



The Friends of Thringstone

'Working to improve our village'

www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2nd DECEMBER 2010 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Tam Bream, Lorraine Whitehurst, Brenda Simpson, Tracy Foulds, Ray Woodward, Bernard Lee, Geoff Wilson, Roy Hill, Ray Neal, Mike King, Pam Porter, Sue Rowbottom, Denise Abbott, Julie and Dave Everitt.

Apologies: Janet and David Stevenson, Rowena Summers, Pam Clayfield, Liz Thomas, Jim Wilkinson, Geoff and Jane Wilson, Llynda Baugh, Sandie Newton, Ann Petty, Ruth Crockett, Fran Skinner

Reports:

Chairman's report December 2010

Nita congratulated those present on turning out on the coldest day of the year so far with freezing temperatures and copious amounts of snow. It is testament to the passions of the group that so many people came out.

It is with sadness that we report the death on 8th November of Niels Nielsen who had been a member of FoT since our inception. Niels was a true environmentalist, and helped the group, when he was able, by joining in on litter picks, planting and environmental work on Bob's Closs. Condolences go to his family.

Letters Received

- From CSV Make A Difference Team thanking us for completing survey about our litter pick
- From Community Centre asking for confirmation on meeting dates for 2011 and for risk assessment form completion. Sorted.
- From Voluntary Action Leics. enclosing their Oct/Nov magazine.

Emails Received

- From NWLDC following Big Society meeting that Ray W attended for us at Oakthorpe, giving details of pledges made, and contacts
- Confirmation from Teamprint in Loughborough that they will in future print our newsletters with an increased number of 1,650 for the sum of £31.50, a saving of £49.14 per quarter on previous costs which were £73.31 for 1,500 copies and would have been £80.64 for 1,650.
- From Thringstone Rainbow and Brownie group about working with us in the future on litter picks and on the scarecrow event in 2011 and going to talk to them about what we do.
- Via website from couple on Homestead Road concerned over the boarded up pubs in the village and the impression they give of our community. Replied.
- From Ray W and Andrew Bridgen confirming that a metal dog poo bin is to be placed on the council land to the rear of Thringstone Bowls club.
- From Edward de Lisle thanking us for helping keep the woods clear of litter etc and sending map showing areas of woodland and other land in their ownership.
- From Scouts confirming that they do a car wash at the scout hut on the Thringstone House Community Centre car park every last Saturday in the month from 11am – 1pm. Followed by email from centre saying that this can't go ahead until the payment for the water used is sorted

The Friends of Thringstone



Winner of Gold and Silver RCC Village Achievement Awards 2010
Awarded Outstanding Achievement Certificate RHS
Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood
Winner of the NWLDC's Footprint Award
and Community Groups 2009

footprints

Stepping out for a greener district

- From Leics. CC's libraries, heritage and arts section about budget cuts
- From CVS saying we didn't win the photo competition for our litter pick details, but the photo is now on their site
- From Whitwick Coffee Shop with their Christmas lunch menu on offer Mon-Fri 6th Dec onwards for £9.99 per head.
- From gent asking whether we have any interest in framed reproductions of old photos of the village. He wanted to buy frames photos of the village for Christmas presents. See AOB.
- From Woodland Trust about woodland in our area passed to committee
- From LCC cancelling the graffiti and mural clean up due to weather conditions. Will be rearranged

Emails Sent

- Usual emails to committee about things, plus emails to members about things on at the George and Dragon etc.
- Email to members about Millet's discount. Names and addresses collected to store on data sheet and submit to Millet's in due course.
- Contacted Neighbourhoods Officer at NWLDC to see if her remit for Greater Coalville covers Thringstone and whether she would like to be a speaker at a meeting. Meeting being arranged.
- To BBC about the Down To Earth broadcast on 10th Feb. Discussion point in January.
- Forwarded latest update from Whitwick Action Group to those on email.
- To members regarding getting free trees from the Woodland Trust to plant around the village. Various thoughts on this as to where free trees could go. May apply for the smaller amount of 105 trees for next year.
- To National Forest Org. about the 2011 walking festival updating information previously sent
- To Natural England about getting our walks listed on their website. Answer received about putting in an application for database entry etc., and then get accredited, which will be a project for 2011

Promotion

- Lbro Echo - Report on litter pick 5/11 and edition of 12/11 – notice on reception at NWLDC for RCC award winners, including mentioning us, plus migration project information
- Migration Project promotion in RCC weekly newsletter of 7th Nov which goes to all parish councils, district and borough councils and members of RCC in Leicestershire and Rutland plus further article and photo on awards reception at NWLDC in edition of 15th Nov.
- Coalville Times 12.11 – photo of our last litter pick and article about our reception and award successes with the RCC
- Entered various things onto the Leicestershire Villages page for Thringstone (to include Community Centre and Members Club) on news page, events page and notice board page
- Entered all our walks for 2011 plus the Centenary Celebration event on line to the RCC for their village event listings of 2011.
- Small article in Mail of 2/12 on migration project

Other

- Signed up to the Woodland Trust email newsletters
- Worked on submission to Green Footprints Challenge 2011. A copy has already been submitted to the challenge on line, and a paper copy was made available for anybody to look at. The submission going to NWLDC will comprise of this copy plus a large selection of photographs which Nita has taken during the qualifying period. This will also be joined by a DVD which Geoff is working on, which will be completed after 10th Dec carols around the tree.
- Meeting cancelled with communications team at NWLDC to be rearranged for 2nd Dec. Talked about how winning the Footprints Challenge in 2009 has helped the group progress and what it has led to for us which will form (hopefully) an article. Also promoted the Centenary Celebrations and scarecrow event on 4th June for Vision which will be out in March.
- Completed submission to the Great Cash Giveaway that the Leicester Mercury is running.
- Migration Project photo session at Thringstone Members Club with Ann, Bill, Pam C and Rowena
- Meeting with gentleman on behalf of Lord Lieutenant of Leics. discuss the Queens Award application
- Arranged speaker for February 2011 meeting – Phil Wilson from Neighbourhood Action Team at NWLDC to talk about what they can go to help groups like ours. John Richardson, community manager at NWLDC is likely to be the April speaker.
- Following question on how many members we have and how many has this increased by since we were set up on 9th June 2005, researched an answer. Prior to the setting up of the group, we had informal meetings, at



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which the average attendance was about 15 people. Once constituted, we started with 12 members, which grew steadily throughout that initial year. In 06/7 we had 50 members, 07/8 53 members, 08/9 68 members, 09/10 83 members and currently in 10/11 we have 90 members.

Treasurer's report –Tam Bream

Tam said there was nothing much to report only that we have paid Bernard for plants he bought, and the balance is currently £2436.15 with a surplus of £187.18 this financial year

The membership is at an all time high of 90 people, events has almost matched last year total and publications are significantly down. There is currently £28.70 to be banked, to which must be added any publications money from this evening.

Nita currently holds£3.57 in petty cash.

Publications report

Three sales have been made this month at the Community Centre - One Memories 2, one village Trail 1 and one Village Trail 3.

However there should be £8.50 for these sales but there is only £7.50. There were no sales at the George and Dragon. £7.50 will be banked. John Dickinson has sold 3 brochures (not sure which) and also a further 2 B&B to local sources, and intends to drop the money off to Nita at some stage.

Roy agreed to talk to John Dickinson about what stocks he holds and maybe get the money from him if this hasn't already been given to Nita.

STOCK REPORT

	Community Centre	George & Dragon	Nita	Stock	TOTAL
Born and Bred 1	3	6	6	18	33
Born and Bred 2	3	6	6	33	48
Memories 1	5	6	6	3	20
Memories 2	5	6	6	9	26
Village Trail 1	5	6	6	23	40
Village Trail 2	5	6	6	20	37
Village Trail 3	5	6	6	21	38

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RCC



Stepping out for a greener district

Sub-totals	31	42	42	130	245
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Web report.

John has spent considerable time ensuring that the website is up to date. He is going to be putting all the 2011 meeting dates in shortly.

Arts and Community Report

Pam Clayfield was not at the meeting. Nita had prepared a brief report.

- 3rd December - Carols at Grace Dieu Priory has been cancelled due to the inclement weather
- 4th Dec – Scout Hut on Community Centre car park – Christmas Fayre 12 noon til 4pm.
- 4th Dec – St Andrew’s Christmas Fayre. New clothes, wine and water, stalls and raffle. 2pm onwards.
- 10th Dec – Thringstone Primary School Christmas fete 3.30pm-5pm at the school
- 10th December – please support the Carols round the Tree which leaves St Andrew’s church for the centre at 6.30pm. After the singing of carols, there will be a sing-along inside the centre. All welcome.
- 11th December – George and Dragon have a motown and soul night with Jim and Neil
- 22nd December – George and Dragon – Enderby Concert brass band 7.30pm.
- 24th December – Thringstone Members Club have a 50-70s dance evening with Sheena McHugh. Starts at 8.30pm til 12.15am and tickets are £4 to members.
- 24th December – George and Dragon – Christmas eve carols from 8pm
- 31st December – Thringstone Members Club have a soul and motown singer Janet Haywood appearing from 8.30pm til late. Tickets are £4 to members.
- 31st December – George and Dragon have a New Year’s Eve Party night with The Aceman. Tickets are £20 to include a full buffet
- 13th Jan – 22nd Jan 2011 - Thringstone Panto and Drama Society – Puss In Boots. Thursday tickets £6. Saturday tickets £8 and £7 concessions. Monday 17th OAP ticket £6. Book on 834575.
- St Andrew’s church is open every Thursday from 10am – 12 noon for tea, coffee and a chat and quiet reflections, ending with a short act of worship. The Thursday morning singers practice from about 10.30am to 11.20am and new singers are always welcome.

Hermitage FM get a new presenter shortly. Jason Scott (used to be with Heart for those who listen to that) will be taking over the breakfast slot.

Tam said that there will be a Light of Love event at Staunton Harold as usual this year.

History Report

Nita, Ann, Bill Newton, Pam Clayfield and Rowena Summers attended the Migration Project photo scan at Thringstone Members Club on 20th November. Whilst it was disappointing that, despite Ann delivering flyers to all the houses on the Woodside Estate, nobody turned up to share photos.

Ann had taken a lot of time to get photographs of the era and do a display which included a copy of the school register for the time showing where people lived and where their families came from.

Names were given for players on the photos of the Rangers Club’s football team in the 1970s which was useful.

3 people came to chat to us, and time was spent talking to people in the bar about their memories. As a result, considerable new information was given to us, and 3 people have agreed to think about being filmed with a further 2 possible.

Colin Hyde came along to show the group how to use the video camera, and Nita and Ann intend to have a chat at some time to decide when is the best date to record people talking about their move to the village from Scotland and the North East. Liaison will continue with Colin at the East Midlands Oral History Archive, as he wants to come along to the filming done.

Ray Woodward asked how many people would be filmed, and Nita went through the list. He agreed to help try to engender some interest, as he knew many people on the Woodside Estate and could possibly help the group.



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Councillor's Report- Ray Woodward

Despite best attempts to steer the 3 major planning applications, all of them are back in the melting pot. The hard standing application on Gracedieu Road and the application to develop the old coal yard have to be re-submitted with some alterations. These will be considered as and when they are again submitted. The application to use the upper floor of the post office building as two flats has now been 'called in', to be considered by the planning committee. This is to give the objectors the opportunity to put across their reasons for the objections.

There was a visit by the Environment Agency to inspect the Japanese knotweed and the Himalayan Balsam and arrange dates and times to suit everyone concerned, and also to determine who does what. At this point, Tam said that if the environment agency cut down the knotweed, and then someone else burnt it, there could be implications as the person doing the burning was creating waste which needed to be notified to authorities. Ray agreed to investigate this and probably talk to Clark Robinson.

The council flats on Gracedieu Road have been troublesome to the residents due to a lack of urgent maintenance, the problem being due to outside (street) lighting and staircase lighting not working and footpath slabs being uneven and loose. The majority of the residents are elderly and have some mobility problems. After intervention, the work to make the flats safe again, is under way and we are monitoring progress.

There has also been general casework.

The works at Homestead Road are well under way and we have tried to address concerns of local residents, such as traffic movements. There have been a spate of problems around the site with young people but these areas are attractive to kids. Because of the damage done to vehicles on site, the police have put a 'waymark' on the area so that it is visited on a frequent basis by patrols. No doubt the police will update on this at the meeting.

We would remind all Thringstone residents, that if they have District Council related problems to contact either of their elected councillors.

Tam asked for further details of the planning application to build a bungalow in the grounds of I The Green. Ray Neal pointed out that there had been a Toll Gate in the garden at the property, and there was concern over archeological items being damaged by any build. Ray agreed to try to find out more about this, and try to get the issue satisfactorily resolved.

Tam asked whether anything further was being done about altering the traffic calming at the bottom of Loughborough Road near the Bull's Head. There was considerable agreement that people had to commit to the middle of the road to see if there was any oncoming traffic which was an accident waiting to happen. Mike King asked about gritting. Ray Woodward confirmed that he had contacted County several times in the last couple of days about the lack of gritting at junctions, but could only ask the County Councillor to get something sorted. County had reservations about supplying further sand/salt bunkers at junctions, as from experience, people merely used them to keep their drives clear, and it cost County money to keep replacing these items.

Mike said he understood that all bus routes should be gritted, but Main Street was not, and people had witnessed the buses sliding down the road. Tam said he understood that gritting was split into categories of importance, and maybe the council were working their way through this list.

Police report

None presented. No police present again. Ray Woodward had received an email from PC James Broomfield asking when our meetings are, to which he had replied he was working on 2nd Dec in the evening, and would try to pop in, but he failed to arrive.



Gardening update

The gardening team have completed initial planting of the new flowerbed on The Green. John Dickinson has asked that the group help with possible planting of bulbs at Grace Dieu Priory, and will be contacting Ray direct on this. However, bulbs may have already been planted. Tam reported that the school had asked to be involved with planting more bulbs for the spring, if possible.

10 trees had been given to Lorraine to fill in gaps in hedging at the Community Centre.

The prospect of applying for 105 free trees from the Woodland Trust was discussed. Nita is waiting for a reply from Alan Burgess and others and this will be discussed again in 2011.

Tam said he understood that Grace Dieu brook was classed by the Environment Agency as a river and asked whether Bob Rushton had contacted us about the lack of fish stock and wildlife in the brook. Nita said that she had heard nothing, but would continue to ask for direction on this.

Litter Picks

The next litter pick event will be 26th March leaving The Green at 10am. Nita will try to go to the next management meeting of the centre on 6th December to ask about using the kitchen and facilities and get a cost. Janet has already pencilled in this date to do the catering for us, which will revert back to jacket potatoes and filling. Nita has spoken to John Dickinson from the Grace Dieu group who has said that their members might be interested in working with us on the woodland clearance part of the litter pick, and it has been agreed that we contact him again in the New Year to formally set up the details. Tam Bream has discussed a possible new litter event partnership with Stephenson's College, and will continue to try to develop links there.

In the meantime, members are encouraged to continue to do their own litter picks to keep the village tidy.

Scarecrow festival

Tam said that he has spoken with Thringstone Primary, and understood that the Brownies and Rainbows were mostly school students, and as such, he had proposed to the school that they be put together a series of posters from January through to the end of May which would be used to advertise the event. The 6 best posters would be getting prizes which would be awarded at the Centenary Celebration at the end of the afternoon, on the stage upstairs. The week commencing 23rd May was school theme week, and the following week half term, which would lead nicely into the scarecrow competition. Nita suggested that the playgroup, play scheme and youth group also be asked to be involved in this. Tam is obviously looking for people to do scarecrows. He would deliver the straw to people who wanted to take part (£3.50 cost to enter, discounted to £3 for FoT members), and there would be a quiz costing £2 per adult £1 per child (different quizzes for the different ages) which would be linked with the scarecrows. As Tam will be delivering the straw, he will draw a plan of the positions of the scarecrows, so that people who take part in the quiz will get a village map, and go to each scarecrow. There will be a first, second and third prize for the scarecrows, and Tam is going to ask the brownies to judge the best scarecrow. Tam has spoken to some local businesses and hopes to get prizes and also raffle prizes.

Lorraine intended to ask Coalville photography club to be involved, and possibly take photos of the scarecrows. Tam said he could help collect the scarecrows at the end of the event if required.

There was considerable discussion about the Centenary Celebrations on 4th June. This is to be discussed at a meeting on 6th December, but the event will probably start at 11am or 12 noon, finish at teatime, and then start up again in the evening with live music.

Down To Earth Recording 10th Feb 2011

This recording will take place at Thringstone Methodists. The BBC will arrive on the night at 6.30pm to set up, and recording will start at 7.30pm, with the audience seated no later than 7.20pm. Nita will do some advertising for this event in January to get people from the area to come along, and all members are encouraged to attend even if they have no interest in gardening, so that we fill the hall with about 50 people. Nita has now got 16 questions which can be asked at the recording, but needs 16 people to agree to ask these. People asking questions all have to sit on the front row so that the microphone will reach. Can members who are willing to ask questions please contact Nita as soon as possible so that we know we have the required number of speakers. This will need to be finalised at the next meeting.



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Village Quiz

Friends of Thringstone lost their title as holders of the quiz shield, as they came 3rd (winning pens as a thank you) out of 14 teams. Many thanks go to the team for putting up such a good defence of the title.

AOB

Photos of the village – Should we consider getting some of our archive photos of the village framed to sell to interested parties? There seems to be initial interest in this, and maybe this is something that could be sold via the Post Office? The meeting asked Nita to find out what the cost was of similar photographs of Coalville and then a decision could be made on perhaps getting a small number of photos from our own archives and getting them framed by a person Tam knows who does such things out of the Springboard Centre.

Nita thanked everybody who has worked with and for the group during 2010, and to all who provided food for the party. Also thanks to Rowena Summers for providing 2 bottles of wine for the Christmas raffle.

Date of next meeting Thursday 6th January at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.

