



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

Chairman: Nita Pearson
20 Springfield, Thringstone, Leicestershire, LE67 8LT.
Telephone: 01530 223434
[mail to: nita.pearson@ntlworld.com](mailto:nita.pearson@ntlworld.com)

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 JULY 2015 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Bernard Lee, Mike Statham, Roy Hill, Jackie Spalding, Janet Stevenson, Dave Everitt, Ann Petty, Pam Porter, Bill Enser

Apologies: Ron Hill, Geoff and Jane Wilson, Nigel and Mary Roberts, Geoff Walker, Leon Spence, David Stevenson, Tracy Foulds, Pat Hubbard

Discussions/Decisions

The Christmas Tree at the centre – This has died and has been dug up. The roots did not appear to have taken. *The meeting agreed that we should look to buy a small live one, which should preferably be container grown, and whilst it grew, should continue to support the centre by providing one every year to decorate and be the focus for Carols Round The Tree. Bernard said that we also needed new lights for the tree. Bill Enser said he might know a supplier for a new container grown tree.*

Publication reprints – David has alerted us to the fact that he has no copies of Born and Bred 1 left in his stock and there are only 3 in our events box. The centre has one copy, Nita has none, Ann has 2 copies and the Members Club has one copy. This is a book that was originally printed by Pukka Publishing with the last reprint being in 2009. John Dickinson provided them with the text, and is looking to see if there is still a copy on his computer. It is a slow seller, but is needed as part of the set.

As we do not have a copy of this publication lodged with Teamprint, it was agreed that we ask Teamprint to photocopy 10 of these if John can't find the publisher version.

David also told us that he has no copies in his stock of Memories 3, which was originally printed in November 2013. Nita has 2 copies, Ann has 3 copies, the centre has 2 copies and the Members Club has 1 copy. There are also 4 copies in the events box. Teamprint should have the original for this to just reprint rather than photocopy. Can we please have agreement to have another 20 of these reprinted. It is unclear at the moment as to what these cost originally, but we think that they worked out last time at about £1.15 per copy to print.

It was agreed that we ask Teamprint to run off another 20 copies.



RCC

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Stepping out for a greener district



Century of Stories, researching your family tree and working with schools - Ann and Nita have twice met with Amanda Hanton and colleagues from the county council to discuss partnership working and to try to establish a café hub at the community centre for the Century of Stories folk and other issues to do with this project.

The Century of Stories team are able to help people research their own family tree, maybe also give information on medals, or help interested parties find out who lived in their house during WW1.

This free event is going to take place at Thringstone House Community Centre on Saturday 29 August. There will be a drop in session from 11am-1pm, and the afternoon session, which runs from 1.30pm-3.30pm, will be dedicated to those people who want to learn how to carry out family research, who will be helped by members of the Century of Stories team. Letters will be delivered to everybody in the village to tell them about this event.

In advance of all this, the county council have funded a **banner** for us to use at history events, including Picnic in the Parks, depicting the abridged story of Theophilus Jones, schoolmaster at Thringstone, who was the first soldier to die on British soil during the WW1 conflict period.

We also are trying to work with Amanda on a School Arts Award project, which would, potentially, link with Thringstone Primary and enable a funded arts award event to run at the centre, provisionally on 3 October. A letter was sent to the school on Friday 26 June, but no reply has been received to date. *The meeting suggested that this be brought to the attention of a member of the PTA, as she had been helpful in the past.*

Big Lunch – Thank you to everybody who came to this event. We were let down by the scouts over the cooking of the burgers etc., but want to thank Mary and Nigel for stepping up and doing this for us at the last minute. Thanks also to Jan Cufflin for all the work she did getting the duck race organized and organizing other games for people at the centre. Several photos were taken by people during the event, and these have been sent to the webmaster to go onto the website, and also run off for our own portfolio. We also sent 4 photos and a write-up to The Big lunch team in London for their website which was acknowledged. We also completed a 20 page survey on the event and our feelings towards the scheme.

Picnic in the Parks – Ann and Nita were in the WW1 tent with our banner (as above), and various displays and archive material, plus our publications. We attracted 2 new members and sold £15 in publications. There was a steady stream of people all day, and our stall was improved by the presence of various artifacts loaned to Ann by Carillon Museum in London. Several photos were taken, we met the current High Sheriff of Leicestershire and the representatives from County and District councils, and were pleased with the interest shown in what is a very specific event. Photos of the stall were put on our facebook and twitter pages and sent to NWLDC.

The meeting heard that about 8000 people had been to the event, and Ann and Pam also commented on how good the music event was the night before.

Membership – Edward de Lisle has been made an honorary member of the group. He will now get our minutes which will help cement our existing working partnership. **Welcome** to Marlene Pearson and Mike Young who have joined us as new members.

Parking on grass verges - There are 3 areas in Whitwick and Thringstone causing concern - Hall Lane, top of Dumps and Loughborough Road, Thringstone.



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Tony Byrne from NWLDC has a leaflet about inconsiderate parking, copies of which will be given to Leon Spence to distribute where there are known issues. The officers have been and seen all areas, including Thringstone, and know the problems for themselves.

There is also likely to be some change shortly to ASB law, which means they might be able to take action if people complain about parking on verges, but this would be a long process.

In the meantime Tony Byrne intends to write a letter to people on Loughborough Road about parking on grass verges.

The County Council said that they would be happy to issue FoT with a Licence To Cultivate so we can plant something on the grass verge on Loughborough Road.

We had one of these when we planted years back on the front of the Springfield estate, near the traffic calming. Licences to cultivate then were about £300 and Nita got that cost waived as she said we weren't able to pay that sort of money just to beautify the village. At that time, we wanted to plant trees all along Loughborough Road, but this was refused.

We have no idea if they would charge us this time for a licence to cultivate, but need to ask views about us working with county to plant something like rose bushes which might stop people parking on that part of the verge. Most people we have already spoken with think this would be useless, as the people would just drive over the planting, and that bollards would be a better bet. As a result, Nita has raised the question of bollards with Leon Spence, but has already been told that County Hall cannot fund these.

The meeting agreed that planting trees or bushes on the verge was a bad idea.

Roy Hill suggested we ask the District Council, through Coalville Special Expenses, if funding for this could come from that source. Dave Everitt said this course of action would get his backing.

Nita will talk to Leon Spence further about this to set the wheels in motion. If the District Council were unable to fund this, we could then consider the matter further at that time.

Monthly litter pick total – 176 against 133 for the same month last year.

We now have an agreement with a staff member and her client from Choices for Life to litter pick the bottom end of Grace Dieu woods for us weekly on a Wednesday. They have litter pick sticks to do this, and we also gave them a bag of bags to use for the job. The other learning difficulty chap and his carer seem not to be litter picking any more, and we are trying to get their litter pick sticks back.

We have pointed out to NWLDC that their suggestion that the **recycling bins on The Green** are emptied every 2 weeks is incorrect, as they have not been emptied since the end of May. They have suggested this is because the crews that do this keep forgetting to take the key. These bins have been full to the brim now for over 2 weeks.

Next litter pick - We are abandoning the idea of doing a summer community litter pick due to difficulties getting a date organised. We hope to have another one around the end of the year. In the meantime, if anybody with a litter pick stick wants to do some litter picking in a group between now and say October, please let us know and we can all get together to do something.

Chairs Report

Letters received:

- Letter from Barbara Clews (see history report) and another from her sister (see history report and publications report)
- Letter from member with cheque for membership monies



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- In April Nita wrote to The Co-op's Making a Difference Community Fund to ask for help promoting Thringstone Music Festival. We received a letter this month saying we were unsuccessful.

Emails Received:

- Various from members and agencies with which we regularly deal
- From a lady via our facebook timeline, saying 'why isn't Friends of Thringstone bothered about the damage being done around the bluebell area in **Grace Dieu Woods**.' A reply was sent, explaining the recent meetings and emphasizing that, just because we don't put everything we do on facebook doesn't mean that we aren't doing anything.

Emails Sent:

- Various sent to NWLDC about issues noted and fly tipping found.

Promotion:

- We have 319 **twitter followers** which is an increase of 8 on last month, and 155 **facebook followers**, an increase of 3 this month.
- A **press release** on the Big Lunch event complete with picture taken in the woodland was sent to the Echo, Mercury and Coalville Times but not printed. However, an article on the theft of planting (see environmental section below) was printed in the Coalville Times of 26 June.

Other:

- Due to weather conditions and other issues, we did not attend the **school fete** on 13 June.
- The **referral of a volunteer** from a special unit had caused some issues and as a result, we have made it clear to the person who referred that they needed to be more careful in their choice of people put forward to work with voluntary groups like ours. Whilst we have an equal opportunities policy, we also have a duty of care to our existing volunteers and expect organizations referring volunteers to us to take this on board. *Roy said it should automatically be the case that no personal or private telephone numbers for the chair or any of the committee be given out as a means of contact. Referral agencies should ask any interested parties to contact the group by email. This would protect all involved going forward.*

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)			£3,285.31
Income		Expenditure	
		Janet Stevenson	£0.03
Memberships inc 1 child	£106.00	Broadband etc.	£17.54
Raffle	£10.00	Donation to community centre	£150.00
Donations	£43.20	Printer ink	£25.78
Publications	£30.00	Postage for publications	£2.78
			£24.97
		Plants purchased	
total income to general fund		Total expenditure	£221.10
	£189.20		



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Total general fund at month end	£3253.41
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Publications Report

David Stevenson has taken over publications from Roy Hill with effect from 25 June. As expected, we received another request for the same publications sent to Barbara Henstock from her sister. These were dispatched by recorded delivery. 1 x BB1, 1 x BB2, 1 x Memories 1 and 1 X WW2. There were no sales at the centre or Members Club, but a copy of the graveyard trail has disappeared from the centre. At Picnic in the Parks, Nita sold a copy of each of the Memories booklets at the agreed discount of £10, plus a Scottish in Thringstone and a Durham Miners at £5, making an order total of £15. As this was a bulk buy, Nita gave a free copy out of the Graveyard Trail as an extra.

Web Report

The webmaster has updated the site in various places to include all minutes and newsletters and publication updates. There are still photographs to go on of our various projects, and also our Keep Britain Tidy Award to go on the Awards page.

Police Report

In addition to our own **planting** being stolen this month which was reported to the police and a crime number allocated, we heard from a lady who told us that **various ornaments in St Andrew's churchyard** had been stolen. We suggested she told the police, but passed this information on anyway.

The police have, however, had a report of **children throwing stones at cars** on Loughborough Road, and one car window was damaged.

We also understand that the **vineyard planting on Grace Dieu Road** was destroyed by fire during the last part of June. This was reported in the Leicester Mercury.

Our PCSO did pop along this week to the BMX/motorbike ramps in Grace Dieu wood and saw they were all still there at both sites but they have still not had any calls from the public about motorbikes or BMX riding in the woods. If you see anything, the agreement with the owners of the woodland is that the police should be informed.

Please note: The police front enquiry counter service at Coalville Station is moving from the police station to the reception of the North West Leicestershire District Council offices from Monday 6 July.

As well as police services, such as reporting incidents, crimes and lost or found property, the public will be able to access a range of council services such as council tax, planning and housing enquiries. There will be no changes to the availability of council services at its offices on Whitwick Road as a result of the police relocation but now a joint council and police reception service will be available Monday to Friday between the hours of 8.45am and 5pm.

There is a private room in the council reception if people want to talk in confidence and a phone has been installed outside both entrances of the council offices so that people can talk to a call handler when the offices are closed.



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The changes were agreed following a review of footfall data which showed declining numbers of people walking into police stations. As a result, the force has realigned its front counter enquiry service across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to better match demand and offer better value for money.

Community Report and What's On

Thringstone House Community Centre is looking for volunteer bar staff. If anybody is interested, please contact Lorraine at the centre on 222337 Monday-Friday 9am-12 noon. Congratulations to the team involved with **Olivia's Journey Fun Day** which was run at Hermitage Leisure Centre on 6 June. Over £6,000 was raised.

Silver Oaks Care Home in Whitwick is looking for volunteers to help with escorting on trips, playing inside and outside games with residents, helping to make up memory boxes, helping at open days, organising weekly events, befriending a resident, playing a musical instrument or providing other entertainment, or gardening with a resident by helping them to plant and grow items in our greenhouse. There are so many ways people can make life so much more enjoyable for others. Contact Silver Oaks on 01530 815665 or email silveroaksvolunteers@gmail.com

Chapel Fitness Centre – offering discounted rates during July. Please contact the centre direct for further details.

St Andrew's Church – in the absence of clergy at present, should anybody wish to contact the church, please ring parish admin on 07902001740. **Churchyard rockery.** The congregation have cleared half the rockery but need perennials to re-plant. If you have anything suitable they would be glad to plant it for you.

Thringstone Panto and Drama Society is looking for volunteers to help with various front of houseduties, prop and set design, and other roles within their group. If you are interested in finding out further information, please contact them on chair@tpads.org.uk or ring the centre on 222337 and leave a message.

Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club is fund raising for a new dedicated score box which may include an electronic scoreboard. A fund raiser was held at the George and Dragon on 27 June for this purpose, as part of the pub's 1st anniversary celebrations under different management. Anybody interested in helping the cricket club with their sponsorship is asked to contact them direct.

- 4 July – Alfie's Day at the **Man Within Compass** – charity fundraiser.
- 4-5 July- **Shepshed Open Gardens.** 12 gardens will be open around the town, with many different styles and sizes. Refreshments and plant sales at several of the gardens, along with a craft fair on the Saturday and a food fair on the Sunday at the Council Offices, Charnwood Road. £3 per adult, accompanied children free. Tel: 01509 508040/650531.
- 10 July – Acoustic night at **The Black Horse, Whitwick** with Unplugged
- 18 July – **Canine Partners Summer Show** at Midlands Centre, Ashby Road, Osgathorpe. 11am-4pm. £2 per adult. 50p per child. Lots of fun for the whole family.
- 18 July - **Shepshed Watermill** open day from 11.30am-4.30pm at Hathern Road, Shepshed.
- 18 July – **Charity Music Festival** and fun day at Hare and Hounds, Whitwick all day.
- 11-26 July – **Festival of Archeology** fortnight. Grace Dieu Priory will have 2 guided walks. These will take place on 12 and 26 July. On 19 July, there will be an open afternoon at Grace Dieu Priory between 2pm and 5pm at which there will be an exhibition of finds from the recent pond works on site.



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- 23 July – Talk at Snibston (Ellis Room) on **George Stephenson and William Stenson**, the founders of Coalville. Starts at 10.30am. Cost £4 to include refreshments.
- 24 July – Band night at **The Black Horse, Whitwick** with The River Chickens
- 24-26 July – **Heather Music Festival**
- 25 and 26 July – Whitwick's Big Dig with Charnwood Roots Project. More details nearer the time
- 26 July–2 August – **Heather Scarecrow Festival**.
- 29 July- **St Andrew's working party**. 10am – 12 noon. Refreshments provided.
- 1 August – music and family event at **Thringstone House Community Centre**. Starts at 12 noon. Stalls, bouncy castle, food, live music, and lots more including face painting. Free entry. Come along and support the event. Open until 11pm.
- 9 Aug – **Dog show** at College Garth Kennels, Hathern. More details nearer the time.
- 14-16 August – **Moira Furnace Folk Festival**, Moira. More details from www.moirafurnacefolkfestival.co.uk
- 15 August – **Woodstock in Whitwick** at Hermitage Leisure Centre.
- 16 August - **Shepshed Watermill** open day from 11.30am-4.30pm at Hathern Road, Shepshed.
- 29 August – **Thringstone House Community Centre** – research your family tree, talk to historians and find out about your photos, medals etc. **FREE**.
- 30 August – **Whitwick Music Festival** at the Man Within Compass
- 5 Sept – **Whitwick Party in the Park and scarecrow festival**. 11am start. Stall bookings being taken via rosemary.leeson@whitwickce.org
- 13 September - **Shepshed Watermill** open day from 11.30am-4.30pm at Hathern Road, Shepshed.
- 18-22 Sept – **Ashby Statues fair** with Pat Collins fun fairs. The streets will be closed again going through town.
- 26 Sept – Cantabile at **St Mary's, Osgathorpe**. More details from osgathorpevillage@gmail.com.
- 9 and 10 Oct – **Murder Mystery** at Thringstone House Community Centre presented by Thringstone Panto and Drama Society. Tickets available from the centre on 222337.

Thringstone Music Festival

Nita explained that the music festival organization for 1st August was going well. The headline act was well known, as were many of the other acts, and we have a bouncy castle, food, face painting, children's activities, stalls, buskers and lots for people to join in with, including a raffle with a £50 first prize. People would soon be getting leaflets through their door about the event, locals were very much on side, and things are looking positive.

The bar staffing had been organized, marshalls will be on hand to help people, we were waiting for confirmation that the police will also be on hand, and all monies is to go to the centre.

Mike said that he is very grateful that the event is giving money to the centre.

Dave asked if people would be coming from other areas, and it was hoped they would, as the idea is to engage with a different market, and use the event to tell people what else is on at the centre going forward. This is something that Nigel is currently working on.



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Ann and Janet said they would be able to man a FoT stall. Nita said she wouldn't be able to help as she is part of the organizational committee. Pam Porter said that a neighbour had some books she wanted to part with, and Nita said she also had some children's DVDs to sell. Nita will talk to Ann and Janet about manning a stall at the event.

History report

- Having been sworn to secrecy earlier this year, we can now confirm that the new close going into the old Fox site will be called **Fortnam Close** after John Thomas Fortnam who was born on 25 July 1899 and lived in the 4th house down in the row of houses next to The Fox. He was an Able Seaman and killed on 25 August 1918 on The Hawke. In total 524 officers and men were killed in that event. There are still members of the Fortnam family in this village and surrounding villages and it was hoped, if there were an official opening, that they would come along.
- Further to last month's information regarding Barbara and Margaret Henstock who were **evacuees to Thringstone** from Birmingham between 1940 and 1944, we have received Barbara's memoirs which have been typed up and placed in our archive. The children were 10 and 6 years old respectively when they came to the village. We also received a photocopy of a tatty newspaper report showing both girls taking part in a concert at 'Thringstone Hall'. Nita interviewed Margaret Keen nee Henstock over the telephone and managed to find out more information on the time the girls spent in Thringstone, included in which is new information that Margaret Henstock stayed on in Thringstone without her sister until the end of the war and celebrated with the village the end of hostilities. This has been added to our archive information, and all of it shared with East Midlands Oral History Archive.
- We have been asked by Whitwick and District U3A to give a **guided graveyard tour** of St Andrew's on 27 July. Nita will be doing this, and taking along graveyard trails for people to buy, if they wish. We believe that the church will also be open for people to look in there.
- We now have copies of **newspaper articles** relating to the death of 4 year old Marion Harley of Brookside Cottages, who, in 1939, fell backwards into a copper of boiling water and was scalded to death, plus details of William Pollard, Henry Robinson, John William Holland and William Stinson, all Thringstone men, being fined for **not having a radio license**. In the case of William Pollard, he said he had used the radio for 3 years and 7 months without having a license, and he was fined £2. We also have details of the building of 10 **council houses** on Main Street (opposite Fox Inn), and 16 in Henson's Lane in 1939. These were part of what was said to be a slum clearance programme and were due to be completed on 16 September 1939.
- Ann arranged a swap of books – a Charles Booth book for a copy of Michael Kendrick's Greater Love book, in which there are details of **Lawrence Gough** who we researched for the Great War event. He survived the war, and photos in the book were new to us.

Councillors' report

Grass verge cutting – The grass verge cutting is now being done by in-house crews rather than an outside contractor. LCC acknowledge that the crews made a mess in NWL, more so than in any other area. The people who cut the grass in Thringstone were brought in from Hinckley because the local team had sickness issues. The county council have bought new mowers and the



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settings on them were wrong, leading to 'spring back' - the grass gets flattened, not cut and then springs back. This is going to be rectified, and also the miles in an hour rate they were given has been acknowledged as maybe too high, and if they reduce the speed, perhaps the quality will improve. The council is aware that some areas were initially missed (like Farndale in Whitwick and parts of Grace Dieu Road). Because of safety concerns, they are likely to stick with 5 cuts a year for the foreseeable future.

Queen's Head – Dave said that he had spoken with officers at NWLDC about the fact that people seemed to come and go from the property early in the morning and late at night, and maybe someone was actually living there.

Flats above old Post Office – Dave said that the advert for the flats above the shop suggested there was a 2 bedroomed flat available and a three bedroomed flat. This wasn't in accord with the planning approval. Officers are looking into this, and also the possibility that there is still food stored in the shop downstairs which may have gone off.

Lilybank planning – the situation hasn't changed since the early part of the year.

Council meetings – the latest meeting had been this Tuesday, but there was nothing really to report from a Thringstone perspective.

Gardening and environment

- Bill Enser and Alex Bodle have started to tackle the '**natural area**' we have at the bottom of Main Street which was about a metre high in brambles. *Bill said that there is now a 15 foot hedge around the area, and lots of brambles all over the place, and the problem was clearing areas and then disposing of the waste removed. They need to get it down to a reasonable level and would continue to work on this. Contractors from a power company had made a mess nearby, had been to remedy this, and created more mess. Alex was working well with Bill and was proving a real asset.* They have also kindly swept the footpath down the side of Thringstone Bowls club, which another one of our members used to attend to, even though the planting there belongs to the council.
- Someone stole 7 or 8 plants from the planting down **Drury Lane** (rear of The Co-op). This was reported to the Police and an interview given with Coalville Times as above. We estimate that this planting cost £45. Since then, 2 members have given us plants to put in down Drury Lane, for which we thank them, and one of our members has donated £40 in cash towards replacement costs.
- Janet Stevenson has planted some seasonal planting on **The Green** for which she has been reimbursed. Ann has weeded down by the church wall and weeding has taken place down Drury Lane.
- *Bernard thanked people for helping with the gardening, and now felt able to tackle things again.*

AOB

- Community Centre – *Mike said that the solar farm project was now reaching a more detailed stage, and it might be necessary to ask FoT for a letter of support for the project. The centre had unofficially heard that the County Council could be prepared to give a loan for the project to move forward, and said that they were now far more supportive of the centre, because they realized the huge efforts being made by the centre team to be more*



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self-sufficient. The centre, however, needed long term regular income, and whilst they were looking to put on more events, a long term plan needed to be formalized.

Next meeting: 6 August at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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