

Friends of Thornton Annual Report 2024 – 2025

It has been a successful year for Friends of Thornton raising over £16,000 for items to benefit students at Thornton College.

The FOTS group worked voluntarily across the year to run family events at Thornton College for not only Thornton families but also the local and wider community. Over 2,000 people attended the Traditional Summer Fete in June where students performed in the choir and maypole dancing. The fun dog show was a huge attraction as were the pony rides, afternoon teas and traditional stalls such as coconut shy and welly wanging!

A very successful event this year was the Thornton Christmas Market where children could visit Father Christmas and families could purchase Christmas gifts and enjoy mulled wine and Thornton's famous Sausage rolls!

Perhaps the highlight of the year was the Easter Trail with its new feature of hooking ducks from the traditional medieval fountain in Thornton's grounds.

In addition to these wonderful events the Nearly New team of volunteers have kept the shop running exceptionally well throughout the year raising nearly £10,000. As a charity the shop remains valued by families giving them the option of purchasing second hand uniform. This is especially important in the current cost of living crisis, for students joining near to a transition year, students on bursaries or perhaps for a short term placement such as an international student or child of a forces family.

It has been a more challenging year to raise funds. The fundraising events were enjoyed by all but the Board has recognised that increased costs of items such as catering and fireworks costs as well as safety requirements such as First Aid Cover have made the profit margins reduce in this financial year. In addition, it has been noted how difficult it is to recruit volunteers to both the Board and to help with fundraising events and the Nearly New Shop. This is despite communications with current parents of the school. It is perhaps a reflection of how busy parents are often with both parents working full time and, of course, in a year where independent school fees were increased significantly with the introduction by Government of 20% VAT on fees. As parents are having to pay increased fees it may be a continuing difficult task to ask for them to volunteer and donate in addition.

Friends of Thornton made small donations this year. Please note that the Board made the decision to continue to raise funds this year and save these funds towards a large project for students which requires a significant one-off donation which will be made in our 2025-2026 annual year.

I would like to end my report by sincerely thanking all the Friends of Thornton Board Members and Group Members for working so hard this year, often giving up days,

weekends and evenings to help set up for events. These voluntarily efforts are very much appreciated and remain critical to ensure we can continue to raise funds to meet our charitable objective. Thank you.

Helen Hircock

Chair of Trustees

Friends of Thornton

THE FRIENDS OF THORNTON

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2025

	2025	2024	2023
Incoming resources - activities for generating funds			
Fete	8,573	12,146	11,327
Christmas Fayre	6,570	7,274	4,028
Nearly New Shop	9,805	11,773	12,446
Quiz Night	0	1,060	
Centenary Teas	0		
Northbrook Gift Wrap	0		
Hoedown	0		
Donations Received	0		
Fireworks	5,836	5	5,543
Disco	3,701	1,398	2,088
Easter	0		
Total - activities for generating funds	34,487	40,892	35,432
Cost of generating funds			
Fete Expenses	5,576	2,560	8,653
Fireworks	3,164	6,909	4,212
Centenary Teas and Champagne	0		
Outstanding Fete Expenses from previous year	0		
Christmas Fayre	846	270	885
Quiz	0	350	
Hoedown	0		
Nearly New Shop Purchases & Expenses	7,305	4,141	1,754
Easter	1,092	200	1,701
Leavers' Ball	0		
Net Fund Raising Income	17,983	14,430	18,226
Governance and other resources expended			
Postage, stationery & other administration costs	0	0	0
Boarders Day	0	0	0
Independent Examination of Accounts	0	0	0
Insurance	162	153	540
General Expenses	1,306	93	128
Bank Charges	-1	0	2,548
Invoices owed to Thornton		120	1,209
Depreciation of Equipment			4,425
Subtotal	1,467	366	13,801
Net surplus on generating funds	15,037	26,095	1,000
Investment Income			
Bank interest received			
Other Income (Scottish Widows transfer)	1,356	37,220	1,000
Less: Expenditure on Charitable Activities	0	1,000	0
Donations to Thornton College	0	0	
Donation to Police Dog Charity	0	0	
Donations to Syria (Sister Helen)	0	0	
Subtotal	1,356	38,220	1,000
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year	13,681	(12,124)	12,801

THE FRIENDS OF THORNTON

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	2025	2024	2023
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	1	978	1,098
Current Assets			
Stock (Nearly New Shop)			
Stock (held over from Fete)			
Debtors - Fund Raising Activities			
Prepayments - Leavers Ball			
Cash at Bank and in Hand	47,560	33,879	45,884
Total Current Assets	47,560	33,879	45,884
Current Liabilities			
Creditors	450	450	450
Accruals (Christmas Fayre Stall Fees)	0		
Total Liabilities	450	450	450
Net Current Assets	47,110	33,429	45,434
Total Assets	48,088	34,408	46,532
Represented by:-			
Unrestricted funds of the charity			
As at 1 September 2024	34,407	46,532	32,130
Retained (deficit)/surplus for the year	13,681	(12,124)	14,402
As at 31 August 2025	48,088	34,408	46,532

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 19/03/2026 and signed on their behalf by:-

H. Hircock
Helen Hircock
Chairman

M. Bateman
Mel Bateman
Trustee

Note 1: Increase in value due to purchase of 10 sum up machines



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name

Friends of Thornton

On accounts for the year ended

31st August 2025

Charity no (if any)

1064059

Set out on pages

1-2

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 08 / 2025.

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

15.3.26

Name:

Dominic Green

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Chartered Association of Certified Accountants (ACCA)

IER

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October 2018

Address:

14 Chatton Close

Houlton, Rugby

CV23 1FW

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

None