



The Friends of  
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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Visit our website at: [www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk](http://www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk)  
We are also on facebook/twitter. Twitter address @Thringstone2

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 JANUARY 2016 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Ann Petty, Ron Hill, Roy Hill, Mike Statham, Bernard Lee, Bill Enser  
**Apologies:** Gillian Bates, Dave Everitt, Leon Spence, Geoff Walker, Geoff and Jane Wilson, Ray Woodward, Rowena Summers

### Discussions/Decisions

**Help required** – Nita explained that she is unwell and awaiting hospital results, and really needs people to help with the workload she presently carries. Anybody who is willing to help in any way should get in touch with Nita. Without help, a lot of things currently carried out by Nita on behalf of the group will have to stop.

**Thank you** – to the parks department from NWLDC who professionally attached our blue bench down Drury Lane to the ground by using steel bolts, plates and pegs and drilling into the wood of the bench to secure it properly. Very much appreciated.

**One of our members** has asked whether she can put a brass plaque in memory of her husband on our blue bench. Permission has been given and we have asked her to liaise with Bernard over this.

**Our Fairy Lights** – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society have borrowed our fairy lights, and Bernard has put these round their banner advertising the forthcoming panto. We have told them in writing that if they are damaged, or no longer work when taken down at the end of January, we will be looking to them to reimburse us for a new set of lights, especially given that we only bought these in December.

**Litter Pick Total for 2015** – 2053 bags – a new record for a 12 month period. This information was put on our facebook and twitter pages, on the Litter Action UK FoT webpage, and shared with the facebook pages for Litter Action UK, Zilch UK and Pick Up Some Litter, prompting some very positive comments. A news release was sent on this to Coalville Times, Keep Britain Tidy, Hermitage FM and Loughborough Echo. We also told NWLDC and sent a letter to the Chairman's Office of the Conservative Party, to underline what communities now do following cuts to council budgets. We received a very nice email back from that office which said 'the work your



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group does for the community is astonishing, and you should be proud of yourselves for your amazing efforts'. The news release was printed in the Coalville Times of 8 January.

**Monthly litter pick total – 164 against 157 for December 2014.**

### Chairs Report

#### Letters received:

- Christmas card received from Mrs Hugill, granddaughter of Charles Booth.

#### Emails received:

- From Zurich insurance about our Public Liability insurance. As we are not planning any events which are likely to attract more than 100 people in 2016, we have reduced the necessary cover, which has seen the cost reduce from £164.25 to £82.12.

#### Emails sent:

- Various to local agencies, and to council regarding flytipping and other issues.

#### Promotion:

- We have 339 **twitter followers**, an increase of one on last month, and have 201 **facebook followers**, an increase of 5 this month. Nigel Roberts has agreed to help Nita with the facebook page.

#### Other:

- Updated the 'what we have done in 2015' list and sent this to the webmaster to go onto the website. A copy can be provided for members upon request.

### Finance Report

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)			
			<b>£3,018.15</b>
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
		Broadband etc.	£15.62
		Insurance renewal	£82.12
Raffle	£18	Autumn newsletter	£35.70
Fee from talk	£40	Reprint of guidebooks	£3.85
Publications	£57	97 businesses books	£224.50
Donation	£16	Winter newsletter	£35.50
		10 Scottish in Thringstone	£15.00
		3 vouchers from Findmypast	£10.44
		Stationery	£1.00
<b>total income to general fund</b>		<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£423.73</b>
	£131	<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>£2,725.42</b>

We now have 2 more people who can act as signatures for cheques, which will ease the pressure on the existing people.



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### Publications Report

David sold a Thringstone and its People, a full set of Born and Breds and a businesses and pubs book to one family which totaled £24.50. Nita sold a Durham Miners booklet for £2.50 and 3 businesses books. We collected £28 from Thringstone House Community Centre, but cannot equate this to sales, other than a businesses book was sold for £6 and a pubs book for £6. The remaining money is being treated as a donation.

### Web Report

There have been no updates done to the site since August. The webmaster is aware of this situation.

### Police Report – PCSO Mark Ball

Nothing received, although Nita is aware that Mark Ball has been off work. These are things of which we are aware:

- Property break in and burglary at 2 houses in Springfield prior to Christmas period.
- Graffiti sprayed on the wall to the bowls club by a youth and his 2 friends. Reported to police and bowls club.

### Community Report and What's On

- The recent Christmas Fayre at **Thringstone Primary School** raised £962.10 for the school and a further £261.70 was raised for Give A Kidney. Children also wore jumpers and raised £86.70 for Text Santa.
- **Thringstone Primary** are now on twitter under @ThringstonePri1.
- There have been 3 applications for the **vacant position of Vicar** of St Andrew's, St John's and St George's.
- Thank you to everybody who bought a copy of Geoff Walker's book on his period of national service. He has been able to send £164 to **Rainbows** as a result.
- The collection for the victims of the **Cumbrian floods** from Carols Round The Tree raised £51.50 from the outside collection and £44 from the raffle. Many thanks to everybody who contributed.
- There is no **children's film night** at the centre in January. Next one will be February. More details nearer the time.
- **Chapel Fitness Centre January offer** - Join as a direct debit membership and save up to 25% on your monthly payments for as long as you are a member! On top of this, you will get your first month **HALF PRICE!!!** (that's £10 for the first month).
- **Thringstone Luncheon Club** operates on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at Thringstone Members Club. If you are retired, fancy meeting new friends, and would like to come along, you would be very welcome. The group also have regular speakers to entertain the diners. For further information, contact 222558.
- **Auditions** for new members, age 16+ for Copacabana will be held at Thringstone Community Centre upstairs hall on Tuesday 26 January at 7.30 pm. You will need to sing and follow some simple steps. Please let Thringstone Panto and Drama Society know if you want to attend.
- 8 Jan – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – Steve Fuller in concert



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- 9 Jan – **Hough Mill, Swannington** – Torchlight walk commencing at 4.30pm
- 9 Jan – **Lady Jane, Whitwick** – Expir3d in concert from 9pm.
- 10 Jan – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – John Stacey in concert
- 15 -23 Jan 2016 – The panto at the Community Centre will be **Little Red Riding Hood**. Tickets will be £8, concessions/children £7. To book a ticket, please contact 834575. The charity they will be supporting this time is LOROS.
- 18 Jan – Thringstone Methodist Church Hall – free **t'ai chi** talk and demonstration starting at 6.45pm. Please contact Stephanie Padbury on 01509 218043 for more information.
- 19 Jan – **Thringstone WI** – Juke Box Jury. Meeting with a difference. 7.30pm start. Thringstone Methodist Church Hall.
- 29 Jan – **Open Mic Night** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Starts 8pm. Change of date is due to panto.
- 11 Feb – Thringstone PTA **Valentine's disco**. More info from the school
- 11 March – Thringstone Primary's PTA **film club**. More info from school
- 18 March – Thringstone Primary's PTA **Fashion Show**. More info from school.
- 2 April – Lady Jane, Whitwick – Noisewater Live in concert. Starts at 9pm
- May – The production by **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society** this May will be Copacabana.
- 15 May – **Grace Dieu Historical Walk** with members of Friends of Grace Dieu Priory. Meet at Bull's Head at 3pm. Cost £3. Children free.
- 19 May – Walk through **Grace Dieu Woods** with the Ramblers as part of the National Forest Walk Festival. Meets at the Hare and Hounds in Whitwick at 7pm.
- 25 May – **Whitwick Historical Group** is leading a historical walk round Whitwick meeting at their Old Station Close HQ at 1pm. Light refreshments afterwards.

### History report

- We have been trying to investigate the story of **Miss Millie**, who ran a Sunday School at Thringstone House in the 1960s. Miss Millie (Watson) married John William (Billy) Smith in 1963, and had her reception at The Queen's Head, as it was there she met her husband one Saturday night whilst having a drink with her parents. Billy lived with his sister Gladys, prior to marriage, near to the brook on Gracedieu Road. Billy was found dead in a well at the farmhouse in which they lived on Talbot Lane (known as Cox's Orchard) in May 1975, and there was an open verdict about his death. We have been able to obtain copies of the inquest from Coalville Times, thanks to Ron Goacher, but if anybody has any more information on this family please, let us know as we don't know what happened to Miss Millie or who her parents were.
- Findmypast gave a 50% discount from Christmas until 5 January to people wishing to view the 1939 register to look up their family. This register usually costs £6.95 to view one name, and gives the details of the family you are looking for and part of that street. People who may have still been alive in 1991 when the register stopped being updated are not shown, and are listed as closed records, so not everybody's details are visible. We now have the following documents
  - **The Green (part only)** which gives details of Philip Neal, the community centre's Amy Gee, the Henson family, **The Rose and Crown** and the Hallam family living at Forest



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View (the blue house next to what is now Thringstone Co-op) plus others in that area. It also tells us that William Betts and Albert King were ARP wardens.

- The areas round **The Fox Inn** and **The Star Beer House** on Main Street.
- The register which includes **The Bull's Head**, Grace Dieu cottages, Snarrows Farm and the Billings family, The Rowans (now 103 Lbro Rd), Maloney's Bungalow, Charlie Gough's smallholding at Grace Dieu View (126 Lbro Rd) and The Woodlands (now no. 109) on Loughborough Road plus Vine House on Main Street, Osgathorpe. The Rowans occupants were John W and Irene L Brooks, who had married in 1938. Irene was formerly a Watts, and her parents lived next door at The Woodlands, together with Miss Lee, a retired teacher from Thringstone Primary. John Brooks was both an ARP warden and special constable, as well as having a job as a solicitor's clerk. The landlord of The Bull's Head in 1939 was Alfred Smith Pepper, who we knew to have been born in 1888 in Markfield, had lived in Thornton Road, Markfield and worked at Cliffe Hill Quarries in 1911 with his father. However, this new information tells us that by 1939 he was a retired police officer, and his wife was Harriet May and he had 3 children, one of whom was Lilian Pepper who married Isaac Grice in Loughborough in 1944. Mr Pepper died in Leicester in 1977
- Carrying along the A512, we also have details of **Elms Farm, Mill Farm, Stordon Grange** and part of Ashby Road, which does not include the George and Dragon.
- Another schedule covering the **George and Dragon** shows that George Thomas Slim was landlord. We had previously thought he came to the pub in 1941, but was obviously there earlier, together with his wife and son Leonard. This schedule also shows occupants of properties on Ashby Road, Lily Bank, the Kirby family, including Rene in the cottage in the field, and Harold and Rose Walker and family at the garage at Cross Lanes, together with the Jarvis and Smith families living nearby and Jack Harris who lived next door to the Walker family and had used to keep the garage before them.
- All copies of the register have been run off and put in our archives. We have also discovered, by sharing some of this information with family members of the Robinson's, that Mrs Hall at Junction House kept geese and sold goat's milk, and that Joyce Gregory was the daughter of the King family who kept Mill Farm and had family who lived on The Jetty. Mr Gregory owned properties on Main Street near to the John Street jitty.
- We have been asked to further participate in a youth event to do with the **Lord Lieutenant's Awards and Century of Stories**. Ann has agreed to work with the project, and further details will be given when known. However, the county council are having problems contacting the children who came along to the art project.
- Ann has been given copies of some aerial photographs of the village, plus one of the tickets issued by **Charles Booth** to allow people to walk within Grace Dieu woodlands. She also now has some original copies of the Born and Bred books, some history relating to Bagworth, Donington le Heath and Swannington and the visitor's guide to St Andrew's church. These are being put in the archives.
- Work has now started on Forest View, the **blue house** next to Thringstone Co-op, as contracts were exchanged before Christmas. We also understand that the re-rendering to the **Star Beer House** is being costed out, and is likely to be in the region of £10k. The inside of that property is now all finished, which included complete rewire, replaster and various structural alterations and improvements.



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- Ann has also been given a folder containing details of St Andrew's **baptisms** from 1862-1944, and marriages from 1876-1943. We also have further copies of **burials** from 1863-1936 which we already had. This information is proving very interesting, as it gives new details on Thringstone families. If anybody is interested in these details for their own family history, please contact Ann Petty direct. Some the entries give the cause of death, as in the case of Charles Henry Boyer in 1882 who died aged 9 of smallpox, as did Rowland Howe aged 30 in 1883. Emma Bailey died in 1884 of typhoid. Annie Henney of Swannington was accidentally shot in 1891 aged 17 and there are several other such entries. We also now have additional information telling that Thomas Geary, who kept the **Rose and Crown** in 1887 and 1888 was married to a lady called Ellen, and had two children, Camilla and Victoria, who were both born and died in 1887 and were buried at St Andrew's church. We think Thomas Geary was a farm bailiff prior to going into the pub, and returned to that trade afterwards.
- From the baptism entries in the St Andrew's index, we now know that on **21 June 1887**, there was a Queen Victoria's Jubilee Day party in the village. Young and aged people were treated with a fete afterwards held at Grace Dieu Manor by Charles Booth. A bonfire was lighted on Swannymote Rock. On **6 July 1893**, to celebrate the wedding of the Duke of York and Princess May of Teck, there was a tea party held at the vicarage for the church choir and children of the Sunday school. Afterwards there was a parishioners' party at the vicarage in the garden and cricket was played on Mr Brooks' field. Presents were given to the old people of the parish. On **7 March 1900**, there was a children's tea party in celebration of the relief of Ladysmith and other African victories. There was a procession of children through the village singing God Save The Queen, which went to The Green, St Mary's Terrace, Biddle's Yard near the railway bridge, to the vicarage, Blackesley's Row near the Fox Inn and to the school. There were union jacks in the procession carried by 2 boys suitably dressed up. On **26 June 1902**, there had been arranged a day to celebrate the coronation of Edward 7<sup>th</sup>, but this was postponed because he was ill. However, children and old people were still fed and as the King was recovering, fireworks were set off at Grace Dieu Manor on 27 June.

### Councillors' report

Nothing received, although Nita reported that Leon Spence is trying to arrange another meeting with the Arriva bus company to see if he can persuade them to reroute the 16 bus down Main Street.

### Gardening and environment

- Bernard has done some general pruning this month.
- NWLDC have pruned all the bushes in the jitty by the side of Thringstone Bowls Club and covered the ground over with new bark chippings.

### Centre news

- Mike said that the centre is still working hard on their new scheme of governance and looking for trustees. Applications are welcome. They are still also looking at a name change and a clear favourite at the moment is anything that includes Charles Booth's



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name. The money taken by the centre in December was encouraging, but there needs to be a continuation of this in months to come.

- The centre would be happy to take on any new groups or to look to help other groups who might have to move from their current premises.

### AOB

- Roy Hill said that he had reported a light on Swallowdale which was leaning having been hit by a vehicle. The council came the next day and made it safe and agreed to fix it within 4 weeks. Roy said he was impressed with the service. Nita said she had an equally good service from the county council when reporting street lighting problems, and also from the District Council's parks department on things with which they deal.
- Bill Enser always has a display of Christmas lights at his property at Rye House in Main Street, and families come to look at these from quite a distance. For Christmas 2016 he would like to register the lights to raise money for local causes. If anybody has any rope lights they would like to donate, please go to see Bill. Similarly if anybody is able to repair rope lights, please let him know. His email address is [billenser@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:billenser@hotmail.co.uk)

**Next meeting is 4 February 2016 at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.**



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