



# The Friends of Thringstone

---

Chairman: Nita Pearson  
20 Springfield, Thringstone, Leicestershire, LE67 8LT.  
Telephone: 01530 223434  
<mailto:nita.pearson@ntlworld.com>

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

## Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 6.45pm at Thringstone Community Centre

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Tony Newton, David Taylor MP, Sandie Newton, Jim Wilkinson, Ray Woodward, Jan Cufflin, Tracey Foulds, Bernard Lee, Chris Mellor, John and Karon Smith, Geoff Walker, Dave and Julie Everitt, Jo Johnson, Colin Porcher, Colin Perrit, Pam Clayfield, Ray Neal, Ann Petty, Pam Porter, Roy Hill, Geoff Wilson, Brenda Simpson

**Apologies:** Janet and David Stevenson, Maggie Smith, Rowena Summers, Roy Hill, Jane Wilson, Tam Bream, Lorraine Whitehurst, Pauline Bolstridge, Ann Baxter, John and Helen Dickinson

### **Nita's Correspondence and publicity report – Letters, emails etc**

- Email to Phil Matthews from Citrus Group (owners of **The Fox site**) reporting on discussions at last meeting with information back about them possibly selling the site to another group
- Completed application form for **£50 grant from CSV Action Earth 2009**. Received letter, tabards, seeds, certificates, grant forms and feedback forms from Action Earth saying we are one of 900 projects they want to support. Further work required to get the £50 grant, including publicity. Our information is on their website - <http://www.actionearth.org.uk/projects/Leicestershire.php>
- Organised **Action Earth project** to take place 8<sup>th</sup> May between 1pm and 3pm and involve Thringstone Primary School. Further publicity will be generated nearer the time.
- Email to County Council about hole in **grass verge** near 128 Lbro Rd and other issues – now filled in
- Emails about **parking on grass verges** with county – see Councillor's section below
- Inform local county councillor about position of **bus stop in Glebe Road** and lack of consultation
- Email members to advise on reporting back on **LDF** before 23<sup>rd</sup> March deadline followed by various emails from members about letters sent etc. David Taylor reported at this point that he had questioned NWLDC's planners about the mention of the school playing fields, and they said they had never any intent to build on these, despite these being included in previous plans
- Asked NWLDC about **footprint challenge** (joining in) and about altering return dates for loan of smart meters and how this might affect their stats
- Organised and agreed **litter pick dates** with NWLDC . These are 17<sup>th</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 28<sup>th</sup> June, 12<sup>th</sup> September and 22<sup>nd</sup> November, all meeting at 10am on The Green.
- Letter from NWLDC to say the group is one of the 3 finalists in the Partnership and Community Section of the **Footprint Awards** – list of finalists was published in The Echo of 25<sup>th</sup> March. The three finalists are ourselves, Friends of Holly Hayes and Swannington Heritage Trust, and it is nice to know that finalists are all within the green belt area.
- Update from **East Midlands Oral History Archive** on what they have been doing, circulated round committee and history group
- Letter from NWLDC confirming no **Picnic in the Parks** this year, giving dates for 2010 of 27<sup>th</sup> June and for 2012 of 24<sup>th</sup> June and asking for completion of a questionnaire, duly returned
- Completed 8 page questionnaire and 1 page membership form from **Voluntary Action Leicester** (replaced CVS locally in providing support to community and voluntary groups in Leics.) Provided copies of our constitution and equal opportunities policies as these were both requested

- Emails from Leicestershire Police with a copy of their **policing pledge poster and beat surgeries** – hard copy available, surgeries advertised in May/June newsletter
- Emails to and from police regarding **ASB** in village
- Phone call from **Mercury reporter** asking for quote on the incidences of violence within the village – explained violence is actually low, and reports of assaults can range from domestic incidents, to children pushing each other to something more serious, as was reported earlier this year by the police in their reports to the group
- Phone call from lady who had read about the **smart meters** in the Coalville Times and wanted to borrow one. Pam Porter reported that this same lady had returned her meter unused within a day to NWLDC rather than to FoT.
- Email from **Healthy Times** with various suggestions for improving things in the Spring forwarded to committee
- Various emails between committee on **clearance issues** in one area, detailed in section below regarding meeting with environment team
- Email newsletter from **RCC** with information of potential interest to Thringstone Primary forwarded onto head of school
- 8 page application form completed for **funding of IT equipment** through BT Community Connections fund
- Email to NWLDC requesting 2 dog foul bins, one on Booth Road and one on Grace Dieu road – no reply received
- Phone call from gent in Ibstock asking if he could have a **smart meter** – referred to NWLDC
- Receipt of **Voluntary Action Leicestershire news magazine** for April 2009 which also contains details of training courses. Hard copy available.
- Letter from **Snibston Discovery Park** asking if we are able to go to a meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April
- **Breathing places** Easter newsletter, sent round Committee
- **Low Carbon Innovation** newsletter, sent round Committee

### Promotion, publicity etc

- **Press releases** sent to media and to NWLDC's What's On regarding our walk programme and also about our Smart meter funding success, litter pick dates, the CSV Action Earth project and history road show at the George and Dragon
- **Article in Coalville Times** of 20<sup>th</sup> March on our smart meter scheme
- **Articles in Leicester Mercury** about both walks and smart meter scheme and on their community blog on the website plus similar articles about our litter pick dates, heritage road show and Active Earth project
- **National Forest Walk Festival leaflet** now available with details of 2 of our FoT walks in May. This includes our own walk picture from Jan 07 in the photo section. The production of this leaflet (30,000 produced and distributed nationwide) has led to calls asking for more details
- Added litter pick dates, heritage event, CSV Action Earth event to **National Forest website** with the view to some items being included in their summer newsletter
- Phone call with **Echo** reporter about stolen plants in the village which will be added to the article on the work we are doing with planting
- Copy received of village events and **guided walks publication** issued by Rural Community Council in which all FoT walks are listed for the year
- Added details of the heritage event and Action Earth project to [www.wherewecanwego.com](http://www.wherewecanwego.com) which in turn will be linked to the Daily Telegraph pages in the coming weeks
- Details of the **next two litter picks** were printed in the Coalville Times of 9<sup>th</sup> April
- Details of the **Heritage event** at the George and Dragon and the next litter pick date were given in The Echo dated 15<sup>th</sup> April

### Other:

- Drawn up to do list for people from last meeting and **action plan** as working document for the year
- Received a **gazebo** from Mary Evans as a result of the ending of one of Rod's groups. Thanks to Mary.
- **Meeting with the environment team** to discuss Action Earth and the successful removal of metal from an area in the village, details of which were circulated to the committee. It had been agreed that the area from where the metal had been removed was not in our ownership and was not the property of the village, and therefore despite its appearance, should be left alone.

However, it may be possible for contact to be made, through the solicitors who we know to act for the owner of this land, expressing our concern at its state, although this action may produce an unfavourable response.

- **Treasurer's Report** – Tony Newton

Brought Forward from last meeting		£1,522.29
Receipts:		
NWLDC grant for smart meters	£245	
Brochure sales	£ 30	
Expenditure:		
Signage for planted areas	£75	
Gardening team	£100 of which £50 has already been spent	
Litter pick gloves	£9.95	
Newsletter printing	£76.49	
Current balance:		£1,535.85

Nita reminded the meeting that Tony Newton would like to be replaced as Treasurer at the AGM, and nominations were being sought for this position. The treasurer's job is an important part of the successful running of the group, and we need someone who has access to a computer and to an excel package. Tony has said that he will not leave us in the lurch if another treasurer is not sourced, but this is not ideal. It was discussed whether an external person could be asked to be treasurer, and this may have to happen, and there may be the possibility of an honorarium being paid if someone from within the group is not sourced. If anybody is interested in taking over the position as treasurer, please contact Nita as soon as possible.

- **Publications and calendar report** – Tony Newton

A stock-take has been done of the publications we have and what is on placement and this is 12 x Memories 1, 24 x Memories 2, 35 x Village Trail 1, 15 x Village Trail 2, 30 x Village Trail 3, 10 x Born and Bred 1 and 61 x Born and Bred 2.

It was suggested that we need to consider stocking up on publications to see us through the walks period and the heritage events. Nita agreed to talk to the publishers to ascertain the optimum price per unit, and discover the minimum print run. Geoff Walker said that he uses Team Print in Baxtergate, Loughborough, who work exclusively for voluntary groups. Nita agreed to find out costs for brochure printing from both current printer and Team Print, and seek approval from the committee to reprint enough brochures to see us through the summer period.

- **Web report** – John Smith

The website is up to date, and John has recently put on details of the Police beat surgeries, our latest newsletter, and given a page to the community centre. He reported that there have been two abusive messages on the guest book, which he has removed, and that during the month the site went down temporarily twice, but this was only for a short period of time. John was thanked for his work on the website.

- **Arts and community report** – Pam Clayfield

The next meeting of the Loose Women group will be Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7.30pm at Thringstone Community Centre. Other things on offer include:

Ray Sutton Lectures commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> April from 2-3pm at Thringstone Community Centre

Bluebell Walk with optional pub stop/lunch on 25<sup>th</sup> April

Cinema Club 27<sup>th</sup> April at Thringstone Community Centre

Lecture at Loughborough on Virginia Woolf on 28<sup>th</sup> April

Proposed speaker from Germany on 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm at Thringstone Community Centre to be confirmed

King and I at Thringstone Community Centre running 11-16 May – Loose Women are visiting on 12<sup>th</sup> May

Blooming Marvellous at Loughborough Town Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> June

Loose Woman are also looking at holding a belly dancing evening, going to see The Tigers and to a dog track.

For further details on any of these events, please contact either the Community Centre or Pam Clayfield direct.

Pam mentioned that she has been asked to become a Trustee at the Marlene Reid Centre and has accepted this offer, and will start in May. One of her roles will be to work on transport issues, and she has already ascertained that there is a 16 seater mini bus available which has the potential to be used by groups for various outings.

- **History** – Ann Petty.

The first history road show takes place on Saturday 9th May from 12.30pm til 5pm at The

George and Dragon. We have fixed a date with Lorraine for the second road show, at the Community Centre on Saturday August 22nd and we thought we could use the Community Centre from the beginning, as a theme. Nita will not be available on that date to entice people to take out a membership, and we need a volunteer who is willing to help Ann with this part of the event.

Ann is going down to see if we can get some more photos from their archives at some point, and is trying to get together as many photos and stories as possible about the Thringstone pubs for the Roadshow at the George and Dragon. Ann has spoken to one or two people who may have things that we haven't seen before, but if anyone else has any we would be very grateful. Ray Woodward has already given Ann a DVD of the history of the Co-op in the area, and Ann is going to try to arrange for this to be shown at the Community Centre. He has also lent a picture of The Rose and Crown taken in 1969. Ann has agreed to represent the group at a meeting taking place at Snibston Discovery Park on 21<sup>st</sup> April. This is to discuss the new galleries being proposed, and is part of a consultation exercise. Nita has confirmed to Snibston that Ann is attending. Ray Neal may also attend.

- **Councillors' 5 minutes**

Dave Everitt reported that the recent planning meeting at NWLDC had revolved around discussions regarding the regeneration of Coalville Town Centre and the proposed supermarkets. These are Asda on the Grieves site, Tesco's on the Ford Garage site, and another in the precinct, which would also involve the area presently used for car parking and where the Co-op is. The decision on the preferred Asda site was deferred for up to 3 months so that the process could be fairly followed for all proposals.

Nita asked whether there is any news on parking on grass verges, which has been part of a Scrutiny issue. Dave said that letters have been sent to people parking on grass verges, and it was wondered whether causing damage to grass verges constituted criminal damage. Dave said that this issue was not a priority for the council at present and it takes time in any event to get a body of evidence together to present a rounded case. Comments were made by members regarding people driving along footpaths at two sites on Loughborough Road, and it was noted that one person had created a parking area in his garden to which there was no authorised vehicular access. A member mentioned taking photos of instances where someone was parking on the grass verges or on the pavement, or driving on it to access an unauthorised parking area, but this was not recommended as there could be repercussions from taking photos of people or their property without consent. Another member said that he had seen a disabled lady waiting for a car, parked on the pavement, to move, so that she could proceed. Dave suggested that people witnessing such things should write a letter to the council, as this could then go in the body of evidence being put together by officers. The proposed councillors' surgeries have not as yet been arranged.

Ray Neal asked whether Dave would go with him for a walk down Main Street, as he had discovered that there was poor disabled access on Main Road and Glebe Road junctions and also near Henson's Lane. Dave agreed to talk to Ray and arrange a date for this.

Guest Speaker – Andrew Barnes from Energy Saving Trust. The talk was cancelled due to a bereavement and will be rearranged at a later date.

### **From Previous Minutes**

**Police report** – There has been a space of sheds and outbuildings being broken into and the police have arrested the male responsible for these crimes. He was charged with some of these offences and will appear in court for this. He has been warned that if he is arrested again he will go straight to prison and since his arrest there haven't been any further reports, so this is a positive outcome.

They break ins were:-

Burglary Other – Shrewsbury Walk x 2 outbuilding and coalhouse broken into, ladders stolen

Burglary Other – Loughborough Road x 2 – Shed locks broken nothing stolen, coalhouse lock broken nothing stolen

Burglary Other – Rumsey Close – garage broken into, motorbike and tools stolen, bike has been recovered other items still outstanding

Other crimes are:-

Burglary Dwelling – Melrose – entered insecure property to steal items – believed to be persons known to occupant

Damage to roof – Henson’s Lane – person fell through roof. This was on last month’s crime list, and as the Police have identified the suspect, the case was re-opened, and he is being dealt with  
Assault – Glebe Road – other children hit other children – all parties have been spoken with and no further action as insufficient evidence to proceed  
Public Order – Booth Road – baseball bat threat over parking spaces – all parties have been dealt with  
Malicious calls – Loughborough Road – receiving abusive calls from client – case ongoing  
Taking vehicle without owners consent – Melrose Road – son takes mums car and he has been dealt with  
Theft of MV – Loughborough Road – vehicle stolen overnight. This vehicle has yet to be recovered so please keep a look out for it. It’s a Vauxhall Astra Merit in white N596XBU

On the 29<sup>th</sup> April the Police are doing a street surgery at 10:15am at The Green for people to come and talk to the local team and see who they are. All welcome to this. The Police are going to run this every month and a poster with the dates is available in the Community Centre, and the dates are given on our website and in our newsletter.

Sandie explained to the group about having found the remains of a killed and plucked chicken (possibly stolen), a fire and some drug paraphernalia in an area of Grace Dieu woods. Photographs had been taken, and concern was expressed over this issue. Sandie had reported this to the police and received an incident number. She had received 2 calls from the Police, who had said they would visit (but had yet not been) and in the meantime the drug paraphernalia had been removed, although this had not been done by the council to whom the Police had intended to report this issue, as it was removed before they had time to make the necessary contact. This area has been used for several years by drug takers, and it was felt that the Police should be made aware that this is an identified safe area for young people wishing to take drugs, and that the meeting felt that further action was called for. Nita agreed to pass this comment on to our local police constable and report back to members.

Discussion took place on members finding needles near to the post office and also by the Methodist Church, and the query was raised what to do in this instance. Nita will ask the Police and report back as there should be a needle exchange in NW, run by NWLDC, but nobody had any details.

- Update on smart meter loan scheme – we have 2 meters still available for loan. One person who had a meter had not yet fitted it, and Pam requested other members who might be interested in borrowing a meter to contact her direct.
- Walk update from 5<sup>th</sup> April – we had 3 people come along to the last walk, which was lead by Nita with help from Ann, for which she was thanked. Two of the people had come from Nottingham and had seen about the walk from a publication issued by the Leicester Mercury. The other person was a gentleman from Markfield, who had seen the walk advertised in the Active Together brochure at his GP surgery. It is sad that more local people aren’t coming along to these walks, but good that promotion is getting to people who are from further afield.

Nita will go to the National Walk Festival launch on 16<sup>th</sup> May and leave flyers regarding the walks we have available, as stalls, as such, are not going to be provided. Nita handed out copies of the National Forest Walk Festival brochure and some spare copies of the RCC village brochure listing our walks.

The next walk is 17<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm from The Green and is part of the National Forest Walk Festival. Nita mentioned that she had received information from the County Council on a proposed Leicestershire Walking Week to be held between 19 and 27 September. This was another opportunity to link with widespread publicity, as the nine days of events were to encourage walking, explore heritage and nature, improve health, walk to school, shop or work, and walk for charity of a community event. We obviously fit into this category, and even though we have not arranged a walk during the period, it was agreed that Nita should organise one. Nita will add this to the action plan and reply back to Andrew Poole at the County Council that we have an interest in being involved in any discussions. Nita will also tell the School about this, as schools are mentioned as being prospective partners.

- Charles Booth’s grave renovations – 2 quotes were received and these are still being considered by the faculty.
- Litter pick 15 March – 6 people turned out for the litter pick and collected 10 bags of rubbish, one tyre and various bits and bobs. Next litter pick is Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 10am from The Green. All welcome.
- Action plan/action list and updates from this – It was agreed that providing people with a ‘to do’ list after they had agreed to do things at meetings has worked well, and Nita (or the minute secretary) will continue to do this. The action plan for the rest of the year has been prepared. This is a



working document, and to this must now be added details of the next history road show and other action points from this meeting.

Nita pointed out that the action plan was not just for work required of her to be listed and forward planned as seemed to be the case at the moment, but for all members of the committee to use, and for members to be able to view.

Nita agreed to ask St John's the dates of their fetes this year to see if we can join in any of these. Pam Porter is going to chase Di Bull to find out the up to date position regarding the patio area and Bernard is going to ask Margaret Staley about a Christmas tree.

Jan said that the church flower festival is to be held on bank holiday weekend, and Pam Porter said that the Oaks Fayre is the same weekend, which means that FoT will be unable to take part as we have no volunteers able and willing to do a stall over a bank holiday. The Snibston Travel History event is taking place on 16 and 17 May, which is also the same weekend as the National Forest Walk Festival, so again, FoT are unable to take part, as we have existing commitments.

There is to be a church open gardens event on 12<sup>th</sup> September, and this is an ideal opportunity to link with the Community Centre regarding Bob's Closs and the promotion of the centre and FoT. Nita agreed to email Lorraine about this for further discussions to take place.

Discussions at the last meeting about enlarging upon the carol singing and Christmas tree event in December had produced a response from the Community Centre that the middle and end rooms are not available on the date we are intending to hold our event. It was therefore agreed that we abandon the idea of having a craft fayre at the same time as the carol singing, as despite having gazebos etc. which we could use, the weather at that time of year is likely to be inclement, and people would not be happy to have stalls outside.

- Fox site – Ray Woodward has not received any replies to emails to the Citrus Group who have already told the group in the email mentioned earlier in Nita's report that they have received an offer from another organisation to buy the site. This reinforced an opinion expressed to the Citrus Group at the last planning meeting, at which time they said they were not intending to sell the site.
- Planting and signage – signage has now been acquired. Pauline Bolstridge was thanked for getting these organised. They were given to the gardening team to put into the relevant areas. Planting of heathers has continued on our sites, which are being prepared for the East Midland in Bloom judging. Further weeding is being undertaken. On 8<sup>th</sup> May, we are linking with CSV Action Earth and Thringstone Primary School to finish off the area by 181 Main Street. Others are welcome to come along from 1pm-3pm. The press have been invited to this event, and it is likely to produce a good photo opportunity to the local media. The gardening team have already been working with Thringstone Primary School on their wildflower garden, and may also be helping with their pond works.
- Christmas cards – members voted on a picture to be used for a Christmas card. Three were put to the meeting, and one was agreed by a large majority. All photographs were supplied by Karon Smith, for which she was thanked, and the winning photograph shows the large snowman built by the Townsend family earlier this year on The Green. Pam Porter agreed to get permission from this family to use the picture as our Christmas card for the year. Jan said that the printers mentioned by Geoff Walker earlier had been responsible for helping with church printing, and she understood that the deadline for getting cards to the printers had been November. Nita agreed to forward plan to contact printers in the autumn. It was agreed that having more than one picture on Christmas cards was not feasible.
- AGM planning for June – It was agreed that the picnic to be held would be organised by asking members to bring and share food. This will be included in letters sent out by Nita regarding the AGM and memberships being due. A BBQ was considered, and as the AGM is also a celebration of the work we have done, it was agreed to formally ask the Community Centre if we could have a BBQ outside, weather permitting, or use the kitchen if wet. Last time we held a BBQ we got details of all attendees so that we could cater adequately. As there is nobody available to organise this at present, it was agreed that we merely buy some beef burgers and buns and provide those as part of the event. Nita will liaise with Tony over the costs for this.

## **AOB**

- Early payment of subs – so as to ease the way for the treasurer, members who wish to pay their subs at the next meeting can do so for the forthcoming membership year. It was agreed that people who might join the organisation following the road show at the George and Dragon would also be offered this opportunity for 13 months for the price of 12. It was further agreed that members wishing to pay at the next meeting would be encouraged to do so. Pam Porter agreed to

help to take membership monies at the AGM. Nita will do a letter to all members, as usual, in May prior to the AGM, and make them aware of the fact that they can pay in advance.

- The Grace Dieu Priory concert with members of Greasepaint performing songs from the shows is on 17<sup>th</sup> May from 12.30. Please contact Friends of Grace Dieu Priory for further details or discuss with Ann Petty.
- Ray Woodward would like the environment team to liaise with him to erect the white tent we have, presently stored by Ray and clean this down. It was agreed that Ray liaise with the team to arrange a suitable date and time.
- Nita requested that existing members of the committee tell her within the next month whether they wish to stand for election at the forthcoming AGM or not. Likewise, those members of the Committee who wish to resign need to make this known and members wishing to stand for election should also make themselves known. We have presently two people who have put themselves forward for consideration for the Vice-Chair role and one who has agreed to change his role within the group and take over the organisation and distribution of publications. The main concern is that of the treasurer's role, mentioned above. This is a vital role. Please consider if you can help with this, and contact Nita direct.

**Date of next meeting** is 21<sup>st</sup> May at 6.45pm at Thringstone Community Centre. The guest speaker is Alison McCafferty, Energy Advice Officer