

Thornton Steward Social Activity Newsletter

A belated happy New Year to everyone.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our events in 2023, we hope you enjoyed them and are looking forward to more get togethers in 2024.

We are now busy planning the events for 2024 and have tried to propose some different activities for the coming year.

There will be an event to celebrate the 80th anniversary of D Day alongside a number of other activities which we hope will appeal to a wide audience including families.

Where we are providing food, we will be asking for a contribution as this is a great way for us to raise funds for the village.

We are still keen to get other ideas for activities you would like to see in 2024 so if you do have any thoughts, please either email them to Thorntonsteward@hotmail.com or drop them into the post box at the Institute and we will add them into our plans.

Planned events:

Friday 9 February - Pub meal at the Queens Head

We thought it might be nice to hold a very informal gathering at the local pub in Finghall. For those who don't frequent this great pub, it has a varied pub food menu ranging from fish and chips to great steaks so something for everyone.

We will need to book tables (ideally in the bar by the open fire if we can) so if you are interested, can you please let us know by Friday 2 Feb and I will book a table. (email or message Alison on 07980 756629).

Friday 1st March 7pm– Life on the High Sea – a talk by our very own Jenny Blackburn plus curry night

Jenny has had a fantastic experience joining a round the world yacht race and she is going to share her experiences with us all. We will provide food - a curry /rice/naan bread for a small fee of £7. Please bring your own drinks.

Gardening Club First Meeting – Date to be advised (to try and get a fine day)

Following a good inaugural first year of the gardening club, these gatherings will restart for spring. The plan will be for it to meet in March June and September enabling swapping of cuttings, seeds etc as well as sharing tips, ideas etc. Informal garden tours within the village were also a great part of this groups activities last year and we hope to do this again this year.

The meeting will be at Lesley's (Woodcote) with the date to be emailed closer to the time to enable people to walk around her garden on the day (which is obviously weather dependent). Please do save any spare seedlings, seeds or old gardening magazines to share on the day.

All budding gardeners are welcome

Saturday 4th May - Spring Fete

We will be holding a spring fete in the Institute in the afternoon of 4th May, there will be stalls for home made produce including cakes, jams etc, books, bric a brac, some typical fete games such as the treasure map, splat the rat etc. We will hopefully if the weather is nice be able to put stalls outside as well and we will be offering refreshments (tea/cake etc). Any ideas for stalls or volunteers to help provide games, stall contents etc would be very welcome. We will be advertising this outside of the village as a well attended fete can raise considerable sums for the village and it would be an excellent way to do this for us.

Thursday 6 June D Day celebrations – evening event - hog roast and beacon lighting

We would like to celebrate this occasion as a village with a hog roast on the evening of 6th June, with the beacon lighting taking place to join in the country wide element of the celebrations.

We will provide more details of the event closer to the time but please pop this date in your diary - we will need ideas on numbers to ensure we have enough hog to feed us all!!

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Sat 6 July – Afternoon - Resuscitation/ Defibrillator demo plus lunch (picnic / BBQ etc)

We will hold another BBQ/picnic on the village green, on the afternoon of 6 July and combine this with a further demonstration of the defibrillator/ resuscitation techniques kindly run by St. John Ambulance.

The demo will take place in the Institute and then we will follow this with the BBQ/picnic.

This should enable those with children to attend and let's hope the sun shines for us this year.

BBQs will be provided so please bring your own food to BBQ, drinks and seating/tables. We will have a communal table for the picnic shared items so we can all enjoy some lovely food.

We may also try our hand at quoits again whilst it is light enough to play and any other outdoor games we have too.

As usual, we will have a break during the summer holidays and then recommence our village events in October

Sun 13th October – Afternoon Conkers and Thornton 'Stew' event

An opportunity to relive your childhood with a game of conkers (participate at your own risk)!

As autumn will be with us by this stage of the year, we wanted to do something completely different and hold a conker championship on the Sunday afternoon and provide a hearty warming meal to all. There will be a small entry fee for the conkers competition (conkers will be provided) and a contribution of £7 pp for the stew. More details to follow nearer the time.

Other activities planned

We have a number of activities planned for later in the coming year and would also welcome any suggestions you may have for things you would like to see included in our plans.

Harvest Festival / Lunch - Date to be confirmed once church schedule is finalised

An excellent and successful harvest lunch was held in 2023 and the plan is to repeat this in 2024. The event is tied in to the church service in the morning and once this date is set, further information will be shared with everyone.

November wine tasting competition

Neil has very kindly agreed to run another wine tasting competitive evening as we all enjoyed the one held last year. We will finalise a date and give you plenty of notice to get this in your diaries.

December auction of promises

This proved to be a really successful event when we held it in 2022 and we would like to repeat the event so please do start getting your thinking caps on with respect to promises you could provide for the auction – those we had last time proved very popular and we raised a considerable amount of money for the village that evening alongside having a few Christmas themed beverages together.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you at the many events we have arranged.

All the best from

The Social Committee

Alison (Lower Garth)

Vicky (Cherry Cottage)

Lesley (Woodcote)

Ann (Thornhill Cottage)

Diana (Pear Tree Cottage)