

Thornborough & Thornton Fundraising Group

Following the meeting in the church to discuss the future of the Village Hall we decided to direct all our energies towards the refurbishment of the Village Hall. We realised that to do this and be able to put on the kind of events needed for this scale of project that new blood would be needed. I am delighted that several people from the village offered to join the fundraisers. We felt that we could not manage to fundraise at the level needed unless we had new blood and so were delighted with the response. To start matters off on a good footing we held a social night on 26 October to get to know one another and gird our loins for the coming months! We want this to be a fun and social committee to be involved in as a good sense of humour is vital!!!

We kicked off proceeding on Saturday 12 November we held a very successful quiz evening in the Village Hall. It was wonderful for us all to be together again at such a lovely social occasion. Our super quizmaster, Sue Percival, challenged us with some exacting questions but also managed to make it fun and entertaining as well. Not an easy task, so thank you so much Sue. The food was delightful with the best ever cheese straws prepared by Cath Sayer, delicious homemade Pate as well as a spectacular display of cheeses. We raised over £750 to help swell our coffers.

We were very grateful to the Parochial Church Council for donating the profits from this year's Harvest Supper to our funds towards the Village Hall. It was a very generous gesture as I know they must work very hard to raise funds to keep the church in good repair and the £380 received was much appreciated.

This year the fundraisers paid for the Christmas Tree and lights, then Carol and Rachael organised Carol Singing around the tree to recoup the costs. It was a lovely, if very cold evening, those who attended were warmed up with delicious, mulled wine and mince pies. Jacqueline led the singing, and the children had a wonderful time playing together in the snow afterwards. Following a collection and a generous anonymous donation all costs were covered. It is such a lovely sight as you drive through the village in December and brings a smile to your face every time.

Next up it was the Annual Christmas Quiz. Thank you to everyone in the village who participated and also to those of you that spread the quiz far and wide. This resulted in us selling over **600** quizzes and making a profit of over **£1000** for the first time. I received so many lovely comments about how much people enjoy it and how it has become part of Christmas. The lucky winners this year were **Noel & Becca Hiorns** and **Rob & Alison Pearson**.

Mad March Mix: Undeniably a little mad – who would have thought to put into the same cooking pot – an opera singer and classical violinist with a sound-alike Adele; traditional folk songs with a medley of big hit musicals; a scene with slobbish Turkish Bath attendants with readings of poems and letters from famous poets and actors and a Victorian Melodrama followed by a synchronised swimming team – but that's what we did! All held together with an MC of remarkable talent and a fine voice. A mix indeed of madness and, as it turned out, fabulous fun.

All the many people who took part in this event (on stage and behind the scenes) were committed, industrious and totally willing to put themselves on the line in order to help raise funds for our slightly needy village hall. I hope they all feel properly thanked and appreciated, as should our marvellously boisterous audiences! They (you) made it all worth the effort. The Fundraising and TVH committees were fully behind and part of this project, so that hopefully, we can ask for further support for all our future events with the certain knowledge that you'll have a good time! Over £2,700 was raised.

Grateful thanks to the WI and Teresa Connelly in particular, for organising a game on the Coronation Day which raised over £100.

At the time of writing, we are just two days away from The Grand Promises Auction. This event will be held in the Church, and we have over 75 amazing promises on offer. We expect about 120 people on the evening so expect a very jolly and fun evening. A bar and a pig roast will ensure we are all adequately fed and watered. We are delighted to announce we made a total of £9047.

Even with all this we are not sitting on our laurels and currently our forthcoming events are:

- June 10 -11 Thornborough & Thornton Open Gardens
- September 16 Opera Dudes in Jim & Gwynne Grayson's garden
- November 25 Quiz Evening in the Village Hall
- Nov/Dec Annual Christmas Quiz, currently being compiled by Ann Payne
- December Thornborough Christmas Tree
- February Evening with renowned Jazz and Blues Pianist and singer, Miles Nottage. Date and venue TBC.

In addition, we have also received a number of private donations from people donating their winnings from the village 100 club and from the Cheltenham festival. We are very grateful to them all.

Ann Payne

Chair of the Thornborough & Thornton Fundraising Group

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