



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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Visit our website at: www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk
We are also on facebook/twitter. Twitter address @Thringstone2

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 AUGUST 2013 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Ann Petty, Roy Hill, Mike Statham, Janet Stevenson, Dave Everitt, Pam Porter
Apologies: Tracy Foulds, Cllr. Spence, Rowena Summers, Geoff and Jane Wilson, Bernard Lee, Ron Hill, David Stevenson, Geoff Walker

Discussions/Decisions

Thringstone Bowls Challenge Match – If you want to come along and support our match on **23 August** at 6pm and have a meal, please let us know, as we need to order food with Thringstone Members Club. The cost is £3 per head. We have been told by some people that they will come and support us, and will try to remind those people nearer the time as meals have already been booked for them, and our team.

Scarecrow event and Methodists 150th anniversary event

Thank you to all who came out on a very hot day to help with this event and man stalls and generally come along and join in the fun.

Thanks have been given in writing to:

- All scarecrow builders
- Mike Statham for the display board
- Stall holders who we booked or came through us
- Paul the balloon modeler who came free of charge
- All sponsors, including sending photos to Coalville Rotary, our main sponsor, for their website
- All FoT members who helped on the day with stalls etc.
- Tam for various donations, sourcing and bagging straw, and helping with banners, getting maps for us, displaying and organizing posters etc. and for manning the map stall on the day
- Lindsay Weaver for the cakes she did for the guides to thank them for judging
- Andrew Bridgen who was also sent a copy of the winning scarecrow and has subsequently put out a press release based on our email and photo which is also on his website.



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Personal visits to thank them have gone to:

- Aileen for coming along and doing face painting when her paints kept drying out with the heat and for donating her takings to us
- To the Methodist committee for letting us link the scarecrow part with their event
- To the guides leader. We gave Body Toning Emporium vouchers to her for helping us with the judging process.
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd place scarecrow builders have also been personally thanked
- Thanks to Sandie for laundering the FoT tablecloth after the event and to Bernard, Tam, Roy and Ron for helping put up or take down our banners.

Since there were no accidents on the day, the **risk assessment form** we have to complete to cover us under our event insurance policy has been merely filed away.

The **community spirit** in the village was at an all time high and many people have commented positively in person and on **social media networks** about the scarecrows and event. Generally, although some have said that it should have been a week long event, and were disappointed that some people took their scarecrows down after the day, comments on facebook have been very good.

For those who don't know, the scarecrow event was won by The Old School House, with the Marrow family coming 2nd and Ian and Maggie Smith coming 3rd. All received **trophies and vouchers**, and the addition this time of vouchers as well as a trophy went down well.

We have taken lots of **photographs** which have gone into our portfolio. If anybody wants to see the pictures of the scarecrows, please let us know.

We have no idea how **many people came along**, but we know 95 people had maps to go and view the scarecrows on the day, many walking, some driving, and many people continuing to walk round on the Sunday.

For those that aren't aware, in order to help the event go well and attract families, Friends of Thringstone paid for the **bouncy castle** (£65 paid on the day) and the Co-op and Rotary stalls were arranged by ourselves with College Garth Kennels' stall being organized by Ron for his daughter.

Roz Holland who was on the **Rotary stall** selling water to fund a project in Indonesia had a target of 100 bottles to sell, which her colleagues thought was over ambitious, but she sold 105 at £1 time, and we understand that College Garth Kennels also had a good day.

To get comments from the **Old School House** that their residents were buzzing to have won and were overwhelmed with the trophy and shopping vouchers was lovely to hear.

We also heard that the residents of **The Meadows** were very pleased with the amount of families who came to view their scarecrow and talk to the residents, which cheered some of them up no end.

Rumour has it that **ice cream sales** in the three shops in the village rocketed on the day.

Money raised for FoT by the day were face painting and map sales £44.40 and plants £25.34, plus publication sales as mentioned later. £90.50 was raised in monies for building scarecrows upon provision of straw and joining in the competition.

We are told that the Methodist's raised £140 at their Beltones concert (half of which went back to the Beltones) and £300 on the main day, mostly in tea/coffee/cake and plant sales. We got them a voucher from the **Co-op** for £25 for the cost of milk etc., which helped reduce their overheads for which they have thanked us.



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Open Gardens – Pam Porter had suggested we consider having an open garden event in 2014. This reached the social media websites, as someone must have said it is a definite, but generally people on there have said that it wouldn't be a fun event, and they want something fun.

General discussion took place, and it was agreed not to run with this idea as there is nobody willing to take on the organization, especially since it involves doing risk assessments for each garden taking part. It was, however, agreed that we might work with the Community Centre in 2014 as they are thinking of putting on an open day and summer fete.

Litter Pick Sticks - In March 2007, we first purchased litter pick sticks, and from records kept, we should have had a total by now of 34. 13 of these were out with regular litter pickers according to our records, which means we should have had 21 in reserve. However, after repairs to our stock carried out by Ron Hill (thank you Ron), we had 18 in working order, in addition to those we knew to be out with existing pickers. One of these 18 has now also been given out. If we are to continue to work with other groups doing litter picks, we needed to purchase more. Ron Hill has found a local company who will do the 'good' litter pick sticks for £11 each, and 10 of these **have been ordered**.

Monthly litter total for July - 178 bags of litter have been removed from the village and woodlands in July. Adding this to June's total means that, in 2 months, **386 bags** have been removed from the village, which is really a scandalous indictment on the lack of respect some people in the village have for their environment by discarding so much litter. There have been subsequent discussions with NWLDC's waste management team about littering generally, and they are putting together a **press release** about littering and intend to site FoT as an example of good practice for other groups to think about litter picking in their own area.

Roy said it would be better if the press release encouraged people not to drop litter in the first place, and reported the arrival of the Co-op in the village had seen an increase in litter in the woods and further afield – mostly carrier bags etc.

Miners Gala at Snibston on 7 September – we are going to be doing wine and water again. If anybody would like to donate a bottle of wine to this event, please contact Nita direct.

Memberships – all members have now renewed. We have 119 members.
Thank you to all.

New Publication – we have sent the text, photos, details etc. of a new booklet to be called **Scottish in Thringstone** to the printers for a quote. We asked they provide cost for printing 50 of these initially and the price has come back as £50-£55, so since still have £220 left from the Woodstock in Whitwick monies for this, we have said to go ahead and get it printed. The next publication will be the big one – 90 odd pages plus photos of the history of people in the village from about 1800 to 1950 ish. The final one will be the pub project one, which is still a bit of a problem getting finished, as we have names of several landlords at various pubs and no information to go with that.

Chair's report

Nita is still not fully well but the following has been done this month.

Letters Received:

- A very nice letter from our Oxfordshire member was received with her membership renewal.



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- A letter from the Methodist chapel which was hand delivered and reads:
Dear Nita and all of Friends of Thringstone
I am writing to you on behalf of all of us at Chapel to thank you for joining us in our 150th celebrations. The scarecrow event was great and our celebrations wouldn't have been as successful without your contribution. Please give our thanks to all who helped.
I apologise for not writing to you sooner but I have been away for the last 2 weeks, and only got home on Saturday. Once again many thanks - Mary Randall on behalf of all of us.
- Another very nice from Jan Cufflin congratulating us on the scarecrow event and also saying that she appreciated the work done to the area by the church wall which had been transformed from nettles and rubbish to plants and shrubs.
- From Voluntary Action Leics. with voting forms for new trustees

Emails Received:

- See sections below

Emails Sent:

- Various thank you emails and also letters as mentioned earlier.
- To organizer of Whitwick scarecrow event asking for advice on organizing following twitter request for help. Problems mostly around straw and deliveries and sourcing this.

Promotion:

- Oak FM are now also following us on twitter, as are several other new people, and we have 126 followers. More is now going on Twitter about the group
- Full page of photos etc. of scarecrow competition in Coalville Times of 11 July 2013
- Geoff took a lot of photos at the scarecrow event and put them on facebook, and also made a video to go onto Youtube. Thank you Geoff.

Treasurer's Report



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Funds held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£3,853.15		
Income		Expenditure	
donation	£ 2.00	plants/plantcare	£ 81.73
membership	£ 26.00	scarecrow event - b castle	£ 65.00
scarecrows	£ 9.00	printer ink	£ 47.98
scarecrow event	£ 69.74	print head	£ 21.98
publications	£ 28.50	stationary	£ 27.00
dvd	£ 3.50		
raffle	£ 7.00		
total income to general fund	£ 145.74	total exp	£ 243.69
		Total funds	£ 3,755.20

SCARECROW EVENT			
<i>Income</i>		<i>exp</i>	
scarecrows	£ 91.50	bouncy castle	£ 65.00
taken on the day	£ 69.74	trophies	£ 25.00
donation for helper refreshments	£ 20.00	helper refreshments	£ 20.00
CDCFA event funding	£ 70.00	misc	£ 1.35
	£ 251.24		£ 111.35
Profit from event			£ 139.89

There was also a further sale of a Graveyard booklet with donation, meaning a further £2 has gone into the Booth fund, which now stands at £9.31.

Discussions have taken place about whether it is possible to take some money out of our current **bank account** and put into an interest generating account. Having investigated this, the benefits of opening a second interest are minimal, and the committee propose to leave all monies in the existing account.

The Committee have also discussed the possibility of **donating a lump sum to an organization** in the village, and intend at some stage in the future to write to ALL members and ask their opinion on this, with the result that whatever is done will accord with the highest percentage of views of the full membership, not just those who attend meetings.

The Committee are aware that **considerable amounts of money**, over and above what have been spent on planting etc. before, will be needed (see environment report). That means what we have previously taken to be a working balance will have to increase. The Committee also feel it worthwhile stating that we do stalls, where possible, not necessarily just to generate an income, but to **show a presence** and to continue to promote ourselves. We feel it is important to do this as groups who do not engage with people at events often lose the interest of their membership.

Publication Report – Roy Hill



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July was a good month. We had excellent sales at the Scarecrow event as shown below but unfortunately no others at the George and Dragon. I arrived on a day when everyone was off at the Community Centre and so was unable to check their sales.

The following has been paid to the Treasurer:

Scarecrow event.

1 Born and Bred 1 @ £3, 1 Born and Bred 2 @ £3, 9 Born and Bred 3 @ £2.50 £22.50

1 DVD @ £3.50, 1 Graveyard Trail @ £1.50, plus a donation of 50p, making a total of £34 in all.

Web report

The website still needs updating, and the webmaster is very aware.

Community Report and What's On

The people of Tithe Close had a cake and lemonade sale on the day of the scarecrow event, and raised £66 for **Leukemia Research**. Thanks to all who donated on their way round the village looking at the scarecrows.

In case you weren't aware, **Coalville Ambulance Station** closes on 14 August, which means ambulances will have to come from Loughborough. There are online petitions doing the rounds on this.

For those who have computer and use facebook, there is a new site called **Thringstone Photographed** on which people can post pictures of the village. They are currently running a competition and people can vote for the nicest photo. This closes on 7 August.

Grace Dieu Manor School's 1st 11 cricket team has, for the 4th consecutive year, won the Leicestershire Schools Under 13 County Cup.

Starting on July, Thringstone House Community Centre now has a new **aerobic fitness class** called EV Fitness. It runs on Mondays from 6pm-7pm and the cost is £3.50.

Thringstone pantomime and drama society is looking for new members to join their crew. Whether it's performing onstage to sweeping up afterwards, they're happy to welcome eager, committed individuals. If this sounds like yourself or someone you know, please get in contact with them.! TPADS generally run 2 shows a year and like to raise money for charity too. Please check out their website for any more info - <http://www.tpads.org.uk/>

- From now until 1 October – **Heritage Painting Exhibition** at Swannington Hough Mill. Sundays and bank holiday Monday 2pm-5pm.
- 2 August – **Lady Jane, Whitwick** – Red Hot Chilli Peppers tribute act.
- 3 August – **Thringstone Live For Charity** at the George and Dragon. Starts at 11.30am. Charities are Leicestershire Diabetes UK, Leicestershire Parents' Group and Coalville Scout Group.
- 3 August – **Meadows Nursing Home** fete from 2pm-4.30pm.
- 3 August – **Community Charity Fair** at Christ Church, London Road, Coalville 2-4pm in aid of the church's 175th anniversary. There is also a history fair at the same venue from 10am-4pm on 3 and 4 August.
- 4 August – **Swannington Open Gardens** with extended opening hours at Hough Mill.
- 5 August – **Tales from The Mill** – creative writing event starting at 2pm at Hough Mill. Those interested in taking part need to bring a camera, a soft toy and paper/tablet/laptop. Booking essential through chair of Swannington Heritage Trust.



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- 9 August – Coalville Precinct will be transformed to **Coalville by the Sea** between 10am and 2pm. All welcome.
- 10 August – 18 August - Thringstone Community Centre **Annual Art Exhibition**. Opening times Saturdays 1pm-5pm, Sundays 2pm-5pm, weekdays 3pm-9pm.
- 11 August – **Summer Fete at Whitwick Conservative Club**. 1pm start. Fancy dress, face painting, bouncy castle, tombola, cakes, BBQ, Ibstock Brass Band.
- 13 August – **East Midlands Airport – Treasure Hunt** - 10.30am – 12 noon Every Tuesdays throughout the school holidays suitable for children aged 5-11. £3 payable in advance. Booking on 01332 852801.
- 15 August – **Meet the firefighters at East Midlands Airport** – every Thursday at the airport during the school holidays. Information on 01332 852801.
- 17 August – **Woodstock in Whitwick** at Coalville Rugby Club, Hall Lane, Whitwick.
- 17 August – Tony Gold Cabaret at the **George and Dragon**
- 18 August – Steam rides at **Whitwick Model Railway Engineers'** club which is on Hermitage Recreation Ground, Whitwick. 1pm-4pm. Family fun.
- 22 August – Family beginner **geocaching in Gracedieu Woods**. Starts at 10.30am and is £2 per person. Meet at Thringstone Members Club car park. For more information contact Zara on 454606. Booking essential.
- 24 – 26 August – **St Peter's at Bardon Church Craft and Flower Festival** at the church next to the Birch Tree at the top of Coalville/Bardon. 10am – 5pm. Free entry and parking nearby.
- 24 August – Michelle Pickering at the **George and Dragon**
- 25 August – Man Within Compass, Whitwick – **Whitwick Music Festival 2013**. Starts at 2pm and goes on til late
- 25 August – **Three Crowns at Whitwick** – mini beer festival and Whitwick Rocks. Starts at 2pm and goes on til late.
- 25 August – **Thringstone Explorers (Scouts)** craft fair, BBQ and fun day at scout hut. No further details known.
- 26 August – **George and Dragon** will be open for food from 12 noon until 6pm and close at 7pm
- 26 August – family fun day and fund raiser for the Danny Brewster appeal at **Thringstone Members Club**. Starts lunchtime and goes on til late. There will be stalls, kids activities including bouncy castle, food, disco and lots to do. All proceeds will go to the family. For further details see Margaret.
- 31 August – **Leicester Morrismen** at the George and Dragon from 7.30pm dancing on the car park
- 6 Sept – **Family disco** at the George and Dragon in the marquee
- 7 Sept – **Whitwick Party in the Park** and Scarecrow trail.
- 7 Sept - **40s evening** with Jill Daniels. Tickets £15 to include supper under the marquee at the George and Dragon
- 7 Sept – **Snibston Miners Gala** – FoT will have a stall there all day
- 8 Sept – **Craft fayre** at the 2.30pm- 6.30pm at George and Dragon in the marquee
- 21 Sept – **litter pick from Hermitage Leisure Centre** concentrating on the old railway line area near the centre. 10am-12 noon followed by a complimentary drink at the centre café. All welcome.



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Discussion took place on whether the Community Centre should have a stall at **Whitwick in the Parks**, given that, by their own admission, the people trying to get a community centre in Whitwick off the ground know there are few venues in Whitwick for hire for parties etc.

Mike Statham felt this was a good idea and agreed to see what could be sorted, as it might be a real opportunity, especially if The Focus is available, to promote what Thringstone Community Centre has to offer.

History report

- Two gents, both in their 80s, have offered to speak to us and be taped recording their **memories**. Ann will be arranging this. Unfortunately, one of these gents, who had part of the old Gracedieu railway line in his garden had this stolen the week we were due to go to collect it.
- Ann attended the local **Heritage Forum meeting**. The September deadline for the WW1 project is still on target. Ann is continuing to try to find photographs of soldiers she has discovered who died from the village and surrounding area, and has been speaking to distant relatives of **Lot Haywood** to see if there are any photographs available of him. He was a tailor from Gracedieu Road.
- Ann has acquired information on the purchase of land opposite the former farm **Moor Farm** (which is more or less where the bungalows are now just into Whitwick coming out of Thringstone). This information is completely new and relates to costs, mortgages and transfers.
- Ann has taken the **FoT banner** to the history forum display at Snibston which runs until 2nd September. A supply of newsletters has also been taken to Snibston and Ann spent the afternoon there on 28 July promoting FoT and Friends of Grace Dieu Priory.

Councillors' report

- High level fencing to the bottom of the **football field** near the Bowls Club has been provided in order to stop balls etc. going down onto the Sustrans track below.
- Cllr. Spence met with the local authority to discuss possible placement for **grit bins** to help prevent problems next winter.
- There is a **new bench** by the original part of the Melrose Play area for parents to sit and supervise their children.
- **County Council Surgery** – Leon has a county council surgery for people to come and talk to him about issues on 23 August at 3.30pm at Whitwick Community Coffee Shop.
- Planning application received to **demolish The Fox** was received on 15 May by NWLDC. On 11 June, Cliffe Investments of Stapleford, Notts., who had put in the application received a letter saying this was approved. No application for the building of residential development has yet to be received by the council. A bat survey will be required prior to demolition, and controlled removal measures put in place to stop nesting rodents escaping into other properties nearby. It is anticipated the demolition and leveling of the site will take 3-4 weeks once started.
- Cllr. Everitt said that there are problems with the **Core Strategy** at NWLDC. This is the strategy on the future of housing provision in the area, and where builders can build. Due to an error, the council gave figures which were challenged and proven to be incorrect. As



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a result, there is currently no Core Strategy in place. This could lead to builders putting in to build on land which should be protected, and there would be nothing in place to stop this being considered. It also affects travellers' sites, as none have been identified in the current strategy.

Police Report

Jim Sorrell is no longer the PSCO for Thringstone and Whitwick. This is now Cheryl Moore with whom we have been in contact and who has supplied the following:

Your crime figures for the last 30 days for the THRINGSTONE area are as follows:

- 2 x Assault. 1 resulted in arrest and charged, the other still under investigation
- 1 x Burglary dwelling – still under investigation
- 1 x theft from motor vehicle – under investigation
- 1 x Theft – under investigation
- 1 x Damage to motor vehicle – still under investigation

The following things are also, however, known to the group and are not mentioned in the police report:

- A lady in the village was groped whilst walking in the woods by someone recently who it is believed lives in the village. This has been reported to the police as a sexual assault. Please be careful if you are a lady walking on your own in the woods. This item might, however, be the assault still under investigation mentioned above.
- A member of the public living near Grace Dieu Woods has complained to the police about the amount of motorbikes in the woods at the moment. Some come from Henson's Lane and drive straight across Lbro Road, down by the side of the bowls club and into the woods without stopping at the road junctions. They also drive on the paths in the woods, and have had near misses with dogs and children. The police have said there is to be a multi agency meeting shortly, and they are aware of the problems, and officers will visit when they are able. If, however, people are bothered by the motorbikes, they are asked to contact the police on 101 (the anti-social behavior number) and report the issue, and if there is sufficient manpower, someone will come down to see the problem for themselves.

Gardening and environment

- The **poppy seeds** mentioned at the last meeting have been ordered and received. One of our members has kindly given us vouchers to use with such orders with Thompson and Morgan. You will recall that the idea is to plant these around the area in commemoration of the start of the Great War on 4 August 1914. 10p from each pack of seed purchased goes to the RBL. Ann took some, and the rest will be given to Bernard to deal with. The Community Centre are planting the seeds from the 0 packets supplied to them by us around the centre.
- It was reported to Cllr. Everitt that Thringstone Community Centre no longer have the necessary bags to be able to **recycle cardboard**, and with the current children's play scheme, there is likely to be some to recycle. Cllr. Everitt said it might be something to do with cuts, but would investigate.



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- It is unlikely that we will get any more free **bark chippings** to use on our flower beds. Bernard has planted another 10 **shrubs** down Drury Lane within the existing grass which has been mowed, and intends over a period of time to get bark chippings put on the grass so it kills it off rather than it being dug out, which is very labour intensive. The shrubs planted are a mixture of Viburnum Anne Russell, Aucuba Japonica, Lavatera, Ceanothus Tuxedo, and Prunus Incisa. A further 10 shrubs will be needed to finish off this planting, plus we also need shrubs for elsewhere in the village. The average price of these shrubs is about £10 each although the latest batch was bought in a sale.
- Bernard has also been busy **weeding** generally. Millhouse Estate planting has a lot of weeds in it, with which he is dealing. Some of the wild flowers set earlier have now come up.
- **Friends of Grace Dieu Priory** has removed overhanging branches from the walkways near the bridges in the woods and intend to see if they can find ways of getting the access point from the far side of the concrete bridge over the brook reinstated. The banking was washed away last year, and you now have to go into the brook to get onto the bridge to walk across.
- NWLDC have a new campaign to target the drivers of lorries and cars who **throw litter out on to roads** whilst driving. This has received a lot of press coverage as they are the first council to do this in the area and it links with ideas promoted by Pall-ex which belongs to TV business mogul Hilary Devey.
- The next **litter pick event** will be 19 October at 10am from The Green. Further promotion will be done nearer the time. This event links in with what is now the month that Community Service Volunteers have their Make A Difference Campaign.
- Regarding **recycling** – here is a fact – by recycling one aluminium can, you save enough energy to power your computer for 3 hours.

Any other business

- Ray Woodward has taken over being the FoT representative on the Thringstone House Community Centre **management committee**
- **The Bauble** for the autumn has been completed and was handed out to deliver before 1st September. The Community Centre's Focus Magazine has yet to be finished, but it is hoped to get this finished and printed on Monday, and then Janet Stevenson will take copies to our volunteers and ask if it is possible for them to also deliver **The Focus**. It will be about 12 pages and in full colour. A list of all the people who deliver and their addresses will be supplied to Janet, but if people don't want to deliver the extras, they are within their rights to refuse.

Next meeting : The next meeting is 5 September at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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