



# 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 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at 6.45pm

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Pam Clayfield, Janet Stevenson, Tracey Foulds, Lorraine Whitehurst, Ann Petty, Geoff Walker, Pauline Bolstridge, Ann Baxter, Jan Cufflin, Ray Woodward, chris Mellor, Pat Elderfield, Bernard Lee, Ray Neal, Colin Perrit, Tony & Sandie Newton, Maggie Smith, Niels Nielsen, Dave Everitt, Julie Marrafin, Janet & Eric Warburton, Pam Porter

**Apologies** Roy Hill, Rowena Summers, Geoff and Jane Wilson, John and Helen Dickinson, John and Karon Smith, Brenda Simpson, PC Rachael Hughes. CSO Jim Sorrell

**Health and Safety** Nita stated that she had produced a Policy Document which had been approved by the committee and was dated 14<sup>th</sup> June. Copies were given out to any members who were interested and were available from Nita. This document will also be posted to our website.

**Treasurer's Report:** Copies of the Balance Sheet were given out by Tony Newton. This showed a healthy balance of £2499.06 after expenses. Book sales had been particularly good last month and sponsorship and events had brought in income (detailed below). Expenditure of £97.00 had been undertaken on items for the group such as Hi-visibility vests for workers near roads on planting or litter picks, at events doing car park duty etc., an apron cash-bag for use at events and some walkie talkies also for use at events.

**Newsletters:** A special edition had been colour printed on glossy paper to advertise the September Heritage event. Other events in the village were also advertised so it was asked that the newsletters be delivered in the first week of August to allow people to take note of these at right time. The date for the **Hay Rake** at Bob's Closs (to the rear of the Community Centre) is **August 16<sup>th</sup>**. This information had been too late for inclusion, but it was hoped members would support it.

The printer had donated 500 free copies which it is hoped further volunteers will deliver around the district.

### Correspondence

- A current list of sponsors was available
- A letter from the Nationwide Community & Heritage Regional Awards told us we had not been selected
- An email reply about village Eco Groups gave details of other websites and communities. Nita had printed these off and they are available for anyone wishing to read or view them
- NWLDC had requested information about how we had spent their grant for Trees. Nita had taken some photos of the plantings and sent them to the officer at NWLDC who is responsible for grants of this nature

- An email reply from Paul Coates, Waste Strategy Manager at NWLDC to our request for information about what happened to recycling collections was read out. Nita had investigated the firms named and found they were in West Yorkshire, Buxton and Cardiff. The meeting felt these were long distances but at least we now know what is being done. If members not at the meeting want to have the specific names of the contractors used for recycling, please contact Nita.
- A letter had been received from Frederic Deshayes in Romans sur Isere detailing the environmental and historical groups in that area of France. He seemed happy to follow up links through the twinning and would send details of contacts after the holiday period.
- A letter from the Council concerning the planting planned for the margin by the church wall explained that the planting would need to be 'soft' and not encroach on the walking area. Nita would reply with details of the proposed planting schedule, species etc., when the environment group have decided which planting is suitable.
- A letter from NWLCVS requesting an article for their Newsletter 'Encompass'. Nita has actioned
- An emailed list of incidents in Thringstone had been received from Rachael Hughes the Police Community Liaison Officer in lieu of her being able to attend the meeting. Such information had not been sent before and the meeting found some aspects rather worrying. From 16 incidents 14 were listed as 'No suspects', and the message was that the Police were relying on local citizens to report who was involved. FoT members were concerned that the attitude, service by and relations with the Police and the village had seriously deteriorated since the departure of Ian Holland and subsequently Dwight Barker. There had been incidents of Police bad driving and parking witnessed in the centre of the village and the fires and vandalism to trees in the wood were not mentioned in the report provided by the Police. It was agreed that members should make efforts to report everything to the police and get incident numbers, in the hope that they will better work with the FoT in the future. Nita agreed to send an email to Rachael along those lines.

### **Promotion**

- a photo in the Echo of a Wet Walk!
- an article about the Heritage Event in Vision
- details had been put on Infolinx Care Online list of organisations

### **Other correspondence**

Nita had information available to members concerning Sustainable Communities and there was also information available to members on the proposed White Paper entitled Unlocking the Talent of Our Communities.

### **Web report – John Smith**

John was not present but Nita reported that a few amendments had been made to the website and it continues to be a great asset to the group

### **History – Ann Petty**

- Ann had been allowed to take photos inside The Star, which has now been sold. These would be put in the archives
- Nita had discovered that the historical details on the Mitchell and Butlers website about the Bulls Head were very inaccurate. Nita had contacted them with correct information supplied by Ann, but as yet had received no reply.
- Ann had transcribed various historical information from the Coalville Times which will be added to the archives, and possibly used in future newsletters
- Ann reported that the archaeological work at Millbank was in abeyance.

## **Publications report -Tony Newton**

Tony reported that booklets had raised £130.50 last month. Some titles were selling very well and an audit would be done next month in order to inform decisions about reprinting.

## **Councillors' 5 minutes – Pam Clayfield**

Pam told the group about the Council Initiative - The Footprints Challenge, and showed some leaflets. She thought that there were three relevant categories to the FoT : Community groups, Individuals and Families. Application forms would be distributed soon and she asked that nominations be made from Thringstone. The aim was to help everyone to become more environmentally aware and active.

In answer to a question, she said she had enquired about the work on the footpath from Millbank to the A512 and had been told that the work would commence shortly.

Nita mentioned about a notice on a lamp post about Parking charges had confirmed that this was about a change in byelaws and should have been taken down having asked Cllr Clayfield to investigate on behalf of the group. There was no plan to impose charges at the moment.

## **Events**

- Grace Dieu had been a great success and raised £92 15 plus brochure sales
- The school fete had only raised £21.60 plus brochure sales but it had been fun and Ray, Maggie and Nita had been asked to act as judges for the Thringstone's Got Talent competition
- Picnic in the Park had been successful until a violent squall of wind and rain had caused most people to pack up It had raised £140.85 plus brochure sales

## **Future Events**

- FoT will have a stall at the Miners Gala at Snibston in September.
- **Heritage Event** on Sept 6<sup>th</sup>. Arrangements were well under control . Ray Woodward had been working hard on sponsorship and had so far raised £760. This includes £200 from the NUM as well as the loan of their banner. This would need to be very carefully looked after. Ray was thanked and congratulated.
- Sandie had prepared very impressive scale charts of the stalls for the event which could be changed as necessary. These were available for members to look at. She was also congratulated and thanked for all her work.

## **A.O.B**

- **Robert Newton's plaque** was now installed at the front of the Community Centre
- **Walks** These had been badly affected by rain but there were still others to promote
- **Calendar** The photos had been chosen and sent to the printer. The quality of the submissions had been impressive and photographers were encouraged to enter other competitions and/or send photos to East Midlands Today TV as this would all help to advertise the village. In spite of holiday delays at the printers it was hoped to have the calendars ready for sale on Sept 6<sup>th</sup>.
- **Rose & Crown** This pub will reopen on Friday July 11<sup>th</sup> under temporary licensees. These are Pete, Margaret, Ann & Steve from the George & Dragon. It is hoped that an up and running business will be more attractive to a new permanent licensee.
- **A Gazebo** has been donated to the group by a village resident and proved very useful at the Picnic in the park. A thank you card had been sent.
- **The Children's Centre** was being opened in refurbished premises near to the school. It had held an Open Day but due to lack of publicity this had apparently not been well supported. Nita had been and spoken with the co-ordinator for the programme across NW Leicestershire, and told them that there was already a parking problem in Henson's Lane . A post of Admin assistant for 15 hours per week will soon be advertised. The Co-ordinator , Paul Harrison, has been invited to attend the next meeting of FoT as our Guest

- Speaker to explain what it was hoped to do there. Nita will inform others that this is happening, such as the local playgroups, to see if they are interested in finding out more
- Chris Mellor asked that the idea of a Dog Foul Bin at the Grace Dieu Road end of the Sustrans track be pursued. Pam Clayfield will investigate, but it was pointed out that the group had asked for one of these before, but had not been successful.
  - Ray Neal offered to send a card from the group to congratulate and thank the chip shop for their wonderful floral display in the centre of the village

### **Next Meeting**

The next full meeting of FoT will be held at the Community Centre at 6.45pm on 11th the September. (NB. No meeting in August)

The next Events Meeting will be on 31<sup>st</sup> July at the Community Centre.