



# The Friends of Thringstone



**'Working together to improve our village'**

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## **What has been achieved**

### **2017**

- Membership remained steady at 145 members but unfortunately we have had some members pass away this year and two members went back to Germany. We have attracted many new facebook supporters and twitter followers this year, due in no small part to posting historical photographs which are very popular.
- We received several donations this year from members and also received £200 from Woodstock in Whitwick for which we are most grateful.
- We were the organisers of the Volunteers Week event at the community centre in June, the Go Heritage event at Thringstone Community Centre in September and the Prominent Women in NW Leicestershire event in October, also held at the centre.
- We had a stall at The Miners' Gala which was part of Picnic in The Parks.
- Our chairman convinced NWLDC to revarnish the benches on The Green. These are community benches without any ownership, other than one which was provided by NWLDC.
- We continue to provide a quarterly Bauble, and with the new Bellway estate, our delivery numbers have increased.
- We have continued to litter pick regularly, but had no litter picking events this year. During the course of the year, our litter picking has seen 1873 bags of litter removed from the village.
- Our chairman did a talk at Thringstone Primary on littering and introduced their school council to the management team at Thringstone Community Centre.
- We planted more bulbs in the village and were successful in getting more trees to plant in various locations, thanks to schemes run by NWLDC. We also planted 4 new trees thanks to the free scheme run by the council.
- We considerably extended and improved our heritage archives during 2017 with the help of many people sharing their photos and information with us and through considerable research both on line and by talking to people. We also found more information from internet searches and facebook postings. One of our major achievements this year was to research the history of Thringstone Scouts, which proved that the scouts were considerably older than the 50 years they claimed. We also recorded the dates for the start of the Brownies in the village.



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- We helped both Thringstone Primary and Thringstone Scouts with the Famous Fifty Coalville Heroes Project by providing further information on 2 soldiers from WW1.
- Thanks to Bellway Homes we were able to provide the village with a defib. This was originally housed at The Meadows care home, but after problems, it was removed to Thringstone Miners FC.
- Ann Petty and our chairman did a presentation on the life of Mary Booth to members of Whitwick U3A.
- Our chairman traced living relatives for James Gee and Amos Griffin who died in WW1 and Frederick William Lawrence Rennocks who survived and these people were invited to the opening of the Bellway site as their names were used for road names. She was unable to trace living relatives of Theophilus Jones.
- Unfortunately, due to bad weather the seasonal Carols On The Green partnership with St Andrew's and Thringstone Methodists was cancelled.

### 2016

- Membership increased to 143 members for 2016, but unfortunately two of these members died during the year. We continued to attract supporters to our facebook and twitter sites. During the year we attracted 146 new facebook followers and 89 more twitter followers.
- We received several donations during 2016, including a £100 donation from the Rosary Rally Committee for letting them borrow our marquee for their summer event.
- We had a stall at the Thringstone Music Festival again during 2016.
- We continued to provide the quarterly Bauble newsletter, which is delivered round the village by a group of volunteers.
- Our chairman worked with Leicestershire Northern Flood Support folk to obtain bags of cleaning products which were distributed to people affected by the floods in June. Many thanks to Helen Crouch from this team for getting the donations together. Thanks also to Ruby's for their collection which raised £105 towards the redecoration of the chapel.
- We were approached by Bridge Road Co-op in Coalville to go with some of their staff members litter picking in the village. This is the first time any group of people has asked to do litter picking with us! We also took part in Clean For The Queen in March 2016 where we worked with Thringstone Brownies and Rainbows collecting rubbish from the village.
- Our partnership with Century of Stories came to an end in May when the children produced their work to an invited audience. This collaboration proved very worthwhile, and we were given another roll up banner to use at events. Following on from this, we produced further information for the team on men from Thringstone who died in The Battle of The Somme which went onto their Pinterest pages.
- We worked with Bellway Homes to provide details of men from WW1 whose names were commemorated on road names on their new Priory development. This will lead to an official opening in 2017.
- We became involved in trying to work with Arriva on the bus service situation in the village, and also with those bothered by the decision to remove the traffic calming at the entrance to the village by the new Bellway development. We also worked to try to improve the traffic situation down Lilybank.



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- We considerably extended and improved our heritage archives during 2016 with the help of many people sharing their photos and information with us. We also found more information from internet searches, including the publication of the 1939 register which was run off for the whole village and surrounding area.
- We were approached by a new landowner of woodland regarding his ownership, who was very impressed with our facebook postings.
- We lobbied the local council to provide more youth activities within the village and as a result are hopeful of further developments going forward.
- We were shortlisted for an award in the Leicestershire and Rutland Heritage Awards but failed to win
- We worked in collaboration with various churches in the area to provide a Carols on The Green event for 2016 which attracted over 60 people.
- We worked with other partners on putting together a successful one day exhibition on Charles Booth and other notable people at the community centre. This allowed us to work more closely with Whitwick Historical Group, Ibstock Historical Group, Coalville Heritage Group, Friends of Ravenstone Almshouses and Newbold History Group. It also brought new information and partnerships going forward.
- St Andrew's church gave us copies of their confirmation records and banns records covering several decades to keep for our archives.
- We planted over 2500 bulbs in the village, having entered into a scheme, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running, of working with NWLDC and paying half the cost of the bulbs.
- We got 8 free trees as part of the NWLDC free tree scheme which were planted within the village.
- We reached a figure of over 10,000 bags of litter picked since our records started and during 2016 collected and removed 2017 bags of litter from the village and surrounding woodland.
- Lobbying to County Hall achieved success in getting all the old bus stop signs removed from the village so people no longer wait at bus stops no longer in service.
- We worked with NWLDC's conservation officer identifying pre Victorian property in the village.
- We agreed to work with East Midlands Oral History Archive on recording people in their 80s and 90s talking about life in Leicestershire after WW2 and have a new partnership with the Coalville Heroes project, which we hope will lead to exhibitions with them in the future.

### **2015**

- Membership increased to 137 but unfortunately one of our members passed away this year. We have continued to attract interest on twitter and facebook. We started the year with 271 twitter followers and 123 facebook followers and now have 338 twitter followers and 200 facebook followers
- We were successful in our bid for 2000 spring bulbs, part funded by NWLDC, and for free trees, and have continued with our planting and maintenance of the areas for which we have become responsible. Unfortunately during the year some of our planting was stolen.
- Thanks to a donation from NWLDC, we were able to provide a new bench down Drury Lane which was painted up and repaired and put in place in the Autumn of 2015.



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- We were awarded The Big Tidy Award at the 2015 Keep Britain Tidy award ceremony in Liverpool. This is a big achievement for our group and put us forward onto a national platform.
- We continued to provide the village and part of Whitwick with the quarterly Bauble, with the winter 2015 edition being our 40<sup>th</sup> publication of our newsletter.
- We worked with local people and the councillors involved with discussions around the alteration of the bus routes through the village by making this item a prominent item for discussion both at our meetings and on facebook. All information was then fed back to councillors for them to further discuss with the bus service providers.
- We continued to work with Century of Stories on projects they set up, which included a day at Thringstone House Community Centre where people could come along and learn how to research their own family stories. From this, we were able to put together a display at Snibston Museum and get a banner on our 1914-18 stories.
- From the Century of Stories work, we set up and worked with the council on an arts award project with youngsters from the area, who put together work books based on WW1 Thringstone history provided by our group. This project was made into a cartoon strip and was sent to London to be considered for a national arts award.
- We had a presence in the Picnic in the Parks WW1 tent, and also continued to represent the group at Whitwick's Party in the Parks. We also had a stall at Thringstone Music Festival held at the community centre and went along to a history event at Ibstock to have a presence there.
- We only conducted two community litter picks in 2015, but continued to work with the village on litter picking by attracting new volunteer litter pickers. During the course of 2015, we picked up and removed 2053 bags of litter from the village and surrounding woodland, which is a record.
- We signed up with the Job Centre to take on volunteers, when appropriate, to work with the group on various things.
- We were given a guided tour around the recycling facilities operated by NWLDC which was interesting.
- Further meetings were held during 2015 with the de Lisle family to work on woodland protection going forward. During the year some active vandalism of the woods resulted in many of the bluebells being dug up and replaced by bike ramps, and we worked with the local community to alleviate the problem where we could.
- We joined the Pick up some Litter Facebook page, and also follow Litter Action UK on facebook – we have our own Litter Action UK webpage.
- New publications during 2015 were Memories 4, Pubs in Thringstone and Businesses in Thringstone. We also reprinted other publications to keep our stocks at a healthy level and updated and reprinted our own promotional leaflet.
- We were invited by the local U3A to do a talk on the lives of people buried in the graveyard of St Andrew's church, and were also involved in helping put together another talk for them on the stories of the Scottish coming to Thringstone in the 1960s.
- We put on a Big Lunch for the village, and worked on this with members of St Andrew's church. This was a success despite last minute problems with the catering and added to the social things offered by our group.
- We were invited to an official get-together at the new Fortnam Close development which replaced the Fox public house. The name was chosen



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following a submission made to the developers by our group – John Thomas Fortnam lived close to the site and died during WW1.

- We have continued to work hard on recording and researching the history of Thringstone and during the year have researched all the people who were the original signatories for Thringstone House Community Centre in the early 1900s, received many photos and documents which have expanded our knowledge of the village including some old church magazines, researched the stories of the 4 casualties of WW2 mentioned on the plaque within St Andrew's, and researched archive local and national media for details of men and women from Thringstone. This included purchasing the WAAC records for 2 women from Thringstone who worked during WW1 with the army. This information was shared with Leicestershire County Council and recognised as important new information, as most of their existing information concentrates on men.
- We received a large amount of archive information on the George and Dragon football team, were given information which expanded our knowledge on the George and Dragon's history and also researched the original occupants of the police houses in Booth Road.
- We were able to speak to 2 WW2 evacuees to Thringstone during this year, and wrote down their memories for our archives. We were given a map of the Carterdale Estate from the time of it being built, and also a map showing the names of people who initially moved into the Woodside Estate in the 1960s.
- We have also continued to work on researching the village during WW1, and discovered the help of the Wilkins brothers in working as translators for the Belgian refugees who came to the area. We also received lists of baptisms and marriages at St Andrew's, together with other information on the village from the parish registers.
- We helped with the organisation of Carols Round The Tree 2015, and provided another new tree for the occasion. We also continued to work with the community centre on all their new ideas and took part in the 2015 annual centre quiz.

### 2014

- Membership increased to 132, which is a brilliant record. We have also continued to attract interest on twitter and facebook with more followers than ever before. We started 2014 with a twitter following of 170 and facebook of 34. By the end of 2014, we had 271 twitter followers and 123 facebook followers.
- We put together an accident and incident report schedule and lone worker policy during 2014.
- We have continued to replant, maintain and tidy our planted area, and the poppy plants on The Green flowered at the right time to focus on WW1 commemoration events. One tree, planted down Drury Lane in 2005, was uprooted and could not be saved. We acquired more wild flower seeds for the Millbank Estate, planted poppies on the flowerbed on The Green, and planted 12 wild cherry trees down Drury Lane. We also helped a neighbouring land owner plant hedging down new fencing which he erected down Drury Lane, for which he gave us £70 for our own planting.
- We were successful in our campaign for a Green Plaque to Charles Booth. This was the first one in Leicestershire to be erected and an unveiling ceremony was organised, to which 2 members of the Booth family came.



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This was a great success for the village and included a contribution from Thringstone Primary.

- We received £150 in sponsorship from Woodstock in Whitwick which went towards publication costs.
- Our WW1 3 day event at Thringstone House Community Centre was very well attended. We achieved sponsorship for this event from The Co-op, The old Post Office, the current Post Office, St Andrew's, Coalville Rotary and East Midlands Airport Community Fund. We also secured the services of the Rural Community Council to do a presentation, and organised displays from Jonathan Capewell from the WW1 Tigers website, Aubrey Finney from Belton and Whitwick Historical Group. Thringstone Primary supplied art work for the event, as did the centre's Art Group and other local people supplied various memorabilia. Thringstone WI made poppies on the day and contributed £60 to the RBL as a result of sales of these.
- We arranged and held a meeting early in the year with the de Lisle family to try to establish a working partnership to take the management and protection of the woods forward.
- Following a fire to a flat on Shrewsbury Walk which left the tenant homeless, as a result of a facebook campaign, we managed to completely furnish a new flat for him, and provided him with clothing, bedding, household items etc., and also with money from local shops and organisations.
- We managed to work with Voluntary Action Leicestershire and get two new helpers for litter picking duties in the woodland – a learning difficulties gent and his carer who have been very productive in their efforts, for which we continue to thank them.
- We signed up to Pledge4plastics which aims to recycle more plastic bottles and joined Zilch, an anti-litter organisation.
- 3 community litter picks were organised. We worked with Whitwick Scouts for the first time on a community litter pick, and also worked with 1188 Air Cadets. We continued to litter pick regularly and took part in Climate Week, the Zilch Action Day in September, worked with NWLDC on their Woodside Estate community day in August, and organised our October litter pick to coincide with the Community Service Volunteers' Action Day and Keep Britain Tidy's Jubilee Tidy Up. We also applied for an award through Keep Britain Tidy.
- We collected and removed 1,854 bags of litter from the village and surrounding woodland in 2014. This is more bags than 2013.
- We received information from Keep Britain Tidy that we were shortlisted for their Jubilee Awards, and were invited to go to a presentation event in Liverpool in February 2015.
- We arranged to buy and then planted a living Christmas tree for the centre.
- We had a stall at Coalville's Picnic in the Parks and Snibston's Miners Gala, both of which were successful in generating funds for the group.
- We were again part of BBC Radio Leicester's Treasure Hunting quiz and hid a quiz question in the grounds of the Community Centre.
- New publications for 2014 were Thringstone and Its People, Memories of Durham miners, and Thringstone Around WW2. A book called Businesses in Thringstone was sent to the printers close to the year end. A further book called Pubs and their Landlords is in the process of being put into a format which the printers can use.
- We continued to work with the Booth family on the Charles Booth grave renovations which started in October and were completed in December.



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- The Fox public house was eventually demolished, and we recorded the demolition works for our archives.
- We worked with the centre on their table top sale in October, put together a history display and also had a stall. We continued to provide history displays for the November and December table top sales.
- We have continued to work hard on researching families and general history for the village, which this year has included sourcing and copying indentures and apprentice details, wills, enumerator's books, poll books, trade directories, photographs, local family history details, various information on soldiers going back to Napoleonic times, and property deeds. From these deeds we have acquired vital information on the growth of the village during the 1800s and subsequently. We also found and copied land tax redemption details from 1798. We also used property sale particulars to acquire photographs of older properties in the village.
- We discovered details in the National Archives of 2 women, born in Thringstone, who served in WW1 in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, and sent off for their records and extended our archive on military servicemen from Thringstone for WW1.
- We now have archive details of families removed from Thringstone under the Poor Law act to Lincolnshire in 1766 and 1829.
- We have researched members of the Wesleyan church in Thringstone. We have also been contacted by families who had a connection to Thringstone in the past. These included the Twigg family who farmed on Main Street, Burt and Ray Gough, and the Hurst family who lived at Thringstone House. We have also been investigating families who lived at Grace Dieu Warren and The Meadows (the original home built by the Booth family).
- We have interviewed several people during 2014 to record their memories for posterity.
- We took part in the Community Centre's annual quiz and helped with the organisation and running of Carols Round The Tree 2014.

### **2013**

- Membership increased to 120, so has continued to grow since our inception. We also attracted over 90 new followers to our twitter feed.
- We continued to replant and tidy our planted areas, and also planted a lot of poppy seeds so that they come up in time to give a show to co-incide with the centenary commemoration events planned to record the start of World War 1 in 1914. The grass down Drury Lane was covered over by bark chippings and shrubs planted in an attempt to get dog owners to be more responsible.
- We ran a very successful scarecrow event in partnership with Thringstone Methodist Chapel's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and achieved sponsorship from various businesses, including the newly erected Co-op who also joined in with a scarecrow and gave £25 to the Methodist Chapel towards their catering costs. Coalville Rotary gave us £300 and the Coalville Charity Cup gave us £120. Prizes were awarded to include trophies and shopping vouchers, and we are indebted to Tesco's, Morrisons, the Body Toning Emporium and Hermitage Leisure Centre for their help with this aspect of the event. Once again Thringstone Guides and Brownies helped with the judging. We attracted 39 scarecrows.
- We were approached by Leicestershire County Council to put in for a green plaque as part of their new scheme to record prominent people in the county. We have nominated Charles Booth.



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- We managed to get a Christmas tree for the Community Centre and purchased 3 new sets of lights as the others had rotted.
- We were accepted to be part of GivingWorldOnLine which allowed us to get free litter picking bags, and also a large quantity of mainly plastic toys some of which were used by the Community Centre as part of the Carols Round The Tree event.
- We worked with the local Voluntary Intern Placement scheme to take a group of learning difficulty members on a walk and history tour of Grace Dieu Priory.
- We had a stall at Coalville Twenty13, at Snibston Miners Gala and also Whitwick Historical Groups' 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary event and Ann Petty and John Dickinson led a walk to Cademan Woods for the group as part of the National Forest Walk Festival in May.
- Ann put together a lot of information on the Rose and Crown, and took photographs of its demolition. Copies were given to the management at the new Thringstone Co-op.
- We carried out some maintenance work on the Drury Lane signage so that it lasts for a few more years.
- We were again asked to be part of BBC Radio Leicester's treasure hunt quiz and planted another clue for them in the village.
- We continued to litter pick regularly and carry out event litter picks including one during Earth Day, one during Climate Week and another during the Community Service Volunteer's Action week. We worked again with the Air Cadets. We bought new litter pick sticks to replace broken ones during 2013.
- David Astill, Ron Hill and Nita were acknowledged by NWLDC for their litter picking achievements at a presentation and cream tea.
- We provided several new publications, which included Scottish in Thringstone, Born and Bred 3 and Memories 3. A large publication on the social history of the village from 1800 until 1950 was completed and sent to the printers with a view to being available in 2014.
- We worked with Whitwick Historical Group to remove trophies from The Oak when it closed. Many were taken back by people who had won the trophies, some were given to WHG and others to venues in the village whose names were on the trophies.
- We worked with Zoe Potter, a consultant hired by Thringstone Primary, to provide historical information as part of a history art project.
- We continued to research the history of the village, to include more recent history from 1960 onwards and several people gave us items of information to copy or scan for our archives including a lot of information on the family involved with starting Ruby's fish and chip shop.
- Considerable information has been researched and provided to detail the lives of the landlords and landladies of village pubs and we also researched the Coope family, who lived at Grace Dieu Manor in the 1880s.
- Research was undertaken to record the details of men from the village who were killed during World War 1. We were able to order and receive copies of several wills of some of these men which added to our achieves and knowledge base.
- We also continued to record and write up the memories of several individuals which will form new publications in 2014.
- We continued to liaise with the Booth family on the issue of the renovation/conservation of Charles Booth's grave.
- We were again short listed and finalists in the NWLDC's Green Footprints Awards under the Partnerships and Community category.





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- We continue to be part of the local heritage forum

### 2012

- Increased membership to 116, a record high
- Moved the flowerbed on The Green to a better area and reduced it in size and made it flat, all with the help of Aggregate Industries, who also helped with tidying the Millbank area and the jitties by the church
- Funded purchase and planting of spring bulbs and reseeded the grass verge by Badgerscroft from our resources.
- Continued to maintain the flowerbeds in the village for which we are responsible
- Had a stall at the Coalville twenty12 event in the summer, and also had a stall at the Miners' Gala at Snibston in September and worked with Thringstone Primary on their fetes
- Worked with St Andrew's on their Jubilee Window event and worked with the community centre on putting together historical information for their Jubilee event.
- Continued to do event litter picking, working with Thringstone Brownies and Rainbows and with the Coalville Air Cadets and worked with NWLDC on their District litter pick day and entered in the Daily Mail Spring Clean for The Queen event.
- Worked with Landmark Films on the work we do litter picking in the village
- Lobbied NWLDC successfully to provide dog fouling signage to be placed at the bottom of the sustrans track on Gracedieu Road
- Achieved funding from NWLDC for dog fouling litter pick sticks
- Worked with National Forest Walks Festival to provide a walk as part of their yearly event
- Produced The Graveyard booklet, with monies received from NWLDC to fund publication. Monies donated by people acquiring copies of the brochure were donated to the Booth family for upkeep and renovation of Charles Booth's grave after considerable help given to them in sourcing a suitable conservator.
- Worked with Leics CC on their War Memorials Project providing detailed information on the fallen of WW1 with Thringstone connections
- Recorded people in the village talking about their memories, and started work on finding information on all the landlords of pubs and clubs in the village, both past and present.
- Acquired new historical information for our archives. This included information on the Gough family, the George and Dragon, copies of historical leaflets and on events in the past. We also typed up the Migration Stories film audio track so that it could be published in the future.
- Continued to attend Heritage Forum meetings and be involved in heritage work in the district
- Supported Thringstone Bowls Club with their successful funding bid to Sport England
- Put in for Heritage Lottery Funding to enable more historical work to be done in the village, but were unsuccessful.
- Received £300 from Woodstock in Whitwick which went towards publication costs having reprinted copies of Memories 1 and 2.
- Received a highly commended as part of Leicestershire CC's Jubilee Awards.
- Purchased our own digital audio recorder and tripod, plus laminator



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- Took part in the treasure hunt quiz with Radio Leicester by planting a clue in the village for their live broadcast
- Came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Thringstone House Community Centre village quiz
- Worked with St Andrew's on their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary historical display and on the Carols Round The Tree Christmas Carol Singing event.

### 2011

- Won The Queens Award For Voluntary Service which is the highest award a voluntary group can win in the UK, and is the group equivalent of winning an MBE. We were presented with a certificate signed by Her Majesty plus a d glass crystal trophy by Lady Gretton in September.
- Reached the final 3 in the partnership and community category of the 2011 Footprint Challenge Awards and were awarded a highly commended certificate by Nigel Smith, Chairman of NWLDC
- Attracted further new members, and achieved membership of 110 this year
- Various organised litter picks during the course of the year collecting 82 bags of rubbish, plus tyres batteries, carpets, roofing felt, children's toys etc. There were also regular litter picks by members between organised litter picking events, which averaged about 15 bags of litter per week. Local Brownies have helped with two litter picks this year. One of the litter picks was done on CSV Make A Difference Day. We topped the 1100 mark on litter collected from the area since the formation of the group
- Joined Living Streets as an affiliated group. This group is concerned with safety on the streets of the country and a litter free environment and were featured as one of the partner organisations of the Rural Community Council in their Green Directory 2011. Also linked to Queen of Green facebook page after invitation from site owner and began regular correspondence with Litter Heroes.
- Carried out clearance work in the brook on 16<sup>th</sup> January to allow water to freely run under the bridge leading to the rear of Grace Dieu school.
- Continued to support the NWLDC's Green Footprints Network group by attendance at meetings etc.
- Agreed a published expenses criteria for the group to attach to the equal opportunities policy
- Speakers this year included Whitwick Action Group and the Chairman of NWLDC
- Walks programme continued to run during 2011. Walks offered will be reduced in number for 2012 but will be advertised more widely.
- Donated £100 to Thringstone Parent and Toddlers Group after a fire robbed them of their equipment stores
- Attended Snibston Miners' Gala and Thringstone school summer and Christmas fetes
- Produced DVD of Thringstone during a year for sale to interested parties
- Produced mounted copies of old photographs of the village and surrounding woodland and fields to sell to interested parties
- Filmed 5 local people talking about their migration from Scotland in the 1960s to produce DVD as part of the Migration Project with East Midlands Oral History Archive
- Linked with BBC Reel to Reel project to put on an event showing local film and slides from the area which attracted a full house at Thringstone House Community Centre and raised £54.86 for them. This event also brought new



archives for our group and for Media Archive for Central England's Full Circle Project

- Registered our blue plaques with English Heritage's website for inclusion on local schemes and sent a photograph for their site. Also sent details to LCC war memorial project on roll of honour at Thringstone House Community Centre and within St Andrew's and helped populate their pages on the fallen of WW1
- Put on a Heritage Event in July to co-incide with Archeology week and the 'year to go events for the Olympics 2012'
- Rescued various trophies and heritage items from the Rose and Crown before they were lost to the village
- Worked with Leicestershire County Council on their Village Voices project, to become the first group in Leicestershire to do and complete this project. We taped 6 people talking and saying various phrases and words so that an updated survey can be done on how accents and dialects are changing since the last survey was done in the 1950s.
- Provided interested members with discount vouchers for Millets as part of our link with Natural England's walking programme
- Hosted BBC Radio Leicester's Down To Earth gardening programme
- Succeeded in attracting sponsorship from the local business network in the sum of £250 towards planting the flowerbed on The Green, and achieved grant of £500 from LCC towards the scarecrow event. Successful funding bid in the sum of £350 from NWLDC to produce a booklet detailing notable and interesting graves at St Andrew's church
- Purchased a further set of 10 litter pick sticks
- Succeeded in getting permission from NWLDC to move the existing flowerbed on The Green to a less shaded area in Spring 2012.
- Organised and ran a scarecrow event for the centenary of the Community Centre in partnership with the primary school and Brownies. 52 people put together scarecrows. We also had a plant stall at the Community Centre's event.
- Worked with Thringstone House Community Centre's planning committee for Jubilee events 2012.
- Put in for Respect Challenge funding to work with Meadows Care Home and local Brownies on remembrance garden at the home but failed to get funding. Donated garden furniture to The Meadows, re-stained various garden furniture already there and planted spring bulbs.
- Organised outing to Ravenstone Almshouses for tour of the site and history details which was attended by 12 members and thoroughly enjoyed. Contributed £25 to the almshouses fundraising. Also took part in the annual Thringstone House Community Centre quiz evening.
- Provided tree and lights for the Carols Round The Tree event at the Community Centre once again, working in partnership with St Andrew's church.

## **2010**

- Entered the Rural Community Council's Achievement Awards in the categories of Community and Cleaner and Greener and won Silver in the Community category and Gold in the Cleaner and Greener category, collecting certificates and £75 prize money at award ceremony in September 2010.



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- Following submission of bids, achieved funding through Highcross Bursary Grants of £1,000, £330 from EM Airport and £200 through NWLDC's Coalville Special Expenses Fund. Bursary Grant money was used for general planting, EM Airport for flowerbed taken over from NWLDC and £200 for litter pick sticks.
- Worked with Grace Dieu Priory Trust on litter pick by the side of A512, on removal of brush following shrub cutting by A512 and on creating temporary car parking area near Bull's Head
- Attended meetings organised with youth group and County Council on provision of art mural project on Miner's Welfare site and formed part of their steering group and saw project through to completion.
- Spring litter pick organised working with Newfoundland Dog team as an event attracted 23 people and 28 bags of rubbish was collected. Litter pick organised for 12<sup>th</sup> June working with Geocache network as an event attracted 21 people and 39 bags of rubbish and other assorted items collected and removed from the village. Litter pick organised for 30<sup>th</sup> October working with local cadets and village to clear litter. 40 bags collected by 24 people (including 3 children).
- Contacted by East Midlands Oral History Archive to take part in recording stories of people moving into rural areas, especially Scottish people in the 1960s and were accepted as part of the pilot project to work on recording the memories of Scottish migrants to the village in the 1960/70s.
- Coach trip to the former home of William Morris organised for members and other interested parties
- Liaised with de Lisle family on Grace Dieu wood rhododendron and tree clearance. Also reported graffiti on viaduct, provided photographic evidence for the de Lisle estate, and worked with them on trying to get this removed
- Worked with local scout on his Queens Award through planting scheme
- Continued work with Thringstone Primary on planting at their school premises, and on linking with community centre meadow area
- Walks programme extended to offer 3 walks not connected to history and joined in National Forest Walk festival once more
- Started to organise a promotional video for the group, completed in Jan 2011 and loaded onto Utube and facebook
- Worked with Thringstone Primary to provide a greenhouse for the Junior FoT and eco/gardening groups at the school and appointed school liaison officer
- Joined Green Footprints Network and attended inaugural meeting
- Organised BBC Radio Leics. Down To Earth broadcast for the village to take place in Feb 2011.
- Delivered talk to Cabinet at NWLDC on the group as part of their interest in groups working on green issues and energy saving
- Completed replanting of flower bed on The Green having taken this over from NWLDC. This also involved turfing around the altered bed and re-staining the benches around the outside.
- Worked with NWLDC on their Picnic in the Parks event, and joined in with the Grace Dieu group's event and attended Miner's event at Snibston and were again part of the procession, and with Diseworth group on Eco Event as part of The Big Switch Off
- Started work on Migration Project working through East Midlands Oral History Archive in conjunction with Thringstone Members Club to record memories of people coming to the village from Scotland and the North East in the 1960s and 1970s. Photographic day organised and delivered and new photographs gained for the group



## The Friends of Thringstone

- Set up facebook and twitter pages
- Organised new roller banner for promotion and the printing of promotional brochures on the work of the group

### 2009

- Winner of the first Footprint Challenge awards through NWLDC in the Partnership and Community Group category
- Attracted funding through NWLDC for the purchase of 7 Smart meters, and setting up a loan scheme for villagers to have a meter and feed back information to a central source at NWLDC
- Litter picks and bulb planting at St Andrew's with Thringstone Primary School
- Successful lobbying to NWLDC led to more signage regarding dog fouling in the village and surrounding woodland
- Further forging of new partnerships to include various eco groups and low carbon companies
- Worked with Thringstone Primary School on CSV Action Earth project on Main Street, by planting heathers and sowing seeds, and further planting with Thringstone Primary of bulbs.
- Awarded Outstanding Achievement award as part of neighbourhoods category of EM in Bloom.
- Linked with Coleorton Heritage Warden towards finding out more about the original Thringstone parish.
- Bulbs planted at the entrance to the village, and also in existing planting.
- Put together a junior arm of the group with Thringstone Primary's gardening and eco groups
- Ran a market stall for the group, as well as participating in Snibston Miner's Heritage Event (with banner), Grace Dieu event, school fetes and George and Dragon event.
- Members helped to promote the village by finding two local sites to link with the Geocache network
- Continued to offer walks using our walks brochure, but this year linking in with the National Forest Walk Festival for added promotion. This also continued through to 2010 with the inclusion of the Leicestershire Walking Festival
- Took part in bowls challenge with St Andrew's which we won, and also the Thringstone Community Centre quiz which we won
- Ran a series a heritage road shows round the village with differing themes per venue
- Worked on arts and community links in the village to promote social activities to villagers to include being part of steering group looking at street art provision
- Worked with smart driver training to offer this to members
- Appointed an arts and community officer
- Chairman invited to No. 10 as part of Community Heroes reception to meet prime minister and have tour of parliament
- Attended Workplace Health day at NWLDC to promote the group and our voluntary work
- Organised Christmas cards for the group
- Christmas lantern procession and carol singing organised with St Andrew's and Community Centre for Dec 2009.



# The Friends of Thringstone

## 2008

- Environmental action day in February removing 22 bags of rubbish from the rear of the Woodside estate
- Planting of shrubs, trees etc. in Community Centre garden and completion of tree planting on disused area adjacent to 181 Main Street
- Transformed the area running alongside the wall from Loughborough Road towards St Andrew's church by planting, after consultation and agreement from Leicestershire County Council
- Continued promotion and press releases throughout the year on various topics including newsletters and their delivery
- Discussions during meetings on environment, schools, community centre, buses, facilities, shops and public houses as part of follow up on village appraisal mentioned above
- Facilitated presentation on the history of Grace Dieu priory for Friends of Grace Dieu
- Organised a schedule of guided village walks to link with our existing walks publications and planned walks for 2009 to include linkage with the National Forest Walk festival in May 09.
- Filmed by Brady Haran of East Midlands Today showing the 15 blue plaques we have in our village as part of his filming of unusual villages
- Agreed to do regular litter picks around The Bull's Head area as part of other litter picks in that area.
- Provided 2 new memories booklets linking with the tapes deposited with East Midlands Oral History Archive and donated 25 to the local school for future history projects
- Continued to investigate the history of the village, obtain copies of old deeds etc., and talk to people about their memories, as well as obtaining copies of old photographs for archive purposes, and set up drop in afternoon at Thringstone Community Centre for people to come and have a look at old photographs of the village and talk about their memories
- Had stalls at Whitwick Historical Society's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event, Grace Dieu Garden Party, 2 School fetes, Snibston Mining Heritage Event and Picnic in the Parks
- Organised and ran 2<sup>nd</sup> village heritage event at Thringstone Community Centre, opened by MP David Taylor
- Partnerships achieved with mayor of Romans-sur-Isere and also the Minister for the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector to facilitate information sharing on items of best practice, plus with Ecotherm Ltd. and NWLDC's sustainability team on energy conservation and other eco messages, plus improved relationship with local police
- Facilitated the erection of signage for Brook Lane from Grace Dieu Road end and replacement signage for The Green
- Nominated for Nationwide Heritage and Community Awards
- Took part in Big Tidy litter pick with local primary school plus a larger, but similar, venture with Coalville Army Cadets Squadron F and local explorers in Grace Dieu woods with the approval and agreement of the de Lisle family.
- Joined Enable, Leicestershire County Council's Environmental Partnership forum
- Submitted application for our planting schemes to be considered for East Midlands in Bloom 2009



## The Friends of Thringstone

- Organised and produced a Friends of Thringstone calendar
- Continuing registration of group with eco-themes organisations
- Facilitated village meeting with planners involved in the redevelopment of The Fox site
- Put together a health and safety policy for the group
- Contact with NWLDC regarding general concerns on local development framework and asking for local meeting in January 09
- Levied Leicestershire County for extra lighting and safety measures to be instituted down Lilybank
- Partnership with St Andrew's church to look to conserve Charles Booth's grave
- Donation of Christmas tree and lights to the community centre and setting up of carol singing around the tree in December
- Forward planning for 2009 by inviting eco-themed guests to be speakers in January, February and May 2009 to talk about energy saving measures and reducing carbon footprints

### 2007

- Hold a sponsored walk as a fundraiser for the group, and put together a promotional package to be used at events
- Continue to provide regular newsletters for the whole village
- Represent the views of the membership in discussions with officers from NWLDC and trust members for Miners' Welfare on their suggested improvement plans. Attend open meetings at Miners' Welfare to represent views of membership.
- Link in with the management committee of Thringstone Community Centre to represent our views at their meetings
- Following partnership working with Leicestershire County Council and their agreement to waive the licences to cultivate, plant shrubs along Loughborough Road near the entrance to Springfield
- Attract sponsorship from local businesses for our summer event, set up and run this event, organise entertainment and stalls for a full family day out, linked in with new partners – Thringstone Primary School and The Scouts
- Attend Thringstone Primary School's summer and winter fetes to sell booklets etc.
- Attract funding from RCC and NWLDC for 15 blue plaques and liaise with owners of properties on wordage and siting of plaques once made, and provide historical walks brochures and reprints of Born and Bred booklets
- Attract funding from RCC, National Forest Company and NWLDC for the provision of 2 National Forest signs for the village
- Work with local archeologists on Millhouse, and set up a history lead officer to keep all information together, and start archive records
- Obtain permission from NWLDC to tidy and plant new shrubs and plants at the bottom of Brook Lane. Work carried out using FOT funds.
- Obtain permission from NWLDC to tidy area by the side of 181 Main Street, an area of land sadly neglected. Clear and plant area with funding from NWLDC and local residents.
- Provide a stall at Gracedieu Priory summer medieval event and Picnic in the Parks
- Link with East Midlands Oral History Archive and tape local residents and type up their memories. Recordings passed to EMOHA for their archives and



## The Friends of Thringstone

website. Soundbites of tapes put onto FOT website. Continue to tape people talking about their memories of the village

- Obtain funding from WI to put transcripts of memories into another book
- Contact residents of other villages who have an interest in the history of Thringstone/who lived in our village to get archive information to keep for posterity
- Approach library service, local hostelrys, museums and tourist information service to take copies of our existing publications
- Update and improve website to include new web address, more information, more links and a craft page
- Start obtaining funding and plan for Heritage Event for 2008 to link in with the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Whitwick Pit disaster, which killed men from our village and also with the anniversary of the commencement of Old Age Pensions, all achieved due to the work of Charles Booth, who is strongly connected to Thringstone.
- Provide FOT calendars to be sold at outlets in the village
- Take up associate membership of CVS to broaden spectrum of partners
- Help with annual hayrake at Bob's Closs
- Source date for membership visit to Swannington Mill for guided tour in 2008
- Agree to host a presentation by Gracedieu Priory Trust on the history of the priory at the Community Centre in March 2008
- Litter picks continued throughout the year
- 1<sup>st</sup> Friends of Thringstone Christmas Fayre organised, to include local crafts-people, food, entertainment and music both inside and outside at Thringstone Community Centre. Programmes printed, posters printed and delivered, evaluation forms completed by visitors and stall holders and profit made
- Look back at 1999 Thringstone Village Appraisal, correlate information on gaps in provision since that time, and arrange discussions to start dealing with issues discovered

### 2006

- Continue to hold monthly meetings and invite guest speakers on matters of interest, send out press releases to promote work done by the group, something which continues on a regular basis
- Weed and tidy round Booth Memorial area, daffodil planting in Gracedieu woods and surrounding area
- Hold a stall at Picnic in the Parks, organise a Friends of Thringstone BBQ as a fund raising event, take part in the Council's 100 day campaign
- Networking with NWLDC on Community Guardian scheme and attract the first community guardian with Ray Neal
- Enter the council's improvement competition and gain a commendation for work within the village
- Lobby Council for acknowledgment of Bauble Yard within the village and obtain signage
- Set up history sub-group, agree an events co-ordinator, work towards putting together information and getting funding for walks leaflets and mini-history booklets and expand areas of interest
- Represent the village at an awards celebration on volunteering held at County Hall





## The Friends of Thringstone

- Take part in the Compost Day held at Thringstone Community Centre selling plants
- Partnership with NWLDC and local police officers on matters of anti-social behaviour
- Help with the annual hay rake at Bob's Closs
- Initiate a FOT calendar to sell with a view to repeating this in future years with additional supplies
- Approach Leicestershire County Council for approval to plant more trees within the village
- Organise and hold a social event/meal at Bulls Head for members and their families and hold a Christmas Party to which members of the Youth Club were also invited

### 2005

- Initial meetings set up in early 2005 discussed local issues of parking, anti-social behaviour, positioning of litter bins and rubbish around the village etc. on an informal basis. No committee structure, but litter picks were initiated, and guest speakers invited to the meetings, to talk about issues such as dog fouling, how to carry out conservation work etc.
- July 2005 – Form a committee, elect officers, open bank account, form a constitution and agree aims and objectives, and plan for the future by setting up regular meetings and a website
- Initial production of newsletters continuing onwards
- Partnership with NWLDC and local councillors to improve the village, discuss matters of concern and achieve new flowerbed on The Green
- Successful funding application from East Midlands Airport to carry out conservation work within the village
- Starting September 2005, open up access to Bob's Closs and remove tons of waste whilst doing this. Work carrying on until April 2006