

## Thornborough Fundraising Committee Yearly Report

I would like to pay tribute to the wonderful committee members who have all worked so hard and always with good humour and grace. I would like to single out a few people in particular who have gone above and beyond the call of duty this year. I would especially like to thank Cath Sayer who once again has been the most efficient secretary. Thanks are also due to Claire Morgan who has acted as our treasurer during the past year. Teresa Connolly who has taken over the task of designing our posters and tickets and everything produced now has a really professional touch. Lindy Davies who has brought her design touches to our events and managed to transform the village hall on many occasions. She has always been ably assisted by John Bailey, who we have welcomed onto the committee this year, John can always be relied upon to supply the right music for our events. Martin Boileau who will often act as my sounding board and Martin is always there at our events helping lift tables and chairs, often ably assisted by Ian Davies, but when will you two learn to put those chairs in the cupboard the right way round!!! We also welcomed Paul Holland onto our committee last year and he has been a breath of fresh air. Ray Goodger & Steve Wyatt who have been our 'techy' guys this year, invaluable when most of our events have been film nights. Fiona Coppins and Tina Minchin who are always cheerful and hardworking, Thank you Sue for always selecting the best wines. Lovely Carol who brings a most welcome youthful approach to our committee. We are about to lose Cherry to Buckingham and we will miss your sorely miss your input. Thank you to the other members of the committee who have helped when their time has allowed. And last but not least I would like to thank the people of Thornborough who have been so generous in their support over the past year, what we continue to achieve together is magnificent.

St Mary's now has an almost completed chancel roof and are reminded of why we initially formed. It is now 4 years since Gussie called a village meeting to tell us about the repairs needed to the Chancel roof and the vast sum of money that was likely to be needed for these repairs to happen. I think that probably most of the people gathered in the church that May evening thought that it was most likely the beginning of the end of St Mary's which has sat within the heart of this village since Saxon times. Well we had not reckoned on the spirit and heart of this village.

That evening it was decided to create a St Mary's fundraising committee there were times when it was not easy, work seemed slow and there was some criticism of the project but everyone soldiered on and now the work is nearing completion. It became about so much more than just repairing the church roof, we felt that a large part of the village came together and the wonderful offshoot of that was we shared and continue to share wonderful community events together. The St Mary's fundraising committee raised almost £40,000 towards the restoration fund but the wonderful news of the successful grant application meant our work was done as far as the church roof was concerned.

We decided to continue fundraising for the benefit of this village and our sister hamlet Thornton and other worthwhile causes and so we became after last year's AGM The Thornborough and Thornton Fundraising Committee.

During the past year we have held a bottle stall at Claire's Unity Concert, held 4 Film Nights, a Quiz evening and organised a Christmas quiz which was enjoyed by practically every household in the village. We also held a CPR and defibrillator session in the village hall.

Our first aim was to purchase a defibrillator this we managed in August last year, this was possible with the funds we raised and donations from the Sport's Committee, Parish Council, Unity and the Cricket Club and in November, as previously mentioned, Paul kindly arranged for the Fire Service to come and give CPR and defibrillator training, over 100 people from the village came along, we were delighted to give a donation of £100 to the Fire Service benevolent fund. We have given £500 to Thornborough School to purchase much needed books. In addition we also donated 10% of all our takings to UNICEF, a good use of some of the monies we have raised. We do have a small surplus for the year and this leads me back to where we started St Mary's and the future. With the work on the roof almost finished a future thought is that that we may go back to fundraising for the reordering of the church as we must remember that we have only secured its future in the short term. If it is to survive going forward, I believe we must look at ways of making it a community space for the village that is used regularly.

Communities are important because they allow people to interact with each other, share experiences, develop valued relationships and work toward a common goal. Without communities, people would live isolated lives with minimal or no contact outside of their immediate circle. Getting to know new people is essential to the enrichment of all our lives. Therefore I hope that there will be people here tonight who might consider joining our group, it is hard work at times but fun and rewarding

I am retiring from the role of Chairperson this year, although will remain on the committee and I am delighted that Claire Morgan is going to take over as Chair. Claire will be excellent in this role as we all know how important community is to her.

Ann Payne

Chairperson of the Thornborough Fundraising Group