



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

Chairman: Nita Pearson

20 Springfield, Thringstone, Leicestershire, LE67 8LT.

Telephone: 01530 223434

[mail to: nita.pearson@ntlworld.com](mailto:nita.pearson@ntlworld.com)

Visit our website at: www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk

Twitter address: @Thringstone2

Chairman's Report for AGM June 2015

This has been another good year for our group, with **membership totals** reaching 135, once again beating any previous figures. Unfortunately, during this last year, 5 members have passed away, but we have encouraged new members to join us right up to the end of the year, although some of our existing members have moved away and we are not expecting them to rejoin in 2015/16.

Our accounts for our March year end showed we had made a profit during the year, helped in some way by our **insurance cost**, which stayed the same this year. Donations received totalled £59.10, and we sold our lawn mower during this year for £40.

Publication sales have continued to be good, and with the addition of Memories of the Durham Miners and Memories 4 becoming available during the year. We believe we have a good selection of books for people to buy. Our publications officer, Roy Hill, is giving up his work with publications from this AGM, and we thank him for his outstanding work in helping our publications promotions. Last summer saw our first ever attempt at a 3 day event with **The Great War Remembered** in the summer. This saw around 500 people attend the event at the centre, and it was a pleasure to work with new organisations and individuals to put this event together. We received £250 in sponsorship for the event from St Andrew's, East Midlands Airport and Coalville Rotary. We have continued to work on the history of the time, joined Centenary Partnership, Century of Stories and other local groups, and were featured in a display on the period at Snibston in March.

We were awarded **The Big Tidy Up award** at The Keep Britain Tidy Jubilee Awards in Liverpool in March. This is a real coup for a group such as ours, and during this year we have had more regular litter pickers join our team. We also had various meetings with NWLDC over issues including dog fouling and visited the recycling depot. Interestingly, we have collected and removed 2015 bags of rubbish between June 2014 and May 2015. We held **4 event litter picks** during the year, and thank Thringstone Co-op for continuing to supply us with reuseable carrier bags. We would also 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 deal with anything we report to them. Our **website** continues to be a good source of advertising. We have continued to use twitter and facebook as a means of advertising, and attracted over 80 **new twitter followers** over the year



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Winner of the Big Tidy Award at the Keep Britain
Tidy Jubilee Awards 2015

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, finalists 2011 and 2013

footprints
Stepping out for a greener district



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and over 100 new **facebook followers**. This year we launched a **facebook campaign** to help a man in Shrewsbury Walk whose flat was damaged by fire, during which his dog died. With the help of numerous individuals, the Black Horse and Castle Garage in Whitwick, we succeeded in fully equipping a new flat out for him, to include new cooker, washer, fridge freezer, TV, dining table and chairs, settee and chair, bed, dressing table, clothing and general household things. Kay's shop raised £93.57, Woodstock in Whitwick contributed £100, and St Andrew's gave £59 and we also had other funding from members direct. The settee and chair were cleaned for free by 8ball Cleaning, and Marlene Reid centre and NWLDC also contributed items as did The George and Dragon. Whilst this took a lot of organising, it showed a true community spirit and we would like to thank everybody involved. We also joined **Streetlife website** from which we were alerted to problems of vandalism in Grace Dieu Woods which subsequently involved police and a meeting with the de Lisle family.

We once again provided help for the **Carols Round the Tree** at Thringstone House Community Centre and purchased a living tree which is now planted outside. We have continued to help promote the work of the church, and this year will put on a Big Lunch Event with their help.

This year we have also worked with NWLDC on their Woodside Estate fun day, and also attended the MacMillan coffee morning at Thringstone Primary and attended the **Miner's Gala** at Snibston, and Picnic in the Parks in Coalville with over £200 being raised after stall fees were paid.

We have continued to purchase new **shrubs and plants** for the areas for which we are responsible, and would like to thank Bernard for all the work he has carried out, unaided, during the year. We were helped by receiving over 70 tree whips from NWLDC which have been used in various places around the village, and given to others for their own particular areas.

The history side of the group has been very active in the past year. It was during this membership year that the centre became the first building on which a Green Plaque was placed, and this was to Charles Booth. We have found and been given large numbers of photos and information about people from the village in the past, including details of people's service in the army going back to the time of Napoleon. One photograph we were given to copy showed the community centre around the time it was opened, and we subsequently met up with descendants of the Hurst family who lived there prior to the purchase of the property by Charles Booth.

We were given copies of house deeds to scan, which have enhanced our knowledge of the growth of the village. We also discovered information about the expulsion to Lincolnshire from the village of people due to the poor law guidelines/parish laws at the time.

We attended various WW1 events during the year and managed to find copies of wills relating to people of the village going back in one case to 1635. We now have copies of land redemption registers for the village in the 18th century, various other rate lists, and details of 18th century apprenticeships offered to young men locally. We hope to work more in local schools in 2015/16 to share our work on the service of people during WW1.

We once again took part in the **Community Centre's yearly quiz** and helped with the table top sales organised at the centre.

As ever, the pressures on the voluntary sector continue to be demanding, and we linked with the **job centre's business scheme** to find new volunteers through them.

We would like to thank everybody who supports the group in any way at all. Without all this help and support, there would be no group, and we greatly value your contributions in this our 10th anniversary year which is to be celebrated with a Big Lunch on 7 June at the Community Centre.



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