



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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We are also on facebook/twitter. Twitter address @Thringstone2

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2017 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Bernard Lee, Ann Petty, Janet Stevenson, Pat Darby, Pam Porter, Bill Enser, Anita Jones, Sarah Baxter, Julie and Dave Everitt, Pat Hubbard, Tracy Foulds, Maureen Simms, John Jackson, Gillian Bates

Apologies; Nigel and Mary Roberts, Mike and Anne Statham, Geoff Walker

Discussions/Decisions.

Volunteer Event 6 June – We had about 30 people during the 2 and a half hours we ran this event at the centre with Friends of Grace Dieu Priory. Thank you to the centre for hosting the event, and thank you to all those members of our group who baked for us. You have some serious talent. Nothing was left. 2 lots of cake were delivered to members who are ill and couldn't come out, press releases were done, and posts put on our facebook and twitter feeds. We also sent information to the Volunteer Week press office.

Benches on The Green – The benches by the Booth memorial are looking shabby, so Nita contacted NWLDC about this. FoT sanded them down and revarnished them in 2009. The ownership of the benches is, as far as the council is concerned, n doubt. We understand that the committee at the time raised money for the Booth memorial. As we understand it, the committee comprised of Brenda Simpson, Jan Cufflin, Lilian Taylor (who has now left the village), Tom Fairbrother and Pete Atkin.. One bench was then provided by NWLDC (the Agnes Smith bench), one by the community centre, and one from money left over from the cost of getting the stone organised. The council has said that, this time, they will be able to refurbish those benches though the uncertain position regarding ownership/ maintenance remains exactly the same as it was in 2009 – so please note that this is not something that they can guarantee to always do. The Parks Department will do the job but they have a heavy workload during the summer season and it will be 4-6 weeks before they can undertake the work. The benches will be taken away and refurbished off-site and then returned to site in a finished condition - this will avoid the potential "wet paint" related issues. *Bernard said that the benches had now been removed, but it looked like they had sawn through the fittings to remove these.*



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Stepping out for a greener district



Overgrown bushes on Loughborough Road – The path down to the Bull's Head along Loughborough Road has been difficult to walk along because of overgrown hedges. These form part of the boundary to the Bull's Head car park, but the landlord would not trim them back, as he said that his duty of care stopped when the wall by the pub finished. As a result, Nita reported this to County Hall on 7 June. By 1 July nothing had been done, despite Nita having received an incident report number, so the gent at 166 Loughborough Road cut the hedges back himself. Nita has reported this to the council to save them the bother of investigating further.

Fallen tree by cattle arch on route leading to woods from Bull's Head car park
A rotten tree, laden with ivy, fell across the route to the woods and blocked the cattle arch. Various people have tried to clear this, and to some degree succeeded, but the fallen tree is still there. John Dickinson has been to inspect the tree and has been in touch with Sustrans, the de Lisle estate etc. to try and get it removed. It is safe and it is possible to get through for the moment. Bill Newton has cleared brambles, as has Nigel Roberts.

Miners' Gala 25 June – Thanks to Janet Stevenson, Ann Petty and Kathy Mardon for helping with the publications stall at this event. Much appreciated.

Music Festival – This is taking place at the centre on 5 August. FoT will be having a stall. We have some people who have volunteered to help, but will not turn down any others who want to come along. Please contact Nita if you think you can help.

Heritage Open Days - The centre will be open on 9 September between 12 noon and 3pm for people to come and see what there is there, learn a bit about Charles Booth and the centre generally, and have a cup of tea, coffee or just a chat. All welcome.

Prominent women event on 7 October – We continue to work on this event, to ensure that it is successful. If anybody wishes to help us with this, please contact Nita.

Monthly litter pick total – 164. against 153 for June 2016 Our records show that we have now collected and removed over 11,150 bags of litter since we started recording these things. July is likely to be a bumper month, as on one day this week, Nita picked up 342 items of litter from the football field at the back of the bowls club in one go.

Chairs Report

Letters received:

- 2 from members enclosing membership money and donations

Emails received:

- Various from people with whom we regularly share information

.Emails sent:

- Various to groups and individuals as usual. Reported several cases of flytipping.

Promotion:

- We have **455 twitter followers**, which is 3 more than last month and **482 facebook followers**, which is 29 more than last month. We are continuing to post details of local events and also historical photos on both sites. This month, we posted pictures of Drury Lane in 2006 before we transformed the area into what it has now become.

Other:

- **Found a mobile phone** belonging to a girl on Booth Road whilst out litter picking and returned it to her.
- Welcome to Sandra Carter who has joined our group.
- Our condolences go to the family of our member Margaret Richardson who died on 3 July.



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Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,186.52		
Income		Expenditure	
Publications	£19.50	Broadband	£10.50
Raffle	£15	AGM expenses	£29.80
Memberships	£63	Raffle tickets	£2.00
Donation	£15	Vol event costs	£7.53
total income to general fund	£112.50	Total expenditure	£49.83
		Total general fund at month end	£2,249.19

Publications Report

3 Scottish in Thringstone, 1 pubs book and 1 Thringstone and Its People were sold at Picnic in the Parks at the Miners Gala part of the event.

We have few copies now of both the Durham Miners and Scottish booklets.

The meeting agreed that 10 of each should be reprinted/photocopied.

Nita said she would try to do this at some stage.

Web Report

Nothing to report. The last updates were done in April.

Police Report

Our new PCSO is Lynette Rose.

- At 4.20am on 5 June, thieves tried to remove the ATM machine from **Thringstone Co-op**. They failed with this attempt. The police were alerted, but had to come from Loughborough and missed the culprits by about 5 minutes. We are told that the thieves sped away in a Toyota car which was followed by police who had their car rammed. The police found the car at Copt Oak, but the culprits had fled.
- A car coming **from the A512** into Thringstone lost control on the bend just past the Bull's Head where the traffic calming used to be and ended up in the ditch at the front of the Bellway site on 6 June. Police were called and a recovery vehicle removed the vehicle from the ditch.
- There was a van fire outside 77 **Loughborough Road** on 8 June and the hedge was burnt. This van was carrying products which were taken out and put in another van before the fire brigade got there
- Overnight on 9/10 June, a man on **Melrose Road** had his van broken into. The vehicle had been left secured, and the rear window was smashed and a number of tools taken.
- A cycle was taken from the drive of a property on **Loughborough Road** overnight on 12/13 June
- Gee Lane – **Bellway site** – between 5.30pm on 9 June and 7am on 10 June, vehicle which was left secure on driveway had window smashed and an item taken.



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- The police are aware of a man in a **hi viz vest** who has been seen and photographed doing a poo in various areas of the village. The latest episode was on 7 June when he did this near the bus stop on Loughborough Road. If anybody sees this happen, please report it to the police.
- We are sad to announce that somebody stole the hanging baskets from the display at the front of **Ruby's**. We believe that this happened sometime between 11pm Friday night 23 June and 7am Saturday morning. If anybody has any information regarding this, please let the shop know in confidence by sending a message. Anybody with any information leading to the safe return of the hanging baskets will be rewarded with a free fish and chip supper for two.
- Theft - **Whitwick Health Centre, Whitwick** between 9am – 12.45pm on 22 June, a handbag was stolen from work premises. Phone call from caller asking for bank details and subsequently money withdrawn from account.
- 25 June – report made to police regarding youngsters setting **fires in the woods**. Two of our members found 3 or 4 kids on bikes under the trees setting an extremely dangerous fire. It was set in a bit of a pit and so hot that it took 15 minutes to put it out totally. It was next to rapidly browning bushes and the whole area is covered in a dry layer of leaf litter. This information was shared with Thringstone Primary who mentioned it at an assembly.
- The lady selling eggs from the former **Star Beer House on Main Street** has always put her eggs on the front doorstep and put an honesty box by the side. As a result of all the eggs being taken and no money left twice in June, she is no longer putting the boxes out, so if anybody now wants eggs from her, you need to knock on the door and ask.
- In the early hours of 4 July, the house belonging to the child minder on **Main Street** had their garage door forced and tools and children's toys were taken.
- We understand that there have been similar break-ins to garages in **Swallowdale** this month
- We also understand that several people who park their cars on **Main Street** have had the mirror part of their wing mirrors taken out during the last week of June by persons unknown.

Community Report and What's On

Message from Dr Hepplewhite and Virman's surgery – They now have a new quarterly newsletter and patient information sheet. You can see it on www.whitwickhealthcentre.co.uk. On the left click on news, then in red on the right it will say 'read our newsletter'. Clicking on that will make issue 1 appear. There are articles about staff changes, why the receptionist asks what's wrong with you and several other things. Printed copies are also available from the surgery.

Ruby's fish and chip shop has received a certificate of excellence from Trip Advisor. Well done team. They are also now frying new potatoes.

The summer fayre at Thringstone Primary raised £1,700. The money will go towards providing the school with new play equipment.

Congratulations go to Heather Montgomery who works at **The Old School House** for becoming joint winner of the June Faulkner Cup 2017 and to her mother Linda who works at Hayes Close in Whitwick for being nominated for this award.



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Thringstone Primary sent some students to a schools' athletic event the Saffron Lane stadium in Leicester where they won a gold in the 50m sprint final and a bronze for 2 students in the throwing final. Well done to the students concerned..

A craft club takes place at St Joseph's Tea rooms, Oak Road, Oaks in Charnwood (used to be called The Belfry). This is on Tuesday evenings from 6pm-8pm. People can bring their own crafts or join in crafts already being undertaken. There is a £3 suggested contribution.

- 7 July – D-Tour Theatre Company present **3 one act comedy plays** by David Tristram at Thringstone House Community Centre. Tickets £12.50 to include a fish and chip supper (alternative available if booked in advance). Curtain up at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the centre and from the theatre company direct on 07958 777191 or via [ticketsource](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/dtour) on www.ticketsource.co.uk/dtour.
- 8 July – **Alfi Day** – Coalville Town Football Club– 12 noon until 10pm. Charity football match, stalls, live music. Charity event for Children's brain tumour research.
- 14 July – **Soul club at Thringstone Members Club** with guest DJ Helen Crowther-Dowey. £3 admission. Starts at 8pm.
- 15 July – **Gresley Youth Band** in concert at Thringstone House Community Centre. Start 7.30pm. Tickets £7 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone or from the centre office, open Monday-Friday 9am-12noon.
- 16 July – **Friends of Grace Dieu Priory** walk from Bull's Head car park at 6pm as part of Festival of Archeology. Price £3. Learn all about this fascinating ruin.
- 18 July – **George and Dragon** – Pizza and Pasta Buffet Night – All you can eat for £12 a head. Booking recommended on 222282.
- 20 July – **Hanson's Valuer's at New Inn**, Pegg's Green, 5pm-7pm. Free valuations for all your antiques and collectables.
- 22 July – **Hare and Hounds Music Festival**.
- 22 July – **Ultimate Bee Gees at Conkers**. Start 8pm. Doors open 7.30pm Tickets £18. Special offer of £32 for 2 tickets. Free car parking. Tickets from <http://www.visitconkers.com/events/bee-gees-tribute-saturday-22nd-july-2017--379>
- 23 July – **Friends of Grace Dieu Priory** walk from Bull's Head car park at 6pm as part of Festival of Archeology. Price £3. Learn all about this fascinating ruin.
- 29 July – **Charity fun day** at King's Arms, Whitwick in aid of Rainbows.
- 5 August – **Thringstone Live Music Festival 2017**. All day free music event at the community centre with doors open at 12 noon.
- 10 August - **Hanson's Valuer's at New Inn**, Pegg's Green, 5pm-7pm. Free valuations for all your antiques and collectables.
- 18 August – **New Inn, Peggs Green** - Yeehaw hoedown with BBQ Games and live music from the Annie Duggan Band. Starts at 6.30pm
- 19 August – **New Inn, Peggs Green** – Summer Fun day with craft stalls, food stalls, bouncy castle etc. 12pm until 5.30pm followed by live music, karaoke and much more from 6.30pm
- 19-20 August – **Woodstock in Whitwick** at Hermitage Leisure Centre grounds. 10am – 9pm. Free entry. Lots of live music and stalls and things for the children.
- 19-28 August – **Art Exhibition** at Thringstone Community centre. Saturdays 1pm-5pm, Sundays 2pm-5pm, weekdays 3pm-9pm, bank holiday Monday 1pm-5pm



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footprints
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- 26-28 Aug- **Craft and Flower Festival** from 10am-4pm at St Peter's church, Bardon. Theme is countries of the world. Children's quiz, tombola, refreshments, and lots of crafts in the marquee.
- 2 Sept – **Packington Horticultural Show**. All proceeds go to Help For Heroes.
- 9 Sept – **Heritage Open Day at Thringstone House Community Centre** from 12-3pm. Come and learn about the centre, have a look round, learn a bit more about Charles Booth and have a cup or tea or coffee and a chat.
- 9 Sept – **Thringstone's Got Talent** at Thringstone Community Centre. Local acts putting on performances. The charity this year is the British Kidney Transplant Support Association.
- 7 Oct – Exhibition at the centre on **The Prominent Women of NW Leicestershire**. Will start at 12 noon and go on until about 5pm.
- 14 Oct – **Craft Fayre** at the community centre. All welcome. 12 noon until 5pm.
- 20 Oct – **Lesley Smith as Nell Gwynne** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Doors open at 7.30pm with performance starting at 8pm. Tickets £8 from the centre or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone
- 4 Nov - **George and Dragon** bonfire night.
- 10 Nov – provisional date for **Thringstone House village quiz**.
- 25 Nov – **Moonshiners 50s tribute** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Tickets £6 7.30pm start. Tickets available through www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone or direct from the centre office.
- 9 Dec - **Abba Tribute** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Further details nearer the time.

History report

- During a clear out at the centre, a plaque was found. This relates to a squadron who worked as part of the **Green Goddess Crew** in 1977/8 during a period of strike when all fire brigades downed tools over a dispute regarding pay. This is now going to be kept with other FoT archives. The crew's sergeant was Pete Whitfield, and the whole crew of men, mostly in their 20s, and not locals, lived and stayed at the centre. Single beds and bedding had been previously provided upstairs at the centre for an educational group who had come from France, and these were then used for the crew. They did their own cooking, other than Christmas when a Christmas meal was cooked for them at the centre. People who remember them said they only had about one call out in the months they were there, and that was for a chimney fire. They regularly had parties, and were very popular with the local young ladies. When they left, they had a presentation evening, at which the plaque was presented. Iris Watret, who was at the time caretaker at the centre, was given an ice bucket as well.
- **Rose and Crown** – In the Leicester Journal of 2 Oct 1874 is mention of the granting of a temporary license from James Gough to George James Gough (his son). The transfer of license became permanent at the petty session on 24 October that year. We previously believed that George did not take over the pub until 1877. We did know that Mr James Gough was still the landlord in August 1874 as there was a meeting of the Ancient Order of Foresters at the pub which was widely reported.
- **The George and Dragon** – listed in the Derbyshire Advertiser of 1 February 1918 are details of an auction of 18 lots of property and land belonging to Samuel Harriman



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deceased, which includes the George and Dragon. This is new information, as we did not know about Mr Harriman or his property portfolio. This land, pubs, cottages, shops, a market garden, farms and other property covered Shepshed, Thringstone, Belton and Kegworth, and amongst those properties listed are also The Railway Hotel in Shepshed. From the advert, it would seem that at that time the pub also had coach houses, a 4 stall stable, loose box and yard, and was let to Hansons Limited on a lease expiring on 25 March 1923. Mr Harriman was a hosiery manufacturer in Shepshed. He died in 1897 at Millview House, Shepshed aged 50 years, but his affairs were complicated since his business interests linked with his brother, Mr J Harriman, JP. The brothers seem to have had the largest hosiery concern in the area. Samuel had previously tried to stand for parish council as a conservative candidate in 1894 and was President of the Shepshed and District Poultry, Pigeon, Bird and Rabbit Society.. He had also been a member of the Urban Sanitary District Council since its formation

- **John Biddle, baker** – In our book Thringstone and Its People, we talk about John Biddle running a bakery from Whitwick Moor and then Gracedieu Road in the mid 1800s. John Biddle was briefly mentioned in our minutes of November 2015. Further investigation has shown that Mr Biddle had at least 10 children. One of these was a son called William, who died in 1856. This is recorded in the Leicester Chronicle of 22 March 1856. The child was 13 months old, and was with his sister who had taken off his hat and handkerchief, but then lost sight of him. He was found 5 minutes later lying face down in 'some moisture' running from a pile of manure in the yard, and found to be dead. A verdict of accidental death was recorded. Mr Biddle also appears in the news in 1869 for selling bread without weight on 12 April, an inspector having seen a loaf of bread being sold to a girl without being weighed, which at that time was against the law. On weighing the loaf, it was found to be 3.5 ounces deficient, and he was fined £1 and costs. A similar event happened in November 1882 and another court case was held to 'prevent the public from being deceived'. In the Leicester Chronicle of 2 December 1882, it stated that Mr Biddle was saying that a cottage loaf was 'fancy bread' which did not have to be weighed, but the bench ruled otherwise. Mr Biddle was fined 2 shillings and 6 pence and costs. We have also established that Mr Biddle either rented or owned 2 acres of pastureland with barn and 2 closes 'of superior old turf land' fronting onto Whitwick Moor and leading to the road running from Whitwick to Thringstone comprising 5 acres. Both these parcels of land were auctioned in July 1861. As stated in our November 2015 minutes, John Biddle also seems to have owned 3, 5, 7 and 9 The Green. One of their sons, also called John Biddle, was also a baker, and lived at both Rose Cottage and Myrtle House in Thringstone. He died on 10 January 1929. One of the Biddle's daughters, Catherine, married Daniel Amos Webb who is featured as a prominent person in Thringstone and Its People. She lived at The Willows, next to what is now the Chapel Fitness centre. Their eldest daughter, Mary Ann, married Jacob Webb, brother to Daniel Amos Webb. Many of the Biddle family are buried close to the Webb family at the altar end of the churchyard. John Biddle died on 15 February 1887 in Thringstone. His wife, Mary, died on 1 January 1902. Their daughter Rosetta died aged 21 in 1878 and her gravestone at St Andrew's also recalls their daughter Elizabeth who died in 1862 aged 19 and William, as above. Several other members of the Biddle family are buried close by.



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- **The Warren Farm, Gracedieu** – was mentioned in an article in the Derbyshire Advertiser of 1 February 1884 as being for sale. Listed as being 110 acres, 3 roods and 31 perches, this farm was listed as overlooking Gracedieu Park, being a mile from Thringstone and one and a half miles from Whitwick Station. The occupier at that time was given as John Carter who may have been the father of Thomas 'Cofdy' Carter of The Moor Farm, Thringstone..
- **Glebe Farm** – In our book, Thringstone and Its People, we talk about the Hall family living at this farm in the 1920s and Joseph Henry Billings taking it over in the 1940s. We have found a newspaper report in the Sunday Pictorial now the Sunday Mirror dated 11 November 1945 which says that two and half years previously, Mr Billings, a farm bailiff employed by Coalville Urban District Council, had bought Glebe Farm and told the tenant Mr Hall that he would have to find himself a new home, as Mr Billings wanted the house for himself. Mr Hall did not move out and court papers were subsequently served to evict him and his wife and 8 children. Mr Hall had been to the council to ask for help but had been told that there were 500 people on the waiting list, and the council was unable to help. It is unclear when the Hall family left or where they moved to.
- In addition to the above information on **Glebe Farm**, we have been talking to a gent whose grandfather, **Benjamin Edgar Hicken**, farmed there from about 1932 until 1939. Benjamin Edgar Hicken was born in Swannington on 4 September 1898 and married Sarah Elizabeth/Sally Hull in 1923. We have a photo of Benjamin Hicken and his bride in 1923. Sally was born on 24 October 1902, and was from a farming family. The Hicken's took over Glebe Farm from the Belcher family and both the Hicken and **Belcher family** are briefly mentioned in Thringstone and Its People. John Thomas Belcher was born on 1 November 1884 and married Zoe Underwood from Whitwick who was born on 13 January 1883 at St Johns, Whitwick on 26 February 1908. We are told that Mrs Zoe Belcher was a small lady with a lovely smile and was also a talented artist. She died on 26 October 1954.. The Belcher's had a daughters Zoe Isabel and in 1911, the Belcher family was living at 1 Green Lane, Whitwick. There was a son called George Thomas Edwin Belcher who was born in 1911 but died the same year. Thomas was at that time a coach body maker and after having given up the farm, sometimes after 1925,, went back to work as a colliery engineer and by 1939 the family was living at 120 Bardon Road, Coalville, and John Thomas (known as Thomas) was a carpenter at a colliery. It was at this address that Mrs Zoe Belcher died in 1954. Zoe Isabel married Dick Hatton and is on the 1939 register as living at Fairfield, Loughborough Road, Thringstone. She used to do dressmaking, and thought nothing of providing dresses without being given a pattern from which to work – she made her own patterns. Pam Spence said her wedding dress was made by Zoe Hatton, as well as 8 bridesmaid's dresses. John Thomas Belcher died in 1956.

The Hicken family was still at the farm when war was declared, and upon leaving in late September 1939, moved to Ravenstone. They are on the 1939 register at Glebe Farm – Benjamin (a dairy farmer), Sally and their children Emily born 15 July 1923 (a hosiery overlocker) and Edgar born 5 July 1928 who was still at school. At that time, the farm lay between what was 44 and 46 Main Street.

The Hicken family had 10 cows, several geese and 500 chickens and the farm covered about 40 acres. There was a limit to how many chickens could be kept on a farm because of health issues. The gent we spoke with said his grandmother tried to sell butter from Glebe Farm, but people wouldn't buy it because they preferred to shop at the Co-op and



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get the dividend. As a result, Sally Hicken sold her butter direct to the Co-op so villagers could continue to get their dividend. We are also told that Benjamin lost a lot of geese during the 1930s and in order to stop this, put effluent in the ditches where the hedgerows grew so any dog who went in to the farm that way would come back smelling of effluent! Benjamin died on 19 Oct 1986 at Breedon Lodge Farm, Breedon on the Hill.

- **The Main Street farm house** that used to stand between Rye House and The Gables, more or less where 130 Main Street now stands, was occupied for a time between about 1940 and 1945 by the Haynes family, as mentioned in our Memories 4 booklet. We are told that prior to them being there, a gent called Thomas Poxon kept this farm. Thomas was born in Ellistown on 27 July 1886, and his wife Adah nee Stevens on 18 August 1881. They married 22 September 1906, and at that time, Thomas formally adopted Horace Stevens, Adah's son who was born on 4 April 1901. The land owned by the farm covered what is now Booth Road estate, but it unclear what dates they kept this farm. In 1939 the family lived in Ibstock, and Thomas was a miner so we do not believe they kept the farm for long. Locals apparently used to call this farm Vesty's Place, but we have no idea why, since the Vesty family kept Grace Dieu Manor Farm.
- We have found a copy of an article in the Leicester Journal of 31 July 1874 recording the marriage on 28 July of Mr Samuel Peach of **Elms Farm, Thringstone**, eldest son of Samuel Peach Esq of Sheepshed, as Sheepshed was then called, to Miss Emily Bramley, daughter of the late W N Bramley Esq of Sheepshed Fields, Leicestershire. This is new information as the earliest we had on occupants of this farm near the George and Dragon relate to 1887 with Jason Heriot Reeves White. Samuel Peach was born in Sheepshed in 1852 to Samuel and Jane Peach nee Griffin from Thringstone who farmed cattle in Belton Street, Sheepshed. Samuel Jnr. appears to have farmed in Thringstone for at least 2 years as his daughter, Gertrude Jane was born here in 1876. It isn't clear, but Mr S Peach Jnr. is listed in the Derby Mercury as selling livestock at Elms Farm in 1879. and a Mr S Peach was still trading and selling livestock from Elms Farm in 1884 as there are several records in the papers to this end. There is a mention of Mr Charles Peach at the farm, also in 1884. However, the census for 1881 show Samuel Peach Jnr. living with his mother in law Jane Bramley, his wife and his 5 year old daughter at Far Field Farm, Sheepshed, a farm of 48 acres so it is not sure who was actually at Elms Farm. By 1891, Samuel was a widower, his wife having died on 4 September 1889, and was farming and dealing in cattle near Bardon Hill, ending up by 1911 farming at Highfield House in Sheepshed Fields He died on 1 November 1912..

We believed that in 1908, William Siddons lived there. The 1911 census shows that Martha nee Slater and Thomas Fretter Siddons, one of the sons of William Siddons, lived there during that period. Thomas was from Osgathorpe, and Martha from Melbourne. They were still there in 1939. It would appear they had been previously farming in Village Street, Osgathorpe. Thomas appears to have died in Ashby de la Zouch on 13 April 1954.

- An article in the Leicester Daily Mercury of 29 August 1939 tells of the crowning of the Loughborough Carnival Queen, Miss **Elizabeth Croson of Thringstone**. The same paper, on 27 March 1939, had mentioned Miss Croson as one of the girls chosen to appear at the Baths Hall, Coalville in the final of the Queen of the Coalville and District Hospital. Other girls going through to that final were Eileen Davenport, Edna Cufflin (Whitwick), Miss D Kidger, Queenie Day, Dorothy Bell, and Audrey Smith (Osgathorpe). Elizabeth appears to



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The Friends of Thringstone

have been born in 1921 to George Croson and Elizabeth nee WInters. In 1939 the family was living at 19 Loughborough Road, Thringstone. George worked as a rope slicer in the colliery, and young Elizabeth, known as Lizzie, worked in a hosiery factory. She married Philip Clarke in 1953. People who remember Elizabeth said was exceptionally pretty. Her husband was equally good looking. Lizzie's sister, Peggy, married George Croson, who was Pam Spence's uncle.

- **Dr Henry Toone** who practiced in Whitwick is mentioned in our book, Thringstone and Its People. At the time of writing, we did not know what happened to him. We have now found an obituary stating that he died in Whitwick on 12 September 1871 aged 38 years.
- **Dr Burkitt** from Whitwick, who is discussed in some detail in Thringstone and Its People, was mentioned in an article in the Coalville Times of 7 July 1916 which has given us new information. 'Surgeon-Major Burkitt, of Whitwick, is to be heartily congratulated upon his promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Despite his advancing years, the gallant officer, who had previously served in the Leicestershire Yeomanry for a good period, volunteered his services on the outbreak of the war and did excellent work at the front in France in the earlier stages of the fighting. The doctor enjoys much popularity in the Coalville and Whitwick district, where his extensive practice is being carried on by assistants while he is away on military duty. We understand that Lieut. Colonel Burkitt is at present fulfilling an appointment in Ireland.' We have also discovered that Dr Burkitt had, in October, November and December 1914 and January 1915, as his assistant **Dr Milligan** who is mentioned in articles in the Leicester press as attending inquests on behalf of Dr Burkitt. In one such inquest, a witness said that her doctor had been Dr Vaughan who had left the area. We have been unable to trace who Dr Milligan was, as the medical registers for 1915 list several doctors with this surname, but none with an address in Leicestershire. We believe that the Dr Vaughan mentioned was **Dr Henry William Vaughan** who practiced from London Road, Coalville, and is recorded in the 1911 medical registers at that address having previously been practicing in the Reading area. The 1911 census shows him at London road, Coalville with wife Evelyn and their 6 year old daughter Griselda who was born in Coalville. He appears to have qualified in 1894 in Scotland. Previous to coming to Coalville, Dr Vaughan appears to have lived and practiced in Keyworth, Nottinghamshire. Dr Vaughan was born in Torrington, Devon in 1869. By 1931, and during the war years, he was working in Lincoln.
- **Another doctor** who worked for Dr Burkitt's practice whilst he was serving in WW1 was a **Dr Rolston**. In an article in the Leicester Chronicle dated 24 April 1915, regarding the death of a child in Whitwick, Dr Rolston had said that he had declined to visit the child in the morning, but had gone in the evening, because there was an outstanding account. These were Dr Burkitt's instructions that he should decline to attend certain cases where money was owing. We have yet to establish who Dr Rolston was. *There was general discussion at this point about the hypocratic oath v. the amount someone owed in medical fees.*
- We have found details of another doctor operating in the area, but based in Whitwick in the middle 1800s. **Christopher John Byron Johnson** was born on 25 November 1843 in Martock near Yeovil in Somerset of poor parents. It is thought his father, John, a vicar's servant, died when Christopher was an infant, and prior to marriage, he was shown living with his mother, Mary, who stitched gloves, his half sister, Angelina Skellen, who was 5



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years his elder, his grandmother, aunt and cousin. It would seem that his mother sent him away to South Petherton in Somerset to go to school there with 4 others, under the tutelage of Joseph and Esther Billing. He was known by the name of Byron at that school. He was registered with the medical authorities on 22 April 1869. He had taken his qualifications in surgery in Glasgow in 1866 and his physician's license was granted in Edinburgh, also in 1866. It seems that he took further qualifications – in 1877 he became a qualified and licensed apothecary taking qualifications in London, and became a licensed member of the college of surgeons in Edinburgh in 1891. He appears to have married 26 year old Ann Boardman, on 10 April 1872 at St George's, Queen Street, Leicester, and they had a daughter called Kate, born in Whitwick. Ann died in 1876 after which, on 24 September 1879 in Waterford, Ireland, he married Harriet nee Brady who was born in County Cork, Ireland with whom he had a further 6 children. He is recorded in medical journals as being in Whitwick from at least 1871 until 1879. The 1871 census shows him lodging in North Street, Whitwick with grocer Stephen Andrews and his wife. It would appear he moved to Kirkby Overblow, near Wetherby in Yorkshire upon leaving Whitwick. At least 3 of his children appear to have been born in Yorkshire, and from their birth records and the census, it appears he was in Yorkshire from around 1881. By 1899 he was based in Kings Heath, Birmingham. One of his sons, Claude was also a doctor. He qualified in 1906, served in WW1 in the Royal Army Medical Corps and died in 1920 aged 35, a year after his marriage. Dr. Johnson died on 3 March 1926 at 44 Alcester Road South, Kings Heath, and left £10,397 3s 4d with the executors being his spinster daughter Kate, born in Whitwick in 1874, and his son Stanfield Johnson, who at that time was a commercial representative.

Councillors' report

A planning application has been submitted to NWLDC to build a new detached property on the land adjacent to 29 Main Street (next door to The Old School House).

Dave said that there had been a report issued to say that NWLDC is performing well.

He also said that if anybody has a problem which the council may be able to help with, they should either contact the council direct or their local councilor. Various discussion then took place about boundaries of the various wards concerned.

Gardening and environment

Thanks to John Bown of Booth Road for giving us 4 trays of summer planting. These have been planted down Drury Lane. The forget-me-nots around the village have been removed and seeds taken for replanting, various weeding has also been carried out, and general maintenance of our areas has been done. There is, however, more to do.

Centre matters

On 23 June, Leicestershire County Council's cabinet agreed to start the process of dissolving the their trusteeship of the centre and handing it over to trustees under the new banner of Charles Booth Centre.

Nita explained that the press release that had gone out had been slightly incorrectly worded, and the centre was still under the banner of County Hall at this moment in time. The process will take



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some time to sort, as things not only need to be sorted internally but there will be some work with the Charity Commission to sort.

Various questions were asked about how the centre would change.

Nita explained that at some stage the centre will be known as Charles Booth Centre. There will be new facebook and twitter pages formed, a new website, new letterheads, new signage etc.

Nita was asked whether there would be an audit done so that all assets are transferred over when county council pull out, as is normally the case on transfer of a business.

Nita said she assumed so, but did not know. It is believed that some things are owned by the council and could be removed, whilst other things would stay. These were things that were still being sorted, and solicitors would be shortly appointed to act for the centre. They could be dealing with some things like this as well as the more formal stuff, and that it is very complicated and it was important for all trustees to work together on these things to secure the centre moving forward.

The trustees are aware of the challenges ahead, and have lists of things they all will need to start to look at and organize, and these will be dealt with in due course.

Dave said that the county councillor, Tony Gillard, might be able to help if approached.

Next meeting is on 2 August 2017 at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre



R C C

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Stepping out for a greener district