



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working to improve our village'

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

Visit our website at: www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4th August 2011 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Jo Straw, Sue Colledge Nita Pearson, Brenda Simpson, Roy Hill, Geoff Walker, Ray Woodward, Bernard Lee, Janet Stevenson, Ann Petty, Tam Bream, Dave Everitt, Julie Everitt, Tom Whalley

Apologies: Lindsay Weaver, Leon Spence, Pam Porter, Rowena Summers, Lorraine Whitehurst, David Stevenson, Paul and Lis Muller

Speakers: Jo Straw and Sue Colledge from the **Whitwick Action Group**

The meeting opened with a presentation by Jo and Sue about their campaign through the Whitwick Action Group (WAG) to save the Green Wedges, which separate the ancient villages of Whitwick, Thringstone, and Swannington from the 'newer settlement' of Coalville. They have been working on this for the past two years and in the last few months have received a lot more support from Thringstone residents for which they are extremely grateful.

They see their task as protecting the entire Green Wedge, not just that around Whitwick. They are fearful that, once the wedges are breached in one place by building development, it will be very difficult to prevent all the villages being drawn into the developers' scheme for a Greater Coalville with the villages losing their identities.

The Green Wedges are shown on the plans as being in three sections

Eastern: Between Hall Lane and the Ring Road
Central; Between the Leisure Centre and Church Lane
Western: Around Thringstone, Swannington and Coleorton



The Friends of Thringstone

Winner of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2011

Winner of Gold and Silver RCC Village achievement awards 2010

Awarded Outstanding Achievement Certificate in the RHS Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards 2009

Winner of the NWLDC's Footprint Awards under Partnerships and Community Groups 2009



Stepping out for a greener district



The campaign against the development plans was started two years ago when it was voted by residents to fight on a matter of principle that protected land should not be sold for profit. There have been some successes with the delay to building on Broomley's Farm and also in halving the projected number of houses from 16,000 to 8,000. However there is still much to be done.

The current campaign is to challenge the District Council's Core Strategy Consultation Document entitled Our District, Our Future. This document sets out plans for land use under three headings

Building
Commercial
Protected

WAG asked residents of all the villages to respond to the question 'Do you support no building on the Green Wedges IN THEIR ENTIRETY?' This produced a massive response from Thringstone - one third of the answers. WAG say thank you. Continued support is essential as the planners have said that village status can be removed.

Questions were then asked. Tam Bream asked about the land behind Thringstone School between the Bulls Head and the George and Dragon. Roy Hill said he thought this was land within the National Forest and therefore subject to extra planning regulations. Sue said she did not know of any plans to develop this at the moment. Their biggest argument is road infrastructure as the present roads cannot support so much extra traffic. Even the access to the M1 could not cope. There is a County Council model for evaluating infrastructure which is going to be applied to the Coalville area soon.

The proposed Hall Lane development would create 4000 extra daily journeys with the only access points being on Stephenson Way and on Hall Lane near the Lady Jane.

There is also the question of water supply and run off causing flooding and pollution. These were arguments used by Ashby with the River Mease. The Whitwick floods in 2002 are being used as evidence. However water control is thought by the planners to be more manageable than traffic increase.

Other battles that have been won temporarily are the rejection for plans to put speed cushions on Hermitage Road.

Tam asked about the fair spread of the allocations for development. At the moment the numbers of houses to be built are : Ashby 430, Castle Donington 740, Ibstock 360, Kegworth 210, Measham 270, rest of rural district 260, COALVILLE AREA 4500! Although WAG has managed to reduce this, it is still seen as unfair loading towards this area. Tam asked how many had already been built and Sue thought it was about 370.

Jo Straw has managed to create connections with the Environmental Law Foundation (ELF), who will provide legal support to WAG on an expenses only basis. However this is still expensive and WAG are setting up a fundraising campaign which needs all our support.

Roy Hill urged them not to underestimate themselves and the value of local knowledge and emotional commitment. He had sat on the other side of the fence in his working life and seen small local groups win their cases.



The Friends of Thringstone

Winner of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2011

Winner of Gold and Silver RCC Village achievement awards 2010

Awarded Outstanding Achievement Certificate in the RHS Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards 2009

Winner of the NWLDC's Footprint Awards under Partnerships and Community Groups 2009



Stepping out for a greener district

However Sue & Jo feel that they need legal backup and ask Thringstone residents to support their fundraising.

Although the NWL Core strategy is a long term plan up to 2026 and is not yet approved, small victories are always vulnerable to appeals by developers. Even if the Local Development Framework (LDF) rules in WAG's favour they are sure the developers will appeal. It was the fact that the developers were so objectionable in the early days that has caused WAG to fight so hard.

Tam suggested that we should advertise their events by putting a flyer in The Bauble. This was agreed. Janet asked what they want Thringstone residents to do. They said

- Continue to write in with objections
- Support WAG fundraising activities. Currently these are the Christmas Fancy Dress pub Crawl on 6th August. Meet at 6.30pm at The White Horse in Whitwick, and Woodstock in Whitwick on 13th August from 2pm – 11pm at The White Horse in Whitwick. They are also selling tickets to win the Woodstock in Whitwick 2011 Monkey. Tickets are on sale for £1 each at Colledge's florists, and at The Woodstock in Whitwick event

Chair's report, August 2011.

- **Arrangements for 1st September – Lady Gretton's visit**
Nita has had conversations with the Community Centre and the Lord Lieutenant's office over arrangements for 1st Sept –
Lady Gretton, the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, (ie the Queen's representative for the county) is coming at 6.45pm to the upstairs hall for the presentation of the Queen's Award Certificate and the crystal trophy. This will be followed by Lady Gretton moving around the hall to talk with people. The upstairs room at the Community Centre will be arranged with the large round tables and we need a good turnout of members for Lady Gretton to understand what Friends of Thringstone do and how their work is supported by the village. When she leaves the normal meeting will be held probably starting about 8pm. It was thought to be a good idea if active members of the group are dispersed around the tables so that she can get a good feel for the different areas of activity and Tam agreed to help with this. **PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THIS EVENT.**
- **Bowls match with St Andrew's Church – 26th August 6pm at Thringstone Bowls Club.**
Refreshment arrangements afterwards are still to be confirmed.
Team: Tam Bream, Paul or Lis Muller, Bernard Lee, Pam Porter, David Stevenson, Roy Hill, Sue Rowbottom and Denise Abbott. Reserve: Janet Stevenson. Please come and support the group.
- **Respect Challenge project funding** – A funding package put together by The Safer NWL Partnerships aiming to promote respect between local people, improve the perception of young people, improve public confidence and encourage young people to take an active role in communities. Particular emphasis was put on building bridges between different generations.



The Friends of Thringstone
Winner of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2011

Winner of Gold and Silver RCC Village achievement awards 2010

Awarded Outstanding Achievement Certificate in the RHS Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards 2009

Winner of the NWLDC's Footprint Awards under Partnerships and Community Groups 2009



footprints

Stepping out for a greener district



The Friends of Thringstone

Applications need to be submitted by 16th September and up to £400 is available for an approved project. Nita will discuss working on a project with The Meadows, local brownies and rainbows. The meeting asked Nita to pursue this.

- **Visit to Ravenstone Almshouses** – This will take place on **14th September**. Please be at the almshouses for 6.45pm and definitely no later than 7pm. We may be able to see units, but the tour will be around the wash house, chapel and grounds. No refreshments are provided. Nine people have expressed an interest in going along to this.

Letters received

- Nita showed the meeting a Thank You card designed by the children from Thringstone Parent and Toddlers Group for the cheque we sent to help them after their fire.
- Copy of Community Matters magazine Summer 2011

Emails received

- From NWLDC and others with information for the group
- From Keep Britain Tidy saying they have now merged with Waste Watch and will be formulating new action plans in the next month or two
- From Snibston asking us to attend a Miners Gala briefing on 16th Aug at which the group can do a sales pitch. Passed on to Ann. **There will not be a procession this year at the Miner's Gala on 17th Sept., so we do not need the banner.**
- From BBC Reel to Reel passed to Ann, Steve Badcock and others. Various emails and calls to try to get film footage of Thringstone. Steve Badcock has a friend who might have film of the floods a few years back. DVD from BBC received. Further discussions with Lucie Kerley of Media Archive for Central England based in Leicester. (See history report.)
- Copy of latest community Forum minutes re Green Wedge and other topics.

Emails sent

- To police regarding the two railings from the bridge over Grace Dieu brook at the end of the Sustrans trail being broken and lying in the water. See Police Report
- To Thringstone Live for Charity trustees asking if they are able, at this late stage, to offer to help fundraise for the Thringstone Parent and Toddlers Group. Accepted. Also understand that Whitwick PCC is donating some money to this group.
- Asking for help to remove the litter bin that should have stayed on the football pitch at the back of the bowls club and was in the ditch after 2 days, and another email asking for help to remove a fridge in the woods. Litter bin subsequently retrieved from ditch by Julian Cook. The group send their thanks to him. Cllr. Leon Spence now trying to get the bin properly concreted in. See Councillors' report



The Friends of Thringstone

Winner of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2011

Winner of Gold and Silver RCC Village achievement awards 2010

Awarded Outstanding Achievement Certificate in the RHS Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards 2009

Winner of the NWLDC's Footprint Awards under Partnerships and Community Groups 2009



Stepping out for a greener district



- Various to and from St Andrew's about grave yard plan. Plan of the site not available from any of the sources contacted. After some discussion it was decided that all that is need is a plan to indicate where various significant graves are located. Tam said that he could organize this.
- To County Councillor about uncollected traffic signage and bollard left after works carried out by Bull's Head in June. Now removed.
- Completed CSV Action Earth registration for next litter pick.
- Registered with Nat West for funding as part of their community fund. I now have to fill in details about our group and projects and then the next stage is to petition people to vote for us. Winners get £6k. Nita decided that this project is not worth the time and effort involved and the meeting agreed.

Promotion

- Sent email promotion to local media regarding Heritage Event and put up posters and printed in CV Times, Mercury and Echo of 22 July. Also sent information to Citizens' Eye in Leicester which is a group of 19 voluntarily run news agencies promoting anything to do with volunteering. Thanked G&D for promoting the event as well and for their hospitality on the day.
- Added extra photos onto Thringstone home page on Leicestershire Villages site.
- Similar promotion to above on **next walk which is 7th August** at 10.30am and is the canal, railway and priory.

Other

- Investigated how to send emails to group without email addresses being shown following request from membership
- Meeting with Youth Offending Service Prevention Team and police regarding ASB in the village following reports made on low level ASB. See Police report.
- Investigated with treasurer proper expenses reporting and guidelines for the group in order to achieve equal opportunities to all.
- Thanks to Bernard, Janet, Ray W and Tom Whalley for helping with the school fete which raised £17.30 after £10 donation was given to the school
- Discussions with the Community Centre on where to place for our certificates etc., and on future plans for events
- Sue Rowbottom has attracted 3 new members. Thanks Sue.
- Heritage Event attended with Ann and Bill. Thanks to Sue Colledge for donating a raffle prize. We raised £22 on the day. Thanks also to Ann and Bill for the tremendous display of material available for people to look through. We attracted about 50 people.
- Arranged small rota of people to help Bernard keep the flowerbed on The Green watered in hot, dry weather. If anybody else can help, please contact Nita.



The Friends of Thringstone
Winner of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2011

Winner of Gold and Silver RCC Village achievement awards 2010

Awarded Outstanding Achievement Certificate in the RHS Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards 2009

Winner of the NWLDC's Footprint Awards under Partnerships and Community Groups 2009



Stepping out for a greener district

- Discussions with recycling department at council regarding another recycling bin in the village - one presently near school, another at the centre. Suggested the one they have remaining might go at Thringstone Members, but they need to talk to Margaret and local residents about this first.

Treasurer's report –Lis Muller

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

JULY FIGURES:

Funds held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£3,410.73		
Income		expenditure	
membership	£ 10.50	room rent	£ 100.00
publications	£ 7.00	donation to Homestead Rd	£ 100.00
school fete	£ 27.30	school fete stall	£ 10.00
walk	£ 3.00	photocopying	£ 9.20
heritage event (incl raffle)	£ 22.00	phone calls	£ 21.25
july meeting raffle	£ 9.00		
total income	£ 78.80	total exp	£ 240.45
		Total funds	£ 3,249.08

Outgoings in July were abnormally large as they included ten months' worth of room rent at the centre, plus a donation of £100 sent to Homestead Road Playgroup after their fire. Also last month, Nita was unable to get free copying of minutes and these were done at the centre. This is likely to now become a regular expense. Following huge phone expenses incurred by Nita in May-June ringing people on mobiles, the committee agreed to reimburse her for those that were FoT calls. Measures have been taken to reduce the number of calls Nita has to make to mobiles (evidence is being provided to the treasurer).

INCOME- I understand there is still some money to come in from the walk at the beginning of the month. Thanks to those who helped at the school fete and heritage events



The Friends of Thringstone
Winner of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2011
 Winner of Gold and Silver RCC Village achievement awards 2010
 Awarded Outstanding Achievement Certificate in the RHS Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards 2009
 Winner of the NWLDC's Footprint Awards under Partnerships and Community Groups 2009

- although they didn't bring much money in, it is all adding to PR and public awareness.

YEAR TO DATE:

Total monies 1/6/11		£3,327.95			
INCOME	YTD	2010-11	EXPENDITURE	YTD	2010-11
membership	£ 35.00	£ 599.50	newsletters	£ -	£ 203.82
walks	£ 3.00	£ 65.00	admin costs	£ 69.95	£ 170.94
events*	£ 233.60	£ 508.31	events	£ 73.86	£ 122.82
publicationsinclvd	£ 54.50	£ 242.50	publications	£ 10.00	£ 31.68
donations	£ 6.00	£ 35.20	litter picking etc	£ 10.26	£ 178.45
grants/awards/spons	£ -	£ 1,178.40	plants/bedding etc	£ 30.00	£ 288.83
christmas cards	£ -	£ 30.00	christmas cards	£ -	£ -
meeting raffle	£ 21.00	£ 195.00	meeting raffle	£ 4.30	£ 7.52
adverts	£ -	£ 10.00	advertising	£ -	£ -
Booth Book	£ -	£ 5.50	insurance	£ -	£ 75.72
			equipment	£ -	£ 116.33
			meeting room use	£ 100.00	£ 165.00
other sundries	£ -	£ -	other	£ 133.60	£ 134.19
total income	£ 353.10	£ 2,869.41	total exp	£ 368.11	£ 1,495.30
			total in bank	£ 3,190.86	



The Friends of Thringstone
Winner of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2011

Winner of Gold and Silver RCC Village achievement awards 2010

Awarded Outstanding Achievement Certificate in the RHS Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards 2009

Winner of the NWLDC's Footprint Awards under Partnerships and Community Groups 2009



Stepping out for a greener district



The Friends of Thringstone

petty cash (incl event float)	£ 58.22	
total monies held	£ 3,249.08	

Publications report August 2011

Not a good month this time. We had no sales at the **Heritage Event** held at the George and Dragon. Lorraine is on holiday and there is no-one at the **Community Centre** who can tell me if there have been any sales. There have been no sales at the **George and Dragon**. The good news is that Ann has secured the agreement of the monastery to take six of each of our publications and sell them on a sale or return basis and so we are in the process of delivering them and giving them an invoice. More next month

Our stocks are:

	Community Centre	George & Dragon	Nita	Anne	Stock	TOTAL
Born and Bred 1	3	3	0	2	20	28
Born and Bred 2	3	3	0	2	36	44
Memories 1	3	3	0	2	8	16
Memories 2	3	3	0	2	13	21
Village Trail 1	3	3	3	2	23	34
Village Trail 2	3	3	3	2	23	34
Village Trail 3	3	3	3	2	26	37
Sub-totals	21	21	9	14	149	214

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



The Friends of Thringstone

Winner of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2011

Winner of Gold and Silver RCC Village achievement awards 2010

Awarded Outstanding Achievement Certificate in the RHS Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards 2009

Winner of the NWLDC's Footprint Awards under Partnerships and Community Groups 2009



Stepping out for a greener district



The Friends of Thringstone

Events	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

FoT website is now updated with minutes, but other things are still to go on.

Geoff walker reported that the Beehive free websites were closing down from October 1st. This would affect several local websites and he was investigating the way forward. Some suggestions had been received which would cost about £2.20 per month and he was looking into how sites for different organisations such as the Village, the Church and the Community Centre could be merged to use one site. Ray Woodward said that the Centre are looking into having their own web site.

John Smith was also looking into changes for the Friends of Thringstone site.

Art and Community Report August 2011 What's on

6th August – **Christmas fancy dress fund raising pub crawl** organized by Whitwick Action Group. Meet at 6.30pm at The White Horse, Whitwick. All welcome.

6th August – **George and Dragon** from 9pm. **The Del Sharons**. 50s and 60s music.

7th August – **Grace Dieu priory**, canal and railway walk from The Green at 10.30am. £3 per person.

13th August – **Summer fete at The Meadows**. Open from lunchtime. Stalls, raffle, tombola etc. All welcome

13th August – **Woodstock in Whitwick** Music and Charity fundraiser. 2pm-11pm The White Horse, Whitwick

13-21 **August Art Exhibition** at the Community Centre. Free admission

20th August – **Thringstone Live for Charity** at the George and Dragon from 12 noon until 10pm. Live music and entertainment



The Friends of Thringstone

Winner of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2011

Winner of Gold and Silver RCC Village achievement awards 2010

Awarded Outstanding Achievement Certificate in the RHS Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards 2009

Winner of the NWLDC's Footprint Awards under Partnerships and Community Groups 2009



Stepping out for a greener district



22nd August – George and Dragon have a **psychic night** £15 per reading

26th – **Bowls match** between FoT and St Andrew's. Starts at 6pm at Thringstone Bowls Club

Until 27th August – Every Tuesday from 4pm-5pm there are open **family outdoor games sessions** on the football pitch behind Thringstone Bowls Club. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Free of charge and provided by NWLDC.

2nd and 3rd September at 6.30pm and 4th September at 3.30pm – **Promenade play at Ravenstone**

Almshouses, celebrating 300 years of the almshouses. This play moves around the site and is ticket only.

Tickets are free, but are issued to limit numbers to 150. Picnics in the grounds are welcome. Please contact Mary on 836122 for further details.

3rd September – **George and Dragon** have **Murder of Crows** playing

13th September – **George and Dragon** have an **Elvis Rock Show**

24th September – **George and Dragon** have **Ricky Diamond night**

St Andrew's are still £5,000 short in funds to complete their kitchen. If anybody wishes to donate, or knows people who might help, please contact the church.

History Report – Ann Petty

The **Heritage Event** went well. We had about 50 people come along, which given it is holiday season, wasn't too bad. The display boards made up concentrated on sport and also on archeology as it was archeology week, and also the idea of the event was to link in with the Heritage Events drawing attention to the one year to go to the Olympics.

MACE (The Media Archive for Central England) have contacted Nita to say that they have the following film footage relative to Thringstone:

Tree felled at accident black spot 1972

Labradors steal eggs 1969

Building of the miners' estate in Thringstone 1965

St Bernard dogs in Thringstone in 1957

Alison Dickson dies after catching her foot in a satchel 1978

The plan is that Lucie at MACE puts all these films on a DVD and they can then form part of the BBC Reel to Reel project. This is a BBC History of Britain series due to be broadcast on BBC2 at 6.30pm every week day during September. The History Experience is coming to Leicester in September to raise awareness of, and interest in, archive film, and at that time we can advertise an event of our own at which we will display this footage and other footage (like the cows going past the Co-op, and anything of the floods earlier this millennium.) Geoff Walker did not want his film included in this, but there is film of the floods on U tube. The BBC has already supplied Nita with a DVD to show how this could be done, and Nita has been in touch with Helen Sykes over how we can get involved. We understand they issue badges and various other things



The Friends of Thringstone

Winner of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2011

Winner of Gold and Silver RCC Village achievement awards 2010

Awarded Outstanding Achievement Certificate in the RHS Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards 2009

Winner of the NWLDC's Footprint Awards under Partnerships and Community Groups 2009



Stepping out for a greener district



that can help with putting something together but it has to be done by the end of next week. When we have a date, we need to register our event on the Things To Do BBC website.

It might be an idea to put on these films as part of something with Ray Sutton, but to use the Community Centre anyway, in order to draw attention to it and its facilities.

Ann is going to talk to Whitwick Historical Group and others to see if there is any other film of the village around.

Councillors Report : Dave Everitt and Leon Spence

Public Waste bins - a replacement litter bin will shortly be installed behind Thringstone Bowls club (replacing the one which was installed and went walk about a couple of weeks ago.)

Household bins - Leon received a number of calls from residents complaining about homeowners leaving wheelie bins on pavements either permanently or for several days after emptying. All these have been reported to the council for suitable action to be taken. We are both happy to report such incidents if people let us know, although I must say most people remove their empty bins from the pavement as required at the first opportunity.

Polling station review - every four years the council must undertake a review of polling stations. Comments have been received by the council asking if it would be possible for a alternative to be found to replace Thringstone Primary School (which currently has to close to children on polling day) Officers are investigating whether suitable alternatives may be available. Members pointed out that the alternatives had to be within walking distance of residents and could not be in licensed premises if alcohol was being served. Although there is now the opportunity for everyone to have a postal vote, a large number still prefer to register their vote at a polling station.

Leon and Dave along with our local policeman joined two **council housing** officers in a walk round the council properties in Thringstone. This has been in the past and continues to be a good way to continue improvements in the Woodside Estate and Hensons Lane areas. We were able to highlight problems and discuss them with relevant people. There is a steady improvement but constant pressure from councillors is essential and there is still a long way to go.

I am pursuing a long standing dispute over a **shared footpath**. On the one side we have a privately owned property purchased in the past from the council, on the other a local authority house. While nothing has been done the footpath has become a danger. I hope common sense will provide a solution.

The Planning committee passed plans for **400 houses to be built at Ashby** in a close run decision, in spite of a powerful defence presented with regard to the pollution of the River Mease.

The decision concerning the **hard standing** for access to woodland for tree removal is now subject to an appeal by the De Lisle's.

A question was asked about the **Rose & Crown**. Nita replied that a prospective buyer had finally managed to obtain confirmation from Punch Brewery that they did not own the property. It is owned by the Co-op, but there are no known plans for it development.



The Friends of Thringstone

Winner of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2011

Winner of Gold and Silver RCC Village achievement awards 2010

Awarded Outstanding Achievement Certificate in the RHS Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards 2009

Winner of the NWLDC's Footprint Awards under Partnerships and Community Groups 2009



Stepping out for a greener district

Police report

Burglary - 1

Theft - 3 from phone connection point

Theft from motor vehicle - 1

Common Assault – 1 sorted to complainant's satisfaction

Damage to motor vehicle – 1

ASB – 1 motor bike in woods (same person reported more than once)

Owner causing injury (dog bite) – 1

Nita had a meeting on 4th August with James Broomfield, Jim Sorrel and Jane Espley (Impact Team) to discuss various issues.

- **Litter** - how to reduce the instances of litter, whether people get fined, who fines them and how this is done. The fines are normally done as a result of Streetscene officers from NWLDC seeing it happen. Local groups are not empowered to deal with this but can report perpetual abusers to NWLDC. The suggestion made is to work more with local schools and youth clubs on this, as there is an element of education needed. Nita had found some unsavoury items and goings on whilst undertaking recent daily litter picks. Nita agreed to talk to Jacquie Sykes and to the youth club in Whitwick and the school about the amount of litter being dropped by kids especially at the present during the school holidays, but to praise local people for helping picking up litter and creating a more pleasant environment than would otherwise be the case.
- **Motorbikes** – Jane Espley has suggested that an area of the woods, well away from houses, be set aside for motorbikes to use 2 days a week – say Mondays and Thursdays. This may be followed up. Please continue to report motorbikes in the woods to the Police team for Whitwick and Thringstone (who also cover Bardon and as far as Heather), and copy in Jason Underwood at Kegworth. He will pass the details on anyway to James and Jim, as he has no car and can't come out to see the area himself.
- **Fires in the woods** – the police have had no reports recently, but the fire service have had 5 instances in the last 10 days covering Thringstone Woods, Whitwick woods, Bardon woods and Cademan woods. The police worked with the Impact Team prior to the school holidays on this issue with schools, and intend to do something else in October called Fire Skills.
- **Railings damaged and thrown into the brook at the end of the Sustrans, at the rear of Melrose Road** – the railings had been cut off with a hacksaw. There had been a suggestion that the police should be involved with this and a reward issued to find out who did this. The Police feel this would be a backward step, as it isn't something they could get involved with, and any local group taking this on would be inundated with reports of people doing things when they weren't, and it could lead



The Friends of Thringstone

Winner of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2011

Winner of Gold and Silver RCC Village achievement awards 2010

Awarded Outstanding Achievement Certificate in the RHS Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards 2009

Winner of the NWLDC's Footprint Awards under Partnerships and Community Groups 2009



Stepping out for a greener district

to difficulties for the group concerned. The suggestion is to talk to the de Lisle's as it their land, but to get on with it and mend the railings and put them back as a community, rather than waiting on anybody else to do it for us. Nita was going to go back to John Dickinson and Steve Middleton about this. There was discussion about this problem. Tam asked if Sustrans can be pushed to provide a maintenance contract. Roy Hill asked who could be sued if children hurt themselves. It was agreed that Sustrans put the path in and the NWL District Council promote it as a cycling track, however De Lisle's own the land and have the right to withdraw permission for access. It is therefore a complex issue to be approached with caution. Cllr. Everitt will pursue maintenance of the path at Council level.

From Previous minutes

Gardening update- Bernard said that he was trying to rescue the hydrangeas which were suffering from the drought. He was asked if he needed more help but said he found it difficult to co-ordinate with other people's diaries and would continue on his own for the time being. The watering rota would continue as necessary. It was agreed that one of the best bets for the future for the flowerbed on The Green to survive is to plant it with drought resistant plants. Janet agreed to provide a list of these for perusal.

AOB

- **What is happening with Whitwick in the Park Event** – Nita wasn't sure and would find out.
- **Nesting Boxes** – Roy Hill wanted to mention that it would be an idea to get nesting boxes placed in the woodland, if possible, and monitor and keep records of bird activity. Nita said if she found any suitable funding, this could be persued. Tam said his family had been involved in something similar, and agreed to find out who supplied the boxes etc. The RSPB will not fund this sort of activity. Roy has links with the Loughborough branch of RSPV who could possibly help install these.

FoT Future Events

Weds 14th Sept visit to **Ravenstone Almshouses**. 7pm prompt, earlier if possible. Lifts are available. Please let Nita know if you wish to come and haven't already said.

Bowls match with St Andrew's Church – 26th August 6pm at Thringstone Bowls Club.

Thursday 1st September at the Community Centre - Visit by Lady Gretton for presentation of the Queen's Award.

PLEASE SUPPORT LADY GRETTON'S VISIT BY COMING TO THE COMMUNITY CENTRE UPSTAIRS ROOM FOR 6.45PM SO WE CAN SHOW FOT AT ITS BEST.



The Friends of Thringstone

Winner of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2011

Winner of Gold and Silver RCC Village achievement awards 2010

Awarded Outstanding Achievement Certificate in the RHS Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards 2009

Winner of the NWLDC's Footprint Awards under Partnerships and Community Groups 2009

footprints

Stepping out for a greener district