



The Friends of Thringstone

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2009 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Jon Sketchley, Tracy Foulds, Tam Bream, Pam Clayfield, Pauline Bolstridge, Ann Baxter, Maggie Smith, Tony and Sandie Newton, Lorraine Whitehurst, John and Karon Smith, Ron Hill, Chris Mellor, Ray Neal, Ann Petty, Ray Woodward, Bernard Lee, Geoff Walker, Roy Hill, Pam Porter, Dave Everitt

Apologies: Janet and David Stevenson, Simon Jaggs, Ian and Deb Wood, Fran Skinner, Geoff and Jane Wilson, Rowena Summers, Colin Perritt, Di and Ian Bull, Brenda Simpson

Reports

Chair's report

Letters Received

- Invitation from Marlene Reid Centre to their AGM. Declined
- Letter from EMIB enclosing photograph of awards presentation given to John Smith and put on the website.
- From NWLCVS asking us if we want to join in a history project with volunteers talking to schools about their memories. Replied asking for more info.
- Letter from David Taylor MP in answer to my queries on the sustainable communities bill and how it relates to our village, enclosing copy of letter from Rosie Winterton MP, minister for local government. Hard copy available.

Emails received

- Invitation to go to No. 10 Downing Street as a guest of David Taylor MP as one of 2 'local champions' of NWL area. Accepted and went and had a great time there, met the PM, went into offices of the MPs, to the houses of parliament for a tour and sat in the Lords listening to a debate.
- Various emails from Amanda Hanton, returned regarding getting the youth service involved in work with the group and planning times, dates etc. Further email from Youth Service confirming that they can't find any youths to work with us on the Pinfold on 14th Nov.
- From member regarding illegal parking on double yellow lines on The Green. Subsequent emails with NWLDC and district and county councillors
- Several to and from Sustrans regarding who is responsible for maintaining the pathway and areas around it, including the fencing on the bridge close to the Swallowdale Estate. Still awaiting definitive answers but Sustrans are trying to find out by going to land registry

- From Councillor Tony Gillard regarding building out the footpath from the Shephed direction near the Bull's Head and putting 30mph signage at the junction, making the bit of road prior to the traffic calming also 30mph.
- Recipes that granny used to make forwarded to me to send to people willing to try them out and report back on success or not as the case may be. Copy recipes available in hard copy to anybody who wants them.
- From County Councillor regarding possible installation of bollards between nos. 11 and 23 Lbro Road to prevent on pavement parking by cars near the John Street corner
- From Body Toning Emporium enquiring about advertising in the Feb 2010 Bauble. Am dealing with this.
- Invitation to go to Hermitage FM's opening event on 13th November. Accepted.
- From John MacDonald, Heritage Warden of Coleorton, who may want to work with us on joint projects in the future.
- From RCC regarding a competition ranged around people looking after their environment with prizes from Alupro. See AOB.

Emails sent

- Various emails to committee enclosing copies of newsletters we subscribe to etc.,
- Questionnaire completed for Heritage and Culture officers at NWLDC about their newsletter
- To Brewer's Fayre awards asking for £1,000 for hanging baskets etc.
- Various emails on issues throughout the month to committee and membership
- To Thringstone Primary regarding Junior FoT and wetland meadow project
- To John Dickinson asking for information on the graveyard survey done at St Andrew's, to discuss a small booklet on notable graves to include Charles Booth and people from the Whitwick pit disaster
- Completed evaluation on CSV Make A Difference Day for that organisation
- To Thomas Moulton at Ramblers Association asking for a supply of their Get Walking DIY+ kits which they have as part of the Get Walking, Keep Walking project.

Promotion

- Editorial for the Heritage Event in Rural Countryside Commission October newsletter, in Coalville Times of 15th October, Leicester Mercury 15th October and Lbro Echo 16th October and NWLDC's Culture News of 22nd Oct. Also on Leicester Mercury community website and mentioned in G&D advert in Coalville Times of 23rd Oct and in Echo of 30th October.
- Photo taken of walk on 4th Oct in Lbro Echo dated 23rd Oct.
- Leaflets for Heritage Event delivered to whole of the village. Thanks to those who helped with this.
- Letter in Coalville Times of 30th Oct on village and group
- Promotion for Carol Singing on 11th Dec in Inner Vision for November 09. Further promotion being undertaken later in the month.
- Editorial about David Taylor planting bulbs for us in Leicester Mercury and also Coalville Mail of 12th Dec
- Photo and editorial about trip to London to meet Gordon Brown mentioning FoT and the work we do in the village.
- Started sending out press releases regarding the Carol Singing on 11th December and the lantern workshop on 21st November. Will endeavour to do follow up publicity on carols nearer the time.

Treasurer's Report – Tam Bream

Even though, since I took over in June (end May), there have been some significant expenditures (mower £110, Bulbs - £160ish, Christmas card printing £220, Thringstone Bauble £73.31, Banner £100) the accounts only show a drop of £160.00 over that time. This is not as bad as it would

seem as there is £112 of monies shown as income in the Nov accrued figure as that is when it was paid in although it is actually October income.

In short, at the time of the meeting, the account is approx. £50.00 down on what the total was in June, but we haven't yet had all of the income from the purchases, and we now have the benefit of a new mower and banner. I estimate to be above that by the end of the year so with a few more sales of the Christmas cards we will achieve this.

Income streams to date since June are:

Membership - £102.50

Events - £368.82

Publications - £158.40

Sundries – £108.81

Balance from previous minutes: £1,535.84

Withdrawn £136.31 (newsletter and bulbs)

In £43.50 (£31 for walks, £10 for brochures, £2.50 membership)

Current balance £1,443.03

The actual figure on the spread sheets is £1279.08 as the two cheques paid out to me have only been paid in today and they total £163.95, i.e the difference.

We must mention a thank you to Harold Bates for his generous £10.00 donation this month which is gratefully received and will be recorded on the next bank statements.

Nita's currently holds £10.55 in petty cash.

Publications report - Geoff Wilson

Due to family issues, Geoff Wilson is relinquishing his roles with the group with immediate effect. He has been given the option of coming back to the post of publications secretary when circumstances allow. Nita asked the meeting if anybody would like to take over the publications role, but nobody came forward.

Tam Bream agreed to help Nita where possible.

Geoff had submitted a report of publications sold, which indicated that £25.50 in sales had been forthcoming this month.

Christmas cards have been distributed to various outlets, and Nita also has stock to sell.

Members were urged to consider buying cards in order that the group is not left with unsold stock.

Web report and emails– John Smith

John has updated the website with various things, including putting on an advert for the calendar and putting on pictures taken at the Heritage Event and recent bulb planting, so the site is now bang up to date and especially has a lot more pictures on it. Ray Neal suggested that a picture be taken at a meeting sometime, and Geoff Walker was asked if he could do this for the group. Ray Woodward said that many people commented on the wealth of information on the website, and John was to be congratulated on the work he does.

Arts and community report – Pam Clayfield

- Pam has arranged with Nita to carry out 3 walks next year as part of an extension to the existing walks programme which has previously only concentrated on history. Pam's walk will use local footpaths and visit other villages. She is also doing another walk in April from the Community Centre.
- Ray Sutton's talks continue to be well supported. He is hoping to concentrate on local history for future talks.

- The film club continues to run but could do with extra support as there are good films being shown.
- Pam reminded the group that she is actively working with Hermitage FM on promoting community issues.
- Tom McConville is appearing at the Community Centre on 14th November. Tickets are still available.
- Pam's fundraiser netted £800 to be split between the Chemotherapy Suite and the surgical team at LRI. Many thanks to those people who supported the event or gave money.
- Loose Women is no longer running, but may start up again at a later stage.
- Any group who would like to set up using the Community Centre as a base are encouraged to do so. Pam can then also help promote this through the Hermitage FM station.

History Report – Ann Petty

- Ann was invited to the Victoria County History project meeting at Radio Leicester the same day as our heritage event, so was unable to go, but has asked to be kept in the loop regarding future days.
- Ann has agreed to take some of Nita's archive material so that it is all kept in the same place
- The Heritage Event went very well. Bill and Ann were presented with a certificate of thanks for all the volunteering they do by David Taylor MP which Nita had organised, unknown to either of them.
- Ann Gough has let Ann and Bill borrow some photographs and paperwork from her family going back to the Edwardian era for which we thank her.
- Ann would like to hear from anybody was a member of the WI in the 1950s or knows anybody who was.
- In order to get copies of deeds held about Thringstone at the Whitwick Historical Society, Ann has asked Nita to supply a letter on headed paper asking formally
- Ann has given Nita paper copies of the information which used to be available as part of Thringstone On Line which was run by Steve Babcock and is no longer on line. Nita has already tried to contact Steve to find out if he would be willing to let us have the data for our own website, so that it is still available to a worldwide audience.

Councillor's 5 minute report Ray Woodward/ Dave Everitt

- I am continuing to investigate the problems of parking on double yellow lines on The Green. I appreciate that wardens are now visiting between 6pm and 8pm and giving people a 5 minute tolerance, but people are continuing to park on the double yellow lines and across people's drives, so feel further, long term, action is necessary
- I have been working with local residents and the county councillor for the area on problems of parking on the pavement outside the Thringstone Off License. There is a proposal to put bollards there and Nita has been involved in discussions, as have various members who have put forward their thoughts on the matter. Concern was expressed about the width of road left to people trying to exit the service road opposite the shop in question because of people parked outside the shop, and especially so if the bollards push parking further into the road.
- Nita and I have both been involved with discussing the proposals put forward by County to change the width of the roadway by The Bull's Head and put in 30mph signs earlier than by the traffic calming. Various members have also made comments on the proposals, which may prove dangerous, and these have been passed on to County.
- I understand from Coalville Councillor John LeGrys that he has put in an application for FoT to be considered for a Queens Award. Supporting letters have been sent with the application from David Taylor MP and from Gillian Squires at NWLDC.

- I went to the Coalville Community Forum meeting to see what funding is available and will continue to report any funding streams we may tap into. I mentioned we would like to have hanging baskets and seats. Ann Petty has mentioned about the Jean Helen Cope Trust, but I believe this is only open to registered charities.
- I have been purchased fairy lights for the other tree outside the community centre which is to be lit at Christmas and the management committee at the Community Centre have agreed to fund these.
- I have had a meeting with Midland Quarry Aggregates, and they are likely to be able to help with quarry waste for the base of the patio at Bob's Closs. We are meeting at the Community Centre on 16th November to discuss this. Bernard Lee agreed to measure out the area and put stakes in the ground so that it is easy to identify the area in question at the meeting.
- I have met with the contractors from the gas company responsible for removing the semi-fallen tree which is lying across the gas main housing at the bottom of Grace Dieu Road and the tree is to be removed
- I am continuing to push NWLDC to issue a demolition order for The Fox, as there are still issues of ASB and trespass going on, and the site is deteriorating and becoming dangerous. Tam Bream mentioned at this point that there was a health and safety issue here and maybe the HSE should get involved.
- The Bull's Head have erected various signage advertising their prices etc. without having received the necessary advanced planning to do so. As a result, some of the signage may have to be removed.
- Agreement has been made to sell part of the Booth Road football ground for housing, which in turn will finance the building of a new clubhouse. Planning applications are being submitted. The garages on Hensons Lane will also be built on.
- John Merison has agreed to come to do a thermal imaging exercise at the Community Centre for free, and the results of this will be passed to the County Council with a view to improving on heat loss and energy saving.

Pam Clayfield asked if something could be done to safeguard the Rose and Crown as an important building in the village. Ray Woodward agreed to look into this.

Police report – none received. It was, however, noted that Jim Sorrell is now walking round the village more than in the past, which was felt to be a positive move.

Guest Speaker: Jon Sketchley, Hermitage FM

Jon gave an excellent power-point presentation on the history of Hermitage FM which is just about to finish its test broadcasting period before broadcasting permanently from Saturday following the granting of a licence which came through earlier this year after 3 years of work. Jon has lived in the village for 38 years and is very supportive of the community, and noted that there are only 2 other towns with a community licence, these being Market Harborough and Melton Mowbray.

The station covers the areas of Coalville, Ashby and Ibstock and is on 99.2FM.

It all started in a very small way as Carillon Radio, which is a hospital radio, and which will still run, and has been raising funds gradually over a period of years. During 2008, the station attended at 44 different activities including community group events (such as our own event and those at Grace Dieu), and has taken an extensive role in various council run events and worked on Picnic in The Parks for 6 years and also with Christmas in Coalville where they are working again this year.

Jon said that NWLDC had been very helpful and supportive of the station.

The station, which has a mast in Coloerton, has a studio in Hotel Street, Coalville, a second studio in Ashby at The Hub concentrating on youth issues, and a third at The Palace at Ibstock where they will be building studios in 2010.

They are benefiting from internet broadcasting following a link with the Catholic Times and people all over the country are now listening to the station via the internet. People in Sheffield, parts of

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and Tamworth are also able to hear the station, and he has a host of famous names who have always supported Carillon and continue to be supportive of the new venture, including Jason Orange of Take That and Thunderclap Newman.

The new premises are run by volunteers and are self-supporting. The studios were kitted out by volunteers and the station now offers various training, including broadcast and light journalism training, customer services training from a link with Stephenson College, admin and office duties training, publication training, advertising and sponsorship training and training in radio generally. Training to become a radio presenter and in broadcasting is linked to South Leicestershire College. Training has always been important to the station, even in the hospital radio days. Airtime is open to all. People can come along to the station to tell about their positive experiences and the station offers free community advertising. Nita has already spoken to Jon about these.

The station needs more volunteers to help with admin, answer phones, marketing, fund-raising etc. Pam Clayfield is already volunteering for the station, but more volunteers are needed, as they are currently experiencing 100 calls a day, 100 emails a day and lots of visitors, and have yet to go live following the test broadcasts, so this is expected to increase.

The station needs £100,000 pa to run but only receives about £50,000 through advertising and sponsorship, so the remainder is made up by running a coffee shop which also serves light bites, cakes, breakfasts and snacks. There are meeting areas which can be used and everybody is made welcome, a fact which Ray Woodward endorsed.

Carillon Radio is still broadcasting, and links Hermitage FM to Melton and Oakham areas during evening transmission.

Jon felt that the station was special because it focuses on community issues for the local community, and supports and helps local causes and events, rather than looking to regional or national issues. They are continuing to look for events to go to with their outside broadcast facilities, and actively encourage people to contact them.

Jon was thanked for his excellent and interesting presentation.

After Jon left the meeting, it was suggested that the Community Centre put itself forward as another area from which to broadcast, as this could have benefits for both parties. Lorraine said that this has been talked about before, and may be something to consider for the future, once their other plans have been sorted.

From previous minutes

- **Gardening update and litter pick reminder for 22nd**

The gardening team have now completed bulb planting, having purchased more bulbs. A total of 1700 bulbs have been planted. Thanks to those people who helped out, including David Taylor MP who planted daffodil bulbs round the Thringstone village sign. Thanks also to all those people who continue to litter pick on a regular basis. The group has our last litter pick of the year arranged for 22nd November, meeting at 10am at The Green. Please come along and support the group at this litter pick if you are able. Discussions took place on whether people could do a litter pick the day before and leave their litter somewhere for collection, but it was felt that this was not the way forward.

Pam Porter said that next year she is intending to organise 4 big litter picks during the year, with the first one probably being on the second Saturday in March. She will, however, confirm this date at a later stage.

We were hoping to do some clearance at The Pinfold this coming weekend with young people from out of the area, but they are unable to come along now, so the gardening team are going to be working on this area in their own time.

- **Smart Driver Training feedback**

Ron Hill, David and Janet Stevenson and Geoff Wilson have been for smart driver training organised by the Energy Saving Trust. Roy Hill reduced fuel consumption by about 20% and whilst his driving was city centre based, since completing the exercise he has thought that it does apply elsewhere. Geoff Wilson, David and Janet Stevenson went along to sessions in Kegworth and felt the sessions were valuable. David has said he feels that

the tutor was excellent. He picked up several useful points, improving from 53mpg to 57mpg. Geoff Wilson improved to 58mpg and Janet's improvement went from 46mpg to 53mpg. Ron Hill said that the diary they had been asked to keep as feedback to the Energy Saving Trust was poor. Tony Newton said that most people can make energy saving by planning ahead when driving, thinking of their route in advance and taking into account the time of day for a journey if this is possible to do.

Thanks to Luke and the Energy Saving Trust for giving our members the opportunity to attend.

- **Quiz night report**

We were one of 8 teams taking part in the Community Centre Quiz Evening and are pleased to report that, after a tie break with the Art Group, we won the shield, having come second last year to the wine circle. Our name has been engraved on the shield, and we will now have the chance to defend our title next year. Thanks to David Stevenson, Ray Woodward, Rowena Summers, Pam Clayfield and Andrea Barnes from the WI for joining with Nita to make up a team. Thanks also to Pam Porter for coming to support our team.

- **Heritage Event report**

The last Heritage Event for a while took place on 31st October at the George and Dragon. There was a steady stream of people coming along to the event, and thank you to all members who supported the event. Huge thanks go to Ann and Bill for putting together a wonderful display around the theme of A Celebration of Village Life. They were presented by David Taylor MP with CSV Make A Difference certificates to thank them for the amount of voluntary work they do for both our group and Friends of Grace Dieu group. Thanks also to the WI for coming along and having a table, and to the George and Dragon for letting us completely take over the front part of their venue. We made £49.50 which included the sale of 2 packs of Christmas cards and a brochure, and £36 from the wine and water stand which Nita ran.

- **Junior FoT and meadow project**

There are no questions from Junior FoT this time. Nita has spoken with Ella about the wetland meadow project, which it is proposed to start in June in Bob's Closs, and Lorraine agreed to be the lead on this. Nita will report back to Ella and ask her to liaise direct with Lorraine over dates etc. Lorraine will then liaise with Neil Talbot of the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust over his involvement.

Bernard Lee is still working with the school on erecting a greenhouse, and will contact them about the positioning of this, which is not ideal, and about the timber and base that needs to be erected before the greenhouse itself, which will probably be for the Spring. Tam Bream asked if the school would be interested in running a cycle treasure hunt in the Spring or Summer. He would help with a route. Karon Smith said that the geocache route could probably be adapted. Sandie will talk with the school on this and get back to Tam.

- **Grannie's recipes**

In order to put together a picture and recipe booklet which is saleable, we need to ensure that recipes given reflect local tastes and also contain ingredients which are still available to purchase today. We have a range of recipes coming through, but need volunteers to have a go at making some of these dishes. The recipes vary between full meals and side dishes. Sandie has agreed to try some recipes, Geoff Walker also showed an interest. Others are still needed please.

- **Lantern Workshop**

Lorraine is holding a lantern making workshop on 21st November with three time slots, being 10am, 12 noon and 2pm. There is a £2 charge which includes the cost of LED batteries. All are welcome and a poster has been done to advertise this. There is no age limit to people coming along.

- **Christmas tree/lights etc at Community Centre update 11th Dec**

Bernard, Ray and Ray are helping to put the lights on the trees. The carol procession will be lead by St Andrew's Choral and leave St Andrews, Main Street, at 6.45pm with the

lanterns, and make its way to the community centre for 7pm start. After the carol singing, with a collection for Christian Aid, there will be a singalong at the Community Centre, the bar will be open and mince pies will be available. Nita read out the titles of the carols to be sung, and everybody was in agreement that this would be a good programme. Sandie has agreed to help with organisation at this event.

- **Christmas Party**

Our next meeting is also our Christmas party, and people are encouraged to bring food. The room next to the bar may not be available, and Lorraine agreed to find out if there was a way of reorganising existing bookings so that there is extra space. Nita will remind all members of the wish that we have food provided by members who attend.

AOB

- **Delivering leaflets for businesses within the village.** We were approached by a local business to ask if we were interested in delivering leaflets for them around the village. Discussion took place on this, and it was agreed that this was not something that we could accommodate, even if we were paid for it, as volunteers cannot always deliver at a specific time, and it would not be prudent to be seen to deliver for one business and not another, if more than one business came forward.
- **Love Where You Live Photography Competition.** This is a photography competition, backed by the not-for-profit recycling organisation Alupro who is offering £10,000 of prizes for the best pictures of people looking after their environment. Pictures will be displayed at an exhibition in April 2010 and the organisers are looking for photographs which will communicate to exhibition visitors the essential natural characteristics of an area, and the importance of looking after it - particularly as we face up to climate change. Pictures can show good things or bad, be beautiful, funny or shocking. Visit <http://www.lovewhereyoulive.org.uk/>. Geoff Walker showed some interest in this. Nita will liaise with Geoff and also look at the portfolio pictures we already have.
- Tam Bream has done a land registry search to determine who owns land off Grace Dieu Road, and it has been found to be the Squire de Lisle, which is what was expected. Ann agreed to have this information for the archives after Nita had finished with it.
- The school fete takes place on 4th December and Sandie and Nita will be manning a stall for FoT. Please come and support both FoT and the school if you can.
- Sandie had done a sponsored walk for the school in order to raise funds to buy an outdoor table tennis kit. Members were encouraged to contribute to this if they were able.
- Ray Neal reported finding an old goal post with netting, and wondered whether the school might be interested in this. Sandie agreed to ask and get back.
- Sandie had some raffle tickets to sell in aid of Foxton Locks.
- Nita reminded the group that Christmas cards could be bought at the meeting.
- Geoff Walker left a calendar from the Church to show to the group and asked people to contact him if they wanted to order one. Nita had already worked with the church on this at the Heritage Event.
- The next Whitwick Action Group meeting to discuss saving the green wedges of Whitwick, Thringstone and Swannington is on 18th November at 7.30pm at Hall Lane Methodists (near Whitwick Market Place). All are welcome.

The next FoT meeting is on 10th December. Please remember to bring food if you are able to come along.