



The Friends of
Thringstone



‘Working to improve our village’

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3rd NOVEMBER 2011 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Rowena Summers, Brenda Simpson, Roy Hill, Leon Spence, Ann Petty, Bernard Lee, Ray Woodward, Pam Porter, Janet and David Stevenson

Apologies: Lindsay Weaver, Ron Hill, Sue Colledge, Lis and Paul Muller, Geoff Walker, Dave and Julie Everitt, Tam Bream

Chair's report

Discussion points: 1. **Christmas Party 1st Dec** – it was agreed that the next meeting combine with a Christmas party. If people can bring food to share, that would be appreciated.

2. **The Meadows** – we received a letter from NWLDC saying that we'd not been granted funding for planting at The Meadows care home, which we intended to do with The Brownies. Ray W has sanded/stained the donated bench, chairs, and the existing planters etc., and we will recompense him for this. The meeting decided that £20 be set aside for bulbs to be planted at the Meadows as a one off gift for them, and that this should not create a precedent for the future. Bernard will sort this.

3. **Jubilee Event 2-5 June 2012.** At the open meeting on 27th October, 19 people came to the centre to talk about the Jubilee celebrations, and the general consensus was that events should take place all over the village from the Friday afternoon until the Tuesday afternoon. Mike Statham is intending to organise a treasure hunt, Jan Cufflin is going to do a walk ending with a picnic tea on Bob's Closs, and it is hoped there will be other events in the village, to include people dressing up their houses with red, white



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and blue bunting to then be judged. David Stevenson said that he was liaison officer for the Jubilee Committee at the centre, and wanted the whole village to be involved with things, and would work to try to avoid clashes of ideas and ensure that as many people got involved with things as possible. It was agreed that FoT's part in the event should be to provide a good, clean environment to allow the village to shine, with possible thematic planting on The Green for which there would be a good budget offered. Various people offered to help Bernard with this. Pam Porter said that people should be encouraged to latch on to their patch and keep their own streets clean and tidy and show village pride. Hanging baskets were also something to consider nearer the time. Nita will feature this event in future Baubles.

Letters Received:

- From NWLCC acknowledging grant application for graveyard booklet and asking for a form to be filled out giving details of the group, age ranges of members etc. Done. Subsequently got email from NWLDC saying grant application accepted (£350). Waiting for letter of confirmation.
- From Community Centre regarding jubilee celebrations asking us to attend open meeting.
- From Community Service Volunteers with information sheets on how to reach isolated people.
- From Voluntary Action Leicestershire with their annual report
- From Media Archive for Central England confirming complete move to Lincoln from Leicester.

Emails Received:

- From Litter Action UK offering free resources, and introducing their campaign Love Where You Live. Also included information for schools – forwarded to Thringstone Primary.
- From Panto Society saying that Cinderella tickets are now on sale.
- From George and Dragon saying they can get access to the trophies and pictures in the Rose and Crown and will take them to the pub for us to collect. Passed on to Ann.
- From BBC Reel to Reel asking for feedback on our event. Done.
- From Whitwick Action Group – their latest fundraiser made £550 for the group.
- From Lucie Kerley from Media Archive for Central England sending copies of photos taken at our Reel to Reel event. Saved and put in portfolio and sent to webmaster.

Emails Sent:

- To members and others about ongoing issues
- To NWLDC asking if they are aware of Community Repaint – an organization that has paint available for community groups and organizations to use. NWLDC think this is a great idea and thanked us for sending details through, as it could potentially benefit a lot of community groups.
- To de Lisle estates regarding catching of rabbits in the woodlands which was seen by some as poaching. Seems that permission has been given and various other people had been informed prior



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to our contact. *David Stevenson expressed concern that the killing of rabbits had taken place over a weekend and that young children had been exposed to this. He felt that the de Lisle estate should have better communicated to the village their intention to have this work done. The meeting agreed that it would have been better to do the cull of rabbits at a time other than a weekend. Nita agreed to pass on this information to the de Lisle estates.*

- To Sustrans informing them of removal and vandalizing of Cycle Route 52 signage within Grace Dieu Woods. They will replace. They thanked us for reporting as they rely on such reports.
- Reported broken concrete bollard on Shrewsbury Walk to NWLDC which was removed the same day as the report went in.
- Completed survey for Community Service Volunteers on litter pick carried out for their files
- Copy of Branchline magazine sent to Ann Petty and others interested in history and the environment.

Promotion:

- National Forest walk and also walk on 19th October 2012 (Cademan and Swannymote) are going into the Charnwood walks brochure. This will add to publicity.
- To all media/local radio regarding litter pick date etc. In Coalville Times 21st Oct and Echo 28th. Also signed up to Love Where You Live and advertised us and the litter pick on there.

Other:

- Attended meeting at Community Centre to discuss Jubilee next year.
- If anybody is able to help at the Christmas Fayre at the community centre on 27th November, please let them know as they are looking for volunteers. They also want mincepies.

Treasurer's Report – October Figures

| Funds held 1st of October | £3,422.40 | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------|
| <u>Income</u> | | <u>expenditure</u> | |
| christmas cards | £ 2.00 | plants | £ 57.95 |
| raffle | £ 6.00 | website renewal | £ 7.90 |
| | | raffle prizes | £ 2.00 |
| | | compost etc | £ 20.98 |



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| | | | |
|--------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------|
| total income | £ 8.00 | total exp | £ 88.83 |
| | | Total funds | £ 3,341.57 |

At 31st October, there was £49.34 in petty cash, £20 in the float and £3,272.23 in the bank/waiting to be banked. The total income so far this year (since 1st June) is £678.72 which just exceeds the total expenditure of £665.10

With being unsuccessful with the grant for the Meadows Care Home project, the cost will be coming out of FoT funds, and I am awaiting related bills, plus the invoice for the newsletters.

Publications report – Roy Hill

There have been no publication sales in the last month. One DVD has been sold and therefore £3.50 will be paid into the Treasurer. We sold some Christmas cards at a heavily discounted rate and £2 has been paid into the Treasurer.

I had an enquiry about the price for selling a complete set of our photographs. If sold individually they would retail at £28. *The meeting suggested that we sell a complete set for £24 so you get a free picture for buying the set.*

I have put up a separate small poster advertising our photographs at the George and Dragon and hope to do so at the Community Centre by the time of the meeting.

We still have about 100 Christmas cards for sale. I propose we sell them off for this Christmas at £1.50 o.n.o for 10 rather than the original price of £5 for 10 and if they are not sold by the end of the year then I propose to recycle them as they are not selling. £2.00 has been paid and £3.50 will be paid in to the Treasurer

Our stocks are:

| | Community Centre | George & Dragon | Nita | Anne | Stock | TOTAL |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Born and Bred 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 22 |
| Born and Bred 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 29 | 37 |
| Memories 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 10 |
| Memories 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 14 |
| Village Trail 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 18 | 29 |
| Village Trail 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 17 | 28 |
| Village Trail 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 20 | 31 |
| Sub-totals | 21 | 21 | 9 | 14 | 106 | 171 |
| Photographs | | | | | 23 | 23 |



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| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--|--|--|--|------|------|
| Christmas cards | | | | | C120 | C120 |
|-----------------|--|--|--|--|------|------|

Annual figures will be shown next time.

Web report

John has renewed the domain name so that we can continue using the web address for the next 2 years. He is working his way through a long list of updates needed. General discussion took place on how to help with the update, but as John works on html, nobody at the meeting felt they had the skills to help. Roy agreed to ask Geoff Walker if he could help and Nita agreed to talk to John about whether it is possible to alter the format so that it is easier for people to update their own sections of the web or at least help with updating.

Arts and Community Report

5th November – **fireworks spectacular at Snibston** with tribute bands Girls Alouder and The Saturdayz. Tickets £4 in advance. Gate £6. Starts at 5pm.

10th November – **Thringstone House Quiz.**

12th November – Keystones at the **George and Dragon**

13th November – **Lazy Lunch with Dee Whitehead at Snibston.** 12 noon til 2.30pm. Dee is a Nottingham based professional actress and is currently touring with songs from the 40s onwards. Free entry.

19th November – Working party at **Grace Dieu Priory** to clear the site ready for the Christmas carol service.

10am start. Paths will also be cleared. Also **Holy Cross Christmas Fayre.** 1.30pm. Plus, 2pm-3pm at Snibston – **The Pied Piper of Hamelin.** Tickets £5, or family tickets £17. Suitable for children aged 3-8 and adults, plus Morgan Perkins at the **George and Dragon**, and **Mike Silver in concert** at Snibston. Doors open 7pm. Tickets £6 advance £8 on the door

20th November – **Help for Heroes Fashion Show** at the George and Dragon. 7pm. Male models are from the 5th Regiment of the Royal Artillery, the 4th Battalion the Rifles, and 7 Para. Auction of clothing afterwards. Tickets £2.50.

23rd November – **The Jungle Book at Snibston** – Doors open 6.30pm. Oxfordshire Theatre Company production. Tickets £6, Family ticket £22 in advance. £8 on the door, family ticket on the door £30.

25th November – **Glee club at Snibston** – join the cast of McKinley High's New Directions. Tickets £12, plus **Ladies only cheese and wine evening** at the George and Dragon. Tickets £10 which includes cheese and biscuit supper and the opportunity to taste 12 wines from around the world.

26th November – **Christmas gift and craft fayre** at Thringstone House Community Centre. 2pm-5pm, plus **Whitwick Parish Church Christmas Fayre** 4pm-6.30pm in St John the Baptist Church and grounds, plus **Paul Leegan and The Legends at Snibston.** Doors open 7pm. Relive the birth of 50s Rock and Roll. Tickets £10 advance, door £12 plus The Martins at the **George and Dragon**

30th November - **Co-op Women's Guild** 7.30pm at Thringstone House Community Centre. Talk by former policewoman called Good Bad and Ugly



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2nd December – Friends of Grace Dieu Priory will be holding their **carol service at the priory**.

3rd December – **FoT litter pick**. 10am The Green.

18th December- Blast from the Past Theatre present **A Victorian Christmas** at Snibston. This includes audience participation. 3pm. Tickets £6 in advance or £8 on the door. Family discount prices available.

There will be a **New Year's Eve** hoe down party at the Community Centre. 8.30pm start. Bring your own food. Bar open. Tickets £15. Theme Red and White. There will be a piper on hand and the New Year will be piped in. This has been advertised in The Bauble.

History report

Ann has finished recording 6 people for the **Village Voices project**, which seeks to record village people's accents using different age ranges for comparison. The last work of this kind was done in the 1950s and Friends of Thringstone is the first group in Leicestershire to do the recording and finish the project. Once some completed questionnaires are returned, the tape machine etc. can be returned to County Hall.

The Leics. War Memorials website to which we contributed has now 'gone live'. The address is www.leics.gov.uk/warmemorials. This is part of a project to help achieve listed building status for various war memorials in Leics., including the cross within St John The Baptist churchyard in Whitwick. It's hoped to add other things, including audio/video to these pages. County Hall is also currently undertaking war memorials survey, looking at their condition. So far they've surveyed 40 out of a known 170.

Nita has had contact from **English Heritage** asking for a close-up picture of one of the blue plaques for the site they are constructing on such signage, and one of the Old School House has been sent.

We hoped to be able to get into the Rose and Crown the other weekend to take possession of some trophies, photos and the bell, but this didn't happen. Pete Gough said he will let us know when we will be able to go in.

Ann went to **Ashby Museum** last week to look at John Crocker's work on Thringstone, but couldn't find any reference to The Green or the Rose and Crown, but there were one or two other interesting facts mostly concerning the properties involved in The Enclosure of 1807. Ken Hillier at Ashby Museum said that he would like me to give him a list of local names from Thringstone that have appeared on some of the documents we have.

Ann has emailed Steve of the **Loughborough Naturalists** about doing a series of talks at The Community Centre about all the things they have found in the woods and the ruins, especially our almost unique snail. He emailed back to say that they had just discovered a Hawkweed, which is a first for Leicestershire, on the railway embankment near the ruins.

For those interested in things outside the village, **East Midlands Oral History Archive** have put a film on UTube of the old village of Bardon being demolished in 1989 to facilitate quarry expansion. The link is <http://youtu.be/I1sSW1VWpLc>

Councillors report



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Once again business at the District Council has been hectic over the past month with many district wide initiatives being implemented which will directly affect Thringstone. Most notably **new bin collection days** were introduced on 1 November. You should have all had your first collection under the new timetable by now. If you have had any problems with the new scheme then please let Dave or me know.

The Council have also finalised the delivery programme for large scale **improvements to local authority housing**. Over the coming three years (central government funding permitting) over £20 million will be spent on bringing all council housing to the decent homes standard. In addition, the council will continue to operate a responsive repairs team to deal with day to day problems.

Council Leadership has also announced plans for the coming three years to save £1.5 million from revenue expenditure through a combination of cuts and new charges. Perhaps most notably the biggest effect on Thringstone will be **revisions to the car park charging** policy. As well as planning to increase charges and chargeable hours to park in Coalville and Ashby (along with the introduction of an overnight parking charge) the district council have initiated a feasibility study to introduce charges to other council owned car parks, for example **The Green, Thringstone**. A petition has been created to call upon the council to reconsider their proposals for parking charges. A copy of the petition was available at the meeting and there is one on line. *Concern was expressed over the future of the town if parking costs increase.*

The **3G mobile phone mast** application at Talbot Street, Whitwick was considered by the planning committee on 1st November. Whilst we clearly need better 3G coverage in the village regrettably I felt obliged to speak against the application at the meeting. After being contacted by many local residents concerning the implications of placing a mast immediately next to a petrol filling station, Cllr Gillard and I urged members to balance the need for improved telecommunications against any lingering doubts about safety. The application was rejected although I welcome the telecom providers proposing any alternative sites which do not inherently carry any similar risks.

Aside from the above Dave and I have conducted case work at several addresses around the village.

Leon Spence Telephone: 07828 194768 E-mail: cllrleonspence@gmail.com Web: www.leonspence.com

There was general discussion about **charity clothing collections, and the furniture provision at the Marlene Reid shop** which can be accessed from the car park to the market area, and that various furniture, electrics, bird boxes etc. are available at very reasonable prices, and not all are second hand.

Police Report

James Broomfield and Jim Sorrell now cover an area from Ellistown and Ibstock, through to Hugglescote, Whitwick, Thringstone and Greenhill after an amalgamation of 3 beat areas. This means that, whilst they are still our contacts, other officers will be on the patch from time to time.

The report for October is:



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3 thefts – one of freezer left in front garden, one of garden lion ornaments, one between father and daughter - suspect being dealt with.

3 damage – one of a window, one between landlord and tenant dealt with by police, one of door at a known address

6 ASB – one at known address, one with children building a den at The Fox, one of children kicking cars and throwing apples – suspects dealt with by police, one fireworks from car – suspects dealt with by police

1 assault – between man and wife – suspect dealt with by police.

1 theft from motor vehicle – tools taken from a commercial vehicle.

General discussion took place on whether local shops should **mark their alcohol sales** so that, not only would police be able to identify where alcohol was being purchased if this was then discarded outside of a bin, but under-age drinking might be more easy to spot and who was selling this. It was agreed that labels can still be taken off, and bottles deliberately smashed so that it was not obvious where they were purchased from. This happens a lot at the rear of the bowls club. It was also acknowledged that over 18s can still buy alcohol for younger people.

The **proposed meeting** which Tony MacRory-Smith from NWLD C is trying to set up in the village to discuss anti-social behavior was discussed. It was suggested that various talks needed to take place with outside agencies before opening up the idea to a more public meeting so things are not duplicated.

Gardening and environment

Bernard has planted 340 plants on the **flowerbed on The Green** and removed bushes from there to the area by the church as they were not thriving in a raised bed. He is reluctant to plant around the flowerbed because the soil is still so very dry and nothing is likely to survive there. There are also a lot of fibrous roots from nearby trees, the flowerbed is overly shaded, and it creates a lot of problems, especially in the summer, with watering and the type of plants that can survive there. He will ask for help if needed.

General discussion took place on the siting of the flower bed on The Green, and the meeting agreed that it should be moved, and made level rather than being raised, which had been the original idea. The sleepers could then be used down the Millbank area where the banking is slipping and destroying plants in its wake. Cllr. Leon Spence agreed to ask NWLDC if there would be an issue if the bed were moved. It was agreed that it would take half a dozen people to get this done, probably in the Spring, and then re-turf the area where the bed had been taken from, so as to ensure that the area looked good for the Jubilee. Water could be used from a nearby property to ensure that the grass and new planting survived. Cllr. Ray Woodward agreed to talk to Friends of Holly Hayes about their scheme of using young jobless people to help with such work. Discussion also took place on enhancing the quality of the soil by using free horse manure available locally.



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Litter Pick 29th October 2011

Only 6 people turned out to do the litter pick, and the scouts who were expected didn't arrive.

11 full bin liner bags of litter were collected from the village and surrounding area, plus the large container which has been in the brook since the summer was removed, as were carpets, a tyre and a kitchen waste bin. We also reported to NWLDC some fly-tipping on the Woodside Estate which was removed. The next litter pick is scheduled for 3rd December at 10am from The Green to which we hope the Brownies will also come as we were thinking of dressing up for this (maybe provide a Santa?).

The way forward to keep litter down is for people who don't mind picking up litter to continue doing so on a regular basis.

Pam said that the recycling bins for bottles and cans in the village were very useful to those who litter picked regularly, and to local residents, and they seemed to be emptied quite often.

Newsletter

This is now done and ready to distribute. A copy has been added to the Litter Action UK website.

Ann Petty agreed to deliver to the Woodside Estate as the person who normally delivers is away. Those at the meeting who do deliveries took away their supplies.

Carols round the tree 9th Dec

Bernard has spoken to Margaret Staley and she said we can have any Christmas tree we want. Ray W will work with Bernard on getting the tree to the Community Centre and decorating it before 26th November's craft fayre as Lorraine had requested.

School fete and other events

This is 3.30pm-5pm on Friday 2nd December. Roy, Janet and David agreed to help Nita.

Ann Petty is hoping to get a stall at the Community Centre craft event, and will take some FoT stock to see if she can aid sales.

Next meeting 1st December at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre to be combined with a Christmas party.



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