



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working to improve our village'

Chairman: Nita Pearson

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7th July 2011 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Rowena Summers, Brenda Simpson, Sue Colledge, Roy Hill, Geoff Walker, Ray Woodward, Bernard Lee, Mike Statham, Janet Stevenson, Ann Petty, Tom Whalley, Tam Bream

Apologies, Lis and Paul Muller, Pam Clayfield, Lindsay Weaver, Jacquie Lloyd, Dave and Julie Everitt, Leon Spence, Pam Porter, Fran Skinner, Sue Rowbottom

Reports:

Chair's report July 2011

Letters Received

- Letter from Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire's office asking when it would be best for Lady Jennifer Gretton to present the Queen's Award. Discussed possibly the meeting of Thursday 1st September. **Discussion point.** Nita asked the meeting if they agreed with the date of 1st September. It was pointed out that it was during Bank Holiday week, but as the schools would be back that week, families would be likely to be back from holidays. It was agreed to offer this date for the presentation, at a meeting, to see whether this was suitable to Lady Gretton or not. Members would be encouraged to attend and will be informed when this presentation is taking place if it changes from 1st September. Nita showed the framed certificate which had been presented at the Council Offices. She had asked Lorraine if these certificates could be displayed at the centre, but Lorraine did not want them on a permanent basis. Ray Woodward raised the question of a Trophy



R C C

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footprints

Stepping out for a greener district

cabinet, but there had been no progress on this. Mike Statham will follow this through with the centre.

- Letter from The Squire de Lisle congratulating the group on winning the Queen's Award on behalf of himself, the family and Grace Dieu Priory Trust
- Copy of Green Directory received from RCC. Nita will keep this for contact use.

Emails Received

- Regarding Reel to Reel event in Leicester to do with heritage film of the area passed on to Ann. There was some discussion about old films showing Thringstone. Ray Woodward has some brief footage of cows being driven past the old Co-op. Geoff Walker said he had some dating from 1985.
- From Police explaining that the crime stats on Police UK are several months old and are done at a national level, so local police are unable to influence this. Therefore as nothing had been received direct from the police, there is no Police report this month.
- From LCC regarding War Memorials Project meeting and from NWLDC about Heritage Forum meeting at Ashby Museum. Both sent to Ann to attend for group
- From NWLDC regarding their next Green Footprints meeting at Holly Hayes Wood which clashed with this meeting so nobody from FoT was able to attend
- From Whitwick Action Group informing that their bingo night at the Jolly Colliers raised over £400 towards the fight to save the 3 green wedges
- From PTA asking if we wanted to do a stall at the school fete on 9th July. Bernard is going to help with this. Janet and Nita will help with setting it up in the morning. We will not be taking brochures to sell.
- From Community Centre promoting summer play scheme. Passed to interested parties.

Emails Sent

- Regarding Heritage Open Days in September regarding opening up and showing off historic buildings. Have left this with Lorraine and Mike Statham as something for the centre to look at, together with an email regarding setting up something in the village for families and young children from a physical activity standpoint, which could bring more families into the centre.
- Email to local business network with photo showing their sponsorship plaque within the flowerbed. Acknowledged by that group.
- Emails round the group with photos taken on 4th June of scarecrows and plant and history stalls
- Scarecrow event debrief thoughts sent to Tam and committee, plus several subsequent discussions
- To RCC asking for a Community Greening Pack
- Booked chairman of NWLDC to be guest at October meeting
- Booked WAG to be speakers at August meeting
- **Discussion point** The Thringstone Parents and Toddlers Group have been victims of an arson attack on their storage container. They have received many donations of toys but needed to replace several big items. They were looking for financial help. It was agreed that FoT should make a donation of £100. Nita agreed to contact Andrea Beagles as chair of that group over delivery of the cheque.
Sue Colledge said they would be welcome to bring a fund raising activity to the Woodstock event at the White Horse in Whitwick on 13th August starting at 2pm. Nita agreed to pass this information on to the group.

Promotion

- Coalville Times 10th June, Echo 10th June, Vision (regarding heritage event), Coalville Times (walks and litter pick) and Echo 1st July (walks)

Other



- Portfolio made up of 45 photographs of the scarecrows. Further 5 photos taken of the stalls at the centenary event put into existing portfolio. Scarecrow portfolio available for perusal
- Apologized by email and in person to George and Dragon for their scarecrow being missed off the map provided on 4th June but reiterated that people who got a map were told that the scarecrows covered from by the Jet service station on Talbot Street to the G&D.
- Spoke with Ray W and Lorraine regarding Coalville Times coverage of the centenary celebrations on 4th June. A 2 page spread covering the life and times of Charles Booth was printed in the Coalville Times. This was shown to the group.
- Discussed with NWLDC presentation of certificate for reaching the final of the Green Footprints Awards 2011 and sent email to group informing of date. 6 people subsequently attended presentation of Highly Commended certificate for the Green Footprints Challenge 2011 and we also received a copy of the shortlisted candidates DVD
- From 23rd June, NWLDC are working on a Don't Muck Around project which is to target litter dropped from cars, fly tipping and dog fouling. If you see anything and wish to report it, call 454545 and ask for customer services. Nita has already reported a lot of litter to the council from across the district, much of which has been dropped after the bin men have been round.
- Roy Hill attended the Whitwick Action Group meeting for us, at which they discussed the green wedge issue. Information available.
- DVD of the scarecrows and centenary event done by Geoff, plus copy of Migration Stories DVD now in archives. 2 spare copies of the scarecrows and centenary event are available to borrow.

Treasurer's report –Lis Muller

A printed copy of the accounts was available for members to see.



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Annual Accounts:

These have now been checked and approved by David Stevenson. Nita has a signed copy of his report. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank him.

Following his recommendations, I would like to propose that we change the financial year to run up until 31st March each year. This would give plenty of time for the accounts to be assembled and checked before the June annual meeting. This would mean that we would be working on a ten month 'year' this time, but would make more sense in the future. It would also give a more accurate picture of annual income from membership, as income comes in May/June which, at the moment, crosses over two financial years and so punctuality of collecting membership can distort the annual figure.

This proposition was approved by the meeting.

June's Figures:

Funds held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£3,327.95		
Income		expenditure	
membership	£ 24.50	dvd costs	£ 10.00
dvd income	£ 24.50	AGM bbq food	£ 32.60
4/6/11 scarecrow trail	£ 50.75	scarecrow wood	£ 63.86
4/6/11 plant stall	£ 133.55	50% printer costs	£ 39.50
publications	£ 23.00	plants/bedding	£ 30.00
donations (via publications)	£ 6.00	litter pick food	£ 10.26
AGM raffle	£ 12.00	raffle prizes	£ 4.30
		Car parking x 2	£ 1.00
total income	£ 274.30	total exp	£ 191.52
		Total funds	£ 3,410.73

You will see that we contributed 50% towards the cost of a new printer for the chairman, as a large proportion of its use is for FoT.

Income from the scarecrow competition totalled £112 in May and when added to the income on the day gives a total income from the scarecrow event of £162.75.

**FRIENDS OF
THRINGSTONE
ACCOUNTS
SUMMARY:
YEARTO
DATE**

Total monies 1/6/11		£3,327.95			
INCOME	YTD	2010-11	EXPENDITURE	YTD	2010-11
membership	£ 24.50	£ 599.50	newsletters	£ -	£ 203.82
walks	£ -	£ 65.00	admin	£ 39.50	£ 170.94
events*	£ 184.30	£ 508.31	events	£ 63.86	£ 122.82
publications inclvd	£ 47.50	£ 242.50	publications	£ 10.00	£ 31.68
donations	£ 6.00	£ 35.20	litter picking etc	£ 10.26	£ 178.45
grants/awards/s pons**	£ -	£1,178.40	plants/bedding	£ 30.00	£ 288.83
christmas cards	£ -	£ 30.00	christmas cards	£ -	£ -
meeting raffle income	£ 12.00	£ 195.00	raffle prizes	£ 4.30	£ 7.52
adverts	£ -	£ 10.00	advertising	£ -	£ -
Booth Bk (donations)	£ -	£ 5.50	insurance	£ -	£ 75.72
			equipment	£ -	£ 116.33
			meeting room	£ -	£ 165.00
other sundries	£ -	£ -	other	£ 33.60	£ 134.19
total income	£ 274.30	£2,869.41	total exp	£ 191.52	£ 1,495.30

These accounts were accepted by the meeting.



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Publications report July 2011 – Roy Hill

We had quite good sales at the **Heritage event** on June 4th selling 2 Born and Bred 1 @ £4.50, 1 Born and Bred 2 @ £4.50, 1 Memories 1 @ £3.50, 1 Memories 2 @ £3.50 plus 1 DVD @ £3.50

The **Community Centre** has sold 1 Memories 1 @ £3.50 and 1 Memories 2 @ £3.50

Nita sold 1 Village Trail 2 @ £2.50

There have been no sales at the George and Dragon.

The following sums have been/will be paid into the accounts:

£30 from the Heritage event which includes a donation of £6 (paid in), £7 from the Community Centre (to be paid in), £2.50 from Nita (paid in), making a grand total of £39.50 for June.

So, all in all a good month!!

Many thanks for Ann for the work she did in selling our brochures at the Centenary Event.

Our stocks are:

	Communit y Centre	George & Dragon	Nit a	Ann e	Stoc k	TOTAL
Born and Bred 1	3	3	3	2	17	28
Born and Bred 2	3	3	3	2	33	44
Memories 1	3	3	3	2	5	16
Memories 2	3	3	3	2	9	20
Village Trail 1	3	3	3	2	24	35
Village Trail 2	3	3	3	2	23	34
Village Trail 3	3	3	3	2	25	36
Sub-totals	21	21	21	14	136	213

Annual Sales to date (June 2011 - May 2012) are:

	Heritage at Community Centre	Community Centre	Nita
Born and Bred 1	2		
Born and Bred 2	1		
Memories 1	1	1	
Memories 2	1	1	
Village Trail 1			
Village Trail 2			1
Village Trail 3			

Web report – John Smith

John Smith was not at the meeting. He had spoken to Nita about difficulties with the site frequently being 'down' when he had time to update it which was why the last update was April. He had suggested that the best way to solve this problem was to buy our own site. The cost was not thought to be high and the meeting agreed to ask John to investigate this further.

Art and Community Report

6-10 July – New Perspective Theatre's **production of The Falling Sky**. Times by arrangement.

Tickets £4 from Thringstone House Community Centre

8-10 July – **Whitwick British Legion 90th anniversary** celebrations, includes Desford Colliery Brass band at Hermitage Leisure Centre on 8th, 7pm. Tickets £9.50 adults, £6 children from Leisure



Centre. Display at Whitwick Historical Society 10am-5pm on 9th. Parade on Sunday 10 July from Whitwick Wheel to St John's starting at 4pm and finishing at 4.30pm.

9 July – **Thringstone Primary summer fayre**. Opens at 2pm.

9 July – **Churches Together** at 2pm at Methodist Chapel. Stalls and refreshments

10 July **Walk with the theme Pubs of Whitwick and Thringstone**. Start 10.30 Thringstone Green. £3

13 July – **Marie Curie Blooming Great Tea Party** from 10.30am at Thringstone House Community Centre

23 July – **George and Dragon 60s** night with Cufflinks. Tickets £10

23 July – **FoT Heritage Event at George and Dragon**. Free entry. Come and look at our wealth of archive material

23 July – **Swannington Open Gardens** bi-annual charity event for LOROS. Gardens open 11am-6pm plus art exhibition, plant and cake sales, music and refreshments. Tickets £4 on the day, children free.

23 and 24 July – **Heritage event at Grace Dieu Priory**.

30 July – **Hayraking picnic** at Thringstone House Community Centre. 10am start. All welcome to clear hay from Bob's Closs and encourage further growth of wild flowers.

Church's Kitchen Project. A £10,000 loan from the diocese has been approved and a further £4,000 from the tax office for Gift Aid monies, so work is expected to start in July.

History report for meeting 5th May 2011 - Ann Petty

Knowing that Richard Gore-Brown was opening the Centenary Event Ann put together a small folder for the Gore-Browns and was amazed that a photo of Imogen Gore-Brown which we have, had never been seen by her daughter, Aunt Fanny, who accompanied him. The Gore Browns were married at St. Andrew's in 1912 and Ann gave her the church record as well. She is an amazing lady who could remember Grace Dieu Manor and Thringstone from when she was a child here. Hopefully we now have an ongoing contact with the Booth Family. She subsequently sent some information which has now been passed on to us via the Community Centre to copy.

Ann represented FOT at County Hall on 22 June for the War Memorials Project, which was a very interesting evening and Ann picked up some leaflets for members. As we went into the Chairman's room there was a big screen showing examples of Memorials from round the county and there on the screen was a letter for Mrs. King, Lillybank, Thringstone sent to the project from Nita who has forwarded information for this project for Thringstone and Whitwick to Liz Blood at County Hall.

Ann also represented FOT at the Museum Networking meeting at Ashby Museum on 29 June. The emphasis was about trying to get more children involved both in history and museums, and also to promote the



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Open Weekend on 23-24 July, when on the 23rd we are having a Heritage Event at the George and Dragon. She has some flyers about this from NWLDC. Ann had tried to promote it at Grace Dieu last Saturday. Nita has some posters for the 23rd Heritage Event, and will try to get these up and about in the village shortly.

Ann had met with the Coalville Times on 28 June, together with William Newton, Ray Woodward, Ray Neal and Lorraine to try to promote the Community Centre's Centenary and its connection with Charles Booth. William gave the reporter the life history of Charles Booth. Ann put some display boards together to try to show his connection with Thringstone, and to show some of the activities that used to take place at the Community Centre. The article, a two page spread, as mentioned earlier, was in this week's Coalville Times. Ray Woodward thanked Ann and Bill for all their help with this. Ann replied thanking Ray Neal and saying that it had been a team effort.

After Nita met with Mick McQuade from Leicester Cathedral, he came on a Grace Dieu walk with a party from Leicester Cathedral and then up to St. Andrew's Church to see Charles Booth's grave. He told Nita about the Charles Booth Room in St Martin's House in Leicester. Ann has subsequently e-mailed Peter Hobson there asking if he wants any information about Charles Booth to fit in with the Charles Booth Room. He has not yet replied.

Councillors' Report prepared by Leon Spence, read by Ray Woodward in the absence of Leon Spence and Dave Everitt

The governance cycle at the District Council is now (for the most part) in recession for the summer. However, one issue of major importance is still current, this being the Core Strategy Consultation. The Core Strategy will set out an overarching plan for development in the district for the next 15+ years and most pertinently addresses the future of the Green Wedge. The deadline for submitting your views to the consultation has now been extended to 29 July. More information can be found at:

http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/core_strategy

Sue Colledge intervened at this point to say that she had several copies of this consultation document if anyone would like to complete one. She was very keen that Thringstone and Swannington should make their voices heard alongside Whitwick in this campaign.

On 5 July the Planning Committee met at the District Council. Of most notable interest to Thringstone residents is the planning application in respect of Whitwick Community Centre which was approved unanimously. Planning consent is an important step in the Community Centre development project. I understand that the trustees will now be seeking to secure the necessary finance to fund development. Case work as ever has been on-going. This month we have been working on behalf of residents on Clyde Court, Clover Place, Field Close and Howe Court.

It was particularly upsetting to hear of two destructive incidents taking place over the past month. Firstly, the arson attack on the playgroup storage container situated on the Clover Place playing field. Council officers assisted the playgroup organisers in the immediate aftermath of the incident in securing the site. Of course our thoughts are with playgroup staff which lost a huge amount of resources in the fire. It's wonderful to hear that so many offers have been made to help out the group.

Secondly, Melrose Road play area. A large amount of glass was left, particularly around the basketball court, following an incident. Council staff acted quickly in clearing the site although as the incident happened at the weekend this could not be done until the start of the following week. We would like to say a personal thank you to the local residents and FoT members who cleared away large pieces of glass from the area in the interests of safety.

Whilst commenting on play areas, residents should be aware that the council is dismantling and removing all play equipment from the Clover Place playground. The council's aim is that usable equipment will be relocated to developing a larger scale play area on Melrose Road.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need help from your councillor.

Leon Spence: telephone 07828194768 or e-mail cllrleonspence@gmail.com

Dave Everitt: telephone 01530223074 or e-mail david.everitt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Nita mentioned that, as far as **County Council** are concerned, the build out near the Bull's Head had taken place in the last month, and there was work being done to raise the level of the pedestrian crossing on The Green.

Ray Woodward asked to have it recorded that he had pleaded with the planners not to go ahead with the changes at the road junction by the Bull's Head. It was agreed by the meeting that it had made the situation even more difficult because existing road markings forced traffic coming from the A512 into the path of



traffic leaving the village, and made it difficult for caravans and wide loads. It was also commented that the road closures at The Green had been very long, had caused traffic issues, and seemed unnecessary. Further work is taking place shortly near the Whitwick Coffee Shop and on Hermitage Road in Whitwick. The meeting was not satisfied that this was a good use of money in straitened times and Tam Bream asked if Ray Woodward could find out the name of the officers concerned with these works so that contact could be made with them, if appropriate, to raise concerns. Ray Woodward agreed to find out.

From Previous minutes

Gardening update - Bernard said that he had not planted much due to weather issues but is aware of several areas where replanting is necessary.

Litter pick - Nita reported that there had been a very good turn out of about 30 people for the event with the Brownies and Rainbows working hard in spite of awful weather. It was a tribute to all the residents/members who are litter picking on a regular/casual basis that the litter pick only collected 8 bags of litter rather than the 20 which used to be the norm for the quarterly litter picks. Thanks to Pam Porter and Sue Rowbottom for providing drinks and food for the youngsters. They have been reimbursed.

Graveyard booklet The vicar has asked for a plan of the graveyard to go in this booklet but didn't have one to offer. Tam had spoken to his draughtsman who said the cost would depend on how professional a job was needed. It was thought that a basic plan of where the graves are is all that is required and one must exist. Sue Colledge agreed to speak to some Funeral Directors as it was thought they probably had such a plan. Geoff Walker will talk to Alan Burgess about the restoration plans for Charles Booth's Grave. It was thought it was important this be done in time for the 150th anniversary of the building of St Andrew's in 2012 and possible Queen's Jubilee celebrations, especially as the Gore-Brown's had offered to contribute. If members wish to see the draft of the graveyard booklet, please contact Nita who will email a copy or run a copy off for those not on email.

Future events

Nita asked if the group still wished to visit Ravenstone almshouses. It was agreed that there was interest, so Nita agreed to see what dates were available for this and would get back to the group.

Nita said that arrangements for future external events for the group to attend were somewhat uncertain. We would be having a bric a brac stall at the School Fete on 9th July, but it was agreed that we would not have a stall at the Thringstone Live for Charity event at the George & Dragon on 20 August as no one was available to run it. Nita will tell Pete Gough this. Sue Colledge reiterated the offer for the group to have a stand at Woodstock in Whitwick on 13th August.

Whitwick in the Park on 3rd September was not yet confirmed as taking place due to funding difficulties although we had previously expressed an interest in being at this event.

Snibston Miners Gala will be on 17th September and there will be a FoT stall and the opportunity to walk with our banner in the parade as usual.



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Roy Hill said that he had received a lot of positive feedback on the Centenary and Scarecrow events and asked if the scarecrow event was to become an annual event. Tam agreed that there had indeed been a lot of positive comments made, but there had also been negative feedback and difficulties encountered and there were lessons to be learned. He agreed that it would be good to have another such event, but thought we ought to have had a debrief meeting with the community centre to record how this year's efforts had gone.

There are several 'pegs' such as the church celebrations, Queens Jubilee and the Olympic Games happening in 2012 on which to hang an event. Could FoT, Community Centre and the Church work together on a 2012 event?

Sue Rowbottom and Pam Porter were talking to people who'd had scarecrows this time and wanted to do so again, and forming a list of new people who wanted to take part in 2012 if appropriate, so we had already made a start on getting interested parties names recorded.

It was confirmed that Aileen Smith has the unsold pop corn left after the kids' disco.

AOB

Mike Statham introduced himself as the new Chairman of the Community Centre management committee. He congratulated the group on their work for the village and their support of the Centre. He said that the future of the Centre was under discussion and everything possible was being done to keep it functioning. The main problem was lack of decisions from County Hall as they themselves were uncertain of their future funding commitments. It was therefore important to have a Plan B in place in case the centre is cast adrift. This is why he is trying to visit all the user groups to keep them informed and enlist their support as the committee explore future funding and administrative changes.

Ray Woodward said he hoped that the centre might get another 12 months funding after the end of the current financial year, since County had to give 12 months notice if this wasn't happening.

Nita said that she is now copying Mike Statham into any emails sent to Lorraine regarding funding or promotional opportunities available, and reiterated about the Active Together Open Pot funding bids for community activities. These bids need to be submitted through a Community Group and she suggested that the FoT walks qualified. We have several accredited walks leaders. It could also be used to put on more regular kids' discos at the centre, and thus help the centre's usage. Mike will talk to Lorraine on this and get back to the group.

Next meeting

- 4th August at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre. Speakers are Whitwick Action Group