



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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Chairman's Report for AGM June 2016

This has been another good year for our group, with **membership totals** reaching 137 although several people have now moved from the village and one of our members died.

Our accounts for our March year end showed a healthy balance. We reduced the amount of insurance cover this year by lowering the numbers we would likely attract to events, as the only events we do of late revolve around litter picking.

Publication sales have continued to fluctuate and sales at our two outlets are now quite low. This last year we have added to our publications with Thringstone and Its People, Pubs in Thringstone and Businesses in Thringstone. Our publications officer, David Stevenson, has continued the work carried out by his predecessor with a passion.

We held **2 event litter picks** during the year, which included a new Clean For The Queen event, which attracted over 20 people. From June 2015 to May 2016 we have removed over 1,870 bags of rubbish. We would like to thank Thringstone Co-op for continuing to supply us with reuseable carrier bags. We would also like to thank NWLDC for their help with removing rubbish collected on our community litter picks, and the parks department for their swift action to deal with anything we report to them.

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 over 65 **new twitter followers** over the year and over 145 new **facebook followers**.

We once again provided help for the **Carols Round the Tree** at Thringstone House Community Centre and have continued to help promote the work of the church and the community centre.

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. We worked with Century of Stories on children's art projects and provided information for them on soldiers from WW1 which was a new partnership. We also got the agreement of Bellway Homes to use the name of 4 soldiers as road names on their new Priory development.

We once again took part in the **Community Centre's yearly quiz** and worked with the centre on their music festival, to which we donated £250 this year.

We have continued to work hard on our gardening areas, and this year took advantage of an offer from NWLDC to acquire 1000 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. 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