



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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Visit our website at: www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk
We are also on facebook/twitter. Twitter address @Thringstone2

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2013 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Leon Spence, Mike Statham, Ann Petty, Bernard Lee, Tracy Foulds, Pat Hubbard

Apologies: Geoff and Jane Wilson, Gillian Bates, Roy Hill, Sue Rowbottom, Tam Bream, Robert Jordan, John and Karon Smith, Janet and David Stevenson, Dave Everitt.

Discussions/Decisions

Thringstone Bowls Challenge Match – this was cancelled by the bowls club on the Monday before the Friday of the match. There seems to have been some form of communication problem. We are not going to reschedule. Thanks to the 9 people plus 2 reserves who agreed to play and the 7 others who were going to come to support us.

Our roll up banner – the roll up banner which Ann took to Snibston for a month for us has been damaged. The coiled spring in it has been broken because it has been picked up and moved around. The Museum are aware of this. It does not seem possible to mend this ourselves, and it would be a question of taking it back to One Stop Promotions in Shepshed to get it repaired. It was agreed to talk to the people at Snibston about this as to whether they would pay for repairs, and then take the banner anyway to One Stop Promotions.

Bauble Deliveries - we received a call on 25 August informing us that a load of Baubles had been dumped in the brook near the bridge by Ashdale. 18 were removed from the brook and a further 10 picked up from the banking, but the person who rang suggested there were about 50 in total, so some may have washed down stream. This has caused embarrassment to the group, since we are an environmental organisation in the main, and we are endeavouring to find out who decided to dump them in the brook.

Monthly litter total for August – 186 bags of litter collected and removed from the village during the month. The total collected during June, July and August stands at a massive 572 and this is without an event litter pick!

New Member – welcome to our new member Mrs VM Cross. We now have 120 members.

Miners Gala at Snibston on 7 September – we are going to be doing wine and water again. We have bought 15 bottles of wine, and some more has been donated by



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various people (for which we thank them), but if anybody would like to donate more for this event, please contact Nita direct.

New Publication and help required– The printers are trying to put what was sent to them into Publisher A5 format which is something we couldn't do ourselves. We need volunteers or a **volunteer to put into Publisher format** what we send to the printers before we do so. At the moment the texts awaiting publication are the history of Grace Dieu Park cricket club which is over 30 A4 pages, 56 pages of A4 text on the history of the village and its people from 1800 onwards, memories of people which is presently split into two lots, and which comes out about 60 pages of A4, and details on pubs of the village, which is on-going work, and is presently over 50 pages.

Is anybody able to help with this please, as currently we have to pay extra to the printer to do this for us.

Stamps – we purchased a bulk load of postage stamps in April 2012 when the price went up. These have now been exhausted, and we would like to buy 50 2nd class stamps. It was agreed to purchase 50 more 2nd class stamps.

Village Quiz at the Community Centre – this is taking place again on 8 November starting at 7.30pm. Have we got a team of 6 people willing to represent FoT?

Chair's report

Nita is still not fully well but the following has been done this month.

Letters Received:

- From Rural Community Council inviting us to their awards ceremony in Loughborough.
- From Voluntary Acton Leics. regarding their conference and AGM

Emails Received:

- From the website '**Walkies**' (on which we put details regarding Gracedieu Woods and the priory) which said 'We loved this walk with our three lively dogs - plenty of stream action and things to explore. It had the sense of being in a real forest feel to it, was quiet, with quite a dense tree canopy and an abundance of wild flowers and trees to identify. We were also delighted to come across the ruins of the priory. Very satisfying spot to find from this website and I am sure we'll re-visit, especially as there was a whole area we didn't get to see this time.'
- As a result of a request, NWLDC have provided **demographic statistics** on how the village was made up as at the time of the 2011 census. There were 4,367 people living in the village at that time, of which only 89 were born outside the UK. 2,153 were males, and 2,214 were females. 702 people were aged between 0 and 15, 182 people were aged between 16 and 19, 413 were in their 20s, 1,729 were aged between 30 and 60, 426 were aged between 60 and 64 and 915 were aged 65-90+. This information confirms a marked change from 2001 statistics, and has been shared with the community centre.
- See other sections below

Emails Sent:

- To **1188 Squadron Air Cadets** – their CO is no longer someone living in Thringstone, so an email of introduction has been sent asking if they will continue to work with us on litter picks and environmental projects in the future. Previously it was easy to arrange by personal contact. They have confirmed they will still help with litter picks, but need plenty of notice. Their last litter pick with us was in March this year.



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Promotion:

- **BBC News Have Your Say** tweeted that they needed stories on litter and flytipping, preferring to concentrate on grotty areas to show them up. We emailed them suggesting they might also want to promote what voluntary groups do to keep the country tidy, rather than name and shame a town or area, as that promotes the negative and gives a bad impression if it happens to be an area where work is being done to regenerate and/or promote tourism and business.
- We now have 132 followers on **Twitter**

Treasurer's Report

AUGUST

Funds held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£3,755.20		
Income		Expenditure	
membership	£ 3.50	bark chippings - labour	£ 20.00
donation	£ 5.00	wine (snibston stall)	£ 48.97
scarecrows	£ 3.00	weedkiller	£ 49.50
raffle	£ 6.00	rubber grips (litter sticks)	£ 109.90
	£ -	bauble printing	£ 34.95
	£ -	postage for publication	£ 1.00
total income to general fund	£ 17.50	total exp	£ 264.32
		Total funds	£ 3,508.38

Publication Report – Roy Hill

We have had one sale via the Internet for a Born and Bred 1. There have been no other sales. Therefore £3 has been paid to the Treasurer:

STOCK REPORT

	Community Centre	George & Dragon	Nita	Anne	Stock	TOTAL
Born and Bred 1	2	3	0	2	17	24
Born and Bred 2	2	3	0	2	16	23
Born and Bred 3	2	3	0	2	76	83
Memories 1	1	2	0	2	17	22
Memories 2	1	3	0	2	22	28
Village Trail 1	2	3	3	2	9	19
Village Trail 2	2	3	0	2	7	14
Village Trail 3	2	3	3	2	16	26
DVD	0	0	2	0	3	5
Graveyard Booklet	6	5	15	10	175	211
Sub-totals	20	28	23	26	358	455



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Web report

The website still needs some updating, but the webmaster has now put minutes on for May, June, July and August, plus the AGM chair's report and summer Bauble, and the logo to say that we made the finals of the Green Footprints Awards. He has a full list of all other updates necessary, which include updating the home page.

Community Report and What's On

Volunteers wanted – Friends of Grace Dieu Priory are looking for volunteers to help them put on a carol concert at the ruins on 6 December. You will remember last year there wasn't a carol service there because of lack of volunteers to do things like man the car park, escort people who don't know the way to the priory, give out carol sheets etc., and also to help with the set up the day before. If you feel able to help, please contact Nita and she will put your name forward to the group for you.

Thringstone Live For Charity music event at the George and Dragon on 3rd August raised £2,033 for Leicestershire Parents for Diabetes UK, and Coalville Scouts. Over £12,250 has now been raised since the inception of these music events at the venue.

Thringstone Member's Club fund raising day for the family of Danny Brewster raised £530. Thanks from Margaret and staff to all who supported the event.

A figure slightly in excess of £400 was raised by the team at the Hare and Hounds in Whitwick for **MacMillan Cancer Care**. Thanks to all who supported the event.

Whitwick Coffee Shop - On Thursday lunchtimes on 12 and 26 September, 10 and 24 October, 7 and 21 November and 5 and 19 December a **chat and eat session** runs at the Whitwick coffee shop. It starts at 10.30am and they met in The Gallery Room at the coffee shop.

THIS IS NOT JUST FOR PENSIONERS - IT IS FOR EVERYBODY

There is a fun quiz at 11.30am, dominoes, board games also available, and then a short talk by Steven Ward, the Chaplain. This is followed at 12 noon with a 2 course lunch at £4.99 or for those over 50 and concessions £3.25.

If you want, you can just go for the meal.

You can book a place with Pat on 812437 or Margaret on 519696 ext. 25.

If you can't get there and fancy the chance to mingle, you can also ask for transport by ringing Nicky at the Marlene Reid Centre on 512457.

Hare and Hounds in Whitwick are now opening for 'a special Tuesday lunchtime' every Tuesday so if you fancy going somewhere different, try them. They also now have regular music on a Saturday night.

Christmas menus for The George and Dragon are now available. See Pete, Steve, Margaret or Ann for more details or ring 222282.

- From now until 1 October – **Heritage Painting Exhibition** at Swannington Hough Mill. Sundays and bank holiday Monday 2pm-5pm.
- 6 Sept – **Family disco** at the George and Dragon starting at 7.30pm
- 7 Sept – **Whitwick Party in the Park** and Scarecrow trail.
- 7 Sept - **40s evening** with Jill Daniels. Tickets £15 to include supper under the marquee at the George and Dragon



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- 7 Sept – **Snibston Miners Gala** – FoT will have a stall there all day
- 7 Sept – **Old School House fete** from 1pm-5pm. Stalls, raffles, tombolas etc.
- 8 Sept – **Zany dog show** at Osgathorpe with stalls, food etc. 12.30-5.30pm.
- 8 Sept – **Craft fayre** at the 2.30pm- 6.30pm at George and Dragon in the marquee
- 10 Sept – Whitwick and Thringstone Churches Together **Retreat Day** at Mt. St. Bernard Abbey. 9.30am for 9.45am service. All welcome. Bring packed lunch. Finishes at 4pm.
- 14 and 15 Sept – at St Joseph's Field, Oaks Road, Oaks in Charnwood – **the Coalville World War 2 outstation of the RAF** open from 11am – 4pm. Part of work done by the Charley Heritage Group. Various activities organized by Loughborough Radio Club and others. Refreshments available. For more information contact Maureen Havers on 811149.
- 15 Sept – **Shepshed Charity Sunday Lunch** – Livio's Italian restaurant in Hallcroft. All profits go to Shuttleworth Clarke Foundation. Tickets £25 for 3 courses plus glass of wine.
- 15 Sept – **Steam Ride Enthusiasts Day** at Hermitage Recreation Ground. 11am-4pm.
- 20 Sept – **Japanese Food Night** at Thringstone Miners Welfare Football Club with Kosuka Koka Kumata. 7pm start. Families welcome.
- 21 Sept – **litter pick from Hermitage Leisure Centre** concentrating on the old railway line area near the centre. 10am-12 noon followed by a complimentary drink at the centre café. All welcome.
- 21 Sept – **Snibston** – all day archeology event as per history report.
- 21 Sept – **Miners Welfare Football Club** – Russ Hoults' Football academy for children from the age of 3 years upwards. All welcome.
- 29 Sept – **St Michael and All Angels, Diseworth** – 1000 years of history. 6.30pm in the church to launch the new walking trail and watch slideshow on Diseworth. Refreshments will be available.
- 29 Sept – working party organized by Friends of Grace Dieu priory to clear the path over the top of the **viaduct** which you can access from off Springfield. Starts at 10am. Bring equipment.
- 29 Sept – **Coalville Colliery and Railway History Ride** with Keith Drury. Cycle ride of about 16 miles around heritage areas. Meet at Coalville Co-op car park at 11am. Will include lots of stops
- 29 Sept - **Antiques, vintage and collectors' fayre** at Hermitage Leisure Centre. 9.30am-4pm. £2 admission, children under 16 accompanied by adult free.
- 5 Oct – **Barn dance at Swannington Village Hall**. 7.30pm start. Tickets £7.50 or £5 for under 10s. Further details from 815045.
- Forward planning – 11 Oct – **Trio Manouche** Gypsy Swing band at Thringstone House Community Centre
17 Oct – **A Night at the movies and more** – music from movies at Belton Village Hall. Starts at 7.30pm. For more information ring 222897.
23 November – **Coalville Food and Drink Festival** in town centre
17 Jan – 25 Jan 2014 – **Panto** at Community Centre will be **Dick Whittington**

History report



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- On 29th August, the government released copies of the soldier's handwritten **wills of some of the soldiers of WW1 who died on active service**. There is a cost of £6 each for these, and once ordered, they are available as a download with a time period of 31 days to download and save. Some of the soldiers we are researching for the WW1 county project had wills available to download, so were ordered, have been received and copies run off and saved. In 2 cases, the wills were not found, and relatives and friends had to swear that they had seen copies and who the beneficiaries were. This is the first time that we have seen the writing of the soldiers in question and if we find family of these soldiers, we will share what we have. We have already shared with the heritage officer at County Hall.
- Considerable research is currently being carried out on **people from Thringstone** who have 'made a name for themselves' from which we have discovered the Charles Edmund Crane, who set up the firm that is now Crane and Walton in 1909/10 in High Street, Coalville was the son of Rev. Edwin Samuel Crane, first vicar of Thringstone, and was born in our village.
- Research using the **British Newspaper archive** has thrown up the name of Elizabeth Eyre/Ayre as landlady of the Rose and Crown in August 1837 which is new information. We have also found information on a person called Alice Potter who was found guilty of setting fire to corn, hay and straw at The Bull's Head in the 1830s, after a previous episode which involved letting her asses stray into fields belonging to the Bull's Head family. Strangely, the judges involved, despite firm evidence of her guilt, sentenced her to death! It wasn't until they were then leaving the area, they decided to 'give her the benefit of the doubt; and commuted her sentence!
- **A talk and walk** on the ghosts and history of Thringstone and Gracedieu was given to a group of learning difficulty adults and their carers who contacted us through Amanda Hanton of the Volunteer Intern Placement scheme at Snibston. They were very interested in the whole area and asked lots of questions. Ann also led a walk to Gracedieu for friends of a member.
- **Charles Booth's grave** – James Gore Browne has accepted a quote for the restoration of the grave in the sum of £1395 plus VAT @ 20% which is considerably cheaper than expected. Aunt Fanny Hugill is now trying to arrange funding from the family for this. We have reminded them that we have another £9.31 from graveyard booklet sales which we can donate and understand that the conservator is shortly going to be completing the Form of Application for Listed Building Consent. The PCC from St Andrew's have been asked by the family to administer a bank account for the work being carried out and have been offered a small fee for doing this. This is currently being considered.
- We have received a photo of handbell ringers at **Thringstone Primary in 1958** for our archives from the request put out in the recent Bauble. The person who sent the photo is now in contact with Ann over an ancestor on whom we have the inquest details.
- By looking through old deeds and then following through leads made, we have found out a lot about **William Hallam, the first landlord of the Queen's Head** and his family, including finding out about his 15 year old daughter's illicit meetings with a 21 year old Scotsman and her subsequent elopement which caused a considerable stir in the village in 1846. We have also been able to link in other landlords as being part of the Hallam family.
- Further research has discovered the date on which the **toll house** in Thringstone was demolished (1885) and more about the people who managed the toll gate and lived in the toll house.



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- From research into **Gracedieu Manor**, we have discovered the names of two gardeners in the 1880s, one of which was new to us, and also researched the family history of the **Coope family** (of Ind Coope Brewery), one of whom lived at the Manor for about 5 years prior to the Booths moving in. One interesting factor is that Edward Jesser Coope (the person who rented the manor) was the only son of Octavius Coope who left, in today's terms, £45.5 million to his family, most of which went to Edward. Edward had an interesting life, setting up his wife in a property in Mayfair and living with a lady to whom he was not married and by whom he had several children. This obviously cost money, but he still left the equivalent in today's terms of £1.98 million. This is all new information and has been shared with Friends of Grace Dieu Priory.
- Following a discussion with a gentleman interested in the history of village, we discovered some further information about landlords at **The George and Dragon**. A subsequent telephone call made to the daughter in law of a former landlord also gave us more new information about the pub during the war period.
- Snibston Museum is putting on 'A recent discoveries in Leicestershire Archeology – **Life After Time Team**' on 21 September from 9am until 4.30pm. The cost is £15 to include refreshments and buffet lunch, and there are various speakers booked. Contact the museum if you wish to have further details. Ann is intending to go for our group.

Councillors' report

Recycling Household Waste Sites

As the County Council continues to plan for a difficult financial future progressively services are being reviewed and changed.

The latest service to be subject to review is waste tips.

Next week Cabinet at LCC will consider changes to tip opening hours. It is likely the following changes will be introduced:

- 1 April to 30 September – tip to open daily 9.00am to 7.00pm (current opening hours are 8.00am to 8.00pm all year round).
- 1 October to 31 March – open 5 days per week (including weekends) 9.00am to 4.00pm.
- Projected to save £300,000

Leicestershire's Future

All of us are well aware that local government is facing exceptionally tough times. Over the next five years it is projected that Leicestershire County Council must make savings of approximately £100 million, around one third of all money the council spends. The County Council is asking for your views on how we can save the money. An online consultation is being carried out until Sunday 15th September. If you have not already made your views known please do so.

Discretionary Bus Services



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Over the summer the Cabinet have approved changes to discretionary bus services in the County. Changes are far reaching and will be introduced at different times but in broad terms the following will existing provision will be withdrawn:

- Free travel for disabled concessionary pass holders before 9:30am Monday to Friday.
- Free travel after 11:00pm for disabled and older concessionary pass holders.
- £33 of vouchers for use on local taxi and bus service as an alternative to the statutory concession scheme where the older / disabled person lives over 800 metres from a frequent bus service.
- Half fare on community transport services (eg. Marlene Reid Centre).
- To charge full cost recovery for 16+ transport to educational establishments (£425 per year) and for all children travelling to denominational schools (£640 per year).
- To charge £640 per year for all fare paying places.
- Various minor changes.

Core Strategy

NWLDC's Core Strategy, which is designed to protect the Green Wedge around Whitwick and Thringstone is now being scrutinised with a view to being approved by the Secretary of State. Unfortunately the appointed inspector, Mr Hetherington, has called various serious aspects in to question.

As such an exploratory public meeting has been scheduled for later this month. Details can be accessed via NWLDC's website.

Council Houses

You may have noticed over the past few weeks many NWLDC repair vans around Thringstone. NWLDC are carrying out a massive programme of home improvements over three years (we are currently in Year 2) to bring our housing stock up to decent homes standard. Thringstone will be the focus of improvement works over the coming months.

As usual we have both been carrying out casework around the village.

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

Leon Spence and Dave Everitt.

Police Report

No report received, probably because we didn't remind them of the need to do so.

We know that the local police are doing a crack down on parents who **park on the zigzags near schools** to drop off their children. They are also continuing to do a check on motorbiking in woodland areas.

Several of the coping stones to top of the **wall of the Co-op** have been pulled off into the lane below and to our planting. The Co-op have been informed and asked whether it is their responsibility to repair and replace, and have moved the stones from the lane and are going to come back to us on this.

Gardening and environment



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- We signed up and were accepted to **Givingworldonline** which is a charity organization offering free things to other groups. We have asked for carrier bags to help those who litter pick regularly and also some seeds to go into various areas on the village. These have to be picked up from Leicester, and Geoff Wilson has agreed to go and fetch these next week.
- As above, on 29 September, there is a working party to clear the weeds and shrubbery from the top of the **viaduct in Grace Dieu Woods**. Access from Springfield. Starts at 10am. Bring your own equipment.
- Bernard has covered over the grass down **Drury Lane** to stop it growing back and subsequently weed killed the area. He is also doing a lot of weeding around the village and has sprayed weed killer around the seating area on The Green and around the car park area where weeds are growing. Following various comments made to us, the November edition of **The Bauble** will have details in about the reasons we got rid of most of the grass down Drury Lane as people have said it looked so nice with the grass there. One of the main problems was dog fouling, which affected the mower and caused problems for Bernard. Hopefully people with memories will look back to how it was in 2005 when we cleared the area with a JCB and did our initial planting, and appreciate that, even without grass, it is a considerable improvement on what used to be there and allows access to Bob's Closs.
- A full morning was spent weeding and removing stuff from our planting on **Brook Lane**. Thanks to Ken Beniston for allowing us to completely fill his truck with weeds, which he then took down to the tip for us, using his tipping license.
- The **poppy seeds** we bought recently will be scattered around areas this month. Thanks to Janet Warburton for letting us have some extra seeds, and to Janet Stevenson for planting some primroses for us which were 'going spare' and letting us have other plants.
- Following a call from a concerned resident about the weeds on the pavement side of the fencing at the corner of **Whitwick Moor** where the 2 new properties have been built, Bernard has weed- killed the whole of that area, and we are proposing to put a token few shrubs there to make the entrance to the village slightly more attractive.
- An email was sent to Edward de Lisle on 22 August informing him on the amount of damage caused to the **woods near Turlough** by the 'building' of a motorbiking area, complete with 8' banking. This is now also an area of severe littering, but David and Sharon Astill are doing their best to keep on top of this pollution aspect. In 2 weeks they removed 16 bags full of rubbish from there, having got it clear previously. This is now ongoing work, and we felt that the de Lisle family should be aware of our efforts on their behalf.
- We took part in a survey with **Litter Action UK**, and the results have been sent to us for the country and in particular for the Midlands region. These make interesting reading, and we are amongst a very small percentage to litter pick on a very regular basis. It would seem that most people who litter pick do so in rural areas, with the average amount of people in a group who litter pick at the same time (as we do on our event litter picks) being 11. The biggest problem across the country is identified as recruiting new members to litter pick. 88% of those surveyed also suggested that supermarkets charge for a carrier bag rather than giving these away free.
They are suggesting that we start doing a can count as part of our collections, but we feel this would be a step too far, given the amount of cans we collect, and would mean setting up some form of database to keep accurate records which we would not be prepared to



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Any other business

Next meeting : The next meeting is 3 October at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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