

At first we had to endure this



But now we can look forward to this



Thornborough News

Mar-Apr-May 2021

After The Great Flood by Cllr Steve Tribe

At the January TPC meeting after 23rd December floods, we set up a the Thornborough Flood Action Group TFAG, comprising of 2 councillors, 2 residents and an ex resident with flood control knowledge and expertise.

At the first flood group meeting the main risk areas, High Street and Lower End were not surprisingly identified as areas of concern to focus on. Quick fix, medium term and long term plans were identified and the various agencies contacted. Cllr Goodger and his brother along with Cllr Tribe started clearing the culverts and grips (road to ditch gulleys) from Lower End up to the pumping station which unearthed a badly installed high voltage cable and a broken drainage pipe. Within a day Western Power repaired the damage and the ditches emptied.

During the same week, after receiving input from Cllr Warren Whyte, we learnt of the section 19 flood investigation act and how it could be used to assess our flood issues and help identify fixes. As we needed at least 5 flooded properties documented and reported to Buckinghamshire Council's Strategic Flood Team to qualify for help, the group set to work and completed the task within a day.

A site meeting with the Internal Drainage Board (IDB), Buckinghamshire Council's Strategic Flood Team, Transport For Bucks (TfB) and our team was agreed and a preliminary local survey undertaken.

As a result the IDB have agreed to provide a quote and help obtain funding to clear the silted bridge arch and the inter bridge stream between Lower End and Hatchet Leys and at a later date to undertake a survey of the stream down to the river. TFB have accepted responsibility for the left hand ditch silt removal from Hatchet Leys up to the pumping station and agreed to clear blocked drains and grips throughout the village and to investigate the lost ditch in Back Street. Opposite the Pavilion the water drains from the fields down towards Back Street, across the verge and onto the road because the ditch was filled in and a subterranean small bore drain was installed without consideration as to how to deal with the field run off. We hope this will be resolved by reinstating the ditch or reconnecting the field run off drain. In the meantime the existing ditch from the bottom of Back Street and up to the pumping station will be cleared by the land owner to help reduce ponding between Back Street and Hatchet Leys.

There is a lot more to do before we can test our actions and hopefully with spring approaching we will have time to complete some of the tasks.

A big thanks to the Thornborough Flood Action Group.



Reflections from the Rectory by Rev'd Jacqueline Dove

I lived in Mozambique for 11 years because my husband Richard was working with World Vision, a Christian charity helping the subsistence farmers improve their food security and the nutritional value of their crops. I can still recall the shock I felt the first time someone in Mozambique matter of factly referred to the 'tempo de fome' (time of hunger), as if being hungry was normal. For two months people are hungry as the staple foods of maize and beans run out, before the next harvest fills the 'storerooms' once again. The raised storerooms are constructed out of bamboo and despite rat guards on each of the four poles, the harvest is shared with rats and many other small creatures, and so runs out creating the 'tempo de fome'. During this time people live off mandioca (cassava) a root which contains cyanide, unless prepared properly, which is a very long process. One can imagine if we spent two months every year only eating tapioca it would eclipse the weather as our key complaint.

I found it interesting to learn that fasting during Lent can be linked to this time of hunger. Historically Lent comes when the winter food supplies are at their lowest so in many places fasting during lent used to be a matter of life and death. People fasted to make the food supply last longer. If everyone fasted together the community had a better chance of surviving. Lent gave spiritual significance to a time of physical hunger, and in doing so helped enable people to co-operate together for the common good. Lent reminds us that loving our neighbour as ourselves often requires sacrifice.

This pandemic has highlighted the need for us to co-operate together for the common good. During this pandemic we have sacrificed a lot to save the lives of the most vulnerable. Good Friday reminds us that sacrifice is a key element to true love. The good news is that true love leads to the wonderful joy celebrated on Easter Sunday. Happy Easter!

If you would like to talk to me please contact me by email at: revjdove@gmail.com or by telephone: 01296 817828.

The Church Tower Continued.....by Sue Kenyon - Project Manager

Unfortunately, we will need to scaffold the Church Tower once again this Spring. As you can see, the lime render applied late last year has failed. This is partly due to the excessively wet and freezing weather we've had, but mostly due to the timing of the work. Very wet weather in October/November meant the render could not cure properly and gain its full strength. We were aware that there was a risk of failure when we applied the render so late in the year, but we also knew the parapet brickwork, once exposed,



needed protection. After being let down by our main contractors last year, who had to remove two lots of inappropriate render, we were left with two choices by the end of September - render the parapet, knowing the time of year and the weather was against us, or leave the parapet vulnerable to the rigours of winter, with the risk of falling masonry very high. Thankfully, the render has done a great job of protecting the brick parapet, but its strength has clearly been compromised by the extremes of wet and cold weather. We've taken advice from SPAB (the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings), who have confirmed that the render itself and the way it was applied was correct, just the time of year, as we knew, inappropriate. So, we will once again welcome Sean Lardner back in the Spring to complete the job at the correct time of year.

Possible Electronic distribution of TNews & possible Annual contribution

Due to TPC's budgetary constraints TNews is having to charge for "Commercial" Ads going forward. TPC has also requested TNews asks households whether they would be prepared to receive TNews electronically and/or whether they would be prepared to contribute towards TNews costs, say £5pa (ie 83p/issue). **Please contact TNews editor (aka Nick Percival!) at tnewseditor2018@gmail.com or 01280 308068 with your views.**

Many thanks!

Thornborough Methodist Chapel



So, what did you think of the last year—one to forget? Isaiah 43:18-19 tells us *"Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history. Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness."* It's easy to get stuck in the past and be held back emotionally by what happened yesterday, but the only way to truly welcome a fresh start is to look forward, not back.

Jeremiah 29:11 says *"I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope."* When life weighs us down, it can be hard to see the forest through the trees. But take comfort in knowing that God always has a plan for us, and in time, we'll begin to see what that is. And so, looking forward not back, let's take the opportunity to celebrate the coming of spring, Mother's Day and Easter.

Mother's Day

The Bible says in Proverbs 31, "A good woman is ...worth far more than diamonds...She senses the worth of her work and is in no hurry to call it quits...When she speaks, she has something worthwhile to say and ...always says it kindly...Her children respect and bless her." Could there be a more worthy tribute?

Mother's Day is difficult for many eg families having been bereaved of grandmothers, mothers, children. So, we pray that God will bring comfort to grieving families and draw near to the broken hearted.

The Bible tells us to: 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight' (Proverbs 3:5-6). As we trust God to comfort the grieving families above, the following message tells us the dangers we may come across on the path of life.

Easter Message

I love a good story, this one comes from Heartwarming Christian Stories, so I hope you enjoy it. Once upon a time.....

.....A man was on the side of the road with a large birdcage. A boy noticed that the cage was full of birds of many kinds. "Where did you get those birds?" he asked. "Oh, all over the place," the man replied. "I lure them with crumbs and pretend I'm their friend. Then when they are close, I net them and shove them into my cage." "And what are you going to do with them now?"

The man grinned, "I'm going to prod them with sticks, and get them really mad so they fight and kill each other. Those that survive, I will kill. None will escape." The boy looked steadily at the man. What made him do such things? He looked into the cruel, hard eyes. Then he looked at the birds, defenceless, without hope. "Can I buy those birds?" the boy asked. The man hid a smile, aware that he could be on to a good thing if he played his cards right.

"Well," he said hesitantly, "The cage is pretty expensive, and I spent a lot of time collecting these birds, I'll tell you what I'll do, I'll let you have the lot, birds, cage and all for £10 and that jacket you're wearing." The boy paused, £10 was all he had, and the jacket was new and very special, in fact it was his prized possession. Slowly, he took out the £10 and handed it over, then even more slowly he took off his jacket, gave it one last look then handed that over too. He received the cage from the man. And then (well, you might have guessed it) he opened the door and let the birds go free.

The Enemy of the world, Satan, was on the side of life's road with a very large cage. The man coming towards him noticed that it was crammed full of people of every kind, young, old, from every race and nation. "Where did you get these people?" the man asked. "Oh, from all over the world," Satan replied. "I lure them with drink, drugs, lust, lies, anger, hate, love of money and all manner of things. I pretend I'm their friend, out to give them a good time, then when I've hooked them, into the cage they go."

"And what are you going to do with them now?" asked the man. Satan grinned. "I'm going to prod them, provoke them, get them to hate and destroy each other; I'll stir up racial hatred, defiance of law and order; I'll make people bored, lonely, dissatisfied, confused and restless. It's easy. People will always listen to what I offer them and what's better, blame God for the outcome!" "And then what?" the man asked. "Those who do not destroy themselves, I will destroy. None will escape me."

The man stepped forward. "Can I buy these people from you?", he asked. Satan snarled, "Yes, but it will cost you your life." So, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, paid

for your release, your freedom from Satan's trap, with His own life, on the cross at Calvary. The door is open, and anyone, whom Satan has deceived and caged, can be set free.

Jesus is LOVE. Easter is about His unconditional LOVE for each of us. It doesn't matter what we look like, how old we are, whether we consider ourselves good or not, no matter how much money we have or not....*hope you're getting the picture*...Jesus LOVES YOU and He died so you can be free. Meatloaf sang "I'll do anything for love, but won't do that". Well Jesus did the "that!" Happy Easter.

Please come and celebrate Easter with us as **the chapel is re-opening for services** starting on:

Sunday 4th April	11am -Preacher Trevor Ray.
Sunday 11th April	11am -Preacher Paul Kybird.
Sunday 18th April	11am -Preacher Alan Peters.
Sunday 25th April	11am -Preacher Margaret Smith. Joint service at Chapel
Sunday 2nd May	11am -Preacher Malcolm Bromhall.
Sunday 9th May	11am -Preacher John Boxwell.
Sunday 16th May	11am -Preacher David Lewis.
Sunday 23rd May	11am -Joint service at St. Mary's.
Sunday 30th May	11am -Preacher Tim Edworthy.

Until then we will be open on Sunday mornings between 11am-11.30 just for private prayer and meditation. Also, please feel free to come and sit in our garden any time - a lovely quiet place to reflect and meditate. All our usual events, Monday Meet & Eat, Wednesday Drop In café, Friday Art Group and Messy Church are still on hold and we look forward to the day they can resume.

If you have something you would like prayer for, or you need a pastoral visit, please contact Katy on 07904 958033.

St Mary's Church, Services and Events



Since January St Mary's has been having a weekly Sunday Service on ZOOM at 11am. If you would like to join please contact Revd Jacqueline Dove on revjdove@gmail.com. From April we hope to resume services in Church if the current rate of COVID continues to decline. There is a BCP Holy Communion Service at 9.00am on the third Sunday of every month and a shared service with the Chapel at 11am on the fourth Sunday. **The Church and Chapel are organising an Easter Trail (looking for hidden stones to earn an Easter Egg) in the Chapel Garden and Churchyard during Holy Week 28th March to 4th April.**

Forthcoming Services

April 2021	Easter Sunday 4 th April at 9.30am	Jacqueline Dove
	BCP Holy Communion 18 th April at 9.00am	Jacqueline Dove
	Shared service with Chapel <i>at the Chapel</i> 25 th April at 11am	Margaret Smith
May 2021	BCP Holy Communion 16 th May at 9.00am	John King
	Shared service with Chapel <i>at the Church</i> 23 rd May at 11am	Jacqueline Dove

Thank you

Thanks to all those who did some beautiful flower arrangements over Christmas - they were beacons of hope during a difficult Christmas. Also, many thanks once again for all you who have supported the sale of goods in the Church porch; this has become an essential source of income to pay our bills. And thank you to David Elliot who agreed to manage the Book Corner in the back of the Church which is well used.

Love your neighbour as yourself

Mark 12.31

Churchyard Regulations

When someone you love has died, it is a time of great sadness and pain. One of the hardest things is that there is no longer an immediate way to show the person how much you love them. Often, we wish we had the opportunity to tell them how much they meant to us. One of the ways we reach out to those we love but no longer see is to leave flowers at their grave. In the case of children this might include toys.

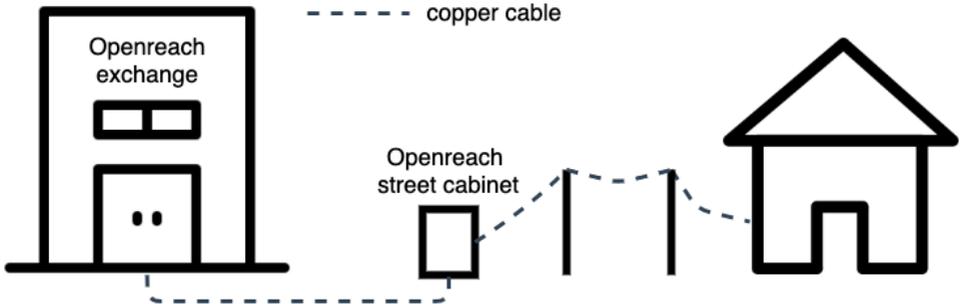
I think instinctively we all want to provide whatever comfort we can to someone who is grieving, and so feel that they should be given the choice to honour their loved ones in whatever way they choose to do so. However, there are legally binding Churchyard Regulations to help make sure the churchyard is a place of beauty and peace for everyone to enjoy for the next several hundred years. A maxim of Brene Brown, a well-known sociologist, is: Clear is Kind, Unclear is Unkind. So hopefully this is clear. In summary the key regulations are:

1. Only natural stone, with a non-reflecting surface can be used for headstones which need to also comply with specific measurements and designs. For example, they cannot be heart shaped.
2. Inscriptions must be simple, reverent and theologically acceptable.
3. Individual gardens, including the planting of shrubs are not permitted; but the minister may authorise the planting of a small number of bulbs.
4. Plastic flowers and plastic wreaths are not permitted; except that wreaths and other arrangements of artificial poppies may be introduced to commemorate those who have died in the service of their country in time of war or other conflict.
5. Cut flowers and silk flowers may be left at the place of burial or interment of cremated remains but must be removed once they are decaying or have become faded.
6. Graves may not be fenced.
7. With the permission of the minister, up to 3 toys or similar objects may be left at the place of burial or interment of cremated remains for a period of 12 months from the date of burial or interment but must be removed at the end of that period.

If you would like to talk to me about these regulations please contact me by email at: revjdove@gmail.com or by telephone: 01296 817828.

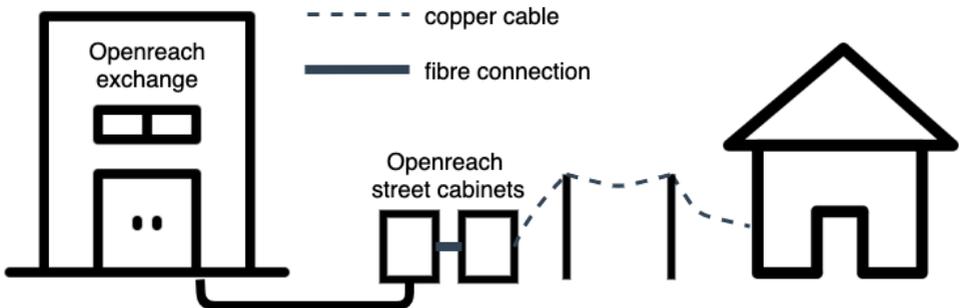
Broadband & Fibre for Thornborough Explained

When we first got broadband (before 2015):



- known as ADSL
- copper from exchange to cabinet
- **copper from cabinet to house**
- designed for telephone lines
- **maximum data speed = 8Mbps**
- copper is bad because:
 - speed degrades over distance: **copper loses half its speed @ 4km from exchange** (and our cable comes via Padbury!)
 - can be affected by RF interference (causing dropouts)
 - **speeds below 0.5Mbps were very common in the village**

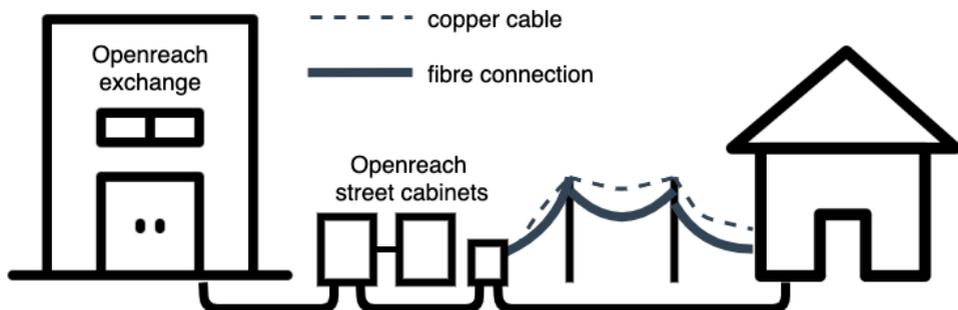
When we got so-called “Superfast fibre” (2015 to today):



- known as FTTC (**fibre to the cabinet**)
- FIBRE from exchange to a new Openreach cabinet
- **still copper from cabinet to house**
- **maximum data speed = 70Mbps (cannot go higher because of physics)**
- all copper problems still there (speed degradation, dropouts etc)

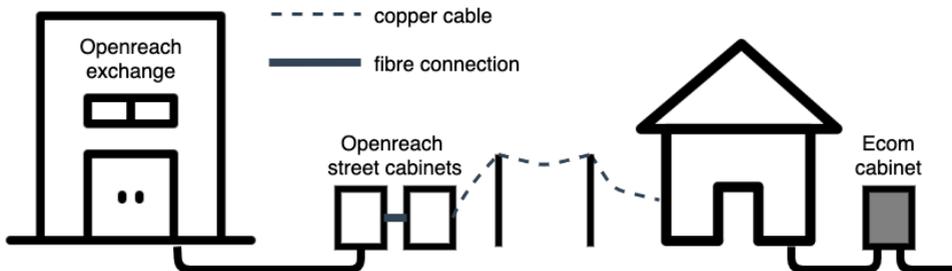
The Future: Full Fibre to the Premises (2021 & beyond)

A) Openreach “ultrafast fibre” model:



- known as FTTP (fibre to the premises)
- FIBRE from exchange to a third Openreach cabinet
- FIBRE from Openreach cabinet to house
- **maximum data speed = 1000Mbps (typically sold at 300Mbps)**
- all copper problems resolved
- either installed via telegraph poles and/or underground (both shown)

B) Ecom “gigabit fibre” model:



- **also FTTP**
- FIBRE from business connection to new Ecom cabinet
- FIBRE from Ecom cabinet to house
- copper from Openreach cabinet to house is still in place
- **maximum data speed = 1000Mbps (typically sold at 300Mbps)**
- all copper problems resolved
- installed underground

Summary

	Current			Future			Future
Fibre Type	"Super fast" FTTC			"Ultra fast" FTTP			Ecom FTTP
Sample Providers	BT Fibre 2	Sky Superfast	TalkTalk Fibre 65	BT Fibre 300	Sky Ultrafast	Zen Full Fibre 300	only Ecom
Max Speed	67Mbps	59Mbps	67Mbps	300Mbps	150Mbps	300Mbps	300Mbps
Connection	already in place			should be free*			free*
Install	free	£9.99	£4.95	free	£9.99	£29.99	free
Monthly Cost	£29.99	£26.00	£26.00	£49.99	£35.00	£49.00	£36.00
Term	24m	18m	18m	24m	18m	18m	12m
Contract	existing contract can usually be carried over						new
Availability	now			2022?			2021

*usually covered by "Government" vouchers

Source: Company websites using MK18 5HR (Akeley) postcode (who have FTTP)

Benefits of FTTP:

- ***Futureproofed***: current connections cannot go above 70Mbps; fibres can go to 1000Mbps (1Gbps)
- ***More reliable***: no dropouts from RF interference
- ***Better performance***: faster download, faster upload, lower latency
- ***Increased house value***: buyers look for ultrafast broadband
- ***No reduction in speed***: everyone gets the same regardless of distance from cabinet

New 'Fibre to the Premises' (FTTP) Schemes:

Openreach now potentially available!

In the last edition of Thornborough News, the '*Help Super Fast Broadband Come to Thornborough NOW*' article discussed the need for reliable, high speed broadband for those living, learning and working in rural communities. It concluded that the best way forward for Thornborough and Thornton was to **adopt 'Fibre to the Premises' (FTTP)**, because only FTTP would be reliable enough and have the speed (ie up to 1000mbps versus the current max of c.70mbps) to enable '*Ultra Fast*' broadband and support all the data-hungry things we need or want to do online, like high quality video calls, HD movie-streaming, 3D gaming and file transfer to and from the cloud. Achieving FTTP, however, is complicated by geography and choosing between suppliers.

What's new, then?

Previously it was assumed an Openreach solution was many years away. As such, a project focussed initially on Thornborough village, was proposed for delivery by a small local company. Whilst this would give many village residents their FTTP solution, it was not fully inclusive and the proposed fibre distribution method (burying cables in new-dig trenches) would initially restrict the network primarily to the village centre due to the cost of delivering the fibre to them.

Recently, a Buckinghamshire councillor encouraged a number of local residents to ask Openreach to propose their own FTTP scheme, to cover as many properties as possible, across Thornborough and Thornton parishes.

There are now two main FTTP schemes 'on the table' from Openreach, if sufficient local commitment is forthcoming, that potentially could be delivered within 12 months of those commitments being finalised.

Sounds interesting! What are these two main Openreach schemes?

Openreach FTTP schemes are designed around groups of properties that share distribution cabinets and telephone exchanges. The first proposal is for a combined Thornborough and Thornton scheme, covering most of the 290 properties across both parishes that have 01280 telephone numbers and use cabinets that link them to the Buckingham exchange. While not all the parishes' properties would be covered, this scheme would address the majority of them.

The second proposal is for Great Horwood parish, as requested by residents there and covers properties with 01296 numbers, linked to Winslow's exchange. This scheme will cover all the remaining properties in Thornborough parish with an 01296 number.

Full coverage of Thornton parish is more complex, as its properties have a mixture of 01280 and 01908 numbers using multiple cabinets connected to different exchanges. Other Openreach proposals are being explored for the Thornton properties not covered already by the two schemes named above.

What will Openreach do?

An Openreach scheme will use the fibre from their network to reach each property's curtilage, for example to the front gate or end of the drive. They will then make the final connection from there into the relevant building, when the owner subscribes to a suitable broadband service from their chosen provider.

Fibre is already provided by Openreach from their exchange to their cabinets and, wherever possible, Openreach use their telegraph poles and ducting to route the new FTTP connections. Thus, most properties in Thornborough and Thornton villages, along the A421, in The Coombs as well as in other outlying areas can all be connected. As the need for new-dig trenching is minimised, so is the associated traffic disruption and damage to verges and driveways.

Why go with Openreach?

Openreach, part of the BT Group, is a long-established and well-respected company, with strong financial backing and long-term viability. It has a proven record of supplying and maintaining not only Great Britain's national fibre transmission network, but also millions of high performance, reliable fibre connections made to it.

Using Openreach as our FTTP scheme supplier reduces risks to the delivery, operation and long-term support of our proposed new fibre network.

Who will fund the Openreach FTTP schemes?

The Openreach FTTP schemes will be 'joint-funded' schemes, partially funded by Openreach with the rest covered by:

1. **Central government funding:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will provide 'Rural Gigabit' vouchers, worth £1,500 per rural home and £3,500 for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in rural areas. Vouchers are free and provided one per household or SME that requests it, for onwards assignment to their chosen FTTP scheme provider. See more details at: <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>
2. **Local authority funding:** Buckinghamshire Council may add 'top up' voucher funding at £2,000 per rural home and £3,500 per SME. The figures for the

next funding period have not yet been released. See more details at:

<https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/buckinghamshire/>

3. **Indirect subscriber funding:** participating property owners will only need to commit to a minimum 12-month fibre broadband contract from their chosen Internet Service Provider, utilising the new FTTP infrastructure.

There will be no upfront or 'out of pocket' costs for scheme subscribers other than the minimum contract commitment in (3) above, which applies to all joint-funded FTTP schemes, regardless of supplier. This means that for many of us we can keep our current provider and just upgrade our broadband package. You are also free to look around and choose a new provider (eg EE, Sky, Talk Talk, BT, Zen to name a few)! To check on current pricing levels, there are now many price comparison websites and one of them can be found here:

<https://www.thinkbroadband.com/packages>

OK, what's next?

Openreach will work out for each scheme, how many households and SMEs will need to sign up to make the scheme viable. This will be the target that we as the local community need to reach, in terms of committing our vouchers in (1) above and to taking up broadband fibre services as in (3) above, in order to make the schemes happen.

Central government (and probably Buckinghamshire Council) funding should become available again from April 1st 2021. **It is expected that property owners covered by the Thornborough and Thornton scheme will receive paper-based communications from Openreach in April inviting them to:**

- **Sign up for this Openreach FTTP scheme**
- **Commit their DCMS 'Rural Gigabit' voucher to this scheme**
- **Confirm this voucher commitment to the DCMS**
- **Commit to taking up an applicable fibre service with a broadband provider when this Openreach FTTP scheme goes live.**

Instructions will be given at that time as to how to make these commitments.

Once the target number of commitments has been made to the Openreach FTTP scheme and this has been confirmed to the DCMS, Openreach will plan, design and execute the necessary practical work to install it for us. Once the scheme has been finalised, we can expect it to be delivered to our communities within 12 months. When it goes live, those households and SMEs that have committed to this scheme will be expected to order their new Full Fibre broadband service.

The same basic process will apply for those properties covered by the separate Great Horwood FTTP scheme. It will be determined and co-ordinated by their community scheme leader. -Thornton properties not covered by this scheme have already been informed.

Great! How do I find out more?

Email: 'Fibre for Thornton and Thornborough Parishes': fttpteam4u@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/447386653207962> "Full Fibre for Thornborough and Thornton Parishes (FTTP)"

Thornborough Sports and Social Club (TSSC)

Please keep your eye on our website for forthcoming events post lockdown:

<https://e-voice.org.uk/tssc/>

The Sports and Social Club meet about 4 times a year in the Two Brewers to organise sporting and social events for all age groups of villagers. If you think you might want to be a part of this, please come along to one of our informal meetings and see what we do.



We are a big committee but getting long in the tooth – erecting marquees for example is a struggle now for us.

We need you:

- you with young children,
- you who are new to the village – young and old,
- you who wants to meet other villagers,
- you who wants an excuse to meet in the pub, drink beer and get invited to our fantastic annual committee BBQ.

Please visit our website to see when we next meet, then contact me (Bernard Garbe) at garbeb@gmail.com / 07725 421534 for a 'Zoom' link to listen in or participate. Or contact Richard Wyllie (chairman) or Steve Illman secretary@tssc-mail.org.uk

Thornborough & Thornton Fundraisers by Ann Payne

We are delighted to report that we made a profit of almost £1000 from this year's Christmas Quiz. Almost all of the orders came in online, which made the whole process much simpler. As I write this I have just completed next year's quiz so hopefully we will break the £1,000 mark in 2022.

Since Christmas we have updated the village defibrillator with new infant pads and purchased 4 new litter pickers, hoops and high viz jackets. At the current time they are resident in my porch and please feel free to borrow them at any time. The village itself is relatively litter free, however the roads approaching the village are litter strewn and I think **we need to organise a village litter pick in the next couple of months. Please do let me know if you would be up for this and I will post more on the Thornborough enews page in due course.** Thank you to Claire Morgan, Jacob Woodley, Charlotte Rogers, Emma Woodford and their families and also my two grandchildren Isla and Tom Bentley for their efforts in the past few weeks. We have also made a donation of shopping vouchers to someone within the village. Our 10% from the profits of the quiz this year went to Milton Keynes Women's Refuge.

As soon as we can we hope to reinstate the Promises Auction that was due to take place in April 2020. We will not be asking the many local businesses who had donated previously, as they will have had a difficult time in the past year, but this will make this a more 'homemade' affair. So, if you think you can make a promise, babysitting, cakes, pies, gardening, use of facilities such as tennis court, swimming pool etc, a handmade item then please do let me know.

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THINKING OF MOVING?

I found this perfect village 6 years ago. I've made so many friends and had so much fun but now I'm in need of a new home and want to stay here in the village. I'm a cash buyer so no chain!

So, if you are thinking of moving perhaps you could call or email me.

Absolute discretion promised.

Sue Percival 07305 009991 / sue@sueandnick.co.uk

Thornborough Infant School Update by Miss Olivia Quirke and the Board of Governor



It is without question that 2021 has been the most unusual start for the school. We were very sad not to welcome all the children back after the Christmas holiday, we were, however, very happy and proud to offer face-to-face teaching to the children of our keyworker and vulnerable families. You may have even seen us around the village either going for a walk or completing our 'Daily Mile' running.

For our children that had to stay at home, we offered remote learning through daily video lessons by Miss Thomas, dance videos by our specialist dance teacher Miss Owens and story time and assembly by Miss Quirke. Activities were fun, exciting and engaging, encouraging the children to be creative, to use the outdoor area and to enrich.

At the time of writing this, we are very much looking forward to welcoming all the children back on Monday 8th March. Undoubtedly this has been a sensitive time, with many feeling the effects of not being able to socialise with their friends. The children will be very excited to be in school, and we cannot wait either. Every measure will be in place to support a smooth transition back, through their learning environment but most importantly, unconditional support for their emotional wellbeing.

Moving forward with the school and future thinking is part of the School's Development Plan, something that the Governors and I are always in discussions with. We know our village school has, in the past, had some trying times, but it is with enormous pride and excitement that once again, for the second year running, we have very good numbers (double figures) for our Reception intake for September 2021.

When we are given the 'green light' we intend to re-ignite our contact with Pre-school, working collaboratively for the young children of Thornborough, and nurturing those important close links we have. I have also had very positive and constructive conversations with fellow Heads of neighbouring schools to support the transition of our Year 2 children when they must leave to take their Junior school place. This is in the hope to also work together to support our parents and avoid the 'In-Year' transitions that have sadly, in the past, affected us.

We know how important these relationships are, now more than ever, not only from the aftermath of the pandemic, but for the future of the school. It is with that thought, that the Governors and I would like to let you know that 'behind the scenes' we have been working hard and creatively thinking of ways to extend the school, either through to Year 6 or Pre-School. We are all aware that to do

this we need an extension of the school, an additional building. Some incredible fundraising happened last year, as you know, which has been ring-fenced. However, after receiving formal documents which have previously not been seen, we know that this cannot happen. An application for a building was tendered in 2009, to replace the building that was demolished, and through many planning restrictions was not granted. We have had this re-looked at, in the light of some years passing, but the reasons to reject the application still hold strong.

Whilst we are so disappointed our wonderful school cannot expand, we **are** growing not only with admissions but with new Governors, new staff and new families – I for one am incredibly honoured to be part of this, and I know we have a great future. Thornborough Infant School will remain an Infant school, something that is very rare and unique in the educational landscape at the moment. We want to use this uniqueness to our benefit and continue our journey on being an outstanding school, passionate about Early Years education and giving the best academic and pastoral start to every child that attends.

Finally, I want to thank the children, our families, the community and village for their support. It has been quite a journey getting here, but I am confident that our school has turned a corner and will continue to grow from strength to strength.

Village Hall & Trust 59-Club update

by David Wise (Honorary Treasurer)



I am pleased to report that the 59 Clubs have continued to operate during lockdown. In the Saturday 59 Club, the winning numbers for December & January were #6, the lucky possessor being Jo Bonney and #42, owned by Jo Massey. For the Wednesday draws, the winning numbers were #45, owned by Robert Mullis and #51, at present unallocated. All three have received cheques for £150.

Ever since the Lottery was expanded to 59 numbers, we have had several vacant numbers, so if **anyone is interested in taking one on** (it only costs £5 per month), **please could they give our Secretary, Bernard Garbe, a call on 814344.** Bernard is running a “recruitment drive” for new members this month.

The Hall has now been closed for nine months, so our income has obviously been very much reduced this year. Hopefully we shall soon be able to reopen, so should **anybody wish to hire the Hall** later this year could they **please give our Bookings Secretary, Sue Kenyon, a call on 07704 730466.**

Get creative this Easter and raise funds for Alzheimer's Research UK!!

This October I am joining #TeamARUK and taking on The London Marathon in the hope of raising lots of money for Alzheimer's Research UK, the UK's leading dementia research charity, dedicated to making life-changing breakthroughs in diagnosis, prevention, treatment and cure. As my training begins for this marathon event, so do my fundraising events!



This Easter I challenge you to create a masterpiece for my first fundraising competition. Anything goes.....think cakes, bonnets, eggs, perhaps even a window display, your limit is your imagination, but it must have an Easter theme to be entered!

Once you have your finished masterpiece, please send a picture, including the name and age of the entrant, by email / text / WhatsApp to Rach Avery (rkavery@me.com / 07966 508887).

Entries can be submitted from Good Friday to Easter Sunday and will be judged by age group in the following categories:

Pre School, 7 and under, 7-12, Teenage, Grown Ups

The talented winners will be announced on Easter Monday and prizes delivered. The judges' decision is final!

A suggested donation for entry is £3, but anything you can give would be wonderful. I ask you to pop this in the collection boxes which can be found either in the Church Porch, or in the porch @ Catkins, Nash Road. Alternatively, please visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rachael-avery40 and leave your donation here.

All funds raised will go to Alzheimer's Research UK as part of my London Marathon fundraising efforts. For more information on the amazing work they do, please visit <https://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org>

Thanks in advance of your support, and good luck with your entry!

Rach Avery

Thornborough Preschool update by Kathryn Gevaux

Preschool has remained open for all during the 2021 lockdown but has been quieter than usual for obvious reasons. Our staff have worked tirelessly and amazingly, to keep the days consistent and have an as normal as possible, engaging, safe learning environment. I want to thank them for their continued resilience and determination to provide such excellent care.

Thank you Thornborough!

Thank you to everyone who supported our events last year. Our Merry Market whilst a little different, was a great success, raising vital funds during these challenging times.

Easter Trail and Raffle & Cake Sale!

This year our Easter fundraising will be a little different! From **2-5th April** there will be an Easter Trail around the village for you to enjoy at your leisure, in your family bubbles. Please see the preschool website

<https://www.thornboroughpreschool.com/> and/or fb page

<https://www.facebook.com/ThornboroughPreschool> for more information and a trail sheet. We will be asking for a donation, if you enjoy it, to help us through this pandemic.

There will also be a raffle of an Easter Hamper and various Easter bits available - this will all be done through social media. On the **1st May, from 12-3pm** we will hold a **cake sale** as restrictions should have eased by then.

We have already started accepting places and taking names for September 2021 so do get in touch to put your name down or for a show around. These can now be conducted with certain guidelines in place. Our new website

<https://www.thornboroughpreschool.com/> has all the information you may need, and also relevant contact details.

Commercial Advertising Charges for TNews

Due to TPC's budgetary constraints, TNews is having to charge for "Commercial" Ads going forward on the following bases:

Ad size	Single issue cost	Annual cost (6 issues)
Full Page	£15	£80
Half Page	£7	£40
Small ad	£4	£21

W.I. Report December 2020 – February 2021

by Teresa Connolly



Ahead of the December meeting our committee members made and delivered Christmas gift bags to all WI members. These contained a Christmas card, the T&T fundraisers' quiz, a homemade face mask and gingerbread item, napkin folding instructions, a DIY craft item, some chocolate, a satsuma (of course!) and the T&T WI 2021 programme. Much appreciated by all.

At the meeting we asked members to show us the snowflake that they had made as well as the Christmas tree folded napkin. Sue Percival also entertained us with a really enjoyable quiz about famous women. Resulting in much festive cheer.

Plans for our 85th birthday meeting in January went somewhat awry due to lockdown restrictions. We had hoped to have our annual birthday lunch at Barley Hill farm, provided by Alice Woodyard, but had to cancel it. Next idea was a piece of cake and a party bag for every member. Had to abandon that too but we did manage to hold a very successful zoom meeting that included a game of Dingbats and a mini version of "Would I lie to you?" A good time was had by all.

Ray Rowson brought us some much-needed sunshine into our February meeting by taking us on a beautifully illustrated tour of Crete and Santorini.

Our social zoom sessions have also proved popular. We've welcomed Karen from Padbury WI as well as attending Bucks Federation WI social zoom events too.

The Women's Refuge in Milton Keynes sent a thank you letter for all the toiletries and gifts that were given to them from our community. They are most grateful for our continued support particularly in these difficult times.

In the last few months we have also said a fond farewell to our former member Gay Kennedy; to Nora Brock's mother Lillian Ross and, more recently, to Tina Bright's father. May they rest in peace and their memories be a blessing.

Thornborough and Thornton WI meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm online via Zoom. Visitors are always welcome. Email us for the Zoom link on thornboroughandthorntonwi@gmail.com or visit our website for further information about our group: www.thornboroughandthorntonwi.org

WI Tote bag making

This year's request to our community is to make Tote bags for Milton Keynes hospital. Currently when the bereaved return to the hospital to collect their loved one's belongings they are given them in a grey plastic bag with NHS property written on it. We hope that these handmade tote bags will offer a level of dignity to all bereaved families at such a sensitive time.

If you have any spare fabric or would like to make a Tote bag please do let us know. Local doorstep collections can be made. 07824 618579 Teresa

Or contact us at thornboroughandthorntonwi@gmail.com for further details.

Harry's fundraiser

Hi my name is Harry Smith I'm 12 years old, fun, bubbly and I like my sports. I live in Thornton. However, I suffer from a physical disability called Cerebral Palsy. Starting on March 1st I will be walking 26 miles over the space of 26 days so each day I will walk 1 mile for 26 days. This will be one of my biggest challenges as my disability will make me struggle but I'm determined and inspired by the late Sir Captain Tom Moore and his recent charitable work for the NHS. This is **to raise money for the amazing NHS and the Lymphoma Action charity**. These Charities are close to my heart because my Mum suffered from Hodgkin's Lymphoma years ago and I want to give to the charity to help others like my amazing Mum. I also want to give to the NHS as a thanks for the wonderful around the clock work they have put in to fight COVID-19 over the last year. **Any donations will be very much appreciated and myself and my family will be so grateful.** Thank you all, Harry x



Harry's fundraising pages: <https://gofund.me/811cfff4> or <https://gofund.me/a6a9c903>

A note from Harry's Mum

Harry sustained a bleed on his brain at birth due to being born prematurely. The doctors told me he may not walk or talk but he completely defied all odds and took his first steps at age 4. Harry has undergone many operations over the years and usually uses a wheelchair or frame to walk long distances...

Mel xx

Thornborough Parish Council (TPC) Report

TPC has continued to meet remotely. The minutes of the TPC meetings provide the formal record of the business and are published on the TPC noticeboard and website <https://thornboroughparish.org.uk/about-tpc/tpc-minutes/>. The things which are likely to be of greatest relevance to residents are summarised below.

There is a separate report from the Thornborough Flood Action Group, established after the flooding just before Christmas and is led by TPC Chair.

2021/22 committee year timetable

The government has said the emergency legislation will not be extended; local councils will therefore be required to hold face to face meetings after 6 May 2021. However, the relevant professional bodies are continuing to press for the legislation to be extended and/or for legislation to permit hybrid meetings. There are widespread concerns within the sector about the viability of hybrid meetings for small, rural parish councils. TPC will monitor the matter closely.

The timetable for the 2021/22 committee year has been approved:

Monday 19 April 2021 Parish Council – remote meeting
Thursday 29 April 2021 Annual Parish Meeting – remote meeting
Monday 24 May 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Meeting of the Parish Council• Parish Council
Monday 21 June 2021 Parish Council
Monday 19 July 2021 Parish Council
Monday 20 September 2021 Parish Council
Monday 18 October 2021 Parish Council
Monday 15 November 2021 Parish Council
Monday 17 January 2022 Parish Council
Monday 21 February 2022 Parish Council
Monday 21 March 2022 Parish Council

The date of the Annual Parish Meeting is as it is because of the forthcoming election. The various community organisations and groups will be asked to prepare written reports in good time and in advance of the meeting. The election also determines the date of the Annual Parish Council Meeting which is effectively a governance meeting.

Elections - 6 May 2021

The local council elections have now been postponed for 2 years – initially in 2019 because of the establishment of the unitary authority and then by the pandemic last year. They are combined with elections for Buckinghamshire Council, and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Please get in touch if you'd like more information. The key dates are:

Monday 22 March	Publication of Notice of Election (local elections)
Thursday 8 April, 4pm	Deadline for receipt of nomination papers
Friday 9 April, 4pm	Names of candidates standing published
Tuesday 27 April	Notice of Poll
Thursday 6 May	Polling Day 7am – 10pm.

Planning

Since the last report, TPC has dealt with various planning applications and more significantly a planning appeal (20/00088/REF, 19/03284/APP) for a dwelling on the land adjacent to the New Inn in the High Street. The appeal was not upheld by Buckinghamshire Council. There is increasing evidence that, despite the pandemic, the effectiveness of the Buckinghamshire Council Planning and Enforcement Teams has improved significantly under the unitary authority. The officers are working hard to achieve the objectives put in place to improve the service.

Financial Year 2021/21 Budget and Precept Setting

The budget and precept for 2021/22 has been set at £22,632 to cover TPC's known financial commitments after account is taken of 'other' income, an increase of 16.4%, which means a council tax increase of £10.60 (88p pcm) for a band D property. Any unspent funding will be transferred to help build the reserve which currently doesn't meet the good practice guidance. The Finance Group carefully scrutinised both expenditure and 'other' income before recommending the increase for approval by TPC. The introduction of charges for commercial adverts in Thornborough News reflects this. This decision was not taken lightly and was informed by policy in several small local rural parishes where the village newsletter is either wholly or largely funded by advertising.

Parking in the village

Whilst local councils don't have any jurisdiction over parking, TPC has received expressions of concern from some residents. The parking on pavements concerns are about pushchairs and wheelchairs not being able to use the pavement which gives rise to potential road safety issues. These concerns are

compounded by the need for social distancing because of the pandemic. There are also concerns about parking on the verges which in bad weather results in unavoidable rutting and damage to the verges.

TPC recognises many of the pavements and verges are in poor condition. It also recognises Buckinghamshire Council has many demands on its limited resources. In view of this, we have talked about arranging some community volunteer events to reclaim the pavements and repair the verges. If the roadmap out of lockdown goes to plan, we may be able to arrange something over the summer. I understand **in the past the verges have been repaired by village volunteers so I hope TPC will again get an enthusiastic response.**

Please take care when parking and do get in touch if you'd like talk about this or volunteer to help.

And finally

Thanks to an online competition **TPC is now the proud owner of a Handicart Duo for litter picking.** It allows litter to be separated into what can and what cannot be recycled. Although organised litter pickers aren't currently permitted, individuals and families can litter pick when out for exercise. **Please do get in touch if you'd like to test drive the Handicart Duo** and/or have a suggestion for a funky/cool name for it: <https://www.hhenvironmental.co.uk/handi-cart-duo/>.

Alison Robinson / E: clerk@thornboroughparish.org.uk / M: 07756 247186

Two Brewers Reopening Soon

Save the date – April 12th (hopefully)!!

To all our customers, just an update on the reopening of the pub again. It will be outside trading from hopefully, if things go according to the government roadmap, April 12th when we will be able to open the back garden for drinks. This means table service only and all other safety measures still in place. More details when we receive the new guidelines nearer the date. Hope to see you all soon.

Andy & Val



HAIR TODAY, GONE when hairdressers open again!



10 year old Merryn has been growing her hair so that she can donate 16 inches of it to the Little Princess Trust. She will be having it cut as soon as the hairdressers are open again and is still fundraising to hit her £550 target which is the cost of making and fitting one wig. She is almost there thanks to the wonderful village coming out to support her cake sale and she has been selling handmade hairbands. She has raised £451 so far.



The Little Princess Trust provides free real hair wigs to children and young people (up to 24 years) who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions. Additionally, they support the development of less aggressive and toxic cancer treatments. They receive no formal funding and, since it started in 2006, they have supplied over 8,000 wigs to children and young people and have invested ~£5m into ground-breaking childhood cancer research. They receive no formal funding and rely solely on people's generosity. **If you want to support Merryn with a donation (money not hair!) please visit her JustGiving page - <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mhairloff> or visit <https://www.littleprincesses.org.uk>**

Thank you very much to everyone for supporting this wonderful cause and thank you to the Little Princess Trust for giving Merryn something to focus on during lockdown.

Thornborough Cricket Club Update



Well, what a season (2020) that was....

As a committee we decided not to take part in the “league” organised games, opting instead to arrange a number of friendlies. This proved very successful, with some great games taking place. For the first time for a number of years, we also saw midweek cricket return to Thornborough.

Sadly, the restrictions also meant the cancellation of our Allstars programme and development of our Junior squad. **However, I’m really excited to confirm the Allstars programme (5 to 8 year olds), Dynamos (8 to 11 year olds) and the 11+ sessions will, (COVID & weather dependent!) return to Thornborough starting on Friday 4th June at 6.30pm for 8 weeks. More to follow later.**

And just when we thought 2020 couldn’t get any worse for TCC, two of our long serving stalwarts (Paul and Deb Chapman) up and left us to start a new chapter in the lives in Shropshire....

Paul / Chappie has been associated with TCC for 52 years, starting his playing career with us when he was just 14 years old. He went on to serve TCC as a Senior Player, Captain, Chairman and President. For those that don’t know, his 3 sons Ian, Stu and Nick have followed “in the old man’s shoes” all being great players and ambassadors to the club and our village.

Deb, a keen follower of Cricket has been a supporter and regular follower of TCC since 1978. She was a long term serving member of the committee, more recently as Secretary. Deb played a huge role in the Clubs social events, organising and running many fund raising events, which were so instrumental in ensuring the long term stability and security of the Club. In addition, Deb coordinated the 1st team tea ladies’ rota.

From all at TCC, thank you Paul & Deb, you will both be sadly missed and leave a huge void in our club. Hopefully 2021 will give us the opportunity to say “farewell” properly. We wish you both health and happiness.

Due to COVID restrictions our AGM was held as a ZOOM meeting, which pleasingly was well attended. As mentioned above, the departure of Paul and Deb has left a void in our club, with Paul stepping down as President. We (TCC) are fortunate that another stalwart of TCC (Dave Wise) has taken on the President’s role, thank you Dave.

Other Officers voted in:

Derek Davis - Treasurer	John Osborn – Secretary
Cam Davies – 1 st Team Captain	Ian Chapman – 1 st team Vice Captain
Ben Horton – A team Captain	Sam Horton – A team Vice Captain
Chris Cox – Youth squad development and fund raising “king”	Me – Chair

At the time of writing, the 2021 season looks a little more promising, with our **league campaign scheduled to start (for both teams) on May 1st**, with weekly Saturday fixtures through to the end of August.

We also have a **friendly organised for April 24th** and please put **Sat April 10th in your diaries to finalise the ground preparations and erect the Club Marquee!!**

As always, **we remain on the lookout for new players to bolster our squad** - therefore if you're new to the village, or you know anyone who is, please get in touch - you / they will be made very welcome.

Whilst we had to cancel our indoor net sessions again this year, we do plan to start organised outdoor net sessions later this month. Again, more to follow.

Until next time.....

Ian Davies / 01280 824625 / 07713 117633 / Daviesdave4@aol.com

SAVE THE DATE – Saturday 24TH APRIL

This year's **Pace BIG Walk** routes will be circular routes taking in woodlands, parts of the Icknield Way and the Ridgeway Trail. All routes start and finish in Wendover at the Wendover Memorial Hall. There is a choice of 18m, 12m, 6m or The Superhero Mile routes.

There is something to suit all ages and abilities. This is a great opportunity to set yourself a challenge for 2021 and have some outdoor fun.

By taking part in the BIG Walk, you will not only have the opportunity to explore this beautiful countryside in a completely unique way, but you will also be helping us to provide life changing support to the children and young people who access Pace services.

To sign up visit <https://thepacecentre.enthuse.com/cf/bigwalk2021>



V E Day 75 +1 - 8th May 2021

I am afraid that now we know the very cautious roadmap to release us from lockdown, we sadly have no alternative but to cancel the above event.

Sorry to be the bearer of such bad tidings, but we really feel that we have no choice.

I would like to put on record my thanks to the committee for all their hard work both last year and this on this event. At least we did have a really good socially distanced time with lovely weather last year so that work didn't completely go to waste!

Thanks again for everyone's support.

Mary Wise



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Thornborough & Coombs Woodlands Report by Sarah Powell,
Thornborough and Coombs Woodlands Enterprise Trust



Thank goodness that spring is on its way – we hope - because winter has been cruel to the woodlands this winter. It has been necessary to close our top big wood to walkers as the ground has been over-used and is showing excessive wear. The other woods are also very wet and muddy but we are trying our best to keep them useable and open. We appreciate this is both disappointing and inconvenient but – if we want a woodland in the summer, we have to care for it now!

The public footpath that crossed our top wood, has been diverted and extended round our boundary through a new gate in the corner, so another walk to discover.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported the up-keep of the woodlands in these difficult times – as ever there will be lots to do come the spring. The Trustees are looking forward to the beginning of the long-term project to plant new trees. If you want to lend a hand, we would love to hear from you. Please contact me (Sarah Powell) at sarah@reid-co.co.uk or mobile 07768 695069.



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LOCAL EVENTS DIARY – KEEP THE DATES

EVENT	WHERE?	WHEN?
Census 2021		Sun 21st March
Preschool Easter Trail	Around the village	Fri 2nd - Mon 4th April
First Church/Easter Sunday Service	St Mary's Church	Sun 4th April - 9.30am
First Chapel/Easter Sunday Service	Methodist Chapel	Sun 4th April - 11.00am
WI monthly meeting	Zoom	Weds 7th April - 7.30pm
TCC ground finalisation & marquee erection	T'boro Cricket Ground	Sat 10th April - 10am
Two Brewers reopens	Two Brewers	Mon 12th April
TPC Meeting	Zoom	Mon 19th April - 7pm
PACE - The BIG Walk	Wendover Memorial Hall	Sat 24th April
TCC Friendly Match	?	Sat 24th April
Shared Church Service	Methodist Chapel	Sun 25th April - 11am
Annual Parish Meeting	Zoom	Thurs 29th April - 7pm
Preschool Cake Sale	Preschool?	Sat 1st May - 12-3pm
TCC League Season Starts	?	Sat 1st May
WI monthly meeting	Zoom	Weds 5th May - 7.30pm
Local (Council) Elections		Thurs 6th May
Shared Church Service	St Mary's Church	Sun 23rd May - 11am
TPC Meeting & Annual Meeting	Village Hall / Zoom	Mon 24th May - 7pm
TCC - All stars, Dynamos & 11+ Start - 8 wks	T'boro Cricket Ground	Fri 4th June
Final copy date for next Thornborough News		Sat 5th June 2021

Editor's Corner

Editing TNews this time has been especially tough with many articles extending beyond 2 pages. Please try to keep to two A5 pages otherwise I will have to edit without warning...!!!

But please do continue to get in touch with tnewseditor2018@gmail.com with any possible forthcoming local events or articles of local interest!

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Thank you again to all our volunteer distributors. Please contact Sue on 07305 009991 if you can help with delivering TNews.

The next Thornborough News will be the Jun/Jul/Aug edition, likely FINAL copy date Sat 5th June 2021. Please send copy and Ads in either word or jpeg formats wherever possible to tnewseditor2018@gmail.com.

We try to include everything sent to us in the space we have available but sometimes there is simply not room. Some items (particularly those sent in PDF formats) may appear in fonts/sizes that may be difficult to read for some people – please accept our apologies.