



Newsletter

Winter 2018/19

Welcome.....

..... to the first Thornton-le-Dale Hub Newsletter!

Thornton-le-Dale was once widely known as the prettiest village in the North York Moors National Park, and still features at the top of many lists as one of the prettiest places to visit.

Maintaining such a status requires time, effort and money. Central Government's



cutbacks, in part, have meant that the village in general, and the pond area in particular, have been rather neglected in recent years and, as a consequence, are looking rather shabby in places and decidedly unloved.

For everyone, villagers and visitors alike, to enjoy the amenities that we have in Thornton-le-Dale, it is important that we, as a community, should get together and improve what we once delighted in, and were

Have you noticed any differences in the village recently?

Volunteers have been working on the following since summer of 2018:

Environment:

- Pond project – clearing, cutting back vegetation
- Picking up litter and cleaning kerbs
- Smartening up the old metal railings in The Green and along Maltongate
- Planting Spring bulbs around the village

Community:

- Fundraising – for local causes
- Choir – Thursday evenings
- Walks – in the local area, usually Sundays
and in the pipeline, "Village in Bloom" and even *more with your help!*

Contact: 07826 595048 or tldvillagehub@gmail.com

Pond Project making a splash!

The pond area is a major focal point for Thornton-le-Dale village; it has had little maintenance or care, in the past few years.

We know that many budgets have been cut and that there could be more on the way so, with this in mind, a group of like-minded volunteers in the village has got together, in conjunction with the North York Moors National Park, to undertake a programme of work that will enhance the neglected pond area.

A small team of volunteers braves the slippery depths!



Advice was sought from the National Park and from a local ecologist beforehand; it is important to tap into expertise before plunging headfirst (puns intended) into such a project as this. Without guidance, it would be all-too-easy to be carried away on an enthusiastic tide and do more harm than good to a fairly well balanced ecosystem.

Wood debris has been dragged out of the pond,

together with plastic waste, glass, and rotting vegetation, but no hidden treasure or historic relics have surfaced. Not only will this effort enhance the appearance of the water,

but also will improve the habitat for wildlife and plants.

There has been an increase in surface weed on the pond, too, over the past few years, but our experts tell us that this plant-life is a vital part of the pond's structure, although there was too much of it! Only 20% of it should be removed each year, so that's been done using an ingenious device, yet to be patented, which enabled the determined, amphibian volunteers to work from the shoreline rather than getting wet feet yet again! The "Aerial-Aquatic Weed Clearing

Device" may be brought into action again next year with suitable modifications.

Paths have been cleared, undergrowth chopped back,

and some trees have been felled providing an opportunity for a local chainsaw artist to carve an owl and a kingfisher from their stumps!

Soon, snowdrops and native bluebells will be planted

amongst the trees to brighten up the woodland for years to



We need help to continue with these plans and to maintain the work done so far.

Can you spare some time now and then? Will you join us? Contact: 07826 595048

Can litter-picking be fun???.....

If you are working with a great bunch of people and constantly being thanked by visitors and Thornton-le-Dale residents, then, yes it can be both satisfying and enjoyable! The rewards are many, but just seeing how much cleaner the village looks is reward in itself.

The idea of picking up other people's litter might

So, what have we done during 2018?

We have collected more than 130 bags of litter; swept up over 42 barrow-loads of kerb-side debris; cleaned up part of the A170 (Thornton-le-Dale to Pickering road); asked North Yorkshire

County Council to clean some blocked kerb-side grilles; *and* met fellow residents and made new friends.

In addition to this, Thornton-le-Dale is doing its bit to prevent rubbish and plastics ending

up polluting our waterways and seas.

Volunteers have given 200+ hours of their time, but we still need more to help continue the "Keep Thornton-le-Dale Clean" campaign in 2019. We meet monthly, on Sundays at 10am outside the "Hills Memorial Institute" on Maltongate, to 'work' around the village for an



Railings get makeover by volunteer painters!

Everyone will have noticed how the newly painted railings have smartened up the village, and how they helped to set off the spectacular and fitting display of poppies, made by Thornton-le-Dale WI, to mark the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War 1 and to honour those who fought and died.



Painting began during the summer and it was planned to have it finished before the winter. Thanks to the persistent painters, who sanded, removed rust, and brushed tirelessly, all the railings around The Green and along Maltongate were finished on target with materials funded the Parish Council. The Hub will keep up with maintenance and cleaning on a regular basis.



Painter parks on yellow line....amused volunteers await fine!!

To volunteer for these very necessary and worthwhile projects....

Contact: 07826 595048 or tldvillagehub@gmail.com

Preparing for Spring



Thanks to generous donations from local traders and many individuals, 6000 bulbs have been planted in the village, including around the pond area. Snowdrops and native bluebells will be planted in Spring under the trees.

Watch out for signs of Spring as these emerging flowers herald and welcome the warmer and lengthening days. These bulbs should establish themselves and improve the

And more colour to come.....if proposals to become a 'Village in Bloom' blossom!!

Planning permission is needed before planters can be positioned in the village, but this is being sought. With enthusiasm and many dedicated volunteers willing to give up some of their time, we might even enter "Yorkshire Village in Bloom". Whether you are a green-fingered gardener, or just prepared to get dirty digits, your help would be really appreciated

The Village Hub is not just volunteering and 'work'!!

Improving the village environment, fund-raising and encouraging social

Village Choir ...sing-along with us...

Recently formed, the choir is for anyone interested in singing whether they be larks, thrushes or crows! This is proving to be a



popular activity enjoyed by an increasing

Walking Group...stride or stroll...

Fresh air, keeping active, Chatting,

enjoying the company of others, sharing knowledge about plants and wildlife, admiring and experiencing new vistas....
....all this and much more...
....for all ages....

and led by an experienced local walker.



Thanks must go to **ALL** the volunteers and to the many and varied supporters, who have contributed funds and provided valuable advice for many activities and projects.

For information contact: 07826 595048 or tldvillagehub@gmail.com