



The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3rd FEBRUARY 2011 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present : Nita Pearson, Tracy Hill, Pam Clayfield, Tracy Foulds, Roy Hill, Geoff Walker, Leon Spence, Janet Stevenson, Pam Porter, Ann Petty, Ray Woodward, Dave Everitt, Jo Johnson, Bernard Lee, Tam Bream, Ray Neal

Apologies : John and Karon Smith, Mike King, Ruth Crockett, Aileen Smith, Rowena Summers, Sandie Newton, Sue Rowbottom, Denise Abbott, David Stevenson, Lorraine Whitehurst, Julie Everitt

The meeting started with a viewing of Geoff Walker's video about a year in Thringstone. He had compiled this from video clips he had taken and still photographs, with commentary and music. He has put a shortened version of this onto Utube, and had DVD copies for the group to sell. The meeting agreed that these should be sold at £3.50 and 8 were immediately sold to people at the meeting. Geoff has kindly donated his time and expertise and has been reimbursed for buying the blanks, but is in need of more DVD covers if anybody has any to donate to him as the blanks do not come with covers. Geoff was warmly congratulated and thanked for his work on putting this together for the group.

Nita then showed copies of old photos of Thringstone and asked the meeting to choose which ones should be reproduced and mounted in A5 size for sale at events.

Seven were chosen:

Fields where the Carterdale estate now stands

Ruby's chip shop 1949

George and Dragon circa 1912

Star Beer House x 2 – one with horse and cart and Coffin House in the background and one of the front of the property in 1915

Community Centre in 1957

Rose and Crown as a three storey building in the days when it was the Old Rose and Crown Inn

Viaduct with horse and cart passing through it

Nita will liaise with John Dickinson about getting A5 copies of these, and then get them mounted by the person Tam recommended at The Springboard Centre. The group can then work out how much these should sell for. Only a limited number of each print will be made to gauge interest.



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Chair's report February 2011 meeting

Letters received

- From bank about online banking which may be pursued by the new treasurer (see below)

Emails received

- From Leics. and Rutland Remap group, who deal with helping disabled people, asking us to promote their service for them sent to committee and other interested parties. Website is www.remapleics.org.uk
- From Osgathorpe fund raising committee about their plans for an event on 9 and 10 July to raise money for their church. They will also have another event in August as usual.
- From The Big Offer – training programmes offered for community groups. Details on request.
- Regarding person parking on grass verge near the Thringstone sign by Whitwick Moor.
- Various emails about dog fouling
- From LCC that graffiti removal was likely to be 31st Jan but will not, now, include working with residents to remove graffiti from their properties.
- From FOGDP saying that they aren't really interested in helping with a July litter pick
- From Whitwick Action Group informing of The Coalville Forum meeting at Castle Rock High School on Wed 16th Feb from 6.30-8.30pm, at which the future of the green wedges will be a discussion point. All welcome to attend.
- From Jane Biro from English Heritage about compiling a database of details on blue plaque schemes to go on their website. Questionnaire, photo and details of the siting of all our 15 plaques subsequently sent to Jane.

Emails sent

- Various to membership on ongoing issues and news including on consultation period by County Council on free bus passes and updated from Whitwick Action Group and from Communities in Partnership about training for over 50s champions .
- To Thringstone Panto and drama society re. panto tickets. Reply received and membership informed. Subsequently wrote to them congratulating them on their performance
- To church asking for update on whether they want trees and what is happening with Charles Booth's grave conservation. No reply as yet.
- To centre on artifact cabinet. No reply as yet.
- To Youth Service asking what has happened about getting rid of the graffiti on the Mural Project.
- Chased what is happening with Millet's vouchers – being processed
- To all on email about our new promotional video (see below) and on another Geoff has done on Grace Dieu woods which is on Utube
- To Community Cares Team Challenge asking if they want to help with litter picking in March as part of their work to get staff out volunteering as part of a team building exercise - they have replied that they may be interested
- Email to LCC asking how one lists volunteering opportunities on their volunteer page. No reply.

Promotion

- Thringstone page on Leics. Villages site - Added information on litter picks 15th Jan and 26th March and updated meeting information. Added in Shep Woolley concert for Community Centre and put information out again about scarecrow event on news page.
- NWLDC have put photos of our litter pick and brook clearance on their green footprints pages.



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- RCC - Sent details of scarecrow event for their Guided Walks and Village Events guide which comes out in hardcopy in March and added details of our meetings, the scarecrow event and litter picks on their website.
- National Forest website – added in scarecrow event, litter pick and meeting details to this site
- Leicestershire Promotions asked if they could promote our walks on their website. Gave details. Will also tell them about the scarecrow event.
- Updated facebook and twitter pages with details of Down To Earth broadcast, photos and chat, and added link to Utube video which Geoff has completed on the group to the facebook group page. There are people following us on facebook who are not members (yet) and 3 people on twitter of whom one is from down south and only one is a member. Facebook is now a very popular means of publicity.
- Linked our website to e-voice. org.uk – a free on line communities website for voluntary groups and organizations nationwide. Put a full home page information sheet together which links to our own website.
- Article on migration project in Leics. Mercury 8th Jan and Mail of 20th Jan, on migration project and centenary celebrations in CV Times 21 Jan and on Scarecrow festival in Echo 21 Jan
- Information submitted to BBC Radio Leics. (after interest established) on migration project to be used on the history programme on a Sunday afternoon. See Down To Earth section below.
- Designed poster to advertise Down To Earth recording, as nobody will print a press release as it is seen to be advertising Radio Leicester, and put up around the village and in Whitwick
- Volunteer advert in RCC newsletter for week commencing 31st Jan

Other

- Wrote newsletter – volunteers now have them to deliver before 1st March
- Attended open day in Whitwick to discuss building on Whitwick green wedge
- Call from Leicestershire author giving us free signed copies of books he has written connected to migration from Scotland. Received.
- Committee meeting
- Discussions with various people regarding insurance issues – to be further discussed. Trying to get insurance quotations to cover our work on a yearly basis. Have asked for quotes from 5 firms and am waiting information. Cheapest would be about £225 a year but several quotes yet to be received.
- Went to St Andrew's for meeting with Alan Burgess and Ann to discuss graveyard project. Alan unable to be there. Being rescheduled for 17th Feb.
- Letter sent to Nat West (our bankers) asking if they fancy honouring their community pledge no. 11 which is all about getting staff to volunteer to help local groups. No reply yet.
- Attended Green Footprints Network meeting at Stephenson College. Very useful. More details available on request.
- Researched sites on how to make a scarecrow and produced guidelines to be given to interested parties with the agreement of Tam
- Letters to Tesco's, Co-op and Morrisons asking for vouchers for scarecrow event
- Arranged to attend G&D local business network breakfast meeting on 11th Feb. Also arranged to see person from the Co-op on same day to promote group in their biannual magazine – arranged by Pam Clayfield

Treasurers Report – Tam Bream

Tam Bream is handing over the job of treasurer to Lis Muller and sent this final report to the Chairman.



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I have attached the spreadsheet for future use and have reconciled the figures to the input data provided by Nita and the bank statements and cheque book. I can report that there are no outstanding invoices to be paid at this time and the accounts stand as recorded on the statement as £2,330.95 in credit.

Income £1313.91

Expenditure £1231.93

Credit balance for the year since June 2010 of £81.98

This does not seem good but I must remind you that without the East Midlands Airport and the RCC monies amounting to approx £400 this would mean a deficit of approx £300. We also have a banner now and still have some publications in stock.

Serious consideration is needed as to how to raise the income streams or alternatively to reduce the expenditure. There are potential costs (ie. Insurance) and funds are likely to be eroded.

On a lighter note, thanks to Geoff Walker's help, we have found a cheaper source for printing the newsletter 4 times per year at Teamprint, giving us a saving on the previous price of £171.24 pa

Income so far is:

Events £396.31

Membership £273

Publication sales £103

Donations £31.50 (3 times last year's figure)

Sundries £413.40

Total £1571.21

Expenditure outstanding to Teamprint £31.50 – invoice not yet received.

I wish all the best to my successor.

Publications report February 2011

We have had a good month for sales with thanks to Ann Petty for her efforts. We are now down to our last Memories I in general stock and so we need to decide whether to re-order or move to publishing these free on the web as stocks run out.

Since Ann has made such a sterling effort I have given her a small stock of her own and this is shown in the stock report below. I have checked with John Dickinson and he confirms he has no other stock and so this should represent the full picture.

There have been no sales at the George and Dragon or the Community Centre but a copy of Village Trail I has been stolen from the Community Centre.

£41.50 will be banked this month which includes a donation of £1.50.

The meeting agreed that no more should be printed and that current stock would be sold off. When they are gone the question of publishing on the internet will be considered, although Nita pointed out that we needed to remember not everybody had internet access and we had to consider all people, not just those with computers.

Ray Neal said with the added interest from English Heritage, sales of things of a history nature may well pick up again.



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STOCK REPORT

	Community Centre	George & Dragon	Nita	Anne	Stock	TOTAL
Born and Bred 1	3	6	6	2	15	32
Born and Bred 2	3	6	6	2	30	47
Memories 1	5	6	6	2	1	20
Memories 2	5	6	6	2	5	24
Village Trail 1	5	6	6	2	20	39
Village Trail 2	5	6	6	2	17	36
Village Trail 3	5	6	6	2	19	38
Sub-totals	31	42	42	14	107	236

Web report – John Smith (in absentia)

John has some updating to be done and has said that he will do this as soon as possible.

Arts and community report – Pam Clayfield

St Andrew's News

St Andrew's are hoping to plant a rockery on the soil heap near the blue gates so if anyone has suitable plants, or would like to donate one in memory of a loved one, they would be very grateful.

New Sunday School

On the first Sunday of the month St Andrew's are planning a Sunday School in the Methodist Church Hall from 10.30 am to 11.30am for children aged 4-14 years. There will be plenty of room for games, crafts and to learn about religion with everyone taking part. Refreshments will be available. Adults are welcome. Bring your ideas to the first meeting on March 6th

Advance Notice: The 150th anniversary of the building of St Andrews will be celebrated on 25th November 2012. It is hoped to hold a concert of Handel's Messiah.

Methodist Church news

A Prize Bingo evening will be held on Friday March 11th at the Methodist Church Hall from 7.30pm

George & Dragon

Congratulations are due as they have been approved by CamRA (Campaign for Real Ale) and now have an entry in the Good Beer Guide

Big Screen Film Club

28th February. 7.30pm A French film with subtitles; Long Engagement

Tete a tete: French Conversation Club First Tuesdays 8-9pm Community Centre

This is a new group which started well with small numbers, but a good standard of language. All French speakers welcome.

Music, entertainment & supper at the Community Centre

Shep Woolley £8 Tickets available from the Community Centre

History – Ann Petty



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The migration film project is now likely to go ahead on 25th February from 11am til 2.30pm. Ann has contacted most people who wish to be filmed and this will be done at Thringstone Members Club. There is a lot of paperwork attached to this project, and help may be needed in some aspects if people would like to volunteer.

As Nita reported, Nita and Ann went to meet with Alan Burgess to discuss various things, including the graveyard project, but he was detained elsewhere and missed the meeting. Following a good look round the graveyard, 32 graves out of the 147 on which there are details (provided by Ron Goacher) have been found, and Nita has roughly shown the location of these on a plan. These include people who were well known in their time for their work in the village or in some cases the public houses they kept, people who died in tragic circumstances from suicides to thypoid to pit accidents, and obviously Charles Booth and his family. Many graves have just totally disappeared.

Ann has also provided Nita with more information on the canal and other items of historical interest picked up from the Coalville Times.

In addition, Ann has agreed to attend a forthcoming Heritage Network Event organised by NWLDC and represent both FOGDP and FoT.

Councillors Report Ray Woodward/DaveEveritt

- As reported before, there are still three major planning applications running (live) and to be determined. Due to unforeseen circumstances all have been delayed somewhat. The likelihood is that the hard standings for the works in the woods will go to committee on 8th Feb (next Tues), the post office in March and the Waldrum site hopefully will be determined by the planners. Any differences will be reported to the next meeting.
- The Fox site is subject to another application to build a Residential Nursing Home. A brief view by the planning officer appears to show something more in keeping with the area but a detailed study needs to be made before the councillors are made aware of the details of size, shape and materials to be used etc.
- There have been a number of tentative enquires about the Rose and Crown site and **IF** anything comes of these, we will report back to later meetings of this group.
- A 'problem' has been raised with regard to the Homestead Rd site. It **appears** that the buildings seem to be higher than planned, and we are currently liaising with planning enforcement officers to establish the ground levels, and whether or not these levels have been adhered to
- It seems that there are to be some alterations to Traffic Calming measures. The pedestrian crossing on The Green is to be raised on a speed table. The build out at Masons Chemists is to be replaced with a speed table. I feel we should approach the County Council again with a view to remove the build out at the bottom of L'boro' Road as this is far more dangerous than the aforementioned and the plans to build a 'Dolphin Nose' at the junction with the A512 and extend the 30mph limit would be sufficient. We will raise this again with the County Councillor (who was not at the meeting) and Highway Officers.
- All aspects of case work continues as necessary.
- Nita mentioned that the road to the new bungalows as part of the Miner's Welfare Development is to be known as Johnson Close in recognition of the work done by Walter Johnson, a previous councillor for Thringstone, father of our member Pam Spence and grandfather of our member Leon Spence. Ray was thanked for pursuing this for the family.

Police report



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The Police were not at the meeting and had not sent a report. However, Nita reported that members may have heard that there is a new police website www.police.uk into which you can type your postal code and find crime statistics for your area. Many people are reported in the press as being unhappy about this site, as it pinpoints various street names as crime hotspots, and could lead to a reduction in house values. Typing in LE67 8LT (Nita's post code) it comes up with current figures of 13 ASB reports, 6 violent crimes and 5 others. The area covered doesn't go into Whitwick, but shows a circular area around Thringstone going towards Osgathorpe and Swannington.

These stats are broken down to 1 violent crime in Tith Close area, 2 in Homestead Road area, 2 in Melrose Road area and one none defined. 13 ASBs are actually shown as 1 in Henson's Lane, 3 in Homestead Road, 3 on or near Springfield (probably Grace Dieu woods and relating to motorbikes), and 6 not defined. Others are 1 in Homestead Road, 2 in Melrose Road, 1 in Glebe Road and 1 in John Street.

From Previous minutes

Gardening update

Bernard said that there was nothing to report as it was not the time of year for gardening. Janet said she had been offered some potted up Walnut trees if the group wanted them to sell at the summer event. This offer was accepted.

Litter pick s

An additional litter pick had been organised for 15th January as the village was looking very dirty after the bad weather and Christmas break. 15 bags of rubbish had been collected and Nita thanked everyone who had taken part. The next day on 16th January a working party of 6 had cleared the debris from the brook by the bridge by the back entrance to Grace Dieu manor. This had removed a large amount of rubbish and also been good fun.

Dates for this year's litter picks are:

26th March with jacket potatoes at the Community Centre

25th June to coincide with Give & Gain Day

29th October to tie in with CSV Action Earth Day

3rd December- a Christmas Dress up event followed by mince pies

Down to Earth (BBC Gardening programme) Recording - February 10th Methodist Church Hall

Arrangements for this are in hand. Questions have been allocated and questioners are asked to be seated on the front row at the very latest by 7.20pm.

Pam Porter and Pam Clayfield volunteered to run a raffle and Pam also agreed to see if people who weren't FoT members could be converted. Publicity details and a copy of The Bauble will be placed on each seat. Nita has already run these off. Nita will be at the hall from 6pm to set up chairs and tables with Tam and would appreciate help in ensuring that the car park area be kept clear for the BBC to park, and to ensure that things run smoothly. She will be interviewed before the recording about the work of Friends of Thringstone and in particular about the migration project to go out on Stephen Butt's Sunday afternoon history programme.

Publicity & Membership

Nita told the meeting about her efforts to publicise the group on Facebook and Twitter and reiterated the success in attracting new members this year. She also told about the response of a local resident who had been in the Hare & Hounds pub while the FoT committee were holding a meeting there. He had been asked if he knew about the group and what we did and if he would be willing to join. His response was that



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he would be willing to pay the subscription but did not want to be involved in any work. He also thought that the planting and litter picking should be done by the Council and asking people outright for money could be seen as 'another tax'. These are attitudes which we should bear in mind for the future when looking to attract new members. The full breadth of the work of the group needs to be borne in mind, not just environmental things.

Scarecrow Event

4th June 2011

Tam gave an update on arrangements for this event. He was going to the school on Friday 4th Feb with Nita to choose from the drawings the children had done which ones could be used as posters and hoped that the first poster would be up within the next 10 days. He will deliver straw during the week commencing 30th May or earlier if this can be arranged.

Payment of £3.50 must be given on delivery to non-members, with members being charged a discounted £3.

There will hopefully be prizes of £50, £25, & £10 for best scarecrows. The Brownies will choose the winners. Quizzes related to the scarecrows and a list of 'crows' with locations will be sold from the Green if we get permission from NWLDC to use this area, or failing that alongside the plant stall. It was felt that FoT as a group should have a scarecrow..

The cost of the quizzes will be Over 12s £2 and under 12s £1. These will be on sale between 11.00am and 2.00pm with the presentations at the Community Centre at around 3pm or maybe later to tie in with the activities for the Centenary Celebrations.

Geoff Walker said he could possibly either photograph or film the scarecrows.

Sponsorship is being sought to cover the prizes and there will also be a raffle.

Members were asked to tell any prospective sponsors that £25 would be acceptable. Ruby's have already offered sponsorship, the George and Dragon are giving a free meal for 4 and also having a scarecrow.

Nita will ask at the Business Breakfast at the George and Dragon which she will be attending about sponsorship and raffle prizes.

AOB

Charity bags -Roy Hill said that he had read in the Loughborough Echo that NWLDC had successfully prosecuted two unlicensed firms who were pushing plastic collection bags through doors and he wished to congratulate them.

Sponsorship - Ray Woodward said he had a contact at Caterpillar and was hopeful for a grant. He wanted to know what we would spend money on so that he could give them specific project ideas which needed money. It was felt seasonal planting was too vague and it would be better to ask for money for tools.

Leon Spence said that money was probably available in the form of a small grant for a village appraisal which, if done and collated, could provide more concrete information on the needs of the village and provide a platform from which to move forward. Nita will investigate this further.

Date of next meeting Thursday 3rd March, at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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