



'Working together to improve our village'

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 FEBRUARY 2012 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: : Nita Pearson, Julie & Dave Everitt, Rowena Summers, Ann Petty, Bernard Lee, Ray Woodward, Janet Stevenson, Leon Spence, Ron Hill, Lorraine Whitehurst, PC James Broomfield

Apologies: Pam Porter, Lis and Paul Muller, Jenny Walker, Tam Bream, Roy Hill, Jim Wilkinson, Brenda Simpson

Decisions to be made: Litter pick dates for group litter picks 2012. The first one for the year has been arranged for 17 March, so should there be another quick clear up before Jubilee? It was thought that Saturday 2nd June would be a good day to do the litter pick although it may present a problem with the council collection of the bags. Enquiries will be made. Nita said the last one for the year should be 27th October for CSV Make A Difference Day.

Festival of Archeology – 14-29 July. Friends of Grace Dieu are involved in an event for the whole of that fortnight, so it was felt that FoT should support that and Ann who will be involved with it. Lorraine said that the centre would be closed for maintenance anyway from 14th July for a week or so.

Chair's report

Letters Received:

- From Voluntary Action Leicestershire with their **training programme** for winter 2011/12 and **Spring magazine**
- From Rural Community Council with copy of their Winter edition of **Village Voice magazine**

Email Received:

- From Consence.co.uk asking for postal address as they have details of a **planning application** in which we might have an interest. Waiting for further emails.



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- From lady interested in the **history** of the village and enquiring about maps. Replied giving details of our publications which do have maps in.
- From **Blacks and Millets** stores saying that the discount card we got a couple of years back is no longer valid, as the store has changed ownership.

Emails Sent:

- Various to members, police, agencies and committee regarding **on going issues**
- Various on **environmental and history themes** as detailed in the gardening and environmental section below.

Promotion

- Lis Muller has put an article in the Whitwick church magazine about our **publications**. Thanks Lis.
- Advertised our **two walks** this year in the RCC Guided Walks Brochure 2012 and also the National Forest Walk Festival brochure is now out giving details of our walk in May plus our website address. Copies of this festival brochure are available at the community centre.
- **Advertising for volunteers** has gone into the Centre's Focus publication with other information about our meetings etc. Thank you to the centre for this. In addition, we got 600 leaflets printed and distributed during the panto asking people if they wanted to help volunteer with us.
- More people are now following us on **Twitter**, including Sence Valley Environmental Volunteers and Coalville Times.

Other

- **Spring edition of The Bauble** has been written and sent to the printers and added to the Litter Action UK site for promotional purposes. This newsletter will need to be delivered prior to 17th March if possible.
- **Various meetings** and incidentals mentioned in relevant sections e.g. history and environment etc.

Treasurer's Report

Financial activity in January 2012

1st January	£3,340.53		
Income		expenditure	
NWLDC grant	£ 350.00	graveyard booklet compilation	£ 50.00
booth book donation	£ 3.00	plants	£ 51.95
sale of scarecrow stakes	£ 40.00	dog litter sticks	£ 37.99
donations	£ 50.00	photocopying advert for help	£ 8.04
publications	£ 12.50		
dvd	£ 7.00	admin - envelopes	£ 1.99



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raffle income	£ 3.00	raffle prizes	£ 7.83
total income	£ 465.50	total exp	£ 157.80
		Total funds end Jan	£ 3,648.23

The NWLDC grant for the graveyard booklet was actually credited to our account on 23/12/2011 but we did not know about it in time for the December report at the last meeting, so am including it in the Jan figures for this report. The £50 charge for compiling the booklet is showing this month; there will also be an invoice for the printing. You will see that we received £40 for the sale of 40 scarecrow stakes (we originally bought 55 at a total cost of £63.86).

Total income for the year since 1/6/11 has been £1244.92 and expenditure £937.14.

Nita said that she was still waiting for a letter from the Local Business Network regarding sponsorship of the flowerbed on The Green for 2012, but understood a decision was being made.

Publications report – Roy Hill

We have had a good month at the George and Dragon with sales as shown below. However they have lost some of the display publications and the remaining ones are dog-eared and tired looking. We will replace them all from stock other than the Memories 1 brochure whose stock is now virtually exhausted.

Two Village Trail 1 £5, Two Village Trail 2 £5, One Village Trail 3 £2.50 **£12.50** has been paid to the Treasurer

The Community Centre has sold One Village Trail 1 £2.50 One Memories 1 £3.50, One Village Trail 3 £2.50 One memories 2 £3.50. However, they only have **£9.50** in the box which means that one of the Village Trail publications has probably 'disappeared'! £9.50 will be paid to the Treasurer

Our stocks are:

	Communit y Centre	George & Dragon	Nit a	Ann e	Stoc k	TOTAL
Born and Bred 1	3	3	0	2	14	22
Born and Bred 2	3	3	0	2	29	37
Memories 1	3	2	0	2	2	9
Memories 2	3	3	0	2	5	13
Village Trail 1	3	3	3	2	15	26
Village Trail 2	3	3	3	2	15	26
Village Trail 3	3	3	3	2	18	29
Sub-totals	21	20	9	14	98	162
Photographs					15	15

June 2011- May 2012 sales



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Events	Heritage at CC	Communit y Centre	Nit a	Ann e	Intern et	Other	G&D
Born and Bred 1	2	1		6			
Born and Bred 2	1			6			
Memories 1	1	2		6			
Memories 2	1	2		7			
Village Trail 1		1		6			2
Village Trail 2			1	6			2
Village Trail 3		1*		6			1
DVDs			5			7	
Photographs						9	

* = May have been stolen

Web report

Hopefully you'll have noticed a few changes on the website. Although it might look mostly cosmetic John has made some major changes behind the scenes of the site, which should make it easier to maintain and improve flexibility. The webmaster has made more use of CSS and PHP, and stopped using Frames which were becoming more of a nuisance than a help.

The awards section has been moved from the index page to a page of its own, as has the link to the Thringstone OnLine website which is hosted within the FoT website.

He's added our award logos to the masthead - and removed one of the two FoT logos that were there.

He's sure there are still lots of things that need to be done, but he'll get around to them as time allows.

Rowena wondered about the facebook link for FoT. Nita said that the link on the FoT website was the right link, and that she was also in the process of asking the webmaster to do a link to our twitter feed, and alter the address for the community centre website, as presently this leads to a dead page.

Arts and Community Report

Community Centre things

25 February 8pm. Tickets £7. Folk and Blues performer **Annie Duggan** and her trio.

4th Monday of every month, 7pm for 7.30pm start – **The Big Screen Film Club**. Raffle £1.50 – proceeds towards costs. Bar open.

Ray Sutton's history of art, literature and film **lectures** every Wednesday afternoon 2pm-3.45pm. Admission £3 per session plus teas and coffee 50p.

The centre are planning to put on a **disco** in April. More details will follow.

St Andrews



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5 March – **ladies group** at St Andrew's, 7pm. Speaker is one of the monks from Mt. St. Bernard Abbey

The **SKIDS club** recommences on 11th March at 10.30am not as previously mentioned.

25 Feb – **Church working party** 10am – 12 noon. Refreshments provided.

George and Dragon

11 Feb Race Night – **charity event**

14 Feb - **Valentines Night** - full menu check web site for info

25 Feb - **Paul Jones** - male artist

9 and 10 March - **Cider festival** with entertainment on the Friday night and Sire (Soul and Motown)

Saturday night

17 March - **Elvis Tribute**

18 March - **Mothers Day**. Please book your table on 222282.

24 March - **Mojo Hand**

7 April - **Natalie Nightingale**

23 April - **St Georges Day celebration.**

Every Sunday evening from 9pm is **Pete's General Knowledge Quiz**. £1 per person entry and a chance for your team to win a bottle of wine and entry in the raffle for a ticket for 2 free meals. Entry price includes supper.

Thringstone Members Club

6 Feb – 7.30pm. Presentation of the geophys survey done at **Grace Dieu Priory** by Peter Liddle. All welcome to attend.

Having raised in excess of £950 for a lady with cancer to go to Graceland, and over £300 over Christmas and the New Year for Wishes for Children, the club's looking to put on other **charity events** in the year. If you feel you can help with any charity fund raising at the club, please contact Margaret on 01530 222737.

St John's Whitwick

18 February – **Viva La Musica** – a concert of unaccompanied choral music starting at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 from church, choir or Whitwick Coffee Shop.

Others

23 February - **Diseworth Heritage Centre** – Life and times around 1900. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 to include light refreshments.

Forward planning – 4 August will see the **Thringstone Live For Charity** event again at the George and Dragon

The crèches at **Hermitage Leisure Centre, Whitwick** and at Hood Park in Ashby close at the end of March due to cuts in budgets.

Miners' Welfare Centre now has a contact number for bookings. This is 07864 651884.



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Charity Dinner at Livio's in Shepshed on 7 March at 7.30pm. Tickets are £29.95 for a three course meal plus wine, of which £10 is donated to **Rainbows Hospice**. The night includes an auction, raffle and entertainment from Lee Costello. More details from 01509 504949.

History report

Ann has had contact from Steve from the Loughborough Naturalists about the visits to Grace Dieu and Thringstone of **Charles Cardale Babington**, a Victorian naturalist. His extract diaries are available on line at <http://www.archive.org/details/memorialsjournal1897babi>

Ann has mailed the Archaeology department at ULAS about the mistakes in their report on **The Rose and Crown**, but has had no reply.

Nita has had a conversation with Fanny Hugill, granddaughter of Charles Booth, about a **family reunion** being organized for 20th October at which point in time the family wish to go to the Community Centre, look at the grave at St Andrew's and then have lunch at Grace Dieu Manor School. This is going to be a large gathering of Booth family, since Charles Booth had 24 grandchildren, and the tree has enlarged dramatically since his time. Nita will keep people informed of any further news.

Ann thinks she may have cracked the identity of Bob, as in **Bob's Closs**. Robert Henson was awarded the land around Thringstone House in the Enclosure Act in 1807, and so Robert's field could be Bob's field, then Bob's Close and then Bob's Closs.

Ann brought **Jimmy Francis' book** which he has donated to the group to the meeting. Thanks Jimmy.

Thanks a;sp go to Janet for proof reading the **graveyard booklet**. Work is underway to slightly alter the format before printing commences, but we are assured that the booklet should be ready by the end of February.

Nita has received contact from the **local WI** to say they are looking for information from anybody who was a member of the WI group set up at the Community Centre prior to the 1990s as part of their Archives Year. This women's group was formed originally by Charles Booth's wife, Mary, in 1916 but was not affiliated to the National Federation. Any information, photos etc. welcome. Ann has some newspaper cuttings about the WI as her mum and aunts Dora and Adelaide were members. Mrs. Westgate from the Warren was chairwoman for years.

This group was a totally separate entity to the Co-op Women's Guild, so don't confuse the two. Requests for help will go in the next Bauble, which will be available to deliver in March.

Ann attended the local **heritage forum** meeting, at which it was suggested that those representing groups ask their groups if they would support a letter going to the County Council expressing concern over the possible closure of **Snibston Museum**. This was subsequently drafted and sent by Nikki Henning on behalf of the group.

Ken Hillier from Ashby has suggested that all groups work together on a **booklet on WW1 for 2014**.

We wondered whether any displays or heritage event put together around the time of the **Jubilee** should be on a sporting theme to fit in with the forthcoming **Olympics**. Ann intends to talk to Lorraine about dates etc. in due course.



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We are one of only two villages (the other being Frisby on the Wreake) who have finished the **Village Voices project** recording for the County Council and East Midlands Oral History Archive. The officer responsible for the project for the County has sent out an email to other groups using a short excerpt from our recordings to spur others on to taking part in this project. Well done to all who took part.

Janet said that the Jubilee Committee at the Community Centre are keen to have copies of any **Coronation party photographs** taken in the village in 1953. Please contact the centre direct if you can help with this.

Councillors' report

As Christmas now seems a long distant memory life at the council offices is entering the busiest period of the year, budget setting. Councillors of all parties are trying to influence spending for the coming financial year and often fighting against cuts.

We are fortunate in Thringstone that the previously reported £30,000 for **play improvements** has now been approved by Cabinet and will definitely go ahead **BUT** it is important to note that exact location and specification has not been determined. A full consultation exercise will take place with neighbours, stakeholders and young people in spring / summer.

Turning to future elections I am pleased to let you know that in the future the Miners Welfare will be used as a **polling station** in place of Thringstone School. This will mean that the school no longer has to close on polling day – something I'm sure many parents will be pleased about.

We have received a number of complaints about **inconsiderate parking**, particularly around Melrose Road and Loughborough Road. I have reported these matters to the council asking them to take further action. I am aware that they have been in contact with other authorities and will be seeking to educate more considerate parking and in the last resort take enforcement action where appropriate.

We have also received a number of complaints about **public waste bins**. As a result Paul Coates, NWLDC Waste Services Manager, has held meetings with a Nita and Pam to help FoT with their great volunteer litter picking as well as looking to future needs for public waste bins. See environmental report later.

The long lodged **Rose and Crown/C o-op** planning application is finally due to be determined this month, we will report the outcome at next month's meeting.

Apart from the above we have been carrying out casework around the village for a number of constituents.

There was general discussion about **the Fox site** and what was happening to it. It was mentioned that the planning permission stands for 3 years, and it was appreciated that the building was in disrepair. Ray Woodward said that there was nothing to say that, should the building become dangerous, it couldn't be demolished. Leon said that nothing could happen anyway whilst bats were roosting in there, as they are a protected species.

Discussion also took place about the position of **Snibston Museum** and its value to the community, and why the county council felt they could not offer financial support at the moment. As this is a complex issue, please ask your councillor for an explanation if you wish one.



RCC

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There was further discussion about what might happen if the full £30k for the **proposed play hub** wasn't used. Dave Everitt said that he was in favour of getting some fencing at the rear of the football pitch near the Bowls Club to stop footballs going down and hitting someone on the Sustrans path. He would also like to see more seating in the village.

Police Report

James Broomfield, Beat Officer, was present and talked to the group about his work. His beat covers a large area taking in Greenhill and Ibstock as well as Whitwick and Thringstone. He expanded on the figures in his report for Thringstone covering December 2011 and January 2012 as follows:

Theft x 2 a. doorstep theft of food left by a Tesco delivery
 b. Fence panels removed in a neighbour's dispute

Burglary other than dwelling x 3 These had all been sheds and tools were targeted. This is common to the whole area and locks had been forced

Attempted dwelling burglary x 1 A good suspect lead is being followed up at regional level. The suspect is thought to have come from the Walsall area.

Damage to motor vehicle x 1 Thought to be a domestic issue with an ex partner

Theft from motor vehicle x 4 a. One petrol tank emptied
 b. 3 vans targeted for tools

Assault & Harrassment x 1 Warning given to suspect

The police were responding to requests for **Beat surgeries** and had arranged the following dates and times. They would monitor attendance and encouraged residents to go and talk to them at the venue which is Thringstone Community Centre.

1600hrs Tuesday 14/02/12

1000hrs Tuesday 20/03/12

1430hrs Sunday 22/04/12

James then spoke about the recent break in at the **Rose & Crown**. The owners, Punch Taverns, said that the building is alarmed to a security firm in Nottinghamshire. They took 2 hours to respond, but the thief was removing copper pipes, which was causing water leaks. The security personnel and the police caught the perpetrator(who was not local) by use of DNA evidence from a drinks can left with the copper piping as the thief fled. Ray asked about water damage to furniture as he had been hoping to remove some chairs and give them to a charity. James said he would give Ray the phone number of the key holder.

He said that **Anti Social Behaviour** tends to drop during the winter months. However four young people have been charged and two are in prison. This has led to a marked drop in incidents. Leon asked about release dates. James commented that after work with the Council housing department and East Midlands Housing 2 have been moved away from the area and they were hopeful of improvement after release of the other two which is imminent. James also spoke about the police chase using a dog in Whitwick last weekend. A person had been caught, charged and remanded.

His feeling about the crime situation in Thringstone at the moment was positive and crime was low. He also mentioned that a mini motor had been seized and confiscated. The owner had regularly ridden through the woods, and was caught exiting down the side of Thringstone Bowls Club.



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James said that he is making arrangements to work with the fire service on a joint presentation at Thringstone Primary School on the dangers of lighting fires, in the hope that the amount of fires in the woods in 2012 reduces.

There is another CSO working the beat with Jim Sorrell – Mark Ball collar number 6865.

The meeting thanked James for a very positive report and for explaining things in such detail.

From Previous Minutes

Gardening and environment

There was some discussion about the construction of the new **flowerbed on the Green**. It was thought that Ray Neal wanted to put up a marquee for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on the site of the new bed. Bernard said it would be better to move the plants in the autumn anyway so the date was deferred to later in the year. Concern was however been expressed over the watering of the flowerbed during the summer months, as the reason for moving it was so that it was no longer necessary to get a rota organized of people willing to do watering during the summer months.

Nita has sent an email to Friends of Grace Dieu Priory about joint working on **litter clearance** on A512 and to NWLDC about clearance of dog mess and thanking them for adding more pavement stencils along Loughborough Road warning people on the possibility of fines for dog fouling. Ann said that FOGDP were hopefully doing their own litter pick on 5th February subject to weather conditions permitting.

A meeting was held between Nita, Pam Porter and Paul Coates of NWLDC on 27 January to ask for a **dog fouling/litter** bin on Grace Dieu Road. There are issues about the amount of bins that can be provided, and as first measure, stencils are going to be put on the pavement near the end of the Sustrans, and the whole area monitored, with a view to possibly, subject to agreement with councilors etc., removing the bin from the seating area on The Green to that area at some point in the future.

Ray Woodward suggested that people known to be allowing their dogs to foul should be reported to the council, but an address of the person concerned needed to be provided.

A quick public survey done at the time of the meeting showed overwhelmingly that people come from Ashby and Loughborough to walk their dogs, and expect a litter bin to be provided at the junction of the Sustrans and Grace Dieu Road corner.

After conversations with Paul Coates, he has agreed to **fund the provision** of 2 of the dog poo pick up sticks previously mentioned as being available, and has congratulated the group on their work. These sticks have arrived and were paid for in advance, so the money from NWLDC will be reimbursement. Nita and Pam P will trial their use with their own dog poo bags, as buying bags worked out at over £200 for a roll.

The Council also agreed to remove the litter that has built up between garages on the **garage court** off Melrose Road, as residents had expressed a fear that this would attract rats. Leon said that this was really a Council housing department issue, and Nita said that Paul Coates had already reported the matter to the housing department but would get his gangs to try to clear it when time permitted.

FoT clear a lot of litter from the village which is helping the council. An example of this is that **for January alone, 145 bags of litter was collected by our group** of which a third was recycled. Leon said that the council appreciate the work that FoT carry out.



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Paul Coates is looking to set up **litter pick networks** throughout the district, and wants to use FoT as an example of good practice, and may well put something in The Vision on our work to date. He was also impressed with the web page we have on the Litter Action site. If you haven't seen this, take a look at <http://www.litteraction.org.uk/friends-of-thringstone>

Thanks to Pam Porter for helping remove rubbish from **the Fox site** with Nita one Sunday lunchtime. After the pick, Nita sent an email to the Council regarding **fly tipping** on The Fox site. The enforcement officers are now looking into doing something about this.

Nita has spoken to the local Air Cadet Captain who has expressed an interest in his group working with ours on the **next litter pick** as they are all trying for their Duke of Edinburgh awards, and want to do more community work. Nita will follow this through.

Nita has also had a conversation with a **Sustrans volunteer** about his wish to clear up and remove the mud etc. from the Sustrans path as it runs from the back of Melrose Road to the corner of the football pitch. Nita subsequently emailed the de Lisle family to ask for their permission, (as it is their land, irrespective of the footpath maintenance issues) which was refused by the family. Their reason is that they did not feel they got the support of local people over the hard-standing issues for tree removal, which has left them with huge expenses including professional fees to pay. Nita has made it clear that Friends of Thringstone as a group was not involved in any of the appeals against the hardstandings.

The group still has concerns regarding the lack of **two railings across the brook** which form the Sustrans path and is near to the Melrose Road play area. In the event of an accident, the de Lisle family would be liable, despite not having put in the pathway or railings initially. Nita has written to Sustrans main office regarding this concern but has not received a response.

Rowena said that there is new Sustrans signage in the woods, giving cyclists arrowed directions for riding their bikes.

AOB

Jubilee Events for the summer

Janet reported from a Jubilee committee meeting held at the Members Club on Weds 1st February. Mike Statham, chair of the Jubilee Committee, will be compiling a publicity leaflet to go to every house in the village. At present proposed activities, which are to be confirmed, are:

- Decorated houses competition during the weekend 1st -5th June with prize
- Beer Festival at the George & Dragon 1st-3rd June
- Flower Festival in the church all weekend
- School will be giving out commemorative coins on the Friday
- WI See & Do Craft afternoon, with tea & cakes, in the Methodist Church Hall Sat 2nd June
- Springfield Street Party -date to be confirmed, possibly Sunday 3rd June
- Other street parties as wished by residents
- Jan's ramble -about 3 miles- ending with a bring your own picnic in Bob's Closs Mon 4th June

Tuesday 5th June being the main day there was hoped to be:

- Treasure Hunt round the village with prize
- Tea party on the Green 4-5pm
- Singalong in the Community Centre led by the pantomime group
- Evening disco and bonfire organized by the Scouts



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Throughout the week before the bank holidays there were also hoped to be

- A football tournament
- A bowls club tournament
- A bridge club drive

The Art Group will put up a small exhibition in the Community Centre

Anyone else wishing to organize any event please let Mike Statham know through the Community Centre so that he can include them in his publicity. **All events need to be self financing.**

It was agreed that the Friends of Thringstone contribution to the Jubilee weekend will be to ensure that the village looks clean and colourful, through litter picking and planting of public places.

The next meeting is Thursday 1st March at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre. All welcome.



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