



# The Friends of Thringstone

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Chairman: Nita Pearson  
20 Springfield, Thringstone, Leicestershire, LE67 8LT.  
Telephone: 01530 223434  
[mail to: nita.pearson@ntlworld.com](mailto:nita.pearson@ntlworld.com)

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

## MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2009 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Present :** Nita Pearson, Tony Gillard, Brenda Simpson, Lorraine Whitehurst, Jim Wilkinson, Ray Neal, Bernard Lee, Ron Hill, Fran Skinner, Jacquie Lloyd, Diana Atkinson, Geoff Walker, Chris Mellor, John and Karon Smith, Pam Porter, Tracy Foulds, Colin Perritt, Terry Robinson, Ann Petty, Pam Clayfield, Llynda Baugh (new member). Ray Woodward joined the meeting towards the end.

**Apologies :** Sandie and Tony Newton, Ray Woodward, Dave and Julie Everitt, Rowena Summers, Tam Bream, Janet and David Stevenson

**Guest Speaker :** Victoria Lowe, Youth Service

Victoria has been a responsible youth worker since 2005, and works with the youth club out of Thringstone House Community Centre. 18 people regularly attend, and these are mostly 11-13 years olds. Victoria explained to the meeting about the proposed youth art project to form part of the Miner's Welfare complex, and that the group will be working with graffiti artist, Darren, on art work over 27 panels forming the boundary to the site. The young people already work on craft and artwork issues, as well as having education on problems associated with anti-social behaviour, use of drugs and alcohol and careers advice. Youngsters can work towards a local award, providing 30 hours of work which can include various activities. They then put a folder together which is submitted as a portfolio and assessed, and for this they can get a qualification. The young people also get the opportunity to work with other youth clubs, such as Greenhill, and have undertaken various challenges which have included canoing, trips out to the cinema, bowling and a narrow-boat trip is planned for the summer. All their activities are recorded and go towards bigger achievements. The art group are older youngsters, and the planned work on the Miner's Welfare site has attracted funding from NWLDC, PAYP and VIP. The artwork will be part of a step by step project, for which the youngsters will have an element of control, and act as a focus for the next generation for them to appreciate the work done. They also want to see more litter bins in the village and work towards getting these in place.

Geoff Walker is in the process of putting together a promotional video for the group and asked if he could film what the young people have done. It was pointed out that if the young people are to be filmed, parental consent is necessary.

Pam Clayfield asked if she could liaise with the group and discuss with them volunteering opportunities, and it was agreed that she be asked along to the next steering group meeting at which this can be discussed.

Victoria brought various documents and photographs which were circulated around the meeting.

She was asked whether it would be possible for the young people to come to our meeting to talk about their project after they have finished working on their presentation to the Miner's Welfare group, who own the wall in question. Nita will liaise with Victoria over this.

The group were made aware that the young people had originally been asked to work with FoT on litter picks and environmental work, but this had fallen through at the last minute, and the artwork project was just one of the things being discussed with the young people to engage them in the things in village.

## **Reports**

### Chairman's monthly report

#### **Letters received:**

- Voluntary Action Leicestershire Training wall chart and planner received
- Coalville Library seeking to update the information they have for us there
- From lady wishing to express her support of a memorial in Thringstone to David Taylor
- NWLDC booking form for Picnic in the Parks on 27<sup>th</sup> June – completed and returned with cheque
- Survey from Voluntary Action Leicestershire – completed and sent back
- VAL news for Dec/Jan. Copy available
- Parcel from Ramblers Association containing 25 DIY walks kits to be used on FoT walks
- Booking form for Grace Dieu Event on 4<sup>th</sup> July – completed and returned with cheque

#### **Emails received:**

- Following query raised with NWLDC about funding for more publications, reply received on grants available. Sent to history team to discuss further.
- From Ann Petty regarding progress on any future brochure production.
- From School confirming we have no need to get CRB checks done for the gardening team if they only see children monthly and that the wetland meadow project will go ahead, hopefully shortly
- From NWLDC about the possibility of a Utube link to environmental work and community groups. Interest confirmed.
- Booking form for Pam Clayfield to go to children's event in Oadby passed to Pam
- Several from residents affected by ASB. Emails subsequently sent to councillors and NWLDC and email to all members on the subject
- From gent enquiring about our walks for 2010
- From County about the ownership of The Pinfold area.
- Copy of Arts and Heritage News magazine from NWLDC. Hard copy available.

#### **Emails sent:**

- Various to committee and membership regarding e-bulletins, events taking place in the village and ongoing issues etc.
- To Police asking whether extra promotion can be done to tell people about beat surgeries. Dates subsequently received and put on website.
- To all members on email asking their views on the possible David Taylor memorial and also to all prospective parliamentary candidates along the same lines.
- To all members on email telling them about the new t'ai chi class at Thringstone Methodists which started on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan and is £6 per session.
- To Ellistown Wildlife Group, Osgathorpe History and Archeology Group, and Thringstone Youth group asking if anybody wants to come and be a speaker at our meetings. Only the Youth Group had replied.
- To NWLDC about the volume of litter on the A512 – now cleared

## Promotion:

- Sent details of all 2010 FoT walks to Active Together team at NWLDC for their brochure
- Email sent to local media regarding the success of the smart meter loan scheme. Also sent to Hermitage FM.
- Checked our listings for walks in the National Forest Walks brochure for their May festival. 50,000 copies of this brochure are actually going to be printed!

## Other:

- Phone call from lady requesting advice on ASB, passed on to Jim Sorrell and to NWLDC's ASB officer
- Trying to put a funding bid together for planting
- Contact from gentleman wishing to borrow smart meter having seen article in Coalville Times.
- Attended meeting to discuss youth art provision – details available on request. Subsequent to this had several email discussions and queries were raised and answered
- Discussion with Paul Coates on possible sponsorship of recycling areas (closest is Hermitage Leisure Centre) in the future, for which about £300 is given to the group
- With Ray Woodward, attended Wellbeing Week exhibition at NWLDC which attracted interest in our work
- Invoice sent to Body Toning Emporium for advert placed in Newsletter 17 - paid
- Phone call on meeting arrangements with de Lisle family to discuss Grace Dieu woods followed by form to complete and return.
- Tam has been in touch with the Department of Works and Pensions about contributing to the renovation of Charles Booth's grave, given that he was instrumental in the formation of the Pension itself. They have been unable to come up with any money for this but have offered the help of volunteers through their Community 5000 programme.

At this point, Llynda Baugh said she might be able to help with the Charles Booth grave renovations by looking at the existing paperwork and seeing if this could be pushed through. She also indicated that it might be possible to get funding sorted for this item. She will continue to liaise with the group on progress.

## Treasurer's Report – Tam Bream read out by Nita Pearson

The only addition this month is a £25.00 payment by the Body Toning Emporium for their advert in The Bauble, plus monies collected from publications which have yet to be paid in. The cheques for the reordering of publications and for the newsletter printing have cleared, amounting to £155.81 in total.

There are a few payments out that will be shown once they have been cashed amounting to £45.00 made up of F of GD cheque and NWLDC £30.00 cheque for Picnic in the Parks.

Total to date £1,351.77.

Prior to the meeting, Nita held £20.55 in petty cash.

## Publications report – Roy Hill read out by Nita Pearson

Roy has been unable to do a report this month due to family illness. Nita has done a stock take and refill of stock at the George and Dragon, and Lorraine has kindly done the Community Centre, which has also been restocked. In the last month, 4 x BBI, 1 x BB2, 2 x Memories 1, 1 x Memories 2, 2 x VT2 and 2 x VT3 have been sold. It was good to see BBI and 2 attracting interest.

## Web report – John Smith

John reported that the website is up to date, and the link to the Thringstone On Line site is now there underneath the advert for Smart Meters. Fran Skinner requested a continuing link to the Friends of Thringstone Woods site. John reported that the guest book on the site is currently not working, and he may get another format for this. The Police Beat surgeries are advertised, and there is also information on Pam Clayfield's proposed coach trip to William Morris's house.

## Arts and community report – Pam Clayfield

- Thringstone Primary School – 11 students went along to Hermitage FM for a live session with Jon Sketchley. They discussed the Big Switch Off which had taken place last year and the fact that the school came out top and had won a prize. They have also entered the Green Footprints Awards and we all hope they do well.
- I have signed up to the VAL meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February and will attend hopefully a workshop on participation with young people.
- Many varied and interesting events and activities are taking place for Winter/Spring at the Community Centre including belly dancing on Thursdays from 5.45-6.45pm, and afternoon tea dances on Fridays from 1.30-3.30pm suitable for all ages and abilities. The cost for both of these sessions is £2 per class. No booking is necessary. There is an additional pottery class on Thursday afternoons from 1.30-3.30 at £6 per session.
- Ray Sutton's lectures are still popular. The next one is 10<sup>th</sup> Feb on American Beat Poets. Cost £2 plus 50p for tea/coffee and biscuits.
- Thringstone Panto Society is putting on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street from 10<sup>th</sup> May – 15<sup>th</sup> May and there is a centre stage event on 21<sup>st</sup> May – Maalstroem meets Jo Freya. 7.45pm in the hall. These are 5 terrific musicians and it is guaranteed to be a great night. Tickets are £8 or £7 concessions. Further info on things at the Community Centre is available from Lorraine/Janet on 222337.
- I will be leading a blue bell walk around Grace Dieu woods and beyond in late April (details on the FoT website) followed by two more walks to different destinations later in the year.
- I am going ahead with organising an outing with Cresswell Coaches to William Morris's House at Kemscott in Gloucestershire on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2010 and have 10 bookings. Anyone else who is interested should contact Pam on 224804. The cost is likely to be about £26.
- Book Club – mention has been made that it might be an idea to set up a book club at Thringstone House Community Centre. Pam wondered if anybody was interested in this and would help in organising it. Nobody came forward

At this point, Geoff Walker said that St Andrew's are organising a Thringstone's Got Talent event in April and also there will be the Spring Fayre.

Lorraine Whitehurst then explained about the Thringstone House Community Centre's new leaflet which was circulated round the group. This is a semi-regular production, but no date for the next edition is presently known.

Lorraine also mentioned that the Royal British Legion have joined the Community Centre and have a launch party with fish supper organised for Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm. More details are available from the centre.

## History – Ann Petty

Ann has met the new owner of the Old Manor House. She has yet to move in to the property, but has offered Ann the chance to go and have a look round the property when she moves in. Ann is continuing to try to find out anything about The Pinfold for the group, although it could possibly require a land registry search, even though Ray Neal now thinks it may be sorted. It is likely that a meeting with Ron Goacher to discuss the graveyard survey is likely to take place towards the end of February.

## Councillors' 5 minute report

### Ray Woodward

- Been further investigating the Fox site. A planning amendment seems to have been submitted, but was returned to Citrus. A planning enforcement meeting has taken place and the council agree the site is a mess. Photographic evidence has been sent to the Citrus Group asking them to tidy the site. If they fail to do this, an enforcement notice will be

served. It is unlikely that the council will agree to get the existing building demolished, as this only happens in special cases.

- Along with FoT and other groups, I have been invited to a meeting, as local councillor, to discuss the possible changes being made within Grace Dieu Woods.
- Went to Thringstone Primary with Streetscene manager to listen to talk on recycling. Whilst there have agreed with the school that a large recycling bin can be sited just off the school drive on Henson's Lane.
- Trying to find out if there is anything that FoT can do to push for the Grade 2 listed house on The Green to have its windows repaired and work done at the back to protect it from the weather.
- Thringstone Off Licence has submitted a planning application for improvements to the shop front and shutters.
- Various discussions with council officials on possible David Taylor memorial
- Spoke to lady from a civil war re-enactment group who is going to investigate whether Thringstone and its villagers played any part in the Civil War.
- Various work associated with the new Miner's Welfare development, including answering queries and seeing if it is possible to nominate a road name
- Several housing issues
- Worked on setting up a multi-agency meeting on ASB. This was held on 3rd Feb and involved members of the Housing Department, Community Safety Team, residents and the County Council's Impact Team. Discussions took place about the best way forward to reduce the amount of ASB, and Ray Woodward will press to see that something is resolved as soon as is practicable.
- Trying to establish if flytipping in the woods was done by person on the Woodside Estate
- Arranged for a lighting survey to be carried out at the Community Centre, and acquired a display board from Jon Merison showing new lighting available, following discussions at our meetings last year about the lighting at the centre. This will be taken to the management meeting at the Community Centre next week. After a possibly large initial outlay, costs can be recouped within a few months. Ray Neal demonstrated how the new lighting could save people, and the centre, a lot of money. It was agreed to invite John Merison to another meeting to explain about the savings in detail and where people could get the bulbs from. This was agreed to be an important move for the centre and for the village as a whole, and worked in well with the Footprint Awards, although Lorraine pointed out that she had to buy items for the centre from ESPO.

Clr. Dave Everitt had told the Chairman in advance that he had nothing to add to this report

#### Police report to include discussion on ASB

The Police did not attend the meeting, so no report was available or discussion undertaken on their work to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour.

Nita reported that she had been advised that the police beat surgeries are 8<sup>th</sup> February 10-11am at The Green, Thringstone, 14<sup>th</sup> May at The Wheel in Whitwick at 10-11am and 11<sup>th</sup> June at Thringstone Green, again 10-11am.

The meeting agreed that it was not up to FoT to further promote these beat surgeries, and that mentioning them in minutes/at meetings, and putting details on our website was sufficient publicity. It was further agreed that it is not up to FoT to set up NHW groups, but work with people in the village to point them in the right direction if they wish to set up such a scheme.

## From previous minutes

- Memorial garden/David Taylor plaque

Ray Woodward has managed to get the agreement of NWLDC to allow FoT to take over and maintain the shrub-bed on The Green as a memorial garden. Nita has ascertained the views of all members on email, views of others in the village, and also the views of prospective parliamentary candidates for the next General Election, and nobody is against the erection of some sort of memorial to David Taylor. The family are being consulted on this proposal, and anything erected will be modest, in line with David's character and be funded out of FoT monies. Friends of Grace Dieu have expressed a wish to contribute to any monument/plaque erected.

- Events and what we are trying to fund in 2010

As discussed last month, events being attended this year are Picnic in the Parks, Grace Dieu Event, School fetes, George and Dragon event and anything that comes up at Snibston. These are the ones we usually attend.

The meeting agreed to look to fund the memorial to David Taylor (cost unknown but say £150), newsletter printing (£300 rounded up), planting (cost estimated to be about £600) and a donation towards the conservation of Charles Booth's grave (estimated to be about £200 or less) during 2010. This makes a total of £1,250, which is not really achievable. Nita has submitted a funding bid for £400 for some of the planting required which takes the figure down to £850 if we are successful, and less if the Charles Booth Grave donation is not given. This takes the figure down to a more reasonable amount to aim for.

In theory, the membership monies and any adverts placed in The Bauble should cover the cost of the newsletter production (currently this leaves us £82 short) so the figure given above will be further reduced once this is taken into consideration.

The British Legion has a temporary cabinet at the Community Centre but there is nothing to stop FoT continuing to look for something suitable to the Centre and to Lorraine for artefacts. This could also be something we need to fund this year. Nita will talk to John Brown about this again. Nita said that FoT has been asked to provide £200 to help fund the provision of the art youth project. After some considerable discussion, it was agreed that Nita go back to the steering group to report that FoT feel unable to offer money at this stage without further information on the project, and speaking to the young people themselves. Nita will relay this information back to the steering group.

Outside of the above suggested things to aim for in 2010, Nita has made enquiries about funding for a booklet to be produced on notable graves in St Andrew's churchyard. Monies are available from NWLDC and others, and will be followed through when appropriate.

Nita mentioned that Sandie Newton has washed, steam cleaned and invisibly mended where appropriate all donated toys for the bric a brac part of any stand. Sandie was thanked for her work in this area. Sandie is willing to bake cakes to sell at events if required.

- Gardening update

Ray Neal has removed weeds etc. from the area by the side of Armstong's compound in Brook Lane and is talking to the owners about planting something there to prevent further weed growth, but is also looking into what FoT could provide. The prospective funding bid, as mentioned earlier, would be for plants for the memorial garden and to enlarge upon and replace shrubs which have died as well as this area in Brook Lane.

Pam, Bernard and Nita have been doing litter picks in the woods, collecting about 10 bin bags full of litter, Janet has done near Thringstone Members Club and Bernard has also done a litter pick by the church, but there is still a lot of litter in the village.

If you have one of the FoT litter pick sticks and don't use it regularly, please let us have it back, as others who would like to help keep the litter down on a regular basis are unable to do so without a stick.

Pam Porter agreed to talk to NWLDC about the amount of litter on Talbot Lane. She also agreed to talk to Tam Bream about the gloves he has offered to donate to the group.



Pam asked people to let her know about any large items of rubbish which needed clearing. At this point, Ray Neal said there was a lot of large rubbish dumped in the churchyard which had surfaced as a result of cutting back hedging. This included a bedstead. Pam agreed to talk to NWLDC about this and also about the litter on Henson's Lane recreation park.

Pam explained that doing regular litter picks hadn't previously attracted a lot of volunteers, so she was proposing to do an 'event' litter pick, and suggested a date in March. Llynda Baugh said that this clashed with an event at St Andrew's and then offered the use of her Newfoundland dogs to pull carts to remove rubbish, which would generate interest from the media and the village in general. It was agreed that Llynda contact Nita with some dates and that the next litter pick would then be announced.

Pam is going to seek help from NWLDC in producing a poster to promote the litter pick with the dogs and it might be possible for refreshments to be served at the community centre afterwards. Karon Smith explained that she had been interested in working with FoT on a Cash In Trash Out project connected to the geocaching network to which she belongs. It was agreed that this would be something worth following through, as members of the geocaching network would then come and help clear a specific area and work with our own volunteers. Pam agreed to talk to Karon and arrange a date with her for this as the second litter pick event.

There was considerable discussion about the need to educate young people (and older people) about the impact of litter on the environment. Pam Clayfield said we were going backwards in some areas and continually going over old ground. Nita was asked to contact the council to see what work was being done with schools, in particular, in this area. Nita agreed to do this.

The meeting felt that a lot of time and effort was being put into clearing Grace Dieu woodland of litter, and that the village was more important. Pam explained that at the organised litter picks, the whole of the village was covered in most cases, and that the litter pick then ended up with the woodland, but conceded that possibly more time should be spent on litter picks concentrating solely on the village itself, but encouraged members to clear up around their own areas if possible.

- Junior FoT/meadow project etc

Nita has contacted the school and the wetland meadow project is still to take place, but the school have been unable to programme this into their timetable at present.

- Grannie's recipes

Tam Bream has let the group borrow some old recipe books from the 1920s to look through. Nita has these to deal with in due course. It is still uncertain whether anything will come of the project to do a recipe book combined with old photographs of the village.

Fran Skinner has submitted a couple of recipes which were being tried out by members and been successful. Sandie Newton had offered to cook one of the recipes and bring it down to the meeting at some point in the future for people to try. It was agreed that doing this would be a good idea, as then recipes had been tried by the group, and not just one person. It was agreed that the group reimburse the cost of doing this to Sandie. Nita will talk to Sandie and organise this, working on covering food for 20 people, as this is the average meeting attendance.

- CRB checks

The school have confirmed that there is no need for the gardening team to be CRB checked due to a change in government directives, but Nita will keep the CRB forms in case they are needed in the future.

## AOB

- **Flytipping** – In the event that someone discovers flytipping, NWLDC have a computerised system for the recording of all complaints and service requests and so these should be sent to them, and not to Nita.. Any reports should be made to the Customer Services Centre (email: [customer.services@nwleicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@nwleicestershire.gov.uk) or tel: 01530 454545 ) so that they can be entered onto the system and forwarded to the appropriate section. This avoids problems if individual contact officers are out of the office or are unavailable for some reason and enables the council to monitor reports. Any flytipping on private land can still be reported, but will be passed to the landowner to deal with, if known.

- **Queen's Head** - The Queen's Head has been sold to a gentleman with a business in Coalville and a further pub (The Forest Rock). The Queen's Head is now on offer at a reasonable rent (rather than through the previous brewery owners). The gentleman had also enquired about buying The Fox site, to get that back as a pub, but been unsuccessful.
- **St Andrew's** - St Andrews Church will be holding a Spring Fayre on Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup> between 10am and 2.00pm as part of its fundraising work to build a toilet and kitchen extension. There will be lots of stalls, and donations of bottles and cakes would be most welcome. Please come and view the plans for the proposed improvements to the Church and the recent internal restoration of one of Thringstone's most beautiful buildings.
- **Miner's Welfare Development** – There was considerable discussion on the proposals for the Miner's Welfare site, which were answered by Ray Woodward.

**The date of the next meeting is Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> March at 6.45pm at Thringstone Community Centre.**