



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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We are also on facebook/twitter. Twitter address @Thringstone2

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 MAY 2014 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Gillian Bates, Janet Stevenson, Mike Statham, Bernard Lee, Ron Hill, Roy Hill, Leon Spence, Ann Petty

Apologies: Tam Bream, David Stevenson, Sue Rowbottom, Pam Porter, Geoff Wilson, Rowena Summers, Ray Woodward, Robert Jordan

Information/Discussion:

Please note that memberships are now due. If you have already paid, thank you very much. If you wish to remain a member, we would appreciate your money being paid to us at your convenience, please. The cost is still, for the 5th consecutive year, £3.50 per person.

Green Plaque for Charles Booth – We have been informed that a plaque for Charles Booth is on its way from Leicestershire County Council following a considerable number of votes being given for him. Thank you to all who voted. The plaque will be going up at the front of the Community Centre, which Charles Booth gave to the village. The County Council will let us know when the installation is to take place, but in the meantime, we have removed our own blue plaque, which is now going inside the centre.

Charles Booth Grave – the family approached us asking if we could 'jolly along the faculty from the church' to give the necessary authorisation for work to commence. The family would like this to be in the summer, and already have, with our help, £550 towards the cost of the works. We understand from Church House that the faculty asked for a notice to be displayed until the end of April, after which time they could then make a decision during May. This information has been passed on to the family.

Christmas Tree for the centre – We agreed some time ago that we would fund a Christmas tree to plant outside the centre for use for Carols Round The Tree. We have looked on the internet, and cannot find any nurseries selling trees which would be big enough to use this year. *The meeting suggested a tree as large as possible be bought and another one for the Carols Round The Tree event. It was agreed to talk to Bernard Morritt near Bradgate Park about trees to plant.*



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Thringstone Co-op – Thringstone Co-op won an award as part of the NWLDC's Green Footprint scheme for the design of the shop and for the way it fits into the village. Congratulations to them.

Grace Dieu Woods – We had a very positive meeting with Edward de Lisle to talk about footpaths within the woods, none of which other than the Sustrans route are designated approved footpaths, working with scouts and other local groups to protect the woodland and the siting of an agreed BMX site which does not ruin the flora and fauna and can be monitored. The de Lisle family is keen to work with the local community going forward but are also considering an approach to the National Forest to discuss woodland management, which could potentially see a third of the woodland fenced off and no longer accessible to the public. In the meantime, we are working to provide details of all existing/used footpaths, the areas presently covered by BMX tracks, and to contact scouts and other users of the woodlands for further discussion. *Mike Statham said that some time ago, the Ramblers had talked about stewarding in local woodland, but there were issues if people were approached by those who weren't officially representing the landowners.*

Picnic in the Parks at Coalville 2014 – We are still looking for people who can help man the stall on 29 June, and give us stuff to sell. Thanks to Lis Muller and Pam Porter for their bric a brac items and to Ron Hill for his 5 boxes. Kay at Thringstone Off Licence has offered us some items, as has Ray Woodward, and a lady on Loughborough Road has said she can let us have cakes to sell. Janet Stevenson also has some items, and Janet also has some primroses and grape hyacinths to give us. Rowena is collecting some magazines for us to have. Please let us know if you are able to help with either stall manning or items to sell. **We may, however, need help with storage of bric a brac items until nearer the event.**

Monthly litter total for April – 170. During the Easter holidays, in 4 days prior to the change of weather, 503 individual items of rubbish were removed from the Melrose Road play area. NWLDC were contacted about this, and agreed to go to talk to the children whilst they were using the area to encourage them to use the bin.

Remember that the next litter pick is **Saturday 14 June at 10am** from The Green. All welcome. We have asked the Air Cadets if they want to help us (but received no response) and invited members of the de Lisle family to come and work with us within the woodland area if they are able.

We were asked via twitter on the subject of litter picking why we were 'taking away work from a working man'. We replied that we are volunteers, and that NWLDC has neither time nor resources to litter pick our village like we can. On the other hand, we have received several very encouraging tweets and personal comments on the work that we do removing litter to keep the village looking nice.

The Great War Remembered – As you already know, this event will run on Friday 4 July from 6pm til late, on Saturday 5 July from 10am-10pm and on Sunday 6 July from 2pm-5pm at Thringstone House Community Centre. **Do you have any family WW1 photos, or information to share with us? Did a member of your family survive the Great War? Can you help us with our exhibition stand and turn up to help us on any of the days?**

What's on is currently:

- A remembrance book has been purchased and will be there for people to sign all through the event if they wish to.
- A 30 minute presentation from Jeremy Prescott of the Rural Community Council on the war and its sacrifices has been booked for Friday 4 July at 6.30pm. Andrew Bridgen MP and



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his son have said they intend to come to this. We hope other people will turn out for this presentation. It will be preceded by a short prayer at 6pm from Alan Burgess.

- FoT displays regarding local men, and a display of trench art and photos from the Leicestershire Regiment, courtesy of Jonathan Capewell who will come with his wife to man his own area and provide his own display boards. He has a wonderful website on The Leicestershire Regiment during WW1, on which he has also advertised our event.
- Poppy making with the WI on Saturday with donations going to the RBL.
- A gent from Belton is coming with some memorabilia on the Saturday and Sunday
- Whitwick Historical Group are joining in with a display on the Saturday
- Films will be shown on the Saturday evening and music will be played all the time. Alan Burgess has said he will provide DVDs to play all through the event.
- The bar will be open and refreshments available

At a meeting to discuss this with the Community Centre, Mike Statham agreed to provide a banner and big notices on A boards, Janet Stevenson has subsequently agreed to design a poster, and we have written to Teamprint asking for a ball park cost for a nice handout to be given out at the event.

It is hoped there will be a union jack flying outside the centre (maybe at half mast) and St Andrew's is going to be putting on a service of remembrance on 6 July at 9am. We have asked Whitwick Scouts if they can help with stewarding.

Coalville Rotary have received our request to fund the programme printing for the event, and this has gone to their project committee for decision

Ann said that she had talked to the museum curator at The Carillon Museum in Loughborough and they could lend us children's activity kits based on WW1. Ann agreed to follow this up and get something, as there is little on offer at the event at the moment of interest to children.

Chair's report

Letters Received: One from member including membership monies and donation. Thank you.

Emails Received:

- Various – see sections below
- An interesting email from NWLDC asking if we would be interested in any **potential funding** of up to £20k which had the WOW factor, and which would empower people in the local community. Asked for more details and what they consider appropriate for funding bids.
- NWLDC officers are planning a fun day on the **Woodside Estate (Melrose Rd)** on 15 August between 10am and 2pm. This event will include litter picking, treasure hunt, bouncy castle, recycling advice, composting advice, a BBQ and a garden tidy. This just shows that NWLDC feel that litter picking is fun.... We have been asked to be involved, and provisionally said yes.

.Emails Sent:

- Various to agencies about ongoing issues including the reporting of flytipping in various areas. Also various contact with NWLDC about dog issues and rubbish outside a flat.
- To **Voluntary Action Leicestershire** who are looking for stories of volunteering to celebrate Volunteering Week which runs from 1-7 June . They gave a 5 day deadline to supply stories for consideration, and something was sent.

Promotion:



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- We now have 212 **twitter** followers which is an increase of 9 this month. After encouraging people to follow us on facebook, we now have 49 followers on there, mostly existing members. We are close to having attracted 100 extra twitter followers in our membership year.
- **Photos of the gardening areas** looked after by Bernard were taken on 30 April and are going in the portfolio. It all looks lovely so thank you Bernard. Leon has copied those onto his page for Whitwick and Thringstone news with details of our group. Thanks Leon.

Treasurer's Report

Lis Muller completed the accounts for the year to the end of March 2014 and these were then examined by Tony Newton for which we thank him. We are pleased to report that the accounts were agreed and verified. We ended the year with a balance which was £973.39 less than we started the year with. £9.84 is still held in the accounts for the Booth family for grave renovation donations. A copy of the verified accounts is available upon request.

Date 1/5/2014

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2811.52		
Income		Expenditure	
membership	£	(Nita) broadband and calls - April	£ 14.47
donations	£	Gardening (Bernard)	£ 90.00
Publications		Gardening (Nita)	£ 14.98
Thringstone & Its people	£ 48.00		
other publications	£ 5.00		
raffle	£ 10.00		
total income to general fund	£ 63.00	total exp	£ 119.45
		Total general fund at month end	£2755.07
		graveyard fund balance	£ 9.84

Publication Report – Roy Hill

The sales of our new publication, Thringstone and its People continue with eight more copies sold and a total 39 copies sold to date. A copy of Born and Bred 3 has also been sold and the George and Dragon sold a copy of Scottish in Thringstone.

I have received the money from the Melton Bookshop for payment for the publications (1 copy each of Born and Bred 3, Memories 3 and Scottish in Thringstone) I posted to them.

There were no sales at the Members Club or the Community Centre this month.

The Treasurer has received:

Cheque for £9.10 from Melton bookshop, 8 copies of TAIP @ £6 = £48, 1 copy of B&B 3 @ £2.50 and 1 copy of Scottish @£2.50, making a total of £62.10 paid in.

STOCK REPORT

	Community Centre	George & Dragon	Nita	Anne	Sundry people	Stock	TOTAL
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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	4	2	3	61	75
Memories 1	1	1	0	2		17	21
Memories 2	1	1	0	2		22	26
Memories 3	2	3	3	5	1	11	25
Scottish in T'stone	2	3	1	3	3	21	33
T'stone& its People	1	1	2	2	5	42	53
Village Trail 1	0	1	2	2		13	18
Village Trail 2	0	1	0	2		10	13
Village Trail 3	0	1	2	2		20	25
DVD	0	0	0	0		1	1
Graveyard Booklet	6	5	15	10		175	211
Sub-totals	19	22	29	36	12	429	547

Web report

There has been no further updating done since the last meeting.

Community Report and What's On

This list has been compiled from information phoned or emailed to us, from facebook and paper/poster advertising and/or by going through the list of What's On from the NWLDC website. If interested in any of these events, please check with the venue concerned that the details are still correct.

- **Thringstone Miners FC** Saturday team has gained promotion in their league. Congratulations to all concerned.
- The Horse pub and restaurant formally the **The White Horse on the A512** in Shepshed is pleased to announce the pub re-opened on 1st May 2014. Lee Joynes, the landlord of The Bottom Railway in Shepshed, is running the bar, and the restaurant and kitchen will be run by Lloyd Roper, who is currently head chef at Quorn Country Club and was previously at The Grey Lady in Newtown Linford. The property has been completely refurbished and will be serving lunches and evening meals and Sunday roasts from the middle of May. A launch night on 2 May will also see a live band perform.
- 3 May – **Perennial and shrub sale** at The Dairy, Moor Lane, Coleorton. 10am-4pm.
- 3 May – **Elvis** at the George and Dragon – making his 6th appearance at the venue.
- 4 May – **In aid of Rainbows**, at the George and Dragon there will be a Jovithon. A Bon Jovi tribute with ALL money going to Rainbows. Starts at 9.15pm.
- 4 May – Whitwick Constitutional Club – **Charity band day** in aid of Rainbows. 12.30pm until 8.30pm. Live bands, BBQ, face painting, bouncy castle etc.
- 5 May – **Bank Holiday Medieval Fayre** at Castle Donington - 10am-3pm. Full family event with jesters, minstrels and other musicians, Punch and Judy, hog roast, charity and trade stalls, birds of prey, ferret racing and Maypole dancing from the local primary school.
- 5 May – **Moira Furnace's family fun day** – 11am-4pm.



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- 5 May – **Snibston Museum** – paint a compost bin between 2pm and 4pm as part of Compost Awareness Week. Places are limited.
- 5 May – **George and Dragon** will be open 12 noon until 5.30pm for food and close at 6.30pm as it is a bank holiday. The same applies on 26 May which is another bank holiday.
- 9 May – **Thringstone Members Club Girl's Night Out**. A fund raiser for The Old School House, Thringstone and Hayes Close Residents Group. This evening includes a drag artist. More details and tickets from Lesley on 07725 919099.
- 10 May – **The Roulettes** – 3 piece girl vocals at the George and Dragon.
- 10 May – **Hare and Hounds** are hosting an 80s night.
- 11 May – **Country Capers at Donington Le Heath Manor House** – crafts, music, dancing, plants and exhibitions of bygone eras with special reference to 1914. Adults £3, Children £2.
- 12-17 May – **Sound of Music** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Tickets from TPADS.
- 15 May – Miner's Morning Monthly Talk at Snibston Museum - **Blood, Guts and Paper-clips**; Presented by John Unwin. The fascinating personal memoirs of an NCB First Aider who worked at Snibston Colliery. At Snibston, Coalville, LE67 3LN. 10.30am – 12 noon. Pre-booking required on 278444 or at Snibston..
- 16 May – **WW1 and The Western Front** – Diseworth Heritage Centre. Presentation of film of the period. Starts 7.30pm. Cost £3.
- 17 May – **Swannington C of E school fete**. Starts at 2pm.
- 18 May – **Friends of Grace Dieu Priory** history walk from The Bull's Head down to Grace Dieu ruins. £3 per person. Learn a lot about the history of the priory en route.
- 29 May – **Charles Hanson Auctions** again at Coalville Rugby Club. 10am-3pm. Valuations free but donations requested to Hospice Hope.
- 13 June - **Standing in Line** – a centre stage production taking place at Packington Memorial Hall from 7.30pm – the story of Albert Scimshaw who was born on the borders of Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire and who died at Passchendaele Booking on 564613.
- 28 June – **Motofest** event in Coalville centre
- 29 June – Coalville's **Picnic in the Parks**
- 4, 5 and 6 July – Thringstone's **Great War Remembered** event at Thringstone House Community Centre.
- 20 July – open afternoon at **Grace Dieu Priory** as part of Leicestershire Archeology week
- 3 August – **WW1 event at Moira Furnace**. Further details later.
- 4 August - **Whitwick St John's** – bells being tolled from 7pm, once for every name on the war memorial
- 16 August – **Woodstock in Whitwick**. 12 noon til late at Coalville Rugby Club.

History report



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- Thanks to Ron Hill for letting us have copies of **photos** of his Thringstone Bradley family, and to Marlene Pearson for letting us have copies of photos of the Knapp family who moved from Drury Lane to what were then the new council houses opposite The Fox in Main Street. John Dickinson has also given us some photos which include Kirby's shop in the early 1900s (next to the Rose and Crown), some photos of people in the Leicestershire Regiment in 1909, 1913 and 1914 and of Sam White and Jack Gough who served in Burma in WW2, as well as a photo of the start of East Midlands Housing Association in Thringstone at the site of Booth Road. Thank you John. Pat Elderfield has subsequently identified the people on the EMHA photo for us as Olive Elderfield, Peter Elderfield and Mrs MacRobie, all of Thringstone.
- Ann asked Whitwick Historical Group for copies of details they have of **demolished properties in Thringstone**. We thought there were only a few, but there are several and each property has with it details of people who, at that time, lived nearby, and what they thought of any demolition. The amount of pages involved runs to about 500 and the group wants 20p per page to copy these. We have suggested we only need details of the properties, not of the surrounding properties and people, although in a perfect world, it would be nice to have it all.
- We are now researching the men who went to The Great War and came back. This has included finding details of **Allen Robert Crane**, born in Thringstone and one of the sons of Rev. Crane of St Andrew's. He was a mechanical electrician, but wanted to get into medicine and served in the Leicester Military Hospital during the war. In 1921 he gained a qualification as Licentiate of Medicine and Surgery of the Society of Apothecaries which was a non-university medical qualification. He seems to have registered as a doctor in the medical registers of 1927 at his mother's address of Charnwood Dale, Whitwick, but subsequently went to practice medicine in Angola and South Africa and died in Durban, South Africa in 1957. We have discovered details of **Henry John Blakesley**, born in Thringstone in 1859 to Henry and his wife Elizabeth who were grocers, and also at one time ran a farm. He went on to have a distinguished career in medicine, and who served in the Great War Major and worked at the 5th Northern General Hospital in Leicester at the same time as Allen Robert Crane (as above). Another soldier from Gracedieu, **John William Houlst**, (known as Bill) has been researched, and a photo of him in uniform in 1917 found. We have also discovered details of William Roland Croson, born in Thringstone in 1888, who went to New Zealand and served in the Great War for that country then moved back and forward between the USA and Canada and became an evangelist preacher. His mother, Emma, continued to live in the Thringstone area and there are still relatives in the area, who are now going to let us have more information.
- We attended a talk at Snibston on the **Leicestershire Regiment of WW1** and discovered that the presenter had a photograph of James Bancroft of Thringstone, who is one of the soldiers we have been researching. This photo was unknown to us before, and he gave us a copy. He also had the death plaque and medals for Robin Robinson, also of Thringstone and has sent us further details on Robin's death whilst tunneling under German trenches.
- **Castle Donington Museum** is dedicated to a Great War exhibition until 28 September. This was visited by us and we thought it very interesting, and would recommend people having a look, especially if they have family who lived at the time in Castle Donington, Hemington or Lockington. Donington Hall was a POW base during WW1, and Cavendish Bridge was a VAD hospital.



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- We have made contact with an 85 year old lady in Whitwick who was born and **brought up in Thringstone** and may have some photographs. We are endeavouring to arrange for her to talk in more details about her memories, so these can be recorded, along with talking to a gent whose grandfather lived at The Gables in the 1940s.
- Congratulations go to **Denis Baker** who received a lifetime achievement award at the recent Leicestershire and Rutland Heritage Awards. Denis is an expert historian for both Swannington and Coalville. Congratulations also go to **Whitwick Historical Group** who won the Best Event/Exhibition on a budget of less than £1,000 at the same awards event. Their event actually cost £300 to put on.

Councillors' report – Leon Spence

Leon explained to the meeting that he had not prepared a report, since most of the day had been taken up with discussions about turning the mineral line, which runs from the bypass not far from Morrisons and down the back of Coalville Rugby Club to Sharpley Avenue, into a cycle path. It had transpired that Whitwick Parish Council had not been informed of this work by officers, which was an oversight, and as a result Leon had spent a lot of time prior to the meeting trying to ease the situation.

On Tuesday last week, the district council continued to discuss the local plan at an advisory group meeting, which discussed the **future building developments** for the district. Part of this relates to what was called The Green Wedge, and there are 3 areas within Thringstone which are earmarked as potential land for building, which include an area on The Glebe, near Millbank and the area on **Loughborough Road** by the Bull's Head traffic calming on which a planning application had been submitted for 85 properties.

Leon has canvassed opinion to the Loughborough Road development by visiting properties on Henson's Lane, and the big issue is that the plans are still at outline stage, and there is no developer involved as yet. Concerns include the extra amount of traffic coming onto the Loughborough Road which is estimated to be in the region of 50+ more per hour at busy times. This was considered low. There will also be dangers getting out onto Loughborough Road, as there will only be one access to that new estate. Leon has told people whose houses on Henson's Lane back onto the land that, as there is no actual design as yet, and everything is in its early stages, if there are concerns, it might be possible that bungalows could be built along that line so as not to obscure light, but this is speculation at this stage. There is, apparently, no concern about the impact extra children might have on Thringstone Primary as they feel they could cope with extra children, and not all children will go to their school.

Roy said that there was mention of a wind turbine in the habitat survey, which Leon had not noticed. Considerable discussion then took place on potential flooding by building on this and other local land, and Roy said he had a letter somewhere on this issue following the floods a few years ago, and would try to find this out. Leon said that if there were to be justifiable objections, these needed to be backed up by actual evidence and proof. It was agreed that flooding would not necessarily just happen in the area to be developed, but could cause issues further up in the village because of the amount of water going into the existing sewer system.

If people have any concerns or comments to make, please contact Leon direct.

The Fox planning situation hasn't altered, and it is unlikely now that anything will be submitted before June's council meeting.

The application to build at the rear of **31 The Green** has been resubmitted to planning.



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Leon has been putting **stencils on the pavements** about dog fouling, but has run out of paint. Once he has more paint, he will finish the village.

Leon has been contacted by people regarding **inconsiderate parking** on The Green, Main Street and part of Glebe Road. He has spoken to John Richardson at NWLDC who is to look at more patrols for illegal parking.

The post office moves from its present position on 21 May and the new post office will be at Kay's shop on the corner of John Street on 22 May. Leon said that this is good for the village and will help secure the long term future of the post office in Thringstone.

Discussion took place on **Coalville Special expenses**, a dwindling fund which is available for use in the village, as well as Greenhill and Coalville generally. The Melrose Road play area improvements last year were funded out of this. He asked if anybody had any ideas for small capital projects, and to get in touch with ideas, as it would be nice to see money being kept in the village.

The consultation on the future of **Snibston Museum** is still open until 7th July. People are encouraged to put their views on paper. Forms to complete are available at the museum.

There was considerable discussion on **Section 106 agreements** connected with building locally, and Roy suggested Leon might like to find out if any such money could go to Thringstone House Community Centre, since it is a charity, albeit with a Trusteeship by County Hall. Leon agreed to investigate. Money could potentially then go, for example, to help provide disabled access to the upstairs at the centre.

Leon said he has half the required signatures to the petition he is trying to complete for a **Parish Council** in Thringstone and will continue to visit properties to talk to people about this.

He also said that the home to **school buses** situation is of less concern than it was, since it is likely to now maintain the status quo in the Coalville area.

Police Report

Crime figures for the past 30 days are as follows:

1 x domestic incident – Resolved.

1 x fail to pay taxi – under investigation.

1 x damage to motor vehicle – under investigation.

As you can see, a very good month for the area! ☺

There was general discussion about lack of reporting to the police, following an earlier TV programme suggesting that some police areas were not recording their crimes.

Leon said that generally Anti Social Behaviour was reducing, although it was acknowledged that there was a current spike. There was then considerable discussion about local ASB issues and concerns.

Gardening and environment

- More shrubs have been purchased for Drury Lane and to fill in a few gaps. We managed to organise a 30% discount on the purchase from Hathern Nurseries, for which we thank them. Bernard is intending to put bark chippings over the remaining grass down Drury Lane, which means we have a petrol lawnmower to sell. Anybody interested, please get in touch.
- The **poppy plug plants** ordered through Thompson and Morgan were posted on 8 April and received on 24 April, by which time they were dead. We have written to complain but



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have yet to receive a response. We may have to buy more mature plants later on. *Ron said to try the Jersey bulb people, as he had had good service from them in the past.*

- We were asked by **Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club** to help them with their recycling again, and after lengthy discussions, have managed to get them 5 red bins and 2 cardboard recycling bags so that they can try to recycle after games and practices themselves. NWLDC have said they will not collect this rubbish, as the club falls outside their collection criteria.

Any other business

- The **summer Bauble** was given out to those people present who do deliveries to take round before the start of June. A copy of The Bauble has been put on our Litter Action UK webpage, and also sent to Thringstone Primary. Copies, as always, have been given to all councilors at NWLDC, Coalville Library, Snibston Museum, Thringstone House Community Centre, Whitwick Coffee Shop and the George and Dragon.
- We still have **various vacancies on our committee**. If you feel you can help IN ANY WAY AT ALL, please let us know.
- We received an email from a lady in Main Street who will not be in the village after the end of this year asking us to help with **toads crossing the road** in Hensons Lane and Lilybank. She rescued and moved 27 toads in a bucket and put them in the area to the left of the primary school on their access road, as there is a pond near there where she believes the toads breed. 25 toads were counted as dead on the road. She would like people to help with this exercise next March/April and consider sending details to the Leicestershire Amphibian and Reptile Group. This will be mentioned, all being well, in the end of year Bauble.
- We were sorry to hear that John Baugh of Booth Road died on 10 April. John had only spoken to us on 13 March about his memories of coming to Thringstone from Rotherham. Our condolences go to his family.

Next meeting : The next meeting is on 5 June 2014 at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre. This will be our AGM. Please try to make this meeting to vote in a new committee and discuss the way forward for our group for another year. Those people who haven't paid their membership will be encouraged to pay at the AGM.



The Friends of Thringstone
Winner of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service
2011
Winner of Gold and Silver RCC Village achievement awards 2010
Awarded Outstanding Achievement Certificate in the RHS
Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards 2009
Winner of the NWLDC's Footprint Awards under Partnerships
and Community Groups 2009 and finalists 2011 and 2013

