



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 DECEMBER 2013 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Pat Hubbard, Carol Squires, Tracy Foulds, Geoff Walker, Bernard Lee, Janet Stevenson, Ron Hill, Roy Hill, Ann Petty, Mike Statham, Pam Porter, Mike King, Ruth Crockett, Geoff Wilson (briefly).

Apologies: Ron Hill, Sue Colledge, Tam Bream, Rowena Summers, Julie Everitt, Dave Everitt, Ray Woodward, Leon Spence, David Stevenson

Monthly litter total for November – Monthly litter pick total for November was 149. Litter picking that day had been entertaining with the windy conditions

Book keeper's role – David Stevenson has volunteered to take over the book keeper roll after the end of March for which we are grateful.

Village Quiz at the Community Centre – Thank you to the team for putting in a spirited performance. The quiz was won by U3A, with Ladies Badminton 2nd, and the wine circle third and St Andrew's A team 4th. We think we came 6th out of 12.

Carols Round The Tree – Thanks to Bernard, Ray and helpers for fetching and erecting the tree. The small lights in the trees at the front of the centre, which FoT supplied a few years back and which are never taken down, had rotted, so a further 3 sets have been purchased, and Bernard is putting those up for everybody. The new ones cost over £66. Maybe they should be taken down each year so they last longer? There has also been a suggestion that a permanent Christmas Tree be planted as we are having difficulties now sourcing one each year. It is unclear at present who would pay for this if it were purchased.

Presents and toys for children – We put in for a 100 packs of toys (free) from GivingWorldonline, and have been successful. It is intended to give these to the centre for the Carols Round The Tree event, so each child coming along gets a gift. Surveys will have to be completed by 50 recipients of the gifts for the charity.

Collecting of drinks cans for St Giles Hospice – John on Main Street has been collecting cans, including taking cans from our litter picking, for a local hospice. The man who then collects from John is stopping doing this, so please don't take cans to John anymore. Put them in your recycling again please.



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The Big Book of Thringstone History - Teamprint are having problems proof reading The Big Book of Thringstone and are intending to stop doing this. They got to page 33 of 100+. They intend to add in the alterations and additions we asked for and then get it printed, as we were unable to find anybody from within the group to do the proof reading.

Chair's report

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

Letters Received:

None

Emails Received:

- Various – see sections below
- Completed survey from **Community Service Volunteers'** Make A Difference team about the work we did on our litter pick as part of that event.
- Discussions with **Co-op Member Relations** are possible over a link on environmental issues.
- RCC are asking for people to let them have dates of functions in 2014. Discussions are underway with the centre (and school) to provide a date for the WW1 village commemorations in 2014 so that an entry can go in the **RCC Event Guide**.

Emails Sent:

- Various to agencies about ongoing issues

Promotion:

- We've now got more **twitter** followers, taking the total to 162.
- We were mentioned on page 9 of NWLDC'S **Vision Magazine** (Autumn 2013) as an example of good practice for litter picking.

Other

- 14 Christmas cards have been written and sent to a variety of people and agencies connected with FoT on behalf of the group.

Treasurer's Report

Having received invoices for Memories 3 and Scottish in Thringstone, we now have £108.05 left from the Woodstock in Whitwick monies which were to be used for publications. This month has seen great income from publications. The expenditure for publications was for the printing of the Scottish booklet and Memories 3.

NOVEMBER

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£3,477.85		
Income		Expenditure	
publications	£ 120.50	broadband and calls oct	£ 11.72
raffle	£12	broadband and calls nov	£ 11.93
		website domain renewal	£ 12.56
		newsletter	£ 34.15
		publications	£ 112.01
		carparking	£ 0.50
		cards	£ 4.00



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		ink	£ 25.99
total income to general fund	£ 132.50	total exp	£ 212.86
		Total general fund	£ 3,397.49
		graveyard fund	£ 9.31

Publication Report – Roy Hill

Another good month for sales with 1 set of photographs, 9 x Memories 3, 8 x Scottish in Thringstone and 3 x Born and Bred 3 sold.

Thanks to all our sales outlets as they have all contributed to this month's achievements. I have ordered some additional photographs to be mounted as they are now running low together with some photographic paper on which to produce the photographs. Nita has ordered some more Scottish in Thringstone as we are virtually out of stock. These will be more expensive than the last order, as it is a smaller order and will be therefore done on a different machine, but the quality will be the same.

Therefore the following has been paid to the Treasurer by Roy:

2 x Scottish in Thringstone (Members Club) £5, 2 x Scottish in Thringstone (Jan Cufflin) £5
2 x Born and Bred 3 (Jan Cufflin) £5, 1 Set of photographs (Jan Cufflin) £24, 2 x Memories 3 (Community Centre) £6

Sub total: £45

Nita has paid the Treasurer directly:

3 x Memories 3 (Ann Petty) £7.50, 2 x Memories 3 (Nita) £5, 1 x Memories 3 (Community Centre) £2.50, 1 x Scottish in Thringstone (Ann Petty) £2.50, 3 x Scottish in Thringstone (Nita) £7.50, 1 x Memories 3 (Pam Spence) £2.50, 1 x Born and Bred 3 (Nita) £2.50

Sub total: £30

A total of £75

STOCK REPORT

	Community Centre	George & Dragon	Nita	Anne	Sundry people	Stock	TOTAL
Born and Bred 1	2	1	0	2		8	13
Born and Bred 2	2	1	0	2		28	33
Born and Bred 3	2	3	5	2	3	48	63
Memories 1	1	1	0	2		17	21
Memories 2	1	1	0	2		23	27
Memories 3	2	3	5	5	1	18	34
Scottish in T'stone	2	3	1	3	6	1	16
Village Trail 1	1	1	0	2		12	16
Village Trail 2	1	1	2	2		9	15
Village Trail 3	1	1	0	2		19	23
DVD	0	0	0	0		3	3
Graveyard Booklet	6	5	15	10		175	211
Sub-totals	21	21	28	34	10	361	475

Web report



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The webmaster has a full list of updates, on which he will be working shortly, which includes minutes, the last 2 newsletters, updating the home page which still mentions things happening in May, various photographs and updating of other details. There was concern that the home page, at least, was not up to date.

The webmaster has renewed the domain name for the group for another 3 years.

Community Report and What's On

Whitwick Fryer Fish and Chip Shop is now open on Sundays from 4.30pm til 10.30pm.

Congratulations go to Mike Statham for turning the boarding holding up the wall by the **church entrance** into an artwork saying Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Christmas. It has made use of what was previously an ugly structure.

Thringstone Co-op now has a **shoe and clothing bank** on their car park for monies to be raised for various charities.

Thringstone Members Club is still holding **tea dances** on Fridays from 1.30-3.30pm for £3.50 per person. More details from the club.

Thringstone Miners Football Club is looking for under 14 players for the new season, which means you must be 13 before 1st September. Please contact the club directly if you are interested or want further information.

We missed advertising, or taking part in, the **Thringstone Primary School's Christmas Fayre** on 29 November because nobody told us it was on until after the event.

- 7 Dec – **Family Festive Bike Ride**, this time from Snibston Museum from 3pm-4pm. This is part of **Snibston's Christmas Fayre**. Booking for the bike ride is required on 0116 3053179.
- 7 Dec – **St John's, Whitwick** – Christmas Fayre. Starts at 4pm.
- 7 Dec – 11am-4pm – **Photo with Santa** at Caroline Fern Photography, North Street, Whitwick. £5 per child.
- 8 Dec – **Santa steam train rides** at Hermitage Leisure Centre. 11am-12.30pm.
- 8 Dec – Christmas Craft fayre at **Sence Valley Park**, Ibstock – lower car park. All day.
- 12 Dec – **Whitwick Historical Group** have an open afternoon from 1pm-4pm.
- 14 Dec – **Vintage clothing sale at Black Horse Inn**, Whitwick. 12-4pm. Free. Teas and coffees available. Full range of stock from Dolly Pops Vintage.
- 14 Dec – **Christmas Craft afternoon** at Caroline Fern Creative Photography, North Street, Whitwick. 1-4pm. All ages welcome.
- 15 Dec – **Carol Service at St Andrew's** starts at 6pm
- 20 Dec – **Carols round the tree**. Procession at 6.30pm from St Andrew's to the Community Centre. Entertainment, drinks etc. afterwards
- 23 Dec – 30 Dec – Hermitage Leisure Centre, Whitwick – **Christmas Blowout** for children 5 – 13. A day of sports and games to include swimming and various other activities. Runs from 9am until 3.30pm. More information from the Leisure Centre.
- 31 Dec – **Thringstone House Community Centre** – movie themed New Year's Eve event. Starts at 8pm with red carpet greeting and is a full family event. There is a disco, face painting for the children etc. Tickets £12 adults, children £5, under 2s free, from Rob Bowman on 07840 395827 or Heather Hodgkins on 07818 171315.



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- 17 Jan – 25 Jan 2014 – **Panto** at Community Centre will be **Dick Whittington**. They will be performing at 7.30 pm (excluding Tuesday and Wednesday night) and there are matinee performances at 2.15 pm on Saturday 18th & 25th January and Sunday 19th January. Tickets for matinees do sell very fast so it is worth getting your orders in as early as possible. The group is also looking for volunteers to help out with either Front of House, Chaperoning for the under 16's or to help back stage. If you would like further information or to book tickets please ring the ticket hotline on 01530 834575 or e-mail tickets@org.uk. Tickets can be collected from the community centre by arrangement. Please come and support your local community group. Geoff Walker said he could also help to get tickets if people spoke to him.
- 19 Jan – **Antiques Vintage and Collectors fayre** at Hermitage Leisure Centre, Whitwick. Starts at 9.30am.

History report

- Ann has been to tape three people talking about their **memories**. This includes a gentleman who came to the village in the 1960s as a child from the NE. From these talks, we now know more about the land on which the Council houses on Henson's Lane were built, and where the Melrose Road estate now stands. We also have an idea of the differences faced by people from the NE who came to the village in the 1960s at the same time as the Scottish. We have also spoken briefly to a gentleman who came with his 6 children from Durham, and have spoken at length to another gentleman who came from High Spen near Newcastle at the same time and written up his story. Both these gents are in their late 80s.
- We have been trying to find out from the family what is the up to date position regarding the renovation of Charles Booth's grave but have heard nothing yet. We understand properties near St Andrew's have had letters asking if they have objections to the renovations.
- A talk on **WW1 memorials** held at Snibston's Century Theatre raised the fact that one of the people we have been researching for the proposed booklet next year is also commemorated on the Bardon church memorial. This was unknown to us before the talk was given.
- We have spoken with a lady who ran a hosiery factory in the late 1970s from **The Old School House**. We are now looking for further information, as she has said that the property also, at one time, housed a boat building business. If anybody is able to help with further information, please get in touch. Kath Ingall who was working behind the bar suggested we contact Roger Munsey or Ann and Richard Randall to talk about the knitwear factory.
- We have researched **the Webb family** – Daniel Amos Webb and his son John Henry were very prominent in the village, acting as church wardens, parish wardens, as well as an overseer, school manager and chair of the parish council (in the case of Daniel). The whole family has been researched and links found between the Waldram coal merchants, Biddle's (grocers) and Vesty family (farmers) and the Webb's. All we need now is some photographic help if there is any out there. We have also now made a list of church and parish wardens.
- We have been talking to a lady from the County Council who is trying to set up a **Green Plaque scheme**. This is intended to be village biased, and to celebrate people who have made an impact on their community. We feel this would be useful as far as our link with



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Charles Booth is concerned, and could bring added publicity to the village and Thringstone House. The church have said that if the plaque is granted for Charles Booth, they would like to have a service of thanksgiving for the life and works of Charles Booth at St Andrew's.

- David Astill has donated a lot of finds from **Gracedieu Priory** to the Friends of Gracedieu Priory. This could be potentially useful as aids when undertaking talks with school children.

Councillors' report

- District Council Budget

North West Leicestershire District Council is now midway through the 2014 budget setting process. Next week the Cabinet will meet to decide on how they will tackle the pressing budget deficit of £500,000 in 2014/15 escalating to £2,800,000 in 2017/18.

Following a consultation exercise the following proposals have been put forward for adoption.

Barring any last minute changes of mind, which would be exceptionally unlikely, these proposals will be introduced in April 2014.

- *Introducing an annual charge of £30 for fortnightly collection of garden waste bins. A charge of £25 a year will apply to smaller garden waste bins. (A £5 discount will be applied for those who pay the charge by direct debit.)*
- *No longer returning to collect 'unjustified missed bins'.*
- *Increasing parking charges in town centre car parks*
- *To start charging 'concessions' 50% for bulky waste collections.*
- *To start charging 'concessions' 50% for treating wasps, fleas and bedbugs.*
- *To start charging 'concessions' 50% for casual swimming (75% next year).*
- *To stop giving Community Grants.*
- *To stop publishing 'Vision' magazine.*
- *To significantly scale back the role of district council 'Chairman'.*

- County Council Budget

Following the 'Leicestershire's Future' consultation exercise the County Council budget is currently being finalised but proposals are not expected to be published until early January 2014. I hope to bring you more information next month however significant cuts, council tax and fee increases are to be expected.

- Thringstone Parish Council - Community Governance Review Petition

Approximately half of the required signatures (250) to initiate a Community Governance Review for the establishment of a Thringstone Parish Council have now been gathered.

I am hopeful that the petition will be presented to North West Leicestershire District Council in January. In that event the District Council would conduct a consultation exercise to formally gather the views of local residents with a Parish Council, if that is the preferred outcome, established in time for the local elections in May 2015.

- Green Footprints Awards

North West Leicestershire District Council are celebrating the commitment of local residents, groups and business to making North West Leicestershire a greener place to live, work and visit. The Green Footprints Awards champion the eco work of businesses, schools, young people and the community who have met the challenge of choosing greener ways to live and work. There are five categories:

• *Businesses*



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- *Children and young people*
- *Partnerships and community groups*
- *Schools*
- *Sustainable urban design.*

The awards are now open at <http://footprints.nwleics.gov.uk/>

The deadline for applications is Friday 24th January 2014 – and shortlisted projects will be invited to the annual civic ball and awards' night on Friday 4th April.

Primary School Admissions

- A reminder to parents of young children.

If your child is due to start primary school in September 2014 then the deadline for admission applications is 15th January 2014. If you have not applied by this date you will stand far less chance of obtaining your preferred school.

You can apply for school admissions on line by visiting:

http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/education/going_to_school/school_admissions_and_pupil_services/admissions/online_application.htm

- Housing

Members may be aware that NWLDC contractors have been undertaking a great deal of work on the Woodside Estate under the 'Decent Homes Programme'.

Both Dave and I have dealt with a great deal of casework resulting from complaints about the contractors. Most of these issues have now been resolved but a small number are still ongoing.

MAY WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD WHICH REQUIRE THE INTERVENTION OF YOUR COUNCILLORS THAN PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT US.

LEON AND DAVE

Police Report

The crime figures for Thringstone for the past 30 days are as follows:

- 1 x Assault – 1 person arrested and charged.
- 3 x Damage – 1 person arrested and charged.
 - 1 person arrested and charged
 - 1 suspect, investigation on going.
- 2 x Domestic Incident – detected and filed.

As you can see, it has been quite a good month, where everything has had a very positive outcome.

Although Thringstone itself is not being hit with burglaries at present, we are currently carrying out extra patrols in the area and all over NW Leicestershire, due to it being near to Christmas and houses having more valuable items in, especially under the tree! Please pass out a message to



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pay extra attention with regards to making sure all windows and doors are locked and secure. Do not leave anything of value on show like laptops, phones, car keys, etc. Try to leave a light on or set a timer switch if you will be out in hours of darkness. If anyone sees anything that concerns them, please do not hesitate to call it in on 101.

Gardening and environment

- NWLDC have cut off **overhanging branches** to trees by the Sustrans between the Springfield entrance and the viaduct. This is to aid visibility to walkers/cyclists etc., and prevent more leaves on the track.
- NWLDC's parks department planted **rose bushes** on the bedding near the Melrose Play area in the same place as they previously planted shrubs which lasted a week before they were dug up and slung round the play area. Children have continued to cycle over this part of the flowerbed as they have always done, and within 2 days many of the roses were flattened. This has been reported to the parks department with a suggestion that they flatten that end of the flowerbed and grass it.
- Various **flytipping** reported to the council over the last month has been removed.

Any other business

- Pam said that Chris Mellor (one of our former members) is now quite ill and requiring more concentrated care.

Next meeting : The next meeting is on 2 January at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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