



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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Chairman's Report for AGM June 2017

This has been another good year for our group, with **membership totals** reaching 148 although 4 of our 2016/17 members have subsequently died and two have moved away. The increase in membership monies received has obviously contributed to improving our bank balance.

That said, **our accounts** for our March year end continued to show a healthy balance although we have made a loss of £491.18 this year.

Publication sales have continued to fluctuate and sales at our two outlets are now quite low and have made over £150 less for the group this year against last. We continue to sell publications at events, as well as a result of various facebook postings. We also received £56 from the Bowling Club, a member gave us £20 to replace stolen plants, and several members overpaying their membership subscriptions.

We have continued carrying out regular litter picking, and reduced the amounts of community litter picks. Within the last 12 months, we have picked up and removed over 2000 bags of rubbish from the village and woodland.

Our **website** continues to be a good source of advertising. We have also continued to use twitter and facebook as a means of advertising, and attracted 75 new **twitter followers** over the 12 months and 153 new **facebook followers**.

For the first time, along with Thringstone Methodist Church and St Andrew's, we provided help for a Carols On The Green service. This attracted a record amount of people, and we thank the Methodist Chapel for the catering and the U3A choir and Val Baxter for the musical help.

The history side of the group has continued to be very busy, unearthing lots of information about the village in the past, and being given many photographs to add to our archives.

As a result of splendid work carried out on our behalf by one of our members, Bellway Homes paid for and donated a mobile defibrillator to the group. This was housed at The Meadows Nursing Home, and is a wonderful provision for the village.

We once again took part in the **Community Centre's yearly quiz** and worked with the centre on their music festival.

We have continued to work hard on our gardening areas, and this year once again took advantage of an offer from NWLDC to acquire 1500 spring bulbs. Thanks to many people who helped plant these, the village looked a lot brighter this spring than in the past and we have received many wonderful comments about our planting, although unfortunately, a considerable amount of daffodils were either picked or vandalised, and the show of crocus plants we expected to see did not materialise..

We would like to thank everybody who supports the group in any way at all. Without all this help and support, there would be no group, and we greatly value your contributions



RCC

The Friends of Thringstone
Winner of the Big Tidy Award at the Keep Britain Tidy Jubilee Awards 2015
Winner of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2011
Winner of Gold and Silver RCC Village achievement awards 2010
Awarded Outstanding Achievement Certificate in the RHS Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards 2009
Winner of the NWLDC's Footprint Awards under Partnerships and Community Groups 2009, finalists 2011 and 2013



Stepping out for a greener district