

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Diamond Jubilee Commemoration Plaque

As The Queen's Diamond Jubilee year draws to a close we can announce our final tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. After months of planning and construction The Diamond Jubilee Commemoration "Plaque", on the Village Green, at Low Westhouse, has now been completed. The plaque reminds us of two facts. Firstly Queen Elizabeth has reigned for an incredible sixty years. Secondly, that the hamlets of Gale Green, Masongill, Thornton, High Westhouse, Far Westhouse and Low Westhouse added together, make up the civil parish of Thornton in Lonsdale. The commemorative plaque is there as a permanent reminder to all 123 households in our parish that 2012 was a year of celebration and achievement. We extend our thanks to the original Diamond Jubilee Committee out of which came so many creative ideas and to the Parish Council for designing, planning and authorising the finished product. The excellent plaque was created by Chris Duckett and the stone plinth beautifully constructed by Gordon Guy.



Christmas Tree

The Christmas Tree at Low Westhouse will be erected and decorated early in December. On Tuesday 18th December, at 6.30pm, everyone from all our hamlets are invited to gather around the tree for Carols on The Green. A collection will be held with proceeds going to St John's Hospice. We will take this opportunity to officially unveil "The Plaque". Singing will be followed by festive refreshments in The Village Hall. We hope to see you all, in good voice, for the carol singing. **David Wiper, Chairman**

REDMAYNE TRUST

At Christmas the Redmayne Trust is able to award £60 to anyone living in the Parish of Thornton (including Ireby) who is over the age of 80. If you have reached that age or know of someone who has, then please contact Cath Ramwell - 41499 or Revd Jenny Savage - 61579.

VACANCY

The Redmayne Trust are also seeking to appoint another Trustee. The person needs to be of 'good character' & living in the Parish of Thornton with Ireby. If you could be that person or if you know of someone who would like to be a Trustee then please contact Cath Ramwell or Rev Jenny Savage on the no's above.

Thank You!

We would like to thank the generous people of Westhouse for their donations to our recent house to house collection for Marie Curie Care. You raised an amazing £ 110!

Liz & Roger Neale

Liz and Roger would also like to invite you to an "Oxfam Day" from 11am to 4pm on Thursday 6th December at Bank House, Higher Westhouse where you can purchase Oxfam goods. Refreshments incl. soup & a roll will be available. RSVP and directions to tel. no. above.

Contacts for other local Organisations

Jeff Price - **Ingleborough Archaeology Group** (IAG) 41303
Judith Hay - **Village Hall Evenings** 41193
Doreen Dryden - **Village Hall Bookings** 41148
Paula Armstrong - **Parish Council** 42390
Rachael Easterby: **Young Farmers** 0781791823
Yvonne Metcalfe - **Poultry Club** 63114
Kingsdale Beck, Twiss, Doe and the Greta Angling and conditions - Ian Crack 07767 762 713, secretary.

Thornton in Lonsdale Parish Council Newsletter

WINTER 2012

www.thorntoninlonsdale.co.uk

Welcome to anyone who has moved into the area recently. We hope you begin to feel at home and enjoy being part of our community!

Christmas Festivities

As Christmas approaches we all tend to get swept along in the busy build up. It is also a busy time in the Parish with lots of gatherings and get togethers arranged. We hope you are able to join us at one or more of the events. The event are listed throughout the Newsletter.

WILDLIFE NOTES

The lovely autumn colours this year were due to the wet summer. It's the only bonus I can think of ! We at least had Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral and Peacock Butterflies in the garden from late summer till the third week of September, but after that they gave in to the continual unsettled weather. No Painted Ladies or Commas this year. We had the usual Chiffchaff stop over for a week in September on its way south on migration and a family of Pied Wagtails stopped off for a few days which gave us a treat but otherwise bird sightings are down. The winter visitors from Northern Europe are here again and we have seen flocks of Fieldfares and Redwings passing over. We are recording sightings monthly during the winter for the British Trust for Ornithology. They are undertaking a study of the feeding habits of members of the Thrush family during the winter months. Look out for them feeding on berryed trees and shrubs. Also look out especially for the exotic-looking Waxwings that have arrived in large numbers this year as the berry harvest in Scandinavia has been very poor. They are Starling-sized with a chestnut crest,

black throat, yellow tail band and red waxy wing tips. Also Bramblings may be seen feeding on the ground with flocks of visiting Chaffinches at bird feeders. While the male Chaffinches have pink breasts, Bramblings have orange breasts and brown heads. They have been seen already and we had some in the garden last year.

The Ash die-back disease is bad news, particularly for our area, as Ash is probably our commonest local tree. First seen in Poland in 1992 the disease has spread throughout Europe. The airborne spores of this fungus can travel long distances and it is inevitable that some of our trees will be affected in the next few years. Look around you and you will see how Ash is such an important part of our local landscape. It is hard to imagine our hedgerows, farmland and woodlands without these iconic trees. Symptoms are blackened leaves, dark diamond-shaped lesions on the trunk and in mature trees die-back of twigs and branches in the crown. Further details and action on finding infected trees are to be found on the Woodland Trust website.

On a more optimistic note spring bulbs are beginning to move so look out for welcome snowdrops in the verges by the New Year and Hazel catkins nodding cheerfully nearby. Later listen for the harsh calls of Rooks busy about their rookeries, being some of the earliest nesting birds. By early February other birds including Song Thrushes will be returning to our gardens and hedgerows. Don't forget to let us have your wildlife records.

Liz and Roger Neale

*Best wishes to all for a Happy Christmas
and Very Good Year Ahead.*

A significant Victorian bench mark

Next time you come to church, as you approach the porch, glance left at the south west buttress of the tower. There you will see what has been described by a specialist as 'probably the most impressive bench mark I've seen.'

When Napoleon was threatening to invade and conquer England, the War Office decided on a survey of the south coast so as to make available to those who controlled the ordinance (guns) accurate maps on how to plan the defence of the realm – hence our 'ordinance survey' maps. Later this was extended to the whole country and between 1840 and 1860 the 'First Primary Levelling' was carried out using Liverpool as a datum (the mean of the high and low water marks taken over ten days in 1844.)

The Thornton bench mark was levelled with a height of 441.8760 feet [134.6838 metres] above the Liverpool datum. The cut mark or bolt consists of a horizontal line with an arrow head below. The initials VR on either side of the mark are presumably in homage to Queen Victoria. Sometimes visitors, on seeing this strange device cut into our tower, think it is a mason's mark. But its significance is greater, it forms a basic triangulation point on which all our modern maps have been based.

John Gaunt Hunter

[First Primary Levelling, England & Wales \(1840-60\)](#)

This bench mark was used during the First primary levelling, England & Wales, and was levelled with a height of 441.8760 feet [134.6838 metres] above mean sea level (Liverpool datum). It was included as a side level on the

[Milner's Bridge to Bradford](#) levelling line. The surveyor's description was *No. 31(a). St. Oswald's Church, Thornton. Bolt in tower ; 4.40 ft. above surface (p448).*

Logged Visits

Visited on 29th July 2009 by Ramblinjohn.

Grid reference: [SD 6855 7360](#). Condition: Good.

Probably the most impressive bench mark I've seen, this cut mark is high up (1.4m) on the south west facing buttress on the tower of St Oswald's. The initials VR are on either side of the mark, presumably in homage to Queen Victoria. This is mark 31(a) on a Branch level off the Milner's Bridge to Bradford line. Surprisingly it is only referred to as a cut mark on the modern O.S. database but the levelled heights are within 1.3 inches, so it must be the same mark. See photo on Geograph: <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/1500616>

ST OSWALD - SERVICES AND EVENTS

1st Dec: "Christmas Voices" concert at St Oswald's Church, 7pm

16th Dec: Christingle Service at St Oswald's Church which is particularly good for families, starts at 4pm

23rd Dec: The Carol Service at St Oswald's Church at 4pm.

24th Christmas Eve Service, 11.30pm
Midnight Communion at All Saints Church Burton-in-Lonsdale

25th Christmas Day Service, 9.30am
Communion at St Oswald's Church

6th Jan: 9.30am, Epiphany Morning
Prayer will be my last service in the Parish.

Revd Jenny Savage

ST OSWALD'S PARISH CHURCH

Building Work

At the time of writing this the new kitchen and toilet building work has just begun at St Oswald's.

Cont...

The preparation work has taken many years to complete before the actual building work begins. A great many people have worked very hard to raise the money which has enabled us to do the work. Permission has been sought in the form of a Faculty which takes hours of preparation before it can be submitted.

The Churchwardens have put in a great many hours in corresponding with Architects, the Diocesan Advisory Committee and many other people. There has been a great deal of grief and agony to put up with, which the Church wardens have shouldered admirably, they have been at their wits end on many occasions.

They do their work on a voluntary basis, just for fun!!!! I would personally like to thank Jean Bell, Carole Scott, and Allan McDougall, the Church Treasurer for all their time, enthusiasm, commitment, patience, dedication, devotion, perseverance and skills used in getting the building work organised. I hope by Christmas all the work will be done and they will be able to put their feet up and have a well deserved rest. Many thanks to all of you, who in any way have supported this project.

It would be great to see you at any of our Christmas events and services. Many thanks and a very Happy Christmas and New Year.
Revd Jenny Savage

GOODBYE & GOODLUCK

We wish you well Jenny as you prepare to leave the Parish to take up your new appointment as Priest-in-Charge of St Stephen's Church, Steeton. We are very grateful and appreciative of your ministrations within the Parish of Thornton with Ireby. Thank you for your kindness and caring.

Jean Bell, Warden

WESTHOUSE METHODIST CHAPEL

In October the Chapel hosted an evening for the Operation Christmas Child Appeal. 52 Shoeboxes were filled with all sorts of items, ranging from small toys and sweets, to pens, soap and gloves. The boxes are shipped all over the world and are given to children unconditionally. Last Christmas 1.1 million children from 12 countries received a special shoebox. We were really happy to be involved and support this year's Operation.

Lynne Lawson

Future Events:

Dec 18: Carol singing around the Village. Meet in Chapel carpark at 6.30pm.

Dec 23: Carols by Candlelight, 6.30pm at the Chapel.

Christmas Day Service at 10.30am

Jan 22: Soup 'n' Chat, 11.30 - 1pm at the Chapel.

Jan 26: Live Country & Western Band, 7.30pm at the Chapel (also Sunday morning at 11am)

Feb 19: Tea & Chat Afternoon, time to be arranged.

Lent Studies in the evenings of:
Feb 26, Mar 5, 12, 19 & 26 all at 7.30pm.

Sunday Services are at 11am and 6.30pm to which all are welcome.

Thomas Fawcett

VILLAGE HALL EVENINGS

21 Dec - Christmas Dominos with Mince Pies & Mulled Wine

Jan / Feb - Coffee Morning - keep your eyes on the Parish Notice Boards for date.

Feb 15 - Dominos followed with a Pie & Pea Supper

Judith Hey