



# The Friends of Thringstone

'Working to improve our village'

[www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk](http://www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk)

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

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2010 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Present: Nita Pearson, Bernard Lee, Tracy Foulds, Jo Johnson, Tam Bream, Roy Hill, Janet Stevenson, Ray Neal, Ann Petty, Pam Clayfield, Brenda Simpson, Geoff Walker, Ray Woodward, Lorraine Whitehurst, Aileen Smith, Ann Hibberd, Pam Porter**

**Apologies: David Stevenson, Rowena Summers, John and Karon Smith, Jim Wilkinson, Geoff Wilson, Dave and Julie Everitt, Mike King, Ruth Crocket, Chris Mellor, Tony Gillard**

### Reports:

#### Chairman's report November 2010

There was an error in our last minutes regarding the extension to St Andrew's church. The whole project is costing £78,000, the toilet section is complete, and the kitchen extension will hopefully be started in March. This will cost in the region of £20-£22,000, of which a further £7,000 - £10,000 is yet to be raised. We apologise for any offence caused to St Andrew's congregation.

#### Letters received given to Janet for filing and available for anyone to read.

- From NWLDC inviting us to a civic reception for winners in the RCC awards. Accepted and attended. Photos taken. Provided a good opportunity to network and promote the group.
- From Marlene Reid inviting us to 3<sup>rd</sup> sector forum on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. NP attended. See below. Similar letter asking us to infrastructure workshop on 8<sup>th</sup> Nov. Passed to committee. No takers.
- From VAL enclosing copy of their annual review 2009-10
- From NWLDC asking us to have a stall at Christmas in Coalville on 27 Nov. Declined.

#### Emails Received

- From Youth Worker for Thringstone explaining that due to staff cuts, they were unable to work with our youth club on the litter pick, and apologizing for letting us down. Similar from Joe Smith of Thringstone scouts explaining that they couldn't help with the litter pick because of other commitments - their car wash morning at the community centre.
- From Whitwick Action Group about planning approval to build on Broomley's Farm and further concerns over the Hall Lane/Green Lane part of the green wedge – sent to all on email
- From LCC enclosing link to the Art and Heritage Report for 2009/10. Copies sent to committee. If anybody else wants a copy, please contact LCC, as it is a lengthy document to download.
- From Alan Burgess of St Andrew's asking if we are able to repair the footpath wall by the church with cement, if they provide the materials. Passed to Ray Neal but answer is that we aren't builders and it needs a builder. Reply sent to vicar.

#### Emails Sent

- Ongoing issues to committee, together with newsletters etc. received and on-going work
- Ray W queried cost of production of newsletter with NWLDC's CEO. Cost now held at original price until



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April 2011. Subsequently emailed Teamprint in Loughborough for quote.

- To all email members regarding NWLDC's free tree scheme. 2 year old trees available are crab apple, rowan, hawthorn and hazel, and must be ordered before 15<sup>th</sup> Nov and collected on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2 trees per household only. Contact NWLDC on 454567.
- To various partners regarding graffiti on the mural project, on the church and in the village and subsequent meeting with partners. ViP project have agreed that young people from the youth club will help get rid of this graffiti for all concerned, which shows good community spirit. Subsequently did a mapping exercise for the officers dealing with the removal of the graffiti identifying sites where graffiti has been placed, which is extensive and includes people's UPVC front doors, and prioritized for them in which order to clear the graffiti. It is proposed to do the work on the mural on 29<sup>th</sup> November, and Nita had been asked to contact the owners of properties affected about removal of their graffiti. Nita asked if Ray W could be involved in this, as she did not feel it was something for her to deal with alone. CSO Jim Sorrell has said he would like to be involved in this work, but was on rest days on 29<sup>th</sup>. If anybody from FoT would like to help on 29<sup>th</sup>, please let Nita know.
- To local Girl Guide units about possibly working with us on environmental things in the future and positive reply received. To discuss with litter picking item.
- Millets are doing a promotion on discount vouchers for walk groups and regular walkers. We may be able to avail ourselves of this. Will keep people informed.
- Nita read out a list of the anti social incidents in the village over the last six months which she had sent to the police, but as yet had received no response. Janet added that she had received a phone call this evening regarding vandalism at the Bowls Club which could be added to the list and Aileen reported damage to her car which had not been reported to the police. Nita also reported that there had been damage done on the Homestead Road building site, there had been some issues with drunkenness in the area, and soil and stones had been thrown at cars and properties nearby. There had further been an issue with regard to the banner on the site, and the builders had removed this, due to its flapping causing problems for a person's chickens. Nita further reported that there had been further break-ins at The Fox, which she had reported to Jonathan Sherlock at NWLDC who will contact the owners. The Police had also been informed.

### Promotion

- Ordered and took delivery of roller banner from One Stop Promotions. Thanks to Geoff for doing the art work. This was displayed to the meeting. It will be used to advertise the group at all public events which we attend.
- Letter on our litter pick in Echo 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2010
- In RCC's weekly newsletter dated 19<sup>th</sup> October – 2 pages about Diseworth eco event as below, plus details on ourselves.
- Set up FriendsOfThringstone (all one word) as a twitter page
- Interview with NWLDC about our recent awards success and further interview arranged for 11<sup>th</sup> Nov.
- After litter pick, gave cadets certificates of thanks and stickers as part of the CSV campaign, completed survey for CSV on the litter pick, and sent them 4 photos. Similar thing for Keep Britain Tidy campaign (by post), added photos to our page on Big Tidy Up website and ordered more bags for next time, did press releases to media and local radio with 2 photos, as well as thank you emails to air and army cadets leaders for helping out and to Andrew Bridgen MP. Sent details to Green Footprints team at NWLDC with photos for the website, emailed de lisle family about amount of rubbish removed from their woodland and gave contact details of cadets for a possible thank you from them. Photos sent to website editor and to 3 people whose photos were also taken for their own scrap book. Coalville Times came and took photos at the end. 12 photos run off and added to our portfolio.
- Email to new Community Manager at NWLDC inviting him to consider talking to us about his new role and what the plans are within NWLDC to work with groups like ours, possibly as part of the Big Society agenda.

### Other

- Attended with Ann Petty Diseworth Heritage Centre's eco event. Lots of interest in our school history 'naughty book' and portfolios. Asked if we would like to have a display day at the centre in the future. Also did live broadcast with Hermitage FM during the afternoon.
- Joined the group to Every Action Counts, a network for environmental groups and those interested in recycling, protecting the environment against litter etc.
- Reported needles found in Grace Dieu woods to land owner, NWLDC and police. Council won't remove the needles and want us to remove them and take them to their depot. This provoked discussion and it was agreed that we should stand firm that we were not willing to undertake activities which presented Health & Safety risks to members. The Council has already made an effort to remove the burnt out motor bike from the woods and have agreed that if we could show them where the needles are they will bring a Sharps Box. Nita and Ray W will action this. CSO Jim Sorrell has said that the police can't remove these for health and safety reasons.
- Some temperature gauges and book marks left over from the eco event were given out.



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### **Other**

Nita read out the wish list which had been compiled at the beginning of the year and said that the projected income had been higher than the actual income achieved. There was a shortfall of approximately £225. This had been mainly because we had not attended the school events, held an event of our own or attended the one at the George and Dragon. There also had been some loss of publications due to theft/ loss. Without continuing sponsorship and events we cannot produce The Bauble or undertake other activities. This is reinforced by the following Treasurers report.

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

Tam was pleased to report that David Stevenson has kindly done an accounts review and we have a clean bill of health in terms of the figures shown. Tam thanked David sincerely for his input and efforts on doing the review and hopes that he understands the decisions of the committee. He has made some observations - Adding a cell on the accounts which showed the total annual income and expenditure rather than the monthly tallies kept to date. This has been adopted and now the records show the year to date income and expenditure.

Changing the closing date for the accounts three months prior to the AGM to enable a review to be done pre the AGM. This has not been adopted as the committee felt that as the membership is notified each month of the state of play and the accounts are available at any time for perusal that as long as an independent check was done at some time through the year this would satisfy the requirements.

To log the petty cash in the income and expenditure accounts for any sum of money over £5.00. The committee has agreed to adopt this but only for sums of money above £50. Doing any less would be very time consuming and would not serve any purpose. I do ad hoc checks of the petty cash regularly and I have no reason to believe that this is not being recorded accurately.

We have a further two members joined this month which has brought our tally up to 18 this year which is the best ever at 89 current members. Money raised so far stands at Membership - £252; Events - £396.31; Publications - £68.00; Donations - £18.00; Walks - £56.00; Sundries - £75.00. This is still looking good for this year but unfortunately even with all of this effort, we still have only a surplus this year of £170 since June. We have paid for the flowerbed, sleepers, roller blind, newsletters, T - shirts, and various other items so we are ahead slightly, however we must not forget that had it not been for the monies raised through sponsorship from East Midlands Airport, NWLDC and the Highcross Bursary Awards that we have received we would not even be covering our costs so we really need to go all out to get more members and any sponsorship however little to help our efforts. Any questions about the accounts feel free to ask

Nita then reported on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Forum which she had attended at the Marlene Reid Centre on the subject of Sources of money for voluntary organisations. She said that it had been a very helpful meeting. The main points of use were;

- Because of the current economic climate, companies may not now give sponsorship money but would often be willing to donate 'employee time'. This could be very helpful in supplying professional or practical skills which the group lacked. Tam has agreed to follow this up by forging links with the local Chamber of Commerce, Business Link etc, and possibly attending the business breakfast meetings at the George and Dragon. Pam Clayfield pointed out that Rhonda Dean had agreed to attend Community Centre management Committee meetings if required.
- Nita also said that a suggestion had been made that a way to encourage volunteers was to offer volunteer contracts of 12 hours per year. ie. one hour per month. People could then feel they were not committed to more than they were able to offer.
- Ray Woodward said that the previously negotiated sponsorship with Caterpillar could probably be revived if we had a specific project.

### **Publications report**



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Three sales have been made this month.

The general stock levels for Memories 1 are now low.

£11.50 will be banked.

Roy said that sales were steady but slow. It was agreed that there was no need to print further copies as most people who wanted copies now had them and they should perhaps be scanned in on the website.

Ways of promoting sales were discussed.

	<b>Community Centre</b>	<b>George &amp; Dragon</b>	<b>Nita</b>	<b>Stock</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Born and Bred 1</b>	3	6	6	18	33
<b>Born and Bred 2</b>	3	6	6	32	47
<b>Memories 1</b>	5	6	6	3	20
<b>Memories 2</b>	5	6	6	10	27
<b>Village Trail 1</b>	5	6	6	24	41
<b>Village Trail 2</b>	5	6	6	20	37
<b>Village Trail 3</b>	5	6	6	22	39
<b>Sub-totals</b>	31	42	42	129	245

### **Web report – John Smith**

John was not present, but Nita had looked at the site and reported that it is all up to date except for the recent litter pick photos which had still to be added.

### **Arts and Community Report – Pam Clayfield**

The production of Ill Met by Moonlight at the Community Centre had been excellent and much appreciated by the audience of about 45 people. However, the Arts Council funding of the Hijinx Company has now been withdrawn so this was their last visit and we were unlikely to get many more professional productions in the village.

Pam referred to the review by the County Council of the financial support of the Community Centre which will be continued in January. She said that everyone was working to try to secure the future of the centre. Pam had attended the Community & Arts Forum at Snibston Discovery Park. She had invited Heather Broughton, the Assistant Director for Museum Arts & Culture to speak to FoT. Nita had emailed her but had as yet no response, although it was felt that this talk would be best placed after April when the spending reviews were sorted.

Pam then listed the forthcoming events:

8<sup>th</sup> November - Film at Community Centre - Love in the time of cholera. In Spanish with subtitles. 7.30pm  
Bar open 7pm.

15<sup>th</sup> November- Film at Century Theatre Coalville –Dear John 7.30pm

Tuesday evenings 20<sup>th</sup> century history lectures and Wednesday afternoons arts and literature lectures at the centre by Ray Sutton. Attendance is holding up but more people would be welcome.

12 and 13 November - Panto Group have Murder Mystery evenings at the Community Centre.

18<sup>th</sup> November - Agatha Christie Quiz Night at the Coalville Radio Coffee Lounge in Hotel Street 7-9.30pm

19<sup>th</sup> November - Whitwick & District U3A meet at St David's, Coalville Speaker Neil Hughes on Wildlife Crime.

Nov 24<sup>th</sup> - **Lantern Workshop** 6-8pm at the centre. **Booking essential.** This is to make lanterns for the procession from the church to the centre on 10<sup>th</sup> December or to use at the Grace Dieu event on 3<sup>rd</sup> December

27<sup>th</sup> November – St John's, Whitwick - Christmas Fayre 4-6pm in Church Hall.

27<sup>th</sup> November - St Andrew's church Thringstone. 10-12noon. Help clear up round church.

3<sup>rd</sup> December - Carols at Grace Dieu Priory. Lantern procession leaves the Bull's Head car park at 7pm

Janet added that Thringstone W.I. meet monthly on the third Tuesday at the Methodist Hall on the Green. 7.30pm. Visitors welcome.

Geoff added that Shephed Speakers Club, men only, meet in the Methodist Church Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.



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4<sup>th</sup> Dec – St Andrew's Christmas Fayre. New clothes, wine and water, stalls and raffle. 2pm onwards.

10<sup>th</sup> Dec - **Carols round the tree** followed by mince pies, mulled wine and a singsong in the Community Centre

### **History Report – Ann Petty**

Nita gave a report for Ann and herself about the work they were doing with Colin Hyde from the East Midlands Oral History Archive on the Migrations Stories Project.

Thringstone had been chosen for the pilot project as it was one of very few villages where a whole estate had been built to accommodate migrant workers, in this case the miners from Scotland and a social club subsequently built for them. The aim of the project is to record and film accounts of experiences in the move, and to scan memorabilia and photos. It is funded by EU money and has been called 'Moving South'. Two meetings had taken place, fliers had been produced to be delivered round the Melrose estate with The Bauble asking residents to come to Thringstone Members Club on 20<sup>th</sup> November, to bring photographic items to scan and tell some of their stories. There is a Rangers v Kilmarnock football match being shown on television that day and it was hoped people would come to watch it at the Club and combine it with talking to the project leaders.

Nita, Ann and Colin will be there from 12-4pm. Any other helpers would be welcome. Jean Lee from Whitwick had said she would be willing to help and Pam Clayfield expressed an interest also.

There was some discussion about people who had come in the 1970s and now lived elsewhere.

Because sometimes Nita's press releases are not picked up by local media, Colin Hyde had done a press release on this project as they might pick this up this time, but Nita will be telling the local radio stations and had done an article for the RCC. The project is also being publicised in the 'Who do you think you are?' genealogy magazine. If anyone knows of 'migrants' who now live elsewhere in the area, please tell them about the project and the date and venue, or tell Nita or Ann.

Filming will probably be done in January.

### **Councillor's Report- Ray Woodward**

There have been slight changes to the three major planning applications in the village:

1. Sunil at the Post Office has now lodged a revised application which is under consideration
2. The owner of the site of the old coal yard has had to revise his application.

There has been a meeting with the owner, his agents, the architect the planning officer and the urban designer to work out something that would be acceptable to the council and applicant. (very difficult) but believe we had some success.

3. Latest update on the hardstandings (Gracedieu Rd and Turolough Rd) is that the agent is now looking at a revised site on Gracedieu Rd which will mean a new application. Ray is still not happy with the highways situation but will try to make sure that safety is considered a major factor and will be addressed.

Ray has re-stated his attempt to get the Homestead site (or part of it) named after a local gentleman of some standing. The construction work is now under way and Ray has made contact with the developer to try to get details on the works schedule.

Continuing case work and too numerous and boring for the meeting.

Ray has also reported the list of ASB incidents and the latest break in at St Andrews church and the subsequent graffiti to our local beat officer. (No response as yet)

After the Happy Hearts day at the HLC Kegworth police, in league with the local ASB team, are now doing some patrols within the Gracedieu and Cademan woods. No further info on this.



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Ray had also been to a Big Society meeting at Oakthorpe with various other agencies, but felt that this was merely a talking shop and not much was achieved.

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### Police report

No report received this month

### Gardening update

Plants have been purchased for the bed on the Green. Ray Neal has done some coppicing in Bob's Closs

### Litter Pick

The recent litter pick had been a great success with help from the cadets. Andrew Bridgen MP had been asked along, and had done some picking and this had attracted the local press to take photos. 25 people had taken part and collected 40 bags of rubbish.

Nita mentioned that the de Lisle family had asked that if there is a subsequent litter pick that involves the woods, they be told, so that a member of their estate team can come along.

A hot pie and peas lunch had been provided at a cost of £70 by Thringstone Members Club. This provoked discussion about the need to provide food after a litter pick, especially at such cost.

Nita suggested that we should have one big pick with partners each year and that the others should revert to FoT members only without the need for food because of the cost. She is concerned that we could run out of partners with whom to work on large litter picks, but had contacted the Guides about working with us in the future. Ray Neal felt that we didn't need to give food every time.

Pam Porter said she felt that the cadets would work with us again, and felt that the lunches served an important social function and showed good community spirit. She said that the three litter pick events done this year had brought in other people, which was a good thing. She also said that she appreciated a lot of people did litter pick outside of the organised picks, and that not everybody wanted to go on an organised litter pick. Tam explained that he did a lot of clearance work in the woods that contributed to reducing litter, and that the latest litter pick had been an opportunity to integrate with the Members Club although the argument about numbers and costs had rather undermined this. It had been difficult to provide accurate numbers until just before the event, and so more had been catered for than actually came and had to be paid for, as the food had been bought. Janet said she was willing to do jacket potatoes again for future picks.

The cost for use of the Community Centre was discussed. Lorraine said if the case were put to the management committee there would not necessarily be a charge. Members however felt that it was only fair to pay for the use of electricity and cleaning up. It was suggested that Ruby's might be willing to sponsor the group by the provision of chips.

Tam felt that we should be careful not to present the idea that litter picks were the major function of the group as this was putting off some potential members. They should possibly be presented as a part of our work to improve the village environment and not as litter picks. We need to publicise all the other advantages of membership, such as contacts with other environmental organisations, the gardening side, history archive work, social contacts etc. We need subscriptions even if members do not wish to attend meetings or take part in litter picks. Nita agreed to go to the next management meeting to discuss using the centre if Pam could provide dates for her and we agreed to do 4 litter picks in 2011, probably starting in the Spring, and, if possible, that these would be advertised in advance in The Bauble.

### **AOB**

Tam has suggested a **Scarecrow Festival/competition** next year to combine with the Centenary Celebrations at the Community Centre on June 4<sup>th</sup> 2011. He felt he could get straw from the de Lisle estate to make the Scarecrows and asked for an indication of interest. There were about 11 people present who said they would make one. Lorraine said she may be able to put on a make a scarecrow workshop and was asked to produce a flier to 'sow the seeds' of the idea and give them out at the Village Quiz next week when most groups would be present. There will be a nominal charge for entry to the competition, with additional treasure hunt for children and a quiz for adults with money prizes of about £30, £20 and £10 subject to Tam finding sponsors for these. Lorraine suggested that photos of the Scarecrows round the village could be taken to provide a display at the centre. Tam asked for five judges and several people offered and said that he would like the prizes to





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be given out at the Centre. There could be a centenary theme or individual ideas. This will be decided later.

**Down To Earth BBC Radio Leicester recording.** This will take place at Thringstone Methodist Church Hall on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Nita desperately needs 16 questions to put to the BBC, with a deadline date of early January for this to be done. Without this, the programme will be pulled from the schedules. Janet and Lorraine gave some questions, Pam Porter said she may have one, and Aileen Smith said she was sure her husband could come up with some questions. All questions to Nita in writing by 1<sup>st</sup> Jan if possible please.

We are still looking for **speakers for 2011**. John Richardson, Community Manager from NWLDC has agreed to come along and talk to the April meeting. If anybody has any suggestions for other speakers, please let us know.

The next meeting is the **Christmas party**. As usual, it would be good for people to bring food to share please. A good variety of food is usually available, and people are encouraged to bring along what they did last year, which was lovely.

Geoff Walker has produced a **village calendar** which is on sale locally. This was felt to be a lovely publication, and it was noted that Friends of Thringstone appeared on the July page.

The **quiz night** at the Community Centre takes place on 10<sup>th</sup> November. FoT have a team entered. Any supporters wishing to come along (but not help in answering questions) are welcome.

**Next meeting.** 2<sup>nd</sup> December 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre. This is a Bring & Share Christmas Party so please remember to bring some food with you!



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Stepping out for a greener district