



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 JANUARY 2013 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Ann Petty, John and Karon Smith, Bernard Lee, Robert Jordan, Janet Stevenson, Dave Everitt, Leon Spence, Roy Hill

Apologies: Geoff Walker, Rowena Summers, David Stevenson, Fran Skinner, Tam Bream

Discussions/Decisions: Christmas Carols Round The Tree Due to very inclement weather, the turnout was lower than in previous years, but photos were taken and a good time had by all who came along. The community centre should be thanked for all their work on this.

Working with the National Forest Company Nita has received an email from Sue Anderson at this organization which asks as follows: 'I wonder if FoT would be willing to work with Groundwork Leicester to explore possibilities for new woodland related work and skills development. I have a willing member of staff and enough funds to pay for a few days work with you. What I'd like to do is use this resource to see if there are more local people in Thringstone who could be supported in helping to manage their local woodland site – so looking at what management work is needed, any new skills or equipment needed and how to lead the work. If you think this might be helpful please let me know. If you have other ideas related to woodlands or Forest I'd be pleased to hear.' Mike Statham has said that the Community Centre might want to work with this group on Bob's Closs, but that this would have to be after the removal of the overhead cables etc.

The meeting felt it best to tell Sue about the community centre interest, ask for more information anyway, and also relay the details of Friends of Holly Hayes to them, as obviously Grace Dieu Woods is de Lisle property.

Drury Lane signage In 2006 we put up signage in Drury Lane which says '#Drury Lane supplied by Friends of Thringstone'. This sign is wooden and was made for us by Marlene Reid centre as part of their carpentry training. It is now showing considerable signs of wear and needs taking down and revarnishing/cleaning up.

Bernard agreed to have a look at this and let us know if this is possible, failing which do we will either have to have another sign or not – the next meeting will decide this

Litter Pick Dates 2013 Please remember that we have a litter pick with the Geocache network on 19 Jan at 10am from The Bull's Head. All welcome.



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Stepping out for a greener district



Karon said that there are likely to be about 29 people coming from the geocache network, some coming from as far as Birmingham, so it was agreed that people who currently litter pick regularly stop doing this for the whole of the week leading to the litter pick.

Bernard reported flytipping near Ashdale wooden bridge. Nita agreed to report this to the council and if it turned out to be de Lisle land, to get it removed.

Henson's Lane needs litter picking as does the road to the George and Dragon. If there are 29 members of the geocache network they can help monitor traffic so this area can be done properly. The sustans track also needs litter picking.

Scarecrow event and Methodists 150th anniversary event. There has been a meeting of the sub-group organizing this and Nita is to ask the Methodists when they are opening the hall up on 7th July for the event.. Think it will be about 12 noon to be honest

The Brownies/Rainbows are doing judging split into 3 groups to cover the whole village

Bauble advertising – Nita's phone and email and a mobile for text contact is thought best, plus press and media

Prizes -see what we can get as to whether it is vouchers or a prize for 1st 2nd and 3rd.

We are going to talk to Ruby's and a couple of others locally about sponsorship and Nita will write to Coop, Morrison's and Tesco's.

Straw supply is to be discussed and we are talking to Ella about the school being involved and altering the banner and using her scarecrow poster drawings from last time

We have someone to do the posters and maps to show location of scarecrows

We will then have to bag up straw and a delivery route will be drawn up and agreed nearer the time. We will probably charge £3 for people to enter the event.

Chair's report

Letters Received:

- **Christmas cards** from Thringstone Methodists, Squire de Lisle

Emails Received:

- Various mentioned in relevant sections below.
- From **Lord Lieutenant's office** asking if we have any youngsters to nominate for an award.
- From **Recycling at NWL** thanking us for our work in 2012
- Invitation to **Community Network meeting** on 31 January in Castle Donington. Accepted.
- From organizers of **Coalville Charity Cup** saying that we have been awarded some funding for the scarecrow and Methodist event in 2013 and the cheque will be awarded end of Jan.

Emails Sent:

- Various regarding ongoing issues to committee, members and agencies including on the issue of dog fouling in the village

Promotion:

- **Press releases** done on achieving 1,000 bags of litter removed since April 2012. Article printed in Coalville Times of 27th Dec. and also put on Green Footprints webpage by NWLDC.
- I have advertised our next **litter pick** on We Will Gather, which works exclusively with facebook and twitter to advertise a variety of voluntary events.
- We now have 75 followers on Twitter.



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Other:

- **Christmas cards** sent on behalf of the group to 19 different groups/people
- It has been suggested that we enter the group for the **3rd sector excellence awards**.
- Despite what we said before, we are being encouraged to apply also for the 2013 NWLDC **Green Footprint Awards**. It is a long form to complete with additional evidence, but has to be submitted by the end of the month

Treasurer's Report

DEC TRANSACTIONS

FoT Gen Fund	£3,506.28		
Income		expenditure	
Publications	£ 7.00	raffle prize	£ 4.00
raffle income	£ 12.00		
Dvds	£ 10.50		
(Graveyard Booklet	£1.50)		
total income	£ 29.50	total exp	£ 4.00
		FoT general fund	£ 3,531.78

It must be remembered that the balance of funds includes £300 which is to be spent on future publications, AND, in addition to the total above, we also hold £3.81 in the Booth Grave Fund.

Publication Report – Roy Hill

There have been some sales made that were too late for the December report and these are: 1 copy of Memories 1 and 2 at the Community Centre, 2 - DVDs by Nita, 1 - DVD by Geoff Therefore the following payments have been made to the Treasurer: £7 for the two memories, £10.50 for the three DVDs. Lorraine had said there were no sales at the centre to report.

Web report

The website continues to be bang up to date. John was congratulated on this work and told that Nita knew of people in the USA who regularly read our minutes so the site was well used, not just by members of our own group.

Leon said that there is a Coalville in Utah and there are lots of people from this area living there who could also perhaps visit our site.

Arts and Community Report and What's On

- **Hermitage FM** did a live broadcast from St Andrew's on Christmas Eve of their Holy Communion and Christmas service. They had listeners in 11 countries.
- 18-26 Jan – **Alice in Wonderland panto** at Thringstone House Community Centre as reported in previous minutes
- 9 Feb – Oscar Wilde's Sir Arthur Savile's Crime at **Thringstone House Community Centre**. Starts at 8pm and is by the Rocket Theatre Group. Suitable for ages 14 plus. Tickets on sale at the centre.



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- Geoff Walker has managed to fundraise £255 for the **Leicester Royal Infirmary Teenage Cancer Treatment Ward 27**. Thanks to all who contributed.
- **CHURCH CLEANER.** **St Andrew's** need a new church cleaner for one hour Friday or Saturday. If you could do this, please ring Jan on 588540

History report

- Nita received an email from Natasha Neill at the Society of Biology asking for details of people recorded on our **blue plaques** and how the scheme was run. A full list of all the signage was sent, together with information on the process we followed.
- Ann has been keeping an eye on the **Rose & Crown** and spoken to the steel erector, who was the only person there at the time. He told her that there would be no more work done until the first week in January and by the end of January the Co-op would be up. He said it will only take a few days to knock down and 2-3 days to erect the steel for the new building. He showed Ann the plan for the steelwork. He has had to put reinforcing iron girders against the gable end of the house next door and says that the owner is keeping a close eye on what is happening
- We received, by email, a copy of the map handed out at the **Village Voices** project wrap-up event at the University on 15th November. Although it was called a wrap-up event for Village Voices, further recordings would be welcome, and feedback from participants about the value of the interviews conducted has been great. Liz Blood at County Hall is working on a handy hints sheet based on feedback from this session for those wishing to conduct further interviews. Thanks to everyone who was able to make it and to those of you who were able to submit

recordings. The first set of sample clips are on a new page on the website - hopefully more will follow before too long. Take a listen here: www.leics.gov.uk/villagevoices_parishes.htm You can also hear more oral history clips from the East Midlands on the new web pages at <http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha/community/dialect/home.html> . This includes summaries of the accent and dialect features of each recording, which is useful to apply to the Village Voices recordings.

Ann reminded Leon that we would like a photo of him and his mother to go with the recordings.

- We have received an email from the **Coleorton Heritage Group** about holding copies of books on their village, written by Trevor Stewart, for people locally to collect which Ann has agreed to hold for us. She has agreed that the group can use her email address and phone for contact.

Councillors' report – Cllr. Leon Spence

Street signs - The vandalized Springfield sign at the corner of Heathfield has been ordered and should be fitted later this month. Robert Jordan said he had reported this 6 times by phone. There appears to be a delay in getting things actioned. The signs for Bishopdale and Elgin walk are still in abeyance.

Street lighting – Thringstone street lights are now being switched off about midnight to come on between 5.30am and 6am. Some people have expressed concern over this, whilst others feel it is a good thing. Leon went on a drive round Whitwick and Thringstone at 1am this morning and discovered there are some areas where the lights should be on and aren't – it was agreed they stayed on at junctions, on bends and where there might be a danger of flooding. However, part of



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Grace Dieu Road is not lit and that floods, and junctions in Rosedale, Swallowdale, Springfield and Aspen's Hollow aren't lit. That said, if the junctions relate to small roads of less than 20 houses, the street light needn't be on at the junction. Leon has made notes of all the areas spotted and will report these to county, but if people have concerns, please let him know and he will be pleased to help. It is disappointing that County consulted the parish council in Whitwick with regard to that village, but there was no consultation at all with regard to Thringstone, save the yellow sign on the lamp post near The Bull's Head and the little notices on each affected lamp post.

Melrose Road estate seems to be fully lit, but that is probably because of the amount of bends in the road.

Leon did hear that someone nearly ran over 2 pedestrians on New Year's Eve because of the lack of street lighting, but have not heard of any other near misses due to poor lighting.

The car park at Thringstone Members Club – men from NWLDC have dug over an area where there are no trees leading up to the jitty by the side of the Bowls Club, and intend to plant berberis plants there. They do not want any trees planted. People whose properties back on to that ground will be informed by Nita – one is an FoT member.

Melrose Road play area – there are no dates yet for further consultation on this.

Leon has spoken to Russell Hoult at Thringstone Football Club, and they would be interested in being part of the scarecrow event.

Tony MacRory Smith has left.

Nita said it would be useful if an **out of office reply** could come from any council dead email addresses, as she didn't know that, and had emailed several times and not received a reply. Leon agreed to mention this.

Police Report from Jim Sorrell

Nothing received but Jim is not back at work until 7th January.

Gardening and environment

- Someone **flytipped** over 120 bottles and cans either side of the rear service road to Clyde Court on New Year's Eve. 143 bottles and cans were recycled or put in red boxes, for collection, that morning in total. NWLDC have been informed.
- **Loughborough Naturalists** did their final survey around Grace Dieu on New Year's Eve and discovered some new things.

AOB

- The **fallen wall** at the edge of the churchyard (Main Street side) has been replaced by a wooden fence, but the old bricks are still there. The Church is having a meeting next week to discuss this issue, but intend to keep some spare bricks for the repair of the remainder of the wall should this become necessary. Storage for these might, however, be problematical.
- Bernard wanted to know if there was any truth to the rumour that there is again going to be **public access to Sharpley Rocks**. There used to be, and people used to picnic there and you could walk over there to Gun Hill, but it had been closed off by the de Lisle family because of damage being caused. Leon said he would enquire. John Smith said it was still shown as a public footpath on old maps.
- Bernard is going to remove the **Christmas tree and lights** from outside Thringstone House Community Centre this coming weekend.



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Next meeting : Thursday 7th February at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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