Garthorpe and Fockerby Newsletter

March 2026 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.

SSE micro grants

The amount has increased from £300.00 to £400.00 per claim available for (un-constituted) groups wishing to enhance or expand their events or need the funding to start up a new group.

The grant is also available for talented individuals who need funding to help support them on their journey towards reaching their goals.

Also agreed that the micro grant can now go towards travel costs i.e. bus trips for events in North Lincolnshire only)

The form is available on the parish council website as a PDF to download and print. Or contact the clerk to parish council for a copy.

Further discussions on the Emergency Response plan will take place at the next meeting,

As always, the agenda & full minutes of all meetings are on the parish council website www.garthorpeandfockerbypc.org.uk.

This is minimum wage or self-employment or salary. All the equipment is provided.

🌿 Grass Cutting & Weed Control Contract – 2026 Season

Garthorpe & Fockerby Parish Council
Contract Period: April – October 2026

Garthorpe & Fockerby Parish Council invites tenders from suitably experienced contractors for grounds maintenance services during the 2026 season.

Scope of Works

1️⃣ Village Grass Cutting
Cut grass within Garthorpe & Fockerby village areas, as defined on Lincolnshire maps.
9 cuts between April and October 2026.

2 Public Footpaths
Cut grass on designated public footpaths.
3 cuts between April and October 2026.

3 Roadside & Hard Surface Weed Control
Spray weeds along roads, kerb lines, channels, edges, hard surfaced areas, and footpaths within the parish boundary.

Applications to be carried out as required during the season.
All spraying must comply with current legislation and best practice guidance.
Pricing Requirements (Weed Spraying)
Contractors must clearly state:
Cost per linear metre (lm) – for kerbs, channels, and edges.
Cost per square metre (m^2) – for hard surfaced areas and footpaths.
(Please clearly state whether prices include or exclude VAT.)
Contractor Requirements
Contractors must supply all necessary equipment and materials.
Appropriate public liability insurance must be in place.
PA1/PA6 (or equivalent) certification for pesticide application is required.
Compliance with all current health & safety and environmental regulations.
Evidence of previous experience in similar contracts is desirable.
Submission Details

Please submit your quotation including:
Total cost for village grass cutting (9 cuts)
Total cost for public footpaths (3 cuts)
Weed spraying rates as specified above
Confirmation of insurance cover

Copies of relevant spraying certification
Brief details of relevant experience
Confirmation whether VAT is included or excluded
Deadline for submissions: 19th of March 2026
Please email clerk@garthorpeandfockerbypc.org.uk

Community Grant Drop in Sessions

We would like to invite all community groups across North Lincolnshire to join us at our informal drop-in sessions, which will be held at various local hubs. These sessions are a great opportunity to receive guidance on the grant funding available and to access support with the application process.

No booking is required - please feel free to drop in and have a chat.

Please see the link below with the information, and feel free to share with any community groups within North Lincolnshire.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the grants team on this number/email.

Community funding and grants - North Lincolnshire Council

Rachelle Clayton

Transactions Officer - Funding

On behalf of the Grants Team

Customer Transactions

01724 297212

Cones

It's been brought to the attention of the parish council that some residents are putting cones outside their homes, it is illegal and could be

liable if a car hits them! Police advice is set out below.

- **Public Highway Laws:** You do not own the road outside your home, and public parking is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **Obstruction Offence:** Using cones, bins, or other items to block spaces is illegal and constitutes a "wilful obstruction" of the highway.
- **Exceptions:** Only local authorities, the police, or authorized contractors can legally place cones on a public road.
- **Driveways:** While you can place cones on your own private property, you cannot place them on the road or pavement in front of your driveway to reserve it.

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

Date of the next meeting is in the village hall @6.45pm on **20.3.26**

News from the village hall

Date for your diary.

Winter Warmer Brunches

These continue to be well attended, and we are continuing with the very popular Winter Warmer Brunches. They will take place on the following Sunday mornings:

· March 1st, 8th and 29th 9.30-11.30am

Heating Oil Theft from the Village Hall

We are saddened to report that a significant amount of heating oil was stolen from the Village Hall.
Locks were broken & lid of tank stolen.
This theft directly impacts our community's ability to host events and keep our local space warm.

How you can help:

CCTV: If you live near the hall please check your footage for suspicious vehicles (e.g., vans or cars with trailers).
Suspicious Activity: Did you notice anyone acting strangely around the tank or car park?
We also urge all residents to check their own oil levels and ensure their tanks are secure, as thieves may target multiple properties in the area.
Thank you for your vigilance.
— Village Hall Committee

Talks in 2026

Wednesday 4th March - "Adlingfleet"

A village with a fascinating history and some wonderful buildings. This is your chance to learn more in the company of local expert(s).

For each event, doors will open at 7pm when refreshments will be served, and the talk will begin at 7.30. Entry charge is £3 per head, to cover glass of wine, tea or coffee. It is not necessary to book in advance.

Garthorpe Village Hall is on Shore Road, Garthorpe, almost opposite the church. DN17 4AD. There is parking nearby.

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, Charlie Parsonage & Emma Davies.)

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.

Renew your Lucky numbers for 2026

A reminder for anyone who hasn't renewed or wishes to join the village hall Lucky numbers draw.
It's not too late to contact committee members to renew your Lucky Numbers. If your new to the village or just haven't been in the draw before but would like to join, it is £5 per number for the year. (you can have as many tickets as you like)
We then do a monthly draw, where 3 numbers are drawn –

1st prize £20, 2nd prize £10, 3rd prize £5

Also in December an extra 3 numbers are drawn 1st prize £50, 2nd prize £25, 3rd prize £25
All winners are announced on the Village Hall Facebook page every month, & winnings are delivered directly to you. Also, in the village newsletter.
Proceeds go to our wonderful Village Hall
If you would like to pay by Bacs please contact any committee member & they will provide banking details.
Remember to pop house name / Rd as ref we are trying to encourage this payment method as much as possible)
If you would like a house call to pay in cash let a committee number know.
Remember you have to be in it to win it!

Major improvements coming to one of Crowle's busiest routes

We're carrying out maintenance and resurfacing work at Crowle Gyratory (A18/A161 junction) **from Friday - 20 February.**

Friday 20 – Friday 27 February
7.30am–6pm: Multi-way traffic lights in place.
Monday 2 March (7pm–6am)
Road closure south of the junction.
No access to Belton from the junction.
Diversion in place.

Tuesday 3 March (7pm–6am)
Road closure north of the junction.
No access to Crowle junction. Diversion in place.
Wednesday 4 March (7pm–6am)
Works east of the junction with traffic lights in place.
Monday 2 – Wednesday 13 March
7.30am–6pm: Multi-way traffic lights in place.
⚠ Delays are expected, especially at busy times.
⚠ All dates are weather dependent and may change.
We're carrying out some of the work overnight to keep disruption to a minimum.

Skerns's Exhibition Foundation

Attention all school leavers. Do you live in the Garthorpe, Fockerby, Adlingfleet or Haldenby? Are you about to go into further education? If so, this applies to you, then read on.

The Skerne foundation gives small grants to pupils who are in further education (either college or University) and live in these villages. Mary Ramsden lived at Fockerby Hall and when she died in1743 she left money in her will to be used for the-further education of the children in the above areas.

The Skerne Foundation meet once a year in May, and award small grants to pupils about to go into further education. Although the amounts are small, they help to buy books, equipment travel expenses etc.

It must be applied for every year and all you need is a letter from the college or university to show you are attending that year. If you are in your last year at secondary school and would like more information about the Skerne Foundation or would like an application form, please contact: - Jane Walbank – tel 01724 798889 or email janewalbank5@gmail.com (Fockerby Garthorpe) & Harding-tel 01724 Amanda 798575(Adlingfleet)

Mobile Library

The library comes to the village every 3rd Friday and parks on Shore Road near the Bay Horse pub between 2.10-2.30pm we have increased participating households from 1 to 9 over the last few years. The library has started recording the numbers who attend the mobile library.

The mobile library started In North Lincolnshire in 1962; they are looking at costings to replace the library due to the repairs etc and if they ordered a new one it would be a smaller and possibly have other uses as well. Other villages have lost the facilities of the library due to low usage.**The message seems to be use it or lose it!**

Eleanor Shelby the Fockerby girl with a racing dream

This is the Barn Hotel and Spa in Grantham, for the @fulbeckikr 2025 awards evening! Great food and great company and fab awards evening thanks to all at @fulbeckkartclub.

It's been a great first year for me competing, managing to snatch 3rd in the yearly championship 🏆 and get driver of the year! It was a great night and one I won't forget. The best improved driver plaque is a one-off award out of all the different classes (there are hundreds!)

Thanks to @tomdayracingtdr for the coaching & thanks to @time_racing_engines for the waft!
Thanks to my sponsor @kaps_embroidery for all my personalised race wear and shelter/ camping equipment?

One more race to finish the winter series, and currently running at third position then its on to the summer series starting in March!

We welcome a new sponsor for this year with @charltonmetaltesting in Cramlington Newcastle and look forward to proving we have loads more to fight for and loads more to give!!!
Please get in touch if you want to get behind women in motorsport and feel you would like to sponsor me further, we're open to chats about how we can help you and your team too and what we can offer in return!

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

Friends of Garthorpe & Fockerby

Friends of Garthorpe (FOGAF) has been successfully running for a few years now.

Friends of Garthorpe is an organisation run by a small but positive thinking committee. Our constitution allows us to apply for appropriate funding, run FOGAF events but it does not stop any member of FOGAF helping at any event held in the village. Many FOGAF members work cross over village committees, but they are not for hire under the banner of FOGAF.

We put on our first Christmas event and the rest is history!

FOGAF run their own events; however, it has always been available to residents that would like to put on a “not for profit" event. if you have an idea, come and chat to us and see if we can help.

Fogaf set up the Pantry on the isle, which has been very successful. It helps raises money to fund other events.

Pantry relies on volunteers Di, Michelle and Lesley. There have other volunteers and we would like to thank all those that have been involved from its conception to today. All events in the village rely on volunteers.

We have a few events on this year so please watch this space and as always thank you for your support.

Pantry on the Isle

There are some spare bags available, if you are interested in having one, please see the ladies between 5pm-6pm on a Thursday in the village hall. It cost £5.50 per week.

St Mary's Church

Regular services are no longer held at St Marys as it is a celebration church now. The definition of a festival/celebration church is a church building which is not used for weekly worship but is valued and required by the community for local events and for Festivals of the Church and for Rites of Passage (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals).

We hold services for Mothering Sunday, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas.

The church also supports coffee mornings and other community events in the church and the church supports these activities.

A Festival Church can also hold more secular events, for example a beer festival**.**

The Festival Church model is both simple and flexible and boils down to two fundamental changes in the way the church operates**:**

- Worship - doing less but doing it better: Festival churches no longer hold regular formal worship but will instead concentrate on fewer "festival" services.
- Management - more people to be involved: Festival Churches will adapt their management structures to enable anyone with an interest in the building to take on an active role in its care.

Mothering Sunday service is 15.3.26 @ 11am

Message from the vicar

Mothering Sunday - the fourth Sunday of Lent- offers families an opportunity to honour the women who have nurtured them. Lots of different streams and traditions have come together to make today’s Mothering Sunday the special day that it is.

In the Middle Ages it was an occasion for everyone to visit their ‘mother’ church - the place where they had been baptised. Later, an opportunity for those who worked away from home to visit their mothers became added to the mix of reasons to make it a special day.

Today we honour all women who have in one way or another been special to us, and in church this is usually signalled by small bunches of flowers for every woman present.

Treating mums and grans to Sunday lunch, chocolates and flowers is also part of the present mix. And will there be a simnel cake to be seen - a tradition from ages past - with its rich layers of marzipan, and eleven balls of marzipan on top, reminders of the 11 disciples who remained faithful to Jesus?

Not everyone has enjoyed a wonderful or enduring relationship with their mum, so lest we get carried away on a wave of love and sentimentality, there is usually space in the Mothering Sunday church service to reflect on and pray for those whose relationships with their mother were not all they might have been.

Also, there are the families blighted by the lack of, or death of a child; families remembering a mum who died tragically young; women who never had a child but would have dearly loved the opportunity; all these and more are a recognition of the imperfections of human love, human life.

These imperfections can be brought in prayer to the God who mothers us. In the Old Testament, Isaiah speaks of God comforting his people like a mother hen. In the New Testament, both Matthew and Luke bear witness to Jesus expressing his desire to gather his people as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings. Yes, God has strong maternal qualities which he invites us to discover and enjoy!

Have you discovered the mothering, nurturing, maternal qualities which God offers to all people? It's lovelier than flowers, more long-lasting than simnel cake, better than a visit from family, and it's free to everyone who wants it - it could be yours!

Sunday 15th March – Mothering Sunday service in St. Mary's Church at 11 a.m.

With love and prayers,

Mark...

Rev. Mark Zammit
(Vicar of Haxey & Owston Ferry)
(Priest-in-Charge of The Crowle Group)

The Vicarage, Church Street,
Haxey, Doncaster. DN9 2HY.

01427 753004 or 07733077957
www.haxeyowstoncrowlechurches.org.uk

Live music Garthorpe

Live Music Garthorpe publishes every Friday Music New Releases with possible due dates and formats (LP/CD).

Please note release dates are correct at the time of publishing but could change without notice.

www.livemusicgarthorpe.co.uk - Box Office :03336663366 (SUBJECT TO FEES) or 07470167577 "NO FEES"

We are pleased to announce that we have teamed up with Wold Top Brewery.

They are kindly supporting Live Music Garthorpe by supplying us the bottled beer below.

We would like to thank them for supporting our events. The items below will be for sale at our concerts. Never tried them, well here is your opportunity and there will be full information on each one.

£3 each or an Introductory offer buy 2 for £5 (While Stocks Last) on Wold Top ONLY.

Other Lagers, Bitters, Wines, available at affordable prices. Zero available/soft drinks as well, plus Tea/Coffee and snacks.

Gordon Giltrap 7.3.26 @ St Marys Church £20.

Gordon Giltrap, MBE is an English guitarist and composer. His music crosses several genres. He has been described as "one of the most revered guitarists of his generation", and has drawn praise from fellow musicians including Steve Rothery, Ritchie Blackmore and Jimmy Page. Gordon Giltrap has been at the forefront of wonderful acoustic guitar-based music for nearly 60 years, and this release demonstrates that, at 77 years old, he still has plenty to offer the world in terms of sheer beauty and delicacy. Something we all need in these troubled times."

Steve Mitchell tribute to George Michael

21.3.26 Tickets £16.00.

This a return to Garthorpe for Steve after a successful concert previously. If you love George Michael, you will love this concert.

INCREDIBLE EDIBLE MARSHLAND

As a miserable rainy February draws to a close, the sun has been shining at Incredible Edible Marshland (IEM), as workshops and events continue to provide plenty to join in with and an added dose of learning and laughter. Our regular events have continued

Craft Huddle – Tuesday afternoon 3rd March 1pm to 3pm, (£2)

Hobby Huddle – Friday 13th March (superstitions aside) 7pm to 9pm, (£2)

Line dancing – each Weds at Reedness Primary School (school hall) 5.30 to 6.30 (£5)

Marshland Movers dance – each Weds at Reedness Primary School 7pm to 8pm, (£5)

Yoga – each Thursday at Reedness Primary School 6.30 to 7.30, (£7)

Chair Aerobics – each Friday at Swinefleet Village Hall 10am to 11am (£4)

In addition, the Watercolour Painting classes continued 6th & 20th February with the second and third one making the course now halfway through. It is fully booked and the group continues to enjoy and learn. I have to admit that not much chatting goes on as everyone is concentrating too much. As the host for these 6 sessions, it is a lovely peaceful evening for me in between the making of refreshments, and I too look forward to them as well.

.. Our craft event/workshop this month was the making of Corn Dollies – another workshop that was fully booked. Hopefully this workshop will encourage people to keep this very old, but endangered craft alive. The beautiful display of items which Sue (the tutor) brought were certainly inspirational. The lovely ladies and gentlemen that attended the session all took home creations to be proud of, and which will stand the test of time. One of Sue's Corn Dollies on display was 50 years old!! Judging by the feedback this is a session to repeat and in doing so can advance people's skills. It was thought provoking to hear about the history of the craft and the production of the raw materials. Thank you and well done to all who attended this workshop. Watch this space for its return!!

Future Events

No Bake Sweets Friday 27.02.26 7.00 – 9.00pm Eastoft Village Hall £20

Cheese & Wine Party with entertainment **Saturday 28.02.26** 7.00-10.00pm Whitgift Church £10.25

Paper Flowers Saturday 07.03.26 9.30am – 1.00pm Swinefleet Village Hall £25

All regular monthly & weekly classes as Already stated

IEM contact details are as follows:-

Facebook: www.facebook.com/IncredibleEdibleMarshland

Instagram: www.instagram.com/iemland

E-mail: incredibleediblemarshland@gmail.com

Website: www.iemarshland.org

Telephone: 07901165349

Motto: "If you eat you are in" which means anyone from any location can use us to bring the sunshine into your life!! Everyone is welcome. Look us up and book onto any of our events. Refreshments included at workshops

as are materials/ingredients, so what's not to like?
WELCOME TO IEM

My thanks, as always to Jiggy Lloyd & the Village Hall committee, David Graham for Live Music Garthorpe, St Marys Church, Emma Davies for FOGAF, Chris Newton for all the music reviews & Yorkshire Water Authority guru, Charlie Parsonage for updates on Eleanor Shelby, Bridget Bramley for IEM, Garthorpe & Fockerby Parish Council & Friends of Garthorpe Many thanks to Brian Woolhouse for the lovely village photos.

The information in this newsletter was correct at the time of posting. Any events or information you need including February 2026 to me by **20.3.26.**

Date	Time	Events in March 2026	Cost	Venue
Sun 22.2.26	9.30-11.30am	Winter Warmer Brunches		Village Hall
Tues 24.2.26	7pm-8pm	Serpafit	£3.00	Village Hall
Thurs 26.2.26	5-6pm 7.30pm	Pantry on the isle Indoor Bowls including refreshments	£5.50 £2.00	Village Hall
Sun 1.3.26	9.30-11.30am	Winter Warmer Brunches		Village Hall
Tues 3.3.26	1-3pm 7pm-8pm	Craft huddle Serpafit	£2.00 £33.00	Village Hall
Weds 4.3.26	7pm for 7.30pm	On your doorstep" Adlingfleet"	£3.00	Village Hall
Thurs 5.3.26	5-6pm 7.30pm	Pantry on the isle Indoor Bowls including refreshments	£5.50 £2.00	Village Hall
Fri 6.3.2	2.10-2.30pm	Mobile Library		Bay Horse
Sat 7.3.26	7pm for 7.30pm	LMG Gordon Giltrap	£20.00	St Marys
Sun 8.3.26	9.30-11.30am	Winter Warmer Brunches		Village Hall
Tues 10.3.26	7pm-8pm	Serpafit	£3.00	Village Hall
Weds 11.3.26	7.30pm	Table tennis includes refreshments	£2.00	Village Hall
Thurs 12.3.26	5-6pm 7.30pm	Pantry on the isle Indoor Bowls including refreshments	£5.50 £2.00	Village Hall
Fri 13.3.26	7-9pm	Hobby Huddle		Village Hall
Sun 15.3.26	11pm	Mothering Sunday Service		St Marys
Tues 17.3.26	7pm-8pm	Serpafit	£3.00	Village Hall
Thurs 19.3.26	5-6pm 7.30pm	Pantry on the isle Indoor Bowl including refreshments	£5.50 £2.00	Village Hall
Fri 20.3.26	6.45pm	Parish Council meeting		Village Hall
Sat 21.3.26	7.30 pm for 8pm	LMG Steve Miitchell tribute to George Michael	£18.00	St Marys
Tues24.3.26	7pm-8pm	Serpafit	£3.00	Village Hall
Thurs 26.3.26	5-6pm 7.30pm	Pantry on the isle Indoor Bowls including refreshments	£5.50 £2.00	Village Hall
FRI 27.3.26	2.10-2.30pm	Mobile Library		Bay Horse
Sun 29.3.26	9.30-11.30am	Winter Warmer Brunches		Village Hall
18.4.26	7.30pm for 8pm	Alchemy Live tribute to Dire Straits	£18.00	Village Hall
16.5.26	7.30pm for 8pm	Sounds of Silence tribute to Simon & Garfunkel	£18.00	Village Hall
4.7.26	7.30pm for 8pm	Sarah McQuaid	£13.00	St Marys
Sat1.8.26	From 1pm	Party in the Park		Playing fields
5.9.26	7.30pm for 8pm	Marrakesh Express tribute to Crosby Stills Nash	£18.00	Village Hall
19.9.26	7.30pm for 8pm	Voodoo Room	£18.00	Village Hall
24.10.26	7.30pm for 8pm	Mim Grey	£18.00	Village Hall
13.9.26		5k/10k charity run		
20.2.27		Bon Jovi tribute		Village Hall
13.3.27		Tom Brooksby sings Springsteen		
24.4.27		Holly Taymer sings Eva Cassidy	£14.00	St Marys
19.6.27		Chantel McGregor		St Marys
16.10.27		The two pianos unplugged		Village Hall

Amazon' Bridge Memorial Update.

Hi everyone. It's been four years now, since I wrote a three-part story, in the newsletter, about the planning and construction, by a group of men, including me) of the 'Amazon' Bridge Memorial, at Cassino in Italy.

When Sue contacted me and asked if I would be interested in writing a follow-up piece, to bring everyone up to date, I jumped at the chance. 'Amazon' was the codename given to a Bailey bridge, built by units of the Royal Engineers, over the river Rapido, effectively the front line, on the 12th/13th May 1944, during the opening phase of the fourth battle of Monte Cassino. The river Rapido had to be bridged to allow armour to get over the river, for the offensive to be successful. It was decreed by 8th Army HQ that a bridge had to be built '… at all costs' and was built under fire, resulting in casualties of 18 killed and 54 wounded. The action is famous in the annals of the Royal Engineers but largely unknown to the public, although the building of the memorial to the action is raising awareness now. The bridge was built by 7, 59, and 225 Field Companies of the Royal Engineers, and my dad, as member of 7 Field Company, helped build 'Amazon'.

This is a brief contemporary newspaper account of the action.

EIGHTH ARMY NEWS

AMAZON BRIDGE EPIC

THE SAPPERS BUILT IT UNDER WITHERING ENEMY FIRE

By FRED REDMAN
Special to "Eighth Army News"

THIS IS THE STORY of Amazon, the first bridge to be thrown across the Rapido by a British division fighting on the right flank of Eighth Army when the big attack went in.

The engineers who built it worked under withering fire, and sheer guts got it across. Many men said, "Thank goodness for the sappers."

Amazon was one of several bridges planned to transport tanks and other vital equipment.

SNIPERS PICKED CHOSEN SITES

As the attack went in, shelling and mortaring made a hell of the river bank and snipers raked the sites chosen for the bridges.

But a bridge was essential for the tanks, and it was decided to build the Amazon at all costs. It was arranged that three companies should share the work, relieving each other as casualties in each became heavy.

In fact, men of all the companies engaged stuck grimly to their posts all night.

Work began on the evening of D plus one, and the first tank rolled across at five o'clock next morning.

Shellfire rocked and chipped the growing bridge and one sniper in particular took heavy toll of the men who swarmed over it.

There is a touch of grim humour in many of the tales now told about the sappers and their job. One bulldozer driver watched bullets shower to rip into the engine.

PUNCTURED SEAT

Setting the throttle, he got down and walked in front of the lumbering bulldozer—just as the seat he had left was neatly punctured.

Then there was the sapper whose quiet idea of a pleasant leave was to hire bikes to Anzio and spend a week in the line with the infantry. He crossed the river to bring back a wounded infantry officer and had a good try at eliminating a persistent sniper.

Ferries for carriers and anti-tank guns were blown out of the water as soon as they were completed.

The swift currents of the river handicapped infantry crossing in assault boats. A

in the operation. With the river with a line which he secured on the far bank, enabling assault boats to cross without being swept far from the point they wanted to reach.

FIELD-MARSHAL CHETWODE SENDS YOU HIS THANKS

THE FOLLOWING letter has been received by the Army Commander, General Sir Oliver Leese, from the War Organisation of the British Red Cross Society, London, S. W.:

Dear Leese,

Our Commissioner, Stephen Brooke, has written and spoken on behalf of the War Organisation of the British Red Cross and St. John, and that this appeal has raised the splendid total of 3½ million lire.

On behalf of our War Organisation, I write to thank you, and through you, all branches of the Army under your Command, for this really magnificent contribution to our funds.

That the Eighth Army should have expressed in such a wonderful manner its appreciation of the work of the British Red Cross is one of the most gratifying tributes which we could possibly receive.

I should be very grateful if you could convey to all ranks the expression of our deep appreciation, not only of this most welcome addition to our funds, but also of the very kind and generous thought which inspired it.

Yours sincerely,
Philip Chetwode,
Field-Marshal, Chairman.

Questions On Pay

Considerable Feeling In Forces—M.P.

LONDON, Wednesday

WHEN Squadron Leader Sir Clifford Fox (Cons.) asked in Parliament to-day whether it had been decided to make any changes in the recently announced variations of pay and allowances for the Fighting Services to meet grievances felt by the rank and file, Sir James Grigg, Secretary for War, said the changes announced in the White Paper represent the conclusions reached after the fullest consideration.

He added: "I am not aware that there is any general dissatisfaction among the rank and file."

Sir Clifford Fox: "Certain airmen are getting less pay and allowances now than the total family incomes before the new arrangements came into force."

Grigg replied that the question should be put to the Secretary for Air.

Sir Archibald Southby (Cons., Epsom): There is considerable feeling in the Forces regarding the fact that when a sailor is killed his wife and children have their allowances reduced.

Will that be looked into?

Grigg replied that that was another question.—Reuter.

DAF Party's Century

Axis Agents Leave Tangier

LONDON, Wednesday

ANTHONY EDEN, Foreign Secretary, stated in the Commons to-day that the British Consul-General at Tangier had reported that the Spanish authorities had arranged for the German Consulate-General to be finally closed down yesterday.

Mr. Eden added: "Nine members of the staff were due to leave to-day, and repatriation of the whole staff should be completed very shortly.

"Four German agents have already left Tangier in the past few days, and arrangements are being made for the early departure of other agents."

Replying to a question, Eden said it was quite clear that the Germans could not be replaced by other people doing the same sort of job in Tangier.—Reuter.

Your Category May Be

S—Stability

New Forces' Cairo Is Un

MEMBERS of the Cairo Parliament part in the new controlled Forces

(Comm., West Fife) told the Commons War Secretary Sir James Grigg declined to reconsider the matter. He said he had no knowledge of detailed instructions issued by the local Commander.

Gallacher said that following the suppression of the Parliament, one A.T.S. and three other ranks attended the new forum.

He added there was a general opinion that the Minister was being "kidded" by the Commanding Officer responsible for the Parliament's suppression.

Emanuel Shinwell (Lab., Seaham) asked why it was necessary to interfere with this Parliament, and if the War Secretary could give an assurance that no personal politics were involved.

Grigg replied: To the best of my belief there is no political prejudice with the Commander-in-Chief in Cairo. He is only concerned with discipline."

Mosquito

A MOSQUITO ... before a sortie ... Italy. Note the ...

You may remember that we were lucky enough to be given a piece of land (to build the memorial, (having spent 5 years searching) by a business called Cassino Adventureland. They run an outdoor pursuits centre on the banks of the river Rapido, and whose premises occupy what the Allies called 'Hill 36' in 1944(, as its elevation was marked as 36 metres on maps) which was a German strongpoint. It boasted no fewer than 13 machine-gun nests, along with several mortar-pits and anti-tank gun positions, all of which were in action on the night of the 12th/13th May 1944 and did their utmost to prevent ''Amazon' being built.

The land which Cassino Adventureland gave us was close to the entrance to their premises, and just near a handy lay-by, making it very easy for coaches to safely pull in and visit the memorial. They have helped us enormously over the years since we built the memorial, helping us with maintenance and landscaping, and the memorial looks like today, largely because of their help

On 13th May 2022, we held an inauguration ceremony at the memorial, which was attended by 120 people, including the mayor of Cassino, other local dignitaries and several serving Italian and British army officers, who travelled from the NATO base near Naples. The ribbon was cut, jointly, by the mayor and General Alistair Donaldson RE Retired, who has become a friend of our group.

Just two years later, on 13th May 2024, we held another celebration, at the memorial, to mark the 80th anniversary of the building of 'Amazon' bridge, and this event was attended by over 200 people. We had a piper from the Black Watch and a contingent of German Army veterans, which was the icing on the cake for many.

One year ago, we decided to take our project to the next level. We have entered a formal partnership with Cassino Adventureland to form Amazon Bridge Memorial Association, with the aim of raising money for the ongoing

maintenance of the memorial and the creation of an open-air museum on Cassino Adventure's site (Hill 36) which will include artefacts and information-boards, around the site, illustrating and describing the events which took place there in May 1944.

We are working on the content of these info-boards, as I write, and they will punctuate a walk around the site, which can be guided, or self-guided. We have also already built small monuments to all the Allied units who crossed the Rapido and fought in the area. This extension of our project is very much in its infancy, but we are all very excited and determined to make it a success.

We have applied for funding to the Royal Engineers Association and are quietly confident that at least some funding will be forthcoming. They have been very generous to us in the past. But we can't rely solely on donations, so the open-air museum will charge a modest fee for entry and, of course, there will be the ubiquitous gift-shop as well as a cafe and toilets.

We aim to turn a stop at the memorial for battlefield tourists, from a half-hour stop, into a minimum two-hour stop. But, as I say, it is early days.

We are really pleased with the success of the project and how it has raised the profile of 'Amazon' bridge beyond our wildest dreams. Coaches full of battlefield tourists regularly visit the memorial, and, in fact, no battlefield tour of the area is now complete without visiting it, which is very gratifying to those who have put 10 years or more into making the memorial a reality. Not forgetting the help, we have had from locals.

Over the last 15 years we have created a ‘community’ of like-minded people, both Italian and British, and going to Cassino has, for many of us, now become an annual pilgrimage, and is like going home. Something you just can’t miss. We will all be there again this year, working to get the info-boards erected, paths cleared etc. and my contribution is building the new gate- pillars at the entrance. Looking forward to it immensely.

With Sue’s blessing, I will keep you updated periodically. If you would like to have a look at the official video of the 80th Anniversary ceremony, type ‘The Amazon Bridge 80th Anniversary Commemoration 13 May 2024 Cassino’ into YouTube. Thanks for reading this. I hope that you found it interesting.
Ron Gilleard
Chairman Amazon Bridge Memorial Association