



Chairman: Nita Pearson
20 Springfield, Thringstone, Leicestershire, LE67 8LT
Telephone: 01530 223434
<mailto:nita.pearson@ntlworld.com>

Visit our website at: www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk

**Minutes of Events Meeting held on 28th February
2008 at Thringstone Community Centre**

Present: Nita Pearson, Ray Woodward, Geoff Wilson, Ray Neal, Jan Cufflin, Maggie Smith, Lorraine Whitehurst, Anne Baxter, Pauline Bolstridge

Apologies: Sandie Newton, Tony Newton, Rowena Summers, Ann Petty, Tam Bream, Roy Hill, Pam Clayfield, Pam Porter

From Previous Minutes

Whitwick Historical Society event – this is being held on the afternoons of 10th and 11th May. Rowena Summers and Ann Petty were at the Whitwick Historical Society meeting, and would endeavour to find out if FOT can have a stall on one day only and whether we can sell bric a brac or do a tombola or not. They would then report back. Rowena Summers has said that she would man a stall on the 11th in the afternoon, and Ann Petty has offered to put our literature on a stall she is running with her brother.

Grace Dieu event – We had decided not to go to this event following an email vote. We were intending to sell plants, that there is a £15 cost to us for a stall and at the time of the vote, the event was being held on Father's Day. This has now changed. It is likely to be a smaller garden party type event, and will be held on Saturday 21st June and is likely to be free to enter. Sandie has said that she could man a stall selling items including cuddly toys, as long as she could be relieved mid way. Pam Porter had expressed an interest in helping. Should we stand, we will in future charge Grace Dieu for their stall which has previously been free as a reciprocal arrangement. It was agreed that the matter of whether we have a stand or not be put to the full meeting next week. There was considerable opposition to having to pay for a stand and many people felt that the event should not be attended.

Picnic in the Parks - 29th June at Coalville Park. The stall has been paid for (4m x 4m) and Nita has asked Jan Cufflin if she can draw up a rota of volunteers to man the stall, as this year, Sandie and Tony want to set up and help take down, and not stay all day. Plants are also required, and members need reminding of the requirement to get plants sorted sooner rather than later, so that we don't fall into the trap of having to buy plants to then sell on. Jan Cufflin agreed to help with the rota, and also provide a gazebo with sides on. Ray Woodward said he could also help with the gazebo. Pauline Bolstridge may be able to donate some kidney bean plants and also mentioned that she has a greenhouse which is not being used. Anne Baxter has some small holly bushes she could donate. Nita will invite others to donate during the coming months.

Heritage event - 6th September 2008 from 10am – 3pm. We have still not resolve the matter of parking, but Ray Woodward is going to talk officially to the Rose and Crown. Jan Cufflin is to talk in same way to Methodists as we would like to use their car park, if possible, for stall holder parking.

Outside we are planning to have a lady doing pony rides, a fire engine (proper one), a bouncy castle and an ice cream tricycle and the fairground organ from Ginns and Gutteridge. All these have been booked, and letters sent out to them confirming the cost of £10 per item where applicable. Ben Stanley and the Blackbrook Longhorns have also been booked, but not confirmed in writing, Columbian wines are interested but nothing has been put in writing, Friends of Holly Hayes are interested and Jane Hodgman who is a school governor is interested in selling quilted work. Someone from St John's in Whitwick is interested in doing woodturning. We discussed contacting Shuttlewood Clark Foundation to have bird tables etc. again., but it was agreed that this not happen, as the foundation had suggested we might have to actually buy the items next time and sell them. If they don't sell, we would therefore be left with a problem.

We will be inviting the WI, Pauline Walker, and possibly others from Christmas as well as some new people.

We were considering asking the scouts if we could use their scout hut and also wonder whether we should invite back the puppet man from last summer, who was a great hit with the children. Robert Dean from the scouts briefly joined the meeting and suggested that it might not be a problem to hire the scout hut, and use that for children's activities at the event. Nita agreed to contact Kirk about this.

Sandie has spoken to Hannah's at Quorn about selling their chocolate items. The problem with this is that we would have to fetch the items and have someone man the stall all day (keeping the chocolate at the proper temperature) and then return unsold items. All sold items would attract at 30% commission or thereabouts. It was agreed it was a lot of hassle, and we should not bother going down this route.

Roy Hill has contacted Grace Dieu school, but they do not have a band, and recommended Hathern band or Hind Ley's School. He has not contacted these as Ray Woodward has been in contact with the reunion band part of Ibstock Scouts, and is awaiting a decision from them before contacting Donisthorpe Scouts. Full bands want a lot of money to attend, and Ray is working on getting part of their bands for a cheaper rate. Loughborough Grammar school have failed to call Roy Hill following email contact made. Ray Woodward agreed to contact Peter Smith from Desford Band for a price for attending.

Nita has asked Tam Bream whether his father would be interested in having a pitch to promote his yogurt range and is awaiting a reply.

Sandie has the details of someone who sells hot potatoes but it is felt that his could cut across the Community Centre provision, so this is not being followed through. Lorraine will be working on supplying teas and coffees and possibly other items.

Lubcloud Dairy have said that they will supply milk, and Nita or someone from the events team needs to contact them a week before the event to confirm amounts.

History displays are going to go in the middle room again, and are likely to be Chris Matchett/Whitwick Historical Society, Alison Clague from Snibston Discovery Park, and maybe Friends of Grace Dieu and Grace Dieu archaeology group.

We are still borrowing Chris Matchett's marquee for some outside stalls. Ray Woodward is going to confirm this is still acceptable.

Ray Woodward is going to get further copies of the photos taken at Christmas and give them to Sandie so that we can discuss who we invite back from that event as a stall holder. Stall holders need to be all agreed by June at the very outside.

Ray Neal asked if we had someone to open the event and suggested David Taylor. Nita agreed to contact David to ask if he would do this. Ray also suggested that, given the loss of lives in pit disasters across the centuries, it might be an idea to have a very short religious service of some description, possibly a prayer and maybe a hymn, as part of the opening ceremony. Jan Cufflin agree to talk to Alan Burgess about this.

Sponsorship - Ray Woodward is going to start ringing round small companies next week and then send them the prepared sponsors letter. Ray Neal suggested he might like to contact the NUM for some small sponsorship, given the connection with the mining industry. Ray Woodward said he would contact Peter Smith about this.

Ray Neal suggested that there might be a flag with connections to the mining industry which we could fly from the flagpost. Nita agreed to talk with Ray Woodward about this in due course, as it was suggested that Chris Matchett might know of one.

Ray also suggested we should consider finding people to dress as miners. Again, Nita will talk to Ray about any connections we could make with this.

Ray Neal further suggested that, given the Booth link, there should be an effort to tidy and clean Charles Booth's grave at St Andrew's. Jan Cufflin agreed to mention this at the next church meeting in March.

Calendars - Ray Woodward and Nita have been to talk to Quiet Storm about a calendar for 2009 and it has been agreed that we run with a longer, thinner calendar with scenic photos. However, we need to have photos and everything ready for them by the end of July to be able to sell these at the Heritage Event. We still require people with photographs of the village in high definition on disc to let us have these for the calendar. It was suggested that Nita put an appeal out in the papers and on the website and newsletter for this. It is also hoped to link the calendar with a local charity. It was agreed to discuss which charity at next week's meeting.

It was agreed that the next events meeting be held at **Thringstone Community Centre on Thursday 24th April 2008 at 6.45pm**