



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Ray Woodward, Cllr. Leon Spence, Bernard Lee, Pam Porter, Ron Hill, Janet Stevenson, Geoff Walker, Robert Jordan, Ann Petty

Apologies: Roy Hill, Gillian Bates, Sue Rowbottom, Lis and Paul Muller, Rowena Summers, Dave and Julie Everitt

Discussions/Decisions: Funding for Thringstone Methodists – Thringstone Methodists have their 150th anniversary next year and would like to be able to refurbish the interior of the church and hall prior to this, but having spent over £2,000 on re-rendering and painting the exterior, have no funds to do the interior. They have asked for our help. It was agreed that we give them £100, as we gave that to the play group and St Andrew's.

Increasing the number of Bauble's printed - We need to increase the number of Bauble's we have printed from 1650 to 1680 which will result in a marginal increase in printing costs. By increasing our print run, we will still be able to have spare copies at the Community Centre, The Meadows, The George and Dragon and Whitwick coffee shop. The Committee feels that this is a warranted extra cost and the meeting agreed.

Community Centre Quiz Night – Thursday 8 November 7.30pm – Can we put a team together of 6 people? We already potentially have 5 - Nita, Rowena, Lis, Geoff and Ray W and so are 1 short. Cost is £3 per person to include supper and needs to be paid in advance please to Nita. If you want to take part, please let Nita know.

Funding success: Nita put in for money for reprinting of brochures etc. to the fundraising committee for Woodstock in Whitwick and we were successful in our bid. We are likely to receive something in the region of £300 from this group, for which we thank them.

Chair's report

Letters Received:

- From **Voluntary Action Leicestershire** with list of current members and asking for new trustees to put themselves forward



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- From **Community Centre** enclosing forms for completion for the next 12 months useage of the centre. Done. Also information sent on the need for any electrical items brought in to have a PAT certificate.
- From **Rural Community Council** inviting us to their AGM and awards evening. Declined.

Emails Received:

- Various from NWLDC and others regarding ongoing issues
- Invite to **Green Footprints meeting** to discuss sustainable transport, but unable to go as it clashes with another meeting. Nobody else available to go in my place.
- From lady who we have helped with **historical information** on her great grandfather who lived at the George and Dragon thanking us for everything we have done, which added considerably to information she previously had.

Emails Sent:

- Various to members, committee/councilors/agencies about ongoing issues
- Returned survey to Tennyson Insurance about how our policy renewal was handled this year.

Promotion:

- Updated various websites with details of our next **litter pick** which is on Make A Difference Day.

Other:

- **Bauble** given to people to deliver before 8th September.
- **Bowls match** – it appears there was talk about us taking part in a bowls match with St Andrew's during August. Thringstone Members Club was approached about doing food, but nobody talked to us or the church about this, so we told the Members Club it was off.

Treasurer's Report

Spending money - During the last month, the Committee have been discussing plans for the future which will reduce our bank balance. This potentially includes a possible event next year, extra money needed when the grass down Drury Lane is removed and we plant bushes, the possibility of having to have matched funding for various bids, and the purchase of a digital recorder if our All Our Stories submission is refused. Members will be consulted fully as these things progress.

Financial statement after August 2012

Funds held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£3,650.11		
Income		expenditure	
raffle	£ 6.00	publications (<i>Memories</i>)	£ 26.40
graveyard booklet	£ 7.00	planting	£ 5.00
donations	£ 10.00	raffle prize	£ 1.56
publications	£ 10.00	wine (snibston event)	£ 30.08
		portfolio album	£ 4.99
total income	£ 33.00	total exp	£ 68.03
		Total funds	£ 3,615.08

Total income so far this year (since 1/4/12) has totalled £749.76 and expenditure £654.92; on top of that, the graveyard booklet has now brought in a total of £105 for the Booth grave fund. That



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looks good, but you should bear in mind that the membership fees are all in now (excepting new members recruited).

Publication Report – Roy Hill

Roy has not done a report this month. However, Nita reported that she had sold copies of all the village trail booklets, and £7.50 had been given to the treasurer. Lorraine has reported that there have been no sales this month at Thringstone House Community Centre.

Web report

There have been problems with the access to the website this month due to a hardware failure. The meeting felt it is a matter of concern, however, that the website has not been updated since April. Nita agreed to talk to John about the updating personally.

Arts and Community Report and What's On

- **Thringstone Live For Charity** raised £1,500 last month to be shared between Rainbows, Thringstone and Coalville Scouts, and Thringstone Community Centre Play Group.
- **Grace Dieu Priory** is likely to be holding a carol concert on 7th December this year. This means we must not put our **Carols Round The Tree** on the same day. We are probably looking at 14th Dec and Bernard has already spoken to Margaret Staley about a tree.
- **Thringstone's Vicar**, Rev. Alan Burgess, has now moved. His parish includes Swannington and Whitwick, and he is now based at Whitwick Vicarage, 37 North Street, Whitwick, LE67 5HB. If you wish to ring him, his telephone number is now 813268.
- **150 years of worship at St Andrews** - 2012 is the 150th anniversary of St Andrews Church and want memorabilia or photographs of baptisms or weddings for an exhibition to celebrate this occasion. Please get in touch with Maureen Simm on 01530 223288 or email standrews09@virginmedia.com if you are willing to loan something for this exhibition. Nita has discussed this with Ann to see if she can help.

8 Sept – **Snibston Miners' Gala** – come and see our stall there

8 Sept – 10am – 6pm **Ride and Stride** will be visiting St Andrew's and dozens of other churches including Whitwick St John. (Visits various historic churches and can be on bike or walk)

8 Sept – Moira Male Voice Choir at **St Andrew's**. 7.30pm. Tickets £5 on the door. All proceeds in aid of the Church Building and Restoration Fund.

8 Sept – Sequence dance at **Hermitage Leisure Centre**. 7.30pm-9pm. Same runs again on 22 Sept.

8 Sept – **Family fun day** 12 noon til 5pm at The George and Dragon in aid of Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. BBQ, Bouncy castle, face painting, hook a duck, raffle etc.

8 Sept – Rendell and Dennis Dee at **The George and Dragon** – Motown at its best. 9pm

8 –10 Sept – **Flower festival** at Holy Cross, Whitwick to celebrate 175 years of the Parish of Holy Cross. Open Sat 8 Sept 10.30am-5.30pm, Sunday 9 Sept 10am-5pm, Monday 10 Sept 8.30am-4.30pm. There will also be refreshments and a display by Whitwick Historical Group in the parish rooms, and a massive celebration led by Bishop Malcolm McMahon held at 7pm on Monday.

9 Sept – **Vintage Coach Trip** from Ashby around transport heritage sites of NW Leicestershire. £10 per person inc. morning coffee, luncheon and afternoon tea. Booking through Ashby Tourist Information Centre on 411767.



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- 15 Sept – Morgan Perkins as Frank Sinatra at **The George and Dragon**
15 Sept – Mixed Martial Arts Event at **Hermitage Leisure Centre**
16 Sept – **Whitwick Miniature Railway enthusiasts rally day.** 11am-4pm
16 Sept – **St Joseph's Team Rooms**, Abbey Road, Oaks in Charnwood – 1pm-4.30pm Steam Exhibition and cream teas
22 Sept – Paul Jones remembers the 60s at **The George and Dragon**
23 Sept – **Grace Dieu Priory** working party to clear the site of unwanted things etc. 10am
28 Sept – BBQ and bluegrass music at **The Lady Jane, Whitwick** 8.30pm Free admission
29 Sept – **St Andrew's Church working party** to tidy the site etc. 10am – 12 noon.
30 Sept – **Coalville Town Bowling Club** craft and collectables fayre. 10am-4pm in aid of Hermitage FM
30 Sept – **Churches Together** Service at 6pm at Methodist Church, Hall Lane, Whitwick (opposite the Post Office). Everybody welcome.
6 Oct – **Whitwick Methodist Church's** 40th anniversary. Broomleys Choir in concert 7pm. Tickets £6
7 Oct – **Whitwick Parish Church** Harvest Festival Service at 10am.
19 Oct – Jive Aces Rock and Roll Night at **Conkers** – 7.30pm. Tickets £15 per person
26 Oct – **Hermitage Leisure Centre** Quiz and Fish and Chip Supper. 7pm-11pm
24 November – **150th anniversary concert** at St Andrew's. More details nearer the time.

Century Theatre, Snibston

- 8 Sept – **Talon:** Eagles tribute band. 7.30pm. Tickets £15 in advance or £16 on the door
28 Sept – **The Sounds of Simon** – a tribute to Simon and Garfunkel. 8pm. Tickets £12 advance, £14 on the door
26 Oct - **Nick Toczek**, shows and fun workshops. Varying costs - half term family value. Contact 278444 for further details.
19 & 20 Oct – **Mercury** – Queen Tribute band. 7.30pm. Friday tickets £15 in advance and £17 on the door, Saturday tickets £16 in advance and £18 on the door.
17 Nov – **Bon Jovi UK** – The Tribute band – 7.30pm. Tickets £13 in advance £15 on the door.
24 Nov – **Lucy Ward and Green Fortune** – folk artists. 7.30pm. Tickets £8 in advance, £10 on the door

History report

- Nita wrote to Mrs Hugill, the granddaughter of **Charles Booth** to inform her of the amount of money collected towards the **renovation of the grave**. She rang to say she feels that the family cannot be responsible for organizing the renovation work, but feels that certain people may well want to contribute to the work needed, although she is aware that some of the younger family members may be financially unable to do so. She will discuss this with her family and ask them to add monies to the cheques they will be sending her for the cost of the trip to Thringstone and the meal at Grace Dieu school which is taking place in October during half term week. She will be in touch when she has more information. In the meantime, St Andrew's, who had an old quote of £1,562 to clean it, add biocide, repoint, polish and wax and repair 100 letters and replace 12 missing letters, tried to get updated quotes in February from that firm and another. By May, the firms who quoted had not replied, and Jan Cufflin subsequently contacted Loughborough Memorial Stonemasons who said that the grave is now beyond restoration and that a completely new stone slab is



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recommended, which is not possible since the grave is listed. This information was forwarded by St Andrew's to James Gore-Brown some time ago, and nothing further heard, but the church's stance is that it is up to the family to upkeep and renovate the grave. Nita has spoken to Norman and Underwood in Leicester who undertake work on Grade 2 listed monuments, sent photos of the grave and is awaiting contact from them with details of the cost, which can then be forwarded to Mrs Hugill in advance of the family's visit in October. NWLDC have said that there could be a grant available from Coalville Specials if we put in for this on behalf of the family. However, until a cost is known and the family is 'on board' this cannot be carried forward. It is also more than probable that any work would have to be approved by English Heritage before being started, as the grave was Grade 2 listed under list entry 1067842 on 12th Sept 2002. Leon said that he has a contact at English Heritage and could speak to them if required.

The meeting felt it important for the grave to be properly repaired and maintained, as it is of great interest to people and something of which the village was proud.

- Thanks go to Tam for letting Ann and Nita borrow his digital recorder. As a result, Ann has taped Pam Spence talking about her family and her father in particular. This has been typed up and the tape will be downloaded and sent, eventually, to **East Midlands Oral History Archive**.
- Nita also tried to tape someone in a phone call to Nottingham talking about his memories of the village, but the quality of the tape is poor. This related to **the pub project**. Nita has received quite a bit of help from members in tracing 'missing landlords' and learnt a lot of useful information from them, but more is needed on the landlords of the pubs. Photographs may also be forthcoming for our archives.
- We received an email from a lady trying to trace her grandfather's family and ideally looking for some film known to have been taken of him. This request was passed on to **Whitwick History Group** as they were essentially a Whitwick family. They have been able to help her and found out some interesting information in return

Councillors' report – Cllr. Leon Spence

August is typically a very quiet month at the District Council as most committees go into a summer hiatus. However this August has bucked the trend with lots happening that will affect residents of Thringstone.

Most notably, and something I am sure you have all heard about by now, we have heard the fantastic news that at long last the **Whitwick Green Wedge** has been protected following an unsuccessful appeal by developers to build on fields between Whitwick and Coalville. The announcement by Eric Pickles to reject the application was widely celebrated locally and I am delighted to thank politicians of all parties, local residents and most notably the steering committee of the Whitwick Action Group without whom the result could have been very different.

A note of caution, however, is that amidst the celebration we should be mindful that the developers do still have two options open to them. Firstly, they could appeal that the decision of the minister erred (but only on a point of law), and secondly they may object to the emerging core strategy at public inquiry stage. However for now we must see this as a major battle won.

For the last month I have been in contact with various agencies outside of the district council in relation to a number of matters which are affecting Thringstone.

Firstly, I have been in communication (sometimes a little heated) with Leicestershire County Council asking them to clear **drains** around the entrance to Springfield which is resulting in



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standing and stagnant water. After the latest round of 'discussions' I am pleased to say that an external contractor has now been out to the site and the problem now appears to be resolved – a little over two months after the event!

Some residents have reported to me issues relating to vermin and sewage emanating from **the brook** running at the back of Coverdale through Grace Dieu Road and on into the woods. I have been in contact with the Environment Agency to demand that they address the matter. To this point, as far as I am aware, no action has been taken and I will continue to push for resolution. At this point, Ray Woodward said that he had also spoken to Severn Trent about this issue, and they had been out.

I have also been in contact with East Midlands Housing Association asking them to clear the overgrown **jitty from Booth Road to the church**. Despite speaking with them several weeks ago I notice that the problem has not been resolved as such I will be approaching them again this week. Turning to good news I have been working with **Thringstone Bowls Club** in support of their plans for improvements to their facilities. Planning applications have now been made and hopefully, when passed, we will see fantastic new facilities for the start of the 2013 season.

With regard to the **Rose and Crown** I am aware of rumours that the Co-op build has been delayed due to the discovery of bats. Throughout the life of the project I have been in regular contact with the developers and they have confirmed that they did a bat surgery and found bats. Mitigation measures have been agreed and a bat licence applied for, and consultations are taking place with Natural England with a decision being likely on 27th September.

Aside from the above Dave and I have been carrying out casework throughout the village.

As always if you need any assistance from your councillor please don't hesitate to contact either of us and we will be happy to help. Leon Spence www.leonspence.com cllrleonspence@gmail.com
Telephone: 07828 194768

There was some discussion about **damaged signage** at Main Street (by Gail's hairdressers) and on the Springfield/Heathfield junction. Both have been reported to NWLDC. Leon will chase this. Nita also reported concern expressed by a lady about housing repairs, several cases of dog fouling were discussed, and concern expressed over a mattress on the Woodside Estate which has yet to be removed. Leon will investigate further.

The matter of the **Woodside Play Area** was then discussed.

There had been 27 people replied to the resident's consultation, and the result is as follows:

Question No. 1 - I support a wheeled provision on Melrose Road.

Yes - 12 44% No - 15 56%

Question No. 7. I support new play equipment on Melrose Road.

Yes - 18 67% No - 8 30% Unsure - 2 3%

Question No. 8 - I support any play development on Melrose Road.

Yes - 20 74% No - 6 22% No answer - 1 4%

Taking into account these results and peoples comments throughout the consultation period the decision has been made to spend the £25,000 on new play equipment for the 8 -14 year olds, to the right of the existing play area. Although 44% of people were in favour of a skate park, more were in favour of new play equipment. However the vast majority of people wanted to utilise the money to ensure the village of Thringstone got something.

A number of comments were made about safety, so a small wooden rail will be placed towards the edge of the grassed area to stop children just running into the road. There will also be two benches placed inside the existing play area for parents of children playing on the equipment.

A breakdown of the spending will be



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- £20,000 On 4 new pieces of play equipment for the 8 - 14 year olds
- £ 2,000 On a small wooden safety rail, for safety reasons
- £ 1,000 2 benches inside the existing play area
- £ 2,000 On a fenced area behind the goal at the back of the Rangers club

The plan is for this work to be carried out over the next 5/6 months with the idea being that the new play equipment will be ready for use early 2013.

The Council officers will be working with a focus group of young people from the village to discuss and decide on the play equipment that will be installed on the area and would welcome comments from residents regarding this proposal.

Leon mentioned the fact that the council have put in a bid to try to introduce **food waste recycling**. This would involve the provision of extra containers, and change the way glass is currently collected – clear glass and coloured are currently separated, as there is more money in recycling clear, but if the new system comes into place with food waste, the glass will stay mixed which will lose revenue. However, there are markets for food waste and this new procedure could increase the percentage recycling targets.

There followed considerable discussion on the merits or otherwise of recycling non-table food waste.

Police Report from Jim Sorrell

The Police did some house to house enquiries regarding the **theft of our plants** from by the church wall, and got nowhere with this, so closed the case. They are making enquiries about ways of preventing further thefts in the future. Nita also reported that someone in Melrose Road had had their car pelted with stones and smeared with excrement. This had not been reported to the police by the people concerned.

Reported figures for the 30 days up to and including 3rd September are:

Theft from Motor vehicle= 2 1 van found abandoned in Derby and returned to owner. No suspects and no witnesses
1 one motor bike found and investigations ongoing.

Damage = 3 2 windows smashed during the night. No witness and no suspects. Outer panes of glass only broken.

1 damage at a farm. Several suspects being dealt with through restorative justice that has been agreed by all parties. 4 suspects, all under 14 years of age.

Theft = 1 From a shed - a bin and a very old sun lounger total value about £15. No suspects or witnesses.

Burglary (attempted) =1 Rear door of a property forced open. No entry gained, nothing taken. No suspects or witnesses.

This is 7 crimes that may be seen as having an impact on the local community. Again I would like to state that this level of crime for an area this size does seem to be bucking the general slight increase in crime that we have seen over the rest of the Local Policing Unit.

Gardening and environment

- A friend of Janet Stevenson's has donated a lot of **plants** to replace those stolen from down by the church wall, for which we thank her. Bernard has now put these in place.
- **Bernard** has been busy deadheading plants, mowing, weeding and tidying our planting area, including down Drury Lane, which is still being frequented by dog walkers who refuse



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to clear up after their animals. Bernard will shortly start looking at getting new shrubs for this area to dispense with the grass, which should deter animals from fouling down there as well as making the area easier to maintain.

- There is a website called www.naturespot.org.uk and if you go on there, you will find a page dedicated to recording the **flora and fauna** etc. at Grace Dieu. As yet, there is nothing on there for Bob's Closs in Thringstone or Holly Hayes Wood in Whitwick. This has been mentioned to people connected with these areas for them to consider putting something on line if they see fit. Most of the entries locally came from Loughborough Naturalists.
- **Yellow Daffodil Bulbs** have been purchased to go in around the Thringstone sign from Whitwick to augment those already planted there, down by the bottom of Whitwick Moor on the entrance to the village there, and down by The Bull's Head where previous daffodils don't appear to have survived too well. These areas are now high in foot traffic, so hopefully the daffodils won't get picked or vandalized. Bulb planting will take place in about a month. If anybody wants to help, please see Bernard.
- **NWLDC are advertising litter picking packs.** Anybody interested in one of these packs should contact Ruth Mulvany on 454600 or email ruth.mulvany@nwleicestershire.gov.uk. The packs are for individual 'silent litter pickers' who pick whilst they are out and about, and includes advice and hand gel, a high viz tabard, a litter pick grab and a sticker to put on the black household bin so that the bin men know any extra waste is legitimate. It is a separate thing to the community litter picks supported by NWLDC. If anybody therefore wants one of these packs to help the work carried out by FoT, please contact Ruth direct. In the meantime, we are discussing with Ruth advertising her service in the next Bauble. Nita has also asked where the council get their supplies of hand sanitizer and whether some of the dustbin stickers could be provided.
- **Next litter pick on 27 October** – Nita is trying to see if Princes Trust or another organization like this will work with us on the event litter pick morning.
- There has been a marked increase in **litter this month**, with over 100 bags being collected by Nita alone. Most noticeable has been the increase in litter on the Melrose Play Area and the football pitch at the rear of Thringstone Bowls Club, and also the amount of glass bottles smashed, including some in and around the play area itself. These incidents were reported to NWLDC who cleared the glass within a day. There have also been bottles smashed in the road over the last weekend in Main Street and on Loughborough Road. Ron said a friend of his from out of the area said how lovely it was to see a village so devoid of litter, and thanked the group for their work in this respect.

AOB

1. **Closure of Whitwick Ward at Coalville Community Hospital** - Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust is intending to close the Whitwick Ward at Coalville Community Hospital and the Grace Dieu Ward at Loughborough Hospital. The Whitwick ward deals with frail and elderly people, and is constantly full, which shows demand for places by people locally. A recent review taken by the NHS showed that 27% of patients there could have been cared for at home if an enhanced community service were available (although no cost comparisons are available). The proposals are that home care workers be recruited and trained up to provide home care and the ward closed, with some staff currently working on these wards redeployed or perhaps made redundant. Closure of these wards will free up space which could in future be used to provide unspecified



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additional services which are currently not available. A petition is currently doing the rounds asking for a reconsideration of the proposals, and Nita has given copies of this to the centre. If anybody would like to sign it to try to keep the Whitwick ward open Lorraine has copies.

2. **Quiet Storm** is currently offering free web workshops.
3. **Glenfield Children's Cardiac Unit** is scheduled for closure. Experts suggest that many children may die as a result. Leon has asked for a motion to be tabled at the next council meeting to ask the new health secretary to consider reversing this decision. In the meantime, there is an e-petition available with currently 64,000 signatures. If this makes 100,000 signatures it will force a debate in parliament. Please consider signing this petition which is epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/35788
4. Bernard reported **flytipping on Turlough Road**. There is a sharp bend with a log by an entrance to the wood and he filled 3 bags of rubbish and removed this, but there were some syringes there, without needles. Ray Woodward agreed to follow this in discussions with NWLDC.
5. Ray Woodward explained that **street lights are being switched off** in Whitwick from 12 midnight til 5.30am GMT, and will be eventually switched off in Thringstone. This is part of a cost saving/CO2 saving scheme from County Hall. There is a public consultation which doesn't actually talk to people, but means that it is mentioned in Leicestershire Matters, also in local press and on the Council's website. Lights will not go off at junctions, along footpaths or in areas of flooding. There was considerable discussion about the value of switching off lights when generators were kept on, what savings were actually made (in Whitwick it is anticipated to be a saving of £6,500 and the equivalent in CO2 emissions from 14 cars). Police have suggested that there is an actual drop in crime when lights go out, but often a perception from residents that they are more likely to be at risk.

Next meeting : 4th October, 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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