



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 MAY 2018 AT CHARLES BOOTH CENTRE, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THRINGSTONE HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Mike Statham, Ann Petty, Ray Woodward, Bernard Lee, Pam Porter, Pat Darby, Maureen Simm, Tracy Foulds, Pat Hubbard, Dave Everitt, Ron Hill, Bill Enser

Apologies: Janet Stevenson, Gillian Bates, Julie Everitt, Nigel and Mary Roberts, Geoff and Jane Wilson, Geoff Walker

Discussions/Decisions.

Your membership is now due. If you haven't already paid this, and you wish to continue to support the group, we should be pleased to receive your £3.50 for the year. The subscription rate has been at £3.50 since the AGM in 2010 when it went up from £2.50.

Centre relaunch party – 4 May – tomorrow night at 7pm. Ann has put together a display on Charles Booth for those who still don't know who he was and the legacy he left. All are welcome to attend.

Miners Gala/Picnic in the Parks – we have agreed to have a stall again at this event on 24 June. If anybody can help us with manning this stall, which will be selling our publications, please let us know.

Speed signage – There is now electronic signage on Loughborough Road by no. 51 advising your vehicle speed as you go down hill.

Tenants' and Residents' association meeting – NWLDC have booked a room at the centre for 6pm on 14 May to discuss the idea of having a tenants' and residents' association for all the people living on the Melrose Rd estate, in the council houses on Main Street, Henson's Lane and Loughborough Road. Tenants will have received letter from the council, but the council does not have details of those who have bought or who are renting from someone other than the council, but we understand all will be welcome to attend.

Redesign of Marlborough Square in Coalville - We discussed this new scheme in February, and concern was expressed about the lack of car parking once the changes take place. We understand from NWLDC that there will be one event per month in the new square, and that there will be 5 free car parking spaces of 30 minutes still provided within the square. Three of these spaces will be used for funerals



and weddings at the nearby church. James Street car park will have 12 new free one hour spaces, as will Margaret Street.

Monthly litter pick total – 124 bags against **167** for the same month last year.

A gentleman passing in a car stopped Nita to say thanks for keeping the village clean and gave her a litter picking bag hoop which helps to keep bags used for litter picking open. Nita has passed this on to Dave and Sharon to use on their twice a week litter picks. There was a lot of discussion about **dog fouling**, how bags end up being left and not taken home, and/or thrown into trees.

Keep Britain Tidy is running a **Great Plastic Pick Up** between 11 and 13 May. Whilst this concentrates on beaches, if you are anywhere and see discarded plastic, please pick it up and recycle.

Next litter pick - Nita will meet anybody who wants to do a bit of litter picking on The Green at 10am on 13th and we will go for a walk in the woodlands. We would like to do another litter pick on Sunday 13 July if anybody is interested.

The **maximum fine** that NWLDC can issue for littering has been nearly doubled to £150. Fixed penalty notices can also be issued for graffiti, flyposting, and unauthorised distribution of free material. Drivers who allow rubbish to be thrown from their vehicle can also receive a fine. The new fine will reduce to £90 if paid within 10 days

The bins on the car park at the centre – Mike said that the glass bins were available to be used by everybody, but the waste bin is for centre use, but others had been using it, including people using it for food waste and dog fouling bags.

Compost Road Shows - To help spread awareness of the benefits to composting, the council is hosting a number of road shows Tuesday 8 May, 10am -2pm – Coalville Market, Coalville, Wednesday 9 May, 10am - 2pm – Morrisons, Whitwick Road, Coalville, Wednesday 9 May, 5pm – 6.30pm - Morrisons, Whitwick Road, Coalville. The road shows are there to make people think about composting, letting people know it's an option and what the benefits are to doing it. There will also be a wide array of recycled goodies to pick up - pens, key rings, rulers and pencils made from recycled cardboard and vending cups.

Marking the end of WW1 – We have now received confirmation from NWLDC that we have been successful in obtaining a grant to meet half the cost of putting on the event in November, including an evening of entertainment with Foresters Band. There will be an exhibition during the daytime from 12 noon until 6pm, at which Friends of Thringstone will have a large display. Whitwick Historical Group will also be present, as will Jonathan Capewell from the WW1 Tigers group. Nita is also in touch with Century of Stories and also with Leics.VCHT to ask them if they want to come. LVCHT is looking to publish a history of every village in Leicestershire. Nita has mentioned this to the art group, and Maureen said that she will talk to the RBL about this too. The RBL are also interested in buying one of the Tommie statues which was taken to the meeting. The Foresters Band will be putting on a show from 7.30pm. The whole event will be free.

We would welcome any of the FoT baking ladies' help for this event please. More details as they occur.

Chairs Report

Letters received: Regular users and hire agreement form from centre. Completed and returned.



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

Emails sent: Various to groups and individuals as usual.

Promotion: We have **514 twitter followers**, which is 8 more than last month, and **592 facebook followers**, which is 3 more than last month. We are continuing to post details of local events, public notices and also historical photos on both sites. Over the last 12 months, our number of twitter followers has increased by 67 and our facebook followers by 156.

An article on the Centre's Easter Egg Hunt in March appeared in April's **Coalville Eye** and mentions FoT and a treasure hunt in the summer. More details to come.

Other Nita was asked by NWLDC to attend a meeting on 1 May to help set up a Friends of Coalville Park with a view to sharing best practice and ideas.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,222.32		
Income		Expenditure	
Memberships	£7	Broadband	£10.50
Raffle	£16		
publications			
total income to general fund	£23		£10.50
		Total general fund at month end	2,234.82

Publications Report – nothing to report

Web Report – minutes are up to date, the summer newsletter is on there, but there are still some photos to go on site.

Police Report

Vehicle Crime - Melrose Road - between 5.3pm -6pm on 29 April. Two children gained access to a vehicle - no further information available.

We understand that another **car had its windows smashed on Booth Road** on 1 May by someone driving past with a BB gun – a car which was new to its owner having been purchased last weekend. We are told that this is the 4th or 5th time that cars in that part of Booth Road have been targeted, and the theory is that this is part of a drive by, as the same night cars on Brook Lane and Talbot Street have also had their windows smashed. The people on Booth Road have said they will no longer report this to the police, as nothing ever happens.

Nuisance motorbikes – statement from the police - Most mini motos quad bikes and other off road vehicles cannot legally be ridden on the road, nor can they be used on pavements, footpaths, cycle paths on parkland, common land or wasteland.

They can only be ridden legally on dedicated sites or private land, with the permission of the landowner.

To use on a road or public place the bike must be of a type approved, which means that it must be compliant with construction regulations for use on a road. This typically means that the bikes must



have lights, brakes, a legal exhaust, road tax, roadworthy tyres and a number plate, and if the vehicle is over three years old it will require a valid MOT.

To ride on the road the riders must have a valid driving licence, insurance and a compulsory basic training CBT certificate, and there is also a legal requirement to wear an approved protective helmet.

Should you, your family or others be affected by this type of behaviour please contact your local beat team and we will look to identify the persons responsible and then deal with them using our existing powers, or similarly if you own one of these bikes and did not know the rules surrounding their use and wish to hand them in, then again please contact your local beat team to arrange for their recovery.

Community Report and What's On

The book sale at the centre raised £59.50. Thank you to everybody who came along and bought books and to those who donated. All books left over after the sale were given to Air Ambulance. Started 2 May and is on every Wednesday throughout the year at **Marlene Reid Centre** – community lunch club. 2 course hot meal and dessert, unlimited hot drinks, and after meal raffle and games for £6 per person. Book on 510515

5 May – **Pitt Lane, Coleorton Wood** – plant sale 10am-1pm. All welcome. Lots of plants available to purchase at decent prices.

5 May – Roots Community Singers and Bare Bones Border Morris at the **George and Dragon**. 12 noon until 5pm.

6 May – **Connyfest** at Conney Club, Whitwick – 2pm-8pm. Raising money for Forest Way School. Live music. Entrance £1.

6-7 May – **Car boot at Broomley's Farm**. Stalls and lots of things for children. Open to public from 7.30am onwards. £1 entrance. Under 12s free. Will continue every Sunday.

8 May – **Film Club at the centre** – film is Murder On The Orient Express. Starts at 7.30pm. There will be a raffle to cover costs.

10 May – **Belton Village Hall** – Kit Holmes with Al Greenwood on guitar – Brubeck, with a touch of blues and fiddle. Starts at 7pm. Tickets £10 from Stuart Hicks on 222897 or from Belton Convenience Store.

11 May – **Brave the Shave** – Felicity is shaving her head for MacMillan nurses. 3pm-6pm at the centre. Snacks, drinks, bouncy castle, face painting and glitter tattoos.

11 May – **Charles Booth Centre** – an evening with Melissa Gill, former The Voice semi-finalist. Tickets £8 from the centre or www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone. Melissa will not only sing but tell the audience about her time on The Voice, what happens backstage and her work with Sir Tom Jones.

11 May – **Talon Eagles Tribute** at Century Theatre – Tickets £18.50, advanced £16.50. Contact theatre on 278444.

13 May – **Swannington Village Hall** – plant sale 11am-2pm. This is part of Swannington Open Gardens event.

18 May – **Conny Club, Whitwick** – Take That Tribute. Starts at 9pm. Tickets £5, members £3.

18 May – **Griffydam History Walk** – 1.5 miles. Starts at 7pm from Top Road, Griffydam. Learn all about this hamlet and its history. Booking essential on 222833.

19 May – Charles Booth Centre – to celebrate the **Royal Wedding**, come along from 12 noon and have Pimms on the lawn (weather permitting) and also then a cream tea after the wedding. Prices to come later.

19 May – **New Lount Nature Reserve** - plant sale 10am-1pm. All welcome. Lots of plants available to purchase at decent prices.

20 May – **Grace Dieu Priory history walk with Ann** – Meet at Bull's Head car park at 6pm. £3 per adult.

26 May – **Whitwick Conny Club** – Tom Jones tribute with Tony Scarth from 9pm. £2 admission.



- 26-27 May – **George and Dragon** – music festival on both days from 3pm and dog show at 1pm. on 27th. Free entry.
- 30 May – **Grace Dieu Priory History Walk with Ann** – starts at Bull’s Head car park at 6pm. £3 per adult.
- 2 June – **Charles Booth Centre** – 1000 years of history with comedian and song writer, Anthony King. Starts at 8pm. Tickets £8
- 3 June – **plant sale** at the centre. More details to follow
- 8 June – **Evening of Mediumship** at Century Theatre with Nikki Kit. Tickets £12 from the theatre.
- 15 June – Conny Club - **Robert Taylor as George Michael**. Tickets £5 on the door – members £3. Starts at 9pm.
- 20-23 June – **Wizard of Oz** at Charles Booth Centre. Evening performance at 7.30pm, matinee at 2.15pm. Tickets Wed and Thurs £8 for adults, £7 for children, Fri and Sat £9 for adults, £8 for children. Booking through www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads or 0333 666 3366. The charity being supported this year is Rainbows Children’s Hospice.
- 22 June – Lyric Rooms, Ashby – **Meatloaf tribute** - £27.00 per person. Tel 415039/07946438904 Email:- finecuisine@btinternet.com
- 24 June – **Miners Gala event, Coalville** – Part of Picnic in the Parks in Coalville. Friends of Thringstone will be taking part.
- 29 June – Andy Crosbie as Elton John at **Whitwick Constitutional Club** (Conny).
- 29 June – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society’s** beetle drive at Thringstone Members Club. Only £5 to include a ham or cheese salad cob and a cake. Bar open from 7.30pm until 11pm. Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads
- 6 July – Conny Club, Whitwick – **Jamaican themed night**. Meal and entertainment for £14.95. 7pm start.
- 14 July – **Alfi day** – charity day to raise money for children’s brain tumour charity.
- 21 and 22 July – **Grace Dieu Manor** –Antiques and vintage weekend. Adults £3, children free, dogs welcome. Saturday 9am-4pm, Sunday 9am – 3pm. Further details from Guildhall Fairs on 01766 831800.
- 4 August – **Thringstone Music Festival** at Charles Booth Centre. Starts at 1pm, gates open at 12 noon. Lots of music, inside and out, stalls, things for the children, food, drink and, hopefully this year, nice weather. This is a charity fund raiser for the centre.
- 17 Aug – **Freddie Mercury tribute** with Joey Linden at Conny Club, Whitwick
- 18 and 19 August – **Woodstock in Whitwick**
- 24 August – **Slime Making workshop** at the centre – 1.30pm-2.30pm £8 per person which includes glitter and sequins, 3.30pm-5pm – an advanced session to include fluffy slime at £12.95 per person and 6pm-7pm for beginners at £8 per person. Tickets available at etsy.com
- 27-31 August – **Art exhibition** at the centre
- 8 Sept – **Charity fashion show** at the centre. More details nearer the time.
- 14 Sept – Conny Club- **Adele tribute** with Lareena Mitchell. Tickets £5, members £3. Starts at 9pm.
- 15 Sept – **Hello Heritage at the centre**. 12 noon until 5pm.
- 29 Sept – **Evening of Mediumship** at Century Theatre with Gareth Lewis and Craig Morris. Ticket prices yet to be advised.
- 29 Sept – **Conny Club, Whitwick**- Elvis Tribute with Dean Craig. Starts 9pm.
- 19 Oct – Abba Tribute at **Whitwick Conny Club**. Starts at 9pm. More details nearer the time.
- 9 Nov – **Quiz night** at the centre
- 11 Nov – **Exhibition to commemorate** the end of WW1 plus tea dance at the centre
- 11 Nov – **Antique and Collectors’** fair at Hermitage Leisure Centre 9am-3pm. £2.
- 16 Nov – Cher and Pink tribute at **Whitwick Conny Club** with Stacy Green. Starts at 9pm
- 24 Nov – Andy Kayne as Barry White at **Whitwick Conny Club**
- 15 Dec – **Thank You For The Music (Abba Tribute)** back at Charles Booth Centre by popular request. £8 per ticket. Starts at 8pm.



History report

- April 1863 – Mary Adams kept the **Toll Bar at Thringstone**, and took to court W Clements and James Ward for wilfully destroying a window in the toll bar on 7 April. They were fined £1 2s 10d or 7 days hard labour. The court noted that these were the same 2 youths who had committed other crimes on returning from drinking and had been fined for damaging a haystack 2 weeks ago, the property of Mr Potter, when they went into his stackyard for a nap. From the 1861 census, Mary was born in 1814 in Croydon, Surrey, and it would appear this toll bar was somewhere near the Bull's Head, as she is 2 doors away from Hannah Merriman who kept the pub at this time. This is new information.
- We have been sent photos from a family member of **Fred Grice**, one of the 4 men from WW2 who are remembered at St Andrew's. Fred died on 10 July 1944 in Calvados, France aged 29. He was born in October 1914, and was a career soldier who joined the Leicestershire Regiment on 4 October 1933 and served in Malaya and India as well as France. In addition, we have been sent a copy of the Coalville Billet, a news magazine for Coalville and District men with HM Forces, produced in Coalville by Jack Hussey, and sent out to service personnel free during WW2. The copy we have is for November 1942 and mentions Fred Grice, as well as several other interesting things. Copies have been shared with a member of the Grice family and also with Thringstone Primary for their ongoing war studies both now and in the future.
- **Accident to Benjamin Gough** – in early May 1890, Benjamin Gough of Thringstone, a trooper in the Leicestershire Yeomanry Cavalry, was riding his horse by Victoria Park in Leicester when the horse reared and fell on him. Dr Jacques, surgeon for the regiment, said upon examination that he had internal injuries, and he was sent back to his lodgings. This man, who was a butcher by trade and went to the USA in 1898 after a lot of matrimonial problems which were recorded in the press at the time, is the great grandfather of Thringstone's **Pete Gough**. Benjamin had a son, John Wilson Gough, whose son Albert Eric Gough was Pete's dad.
- **Queen's Head** - On 23 January 1895, Samuel Hallam, licensee of this pub, and a former poor law guardian for Thringstone, wrote to Chairman of the Guardian's board complaining that an elderly person in Thringstone, who lived opposite his pub, and was suffering from cancer, was in receipt of the medical officer's orders for brandy to help her pain. The problem was not that she received this brandy, at a cost of 2 shillings per week, paid by the Ashby Union, but that the medical officer always issued his orders to one public house, rather than share this around the village, making one publican a favourite amongst others. Mr Hallam said he personally had not received any orders from the medical officer for 12 years and wondered whether this was because he had also been a parish guardian. It was adjudged that a parish guardian who was also a publican could receive orders for spirits as part of the medical officer's recommendations, but it probably wouldn't sit well with others.
- An obituary in October 1908 regarding the death of **Mary, widow of Samuel William Hallam**, has told us that she died suddenly on 10 October at 1am, having been working in the pub until 10pm the previous night. It further says that she had never been in robust health, and had suffered from heart problems, and was treated by Dr Hamilton. This is another new name for a doctor working in this area. This would appear to be **Dr James Sharpe Hamilton**, born in 1875 in County Down, Ireland, and brought up in Stoke on Trent. He operated from Belvoir Cottage, Coalville. He qualified in 1898 in Edinburgh, and died on 11 April 1917 leaving £7155 14s 9d to his widow Agnes.
- **George and Dragon** – in July 1886, newspapers say that the pub was transferred on a temporary license to John Benjamin Stretton, which is new information. We believe he was born in Chesterfield in 1855 and married Mary Davies in the summer of 1886 somewhere in this area. We believe he may have lived in Glasgow in 1901 and carried on a business as a fish monger and died on 10 July 1920 at 8 The Esplanade, Carmarthen, Wales, but this is not certain. Thomas Chesterton took over the pub in March 1887.

- The Leicester Post of 20 November 1905 tells of the absence of a water supply to the **George and Dragon**. The council had contacted a Mr Taylor in Nottingham who had suggested that a well be sunk near the roadside and that the council should contribute to the expense of this, with a view to taking it over as a public well. The property at that time stood on its own on a country road. Mr Kidger, one of the Rural District Councillors, said that he had been in there recently to get out of the rain and had a tot of whiskey, but wouldn't take the water with it. By June 1906, reports in the media said that the matter was now sorted and the water satisfactory.
- An article in the Leicester Daily Post of 12 January 1907 tells us that **Edmund Cox**, landlord of the George and Dragon, was taken to court for having in his possession at the pub a dead Kingfisher on 26 December 1906. The landlord's wife said that Teddy Robinson had brought it in, having shot it, to have it stuffed. Edmund Cox said he was away when the incident occurred. Both Kingfishers and Goldfinches being protected, Mr Cox was fined 1 shilling plus 10 shillings and 6 pence costs or 7 days in prison. Previous research had already come up with information saying that a Mr Cox was at the pub in December 1907, but nothing further. A further notice in June 1907 tells of a disturbance at the pub between Edward (Teddy) Robinson who assaulted Mr Cox. By March 1908, Mr Cox was keeping The White Horse public house in Shepshed and John Shepherd was keeping the George and Dragon. From that information, we now find that he was born in 1869 in the village of Baston, not far from Thetford in Lincolnshire. In 1901, he had lived in Earl Shilton and been a stockman on a farm. He married Kate Peasgood, in 1898, and had one son, Edmund Peasgood Cox. By 1939 they were running a market garden business at 52 Ashby Road, Shepshed. Edmund died in 1944.
- **Rose and Crown** – In the Leicester Daily Post of 1 May 1891, Hannah Maria Hollingsworth, landlady of the pub, placed an advert under the heading Charnwood Forest and Monastery. She was advertising the pub as a The Old Rose and Crown Commercial Inn, and said it was a suitable base for 'the walking of the Catholics on 3 May'. The advert stated that the pub provided good stabling and was a mere 3 minutes walk from 'the cross' which presumably refers to the cross which used to stand on Turlough Road. Hannah kept the pub for 2 years. In the Leicester Daily Post of 18 August 1892, the pub is **listed as to let**. Described as having a full license, the advert mentions a large garden with fruit trees, greenhouse with vines, use of the village green and 2.5 acres of rich grass land, plus a butcher's shop, stabling, cow houses and other outbuildings. The property was available immediately through contact with Brunt Bucknall and Co. of Hartshorne Brewery, Burton on Trent. This brewery was taken over by Bass in 1927. Previous landlord, George James Gough had owned The Green as well as the pub, and sold it during his term at the pub to the brewery. Another article in the Leicester Chronicle of 25 January 1896 relating to the death of **James Gough** on Wednesday 15 January states that he had been retired from the Rose and Crown for some considerable time, and had died of senile decay aged 84. The article says he was both well known and highly respected. **Charles Wilkins** was, we discover, landlord at the Rose and Crown in 14 May 1898. Various newspapers recorded that there had been problems ejecting a William Henson from Hugglescote from the pub, as he claimed he was waiting for a young woman to accompany him. When Henson left, a man called Thomas Dent from Coalville got involved in the argument and hit Charles Wilkins in the eye, which was corroborated by Wilkins' wife Harriet Ann. We had previously thought that Charles Wilkins took over the pub in 1899. For some time, we have been trying to find out the history of the 3 storey properties on **The Green**. Having found details of the **sale of the estate of George James Gough in Feb 1894** we may now have more answers. This former landlord of the Rose and Crown died on 10 December 1893. His estate comprised of two 3 storey dwellings near the pub, in the occupation of W Vernon and G Lawrence, which were bought by John Kirby, who also bought the two cottages at the rear in the occupation of James Toone and A Tingley for a total of £700. Mr Kirby also bought a cottage and garden in Drury Lane occupied by John Vernon for £58. A house in the occupation of Mrs A Jesson was bought by Daniel Webb for £305 (This would be



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The Willows), a house with cottage in the occupation of Benjamin Gough, with adjoining cottage in the occupation of John Gill and fronting Main Street were bought by Benjamin Gough for £350 and Samuel William Hallam of the Queens Head bought 627 sq yards of building land for £56. Since John Kirby owned the property next to what was the pub for some years, and is now known locally as The Blue House on The Green, we are assuming that the two 3 storey properties he bought were that one and the one next door.

- **The Star Inn** – We have found new information regarding George Henson who took over this beerhouse in September 1883 for about 6 months from James Walter Henson. It would appear they were brothers. This information is recorded in the Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal. George was born in Whitwick on 15 September 1861 and died in 1949. In 1881 George was living with his parents at ‘the farmhouse, Gracedieu Road’ which seems to have been next to Rosetree Cottage. 10 years later, having left The Star, he was married and living in Coalville and trading as a butcher at 4 Belvoir Road. He had 8 children, 4 of whom had died by 1911 and his son, George James Henson, was working with him in the family butchery in 1939. His son, Fred Ragg Henson, was killed in France on 9 April 1917 whilst fighting in Pas de Calais. George was a well known horseman, rode with the Quorn Hunt, and was a successful exhibitor in trotting displays and at agricultural shows. We have a photograph of him on horseback which we posted on the internet. His obituary in the Coalville Times said that he died at his home behind the shop where he had conducted business for 60 years, having started his business originally in Ellistown.
- **Sale of property of the late Edwin Ayre, retired carpenter** – We already had a copy of the will of this gent which suggested that all his unlisted real estate be rested with his wife until her death. However, details of a sale of assets of this gent in April 1894, lists the following properties/land changed hands – 8 cottages known as Brook Terrace were sold to Mr James Brewin for £350, 850 sq yards of building land was purchased by Rebecca Mary Gough at 1s 7d per yard. She also bought Mr Ayre’s former house on Brook Road for £250. A house with a croft of old turf land in the occupation of collier William Moore was purchased by Stephen Cox for £250 and £1068 6s 8d was realised from the sale. Edwin had died on 13 February 1893 and in the 1850s had been the Overseer for the Poor for the village. Rebecca Mary Gough, wife of James Gough, was born in Thringstone and was the daughter of Edwin Ayre. She had moved with her husband to open a confectionery shop in Bridlington in the late 1870s. When that failed in the 1880s, she subsequently worked as an attendant in the waiting room and toilets at Bridlington Railway Station. She died on 22 March 1929 in Bridlington.
- **Jeremiah Orridge**, born in February 1823, he lived in Thringstone and was buried at St Andrew’s on 6 August 1880. His obituary said that he had fought in The Indian Mutiny of 1857, had a ball of steel lodged in his foot and had received prize money from Cawnpore and Lucknow. He was a member of the Marquis of Hastings Lodge, Loughborough University, and members of his lodge attended his funeral.
- We have previously recorded details of doctors of the area who ministered in Thringstone, and have come across a report in the Leicester Daily Mercury of 1 September 1877 on the inquest into the death of a woman having given birth to a baby. The report tells that Fanny Sherratt aged 31, recorded incorrectly as Sherrard, wife of William Sherratt, collier, of Talbot Lane, Thringstone, died as a result of the poor intervention work by Eliza Sykes, acting as midwife. Ann Casey, a local midwife of 16 years experience, had been asked to attend the whole labour, but had been unable, and turned up as the child was being born with Mrs Sykes in attendance. When about 45 minutes later, Mrs Sherratt said she was in considerable pain and appeared to be haemorrhaging, she asked Mrs Sykes to let Mrs Casey deal with her, and Mrs Casey sent for a doctor, but the lady died within a few minutes. Surgeon **Mr William Donovan** arrived with his brother Dr Hugh L Donovan, and said there would have been nothing they could have done had they been called earlier and the inquest recorded a death of misadventure. Research has shown that the family were indeed Sherratt not Sherrard, and William was born in about 1846 and brought up with his grandparents on Talbot Lane – Elizabeth and Joseph, who are



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sometimes recorded as Sherod, Sherard or Sherrard, but are in fact Sherratt. He must have been illegitimate, as he is recorded in 1851 as 'daughter's son'. William subsequently moved to Hucknall. Ann Casey was Irish and lived in North Street, Whitwick, and Eliza Sykes lived at St Mary's Terrace, just inside the Whitwick boundary. Fanny was buried in St Andrew's churchyard under the name of Fanny Sherrard. In our book *Thringstone and Its People*, there is information about William Donovan, who practised in the area between 1877 and 1884, but no mention of his brother Hugh. Research indicates that his full name was Hugh Latimer Donovan, born in Cork on 30 July 1855. He passed his qualifications as a doctor and surgeon in Ireland the same year as the incident. He was a member of the Masons, and appears to have been an Army physician from February 1878. He served in the Sudan, Malta, Egypt and India before moving to Warwickshire. He retired in 1898 as a Lieutenant Colonel, but was re-commissioned to serve as a medic during WW1 but even in his later years was still acting as a consultant surgeon in Birmingham where he lived. We can only assume he was visiting with his brother when this incident occurred. *There was a lot of talk at this point about non-qualified midwives.*

- We have previously discussed the history of the **Towle family** who lived at the Gables, and ran a shop from there from 1852. We have mentioned that Henry, the eldest son of Joseph and Elizabeth Towle, was born in Thringstone in 1848 and was the only member of the family who moved away from the village and stayed away. We knew Henry went to work for the Midland Railway and lived and married in Matlock, but have now found that he married on 12 December 1872 at the parish church Matlock and was a stationmaster at that time at Matlock Bridge. His bride was Hannah Statham, daughter of Nathan Statham of Matlock Green and they went on to have 5 children of whom 4 were sons. Henry's brother William, also worked for the Midland Railway Company, and in 1881 was stationmaster at Peterborough before moving on with the company in 1890 to be a passenger agent at Worcester. Henry, who for several years had been honorary secretary of the Matlock Golf Club and had also been choir master at Matlock Parish Church, had lived at the time of his death at Beechwood, Chesterfield Road, Matlock having moved from Roseleigh, Lime Grove Walk, Matlock a while earlier. He retired from Midland Railways after 45 years of service in 1908, ending his career in Nottingham where he had been stationmaster for 18 years. Newspaper records tell that he had been stationmaster not only at Matlock Bridge for 5 years, but also Buxton for 2 years, Luton for 6 years and Keighley for 6 years. His Nottingham address upon retirement was Thorndale, The Park, Nottingham. He had started his employment as a clerk at the station in Oakham in 1863 and carried out similar posts at Thrapston, Wisbech and Bedford before being promoted to relief stationmaster at Derby. At his retirement, he recalled that when his employment started, there were 1st, 2nd and 3rd class fares plus Parliamentary fares, with the Parliamentary train stopping at every station. It would take a day to get to London by train, and carriages were open with wooden seats and no upholstery. He said that when he went to Nottingham in 1890, only 200 trains a day were dealt with. He died on 31 July 1929. He left £4075 18s 4d gross with his executors being his sons Arthur Henry Towle of 31 Moreland Court, Hendon, Middlesex, inspector of taxes and Joseph Ernest Towle of 14 Village Road, Finchley, a staff officer for the GPO.
- August 1867 – Building land of 312 sq yards with frontage of 58 feet to **The Green**, presently in the occupation of Miss Hallam was advertised as being for sale. We are currently trying to find out where this was to add to our information on the area at that time.

Council report

Nothing to report.

There was general discussion about someone in the village using the litter bins for household waste, and Nita said she removes stuff like this when she can.

Gardening and environment



Bernard continues to weed, prune and maintain our existing planting when he has time.

Centre matters

New signage has gone up today. Everybody at the meeting thought this looked good. Pam Porter said that she and her friends really enjoyed the comedy night, and some came from Melbourne, and would come again. Nita said that the majority of people who came to the comedy night were new to events at the centre and she knew of people who had come from Castle Donington. Ray W said that the centre intended to put on a variety of things to appeal to audiences, and the comedy night would be on again in the future.

Nita said she is doing a broadcast for the centre tomorrow afternoon on Hermitage FM.

AOB

Bernard wanted to know who had done the coppicing in the **new plantation** – the area of woodland off Springfield. This had been done by people working for either the council or the electricity board, and was done to reduce the growth of bushes and trees into the overhead cables. There was talk about the **new lampposts** being put up in the village and the old concrete posts being taken down. People wondered about the cost of this. Nita said she knew that the new posts are 4 inches taller than others, as she had had complaints about this from people. Dave said that the angle of the light could be altered if this caused problems for people.

Next meeting is the AGM on 7 June at 6.45pm at Thringstone House/Charles Booth Centre.