



The Friends of  
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 NOVEMBER 2012 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Bernard Lee, Ann Petty, Pam Porter, Dave Everitt, Leon Spence, Roy Hill, Janet Stevenson, Carol Squires, Pat Hubbard

**Apologies:** Ron Hill, Geoff Wilson, Rowena Summers, Lis Muller, Julie Everitt, David Stevenson, Bill Newton, Geoff Walker, Tracy Foulds

**Discussions/Decisions:** Litter Pick 27<sup>th</sup> October – Nita, Bernard Lee, Pam Porter, Sue Rowbottom, Libby Patrick, Ann Petty and a family of 3 non-members came out to clear the area of litter, removing 11 bags of rubbish, plus a carpet and broken child's scooter from the village and surrounding area. This litter pick coincided with Community Service Volunteers' Make A Difference Day, and afterwards a survey was completed by Nita saying how we had got on. Those that wished to were treated to fish and chips or a combination of other things from Ruby's which was paid for out of petty cash after the litter pick. Many thanks go to all concerned.

A decision on when the next litter picks are has yet to be agreed but may be in late January, May, end of August, and probably late November and will be advertised, where possible, in The Bauble. The geocache network have expressed an interest in working with us again, and it might be useful to find dates that they are available and fit round them so that there is a good turnout. It was left to Nita to talk to other groups before coming to the meeting with firm dates.

School Fete 30 November. Nita emailed all members to ask them to let us have CDs, DVDs, computer games and books and has received boxes of books and CDs plus 2 emails from members who can help donate stuff. Ann gave Nita some books to sell, and Janet Stevenson said she would help Nita man the stall on the day. **We still need items to sell please, preferably things that will appeal to children but not stuffed toys.**

Next meeting – Christmas party – Our next meeting is 6<sup>th</sup> December, and it was agreed that we should have our usual Christmas party and people should bring food. All our Councillors will be at another meeting in Whitwick but Nita would ask Ray W to do his usual hot dish if he can.

25 Advent Windows – Jan Cufflin from St Andrews is trying to organize a living advent calendar with 25 decorated windows in houses facing the street for advent around the village, to be decorated and lit up from a given day (not sure what day) and to stay on



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show until 5<sup>th</sup> January. The overall theme is Christmas – Light in our Darkness. This would be promoted around the village by St Andrews and people could, potentially, then walk round and look at the windows. Jan has asked whether 2 members of FoT would be willing to take part – preferably people without dogs that leap up at windows and would damage things. There was considerable discussion on this, and Janet Stevenson, Carol and Pat, said they might be interested, but suggested that Nita talk to other people before putting names to Jan Cuffin, as it might be better that all the houses taking part are in one street to have the maximum impact.

**Thringstone Methodist event, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2013** Nita has provisionally spoken to the local guides and brownies and the primary school about putting together a scarecrow for this event and will ask the scouts and 2 play groups to do a scarecrow to go in the Methodist's field.

The Methodists are interested in the prospect of a village wide scarecrow event with us organizing this, to tie in with their event. This would, however, need people willing to **help with the organization**.

This question of help has also been referred to the secretary of Churches Together to see if any of their members wish to help. A full list of what would be required had been sent.

Mary Randall at the Methodist church said she could help if given a specific task. Nita said some other people had said they could help bag up straw, but all seemed to have allergies to doing this over a prolonged period of time.

There was considerable discussion on what was involved in organizing this event from potential poster design by the school, through to dripfeed advertising in the Bauble, banners and posters, taking details from people wishing to take part, organization of straw for delivery having bagged it up, maps showing the scarecrows on the day, whether there would be a quiz etc., judging on the day, and general organization on the day and prize giving and what prizes could be. Nita said that the brownies and the school had been heavily involved before, which fed into the event as a whole.

Some people felt that the event **should be confined to the Methodist church** with straw being taken there and scarecrows made there and judged there. In the event that everything was at the Methodist hall, by having every scarecrow in one place, there would be no need for wide ranging delivery of straw, no need for maps showing location of scarecrows etc. This had been mentioned in discussions with the Methodists, but there were possible insurance implications in the event of vandalism or arson.

There was a suggestion that people take a form and fill in which they think is the best scarecrow having seen them all, and the winner, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> be awarded that way. This would mean there would be no need for **judges** and save problems of groups of brownies walking round doing the judging and getting presents for the judges.

Others felt that to get sponsorship, which would probably be required, **needed a village wide event** and emphasized that we shouldn't be seen to be going backwards with an event which had been such a huge success last year by confining it to the Methodist field. Businesses and organizations approached for funding bids would possibly not sponsor an event if it were confined to a church field.

Nita said she had thought of asking for sponsorship from the Co-op and other local businesses perhaps. Rowena had offered sponsorship of £50 but more would be needed.

Carol said if there were enough money perhaps a mini bus could be organized to ferry people round the village. Nita said this had been discussed last time and was a very expensive option, and many people liked the walking round and talking to others, but the village did cover a large



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area and that had been an issue last time. Some thought had been given to **limiting the area** in which scarecrows could be built, but others didn't like this option, and preferred that it encompass the whole village.

Leon agreed to give Nita some leads to **local groups** so that she can talk to these groups to see if they will work with us on the event.

Doing a village wide event takes organization, considerable advertising, sponsorship, bagging up of straw, organizing taking straw to places, maps etc and would be a harder job than confining the whole thing to the Methodist field. **Would you help?**

Bernard intimated he might be able to help in some way, as did Pam.

It was discussed having a centralised pick up point for straw if delivery were a problem. This has been mentioned before but had not come to fruition because of issues of taking over the whole of someone's garage and having callers at various times.

Nita will report back next month.

### Chair's report

#### Letters Received:

- From **Mrs Hugill** thanking us for the £113 cheque towards the Booth grave renovations and thank you letter from her nephew Mark Stephens.
- From **The Community Centre** thanking us for helping with the Booth event

These letters were read to the meeting, together with one Ann Petty had received from Mrs Hugill. It is hoped that photographs of the event, including a **large family photo** of the gathering of the family taken on Grace Dieu lawn would be forwarded to the group in due course.

- From **Heritage Lottery** about our bid (see history section)

#### Emails Received:

- Various regarding ongoing issues
- Minutes from **Green Footprints meeting** which we were unable to attend.

#### Emails Sent:

- Various regarding ongoing issues to committee, members and agencies

#### Promotion:

- We now have 67 followers on **Twitter**
- Story and photos from the **litter pick** sent to Coalville Times, Echo, Mercury, Oak FM and Hermitage FM. Photo also posted to facebook and loaded onto Litter Action UK site, along with Winter newsletter. The photo also went on the Thringstone page for Leicestershire Villages. The article and photo sent to the CV Times was printed in their 1st Nov edition, and we know that Oak FM mentioned the story. The CV Times had also printed a photo of cheques at the **George and Dragon**, thus helping to promote the charity work done in the village and at that venue in particular.

#### Other:

- Letter sent to **Booth family** about grave issues. See history section
- Call from South Leicestershire branch of Voluntary Action Leicester. They are compiling details of all **publications delivered in Leicestershire** and intend to put The Bauble down as being delivered quarterly in Thringstone and part of Whitwick.
- Because of illness, I failed to deliver a **walk** for the group on 19<sup>th</sup> October to which 4 people turned up, who then complained to Charnwood Borough Council as it was advertised in



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their brochure. Have said sorry to the people who complained, who were OK about it and said how nice Thringstone is looking now, and it was nice to see the village anyway.

- Tomorrow night, 2 November, Ann and Nita are going to the **Rugby Club** to receive the cheque for £300 from Woodstock in Whitwick.
- **Winter Baubles** have been printed and given to people to deliver BEFORE 1<sup>st</sup> December.

## Treasurer's Report

### October Transactions:

Income		expenditure	
raffle	£ 6.00	Cheque to Booth family	£ 113.00
graveyard booklet	£ 8.00	recording equipment	£ 85.40
publications	£ 7.50	litter pick food	£ 17.85
		plants	£ 127.91
		photocopying	£ 8.12
<b>total income</b>	<b>£ 21.50</b>	<b>total exp</b>	<b>£ 352.28</b>
		<b>FoT general fund</b>	<b>£ 3,449.61</b>

Although this looks like a large expenditure, you will note that one of the large payments was from the Booth Grave Fund (sale of graveyard booklets), so does not affect our general fund. The BGF stood at £112.31 and we made it up to £113 for the cheque presentation. However, a further £3 has now come in for graveyard booklets, so I have reimbursed FoT general fund with that 69p and the BGF now stands at £2.31

### Publication Report – Roy Hill

The George and Dragon has sold one copy each of Village Trail 1, 2 and 3 together with two copies of the Graveyard booklet. Some copies of the Graveyard Booklet have been sold at the Church although because these are donations it is difficult to keep a record of the number sold. Therefore the following payments have been made to the Treasurer:

Village Trail 1 £2.50. Village Trail 2 £2.50. Village Trail 3 £2.50. £3.00 for Graveyard Booklets, £5 for Graveyard booklets from the church - £15.50 in total.

### STOCK REPORT

	Community Centre	George & Dragon	Nita	Anne	Stock	TOTAL
<b>Born and Bred 1</b>	2	3	0	2	14	21
<b>Born and Bred 2</b>	2	3	0	2	30	37
<b>Memories 1</b>	2	3	0	2	20	27
<b>Memories 2</b>	2	3	0	2	24	31
<b>Village Trail 1</b>	2	3	3	2	12	22
<b>Village Trail 2</b>	2	3	3	2	9	19
<b>Village Trail 3</b>	2	3	3	2	16	26
<b>Graveyard Booklet</b>	10	5	15	10	177	217



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<b>Sub-totals</b>	24	26	24	24	302	400
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Janet said that £4.50 of the £15 in money given to Ann at the Booth family event for Charles Booth book sales was actually for **graveyard booklets**. Ann agreed to return this.

### Web report

The website has been updated since the last meeting with minutes, newsletters, photos etc. Photos of the St Andrew's Jubilee flower festival have still to go on along with the Winter Bauble and photos from our latest litter pick. For some time, the site has actually been down and unavailable to work on or view, and is down at present.

### Arts and Community Report and What's On

Every Wednesday until 12 December at **Thringstone House Community Centre** from 2pm-3.45pm - Ray Sutton's lectures on art and popular culture. £3 per session.

3 November – Fireworks display at **Snibston Museum** from 5pm

3 November – **Energy Advice Event** at Beaumont Centre, Nottingham Road, Peggs Green from 10am – 3.30pm. Free. Find out alternative ways to heat your home.

From 6 November – yoga class on Tuesdays from 6pm-7pm at £4 per class at **Thringstone House Community Centre**. Mats provided. Beginners welcome.

9 November – **Quiz night at Thringstone House Community Centre** at 7.30pm. Friends of Thringstone have a team taking part.

9 November – **Tapas night** at the George and Dragon. Chose 4 out of 8 dishes for £10 and get a glass of Sangria

10 November – **Dickinson's Real Deal** is at Hermitage Leisure Centre, Whitwick from 9am – 5pm.

10 November – Quiz night at Thringstone **Miner's Welfare**. 7pm start

17 November – 9 Swallowdale – **Pauline's Craft Event** 10.30am

23 November – **Bingo at Methodist Church** organized by Jan Cufflin. 7pm start. £5 to include bingo tickets and refreshments.

24 November – **150th anniversary concert** at St Andrew's with Broomleys Choral Society. Tickets £7. Starts at 7.30pm. Ann is providing a display of photos etc. within the church.

24 November – Mazaika with Russian Songs, Gypsy Fiddle, Tango and Beyond at **Thringstone House Community Centre**. Starts at 8pm and is suitable for all ages. Adult £9 in advance £10 on the door. Children £8. Starts at 8pm.

25 Nov – **150th anniversary display** at St Andrew's church which will open at 9am.

26 Nov – Film Club at **Thringstone House Community Centre**. Film is War Horse.

7 Dec – **Thringstone Methodist Hall** – Beltones in concert from 7pm. Donations on the night to the chapel maintenance funds. Buffet after.

7 Dec – **Hermitage Leisure Centre – Dick Whittington**. 2pm and 7.30pm. Tickets from £7.

Contact <http://dickwhittingtoncoalville-eorg.eventbrite.com/>

14 Dec – **Carols round the tree at Thringstone House Community Centre**. Procession leaves St Andrew's at 6.30pm.

There was a poster up in the centre saying that from 30<sup>th</sup> November, on the last Friday in the month, every month, there would be a **plug and play**. Contact the centre for more details.

NWLDC may be looking to set up beginner's **Geocaching** in Grace Dieu woods. Will report again when more is known.

**Please note: There will not be a Carol Service at Grace Dieu Priory this year.**



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Pam Porter said that there will be a concert on 21<sup>st</sup> December at **Oaks In Charnwood church** and she believed that tickets were £7. Anybody interested should contact Pam direct through FoT.

### Century Theatre, Snibston

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. Please see

[www.leics.gov.uk/index/leisure\\_tourism/museums/snibston/snibston\\_news/snibstonevents.htm](http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/leisure_tourism/museums/snibston/snibston_news/snibstonevents.htm) for full details of what is on at Snibston.

### History report

- The **Heritage Lottery Funding bid** we submitted has not met with a favourable response. However, other funding streams have been pointed out which may be pursued in due course.
- Ann is talking to Ken Hillier about the format for recording details of **the fallen of WW1** for a project we will be working on leading up to 2014.
- We have received the **digital recording equipment** mentioned at the last meeting, and Ann and Nita have been listing transcripts already available to us which have yet to be published, with the thought of putting together a small print run of about 50 booklets of odds and ends so they go into the public domain, paid for by the money received for this purpose from Woodstock in Whitwick. This could include the transcripts of the migration stories films which have now been completed thanks to Geoff Walker who helped download the audio files from computer to audio CD. Thanks also to Roy Hill for helping download the tape of the recording done with Pam Spence. This and the transcription were sent to EMOHA for their safe keeping.
- Ann attended the regular **Heritage Forum Group** meeting. There were two presentations relating to children's activities, and a large heritage event for 2013 was discussed with a provisional date of 7 July, which clashes with the Methodist event.
- At the **Booth family gathering** on 20<sup>th</sup> October, Nita handed over monies collected from the graveyard booklet sales, plus gave the family details of a memorial stone mason in Loughborough recommended by Norman and Underwood who may be able to get the lead lettering replaced on the Charles Booth grave. This cost is likely to be in excess of £3,000. Nita spent time with both Mrs Hugill and James Gore Brown explaining that the family need to now take charge of this, and get a detailed quote sent to English Heritage, and then take the matter from there. Mrs Hugill felt at that meeting that administration should, however, be done locally, and has asked James Gore Brown to sort it.

### Councillors' report – Cllr. Leon Spence

Leon said it had been a relatively quiet month in the village. There had been **flytipping** reported on Turlough Road which contained paperwork from which it might be possible to trace who had done this, as it was commercial waste. NWLDC were dealing.

Dave said that he was still trying to find ways of improving state of the **derelict property** on Brook Lane near New Swannington Off Licence.

**The Rose and Crown issue** – there had been a need to wait until bat licences were granted as these animals had been found on the property. The conservation people needed more information before taking further action. Everybody is waiting on the bats, and the Co-op's developers are keen to get moving



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Ann asked what was happening with the trench on **Redhill** near the field which appeared to be something to do with drainage pipes. Neither Dave nor Leon knew about this and agreed to find out and report back.

**Hedge by 14 and 14a Booth Road and access to the rear of St Andrew's**. has now been cut back and this has widened the access to the back of the church by at least 2 yards.

The **Main Street sign** is now back in place. Other signage is as reported at the last meeting but there are likely to be budget cuts, and these things may well take a while to sort.

**Drain by 164 Loughborough Road** continues to be full and leak. Leon said he would report the matter again.

Concern was passed to the councillors that a resident on Loughborough Road had wondered why the **road sweepers** no longer go past Springfield, but turn round there and go back, thus missing properties on Loughborough Road near the side of the cricket pitch. There was considerably discussion about this being a county issue. Carol said that she's seen street cleaners on Rumsey Close for the first time in years.

Leon discussed the forthcoming police **crime commissioner elections**. This is a new post, and voting numbers are expected to be low. It is, however, an important job, as the person elected will be a major setter of policing budgets and priorities and hold a lot of power. He suggested that people vote. However, many did not know who to vote for, as it required people to go on line and see who the candidates were, and many do not have access to a computer.

Nita said that the **new council housing officer** dealing with Thringstone is Elizabeth Turner. Several things had been reported to her recently and she was dealing.

### **Police Report from Jim Sorrell**

You will be glad to hear that over the last 30 days as from today there has been only one reported crime and this was an assault. There is a suspect and he is being dealt with at this time.

I was so unsure that this was right I have checked the system 3 times to triple check and this is the case.

This I feel shows that this area is very much bucking the general trend, please reassure your good people that this is the case.

There have been 6 reports that are domestic related but these do not impact on the wider community, just something to report as there is a lack of community related crime.

Nita mentioned that there are **changes taking place in the local policing**, and that a recent discussion had taken place to which people she knew had been invited. She handed round details from the Police of their safer communities statements, and said that the meeting apparently had focused on the impending changes. Discussions related on how to maintain the downward trend in reported crime when Government funding is being substantially reduced. Backroom staff have already been reduced and their latest answer is to change emphasis, so there will be more resources on the neighbourhood front line with less on response, but by analysing what crime happens where and when they are confident that response times can be maintained. One message seemed to be (especially for smaller villages) that if you don't see a policeman very often, that's good news, because it means you don't have reported problems. They can't afford to use resources in just being seen to be seen. The beacon officer for each area who is to be appointed to head up the tiering down of information (in our case James Broomfield) should make it easier for people to identify with a known local face.

The meeting felt that a lot of crime just wasn't now reported, but still took place.



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### Gardening and environment

- Bernard has been busy **buying and planting shrubs** on The Green as mentioned at the last meeting as well as daffodil and tulip bulbs and putting bark on the ground as a weed deterrent . He has also been tidying other areas.
- NWLDC have been told about the **vandalized dog fouling sign** at the end of the sustrans route on Grace Dieu Road. They were also sent a photo of flytipping noticed whilst on the litter pick.
- **Christmas tree for outside the Community Centre**– Bernard has organized a van and person to help him get the Christmas tree cut down and removed from Margaret Staley's. He has the decorations and will try to get the tree in place for 1<sup>st</sup> December. He has it all in hand.

### **AOB**

- **Canine Season Infection** – one of our members' dogs has caught this potentially fatal disease from walking in Grace Dieu woods. Please take your dog to the vets if it is sick and has a fever and suffers from diarrhoea. This illness usually only happens between August and November.
- **Portfolio** – Nita had brought the photographic portfolio for people to see photos of the Booth family visit and the recent litter pick and other photos of things that had happened in 2012.

**Next meeting : 6 December at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre. This is the Christmas party. Please bring food to share. All are invited.**



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