



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 4 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Ann Petty, Mike Statham, Ray Woodward, Dave Everitt, Leon Spence, Geoff Walker, Ron Hill, Pam Porter, Jackie Spalding

Apologies: Robert Jordan, Bernard Lee, Janet and David Stevenson, Gillian Bates, Roy Hill, Karon and John Smith, Geoff and Jane Wilson, Julie Everitt, Tracy Foulds

Christmas Tree for the centre – Janet is in touch with the tree people over getting a tree delivered in November. A date of 12 December for **Carols Round the Tree** event was discussed. It is understood this date is OK with the church, and is OK with the centre. Various promotion for this will be done. It is not yet clear whether or when the priory will have a carol concert, but this is not likely to be on a Friday night.

Do you have paper deliveries of the minutes but have email at home? If you get paper minutes, but actually have email, please can you let us have your email address, as this will cut down on copying costs and also save on delivery times. Please just contact Nita with your email address – phone and email address at the top of these minutes.

Monthly litter total for August– 148 which is 38 bags less than August last year. Maybe we are winning the battle with litter! 32 bags of rubbish have, however, been removed by 5 of us this week alone, and it is only the 4th day of the week!

We are in touch with a local company about **providing posters** to go on lampposts which will read that the village is litter picked by the community, so please respect their work and use the bins. Similar posters are up in Ravenstone. These were provided by NWLDC who no longer have a budget to pay for further posters in Thringstone.

The litter pick part of the **Melrose Rd fun day** on 15 August attracted 8 children who wanted to litter pick, and a lot more who wanted to go on the bouncy castle and slide but were dissuaded in going on until they had litterpicked. We went round all the garage areas as well as the streets and collected 7 bags full of rubbish. Thank you to all the children who came out. The council said that wanted to do a similar litter pick exercise on 13 September to work in with the Zilch campaign mentioned in previous minutes.



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We had a visit on 30 August from a pupil of **Thringstone Primary** who wanted to borrow a litter pick stick to do some litter picking in Grace Dieu Woods, as part of a project on caring for the environment. With her family, she collected 4 bags of rubbish, plus a table base and a Hannah Montana video. We wrote to Thringstone Primary to thank the school for coming up with projects like this which teach children the value of looking after our village and understand that our email was read to the children at assembly on 1 September.

Following a referral from **Voluntary Action Leicestershire**, we have met up with a learning difficulties chap called John (from Whitwick) and his carer Laura, who litter picked with us for a morning the length of the sustrans track in the woodland. They are now hoping to litter pick weekly, and will let us know their tallies if they do this on their own. They had in fact litter picked this week.

NW Leicestershire District Council's free tree scheme is back. For further details please go to <http://footprints.nwleics.gov.uk/free-tree-scheme-2014.html> where you will find full details. You have to order these from Wendy May at the council or on line, and collection is on Sunday 23 November between 9am and 10.30am from the council car park. On offer are crab apple, field maple, wild cherry and white beam. All trees are currently 2 years old and about 2-3 feet high. We have already asked for a small number of wild cherry trees to replace broken shrubs and the tree down Drury Lane. Pick up for these trees is in November.

Snibston Miner's Gala – is this coming weekend. Wine has been purchased for the wine and water stand, and we are all ready to go. Please come and see us.

The future of Snibston Museum - there has been a lot of media coverage about the future of the museum for some time, and as a result of budgetary restrictions, the county council have said it must close in its present form. This matter is being discussed at the County Council Cabinet meeting at Sparkenhoe Committee Room, County Hall, Glenfield on Friday 19 September at 11am. This is a public meeting which you can attend, especially if you feel strongly that we should protect this museum in its present form for generations to come

Community Centre Quiz Night – we have been invited to put a team together for this event on 14 November from 7.30pm. We could, potentially, if we got enough interest, put in 2 teams. There is a cost of £4.50 per person paid in advance and a form to fill in for the centre in order to take part. *Jackie agreed to be part of the team, which will also include Nita, RayWoodward, Geoff Wilson, Gillian and Des Bates. £4.50 is therefore due from these people as soon as possible, please, as there is paperwork to fill in for the centre.*

Committee – Rowena Summers has resigned from the committee for personal reasons. We thank Rowena for all the work she has done as part of the committee.

Vacant positions within the group – we still have vacancies for a minute secretary, admin help, events secretary, publicity officer, environment lead and membership secretary if anybody is interested. These positions are currently being covered by the Chairman. Job descriptions are available if anybody wishes to get in touch.

Meeting date in January 2015 – as you know, we always have our meeting on the first Thursday of the month. The meeting we had this January was held on 2 January and was too close to the New Year to attract people to come. As a result, we have advised the centre that our January meeting will be on **8 January** rather than 1st.



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Chairs Report

Letters received:

- From the **Community Centre** asking for details of any electrical equipment we use, to complete a risk assessment regarding our usage of the centre, supply details of dates of meetings for the next year, and user group information. Please be assured that we do not give out any contact details for our members as these are data protected within our own group and not for sharing.
- From **RCC** regarding their information day and domination of new trustees.
- From **Voluntary Action Leicestershire** with details of their AGM

Emails Received:

- From gent in Ravenstone asking how he can get a **blue plaque** on his property, which is linked to George Stephenson.

Emails Sent:

- Various to agencies with which we deal etc.

Promotion:

- We have 254 **twitter followers**, 11 up from last month, and 59 **facebook followers** an increase of 3.
- We have been in contact with **The Leicestershire Vine**, a glossy magazine produced in Coalville every 2 months, in which there are lists of What's On. We have, as requested, supplied a short editorial and some photos about the group, as well as giving details of things which we would like listed in future editions. It was agreed that FoT will send details of Carols Round The Tree to this magazine.

Other:

- The free print head from **Kodak printers** mentioned at the last meeting (Kodak printers are now incidentally in liquidation) failed to solve the problem with the printer used by the Chairman which was bought in June 2011. The chairman received 50% towards the cost of the printer at that time, as recorded in the treasurer's report of the minutes of 7 July 2011. As a result of the inability by Kodak to solve the problem and their suggestion that a new printer was now necessary, the committee agreed that the chairman could go and buy another printer and that 50% would be reimbursed as previously. This was bought at PC World in Loughborough where the chairman set up a business account under the name of Friends of Thringstone in order to secure a better deal. See finance report below.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)			£3,260.39
Income			
membership		Expenditure	
donations		Broadband etc (Nita)	£13.95
Bauble Advert	£ 10.00	Gardening (Nita)	
		Raffle Prizes	£4.00
		Roy - Postage	£4.30
Raffle	£ 7.00	Wine for Snibston stall	£60.00



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Publications	£ 11.00	Teamprint posters & leaflets	£64.00
		Photocopying - Comm Centre	£4.00
total income to general fund	£28.00	Printer - Half Cost	£49.49
		total exp	£199.74
		Total general fund at month end	£3,088.65
		graveyard fund balance	£11.34

There is one invoice issued for an advert in the Bauble which is still awaiting payment.

Publications Report

3 new publications have gone to Teamprint to be sorted for printing. These are Thringstone Businesses, Thringstone Pubs and their landlords and Memories of Durham Miners. It has been a quiet month this time for sales, as is to be expected at this time of year. Sales have been:

World War 2.

Ann Petty 1 copy £2.50

Memories 1

Members club 1 copy £2.50

Thringstone and Its People

Nita 1 copy for Ashby TIC £6

David had been given £11.

Stock

	Community Centre		Nita	Anne	Members Club	Sundry People	Stock	TOTAL
Born and Bred 1	1		0	2	1		7	11
Born and Bred 2	1		0	2	1		28	32
Born and Bred 3	2		4	0	1		62	69
Memories 1	1		0	1	1		16	19
Memories 2	1		0	1	1		20	23
Memories 3	2		2	3	1		7	15
Scottish in T'stone	2		1	3	1		16	23
TAIP	2		2	1	1		28	34
WW2	2		5	6	1	5	46	65
Village Trail 1	0		2	2	1		13	18
Village Trail 2	0		0	2	1		9	12
Village Trail 3	0		2	2	1		20	25
DVD	0		0	0			1	1
Graveyard Booklet	5		15	1	1		178	200
Sub-totals	19		33	26	13	5	451	547

Web Report



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The webmaster has been provided with a list of updates to bring the site up to date as the site was last updated on 29 May. The majority of this involves photos taken at various events since the beginning of June plus minutes.

Community Report and What's On

Thringstone Miners Welfare FC is looking for anybody with photos or trophies relating to teams of the past to consider donating these to the club to go on show in the bar area. Please contact the club direct if you can help. *Ann is going to have a word with Jimmy Francis to see if he can help.*

Midlands Co-operative Society Ltd. is now the sponsor for the senior team players at Thringstone Miners Welfare FC.

Thringstone Live For Charity on 2 August raised about £1,600 for the Salvation Army and Royal British Legion. Thanks to everybody for their support.

Whitwick Music Festival on 24 August raised £1,700 for JDRC, the type 1 diabetes charity, for which the organizers thank everybody.

Thringstone Members' Club Fun Day on 24 August raised £210 for Rainbows, £75 for the Air Ambulance and £135 for Glenfield Hospital. The club would like to thank everybody for their support.

The fun day at **Thringstone Miners' Welfare** on 24 August raised in excess of £200 for their building fund. Thanks to all who made the day successful.

Hare and Hounds - We understand that in excess of £740 was raised for the Motor Neurone Disease Association at the Hare and Hounds in early August. Thank you to everybody who contributed.

The meeting felt it needed noting that, for a small community of 2 villages, a great deal of money had, within the month of August, been raised for a variety of charities, which speaks volumes on the type of people we have in this area and their generosity at such a difficult economic time for most families.

Whitwick Community Café still offers lunch club places with Pat on certain days from 10.30am til 1pm. If you are interested, please contact Margaret on 519696. Dates are Sept 11 and 25, Oct 9 and 23, November 6 and 20. There is also a men's breakfast planned for 13 September and 8 November at 8.30am.

Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's next production will be Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Auditions for parts will be held on 16 Sept at 7.30pm at the community centre. The group is also looking for volunteers to help on lighting and front of house. Anybody interested is asked to contact TPADS direct.

- Now until 20 Dec – **Ashby Museum Great War Exhibition**. Further details from 560090.
- 10 Sept – **Café Church** from 2pm-4pm at Thringstone Methodists Hall.
- 12 Sept – **MacMillan** coffee and cake afternoon at 22 Springfield. 1pm-5.30pm
- 13 Sept – **Snibston Miners Gala** 10am-5pm. Come and see FoT there. Free entry. Includes things for children, rides, facepainting etc.
- 13 Sept – **Moira Male Voice Choir** in concert at St Andrew's. 7pm. Tickets £6 or pay at the door.
- 13 Sept – **Belton Village Fete and Show** at the Village Hall with the gardening club. Includes fruit and vegetables, flowers, homemade produce, arts and crafts and children's work. 10-1.30pm for the fete. Vegetable judging etc. Takes place at lunchtime.



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- 13 Sept – **Churches and Chapels Open Day** – St Andrew's will be open all day as part of the Stride and Ride – cycle, horse ride, jog, run, walk or come on mobility scooter to visit around 400 churches and chapels open between 10am and 6pm. For more information ring Pat on 222899.
- 14 Sept – **Fun4All Dog Club**, based at The Bull's Head, Abbot's Oak, is hosting a dog show day, with agility, fun and lots to see as part of their 5th birthday party. It starts at 10.30am with judging at 12 noon. For more details contact 833316 or see www.fun4alldogclub.co.uk
- 14 Sept – **Skids Sunday Club** reopens at St Andrew's. They are hoping to be able to put on a nativity play this year.
- 19 Sept – **Lady Jane, Whitwick** – Disco, karaoke, entertainment and buffet. 8pm start. Tickets £5 to include food. Tickets available at the door.
- 26 Sept – **Plug and play** at Thringstone House Community Centre at 8pm. All welcome.
- 27 Sept – **St Andrew's Working Day**. Help with the graveyard tidying or other projects between 10am and 12 noon. Refreshments provided.
- 4 October – **Thringstone House Community Centre** – centre stage production of Femmes Fatales – Songs for Scarlet Women with Sarah Moule. Starts at 8pm. Tickets £9 from the centre's office. No concessions.
- 10 Oct – the return of the **quiz night at Thringstone Miners Welfare**. 7.30pm start. For further details (presume this is now weekly?) contact 07864 651884.
- 23 Oct – **Family Geocaching in Thringstone** – meet at 10.30am at Thringstone Members Club to go walking and cache hunting in Grace Dieu Woods. £2 per family. Booking required on 454606.
- 1 November – **Introduction to Bee Keeping** course from 10am til 4pm at Thringstone House Community centre. Costs £35 which includes lunch. More details from Colin on beeware@talktalk.net or 01483 570658.
- 1 November – **Planting of 50 trees for 50 Hugglescote soldiers** from WW1 at Millfield Recreation Ground, Hugglescote, followed by concert at Hugglescote Community Centre.
- 14 November – **Quiz evening** at Thringstone House Community Centre starts at 7.30pm. People are welcome to come along and support teams.
- 15 November – **Thringstone House Community Centre** 7.30pm – The Song of The Soar – film plus live music from Dragonhead with Brian Lantry. £5 per ticket from the centre office or ring Brian for further information on 416251.
- 16 November – **Antique and Vintage fair** at Hermitage Leisure Centre. 9.30am – 3.30pm. Admission £2. More details from 0116 2872011.
- 12 Dec – Hermitage Leisure Centre **Adult Comedy Night** – Dean Courtney. Tickets £10. Starts at 7.30pm. More information from 811215.

Mike Statham said that he had been to the fair at the Leisure Centre last weekend, as had others in the room, and was disappointed that it was mostly collectables rather than antique and vintage wares. He had gone to see if it would be something that the centre could consider, but felt it wasn't as popular as it could have been, and so this idea had been shelved. The meeting wondered whether there hadn't been enough promotion as there was nothing on the What's On and on the centre's home page, but there were local posters. Leon said there were other events coming to the Leisure Centre details of which were sent to local media, but didn't always get printed.



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Geoff Walker said that the centre would promote an antique fayre type event well if something similar were held there, and could probably get a better crowd. It was felt that the rummage sales held at the centre, like the ones held by College Garth Kennels, had been well received by the village and been very popular. The problem is finding someone who would volunteer to put on such events. If anybody has an interest, please contact the centre direct

History report

- We had a long series of conversations with brothers **Bert and Ray Gough** about their family, and about their father in particular, Lawrence Gough, who appeared on the list of soldiers who survived The Great War. This has added to our information of the village at the time. We hadn't realized Lawrence's sister had married Joseph Robinson, another soldier who survived WW1.
- We attended the **Hugglescote WW1 commemoration event**, but missed their musical concert on the Friday night. Jonathan Capewell from the WW1 Tigers Regiment, who attended our own WW1 event, told us that he has now had over 1 million hits on his website, has been filmed on national TV and has been offered various war diaries for his site by relatives willing to share these.
- We have been able to copy deeds and indentures relating to **Rye House, 168 Main Street**, once a farm owned by William Kidger, then rented to the Croson family, purchased by George Thirlby, then Jarvis Millward who left it to his daughter Annie Peck who sold it to Eric Maloney in the 1950s. From this information, we have discovered the land owned by the farm as far back as 1864 stretched down from Main Street to Loughborough Road. In 1932 a 5 acre portion of it was sold to the Trustees of Thringstone Miners Welfare Committee. We also know that it included land known as Home or Botts Close. At some stage, part of this land was farmed by a Joseph Griffin (around 1922). We have now typed up details from these deeds, and researched all the people named within them including the financial backers.
- Leicestershire County Council is collecting photographs of events and exhibitions in Leicestershire to **commemorate the Great War**. A selection of photographs from our event have been sent to them.
- Thank you to Jimmy and Annette Wilkinson for letting have **family photos** which show Netta Wilkinson known as Netta Lacey and her mother Janet and others from her time. Janet and Netta kept Thringstone Post Office.
- We had a further contact from the descendants of Thomas and Susannah Twigg who kept **Glebe Farm** at one stage around the time of the Whitwick Pit disaster (mentioned last month), giving us details of their son, Albert Twigg who joined up in WW1 but was sent home in view of his learning difficulties.
- We had a call, several emails, a letter and then a meeting with the family of Margery Stone Parker, the great granddaughter of **Thomas and Mary Hurst** who used to live at Thringstone House and we swapped information. They gave us a copy of a photo of the property which they believed to have been taken in 1890 but shows the extension at the back so must be after 1911. The centre had a small hedge round it and old properties at the side of it. We think this is the oldest known photo of the centre and have shared it with them and also with James Gore Browne and Jim Booth. It was Margery's grandfather, Tom Hurst, who sold the farm to Louisa White, who sold it in turn to Charles Booth. At our meeting, the family also let us copy various family photos which it has been agreed can go



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up within the centre along with the photograph of the centre taken around 1911. We have also been able to help the family with their own genealogy search. *Ray Woodward took a collage of photos of the Hurst family to put together in a frame for the centre, and a copy of the centre photo from around 1911 will also be framed and put on the wall as it shows part of the centre's history.*

- We attended the **century of stories** presentation at Donington Le Heath Manor House, and now have a link to work with the county council in the future on their project, which could lead to a presentation/café hub project at the community centre at some stage in 2015.

Councillors' report – Leon Spence

- County Council highways maintenance has been removing overgrown grass verges and front lawns which encroach upon the pavement around Booth Road and Springfield. The council does this regularly as part of their maintenance schedule when they intend to resurface the pavements in areas. *Ray Woodward said this would be what they call a slurry seal, which is a sort of liquid tar.*
- The application to build at the rear of 31 The Green has been refused.
- There has been discussion before about the fact that grass verges are now likely to be cut between 3 and 5 times a year instead of between 7 and 9. What wasn't made known was that the county council are offering to give money to Parish Councils to cut them rather than it being a county function, and are offering £1500 for the equivalent of 5 cuts a year, which will not cover the actual costs involved. Since Thringstone does not have a parish council the money could come out of the Coalville Special Expenses budget.
- Andrew Bridgen and William Hague mentioned the future of Snibston Museum in parliament today, and it was suggested that Snibston be registered as a community asset. This would still mean money would have to be found to keep the place open. A report to Leicestershire County Council cabinet on their plans for the future of Snibston is likely to be published on 9 September in time for the cabinet meeting on 19 Sept. There are also likely to be cuts to groups such as Vista announced at the meeting on 19th.

There was considerable discussion about Snibston Museum and about grass verge cutting and budgets at this point. It was felt that austerity measures would be more noticeable in the coming months than has been the case in the past as facilities such as museums and libraries (in other areas) would be closed.

Police Report for last 31 days – PCSO Mark Ball

- **Attempted burglary** at a property in Kelso Court on 22/23 August where damage was caused to an outside door but no entry was gained.
- There was a spate of **anti-social behaviour** which resulted in a smashed window on the Springfield estate just prior to the end of the school holidays.
- **Damage** to a window on The Green
- 2 incidents at **The Co-op**. There are CCTV images showing this to be the same person and enquiries are ongoing.
- 2 vehicles are regularly parked on the **grass verge** on Loughborough Road and are being investigated through the Highways Department at County Hall, as they gain access by driving from the road, and park half on the pavement and half on the grass verge.



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Technically, this isn't something that the police may be able to help with, since they do not form an obstruction.

There was considerable discussion at this point about parking on grass verges and what can be done and whether wooden bollards are the best (and cheapest) way to stop such behaviour.

Gardening and environment

- We have had several conversations with the Environment Agency about blockages to **Grace Dieu brook** and other storm damage. They weren't interested in helping with this, as no properties are likely to be affected by any flooding there, and there are no public safety issues. It was referred by the Project Assessment Director of the Environment Agency to the de Lisle family to sort but because of the SSI at Grace Dieu Woods, Natural England would also have to be involved.. We understand that nothing further has transpired, and that the matter was raised at the meeting of Grace Dieu Priory on 1 September as water blockages upstream could potentially lead to flooding at the priory. Ann said that there is a meeting at the prior with Natural England and English Heritage next week and the issue will probably be discussed then. *There was some discussion about the problems involved if volunteers removed the debris as we have before, and where anything moved would be placed, as another storm or heavy rain could see debris put on the banking back into the watercourse anyway, and we do not have adequate vehicles at our disposal to take these off site.*
- The **manhole cover** by 132 Loughborough Rd lifted during recent rain and sewage went onto the grass verge. This was reported to the Environment Agency who told us then to talk to Severn Trent who came and sanitized the area. We believe a similar thing happened to drains near the brook on Gracedieu Road. *There was considerable discussion at this point about water courses, overflowing drains etc which affected properties on Swallowdale.*
- Somebody set fire to the litter bin on the **Melrose Play area** on 20 August. This was reported to the council and matters rectified the same day. It happened during the same week that youths started knocking on windows and doors, throwing crab apples and stones on the Springfield estate. This resulted in one smashed window. The matter was reported to the police.
- We reported to the county council that they permanently missed cutting the **grass verge** down Whitwick Moor. As a result, they checked their maps given to the cutting crews and realized we were right. This has now been rectified.
- Bernard has been **pruning bushes and weeding** around the village. Next month it is hoped to buy some extra shrubs to put in to replace ones that have died and fill in some bare areas.
- Mike explained that **Thringstone House Community Centre** has a grant from Waste and Resource Action Programme of £17,250 to provide a feasibility study into the possibility of creating a minimum 5 acre **solar farm** in the village. There will be presentations at the centre to discuss and find a possible site, as Bob's Closs isn't suitable, and the idea is that the wattage generated would put electricity back in the grid and generate money for the community centre for up to 20 years. Residents would also be able to invest in the scheme. The whole project is likely to take 2-3 years to get off the ground, and the centre hopes to appoint consultants shortly. There will also be a project team involved. The centre needs to be self-supporting by April 2017 at the outside, and also need to find about



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£30,000 a year every year to cover costs. Leon said there needed to be some really hard commercial decisions made. It was also pointed out that maintenance costs for both the centre and the prospective solar farm need to be factored into any decisions made.

Any other business

None.

Next meeting: 2 October at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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