



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working to improve our village'

Chairman: Nita Pearson

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DETAILS OF PRESENTATION AND MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1st SEPTEMBER 2011 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Lady Jennifer Gretton, Tim Webster, Nita Pearson, Rowena Summers, Andrew Bridgen MP, Ian and Di Bull, Pam and Keith Wraithmell, Janet and David Stevenson, Julia Campbell, Ann Petty, Eddie Henderson, Jean Lee, Joyce Gelsthorpe, Bernard Lee, Ron Hill, Sue Colledge, Ray Woodward, Mike Statham, Herbert and Enid Brooks, Hilary Unwin, Tam Bream, Tom Whalley, Geoff and Pauline Walker and guest, Pam Porter, Chris Mellor, John and Karon Smith, Lindsay Weaver, Jenny and Peter Walker, John Carr, Mike King, Ruth Crockett, Rev Alan Burgess, Colin Porcher, Jo Johnson, Dave and Julie Everitt, Ruth Crockett, Leon and Clare Spence and family

Apologies: Aileen Smith, Tony Gillard, Sue Rowbottom, Richard and Ann Lee, Llynda Baugh, Brenda Simpson, Jo Straw, Roy Hill, Paul and Lis Muller

Nita opened the proceedings by welcoming Lady Gretton and her aide from the Lieutenancy Office, Tim Webster. Jennifer, Lady Gretton, Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire (the Queen's representative), spoke to those people present and her speech is summarised below. She then asked Tim to read the citation on the Certificate and presented Nita with the crystal trophy which has the Queen's insignia holographed inside it, together with a certificate signed by Her Majesty the Queen. An official photograph was taken.

THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2011

Presentation to the Friends of Thringstone - Thursday 1st September 2011



R C C

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Stepping out for a greener district



Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

It is a very great pleasure for me to be here this evening at the command of Her Majesty The Queen to make this presentation of a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

This National Award was established by The Queen to celebrate the 50th anniversary of her coronation in 2002, and is given annually to recognise and reward excellence in volunteering organisations.

Described as the MBE for voluntary groups, the Award recognises outstanding achievements by groups of volunteers who regularly devote their time to helping others in the community, improving the quality of life and opportunity for others, and providing an outstanding service. It sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering.

To have achieved this Award is a great tribute to the Friends of Thringstone, as it is a very significant National Honour.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service differs from the personal honours which Her Majesty bestows, because it recognises the achievement of the successful organisation as a whole. Here at the Friends of Thringstone you have a dedicated and active group of volunteers providing excellent and much needed facilities for the local community. Everyone in the organisation shares in the prestige associated with this Award, and the organisation will of course be able to use the news of the Award in various ways to further promote its already excellent reputation.

I know that this will help you to build on your success and I hope too that it will give a real boost to morale and motivation. Everyone can be rightly proud to be a part of such a valued organisation, especially as you have all helped to create and sustain it.

The assessment of nominations is thorough and the standard is very high, as you would expect of a National Honour. In assessing nominations, the National Award Committee consider whether nominated groups:

- have provided services of a very high quality which meet a particular need;
- have generated a high level of goodwill and respect amongst those they serve and the community as a whole;
- have evolved locally and are locally run; and
- have a proven track record of active involvement in the community.

There were only three awarded to the East Midlands region this year and only one, yours, came to Leicestershire. So very well done indeed!

The Friends of Thringstone is a shining example of how volunteers have given their time and energy to support village life by stepping forward to fill a gap where there is no parish council.



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Lady Gretton went on to list the environmental, historical and social contributions that Friends of Thringstone has made to the community. She said she felt the group has shown the virtues of The Big Society long before it became a concept adopted by Government!

She said that in the course of her duties she visited many these organisations in Leicestershire and was always impressed by so much voluntary effort by people who work tirelessly for the benefit of others. She was so pleased that one of the best examples of the County's voluntary sector is being properly recognised and their work acknowledged.

She said that she was delighted to express thanks to all the members on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen, for the invaluable work you are doing and to offer congratulations to you.

Lady Gretton then toured the room to talk to people about the village and their role in the group. The official party left at about 8pm and a short meeting was held as it was the designated meeting night for Friends of Thringstone.

Chair's report

Letters received

- From Ditch Boulton renewing his membership (lives in Kent). Two other people have joined today.
- From Rural Community Council about their AGM with voting papers to return
- From Voluntary Action Leicestershire with their monthly newsletter

Emails received

- Sent and received to BBC Reel to Reel to organize film event of local film, having managed to get a copy of the U Tube film of the floods in 2002. Thank you to Michael Johnson for this. Event organized for 23rd September from 7pm-9pm. David White will also bring some slides. Event will be before Leicester launch, but will be mentioned in the leaflet being produced, as this is being distributed before the Leicester launch at the end of Sept.
- From EMOHA about various Leicester based sound recordings, passed to Ann
- From Panto Society announcing their panto from Jan 20th – 28th 2013 will be Cinderella
- From Miner's Welfare inviting us to the opening of the development on 6th September. Janet and David Stevenson are representing the group.
- 2 emails via the website – one asking for information on heritage and the other about membership, saying 'I've been increasingly impressed by the fantastic work that the Friends of Thringstone are doing, and as a resident of Mill House Estate have benefitted directly from your hard work.'

Emails sent



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- To de Lisle estates regarding missing railings from Grace Dieu Brook and noting our concern over safety issues. They feel it is NWLDC's job to put this right as they put the railings up.
- To NWLDC regarding whether they recycle cans and bottles left in roadside litter bins. Answer is, at the moment, no, but they are in discussion with a sorting plant that might take the waste, sort it and recycle what can be recycled. They are hopeful that this will be sorted soon. They have also replied about lack of box tops for red boxes and about nets being available and intend to advertise that these are available. They have done their own survey on litter in Thringstone which supports our assertion that cans and bottles aren't just dropped after/during collection.
- To Chair of Grace Dieu Cricket club about fly tipping on their field
- To Panto Society asking for copies of any archive film they have, which is kept by their archivist. Asked for copies.

Promotion

- Promoted Reel to Reel on Leics. Villages and What's On, sent details to NWLDC Heritage Forum, Coleorton Heritage Warden, Ashby Tourist Information Centre and Diseworth Heritage Centre for promotion, and designed poster. Other advertising nearer the date. Promoted Cademan and Swannymote walk on 4th Sept to usual media. Walk in Sept in CV Times 26.8.
- Updated Litter Action UK website

Other

- Meeting at The Meadows to discuss working with them on NWLDC's Respect Challenge if we get funding. Arranged with Brownies to be involved. Idea is to paint existing pagoda and tubs, replant area and look at large flower bed at the front of the site damaged as a result of drainage works. Funding application sent to NWLDC for consideration but work to be donated bench, pagoda, and re-staining of flower tubs already started. Lindsay Weaver suggested that Craegmoor (the owners of the home) make a contribution towards any works carried out.
- Various discussions with members over Rose and Crown demolition
- Whitwick in The Parks. Not enough people to man a stall.
- We have several more followers on Twitter
- Completed newsletter for September. All deliveries will be made prior to 17th Sept.
- Discussions with Friends of Holly Hayes Woods regarding their wish to put on walks
- Sandie and Tony Newton have donated over 100 DVDs, 20 odd videos and about 50 books to the group to sell for fundraising purposes, for which we thank them.
- St Andrew's Church is still in need of donations please. They paid £5,400 in March for the toilet/kitchen works and have had another bill for £2,800 for 'bits and pieces'. If you are able to help, please contact the church direct.

Treasurer's



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Report :

Funds held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£3,249.08		
Income		expenditure	
membership	£ 3.50	garden party dvd	£ 16.00
publications	£ 15.00	admin	£ 3.50
walk	£ 3.00	ink	£ 28.98
donation	£ 11.50		
advertising (May Bauble)	£ 15.00		
bric a brac	£ 5.00		
meeting raffle	£ 11.00		
total income	£ 64.00	total exp	£ 48.48
		Total funds	£ 3,264.60

INCOME-

there is still money to come in from June's walk. This is being chased.

EXPENDITURE - I understand that there is a bill for plants that needs to be paid and I am also expecting a bill for the newsletter.

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY: YEAR TO DATE (31/8/11)

Total monies 1/6/11	£3,327.95				
INCOME	YTD	2010-11	EXPENDITURE	YTD	2010-11
membership	£ 38.50	£ 599.50	newsletters	£ -	£ 203.82
walks	£ 6.00	£ 65.00	admin costs & equipment	£ 102.43	£ 170.94



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events*	£ 233.60	£ 508.31	events	£ 73.86	£ 122.82
publications*** inclvdvd	£ 69.50	£ 242.50	publications	£ 10.00	£ 31.68
donations	£ 17.50	£ 35.20	litter picking etc	£ 10.26	£ 178.45
grants/awards/spons**	£ -	£ ,178.40	plants/bedding etc	£ 30.00	£288.83
christmas cards	£ -	£ 30.00	christmas cards	£ -	£ -
meeting raffle income	£ 32.00	£ 195.00	meeting raffle prizes	£ 4.30	£ 7.52
adverts	£ 15.00	£ 10.00	advertising	£ -	£ -
Booth Book (donations)	£ -	£ 5.50	insurance	£ -	£ 75.72
			equipment	£ -	£ 116.33
			meeting room use	£ 100.00	£ 165.00
other sundries	£ 5.00	£ -	other	£ 149.60	£ 134.19
total income	£ 417.10	£ 2,869.41	total exp	£ 480.45	£ 1,495.30

Two things to bear in mind while comparing with last years' figures:

- 1) We have now completed three months, so, if all things ran consistently and equally we would want this year's 'figures to date' to be at least a quarter of last year's figures – of course they don't, but is a guideline!
- 2) Of course we are actually running a 10 month financial year to end 31/3/12 so will not expect to match last year's figures. (We can, of course, hope to exceed them on income and fail to reach the 83% of them on expenditure!). Though certain areas, specifically the membership figure will be greatly affected by the change in year end as we can really expect few more membership fees until the bulk are due for renewal in May/June 2012. This will be better in the long run but should be borne in mind

Publications report September 2011 - We have had a sale of Born and Bred 1 at the **Community Centre**. There have been no sales at the **George and Dragon**. We have sent six copies of each of our publications to



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Mount St Bernard's Abbey on a sale or return basis for them to display and sell. An invoice has been raised and a cheque in settlement is awaited.

Geoff has also sold three copies of the DVD.

The following sums have been passed to the treasurer.

- Born and Bred 1 @ £4.50

3 - DVDs @ £3.50

Total £15 has been paid in.

6 copies each of:

Born and Bred 1 @ £4.50 = £27.00

Born and Bred 2 @ £4.50 = £27.00

Memories 1 @ £3.50 = £21.00

Memories 2 @ £3.50 = £21.00

Village Trail 1 @ £2.50 = £15.00

Village Trail 2 @ £2.50 = £15.00

Village Trail 3 @ £2.50 = £15.00

Total £141.00 invoiced and yet to be paid.

Our stocks are:

	Community Centre	George & Dragon	Nita	Anne	Stock	TOTAL
Born and Bred 1	3	3	0	2	14	22
Born and Bred 2	3	3	0	2	29	37
Memories 1	3	3	0	2	2	10
Memories 2	3	3	0	2	7	15
Village Trail 1	3	3	3	2	18	29
Village Trail 2	3	3	3	2	17	28
Village Trail 3	3	3	3	2	20	31
Sub-totals	21	21	9	14	107	172

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

Events	Heritage at CC	Community Centre	Nita	Anne
Born and Bred 1	2	1		6



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Born and Bred 2	1			6
Memories 1	1	1		
Memories 2	1	1		
Village Trail 1				6
Village Trail 2			1	6
Village Trail 3				6

Roy had sent along display boards showing our publications and photographs available. These were placed next to the awards and certificates that the group has won over the years.

Web report – John has some updating to do on the website, but it continues to draw interest from people hence the two emails received this week via the website.

Arts and Community Report

10th Sept – local churches are taking part in the annual **Ride and Stride** – a cycling and walking fund raiser for the restoration and maintenance of historic churches.

17th Sept – **Las Vegas Night at Hermitage Leisure Centre**. Live music and fun casino. Complementary food. 7.30pm-late. Tickets £10 for a family of 2 adults and 2 children. More information from Hermitage Leisure Centre

17th Sept – Thringstone House Community Centre - **Lynn Goulbourn (former warden) and Steve Hicks in concert. 7.30pm**. Tickets £5 from the centre.

17th Sept – **Miner's Gala at Snibston**. Friends of Thringstone have a stall there. Come and see us!

19th Sept – George and Dragon – **flower arranging with Alistair**. More details from Pete Gough.

21st Sept – Belton Village Hall – **Clive Carrol – A Thousand Years Of Music** covering from 12th century rounds to Kaiser Chiefs.

23rd Sept – Thringstone House Community Centre – **Reel to Reel BBC film series** – FoT will be showing films of the village and surrounding area from 7pm-9pm. Free admission. Bar open

25th Sept – Thringstone St Andrew's. **Rev. John Bird's farewell service**

26th Sept – George and Dragon - **Cayman Reef Fashion Show**. More details from Pete Gough.

History report - There is little to report this month, other than Ann attended a meeting at Snibston to discuss the Miner's Welfare Event later this month. They were going to offer groups the chance to give talks at the event, but changed their minds.

Nita has had a meeting with Rev. Alan Burgess over the graveyard booklet, and this is now going ahead without a plan of the graves. Nita is going to try to indicate in the text whereabouts the graves are, but all are



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in the old part of the graveyard anyway. Nita is also going to take more photographs before making enquiries as to the cost of publication for the booklet.

Ann had put together several display boards for the evening detailing some of the work of the group since 2005 to date.

Councillors report - August has seen a great deal of activity at the District Council in a number of areas. Dave Everitt and I have reported several issues for officer action, including the following:

- Graffiti removal – racist graffiti located on the bowls club wall has been reported. I have spoken with officers directly to request that this be addressed. They have assured me that action will be taken as soon as practicable.
- Litter / Pet Waste bin – following the installation and unauthorised removal of the previous bin officers have advised me that a secured bin will be installed no later than 9 September.
- Sustrans bridge (missing railings) – We have discussed this matter with officers whom maintain that the maintenance of the bridge is not the responsibility of the district council. Officers believe that LCC are responsible for this – our next step is to approach Cllr Gillard to take this issue to County Hall.
- Talbot Lane traffic calming – Traffic calming and lack of footpaths have long been an issue on Talbot Lane. At the request of residents I have again contacted Cllr Gillard to highlight this problem – no response has yet been received.
- Melrose Road play area – The development of a long term strategic play area on the Melrose Road site is a matter being dealt with by John Richardson. In response to constituent requests I have contacted John to ask him to investigate the installation of lighting to discourage ASB and the possible addition of bike ramps to improve the play offer.
- We have contacted officers to look into the possibility of removing the apple tree (used by some young people to throw apples) on Springfield. On checking my records I note that I have not received a reply from officers. I will chase this up and report to the Chair by e-mail.

Dave and I have also been carrying out various pieces of casework on Main Street, Grace Dieu Road and Brooks Lane.

In addition to the above I have notified planning officers that I will be making a representation to planning committee concerning the application for the development of the Rose and Crown site. I have an open mind on this issue and am keen to hear the views of local people. Leon Spence.

Police Report - PC James Broomfield was on rest days, and CSO Jim Sorrel was at Coalville so was unable to come to the meeting. Nita had spoken to him earlier, and due to volume of work found that he was unable to produce a report for the meeting on crime stats. However, he sent along the following information.



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footprints

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101 –The New (Non Emergency) Number for Quick Access to the Police

101 is the new number to call when you want to contact your local police - when it's less urgent than a 999 call. 101 will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The 101 number began to be rolled out across England and Wales during 2011 from July onwards. In Leicestershire and Derbyshire, it comes into use from October, and in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire from November. To check for availability in other areas visit the website <http://www.police.uk/101>

When to call 101?

You should call 101 to report less urgent crime and disorder or to speak to your local officers.

For example, you should call 101 if:

- your car has been stolen
- your property has been damaged
- you suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood

Or to:

- report a minor traffic collision
- give the police information about crime in your area
- speak to the police about a general enquiry

What is the difference between 101 and 999?

You should continue to call 999 when it is an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened.

What does it cost to call 101? Calls to 101 (from both landlines and mobiles) cost no more than 15 pence in total per call, no matter what time of day you call, or how long you are on the phone. For full information visit <http://www.police.uk/101>

From Previous Minutes

Gardening – Bernard has mowed down Drury Lane and also bought various pansies and other winter plants for the flowerbed on The Green. He will be giving an invoice for this to Lis for reimbursement. All the sponsorship monies from the local business network has now been spent.

The Bowls Match with St Andrew's was cancelled due to rain, but it is hoped to rearrange this later next year.

Any Other Business

Nita read out to the group information about a **community-minded milkman** who has made the Olympic torch shortlist and is looking for sponsorship if he is selected.

The meeting gave **thanks** to the WI ladies for doing such a fantastic job with the catering for this evening's event and presentation. Nita thanked those who had helped with setting the room up and washing up afterwards, and the meeting thanked Joyce Gelsthorpe for the flower decoration and table centres. Nita



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thanked people for their ongoing support and work for the group and for everything they continue to do for the village as a whole.

The flower decoration was dismantled and bouquets made up and sold as were the table centres, with the money for this being donated to Friends of Thringstone for which we thank those responsible.

Next meeting 6th October at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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