

Agenda for meeting to be held at Thringstone Community Centre on Thursday 6th September 2007 at 6.45pm

Present: Nita Pearson, Colin Perrett, Geoff Walker, Ann Petty, Jo Johnson, Colin Porcher, Chris Mellor, Jan Cufflin, Tracey Foulds, Rowena Summers, Pam Clayfield, Pam Porter, Sandie and Tony Newton, Lorraine Whitehurst, Mike Statham

Apologies: Geoff and Jane Wilson, Ray Woodward, Janet Stevenson, Ray Neal, John and Karon Smith, Bernard Lee, Dave Everitt, Brenda Simpson, John Dickinson, Bill Newton, Margaret Smith

Treasurer's report:

Balance brought forward £1,038.05

Receipts total £215 against expenditure of £137.96

Balance at present £1115.69

Expenditure expected to come out – calendar purchase and strimmer repair.

Nita took the strimmer, which didn't work properly, to Higgot's in Ibstock. It was left there for an assessment, which cost in excess of £35 on deposit of the item. They have rung to say that repairs will be £90.30 in addition to what has already been paid. It seems that the diaphragm within the carburettor had become solid, so air and petrol don't get through in the right amount. Discussions took place as to whether to get this repair done given the cost, but it was agreed that it should be done by Higgot's, as it will come with a guarantee, but it was mentioned that a local person might be able to do simple repairs in the future, should these be necessary.

Secretary report:

Geoff Wilson was not at the meeting. Letters and press cuttings will be given to Geoff for filing.

Web report:

John Smith was not at the meeting, but it was noted that the Moira Male Voice Choir logo had been put with the announcement of their concert at St Andrews on the website, and that it was proposed to put craft adverts on the website for people who were taking stalls at the Christmas Fayre. Nita said that she was also going to give John details of events and groups at the community centre to put onto the website. Geoff Walker said he had some details and would forward these to either John direct or to Nita to pass to John. It was felt important to promote the community centre where possible. The latest event meeting minutes from 30th August need to go on the site, but other than that the site is up to date.

History sub-group: Rowena Summers reported that her questionnaire was also on the website, and if anybody had any history activities to report, completed questionnaires could be handed in at the community centre. She had already received a form from Ann Petty. Rowena is also looking at gathering further information on the Whitwick Pit disaster, and Jan Cufflin agreed to give to Rowena details of families known to her who had connections with this disaster.

Councillor's 5 minutes

Pam Clayfield reported that she had attended the licensing meeting earlier to discuss the proposals affecting the Jet garage in Whitwick. There had been good representation by locals concerned by the proposals, and solicitors had been there to represent the applicant. The option for sales of hot drinks and food until the early hours was removed, but the alcohol licence had been granted. This however could be reviewed if problems arose. Cllr Clayfield is looking to help set up a local forum with the business and interested parties to discuss problems with noise, litter etc., and was hopeful that this could lead to positive partnership working in the future. Litter bins may also be provided.

Cllr Clayfield has also been involved in getting the new 40mph road signs on the A512 from the Bulls Head to near the George and Dragon.

Jan Cufflin asked if there was any news about the Fox becoming an Indian Restaurant, but nothing new was known. Discussions then took place regarding trade at other pubs in the village.

Events

There have been two events meetings on 2nd August and 30th August. Minutes were made available.

Our next event is our Christmas fayre which is on 8th December 2007. We are making inroads into organising some entertainment and also stalls, so that it is a gift fayre for the village. Jan Cufflin said that she had been asked to enquire whether the Retired People's Fellowship could have a bric a brac stall. It was decided that this was acceptable, as one stall place was still available, but the group needed to be made aware that this is not a bric a brac event, but a Christmas gift fayre, and as such we would only allow gifts to be sold.

It was noted that we need to get a sign organised, and Ray W is working on organising that. We will also need posters, and publicity, and volunteers will be required to help. Jan Cufflin said that Alan Burgess will help design a poster. Nita will contact him about this, as it needs to be organised soon.

A Christmas hamper is also needed for event as one of the raffle prizes. Jan Cufflin gave one to the group, but we will be looking for every member, if possible, to let us have an item to go into the hamper. This will need to be co-ordinated with the events team, so everyone doesn't bring the same thing. Jan Cufflin said she would donate some homemade marmalade, and it was noted that tins of food donated had to be well within their sell by date.

Pam Clayfield suggested that people be asked to sign a visitors' book which could then be used for mailshots. Sandie Newton said she would supply one of these. It was also suggested that a form could be used with questions on what people thought of the event. This could then be used to work out public opinion on what was provided.

The events meeting discussed an entrance fee to the Christmas Fayre, with everyone getting a raffle ticket, with the opportunity to buy more, but this has to be at people's discretion.

As suggested above, it has also been agreed that all crafts people receive a mention on a special page on our website, as there will be a charge for stalls, and it can be seen to offset this cost if people get a free advert. People will, of course, have the opportunity to refuse the free advert if they don't want one, and also have the opportunity to make donations should they wish to.

Ginns and Gutteridge are providing a large fairground-type organ, which will be on the carpark on a lorry, and are hopeful that they may be able to spend more than an hour at the event.

Concern was raised that other events in the village would clash with our event, but since all the churches are coming to our event, this is unlikely. Chris Mellor said that she would tell The Meadows Nursing Home when our event was, so that they could try to avoid a clash of dates.

Ella Roberts from Thringstone County Primary wants to be involved by having a small display of children's crafts. Sandie Newton is to discuss this further with Lorraine and report back to Ella.

Jan Cufflin agreed to talk to the toddler group about the event.

It was mentioned that there will be a wine stall, music and song, and perhaps we could use 'Wine Women and Song' as part of any press releases.

Pam Clayfield suggested that Nita contact the council to get something in the Vision, and also to contact the council about a new radio station which is being set up at a Coalville school. Nita will do this in due course.

Our summer event is to be on 6th September and will be linked to mining, with it being the 110th anniversary of the Whitwick Pit Disaster and also connect with Charles Booth. Ray Woodward is working on organising that.

Because of costs, we have decided not to run with an Evening of Music and Dance. The cost of putting on the event was decided to be prohibitive.

Publications update

We reordered a supply of Born and Bred 1, and these have been given to Tony. He is arranging placement of our publications, and has already left these at George in Coleorton and George and Dragon, with a view to looking for other avenues for placement in due course such as local museums in Ashby and Coalville, as well as other public houses.

Constitutional changes

As discussed at our last meeting, we needed to formulate and agree an equal opportunities policy, which was done. This had to be cross referenced in our constitution, so this has also been done with committee approval.

Calendar Update

Geoff has been busy taking pictures, with local people and groups, for the calendar, and Nita has supplied some blurb for the back of the calendar on who we are, what we stand for, and who to contact (Nita as chair). The calendar is now ready to go into production, and Nita is doing some final proof reading. It was decided to place an initial order of 100, as various local businesses and groups have expressed an interest in either having calendars or selling them. Nita will talk to Ray Woodward about this, and ask him to follow through on order placement so that Geoff knows what the situation is as soon as possible. It was noted that Geoff will need money for these calendars when he picks them up.

Logo

At the last meeting, John Smith agreed to look at the logo with a view to coming up with some other alternatives. He hasn't got back to us with anything as yet.

Update on planting by 181 Main Street

Mrs Norah Newton would be delighted if the area were thought of as a memory area for her son Robert, who was a local historian. She has already agreed to fund some trees. Pam Clayfield said that she would talk to the editor of The Vision with regard to a feature on the work done by Friends of Thringstone, but this would possibly be in the Spring of next year when the work at the side of 181 Main Street is more noticeable. Concerns were raised about the type of trees to be planted, whether they would be flowering etc., and whether the neighbours had been fully consulted about the plans. Nita said that Ray Neal had spoken to the neighbours and this was in hand.

Funding requests

Nita submitted a claim to NWLDC for £250 for planting trees and shrubs at 181 Main Street, and we have been awarded this money, and the cheque has been requisitioned. Nita sent a further funding bid to Helen Jean Cope Trust, but received a reply that we cannot be considered for help, as we are not a registered charity. Nita also sent an application to the Mercury Action Trust, but this was also refused. Members need to think if there are any other funding areas we could tap into in order that we can get the transcripts of the tapes published into book form which is our next big project. Jan Cufflin asked if there were chances that we could get other funding from NWLDC in the same way as a group who were mentioned in the latest Vision had done, but it was pointed out that NWLDC have been very generous in their funding to Friends of Thringstone, and we need to look at a wider funding source.

Town Twinning/School Twinning/arts link

It has been decided not to pursue any idea of twinning the village with another somewhere else, but Nita has approached Thringstone County Primary School as she has discovered that there are lots of foreign schools looking for twins. As the school holidays have intervened, she has not received any response from Ella Roberts on this. She has also mentioned to Ella about the possibility of working with Mantle Arts on an arts project in the village, but has not received a response.

Old Pictures of Thringstone

About a month ago there were some pictures in the Coalville Times of the Coronation Celebrations held at The Fox in Main Street (or Main Road, Thringstone as they put in the paper). The owner of these photos was sourced, and has been contacted. She is interested in helping us with some of her pictures, but needs to contact her sister to be sure they are OK to lend to us to copy. She may also be interested in being taped talking about her memories of the village in the 1940's and 1950s. Nita will chase this in due course, as she has already had a long chat with the lady, as has Ray Woodward. Pam Spence and her family have also provided The Bulls Head with old photos of the pub, since their family kept it at one time. It has been agreed that these photos can also be copied for our group, and it was mentioned that a photoshoot had taken place at The Bulls Head recently, and it was hoped this would be featured in the Coalville Times shortly.

Gracedieu Woods

Rowena Summers explained that the house next to the Bulls Head, formally tenanted by Mrs Fletcher, and known as The Lodge, is now occupied by a land agent of the de Lisle family, and it is intended to restrict access to part of the woods which are presently free to roam, and carry out 'organised shoots'. Nita has written to Bertie de Lisle on this, but received no response. She will email him again. Rowena pointed out that there had been burglaries at The Lodge, and all the new fittings and fixtures had been targeted, hence the fact that the land agent and his family had moved in before work is completed.

Car stickers

One of our members suggested we might have car stickers saying 'I am a Friend of Thringstone' or something similar. Nita has sourced some suppliers of car stickers, and this was discussed. It was decided that the cost of £1.95 per sticker for 50 was a little steep, and this item should be resurrected when the financial position of the group is more healthy.

Newsletters

These were run off during August and distributed to volunteers to deliver. They contain within them an early advert for the Christmas Fayre. Spare copies have been given to Councillors at NWLDC, and delivered to Bulls Head and George and Dragon for customers.

What we have achieved

As we go along, we are keeping up to date our list of what we have achieved since we started. At the end of the year, it is proposed to update what is presently on the website, and it is also proposed to have adequate copies of this document available at the Christmas Gift Fayre.

Any Other Business

Centre Stage at the Community Centre.

It is proposed to feature events held at the Community Centre on our website, together with details of the groups who operate from the centre. Members will be informed by email if possible when things are on. The next event is a folk duo of international renown which will be appearing at the centre on November 28th from 7.30pm onwards. Tickets are in the process of being printed, and further details will be posted to our website when known.

East Midland Oral History Archive

Several forms have been received from Colin Hyde. These have to be completed by people who have been taped by our group and whose tapes are deposited with the archive. Nita will require other people to help with the completion of these forms, as they are very lengthy and ask a lot of questions.

Thringstone Primary School

Ella at the school has asked us to help promote events they put on, and we have agreed to do so, possibly also including details on our website.

She has also asked for volunteers from the community to help with the walking bus ideas, as well as telling us she is looking for new school governors. If anybody is able to help, please contact the school direct.

Ella has also suggested that we work with them on their school fete by putting something on of our own on the same day. This could then mean that walks be lead from the school to the community centre. We cannot change the date of our event next year, but Nita has proposed to Ella that she run blue plaque walks for the school when necessary to foster the existing partnership.

Ella would like members of Friends of Thringstone to attend school events when possible to help forge stronger links, and also said she will let us have copies of her newsletter, which again could possibly be featured on our website.

Litter Pick

Pam Porter said that members should consider where they felt a litter pick should concentrate on, and inform her of these areas at the next meeting, when a date could then be decided. It was suggested that litter picks should alternate between Saturdays and Sundays, to give people the chance to attend if one or the other day was not convenient.

Gracedieu event

Sandie Newton has been asked by Friends of Gracedieu whether Friends of Thringstone would like to take part in their event on 22nd June 2008. Sandie had already said that we would.

Christmas Party

Sandie Newton would like people to let her know as soon as possible what they are intending to bring in terms of food for the Christmas Party on 6th December. Guests will be invited – up to 2 guests per member, but we need to have numbers as soon as possible so that we don't breach fire regulation maximums. Please contact Sandie direct on this.

Quiz night

Mike Statham is trying to arrange a local quiz night sometime in the Autumn at the community centre and asked if Friends of Thringstone would like to take part. Nita completed a form for this, and needs up to 5 other people to form a team. Geoff Walker and Rowena Summer expressed an interest. The quiz night will only run if there is sufficient interest from other groups.

Date of next meeting - **11th October** at 6.45pm at Thringstone Community Centre.

Date of next event meeting - **27th September** at 6.45pm at Thringstone Community Centre