

FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE

I have today examined the Accounts of The Friends of Thringstone, for the financial year 2008-2009, at the home of the Treasurer, Mr Tony Newton.

I found them to be well kept and to give a full and fair reflection of the financial transactions of the Friends. Mr Newton was able to give full and satisfactory answers to the few queries I needed to raise with him, after I had made a thorough study of the accounts, associated bank statements and supplementary information.

I was informed that there were two signatories to the Nat West Bank account and that all cheques were doubly signed by both signatories, viz the Chairman, Nita Pearson and the Treasurer, Tony Newton.

I have the following observations to make for the benefit of members, which I wish to have reported at the forthcoming AGM.

1. Tony Newton informed me that he had no dealings with the sums of money collected at the raffles at meetings, nor with their disbursement, and thus they did not form part of the accounts, which I was examining. These sums were entirely the responsibility of the Chairman. The AGM may wish to consider whether these should be accounted for more formally in future.
2. He also informed me that, whilst he was responsible for keeping 'Bernard's Float' topped up, and, indeed, such disbursements were clearly recorded in the accounts, he, Tony, was not further involved and that Bernard Lee kept his own 'Gardening Accounts'. I suggested, and Tony agreed, that in future, as Treasurer, he should occasionally inspect Bernard's books. (and perhaps produce an end-of-year statement)
3. Finally, I suggested that, occasionally, there was insufficient information in his monthly reports to make all transactions clear to committee members. This is only a minor criticism of otherwise extremely clear and well laid-out accounts, for which the Treasurer deserves your thanks

None of my observations should be taken to suggest any potential wrongdoing but rather that a little tightening up might be prudent to provide the transparency required these days.

David Stevenson

29 May 2009