



The Friends of Thringstone

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Minutes of events meeting held at Thringstone Community Centre on Thursday 25th September 2008 at 6.45pm

Present: Nita Pearson, Maggie Smith, Jan Cufflin, Tracey Foulds, Ray Woodward, Ray Neal, Bernard Lee, Ann Petty, Pam Porter, Lorraine Whitehurst, Rowena Summers, Roy Hill, Brenda Simpson

Apologies: Geoff Walker, Sandie and Tony Newton, Pam Clayfield, Paul Scully, Jo Johnson, Colin Porcher, Chris Mellor

Nita opened the meeting by giving thanks to all those people who have volunteered throughout the year to help with events, both ours and those which we have attended.

Copies of the evaluation details drawn up from the comments made on forms from visitors to our event and from stall holders were circulated. A copy of these is also attached to these minutes.

Events we have taken part in this year

We have had a presence at Whitwick Historical Society's 25th anniversary celebrations, Picnic in the Parks, Grace Dieu's event, Thringstone Primary School's event, Snibston Mining Heritage Event and George and Dragon's music festival.

It was agreed that it was important to support local events, but that some events might, as we progress, prove pointless if we just sell brochures, as brochure sales will at some point level out and/or reduce.

It was pointed out that at some events, we can sell plants and bric a brac, but that this is not appropriate at other events, such as the Mining Heritage Event.

Roy Hill suggested that we provide a list of the dates of all events, and a volunteer be allocated to one event only, so as to avoid the same people being asked to man stalls throughout the year.

Whilst it was appreciated that this might suit some, it would not suit all as some people cannot give a full day's time and others like to come to all events and be part of them.

It was agreed that if Roy wished to be present all day at one event, this would be fine, and could potentially release some of the event team from being present all day at every event.

It was agreed that we continue to discuss event invites as and when they happen, but if we do things such as Thringstone Primary School event or another event at the George and Dragon, we must remember to have things for children to buy, as these are good sellers.

Nita raised the fact that we had been asked by NWLDC to have a market stall for Christmas in Coalville on 22nd November, but we felt that this was not something we could support, as we have no bric a brac left to sell, this having been donated to the church.

Our Heritage Event

Going through the evaluations raised the following discussions.

- We should be proud of what we did and what was achieved, and in particular what was raised for the village from the event.
- Advertising and promotion were good, and whilst many people came to the event due to being told by others, this does not mean that the advertising and promotion was inadequate.
- The more we do within the village, both in event terms and in planting, the higher our profile, and the more possibilities there are of people taking an interest in our group
- We should have an event next year. We need to discuss at our January meeting when this is best placed in the calendar, given other things that are running in the area about which we are aware. For example, next year Grace Dieu are having two events – a concert and picnic in May as well as their annual event
- The entertainment we provided was good entertainment for the public as a whole, and that brass bands did not necessarily just link to a mining theme
- We should try to ensure that we take advantage of recruiting new members at all events, and this is an important part of both attending and putting on an event. Perhaps the recruitment of new members should be the sole job of one person, throughout the day at an event or be part of what people do on our own stall(s), as Nita can only try to do this when she is asking people questions during the evaluation phase of the event, and we may therefore be missing some opportunities.
- Plan for rain at all events, and then if it is fine, that's a bonus
- Weather is something we cannot pre-determine and we would have had more people coming along to the event had the weather been better, and we would also have been able to open up the sides of the tents and people would have mingled more.
- We need to ensure that plans of where everything is are available and visible and possibly form part of the programme handouts.
- The programme for the day must be put on the website before the event, even if it is not in its completed form
- We should continue to use the community centre venue, and keep our events varied and of the size we did this time, although we should be aware that things can appear crowded if we put on too much.
- The fairground organ and old fire engine should be invited back. Nita said we had already been approached by Ginns and Gutteridge for a date of our next event so that they could ensure they were available.
- Whist drives etc., whilst being good fund raisers, would not produce the amount of money that an event of the current size produces.
- An old fashioned carousel would be a good idea. Lorraine said she might be able to help with this, but cost was mentioned, and must be kept to a reasonable amount, or conversely the person running that should be encouraged to give us a donation, rather than it be something we provided for the event itself.
- To engage children in history themes, getting a sandpit and burying objects in it for the children to find would be good, as would draw something out of a bag
- If the Rose and Crown were able to have attractions on at the same time (such as steam vehicles or vintage cars as they used to do), this would add to the overall attraction of the event
- Linking in with the church at Harvest Festival time and doing a vegetable swap might be a way of achieving a barter-market, but it would be in October.
- The event, whilst being general, was not specifically heritage, and a better title in future would be Friends of Thringstone Community event, with a history element to be included.
- This history element might be best sited in the scout hut, or all inside on the ground floor, and we should consider putting all the children's entertainment upstairs. It was agreed that

- the siting of the history tent was not in accord with the original map, and whilst the placing of everything within it looked great on paper, in practice, it was a little over-crowded.
- If the children's activities were all upstairs, it would cut down on the amount of stallholders we could invite, as there can be anything up to 12 stands fitted in upstairs. We could have more stalls in tents or gazebos outside which might not suit some stallholders.
 - We should promote what Charles Booth did for the village and have that as a theme next time
 - Having envelopes with raffle tickets in, indicating that someone had won something or not when they bought it was a great idea, and should possibly be used in future. It would prevent Nita from having to ring people after the event to tell them they had won items, and all items would be collected whilst people were still at the event.
 - A tombola might be a better idea than a raffle
 - We should consider having a stand with our brochures on within the history section, not within the craft area. This then shows our allegiance to and affinity with the history of the village and other historical groups. Conversely, we might have brochures in both sections to cover those people whose perception of heritage and history does not match our own.
 - We should work with Ann and those with details of Thringstone on the staffing of their stall, but this could be covered if we have brochures in the history section.
 - Signage will never please everybody, and whilst there was adequate signage indicating that there were stalls upstairs, not everybody saw these.
 - Some stalls will always do better than others, some may have limited appeal to certain visitors, but we have a good mix at our events.
 - Not everybody is able to go upstairs at present, until the lift is installed.
 - People always congregate in the bar area, and there may be people in that area for some considerable time, leading others to feel that people don't go upstairs to see things there
 - It would have been a good idea to cater for non-meat eaters at the event with sandwiches or cobs, as vegetarians, and those on a diet, were not fully catered for
 - We can't stop people bringing in food from outside, as the community centre does not currently have a policy about this
 - We agreed with the majority of comments made by our volunteers. Putting on an event is not an exact science, and there will always be room for improvement.
 - Lorraine is going to try to provide FoT with a survey on centre useage, which could then be delivered with our newsletters at the end of November. This could potentially help the centre with their programming in the future.

Any Other Business

- Nita has made enquiries about the Whitwick Church Christmas event as to whether FoT can be involved, but it seems unlikely as space is limited, and selling our calendars at that event may clash with the church selling similar items.
- Nita is endeavouring to put together a list of walks from April to September 09, to include some being placed within the period 16-25 May, which is the National Forest Walk Festival week. This would not only give us the opportunity of linking with the National Forest, but also give us valuable publicity, as the brochure goes out to venues and groups throughout the whole of the National Forest area. Nita agreed to start these from The Community Centre, to give added publicity to the centre, although on all walks she does already include details of the history of the centre, and talks about Charles Booth and his contribution to the village.
- Litter picks – there is a litter pick with the School on Tuesday 30th September meeting at 3.30pm at the school. Various people have already indicated that they are coming to help. Pam Porter asked if there were any areas the group felt needed to be cleared. The routes to the Henson's Lane/Booth Road play area were suggested, as was the route round the church, and Henson's Lane. It was hoped that this exercise will encourage children to drop less litter in the first place. NWLDC want to meet with a member of the group and the

cadet commander to discuss the litter pick at half term with the scouts. It was agreed that either Ray Woodward or Bernard Lee would be available to meet up for this exercise, and that Nita will tell the council accordingly.

- Christmas in Thringstone – the group felt it would be nice to have a Christmas tree at the front of the community centre, decorate this, have carol singers (including the church and their music group) and give the village a focus in the run up to the Christmas festivities to bring the community together. Lorraine said that there had never been a tree outside the centre in her period of employment there, and it might be nice, but children might vandalise this and it could be a health and safety issue which might have been the reason the centre stopped doing this. She agreed to talk to the committee at their meeting on 13th October and get back to the group. Nita emphasised that she needs to get the newsletter done so that it is available to be distributed to volunteers at the November meeting, so we need to move quickly on this once/if agreement is reached. A possible date for the carol singing might be 19th December, subject to everybody including the church being in agreement. This is the day before the centre closes for the holiday period but close enough to Christmas to be effective. Lorraine agreed to let Nita have information one way or the other immediately after the committee meeting, so that any publicity, newsletters, and other such organisation can be done. The group would be in a position to supply waterproof fairy lights for the tree as funds were sufficient for this to be feasible and would help with the cutting down and transporting of the tree which is about 10 feet in height and would be donated by Jan Cufflin. Discussion on taking out insurance cover for this took place, but given that it was not a Friends of Thringstone event, would only last a short time, and is merely a donation of a tree and lights for a potential carol singing evening with the possibility of people then adjourning to the community centre this was discounted. Friends of Thringstone would not accept any liability for the tree etc., as it would be a donation to the village.
- The red tent - this is still being repaired, and whilst it will be serviceable it could still potentially breach any insurance cover if used at an event. The church are putting on a fund raising event with money being then donated to FoT for the cost of repairs.

The meeting ended without a date being decided for the next events meeting.

As stated earlier, this will be something to discuss in January 09 at the full meeting.