



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 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Jackie Spalding, Bill Enser, Bernard Lee, Ron Hill, Geoff Walker
Apologies: Sue Rowbottom, Gillian Bates, Geoff and Jane Wilson, Ann Petty, Ray Woodward, Dave and Julie Everitt, Leon Spence, Simon Jaggs, Tracy Foulds, Tracy Hill, Pat Hubbard, Janet Stevenson, David Stevenson, Roy Hill, Pam Porter

Discussions/Decisions

The Christmas Tree at the centre – Bill Enser has secured a tree, which will be lifted around the end of October and then planted sometime next month. It is a 7 foot tree and traditionally English and will have all its roots in tact. The Carols Round The Tree will be held on 11 December, and Ukulele Crazy have already been booked to perform.

Bernard agreed to get new lights for the tree out of Friends of Thringstone funds, which we will be able to decorate, so there is no need to get another tree this year.

Century of Stories – the event on 29 August at the centre was a success. 10 people came to the morning session and of those 10, 5 came back in the afternoon with another 8 people for the presentation. The century of stories team said this is their most successful History Café to date, and were very pleased. The art project for 12-19 year olds is still taking place on 7, 14, 21 and 28 September. If anybody has any young people who would like to come, please let us know. Lots of photos were taken and will be added to our portfolio and website in due course. The County Council photographer took lots of photos and various film of people talking about their research, and intends to follow one family through with their research as a special film project.

The art project associated with this scheme will still run at the centre with young people on 7 14, 21 and 28 September from 3.45pm-5.30pm. *Lorraine has agreed to help advertise this to maximize attendance.*

The framed mural for the project that was at Snibston Discovery Museum has been returned to us, to save it being part of the audit, likely to take 12 months, being conducted by the County



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Council who then seek to either return items or put them together in other similar displays elsewhere. We now need to find a permanent home for this.

Lorraine has seen this and agreed it should go up at the centre, and will find a place for it, probably opposite the door to the office.

NWLDC's Green Shoots Grants – our application for 2000 bulbs as part of a matched funding project was duly sent and acknowledged, and we are awaiting a decision from Catherine Ridgway who is the officer dealing with our area.

New Bench for Drury Lane - Thanks to Pam Porter to brokering a deal with NWLDC to supply us, for free, with a used 3 seater bench to go down Drury Lane. This bench needed a bit of a makeover, and Bernard took it apart, sanded it down and repainted it blue. *People suggested it goes in a sunny spot, and also where people have a view so not where it was before, which is also out of sight. It was agreed to put it on the bend in the lane. Bernard will affix it to the ground with stakes rather than try to concrete it in. Bernard was thanked for his work on the bench.*

Whitwick Party in the Park 5th September - Please come and have a chat with us at our stall at this event. We will be looking out for you!

Bus Route 16 – There are rumours that this bus is changing its route and will no longer go to The Glebe and Henson's Lane. There doesn't appear to be anything on any website that we can find, other than that Arriva are giving several local bus services a makeover from 20 September. The rumours are that this takes place this month sometime. See also councillors' report

East Midlands Airport - We understand that Coalville and Shepshed are to get an express bus service to and from East Midlands Airport, but do not yet know the actual route and whether it will go through, or stop in, Thringstone.

With a potential 20,000 new jobs being created around the airport in the next 20 years, it is hoped that the new service will help the towns' people into work. This is part of the Trentbarton skylink service and will run from 27 September, with an hourly service from 5am to 11pm seven days a week which will take a maximum of 35 minutes between Coalville and the Airport. The new service makes it easier for workers from Coalville, Shepshed and nearby villages to get to jobs at the Airport and at the businesses in the East Midlands Enterprise Gateway [EMEG] area which already employ 10,000 people. The new service is an extension of skylink Nottingham, so people from the towns may also find skylink a convenient way to get to Nottingham, Derby or Leicester.

In the meantime, David Stevenson has sent an email saying he suspects that there are a significant number of Thringstone householders who use East Midlands Airport during the year and would be pleased not to have to pay the **Airport parking charge** and would appreciate being able to leave their cars at home in Thringstone. If there were an organised group of drivers created, willing to take villagers and their luggage to the Airport, this might prove a popular move. David would be prepared to set the scheme up and do some of the driving. He suggests that a reasonable charge would be £20 for out and back journeys. £10 would be paid to FoT during the outward journey, for FoT funds, and the second £10, on the return, to the driver for his or her fuel and time. We have contacted Gems Taxis in Whitwick for prices and they say that for 2 people and luggage from the village to the airport would be £18 before midnight and £24 after.

The meeting felt that it would be best to drop this idea, and for people who wanted to have lifts to rely on taxis or their immediate friends/family.



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Former play area off Henson's Lane – We understand that residents surrounding this area have received a letter stating that there is to be an extension to the training area of the football pitch, and whilst the footpaths are going to remain, but be rerouted, the land will be used by the club. This isn't a new development. Years back, when we were involved in the Mural Project on that site, we were told that the artwork there would be removed within a few years when the club extended their facilities. There is currently nothing on the planning website for NWLDC about this, although Cllr. Leon Spence is already aware, given the rerouting of the public footpaths, which is a county issue.

Monthly litter pick total – 159 against 148 for August 2014.

Chairs Report

Letters received:

- From Voluntary Action Leicestershire regarding their AGM.

Emails Received:

- Various from members and agencies with which we regularly deal

Emails Sent:

- Various to NWLDC about issues including the depositing of rubbish in the garage courts off Melrose Road, and to LCC regarding Century of Stories

Promotion:

- We have 333 **twitter followers**, an increase of 3 this month, and 173 **facebook followers**, an increase of 10 this month. We continue to post information to both sites on a regular basis. We also continue to put our litter pick collection totals on our Litter Action UK page.
- An article we wrote on the **Century of Stories event** was printed in the Coalville Times of 21 August 2015. After Century of Stories event on 29 August a lot was posted by the county council team on twitter and facebook about the success of the day.

Other:

- A gentleman was referred to us by the **job centre** for volunteering. The problem is he lived in Ashby and had to rely on public transport to get to us. It was agreed with the job centre that asking someone to travel from Ashby to the village to do work experience was not of benefit to either party, and that they should seek some volunteering opportunities in Ashby.
- We tried twice this month to meet up with **another job centre volunteer** from Coalville who agreed, on both occasions, to meet us to do various things. This took several calls, as he had two mobile numbers, but on both occasions he failed to turn up. This was reported back to the job centre, and we are no longer going to try to engage with this young man.
- **Fortnam Close** – The building on the former Fox site is now complete, and photos have been taken for future archive reference.
- We let the team at **Woodstock in Whitwick** borrow 5 of our litter pick sticks. One was lost at the event, but the team bought us a replacement, for which we thank them. These are now back with us.

Finance Report

We received a letter from the bank informing us that the FSCS deposit protection limit is reducing from £85,000 to £75,000. This is unlikely to ever affect us, so the letter is being filed.



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Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)			£3,265.47
Income		Expenditure	
Membership	£3.50		
Donation	0.50	Broadband etc.	19.33
Raffle	£13.00	Planting	44.60
Century of Stories money	£250		
Publications	£39.50	Raffle prize/car parking	£2.49
Miscellaneous sales	£3.20		
total income to general fund		Total expenditure	£66.42
	£309.70	Total general fund at month end	£3,508.75

Publications Report

There have been no sales at the Members' Club or Community Centre.

St Andrew's church sold a graveyard booklet for £2 this month which is £1.50 for the book and a 50p donation. In addition, as briefly mentioned last month, we were very fortunate with publication sales at the music festival, as follows:

1 X Memories 1 - £2.50, 1 X Memories 3 - £2.50, 1 X Graveyard - £2.50, 2 X Pubs Book - £12.00, 2 X Village Trail 1 2 and 3 - £10.00 with the bulk discount applied, 1 X WW2 - £2.50, 1 X Thringstone & Its People - £6.00, totalling £38.

A copy of the pubs book has been given to Jimmy Francis, who regularly gives us copies of his research for our archives.

Web Report

The webmaster has added all minutes up to date, and many photographs to the project pages for which we thank him. He will continue to further update the site with photos, and details of the Pubs booklet in due course.

Police Report – PCSO Mark Ball

Some damage was caused to the grab rails of the Melrose Road sports pavilion. These were repaired/replaced by NWLDC's park department within 2 days of reporting.

We also understand that 2 people's cars were damaged by being hit by another car on the Dalkeith Walk car park and a bike was taken from a property on Shrewsbury Walk, and in fact there have been a few pedal cycles stolen, including on Henson's Lane where one was recovered and one returned to its owner.

A property on Elgin Walk had tomatoes thrown at it.

We heard that there was a break in on Loughborough Road on the evening of 15 August. A back window was broken, but the intruders were disturbed by the burglar alarm going off, leaving most of the valuables behind, although money was taken.

In the evening of 17 August, a recycling bin, situated in the walkway just past the Methodist Chapel, was set on fire which affected the nearby hedge. This was put out by residents after having been alerted to the fire by someone passing by.



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We also understand there have been thefts of meat from the Thringstone Co-op. There have also been problems at Thringstone Members Club on 2 September due drink and tempers getting out of control. There was one arrest and the rest were told to calm down..

Community Report and What's On

We understand that around £7,000 was raised for local charities by the **Woodstock in Whitwick Team**, which included Big Rock Promotions who worked with the centre on Thringstone Music Festival. Well done to all concerned.

The Whitwick Music Festival on Bank Holiday Sunday raised £2,365 to be split between Papworth Hospital and Olivia's Journey (small child with cancer). Thank you to all who contributed.

Geoff Walker told the meeting about his recent Hadrian's wall walk which was something he wanted to try to celebrate his 85th birthday. It started at 6am, and 500 people took part. The idea was to walk the 26.5 miles, but Geoff had an incident which reduced the amount he walked to 22.5 miles. He did this to raise money for Alzheimers Research and has raised over £440. He thanks everybody who has contributed.

Gracedieu Netball Club is a new netball club who are just starting out. They are a friendly group of ladies of all ages and abilities who are looking to welcome new members to join their friendly club. They have just entered a team into the North West Leicestershire Sunday league. If you want to train for enjoyment or fitness then that's fine too - 1st week free. Throughout the year the club will be organizing friendly matches against new and established local teams. Training starts back on Thursday 3rd September and then every Thursday night 6:30pm - 8.00 pm at Gracedieu School sports hall. The cost is £4 a week to start with then £15 month by bank transfer. 14 and over of all abilities MOST welcome. Email them for further details on gracedieunetball@aol.com or search for Gracedieu Netball Club on Facebook.

- 4 Sept – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – Band night from 9pm The Bench that Rocked.
- 5 Sept – **Whitwick Party in the Park and scarecrow festival**. 11am start. Friends of Thringstone will be there.
- **Shepshed Watermill** open day from 11.30am-4.30pm at Hathern Road, Shepshed.
- 14 Sept – **Tai Chi For Elders free taster session** at Thringstone Methodist Hall. Starts at 6.45pm. Class then starts on 21 September at the same time.
- 18 Sept – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – 80s tribute night from 9pm with Jayne Lesley. Fancy dress optional.
- 21 Sept - Deeds, wills and other historical documents available to view at **Swannington Village Hall** from 7pm. More details from chairman@swannington-heritage.co.uk
- 18-22 Sept – **Ashby Statues fair** with Pat Collins fun fairs. The streets will be closed again going through town.
- 23 Sept – Hospice Hope fund raising coffee morning at Thringstone House Community Centre. Cakes and all sorts available. 10am – 1pm.
- 24 Sept – Thringstone House Community Centre's first **Bohemian arts meeting** at 7.30pm. Aiming to bring together like-minded people to discover the world of the arts in all its forms, the idea is to then hold fortnightly meetings on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Further details from Pam Clayfield on 224767.



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- 26 Sept – Cantabile at **St Mary's, Osgathorpe**. More details from osgathorpevillage@gmail.com.
- 2 Oct – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – Elvis Tribute night from 9pm.
- 3 Oct – **Tudor Craft Day** at Donington le Heath Manor House. 11am-4pm. Free
- 9 and 10 Oct – **Murder Mystery** at Thringstone House Community Centre presented by Thringstone Panto and Drama Society – **Over My Dead Body**. 7.30pm start. Tickets £8 to include light 2 course supper, available from the centre on 222337. Not suitable for children under the age of 12 years.
- 10 Oct – **East Midlands Industrial Archeology Conference** at Swannington Village Hall. All welcome. Starts at 9.15 and goes on until 4pm. Speakers include local historians Denis Baker and Roger Bisgrove.
- 16 Oct – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – Band night - The Cheeze from 9pm
- 11 Dec – **Carols Round The Tree** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Will start at 7pm.

History report

- We found two inquest reports regarding **children who died as a result of burns**. The first one was Mary Ann Moore who died aged 4, after being burnt 6 weeks earlier, in January 1869. She was buried in St Andrew's churchyard, but we are unable at this time to discover the names of her parents without written details on which to research further. The other was Elizabeth Lord, aged nearly 8 years, who actually lived in Peggs Green which was part of Thringstone at that time. She was the daughter of Joseph Lord. Her mother had left her with another child whilst going to get more coal for the fire. She told her daughter to sit still and not move. Elizabeth's apron was set alight when she stoked the existing fire, having gone near the fire to keep warm. She died a couple of days later in 1870. She was not buried at St Andrew's, so we are assuming she may have been buried at Griffydam.
- We now have more photos from around 1906 of the **staff at Grace Dieu Manor** who worked for the Booth family. These came from a lady connected to one of the staff who married into the McCarthy family of Whitwick.
- In March 1915, there were local newspaper reports relating to **Henry W Robinson**, collier and member of the local Citizen's Corps of Thringstone, being fined for using bad language outside Whitwick Picture House on 27 February. He was fined 5 shillings and 6 pence and 16 shillings and 6 pence costs, or 7 days imprisonment.
- In June 1915, **Philip Neal** of Thringstone was in court with several men from Whitwick charged with failing to send his children regularly to school. He was fined 2 shillings and 6 pence.
- Newspaper reports from July 1929 tell of an **outbreak of smallpox** in Leicestershire which included 5 cases in one Thringstone family.
- **Benjamin Baxter** of Thringstone died in 1923 aged 81, and newspaper reports say that he was a former Chairman of Thringstone Parish Council having served for several years. Benjamin and his wife Kitty and 11 children lived in Main Street and he was a colliery weighman by profession. They had previously lived on Gracedieu Road. Both Benjamin and Kitty are buried at St Andrew's.
- We have read reports from the Nottingham Evening Post of 29 May 1940 relating to the committal to trial of 19 year old **George Herbert Wardle** of '42 the council houses',



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Loughborough Road, who worked in Loughborough for M Wright and Sons, elastic web manufacturers. Mr Wardle admitted that on several occasions he had put screws, files and nails into his looms so that they broke down and were out of action for a night. He did this because he had not been granted a pay rise. This was a serious situation, given it was wartime. Records show that Mr Wardle was born on 23 March 1921 and died in the Coalville area in 1983. M Wright and Sons Ltd. are still trading in Quorn.

- We found further inquest reports into the death by scalding of **Marion Harley**, mentioned in previous minutes, who died in 1939. It would seem that the child was sitting by the copper whilst her mother got cold water to make the bath more comfortable for the child when she fell backwards into the water and was scalded. Once again, her mother said she had told the child to sit still. She died within 24 hours.
- We have read a brief report into the death aged 3 of **Wilfred Loakes** of Thringstone who died following a fire in 1907. It would seem that his elder brother was playing with matches and accidentally set fire to the bedding. Wilfred died from smoke inhalation. It is believed he was the son of Harry Loakes who kept the George and Dragon from 1903-08.
- In 1935 there was a court case relating to 12 year old **Jack Wright** and Bertram Haywood, both of Thringstone. This was reported in the Nottingham Evening Post of 4 September 1935. Jack was playing in Grace Dieu woods, and shouted some abuse at Mr Haywood about the fact that 'he wouldn't go to work'. Mr Haywood then assaulted him by allegedly punching him with his fist, smacking him then kicking him in the head, although Howard Burton and Harold Kirby who were with Mr Haywood said he merely clipped the boy round the ear. Mr Haywood said he had been subject to a lot of abuse in the past by village boys, and had reported this to their parents, who had merely laughed at him. He was fined £2 and 10 shillings costs.
- We have a copy of the Grantham Journal report from October 1898 relating to **Amelia Squires**, who, aged 14, was found by police with 8 newly dead rabbits hidden under her shawl whilst on her way home to Thringstone. She was found guilty of assisting a poacher, and was sentenced to a fine of £1, including costs, or 7 days imprisonment. Further research has shown that Amelia was born in 1886 in Barrow Upon Soar, and was one of 11 children of **John and Esther Squires**. Of these 11 children, only 6 survived into adulthood. John was a collier, and the family lived on Pares Hill in Whitwick before moving to Main Street. In 1901, John himself was taken to court to poaching at night time on the land of Rev. John Martin of Charley Hall, according to an article in the 2 December edition of the Nottingham Evening Post. He was apprehended by gamekeeper Samuel Gibson with 2 bags, 2 nets and 6 rabbits and as a result of previous convictions for poaching, was sentenced to 2 months' hard labour, and asked to find sureties for 12 months, failing which a further month's imprisonment would be ordered. Rev Martin was at that time a retired Church of England minister, and lived at the hall with his wife, 6 daughters, a governess, cook, 2 parlour maids, a nurse, 2 house maids, a kitchen maid, and a children's maid. He died there in 1922 leaving an estate to the value of £26,713. Charley Hall is now a Grade 2 listed building. Amelia married John White Jnr. in 1903 and continued to live on Main Street. By 1911, Amelia had given birth to 4 children, James, Esther and Alice, and another child called William who had died at one week. This family is in some way related to David White of Whitwick.



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Councillors' report

The following was received from Cllr. Leon Spence:

The new development at **The Fox** is obviously nearly complete. There is going to be a consultation about putting double yellow lines on the corners of the new development (on Main Street). Notices should be posted shortly.

I would be grateful for views on changes to **bus services**. No one has actually contacted me from the bus companies but, as mentioned earlier, I understand change is in the offing.

Gardening and environment

- Bernard has cut back the bushes down the **church jitty**, done some weeding and clearing on Millhouse and planted some shrubs and small plants on the rockery area down Drury Lane. Thanks to Pam Porter for letting us have some plants for this area.

AOB

- The Autumn edition of The Bauble is to be picked up from the printers tomorrow, at which time we will also get the 5 photocopies of VT2, agreed at the last meeting to be copied.
- There was general talk about working with unemployed young people, and with the job centre generally moving forward. Geoff said that the Thringstone Panto and Drama Society is looking for volunteers, as previously mentioned, but nobody is coming forward to help.

Next meeting: 1 October at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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