



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 MAY 2012 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Ray Woodward, Bernard Lee, Geoff Walker, Roy Hill, Tracy Foulds, Carol Squires, Pat Hubbard, Dave and Julie Everitt, Janet Stevenson

Apologies: Cllr. Leon Spence, Sue Rowbottom, Pam Porter, John and Karon Smith, Jack Tugby, Fran Skinner, Lis and Paul Muller, Doreen Gough, Tom Whalley, Mike Statham, Ron Hill
2 new members were welcomed to the meeting.

Decisions/Discussions: Preparations for Coalvilletwenty12. This event is on 27th May and we have to be there to set up at 8.30am. Bernard, David, Ray and Janet and possibly Nita will help set up. Janet agreed to collect stuff for sale from Nita on the Saturday night beforehand. Ann Petty said she would help with the stall, as did Dave Everitt. Ray Woodward said that he would sort out collection of tables from the Centre. Bunting is needed for the stall. Janet said she would investigate getting some of this either from an online facility or locally. Ann said she had a red, white and blue tablecloth she could bring.

AGM It was decided not to have a BBQ at the next meeting which is the AGM. Members are encouraged to bring food to eat so there is a social gathering afterwards.

Church wall – A boundary wall needs rebuilding backing on to the first house past the Church on Main Street. The church has had an estimate for £2,500, so this is the next big project that St Andrew's needs to fund raise for. Two proposals of help from FoT were put to the meeting, and it was agreed that we give £100 to this fund. It was also agreed we would ask whether the house owners are giving any money towards the cost of the rebuilding or not. Nita will ask Rev. Alan Burgess.

Methodist Church - Nita had been led to believe that the future of the Methodist Church and hall are in danger due to low congregation numbers. It was agreed to promote the fact that the hall is available to hire by contacting Arthur Sykes on 223054. There is a t'ai chi class running from there, plus the WI meet there, and there is also a singing group set up on a Wednesday morning, who hope to be able to go round nursing homes offering a song. Anybody who is interested in any activities at the Methodist Church should go along and talk to them direct.



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Chair's report

Letters Received:

- Copy of Rural Community Council's **Village Events and Guided Walks** brochure 2012 in which our walks are featured.

Emails Received:

- From NHS asking me to check **walks details** sent out to publications etc. All OK.
- Various emails on several issues – see under relevant sections below

Emails Sent:

- To committee and others regarding ongoing issues
- To NWLDC giving monitoring and evaluation details on **Graveyard Booklet** which is a requirement of the funding we received.
- To all members about recent thefts from **cars** of their catalytic converters.
- To Thringstone House **Community Centre** expressing sorrow that nobody wants to be part of their management committee after the AGM in the summer.
- To **Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club** offering to help promote anything they wish to send through either for The Bauble or for meetings.

Promotion

- 10 April – **Leics. Mercury** - details of our litter pick with the Air Cadets
- 13 April – **Coalville Times and Lbro Echo** – article on our 1,000 bags of litter picked up in 11 months 19April – **Shepshed Echo** – photo of litter pick and thanks to Ruby's for the free drink
- Added details of next litter pick to **Litter Action UK** site
- Nita has been asked by **BBC Radio Leicester** to help arrange to hide a clue in the village on 6th May as part of a live treasure hunt broadcast. This has been arranged with someone to hide the clue behind a blue plaque. The programme will go live on the day from 9 until 12pm and Thringstone will be 'on' at around 11.15ish

Other

- Joined us to www.Helprecycle.com
- **Bauble** for summer 2012 written and printed and added to the Litter Acton UK site

Treasurer's Report

Figures for April 2012

Funds held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£3,473.53		
Income		expenditure	
membership	£ 17.50	stamps	£ 41.00
donations	£ 3.00	printing (graveyard book)	£ 300.00
NWLDC (dog litter sticks)	£ 31.66		
publications	£ 5.00		
graveyard booklet	£ 1.50		



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total income	£ 58.66	total exp	£ 341.00
		Total funds	£ 3,191.19

(includes booth grave fund £60.60)

We have now received the bill for the graveyard books and money from the council to pay for the dog litter sticks. Membership subscriptions have started to come in. The end of month figure last meeting (and the opening figure this report) are confirmed as the end of 'year' figure for the accounts. Last year's accounts are now with David Stevenson for examination prior to the AGM.

Publications report – Roy Hill

The Community Centre has sold one copy of VT2 this month and received a donation for one graveyard booklet. We have also 'sold' two further copies of the graveyard booklet. I have given Jan Cufflin six booklets to sell but I have not yet checked with her whether she has had any success. I have carried out a stock check and found some display publications missing. I can no longer top up the Memories One or Two brochures as we are out of spare stock ourselves; the stock figure shown below for Mem. 2 and 2 relates to those retained in a box for sale at events only. We have about 200 graveyard booklets still available plus those at our outlets. Therefore £3 will be paid to the treasurer for two GY booklets, £4 has been paid to the Treasurer for one VT 2 and one GY booklet.

Nita said she was investigating who had the proof copies of the Memories booklets – whether this is John Dickinson or Pukka Publishing, as it would be useful to have these back.

Our stocks are:

	Community Centre	George & Dragon	Nit a	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	2	0	2	2	9
Memories 2	3	3	0	2	4	12
Village Trail 1	3	3	3	2	15	26
Village Trail 2	3	3	3	2	13	24
Village Trail 3	3	3	3	2	17	28
Sub-totals	21	20	9	14	94	158

June 2011- May 2012 Sales

Events	Heritage at CC	Community Centre	Nit a	Anne	Internet	Other	G&D
Born and Bred 1	2	1		6			



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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		2	1	6			2
Village Trail 3		1*		6			1
DVDs			5			8	
Photographs							9

* = May have been stolen

Web report

The website was down for a while but John has now been able to update all areas, including put on photos, newsletters, added links to the Miner's Welfare website, and put on March and April minutes. Many thanks John for your hard work. The site is now totally up to date. Nita had expressed an interest in learning how to input things onto the site, but having been advised of the process has been unable to give John future assistance.

Arts and Community Report

4 May – **Century Theatre, Snibston** – The Iron Lady. 7.30pm

5 May – 11am, Wesleyan Chapel, Whitehill Road, Ellistown. **Plant Sale and Seed Swap.** £1 entry. More details from 456071

Ray Sutton's lectures at Thringstone House Community Centre at 2pm for May/June are:

9 May Pushkin's Duel 16 May The Art of Gwen John 23 May Realism in 20th Century Painting

30 May The Arts in the 1970s : Cultural Closure? 6 June Dutch Art and Culture in the Golden Age

13 June Culture and Imperialism

14 May – **St Andrew's ladies group** have Denis Baker as speaker talking about the History of the Co-op

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

26 May – **St Andrew's working party** morning 10am – 12 noon. Refreshments provided to anybody who wants to help.

27 May – **FoT walk** to Cademan and Swannymote woods. 10.30am from The Green. £3. Come and learn the history of the area.

27 May – Coalville Park – **Coalvilletwenty 12** event where FoT have a stall.

30 May – 7pm. **Coleorton Bat Walk and BBQ** – walk through the New Lount Nature Reserve and see bats. Booking essential on 07717 182905



RCC

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Please see full details from the Community Centre's leaflet regarding all the events in the village geared around the **Jubilee** which will be delivered around the village soon.

2 and 3 June – **Woodhouse Eaves Open gardens weekend**. 20 gardens will be open from 2pm each day. More details from David Barker on 01509 890224.

2 and 3 June – Thringstone **St Andrew's Flower Festival** at which FoT will have a display. Church open 2nd June 9.30am-10.30am and 1pm-5pm and Sunday 2-5pm. There will also be a 10am Sunday Thanksgiving Service.

6 June – 7.30pm Thringstone Community Centre – Steve Woodward presents **Wildlife at Grace Dieu Priory**. £2.50

Until 10th June – **Snibston** – Drawn To Danger. The work of 5 artists who have been in Iraq and Afghanistan.

16 June – **Moira Furnace** - 2pm-3pm – a talk on Child Labour in the Victorian Era. Tickets £2.

30 June – 8.30pm-1am - Thringstone Members Club **Jubilee Dance** to Gee 'n' Us. Tickets £3 from the club.

6 and 20 July – **Moira Furnace** - 7.30pm-9.30pm – a tour of Moira Furnace Museum by night. Tickets £4. Booking essential from the museum.

History report

On 5th June (Tuesday), we are putting on a mini **Heritage Event at Thringstone House Community Centre**, and will be there from 2pm-5pm with archive information and displays for people to take a look at things. This has been advertised in The Bauble. It also works well with 1-7 June being **National Volunteering week**.

Ann has attended the latest Heritage Forum meeting, and discussed Thringstone's part in the project to promote all **Leicestershire military heroes from WW1**. The final drafts for inclusion in booklets is required by Dec 2013, and the next meeting will discuss the setting up of local groups to get a booklet organized and displays and exhibits in the area.. Thringstone will link with Ibstock and Swannington in all probability. We have considerable details on WW1 soldiers already, but are intending to write to the Coalville Times to ask if people have relatives who were involved, and ask for any photos, letters or whatever to scan to include in our own archives in the first instance.

Ron Goacher has supplies various copies of information on baptisms, marriages and press releases connected to **Gough family history**. These have been copied for our archives, and copies given to Pete Gough at the George and Dragon and his family tree updated, taking one line back to 1645.

We are going to try to set up a **Reminiscence Group** in the village which could, potentially, link into taping people talking about their memories. One person has already expressed an interest in this and has others who might also be interested. We have contacted The Meadows nursing home to see if residents there might have an interest and are awaiting a reply. We wondered whether to put together a **Reminiscence box** with items in such as, for example, a gas mask to help conversations. Any items members have to donate to us to add to this box would be welcome.



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Ann has been speaking to a local lady whose family goes back several generations. She has agreed to look out some photos and other items relating to her family, who mostly lived on **John Street**, to add to our archive collections.

We have an interest in finding out more about **Lilybank Barn**. We are led to believe that a previous owner had papers showing a connection with the priory (or at least a nunnery), and wonder if this is the background to the names of the Glebe Farm Estate (Tithe Close, Priory Close etc). Nita has emailed someone connected to the property to ask for any information they have on this and they have agreed to help provide any information they can.

Heritage Lottery funding is supporting applications for amounts ranging from £3k to £10k for projects called All Our Stories. This has a deadline for applications of the end of July and is for community groups to look at all sorts of ideas, including recording stories of people, scanning documents and photographs, looking at archeology, putting on events to explore people's memories, investigating street names and various other things. It will also link groups to help which will be available from academic researchers. People who are granted funding will have to produce things like

- Community events Digital things like smart phone apps, DVDs or websites
- Display boards Exhibitions
- Guides/trails Leaflets or books
- Packs for schools Performances

Having considered the things we already do and what else we could do, it has been decided to put in for £3k of funding. We will see how we go on this.

Councillors' report – Cllr. Leon Spence

24 April saw a packed chamber for an extraordinary meeting of the council to debate the approval of a core strategy for North West Leicestershire. The core strategy is a massively important planning document which outlines proposals for housing and industrial development in the district up to 2031.

The predominant reason for tabling an extraordinary meeting was to be able to address major speculative applications by developers across the district, perhaps most notably at Stephenson Green (Whitwick Green Wedge).

Ultimately, after a long meeting, the core strategy was approved. Members are advised by officers that this will afford the best protection to the green wedge when the planning inspector makes his recommendation later this year. However, there are many items within the strategy which will be of interest and possible concern to residents. Issues which local people will undoubtedly be interested in are proposals to build at least 4,500 homes (9,700 district wide) around Coalville (including Thringstone) over the plan period, proposals to redefine green wedge between Thringstone, Whitwick and Swannington as open countryside and infrastructure proposals including the removal of a Bardon Relief Road affecting traffic movements from the M1 and Leicester. A formal consultation process with local people will commence later this month prior to the strategy being sent to the planning inspectorate for scrutiny.

Turning to happier matters, if anyone is considering last minute plans for a jubilee street party (in addition to the fantastic events being held elsewhere around the village) please remember that if you want to apply to close roads that the last date for making an application to the council is Monday 14 May. Full details of how to apply for road closure are available at www.nwleics.gov.uk.



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

Cllr. Everitt and Cllr. Woodward gave a brief explanation of the areas in Whitwick classed as areas of separation and what was locally classed as countryside, and also discussed the recent problems experienced by people as a result of the heavy rain. Some people had sewerage and other things come into their gardens as a result of too much pressure on the system. NWLDC claim they have had no reports of floods and the person who used to be responsible for this at the council had left. Flood wardens are in place to report to the council about issues affecting them. Concern was expressed over certain areas in the future if houses were built on land presently acting as flood plains. It was agreed that Severn Trent knew about issues, but had no funds to be able to rectify the situation, and the onus where new build was concerned should lie with the developers to ensure a satisfactory infrastructure so that people didn't have issues when there is heavy rain. If people want to know more about the core strategy and how it affects individuals, please contact your local councilor.

Police Report from Jim Sorrell

Nothing received

Gardening and environment

Pam has not been able, thus far, to find anybody to sponsor **drought resistant plants**, but will try again. Having written to them in January, Nita left a message for the **Local Business Network** to ask if they had decided whether to sponsor our flowerbed for another year, but has heard nothing, so presumes this means they are not. Bernard will remove their sponsorship sign and Nita will get it back to the network.

Pam reported to the council that the **Council's dog foul notices** had come loose at the bottom of the Sustrans trail on Grace Dieu Road. The council have now replaced with bigger and better signage and added more signs.

Bernard reported that he was cutting the grass down Drury Lane, and the motor in the **mower** stopped and there was a lot of smoke. He got this going again, but it may be there is a problem with an oil seal. If so, the mower will have to go to be repaired.

A person down Hensons Lane asked what was happening with the **natural area** by 181 Main Street where wild flowers haven't flourished, and there is a lot of grass. Bernard has cut and strimmed the area before and still no wild flowers came through, so feels we would be wasting our time ordering 1kg of seeds for £40 from Emorsgate Seeds

(<http://wildseed.co.uk/mixtures/category/meadow-and-grassland>) . The meeting agreed.

Two members have **donated some plants** for which we thank them. These have been put down by the church wall..

The next **FoT litter pick will be SUNDAY 10th June at 10am** from The Green with the brownies. All welcome. The Council are aware, but have said they might not be able to arrange pick up until the Tuesday.

Following comments made to her, Nita asked the County Council if there were ever any plans to grass the Council mowed verge at the front of the **Badger's Croft** development which has no



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grass on it, just weeds. Cllr. Gillard has replied that council details give no reference to a grass verge in existence (although they do mow this...). Having discussed this with Bernard, we decided to try to put some grass seed down in this area, which is currently a mass of weeds, just so it looks better.

Brian Woodward of **Aggregate Industries emailed** saying he has about 12 people willing to help us move the flowerbed (mixture of men and women), and asking for dates etc. They have now agreed to help us dig out the flowerbed on 16th May and possibly move some planting over (to be agreed with Bernard at the time). This will start at 9am. They have indicated they may be able to help later in the year when we move the remaining plants over and get rid of the soil and reurf. Janet wondered whether it would be good to bring some drinks/sandwiches to the group as a thank you. Nita will talk to Janet and others about this nearer the time, as it would be a nice idea.

Following the **heavy rain** on 29th April, there is considerable blockage to the arches of the small stone bridge in Grace Dieu Woods (back of the school). Nita has raised concern with various parties, and hopes that a working party might be able to be arranged to help remove debris, which includes a fridge. Various trees were also brought down in the woods, but these have been removed where they were causing obstructions.

Ann was working with folk from **Friends of Grace Dieu Priory** who were clearing the pond there, and went on a litter pick collecting 2.5 bags of rubbish, including from the grass verges on the A512. Thanks Ann.

Nita was filmed on 24th April **Landmark films** litter picking, as part of a pilot film to go to the BBC looking at the problems of litter in this country. 5 people nationwide were filmed for this pilot film and Nita was one of these. 6 children from the Woodside Estate were also filmed, 3 collecting litter with Nita around the play area, and 3 talking about what they had been taught at school about littering (parental consent forms completed). Thanks to Bernard for letting Nita empty her full bag of cans in his recycling bins and for waiting in his car to leave whilst Nita was filmed talking in his driveway.

Nita has also been speaking to officers at NWLDC about whether they might think of arranging a **day of litter picks** for all groups and organizations involved in such things so that it generates more publicity for the district. It would also follow on from the NWLDC's award winning Don't Muck Around Campaign last year. The reply is that they are looking at a similar campaign for later in the year, after The Olympics, and will see where they go with the suggestion but Charnwood Borough Council with whom they work on the campaign had already put this idea forward for Charnwood. Someone reported to Nita about flytipping on the Woodside Estate. On investigation this was because of **missing dustbins**, leading people to put their rubbish in bin liners which the refuse collectors will not take away. The Council has been sent photographic evidence of other flytipping on the estate.

Jubilee Events for the summer – update

St Andrew's need people to man the church for the flower festival over the weekend period. If 2 people can do an hour, there is a list at the back of the church. St Andrew's contribution to the **Street Party** on Tuesday June 5th is two bowls of fresh fruit, so any extra contributions would be gratefully received on the Tuesday morning.



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It was previously reported that the Community Centre would be open all **weekend** for the Jubilee. This is not now the case. The centre will only be open on Tuesday for the Heritage Display and event, the street party, treasure hunt, Sing a Long etc.

The street party for Springfield/Heathfield has been organised, and the group arranging this are waiting for people to return forms so they know how many residents are likely to be attending.

AOB

Carol Squires had concerns over disposal of energy saving lightbulbs, as these contain Mercury which, if allowed to go into landfill could pollute the ground. She had made a number of calls asking how to dispose of these items, and had been told she needed to go to Whetstone near Leicester to do so. It is, however, understood that these can be left at the tip on Ashby Road in Coalville, where there is a special box for them. The meeting wondered why shops who allow people to bring in used batteries did not offer the same service for energy saving lightbulbs.

Next meeting : June 7th, 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre. This is the AGM, Please bring food if you want to have a social gathering after the meeting.



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