



Minutes of events meeting held on Thursday 25th October 2007

Present: Nita Pearson, Sandie and Tony Newton, Ray Woodward, Pam Clayfield, Pam Porter, Jan Cufflin, Heather Francis, Ann Petty, Ray Neal, Chris Mellor, Geoff Walker, Maggie Smith

Apologies: Tam Bream, Janet Stevenson, Rowena Summers, Lorraine Whitehurst

Nita, Sandie and Ray had met the previous Monday to sort out some details, and talk through some suggestions and ideas.

Christmas Party---Update – all members have been contacted about the party on 6th December. Sandie's organised what food people are bringing, and there is a lot of variety. It looks like being a full turn out of all members. The meeting beforehand will be short, probably comprising of minutes already typed up and ready to distribute as an update.

Christmas Fayre. Rodney Tompkin will not be coming with his wine stall as he will be recuperating from an operation. Sandie is working on finding a substitute or someone that will let us have stuff on sale or return. All other stallholders will be rung by Ray W to confirm their attendance during week commencing 20th Nov. Insurance has been paid, and a poster done by Tony Newton for approval was passed around and accepted. Also passed around for approval were the programme and about us flyer, which will need to be printed out back to back on A5 paper. We may have to get this done at the council offices to cope with numbers. The fairground organ will be there all day. We are currently waiting for the scouts to tell us if they ARE doing anything or not on the same day. Meadows Nursing Home have been informed of our date and will not have their fayre at the same time. Ben Stanley from the Blackbrook Longhorn's will have a stall both inside and outside, and entertainment from the choir and the bell ringers will be both upstairs and downstairs. The Methodist church group has dropped out, but St John's Whitwick and St Andrew's are still coming. St Andrews doing will be doing a tombola with bottles. There will 10 craft stalls, 2 church groups, 2 people outside, 4 organisations/groups, 2 displays, one grotto, one Santa, two pixies and the fairground organ. We still want donations of wine for wine and water. Any donations for raffle prizes are also still welcome. Ray W has spoken to Sue Collidge about wreaths and it is possible that she can come. There is plenty of space for her to be outside, or she can possibly come inside if we have no beer or wine stall. Ray W is to speak to Shuttlewood Clarke Foundation about their bird boxes and small garden stuff which could also be available outside on a sale or return basis.

Rowena may be donating some things out of her attic for either raffle prizes or for sale on our stall. We will be taking photographs of every stall for our files and records, as well as future bookings.

Pam Porter had bought some small bags to put in items such as pens, pencil cases, pencils etc. It was felt that the contents of the bag should be about 80p with bags being sold for £1. Bags will be blue for boys and red for girls. These bags, plus spare bags will be sold on the FOT stall.

Members were asked to tell Maggie Smith if they find anything else that could go in the bags, and to buy anything that looked like a bargain and could also go into the bags, to be reimbursed from funds.

There is still doubt as to whether the playgroup are doing face painting or selling cakes, but as Lorraine was not there, we could not ask. Sandie will try to talk to Lorraine to find out about this.

We need to find out how old the pixies are, as Santa and the grotto are going on the stage, and we need to ensure this is covered from a health and safety standpoint. Sandie will talk to Lorraine on this in due course.

Tony Newton is going to run off a similar quantity of posters to those done for the summer event, and will be reimbursed for laminating pouches for this. These posters may be available to distribute to members at the next full meeting on 15th November.

The newsletters have been given to the printers, and will be available shortly. Nita requested volunteers to deliver to Loughborough Road. Ray and Sandie agreed to do this jointly. Hopefully, newsletters will be available for collection from Nita's or delivered to the meeting in November, but need to be delivered by the end of November at the very outside.

Nita is waiting to find out what transpires with the wine/beer idea before doing any more promotion, but intends to get things into the papers during the last 2 weeks of November.

It was felt that having bird boxes outside was a good idea, but more so if bird food could also be on sale. Nita agreed to contact Janet Stevenson to ask if she could provide this.

Geoff agreed to video the event again for us.

Other events

School winter fete 7th Dec – we are waiting reply from Ella on when this is actually on as we have been told it is teatime, but not given exact times. Nita and Ray will be there to sell booklets and calendars.

Heritage Event - Stalls for next summer etc. already agreed are pony rides, a fire engine for kids to look round, face painting, a bouncy castle, FOHH, Gracedieu, St Andrew, St John, Ben Stanley, and Rodney Tompkin, who will hopefully be fully fit by that time. Ray W will be talking to the pony lady in the next couple of weeks after speaking to Lorraine. A person selling chocolate is interested in being involved, and we may possibly have the garden furniture again. Ray W has been speaking to the monastery and they may also be interested in coming along. We can't discuss a theme or organise any entertainment until sponsorship has been sorted out, as entertainers will need to be paid, and we don't know yet what is available for this. Ray W has already had promises of money from Quiet Storm and Whitwick Quarry, but amounts are not definite. Mason's chemist may be interested, and Ray is contacting P & R Building supplies and Swithland Water shortly. Letters went out to several people, without previous contact, and Ray is now following these up by telephone. Nita contacted Lubcloud Dairy, and they are going to supply milk for the event, but we need to confirm the week beforehand how much we want and speak to Jane Moss. Snibston Discovery Park are still thinking about offering stuff from the museum to display, but in the meantime, Ray W is going to talk to Chris Matchett about his involvement, and also confirm the situation with Whitwick Historical Society.

It was suggested that Ray W also contact the Jet Station for sponsorship. Ray Neal is going to the Bulls Head shortly, and will talk to them about a raffle prize or something similar. The George and Dragon are also keen to help in this way.

Gracedieu event 22nd June – we will be selling plants again and possibly bric a brac, but will discuss this nearer the time. This time, their event is before Picnic in the Parks.

PIP 29th June – we will be there again, possibly selling plants, but will request a better pitch if possible

School fete – will be in June but not sure of the date. Rowena, Nita and Ray attended last year. Nita will be leading a walk for them on the day from the blue plaque booklet.

3. Any Other Business not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

a) FOT was invited to stand in Coalville for their market event/Christmas light turning on due for 24th November. We had to provide stall and volunteers, and didn't think we would get any volunteers or put together a good stall, and so turned down the offer.

b) Calendars are now ready for collection. Tony and Nita took some to give to various people, and others paid for their calendars there and then. We have provisional orders for 72 to include those businesses who hope to be able to sell for us. We still need to sell a further 28 and it would be appreciated if members could buy a calendar if possible. Ray W is dealing with this, and any interested parties wishing to purchase a calendar should contact him direct.

- c) Gracedieu Christmas cards are now on sale and a sample copy was shown round. Nita said she would take orders that night if people wished to place them. The cost of the small ones is £5 for ten, with the larger ones being 90p each. Friends of Gracedieu will have a stand at our Christmas Fayre for people to buy them there, if that isn't too late.
- d) Friends of Gracedieu have an hour's presentation available on the history of the priory and it was felt that this is something that FOT should host, and open up to the village as a whole, with people paying a small fee to come along and see the show. Nita will have a word with Lorraine when she is available to discuss a date for this outside of a regular meeting date, probably sometime in March. Costs were discussed, and Nita agreed to talk to Lorraine about this, and consider with her whether some nibbles could be included in any price.
- e) Denis Baker has agreed to show Friends of Thringstone around the mill at Swannington as a special offer. It was agreed that we have our meeting in June there, instead of at the community centre. Nita will report this to Lorraine, and it will be made clear in our promotion. Ray W said it would be nice to then adjourn to a pub for a snack, and will organise this, and report back on costs.
- f) Pam Clayfield reported that the council had given on semi-permanent loan a screen for showing films as part of centre screen. Further details will be given in due course.
- g) Pam Clayfield gave Nita details of the council's new rural enabler to contact to come to a meeting for a talk. It was felt that this lady could then champion the fight to keep a post office, and other services, within the village. Our group could also be given as an example of good practice within the community.
- h) Sandie requested that those members who had sponsored her for the school walk give their money as soon as possible, as it has to be paid in next week.

Date of next meeting Thursday 22nd November 2007 at 6.45pm at The Community Centre.