



# 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 2 MARCH 2017 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Ann Petty, John Jackson, Maureen Simm, Anita Jones, Mike Statham, Bernard Lee, Pam Porter, Janet Stevenson, Dave and Julie Everitt,

**Apologies:** Bill Enser, Tam Bream, Shirley Gordon, Tracy Foulds, Pat Hubbard

It was the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Friends of Thringstone on 23 February, so everybody who came to the meeting was given a drink to toast the group. This bill was paid for out of the Friends of Thringstone petty cash, and came to £19.70.

### Discussions/Decisions.

**Room hire at the centre** - The centre currently does not charge us for having our meetings at the centre. Room hire charges are increasing year on year, and we originally used to pay £120 to the centre as a donation in lieu of room hire. In more recent years, this has increased to £150. To fall in line with centre pricing structures for room hire, the committee feel that we should pay a further £50 now, and then in future pay £200 a year for our room usage. The meeting agreed to this proposal, and a cheque will be issued.

**Thank you** to all the members who gave raffle prizes for use at various community centre events. Much appreciated. The raffle at the Giocosso event raised £45 for the centre.

**Charnwood Forest Project** - We have been sent details of a £3m lottery bid that it is hoped will help preserve and promote the Charnwood Forest area, and those connected to it, which includes Thringstone. If anybody is interested, the group needs your help to shape the bid. Would you be interested in exploring and learning more about Charnwood Forest? If so, what aspects would you like to visit/know more about? What is preventing you from doing that now and what would help you? What do you love most about Charnwood Forest? What would you like to happen to improve the area?

To find out more and tell the group what you think, please email your answers to those questions, to [MCroneyn@nationalforest.org](mailto:MCroneyn@nationalforest.org) or:

**Post on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/charnwoodbid/>

**Tweet** <https://twitter.com/charnwoodbid>



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**Complete a very quick survey:** <https://survs.com/survey/qtok2r3hna>

**Visit the website:** [http://www.nationalforest.org/involved/cfl\\_partnership.php](http://www.nationalforest.org/involved/cfl_partnership.php)

**Post to:** Charnwood Bid, National Forest Company, Bath Yard, Moira, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE12 6BA

**Monthly litter pick total** – 157 against 139 for February last year. We are told to make a note in our calendars (by Let's Do It World) of 15 September 2018 which apparently will be World Clean Up Day.

**Message from Whitwick Health Centre** - What to do if you feel unwell.

- Sort it yourself or with the help of the pharmacist
- Telephone your GP
- Telephone 111 and follow their advice which may be out of hours doctor, urgent care centre, Emergency Department or **they** will call an ambulance
- Only telephone 999 if you have problems with chest pains, unconsciousness, breathing, stroke or serious bleeding.
- Only go to the Emergency Department if 111 directs you.

**Another Village Defibrillator** – a defib has been fitted to the car park wall at Thringstone Co-op. This is not a mobile machine (like the one at The Meadows), and has full instructions for use. There is staff and customer training taking place at the shop on Friday 17 March at 2pm. Any customers wishing to go along will be most welcome.

**NWLDC's Celebration of Volunteering.** This event has been running for about 3 years at Radisson Blu near the airport, and we usually get an invitation along to the tea offered to volunteers, but not this year. The reason is that they have a lot of new volunteer groups they wish to invite, like the Street Pastor team, and have only 120 places. They have already invited 150 people, and are just hoping that some of them can't come. None of the groups invited last year have been invited this year. Whilst we can understand their reasons, we still feel somewhat disappointed that groups like ours aren't being invited, especially given the amount of litter picking we do (which the council agree is a record for any NWL group).

### Chairs Report

**Letters received:** None

**Emails received:**

- Various from people with whom we regularly share information

**.Emails sent:**

- Various to groups and individuals as usual.

**Promotion:**

- We have **440 twitter followers**, which 6 more than last month and **395 facebook followers**, which is 32 more than last month and due mainly to the amount of history photos we are now posting on a regular basis.
- In the county council magazine called **Leicestershire Matters**, details of a new website called [www.firstcontactplus.org.uk](http://www.firstcontactplus.org.uk) were given. This new website aims to help people access a number of health and wellbeing services including volunteering opportunities in the local community. The site failed to give anybody the opportunity to add to this site, so an email was sent to county hall, and they have agreed to list FoT and our Winter Newsletter on the site under this volunteering section.
- Updated our listings on the **World Wide Volunteering** database

**Other:**

- Welcome to Bridget and Max who have joined us as members. They are our first ever German members. Welcome also to Anne McNeill who has also joined this month.



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### Finance Report

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>£2,059.08</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Publications	£20.50	Broadband	£10.50
Raffle	£12		
Memberships	£12.50		
Donations	£100		
<b>total income to general fund</b>		£145 Total expenditure	£10.50
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>£2193.58</b>

You will notice that we received a cheque for £100. This is from Ruby's to say thank you to the village at large for supporting them in the past, and for voting for them to win the Leicester Mercury Best Chip Shop in Leicestershire award.

### Publications Report

The centre sold one pubs book for £6. Nita sold one businesses book for £6, one pubs book for £6 and a WW2 book for £2.50.

### Web Report

All minutes and the Spring newsletter are on site. The webmaster is still working on getting the photos up to date on the project page.

### Police Report

- A white car was found burnt out in Gracedieu Woods just off the hardstanding on Turlough Road. This was reported to the police who put notices and tape round it. It was later removed.
- Damage has been caused to the football pitch at the back of the bowling club by quad bikes as have parts of the woodland. The police and council have details of suspects and are following this through. Contact has also been made with the de Lisle family on this issue.
- A house on Loughborough Road was broken into between 2.30pm and 5.40pm on 26 January. No further details are known, but the police are appealing for information.
- A garage was broken into on Ashby Road, Thringstone, with entry being gained from a side window
- There was an attempted break-in to a house on Glebe Road overnight on 4 Feb. Access was secured to the conservatory and utility area, but not the main house.
- On the evening of 10 February, someone on Springfield had their van broken into and £2k worth of power tools were taken.



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- Someone had a motorbike/trials bike stolen from their home around 3am on 12 February. Details have been posted all over facebook.
- There have continued to be meat thefts at Thringstone Co-op and other local stores. However a person has been arrested.
- During the storms on 23 February a tree fell across the drive of a house on Lilybank and also across the road. The Highways Agency were informed.

### **Changes in the law relating to motorists**

From 1<sup>st</sup> March, any driver caught using a phone at the wheel will automatically receive 6 points on their licence and a £200 fine and there will no longer be the opportunity to go on a driver awareness course.

In addition, anybody who is caught using a mobile phone within 2 years of passing their test will have their licence revoked. New drivers who get six points or more will have to retake their practical and theory tests. More experienced drivers can be banned if they get more than 12 points in a 3 year period.

The regulations regarding car booster seats also changed from 1<sup>st</sup> March one of which requires that weight based seats must be rear facing until the child reaches 13 kg. Backless booster seats will only be approved for use with children taller than 125cm and weighing more than 22kg. Please consult with your local seat supplier if you have any queries on this one.

Finally the penalties for anybody using any internet device behind the wheel have been doubled, and this includes mobile phones.

### **Community Report and What's On**

**George and Dragon** – every Sunday from 8.15pm is a pub quiz called Play Your Cards Right. £1 entry, and £1 play. All welcome.

**Whitwick's St John The Baptist church** – There are new opening hours. The church will be open from 10.30am until 12.30pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, with a coffee morning being held on the last Wednesday of each month. Everyone welcome

**Hare and Hounds** – Quiz night there is every Wednesday from 8pm and includes bingo. All welcome

- 3 March – Century Theatre – Film night - **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** – Starts at 7.30pm. £3.50 on the door.
- 3 March – **Black Horse. Whitwick** – Vikki Rosina in concert. Starts 9pm.
- 3-5 March – Hermitage Leisure Centre, **Larpcon UK Role Playing convention**, with lots of trade stalls, talks and displays etc. Tickets £5 on the door. This is a dog friendly event. No opening times given on adverts available currently.
- 10 March – Century Theatre – Film - **A Street Cat Named Bob** - Starts at 7.30pm. £3.50 on the door.
- 10 March – **Thringstone Soul Club** – 9pm at Thringstone Members Club. £3. All welcome
- 11 March – **Haul Away and Sing** at Thringstone Community Centre. Tickets are £8 with fish and chip supper from Sue Kendrick on 07981 356388. This may be sold out. Please check.
- 11 March – Century Theatre – **John Tams and Barry Coope in Concert**. These are international folk artists with John Tams being a prolific songwriter and performer (he was in the historical drama Sharpe with Sean Bean and has also performed at the National Theatre). Starts at 8pm. Tickets £16.50.



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- 14 March – **The film at the community centre**, which starts at 7.30pm is a French film called Un Home a l'hauteur (Up For Love). This film is being put on as a joint venture with the Coalville Town Twinning Group. £2 cost for the raffle.
- 17 March 2017 – Centre Stage Production at Thringstone House of **Tim Kliphuis Trio Goes Grappelli** – a classical and jazz violinist and his group perform the music of Stephane Grappelli. Tickets £9 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone) or from the centre office which is open Monday-Friday 9am – 12 noon.
- 17 March – **Hare and Hounds** – Matt Symons, vocal personality. Starts at 9pm.
- 18 March – Century Theatre – **T.Rextasy**. After 5 sell out tours, this tribute act is back. Tickets are £18 in advance, £20 on the night. Show starts at 7.30pm. May be sold out. Had only 5 tickets left on 27 Feb.
- 18 March – **Thringstone Members Club** – Eleanor Mattley, award winning vocalist. Sings anything from Motown to Pop. Starts at 9pm
- 20 March – **Royal British Legion** social evening at Thringstone House Community Centre. This will take the form of a talk, and film on the National Arboretum. Starts at 7.30pm. All welcome.
- 24 March – **Smigfest Music Evening** at Hugglescote WMC. Tickets £10. Lots of live music. All proceeds to Papworth Hospital. Doors open 7pm.
- 25 March – Hood Park Leisure Centre, Ashby – the next step in **The Jersey Boys** Oh What A Nite Tour. Having been at the Hermitage Leisure Centre in 2016, the tour now reaches Ashby. Starts 7pm. Tickets £18 from 412181.
- 25 March – Century Theatre – **Talon**, international Eagles Tribute Band. Tickets £15 in advance and £16 on the door. Show starts at 7.30pm.
- 30 March – Century Theatre – **Ventoux** – a play from 2Magpies Theatre Group about the Tour De France. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 in advance or £12 on the door.
- 1 April – **Justice Beach and Friends in Concert** – Thringstone House Community Centre at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone) or from the centre office which is open Monday-Friday 9am-12 noon.
- 1 April – **Coalville Library** – the launch of the construction club. Starts 10.30 end 12 noon. Suitable for children 6-12 and families are welcome. £1 per child. This club will run on the first Saturday of every month. No booking required.
- 14 April – **Good Friday Tea Dance** – Beaumont Centre, Peggs Green/Coleorton with Loughborough Loves Vintage. 6pm til 10.30pm. Tickets £12 which includes dance tuition from Red and Ginger and music from Andy B Goode. Unlimited tea and coffee plus afternoon tea-style dinner. Tickets must be booked in advance from Laurie May of Loughborough Loves Vintage, which can only be achieved from going onto the Loughborough Does Vintage facebook page.
- 17 April – Kegworth Market Place – **Easter Charter Market**. 10am-1pm. Features Bare Bones Morris Dancers, stocks (throw things at your friends), and various fun and laughter.
- 23 April – **Lute Music in the Great Chamber at Donington le Heath Manor House**. Starts at 1.30pm. The cost of this event is included in the admission price to the house and gardens.
- 14 May – Loughborough Does Vintage **fashion event** from 11am til 3pm at Rosebery St Peter's Community Centre, Loughborough (near Storer Road just off the Ashby Road).



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Vintage clothes home ware and gifts, plus live music. Milkshakes available plus afternoon tea. £2 entry on the day.

- 16-20 May – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's production of **White Christmas** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Tickets £8 for adults, children £7. Tickets can be bought by ringing 834575 or by contacting [tickets@tpads.org.uk](mailto:tickets@tpads.org.uk)
- 25 June – **Picnic in the Parks and Miners Gala**, Coalville.
- 7 July – D-Tour Theatre Company present **3 one act comedy plays** by David Tristram at Thringstone House Community Centre. Tickets will be £12.50 to include a fish and chip supper (alternative available if booked in advance). Curtain up at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available from the centre and from the theatre company direct on 07958 777191
- 5 August – **Thringstone Live Music Festival 2017**. All day free music event at the community centre with doors open at 12 noon.
- 7 October – Exhibition at the centre on **The Prominent Women of NW Leicestershire**. Will start at 12 noon and go on until about 5pm.
- 20 October – **Lesley Smith as Nell Gwynne** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Doors open at 7.30pm with performance starting at 8pm. Tickets £8 from the centre or from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone)

### History report

- In the February edition of Community Voice, Leon Spence wrote an article on **Ruby's** chip shop and spoke to Michael, Andy and Sonia about their time there. In the article they said that they moved to the chip shop on 3 October 1977, which was only 2 weeks after Sonia had given birth to the first of her 5 children. At that time, chips were 14p and a fish was 17p. The busiest times were when the pubs closed, but since The Queen's Head and Rose and Crown have disappeared, things now slow down after 8pm. In the early 1990s, Sonia and Michael went back to Cyprus for 4 years, and the business was run by Sonia's brother Clem. Upon their return in 1995, Sonia and Michael changed the menu to include doner kebabs and southern fried chicken, and the front of the shop changed and an extension was completed.
- The facebook page Born and Raised in Leicester did a full piece about **Charles Booth** at the end of February, complete with photos. These were shared to our facebook page, and an acknowledgement sent to the admin of the Leicester page giving them more information.
- We have been compiling a list of **wardens of the centre** from 1973 onwards, when Dave Fitt started. He was the last person to live at the centre, and upon getting married felt that he needed somewhere for him and his wife to live away from work. We have learnt more about people who looked after the centre since that time. This information has been saved to our archives.
- Nita posted a photo on both Twitter and Facebook of the **shop called Di's** which used to be near The Fox on Main Street. The facebook post was viewed by over 2,600 people and from that, Nita got to speak to Diana Gruber who kept the shop with her husband Albert. Di told Nita that the property was built in 1909, and they took on the shop in 1990 when they moved from Hertfordshire and was really pleased to see the photo on facebook as they didn't have a picture of their shop.



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They hadn't run a shop before, but needed jobs in their new area, so bought the shop as a going concern and kept it open until 1994. They bought it from a couple called Jill and Jim who retired to Ashby, about whom we know nothing, and it was rather run down when they took it on. They did a lot of work to the shop, it was open from 6am until 10pm each night and had a pool room at the back, and also had video and arcade games for the kids to use. They also tried to rent videos from the shop, would sell crisp cobs and also answer the door, when closed, to anybody who'd run out of things. They decide to close the shop when they realized they could no longer pay their mortgage because Morrison's had opened and trade was so poor. They then went out and got other jobs, but carried on being foster parents. They lived in the house which had been the shop until 2016 when they moved to Coalville.

We have also added to our knowledge of when Ted and Evelyn Chamberlain kept the shop. Evelyn was known as Ev. Ted used to deliver groceries around the village, and Violet Spence and her sister Sally Fortnam used to work at the shop having both previously worked for Joey Toon at the John Street shop. Ted and Evelyn retired and moved to Ashby where their daughter Lynne had a restaurant which we knew.

- With regard to the **John Street shop**, Sally and Violet left the corner shop on John Street when Joey Toon left and Ken Wells and his mother took over. This is new information. We understand that Ken Wells never married and used to have back stairs going up to a children's toy section and many local families got their children's toys from there. We are told that Mrs Wells was very frugal, and every year put up a Christmas tree in the shop which, for the rest of the year, was kept, fully decorated, in a cupboard. When they left, the shop was empty for a while before John Banks took it over, as mentioned in our Businesses publication. We have also been told about Glen and her husband Jim who kept the shop for a time which again is new information. They had a daughter called Jane, and retired, after which we believe that the Lakhman family took over. As mentioned earlier, some details of shops are in our publication Thringstone and Its People.
- We have received a copy of a photograph taken of the laying of the foundation stone for **Seals factory in Whitwick** in 1901. This includes Charles Booth.
- Thank you to our member Ron Hill for getting further photos for us of the **Morley and Bradford families** mentioned at our last meeting. These photos have now been added to our archives.
- We have been discussing the **Frettsome family** through contacts on facebook and subsequently with various local people and members. It would seem that in 1939 Frank and Bertha Frettsome lived in a cottage going down Lilybank, on the left hand side, where there is now a field, and a gate and raised banking. It is not clear when that was demolished. We understand that there were steps up to the front door, and the garden was at the side, and they had a little paddock at the back.

The family had a pony and trap, and one lady we spoke to remembers, about 70 years ago, being taken out in the trap with them when the family went to Osgathorpe. She used to play with their granddaughter Joan Smith. She said that Mrs Frettsome saved her from being accosted. Apparently, she was taking the wood money down to the Robinson's near the George and Dragon, and there was a car on the A512 going towards Loughborough, and it stopped, and beckoned her across the road. She was frightened and ran up the lane, and got as far as the Frettsome's, with the car following and knocked on their door



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and said she was being followed. Mrs Frettsome asked the driver of the car, which had stopped by the gate at that time, what he was doing and the driver said he was looking for some farm or other, which didn't exist. Mrs Frettsome said he was obviously in the wrong area, there was no such place, and the car turned round and went back to the A512. She went home and told her parents, and the school, and as a result was never allowed to go down to the Robinson's anymore with the wood money.

Frank, who had been one of 8, was a colliery winding engineer who had previously lived at The White House, The Moor, Coleorton. Bertha had been a Hibbert and was from Worthington. She was the aunt to Lakin Stinson, about whom Nita spoke recently at a meeting and whose his son, known as Lake Stinson, married Gerty Black, lived in Thringstone and is buried at St Andrew's. Frank died in 1959 and Bertha on 29 July 1980 at which time she appears to have been living at 30 Main Street.

Frank and Bertha Frettsome had 6 children, May, Frank, Doris, Martha and twins Ron and Kathleen. Doris married Tom Morris and moved to Loughborough. May married and went to Swannington, Frank Frettsome Jnr., who married Ada Limb, is mentioned in our businesses publication as having owned and then sold the house next to what is now Thringstone Co-op. Frank, who fought in WW2, worked at the factory at the top of The Dumps on maintenance, and it is said he had an eye for the ladies. We have been told several tales of the 'fat ups' that used to take place with the factory staff going to the Duke of Newcastle (near where the health centre now stands). The money Frank Jnr had to buy properties, allegedly, came from his marriage to Ada who was connected to the White's who ran the Talbot pub. We are told that he moved to a bungalow in Cademan Street after Ada died, remarried and was found dead in his bungalow. Ron, who was apparently exceptionally good looking, married Daisy Burton, Kathleen married Albert Walter Whitmore and they lived in a cottage further up Lilybank not far from where the Glebe Road corner now is. Martha, married farm worker turned lorry driver Henry Smith, in 1939 lived at Cross Lanes near the Bull's Head, had a daughter called Joan and eventually went on to live in Gladstone Cottages, Main Street.

- Following a chance conversation at the George Smith exhibition that Nita and Ann attended in Coalville, we have been in discussions with various people about putting booklets out as **e books** and/or working to get information out to a wider audience. This should now be discussed at the next heritage forum meeting.

### Councillors' report

Planning approval seems to have been given to build a 2 storey house with garage on what we know as Pinfold Field on the **Millhouse Estate**.

Dave said that there had been a meeting of the council last week.

One of the matters of concern locally revolves around Hermitage Leisure Centre. The original idea to move this to the Co-op site has been abandoned, and another site, closer to the existing site, is being considered.

### Gardening and environment

- Nita, with the permission of the owners, dug up all the **snowdrops** in the garden at 9 Lbro Road, where Sheila King lived, and has planted these on the grass area at the front of Badgerscroft.



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These snowdrops would have been lost completely, as a new driveway is going in where they were previously planted. There may be other garden shrubs etc. available to us in due course.

- The recycling from Old Bakery Close wasn't picked up this week, despite the van that then turned into Springfield passed by it. It would seem that there is a new system with a map in the cab showing crews where to pick up. Old Bakery Close used to be done by the crew that does Henson's Lane, but when they put the maps on computer, the office staff realised that Old Bakery Close doesn't actually exit onto Henson's Lane, so it was taken off the map for that crew. Unfortunately, however, it was not put onto the map for the Loughborough Road crew, and was therefore missed as the crews are ONLY allowed to stop where it indicates on their computer map. A van had to come out the day afterwards and they cleared it all, at a cost of £27 to the council, as every time they come out as extras, there is obviously a charge. We are assured that this will not happen again.

### **Centre matters**

Mike explained that, due to various issues, the matter of dissolving the trusteeship with the county council has been put back further. There are various issues to be sorted before the matter can progress further, but in the meantime, various maintenance and repairs are being undertaken at the centre.

Janet Stevenson wondered whether a company like the one that owns and runs the Thringstone Members Club could be found to take on the running of the centre.

Pam Porter also made several suggestions about improving rental income from rooms at the centre, all of which are being considered.

The centre is continuing to put on a variety of events in order to bring in footfall and raise much needed funds for the centre.

### **AOB**

None..

**Next meeting is 6 April 2017 at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre**



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