



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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Chairman's Report for AGM June 2014

This has been another good year for our group, with **membership totals** reaching 123, once again beating any previous figures, and yet again we have had further new members joining just before the year end for the following year.

Our insurance cost increased this year. Donations received total £91.80. Due to considerable expenditure this year, we started our 2014/15 year with a reduced balance against the previous year of £973.39. We still, however, have over £2,000 in the bank.

Publication sales have continued to be good, and with the addition of Born and Bred 3, Memories 3, Thringstone and Its People and Thringstone Around WW2, we now have a good selection of books for people to buy. We also decided this year to offer discounts for people wishing to buy a full set of books, and have, for the first time, offered a publication for sale through Ashby Museum. Our **Scarecrow Event** last summer was an outstanding success, and we are considering doing something like this every couple of years. This last one was run in partnership with Thringstone Methodist Chapel's 150th anniversary, and achieved sponsorship from various businesses, including the newly erected Co-op who also joined in with a scarecrow and gave £25 to the Methodist Chapel towards their catering costs. Coalville Rotary gave us £300 and the Coalville Charity Cup gave us £120. Prizes were awarded to include trophies and shopping vouchers, and we are indebted to Tesco's, Morrison's, the Body Toning Emporium and Hermitage Leisure Centre for their help with this aspect of the event. Once again Thringstone Guides and Brownies helped with the judging. We attracted 39 scarecrows.

From an environmental standpoint, in addition to regular litter picking carried out by members, we held **4 event litter picks** which linked for the first time with Whitwick Scouts, as well as those with whom we usually work. We purchased more litter pick sticks this year, and David Astill, Ron Hill and Nita were acknowledged by NWLDC for their litter picking achievements at a presentation and cream tea. We linked again with the Climate Change Week, and from the end of February 2013 to the end of February 2014, we have removed 1,958 bags of rubbish from the village and



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footprints
Stepping out for a greener district



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surrounding woodland. To this in March, April and May we removed a further 503. We would like to thank NWLDC for their help with removing rubbish collected on our community litter picks, and the parks department for their swift action to anything we report to them. We also thank Thringstone Co-op for supplying us with reuseable carrier bags.

Our **website** continues to be a good source of advertising. We have continued to use twitter and facebook as means of advertising, and currently have 223 twitter followers which is an increase of 109 over the year.

We joined Giving World On Line during this year, and have received children's toys for lucky dips and also bags to help us with our litter picking.

We once again provided help for the Carols Round the Tree at Thringstone House Community Centre and help promote the work of the church through our minutes.

We sewed a lot of poppy seeds during this membership year and have continued to maintain our planting areas and replant where necessary. We have also removed the grass from Drury Lane and sold our mower as this is no longer needed.

We attended the **Miner's Gala** again at Snibston, at **Whitwick Historical Group's anniversary event**, and have again agreed to sell donated items at the **Picnic in the Parks Event** at Coalville in the summer.

We worked hard to try to get a green plaque for Charles Booth, as part of a new initiative with the County Council and were informed at the end of April 2014 that we had been successful. We would like to thank everybody who voted. We were told in May that there would be a large ceremony and unveiling on 18 June at the centre, and that our Green Plaque was the first that was being erected, which in itself is somewhat of a coup.

The history side of the group has been very active in the past year. We have continued working on 'the pubs project', found lots of photos and information about people from the village in the past, recorded many people talking about their memories, started to talk to people who came to the village from the Durham coalfield area. We have also started to put together details of businesses in the village and continued to work on providing information on the fallen of WW1 for a local history publication it is hoped will come out in 2015. We also have researched soldiers from the village and surrounding area who went to The Great War and returned, and found out some very information on some of these. We now also have copies of the enumerator's books for the 1911 census, so know where everybody in the village lived, and also poll books for the village going back to 1719. We managed to get access to various village trophies left in The Oak when it closed, and found the winners/owners for most of these. We have also worked with the Community Centre and other groups and organisations in the village to put on a **Great War Remembered Event** in July.

We once again took part in the **Community Centre's yearly quiz** and worked with the centre and St Andrew's on the Carols Round The Tree event.

As ever, the pressures on the voluntary sector continue to be demanding, and we would like to thank everybody who supports the group in any way at all, whether this is being part of the committee, working on environmental or history projects, helping to organise events, manning stalls, attending meetings and preparing reports or just being a member and paying the membership fee each year. Without all this help and support, there would be no group, and we greatly value your contributions.



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