



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

Chairman: Nita Pearson
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Visit our website at: www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2012 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Tracy Foulds, Carol Squires, Pat Hubbard, Janet Stevenson, Roy Hill, Ron Hill, Geoff Walker, Mike King, Ruth Crockett, Ann Petty, Lis and Paul Muller, Bernard Lee
Apologies: Rowena Summers, Cllrs. Spence, Everitt and Woodward, Sue Rowbottom, Peter and Jenny Walker, Sue Colledge, Lindsay Weaver, Robert Jordan, David Stevenson

Discussions/Decisions:

School Fete 30 November. Thank you to people who gave mostly books and CDs for us to sell on this day. £11 was taken and afterwards a large quantity of unsold items were passed to Ron Hill to give to charity. Geoff Walker said that the group probably needed to pay a donation to the school for the stall.

Thringstone Methodist event, 7th July 2013 Update Churches Together have offered to work with us on the day with our organization of the scarecrow part of this event. Thringstone Brownies have said they now have 59 members, following an amalgamation, and will be delighted to help with judging scarecrows on the day by splitting into 3 groups to cover the whole village. Nita has been trying to find sponsorship for the scarecrow part of the day (see chair's report).

Litter Pick Dates 2013 and Climate Week 4-9 March 2013 We will be doing a litter pick on Saturday 19th January at 10am from THE BULL'S HEAD CAR PARK not our usual meeting place, with the geocache network under the banner of Cache in Trash Out. We are currently trying to set another date in May, another at the end of August (possibly with the brownies) and another in late October – probably 26th to coincide with Community Service Volunteers Make A Difference Day, but no firm dates had been set. However, we have been invited to be part of an event during the climate week period, which will allow us to put something on the nationwide website and feed into other things. So as not to miss an opportunity for further promotion, Nita has agreed with the climate week people to do a small litter pick on 9 March. This has been put on the climate change event webpage. We will meet at 10am on The Green. If anybody wants to help with that from within the group, please let Nita know.



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Christmas Trees – NWLDC have said that they would be pleased to take away any real Christmas trees left with the first garden waste recycling collection of 2013.

Chair's report

Letters Received:

- From gent on Woodside Estate interested in **volunteering**.
- Christmas card received from Andrew Bridgen MP

Emails Received:

- Several from Voluntary Action Leicestershire and other agencies with updates on their work
- From NWLDC asking us to be part of a **district wide litter pick** on 9th November called One Day One District. Nita and the gent from above who wrote in took part to represent the group and fed back to NWLDC the amount collected which totaled 6 bags. Photos and details were also put on the NWLDC's Don't Muck Around Campaign facebook page.
- From NWLDC asking if we wanted a stall for the **lights switch on in Coalville** on 1st December. Declined as I didn't think anybody would volunteer.
- From NWLDC asking us if we want to put ourselves forward for the **2013 Green Footprints Awards**. I don't think we have done anything new to be able to justify an application since we got in the final three in 2011.
- From Community Liaison Officer at **National Forest Organisation** offering help if needed.
- From **Reach Volunteering** saying yesterday (5th Dec) was international volunteering day. Not well publicized elsewhere sufficiently to allow us to organize anything.
- From council about **free cycle stands**. Passed this information on to the Community Centre, who are now measuring up, as having cycle stands may increase the use of the centre.
- From the **Community Centre** agreeing to our dates for meetings in 2013.

Emails Sent:

- Various regarding ongoing issues to committee, members and agencies
- To **Coalville Charity Cup** organizers about funding
- To **Lbro Students' Union Volunteer group** asking if they can help with litter picking
- To **Coalville Rotary** to ask if they can fund us for events next year after Geoff Wilson gave me the link.
- To NWLDC who are going to produce a **walks brochure** and wanted details of our walk in May for this, together with details of the group and what we do and contact details etc.

Promotion:

- Article written by Nita printed in the Autumn edition of **Branchline Heritage Magazine** produced by Leicestershire County Council
- Photos taken at **cheque presentation** as below by Coalville Times in paper of 17th Nov and also appeared in the Closeknit magazine of Whitwick.
- Details of the **Visitwoods website** sent to Grace Dieu promotional people to add information about the viaduct and priory on
- Advertised our **village DVD** on facebook and twitter again as a stocking filler for Christmas

Other:

- Ann and Nita collected the £300 cheque from **Woodstock in Whitwick** by attending their presentation evening at the Rugby Club. A large presentation cheque was kept.



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- At the event as above, we acquired a **new member** – David White, local historian. Welcome to our group. We now have 116 members.
- A team of members attended the **Thringstone Community House quiz evening** on 9th November. The quiz was won by St Andrew's A team with 89.5, followed by their B team with 83, and the U3A with 82.5. We came 4th with 81.5 Thanks to all who took part.

Treasurer's Report

November's transactions:

FoT Gen Fund	£3,338.92		
Income		expenditure	
Woodstock grant	£ 300.00	newsletter	£ 33.15
Membership	£ 3.50	raffle prizes	£ 2.99
School fete	£ 11.00	Christmas party bits	£ 1.50
Raffle	£ 9.00	TCC room use (2011-12)	£ 120.00
Donation	£ 1.50		
total income	£ 325.00	total exp	£ 157.64
		FoT general fund	£ 3,506.28

We started the year (1/4/2012) with £3414.43 in the general fund. The total on the account at the end of this month has been boosted by the receipt of the £300 grant that is to be used against future expenditure on publications. In addition to the total above, we hold £2.31 in the Booth Grave Fund.

Publication Report – Roy Hill

One copy of the Graveyard Booklet has been sold at the Community Centre.

I have placed a copy of each publication in Coalville Library for display in the local history section and also inserted a contact sheet in case anyone wants to make contact to purchase a copy.

One copy each of Born and Bred One and two has been given away as a donation.

Therefore the following payment will be made to the Treasurer: £1.50 for a Graveyard Booklet from the Community Centre.

STOCK REPORT

	Communit y Centre	George & Dragon	Nita	Anne	Stock	TOTAL
Born and Bred 1	2	3	0	2	12	19
Born and Bred 2	2	3	0	2	28	35
Memories 1	2	2	0	2	19	25
Memories 2	2	3	0	2	23	30
Village Trail 1	2	3	3	2	11	21
Village Trail 2	2	3	3	2	8	18
Village Trail 3	2	3	3	2	15	25
Graveyard Booklet	10	5	15	10	177	217



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Sub-totals	24	25	24	24	293	390
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Web report

The original host website kept on going down for several days at a time, and it started to look as if our web host was becoming very unreliable, as about half its servers had been down for a while. As a result, the webmaster copied the site across to another host. The new site has various restrictions that aren't quite as good as the old site. You can access it from the usual address which is www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk

Arts and Community Report and What's On

Geoff and Pauline's craft fayre on 17 November raised £40 for St Andrew's and £44 towards My Space cancer treatment ward at LRI.

7 Dec – **Thringstone Methodist Hall** – Beltones in concert from 7pm. Donations on the night to the chapel maintenance funds. Buffet after.

7 Dec – Children's Party at **Thringstone Members' Club**

7 Dec – **Hermitage Leisure Centre** – **Dick Whittington**. 2pm and 7.30pm. Tickets from £7.

Contact <http://dickwhittingtoncoalville-eorg.eventbrite.com/>

8 Dec – **Thringstone Scouts Christmas Fayre** – 12pm-4pm at Thringstone Scout Hut. All sorts of things on offer including hot foot and cakes

8 Dec – The **Meadow's Nursing Home** fete 2pm.

8 and 9 Dec – **Snibston Museum Christmas Gift and Craft Fayre** 10am-5pm. Free entry, free parking and half price museum entrance. Santa's grotto, Co-op Snibston band, ice queen stilt walkers and jugglers, children's balloon modeling, mince pies and mulled wine available.

9 Dec – Hermitage Park play area – **Santa Trains** running from 11am – 3.30pm

14 Dec – Snr. Citizen's Christmas Party at **Thringstone Members' Club**

14 Dec – **Carols round the tree at Thringstone House Community Centre**. Lantern procession leaves. Thringstone House will also have their Advent Window decoration in place.

St Andrew's at 6.30pm.

15 and 16 Dec - **Festive Family Fun Trail - Ashby Castle** 10am-3pm

Help is needed to solve our festive mystery! Bring along the whole family this weekend, to crack the clues and earn your prize. Admittance: Adults £4.50, Concession £4.10, Child £2.70, Family £11.70. English Heritage members and under 5's FREE. For further information ring 413343.

15 Dec - The Keystones (brilliant 60s band) at **The George and Dragon**

16 Dec - A **Swannington Christmas** at the Village Hall 3.30pm – free

16 Dec – **Carol Service** at St. Andrews 6pm. Children are dressing up as shepherds

16 Dec – **A Medieval Christmas at Snibston** featuring long forgotten songs and familiar carols from the Middle Ages. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets £8 on the door or £6 in advance on 278444.

22 Dec – Children's Christmas Party at **The Oak, Whitwick**

22 Dec - The Bugs - reforming to play at **The George and Dragon**.

24 Dec - Xmas Eve Carols, log fires and mulled wine at **The George and Dragon**. Christmas Day 6 course carvery at The George and Dragon. Please check web site for price and availability.

24 Dec and also 31 Dec - Christmas Eve Dance and New Year's Eve dance at **Thringstone Members Club** will be in aid of Downs Syndrome and is £3. Tickets will be available at the door and all are welcome. All money goes to the charity. For more details, contact Margaret on 222737.

31 Dec – **Thringstone Miner's Welfare** New Year's Eve party. Tickets only £5 from the club.



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31 Dec - New Years Eve Party at **The George and Dragon** with their very own in house disco and karaoke by ticket only. £20 per ticket. Price includes a champagne toast and a full carved hot and cold buffet (limited tickets available)

18-26 Jan – **Alice in Wonderland panto** at Thringstone House Community Centre as reported in previous minutes

History report

- If anybody has any photographs of a **wedding or baptism** taken outside either St Andrew's or the Methodist church, and wouldn't mind us borrowing these to scan, we would be pleased to hear from you. They could form useful archive material for the group, especially anything to do with the Methodist church, which can form part of any display for their 150th next year.
- Photos are being taken of the gradual demolition of the **Rose and Crown** for the archives. Photos have also recently been posted by a member on facebook. Geoff said it would be useful if Nita shared these, as well as having run them off, so that they could be sent elsewhere. Nita also said that she had received a lovely email from a lady connected to the pub, who now lived in the USA, saying that she regularly read our minutes and was impressed with the work carried out by the group.
- Ann had a conversation with a lady who gave two new leads regarding people who kept **pubs in the village**. This was passed on to Nita who has also been in touch with one of the former Chairman of The Rangers Club, to try to get details of all the stewards that used to work there. Nita has also been in touch by letter with a gent who kept the Queen's Head twice and asked if he can help with the project.
- A lady in the village, upon reading The Bauble, rang to say that she had the pewter measuring jugs from **The Star** as her family had been regulars there. Ann is to visit the lady to get further information and take photos of the jugs for our archives
- Nita and Ann were unable to go to the sign off night for the **Village Voices** project.
- Ann has spoken with Denis Baker regarding the project to put something together on the fallen of **WW1** for 2014 and is going to give members of our group some people to research from the Coalville area, so that there is an equal division of labour on this project.
- Geoff Walker mentioned having taken a video some years ago of the **Children In Need** events with Thringstone Primary. Efforts are being made to find a copy of this so that it can go onto DVD and be saved as part of our general archives.
- Ann supplied members of **St Andrew's church** with various information to help towards their 150th anniversary displays.
- We understand that the **Community Centre** is having a visit from the county records office to help with ensuring artifacts already there (like the Booth volumes) are being correctly stored.

Councillors' report – Cllr. Leon Spence

November has been an extremely busy month in Thringstone Ward.

In the village clearly the most notable thing to have happened is that now all bat problems have been resolved work has started on the redevelopment of the **Rose and Crown** into a Co-op. Already excitement is increasing and several people have stopped us to say they are looking forward to doing their shopping at the new store.



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On a related matter it has been brought to our attention that **The Queen's Head** is now being actively marketed as convenience store / restaurant. Construction works were undertaken under planning permission to convert the property into a domestic home, we are checking the planning status of reselling as a business.

Dave and I are both very proud to be District Council representatives on the Executive Committee of the **Community Centre**. It's great to report that the centre has purchased a stock of new chairs for use in the building which will be used for many purposes, but perhaps most notably the pantomime. Discussion took place at this point about the disposal of the existing chairs and problems getting these accepted at the tip.

November has once again brought us heavy rains although **flooding** was not the problem that it was in the summer. One incident however which stemmed from the rains was a case of flash flooding just outside the Bulls Head. This got reported straight away and was resolved promptly. We are beginning to see an increase in the number of complaints we are receiving from **council house tenants** regarding minor work not being done and potentially callout charges for such work. Tenants, all who have been elderly, disabled (or both) and rely on assistance with minor problems have been informed wait times will be potentially more than a week. Sadly, at least one tenant has suffered injury as a direct injury whilst waiting.

Dave and I are urgently seeking an investigation as to what is going wrong, although our fear is that the current state of affairs is a new 'normal' given the Council's financial cutbacks.

Over the past few weeks a number of Head teachers have mentioned to me the growing problem of students arriving at school 'buzzing' as a result of **drinking energy drinks**. The drinks in question, whilst legal, contain excessive amounts of sugar, caffeine and other stimulants and are marked as not being suitable for children. Unfortunately such drinks are popular with children and are being sold by convenience stores as children pass by on their way to school.

I am requesting the District Council to investigate the possibility of either licensing conditions or a voluntary code demanding shopkeepers refrain from selling these products to children.

If you are aware or have been affected by this growing problem it would be helpful to hear your concerns.

There has been a great deal of **casework** this month. In particular we have been working with local residents on The Green, Grace Dieu Road, Kelso Court, Melrose Road, John Street, Howe Court and Brooks Lane.

There is so much going on over the Christmas period we hope to see many of you around the village. In particular can we recommend **Carols around the Christmas Tree** at Thringstone House Community Centre on Friday 14th December (with a procession from St Andrews Church starting at 6.30.) It's a lovely event and a great way to start the festive season.

We wish you a very Happy Christmas.

Leon Spence and Dave Everitt Telephone: 07828 194768 E-mail: cllrleonspence@gmail.com

Web: www.leonspence.com

Police Report from Jim Sorrell

We have had the grand total of 3 crimes that could be considered to affect the community and they are as follows.

Damage = 1 reported that the lady tells me that it was several young children made a hole in her hedge to make a den. She could not identify the kids the area has been patrolled and she has reported that she has not seen the kids since the event.



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Theft times 2 - 1 theft of a poppy tin from the Bulls Head public house. = There was no CCTV and therefore no lines of enquiry, however there has been a spate of this in and around the whole of this area from Ashby to Kegworth. 3 people have been arrested and charged with similar offences along with a list of other thefts. Although this one in particular had no suspects. Since the 3 were arrested there has been no other offences of this type.

1 theft of the cricket clubs bench = This has just been reported in the last few days and as such has not been fully investigated.

Again a very low crime rate than the rest of the Local Policing Unit has experienced. We have in the past suffered from burglaries at this time of the year but as such there has not been one in this area for several months. Please could you remind people to be more vigilant at this time of year as we don't want to spoil a very good few months ending 2012.

Can I take this time to wish you and the Friends of Thringstone a very happy Christmas and a healthy and wealthy new year from myself and James.

Jim

6672

In addition, Nita mentioned:

- **8 fence panels** broken at 17 Springfield – all the ones backing on to the cricket pitch plus one at the side. Police have said that because the chap didn't see the children actually breaking them, they can't do anything, even with descriptions of children 'having a go' at his other remaining fence panels. The gent concerned has replaced his rear fence with concrete sectional fencing. This was all reported in the Coalville Times, but strangely does not feature in the police report above.
- Because the metal gate from the Bull's Head car park was left unlocked, a youth has been riding his motorbike round the bottom end of the **cricket pitch** and damaged the grass. It is hoped this will recover before the next season starts.
- Following the **recent police commissioner elections**, the new commissioner for Leicestershire has a website set up, which is www.leicestershire-pcc.gov.uk This replaces any other site previously used. You can also contact him on facebook or email the police commissioner direct on police.commissioner@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk. There is a consultation survey on line for people who want to complete this. It can be accessed from <http://www.leics.police.uk/local-policing/consultation-survey>

Gardening and environment

- Thanks go to Bernard for removing all the leaves from the walkway down the side of **St Andrew's** church which took him 2 hours to do.
- A selection of free trees were given to us as part of the Council's **free tree scheme**. These are to be planted close to the Community Centre.
- Thanks to Bernard, Ron and friends who helped put up the **Christmas tree** outside the centre.
- Gent mentioned earlier who wrote to Nita asking to help with volunteering has subsequently been **litter picking** with Nita and carried out 2 litter picks on his own during which he has collected 11 bags of litter. He has also helped fetch the Christmas tree for the centre. A member also offered to come out litter picking with Nita, and they collected 9 bags from around the village on 1st December.



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- Vandals have removed some of the **Sustrans signage** within Grace Dieu Woods and broken this into pieces. Vandals also struck someone's wall which backs on to our planting down the jitty leading to the church. As a result of his trying to rebuild his wall, he has trampled down an area of about a yard and a half of our planting. Bernard is aware and will deal with it when he knows the building work has finished.
- If anybody sees any **environmental street crime** (dumping of rubbish/litter etc) and wishes to report this to NWLDC, the telephone number is 454514. Alternatively, those with computers can complete details on Inet/our services/Enviro Crime Reporting
- As a result of the 'advert' in The Bauble telling people about the **free litter pick kits**, we understand from NWLDC that they have had some requests from people in the village asking for these.
- As part of the council's **Don't Muck Around Campaign**, we understand a person was fined for letting their dog foul in the village.
- Some plumbing materials were dumped in the **Bull's Head car park**. Their manager was informed about this.

AOB

- A young lady from the local business network is a superb photographer and can upgrade old pictures by re tinting them. If anybody has some archive pictures they want upgrading, please contact her on 07778 455681, or studio@joannecooper.biz.
- Janet mentioned about the **advent windows** in the village at present. There is a list of the locations of these at the community centre, and Nita has a copy for those who want to walk round the village to see the lights.
- Nita has been looking back at **what we have done this year**, and this is listed below. It has already been posted onto the new website.
Well done to everybody who has worked with us in any capacity at all, which also includes coming along to meetings, and thanks for your time and effort.
- Increased membership to 116, a record high
- Moved the flowerbed on The Green to a better area and reduced it in size and made it flat, all with the help of Aggregate Industries, who also helped with tidying the Millbank area and the jitties by the church
- Funded purchase and planting of spring bulbs and reseeded the grass verge by Badger-scroft from our resources.
- Continued to maintain the flowerbeds in the village for which we are responsible
- Had a stall at the Coalville twenty12 event in the summer, and also had a stall at the Miners' Gala at Snibston in September and worked with Thringstone Primary on their fetes
- Worked with St Andrew's on their Jubilee Window event and worked with the community centre on putting together historical information for their Jubilee event.
- Continued to do event litter picking, working with Thringstone Brownies and Rainbows and with the Coalville Air Cadets and worked with NWLDC on their District litter pick day and entered in the Daily Mail Spring Clean for The Queen event.
- Worked with Landmark Films on the work we do litter picking in the village
- Lobbied NWLDC successfully to provide dog fouling signage to be placed at the bottom of the sustrans track on Gracedieu Road
- Achieved funding from NWLDC for dog fouling litter pick sticks



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- Worked with National Forest Walks Festival to provide a walk as part of their yearly event
- Produced The Graveyard booklet, with monies received from NWLDC to fund publication. Monies donated by people acquiring copies of the brochure were donated to the Booth family for upkeep and renovation of Charles Booth's grave after considerable help given to them in sourcing a suitable conservator.
- Worked with Leics CC on their War Memorials Project providing detailed information on the fallen of WW1 with Thringstone connections
- Recorded people in the village talking about their memories, and started work on finding information on all the landlords of pubs and clubs in the village, both past and present.
- Acquired new historical information for our archives. This included information on the Gough family, the George and Dragon, copies of historical leaflets and on events in the past. We also typed up the Migration Stories film audio track so that it could be published in the future.
- Continued to attend Heritage Forum meetings and be involved in heritage work in the district
- Supported Thringstone Bowls Club with their successful funding bid to Sport England
- Put in for Heritage Lottery Funding to enable more historical work to be done in the village, but were unsuccessful.
- Received £300 from Woodstock in Whitwick which went towards publication costs having reprinted copies of Memories 1 and 2.
- Received a highly commended as part of Leicestershire CC's Jubilee Awards.
- Purchased our own digital audio recorder and tripod, plus laminator
- Took part in the treasure hunt quiz with Radio Leicester by planting a clue in the village for their live broadcast
- Came 4th in the Thringstone House Community Centre village quiz
- Worked with St Andrew's on their 150th anniversary historical display and on the Carols Round The Tree Christmas Carol Singing event.

Nita was given a birthday cake and card for which she thanked everybody.

People were thanked for the wonderful food brought along for the party, which commenced at 7.20pm.

Next meeting : 3 January at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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