



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 APRIL 2012 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Ann Petty, Roy Hill, Janet Stevenson, Dave Everitt, Bernard Lee, Brenda Simpson, Pam Porter, Tam Bream, Leon Spence

Apologies: Rowena Summers, Geoff Walker, Julie Everitt, David Stevenson, Ron Hill, Lis and Paul Muller

Decisions/Discussions: Coalvilletwenty12. We were asked to do a stall at this event which is to celebrate the Jubilee and Olympics on Sunday 27th May from 12 noon until 6pm at Coalville Park, and have paid the £15 stall fee. Bernard, Ron and Ray W are probably available to put the gazebo up, but we need more help to man the stall and form a rota. Nita has the National Forest Walk Festival walk to do that day.

Dave said he could probably help as did Ann and Janet, but **more people are needed.**

Discussion took place on whether to have plants. This will be left with Bernard to sort.

Summer litter pick – The Brownies and Rainbows are willing to help with a litter pick in the summer. We scrapped our idea of having a litter pick just before the Jubilee because of collection issues with NWLDC. We wondered about rescheduling the summer litter pick to be done on Sunday 10th June to then tell the Brownies and the council so that they have plenty of notice.

Pam wasn't sure if she could make that date, but would tell Nita as soon as possible. There was discussion about whether there would be enough litter to collect.

Office equipment – Nita was no longer able to laminate any posters needed, so we now have a laminator of our own, meaning that posters run off can be laminated by ourselves rather than from borrowed equipment. This cost under £30 from Amazon together with a supply of pouches. This will be mentioned in the Treasurer's report.

Several people who have bought copies of the graveyard booklet have shared their memories of the village in passing. As a result, we are considering another taping night, inviting people from the village and beyond to come and chat about their memories. The issue is one of a tape recorder. We have spoken to EMOHA who are willing to lend us one on a very short term arrangement, but



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have suggested we buy our own if we are to continue to do this sort of work, a stance echoed by Whitwick Historical Group. Both have recommended a Zoom HI Handy Recorder which is on Amazon for £79 but we would need a tripod to mount this. Others suggested a PX312 which is about £37.50 from Amazon.

Tam said that we could borrow one that he uses. This is digital, can be downloaded and emailed and also typed up from the device. Nita and Ann will liaise with Tam over this, try to sort a date and get something organized.

Stamp price increase – Given the proposed increase in the cost of stamps, the meeting approved the purchase of 50 first class and 50 second class stamps, for use on FoT communications.

Chair's report

Letters Received:

- From Jan Cufflin asking if we would take part in the **Jubilee flower decorations** at St Andrew's. Joyce Gelsthorpe who did the flowers for the Queen's Awards evening will work on this for us and will be reimbursed for costs. Our hymn based theme for the window will be For The Beauty Of The Earth.
- From **Community Matters** asking us to renew our membership. As we net less than £15k a year, our membership is free. Forms and enclosures completed and sent off.

Emails Received:

- From Voluntary Action Leics., asking us to complete a 6 page **form on our activities** and financial status. Completed with the help of the treasurer and sent back.
- From **Editor of Leicestershire Historian**, the journal of Leicestershire Archeological and Historical Society asking if they can list details of the graveyard booklet in their reviews section. Obviously said yes and gave details.
- From World Wide Volunteering to update details of the group on their website

Emails Sent:

- To committee and others regarding ongoing issues

Promotion

- CV Times 9th March – article on **Smart Meters** and another on **Coronation photos** wanted, but who put in the press release on the smart meters?
- Press release on **graveyard booklet** being available was in the same edition and was in Mercury on 12th March. Promotion for the graveyard booklet has also gone in the St John's and St Andrew's church newsletters. We then got a 4 column spread on page 8 of the CV Times of 18th March with photos promoting the graveyard booklet.
- Coalville Times 23rd March – photo and article regarding **litter pick** with cadets. Photo of litter pick also put on Litter Action UK website and Thringstone page of Leicestershire Villages. Press releases also sent to Lbro Echo and Leicester Mercury about the litter pick, with photos.
- Conversation with Media Trust working on behalf of UK360 about a **Queen's Awards Special** asking for video clips. Thanks to Geoff Walker for helping get a copy of the Footprints Challenge DVD burned allowing me to send something to them in London. This is likely to be shown in early April.



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Other

- Letter of support sent to **Thringstone Bowls Club** as mentioned at last meeting
- Following a request from a relative of someone buried at St Andrew's who is mentioned in the **graveyard booklet**, we have altered the wording on his entry and put notes in the booklets to accord with the relative's wishes. Roy handed out more alteration slips for those who had publications with these.

Treasurer's Report

MAR FIGURES

end Feb 2012	£3,489.76		
Income		expenditure	
<i>Jan donation omitted</i>	£ 10.00	RCC membership	£ 12.50
graveyard booklet	£ 59.10	newsletter	£ 32.60
income against post/admin	£ 1.00	laminator and pouches	£ 25.48
dvd	£ 3.50		
total income	£ 73.60	total exp	£ 70.58
		Total funds end Mar	£ 3,511.28

As you know, 31/3/12 marked the end of a foreshortened financial year for FoT.

Please treat the above month end total as provisional until the March bank statement has been received and the accounts finalised.

Of this month's income (and therefore of the money held) the £59.10 from the graveyard booklet sales is held in a Reserved Fund, to be used on the upkeep of the Booth grave.

Although it looks as if we will have finished this ten-month year with approximately £180 more than we started with, we have not yet had the bill for the production of the graveyard booklets (£ 300).

We are also due some money from the NWLDC for the dog mess sticks - this may have already been paid directly into our account – and therefore be able to be included in the year's figures - but I won't know until I receive the bank statement. It must be stressed that this is an unreal year eg virtually no income through subs. Full details will be presented at the AGM when the annual figures will be presented to you, having been finalised and independently examined.

Publications report – Roy Hill

There have been no sales of our general publications this month. One copy of the Charles Booth booklet has been sold by Nita and she has paid the proceeds to the Treasurer direct.

We have however 'sold' about 39 copies of the Graveyard Trail booklet and one copy of the DVD. Therefore, DVD £3.50 has been paid to the treasurer.

Graveyard trail £45.60 (£7, £14.50, £10.10, £5 and £9) in donations has been paid to the Treasurer.

Our stocks are:

	Communit	George	Nit	Ann	Stoc	TOTAL
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	y Centre	& Dragon	a	e	k	
Born and Bred 1	3	3	0	2	14	22
Born and Bred 2	3	3	0	2	29	37
Memories 1	3	2	0	2	2	9
Memories 2	3	3	0	2	5	13
Village Trail 1	3	3	3	2	15	26
Village Trail 2	3	3	3	2	15	26
Village Trail 3	3	3	3	2	18	29
Sub-totals	21	20	9	14	98	162
Photographs					15	15

June 2011- May 2012 sales

Events	Heritage at CC	Communit y Centre	Nit a	Ann e	Intern et	Other	G&D
Born and Bred 1	2	1		6			
Born and Bred 2	1			6			
Memories 1	1	2		6			
Memories 2	1	2		7			
Village Trail 1		1		6			2
Village Trail 2			1	6			2
Village Trail 3		1*		6			1
DVDs			5			8	
Photographs						9	

* = May have been stolen

Web report

There have been no updates carried out on the site since February.

Arts and Community Report

St Andrew's Church



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Timed to fit in after the school/pre-school run, a new group called **Me Time** is now at St Andrew's from 9am onwards every Thursday. The idea of this group is a weekly meeting place for parents and carers. Parents/carers can come with or without their toddlers.

Thringstone Miners' Welfare now has a dedicated website, which is <http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/thringstoneminerswelfarefc/>

27 May 2012 - 16-20 **under 10's teams** to compete for the Jubilee Cup.

Entry is only £20 per team and is certain to be a fun filled day with stalls, bar, bouncy castle, sweet stall and event photos all available on the day as well as being able to experience some great 7v7 football.

For application form and rules please email : craigyrose@yahoo.co.uk

Thringstone Community Centre

21 April – Honeyman – a **centre stage play** from 7.45pm. Tickets available

22-26 May – **Stepping Out, The Musical**. All performances start at 7.30pm. Adults £7 Tues-Thurs £8

Friday and Saturday. Tickets on 01530 834575

George and Dragon

23 April – St George's Day celebrations

5 May – W2 – Nick Wallbank, singer and guitarist

Forward planning 14 July – Danny Fisher as Roy Orbison. Not to be missed. 9pm start.

Hare and Hounds, Whitwick

Sat 7 April = Phil Carr – singing hits from the 50's, 60's, 70's

Sat 21 April = Calling Time = live band folk / rock

Families and Dogs welcome, Beer Garden now open. Guest Ales available.

Century Theatre

6 April – 7.30 My Week with Marilyn. £3.50

20 April – 7.30 War Horse. £3.50

History report

Ann has looked at **deeds** relating to the cottages next to The Wheelwright House.

There is a talk at Leicestershire Records Office in Wigston on 18th April on **historic maps** and current rights of way in Leicestershire from 3pm-4.30pm if anybody is interested in going. This talk will encompass details on the enclosure act, tithe maps, estate plans etc. Booking is essential on 0116 305 7348.

28th April at County Hall sees a **free heritage event** from 10.30am-4.15pm. Included in the talks is one about Village Voices, in which we took part.

Steve Lee from Sibley rings regularly to see if we have acquired any photographs of

Thringstone Halt. Does anybody have any pictures of this railway point? Nita intends to put out a press release to see if that brings anything forward. Tam said that he might have some photos at the family home, and would have a look and see what help he could give.

Ann has been given some **Coronation photos** by David White in order to put on a display for the Jubilee at the Community Centre in June. Ann has also received further copies of the complete **Village Voices** recordings made last year.



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Ann is attending a Heritage Forum Event on 18th April and intends to talk to the group about the **WW1** research done in the village so far.

Nita had an email from Jane Biro at **English Heritage** confirming that their website with details of our blue plaques, and other approved plaques throughout the UK, is about to go live, and asking us to check information. The website link to us will show the village sign, the plaque at The Old Forge, The Manor House and the bakery in Grace Dieu Road.

Nita had a visit from Roland Gough, uncle of Pete Gough, who has a lot of information on the **Gough family** in Thringstone and Whitwick. Ann subsequently borrowed his records to copy them for the group. Nita has added to this information following further research which was shared with Pete Gough.

Nita has been accessing copies of the **1911 census information** for landlords of pubs and beer houses in the area. We now also have copies of the census for Grace Dieu Manor in 1911 (minus Charles and Mary Booth who were away), Thringstone vicarage in 1911 and Thringstone House in the same year. All copies of these have been sent to Ann for the archives and in the case of the George and Dragon, shared with them.

Nita had a call from Derek Whitmore from Whitwick Historical Group who has allowed us to scan 10 copies of mint condition **funeral cards from St Andrew's** which have been passed to Ann for our archives. These cards relate to Lily Else Mann, Thomas Moore, Jonathan Gee, Wilfred Loakes, Hannah Mann, James Mann, Mary Ann Gee, Herbert Grainger, Elizabeth Ann Mann and Charles Mann and mostly date from about 1900.

Councillors' report

March has seen the end of the financial year at London Road and by now you should all have received your Council Tax bills for 2012/13. If you have not, please contact the Revenues team at the Council urgently.

The big issue this month at the Council, and which was unanimously agreed upon, is one which will not become immediately noticeable. A few days ago under what is called HRA reform the Council took a loan of £80 million pounds in order to become outright owners of our council houses. It is important to note that the loan will be paid for through council house rents and not from any other sources. The loan will be paid back in at most 30 years (more likely around 18 years) and in due course its biggest effect will be to improve the quality of our housing stock which is of course great news for tenants. It also makes it much easier to build new council housing in the coming years.

Turning to play improvements around Melrose Road, I am delighted to let you know that a consultation exercise will be starting imminently on how best to spend the available £30,000 on facilities. Hopefully by getting the consultation exercise started so early in the financial year we will see the benefit of improvements this summer.

Looking forward April 24 will see an extraordinary meeting of full Council to consider the Core Strategy – NWLDC's main planning document for the next 25 years. The Strategy looks to approve the total numbers of house building across the district and where that should take effect. It will also look to finalise the Council's position on major issues such as the Green Wedge and Strategic Distribution. At the moment the proposed document is still going through fine-tuning but it is undoubtedly true that it will affect Thringstone (and all other parts of the district). To look at the report keep on checking the Council website or attend the meeting on 24 April.



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Finally, we have increasingly been receiving complaints from local residents about bins not being taken in in a timely fashion after emptying.

Can I ask everyone to please put out and take in bins when they should be (ie promptly). Whilst we are more than happy to represent any and all residents it is clear that bins left on the footpath or road cause a great many neighbourly disputes which could be resolved so easily by being considerate to each other.

Have a happy Easter. Leon Spence Telephone: 07828 194768 E-mail: cllrleonspence@gmail.com
Web: www.leonspence.com

There was discussion on the delivery of **The Vision magazine**. Roy Hill said that he had only received his copy that day, and there were two events which had already passed which he would have liked to have attended. Cllr. Spence will feed these comments back to the Council. Further discussion took place on the cost of the Vision to produce, and whether it was worthwhile. Tam suggested that a survey take place to see whether people valued it or not. Leon said he had done a sample survey on his blog, and the result was a 50/50 split.

Bernard wanted to know about the **satellite dishes** which were serving flats on Melrose Road. Some seemed to be linked up and others not, and wanted to know who provided these, and why they were not provided to houses. Cllr. Everitt will check to see who put them up, but was aware that some were not working because of cables disappearing.

Bernard also wanted to know if Councillors were aware of letters having gone to residents whose gardens backed onto the old **Henson' Lane Play area**, but nothing seemed to be known.

Police Report from Jim Sorrell

Theft 1 x cable from electrical supply

1 from shed where occupants have moved out. 1 suspect awaiting a caution

Theft from stores – 2. Suspects who were given penalty notice of disorder

Damage to motor vehicle 1

Other damage 1 under investigation still. This relates to window at club.

Not included are the theft of clothing from a house on the Woodside Estate which was not reported to the police, and the appearance of fire engines 3 times in the last month, including one where police attended at Bull's Head entrance last weekend. 4 naked youths had also been seen at 6.30am last weekend walking out of the woods along Springfield.

Gardening and environment

Nita has received notification that certain presently **permissible paths** in the county are likely to be withdrawn from public access as a result of Government funding for them coming to an end.

There are over 65 of these time-limited permissive paths or access areas in the county, provided under various agri-environment schemes. Most agreements last only 10 years so are not on Ordnance Survey maps. Details of sites are on the web at: <http://cwr.defra.gov.uk>.

Nita planted some extra **daffodil bulbs** near Springfield. These lasted a fortnight before someone pulled them all up, bulbs and all, and left them in a trail down towards The Bull's Head. Since the start of the Easter school break, many daffodils down by the **church wall** have been broken and thrown about.

It was agreed that daffodils would look nice down Millbank and also on Talbot Lane and were more likely to survive being picked if planted in an area where fewer people walked.



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The Air Cadets have said they might be able to help with moving the **flowerbed on The Green** later in the year, but need notice to organize this. There was some discussion about doing this earlier, and digging out the new bed whilst the old one was still in place.

The WI bee friendly garden in Swannington was mentioned as a possible way of combating drought conditions. It is constructed with a liner and deep gravel for low maintenance and sustainability. Bernard has a lot of plant plugs coming along for planting out ready for the summer. Pam Porter agreed to look at self-sustaining and low maintenance planting, and will talk to local nurseries to see if any sponsorship is available and to Janet about how the WI did their work in Swannington and liaise with Bernard about when work could commence. Nita would then discuss this with the Air Cadets and others who might want to help.

FoT litter pick with 10 members of the 1188 Air Cadets on 17th March saw a staggering **38 bags of rubbish**, plus TVs, broken tables, chairs, cushions, bike tyres and wheel rims, buckets, shower screens, a fire extinguisher, sit up machine, chicken wire, a car bumper, a saw and other such rubbish collected from the village in a 3 hour period. A huge thank you to the air cadets for their work and their exemplary attitude, and thanks also to Ruby's who supplied us with free drinks when we bought a chips and sausage lunch for the lads. Many thanks go to all members who helped. This is the most that has been collected on a litter pick since 30th Oct 2008 when we had 2 skips and worked with Coalville Army Cadet F squadron and the Explorers, and spent all day clearing the woods. We informed the de Lisle family of the litter pick and they are intending to write to the Cadets to say thank you. Thanks also to the Bream youngsters for collecting 3 bags of rubbish from the brook the day after our litter pick.

In the last 11 months, FoT and helpers have cleared in excess of **1,000 bags of rubbish** from the village, which is absolutely staggering, and shows the depth of commitment of our membership to keeping the village tidy.

Tam felt that latter figure should be more widely promoted than just within the group, on facebook and twitter, but there were concerns that by promoting this work, it would make Thringstone look to be an untidy village. All agreed that the area is beautiful and should be looked after, and Cllr. Spence said that we had a lot to be thankful for in the area.

Flytipping - Nita has spoken with Paul Coates, of waste management at NWLDC, who has suggested that any large items found dumped on housing estates be reported to the council rather than removed in a litter pick. This is because extra cost is incurred in their tipping this at landfill. They also have requested that we report the types of items collected in a litter pick so they can come out with the right lorries. A suggestion of taking photographs showing any dumped items (flytipping) seen on the estates to send to the Housing Department was made. Discussions had also centred on whether FoT might consider doing what other groups do and getting skips if known large articles are to be collected (who pays for that?) and whether we should look for another pick up point rather than one near to open woodland where articles can then find their way onto private land. There was a mattress already in the brook near to the broken railings which started off as part of our recent litter pick but this may have moved in the last few days to deep in the woodlands. There was considerable discussion about whether it was right and proper for **volunteers** to be asked to take photos of flytipping on housing estates, and the type of help offered to voluntary groups by NWLDC. Furthermore, the work that waste management are currently doing on the A42 was discussed. This has been the full team of NWLDC's litter pickers working a 7 day week over an 8 week period



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The waste officers had said they were going to talk to the housing department about various issues on the Woodside estate, and would try to get someone out to clear between the garages in the courts reported a couple of months ago.

Cllr. Spence agreed to talk to senior management at NWLDC about issues raised, and also asked for confirmation details of issues raised specifically with waste management which did not appear to have yet been dealt with so that he could follow this up.

Students from **Castle Rock High School** have been attending environmental workshops and are now tackling a dog fouling campaign to reduce the incidences of this happening across the area.

The work to provide the **hardstanding on Turlough Road** corner to allow felling of trees within Grace Dieu Woods has now started.

Jubilee Events for the summer – update

A list of events which had been supplied by Mike Statham was read out.

- 26th May at the Primary School Jubilee Summer Fayre open to all
- 27th May The football club were organizing Under 10s Thringstone Jubilee Cup Championships
- 30th May The Bridge Club will be holding a Bridge Evening with proceeds to the East Midlands Air Ambulance at the Members Club
- The Bowls Club will be organizing a Jubilee Tournament but due to the work on the Green this may be later in the season

During the Holiday weekend events include:

- Best decorated house competition with cash prizes
- 2nd and 3rd June - Flower Festival at St Andrew's Church
- A dance at the Members Club
- 1st-3rd June Beer Festival at the George and Dragon

Also being arranged are:

- FRIDAY 1st June - Mums & Toddlers Group tea party at the Miners Welfare Primary School Tea party and commemorative coin presentation open to pupils, staff, carers and parents
- SATURDAY 2nd June - WI Craft See and Do (Come and try) with teas at the Methodist Church Hall 2-4pm
- SUNDAY 3rd June - Springfield/ Heathfield 'street' Party Residents only 1-5pm
- MONDAY 4th June - Jan's Ramble - Approx 2 mile walk from the Community Centre ending with a shared picnic in Bob's Closs
- TUESDAY 5th June - All day - Village Treasure Hunt - Clue sheets from the Community Centre £1 entry
3pm - Community Centre Tea party, followed by a singalong of Songs from the Shows organized



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- by the Drama and Pantomime Society
Evening - Scout BBQ on Bob's Closs
- All weekend at Thringstone House Community Centre - exhibition by the Art Group and the FoT photographic display of Thringstone in the 1950s

Thringstone Members Club is putting on a Jubilee Dance on Saturday 30th June from 8.30pm-1pm.

There was considerable discussion on the Jubilee event, and the fact that there were still queries in the programme regarding times, cost etc. Janet suggested that the programme should include details of our group's litter picking and planting in the run up to the event.

It was understood that the date for copy deadline/changes/additions to the programme being printed by the centre is 2nd May and that the final programme is not to be distributed around the village until the week commencing 14th May. This was felt to be far too late as people needed to know what was happening in April, not a matter of 2 weeks before the event weekend.

Ann Petty said that she had not been contacted yet about manning her photo display over the bank holiday weekend, and Janet reported that the WI event had been wrongly titled. Nita agreed to write to Mike Statham with details of these items and giving details of all the concerns raised.

AOB

Tam said he was proposing to organize a garage sale for people on Grace Dieu Road to take place on 1st July. He would be providing signs etc. to promote this.

Next meeting is at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre on Thursday 3rd May 2012.



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