



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 8 JANUARY 2015 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Ann Petty, Geoff Wilson, Geoff Walker, Roy Hill, Bernard Lee, Janet Stevenson, Mike Statham, Pam Porter

Apologies: Ron Hill, Jane Wilson, Ray Woodward, Dave Everitt, Leon Spence, Jackie Spalding

Monthly litter total for December – Monthly total was 157 which was less than expected due to the snow. For 2014, the total amount of bags of litter collected and removed from the village and surrounding woodland was 1,854. We didn't keep a record of the amount of bags removed in January 2013 to do a comparison, but on the assumption that January 2013 was the same as January 2014, the 2013 yearly total would have been 1810. The amount of litter in the village is not getting any less, year on year. We have now removed over 6,100 bags from the village since we started recording numbers. We have noticed that there continues to be a lot of litter down the drive (both sides) to Thringstone Primary. We have removed what we can reach, but there is still a lot there within the bushes.

Keep Britain Tidy Awards - We received confirmation that we have been shortlisted as a finalist in the Keep Britain Tidy Awards for 2014, and asked to go to a presentation in Liverpool in February.

Future publications – The printers we use can no longer put our publications into a format ready to print. It is up to us to do this before we send stuff to them. Janet spent hours before the New Year trying to put the Businesses publication into a format they could use, and failed, and it was only because of a goodwill gesture that the printer has agreed to do this for us but only on this publication. Another publication called Pubs of Thringstone was outstanding with the printer, but he will not work on this for us. We have managed to find a volunteer through Voluntary Action Leicestershire who has done this for us, but we fear the printer will not like the way it has been done, as it looks very similar to what Janet provided for the other publication. We enquired of Quiet Storm, who could put things into Quark and then turn them into PDF with the end result being in paired pages and ready to print. They charge £750 a day plus VAT, and have offered to do an 88 page booklet for us at a discount of 40% making a cost of £450 plus VAT.



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There was considerable discussion as to whether the meeting would authorize professional paid help. We have money in the bank to spend, and did receive £300 2 years ago and £150 last year from Woodstock in Whitwick to be spent on publication costs.

Geoff Walker said that a computer should be able to turn something written in A5 booklet form with no page breaks into PDF. Nita said that all the publications are written and researched by her, and are in normal word format over an A4 page. Her computer is old and would not be able to put work into that sort of format.

Pam Porter suggested we purchase another computer for the group or conversely some software but to get an Apple Mac was prohibitive.

Janet said Nita had done an excellent job in recording the history of the village thus far.

It was mentioned that the two books which are now with the printers are more or less all the publications likely to be produced in the next few years, with the exception of one more booklet on memories which would be the last publication, and which is still on Nita's computer, as we are running out of people to interview anyway.

The meeting agreed that if we needed to pay for professional help, we should be able to do so.

Monies in the bank account – The meeting discussed what money needed to be spent in the coming 12 months.

It was agreed that something should be done in the summer in the form of an event, and Geoff proposed that we make available funds to assist with an event at the centre, into which we could feed. As it is Friends of Thringstone's 10th anniversary in 2015, maybe something along those lines, connected with a heritage event, would be something to consider. This will be discussed with the centre over the coming months, but it was agreed that we need to work with the centre on anything and turn it into a larger event.

Baubles Deliveries – We needed someone to take over the delivery of Baubles on the Booth Road estate. Ann agreed to do this for the group.

Help – The chairman is taking on a lot of work for the group because of lack of others to help. We still have vacancies for a minute secretary (as the chair has to take the minutes and chair the meeting at the moment), admin help, events secretary, publicity officer, environment lead and membership secretary if anybody is interested. All these jobs are currently done by the chairman as well as her own role which cannot be something which continues indefinitely. We are also shortly to be in need of someone to do publications.

Please let us know if you can give an hour a month to help the group in any of these things. Membership secretary is only really busy around renewal time. The rest of the time there is nothing really to do!

Membership issues - We were sorry to hear that our member Jimmy Wilkinson died on 22 December. We pass on our condolences to Annette, Jane and Greg and other family members.

Chairs Report

Letters received:

- See below regarding Christmas cards
- Letter enclosing cash from member relating to planting as below.

Emails Received:

- Various from agencies with which we deal and members asking questions etc.



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- From a gent who left the village, aged about 10, around the end of the 1950s wanting information about his childhood friends. Information was passed to him for which he was very grateful.
- Enquiry from 2 people who have contacted Voluntary Action Leicestershire and are interested in volunteering with us. This has been followed through but as yet no response has been received to the email sent direct to one of the persons concerned.

.Emails Sent:

- Various to agencies with which we deal
- We have asked Voluntary Action Leicestershire to post a vacancy on their volunteer site for someone who is able to help with technical things relating to computer work. We also put similar requests on the internet.

Promotion:

- We have 274 **twitter followers** which is an increase of 8 from last month, and we now have 123 **facebook followers**, an increase of 4 in the month.

Other:

- 10 Christmas cards were sent out on behalf of FoT, a reduction of 9 on previous years. We received cards from The Squire de Lisle and Mrs Fanny Hugill.
- We were given 4 cans of Carling Black Label, a can of Strongbow and a toy whilst out litter picking over the Christmas period as a thank you. These were passed on to Bernard.
- Renewed public liability insurance on 6 January in the sum of £159. This will appear on the next financial report. The price is the same as it was last year.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)				£3,365.98
Income		Expenditure		
		Broadband etc.		14.04
Raffle	£11.00	Printing – Durham miners book		48.00
Publications		Winter Bauble		34.95
		Stamps		6.36
total income to general fund				
	3,376.98	Total expenditure		103.35
		Total general fund at month end		£3,273.63
		graveyard fund balance		£18.34

Publications Report – Roy Hill

Roy has not done a report this month due to not having been able to go to our venues before Christmas.

Web Report

The webmaster is still working on a list of updates to bring the site up to date.



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Community Report and What's On

Thringstone Primary News

- The school raised £165.05 for Children in Need. They also raised nearly £700 on their annual sponsored walk. This money is to be spent on wet play equipment for each class.
- Their Christmas Fayre raised £1,045 which brought the total raised for the school in 2014 to £2,600 including the summer fayre and Halloween disco. The school intends to buy outdoor activity and play equipment to enhance the playground opportunities to all children at the school.
- The school also raised £225.43 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.
- Some members of staff and children took part in a World Record Tappathon attempt where they needed to join with others to break the record of 7,000 people tapping simultaneously. The children also raised money at the same time for Children in Need, raising over £400.
- 5,925 Morrison's Let's Grow vouchers were collected for the school and these have been used to provide a computerized weather station, weather watch thermometers and barometers and tools for the Forest Schools project.
- As a result of Christmas concerts at the school and fund raising at these for Canine Partners who help people with disabilities, £221.33 was sent to the charity by the school.
- £131 was raised by the school for Save the Children following the Christmas Jumper Day event.

Chapel Fitness Centre

- 2015 Promotion – prices guaranteed for 1 year. Adult unlimited use £20 per month, under 15 unlimited use – £12 per month, couple unlimited use - £38 per month. One off unlimited use payment £180.

Whitwick Coffee Shop

- As mentioned in the last minutes, the coffee shop were looking for volunteers to help their home meal deliveries. These deliveries will be open to senior citizens who live within a 3 mile radius of the café. Two courses (main and dessert), including delivery, cost £4.50 and became available Monday to Friday after 5 January.
- The coffee shop offers a discount diners club, which covers people over the age of 60 years, on completion of an application form. This entitles the holder to a discounted two course meal upon production of a membership card at time of purchase. Please contact the coffee shop for more details.

Hermitage Leisure Centre

- The leisure centre is offering the chance to try out classes for £1 this January. The likes of Zumba, Pilates and Swimfit can be sampled as part of Move More 4 Less week from Monday, January 19, to Saturday, January 25. For more information on the activities available in the district visit www.nwleics.gov.uk/leisure or contact Zara Barnes on 01530 454606.

NHS information

- The NHS has organised a programme called "New Start, New You" and as part of that a bus will be present in the Morrisons' car park on Saturday 17 January from 10am until 4 pm. Visitors to it can get free mini health check including blood pressure, body mass index etc. Just turn up on the day.



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Alpha Romeo Car Club

- The first meeting at the George and Dragon of this club is 14 January at 7.30pm and monthly thereafter – so next one is 11 March. Meeting on 4 April will start at 7pm with that start time applying until the dark nights come back.
- 9 Jan – Whitwick Constitutional Club – karaoke night with Lainey's karaoke
- 10 Jan – Whitwick Constitutional Club - Carrie Diamond performing from 8pm.
- 16-24 Jan – **Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Tickets are £8 for adults and £7 for children from 834575 or email tickets@tpad.org.uk. The main charity for this event is Bradley's fund. Bradley is 9 and has quadriplegic cerebral palsy.
- 15 Feb – A Sunday night concert at Thringstone House Community Centre with **Tom McConville and the Transpennine Sessions**. Starts at 8pm. Tickets £9 each from the centre's office. This concert will be a mix of bluegrass, old time and Celtic music linking Scotland and the borders in the north to Ireland and back to the north east.
- 21 March – **County meets folk** at Thringstone House Community Centre with Dragonhead, Brian Langtry and Graham and compere Dave Fry. Tickets £7.50, concessions £7. Starts at 7.30pm.
- 29 March – **Hermitage Leisure Centre** – Antique and Collector's Fair. £2 entry. 9.30am-3.30pm.
- 9 May – Thringstone Primary – car boot and craft fayre event. 11am-3pm at the school. For further details contact Mrs Tebbutt at the school.
- 12-16 May – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's production will be **Me and My Girl**. 7.30pm nightly with matinee on 16 May at 2.15pm. Tickets £8 adults £7 children from 834575 or tickets@tpads.org.uk

History report

- Ann was given a copy of part of the site map for the building of the **Carterdale Estate**, when the site was known as Grace Dieu Forest. She has copied this for our archives. It shows Coverdale and part of Farndale.
- **The Three Tuns** (109 Main Street) is now up for sale, and from the sale particulars, we have photos of the downstairs internal rooms, which, so the details say, still have the original floors.

Thringstone 100 years ago

- 23 Sept 1914 saw a **recruitment meeting** chaired by Charles Booth and supporting him on the platform were Mrs Booth, the Vicar and Mrs Shrewsbury, Mr W. E. Porter of Loughborough, Captain Jesson, of Ashby, Mr A. Caurah, of Thringstone, and others. As an opening to the proceedings, Mr James Lawrence sang "Land of Hope and Glory." The meeting was well attended and on the motion of Mr J. Winters, seconded by Mr H. Peters, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the speakers, chairman, singers and the pianist (Mr W. Latham). The proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem.
- We have the names of **Belgian refugees** who stayed in Thringstone from November 1914 and who were given land and seeds by Charles Booth to grow produce for sale. These were Frans de Mailly and his wife Josephine and one child, Auguste Alenhant (15), and



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Gustaf Scheive and Marcel De Smet, from Ghent. The men had been market gardeners for the council in Ghent. The Belgians were invited to join the company at the Licensed Victuallers' banquet at Thringstone in November and were also given a guided tour round Stapleford's Wagon Works by Mr John Wilkins of Thringstone who spoke both Flemish and French fluently, his father having lived in Belgium for 21 years and Mr Wilkins having been educated there. For seven years, Mr Wilkins had acted as interpreter to visitors on the battlefield of Waterloo, coming back to Thringstone for the winter months. The refugees also joined with others in the area in December 1914 at a concert at the Adult School in Coalville, which was organized by the Coalville Co-operative Society. The Whitwick and Thringstone refugees were taken to the event by transport organized by Charles Booth and the Wilkins' brothers (as above) were interpreters. The refugees said at the time that they had met with the greatest kindness everywhere and could not find words to adequately express their gratitude. After their arrival in England they were greatly impressed at being allowed to travel first-class on the railway. Never before had they had that experience in their own country. They had not wanted anything since they had been in England and the kindness meted out to them had exceeded all expectations. Two of the Belgian Refugees staying in Thringstone moved to work on a farm near Kettering in January 1915. We understand that John Wilkins, the translator, died on 1 November 1945 at 16 The Green, Thringstone. 70 Belgian refugees stayed at Broomleys, several in Whitwick and Ibstock.

- **Scout Master Eagles, of Whitwick**, arranged in November 1914 for the Whitwick boy scouts to go round to houses in the Whitwick and Thringstone district fortnightly collecting waste paper, which was to be sold and the proceeds donated to the local Belgian Refugees Relief Fund. Households were asked to save up their waste paper.
- **The Gracedieu lodge of the RAOB** (Order of Buffloes who met at The Queen's Head) raised 5 shillings for the Belgian Relief Fund in January 1915.
- We have continued to try to ascertain details of any Thringstone born women who helped with the war effort during WW1, and have discovered details of 2 who served in the **Women's Army Auxiliary Corps**. We paid for download copies of their records from the National Archives.

Mary Elizabeth Wardle was born on 12 October 1895 and died 16 April 1974 in Barnoldswick, Lancashire. Mary didn't stay in the village for long as her family had moved to Highfield Street in Coalville by 1901 and then on to Herrick Road in Loughborough by 1911. We have a photograph of Mary from a genealogical site. She seems to have married Norman Wayland Lousley in 1925.

Mary went to school at the Wesleyan School in Belvoir Road, Coalville (now Marlene Reid Centre), was a hosiery machinist at the Nottingham Manufacturing Co in Moor Lane, Loughborough, and served as clerical staff in the WAAC in Gateshead, Ripon, Scarborough and Catterick until her discharge in September 1919, at which point she had served for just over a year. Upon enlistment aged 22, she only weighed 6 stone 10 lbs. She was absent without leave on one occasion in January 1919 and fined 2 shillings and 6 pence as a result. We are currently in discussions with her granddaughter on any information the family might have.

Annie Freeman was born on 26 May 1897 in Talbot Lane and was brought up by her mother Eliza nee Hibbert after her father left the family of 10 children around 1899 to set up



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home with another woman. She was the sister of Richard and Herbert Freeman who both died in WW1 in Flanders, Richard in May 1917 and Herbert in October 1918. She seems to have made enquiries about enlisting on 1 October 1917 as references were applied for at that time. This was only 5 months after her brother Richard had been killed. There is a letter dated 28 December 1917 from Thomas Robinson, Munitions Stores Officer of the Central Stores Depot of the Ministry of Munitions of War in Coalville saying that she was free to find other employment. She had already done war work through Stableford's, as a munitions worker. She worked at Stableford's for 9 months at least. In addition to producing armoured railway carriages for the war Stableford's may have carried out smaller work which was outsourced to them. The Munitions Store was where Hermitage Leisure Centre complex and fields now are, and we are trying to find out more about that.

When she enlisted, on 4 January 1918, she said she had 'baby and mother' as dependents, although where there is a part on the forms to say about any children, she leaves this blank. She was living at 92 Olive Cottages, Hermitage Road and was a puncher at Stableford & Co on Mantle Lane in Coalville where she'd been for 9 months. She was a Catholic, went to Holy Cross Church, had been schooled in Thringstone until the age of 13, and on 4 January 1918 joined as an assistant cook and waitress, and wanted to serve either at home or abroad. She was at that time 9 st 8 lbs. She was already fined whilst in Folkestone on 29 January 1918 for being absent without permission before being posted to France.

She went to Rouen in France on 6 February 1918 and was discharged on 10 June 1919 having served with 3 units, as 'her work and personal character have been equally unsatisfactory'. On 13 September 1918 when she was noted as being outside camp after her late pass had expired. Things got worse after her brother Herbert died, and we wonder what the effect was on her of this tragedy.

On 3 December 1918 she refused to comply with an order. On 14 December 1918 she went absent from her position in the canteen at Rouen for over 13 hours, and on 7 January 1919 was told not to smoke and continued to do so whilst on duty.

In February 1919, she was in a café without permission and was found to be drunk. She was then absent from roll call, parade and uniform inspection on 14 April 1919. 2 days later she was absent for roll call, parade and uniform inspection and left the camp without a pass until 9.50pm.

She was sent back to the UK on 15 May 1919 and sent to the Connaught Club Hostel in Seymour Street, London. On her return home, she wrote to the Corps to ask for her money to be sent to her as soon as possible, as she said she had no father and had yet to find a job. We believe she married a John Jones in 1920 and died on 25 October 1954 at 22 Hermitage Road, Whitwick, but are currently unable to confirm that, and have contacted members of her family on line who have posted information on the internet for more information. However, if anybody else has any information, we would be delighted to have it. We know a relative called Jan has a copy of Annie's Pictorial Pocket Testament from WW1 as she posted information on that on an internet site called Rootschat.com.

Gertrude Sophia Ashford, the daughter of VC recipient Thomas Eldson Ashford who lived at one point in Brook Lane and was married to Betsy Anne Sissons in Thringstone, also served in the WAAF but we have not asked for copies of her records since she was born and lived in Skinners Lane in Whitwick. She died aged 27 in 1923.



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- We now have 2 photographs of Ward H at the **5th Northern Hospital in Leicester** – one being taken at Christmas 1915, and the other at Christmas 1916 which were posted on facebook by a Leicester history group. 2 men from Thringstone worked there as doctors during the war.
- We have archive information from online sources regarding **the war effort in December 1914 and January 1915**. Rev. Shrewsbury organised a war lecture in December 1914 which raised £3 for the Prince of Wales' National Relief Fund. A further war lecture was held in January 1915, hosted by Charles Booth, at which another £3 was raised.
- Lady Beaumont presented Citizen's Badges in the billiard room at Thringstone House Community Centre to the then 58 members of **Whitwick and Thringstone's Citizens Corps**, in December 1914, which was organised by Captain W H Stevenson and Commander Berry. The corps was made up of men who were too old to be called up at that time (i.e. over 35 which then changed to 38) and who undertook some basic training and was part of the Leicester and Leicestershire Citizens Training League. The Citizens Corps were only ever intended to be called upon in the event of an invasion. By February 1915 they had formed themselves into a County Regiment.
- **East Midlands Oral History Archive**, in partnership with Leicester Arts and Museum Service, has put more than 2 hours of oral histories about WW1 online. Thirty years ago local historians at the Leicester Oral History Archive started to record the memories of local people in Leicestershire and Rutland. In the 1980s and 1990s almost 300 recordings were made with people who lived through 1914-18 as children or adults. EMOHA has selected recordings in which people have talked about the Home Front during the war, edited them down to just over 2 hours of material, and arranged them in different themes such as 'The Start of the War', 'Attitudes to Germans', and 'Counting the Cost'. These sound files are on the EMOHA website and Soundcloud (where you can listen to all of the clips as part of a playlist).
The website is - <http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha/community/resources/ww1/index.html> and the recordings are also on Soundcloud - <https://soundcloud.com/emoha>
It is worthwhile pointing out that the recording also include information on the departure to war of the Coalville 50, which included within its ranks 2 men from Thringstone. It also includes information on the bombing of Loughborough and visiting the **5th Northern Hospital** in Leicester.

Councillors' report

Planning application imminent for 25 houses on fields off Lily Bank – the ones where the Pinfold was and which go down on the left towards the G&D. Vehicular access would come off Millhouse Estate which is a small road, currently serving about 12 houses.

The County Council is considering the future of **Snibston Museum** on 14 January, and recommendations suggest it will be a case of closure/redevelopment after they looked at plans submitted by Friends of Snibston and felt they were inadequate. The closure would be held off until after the next election.

Police Report for last 31 days (PCSO Mark Ball)

As of 8 January our PC James Broomfield is leaving the Bardon Hill beat team and moving onto pastures new by joining the policing team at East Midlands Airport. He is being replaced by the extremely capable PC1917 Michael "Mike" Steer who he is sure you will meet in due course.



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James sent a message which said 'I have spent the past 4.1/2yrs working firstly as Beat Officer at Thringstone/Whitwick then as the "Beacon Officer" for the enhanced Bardon Hill beat. I would like to thank you all for the very warm relationship I believe we have enjoyed and for the support you have given to me during this time.'

In the last month there have been 2 reports of damage, the first to a property on Dalkeith that had a window smashed, no entry was made to the property and the other was someone cutting a person's hedge, which looks like a bit of neighbour fall out.

There has also been a theft from a motor vehicle. Sadly the person left the sat nav on display. We keep reminding people but sadly it still happens.

The meeting also heard that 3 cases of wine and a sat nav were taken from a car on Main Street on 13 Dec.

Gardening and environment

- Just prior to Christmas, Bernard purchased the remaining plants to put down by the fencing on **Drury Lane** for the owner of land there. We were given a further £35 to buy planting for our area down that lane by the owner of the other land for which we thank him and with which more plants were purchased. Between Christmas and the New Year, a further amount was received which now means we have received £70 for our own planting. Thank you.

AOB

- **Centre news** – Mike said that the **centre's core funding** is to be cut by a further £3,500, and there was a greater need than ever for more help to come from the voluntary sector. There is to be the **solar farm project** which should generate income, but the centre needs to get more things on for people to take part in to save it for the village long term. The **table top sales** are likely to start again in February, but the **Centre Stage Productions** (which do not include the panto, film club, or plug and play which are separate things) and are staged events, are finishing because the funding to these has been cut by central funding sources. This is a shame as it attracted people to the centre from a countrywide talent base, rather than just being local artists. The centre is having a meeting with Rhonda Dean from the **Whitwick Community Enterprises** about working with them on providing a similar service in village as that which was mentioned above in the What's On section relating to the coffee shop. If the centre runs at a deficit, the **county council** can dispose of the building despite their trusteeship of the centre. **Posters** about what is on at the centre are likely to be put on display shortly, although there is nothing inside there at the moment relating to what might be on. Nita had been talking to **Hanson's Auctioneers** earlier about utilizing the centre for valuation days and/or charity auctions. The centre is going to contact the auction company to discuss this further.

Next meeting: 5 February at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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