

THORNER DIRECTORY **JUNE 2025**

| GROUP | NAME | CONTACT DETAILS |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| ART GROUP | Ada Percy | 0113 2892653 |
| BALLROOM DANCING | Kathleen Wilson | info@yorkshireballroom.com |
| BEAVERS | Lizzie Waddington | info@TASscouts.org.uk |
| BOWLING CLUB | Derek Potter | 0113 2892055 |
| BROWNIES | Chloe Burnley - Brown Owl | 07795 545858 / cloburnley@gmail.com |
| COMMUNITY CHOIR | Pat Smith | 0113 2892205 / pat.smith235@btinternet.com |
| CRICKET CLUB | Alastair Foster | 0113 2892566 |
| CUBS | Steve O'Boyle | info@TASscouts.org.uk |
| GARDENS/HEATHCOTE AVE | The Clerk | 07444 791 956 |
| GP SURGERY - THORNER | Appointments | 0113 8873322 |
| GP SURGERY - COLLINGHAM | Appointments | 01937 222841 |
| HISTORICAL SOCIETY | | 0113 2893372 |
| MUMS & TOTS | Lizzie Waddington | 07932 716016 |
| ORCHARD OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB | Belinda Bateson | 0113 2892541 |
| OVER 60'S ASSOCIATION | | 0113 3458509 / thornerbungalow@gmail.com |
| PARISH CENTRE BOOKINGS | Peter Wilby - Treasurer | 0113 2893845 / www.parishcentre.org.uk |
| POLICE | www.westyorkshire.police.uk/west-yorkshire-community-alert | |
| PRE-SCHOOL | Belinda Bateson | 0113 2892541 |
| PROBUS CLUB | Jason Falk | 0113 2892612 / jasonfalk@hotmail.com |
| ROYAL BRITISH LEGION | Paul Oldfield | 0113 2893210 |
| SCOUTS | | info@TASscouts.org.uk |
| ST PETER'S CHURCH | | |
| ST PETER'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL | Mrs Whawell | 0113 2892541 |
| ST PETER'S CHURCH MAGAZINE | Hilary Marsden - Editor | 0113 2017144 / parishmag@thornerchurch.org.uk |
| TENNIS CLUB | Adrian Joyce | 0113 2893499 or thornertennis@gmail.com |
| THORNER BADMINTON CLUB (PM) | Rosie Cooke | 0113 2892351 |
| THORNER BECK GROUP | James Steer | thornerbeck@yahoo.com |
| THORNER COMMUNITY FUND | Wayne Young | thornercommunityfund@gmail.com |
| THORNER FILM CLUB | Val Forster | 0113 2892758 |
| THORNER 7 ASIDE FOOTBALL | George Coppock | 07960 407 745 / Thorner Facebook 7 Aside |
| THORNER OLD SCHOOL CHARITY | Eleanor Courtman-Stock | Eleanor_courtman_stock@hotmail.com |
| THORNER RAINBOWS | Helen Rafferty | 0113 2893694 / thornerrainbows@gmail.com |
| THORNER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION | Gary Noble | 07709 274 530 |
| THORNER TREES GROUP | Claire Evans | thornertrees@gmx.co.uk |
| THORNER UKULELES | David Stainthorpe | dave.cyclesense@icloud.com |
| VICTORY HALL | Jenni Lacey | 07368 318 891 / bookings@thornervictoryhall.co.uk |
| VILLAGE SHOW SOCIETY | Michele Firth | 0113 2892430 / michelefirth636@btinternet.com |
| WALKING CLUB | Wendy Miller | 07905 501145 |
| VILLAGE WEBSITE | Peter Wilby | Click on 'Contact us' at www.thornervillage.org.uk |
| YOUTH CLUB (JNR & SENIOR) | Belinda Swift | 0113 2892946 |
| MOBILE LIBRARY | FRIDAYS | 9:50am to 10:20am / Opposite Mexborough Arms |
| POST OFFICE SERVICES | THURSDAY MORNINGS | 10.00am to 12 noon / The Bungalow |

If details need updating or you would like to add your group please email: thornerparishcouncil@gmail.com

THORNER NEWS

JUNE 2025

THORNER NET ZERO PARTNERSHIP (TNZP)



Formed in late 2022, the Thorner Net Zero Partnership brings together representatives from local community buildings - The Bungalow (Over 60s Centre), Thorner Parish Centre, St. Peter's Church, and Thorner Victory Hall - alongside Thorner Community Fund and local councillors. The aim is to tackle climate and energy challenges by improving energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions, and lowering running costs to ensure the long-term viability of these facilities.

An energy audit, jointly commissioned and funded by Thorner Community Fund and conducted by D3 Associates, identified energy-saving opportunities across the buildings. The group meets regularly to track progress, share advice, and explore funding.

The Bungalow

Phase 1 improvements, funded by the Leeds Community Climate Change Fund, included loft insulation upgrades, new double-glazed windows and doors, and interior redecoration. Additional support from Thorner Community Fund enabled replacement of the exterior rendering, soffits, and fascia boards, improving insulation and water resistance. A water butt was also installed for garden use.

A new remote-controlled heating system now ensures efficient energy use. While energy savings are still being monitored, the building is noticeably warmer and draught-free. A National Lottery Community Fund grant will support further interior refurbishments, including a more efficient fridge freezer. Plans are underway to install solar panels and battery storage, with conditional approval from Leeds City Council.

Thorner Parish Centre

Originally built in 1851 as a school, the Parish Centre now serves as a hub for community events. However, its deteriorating exterior stonework has led to damp issues, requiring constant low-level heating. A 'fabric first' approach was adopted to address this, ensuring the building is ready for future energy-saving measures.

Funding from the Leeds City Council Emmerdale Fund and nPower Business Solutions Foundation will support full exterior restoration, starting in November. Once complete, the focus will shift to implementing the D3-recommended carbon reduction strategies.

Thorner Victory Hall

The Victory Hall has already improved its energy efficiency through roof insulation, double glazing, and upgraded lighting. The next step, as advised by D3, was the installation of solar panels and battery storage. With funding from Thorner Community Fund, solar panels were installed in September 2024.

Since then, the panels have generated over 12 megawatts of clean energy, saving more than 2,300 kg of CO₂ - equivalent to planting 141 trees. The long-term goal is to replace the gas boiler with air source heat pumps, powered by solar energy. Further sustainability initiatives are planned.

Follow the Thorner Net Zero Partnership on Facebook for the latest updates on their sustainability journey.

Emma Waterland

On behalf of Thorner Net Zero Partnership



CHRISTMAS IN THORNER

For anyone who didn't attend the Christmas light switch on in the village on the afternoon of Sunday 1st December last, you missed a treat.

Everyone who is involved in decorating the village puts in an enormous amount of hard work. The preparations begin with David Elf ordering all the Christmas trees, he then organizes all his helpers to prepare them, fixes the brackets on the houses, decorates them with fairy lights and installs them all down Main Street. It's a sight to behold and people outside the village visit just to see the lights. All the trees are funded by a 'Just Giving' page, residents of the village support the appeal every year.

Last year David Elf's wife, Parish Councillor Sheila, suggested that the Parish Council should get involved in making the lighting of the trees into a village event. Sheila contacted Thorner Primary School to ask if the children would like to sing carols on the Village Green, they agreed, and we then decided that each child should receive a small gift. I had previously crocheted pompom hats to decorate Chocolate Oranges for my own family and suggested that I could make more. At first the school anticipated around 20 children, around 6 weeks before the event we got news that there could be as many as 85 children. What we thought would be a quick job turned into a mammoth task, me making the hats and Councillor Catherine Wilson making all the pompoms but we made it and all the children got a present. All the chocolate oranges and yarn were donated by Parish Councillors.

With the help of a couple of the Parish Councillors' husbands, we decorated the big tree on the village green, it did look lovely but due to the size and height of the tree we won't be able to do this again as it's too dangerous. The Parish Council have already organized a replacement which we feel sure you will all love. We are already planning for Christmas 2026 and will soon be asking for volunteers to help make hats for the chocolate oranges. I hope we have lots of crocheting ladies out there with some spare time. Keep an eye out for updates in the coming months.

Parish Councillor Angela Wallis



TAKING PRIDE IN OUR VILLAGE - TOGETHER.

In our recent Annual Parish meeting of Electors members of our community expressed the importance of having pride in our village.

As residents, we each play a vital role in preserving its unique charm, character & community spirit. Taking pride in where we live doesn't always require grand gestures, it's often the small but consistent actions that make the biggest difference.

For instance, keeping our front gardens tidy, checking on elderly / unwell neighbours, giving a friendly wave across the road to someone goes a long way. Also litter picking whilst out walking, picking up our dog's poo and driving carefully through the village are all things which contribute to a stronger more connected community.

Volunteering time for local events & community groups plus supporting our local businesses also gives a sense of belonging within our village. We can elevate the village by encouraging each other to take part in Parish initiatives, sharing ideas for improvement, and recognising the contributions of those that go the extra mile.

Let's continue to work together respectfully, creatively and wholeheartedly, to ensure our village remains a place we're proud to call home.

Together we make it thrive!

Parish Councillor
Rosamund Brittain

NEW FOOTPATH MAP SHOWS THE WAY!

Thorner is well blessed with a network of attractive rural public rights of way – almost 24 miles of pleasant footpaths & bridleways within the parish boundary leading to super vistas and peaceful corners. They give access to a wider network across neighbouring parishes, offering a great free resource for keeping fit, relaxing, and viewing wildlife.

A new updated map of the parish rights of way has been installed in a display frame on the wall of the Boule Shelter on Main Street and provides a reminder of what's available on our doorstep.

Designed by local artist Michael Brereton, helped by members of Thorner Art Group who have produced illustrations that give a hint of just a few of the attractive features of our local heritage and countryside. Thorner Parish Council met the costs of printing.

A reminder to dog owners – there have been some unfortunate incidents this year of livestock harassment by dogs, with lambs killed and horses injured. If you're walking your dog stay on the rights of way keeping your dog on a lead when there is livestock about.

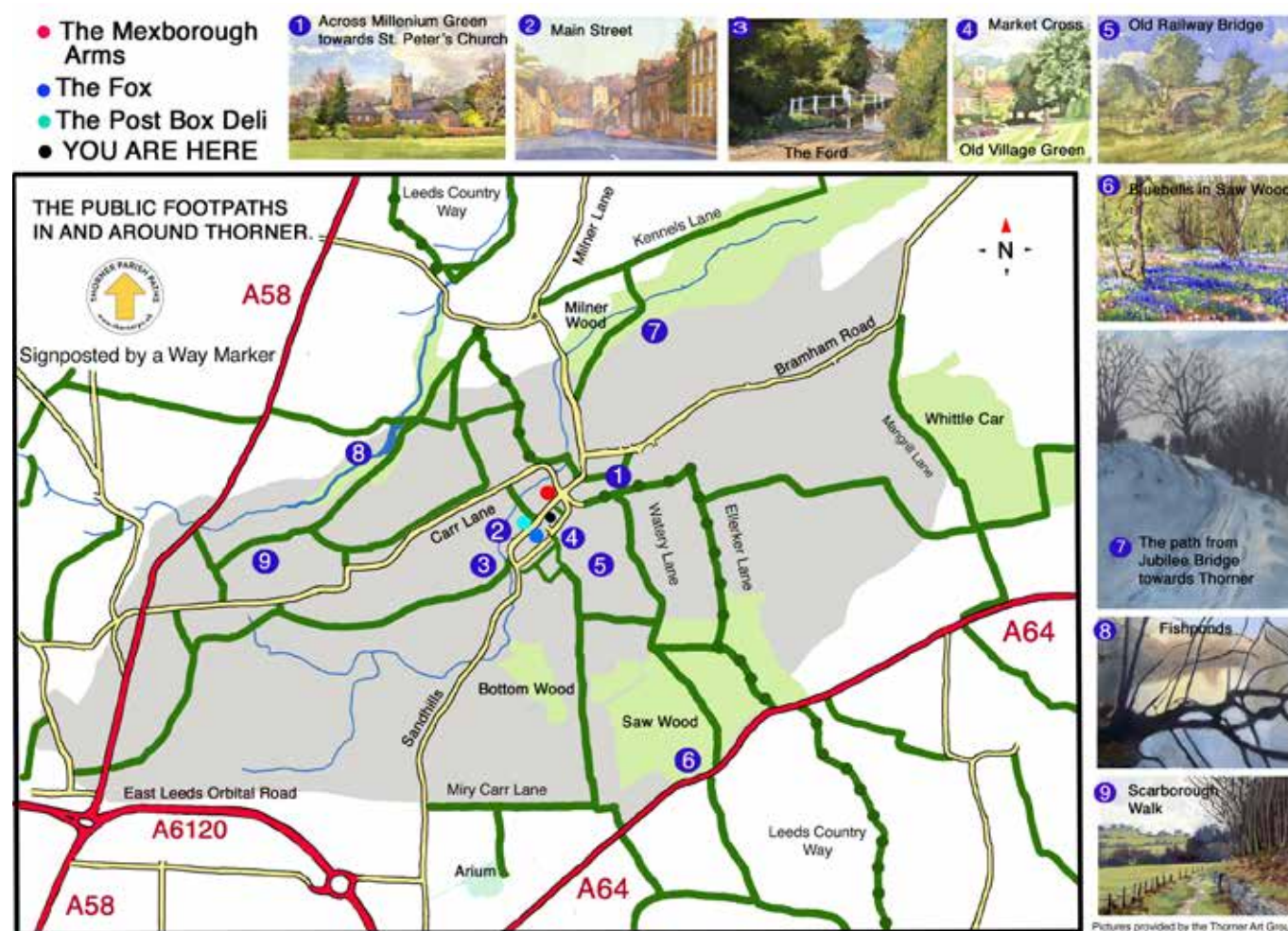
You can help!

- Do you have ideas to improve local knowledge of the heritage surrounding us? What local features need improvement? How can we draw more attention to what's there and at risk of being lost?
- Would you be willing to help be involved in maintaining stretches of footpath – cutting back growth obstructing paths or improving stiles and waymarking?

Your ideas and/or offers of practical help are always welcome. When there's a need, we can bring together a working group of like-minded residents to spend an hour or two helping to maintain access for all.

If you have views, ideas or time to offer please email thornerheritage@gmail.com

John Calvert



THORNER COMMUNITY CHOIR

Formed in 2012, Thorner Community Choir continues to thrive in weekly sessions held at Thorner Parish Centre on Church View. Recent new starters to the Choir have commented how they appreciate a chance to sing as a way of unwinding, lifting mood and socialising. One new member summed up the benefits more scientifically saying "it raises my endorphins."

Meeting each Monday from 7-00 to 8-30, our professional tutor Tommie James provides relaxed support with a wide range of songs and is keen to work on arrangements of numbers suggested by members. There are no auditions, and no pressure to be there every week.

The choir will be taking a break over August but will resume for the Autumn on Monday 8th September. Come along and try a first session for free, thereafter a subscription of £20 every 5 weeks covers tuition and room hire.

Pat Smith will be happy to provide more information - pat.smith235@btinternet.com

John Calvert



THORNER PARISH CENTRE

Founded as a school in 1851, the Thorner Parish Centre is now a thriving local community facility for numerous groups, children's parties, local and national elections and more.

Please contact me if you'd like to book the Parish Centre for a party or similar event, or if you'd like details of how to join any of these groups... Yoga Fika, Rainbows, Community Choir, Youth Club, Art Group, Thorner Tots, Ruby Dance Studios.

Major renovation work will start on the exterior stone of the Parish Centre in November of this year, followed by internal improvements in 2026. If you'd like to become a trustee, the Parish Centre committee has a couple of vacancies to fill, you'd be most welcome to join us!

Peter Wilby, Treasurer.
Thorner Parish Centre.

bookings@parishcentre.org.uk



THORNER WALKING GROUP

We are very lucky that Thorner is blessed with an excellent network of local footpaths in all directions from the village. Thorner Walking Group meets every Wednesday afternoon for a walk of around four miles. We either start in Thorner or a village nearby and often stop at a local pub or a cafe on the way, or at the end of the walk. Lifts can be arranged if you don't have a car.

Once a month, usually on the third Thursday, there's a walk of around eight miles further afield, sometimes on the North York Moors or in the Dales.

Walking in a group is an excellent opportunity to chat and meet up regularly and it's now well known that being outdoors, even in bad weather is excellent for fitness and mental health. We don't rush and go at the pace of the slowest walker. Details of our walks are on the Thorner Walking Group Facebook page.

Just turn up and you'll be made very welcome.

Wendy Miller

THORNER OVER 60'S ASSOCIATION

We have a varied programme of activities at The Bungalow throughout the year, but did you know that you don't have to be over 60 to join in with some of them? One recent new addition is armchair yoga on Tuesday afternoons which is open to all. Armchair yoga is ideal for building strength and balance, but it's also about improving relaxation and breathing techniques. Also on Tuesdays, there's a popular Spanish class which restarts in July.

Anyone is also welcome to drop in at our busy coffee mornings on Thursdays which coincides with the Post Office. Plus, on the first Friday afternoon of each month, there's a Discussion Group at the Bungalow with the added incentive of home baked cake. Then each Saturday morning we have a Book Exchange which again is open to anyone and also has a great selection of books for children. In addition, we have a varied programme of events. At the end of June there is a visit to a nearby tearoom, and we've just had a very successful nostalgia afternoon with children from Thorner Primary School, plus a talk about house plants and carnivorous plants. Look out for our programme on the notice board outside The Bungalow.

You also don't have to be a member or over 60 to join our team of volunteers. We'd love to hear from anyone who would like to join the rota to help at our coffee mornings or perhaps you have time to be at the Saturday Book Exchanges.

We've just had some great news. The Over 60's have been awarded a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund which will enable us to continue the refurbishment of the interior of The Bungalow, with new blinds, tables and chairs, a new carpet, flooring for the kitchen and a fridge freezer. Work will take place in the coming weeks. Again we will be looking for volunteers to help with moving books and furniture.

If you'd like to help with any of our activities, or just want to know more, get in touch - thornerbungalow@gmail.com
Wendy Miller, Secretary

THORNER – A VILLAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES

2026 will mark 20 years since I moved into the wonderful village of Thorner. In that time, I have been fortunate to experience the many varied and interesting activities and opportunities on offer, which have not only enriched my experiences of village life, but have allowed me to contribute to, and put something back into this vibrant community.

In writing this short piece therefore, I just want to encourage everyone, no matter your limitations in terms of time, personal or other commitments, to get involved in some way or other.

Please remember village life is not just about enjoying the beautiful scenery on our doorstep, partaking in the many festivals or taking advantage of cut-price festival tickets. Active village life to me is getting stuck in whether that be helping organise many of the

community events and activities, doing a spot of litter picking, or helping with the Christmas lights. I even surprised myself and challenged my own limitations when I applied to help ring the church bells, something I now gain great satisfaction and enjoyment from. Proof you are never too old!

Finally, do remember also that the parish council and all the other groups and varied organisations present in the village, don't have all the ideas. If there is something you want to suggest or have ideas you think will enrich and improve village life, why not come along to the monthly parish council meetings, or even going a step further and applying to become a parish councillor, all applicants welcome.

Parish Councillor Jacquie LeRoy

DOG FOULING

Dog fouling is the most unacceptable and offensive type of litter on our streets. Our residents are telling us that dog fouling is an issue that they are concerned about.

There has been an increase in unbagged dog poo and in some areas, bags of dog poo that are being left piled up and not binned. Particularly on Littlemoor Lane, up to the old railway line. Other areas such as Millenium Green, Ellerker Lane and even Main Street have seen an increase in dog poo left behind and not disposed of correctly.

Parish Councillor Sheila Llewellyn

Did you know:

- It is illegal not to pick up your dog's mess from any public place or footpath.
- Failure to clean up can result in a fixed penalty fine of up to £100, and if the case goes to court, this could cost the owner or person in charge of the animal up to £1,000.
- That the law states that being unaware a dog has fouled, or not having a suitable bag, is "not a reasonable excuse".
- It costs money for Thorner Parish Council to supply bags for emergency purposes, and this comes out of the village precept.
- You can report dog fouling issues via email to: environmental.action@leeds.gov
- Dog poo can be placed in any household and street bin, there are many across the village.
- **PICK IT, BAG IT, BIN IT!**

NEWS & EVENTS FROM THORNER VICTORY HALL

We have not one but two SOLD OUT gigs coming up in July... **Richard Thompson (Thursday 3rd)** and **Weetwood Mac on (Saturday 5th)**. If you missed out on tickets, visit the events on our website and click 'buy tickets' to add your name to the waiting list – if returns become available, we'll let you know.

Following the tremendous success of last year's Family Fun Day, the event returns on Sunday 29th June. Organised by Thorner PTA and supported by the hall, there will be all manner of fun and entertainment for all ages! Tickets are just £3 and available from www.tinyurl.com/ThornerFunDay (We advise booking ahead – ticket numbers are limited and did sell out last year!)

Sign up to our newsletter via our website www.thornervictoryhall.com or visit our social media profiles for 'hot off the press' updates.

Aside from beer, comedy, theatre productions and live music events we host a range of classes and groups throughout the year... Hopefully something for everyone. We've recently had an enquiry from someone looking to set up a **French class** at the hall, offering to donate the profits to charity. If this would be of interest to you, please email info@thornervictoryhall.com. We'd also love to hear from anyone who might be interested in setting up a **Keep Fit class** or a **badminton group** (the hall has equipment available but currently no players!).

Following the installation of our solar panels last Autumn, our sustainability efforts continue, with the support of Thorner Net Zero Partnership (TNZP). We have future carbon reduction phases planned, following the recommendations of a report commissioned by TNZP. You can read more about TNZP elsewhere in this newsletter and follow their Facebook page for updates.



At the time of writing, we're planning our **Annual General Meeting**. We hope to see some of you there - if you don't make it but would like to get involved or just find out more about the work of the hall committee, we'd love to hear from you - please email info@thornervictoryhall.com

Peter Schofield
Chairman, Thorner Victory Hall



All council correspondence to the Clerk: BARRY RILEY: thornerparishcouncil@gmail.com

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS ARE:

Alistair Scott (Chairman) / Tom Mycock / Sheila Llewellyn / Ros Brittain / Angela Wallis / Catherine Wilson / Jacquie LeRoy / Valerie Forster

Visit the parish council web site at www.thorner-parish-council.org.uk