



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working to improve our village'

Chairman: Nita Pearson
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MINUTES OF AGM AND MEETING HELD ON 2nd JUNE 2011 AT THRINGSTONE HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Lorraine Whitehurst, Tracy Foulds, Lis and Paul Muller, Ray Woodward, Ann Petty, Bernard Lee, Geoff Walker, Pam Porter, Tom Whalley, Leon Spence, Tam Bream, Lesley Mansfield, Emma Guzzetta, Lindsay Weaver, Dave Everitt

Apologies, Pam Clayfield, Janet and David Stevenson, Aileen Smith, Roy Hill, Rowena Summers, Julie Everitt

Voting in of new committee:

Proposals are: Chairman – Nita Pearson
Treasurer – Lis Muller
Minute Sec – Janet Stevenson
Gardening – Ray Neal
Admin support – Rowena Summers

Secretary – no nominations

Events – no nominations

Roy Hill has agreed to continue to do publications reports etc. outside the committee structure. The above people were proposed by Geoff Walker, Seconded by Ray Woodward and approved by the meeting as the committee for 2011/12.

Reports

Chairman's yearly and monthly report



R C C

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Stepping out for a greener district

The yearly report is attached to these minutes, and shows great progress during the year. The monthly report is shown below.

Letters received

- From London to say that **FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE HAVE WON THE QUEENS AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE**. This is a huge honour for the group, and is the group equivalent of winning an MBE. The letter came on 11th May, but I was sworn to secrecy until 2nd June when it is printed in the London Gazette. To win this, a nomination went in from John LeGrys, councillor for Coalville, I then had an interview with a representative of the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, his recommendation then went to a local panel, then to the specialist panel in London who recommend winners to the cabinet, who then ask The Queen if she agrees. As a result of winning, there will be a presentation by the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire at which the group will be presented with a certificate signed by Her Majesty and also a domed glass crystal. We will also be allowed to use the Queen's Award logo (a crown) on all our letters and on the website as shown on these minutes.

An interview had already been done with Coalville Times who also came and took photos at the

meeting. BBC Radio Leicester had shown interest in an interview at some stage, and contact had

already been made with Loughborough Echo. NWLDC had asked for full information to put

something together for the next Vision which is due out at the end of the summer.

- From Community Matters asking us to complete a 6 page survey. Done.
- From Snibston confirming that we want a stall etc. for Miners' Gala on 17th Sept. Completed and returned.
- From National Forest Walks Festival organizers giving us forms and paperwork to complete for our walk with them.
- From Community Centre asking for 2 representatives to go onto the management committee. Emailed all group on email, and Ray Woodward agreed to be the 2nd representative.

Emails received

- More people following us on twitter
- From Keep Britain Tidy about Love Your Town/Village campaign and Nature Detectives Half Term Activity sheets. Sent details to Brownies and school
- Email from VAL asking me to check details held. Done and OK.
- From Voluntary Organisation website confirming that we are now registered with them and giving passwords etc.
- From Whitwick Action Group confirming they raised £1,974.50 from their fund raising event at Whitwick Sports and Social.
- From Whitwick Action Group reporting that there are proposals to put 4 speed humps along Hermitage Road in Whitwick close to the Hermitage Recreation Park turning. At this point, Ray Woodward said that he and other fellow councilors for the area had asked for a site visit to discuss these proposals.
- Confirming FoT's entry in the Green Communities Directory produced by RCC. Have asked for hard copy. Is available to download from their internet site.
- Copy of NWLDC's Core Strategy received detailing they are proposing to reduce the amount of houses being built in the district from 10,200 to 8,000 which equates to 400 per year over a 20 year period. Proposals currently suggest a building programme of 3,700 houses in Greater Coalville, which are possibly to be built between Coalville, Hugglescote and Bardon. However, 700 homes could still potentially be built 'somewhere in the district'



which could include green wedge land. Copy of leaflet on this available. Ray Woodward asked that it be pointed out that there is a 6 week consultation period on these proposals.

Emails sent

- Various to Thringstone War Memorials admin at LCC updating information and offering to supply more in the future
- Various emails, meetings and other things regarding organization of kids' disco and scarecrow event
- To Police about being kept informed of successes, and reply received.
- To membership about events as we are informed of them.

Promotion

- Lots of flyers produced for 4th June event, laminated and put up, delivered to various places, article put into St John's parish mag, put details of the event on Community Media Week website (1-7 June), emailed various email lists with permission of their owners, facebook, twitter, Leicestershire Villages site and others, and sourced trophies and medals for the scarecrow winners and worked with Tam on organization of scarecrow event. Andrew Bridgen MP is amongst those now following us on twitter.
- Added current newsletter onto Litter Action UK site
- Walk advertised in Echo 27th May.

Other

- Sent press release to CV Times, Echo and Mercury and to Hermitage FM asking for people with relatives buried at St Andrew's to contact me, and in the meantime, after reading inquest reports slightly altered some wording in graveyard brochure. Had several calls and an email about this letter, but none addressed the contentious issues. Further information useful though.
- Had meeting with Ron Goacher to discuss various archive information he has and asked for copies which were received and most useful
- Sent list of properties with blue plaques to interested party in Leicester
- Enquiry from Capelli's about placing an advert in the next Bauble – answered
- Attended opening of Transform Art project at Snibston which saw the launch of the Wordsworth Trail which encompasses Thringstone and Grace Dieu



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Treasurer's Report

MAY FIGURES:

Funds held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,467.10		
Income		expenditure	
membership	£ 312.50	scarecrow event costs	£ 92.93
donation	£ 5.00	newsletters	£ 31.90
raffle income	£12.00	carparking/stamps	£ 5.32
walk	£9.00		
publications	£ 15.50		
scarecrow event income	£ 112.00		
Scarecrow Event sponsorship	£ 525.00		
total income	£ 991.00	total exp	£ 130.15
		Total funds	£ 3,327.95

MAY INCOME: - a huge

this month:

£637 income for Saturday's scarecrow event, including £525 sponsorship of which £500 came from LCC. Expenditure for this event mostly still to come.

Also a huge effort (mainly by Nita) to collect membership fees

The accounts for the year are attached to these minutes and show a healthy situation and were discussed. Lis Muller had also prepared a breakdown per month of monies, broken down into membership, events, publications, donations, walks, grants etc., and sundries. This is available if any member wants a copy to peruse.

Publications report June 2011

Following two bad months with no sales we have had a better May with the following sales:

One copy each of Born and Bred 1 & 2 via the internet. £9
 One copy of Village Trail 1 via Nita £2.50
 One copy of the Rose and Crown mounted photograph £3.50
 There have been no sales at the Community Centre or George and Dragon.
 Our stocks are:

	Community Centre	George & Dragon	Nit a	Ann e	Stoc k	TOT AL
Born and Bred 1	3	3	3	2	19	30
Born and Bred 2	3	3	3	2	34	45
Memories 1	3	3	3	2	7	18
Memories 2	3	3	4	2	11	23
Village Trail 1	3	3	3	2	24	35
Village Trail 2	3	3	3	2	23	34
Village Trail 3	3	3	3	2	23	34
Sub-totals	21	21	22	14	141	219



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Our annual sales, excluding Christmas cards, are:

	B&B 1 Sold	B&B 2 Sold	Mem 1 Sold	mem 2 Sold	VT1 Sold	VT2 Sold	VT3 Sold	Photo s		
July					2	1				
August				1						
September	1				1					
October		2	1	1		1				
November		1	2							
December	1	1		1	1	1		1		
January	nil									
February	1	1		2	1	1				
March			1	1	1	1				
April	nil									
May	1	1			1			1		
Totals	4	6	4	4	6	7	5	1	1	1

Roy has also made a display board for use at events, so that photos, booklets etc. can be more easily seen without people having to handle (and potentially damage) items.

Geoff Walker had brought along a stack of village DVDs to be sold at the event at the weekend, and in advance had already sold 6. This money, less £10 for DVD purchase, was given to the treasurer to bank.

Web report and emails

There have been issues with the site being inaccessible for a while this month, which has made it difficult for John to update the site again. He is on the case.

Arts and community report

4 June - **Centenary event and scarecrow event** are obviously. Please support this local village event.

5-8 June – **Pinder’s Circus** in Whitwick



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Stepping out for a greener district

6 June – **St Andrew's Ladies Group** 7pm in the church – Smile Please with Ian Rogerson – a chance to sample a variety of cheeses

6 June – Public Meeting to discuss **Green Wedge** and new NWLDC Core Strategy on building proposals at Whitwick Sports and Social. Starts 7.30pm.

6-20 June – **Monastic Art** at Mt. St. Bernard Abbey 10am-5pm in the Guest House.

10 June – **BBQ and Quiz night at Hermitage Leisure Centre**. More details from 811215.

11 June – **Roulettes** (4 piece girl group) at George and Dragon, Thringstone

12 June at 10.am “**Open Church on Sunday**”. Approximately half an hour socialising with a cup of tea/coffee, then half an hour of devotion led by lay-members.

16 June 7.30pm at Jolly Colliers, Coalville – **fund raiser for Whitwick Action Group** in the form of bingo, fun and games night. Tickets £5 from Colledge's florists, Silver Street, Whitwick.

18 June – **G&D United Reunion 40th Anniversary** at George and Dragon, Thringstone

25 June – **FoT Litter Pick**. 10am from The Green with snack provided

25 June – **The Martins** at George and Dragon, Thringstone

25-26 June – **Whitwick Open Gardens**.

25 and 26 June. **Osgathorpe Open Gardens Weekend** There will be 12-15 gardens open, and an arts trail walk

28 June – **Well Families Clinic** at Thringstone Members Club – free health screening, information, snacks and fruit juices available.

30 June – **St Andrew's Church Working Party** – 10-12noon.

2 July. **Midsummer Picnic and concert at Grace Dieu Priory** – Tickets £6 from David Whitt on 223201. Concert starts at 5.30pm and is Songs From The Shows

6-10 July – **New Perspective Theatre's** production of The Falling Sky. Times by arrangement. Tickets £4 from Thringstone House Community Centre

8-10 July – **Whitwick British Legion 90th anniversary celebrations**, includes Desford Colliery Brass band at Hermitage Leisure Centre on 8th, 7pm. Tickets £9.50 adults, £6 children from Leisure Centre. Display at Whitwick Historical Society 10am-5pm on 9th.

13 July – **Marie Curie Blooming Great Tea Party** from 10.30am at Thringstone House Community Centre

23 July – George and Dragon **60s night with Cufflinks**. Tickets £10

30 July – **Hayraking picnic** at Thringstone House Community Centre. 10am start. All welcome to clear hay from Bob's Closs and encourage further growth of wild flowers.

History

Ann has had several meetings with Colin Hyde of the East Midlands Oral History Archive, and has seen the finished DVD of the migration project. Colin has managed to get it down to 7 minutes and it is really good. He is going to let us have a couple of copies of the longer version, which is about 30 minutes, complete with music and photos and the short version is going on the net. We are the first to finish and so he is going to use us as an example to the other groups.

As previously mentioned, Nita was asked by NWLDC, and has provided details, of the location of our blue plaques, as a gentleman is putting together an updated guide to all blue plaques in NWL. She had already supplied similar information to a gentleman in Leicester, who may be the same person as that compiling the statistics.

Ann has also been looking into information regarding the setting up of the WI in the village, and talking to Jimmy Francis about his books (of which he is kindly lending us copies for the centenary event stand – Jenny at The Star has also said we can have some of the archeological finds from her garden). Jimmy had said he would bring this information to the meeting, but was not present. Ann will sort this.

Ann has been asked to help find information about the Page family of Thringstone, who are mentioned in the Born and Bred booklets. She has also led the historic walk to Cademan and Swannymote which was part of the National Forest Walk Festival on 30th May. This attracted 2 people from Derby and one from Ashby who were surprised at the beauty of the area and very impressed with the whole walk. £9 was collected.



We have received an invitation to County Hall on 22nd June from 6pm-9.30pm to launch the Leicestershire War Memorials Project on which we have had some involvement.

District and County Councillors' 5 minute report

The local elections were held on 5th May and returned Dave Everitt and Leon Spence as District Councillors. We will both do our best to represent all residents of Thringstone ward.

There is always a slight hiatus in councillor activity immediately after the election as officers and councillors arrange for the formal handover to the new administration at the Council AGM. The AGM was held on 24 May and at that meeting effectively all roles for committees and external bodies are filled.

Most notably for Thringstone, the Council has appointed its representatives to Thringstone House Executive Committee. These representatives are Cllrs Tony Gillard, Derek Howe and Leon Spence. The Council also appointed Cllr Dave Everitt and Cllr David Stevenson to the Grace Dieu Priory Trust.

Case work has been picking up over that past few weeks. Dave Everitt and I have:

- Reported abandoned white goods to officers.
- Sought clarification on the emptying of public waste bins
- Received confirmation on the installation of a new dog waste bin at the rear of the Thringstone Members Club.
- Following a constituent enquiry liaised with officers about the possibility of establishing a Woodside Tenants Association.
- Met with local residents / businesses to investigate the possibility of pavements / lighting towards The George & Dragon and investigate traffic issues on Main Street.
- Attended police beat surgery on The Green

Interested parties should also note that the redevelopment of The Fox site has been listed for planning consideration on June 7th.

Dave and I have agreed that we will hold surgeries throughout the year on publicised dates. More information on this will follow.

Police report

The Police have sent information on the following crimes for the month:

ASB – 4 – 1 person received an advice letter, 1 was a quad bike on a field, 1 was children leaning on a car and 1 was a possible air rifle being used

Theft – 1 - complaint subsequently withdrawn



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Vehicle Interference – 1 – male detained and charged

Burglary – 1 possibly not as reported as there are ongoing issues at the address

Damage – 1 – 3 suspects have been spoken to, apologies given, letters sent to aggrieved
8 crimes in total for the month

From previous minutes

Gardening and environment update

The gardening team is in the process of fitting the LBN signage into the flowerbed on The Green, and planting seasonal items to give colour. Some of the bushes planted earlier in the year did not survive ground frost, and will need to be replaced. There was discussion about where the LBN signage should go, and Bernard said it might face onto Main Street and hoped to deal with it on Friday.

Ann Petty and John Dickinson have twice met with members of Loughborough Naturalists who, having recorded rare flora in the area previously, are now recording and collecting fauna. They have been looking at the area from the Priory, along the railway line and lime holes through the Grace Dieu and Cademan woods, and have found several rare and interesting species of insects, including things not seen elsewhere in Leicestershire for many decades. Ann has suggested to them that they might like to talk to the Grace Dieu and FoT groups in the future, possibly during the winter months when they are not so busy.

We understand from Friends of Grace Dieu Priory that they are intending to clear the brash left on the viaduct and underneath it in the next few days. There has been a recent fire on the railway line where trees previously cut down and left were set fire to, and surrounding areas damaged, hence the need to remove further brash at the earliest opportunity.

Centenary and scarecrow brief updates

Things are all sorted for both events. 51 scarecrows are available to view and the results of the judging will take place between 4pm and 4.30pm in the upstairs hall. All those who have a scarecrow are invited to attend the results. Brownies will be doing the judging and will leave The Green about 11.15am with a bottle of water provided, and will return to a cup cake which Lindsay Weaver is baking for each Brownie free of charge.

Tam said that he was putting out the posts for the quiz questions on Saturday, and had reduced the amount of questions, as having over 50 questions was too much. There are 3 vouchers in prizes for the under 12s quiz, similar for the over 12s quiz, there were various children's prizes in a free bran tub which Tam hoped to make, and also free popcorn for kids attending the disco from 5pm. It was not certain how many children from Thringstone Primary were attending, but there were 3 trophies for the winners of the scarecrow event and also each member of the school was getting a medal. Brownies were also getting a supply of torches for helping with the event.

Tam was thanked for leading on this event, and said that in future, should another similar event be done, there was a template in place for whoever to use from this year. It was agreed that one of the main time consuming parts was bagging up 130 bags of straw, arranging for these to be delivered, which Nita helped with by phoning interested parties to arrange, and then dropping them off. There are prizes of a bottle of wine for the 3 people drawn from the hat who have completed an evaluation form of the event. Nita said it was important to try to get people to fill these in, so we knew what people thought, what had worked and what improvements might be needed in the future.

The banner presently outside The Meadows will be removed to The Green on the day, and it was confirmed that the straw for the scarecrow at The Old School House was being provided free of charge.

Subscriptions due – most people have now paid their subscriptions. There are still a few outstanding. If you have yet to pay, and want to remain a member, please let Nita have the money at your earliest convenience.



Nita reported that for the first time, we have over 100 members, which is wonderful. A competition had been run which ended on 31st May with a prize for the person who brought in the most members. Nita had won this in a close fought race with Pam Porter, and was therefore not giving herself a prize.

AOB

The Fox site and objection letters

A well worded and comprehensive petition and covering letter was sent to NWLDC on the proposals currently being put forward for The Fox site by local residents. These cover concerns regarding highways, sewers, car parking, traffic etc. A letter of reply has been received by those involved in the petition. Members wanting more information on this were asked to talk to Tom Whalley who was involved in putting together the petition, or talk to Nita who will forward their queries on either to Tom or to the councillors.

Children's membership – Tam wanted to raise the issue of children's membership. A young person had asked to join the group, and had been charged £1 for membership. For this, it had been agreed that each child get a gift of some description. Tam felt that children were the future and should be allowed to be members for free. Others felt that charging something gave the children a sense of ownership, and that such a low figure was negligible anyway.

Date of next meeting: 7th July at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre



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