



# The Friends of Thringstone

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Visit our website at: [www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk](http://www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk)

## Minutes of meeting held at Thringstone Community Centre on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at 6.45pm

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Maggie Smith, Ray Neal, Lorraine Whitehurst, Tracey Foulds, Jim Wilkinson, Janet Stevenson, Dave Everitt, Julie Maraffin, Chris Mellor, Pam Clayfield, Fran Skinner, Roy Hill, Geoff Walker, Ray Woodward, Tony Newton, Anne Baxter, Ann Petty, Colin Perrett, Jan Cufflin, Pauline Bolstridge, Bernard Lee, Pam Porter, Tam Bream, John & Karen Smith, Tony Newton

### Apologies

Geoff & Jane Wilson, Sandie Newton, Rowena Summer, Jo Johnson

### Treasurer's Report:

Balance brought forward    £1,608.54

Receipts:	20.00	Stall holders
Expenditure:	72.50	Booklet reprint
	40.98	Printer ink

Balance carried forward    £1515.06

Pam Porter told the meeting that she was resigning as treasurer, but had agreed with Nita that she would become Lead on Environmental Issues, subject to this being agreed by vote at the AGM. Tony Newton will take over the Treasurer's work again subject to vote at the AGM.

### Environmental Issues

Geoff Walker raised the issue of raffle ticket strips. It was agreed in future to have only one ticket each to save paper.

Pam asked that people should alert her to any litter black spots, so that she could work with the Council to deal with them.

Skips: This matter was discussed at some length. It was felt the Council were possibly wrong to suggest putting back the litter pick with the cadets to September. Fran Skinner pointed out the damage being done to wildlife and it was also agreed that the area to be cleared did not have long grass to hide the litter. It was therefore decided that Pam & Nita would continue to work with Claire from the Council to get some action.

Adele Toon had potentially offered to fund half the cost of a skip so long as the Council would not charge for disposing of the contents.

Fran was encouraging lads who were damaging the Bluebells in the woods to sort their rubbish into bins.

### Correspondence & Publicity

- Letters had been sent out to all members by email and hard copy to encourage attendance at the AGM next month.

**Available for viewing:**

- Beat news from the police about Whitwick and a separate letter concerning Thringstone were available
- An invitation to the launch of the Council's Green Footprint Initiative
- A letter being taken to the Coalville twin town: Romans sur Isere by Pam Clayfield
- Portfolio of activities from 2005 which could be used to explain to people who FoT were and what they did
- Scrapbook of press coverage to include 3 items of publicity gained this month.

***Photos were needed of before and after projects*****Web Report (John Smith)**

The website was now up to date. John was congratulated on the website.

We were averaging 5 visits per day (34 this week) with a total of 1197 visitors to date. A link had been put in to the Wikipedia site and the Thringstone entry there up dated.

***Please give John any information about the village which you wish to be added.***

Nita added that she had noticed an increasing number of international visitors which included people logging on from Calcutta, USA, New Zealand, France, Germany and beyond.

**History (Ann Petty)**

Ann had given Nita a transcript of a telephone conversation she had had with Squire de Lisle regarding the Duke de Seigny mentioned in previous minutes. The meeting was pleased to note that he was obviously reading the minutes and interested in FoT activities. Ann told the meeting about the Wilton Report on the Millbank proposals which were ongoing, and that she is getting information on the village's history from various other people. She has not been able to contact one lady who has connections with Ruby's chip shop, but has agreed to tape of memories from an 80 year old resident about Fox Yard. She would action this. (see also Councillor's Report below)

**Publications Report (Tony Newton)**

The booklets placements are going well at the George & Dragon and the Community Centre. They are also available at The George at Coleorton. Pam Spence has taken some to the Luncheon Club. Next Friday Nita and Julia Campbell, president of the WI, would present 25 copies to the school and hoped to get press coverage.

Part 2 should be published within a month.

**Councillors' 5 minutes**

Dave Everitt – said it was one year since his election. Housing issues were on hold pending negotiations with a Housing Association. The Council Estate needed maintenance and there would be a visitation next Wednesday starting from 'Rangers' at 10.0am

Pam Clayfield – gave notice of a meeting with the developers for building on the Fox Pub site, on 20<sup>th</sup> May at the Community Centre 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm to look at the plans. Complaints had been received about the Springfield verges being uncut and these were now the responsibility of the County Council. Pam had spoken to the Council and this had now been actioned. Please contact Pam with any other worries. She was happy to take the letter to Romans Sur Isere about contact with any environmental or historical groups there.

The District Council Green footprint Initiative has started with 20 businesses signed up.

Thringstone school also wished to be involved.

Pam congratulated Nita on the Portfolio and said it would be useful information for the Green Footprint campaign. The Vision had mentioned Thringstone School's efforts. County Council had spoken to Pam about the traffic calming plans near the new houses at the top of The Dumps. Immediate neighbours would be consulted.

There was a problem with double parking outside the Fitness Centre in Main Street which was being monitored.

### **Any Other Business**

Other issues raised were

- The Jet Garage alcohol licence was being reviewed after it twice failed an underage sales test as reported in the Coalville Times. The licence review meeting was being held at the same time as our own meeting.
- Several houses on the Melrose Estate did not have clear numbers which could be a problem for Emergency Services. Pam Clayfield will follow this up with the District Council
- The new Community Officer seemed to be not getting out of his car enough and it was suggested he be asked to make himself better known
- The sight lines at the top of Carterdale were obscured by the Gas works there. Chris Mellor was asked to contact Transco
- A sample plaque for Robert Newton was shown and it was agreed to go for the Slate version as being more long lasting. Nita would pass the wordage for the plaque onto Pauline so that we could get a price for this to discuss with members
- Thringstone website. Geoff Walker would like to hand this over. It had been set up before the establishment of FoT. He was willing to show anyone how to manage it.
- The local walks organised by FoT were being enjoyed but could do with more support
- The issue regarding care of Charles Booth's grave was ongoing in discussion with Church House. Photos had been taken of the church wall in its present state with the overgrown area beneath and FoT were hoping to be able to do planting shortly.
- Calendar – John Smith has all the photographs on disc, in month order, and will pass this onto Nita for the committee to look at, and sanction which photographs are used for the calendar. This needs to be with the printers by the end of June at the outside, if we are to have it available for our own event in September. Nita will contact all committee about this once John has passed over the disc.

### Topic for discussion

A topic sheet page from the previous Village Appraisal was handed round for discussion on the subject of lines of communication, the community centre and school involvement. It was agreed that the notice board situation had improved, and that there were now more activities for people to join in, such as the women's group at the church, the programme run by the WI in the village, and the work being done by the University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age in Loughborough particularly. There is an editorial on our website regarding setting a U3A branch more locally. Some of the expressed wishes were still seen as rather hopeful, such as computer classes, a chemist and more post boxes, but others such as after school activities and information through a newsletter were seen to have improved.

### **Future Events**

- FoT Heritage Event on September 6<sup>th</sup> was progressing well. See Events Meeting minutes. Ray Woodward had approached Cat Cares for Sponsorship, John Lewis and also NUM, although things were not progressing quickly in this respect. He was still looking for sponsorship from various businesses.
- 17/18<sup>th</sup> May Whitwick Historical Event at Hall Lane Methodist Church Hall. We will be represented with publications for sale thanks to Ann Petty and her brother allowing us to put them on their stall. Ann passed round flyers for the event and also quizzes showing pictures of Whitwick which needed identification, and for which there would be a prize for the winner.
- 21<sup>st</sup> June Grace Dieu Event at the Priory. FoT Bric a Brac stall. Jan has done a rota, but suggests workers take their own seats.

- 28<sup>th</sup> June School Fete. Publications for sale and various items of interest to children which Nita has to donate. Geoff & Pauline Walker have volunteered for this.
- 29<sup>th</sup> June Picnic in the Park. Jan has done a rota –one gap to be filled. Offers of plants are still required to Nita or Sandie. Anne Baxter, Maggie Smith and others have already agreed to provide plants. Roy Hill has agreed to be the third car to take the items to the site for an 8.30am set up. The stall will comprise of plants, plus books, our booklet sales and general bric a brac. People manning the stand need to take own chairs again.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Sept. Miners' Gala FoT are to have a stall. Nita will talk to Alison Clague about the time of the event, and costs, if any, and report back to the next events meeting.
- The Bulls Head was under new management but parking for Grace Dieu was unaffected. A litter pick had been carried out around their car park area since the last meeting by members of FoT.
- Bernard Lee reported that the trees planted on Lily Bank had all taken well
- The Leicestershire Together Social Regeneration survey had been completed and returned by Nita

### **Other events to note**

Christian Aid Week fundraising event at Holy Cross on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May

The Clay Faces Music group are performing at the Community Centre on 14<sup>th</sup> May Tickets £7 (conc£6) including food

The Monday Film Club at the Community Centre was now taking a Summer Break and would resume in September

### **Next meeting:**

Next full meeting is the AGM on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June. This would take the form of a conducted visit to Swannington Mill at 6.45pm followed by a buffet supper and brief meeting at the George and Dragon at 8pm. £3.50 payable to Sandie by 22<sup>nd</sup> May. .

***FoT Subscriptions were now due for 2008 £2.50 Payable to Nita or Tony Newton***

**Next Event meeting:** Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 6.45 at Thringstone Community Centre.