



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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Visit our website at: www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk
We are also on facebook/twitter. Twitter address @Thringstone2

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 JUNE 2016 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Bernard Lee, Geoff Wilson, Ann Petty, Dave Everitt, Janet and David Stevenson, Mike Statham, Nigel Roberts, Ron Hill

Apologies: Marlene Pearson, Sue Rowbottom, Tony Dandy, Roy Hill, Tam Bream, Tracy Foulds, Pat Hubbard, Jane Wilson, Julie Everitt, Pam Porter, Bill Enser

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY PAID, MEMBERSHIP MONEY IS NOW DUE PLEASE. The price remains for the 7th year at £3.50.

Voting in of new committee:	Chairman:	Nita Pearson
	Treasurer:	Geoff Wilson
	History:	Ann Petty
	Vice Chair:	Geoff Wilson
	Secretary:	Vacant
	Environment:	Bill Enser
	Membership Secretary:	Sue Rowbottom
	Minute Secretary:	Vacant
	Events and What's On:	Vacant
	Admin:	Vacant

Nobody put themselves forward for the vacant positions which will continue to be advertised. Geoff Walker proposed and Nigel Roberts seconded that all the above persons were appointed. The membership present agreed.

Examination of Accounts

David Stevenson went through the report from Tony Newton who carried out an examination of the accounts. These have been passed as being acceptable, with a few small comments on the year. If anybody wishes to see the statements from the independent examiner, please contact us. David



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had further prepared a balance sheet showing expenditure and income over the year which was passed round the members present and explained by David. If members would like a copy of this, please contact us.

David intends to email Tony Newton and thank him for his work on behalf of himself, the committee and membership and also said that the money spent on The Bauble production was money well spent.

Nigel said that he has a contact who can get ink cartridges for printers at a cheaper rate than we are presently paying. He will share this information with Nita for money to be saved going forward. Mike said that he hoped to be well enough in the future to be able to help with FoT issues.

Discussions/Decisions

Century of Stories – The play and final workshop organized for 9 May was cancelled, although nobody told Nita, Ann or the centre. It was rearranged for the following week. The banner which has been produced from the children's work was given to us, and was put up at the centre, with a view to then being taken by the Century of Stories team and put in local libraries. The children presented a full breakdown of their work, read out their poem and put on their small play for us to enjoy. It was a wonderful experience to see the youngsters do this, and a privilege to work with them on their journey of discovery. **Photos** were taken, sent to the webmaster, and posted on our facebook and twitter feeds. **A press release** was produced and sent to local media, together with a group photo. There was the usual **end of project survey** to complete, which allowed us to put together our thanks for the work done by Jen Johnson, the tutor, and the children taking part, and also how much the youngsters had obviously gained from taking part. It is just sad that more hadn't joined us.

Some of the children's art work can be seen on https://uk.pinterest.com/century_stories/ww1-learning-through-art/

Loughborough Road, Thringstone - traffic calming consultation

Your local County Councillor has been contacted by officers from the County Council's Highways team to advise that they will shortly be holding a neighbour consultation relating to modifications to existing traffic calming on Loughborough Road, Thringstone.

The consultation specifically concerns the area around the entrance to Springfield and the nearby new Bellway housing development and involves the construction of a speed table of 2 inches in height at the entrance to the new development whilst removing the much complained about build outs closer to the A512. Although letters will only be sent to residents in the immediate area please feel free to contact Cllr. Leon Spence directly if you have any concerns about the proposals and he will make sure they are considered in the final decision. One concern raised has been about the amount of surface water which is already trapped by the existing speed table, due to the inadequate drainage, which could also then lead to another pool of water being trapped by the arrival of a second speed table. Others are concerned about the speed of traffic coming from the A512 and its impact on the new junction, existing houses, and the Springfield junction. Nita had spoken to the resident of the property next to the cricket pitch who also has problems with the new proposals.

The meeting discussed this in detail and felt that the hedge round the bottom of the cricket pitch should be cut down so that there is greater visibility coming into the village from Ashby.

It was also felt that there were existing issues regarding turning from the A512 from Ashby into the village, which also needed addressing sooner rather than later. It was wondered why there couldn't



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be a mini island at the new junction with the development, much like the one in Whitwick Market Place. The creation of a new table was not considered the best way forward, but it was wondered if the public consultation says likewise what other alternatives could be proposed.

Nita agreed to share this information with Leon Spence as county councillor.

Number 16 bus service - There were rumours that the bus service through Thringstone isn't paying and Arriva has confirmed that it is altering the timetable, but isn't being very forthcoming about the date for new service or what it will entail despite being asked. The rumour is that the bus service is reducing to hourly, at 22 minutes past the hour, starting on 22 June, and taking out the Melrose Road estate. There appears to have been little, if any, consultation on this, but it is recognized that there are still parking problems on Melrose Road (one recently to which the police were called) which causes the buses difficulties getting round. People are complaining that not enough official notice has been given for people who buy monthly bus passes and who will be affected by the time alterations, especially given that there are no. 11 buses every 10 minutes from town to Agar Nook. When further details are known, these will be put on our facebook page.

The meeting expressed serious concern on the situation regarding the bus service, and recommended that there is at least a bus of some description every half hour. It was felt that Arriva should work with Skylink to ensure that their respective services provide that in our village. Nita said she would pass this on to Arriva, and also share this with Leon as county councillor.

New woodland owner – Turlough Road/The Warren – We received a very nice email from the new owner of 10 acres of woodland as above. This is the L shaped area by Hobb's Hole which is presently accessible from the road having climbed over a tree trunk. The owner is intending to renew fencing, put in a gate to the area, remove some of the ash trees, and allow access round the existing outside pathway. He may in due course offer the woods for schools and scout groups to use. The owner has asked that people don't walk through the middle of the area, but keep to the outside path and intends to put up notices saying what is happening. If you are unsure about the location of this area, please let us know.

Things for youngsters in the village - The field at the back of Thringstone Bowls Club (where the Melrose Sports Pavilion is situated), is currently the overspill training facility for the local football club. Several people have asked if the council will do something more positive with that field for the older kids locally to have somewhere else to play sports, especially with the impending arrival of more children once the new Priory site is completed.

The Melrose play area was improved and expanded a few years ago with £30k and the council put in new equipment, and has just undergone its yearly safety and maintenance check. Not all the kids want to use that play area, and the older kids want somewhere to play football etc. on.

Groups of youngsters congregate round the pavilion on the former football field from teatime, holiday times and at weekends, and many of them play football. Others use it as a bike park with the ramps from the car park onto the grass. A lot of older lads also go onto the cricket pitch to play football, so there is obviously a keen interest for kids of that age to do something from a physical activity or sports angle which isn't being met. Many people in the village have complained that there isn't anything for children to do the other side of the village, and they don't like their children crossing Loughborough Road to access the Melrose play area anyway. The council don't wish to compete with the Melrose Road play area, but having had a discussion with officers at NWLDC, Nita put to the meeting the possibility, funding permitting, of turning the outside of the area into more of a park, with trees and benches, and creating a circular dog walking area. The car park



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area to the site could possibly be utilized in some way for children's activities, as could the old hardstanding where, years ago, other play equipment stood. There is no S106 money coming to the village as a result of the new Bellway Homes 85 units on the bottom of Loughborough Road, but other suggestions have been put forward about raising the money to provide this facility. Tony Dandy at the Chapel Fitness Centre has said he could help set something up if people wanted this, either at the gym or at the centre.

The meeting felt that the offer of Tony Dandy to work with the young people of the village, with the possibility of utilizing the cross (to be mentioned at a management committee of the centre) was one way forward. With regard to the other area, it was agreed that this would be a good starting point, and once something formal is proposed, it be discussed again. We agreed that children need some sort of supervision, especially if playing sports, and that benches were a good idea. Nita agreed to relate this back to her contact at NWLDC.

The meeting also mentioned the problems with litter on the field at the back of the bowls club, and Nita agreed to talk to the parks department about a litter bin, but did mention that it had taken 3 years of lobbying to get the dog poo bin, and at one stage a litter bin had been provided, which lasted less than a week before it was removed and ended up in the woods.

Dave said that he is already trying to get 2 benches in the village to help people who have a distance to walk to get to a bus stop, and give them somewhere to rest.

Grass verges - Several people complained to us about the grass cutting of verges in Thringstone and when this was scheduled. As it happened, the verges were cut on 25 May rather than the scheduled 16th. For the benefit of those that may want to know in future, it is all on the county council website under

http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2016/5/11/Grass_Cutting_Schedule_May_v2.pdf.

People without the internet can always contact the council direct on 0116 305 6545.

Subsequent to the cutting of the verges, there were several complaints on the standard, with grass being left on pavements and the roadway in particular on Rumsey Close and Booth Road. Cllr. Leon Spence is aware of this, and has spoken to County Hall about the situation. If, however, you are unhappy about this, you need to take it up with Leon Spence, or conversely anybody can always contact County Hall direct on 0116 305 6545

Music Festival – In addition to headliner Oliver Sean, Sweet Revenge, Dr K's Gastric Band, Fleetwood Jac, The Lids, The Bench That Rocked, Dave The Rock Band and Melissa and the Vibe are so far booked to appear on 6 August. As you already know, Oliver Sean is an MTV nominated artist, and Melissa was in Tom Jones' team on The Voice in 2014. There is also going to be a youth section, and we are hopeful that there will be an acoustic set going on indoors and publicity is now being generated.

The centre is still looking for people willing to help on the day and afterwards, and also looking for sponsors. Please contact Lorraine at the centre if you can help.

We aren't selling many publications, and last year sold several and also picked up a new member by attending the music festival. Nita won't be able to help with the stall, but Ann and Janet had agreed to do a stall. Bernard agreed to have a look at our gazebo for use, and Nigel said he would provide a means of securing this to the area where the stall would be situated.

Monthly litter pick total – 167 against 179 for May 2015. **Our records** now show that we have collected over 9000 bags of litter since we started.



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Next litter pick – Volunteers week 1-12 June – Saturday 4th June. Despite asking the scouts from various villages to come along, none are able to help as all scouts seem to be on a camp, and the school needed a poster to be able to help advertise it, and we didn't have one. We also invited the 1188 Air Cadet Squadron who didn't reply to our invitation. We have, however, put the details of our event on the Volunteers Week website, complete with a pin in the map showing where we are. An article regarding the forthcoming **litter pick** was printed in the CV Times of 14 May.

Chairs Report

Letters received:

- From the centre asking for nomination for group rep. for AGM. Nita put herself forward.
- From **St John's, Whitwick**, inviting us to the service of institution and induction of the Rev. Liz Angell. Nita and Ann are going.

Emails received:

- Various from people with whom we regularly share information.
- From **Dean and Chapter of Leicester Cathedral** inviting us to attend an evensong to mark the 90th birthday of HM Queen on 12 June at 3pm as part of a day of celebration in the city. Unfortunately, nobody is able to attend this.

Emails sent:

- Reported various fly tipping to the council, and sent emails to others regarding on-going issues.
- **Pot hole** at the junction of Melrose Road and Loughborough Road (club end) reported to county in February finally filled in on 18 May.
- **Damage to fencing** around Melrose Road play area reported to NWLDC on 18 May repaired the same day.
- **Reported damage to cattle arch** at entrance to new plantation part of Grace Dieu Woods to members of Friends of Grace Dieu Priory. A lady had pointed out cracks in the brickwork and deterioration of other areas due to loss of coping stones and the amount of foliage growing from the railway line and holding water.

Promotion:

- We have **377 twitter followers**, an increase of 9 this month and **298 facebook followers** an increase of 13 this month. We continue to post things to both our facebook and twitter feeds relating to things happening locally, and put more pictures of our planting on facebook (Brook Lane)

Other:

- We have 3 **new members**. Welcome to Tina Bakewell, Hannah Montgomery and Lucy Yorke.
- **Century of Stories** press release (as above) was in the CV Times of 20 May.
- Nita had a visit from family of someone whose name wasn't chosen for a road name on the new **Priory** site objecting strongly to the fact that their family wasn't being memorialized. Contacted Bellway and they sent a letter explaining what had already been explained face to face in that it was a council decision on the road names chosen. Subsequent meeting with family was very pleasant.



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- Reported to **Western Power Distribution** that two fence panels to the electric sub-station at the rear of St Andrew's had been pulled from their moorings and broken up.
- Have agreed to lend our **marquee** out to the church for an event on 21 August.
- Had several comments on facebook about the new **Priory site** and the lack of things in the village for people to do, the problems with the bus service, and also asking about whether windows from the properties would overlook the school playing fields. Referred people to the council's planning website.
- **Collected 2 litter pick sticks** back from the carer of a learning difficulties chap who can no longer help with litter picking the woods. They were thanked for the work they have done in the past.
- We have agreed with the centre that they can use some of our **hi viz vests** for staff at the music festival to reduce costs trying to find sponsorship for t-shirts.
- The person who **delivered Baubles** for us to Grace Dieu Road, City of 3 Waters, Whitwick Moor, Talbot Lane and Brook Lane has now left the village. Thank you to Sarah Hoult-Ellingworth for taking over Brook Lane, Talbot Lane and Whitwick Moor. If anybody fancies doing Grace Dieu Road and City of 3 Waters, please contact Nita.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)			£2,253.95
Income		Expenditure	
1939 register info	£1.00	Broadband etc.	£12.87
Membership renewals/new	£397	Plants from Lount sale	£5.00
Bellway Homes editorial	£50	Computer ink	£11.80
Raffle	£8.00	Plants from car boot	£5.00
Payment from art group	£3.00		
Donations	£27.40	Raffle prizes	£4.00
		Photocopying at centre	£61.80
		Car parking	0.50
		Annual donation to Community Centre	£150.00
total income to general fund		Total expenditure	£250.97
	£486.40	Total general fund at month end	£2,489.38

Publications Report

Nothing sold.

Web Report



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The website has been updated with all newsletters to date, all minutes to May, awards updated, and one of our new publications put on there and some of our photos from Century of Stories. The webmaster is working on other updates when he has the time, including taking out all the dates in the next meeting link and just putting that all our meetings are on the 1st Thursday of the month at 6.45pm at the centre..

Police Report – PCSO Mark Ball

- Gent on Melrose Road had his van tyres slashed and then someone broke the passenger side window. Not reported to police, as nobody saw anything.
- Two persons tried to break into a van on Swallowdale. They were disturbed in the process, and police attended but did not locate them
- Damage to a fence in Ashdale. Caller was concerned they were trying to get to the shed, but there were no signs of break in or anything taken from garden
- Someone called to report persons trying to sell tools in the area, but sadly the caller rang the police 3 hours after the incident so it was too late to attend.

Community Report and What's On

- There is a brand new general auction every Thursday evening at the **Kings Arms, Whitwick**. Don't miss all the bargains galore in store. Lots taken from 1.30pm, viewing 5 pm, auction starts 7.15pm.
- The donations made at the centre's event **Night In Venice** on 1 June for Breast Cancer care raised £149.87, and the raffle made £74 for the sensory room at The Old School House. Thanks to everybody who helped with this, and to those who gave money.
- **Zumba Gold** latin dance inspired fitness classes at Park Hall in Whitwick Park every Tuesday at 10am. Cost £4. Just turn up.
- **Thringstone Pantomime & Drama Society** is a not for profit company based at Thringstone Community Centre. They are looking for new members to join the team in the following areas:-
Front Of House volunteers – they are looking for some friendly faces to greet our audience. FOH have many roles including showing people to their seats, selling raffle tickets/programmes, selling drinks and ice creams and making tea/coffee for the cast and audience.
Back stage:-
Set Design, Build & Making Props Staff – They want to put together a team of committed volunteers who one minute might be making a cuckoo clock and the next building a palace fit for a princess. (It's never boring!)
Staff – the crew shouldn't be seen or heard! Can you help the team to quickly change the scenery and put props on the set ready in time for lights up! The crew usually get together two weeks before the show to put everything together for opening night.
The set design and build nights are Tuesday and/or Thursday and start in September.
Auditions for onstage members will take place in September. You will need to be able to sing a song and follow some simple dance steps. They perform shows in January and May each year.
If you would like to join contact TPADS direct on chair@tpads.org, through their facebook page or through the community centre.



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- **The Woodstock Woofers' Walk** on 22 May raised £101 for Woodstock in Whitwick. Thanks to all the people and their dogs who came out.
- The fund raising total for the sensory equipment for The Old School House reached £3,260 following their ladies' night on 20 May with further fundraising to come. Thanks to all who are helping with this.
- The centre's **summer play scheme** is scheduled to run from 1-5 August. Volunteers are needed to help. If you are interested, please contact the centre on 222337.
- 3 June – **Whitwick Constitutional Club** – Adele tribute act. 9pm start. £3 members, £5 non-members.
- 4-6 June – **Woodhouse Eaves Open Garden event**. 2pm-6pm. Participating properties will be obvious (so they say).
- 6 June – **Fund Raising Quiz for The Old School House**, Thringstone's sensory room at Lady Jane, Whitwick starting at 8pm.
- 10 June – **Soul and Motown** night at Thringstone House Community Centre. Starts at 8pm. Tickets £3 in advance and £5 on the door.
- 11 June – **Thringstone Primary School** fete from 12 noon.
- 11 June – Summer fete and celebration tea party for Queen's 90th birthday at **Viscount Beaumont School, Ashby Road, Coleorton**. Starts at 2pm and finishes at 4pm. Cream teas, bouncy castles, beer and burgers, plus a raffle on offer.
- 11 June – **Coalville High Street Summerfest** – traction engines, fun fair, food, stalls and music from Hermitage FM. Starts midday.
- 11 June – **Proms in the Park at Coalville Park**. 6pm-9.30pm. Hugglescote Community Choir, New Orleans Jazz Band, Ashby Big Band and others. Free.
- 11 June – Summer Jamboree at **Lady Jane, Whitwick** – charity music event with live bands in aid of Olivia's Journey brain cancer charity and the children's cancer ward at Nottingham QMC.
- 12 June – **Fun Gala for Juniors at Thringstone Bowling Club** starting at 2pm and finishing at 6pm. All youngsters aged 9 to 18 are welcome to have a go and participate in fun bowling activities. Please wear flat bottomed footwear. Qualified bowls coaches will be on hand. Further information contact 222475.
- 12 June – **Picnic in the Parks, Coalville Park** – starts at 12 noon and goes on until 6pm. Lots of music, stalls and entertainment, including the Black Eagles acrobatic show, suitable for all the family.
- 17 June – **Whitwick Constitutional Club** – Michael Buble tribute from Mitchell Buble. £3 for members, £5 for non members.
- 17 June – Osgathorpe Hall, Osgathorpe – open air production of **Gulliver's Travels**. Tickets from 411767 or see www.thepantaloons.co.uk Adults £13.50, children under 16 £8, or family ticket of 2 adults 2 children for £37. Bring a picnic and something to sit on.
- 18 June – Olivia's journey (cancer fundraiser) at **Hermitage Leisure Centre**. More details from the centre please.
- 18 June – St Andrew's Church – **Angel Voices in concert** from 7pm. Rev. Richard White is bringing a choir from Birmingham to entertain the audience. Tickets £5 to include drinks and nibbles.
- 18 June – **Gerald's Mystery Walk with Hermitage FM** - £3.50 to include drink and cake. Meet at Hermitage FM at 1.30pm.



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- 21 June – **Friends of Grace Dieu Priory** relaunch event. 7pm at the school hub at Grace Dieu Manor School. All welcome. Refreshments provided after short talk and presentation.
- 2 July – Alfie's fun day – music and events at **Man Within Compass, Whitwick**. Starts at 12 noon.
- 8 July – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – Elvis and Neil Diamond tribute with Dave Dixon
- 9 July – **Lesley Smith** at Grace Dieu Priory with a performance on Elizabeth 1. Starts at 6.30pm. Free, but donations requested. Please park on the priory field, NOT the Bull's Head car park.
- 16 July – **Hare and Hounds Music Festival** supporting the Royal British Legion, Olivia's Charity and Gail's Wishes. Starts at 12 noon.
- 21 July – **Relaunch of Friends of Grace Dieu Priory**. Please meet at The Hub, Grace Dieu Manor School at 7pm. There will be some refreshments and details on the group and their work to date.
- 6 August – **Music Festival** at Thringstone Community Centre. Open from 12 noon. FREE
- 7 August – **Charity dog walk** from Black Wheel in Whitwick to Monastery finishing then back at Hare and Hounds, Whitwick for BBQ at 3pm. Dog show there are 4pm and evening quiz from 7.30pm in aid of Oncology Unit at LRI.
- 13 -14 August – **Woodstock in Whitwick** at Hermitage Leisure Centre. Starts at 1pm.
- 20-28 August – Thringstone House Community Centre – **Art Exhibition**. See board nearer the time for opening times.
- 27 August – **Thringstone's Got Talent** – talent competition at Thringstone House Community Centre. Starts at 7.30pm. Hosted by Shannon Helen Fear. Many excellent acts.
- 28 August – Music Festival at the **Conny Club, Whitwick**. More details nearer the time.
- 24 September – St Andrew's, Thringstone – **Moiria Male Voice Choir** in charity concert to raise money for the sensory unit at Old School House, Thringstone.
- 24 September - Hermitage Leisure Centre – The Jerseys in concert – Frankie Valli tribute. Doors open at 6.30pm with ticket prices starting at £12 in the tiered seating through to £19 in the VIP area. For more information on tickets call the centre or 07719 636374.
- 14 Oct – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – 80s night with Jayne Lesley
- 28 Oct – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – Elton John Tribute evening

History report

- In the CV Times of 14 May was an article and photo relating to Ronald Concannon who was killed in WW2. This man is one of the 4 men remembered on the brass plaque within St Andrew's church. We knew that **Ronald Charles Concannon**, was born in 1917 and married in 1940 to Gerty Matchett. They lived in Thringstone. He was killed in the Brussels area of Belgium on 10 September 1944, and was a sergeant in the Green Howards. He was buried in Brussels town cemetery and was part of a very large family, who in 1911 were living at Violet Cottage, Church Lane, Whitwick. His parents were Bernard Concannon (a bricklayer from Whitwick) and Bridget nee Welch from Birmingham. It was believed that his wife, Gerty, went over to Brussels to see Ron's grave, met a cemetery worker there, married him and stayed in Belgium. The recent article added to this information – he was one of 8 children whose parents died quite young. He played football for the school team and Holy Cross. He was much respected locally and the telegram



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telling of his death suggested that he was leading his men into battle near to the Albert Canal in Belgium when they came under heavy gunfire and he was wounded. He was rushed to a Brussels hospital, but died from his injuries. The day the telegram arrived, his wife received a birthday card and pair of nylons from her now deceased husband. He had been befriended by a Belgian family near to his camp and had asked them to post the card and gift so not to miss his wife's birthday. After the war, his wife Gerty kept in touch with the Belgian family and went with their 4 year old son, David, to stay with them so he could see his father's grave. Whilst there she met the family's next door neighbour and married him – Frank Van De Meale – and stayed in Belgium. She had 2 more sons before once again becoming a widow. Nita said it was important to research these people so that they weren't just a list of names, but regarded as actual people who had lives, families and in some cases children.

- In the Leicester Chronicle of 29 April 1911 were details of the opening ceremony for the extension to the community centre provided by **Charles Booth**. The article tells that the extension provided a hall of 55 feet long by 35 feet wide, under which were well appointed billiard and card rooms with a large entrance lobby connecting the old farmhouse with the new building. The building costs had been £3,000, paid for by Charles Booth who had also furnished the hall and provided the billiard tables. .
- **Talbot House Farm** – from previous minutes, you will know that we have been researching the White family who lived there. In the Leicester Mercury of 19 May was the obituary for Frances Eleanor (Polly) White, formerly of the farm. The newspaper says that she died on 8 April aged 83, and her funeral is at Loughborough Crematorium on 7 June at 11.45am. Having looked at the birth, marriages and death listings, it is strange to find that there are only 2 Frances E White's born in the early 1930s, both in 1931, so we think that the age quoted in the obituary is probably incorrect. We believe she was born in 1931 in Shardlow, as that fits in with other information we have. We believe her mother was a Woodward. Polly's brother was John Francis (Jack) White (1923-1993) who also had a mother with the maiden name of Woodward as did Charles William (Bill) White, who we know to be another brother. We believe that there was a sister called Beryl, which again fits in with the name Woodward for a mother.

We believe that Polly's father was John Francis White born 15 October 1892 in Barton Blount, Derbyshire (son of William White, farmer). Polly's father died 1971 in the Coalville area. Her mother was Frances M Woodward born 1892 died 1967 Coalville. Prior to marriage, Polly's father had farmed with his father William in Lockington which all fits in with the Shardlow connections.

- Thank you to Jack Tugby and Chris Matchett for letting us have some more **photos** from his collection and thank you to David White for providing us with slides of the church and chapel areas in days gone by..
- The Century of Stories team is looking for details of **soldiers killed in the first battle of The Somme**, which ran from 1 July 1916 until 18 November 1916, as they are putting on an exhibition at Leicester Cathedral later in the year, as well as populating their website with information on this period.

3 men connected with Thringstone fell into this category – Herbert Mann Grainger, Thomas Squires and Lawrence Albert Whitmore, so Nita carried out further research from what we originally had, and sent details on all these men, complete with war effect records and a will



RCC

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Stepping out for a greener district



The Friends of Thringstone

(for Thomas Squires), to the team for inclusion in their records and for the pinterest.com site mentioned earlier. **Herbert Mann Grainger**, whose parents had both died at a young age, lived with a maternal aunt in Main Street then moved to Hough Hill, Swannington. He was a Wesleyan and went to the chapel in Main Street. He was 32 and unmarried. He had joined up within a week of the war starting.

Lawrence Albert Whitmore had been a miner at Whitwick Colliery and had lived in Talbot Street, Whitwick with his mother, step-father and several full and half siblings. He was 21 when he died.

Within the new research carried out, Nita found out that **Thomas Squires**, another miner, who married Martha Haywood from Shepshed in the summer of 1913, had a son called William born on 12 July 1914, which was only 2 months before he joined up. Thomas was 24 when he was killed. Martha Squires remarried in 1925 and continued to live in Shepshed.

- Following a phone call from the current occupant of the house next to the Bull's Head car park, properly called **Ashby Lodge**, about the 1939 occupants of his house, we found the relevant schedule to discover that Charles and Florence Willmott lived there. Both born in 1903, Charles worked at Grace Dieu Manor as head gardener (kitchen and flowers) and was said to grow lovely chrysanthemum flowers 'with heads as big as cabbages'. The 2 nearby properties at Abbey Ford Farm were occupied by the Burton family who were dairy farmers. Between 1958 and 1977, Brian and June Wickwar lived at Ashby Lodge. Brian worked at the school as a general maintenance man, and what is now the top half of the sustrans track from the Bull's Head was part of the garden to the lodge in which was grown vegetables. The property was rented from Gracedieu school, but is owned by the de Lisle family. Brian took over the property from a priest at the school, who we believe was called Peter Kane, and who left the priesthood and married. He had had the property extended, on agreement with the de Lisle family, to include a new kitchen and extra bedroom and when the Wickwar's were there, it comprised of 5 rooms. Brian believes that the property is older than the 1853 date on it now, is a wooden framed construction and at one time had no foundations. Brian has told us that there were originally 3 cottages over from the Bull's Head which were used as an isolation hospital at one time, and around the war period, a lorry went into the end cottage and it had to be demolished. He maintains that the bricks from that cottage went to build the porch at the Bull's Head, which he says also had a small petrol pump within its grounds, although we feel it was possibly a water pump. We intend to do further investigations into all this in due course. Bernard told us of the extent of the garden to Ashby Lodge and his exploits in that area in his youth and what was grown in the cottage garden.

Councillors' report

- Street lighting changes – you will have noticed street light changes recently. All street lights across the county are going to LED as part of a 3 year project. The County Council is spending a total of £25m on this change across the whole county but reckon it will reduce energy usage by 60% and save the council £2m a year on bills. All lights should still go off at 12 midnight, but the new system has the ability for lights to be switched on temporarily from a central control source if there is an accident for example, or to help emergency services. If yours has stopped turning itself off at midnight, please report this to the county



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council. There have been 2 instances in Springfield where the lights are now on past midnight, which Nita has spoken to county hall about and they are rectifying. She was told today in a conversation with them that it may be necessary in the future for streetlights to go off at 10pm in order to give further savings.

Gardening and environment

- Nita went to the New Lount Volunteers' **plant sale** and bought 4 shrubs to replace dead ones mentioned last month for £5. She also bought 2 others from the Thursday car boot at the Rugby Club. We do, however, still need good shrubs to plant if anybody has any going free!
- Bernard has done some weeding down **Drury Lane, Millhouse and Brook Lane**, put in some rosemary plants as well as planting the new bushes as above and a lilac bush.
- Thanks go to Joyce Gelsthorpe for giving us some **plants** which were put in down Drury Lane.

AOB

- Nigel said he was trying to enlarge on the village's perception of FoT, and working with the music festival was helping with this.
- The meeting was very encouraged to see Mike Statham present, and wished him well going forward.

Next meeting is 7 July 2016 at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



R C C

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