



The Friends of Thringstone

Chairman: Nita Pearson

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Visit our website at: www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk

Minutes of AGM held at **George and Dragon, Thringstone** on
5th June 2008.

Present: Nita Pearson, Tam Bream, Anne Baxter, Pauline Bolstridge, John Carr, Jan Cufflin Dave Everitt, Julie Marrafan, Tracey Foulds, Roy Hill, Bernard Lee, Ray Neal, Pat Elderfield, Sandie Newton, Tony Newton, Maggie Smith, John and Karon Smith, Janet Stevenson, Geoff Walker, Jim Wilkinson, Ray Woodward, Trish Nicholson, Ann Petty, Rowena Summers, Julia Campbell, Jo Johnson, Chris Mellor, Mike and Anne Statham, Jenny and Peter Walker. Guests: Denis Baker, Adele Toon, Jan Neal, Mrs Hill, Mrs Wilkinson

Apologies: Bill Newton, Colin Perrit, John Dickinson, Frances Skinner, Pam Porter, Jane and Geoff Wilson, Pam Clayfield, Pam Spence, Keith Timson, Lis Muller, Colin Porcher, Janet Warburton, Lorraine Whitehurst

Voting in of new committee:

Nita Pearson	Chairman	Proposed by: Ray Woodward
		Seconded by: Tony Newton
Tony Newton	(Treasurer)	Proposed by: Ray Woodward
		Seconded by Roy Hill
Janet Stevenson	(Minute Secretary)	Proposed by: Sandie Newton
		Seconded by: Ray Woodward
Tam Bream	(Membership Secretary)	Proposed by: Jim Wilkinson
		Seconded by: Tony Newton
Geoff Wilson	(Finance liaison)	Proposed by: Tony Newton
		Seconded by: Roy Hill
Pam Porter	(Environment lead)	Proposed by: Ray Woodward
		Seconded by: Sandie Newton
Ray Woodward	(Fundraising)	Proposed by: Janet Stevenson
		Seconded by: Roy Hill
Ray Neal	(Planting lead)	Proposed by: Ray Woodward
		Seconded by: Geoff Walker
Sandie Newton	(Events Assist)	Proposed by: Ray Woodward
		Seconded by: Jim Wilkinson
Jan Cufflin	(Events manning)	Proposed by: Sandie Newton
		Seconded by: Chris Mellor

Maggie Smith (Children's liaison)

Proposed by: Sandie Newton

Seconded by: Tony Newton

Vice Chair: Tony Newton

Proposed by: Ray Woodward

Seconded by: John Smith

Constitutional alterations: In line with having a new treasurer, and splitting the secretary's job into minute secretary and membership secretary, it has been necessary to make minor changes to the constitution. This has previously been thrown open to the membership for discussion, and there being no further alterations requested, has been altered as suggested. A revised copy will be posted to the website in due course.

Treasurer's report

Balance brought forward	£1,515.06	
Receipts		
	120.00	Memberships 08/9
	174.90	Booklet donations
	16.00	Newsletter advertising
	10.00	Plant sales
	25.00	Donations to FoT
	7.50	Miscellaneous
	<u>150.00</u>	Sponsorship from Caterpillar
	£2,018.46	
Expenditure		
		13.50 Treasurer's items
		<u>25.00</u> Tablecloth embroidery
		38.50
Total	£1,979.96	

From previous minutes

Environmental issues:

- Following a meeting between Nita and Claire MacRory and Tony Bierne from NWLDC, it has been agreed that the clearance work at the back of the properties in Springfield and down the sustrans track towards the Melrose Play Area be postponed until the Autumn bank holiday. Pam P has advised Adele Toon, and we will keep in touch with everybody to rearrange later in the year.
- Clearance work to the area at the side of the pathway running down by the church from Loughborough Road took place on 24th May and photographs were taken for the portfolio and also put on our website and that of St Andrew's. Thanks to those who turned out for this.

Correspondence and publicity:

- The Echo has printed details of the presentation of the 25 Memories Booklets to Thringstone Primary School. This information will be filed in the portfolio books.

- The Leicester Mercury sent a photographer to take photos of walkers attending the walk to Cademan and Swannymote Woods on 25th May, but it rained, so there were only 2 people there. We hope that the picture will still appear in the paper.
- Nita has sent an email to the mayor of Romans-Sur-Isere, following Pam Clayfield's delivery of a letter. This email reinforces the wish of the group to contact our colleagues in France who are carrying out similar environmental/history work to ourselves.
- Simon Greenhouse from the National Forest Company has emailed and shown interest in our publication on Cademan and Swannymote woods, and a complementary copy has been sent to him. He is particularly interested in finding out more about the old court there, and John Dickinson is helping in this research.
- Nita has completed and returned a form sent by Leicestershire County Council on the broad outcomes required from a Leicestershire Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Organisation.
- Following a reminder to East Midlands Oral History Archive, their current list of groups in Leicestershire undertaking oral history recording now includes the work of FoT.
- We have been in touch with the new beat police person PC 4231 Rachael Hughes to underline concerns regarding anti-social behaviour in the woods. PC Hughes has been invited to attend the July meeting. We understand that there was not a Beat News for May.
- We have emailed Phil Hope, who is the minister for the East Midlands and Third Sector, asking if he has any knowledge of groups similar to ours in the East Midlands with whom we could swap best practice information.
- Nita is having a stand (for work purposes) at the National Forest walk festival to be held at Snibston Discovery Park on Saturday 5th July. She will be taking with her booklets on Thringstone to broaden the area of publicity, as well as other details on FOT, and will also be leading a health walk on the day. If anybody wishes to come along, they would be welcome. The event runs all day with a 10am start.
- Letters have been sent to local supermarkets, the Hermitage Leisure Centre, and West Midlands Safari Park asking if they are able to help with vouchers/tickets as raffle prizes for the Heritage Event. Netto has said they are unable to help. NWLDC are sending a voucher to use at Hermitage Leisure Centre, the Co-op have sent a £10 voucher, and we are awaiting developments on the others.

Web Report:

The website continues to be up to date. New members have been attracted and have reported how superb the website is. It continues to be a flagship tool for our group.

History:

Ann has continued to investigate the link between the Sforza Cesarini family from Italy and the village and discovered more information on this, thanks to initial information supplied by The Squire de Lisle. Witan Archeology are presently engaged in working elsewhere, and we are still, in any event, trying to get permission from landowners to carry out further research on The Mill site.

Publications Report:

We now have the Memories Part 2 booklets, which have proven to be of interest to the public, plus 25 re-prints of Memories Part 1. Booklet placements continue well at our outlets.

Whitwick Service Station:

They have retained their license with certain conditions. A consideration is that a licensing review is an open hearing when other parties can put objections forward, similar to consideration when one is being granted. As there were numerous public objections to the site being given a licence, then a show of further objections would have been taken into account by the licensing panel.

Robert Newton's plaque:

Pauline Bolstridge has collected a plaque and been reimbursed for the £25 cost of this by Bernard Lee out of his monies. Bernard will be putting the plaque in at the Community Centre after consultation with the rest of the group about where it should be sited.

Calendars:

John Smith put together all the photographs submitted for the calendar onto one disc for committee to select. It was noted that there were a huge amount of photographs of the woodland, but few of the village itself, so this was addressed and photographs chosen so that the pictures can be given to the printers by mid June as agreed.

Events:

- Whitwick Historical Society's 25th anniversary event was well attended. Thanks to Ann Petty and Bill Newton for taking our portfolio and photographs to display, plus copies of The Bauble and publications. £62 was received in brochure donations, and several people offered to let us have copies of old photographs for any further publications.
- The events meeting held on 22nd May was productive in sorting out what is happening with the summer events. There is, however, continued concern over parking at our Heritage Event, especially with regard to loading and unloading on the day, given that we understand we might not be able to utilise the Methodist Church's car park as had been hoped. As a result, local crafts people are being encouraged to consider setting up the night before the event, and we are looking to discuss with the police the issue of double parking for stall holders on the car park on The Green.
- A newsletter is currently being drafted which will be delivered in early August, advertising the Heritage Event and other things in the village. It was felt that this was the best idea, rather than asking members to deliver newsletters and then shortly thereafter deliver leaflets.

Minutes of the events meeting held on 22nd May have been circulated round the whole membership.

Sponsorship:

Ray Woodward has attracted sponsorship from Caterpillar Cares as detailed in the treasurer's report. He is continuing to investigate other sponsorship opportunities and funding streams.

AOB

Anti-Social Behaviour

There have been a series of small fires within Grace Dieu woods, concentrated especially near the cricket pitch area. The fire brigade now have this down as an area of concern. There have also been some instances of anti-social behaviour and theft of dustbins within the same area.

The Fox

The consultation meeting with the proposed developers of this site was held at Thringstone Community Centre on 20th May prior to putting in any planning application.

The proposals are for a 75 unit care home, 3 storeys high. At the meeting the main concerns raised were that a 3 storey unit would not fit in with surrounding properties, would reduce light to neighbouring and facing properties and create traffic problems in a very narrow part of the street, both in the building phase and afterwards. There was also a concern over the state of the sewers and the impact on these that another building of such magnitude would produce, as well as concerns over the build itself, with fears raised regarding possible increased anti-social behaviour in that area. Nita completed a form expressing concerns raised, and giving details of our group for contact.

George and Dragon

Pete and the gang are intending to put on a music festival at the George and Dragon on 16th August. NWLDC have been asked for advice and help to make this a success, and FoT will endeavour to help publicise this as much as we are able.

Grass Verges

There is currently a lot of concern within the village about the length of grass on the grass verges. The cutting of these now falls to a contractor appointed through the Leicestershire County Council, and this problem has been reported across other areas, and not just within NWL and has arisen because the subcontractor left. A new subcontractor has been appointed, and work has started on the grass verges in the district today, with help from a County Council gang.

Raffle Prizes for Heritage Event

Since the last minutes, we have received 2 free swim tickets from Hermitage Leisure Centre, 2 free entrance tickets to West Midlands Safari Park (must be used before 7th November) and a £10 voucher from Midlands Co-op. A bottle of wine has also been donated by David Stevenson. We are hopeful of receiving more raffle prizes in due course.

School Badge

On presentation of the Memories booklets to Thringstone County Primary, FoT were presented with a commemorative badge marking the 40th anniversary of the school. This is being kept in our archives.

Thanks

A vote of thanks was given to Nita for the work she has done for FoT and she was presented with some flowers from the group.

Nita proposed a vote of thanks to Ray Woodward. During the course of the last financial year, Ray has attracted sponsorship from local businesses to the value of £560 which is an excellent total.

A vote of thanks was given to Swannington Heritage Trust and Denis Baker for allowing us to look round the Swannington Mill, and for the talk enjoyed by the group prior to the formal AGM.

A further vote of thanks was given to the staff and management of the George and Dragon for the buffet.

The next meeting will be on July 10th at 6.45pm at Thringstone Community Centre.

The next event meeting is to be held on 31st July at 6.45pm at Thringstone Community Centre