



The Friends of Thringstone

‘Working to improve our village’

Chairman: Nita Pearson

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

Present: Nita Pearson, Bernard Lee, Jo Johnson, Chris Mellor, Roy Hill, Janet Stevenson, Ray Neal, Ann Petty, Brenda Simpson, Geoff Walker, Lorraine Whitehurst, Pam Porter, Ron Hill, Linda Brown

Apologies: Tam Bream, Rowena Summers, Leon Spence, Pam Clayfield, John Smith, Sandie Newton, Ray Woodward, Dave Everitt

Reports:

Chair’s report March 2011

Letters

- From Morrison’s asking us to go up to pick a prize for the scarecrow event (was £5 voucher), ditto Tesco’s (£10 voucher) and voucher to the value of £15 from Co-op for scarecrow event
- From Jan Cufflin on behalf of St Andrew’s saying that the carol singing round the tree raised £57 and the £1 for your favourite carol raised £39 for Christian Aid.

Emails received

- From NWLDC saying we have been shortlisted for the partnership and community award of the **Green Footprints Awards 2011**. Subsequently filmed on 24th Feb doing walk, graffiti removal, gardening, litter picking, and delivering Baubles. Nita was filmed separately on 2nd March.
- From 2 people in Leicester asking if they could help us with book-keeping. Asked if they are interested in helping us with fund-raising bids and received no replies. Also had two phone calls from people in Leicester along the same lines.
- From G&D saying Race Night raised £300 for Wish House charity



R C C

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footprints

Stepping out for a greener district

- From Youth Club saying that the mural project has been shortlisted for the youth awards of the **Green Footprints Awards 2011** and that the mural was going to be cleaned up on 3rd March at 3.30pm and filmed the same day.
- Invite to Appleby Magna to exhibition of village's thermal image project on 5th March. I will try to go to this.
- From EMEP regarding course on setting up social enterprises. Not sure who can go to this, but place booked.
- Castle Donington Heritage newsletter circulated to interested parties

Emails Sent

- To Argos – on line application for a prize for scarecrow event, and email to Corporate Green Ltd asking for sponsorship. No replies.
- Various emails to committee and group on ongoing issues
- Completed official request to Leicestershire Cares to help with our environmental clean-up morning on 26th March and contacted de Lisle family about removing shrubs from viaduct.
- To English Heritage asking how you can link with their new Alliance to Reduce Crime Against Heritage (ARCH) which seeks to stamp out damage to heritage buildings and sites (including graffiti on buildings of which we have instances in the village on The Green and within Grace Dieu Woods on the viaduct.) Awaiting reply.
- Completed VAL annual survey on line and Green Communities Survey on line
- Asked Chair of Miner's Welfare Trustees up to date position on their facility
- Registered with WWF for earth hour information – 26th March 8.30pm-9.30pm. Turn off electrical items. Part of Climate Change week which is 21st-27th March

Promotion

- Trying to put history link to our site on our Thringstone page of Leicestershire Villages website. Have asked John Smith to help with this as it requires more technical expertise than I have.
- Posters provided by Thringstone Primary and showing their art work were put up in the village by me and Tam for the scarecrow event count-down. Further posters received 2.3.2011.
- Industrial Heritage Trail leaflet produced by Leicestershire Promotions mentions Thringstone under Railways Trail and has a picture of the viaduct, Leics. Museums Guide mentions Grace Dieu Priory as being on Lbro Road, Thringstone, National Forest leaflet mentions Grace Dieu Priory as being between Shepshed and Thringstone.
- Put details of litter pick in March on Climate Change Week website

Other

- All who wanted **Millet's/Black's vouchers** as part of the incentive scheme for the group should now have received these by post direct
- Meeting with Tam and school to discuss **scarecrow project**
- Successful talk to **Local Business Network** from which money and raffle prizes are expected to be received. Already have £15 vouchers from Always From The Heart in Coalville.
- Meeting with Alan Burgess to discuss Charles Booth's grave, tree planting and graveyard booklet. Have subsequently put together suggested text for the **graveyard booklet** and sent to vicar for approval. Awaiting reply.
- Meeting with **Streetscene** from NWLDC to discuss removal of graffiti from properties in the village from which we were given some free graffiti wipes to try
- Sourced affordable **public liability insurance cover** for the group through Zurich's links to Tennyson Insurance who also insure FOGDP
- Phone call from Mike Gregory relating to **Utility Warehouse club** – It was decided not to go ahead with this. Nita will contact Mike.



The Friends of Thringstone

- Attended **Coalville Forum** to discuss consultation County Council are doing on green spaces and their value and use by local communities – Nita did not feel this had been a valuable meeting and Janet had found the consultation website difficult to use.
- **Old photographs** – Nita reported that these can be mounted at £1.31 per copy. John Dickinson had provided photos for free. It was agreed to sell these photographs for £3.50 plus P&P if applicable. Nita will go to Central Framing and get this sorted asap.

Treasurer's report –Lis Muller

I have changed the signatories on the account and they are now Nita Pearson, Geoff Wilson and myself. I have looked into being able to carry out some of the banking online but this option is not open to us as there is more than one signatory needed, we cannot even view the account balance online.

March report on February's transactions:

Funds held 1/2/11 (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,359.41		
Income		expenditure	
membership	£ 3.50	insurance	£ 75.72
publications (incl dvds)	£ 50.50	printing of newsletters	£ 25.30
raffle income	£44.00	room hire	£ 15.00
donations	£ 1.50	prizes	£ 4.50
total income	£ 99.50	total exp	£ 120.52
		total in bank at month end	£ 2,285.43
		cash held (petty cash & float)	£ 52.96
		Total funds 28/2/11	£ 2,338.39

Please note that the figures I will be presenting to you monthly will include the petty cash activity – and the total funds shown includes the bank balance, the petty cash and the £20 cash which is also held for a float at events.

You might notice that the cost of printing the current newsletter through Teamprint was nearly £50 cheaper than the price we have been paying through the NWLDC. Thanks to Geoff for seeking that one out, as it'll give a good saving across the year.

Year to date (from 1/6/10 to 28/2/11):

total funds at 1/6/10	£1,953.84
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Stepping out for a greener district

INCOME	2010-11 YTD	full year 2009-10	EXPENDITURE	2010-11 YTD	full year 2009-10
membership	£ 276.50	£ 154.50	newsletters	£ 171.92	£ 315.86
walks	£ 56.00	£ 91.00	admin	£ 154.46	£ 22.01
events	£ 396.31	£ 398.82	events	£ 29.89	£ 235.51
publications	£ 127.20	£ 399.40	publications	£ -	£ 337.50
donations	£ 30.00	£ 13.00	litter picking etc	£ 90.00	£ 194.14
grants/awards/spons	£ 403.40	£ 1,200.00	plants/bedding etc	£ 166.83	£ 569.34
Christmas cards	£ 30.00	£ 25.00	Christmas cards	£ -	£ 220.00
meeting raffle income	£ 157.00		raffle prizes	£ 7.52	
adverts	£ 10.00		advertising	£ -	
			insurance	£ 75.72	-
			equipment	£ 116.33	£ 207.75
			meeting room use	£ 165.00	£ 90.00
other sundries	£ 157.00	£ 135.81	other	£ 124.19	£ 93.51
total income	£ 1,486.41	£ 2,417.53	total exp	£ 1,101.86	£ 2,285.62

Publications report March 2011 – Roy Hill

I have been unable to get to the George and Dragon this month and there have been no sales of our publications at the Community Centre. Ann, however, has sold a copy each of Memories 1 and 2 and Trails 1 and 2.

This means my last copy of Memories 1 in general stock has gone and I shall now start reducing stocks held elsewhere.

The breakdown of monies collected was:

£12 as detailed from Ann's sales, £2.50 for the sale of a Charles Booth book at the centre, which Lorraine always donates to us, plus £91 in DVD sales from Geoff (equating to 26 DVD's sold by him). Geoff was thanked for selling so many DVDs (mostly to St Andrew's congregation).

Nita has sold 3 in addition to this figure, and gave one to Thringstone Primary School.

	Community Centre	George & Dragon	Nita	Anne	Stock	TOTAL
Born and Bred 1	3	6	6	2	14	31
Born and Bred 2	3	6	6	2	29	46
Memories 1	5	6	6	2	0	19
Memories 2	5	6	6	2	3	22
Village Trail 1	5	6	6	2	17	36
Village Trail 2	5	6	6	2	15	34



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Village Trail 3	5	6	6	2	18	37
Sub-totals	31	42	42	14	96	225

Web report – John Smith

John has worked hard this month updating the website. There are still some photos to go on and the scarecrow event will be pushed by going onto the home page.

Art and Community Report - Nita Pearson for Pam Clayfield

Community Centre -

5th March - Shep Woolley at the Community Centre. Tickets still available at £8. Starts at 7.30pm. Supper is included in the cost

9th March – Ray Sutton’s lecture is on British Culture and Sport 1700 – 1914. 2pm start.

16th March – Ray’s lecture is Hemingway and Spain. 2pm start.

30th March – Ray’s lecture is Sartre and Politics. 2pm start

FoT -

FoT litter pick 26th March 10am The Green. This litter pick is taking place during Climate Change Week and is listed with NWLDC’s Footprints Challenge team and on the Climate Change website.

Whitwick and District U3A -

10th March between 2pm and 4pm– open day at St David’s Church Hall, Coalville.

G&D -

Quiz night 4th March. Was men only, but now ladies teams can come. £7.50 includes meal.

12th March – Replica – 50s and 60s music

19th March – Warlock – rock and roll group from Leicester

21st March – Cayman Reef Fashion Show – charity event for children in Ruanda 7pm start to include charity

auction

26th March – Allcock Brothers

2nd April – Koustixs – acoustic guitar duo

St Andrew’s Church -

Ladies group - 7pm 7th March – Speaker is Celia Davies – Deaf interpreting

7pm 4th April – Speaker is Marilyn Sedgbeer – The Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre, Borneo



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Invitation to meet the Bishops - Alan Burgess invites as many people as possible to meet Bishop Tim and Assistant Bishop Christopher when they come to our Deanery on 24th March. They will be at St John The Baptist Church Hugglescote at 7.30pm on 24th March.

St John's Whitwick -

From 15th-23rd April (Easter Week), a number of events will be held by the church.

16th April 2-4pm Easter Eggstravaganza in the churchyard,

17th at 10am Palm Sunday Procession with donkey

18th April , 20th April and 23rd April from 2-3.30, football and activities in Whitwick Park

19th and 21st April 2-3.30 on Melrose Road play area, Thringstone, is another football and activities session.

Friday 22nd April 10am Annual Easter Pilgrimage from Mt. St. Bernard's

History Report – Ann Petty

- Ann had attended the Heritage Forum meeting on behalf of FoT and FOGDP. Very interesting meeting and acquired some leaflets which Nita now has to give out . There is a possibility of having a guided tour around the almshouses in Ravenstone, She and Nita were wondering whether this would be something to arrange as an outing, either as a stand-alone visit, or as part of the AGM. This was discussed and it was agreed that Nita should ask about the possibility of doing this before our AGM in June. There is another opportunity to hold an event during the weekend of 23 and 24th July as part of an Open Weekend. A leaflet will be created for this by NWLDC, and the event would need to be free. We were wondering whether to have another heritage event somewhere? Nita will approach the George & Dragon to discuss this to potentially take place on 23rd July.
- Ann gave history information as part of the walk that was filmed on 24th February going to Cade-man Woods. Roy thanked her and said it had made a big difference to enjoyment of the walk by everyone.
- Ann went with Ray Neal over to Griffydam cemetery to look for Thringstone people buried there, which was a good trip out
- Ann met with Nita and Alan Burgess to discuss the graveyard project at St Andrew's and discovered where the foundation stone is and other useful information. The church is interested in having some archive information within the church at some point.
- Migration project filming. Ann & Nita met with Colin Hyde on 25th Feb and recorded the stories of 5 people from Scotland who came to the village in the 1960s. Ann took notes whilst Nita asked questions and Colin manned the camera Ann now has to type up my notes on a template, and then we can look to see what content we have. Colin is going to transfer the film onto DVDs and then we need to find some way of editing it out, putting headers and footers, and scanning in photographs of the Woodside Estate and Thringstone Members Club into the film to make a 10-15 minute DVD overall. Everybody who was filmed were pleased to take part (Robert Boyle, Nancy Smallwood, Adam Gall, John Shirkie and Chick Robertson) and will get DVDs for themselves. Thanks to Thringstone Members Club for allowing us to film there. The editing is going to be the hard part, and we really needed help with this as Nita and I have no skills in this area at all. Hopefully, however, Nita has got someone outside of the group, at Stephenson College, to agree to do this for us, as she wants to train in film editing and this gives her the chance to learn. A training meeting is going to be set up shortly to discuss this further
- LCC have set up a war memorial project. Nita has sent them a photo of the list of the fallen kept in the Community Centre, details of St Andrew's stained glass window and also about the photo in the Whitwick ringing chamber of the Whitwick bell ringer, Robert Underwood, who was killed in March 1918.

Councillor's Report- Ray Woodward

Ray is a bit busy at the moment but sent this report

- Consulted with local people over the proposed breakfast licence request from The Bull's Head
- Discussed Fox site and planning with concerned resident in Main Street
- Planning applications go to council next Tuesday for the two hardstandings to remove trees (Grace Dieu Road and Turlough Road) and for the post office flats



- Liaison with county over outstanding issues and to discuss the lack of pavement on Talbot Lane and the danger this presents to local people
- Ongoing case work

There was a question asked as to how many people had found the lack of pavement dangerous on Talbot Lane, and how many accidents had happened as a result of the lack of pavement, which could not be answered.

Police report

The www.police.uk website gives the following figures for our village alone over the last month:

- Burglary 2 - Booth Road and Melrose Road
- ASB 7 - 2 The Green, 2 John Street, 2 Henson's Lane, 1 Tithe Close
- Violent Crime 5 - 3 Melrose, 1 Henson's Lane, 1 Booth Road
- Other 5 - 2 Springfield, 3 Clover Place (one of which is likely to have been fencing broken)
- Thringstone Beat Surgeries :
 - 8th March 3pm-4pm on The Green
 - 15th May 2pm-3pm on The Green
 - 17th July 3pm-4pm on The Green
 - 14th September 3pm-4pm on The Green
 - 3rd November 3pm-4pm.

According to the internet, the police intend to address reports of ASB on the new building site at Thringstone Football Club, Homestead Road in the evenings, as this has been identified as a priority in the period Jan-June 2011.

Nita reported that planting down by the church wall had been vandalized again, and bushes may now need replacing (at what cost). She has reported this on behalf of the gardening team to the police. Geoff Walker said that 3 bikes had been stolen from a garage in Brook Lane whilst the people were in the house.

From previous minutes

- **Gardening** - The gardening team had planted some forget-me-nots in Drury Lane, and had been filmed as part of the Green Footprints Awards talking about Bob's Closs. This filming had been done on 24th February to show different aspects of the work of FoT and also included cleaning graffiti, litter picking, delivering Baubles and setting off on the walk as well as gardening. Ray Neal has plans for summer planting on The Green.
- **Litter picks** – Pam Porter said that several litter pick sticks which we bought on the internet for £12 each were broken. Ron Hill is going to see if he can mend these. She wanted to buy another



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20 as some people want sticks so that they can use them on their own litter picking trips. Suggestions were made about these being available from the motability shop in Coalville and in the Betterwear Catalogue. Pam said she had approached the council before, but been unsuccessful. Nita said that she would talk to Streetscene again, as maybe she would have better luck. Pam said there are a few bad spots in the village which need extra attention soon, and maybe these should be the focus of the main litter pick on 26th March. Pam also wondered whether the Brownies were coming on the next pick, and agreed to ask them. Nita reiterated that there may be people from Leicestershire Cares coming along to clear shrubbery on the viaduct, and if they came, Nita would be supervising that side of things. There will be jacket potatoes afterwards at the centre for 1pm.

- **The Down to Earth recording** for Radio Leicester had been a great success and Nita thanked everyone who had taken part.
- **Scarecrow event** - . The de Lisle estate is unable to supply straw and it may be necessary to buy some. It was suggested that the Scarecrows could also be stuffed with old rags but Bernard mentioned that straw had always been mentioned as being supplied, and that it therefore should be. Adele Toon has said she is willing to scavenge some clothing or anything else useful from her skips. Geoff thought one large bale would be sufficient for the 34 names on the list Nita has of potential makers. Nita agreed to talk to Tam on this, as he is leading on the event. Nita also showed the new poster that the school had produced, and everybody felt that the poster was really good.
- **Centenary Celebrations at the Community Centre** - Lorraine gave an outline of the activities which will be happening on the day. Activities start at 12 noon and go on til 5pm. These will be opened by James Gore-Brown, a descendant of Charles Booth. Many of the User Groups will be having information stands and sales stalls. Some would give demonstrations such as the Tea Dancers and Belly Dancers and the Melton Brass Band. There will be face painting for children, and a juggler. The Art Group will also put up an exhibition. There will also be food by Blackbrook Farm and Ice cream. Other local groups such as Friends of Grace Dieu, Holly Hayes, the Coleorton History group and the Wildlife Trust will also be involved. Friends of Thringstone will be having a plant stall and history display and organising the Scarecrow event and selling the related quizzes on The Green. There will be evening music with a group already lined up and it is hoped Hermitage FM will come with their outside broadcast facility.
Nita suggested to Lorraine that Kay Lakhman should be asked to do her henna hand painting as she did a very good job and this would be something else for children to enjoy, since it has already been established that bouncy castles etc. are too costly.
Lorraine has some grant forms to fill in to get money for the event, but hasn't had time to complete these.

AOB

- **Dog fouling** - There was discussion about the increasing problem of dog fouling. Streetscene had done an early morning survey the previous week and had previously stencilled some yellow signs on the most abused pavements but people were not taking any notice of them. Nita agreed to find out if more stencilling could be done. If people have an area in mind, please tell Nita. Geoff Walker said there was a lot of fouling down by the church, there was also fouling on The Green and Main Street and on Tithe Close. Ray Neal said he regularly saw someone walking their dog and allowing it to foul. Pam Porter said that a lot of this fouling would co-incide with the school run, and wondered whether the fouling could be cleared up with dustpans and brushes as part of the next litter pick. It was felt that some people would not be happy to do this. Nita will talk to Streetscene about this issue, but said that people needed to report dog fouling to Streetscene by ringing Customer Services on 454545 and asking to be put through to Streetscene rather than reporting this at meetings.
- **Thringstone Community Centre** - The County council will be withdrawing their management support for the Centre as of the 1st April 2011. The management committee and Friends of Thringstone (through an email to Nita) have been asked to look into ways of running the centre as a social co-operative/social enterprise group, in order to prevent it from closing. Roy Hill said that he thought the County Council should be compelled to hand it over in a state which complied with statutory conditions for public buildings which it was not doing at the moment. Unless this was done, any group taking over its management could become liable for heavy maintenance costs. Nita said this had been discussed at the centre's management meeting, but no solution reached. It was proving very difficult to get any information from the County Council about the legal/financial situation affecting the centre and without that, nothing can be sorted.



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- **Royal Wedding Street party** - Nita said that she had received an email that evening about whether there was to be a street party for the Royal Wedding on 29th April. Ray Neal asked about sending a card to the couple. After some discussion about a big screen to view the wedding, which starts at 11am on the day, it was decided to investigate the idea of a 'Bring A Plate' tea party at the centre. Nita and Lorraine will liaise to discuss this further.

Next meeting

7th April 2011 at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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