



# The Friends of Thringstone

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## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2010 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Ray Neal, Pam Clayfield, Ray Woodward, Tam Bream, Janet Stevenson, Lorraine Whitehurst, Roy Hill, Geoff Walker, Colin Perritt, Dave Everitt, Ann Petty, Brenda Simpson, Sue Rowbottom, David Stevenson, Jo Johnson, Terry Robinson

**Apologies:** Geoff and Jane Wilson, Sandie and Tony Newton, Rowena Summers, , Maggie Smith, Pam Porter, John & Karon Smith, Jim Sorrell, Anne Baxter, Pauline Bolstridge, Cllr. Tony Gillard, CSO Jim Sorrell, Denise Abbott, Bernard Lee, Aileen Smith, Chris Mellor

### Reports

#### Chairman's monthly report

##### Letters received

- From Highcross Bursary Grants regarding photo shoot in Leicester on 26<sup>th</sup> March
- From Voluntary Action Leicester with current newsletter and training programme

##### Emails received

- Confirmation on agreement by NWLDC to remove bushes from Memorial bed with certain provisos passed on to gardening team
- From Witan Archeology with copy of their report on The Star
- From Milestone Society (canal enthusiasts) asking questions about Charnwood Forest Canal of which, apparently, only a few canal lovers may be aware
- From EMOHA about funding being possible for community groups to research into migration from other areas, and in particular to us the Scottish migration in the 1960s. Letter of support subsequently sent.
- Copy of email from owner of Mill Field about possible investigations there by Witan
- From NWLDC to say setting up a TARA in the village had failed at the second attempt. May try again in the Autumn.
- Regarding Positive Futures trying to set up football matches on the pitch at the rear of the bowls club on a regular basis for kids to play.
- Email from local resident about parking on grass verge opposite new build on Old Bakery Close.
- From Voluntary Action Leicester about food hygiene and first aid courses – details passed on to committee and an interested member
- From Whitwick Action Group thanking us for helping them with various issues and about presenting their petition to save green wedges, forwarded around committee
- From Charlotte Cordon from Surestart about their Easter Egg Hunt and thanking FoT for being involved in this (Ray Woodward represented us) and asking if we want to be part of a mapping exercise following a smaller consultation process the results of which were read out.

## Emails sent

- Information to LCC about the group for inclusion in their promotion of Leics. Walks Festival during which we have two walks
- To Thringstone Primary regarding Highcross Bursary Grant and agreement that they want to work with us on a project of remove their pond and make a wildflower garden area, and asking for a meeting to discuss this
- Various information sent round committee and members on email regarding ongoing issues and giving information
- Completed 'Involved' survey Leicestershire and Rutland on volunteering with youth groups and our experiences in this direction and subsequently entered FoT into prize draw for £50 in Argos vouchers
- Completed survey on Global Action Eco-Teams
- To Biffa asking if they want to help support any future litter picks for the group. Photo taken of rubbish and Newfoundland dog by their bin already!
- To County asking if the community centre qualifies for a green grant having already had a lighting survey and a thermography survey done on the premises which received a negative response.
- To Lorraine giving details of the Charnwood Forest Biodiversity exhibition which is looking for local venues. 2010 is the year of biodiversity apparently.

## Promotion

- Walks programme promoted in all local media outlets
- Photo of Newfoundland dogs and article on litter pick, plus promotion of haunting evening in Echo of 12<sup>th</sup> March, the latter being done by Ann Petty for the groups
- Details of litter pick of 27<sup>th</sup> March in Coalville Times of 19<sup>th</sup> March.
- Details of FoT walks have gone into National Forest Walk Festival brochures and Peak District Council's Walks Festivals 2010 brochure. This gives our group increased promotion given that 40,000 copies of the larger brochure and 20,000 of the smaller have been printed.
- Editorial covering a page and a half in NWLDC's Active Together brochure detailing all the walks and our contact numbers/web address
- Sent editorial and picture to local media following litter pick on 27<sup>th</sup> March and did press release to Hermitage FM and to RCC weekly newsletter
- Sent copy of photograph of Highcross Bursary Grant presentation to Coalville Times and to Hermitage FM together with short editorial. Leics. Mercury and Lbro Echo had already been contacted by Highcross direct.
- Copy of Leicestershire Walking Week leaflet includes details of our walks

## Other

- Submitted RCC Village Achievement Awards application covering two categories - events run and a further one in the cleaner/greener category
- Attended steering group meeting to discuss art project on Miner's Welfare site
- Attended meeting at G&D regarding their TLC event 21st August and put ideas forward on helping this event to become family friendly during the daytime
- Organised separate one-off committee meeting
- Went to see litter pick on Henson's Lane park organised by youth group
- Organised and did presentations at Haunted Evening event at George and Dragon
- Picked up and banked £1,000 cheque and had photo shoot as part of Highcross Bursary Grants – we were one of 29 successful groups out of 400 applicants.
- Put together funding package for litter pick sticks etc. to be funded through Coalville Special Reserves Grant funding and posted off but it should be noted that Friends of Grace Dieu have made a similar funding request for the same items.
- We have 3 new members, all attracted as a result of the litter pick.
- Currently working on newsletter for delivery in mid May.
- Attended Whitwick Action Group meeting and reported back to committee.

Nita raised the question of **promotion of the Community Centre** which had also been discussed at the committee meeting last week. This had been made more important by the raising of a suggestion at the Whitwick Action Group meeting of a new Community Centre for Whitwick. This provoked lively

discussion and it was agreed that FoT should see part of its mission as helping publicising activities and room hire at the Centre. Tam felt that the building was not welcoming to those not familiar with it, but it was pointed out that it was difficult to do much to the structure without the support of the County Council who had taken over maintenance of the building in the 1950s. They were not keen to spend much money on it for major works such as the installation a lift or even a stair lift or putting cables underground at Bob's Closs. Support is needed from our County Councillor who was not present. Ray Woodward agreed to talk to him further, and also to take our comments to the Centre's Management Committee. Tam felt that the Centre needed to be more business like and show some profit. However the main conclusion was that we all needed to work hard at ideas to promote the centre and the many activities there. Ideas mooted were the name printed on litter pick Hi Viz vests together with a sponsors name, such as Biffa, if they could be persuaded to buy the vests. The name printed on bags given out buy the local shops, a list of activities printed in the Bauble and sent to local Press and radio and advertising on the back cover of any new brochures. Plenty of word of mouth promotion by all members and wider delivery of the Centre Newsletter, and ideas for more sponsors are needed. Geoff Walker agreed to publicise as much as he could for the community centre on the Thringstone website he manages which gets over 200 hits per month.

Nita said that she had attended the presentation of the **Highcross Bursary Grants** and received a cheque for £1000 for FoT. She showed the meeting the large publicity cheque and circulated the new portfolio of pictures which had been started because the old one was full. This had pictures of the recovered planting in Drury Lane, the litter pick and the grant presentation ceremony.

### **Treasurer's Report – Tam Bream**

The total in the account is £1644.58, of which the major input to this is Membership at £107.50, Events - £398.82, Publications - £353.90 (not all profit - out of this has to be taken the cost of the brochure printing). I am aware that thanks to Nita putting together the bid to Highcross, we have now got a further £1,000 to swell the bank account. There are lots of ideas on where to use this money which need to be evaluated against the benefit to the community and the environment at large.

This is a very good position to be in at the start of the final quarter of the year and this will set a good marker for forthcoming years.

It was agreed by show of hands that the meeting had no problems in paying Lorraine for the use of the room on a yearly basis by cheque from the AGM onwards, rather than this coming out of the raffle monies. Nita currently holds £6.74 in petty cash, having paid for car parking at Highcross, and reimbursed Janet for food required to cater for people after the litter pick, and given £4 to Ann Petty to reimburse her following her land registry search on the group's behalf.

### **Publications – Roy Hill**

Stocks have been replenished with the exception of Born & Bred 1 which will be done in the next few months.

There has been one sale of Village Trail 1 since the last meeting (value £2.50) plus 2 Born & Bred 1 1 x Memories 1, 1 x Memories 2, 1 x Village Trail 2 and 1 x Village Trail 3 i.e. a further five booklets which were sold after the last meeting report was prepared, all from the Community Centre and mostly purchased by members of Whitwick Royal British Legion.

### **Stock Report**

	<b>Community Centre</b>	<b>George &amp; Dragon</b>	<b>Nita</b>	<b>Central Stock</b>	<b>Total</b>
Born & Bred 1	2	6	6	0	14
Born & Bred 2	3	6	6	36	51
Memories 1	5	6	6	8	25
Memories 2	5	6	6	16	33
Village Trail 1	5	6	6	26	43
Village Trail 2	5	6	6	24	41
Village Trail 3	5	6	6	24	41
<b>Sub Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>187</b>

### **Web report and emails– John Smith**

John was not present but had sent a short report saying the site was up to date. There are still problems with the guest book on the site which probably need for it to be reinstalled, and he is working on it.

### Arts and community report – Pam Clayfield

Pam prefaced her report with support for the ideas to promote the centre. She pointed out that Lorraine devoted many volunteer hours for which she was not paid and deserved our support. Recently attracted to use the centre as its base are **Whitwick Royal British Legion** who are also using it to display their trophies and artefacts. They meet at the Centre on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month and are also spreading the word about the Centre. On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 8pm they will be having an open evening, with fish and chip supper and John Price our film organist will be playing the organ in the Bar Lounge where the get together is taking place.

**The Princes Trust** is also working to establish a Community Garden at the Centre. Despite the cold weather good progress is being made by the young people.

The **trip to Kelmscott Manor** the former home of William Morris on 17<sup>th</sup> April is well supported but there are still spaces if anyone else wishes to go.

A **series of lectures** on local history will start after Easter on Tuesday evenings at the Centre, given by Ray Sutton who is continuing with his Wednesday afternoon lectures on Art & Literature.

The Friday **ballroom dancing** and the Thursday **Belly dancing** sessions are well attended.

**Film Club** is still ongoing and acquiring more members. The next film is Heaven's Gate shown over two Mondays 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> April

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May will see a performance from the **Centre Stage programme**. Watch for posters for details and see Lorraine for tickets. Centre phone 222337.

**2011** is the **centenary** of the opening of the Hall upstairs in the Community Centre. The Management committee are working on plans to celebrate this event, and are open to any suggestions.

**Hermitage Radio** continues to flourish. Pam had persuaded Sally Green who runs the monthly French conversation and film at the Centre to talk on the radio, also Adam Raine of Friends of Holly Hayes has been invited. She had also asked a number of people from Marlene Reid Centre to have regular slots on Jon's live afternoon show. This together with officers from the district council who inform the listening public about various issues related to their work, e.g. Whats On in the area and other topics of interest are helping promote the area fully.

Pam is leading an **FoT walk** on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April. This will be a four mile ramble taking in Grace Dieu woods and beyond (hoping the bluebells will be out).

**Thringstone's Got Talent** is being organised by St Andrew's on 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 7.30pm at The Church, with funds raised going towards the kitchen/toilet extension. To book at place telephone 01530 451366.

### History – Ann Petty

This was read out by Nita

Ann has spoken to the man who owns the **Queen's Head** about going in to photograph what is left of the pub before it is too late

Ann has been in touch with Mark Gregory who has agreed to fence off a part of the **mill field**, if necessary, so that Witan Archeology can dig a few test pits to establish if we do have the remains of a medieval water mill in the field.

Nita has a copy of the **archeology report** that Witan produced for **The Star** on Main Street and Witan have asked the owners if we can borrow the pottery etc. that they found for any exhibitions we may do.

When Lorraine asked us to clear the cupboards for the British Legion a few weeks ago, we found bags of pottery that we had found while fieldwalking with Gracedieu Archeology Group. Some of this was from **Redhill Farm** and contains some roman pottery which again we could exhibit at some point.

Does anyone know who has bought **Forest View on the Green**, because we would love to have a look in there and take photographs.

Ann understands from Ron Goacher that Keith Timson seems to think that there was more of an off licence than a coaching inn down **Brook Lane**, where Benistone's is now, that was called something like The Brookside or something similar to that.

A couple of months ago **Lesley Hale from Swannington and Whitwick Historial Group** asked if we would be interested in any of her files about Thringstone, which she has collected over the years, because she is having a sort out. She has since given us a folder with the burials at St. Andrews Church from 1862 up to 1937. Ron Goacher has copies of the originals but this folder is a little easier to read. We really do need somewhere to keep all this stuff that we are accumulating so that everyone has access to it, when they want.

**Archive catalogue** Janet Stevenson asked if the archive material had been catalogued for access by other people. Ann agreed that the knowledge of what was there was all in her head. Janet offered to help her to catalogue it and they will talk about it.

### **Councillor's 5 minute report – Ray Woodward**

**Follow up on ASB** (ongoing) Ray said that he had had a lot of phone calls about the anti-social behaviour of about 5 children in the village. He had attended a multi agency meeting with the police, District Council and the County Council Impact team. This team had spent over 30 hours patrolling around Kay's shop but had seen no evidence of ASB. It was agreed they were looking in the wrong place as the Rose and Crown wall was being vandalised during the same time frame. Ray had undertaken a patch walk along Henson's Lane, and made officers aware of the damage to the wall at the back of the Rose & Crown, and the missing plants along the church wall. There was also more trouble on the Fox site and damage to the bowling green. The police and the school knew who these children are but do not seem to be able to take any action against them. Ray said there was no joined up thinking between the various bodies working in the area and he and Dave Everitt would speak to the Director of Communities again this week to make this point.

More **positive news** was that the Young people's litter pick on the recreation area along Hensons Lane had been a great success attracting 15 children of which the youngest was 3 years of age. Similarly, the Easter Egg Hunt organised by Charlotte Corden had been enjoyed by 50+ children and an equal number of adults despite the awful weather.

**Fox site** There is not much progress. Tam asked if a security camera could be set up in a house overlooking the site to monitor entry to the rear of the premises, but it was pointed out that it would be obscured by trees. Ray said that he thought the building needed demolishing, but this needed a planning enforcement order which was difficult to obtain.

**Casework** continues and revolves mainly around housing issues.

The **work in Grace Dieu woods** has opened up the area, making it more attractive to the motorbikers. It was pointed out that the work to remove the rhododendrons should have been finished by 31<sup>st</sup> March and it was now into bird nesting season. A badgers' sett has been uncovered and Richard Sohacki has been informed, but had not as yet responded. We understand that the work will continue until 14<sup>th</sup> April at least.

The problem of policing of the woods by Kegworth police was again regretted, but there was little we can do except continue to maintain contact and report all incidents as is presently happening.

### **County Council report**

Tony Gillard was unable to be present, but reports were received suggesting that the issue of knee high bollards on grass verges is still being discussed, and the bollards on Loughborough Road near Kay's shop are likely to be put in place during April. There is still some parking on grass verges which is being investigated, as is the issue of a resident driving along the footpath and verge to a created driveway.

### **Police report**

Jim Sorrell was not present but had sent the following statistics.

Offences for the last 30 days to 31<sup>st</sup> March. 14 reported crimes.

1 x Theft of motor vehicle

3 x Assaults . 1 with suspect and restorative justice. 1 x dog assault

1 x Theft

1 x damage to motor vehicle

4 x damage to property

4 x burglary. 1 suspect later eliminated, 1 suspect on going, 1 with several suspects ongoing, One was relating to an empty property.

Nita had received a report from the police saying that, as a result of budgetary constraints, there may be police redundancies, but the police pledge was being renewed and communities will have an appointed sergeant.

### **From previous minutes**

**Gardening** the stolen plants along the church wall will be replaced by different plants. Ray Neal requested a new garden fork. He was told to buy what he wanted and give the receipt to Tam for a cheque to be prepared. Lorraine asked if any new planting might take place at the centre. This will be considered. Someone had approached Roy Hill with an offer of plants for the village. Roy has talked direct to Ray Neal on this.

Nothing had been received from **Junior Friends of Thringstone**.

**Litter picks.** There will be further picks but Pam was not present to discuss this. However, it is hoped that the next event of this nature will involve the Geocache network. Pam was thanked for the work she did in arranging the event, which saw 28 bags of litter, one tyre and one carpet removed from the village. Thanks also go to Llynda and Darryl Baugh and their dogs for helping with the litter pick and to those volunteers who came to litter pick and also helped with the catering after the event finished.

**Friends of Grace Dieu** have a litter pick organised in the field by Rusty Mary for 7<sup>th</sup> April starting at 6pm. Those interested are encouraged to attend with litter pick sticks.

**Highcross Grant** As stated above, £1,000 has been given to the group in funding from Highcross Leicester. Some of the money will possibly be spent with the school and a meeting comprising 2 representatives of the school and two from FoT is being organised. Bernard is not happy with the choice of greenhouse at the school. It is not fit for purpose and Sandie has agreed, with Bernard, to talk to the school about this, with the blessing of Pam Porter who is environment lead.

Further recipes for the **Grannies Recipes** book were requested.

The Evening of **Haunting Stories** at the George and Dragon with Friends of Grace Dieu had worked well, and raised £30 for the group. There may be other similar evenings in the future.

## **AOB**

**Events** – After some discussion it was agreed not to do wine and water at either the Picnic in the Parks Event or Grace Dieu Event, and that the latter event might not be suitable for bric a brac sales.

**Well Woman Clinic** – NWLDC are running a well woman clinic at the centre on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Nita agreed to contact Julie Summerton at NWLDC as she knows her, and help promote this to members who may have an interest.

**Committee places** are available if people wish to help the group. Those interested need to submit their intention to stand at the AGM to the chairman in writing (which includes email) by the date of the next meeting (6<sup>th</sup> May). Applications can only be made by paid up members of the group who have someone to back their nomination. Nomination requested which are accepted will be presented at the AGM for members to vote. There is currently a vacancy for secretary, and the constitution allows the group to have up to 12 committee members. Current committee members were reminded that they also need to follow this format.

They was debate about the date of the **next meeting** as it is likely to clash with the General Election for which the centre is a polling station. Nita, Dave, Tony Gillard and Ray Woodward said they would not be able to be at the meeting.

A vote was taken about moving the meeting to 20<sup>th</sup> May but it was thought this would be rather close to the AGM in June. The vote showed a small majority for keeping the meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Janet Stevenson agreed to chair the meeting in Nita's absence as she receives the reports for the minutes. Nita was asked to provide full notes on items for discussion. Tam said he would also help. At this next meeting, there will be newsletters to give out to volunteers, and the people from the Thringstone Live For Charity are attending to talk about what help FoT can give to their event.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre**