

St Mary's Fundraising committee Jan 15 – April 16

On February 14 2015 we held a Las Vegas evening in Claire Morgan's barn attended by over 200 people. We provided a sit down, three course meal and entertainment as well as a casino at the end of the evening. It was another wonderful evening for the village community. This event raised £4,980.30.

We held our AGM in May 2015 and it was well attended by committee members and people with an interest from the village. Cherry Coombe, Jill and Henry Goodger joined the committee at this meeting. Although we also lost a couple of committee members, Charlotte Barber, Emma Gothard and Linda Goodger.

The Unity festival organised by Claire Morgan for all village organisations provided us with another fundraising opportunity. We decided to offer hot food in the form of Baked potatoes and Curries. The committee members worked really hard for this event but unfortunately it was a very hot day and we were also competing with other food vendors and so despite manning the kitchens all day we only raised £211.50. Charlotte Moore fared much better, she organised a bric a brac/plant/jam and Chutney stall and raised £435.67.

In July a local Rock n Roll band approached us to say they would like to help us organise a dance in the village Hall in September. The date was set for mid September and we tried to sell as many tickets as possible, unfortunately ticket sales were low. Despite this we had a fantastic night and added another £300 was added to our total.

One of the reasons it had been hard to sell tickets was because we had organised a Harvest Supper three weeks later. This event was held in Claire Morgan's barn and it was another full house. Charlotte and Gussie provided most of the food with the committee pitching in with deserts. The sum raised was £1300 but with spare beer, lager and wine for our next event a quiz held in Jan 2016.

In the background Cherry Coombe had been busy organising and encouraging villagers to write or tell their stories with a view to eventually publishing a book. In October we had a lovely evening in the church, which although sparsely attended, was a wonderful occasion. The people present all told a story about their life in Thornborough or before they moved here. It was a moving event and Cherry hopes to use the stories told that night in the book. She also held a number of writing workshops. We hope that sometime in the coming year we will be able to produce a book for sale.

In December we produced a Christmas paper quiz based around television programmes. Our hardworking committee trudged round the village door to door and managed to raised, after deducting prize money, £355. The response afterwards was very positive and we plan this to be an annual event but perhaps raising money for an international charity next time.

In January we held a successful quiz evening that raised over £800, we anticipate this may be an annual event.

The regular giving started the previous year continues and this year raised £1664. Individual donations came to £1130. In addition we have received gift aid money back from previous events held in 2014 of £4,301.25.

While we await the outcome of a grant application we have decided to put on hold fundraising for the church roof. As we all enjoyed being part of this committee and feel that the community have also benefited from the events we have held we have decided to continue fundraising for the benefit of the village. Our first aim is to purchase a defibrillator and buy much needed books for Thornborough School. We anticipate that we may go back to fundraising for the reordering of the church in the future.

Future events in the pipeline are a film and curry night on 7 May, a bottle stall at this year's Unity Festival and a Cabaret evening on 17 September.

Our AGM will be held on 1 June in the church.