



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 2 AUGUST 2017 AT THRINGSTONE HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Mary and Nigel Roberts, Ann Petty, Kathy Mardon, Bernard Lee, John Jackson, Tracy Foulds

Apologies: Janet and David Stevenson, Geoff and Jane Wilson, Peter and Jenny Walker, Fran Skinner, Bill Enser, Shirley Gordon, Sarah Baxter

Discussions/Decisions.

The Future of Hermitage Leisure Centre – An open meeting was held as part of the Parish Council meeting on 27 July in Whitwick at which Richard Blunt, leader of the council, was the speaker. He said that the council felt, in order to secure a leisure provision moving forward at a time of uncertainty when the district and county councils may combine, it was best to consider a new Leisure Centre, run by a trust with a 20 year agreement, with the service outsourced to a leisure provider. This could protect the provision of leisure moving forward, as it is not a statutory provision to provide leisure facilities. Failing to secure the future of a leisure centre in the area, because of the need to save money, there could well be the case that there would be no centre at all. He said that the existing site, which he unfortunately called the old site, took a lot of heating and was past its best, and suggested that renovations would not improve the situation to the scale of that which would be offered with a new centre. The council is currently looking at green fields off the A511 not far from the island by Stephenson College. Traffic surveys and land surveys would need to be done and there were concerns about the increased traffic from an already well used A511. Mr Blunt felt, however, that the A511 would lead to less traffic congestion than at present, with cars from that side of Coalville having to travel down Hermitage Road. Costs for the project were currently not known, but a new centre could cost in the region of £18-20 million. By using land on Cropston Drive for house building, the council felt it could raise something like £4 million, which would be the deposit to then start building a new centre, with the remaining £14-16 million being borrowed. Various questions were asked about the future of the Hermitage site and whether it would be redeveloped into housing, but no concrete assurances were given. It was, however, said that, should a new centre be built, the Hermitage Leisure Centre



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would not close until a new one were built. There will be further meetings as the situation becomes clearer, and we will endeavour to tell all members of the dates of these when known. We understand from the clerk to the parish council that Cllr. Alison Smith and perhaps also CEO Bev Smith from NWLDC may attend the parish council meeting on 19 October.

Lbro Road closure 7 August – There have been traffic lights and part of the Loughborough Road has been closed for a few days recently in order to fill in the ditch at the edge of the Bellway site and put in proper drainage. The whole road will be closed on 7 August for about 3 days to allow further work to be carried out to improve the carriage way. Nita asked one of the builders what this improvement was, and he said it was to put in speed humps which will go across the junction to the new development. The bus stops on Loughborough Road will also be temporarily closed as the bus service will be rerouted. The Coalville Times has suggested in their notices that the road will be closed for 3 months rather than 3 days....

Proposal for community speed watch - We understand from our county councillor that the council will soon be looking for helpers to assist with a community speed watch scheme in Whitwick and Thringstone. This will most likely happen in 2018 so if you can bear this in mind, further details about the scheme will be provided in due course.

Building great communities – There is an article on page 11 of the current Leicestershire Matters magazine asking people to make comments on what they think is a good community. This is an easy exercise for those with a computer and is part of a consultation on the draft community strategy, which is taking place between June and September. Please go to www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk to fill in the necessary answers to 3 easy questions.

Heritage Open Day - This is a national event, but as far as Thringstone is concerned, it takes place at the centre on 9 September. Information has been provided to allow this event to be widely advertised. The centre will be open from 12 noon until 3pm.

Prominent women event on 7 October – We are still working on this, in order to put on a good event and get a good turnout. Along with folk from Swannington, Ashby, Whitwick, Ravenstone and Coleorton, we hope to put on a good exhibition covering the wide variety of things achieved by women from this area. We are hopeful that Gemma Steel, the local runner, will open the event, which is on from 12 noon until 5pm.

Monthly litter pick total – **137** against 197 for the same month last year

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. Reported several cases of flytipping.

Promotion:

- We have **456 twitter followers**, which is one more than last month, and **485 facebook followers**, which is 3 more than last month. We are continuing to post details of local events and also historical photos on both sites. In the last year, we have increased the amount of twitter followers by 59 and the amount of facebook followers by 88.

Other:

- Our two German members have now departed back to Germany, and returned the litter pick sticks they had. They occasionally litter picked for us in the woodland whilst walking their dog.



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Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,249.19		
Income		Expenditure	
Publications	£36.50	Broadband	£10.50
Raffle	£15	Reimbursement of postage	£2.40
total income to general fund	£51.50	Total expenditure	£12.90
		Total general fund at month end	£2,287.79

Publications Report

The church have sold 3 graveyard booklets with a 50p extra payment.

The centre have sold 1 x Memories 3 and 1 x Memories 4.

Nita sold one pubs book

David sold 1 x Thringstone and its people, 1 x Scottish in Thringstone, 1 each of Memories of Thringstone parts 1-4

Web Report

The webmaster is currently away. There have been no updates since April.

Police Report

- We are told that 2 hanging baskets and a planted table centre were taken this month from the George and Dragon.
- A man (not local) went into the Post Office and urinated on grocery stock. This is all on CCTV.
- We understand that further meat thefts have taken place from Thringstone Co-op but are not being reported by the store to the police.
- There has been a resurgence of motorbikes being ridden around Gracedieu Wood. The police are aware.
- Between 10pm on 25 July and 9am on 26 July, several small trees were taken from a garden in Clover Place.
- On 27 July two cars, one white and one red, were involved in a traffic incident by the traffic calming at the church jitty. The white car then mounted the pavement and went up the road and hit the bus stop opposite Kay's shop. We understand that the drivers of both cars then fled the scene, leaving their cars running, with both drivers being picked up by someone in a white van. The police were called, took a while to come, and subsequently 2 phones were found in the white car that hit the bus stop.

There was considerable discussion at this point about the lack of police presence in the area generally, the closure of Coalville police station and the annex to the fire station that is going to be built to house the police. Police called to the event on 27 July came from Loughborough, and the meeting heard that the police who were called to a shop theft in Ashby had to come from Hinckley.



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Our member Sarah Baxter has spent time talking with Nita about the lack of police presence in the area generally and the fact that this might lead to increased crime. A letter had been sent to the police with these concerns, following which PCSO Lynette Rose had come up with a few dates during which she could operate a beat surgery. These dates were 3 mornings and one afternoon. Nita had checked with the centre about using a room for this, and the date of 18 October between 3pm and 5pm was the best with the centre.

The meeting suggested that the PCSO might like to try to get the police trailer down to the car park area opposite the Co-op, where beat surgeries had operated a few years back. By being more visible, this attracted more people, but the meeting agreed that if this were not feasible, it was best to go with an afternoon date, since evenings are not an option, and advertise the event to as wide an audience as possible. Nita said that she had been involved before in beat surgeries, and had been the only person attending, with the exception of the housing officers from NWLDC coming once. The meeting also discussed whether it would be possible to set up other Neighbourhood Watch Groups. There is one covering Springfield and Heathfield, and another covering Gracedieu Road, but none others are known to exist in the village.

Nita said she would go back to Sarah and discuss things with her on this and see what could be organized.

Community Report and What's On

The Alfi Day event raised in excess of £2,130 for children's brain cancer charity. Thank you to everybody who came and donated.

The summer fete at **The Old School House** raised £1,575.21 for the residents' fund. Some of this money will go to improve the sensory cabin. Big thanks to everybody who went along and also to those who helped out.

Over the weekend of 22 July, **Thringstone Miners Football Club** hosted the preliminary round of the FA Vase with a match between Kirby Muxloe and Belper. This is a great honour for Thringstone.

Abbots Oak at Copt Oak is now open for drinkers. The bar will be open THURSDAYS - 5 pm - Close, FRIDAYS - 12pm - Close, SATURDAYS - 12pm - close

New opening hours at **Hare and Hounds, Whitwick** - Monday to Wednesday 5pm, Thursday & Friday 3pm, Saturday 12noon, Sunday 11.30am

Tiny Talk (a Tamworth and Ashby based baby class) is starting a weekly class at Gracedieu Manor School on Wednesday 6 September. Times are 10.30am-11.30am for toddlers and 11.45-12.45pm for babies. For more information go to www.tinytalk.co.uk/felicityh or contact Felicity Haslewood on felicityh@tinytalk.co.uk or ring 07724 626394

- 4 August – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – Jake Jones from 9pm singing a variety of styles of music from rock, jazz to soul and reggae.
- 5 August – **Thringstone Live Music Festival** at the community centre from 1pm until late. Inside and outside bands, stalls, food, drink etc. Free entry.
- 5 August – **Thringstone Members Club** – Eleanor Mattley in concert from 9pm. All welcome.
- 10 August - **Hanson's Valuer's at New Inn**, Pegg's Green, 5pm-7pm. Free valuations for all your antiques and collectables.
- 11 August – Conny Club, Silver Street – **Dan Budd as Robbie Williams**. Show starts at 9pm. Tickets available.



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- 11 August – **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club.** Guest DJ is Richard John. Starts at 6pm. £3.
- 12 August – **St Andrew's clear out morning.** Starts at 10am. Come along and help the church clear out stuff, or claim stuff if it might be yours!
- 12 August – **The Meadows Nursing Home** summer fete. Starts at 2pm. All welcome.
- 18 August – **New Inn, Peggs Green** - Yeehaw hoedown with BBQ Games and live music from the Annie Duggan Band. Starts at 6.30pm
- 19 August – **New Inn, Peggs Green** – Summer Fun day with craft stalls, food stalls, bouncy castle etc. 12pm until 5.30pm followed by live music, karaoke and much more from 6.30pm
- 19-20 August – **Woodstock in Whitwick** at Hermitage Leisure Centre grounds. 10am – 9pm. Free entry. Lots of live music and stalls and things for the children.
- 19-28 August – **Art Exhibition** at Thringstone Community centre. Saturdays 1pm-5pm, Sundays 2pm-5pm, weekdays 3pm-9pm, bank holiday Monday 1pm-5pm
- 20 August – **Preston Cup at Coalville Football Club,** Owen Street. Starts 12 noon. Charity football matches,- Stalls; food, bar and refreshments, Zorbs, Tug of War, face painting, raffle with some great prizes, plus live music on throughout the day. Raising money for Rainbow's Children's Hospice.
- 26 August – **Belton Village Fun Day** with BBQ and things for the children. Jayne Haywood will be singing from 4pm-6pm with all profits going to Rainbows.
- 26-28 August- **Craft and Flower Festival** from 10am-4pm at St Peter's church, Bardon. Theme is countries of the world. Children's quiz, tombola, refreshments, and crafts in the marquee.
- 2 Sept – **Packington Horticultural Show.** All proceeds go to Help For Heroes.
- 9 Sept – **Heritage Open Day at Thringstone House Community Centre** from 12-3pm. Come and learn about the centre, have a look round, learn a bit more about Charles Booth and have a cup or tea or coffee and a chat.
- 9 Sept – **Thringstone's Got Talent** at Thringstone Community Centre. Local acts putting on performances. The charity this year is the British Kidney Transplant Support Association.
- 22 Sept – **Jerseys** – tribute act to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons at Hermitage Leisure Centre. Doors open 6.30pm, starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £13 in the tiered seating and £19 in the VIP seats. Ring 811215 for tickets.
- 29-30 Sept – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's** murder mystery evening Soap Suds. More details nearer the time.
- 7 Oct – Exhibition at the centre on **The Prominent Women of NW Leicestershire.** Will start at 12 noon and go on until about 5pm.
- 14 Oct – **Craft Fayre** at the community centre. All welcome. 12 noon until 5pm.
- 20 Oct – **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
- 20 Oct - **Thringstone Miners Welfare** – Ukulele Crazy perform at 7.30pm with local WI.
- 4 Nov - **George and Dragon** bonfire night.
- 10 Nov – provisional date for **Thringstone House village quiz.**



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- 25 Nov – **Moonshiners 50s tribute** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Tickets £6 7.30pm start. Tickets available through www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone or direct from the centre office.
- 9 Dec - **Abba Tribute** at Thringstone House Community Centre. 7.30pm start. Tickets £8 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone or direct from the centre office.

Bernard said that he understood that the Hare and Hounds had been taken over by the brewery who were looking to increase the kitchen facilities so that regular meals could be offered.

History report

- There was a mistype in our history report last month. **Peggy Crowson** married George Domoney and we regret that we also mistyped the word hippocratic.
- Ann has had a meeting with Colin Hyde of East Midlands Oral History Archive about our group working with him to **record people in their 80s or early 90s** talking about their memories of work and raising children between the period of 1945-1962. This will be an interesting project, and various people are to be approached to take part. Forms will be filled in and the work has to be completed by sometime in November. Further details will be given when we know them.
- We have found adverts for someone called **Davy O'Dam** who was a comedian, magician and illusionist in variety and cabaret in The Stage newspaper for November and December 1980. Davy was represented by B Leeson management of 3 Whitwick Moor, Thringstone. Davy, with assistant Lisa, seems to have appeared on TV's Opportunity Knocks in 1987 which at that time was hosted by Bob Monkhouse. B Leeson was Barry Leeson, who was the son of Sydney Joseph Leeson and Ivy Grice. We believe that he is now retired and lives in Coalville. If anybody has any further details on Davy O'Dam or Barry Leeson, please let us know.
- We now have a photo taken around 1966 on **Main Street** of a parade that looks like it might be the Salvation Army. If anybody knows of parades that used to go down Main Street around that time, we would be pleased to have further details.
- The lady who bought the pubs book was the granddaughter of Charles and Mary Jane Jarvis who kept the **George and Dragon** who are mentioned in our pubs book. Her dad, Fred Jarvis, was wounded at the Somme, and shot in the shoulder when carrying someone to safety. When he came home to get married (at the G&D) in 1920 to Evelyne Cecilia Wale, he still had this wound, and apparently you could get your fist in it.. She said that it got infested with lice, and all in all he had over 20 operations to get it right. Fred Jarvis is shown with his family with the family at Swannington Common 1911. He was born on 11 July 1893 at the George and Dragon. He was a horse driver in the pits in 1911. Evelyne was born on 10 March 1897. By 1939, the family was living at 1 Springfield Road, Shepshed. Fred was a colliery worker and Evelyne was a hosiery machinist. With them were 5 children and Evelyne's mother Edith, born in 1871. Fred died on 27 October 1976 in Shepshed. His wife Evelyne died 1 February 1963 in Shepshed.
- We knew that a William Chester was licensee of **The Bull's Head** between 1847 and 1849 but knew little else. We have now found details in Leicestershire Mercury of 2 March 1861 relating to the relief of insolvent debtors. The article says that William Merriman Chester of Whitwick, harness maker and prisoner in Leicester Gaol as a county court debtor was also at one stage a harvest labourer. Whilst in Whitwick, he became a grocer, dealer in tea,



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tobacco, ropes, oil, drugs, pots, glass and provisions, baker, flour seller and small farmer and grazier. We know this is the same person, as his license of The Bull's Head at Cross Lanes near Thringstone is mentioned. The notice also says that people who were owed more than £5 should appear at the court on a set date and time to be heard. This is the first time that we were aware of his bankruptcy, or of the link to the Merriman family in name. Further research has shown that William was born in Osgathorpe in 1820, the son of John Chester and Mary Merriman, and died in 1889 in Blackfordby. He married Eleanor Fields on 2 July 1844 at Whitwick Parish Church as Eleanor was from Whitwick. By 1851, he was living at South Main Street, Thringstone and was a saddler. Ten years later, he was living in Silver Street, where he is also shown in 1871 and 1881. He appears to have had 7 children in total. His wife died in 1894. We are yet to be able to find if he was related to other Merriman's who kept the pub.

- In an attempt to find out more about the Merriman family, further research has taken place into **Hannah Merriman** who also kept the Bull's Head. There are two Hannah Merriman's who kept the Bull's Head – one in 1827 and another between around 1863-1861. We have concentrated on the latter one. Hannah was the daughter of a farmer, William Norman Bramley, and appears to have been christened in Shepshed on 4 July 1813. William Merriman and Hannah Bramley married in Shepshed on 15 December 1835 and by 1841 they were farming within the area of St George's chapelry. We know they then went to the Bull's Head, and were there at least until 1847 when the property was advertised for sale with vacant possession. Previous records had suggested that William Merriman kept the pub from 1841 until 1854. We now think that William died in 1848, rather than 1854, as in the 1851 census for Thringstone, Hannah is down as a widow, a retired victualler, and is living with her daughters Hannah, Jane, Elizabeth and Esther. On the 1851 census for Shepshed, we have found her other children (Mary Ann and William) living with grandfather William Norman Bramley, aged 67 of Gracedieu, at Finney Hill Lodge, Shepshed. He was a farmer of 190 acres employing 5 labourers, was baptized in Belton in 1784, had at least 12 children of which Hannah was one, and died of congestion of the brain on 12 January 1852 at Finney Hill Lodge. Finney Hill is the area between Charley Road and Brick Kiln Lane off the A512 running between Shepshed and Gracedieu.

Councillors' report

Nothing submitted and nobody had anything to report.

Gardening and environment

Bernard continues to weed, prune and maintain our existing planting.

Centre matters

Nigel spoke about the music festival, and gave details of the running order. Many of the acts performing are young people, and the outdoor stage's first performance will be from Fairy Friends of Whitwick. Other youngsters performing are Lily Dunicliffe, Andrew Moran, Justice Beach and George Stackhouse, as well as more seasoned performers offering a wide range of music with an acoustic stage running indoors. There will also be food, cooked by Thringstone's Russ Love.

Next meeting is on 7 September at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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