



This is our first newsletter for 2008, delivered and produced free of charge to residents of Thringstone, by Friends of Thringstone, a voluntary group aiming to improve the appearance of the village, keep it safe, clean and welcoming, protect and promote its history, help keep village shops open and work to protect natural areas within the village for the future.

Did you know that in 2007, through funding applications to various agencies, Friends of Thringstone ordered and got erected the National Forest signs at either end of Loughborough Road?

Many people think that Friends of Thringstone is just people doing litter picks, tidying overgrown areas etc.

This isn't quite right. We are an active group trying to make our village more distinctive and a nicer place to live in and visit.

In 2007, we put up 15 blue plaques on historic properties and produced 3 walk booklets and facilitated reprints of the Born and Bred volumes.

Come along to one of our meetings to find out what we are doing in 2008 to improve our village for everybody.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE LATELY?

- Friends of Thringstone put on the Christmas Gift and Craft Fayre at the Community Centre in December 2007. From the profits made, we will be able to do more for the village. We have already planted trees on a neglected piece of land on Main Street, and are working on other areas to improve those.
- Our Friends of Thringstone calendar proved to be very popular, and we are looking for ways to improve on this for 2009.
- Our **2008 Heritage Event will be in September 2008.** The themes will be mining, with the 110th anniversary of the Whitwick Pit Disaster, and the 100th anniversary of the start of Old Age Pensions, which came about because of the work of Charles Booth, who lived locally. If you wish to be part of the heritage event in 2008, please contact the event co-ordinator.

- Thringstone WI has agreed to fund a publication recording the memories of some of the people who have lived in the village. We are hopeful that this will be available by the summer months. We feel it will be useful in the future, not only to schools and students, but also to those people wishing to know more about the history of their family and the area.

DO YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS ON THINGS WE COULD DO TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE?

All the things we've done in the village have come about because of ideas mentioned at meetings.

In addition to the National Forest signs, publications and blue plaques, with partnership working, we have improved access to Bob's Closs, got a flowerbed back on The Green, planted bulbs and shrubs in Millhouse Estate, planted bushes on the grass verge in Loughborough Road near Springfield, planted shrubs and tidied up the area at the bottom of Brook Lane, planted bulbs in Grace Dieu woods, planted trees on Main Street, and run one heritage event and one Christmas Fayre in 2007 for the village to enjoy. We have also helped with the annual hay rake at The Community Centre, and have done lots of other things behind the scenes to improve the village for us all. The things we do are for us all to enjoy. It's all about engendering a community spirit.

Our litter pickers have removed hundreds of tons of rubbish from the village and surrounding woodland to it looks nicer for us and for visitors that come to our area, and petitioned and met with various council and county council officers regarding other issues of concern to villagers.

We are all volunteers. We do this because we love our village.

If you have ideas on things you want to see improved, come along to the meeting and let us hear your ideas. The voice of many is much better than a solitary voice. Come and join us! Make a difference in your village for the future.





BE A FRIEND!

Our 2008 meetings will be held at 6.45pm at Thringstone Community Centre on:

- March 6th
- April 10th
- May 8th
- June 5th
- July 10th
- Sept 11th
- Oct 9th
- Nov 6th
- Dec 11th

We also have regular events meetings to plan our events throughout the year.

Membership of our group is only £2.50, and for that you will get a full membership, with a membership card, which will last through to our next AGM in June 2008. You will also receive copies of all the minutes of meetings held during the year, whether you were present or not.



USEFUL NUMBERS

Police (Non-emergency)	01162 222222
Leicestershire CC Offices	01162 323232
Footpaths	01162 657083
NW Leics. Council Offices	01530 454545
Dog Warden Service	01530 454563
Flytipping	01530 454620
Noise Problems	01530 454488
Highways Officer	01530 513333
Domestic Waste Collection	01530 454572
Community Centre	01530 222337
Cllr Pam Clayfield	01530 224804
Cllr. Dave Everitt	01530 223074
David Taylor MP	01530 814372



CONTACT NAMES & NUMBERS

For further information on how to join the Friends of Thringstone, or to be part of any of our planned events, please contact any of the members listed below:

N Pearson	01530 223434	(Chairman)
T Newton	01530 222064	(Vice chair)

G Wilson	07767 436706	(Secretary)
P Porter	01530 469474	(Treasurer)
R Woodward	01530 831542	(Events)
S Newton	01530 222064	(Ass. Events)
R Summers	01530 450735	(History)
R Neal	01530 451204	(Environment)

Alternatively email our webmaster at:

webmaster.thringstone@ntlworld.com

For the latest local information, full details of what we have achieved since our inception in 2005, details of our constitution and equal opportunities policies, etc. check out our web space at:

<http://www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk/>



This newsletter was designed by J Smith, our webmaster.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

We have a range of publications, listed below, available from Thringstone Community Centre, The George and Dragon, and The George at Coleorton, or at our meetings.

- Thinksun Born an' Bred Part 1 by Joan Brotherhood Blackey.
- Thinksun Born an' Bred Part 2 by Joan Brotherhood Blackey.
- Thringstone Village Trail (the blue plaque walk).
- Charnwood Forest Railway and Canal, Gracedieu Priory and Manor (includes the Viaduct).
- The Warren and Cademan Woods.



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