



The Friends of
Thringstone

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FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE

MINUTES OF EVENTS MEETING 24 January 2008

In Attendance: Nita Pearson, Sandie Newton, Ray Woodward, Rowena Summers, Roy Hill, Jan Cufflin

Apologies received from: David and Janet Stephenson, Geoff Walker, Tony Newton, Ray Neal, Maggie Smith, Lorraine Whitehurst, Pam Porter, Alan Burgess, Niels Nielsen

Christmas Party – many thanks to everybody who bought food. It was a lovely evening, with a great atmosphere.

School Fayre 7th December 2008 - sales at this event only totalled £10, and the general membership feel that it would be a good idea, if we are going to continue to support the school events, that we consider selling things that are more child-friendly in the future. We have quite a lot of items which could be used to fill a stall, and feel this is the way forward. Rowena has some games she can donate to this. The next school event will be in the summer. We can always take booklets as well, so we corner both ends of the market.

The Christmas Gift and Craft fayre feedback– the craft fayre was a success, despite the rain, and raised in excess of £450 for Friends of Thringstone. We had a good turn out of volunteers on the day, including some who didn't get the chance to come through the door without being given a job to do, and thanks go to all, but especially to Sandie and Ray who worked hard to get the event up and running and on the day itself.

Ray Woodward took some photographs and these were put on a disc, to be given to John Smith at some stage to put on the website.

Copies of the summary of the evaluations taken of visitors and stall holders were circulated. Not all visitors were quizzed on their viewpoints so there may have been other thoughts of which we are not aware.

Positive comments were made about there being entertainment outside as well as in, the quality of the beefburgers, the variety of stalls, having Santa and the elves and kids' toys, wine and water stand and having a board on The Green, as many people said that they didn't notice the banners outside the centre. It was suggested that we might have two boards next time, facing both ways down the road.

Negative comments were made about the traffic and parking difficulties, and this is always going to be the case at the centre. Jan Cufflin had informally asked The Methodist church about parking there, and this was used by stallholders, some of whom felt it was too far away for them to park. Ray Woodward had also informally spoken to The Rose and Crown.

One of the visitors to the event had suggested that newsletters advertising the event were not the way forward, and we should consider having leaflets and deliver those. This could cause a problem, especially if there is another Christmas fayre, as we always deliver newsletters at Christmas, and might not be able to get the volunteers to deliver twice within such a short period. It was agreed that we need to encourage more helpers for events, but that we don't have a Christmas fayre in 2008, as our summer event is in September. We might consider looking at having a craft fayre of some sort nearer Easter 09, but this should be put to the full membership at a meeting.

Heritage Event - Parking - It was agreed that Ray Woodward would ask The Rose and Crown sometime in early August about using their parking spaces, and it was felt that stall holders should be given parking passes, and be asked, if possible, to park there when removing their cars from site. The Methodist car park could then be used as overspill, if agreement could be obtained from them to allow us to do this. This car parking should be signed for visitors to know where to park if they weren't local.

It was agreed that the matter of car parking should be discussed again at a full meeting.

Stallholders at Christmas had raised the question of whether there could be litter bins provided upstairs for their rubbish, and this is a good point. It was agreed that we should give all stall holders a black bin liner to put their rubbish in.

Jewellery sales went poorly at Christmas, and both the stalls dealing with these items weren't very keen to come along again. However, baby clothes sales went well, and other people reported having a better day than ever before. It was agreed that the cost of the jewellery was probably the reason sales were low. Sandie has other jewellery people to approach for the September event, as well as chocolate demonstrations and other ideas.

Despite having received letters explaining the fayre was all about gifts and crafts, one of the church groups at Christmas still came and sold bric a brac, and it needs to be made clearer to church groups that this cannot happen. One of the church groups might be encouraged to bring a wood turner, who they have available, rather than having a stall.

Jan Cufflin asked if she could help with the organisation of the Heritage event, rather than having a stall, and this idea was welcomed.

Discussions took place on entertainment for the September event, and it was agreed that we look towards sourcing a brass band, because of mining connections.

Ray Woodward agreed to talk to the Donisthorpe and to the Ibstock scout bands, and Roy Hill agreed to talk to Grace Dieu school to see if they had any brass band/school band.

Roy pointed out that there is a brass band at Loughborough Grammer School which could also be tried. Discussion took place on having Footloose again, but no definite decision was made.

It was pointed out that the September event will see Carillon Radio outside playing music all the time, and the music we consider indoors should not compete with that.

There was a discussion about what time the September event should run around, and whether it should be 10am – 3pm or 10am – 4pm. This raised questions on whether volunteers would be happy to stay for that length of time.

Cream teas were also discussed, and it was suggested that members with farming connections might be able to help with the provision of cream for cream teas. Roy suggested that, in keeping with a mining theme, catering might also consider Cornish pastie sales.

Calendars – Geoff Walker is no longer able to help us with calendars. It was agreed that we look to having a longer, thinner calendar.

Ray Woodward agreed to talk to Quiet Storm and to Charnwood Publishing about costings for this, if photographs were supplied. It was also agreed that the photographs should be probably 2 per page, rather than one large one. Nita had asked a local company for a quote, and received one back of £550 plus VAT which is out of the question. John Dickinson had agreed previously to

contact Pukka Publishing, who produce our brochures, for a quote, but nothing had been received back as yet.

It was agreed that we look to sell calendars in a variety of outlets, to possibly include the post office, and if possible have them available for our September event.

Other events - We have been asked to take part in the Whitwick Historical Society's 25th anniversary celebrations to be held on 17 and 18th May at Hall Lane Methodists. It was agreed that Nita ask WHS if we could do just 18th, rather than both days, and ask them what they would like us to sell, as we could do bric a brac or other things, as well as booklets.

The Grace Dieu event is 15th June, and it was agreed that we sell plants, bric a brac and booklets. It is hoped that we get a free stall on a reciprocal basis with Grace Dieu having a free stall at our September event.

Picnic in the Parks is 29th June, and sales will be similar to the Grace Dieu event. Nita has got a cheque prepared for this, and has asked for a 4m x 4m stall at a cost of £25, and has asked if possible that we have a position in the main arena, but away from staging and chairs, as last year it created a bottleneck having a stall so close to the seating.

It was agreed that we start looking at getting plants potted or set in February, so that there isn't a last minute rush, and that we do not buy any in this time, as we were left with plants last year. We needed to look towards better quality plants.

Sponsorship – Ray Wooward is going to take a drive round the industrial estates looking for other sponsors, but intends to pursue links with Midland Quarry Products and also with Grace Dieu windows.

Date of next meeting - It was agreed that the next events meeting be held in early March, at a date to be agreed with Lorraine, at the community centre.