



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 AUGUST 2016 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Ann Petty, Janet Stevenson, Ron Hill, Bill Enser, Dave Everitt, Pat Darby, Pat Hubbard, Pam Porter, Tracy Foulds, Maureen Simm

Apologies: Tina Bakerwell, Mary Roberts, David Stevenson, Julie Everitt, John Jackson

Discussions/Decisions

Nora Newton – When FoT started in 2005, we received a cheque for £250 from Nora Newton on Booth Road. Her late son, Robert, had been quite a character in the village, and had been very keen on promoting it, and Charles Booth, at every opportunity. Nora wanted to help us with our work. We put a little commemoration plaque to Robert in the garden of the community centre, and Nora became a lifetime member. Nora went into the Silver Oaks Care Home last year, and on 12 August this year turns 100. The committee feels that we should send a card (and maybe a small gift) to Nora, and hope that members agree with this idea. Since Nora now lives in Whitwick, we have also suggested that Whitwick Parish Council make a fuss of her on her birthday too. *All members were in agreement with this suggestion.*

Vandalism and damage down Drury Lane – our blue bench has become a target and a gathering point for groups of young people with bikes, bad language and anti-social behaviour. The bench was been covered in graffiti, which has been cleaned off by Nita, and one of the back rests broken off which Bernard has replaced. This damage has been reported to the police. There is also an increasing amount of plants being damaged, boulders taken off the wall and rockery area and thrown into the planting, shrubs being broken etc, and people have started to complain about all this on social media. If you see anything happening, please let us know and consider reporting the matter to the police if you see damage being caused. The police have set up this area as a Sentinel number, which means passing police should visit. Nita has the Sentinel number and can ring through to the police quoting the number if things happen, as key contact. The children are also going into Bob's Closs at the back of the centre, and lots of used condoms are being found both by the bench and in the closs. *The meeting agreed that there were a lot of young people congregating in that area, but they were sometimes groups of girls.*



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Small Children's Home – We have been made aware of a small children's home, catering for 4 boys over 10, is coming to an existing house on Loughborough Road. This home will have full staffing, and the owners anticipate that there will not be any issues. Various people locally have concerns about the home, its staffing, structure and operation and we are meeting with the organization to discuss these concerns. As far as our group is concerned, we could discuss how we could potentially work with this home to ensure that the young people feel part of the community going forward. *Nita agreed to ask at any meeting where the previous care home had been, and there was considerable discussion on this subject. It would also be useful to meet the manager of the home when she is in place.*

County Council survey on highways and verges – There have been many complaints made to councillors, on facebook and other social media, about the state of our roads and verges. Leicestershire County Council has launched a consultation to seek feedback on how they look after Leicestershire's roads, pavements and verges in the future. They says that roads in Leicestershire are amongst the best in the country and have been maintained to a high standard, with the road and footpath network provides connections to employment, health services, education, places of leisure and interest and supports industry. The county council currently spends £26 million pounds each year on looking after our roads, pavements and verges, using their own staff and some external contractors. By 2020 they expect their budget to be around £16.5 million. In order to do this, they need to provide services in a different way in the future. In the new Highways Maintenance Strategy they are proposing to:

- Prioritise high risk repairs when responding to highway defects and focus resources on planned repairs and preventative maintenance
- Reduce the number of items they look after directly and/or reduce how regularly they maintain these
- Involve communities directly in maintaining the streetscape and road-side environment

The consultation will run until midnight on **Sunday 25 September**, with the findings reported back to the council's ruling cabinet in autumn 2016. Please go to the county council website, and put consultations in the search box, and you will find the necessary survey to complete. It is easy to complete and doesn't take long at all. Go to

<http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say/current-consultations/maintaining-leicestershire%E2%80%99s-roads-pavements-and-verges>

Carols Round The Tree - The Centre do not appear to want to do a Carols Round The Tree this year. We have spoken with members of St Andrew's on this, and are trying to put together a procession from the church to finish at the Stone on The Green where we can then sing carols. There won't be a Christmas Tree there, but it is the best we can come up with. Several people have said they don't want to lose the procession or the event we've been a partner in for the last 10 years or so, especially since there were about 60 people in the procession last year who then went to the centre, but we have to work with situations as they change. *It was agreed that this would be a good idea to do Carols On The Green. When a date is agreed with the church, Janet had someone she could approach with an instrument to lead the procession. We also discussed the possibility of working with the Women's Institute and using the Methodist Church Hall. This will be discussed again in due course nearer the time. Bill said that the reason the tree at the centre died was because there is a ground fungus which had turned the roots of the tree white and then killed it. If another tree is ever planted, it needs to be in a different position.*



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Charles Booth Exhibition – We were hopeful of putting together a renaming exhibition for the centre later this year, which will be changing to Charles Booth Centre, but as the agreement of County Hall is not being sought until September, we have come up with a date of 26 November for an exhibition on the life and works of Charles Booth which means there may be another renaming day at a later stage. This FoT event will be from 11am until 5pm on that day, and any help anybody might want to give to turn this from a plain exhibition to something more spectacular would be gratefully received. Please let us know on that.

Monthly litter pick total – 197 against 176 last year. In the last two weeks of July alone, we collected 111 bags of rubbish, and on 31 July, two bags were collected just from down Drury Lane.

New Members – Welcome to Shirley Gordon, John Jackson and Maureen

Simm

Chairs Report

Letters received:

- From member with cheque, also wishing success for the Music Festival

Emails received:

- Various from people with whom we regularly share information.
- From County Council saying their Leicestershire Villages website will be switched off from 1 September. This has been a good source of advertising for voluntary groups, but is being 'killed off' because of budget cuts.

Emails sent:

- Reported various fly tipping to the council, and sent emails to others regarding on-going issues. We reported damage to trees on **Dalkeith Walk** which saw one tree uprooted. The Parks Department were informed, they replanted and secured it, just for it to then be attacked by knives in an attempt to pull the bark from its trunk. This was also reported, and since then, the tree seems to have been left alone by whoever was targeting it and doesn't appear to be suffering any long term harm.

Promotion:

- We have **397 twitter followers**, an increase of 7 this month and **313 facebook followers** an increase of 5 this month. We regularly post information on both these sites.
- Put details of the litter pick Nita did with the **Co-op** on 26 June onto our Litter Action UK page, together with 2 photos and a report.
- Updated our information on the **World Wide Volunteering website**.
- We were offered spare plants by NWLDC and were one of 9 groups chosen to collect 8 **free trays of assorted plants**. Nita took 6 trays to the centre to brighten up the front beds and gave 2 to Bernard to put in on our bed on The Green. Thank you NWLDC. They have done a press release and mentioned our group within this but the printing of this in the Coalville Times this week missed out all the names of the groups involved. .
- Put in for **more bulbs for spring planting** from NWLDC on their grant scheme offer like last year. Will have to see come September if we get anything from this.
- The centre has put together a new Focus magazine for the period of Summer 2016 in which Friends of Thringstone are mentioned several times, and a small advert appears. Thank you to the centre for this.



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Other:

- Attended the **Leicestershire and Rutland Heritage Forum Awards** in Leicester with Ann on 21 July. We had put in a submission for consideration relating to the 3 day event we did in 2014 around WW1. Whilst we did not win an award, the compere said that we had done exceptionally well getting about 400 people interested in and attending the event over the 3 days. NW Leicestershire did very well with the awards with 7 of the 10 winners being from NWL as well as several of the highly commended groups and museums.

Finance Report

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float) | £2,150.98 | | |
| Income | | Expenditure | |
| | | Broadband etc. | £15.35 |
| Membership renewals/new | £38.50 inc. John and Maureen | Shrubs etc. | £24.97 |
| Publications | | Car parking | £2 |
| Raffle | £10.00 | | |
| Donations | 0.50 | | |
| | | | |
| total income to general fund | | £49 Total expenditure | £42.32 |
| | | Total general fund at month end | £2,157.66 |

Publications Report

Nothing sold again this month.

Web Report

The webmaster has put on our most recent minutes, and the Businesses book onto our publications page, and is continuing to put on photos.

Police Report – PCSO Mark Ball

Nothing to report this month!.

Community Report and What's On

For those looking for childcare - a club for children over the summer (Age 5-16), Activate Sport is absolutely great with the kids! The venue is Grace Dieu Manor in Thringstone which has lovely surroundings and space for the children to play multi sport activities and crafts. Very responsibly prices as regards to childcare rates! Here's the link below:

<http://www.activatesport.co.uk/ven.../grace-dieu-manor-school/>

The public toilets at **Coalville Market** will be open on Sundays, on a trial basis, starting from 4 September.



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Thringstone Panto and Drama Society – is looking for help painting scenery and also technical help with lighting etc. Please contact the centre if you can help.

OAK FM the Charnwood and area radio station ceased broadcasting at the end of July. This is a loss to local radio and another avenue for promotion lost.

Hare and Hounds – raised £65.77 for Gail's Wish charity and their music festival made about £450 for various local charities..

The performance by Lesley Smith of **Elizabeth 1st** that should have taken place at Grace Dieu Priory has been rearranged to take place at Thringstone House Community Centre on 18th November. Doors open 7.30pm for 8pm start. Tickets will be £5. More details nearer the time.

Thringstone Methodist Chapel will have a new pastor from September – Rev. Janet Tanner.

Thringstone Primary School fayre raised £1,350 for school funds. They also raised £271.45 at their Dress Up Day for MacMillan Cancer support.

- 6 August – **Music Festival** at Thringstone Community Centre. Open from 12 noon. FREE
- 7 August – **Charity dog walk** from Black Wheel in Whitwick in aid of Gail's Wish, for the oncology department at the LRI. Goes to Monastery finishing then back at Hare and Hounds, Whitwick for BBQ at 3pm. Dog show there are 4pm (£5 per person for one dog and £2.50 per person without a dog) and evening quiz from 7.30pm..
- 7 August – Stordon Lane, Griffydam – fun dog show. Gates open at 11am, judging starts at 12 noon. Entries on the day are £2 per class. For further information contact 07875 880168.
- 13 August – **The Meadows, Thringstone** – summer fayre from 2pm-4pm. All welcome.
- 13 -14 August – **Woodstock in Whitwick** at Hermitage Leisure Centre. Starts at 1pm.
- 15 August – **new Swing Dance class** starting at the centre. Starts at 7.30pm and goes on until 9.30pm and encompasses swing, jazz, lindyhop and Charleston. Will run every 3rd Monday of the month. £5 for the two hours, and all abilities welcome. For further details contact susie.mace19@gmail.com
- 16 August – **Swannington Village Hall** – Fun Day with treasure hunts, games and prizes, bouncy castle, face painting, arts and crafts. Part of clubs Complete for 3-14 year olds. 3-14 year olds 9am-3.30pm £13, 9am-12.30pm £6.50. For more information please go to www.clubscomplete.co.uk
- 19 August – **Coalville By The Sea** 11am-4pm. Needham's Walk, Coalville.
- 20 August – **Bull's Head, Thringstone** – family fun day, including live music. 12 noon til 6pm. Kids disco 6pm-8pm. Karaoke, bouncy castle, penalty shoot out, candy floss, face painting, tombola. All welcome.
- 20-29 August – Thringstone House Community Centre – **Art Exhibition**. See board nearer the time for opening times.
- 27 August – **Thringstone's Got Talent** – talent competition at Thringstone House Community Centre. Starts at 7.30pm. Hosted by Shannon Helen Fear. Many excellent acts.
- 27 August – Thringstone Members Club **Music Quiz** – starts at 8pm prompt. £5 per team, no more than 4 person per team.
- 27 August – **Pony Rescue Limited** - educational facility and rare breed farm, Park Lane, Bagworth - Charity family fun day. Come and see the ponies and look round the car boot, see the dog agility course and bring the kids to the bouncy castle. Starts 10am.
- 27 August – **George and Dragon** – Chrissy Phillips in concert at 8pm.
- 28 August – Music Festival at the **Conny Club, Whitwick**. Starts at 12.30pm.



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- 3-4 September – **Whitwick Scarecrow Festival**. More details nearer the time.
- 9 September – **Soul Club** at Thringstone House –soul and motown music. Starts at 8pm til late. £3 for members and £4 on the door.
- 10 September – **Osgathorpe Hall** – Boogie Night. Hits of the 70s and 80s with One Stop Boogie. More details nearer the time.
- 24 September – St Andrew's, Thringstone – **Moira Male Voice Choir** in charity concert to raise money for the sensory unit at Old School House, Thringstone.
- 24 September - **Hermitage Leisure Centre** – The Jerseys in concert – Frankie Valli tribute. Doors open at 6.30pm with ticket prices starting at £12 in the tiered seating through to £19 in the VIP area. For more information on tickets call the centre or 07719 636374.
- 30 Sept-1 Oct – **The Sound Of Murder** – a murder mystery at Thringstone House Community Centre – starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £8 inc. light 2 course supper. Tickets from the centre on 222337.
- 14 Oct – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – 80s night with Jayne Lesley
- 28 Oct – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – Elton John Tribute evening
- 5 November – **George and Dragon** – Bonfire night with live music from 7.15pm. Fireworks start at 7.30pm.
- 12 November – Centre Stage Production at Thringstone House of **Amandou Diagne and Group Yakar UK** – Senegalese instrumentalist and group performing a variety of music from jazz to funk, Afrobeat to blues and Mbalax. Ticket sales and cost to be announced.
- 18 November – **Elizabeth 1st** at Thringstone House. Doors open 7.30pm for 8pm start. Tickets £5 on sale soon.
- 26 November – **Charles Booth Exhibition** at Thringstone House. 11am-5pm.
- 11 December – Centre Stage Production at Thringstone House of **Shoo Shoo Baby's Christmas Party**, a funny musical double act and their pianist. Ticket sales and cost to be announced.
- 17 March 2017 – Centre Stage Production at Thringstone House of **Tim Kliphuis Trio Goes Grappelli** – a classical violinist and his group perform the music of Stephane Grappelli. Ticket sales and cost to be announced.

History report

- A member of Hartlepool History Team has been in touch with the centre, who passed the email on to ourselves, as they are putting together a book on the life of **Theophilus Jones**, who died in WW1 and was headmaster at the village school. We have been in touch with the writer of the email, offered help, and asked about purchasing a copy of the book when it is finished. We believe the cost will be £25.
- We now have a copy of the site plan for the **Springfield/Heathfield** site from the 1970s showing plot numbers. We understand that the grass and garden areas by the service road at the front of the estate were sold to original residents for £1 each by NWLDC provided they agreed to pay the solicitors' costs. All original residents took up this offer which suited everybody since the council did not want to have the maintenance costs for this strip of land. We also understand that no. 168 Loughborough Road was the show home, and there was originally a large tree at the entrance to the estate, which died and had to be



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removed. Most people moved in around 1977, with some later. We also have 4 photos of 22 Springfield taken as it was built in 1978.

- Ann attended the Heritage Forum Meeting in July and updated the group on our work.
- We were sent some photos which we were told were of children at **Thringstone School** in the early 1900s. They came from a presentation book given to a former mistress when she left the school – this was Mrs Gertrude Watts, nee Gee who lived at Ivydene at the top of Loughborough Road and married Walter Watts in 1909 and eventually lived at the bottom end of Loughborough Road in The Woodlands. There are lots of other photos in this book, which belongs to Chris Matchett, none of which are identifiable although we are sure many of them would have been Thringstone people or connected to the village, since Gertrude Gee was a Thringstone girl.
- For some time, we have known that George William Annable kept the Hare and Hounds on City of 3 Waters until 1958, and that he had married Elsie Hilda Ottey (daughter of the boot and shoe maker mentioned on page 72 of our businesses book) in 1919. Further research has shown that George William Annable was the son of Tom and Sarah Ellen, who for many decades kept **Snarrows Farm**, where Tom was the sewage farm manager, having moved from a similar sewage farm in Hugglescote in the first decade of the 20th century. By 1939 Tom and Sarah Ellen were living at 55 Gracedieu Road, where Tom described himself as a retired farm bailiff. Tom died on 1 December 1951 at the Hare and Hounds. George died in 1973 and Elsie in 1979.
- Jan Cufflin has given us a variety of old books and registers from **Thringstone St Andrew's** and other areas to put in our archives for which we are most grateful. Details included in these are being gone through, and will be of interest to people who are tracing their family trees. These documents comprise :
 - Confirmation registers from 1879-1965 which include Oaks, Copt Oak, Ratby, Woodhouse Eaves, Markfield, Shepshed, Whitwick and Belton
 - Confirmation registers from St Andrew's from 1908-1951 which give addresses of those confirmed and when and where they were originally baptised
 - Parish magazines for Heather for 1957-59.
 - Part of the minutes for the South Thringstone Parochial Lending Library and Reading Room under the auspices of Rev Merewether of Whitwick, so these are prior to 1876.
 - Various estimates
 - Board of Education details from 1903, 1945 and subsequently relating to groups of schools and the tie to the church
 - Form of prayer card for the Silver Jubilee of Elizabeth 2nd
 - Institution and Induction programme for Rev. Brian Matthews in 1978.
 - Income books for 1873-91, 1960-61, 1962-75
 - Service Fellowship and Sunday School accounts for 1956-63
 - Service Register for 1950-59
 - PCC minutes and AGM records for 1920-31, 1931-52, 1952-61 61-71. 71-86
 - Vestry meeting minutes for 1920=74
 - Service card to the memory of Charles Samuel Basil Toon who died in December 1974
 - Banns for 1876-1979 detailing the 3 dates that banns were read out in church, and names of the groom and his bride



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- Service Register for 1960-73
- If anybody has an interest in receiving a copy of the banns listings for their family or confirmation details, please let us know. A charge of £1 will be made to scan and copy these per person.
- From the confirmation records mentioned above, we can now say that **Alec James Turner** who died in 1917 was living at Ashby Lodge, next to the Bull's Head in 1910. The previous information we had just gave an address of The Lodge, Grace Dieu. Alec, and his brothers and sisters, all seem to have been baptized at Coleorton Church. This new address information means that Alec and his parents, William and Mary, lived in the same property as Mr Willmott, mentioned in previous minutes, who, like William Turner, was also a gardener at Grace Dieu.
- Again from the confirmation records, **James Bancroft**, who was one of the Famous Fifty soldiers from Coalville to enlist in WW1, and who died in 1918, was confirmed at St Andrew's in 1910 having previously been baptized there. We know he lived in John Street., and from the 1939 register, his mother was at that time living at number 16, so we assume this was the family home, and where James lived.
- Also from the confirmation records, we were aware that **Frank Brotherhood Bowler** who was killed in Flanders in 1917 was living at The Star when he was confirmed in 1911 at St Andrew's, having previously been baptized there. We are still unsure when he came to the village, as he was born in Coventry in 1895. He was the nephew of the landlord of The Star.
- Once more from the confirmation registers, another soldier who died in WW1, **Samuel Reginald 'Reggie' Dring** appears to have been confirmed at St Andrew's in 1910. His address at that time was Brook Terrace, Thringstone which is new information as previously we just had Grace Dieu Road. Brook Terrace was where the flats currently stand at the top end of Grace Dieu Road.
- Again from the confirmation registers, we are now able to say that the Willmott family lived at Ashby Lodge from at least 1923, and that the Illsley family (mentioned in previous minutes) were still at **Talbot House Farm** in 1933. By 1946, Polly White and her family were definitely at Talbot House Farm, as she was confirmed in that year. The Humphries children were living at **Stoneycroft Farm** (Millhouse Estate) by 1932, as again they appear in the confirmation registers at that address.
- We are now aware from the Heather parish magazines that **Reverend Richard Frederick Willis** was Assistant Curate at Heather until June 1959 when he went to be vicar at Bruntingthorpe. He became priested at Leicester Cathedral on 22 December 1957 and moved to Thringstone in 1961 until he left in 1969.
- Looking through the marriage banns records, we discovered that Minnie Webster of The **Fox Hotel, Thringstone**, married James Knight of The Green in 1911. That tells us that Thomas Webster, landlord at that time, had more children than those detailed in our pubs book. In 1901, Minnie had been working for Arthur and Rosa Gough, who had a farm at Redhills, Swannington. Further research shows that the Webster family had previously lived in Brook Terrace, Gracedieu Road, and by 1911, had had 12 children of whom 10 were still alive. We now know about Emma, Joseph, Albert, Fanny Millie, Jacob, Ada, Austin and Elizabeth so are still some details short.



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- Again from the marriage banns there are details of the marriage of Henry Everard Merriman (connected to the Merriman's of the Bull's Head) marrying Annie Elizabeth Twynning who lived at **Talbot House Farm** in 1915. Annie appears to have been a servant there rather than connected to the owning family. By 1939, the family was living on Henson's Lane and they had a daughter called Kate.
- We are now aware that terraced houses numbers **2-8 John Street** disappeared before 1939, as they do not appear on the schedules at that time. We are going to try to find out when these properties disappeared and why. If anybody has any information on that, please let us know.
- From the marriage banns records mentioned above, we now know that Hope Gough, one of the Faith, Hope and Charity sisters, married Francis Hallam, widower of The Pumping Station, Swannington in 1911. At that time, Hope was living at **Talbot House Farm**, which was in the ownership of William Jesson Gough, who died there in 1915. For many years, Hope had traded as a butcher in Thringstone.
- Again from the marriage banns records, we find that in 1909, William James Gough Waldrum married Minnie Rosetta Webb who lived at The Willows (the house next to the Chapel Fitness Centre). William Waldrum's address was **Forest View**, the house now next to Thringstone Co-op, which we know to have been running as a shop by Emma Kirby at that time. We are therefore assuming that she took in lodgers.
- We are continuing to take photographs of the development of **the Priory site**, which will go in the archives. We took photos before the building commenced when it was all fields, and will continue to record progress.
- The photograph of **The Queen's Head on Thornborough Road**, mentioned at the last meeting and copied to Whitwick Historical Society, is to be used in their 2018 calendar. Nita was asked to get permission from the owner of the photo for this to be used, which was supplied to WHS.

Councillors' report

- A lorry turning into the Bellway Homes site at the end of July hit the traffic calming signage and turned it sideways and bent it. This was reported to the county council, and an email sent to Bellway Homes asking if their construction director could ensure that all large vehicles coming from the Loughborough direction go past the site, turn round at some point and then enter the site by turning left off Loughborough Road rather than right. *Janet asked if there was any news on the new traffic calming situation, but as the county councilor is currently out of the country, nobody was able to answer this question.*
- NWLDC is developing their **car parking strategy**, to make sure council car parks in North West Leicestershire provide easy access to our towns and villages and a good service to customers. They have already done some research into use of pay and display car parks and it shows that the needs are different across the district. For example, they know that people sometimes struggle to find a space in Ashby de la Zouch, while parking spaces are often available in Coalville. They also want to know what customers need from the parking service. If you don't use council car parks, what might encourage you? If you don't like the service, how might it improve to suit your needs? There is an online survey available which takes about 5 minutes to complete. The deadline for completion is 31 August. Please go to



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http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/car_parking_survey

- Dave said that he is getting a bench on a green area on the Glebe Road estate for people to sit on who need to walk to the bus stops on Loughborough Road. He is also hopeful of there being 4 items of adult play equipment installed on the Melrose Play Area hub so that parents looking after their children have something of their own to use. He is also hopeful that the idea of turning the football area at the back of the bowls club into more of a pleasant area for dog walking, sitting etc. would happen, but there is currently no money available for any of these things, other than the bench which is due shortly.

Gardening and environment

- Bernard has continued to do maintenance and upkeep of various areas, and removed dead bushes and replaced these. He has planted new things down Brook Lane and really tidied this area up.

AOB

- Bill wanted to know when the fencing around the former play area that it to be amalgamated into the football club is to take place. This wasn't known, but it was known that the re-routing of the footpath had been agreed.

Next meeting is 1 September at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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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 and finalists 2011 and 2013



Stepping out for a greener district