



The Friends of  
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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Visit our website at: [www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk](http://www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk)

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2013 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Bernard Lee, Ann Petty, Ron Hill, Roy Hill, Janet Stevenson, Dave Everitt, Leon Spence, Pam Porter, CPSO Jim Sorrell

**Apologies:** Rowena Summers, Geoff Wilson, Geoff Walker, Mike and Ann Statham, Gillian Bates, David Stevenson

### Discussions/Decisions

**Litter Pick with Air Cadets is this coming Saturday at 10am from The Green.** Polly Page, the new housing officer for Thringstone is coming as well.

**Darts challenge.** Coleorton and New Lount Volunteer Group are doing a series of darts matches. Do we fancy putting a team together for a challenge match? If anybody is interested, please email your name to Nita. Those without email can ring and tell me if they will, please. We will then see where we go with this idea.

**Green Footprints Awards 2013** – we have reached the final 3. The winner will be announced at an event on 26<sup>th</sup> April. We have to provide 10 photos of our work and include with these forms giving permission for the photographs to be used. There is a deadline for this, and Nita is currently working on getting this sorted.

**New publications** - We have £300 from Woodstock in Whitwick funding for publications, and are looking to get small print runs of various things we have ready to print out into the public domain. Teamprint has said that a 36 page A5 booklet with colour front and rear would cost £31 for a 50 print run. Nita has 33 items ready to be printed on her computer, and is working with Ann on others.

Topics we would like to get out sooner rather than later are the transcripts of the migration project DVD, some of the pub project information, and some information on the village from the early 1900s. We also have enough for a large booklet of more than 36 pages on the history of Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club, but are hopeful of working with them on that, as it is quite a specific topic and may have limited interest outside of the club itself. Janet agreed to look at a list of the topics we had waiting to print to see if any could be combined together in one booklet, rather than several. Poems were also mentioned as a possible booklet. Roy Hill said that, in order not to upset local outlets with too many booklets to sell and too many display stands on their shelves, a



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way forward would be to put one batch out for 6 months, and advertise the others, then swap the displays. This could also refresh the whole of publications sales. This was felt to be a useful idea.

### **Scarecrow event and Methodists 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary event.**

**This event is now happening on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July, not Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> as presently advertised. Future advertising will rectify what has already gone into print.**

We have provided Thringstone Methodist Church with some blank drawings for their colouring competition, and been in touch with them about progress to date. They will be having a raffle, so we have said that we won't. They now want the last slide show at 3pm not 3.30pm, and have advertised our scarecrow event as part of their event in the summer edition of the Methodist Circuit magazine. They also want me to promote the fact that they will still have a church service on the Sunday we are there with the scarecrows, and that will be at 3pm not 6pm. Tam has sourced some straw for the scarecrows. Letters asking for prizes have been sent to Hermitage Leisure Centre, Whitwick, Hermitage Park Hotel, Coalville, Body Toning Emporium, Thringstone, Capelli's Hair Design, Thringstone, Bull's Head, Thringstone, Century Theatre, Snibston, Tescos, Morrisons, Co-op. We have already had a little response. A local artist is helping with the poster design, and will incorporate details of the event into his work at Snibston Museum. The school are no longer taking a major part in helping with the event, but will put up posters and tell parents.

Bernard will no longer be able to do the plant stall. Janet said that she could store plants but also couldn't help on the day. Pam Porter said she could, and wondered if John Smith might help store plants, as he was nearer to the Methodist Hall than Janet. Nita said she would enquire.

**Next meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April** Please remember that due to works being carried out in the bar lounge and middle room, the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April will be in the house lounge. If you don't know where this is, please ask. Bar will still be open for drinks.

### Chair's report

#### **Letters Received:**

- Two from James Gore Browne regarding renovations to the **grave of Charles Booth**. See history section.
- **Communities and Wellbeing Volunteering News** Winter Edition from Leicestershire County Council

#### **Emails Received:**

- Various mentioned in relevant sections below.

#### **Emails Sent:**

- Various regarding ongoing issues to committee, members and agencies
- Completed survey from **Litter Action UK**. We have recorded 2,642 bags with the website since we started collecting litter and recording it.
- Completed questionnaire from **Green Footprints Networking group**

#### **Promotion:**

- Articles mentioned last month were in Coalville Eye for February.
- Sent details of 9<sup>th</sup> March litter pick to press

#### **Other:**

- Participated in **Keep Britain Tidy's litter count** survey, which involved counting what sorts of litter were collected in a set period so that they could contact industry about the effect of their packaging on litter issues. Mostly KFC, McDonalds, Carling cans, Stella bottles and Cadbury/Nestle products, plus cigarette packets were picked up in the village by Nita.



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- Bauble completed and ready to deliver during March

## Treasurer's Report

### FEBRUARY TRANSACTIONS

<b>FoT Gen Fund</b>	<b>£3,452.09</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>expenditure</b>	
Coalville Rotary	£ 300.00		£ -
raffle	£ 10.00		£ -
(graveyard book	£2.00)		£ -
photograph	£ 3.50		£ -
<b>total income</b>	<b>£ 313.50</b>	<b>total exp</b>	<b>£ -</b>
		<b>FoT general fund</b>	<b>£ 3,765.59</b>

The Rotary money adds to the CDCFA £60 from last month, meaning that £360 of the total above is specifically for the scarecrow event. Also £300 is still to be spent on publications. If you deduct that £660 from the total held, it means we have £3105.59 in the main fund (we started the year on £3414). In addition to this, we also hold £5.81 from graveyard booklets. Can I remind you all that the FoT financial year ends at the end of the month. Please could I ask that any income (or bills) are passed to me before 31st March (Easter Day) so they can be included in the year's figures.

## Publication Report – Roy Hill

There have been no sales this last month.

Four copies of the Rose and Crown photograph are being framed at the Springboard centre but have not been received yet.

## STOCK REPORT

	Community Centre	George & Dragon	Nita	Anne	Stock	TOTAL
<b>Born and Bred 1</b>	2	3	0	2	12	19
<b>Born and Bred 2</b>	2	3	0	2	28	35
<b>Memories 1</b>	2	2	0	2	19	25
<b>Memories 2</b>	2	3	0	2	23	30
<b>Village Trail 1</b>	2	3	3	2	11	21
<b>Village Trail 2</b>	2	3	3	2	8	18
<b>Village Trail 3</b>	2	3	3	2	15	25
<b>Graveyard Booklet</b>	10	5	15	10	173	213
<b>Sub-totals</b>	24	25	24	24	289	386

## Web report

The website continues to be up to date. I have asked John to add in to our sponsors page details of Coalville Rotary and Coalville Charity Cup who have given us money for the scarecrow event.

## Arts and Community Report and What's On



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As already mentioned, work is taking place shortly in the **Community Centre** to the bar area. This will greatly increase the available space and provide greater flexibility. There is also to be a new drop down screen which can be used for slide shows and films which will be available, at a reasonable cost, for groups to hire along with the sound system at the centre. A new Smart TV will be purchased and located permanently in the bar area, and there is a possibility of the centre organizing a comedy evening using the TV. Other ideas are welcome.

The centre's printing facilities are to be further opened up to public access for black and white and colour copying, and there will also be the chance to make banners.

For details of all this, please contact the centre on 222337.

- **Ruby's Fish and Chip Shop** on The Green has been awarded the Food Hygiene Award 2012 by NWLDC and given an excellent rating. Well done to the team there.
- **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society** has donated £350 to 'Our Space' appeal which will help to provide a teenage cancer unit at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. Thanks to all who bought raffle tickets for this great cause.
- 16 March – **St Andrew's Spring Fayre** – 10am-2pm with stalls, games and raffle
- 16 March – **Thringstone House Community Centre** presents 'The Joint Is Jumpin'. Features at '52 skidoo' – a 3 piece Harlem swing band. Comedy, theatre and more. Tickets £9 in advance of £10 on the door.
- 16 March – Coleorton village history trail walk with Robert Smith from the Heritage Group. Meet at 9.30am at **The Kings Arms, Coleorton**. Cost £3 per person. Further information from Zara Barnes on 454545.
- 16 March – Charity event at **Thringstone Members Club**. Contact club for more details.
- 23 March – Charity event at **Thringstone Members Club** in aid of the blind. £10 per ticket includes live band – The Old Green River Band. Details from the club.
- 24 March – Swannington Main Street Walk with Steve Wright from Swannington Heritage Trust. Meet at 9.30am at **Hough Mill**. Cost £3. More information from Zara Barnes as above.
- 29 March (Good Friday) Charity football match at **Thringstone Miners FC**. Probably in aid of Air Ambulance in memory of local man who recently died.

### History report

- Ann and Nita continue to work on the **WW1 project** and liaise with others over information. Some information came to light which also helped with the **pub project**.
- Ann attended the **Heritage Conference** held in Leicester by Leicester University on 3<sup>rd</sup> March at which she met various people, including a lady from the Heritage Lottery Funding. You will remember we put in for All Our Stories funding and weren't successful. This may have been because so many bids were put in that they were unable to cope, and the lady concerned has said if Nita emails her, she will explain what is needed to be successful and in round 2 of the bids, which are currently open, where we need to put more information..
- We have been promised a **box of articles** which will add to our archives, including the EMOHA tape of Hilda Sykes talking about her war experiences. We have also been promised information relating to James Bailey who is buried in Thringstone churchyard. He was in the Royal Defence Corps and guarded prisoners of war at Castle Donington.



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- Nita has tracked down a man who did a short article years ago for the Old Bawble that used to be produced for the village, in which he gave his memories of **coming to the village from Scotland**. He is happy for us to use that, and may be interested in helping further.
- Having received details from James Gore Browne on the work necessary to restore **Charles Booth's grave**, Nita spoke to Mr Gore Brown about the works, offered verbal support and agreed to give archeological and historical information known to us regarding the church, graveyard and surrounding area to him for his submission for listed building consent, which has now been supplied. Ann and Nita then met with Mr Gore Browne and Beech Restoration, which is possibly the company that he will be using to renovate the grave. It is likely to be a while before it is done because of the paperwork that needs to be sorted, but Steve Wright from Beech intends to come to the grave again shortly to take photos from a ladder which he needs to draw up his schedule of works etc. Any work to the grave, once authorised, will be done in situ and will involve 2 men and take about a week if the weather permits. We were asked to provide a written transcript of the wording on the grave slab, and have done this to both parties. James Gore Browne subsequently emailed to say that the raising of the money will be a lengthy process, and that Aunt Fanny Hugill has suggested they need to hasten slowly.

### Councillors' report – Leon Spence

The past month has been an exceptionally busy one at the District Council with much to tell local residents about.

A number of local people have contacted us about the introduction of the so called '**Garden Gate Tax**', a levy of between £20 and £90 per year imposed by NWLDC in respect of newly introduced licences to access properties over council owned land. The issue has received a great deal of adverse publicity in the regional and national print and television media.

I am delighted to let you know that at a full council meeting late last month an opposition motion was passed which has resulted in the levy being cancelled. The matter will now be passed back to scrutiny committee and we shall be strongly advocating the introduction, where necessary, of peppercorn licences which will both remove the need to collect nominal amounts whilst protecting council owned assets.

At the same council meeting a cross-party motion was adopted to call for the re-routing of the proposed **HS2 railway line** away from North West Leicestershire and along the A38 corridor. All local political parties are united on the fact that HS2 brings no discernible benefits to the district whilst bringing with it a significant risk to jobs, homes, construction disruption and planning blight for the next 20+ years. We will continue to keep you informed on this issue over the coming months.

This month the district council has passed its annual budget. I am sure you will be pleased to know that **council tax** will once again be frozen. In the current difficult economic times it is exceptionally difficult to contemplate increasing taxes.

However, with the double edged sword of freezing council tax and reducing government grants front line services are suffering.

Perhaps most notably the administration at the authority has decided to **delete two existing posts**.

Firstly the post of a community engagement officer has been deleted (from 3 to 2). The role of these officers is to assist parish councils, community groups and charities with support in relation



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to community initiatives such as signposting for funding opportunities. This is likely to be a loss, in particular to groups such as Friends of Thringstone.

Secondly, the administration has deleted the post of street enforcement manager. This role is to deal with street environment crimes such as littering and dog fouling. Although the issue of dog waste is one of the most commonly reported issues to councillors there are now just 2 street enforcement managers to serve the whole district.

There was considerable discussion at this point about dog fouling in the village.

Local residents should also be aware that in the coming weeks two significant **benefit changes** will come into effect. A number of Thringstone residents will be impacted directly by reductions to council tax benefit. Similarly several more will become eligible to pay the so-called 'bedroom tax'. Unfortunately due to the shortage of available rental accommodation moving to suitable smaller accommodation will prove very difficult. Anyone affected by these changes are urged to contact us directly.

Moving on to specifically local issues I am delighted to let you know that equipment for **new play and safety facilities on Melrose Road** has now been ordered and will hopefully be installed in the next 6 weeks to 2 months (weather permitting). The equipment will be that specified as a result of the second consultation exercise conducted by officers late last year (those consulted in the second exercise were all respondents to the first exercise, which took place in summer 2012).

I am also pleased to let you know that following the recent snows we gained agreement in principle to procure and install **grit bins** in the village funded by the Coalville Special Expenses fund. We would be very grateful if local residents could let us know where in the village they believe would benefit from the locating of grit bins.

As ever we are particularly interested in hearing from you if you have experienced difficulties with street lighting or road safety. We would also like to hear from anybody with concerns over planning consents. There is a period of about 3 weeks for consultation on any planning consent, and people with concerns need to act quickly to contact Leon with their concerns.

As a final point make sure you keep the date of Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June free in your diary. This date will see the now annual **Coalville Twenty 13** event in Coalville Park. Last year's event was a great success and this year's promises to be equally memorable.

Don't hesitate to let us know if you require any assistance.

Leon Spence and Dave Everitt.

Nita said that having reported there was no Elgin Walk signage from Melrose Road, one has now been put in place, but we were still waiting for Bishopdale signage.

The housing officer for Thringstone, Polly Page, is joining us on the litter pick on 9<sup>th</sup> March having been impressed with the cleanliness of the village and the work we do.

There was general discussion about the provision of new cycle paths down Thornborough Road and also about the poor state of some white line road markings in the area.

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

5 crimes for the last 30 days.

Theft from motor vehicle = 1 no suspects

Assault and/or harassment = 1 was at a party and is still under investigation possibly be lowered to a public order offence and all happened in the rear garden of a house.

2 between a tenant and landlord - a male has been charged with assault.

Theft = 1 suspect has stolen from the family home - caution given.



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Damage = To the rear of Thringstone Members Club. No current suspects

In addition, Nita reported that there had been **graffiti** sprayed on the changing rooms to the football pitch at the back of Thringstone Bowls Club. The police had been informed, as had NWLDC, who had re-sprayed the area in question. CPSO Sorrell said that, in future, NWLDC would take photos of any graffiti they were asked to paint over before doing so.

There was general discussion about graffiti and people using tags and whether anybody had been found responsible for the recent graffiti on the cricket club. There was also discussion about theft of number plates on cars.

There are some reports coming through about theft of **metal items**, especially small metal items, as metal is still a valuable commodity.

There was further discussion about theft of car numberplates.

CPSO Sorrell said that people should be advised not to lock their cars with their **remote key lock** from a large distance, like across the carpark as you are walking away, as radio signals are then increased in area and this could lead to others being able to open your car with their own key lock device. He further advised that people should ensure their cars are properly locked and any valuables, or items which might be thought to be valuable, kept out of sight.

#### Gardening and environment

- The Council has planted about 100 berberis and other bushes (of some size) down the side of the cleared area of the **Thringstone Members' car park**. They have also filled in all holes left where things have died down the jitty to the football pitch at the side of the bowls club. On the assumption that nobody digs them up to remove to their own gardens, it will look nice once they have filled out a bit.
- The gent from 77 Main Street, Thringstone collects cans whilst out walking daily with his friends, which he then has collected by **St Giles Hospice, Whittington**. This is the same chap who used to let us borrow his lawnmower to do the grass cutting down Drury Lane before we bought our own. Each can he collects is worth 0.5p and last year he collected £300 worth of cans from his walks around Thringstone, Whitwick and Osgathorpe. He has asked me to say that if anybody wants to help him beat his last year's target, please can you collect your aluminium cans, **ONLY CANS PLEASE**, and you can leave them on his drive in a bag and he will get them crushed and collected by the hospice.
- **Thringstone Members Club** are thinking of putting some planting at the front of their premises
- Bernard has identified several places where **shrubs have perished** over the winter period and intends to look towards getting new shrubs where appropriate. He was intending to start this week, but the weather hasn't been suitable. The repainted Drury Lane sign was now up on the wall again.

**Next meeting : 4<sup>th</sup> April in the house lounge at Thringstone House Community Centre at 6.45pm.**



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