



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 5 OCTOBER 2017 AT THRINGSTONE HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Bernard Lee, Ron Hill, Ann Petty, Dave Everitt, Kathy Mardon, Maureen Simm, Kath Ingall

Apologies: Gillian Bates, Mike and Ann Statham, Shirley Gordon, David and Janet Stevenson, Mary and Nigel Roberts, Tracy Foulds, John Jackson, Pat Hubbard, Bill Enser, Pat Darby

Discussions/Decisions.

Prominent women event on 7 October – This takes place at the centre on 7 October from 12 noon until 5pm. A great deal of publicity has gone out for this event, but we obviously would like as many of our members to support the event as can come along. It is a free event. Nita did a recording with BBC Radio Leicester earlier today which will go out tomorrow on the breakfast programme. The BBC is very interested in working with us to promote future projects.

Future of the centre - The trustees are holding an Open Public Meeting on Friday, 27th October at 7.30pm in the main hall at the Centre, to explain what is happening, the staff situation and update people generally on what will happen after the staff leave on 24 November and the trustees take over running the centre. We are told that this meeting will be widely advertised and the trustees will invite questions, comments, points of view etc. and strongly stress how they plan and intend to take the Centre forward. **If you are able to come to this meeting, please do.** There are genuine concerns in various quarters at the moment about how the centre will continue to function and stay open, and this is a chance to air your concerns.

Community Centre Quiz Night - The centre's quiz night this year is on Friday 10 November at 7.30pm. The FoT team comprises of Nita, Dave Everitt, Julie Everitt, Des and Gillian Bates and Ray Woodward. Ann said that FOGDP may well put a team together.

Defib at The Meadows – The manager at the care home has asked for the defib to be removed, as the previous manager did not get the installation of this approved by their compliance team, and it is therefore there without permission. This is very sad, and we are quite upset that this has happened, especially since we know the machine has been used. We have said to the centre that we would like to gift it to them and are awaiting further comments from them on this



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Stepping out for a greener district



FOT Marquee – we have a large marquee which we haven't used for a long time, other than lend it to the Rosary Rally a couple of years back. This is currently stored at Ray Woodward's house. The meeting discussed what to do with this, and Kathy Mardon said she would kindly store it in future at her house, and suggested that we take a photo of it, and post on facebook and other outlets that it is available to rent out, thus generating some income for the group. Nita said she would endeavour to do that at some point, and would tell Ray Woodward to contact Kathy to take it there if he is able.

Hermitage Leisure Centre update - Nita and Ann attended a meeting at Park Hall on Tuesday to discuss the leisure provision in Whitwick. We learnt that the council have already dismissed any plans to refurbish the existing leisure centre and things are moving on a pace. At a council meeting on 21 November, councillors will decide whether to build a new facility on the land just off the A511 or 'limp on' with the existing facility which is considered by the council to be past its best. There was considerable debate and discussion on this issue, and the meeting was assured that councillors may not decide to go with building a new centre although this would seem, from what was said, to be likely. The meeting was also assured that the existing lake, football pitches etc. would stay where they are, and that the only area which could then be looked at for future redevelopment would be the present car parking area and the area occupied by the existing centre. There has been a major change to the previous position on the existing leisure centre, as the plan for the new centre no longer depends on the sale of the Hermitage site for building. The future of the existing site will be discussed separately. A request to consider leaving this area free from development was noted and could be considered, since an area of the green wedge would be used for a new building and by leaving the 'old area' undeveloped could be beneficial to protect the integrity of the green wedge.

Bus shelter opposite Kay's shop – we understand that there are no plans to replace the bus shelter following the collision when it was damaged. The council hasn't replaced bus shelters for some years.

Famous Fifty exhibition, Coalville Market – This exhibition was mentioned at the last meeting. Thringstone Scouts have chosen to work on the life of Thringstone's James Bancroft and seem to be doing well with their work. Thringstone Primary are working on the life of Isaac Hall. We have provided Thringstone Scouts with all the information we have available on James Bancroft and also advised them on how other scouts can get copies of soldiers' wills.

Thringstone Methodists and drainage issues – Cllr. Tony Gillard has visited the Methodist chapel to look at the drainage problems to try to prevent future flooding. He was also shown drains further up The Green which need clearing out, as when it rains and they get blocked, this exacerbates the problem near the chapel. Photos were taken, and he reported back to Highways, who are now sending out someone to look at the issues.

Nita reported direct to County Hall that the drain in the service area by 30 Lbro Rd and the one actually on Lbro Rd were both underwater recently, and there was a lagoon (as always) in the service area leading up from there. The council have noted this and put these two drains down 'on the schedule to be jetted'. We understand that the one by 26 Lbro Rd is also always blocked.

Carols On The Green – we will be working with St Andrew's and the folk at the Methodist Chapel again for Carols On The Green on 15 December. As usual, we will leave St Andrew's at 6.30pm, and sing carols outside til 7.15pm then adjourn into the Methodist Chapel Hall for refreshments and entertainment from the choir of the U3A. Please put this date in your calendars!

NW Leics. Free Tree Scheme – we have ordered 2 Whitebeam and 4 Holly trees for planting in our community planted areas for this year.



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Greenhill Sparrows FC - This club is now playing its matches on Sundays on the football pitch at the back of Thringstone Bowling Club. They are very good in that they go round after every match and litter pick the sidelines and clear up. Thank you to them from our litter picking team!

Monthly litter pick total – 145 against 149 for the same month last year. To avoid the permanent removal of the waste bin by the Bull's Head on the sustrans track, which is regularly used by dog walkers and others, Nita has offered to empty this regularly. The rubbish collected and removed from this bin is not going to feature in our litter picking totals. Kathy Mardon said she would help Nita with the clearing of the bin by the Bull's Head when she was able.

Chairs Report

Letters received:

Emails received: Various from people with whom we regularly share information

Emails sent: Various to groups and individuals as usual. Also provided references for one of our volunteer litter pickers.

Promotion: We have **465 twitter followers**, which is 3 more than last month, and **520 facebook followers**, which is 8 more than last month. We are continuing to post details of local events and also historical photos on both sites

Other: We were sad to hear that Mrs Bream from Manor Farm had died on 27 September. Our condolences go to Major Bream, Tam Bream, Hattie and the rest of the family.

Finance Report

We understand that we will be receiving a cheque from Woodstock in Whitwick at a cheque presentation on 14 October at the Leisure Centre. We are obviously delighted. This will be reflected in next month's figures.

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,236.07		
Income		Expenditure	
Publications	-	Broadband	£10.50
Raffle	£10	Community Centre photocopying	£34.20
		Teamprint printing booklets	25.05
		Bauble printing	£36.80
		Plastic file pockets/stationery	£4.50
total income to general fund		Total expenditure	£111.05
	£10	Total general fund at month end	£2,135.02

Publications Report

Nothing appears to have been sold

Web Report

The website was last updated in August.



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Police Report

Theft - Loughborough Road, Thringstone – 7.55pm on 12 Sept. Store entered and sweets stolen.

A lady walking home alone late at night was bothered by a man in a Range Rover, offering her a lift on Main Street. Do not get into the car of a stranger.

Burglary - Main Street, Thringstone - between 4pm on 22 Sept – 12 noon on 23 Sept. Insecure garage entered and items stolen.

Burglary - Dalkeith Walk, Thringstone - between 5pm on 29 Sept – 5am on 30 Sept. Front door lock broken and two TVs, laptop and wallet stolen.

Garage burglary on 26 Sept - power tool taken.

Burglary – evening of 4 Oct – cricket club score shed entered, nothing taken. Gent on Springfield's shed broken into and a number of tools taken.

On 4 Oct someone coming from the Co-op and walking to the public car park (as opposed to the Co-op car park) on The Green was knocked down by a person reversing in a large black 4 x 4 vehicle. The police and ambulance were called and the gent, who is only just recovering from a heart attack he had recently anyway, was taken to hospital. Please, when using the car park, or walking across it, take care. The fact that this is the first accident of its kind is amazing really when you see the speed people pull in and out of the car park. Often drivers don't take into account that people might be walking from the shop to their own cars.

We also understand that the police have been involved with an incident between two tenants on Kelso Court and problems at the children's home on Loughborough Road.

Community Report and What's On

Thringstone's Got Talent raised £385 for Kidney Care UK. The raffle held raised £99 for the centre. Thanks to all who came to support the event and who performed. Kath said that £15 of the £99 raised by the centre had been given back to Kidney Care to round up the money sent to them.

The recent quiz at the **Black Horse in Whitwick** raised £175.30 for Cancer Care. Thanks to everybody who contributed.

Tithe Close MacMillan fundraiser – our member, Jill Emmerson has told us that last Thursday they raised £261.76 with the help of wonderful family and great friends. Loads of fun and laughs and a brilliant raffle and some lovely cakes made. Many thanks go to all who supported Jill and her family with this fundraiser.

The party at the inn event at the New Inn, Pegg's Green raised over £1000 for 2 charities, one of which was The Samaritans who received £480. Thanks to all who supported this.

- 6 Oct – **Conny Club, Whitwick** – Robert Taylor as George Michael. 9pm until late. £5 entrance, members £3.
- 6 and 7 Oct – Live music weekend at **Hare and Hounds**. 6th is Fugilists playing covers and 7th is Studio 3Zero Open Mike crew. Both events start at 9pm and both are free entry.
- 7 Oct – Exhibition at the centre on **The Prominent Women of NW Leicestershire**. 12 noon until 5pm.
- 13 Oct – Live music at **Hare and Hounds** with Matt Symons from 9pm. Free entry.
- 14 Oct – Macmillan Coffee Charity event at 22 Springfield. 10am – 1pm. All welcome.
- 14 Oct – **Craft Fayre** at the community centre. All welcome. 12 noon until 5pm.
- 15 Oct – **Harvest Festival** service at St Andrew's from 10.30am.
- 20 Oct – **George and Dragon** fund raiser for Breast Cancer Care. 12 noon until 5pm. Cakes, sandwiches and scones and unlimited tea and coffee. £7 per person of which £3.50 will go to the charity. Book on 222282.



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- 20 Oct – **Lesley Smith as Nell Gwynne** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Doors open 7.30pm. Performance starts 8pm. Tickets £8 from the centre or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone
- 20 Oct - **Thringstone Miners Welfare** – Ukulele Crazy perform at 7.30pm with local WI.
- 22 Oct – **Light of Love Memorial Service**, St Andrew's. Starts at 6pm. Light a candle to your loved one in their memory.
- 25 Oct – **New Lount Bowling Club**, Gelsmoor Road, Hospice Hope coffee morning, 10am-1pm. £3 per person to include coffee and cake.
- 27 Oct – **Conny Club, Whitwick** – 9pm til late – Cher and Pink tribute. Tickets £5. Members £3.
- 3 Nov – **Build a Guy competition** at the George and Dragon. Bring your guy down to be judged and win a 1st prize of £50 voucher. Winner will be announced on their facebook page on 4 Nov.
- 4 Nov - **George and Dragon** bonfire night. Bonfire lit at 7.15pm. Live music from Sam Southall, sweet and candy floss stall, BBQ, bottle bar and Prosecco bar, pie and peas stall, Mexican wrap stall and much more. Free entry. Car parking £5 per car.
- 10 Nov – **Thringstone House village quiz**. Starts at 7.30pm. Teams are £5 per person with up to 6 per team. Interested parties need to contact the centre for the form.
- 11 Nov – 2 Dec – **Famous Fifty** exhibition about WW1 in Coalville Market.
- 17 Nov – **Hicks and Goulbourn** in concert at the Community Centre. Lynn Goulbourn is well known in the village as she used to work at the centre. Those coming to the event will see one of the best established acts on the folk and acoustic music scene in the UK
- 17 Nov - **St John The Baptist Church, Whitwick** – Music evening, with The Big Little Band – a group of musicians from all over Leicestershire. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £7. To raise funds for the church and for Action for Children. Tickets from 838290 or 812777.
- 24 Nov – **North Street Club** – Charity Quiz Night in support of Children's Cancer Unit at the LRI. Entry is £5 per person, with teams ideally of 4 people. Tables can be booked and paid for in advance by going to the Club's Just Giving page where you can pay for tables/raffle tickets or make a donation to this great charity. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/andrea-burton3>
- 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.
- 1 Dec – **PTA Christmas Fayre** at Thringstone Primary. 3.30pm-5pm. All welcome.
- 3 Dec – **Grace Dieu Priory Carol Concert** – starts at the priory at 3pm. All welcome.
- 9 Dec - **Abba Tribute** at Thringstone House Community Centre. 7.30pm start. Tickets £8 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone or direct from the centre office.
- 13 Dec – Black Horse, Whitwick. **Christmas quiz**. Times to be confirmed later.
- 15 Dec – **Carols On The Green**. Procession from StAndrew's at 6.30pm to sing carols round the Millennium Stone until 7.15pm. We will then all go into the Methodist Chapel Hall for refreshments etc. All welcome.
- 26 Dec – **Charity football match** at Thringstone Miners FC. 10am – 1pm. Selected 11 v Thringstone 11. £5 per player, Free entry for spectators. Raffle. All money to be equally split between two currently unnamed local charities.



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History report

- Ann is continuing to tape people talking about their memories for the East Midlands Oral History Archive project.
- Richard Clarke from Whitwick has given us the original copies of various certificates relating to **Harold Richards** who married Eva Rossell. These include his birth certificate from November 1898, his marriage certificate from 1922, the certificate issued when he reached 13 stating that he was now eligible for employment, a church magazine and other items. These have been saved to our archives. He also has given us information on Joseph Rossell who was born on 14 February 1895 at St Mary's Terrace, and died on 23 Dec 1977. The family lived in Main Street, and Joe served in the WW1 as a private in the Machine Gun Corps, having joined up aged 19 years.
- **The Heritage Open Day** at the centre was well attended, and amongst those who came was Mr Vivian Carey, who used to be a teacher at Thringstone Primary in the 1950/60s. We were fortunate enough to be able to show him photos of himself and his classes, and his memory for the names of the children was exemplary. We also wrote down some of his memories.
- There have been several new facebook postings, including Jean Brotherhood saying that she worked at **Thringstone Primary** for 43 years, and remembers moving from the old school to the new one in Henson's Lane. That was during the Easter holidays of 1967 with the official opening being on 30 October the same year. As the school was finished earlier than anticipated, staff had to transport everything to the new school themselves with the exception of furniture, which was all new. The school was given 3 new pianos, one for each area. As a result of these postings, we have received 3 photos of **Mrs Margaret Witty** who taught at the school and several others.

We have been busy researching things relevant to the **village during WW2 and the 1940s**

July 39 Alfred Smith Pepper, landlord of the **Bull's Head** who had taken over the pub in May 1938 had previously served, with excellent record, in the Metropolitan Police Force. He was in court over having his premises open after 10pm which was closing time, on 1 July, although it was admitted no beer was sold after hours. He was fined £3 3s and the two people found in the pub at that time were fined £2 2s each. Mr Pepper, who was born on 18 April 1888, left the pub in January 1940. From looking through the Metropolitan Police Records held by the National Archives, we find that his warrant number was 100740. He joined the police on 20 November 1911 and left on 22 November 1936. His last posting was to T Division as a PC. After leaving the pub, he appears to have lived at 45 Storer Road, Loughborough, and died on 17 February 1977. This replaces information in our pubs book.

Sept 39 4 people from the village were summonsed for not having licenses for their radios. This included **William Pollard** of 32 Loughborough Rd who admitted to not having had a license for 3 years and 7 months.

Sydney Francis Peace who used to organize variety event at Thringstone House, and was himself a juggler and compere under the name Sid Francis joined the forces and went on to serve in the RA in India and Ceylon. He appears to have been born in 1907 in Ashby and was brought up with his parents and several siblings in Wood Street before the family moved to Fox Terrace, Thringstone. His brother Harry was also in the forces. Sydney may have died in 1992 in Kent.

Nov 39 - 32 cyclists, mostly miners, were stopped on their way to work in the early morning for having no rear lights. These included Daniel Hatton of Thringstone, who was fined 5 shillings.



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Dec 39 – **Whitwick and District Association for the Protection of Property** was wound up due to the death in May of J W Peters of Main Street, the war and lack of interest from members. The association had been run for 77 years by Mr J W Peters and his father between them as secretary, and this year's annual dinner would have been their 98th. The bank balance was divided up between Coalville, Hugglescote and Whitwick nursing associations.

Sept 40 – For the 3rd year in succession, **Mr Joe Burbank** of John Street, Thringstone won the cup offered by Thringstone House Club for the most successful exhibitor at their annual horticultural show. The cup became his property.

March 41 - **Harry Morley and his wife Ellen**, known as Nellie of 57 Main Street were summoned for willful damage to 30 glasses at The Fox Inn. Mr Morley was also summoned for assaulting the landlord, George Musson. It appears that Mrs Morley ordered half a pint of beer, gave a folded 10 shilling note to Mr Musson and was given 9 shillings and 7 pence change. She claimed she had given him a £1 note. There was an argument, and she tried to get behind the bar, but was prevented, and later Mr Musson was struck in the face with a glass. Mr Morley was alleged to say to his wife 'If you don't get the change, clear the decks'. Mrs Morley then went into the smoke room and swept all the glasses off the tables. The couple were fined 15 shillings each, plus costs.

Feb 42 – Mr Henry Robinson organised and produced a variety concert entitled **Kids Down Every Street** with all proceeds to go to the Coalville Urban Area Central Comforts Fund. This included singing from J Gee, M Hatton and A Shelton performing a tap dance, and songs by Gordon Robinson, Arthur Sykes, Sheila Reid and Margaret and Barbara Henstock (who were evacuees from Birmingham and lived with Gladys Gee in Bauble Yard). There was also a piano medley by G King and a play with the players being W Brain, B Young, J Walker, W Watts, H Hudson and L Harbottle. We believe the Henry Robinson mentioned lived at 54 Loughborough Road with Gordon Robinson being his son. J Gee is we believe James Gee of 3 Loughborough Road. M Hatton is likely to have been Margaret Hatton who lived on Loughborough Road. A Shelton is likely to have been Audrey Shelton of 9 The Green. Sheila Reid became Sheila King and lived at 9 Loughborough Road. G King is believed to be Gwen King. J Walker is likely to have been Joyce Walker. W Watts is believed to be Walter Watts of Rosemary Cottage, Talbot Lane. H Hudson could be either Harold or Hettie Hudson who lived at 11 Loughborough Road.. It is not certain who the others were and it is possible that some of these people could also have been evacuees during the war. It is believed that £320 was raised from this event and another one at which Mr Arthur Hemsley from Leicestershire Magic Circle was top of the bill and performed with Arthur Sykes, Gordon Robinson, John Walker, Barbara and Margaret Henstock and Peggy Brotherhood.

May 42 – George Philpo, the manager of the **Co-op butchery at Thringstone**, who lived on Sandholes, risked his life by entering a blazing house believing that there was a child inside. After he had entered, it was discovered that the child, called Keith, was not there. The Coalville Fire Brigade put out the fire at the house of 80 year old Mrs Darby who looked after the youngster whilst his mother was at work. It is not clear where the property concerned was and we can find nothing further on Mr Philipo.

June 42 - **Harry and Nellie Morley** were again in court. This time he had acquired some stockings, which were at the time rationed, and sold them without coupons. His wife was charged with aiding and abetting. Mr Morley claimed to have bought the stockings from a man at work who said they were laddered, so spoilt which required no coupons. Edith Gill of 17 John Street and May Maloney of 80 Main Street had bought 2 pairs of stockings from Mrs Morley. The Morley's were found guilty, and with costs, the couple received a fine of 35 shillings and 6 pence.



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Feb 43 – Miss Phyliss Waldrum, aged 23 of Thringstone was fined 3 guineas and one guinea costs at Coalville for leaving her work at the Royal Ordinance Factory in Staffordshire without permission. Miss Waldrum said that she had wanted to join the ATS. Phyliss was born on 7 January 1919, the daughter of Ernest and Rebecca Waldrum, and lived at 61 Main Street. In 1939 she was working as a brickyard hand.

Sept 43 – Thringstone Wakes was not held, but instead an annual flower show was carried out, and supported with other attractions, including donkey rides for children, skittling for a live pig, darts competition and treasure hunt. During the afternoon a concert was held at the community centre, where a large crowd was entertained by Ibstock Ace Concert Party. Star of the show was 9 year old Lily Davis, Mr Edward Gee won the pig and Mr Henry Smith the darts with a score of 160. The prize for the 6 best onions went to Joe Burbank, his six onions weighing in at 21 lbs 12 oz. Joe Burbank lived at 24 John Street. Mr C Allen had 4 first prizes, Mr J Webster 3, and other winners included Messrs G Wilkes, B Timms, A King, H Shelton, T Cadwallader and P Hibbert. All produce and goods were sold in the evening to raise funds for the comfort fund. We believe that J Webster was Joe Webster who lived on Loughborough Road, A King was Albert King of Willows Farm, Osgathorpe, H Shelton was Herbert Shelton of The Green, T Cadwallader was Tom from Coleorton Moor and P Hibbert was Percy Hibbert of Castle Street, Whitwick. B Timms is Bernard Timms of 96 Hermitage Road, Whitwick. He was a colliery deputy at New Lount Colliery during the war, and also served as an ARP Warden and Miners' Rescue Co-ordinator.

Dec 43 – Thringstone and District Choral Society gave a rendition of the sacred Cantata Belshazzar's Feast. Principals were Mr Maurice Maloney, Mrs H Aris, Mr John Skellington, Miss Frances Hextall, Mr C Bishop, Mr Samuel Gee, Mr S Roomes and the conductor was Mr James W Wilkins. Mr B Jarvis presided. The event raised over £20 for the comforts fund. Maurice Maloney lived at 'The Bungalow', Loughborough Road. Mr Skellington lived at Lyndale, Hall Lane, Whitwick. Miss Hextall was the daughter of the farmer who farmed where the Methodist Chapel now stands. Mr James W Wilkins lived at 103 Main Street.

Also the same month, Joseph Mabe of the **Bull's Head** was summonsed for serving 3 men at 10.35pm after closing time. The wives of the 3 men were having coffee with Mrs Lily Amelia Mabe at the time, and the men were also playing darts. The matter went to court and Mr Mabe was fined £6 6 shillings and the three men £1 1 shillings each.

Jan 45 – After a dance at Thringstone House, PC Leverett arrested 5 Osgathorpe youths for willful damage to a traffic sign on **Loughborough Road, Gracedieu**. The men, James and Richard Freeman, Charles Bradford, Albert Smith and Maurice Green were all miners. Only Albert Smith pleaded guilty. The chairman of the magistrates said that the damage had obviously been caused out of devilment and each was fined 2 guineas and 14 shillings each in damages.

April 45 – Thringstone streets were bedecked with bunting for the return of Private George Lillyman who had been a **prisoner of war** in Germany for 5 years and recently been in hospital but he was delayed coming home. Also home after being prisoners of war were Ken Gee and Donald Hudson who were members of Thringstone House Club, Frank Bowler, secretary of Thringstone House Club, and Jim Springthorpe. Later in June, £26 12 shillings and 6 pence was given from the Comfort Fund to Jim Springthorpe, Don Hudson received £17 and Ken Gee £16.

June 45 – **ARP Wardens** were given the order to stand down. Thringstone's wardens held their 'stand down' support in the hall at the Club House (Community Centre) where over 70 members and visitors assembled. The chair was taken by Mr Samuel Gee, the head warden of the Thringstone post. Other visitors included Mr C H Parsons, Divisional Warden and his wife, and the



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Rev W Killcross, the Methodist circuit minister of Ashby and his wife. The first of the speeches came from Mr Parsons who thanked the Thringstone wardens for their efficiency, and loyalty, and said they had been an example to the whole division. They had had a trying time and had kept on through long weary months of inertia and waiting, which required great loyalty. Rev Killcross spoke of the generosity of the Thringstone people. He remembered earlier days, when he lived in Whitwick and was called upon to referee a football match between one end of Thringstone and the other at a place near the George and Dragon. He said 'If I had gone where half of them said I ought to go, it would have taken more than the Thringstone wardens to put out the fire.' As confirmed by the 1939 register, Samuel Gee lived at 74 Main Street. The register states that he was both a miner and ARP Head Warden.

Sept 45 – Various parades took place in the village, and the VJ parade saw over 250 costumes. 340 youngsters were given tea at Thringstone House and there was a second sitting at which pensions and widowers were entertained.

Nov 45 – 3 men, including Corporal Maloney, RAF, of Grace Dieu were reported in the Coalville Times as having seen the **Japanese surrender**. They witnessed the ceremony at the surrender of Hong Kong, the visit of Admiral Frazer in the battleship Duke of York, and the visit of Mr Lawson, secretary of state for war. The men said that they had arrived in China on 4 September as the occupation forces representing with 200 marines, the whole of the allies. It is not clear who Corporal Maloney was as there are no on line records relating to the RAF in WW2, although we know that Leonard Maloney was 'in the forces' in 1941.

Thringstone's WW2 casualties - The plaque in St Andrew's for casualties during WW2 lists 4 men. This plaque was unveiled by Captain Bruce who lived at The Meadows in October 1948 after a service conducted by the vicar. **Frederick Grice**, aged 28 whose parents John and Hilda, lived at 3 Whitwick Moor (and had done since at least 1939) arrived home in October 1942 after having been away for over 7 years, during which his parents had moved. Fred was one of at least 7 children, the others being Albert, John Jnr. Arthur, Ethel, Laurie and Hilda. We know that 3 of his brothers served in WW2, one of them, who joined up before the war being was a Sergeant Major in the Middle East at that time. Fred had formerly worked as a miner at New Lount colliery and was in India when war broke out, and was one of the first to go into action in Malaya and was fighting the Japanese through the campaign. He never actually got to Singapore, but went into action in the jungle, and with one other man volunteered to fight with bayonets to reach the shore. There they took possession of a native boat and a small supply of rice and coconuts. They were at sea for 10 days without extra provisions. They found an uninhabited island, rested there for a day, and eventually saw a ship 3 – 4 miles away and signalled by waving their shirts. The ship took them to safety and later they went to Ceylon. Unfortunately Mr Grice was killed in action on 10 July 1944 in Calvados, Normandy. Newspaper records suggested that he had been married for just 6 weeks (possibly to Margaret Willis). We know that she was a London girl. His commanding officer said that he had killed 6 Germans before losing his life. In earlier minutes, we have recorded that Fred Grice was the son of John and Hilda Grice nee Jarvis. He had joined the Leicestershire Regiment on 4 October 1933. Fred is remembered on the WW2 memorial at St Andrew's Church. He was buried at St. Manvieu War Cemetery, Cheux, Calvados, France. The Royal Leics. Regiment website did not feature much about Fred, so Nita sent them copies of press cuttings and some other details and also shared details with another member of the family of whom we were aware. Nita subsequently received 3 new photos of Fred, plus copies of the interviews he gave to the military about his service in the Far East. Included in this information was that he was in hospital



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Stepping out for a greener district



for 9 days in Sumatra with malaria, then got a boat to Ceylon and was there for 2 nights before going onto Bombay. He was in hospital in Kandy in Bombay for 2 months, and in Kandy for 4 months in total before leaving there on 7 August 1942 to come home.

We have also established that Fred Grice's great grandparents, Samuel Richards and Alice Hallam Bradley were also the grandparents of **Douglas Arthur Richards**, born 11 June 1915, another casualty of WW2 who is commemorated at St Andrew's church. On the 1939 register, Douglas was living with his parents, George Hallam Richards born 6 January 1876, and Emma born 9 February 1878 at 48 Main Street with his wife, Gertrude Mary nee Kilby, born 25 November 1917 whom he married in 1939. At that time, Douglas was an assistant fireman at a colliery. His father was a coal miner, and his wife was in domestic service. As we have reported before, Douglas died on 1 November 1944, possibly in a POW camp.

Another soldier commemorated in St Andrew's who died in WW2 is **Ronald Charles Concannon** born on 25 June 1917 1939 register shows him at 47 Church Lane, Whitwick.. He was a shoe hand in a boot and shoe factory, and with him at the home were his brother Norman Concannon born 1904 and his wife Alice born 1905, Arthur born 1920 and children Bernard born 1932 and Michael born 1935.

The other person commemorated on the St Andrew's WW1 plaque is **Norman Mason** who died after an illness on board his ship on 25 May 1945 aged 45. Norman was born in Blythe, Northumberland on 21 September 1899. He was one of 6 children of Robert Mason and Mary Jane Crate, also of Northumberland. His first service was on Victory 2 on 26 September 1917 and he served during WW1 until demobbed in 1919. He married Lilian Hatherick born 1901 in Blythe in Portsmouth in 1922 She died in 1935. At the time of his death, he was a stoker first class, and his grave at Cowpen Cemetery, Blythe, marks this fact and his date of death aboard the HMS Brontosaurus. His connection with Thringstone is through Lilian's brother, Tommy Hatherick, who lived in Thringstone at 32 Loughborough Road with the Elliott family and is recorded as such in 1939. It seems he wished to have Norman's name recorded in his local church. Tommy, who was born on 14 August 1915, himself had served in the war and in June 1945 returned having been a prisoner of war in Italy. He married Constance M Haycraft, nee Foskett, widow of Percy Marcus Haycraft, in Lincoln in 1976 and died in Lincoln on 12 February 2001.

1946 – When the **Fox Inn Comforts Fund** mentioned at the last meeting closed, a total of £2935 had been raised, of which £753 had been raised by Thringstone House.

Jan 48 – David Robinson, miner of Ashby Road, Thringstone, was burgled and £70 taken, £50 of it in silver. Mr Robinson, aged 58, was an underground worker at Lount Colliery, who discovered the theft upon returning from work at 11.30pm. The back door was open and a store room window broken, and the room was in disorder. A box, which had contained £20 in notes and £50 in silver – savings which had been put in the box over some considerable time – had been broken open. Included in the silver was a valuable 2 shilling piece, and a gold half sovereign was also taken.

Jan 49 – The Nottingham Journal of 26 January 1949 tells of Cyril Webb of Orchard Street, Ibstock, former sub-postmaster at Thringstone, who was sent by magistrates in Coalville to trial for theft. It was claimed he stole 444 postal order forms, 2068 postage stamps, 37 books of stamps, 24 health and pension insurance stamps, 68 National Savings Stamps valued at 2 shilling and 6 pence each from his time at Thringstone Post Office. Another charge was that in September 1948 he had stolen £20 from the Post Office. Detective Sergeant Hares had been called to Thringstone Post Office to investigate a burglary, but could find no evidence of this taking place at which time Cyril Webb confessed that he had done this himself. Mr Webb took the officer to a lorry parked at



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the rear of the premises in which many of the items were found. Webb was given bail pending further investigations. We are unable to find out any further details, but believe this is Cyril Webb born in Ellistown in 1921 who died in 1999.

Councillors' report

NWLDC won the contract to retain and sell the recycling it collects, giving the authority a potential £500,000 in annual income. The seven year contract, which has been awarded by LCC, the statutory waste disposal authority, means NWLDC can continue to sell the recyclable materials that it collects from households in the district and keep the income.

NW Leics. has an excellent recycling rate, with 46% of all material recycled. The district council will sell on plastics, food and drink cans, glass bottles, cardboard and paper to companies that then recycle the materials to make other goods. Until now, LCC paid a recycling credit to NWLDC, but this is due to be withdrawn in 2018. The loss of this credit amounts to £400,000 less for NWLDC, but the new contract – worth around £500,000 in sales income each year - goes some way to mitigating that.

Dave said that at a recent council meeting, HS2 had been debated.

Dave also said that tenants of the 10 flat blocks on Woodside had been sent a letter about the cleaning of the communal flat areas, saying that there would be a cost of £6 extra per week to clean the areas, and asking people's views. The problem with the letters was that they said if tenants did not reply, it would be taken that they were in agreement. Several did not reply, and have now ended up paying an extra £6 a week. Those on benefits do not have to pay. This has not proven popular and was not considered to be a proper consultation. If people are bothered about this, please contact Dave Everitt direct.

Gardening and environment

Bernard continues to weed, prune and maintain our existing planting. Anita Jones is continuing to weed down the church jitty, for which she is thanked.

AOB

Ann asked for two items to go into the next Bauble. These were the carol concert at the priory, and photos being needed for a project on non-conformist chapels. Nita agreed to put this in.

There was considerable discussion about having a compere for the priory carols again this time. Nita said she would ask TPADS if anybody might be available to do this, as they could then also promote their panto in January.

Next meeting is on 2 November at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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