



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 APRIL 2013 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Bernard Lee, Tracy Foulds, Gillian Bates, Ray Woodward, Leon Spence, Mike Statham, Ann Petty, Robert Jordan

Apologies: Janet Stevenson, David Stevenson, Roy Hill, Ron Hill, Tam Bream, Julie Everitt, Carole Squires, Pat Hubbard, Pam Porter, Geoff Wilson, Geoff Walker
Missing from last meeting's minutes were apologies from Tam Bream.

Discussions/Decisions

Litter Pick with Air Cadets. 15 people (including 4 from 1188 Air Cadets) came out on a cold murky day to collect 17 bags of rubbish and various other items, like a bed head, tyre, paint cans, bread bin etc., all of which were removed by NWLDC two days later. 6 photographs were taken and are now in the portfolio and have been sent to our web site. A photographer from the Coalville Times also came to take photos. Thanks go to the 1188 Air Cadets for all the work they did and to our members. All who wanted fish and chips were treated to these by the group afterwards.

When discussing organising the next litter pick, Pam has suggested we do another litter pick on June 29th prior to the scarecrow event, but Bernard will be away. We therefore need others to commit to helping with this please. It will start at 10am from The Green as normal.

Snibston Miners' Gala 7th Sept 2013 - We have been invited to come to this event again and there is a £20 table cost. Bernard said he could help with the event manning, and it was agreed to do wine and water. Nita will email all members to ask if they are able to donate a bottle of wine for the event.

Green Footprints Awards 2013 – 10 photographs (plus parental consent forms) have been sent to NWLDC for the video to be put together to show at the awards on 26th April. Nita, Ann, Leon and his wife are going along to the event awards evening.

New publications It has been suggested that we split the archives awaiting printing into 'living in the village', 'working in the village', and 'leisure in the village' with subtext to ensure people know what these publications contain. Nita is still working with Ann on getting this sorted. Another member has typed up a lot of poems by Joan Brotherhood Blackey which could go with other poems we have. Leon said his mother, Pam Spence, had some poems,



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and he would look these out for us and also suggested that some of Joan Brotherhood Blackey's poems had been published before, and he would try to find out if he could get us a copy of this book.

Coalville twenty13 event – this is on 23rd June, and we have already said we will have a stall. We agreed we would have a 5x 5 stall which costs £25. Can people start letting us know if they have things for us to sell please?

Committee – We need new members for the committee and are active seeking new people willing to give an hour a month to help. Current vacancies include events help, minute secretary and general secretary, environment lead and what's on compiler for the monthly meeting. Technically only the minute secretary and general secretary posts need to sit within the existing committee structure.

A committee member has to agree to attend at least 4 meetings per year and to be available for consultation, either by phone or preferably email, on a regular basis, so that everybody on the committee knows what is currently happening in the group and are able to make comments and observations when approached. If anybody is interested or wants further information, please contact Nita direct.

Membership renewals – we will be starting to collect membership renewals in May. Please give these to Nita. We already have a new member – Colin Draycott – who is very welcome.

Scarecrow event and Methodists 150th anniversary event.

Lindsay Weaver has offered to supply 50 cup cakes to say thanks to the brownies and rainbows for judging the event for us. It is hoped that this will not cut across the catering being done by The Methodist Church. Tam has taken our original scarecrow banners to get information altered so that they are OK to reuse this year. The poster will be finished within the week and then ready to laminate and put up.

The Methodist church is currently trying to source some outside entertainment to draw people in, and has heard from Mick Palethorpe, who we used in 2008, that he will bring his old fire engine. We have been in touch with Andrew Bridgen MP to open the event for us, which he is and has accepted, and asked if Hermitage FM want to do an outside broadcast but still waiting to hear on that last one.

Further press releases have gone out to local papers to inform them that Andrew will be attending. Mike Statham said that Lee Hooker from Bagworth does an ice cream tricycle. Lorraine can provide his contact details.

Chair's report

Letters Received:

- Vouchers from Tesco and Hermitage Leisure Centre for scarecrow event prizes
- RCC Village Events and Guided Walks brochure

Emails Received:

- Completed an online survey for RCC on our climate change week litter pick.
- Completed an online survey for Climate Change Week on their website on how we linked with them on our litter pick and what we expected of the organization
- Completed on line survey for National Forest Organisation on number on guestimated volunteer hours during the year.

Emails Sent:

- Various to members etc.



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Promotion:

- Details and photos of our litter pick on 9th March sent to Oak FM, Hermitage FM, Mercury, Echo, CV Times (printed 15th March), Council, Leicestershire Villages website, Litter Action UK website, Rural Community Council (printed in their newsletter 20/3/2013), Climate Change Week website, our website, Litter Action UK website, and put on twitter and facebook. Letter also written to de Lisle family explaining how much stuff was taken from the woodlands.
- Photo of cheque collection from Coalville Rotary in CV Times 15th March.
- We now have 102 followers on Twitter
- Added details of dog walk through Grace Dieu Woods to www.walkiees.co.uk which contains details of dog walks across Britain. Sence Valley in Ibstock is already on there.

Treasurer's Report

MARCH TRANSACTIONS

FoT Gen Fund			
Income		expenditure	
Photos	£ 48.00	Bauble	£ 36.10
Raffle	£ 8.00	printer ink	£ 12.99
donation (litterpick)	£ 20.00	litter pick food	£ 25.75
membership	£ 14.00	photo mounts	£ 5.28
other donations	£ 1.50	other stationery	£ 1.00
total income	£ 91.50	total expenditure	£ 81.12
		FoT general fund	£ 3,783.66

The financial year has now ended. The above are the transactions for March. Thank you to Rowena for the donation which enabled us to buy fish and chips for the air cadets – who, by all accounts, did a good job.

This 'general fund' balance figure includes £370 specifically for the scarecrow event and £300 specifically for publications. In addition we hold £5.81 from the sales of the graveyard booklets. We started the year with £3414 in the general fund. I will get the final end of year figures confirmed and checked as soon as possible, and in time for the AGM in June. Until then the General Fund balance figure should be considered as a provisional figure.

Publication Report – Roy Hill

Two sets of photographs have been sold this month. I was unable to make contact with the Community Centre and so I cannot report from there. The George and Dragon were very busy with a promotion event and so I was unable to check their sales.

The four copies of the Rose and Crown photograph were framed at the Springboard centre but because of the sale of the two sets we were immediately down to only two Rose and Crown photos and none of the others.

I made contact with John Dickinson and he has given me the original photograph files so that I can now print copies as required. I have therefore printed two off each photo (other than the Rose and Crown) and taken these for mounting. When complete this will give us two full mounted sets and we can top those up very quickly if we sell them.

Therefore the following has been paid to the Treasurer:



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2 sets of photographs @ £24 = £48 plus a donation of £1 making £49 in total.

STOCK REPORT

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

Web report

The website has not been updated since February. The webmaster is aware of alterations needed.

Arts and Community Report and What's On

St Andrew's Spring Fayre recently held has contributed £330 to church funds. Thanks to all who bought something or contributed in any other way.

The Community Centre has secured funding from the County Council for another year, and Mike Statham said that the bar lounge alterations were well underway.

He further announced that the new photocopier is available for people to use, in black and white, and colour, and it will also do banners.

Hough Windmill opened up again on 31 March. It will be open throughout the summer on Sundays and bank holidays from 2pm-5pm. There have been various improvements made to the windmill over the winter period. There is, for example, now a new 2.5 ton brake wheel and many of the exhibits and displays in the Neaverson Centre have been altered

- 7 April – **Sence Valley Park**. Canicross event (running with your dog)
- 18 April – **Hermitage FM** quiz night at Hotel Street. Starts 7.30pm. 4 per team. £3.50 per person inc. soup and roll.
- 18 April – **Snibston Century Theatre** – play Lights out land girls. Tickets £10 on door, £8 advance. Starts at 7.30pm
- 20 April – Armageddon 8 man individual **pro darts event**, Hermitage Leisure Centre. Tickets £20 each or 4 for £70. Contact centre for further details on 811215
- 21 April – **Swannington woodlands** and conservation walk. 4 miles. Meet at 9.30am at Hough Mill. £3 per person.
- 27 April – Ann Duggan band at **Thringstone House Community Centre**. Traditional Country Music. Starts 8.30pm. Tickets £7 in advance, £8 on the door.



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- 28 April – **Art Deco Fair at Beaumanor Hall** – art nouveau and 20th century fair. £3 per person. 10am-4pm. Details on 01509 890119
- 28 April – **Classic Car and Motorcycle Event**, Donington le Heath Manor House. 1pm-3pm. For prices call 831259.
- 4 May – **Snibston Century Theatre** – Comedy night. Tickets £12 or £10 advanced. Starts at 7.30pm and features Marion Davies (Edinburgh Comedy Festival) Joe Bor and Rich Morton (Time Out Comedy Award Winner)

Walks as part of the **National Forest Walking Festival** include:

- Sunday 19 May - **Mount St Bernard's Abbey** – 6 mile walk starting at 10am from the car park at the Abbey taking in Warren Hills nature reserve and Charnwood Lodge nature reserve. Cost Free. All welcome.
- Sunday 19 May – **Grace Dieu Priory** guided walk. Meet at the Bull's Head car park at 3pm. £3 per person payable on the day.
- Wednesday 22 May – **Goliath's End Guided Walk, Swannington**. Meet at 7pm at the 19th century Snibston No. 3 mine on Spring Lane and explore Swannington Incline, the terminus of Robert Stephenson's 1832 Leicester and Swannington Railway. Adults £3, children free.
- Wednesday 22 May – **Oaks in Charnwood**. 5 mile walk meeting at St James The Greater Church, Oaks in Charnwood at 10.30am and walking towards Blackbrok Reservoir. Cost Free. All welcome.
- Sunday 26 May – **Cademan and Swannymote Woods** guided history walk with Nita. Meet at 10am on The Green. Cost £3 per person payable on the day.
- Sunday 26 May – From **California to Calcutta Guided Walk, Swannington**. Meet at 5pm at Hough Mill. Learn about coal mining sites from the 13th to 19th centuries including bell pits, gin pits and deeper mines. The 200 year old church has Wordsworth connections. Following the route of Jessop's 18th century horse drawn railway to the ill-fated Charnwood Forest canal and Coleorton railway and visit newly planted and maturing woodlands. Adults £3 children free.

Future planning

- **Whitwick Historical Group's 30th anniversary** – 25 May 10am – 5pm. Go and learn about the history of Whitwick.
- **Take Teddy to the Mill** – Monday 27th May Hough Hill – go with your favourite soft toy for an adventure trail and a special activity for your teddy. More details to come.
- **Shepshed Show 2013** – 15th June from 11am-4pm at Shepshed High School. Further details to be advised, but will include lots of food and craft stalls, falconry and dog show and vintage vehicles. It is hoped there will be a tug of war.
- **Swannington Strawberry Fayre** – Sunday 30th June at the village hall. More details to come

History report

- Beech Restoration (**Charles Booth's grave**) have emailed to say that they have been unable to get to the church to take photos etc., because their stone mason is unwell. They hope to do this shortly.



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- Ann found **two tapes** of people related to Thringstone. One of our members has kindly typed up a load of poems written by Joan Brotherhood Blackey which will go towards the poetry section for future a publications, probably called Born and Bred 3, which could also incorporate other information we have yet to publish. The other tape is of Hilda Sykes talking about her war memories, which may be used at the scarecrow event in the hall whilst people are having tea, so they have something to listen to.
- We have been promised a tape from a gentleman talking about his move to **Thringstone from Scotland** in the 1960s.
- We have spoken twice with Sarah Finch, who is the regional manager for Heritage Lottery Funding, about putting in for £3k under their Sharing Heritage project funding. In a nutshell, what we would like to consider doing is as follows:
 1. Putting on an event in 2014 to co-incide with the anniversary of the start of WW1 because we are already working with others on publications for leaflets for this. We could, potentially, work with the RBL on this if they were amenable and put together a big event. For this, we would need costings on the hiring of the full community centre on a weekend (Saturday preferred) for such an event. We feel it would be something that we could all work together on to benefit the village and the centre.
 2. Putting on a smaller heritage event like we have in the past on a Saturday using the bar lounge area and end room.
 3. Getting all the other publications sorted that we have discussed previously at our meetings
 4. Purchase of new display boards - at the moment we use the ones from Grace Dieu.

We have contacted the centre to see if they are interested in a big heritage event next year, and would work with us on this to put it on and would you be able to let us do a smaller heritage event, and if yes to all this, to provide costings. Mike Statham thought this an excellent suggestion and the centre had been considering doing an event anyway. He will reply to our email in due course.

Once the project is approved, the money has to be spent in 12 months, and as approvals are given within 8 weeks of submitting an application, anything submitted would have to be programmed to fit in with that timescale, so in essence, we really need to get something submitted in the next couple of months if we are looking to get something on next summer.

- One of our members has said he is willing to be taped talking about when he owned the off license on the corner of **Whitwick Moor**. Ann is sorting this.
- A lady connected to the Waterfield family said she has photographs of the family which could add to our archives relating to the **Queen's Head**. Ann has collected some photos and information and is hopeful that more might be forthcoming.

Councillors' report – Leon Spence

Local councillors met with the Council's housing officer this week for a walk round all the council properties in the village. As a result of this, it has been agreed that the **metal fencing** facing onto Loughborough Road from Elgin Walk will be repainted as it is currently in a very poor state. The council will also try to work to reduce the amount of people **parking on grass verges** by liaising with the County Council and ask the highways department to make good where damage



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had been caused. It could then be possible for the cost for this work to be recouped by legal process from those responsible for the damage.

There was considerable discussion about people driving down the pavement to access their property and the state of the grass verge near The Meadows nursing home.

The service road leading to the parking area on **Dalkeith Walk** has been repaired by the district council to remove potholes etc. and the large **pothole** on St Andrew's Close/Booth Road junction has been reported to the county council. Bernard said there is also a large pot hole on the bottom end of Henson's Lane. When Leon has full details, he will report this.

Work has started on the £30,000 improvements to the **Melrose Road play area**. A map of the area in question was passed round the group and is available to anybody who wants to see this.

The idea is to improve the existing play facilities and look at minimizing anti-social behavior.

Benches and a low level fence are to be provided, the latter being done to stop children running out into the road. There will also be some **fencing to the football pitch** at the rear of the Bowls Club to stop people having to scale the banking to retrieve lost footballs.

There has been a lot of case work recently, most of which has involved **planning applications**.

Please approach your councillor if you have a planning issue.

Discussion took place on what consultation had been made with residents of Springfield regarding the provision of new floodlighting at **Thringstone Bowls Club**. Not everybody who might be affected seemed to have been consulted. Leon agreed to look into this, but said that the lighting should point down to the playing area, not light up the sky, but had yet to be tested.

There is an upcoming **county council election** in May. People will have got voting cards and are encouraged to use their vote for the party of their choice.

There is also to be a possible **electoral review** through the boundary commission with a view to potentially changing the number of councillors per ward. The size of the district council will remain the same with 38 councillors but the idea, for example in the case of Whitwick, would be that the 3 councillors there be given a specific area to work for, rather than the whole village. Some felt that this was a backward step as it meant that people didn't have a choice of who to contact about a matter and it would also mean that, if a councillor were ill or away, a matter could be left and not dealt with. This could cause problems in an emergency situation.

If people wish to make their views known, they are encouraged to contact the boundary commission and complete the online form.

Leon had conducted a public consultation exercise on people's views on the builders working on the **Rose and Crown** putting their site huts on the existing Green car park whilst they finished off their own building work. The majority of people had no problem with this as long as it only took up 3 parking spaces and was for a limited period of time. Building work on the Co-op is progressing well, and it is hoped that the store will open in June.

Coalville Community Forum has a **£15,000 fund** for the Ibstock and greater Coalville area (including Whitwick and Thringstone) which allows group to apply for funding for community projects. There is a closing date of 20th May and the projects will be voted for by the general public at a meeting on 17th June from 6-9pm. It was wondered whether the mural on the stairs at the community centre should be redone, as it is showing signs of wear. Ray Woodward agreed to talk to the centre management about putting in a bid for money for this, as Leon said he knew a local artist who would work with local children to put something together. Ray also suggested that he would talk to Whitwick Historical Group about clearing up the graffiti from the bottom of their building, as existing artwork had been damaged.



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Leon said that some county councils are considering **downgrading potholed country lanes** to become byways, which would then mean they were no longer responsible for repairs to them. It is not known currently whether Leicestershire County Council will adopt this stance.

Police Report from Jim Sorrell

Here are the states for the last 30 days that have been reported to the police.

1x theft from motor vehicle = This was a catalytic convertor. (part of the exhaust system under the car/ usually 4X4). There has been a spate of this over the last few weeks all over the local policing unit. This has happened before and the police are looking into the same cross border criminals.

1 x theft from person = This was a hand bag that was left in a public house and when it was handed over to staff and the owner collected it she discovered her purse missing. It had been left in the pub for about 3 hours before it was handed in. No suspects.

1 x Burglary Other Than Dwelling = This was an isolated property at the edge of the village on Ashby Road. The garage lock has been attacked and opened and some tools have been taken. No suspects.

2 x Thefts = Both have taken place in persons' homes. Both have suspects and one is due to go to court in the next few months. The other has been interviewed and denied the offence and further work to be carried out in this case.

There have been 6 non recordable incidents that are domestic related and do not affect the community.

Gardening and environment

- Edward de Lisle has sent an email suggesting that his father may write to us about helping them with anti social behavior at the edge of the **woods on Turlough Road** by having meetings there. We are presently awaiting his letter/contact, but have made it clear that our meetings are at the centre, and our litter picks meet on The Green for ease of access by people and transport. The gritted area on Turlough Road where we might have been able to park has been blocked off with logs to stop illegal parking, rendering the area difficult for cars to park safely.
- 5 new trees have been planted on the banking near the **Melrose Road Play Area** gate to the sustrans track to prevent children playing on the banking and falling. A further 5 new trees have been planted in the new plantation part of Grace Dieu woods near 'The Mound' to cultivate a previously bare area.
- Bernard has spent over £100 on **shrubs and plants**, and will shortly be reimbursed for this. Some plants have been placed down by the church wall to fill in a gap previously left after someone did some work to their part of the wall and other dead shrubs have been replaced.
- Bernard wondered what was happening with the cables in the closs now that cabling had been put down the footpath in **Drury Lane**. Ray agreed to investigate this.

Any other business

- Bernard has a quantity of size 8 men's shoes to donate to charity, and wanted to know if there is an **Air Ambulance** shop in Ashby. Leon said there was one detailed on the internet. In many cases, these were new shoes.



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**Next meeting : 2nd May at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre. All welcome.
Please come with your membership for the year if you can.**



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