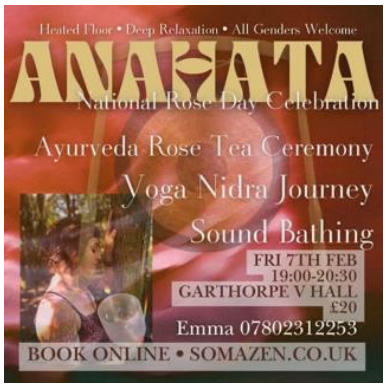
December Lucky Numbers

Carol Watts no 167
Bradwell no241
C Sopp no 128

Book Boxes

Just as a reminder we have 2 book boxes by the side of the main entrance to the village hall. The scheme has been running for at least 4 years, you can donate books, puzzles & magazines. Please could you make sure the lids are on the boxes so the contents do not get ruined! The idea is "take what you need and leave what you can". The book boxes continue to be well used.

ANAHATA Rose Sound Bath Experience7.2.25from 7-8.30pm



BRAND NEW SOUND BATH DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES 🌹 Due the popular demand, the people of Garthorpe would like me to share my offering of the sound bathing experience so here it is! 🌹 **ANAHATA Rose Sound Bath Experience** 🌹 A deeply immersion into the energy of rose awaking the heart centre. Perfect date night (solo/galentine/valentine) let's get the love frequency grooving guys 🙏

Now live to book via the website. Full details of what to expect is on the booking system. 🔗 https://somazen.co.uk 🙏
Emma xx🕉xx

Village Poppies

Thanks to Ron & Carol Gilleard and the Parish Council, as funding has been secured to do even more poppies this year.

Table Tennis club

Table Tennis is available on **12.2.25** at Garthorpe Village Hall @ 7 30pm the cost is £1.50 a session including a cuppa! Bats available and all ages welcome.

Indoor Bowls

This is normally held in the village hall every Thursday. Come down and see what it's all about & we would love to see you. Cost is £2.00.

Mobile Library news

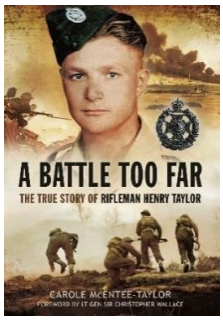
Next visit is due on **31.1.25** at the Bay Horse between 2.10pm- 2.30pm. No visit in February as Stan the driver is on holiday,

Trentside Makers Craft Group

Unfortunately, this craft group finished on 7.1.25.

CaroleMcT Books

Hi everyone, its Carole, the village author again. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and that you all have a happy, healthy, prosperous and peaceful 2025.



My non-fiction book this month is A Battle Too Far, the true story of Rifleman Henry Taylor. Despite the same surname Henry is not a relation. We met Henry and Lawrence at a local history event after I had written Surviving the Nazi Onslaught about David's father. Lawrence and Henry had started a Rifles Re-enactment group to preserve their history and after Henry died Lawrence asked me to write up his story which I was honoured to do. Lawrence runs the Rifles Living History Society group on Facebook if you would like to know more.

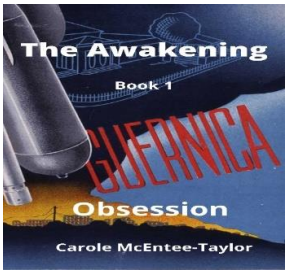
Port Said September 1st 1945
"As the ship pulled into Alex, the dockside was a hive of activity. The captain had radioed ahead and so there was a battalion of the Kings' African Rifles (KAR)waiting to disarm us as we disembarked. All these KAR's were standing at the order as a staff officer informed us that we were to be placed under arrest and escorted to Khartoum, here we would contemplate our mutiny for 2 years. Our battalion was still under arms; the sound of the

cocking of weapons greeted the officer's threat, and a lone voice asked, "And who's going to escort the darkies?" All our officers were powerless, we had the drop on the KAR's, all that was needed was for someone to pull the trigger.

A Battle Too Far is the true story of Rifleman Henry Taylor 6923581, late 7th Battalion The Rifle Brigade (1stBattalion London Rifle Brigade) and is based on his diaries and recollections as told to his son Lawrence. The Foreword is by Lt-Gen Sir Christopher Wallace Chairman of The Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum in Winchester.

Henry's war began in October 1942 as the 2nd Battle of El Alamein commenced and continued almost non-stop for the next three years. From El Alamein to Tunisia, he fought with the 8th Army as they finally pushed Rommel back to the sea. Expecting to return to Britain in preparation for D Day at the last-minute plans were changed and they were ordered to Italy instead. Here they found themselves fighting for every inch of land against determined, well dug-in defenders, in conditions often resembling the trenches of WW1. Their reward? Their campaigns forgotten as the world concentrated on the D Day invasion and to be called 'D Day Dodgers' despite enduring some of the heaviest fighting of the war.

As Europe celebrated VE Day Henry's war continued as they raced to Austria to prevent Yugoslav forces annexing Carinthia in the opening shots of the Cold War. Then, as the men around him were de-mobbed, Henry and the rest of the Battalion were sent back to Egypt to protect British interests in the continuing civil unrest. Dejected and fed up it only took one incident to spark a mutiny.



My fiction this month is Obsession, a five-part series inspired by true events. I was commissioned by Pen and Sword Books Ltd to write a non-fiction book on this subject but was unable to find enough new information that wasn't covered by a 100-year embargo on releasing information, so I decided to write it as fiction.

According to official figures the number of captured British and Commonwealth POWs in German camps in Eastern Europe at the beginning of 1945 was 199,592. Of these only 168,746 returned. The rest disappeared.

Many no doubt died on the march from hyperthermia, pneumonia, diphtheria, starvation, dehydration and other illnesses caused by their years of captivity and ill treatment. Others died of typhus caused by lice infestations, and some were casualties of the bombing and fighting raging all around them. There were even those who may have elected to stay 'missing', having nothing to return to and having found family, friends, women that they wanted to stay with. But from as early as the end of 1945 there have been persistent rumours of sightings of allied POWs in Soviet Gulags. Many returning POWs spoke of Soviets overrunning their camps, interrogating the prisoners and spiriting away those with skills.

Were several thousand British and Commonwealth POWs spirited away into the depths of the Soviet Gulag system, never to return or is it just an unfounded rumour?

The relationship between the USA, Britain and the USSR throughout the war had always been fraught with difficulty but by end of 1944 it was obvious that Stalin was perfectly happy to continue the war, advancing all the way to London if necessary. Stalin knew Britain was bankrupt and did not have the stomach for another prolonged war and the USA had its eyes firmly fixed on the Pacific**.**

As the allies advanced from the West, they had found themselves in possession of thousands of Soviet prisoners. Many of these Soviet

POWs had been forcibly enlisted into the German army at the point of a gun; others had enlisted willingly seeing the Germans as liberators against the Soviets. Once enlisted the Germans put them to fight on the Western Front where many immediately surrendered to the Western Allies as soon as it was expedient to do so. They were then shipped to England and placed in POW camps. Later these numbers would be swelled by several thousand Soviet POWs liberated from German POW camps by the Western Allies. This left Stalin with a problem. Having spent the war promulgating the lie that there were no Soviet POWs; that no Soviets had defected to fight with the Germans and that all patriotic Soviets had died defending the Soviet Union, Stalin either had to rewrite history or remove the evidence that contradicted his version of the war.

Stalin had initially begun demanding the return of these Soviet prisoners as early as 1944 but the USA and Britain had delayed, seriously concerned that thousands of their servicemen who were currently held in German POW camps in Eastern Europe could be used as hostages by the rapidly advancing Soviets.

So concerned were they that they included a classified covenant in the Yalta Agreement of February 1945. This stated that, in return for the safe return of all allied POWs, the allies would return all Soviet citizens, even those who didn't want to go home. However, by now, the West was already beginning to plan for what would soon become the Cold War and many anti-communist Ukrainians and Byelorussians were kept back under the guise that they were POWs.

Realising this Stalin used it as an excuse to withhold allied prisoners. These he intended to use as labour to rebuild the Soviet economy, as specialists to fill gaps in technology and as hostages and bargaining chips to exchange for Foreign Aid. In the case of Stalag Luft 1 the release of the 10,000 liberated POWS now held on Soviet territory hinged on the repatriation of a particular White Russian émigré wanted by Stalin.

For the next few years year the Western Allies and Stalin argued about the missing POWs. Stalin was adamant that all had been returned, even denying the presence of those who had already been seen by POW inspectors. As always when pressed, he prevaricated and flung counter accusations, accusing the allies of withholding Soviet prisoners. There was little publicity about the issue because the US and British government had spent the war years telling the people how wonderful Stalin was in his fight against Hitler. To suddenly claim that Stalin was holding their POWs hostages could have raised awkward questions. By the time they could have publicised it the Korean War had started and any publicity about POWs missing from WW2 could have precipitated a Superpower confrontation. Once the Korean War had ended it was too late for any government to raise the issue of WW2 POWs without having to answer difficult questions, not least about why they had not mentioned it before. Furthermore, there was now the issue of missing POWs from the Korean War, also believed to have disappeared into the Gulags. So, it was quietly shelved, any questions were met with stonewalling and downgraded estimates of those possibly missing. And it was not just British, Commonwealth and US service personnel who were missing, other countries including the Italians, Germans, French and Japanese had long wondered where their citizens had disappeared to.

Then in 1992 President Boris Yeltsin revealed that the Soviet Union had lied about the issue of WW2 POWs. Although he only mentioned the secret imprisonment of US service personnel, it seems unlikely it was only US citizens. Finally, there was evidence to corroborate what had previously been unsubstantiated rumour.

If this is true, and the evidence seems to suggest that there is certainly some truth in this, it's almost impossible to imagine how these men must have felt. They had survived the horrors of numerous battles and the appalling degradation of life in the German POW camps. The end was now in sight; they

could finally believe that at last they were going home, back to their families who had waited so long; they had the whole of their lives ahead of them and then, at the eleventh hour, it was snatched away, leaving them to die alone and seemingly forgotten.

Obsession is a five-part saga telling the story of one POW who found himself a unwilling guest of the Soviets. All books are available online from Amazon and other retailers or you can order from the library or local bookshops.

https://carolemctbooks.info

The story of a very lucky hoglet

Then & now

Finally, our Hoglet was parasite free and weighed more than enough to hibernate so was tucked into a two-room house in the shed, the small part absolutely stuffed with meadow hay, with food and water in the open area ready for a quick snack when needed.

She was not a happy girl! After four days she hadn't eaten a thing and was sulking rather than sleeping. We had kindly been given a bag of Spikes hedgehog food which was not to her liking.

When I spoke to Veronica at the Hedgehog Hospital, she suggested it may be too cold for her to hibernate, so to leave it and see what happens.

Next time I spoke to Veronica, a week later, she wanted to know what we were feeding her, hearing about it, she said she's yet to find a caged hog that will eat that food!

Some hedgehogs have read her pamphlet and do what's expected, but others haven't and are just plain awkward so not the easiest things to care for even when they are behaving!!

After a week, Hoglet had lost 50g, nothing to worry about as she was 976g and overweight anyway! but obviously not enjoying life.

She was brought back into the house, returned to the cat carrier and covered with a fleece. We managed to get Purina One kitten biscuits, and she's started eating again, and gaining weight. Four degrees Celsius is the ideal temperature for hibernation so when it's a bit warmer we'll try again. If there's plenty of available food and it's not too cold then some don't hibernate, so it doesn't matter if she chooses not to, we'll just have to wait and see what she does.

This very lucky hoglet is being cared for by Jules & Colin Davies.

Fockerby girl with a racing dream

Eleanor raced at Clay Pigeon raceway in Exeter just before Christmas and was up against all the local heroes and came mid table and provided dinner as won the turkey (the race was called the turkey trot!)

She went to GYG WALES track and did absolutely amazing with time, as it's such a technical track with lots of hills and camber, but kept up with race leaders! These are all tracks she'll be doing this season, so getting in lots of practice beforehand.

Eleanors first race of the winter cup at Fulbeck Grantham this weekend!

Eleanor is hoping for silverware for this 👌.

She was at Tattershall last weekend, in all the ice, and learned some valuable traction control and how to get grip when there is none, which will fare her well for wetter races x

Eleanor has also been doing some work in the gym with weights, to train her upper body strength and neck strength to help deal with the g forces she'll experience when she gets faster round corners.

Eleanor could do with some kind sponsorship. Literally anything from £250 (which will pay for new tyres or race entry) to £750 which pays for engine rebuilds, or new chassis if needed after contact with other karts. Any company can give support, local or not, would be welcomed with open arms. There is team merchandise and offers to watch and support her at trackside.

Eleanor's go fund me appeal is still open if you can help. (https://gofund.me/879b2a4f)

Friends of Garthorpe & Fockerby

Pantry on the Isle

At the moment there are a few unallocated Pantry bags! If anyone is interested, it cost £5.50 a bag. Please pop along on any Thursday between 4-5pm to the Village Hall and talk to the ladies there. If this is for you, you can sign up.

Christmas Fair Thank you

To the children, Parents, Grandparents & the community who braved the weather to attend the Garthorpe Steam Railway Santa Run thank you so much**.**

To Santa & Mrs Claus who provided the toys and gifts for each child.

Thank you to Holyrood House for allowing such an event in your grounds and to all the elves, train staff, volunteers, helpers, stall holders and for the kind donations of raffle prizes & to FOGAF for putting on the event. This helps create the memories for everyone, as one little girl said, "this was the best day ever".

St Mary's Church

Aspects of Romantic Love

God obviously approves of romance – after all, putting Adam and Eve alone together in the Garden of Eden was his idea. And romance has been around ever since.

The history of the Israelites began with three great romances: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and Rachel. The on-going history of Israel was deeply affected by later romances: Esther and King Xerxes, David's love affair with Bathsheba, and Solomon's marriage to hundreds of wives. There is even an entire book in the Old Testament devoted to the love of a man and woman: the Song of Solomon!

When we reach the New Testament, we find real love between Joseph and Mary (even when Joseph thought Mary had been faithless, he did not want to harm her). St Paul, though himself a bachelor, nevertheless spent a lot of time urging Christians to love and be kind and faithful and considerate to their spouses. He even wrote 1 Corinthians 13 – the great love chapter that is read at millions of weddings worldwide 2000 years later.

Down the centuries ever since, romantic love has been critical in shaping history (Antony and Cleopatra), in shaping cultural ideals (King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table). Some of our favourite stories are built on romance: Puccini's Tosca, Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice, Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre.

Romance remains as prominent now as it ever was, added to which we have films, television and drama all flying the romantic flag. Wherever we look, whatever we do, romance continues to permeate every aspect of life.

People make amazing sacrifices for love. They defy their family, forsake their culture, turn their back on wealth and position, to be with their loved one. People give their loved ones amazing gifts. Surely the most extravagant was the gift of the Shah Jahan**,** who built the Taj Mahal in India for his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal.

Romance is still alive and well in Britain – last year we sent about 25 million Valentines to our beloved ones.

From the Vicar

With love and Prayers, Mark.

The Isle of Axholme Orchestra SOLD OUT at their Epworth concert in November.
So a Rockin night is to be had on Saturday 1st March.
Rock Gear encouraged , but optional.
Please share , With Thanks St Mary's Church

CHURCH COFFEE/TEA MORNINGS

COFFEE MORNING
SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY 10-30 AM – 12

KIPPERS BREAKFAST £2 (PRE BOOK)
SATURDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 8-30 AM – 10 AM
(TEA/COFFEE AVAILABLE IF NOT WANTING KIPPERS)

COFFEE MORNING
SATURDAY 8TH MARCH 10 – 30 AM – 12

KIPPERS BREAKFAST £2 (PRE BOOK)
GOOD FRIDAY 18TH APRIL 8-30 AM – 10 AM
(TEA/COFFEE AVAILABLE IF NOT WANTING KIPPERS)

PLANT SALE AND COFFEE MORNING
SATUDAY 3 RD MAY 10-30 AM – 12

COFFEE/TEA MORNING
SATURDAY 7TH JUNE 10-30 AM - 12

*PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH FUND RAISNG EVENTS , THANKS.

Annual Giving

The annual giving for St Mary's will start in December. There will be a giving box in church for donations. Donations can be given at a coffee morning or church service as advertised or drop at 2 Church cottages Shore Road

St Mary's is due a Quinquennial inspection. This is a visit from the architect to inspect the building, we will wait to see the recommendations from the architect.

Live music Garthorpe

As the programme for 2024 has been completed look out for this year's concerts with loads of new artist and some who are on a return visit. Tickets can be prebooked from now check out the deals on tickets if bought in advance.

We are pleased to announce that we have teamed up with Ticket Source for Ticket Sales.
So ways to purchase Tickets:
Click the Link on the post for Ticket Source.
"Fees may apply"
Box Office : 0333 666 3366 "Fees may apply"
Go to our
Website www.livemusicgarthorpe.co.uk
Tel: 07470 167577
If Local DN17 4AE/Scunthorpe , an arrangement to pick up tickets can be made.

There is a new service to everyone. Live Music Garthorpe will be publishing every week Music New Releases with possible due dates and formats(LP/CD).
We hope this may be of some Interest to you. Every Friday/weekend it will be published and headed "New Release Music" Please note release dates are correct at the time of publishing but could change without notice.
www.livemusicgarthorpe.co.uk

Acoustic Springsteen with Tom Brooksby tickets for 8.2.25 sale @ £15.00. To purchase tickets please go to www.livemusicgarthorpe.co.uk

Tickets are selling well, and there may be some on the door subject to availability.

The Blackheart Orchestra

The Blackheart Orchestra is coming to St Mary's Church on Saturday 22nd February 2025.Tickets are £18.00, there will be a support act. The doors open @ 7pm for 7.30 start. There is a support act & an interval the Black heart Orchestra are performing for 80 minutes.

The Blackheart Orchestra are British multi-award winning, multi-instrumentalists Chrissy Mostyn and Rick Plkington. They comprise a two person 'orchestra' playing up to 13 instruments in their unique live show. From their onstage 'musical space station' they create highly emotional contemporary rock music featuring a multitude of sounds and atmospheres from acoustic and electric guitars, bass and bowed guitar to piano, organ, vintage synthesisers, Omnichord, melodica and electric percussion.

The Isle of Axholme Orchestra

The Isle of Axholme Orchestra will be performing at St Marys Garthorpe on Saturday 1.3.2025, with a classical rock show. Tickets are £8.00. LIVE MUSIC Garthorpe is supporting this event to help raise funds for St Mary's Church.

Toni Lee Sings Karen Carpenter

Toni Lee has been on ITV Stars in their Eyes and tours the UK in Theatres and Art Centres. She does Solo Performances and also tours with a Live Band. When She Visits St Mary's Church Shore Rd Garthorpe Scunthorpe DN17 4AE on Saturday April 5th 2025 she will be doing a Solo Concert. Tickets will be £17 and on Sale 1st Feb and will be on an Early Bird Offer for ONE Month for £15.

Coming this year the welcome return of ……

Simply Dylan. Garthorpe Village Hall on 23.8.25. Tickets on sale May 1st at an Early Bird price of £18 for one month then back to £21.00 . They were fantastic last time they came to Garthorpe.

Cold Flame will be returning on 18.10.25 at the village hall. Tickets are £14.00. If you didn't see them last time you missed a real treat. Watch for the Tweet Tweet offer on tickets"

Save your stamps for RNIB

Can you help me to help this charity?

Collect stamps for RNIB and make a difference to blind and partially sighted people.

RNIB raise £20 for every kilogramme of stamps they receive.

If you, your business or your organisation, receive cards and letters through the post, could you save the stamps please.

Stamps are sold by weight and help raise funds for RNIB.

What type of stamps can you send?

We accept all stamps: new or used, first or second class, foreign, first day covers, presentation packs or albums.

Collection points

When saving your stamps, trim carefully around them, leaving approximately one centimetre of paper around the edge.

Keep them safe in an envelope until you have enough to drop off at the village locations. I've spoken to various groups in the village & they are happy to support.

Thanks to everyone who has saved their stamps for me, if you can continue throughout the year that would be great.

Thursday at The Pantry between 5-6pm.

Friday at the monthly Hobby Huddle

St Marys Church Events.

Or drop them at Manor Cottage Fockerby

If you can, please separate them into British and Overseas (Channel Islands and Isle of Man count as foreign).

Get everyone involved

Saving stamps is an easy way to support RNIB at home, work, or in your local community There is no financial cost to you, but it will benefit someone else. Please help if you can.

INCREDIBLE EDIBLE MARSHLAND

First and foremost a very Happy New Year to one and all, although we are about to enter the second month of 2025, so I am a bit belated! I am only just getting back into a routine after the Christmas and New Year break. It seems a long time since I wrote about Incredible Edible's exploits, but then there was no January newsletter so I can be forgiven for not being back on track. December and January were busy months for IEM's steering group as we were organising the 2025 programme. Leaflets of the 2025 events will be arriving on your doorstep in due course as it is just about organised and ready to be printed.

The regular events such as the weekly Yoga and the monthly Hobby Huddle are to be continued throughout 2025. We may be adding to these regular events so watch this space for further information.

Now back to the end of 2024. On Saturday 23rd November we held a 3-hour workshop at Garthorpe Village in which a "full house" made Willow and Paper Star Lanterns. They all looked fabulous and mine held pride of place on the curtain rail in my lounge. They lit up with a small bulb and when this ran out, I placed some small battery-operated tree lights inside it and it looked just as impressive. I can't wait to get it out next year.

Staying on the Christmas theme we held a 2-hour workshop at Swinefleet Village Hall on 6th December. We made Wicker Cane Stars. These were the right size to hang on the tree or to make a garland by stringing them together and treading lights through them. On average we all made 10 stars. I strung mine into a garland and hung them also on my curtain rail with the willow and paper star. This workshop was also attended by the maximum number of people.

The year 2024 finished the Friday after, with the usual Hobby Huddle, the raffle prize being a miniature live Xmas Tree. IEM then took a break for three weeks over the Xmas/New Year period whilst we worked out the programme for 2025. We commenced 2025 with Yoga on Monday 6th January and the Hobby Huddle on Friday 10th before holding our first Craft workshop of the year on Friday 17th at Ousefleet Village Hall. This was a crochet session which is always so popular. The maximum number attended, and we made a lidded basket. Most of the class were beginners so we did not get the whole item finished. However, we went home with the ball of yarn and the crochet hook and a pattern to follow, in order to complete the basket and lid.

And now to the content for February……

· Yoga will be taking place on each Monday in February at Reedness Primary School 6.30 – 7.30 pm. The cost is now £7 due to a 100% rise in the hiring of the hall. It is still a good price for a Yoga class, and it is open to all. As is our motto – If you eat you are in.

· Gardeners Question Time will be held at Ousefleet Village Hall on Thursday 6th February. It is a chance to ask all kinds of gardening questions on any gardening subject. There will also be a plant swop and share if you wish to relieve yourself of unwanted plants. Feel free to bring along any poorly plants for advice. This being held from 7pm-9pm and the cost is £6. Refreshments as always are included.

· On Friday 7th February, it will be the first of a course of 6 workshops on Watercolour Painting. This follows on from the taster workshop held in 2024. This course of 6 sessions will all be held at Swinefleet Village Hall from 7pm-9pm on a fortnightly basis. The cost of the 6 sessions is £60.

· Our regular Hobby Huddle takes place on 14th February 7pm-9pm at Garthorpe Village Hall and is FREE. (An optional raffle always takes place at 50p a strip.) Perhaps I should say come along and have a romantic evening as it is Valentine's Day but I will settle for a catch up natter in jolly good company instead.

· The 2nd of the Watercolour Painting sessions takes place on 21st February. Details the same as above.

· And finally on 28th February a Tablet Weaving Workshop will take place at Garthorpe Village Hall from 7pm until 10pm (3 hours). A woven bookmark will be the result. Cost of this workshop is £20 and includes refreshments as usual. This is a new skill to our existing programme of events.

And that is all the IEM news at present. We look forward to meeting new people in 2025. The ethos of IEM has brought so many people together through our workshops and will continue to do so this year. Why not come along and try something? There are always beginners on any of our workshops so no one will feel out of place. Give us a whirl!!

For and on behalf of Incredible Edible Marshland

Bridget Bramley xx

My thanks to Jiggy Lloyd & the Village Hall committee, James Woodcock Clerk to the Parish Council, David Graham for St Marys Church, RBL & Live Music Garthorpe, Emma Davies for FOGOF & Bridget Bramley for IEM, Garthorpe & Fockerby Parish Council & Friends of Garthorpe & Fockerby for their support. Carol McEntee-Taylor for her contribution,
Jules Davies & Jules Fox.

Many thanks to Brian Woolhouse for the lovely village photos, watch out for more! The information in this newsletter was correct at the time of printing.

Any events for the February newsletter to be in by **20.2.25. Sue Teal**

Date	Time	Events in February 2025	Cost	Venue
Sat 25.1.25	10.30-12.00	Coffee Morning		St Marys
Sun26.1.25	9.30-11.30am	Winter Warmer Brunch		Village Hall
Tues 28.1.25	7.00-8.00pm	Serpafit	£2.00	Village Hall
Thurs 30.1.25	5pm-6pm 7.30pm	Pantry on the isle Indoor Bowls	£5.50 £2.00	Village Hall
Fri 31.1.25	2.10-2.30pm	mobile library		Bay Horse
3.2.25-21.2.25	24 hour	Carr Lane Road Closure		
Tues 4.2.25	7.00-8.00pm	Serpafit	£2.00	Village Hall
Weds 5.2.25	7pm for 7.30pm	On your doorstep talks “The Island In the Trent”	£3.00	Village Hall
Thurs 6.2.25	5pm-6pm 7.30pm	Pantry on the isle Indoor Bowls	£5.50 £2.00	Village Hall
Fri 7.2.25	7.00-8.30pm	Anahata Rose Sound Bath Experience		Village Hall
Sat 8.2.25	7.30pm for 8pm	Bruce Springsteen Tribute Tom Brooksby	£15.00	St Mary’s
Sun 9.2.25	9.30-11.30am	Winter Warmer Brunch		Village Hall
Tues 11.2.25	7.00-8.00pm	Serpafit	£2.00	Village Hall
Weds 12.2.25	7.30pm	Table Tennis	£1.50	Village Hall
Thurs 13.2.25	5pm-6pm 7.30pm	Pantry on the isle Indoor Bowls	£5.50 £2.00	Village Hall
Fri.14.2.25	7-9.30pm	Hobby Huddle	Free	Village Hall
Sat 15.2.25	8.30-10.00	Kippers Breakfast Pre-Book	£2.00	St Mary’s
Tues 18.2.25	7pm-8pm	Serpafit	£2.00	Village Hall
Thurs 20.2.25	5-6pm 7.30pm	Pantry on the isle Indoor Bowls	£5.50 £2.00	Village Hall
Fri 21.2.25	6.45pm	Parish Council meeting		Village Hall
Sat 22.2.25	7.00 for 7.30pm	Blackheart Orchestra	£18.00	St Marys
Sun23.2.25	9.30-11.30am	Winter Warmer Brunch		Village Hall
Tues 25.2.25	7pm-8pm	Serpafit	£2.00	Village Hall
Thurs 27.2.25	5-6pm 7.30pm	Pantry on the isle Indoor Bowls	£5.50 £2.00	Village Hall
Weds 5.3.25	7pm for 7.30pm	On your doorstep talks “Trolley buses & more”	£3.00	Village Hall
Sun 9.3.25	9.30-11.30am	Winter Warmer Brunch		Village Hall
Sat 5.4.25	7pm for 7.30pm	Toni Lee sings Karen Carpenter		St Marys

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