



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 2 AUGUST 2012 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Rowena Summers, Ann Petty, Janet Stevenson, Dave Everitt, Pat Hubbard, Tracy Foulds, Bernard Lee, Ron Hill

Apologies: Nita Pearson, Lis and Paul Muller, Roy Hill, Cllr Leon Spence, Geoff Walker, Geoff Wilson, Ray Woodward, Robert Jordan

Chair's report

Letters Received:

- Summer edition of the Village Voice magazine received. Nothing particularly of local interest.
- Form to complete to the Woodstock in Whitwick organization for small donation to help with our history projects. Done.
- Letter from Woodstock in Whitwick asking for a raffle prize. One donated
- From Heritage Lottery asking for a further signature on the declaration regarding All Our Stories so the submission is filled in by a different person to that signing the declaration. Lis Muller signed as treasurer. The form was returned by recorded delivery and has been acknowledged

Emails Received:

- Various from NWLDC and others regarding ongoing issues
- From National Lottery regarding our All Our Stories submission

Emails Sent:

- Various to members, committee, councilors and agencies about ongoing issues
- Completed survey regarding Volunteer's Week 2012

Promotion:

- Article in Echo of 6 July regarding our pubs project
- Article about pubs project also in Coalville Eye July edition, as was editorial about Thringstone House' bridge club and Thringstone Co-op Women's Guild

Other



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- Finished the next Bauble which has gone to print and will need delivering before the first week in September. If anybody has anything they want to go future Baubles, please tell Nita. If anybody wants to put a small paid advert in for the Christmas edition, the rate will be £10 for members and £15 for non-members.

Treasurer's Report

Funds held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£3,706.65		
Income		expenditure	
raffle	£ 9.00	postage	£ 3.65
membership	£ 3.50	ink cartridges	£ 24.99
donations	£ 1.50	flowers for jubilee (ch)	£ 44.40
publications	£ 2.50		
total income	£ 16.50	total exp	£ 73.04
		Total funds	£ 3,650.11

A quiet month!

Although the total is down at the end of the month; we have more in the bank than we did at the beginning of June – the Jubilee church flowers should have come out of last month's accounts but we have only just had the bill.

Money held for the graveyard booklet to go to the church for the upkeep of the Booth grave is currently £98.81

Publication Report – Roy Hill

We have had our stock of memories 1 and 2 supplemented by 20 and so I have been able to replenish the stocks at the G&D and the Community Centre.

We have made no sales at the Community Centre but have sold one copy of Village Trail 2 at the George and Dragon. I have also replaced their display copy of Village Trail 1 that had disappeared'. The Church have 'sold' some graveyard trail booklets for £7, but as always because this is a donation I am unable to quote the actual number sold. Therefore the following payments will be made to the Treasurer - £7 for Graveyard Booklets from the Church and £2.50 for a VT 1 from the George and Dragon.

STOCK REPORT

	Community Centre	George & Dragon	Nita	Anne	Stock	TOTAL
Born and Bred 1	2	3	0	2	14	21
Born and Bred 2	2	3	0	2	30	37
Memories 1	2	2	0	2	20	26
Memories 2	2	3	0	2	24	31
Village Trail 1	2	3	3	2	13	23
Village Trail 2	2	3	3	2	10	20
Village Trail 3	2	3	3	2	17	27
Graveyard Booklet	10	5	15	10	183	223



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Sub-totals	24	25	24	24	311	408
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Web report

Nothing to report this month. The website has not been updated since April.

Arts and Community Report and What's On

- Congratulations to **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society** for winning an award from The County Council as part of their Queen's Jubilee Awards project.
- The application for a grant from Sport England's Inspired Facilities to upgrade the facilities at the **Thringstone Bowls Club** has been successful and they have been awarded the sum of £49,482. The Inspired Facilities fund is part of Places People Play, Sport England's Olympic and Paralympic legacy fund, which aims to bring the inspiration of the London 2012 Games to every community in England. By receiving Inspired Facilities funding, the club now have the Inspire mark – celebrating the link to the London 2012 Games. The Award will provide Thringstone Bowling Club with new ladies and gentlemen's changing areas, a children's changing room and disability access, a covered spectator area with seating, lighting around the green enabling the green to be used during sociable hours in the summer evenings when the nights begin to draw in, CCTV coverage to increase security of facilities and the provision of a perimeter pathway around the green to improve safety. With the upgrade in the Club's facilities, the project will offer a better quality bowling (and social) experience, and together with recent improvements to the clubhouse and green, the club hope to be able to increase club membership and to meet their aim of becoming more involved with the local community, especially to develop working partnerships with schools. They eventually would like to set up a Junior Section within the Club. It is hoped to commence construction on the new club developments on 1st October 2012 and complete by the beginning of the new bowling season in April 2013. As part of the agreement with Inspired Facilities the construction groundwork and perimeter pathway will be done by volunteers from the Club, whilst external contractors will complete the rest of the upgrade.
- **Whitwick Handbell Ringers** are looking for interested learners who can practice on a Monday or Tuesday morning. They wish to start in September if 9 people can be found. If you are interested, please contact Janet Stevenson on 458257 or email dj.stevenson7@ntlworld.com
- Geoff Walker, together with Kirsty L Savory from St Andrew's, has written, and has in print, a booklet of poems, entitled '**Modern Bible Poems**'. They are £4 each with the profits divided between Kirsty's 6th form education and LRI Our Space appeal, which is a proposed unit to treat teenage cancer patients, for whom Geoff is a fundraiser. Check out other details <http://www.modernbiblepoems.co.uk>

4 August - **Thringstone Live For Charity** – George and Dragon. Acts are 1pm - City Of Dan
2pm - Del Sharron's 3pm - No Way Back 4pm - Concrete Kisses 5pm - The Fore's 6pm -
Crooked Angels 7pm - The Woo Woo's 8pm - The Up Beatles 9pm - Jonah Fish 10pm –
Albert's Shirt

4-12 August – **Art Exhibition** at Thringstone House Community Centre. See outside signage for opening times. Entrance is free.



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- 6 August – **St Andrew's Ladies Group** speaker – Helen Rose- Beading evening. 7pm start
11 August – **Woodstock in Whitwick** at the White Horse.
1 Sept – **Whitwick Picnic in the Park**
3 Sept - **St Andrew's ladies group** – speaker Jon Sketchley from Hermitage FM. 7pm start
8 Sept – **Snibston Miners' Gala**
30 Sept – **Hermitage FM Craft and Collectables Fair** – 10am – 4pm at Coalville Town Bowling Club

For those interested in history

8 September 10.30am – 5pm.- St Joseph's Field, Oaks Road, Oaks in Charnwood, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 5UP is the site for an event called **Charnwood's Secret RAF Unit**. This field is on the Mt St Bernard Abbey road, just below Abbey Grange.

This event is a recreated layout of the Coalville Outstation of the RAF's top secret unit 80 Wing (Signals), based around a conserved WWII blast wall structure that housed a trailer with coded radio transmitters. 80 Wing's task was to sow confusion to our enemies, achieved by transmissions that interfered with the Luftwaffe bomber navigation beams. A full interpretive display will be featured, and a special commemorative plaque will be unveiled. St Joseph's tearooms is adjacent to the field. Please park in St Joseph's tearooms and walk to the field – approx 100 yards.

History report

- Ann has continued to work with the **Art of Reminiscing project** to find photographs of Thringstone to send along to the project which is interested in how people lived in the past, and especially what they wore. She also attended the Heritage Forum meeting on 18th July and brought back copies of Ravenstone's History Walk leaflet.
- Ann has taken the roller banner to **Snibston Museum** and put it with one for Friends of Grace Dieu Priory in the foyer area as part of a history promotion on until September.
- Nita has continued to work on '**the pubs project**' and spoken to various people in the village and others on the phone, including a couple who now live in Wakefield. She has also contacted a lady in the USA, via email, about her family connection to a pub and as a result, Ann supplied some photos of her family to send to her, as she said she had none. We continue to be helped by Ron Goacher who lets us have copies of press releases from the past, and would like to thank Pete Gough for all his help with this project.
- We have been given a copy of the **commemoration booklet** produced when The Fox reopened in 1955, complete with 14 photographs. This will now go into our archives.
- Nita found some old photos of the **Thringstone Carnival** on 12 August 1989 on The Green. These have now been donated to the archives. Do any other members have any photos like this which they would like to donate?
- **East Midlands Oral History Archive** has been asked to put the videos from Migration Stories on You Tube so the website can link to them, so this is the link to the 'Moving South' video that Friends of Thringstone did - <http://youtu.be/wMadnQaR5zM> . However, the Migration Stories website hasn't been updated yet. They hope everyone will be ok with this and asked that we let people know. Adam Gall's final comment about not being English was put at the end of a compilation that was played at the final event and everyone thought it was very good!



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Councillors' report – Cllr. Leon Spence

Please accept my apologies for my absence at this month's meeting. I am down in London at the Olympics, I hope you are all enjoying them as much as I am.

- First up this month is the issue of **Sunday bus services**. As many of you will know Arriva have cancelled their regular service through the village. I have been in contact with both the bus company and Leicestershire County Council to see if there is any possibility of reinstating this highly valued service. Regrettably this schedule is an entirely commercial service (i.e. it receives no subsidy from LCC). At the present time the County Council is looking to reduce the amount routes are subsidised and is not looking to take on new ones. As such until such time as Arriva deem the route to be financially viable there will not be a Sunday bus service.
- On the subject of transport and roads I have received a number of calls about the **speed of traffic** on Talbot Street (and Talbot Lane) as it enters Thringstone. I have been in contact with the County Council to ask them to look at what mitigation measures may be available (particularly around The Avenue) but they have informed me that this spot does not match their criteria for action. I have now asked for the matter to be listed at Whitwick Parish Council with a view to making a formal representation to the County Council.
- Moving on to **Council Tax Benefit**. The Government has introduced changes to the way in which Council Tax Benefit is paid for. As such from April 2013 all local councils will have their own benefit assessment scheme. Whilst the exact scheme has yet to be devised (and will be subject to consultation next month) the one thing that we can be certain of is that benefit claimants (with the exception of pensioners) will see their benefit cut from next April by around 20%. It is vitally important that anyone affected by this starts budgeting for the change now.
- A number of **council house tenants** have been contacted about various home improvements scheduled for them under the decent homes programme. As previously recorded here the programme is to bring houses up to the nationally recognised decent homes standard. We understand that the work can be very inconvenient and if you do have any difficulties please don't hesitate to contact your local councillors who will be happy to represent you.
- **Melrose Road play area consultation** - In broad terms the consultation exercise resulted in a clear majority of respondents favoring a combination of improving existing play equipment, improving child safety and introducing more seating for parents. As such we agreed with officers to move away from the idea of skate and move towards these ideas. Officers have been tasked with drawing up design ideas and just as importantly liaising directly with immediate neighbours. They will be doing this over the coming weeks.
- Dave has been working very hard to address the unsightly state of **The Fox site**. As a result the council's enforcement team are now in contact with the owners of the site to ensure that it is at least secure and tidy until development starts.

At this point there was general discussion about the state of the site, why couldn't something be done to tidy it and get it all sorted, and Dave explained about the owners of the properties being based abroad. There was also discussion about the property on the corner of Brooks Lane/Thornborough Road which has been derelict for about 20 years.



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- Building work on **The Rose and Crown** site to produce a new Co-op is hopefully starting in September with an opening date, hopefully, of March 2013.
- There have been issues with the **drain** by 164 Loughborough Road and further down by The Bull's Head overflowing. This was reported to the County Council but appears to be a Severn Trent problem, and allegedly stems from an issue with a manhole on Thringstone Members Club car park. This is being investigated by Severn Trent who have a substantial backlog of this sort of work to sort out..

Aside from the above we have been doing various casework on The Green, Grace Dieu Road, Heathfield and on Glebe Road.

Finally for this month I would like to say a huge well done to Thringstone Bowls Club who have just received £49,482 from Sport England to improve their facilities, a fantastic boost for the village.

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

www.leonspence.com

Police Report from Jim Sorrell

Theft = 2 both of which are plant related

Theft from stores = 1 which has been dealt with through restorative justice (letter of apology and payment for 2 chocolate bars).

Theft from motor vehicle = 4, 2 of which were insecure and 2 to be investigated.

Please remember that the good weather does invite people to leave doors and windows open and this is a time that we see an increase historically of burglaries and theft from cars that have been left insecure. "Lock it or loose it" is the theme we are pushing.

Gardening and environment

- Bernard has been busy weeding, trimming and sorting our planted areas. He has also reported that about 40 geraniums, and possibly two shrubs, planted down by **the church wall** have been stolen. This is not the first time that we have had planting stolen from down there (or vandalized). If anybody knows who is doing this, please report it to the police who have been informed and there is a crime number. The police intend to do house to house enquiries and told The Coalville Times with whom Nita and Ron Hill met this week for a photograph to be taken to go with an article. The police have also put something on Twitter asking for help identifying who steals our planting.
- Having spoken to Mr Lakman at **Thringstone Off License** about his bin outside – not being emptied often enough, too much in it which then causes litter to blow about the streets and not wanting to push the rubbish down because of dog poo bags in it – this was all reported to NWLDC who are monitoring the situation and that of litter in John Street. It was, however, noted that within 3 days of being emptied the bin was full again.
- During July, from records we keep on the **Litter Action UK site**, we cleared the 2000 bags of litter collected mark, which relates to bags collected since we started in 2005. In one week alone in July, 30 bags were collected by Nita alone, mostly recycleables and shows the difference nice weather and school holidays makes to litter being dropped.
- Someone continues to **dump bags of bottles** and cans in the bin near the Loughborough Road/Melrose Road top junction. These can all be recycled. Someone from Whitwick has also been using this bin to put in various rubbish, including dance shoes and course notes. The bin by the bus shelter on Loughborough Road is also currently being used for



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household waste. These issues have been reported, as was some flytipping on Loughborough Road which was immediately removed by NWLDC.

- Someone is doing a **tidy in the woods** on a fairly regular basis and leaving the rubbish they collect on the Bull's Head car park by the sustrans track. At the end of July, 8 or 9 bags full of rubbish, plus the contents of a dustbin were left there and it isn't us or Friends of Grace Dieu Priory. This rubbish then disappeared within a day, but wasn't collected by NWLDC, so no idea who does it and who picks it up to take to the tip, but thank you.
- Ray Woodward had a meeting with NWLDC regarding things in bags not been collected by dustbin men. We have been assured that, once reported to NWLDC, any black bin liners left on **grass verges** or outside properties will be picked up. If things are not moved quickly by NWLDC, they have requested that they be moved to somewhere safe where officers can look through the rubbish to see if they can identify who owns it and has left it out. The council is also intending to do an education programme on recycling and waste management with tenants and investigate the known problems areas for a couple of weeks. Subsequently, we got an email from NWLDC as below:

'We are trying to tighten up our processes with regard to dealing with reports of litter and flytipping. As part of this process could I ask you to please report further flytipping incidents and incidents of people littering from cars etc, to the call centre initially on 01530 454545 or email customer.services@nwleicestershire.gov.uk as they will log the incident on our corporate system. This will then be investigated by the Street Action Team, who will then issue instructions to the appropriate team for clear up. This will ensure all reports are recorded and dealt with in a proper and prompt manner.'

- As a result of this, various things, including items such as soiled duvets and pillows and carpets were reported to customer service having been **dumped**, the former two things allegedly by a woman with a wheelbarrow. These were removed within a day by NWLDC who have said that they have alerted the football pitch area as one to watch at the monthly beat team meetings, as they have had other issues there, including the setting fire of the mattress last month. There is currently a torn child's paddling pool dumped on the grass verge by one of the houses on Melrose Road. This has also been reported, and passed to the Street Scene officers for action.

AOB

None. People were invited to look round the art exhibition currently on at the centre.

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



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