



# The Friends of Thringstone



**'Working together to improve our village'**

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## **MINUTES OF MEETING AND AGM HELD ON 7 JUNE 2018 AT CHARLES BOOTH CENTRE, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THRINGSTONE HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Present:** Nita Pearson, John Jackson, Maureen Simm, Mike Statham, Ron Hill, Janet Stevenson, Shirley Gordon, Pat Hubbard, Tracy Foulds, Ann Petty, Bernard Lee, Pam Porter

**Apologies:** Gillian Bates, Geoff and Jane Wilson, Helen and John Dickinson, Ray Woodward

### **Voting in of new committee:**

Chairman: Nita Pearson

Secretary: Nita Pearson

Vice Chair: Geoff Wilson

Treasurer: Geoff Wilson

History: Ann Petty

Environment: Bill Enser

Membership Secretary: Sue Rowbottom

Events Assist: Kathy Mardon

Admin Assist: Vacant

The voting was en bloc – Maureen Simm proposed, John Jackson seconded, and all were in favour as above.

A Chairman's AGM report has been issued reporting on the financial year, what changes there have been, and what has been achieved. 3 copies were available at the meeting. This report will be posted onto our FoT website. If people would like to have a copy sent to them, please contact Nita.

The examination of the accounts is mentioned in the Chairman's AGM report, but a copy was available at the meeting to look through. Again, if people would like to have a copy sent to them, please contact Nita.

Janet Stevenson wanted to thank Nita for all the work she does for the group, for her tact, patience and time in collecting membership monies and her general work in the village. The group gave a round of applause.

### **Discussions/Decisions.**

**Memberships.** Most people have now paid their membership. Thank you. Nita has been made to feel most welcome when she has called to collect this. If you haven't already paid the membership for the year, and you wish to continue to support the group, we should be pleased to receive your



£3.50 per person for the year. The subscription rate has been at £3.50 since the AGM in 2010 when it went up from £2.50.

**Council's Green Shoot Grant** – The council has advertised another round of their bulb planting offer where you can order 2000 bulbs of various types and pay £100 with the council footing the bill for the other £100 bill. Do we want to participate? We have a form to fill in and return prior to 10<sup>th</sup> August. There are a lot of areas that could do with brightening up, but if we go ahead, Nita would suggest that we go for crocus or bluebells, as planting daffodils is too much of a target for people subsequently picking them and taking them home. This was discussed in depth, and it was agreed to order bulbs, 500 of each type of bulb, and have a discussion nearer the time as to where they are planted. There was a suggestion that they be given to people in duller areas of the village for their front gardens, although there were other suggestions made about planting in areas we presently don't plant in. Nita will fill in the necessary paperwork and arrange for a cheque to be issued as appropriate.

**Thringstone Co-op** – Following our meeting with Thringstone Co-op in March, an email was sent to them saying that we had noticed no changes with signage etc. as promised. A reply was received saying that they were still waiting to hear from the police around collaborative working and improving ways of working, but have advertised in the window that the store is a Police point of co-operation, and would continue to keep us informed of any progress.

**Queen's Head** – this property, now just 22-24 The Green, is now occupied by a family, who have put Venetian blinds up at the windows and are doing improvements to the inside of the property.

**Miners Gala/Picnic in the Parks** – One person has said they are able to help with the stall in the afternoon of this event on 24 June which runs at Coalville Park from 12 noon until 5pm. Anybody else want to help? Janet Stevenson said she could help. Anybody else who can help is asked to contact Nita.

**Music Festival at centre 4 August** – We will be having a stall at this event to try to get new members and sell publications. Does anybody wish to help with this please? Starts at 1pm, set up before 11am, and take down at 5pm. At the moment it is Ann running this, as Nita is marshalling the event. ANN NEEDS HELP PLEASE.

**Prospective Tenants and Residents Association for Woodside Estate -** A meeting held on 14 May discussed this matter. This would be council supported, there would be £600 pa grant for setting it up and a committee would have to be formed. Forming a committee would be necessary, but there would be training from NWLDC for this. They could also offer food hygiene training, 1<sup>st</sup> aid training, and treasurer training, plus IT training. It was agreed to run a family fun day on the estate in August after the music festival, and another meeting was held on 4 June at Charles Booth Centre to make the necessary arrangements for this and a date of 17 August proposed. More details nearer the time.

**Monthly litter pick total** – 139 bags against 151 for the same month last year. Someone had dumped a bin full of stuff in the woodlands, which Nita partially removed. Nita told the de Lisle family and received effusive thanks. We also received an email from Consortio Security in Castle Donington wishing to do litter picking with us as part of a community activity. Nita worked with 6 of them last Tuesday and 22 bags of rubbish were removed from the area, including the remainder of the flytipping mentioned above. This figure will be included in the figures for next meeting. A press release has been done, and it has been mentioned on facebook and twitter postings. It was acknowledged that the area of woodland covered was only a small percentage of the area that perhaps contains litter.

**Memorial Project** – Nita and Ann attended a meeting to discuss our involvement in the Coalville memorial restoration project, and completing information for an exhibition and brochure relating to other war memorials, including Whitwick. It was agreed that we could supply information to the project group relating to the stained glass in St Andrew's and also the Roll of Honour at the centre, as the group felt that such details should be included. This will mean that both of these will be on the routes laid out in the book for people to follow and see the



memorials. It was also agreed that this work should contain, as part of its legacy, various information not included in the original remit, with plans to host and hold other events going forward.

**Hello Heritage event** – 15 September from 12noon until 5pm at the centre.

This is an event promoted by NWLDC. All the necessary paperwork has been sent to them (including our insurance details) so that we may put something on relating to the history of the centre, the Booth family and the village as a whole. If anybody fancies baking cakes for this, please let Nita know as we would like to offer refreshments.

**Marking the end of WW1** – 10 November. As we said before, we have been in touch with Leics. CVH as mentioned before about joining us for this event, and also the RBL and local WI. The Art group intend to do a collage for the event. The event has been advertised on Wherecanwego.com and also on other national and local websites. We may now be able to link this event with the above mentioned Memorial Project exhibition tour. The centre were having a clear out found a large bottle full of about 500 remembrance poppies, which they have given to FoT and will feature in any exhibition we do which has a war theme. Thank you. Maureen said she would continue to talk to RBL about joining in with this, and also ask the church if they wanted to hold an open day on the same date.

**Centre news – statement from the centre’s trustees** – ‘Holly Kerley, our Business Development Manager, has decided to accept an exciting new career opportunity and will leave the Charles Booth Centre on 29th June 2018. We completely understand Holly’s decision to accept this opportunity to advance her career.

Since joining, Holly has made remarkable progress in developing new business as well as growing the fulfilment of the Centre. She has also made a major contribution in our exciting journey of establishing the business as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Whilst we are very sad to lose Holly we are extremely grateful to her for her significant contributions to the Centre. She will make this career move with our very best wishes. We are also delighted that she has offered to continue to support the Centre as a volunteer and, for example, will continue to organise our music festival in August.

We are in the process of recruiting a replacement for the Business Development Manager role and will communicate to all once an appointment has been made.’

Mike said that adverts are in the papers shortly for the position and they hoped to find someone who would carry on where Holly has left off. Adverts are going to a wider media audience than was the case last time.

### **Chairs Report**

**Letters received:** From bank about GDPR and data protection.

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

Also received email from **Liberty PR** asking for information on our work for the road naming on the Bellway Estate, as this project is being put forward for a community initiative award.

**Emails sent:** Various to groups and individuals as usual.

**Promotion:** We have **522 twitter followers**, which is 8 more than last month, and **607 facebook followers**, which is 15 more than last month. We are continuing to post details of local events, public notices and also historical photos on both sites. A recent analysis of our facebook followers said only 15 of these have logged in from Thringstone. By far the biggest number (310) have logged in from Coalville, but we do have followers from outside of the UK. 72% of our followers are female.

We were also featured in recent press releases regarding our work on the Coalville Memorial project as one of the voluntary groups taking part.

**Other** We are sorry to report the death of our member Harold Bates. Condolences go to his wife and family.



Nita had a chat on the phone recently with **Lynn Goulbourn** who used to be the warden at the centre in the 1990s. She wishes to be remembered to all who knew her, and wishes the centre well for the future.

### Finance Report

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>£2,234.82</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Memberships	476 to inc. BACS	Broadband	10.50
Raffle	12.00	Teamprint bauble printing	39.90
publications	7.50	RCC membership	60.00
Donations	54.10 to inc. BACS	Donation to centre for room	170.00
Grant from NWLDC	£395.13		
<b>total income to general fund</b>	£944.73		£280.40
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>£2,899.15</b>

### Publications Report –

Nita sold 1 x memories 4, 1 x VT 3 and 1 x Durham Miners books at the Centre's launch party plus we attracted a 50p donation.

Web Report – minutes are up to date, the summer newsletter is on there, but there are some photos of the centre's launch and our stand to go on site.

### Police Report

Nothing received, although there have been reports on facebook of a man shooting cats for pleasure in our village. A pigeon which had been wounded was found on the Co-op car park on 6 June and given to a man in Mountsorrel who helps rescue pigeons.

### Community Report and What's On

**Thringstone man plays at Prince Harry's wedding** -It was wonderful to see (and hear) David Blackadder playing solo trumpet for the Introit at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan. David was born and raised in Thringstone and educated at Castle Rock and King Ed. Schools before going off to the Royal College of Music in London. David played with the Scottish Opera and was the principal trumpeter for English Baroque Soloists and Orchestre Revolutionaire et Romantique. He's now the principal trumpet player at the Academy of Ancient music. In 1993 he founded Blackadder Brass, an educational ensemble in Birmingham, and taught at the Birmingham Conservatoire. We put this information on our facebook page, and it attracted over 1200 views including the Coalville Times asking for contact details for David to contact him to do an article, which they subsequently did for the front page.

Yogabellies are starting a **pregnancy yoga class** at Park Hall in Whitwick every Tuesday from 6.30pm-7.45pm. No further details on cost.

A 3 week old **kitten** was found on the play area on Melrose Road on 6 June. It was taken in by the person who found it, who will try to raise the kitten.

**Thringstone Miners Welfare FC** have two new sponsors – Hormann garage and industrial doors and Pallex. The club would like to thank them.



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**Gracedieu Park Cricket Club** is still looking for sponsorship, for small things like stumps, match balls etc. If interested, please contact the club direct.

**Booth Coffee Morning** – this started at the centre on 1 June and will run every Friday between 10am and 12 noon. The first one attracted a good lot of people. Cakes are also on sale. Come along for a drink and a natter.

**New Class** for older adults with a fear of falling or wanting to just do a little bit of extra activity starting at Charles Booth centre on 19 June at 1.30-2.30pm. This is a 12 week course organised and run by NWLDC's Mark Elliott. For more information, please contact him direct on 454606.

8 June – **Evening of Mediumship** at Century Theatre with Nikki Kit. Tickets £12 from the theatre.

8 June – **Thringstone Soul Club** at Thringstone Members club with Malcolm Greenslade DJ. £3. 8pm start

9-10 June – **Open gardens, Osgathorpe** - cream teas, plant sale, cake stall, book sale, ice creams and licensed bar. Car parking and toilets. £3 pp (under 16s free)

12 June – **Film club at the centre** – film is Victoria and Abdul. Raffle etc. to cover costs. Will start at 7.30pm as usual

15 June – Conny Club - **Robert Taylor as George Michael**. Tickets £5 on the door – members £3. Starts at 9pm.

21-23 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](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads) or 0333 666 3366. The charity being supported this year is Rainbows Children's Hospice. There was a typo in The Bauble which said that the matinee is at 12.15 rather than 2.15pm.

21 June – **Melrose Rd play area** – picnic from lunchtime onwards. All welcome to bring food to share.

22 June – Lyric Rooms, Ashby – **Meatloaf tribute** - £27.00 per person. Tel 415039/07946438904 Email:- [finecuisine@btinternet.com](mailto: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](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads)

30 June – **Thringstone Primary school fete**

6 July – Conny Club, Whitwick – **Jamaican themed night**. Meal and entertainment with Ska-waddy for £14.95. 7pm start.

13 July - **Thringstone Soul Club** at Thringstone Members club with Peter Sumner DJ. £3. 8pm start

14 July – **Alfi day** – charity day to raise money for children's brain tumour charity. Coalville Town Football Club. 1pm – 9pm. Live music, craft stalls, lots for the children. Hot food and licensed bar.

15 July – Festival of Archeology walk to **Grace Dieu Priory** with Ann. Meet at 6pm at Bull's Head car park. Adults £3 children free.

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.

22 July - Festival of Archeology walk to **Grace Dieu Priory** with Ann. Meet at 6pm at Bull's Head car park. Adults £3 children free.

28 July – Thringstone Members Club – **Summer Soul** – Special guest DJs Taff and Lee plus Jayne Lesley singing Motown classics. Ticket only event at £4 per ticket. 8pm-late. Tickets from 813531





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.

10 August - **Thringstone Soul Club** at Thringstone Members club with Mick Sly DJ. £3. 8pm start

17 Aug – **Freddie Mercury tribute** with Joey Linden at Conny Club, Whitwick

17 Aug - Family Fun Day on Woodside Estate. All welcome. Starts at 12 noon.

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

18-27 August – **Art exhibition** at the centre

1 Sept – **Thringstone's Got Talent** show at the centre. 7pm start. £5 per ticket.

7 Sept - **Thringstone Soul Club** at Thringstone Members club with Rob Harris DJ. £3. 8pm start

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.

11 Oct – **Gin tasting** event at Charles Booth Centre. More details nearer the time.

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 dance at the centre

11Nov – **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**

### History report

- In our book on pubs in Thringstone, we discussed Walter Fisher who ran **The Fox from October 1891- June 1894**. In the Coalville Times of 16 June 1911 was an article relating to a court case between Sarah Gough, widow of Thomas Gough, Mrs Bertha Fisher (her daughter and wife of Walter Fisher who had run the Fox Inn) and John Mann, a wheelwright who had been married to Mrs Gough's other daughter Lily Elsie, in 1895, but she had died in December 1908 aged 31 having produced 8 children. Bertha Gough had married Walter Fisher on 11 July 1881 at St John the Baptist Church in Southend on Sea. The case revolved around furniture and items left to Mrs Gough and both her daughters by Thomas Gough, who died on 17 July 1890, and to insurance policies. Thomas Gough left various items to his family with a net personal estate at probate of £951 19s 6d. For some time after his death, his widow, plus Mr and Mrs Fisher and Lily Gough had lived at The Fox Inn as tenants, the money to take the tenancy coming from unknown sources, but some of it could have come from her father's legacy. Mrs Gough said she had an annuity of 17 shillings a week from her husband, which she normally spent on food and did not recall giving money to the Fisher's. Whilst at The Fox, the Fisher family got into financial difficulties, which we knew, as Walter Fisher was subsequently declared bankrupt. Upon leaving the Fox, however, we now learn that Mrs Gough and the Fishers moved to one of the two Southend Cottages in Main Street, which had been left to Thomas Gough for life. The other Southend Cottage was occupied by Mr and Mrs Mann. The two cottages had then been made into one and they all lived together, with their furniture. The Fishers then moved to Shepshed, which must have been before 1901, as by then the Fisher family was in Ashby whilst Mrs Gough is shown on the census with the Mann family. They took some of the furniture with them, but Mrs Gough stayed there until August 1910. Having been



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turned out by Mr Mann, Sarah Gough claimed she had no furniture for a month, because Mr Mann refused to give her any. The court case then continued with decisions made over the items in question. Sarah Gough died on 14 May 1913. From at least 1911, she was living with the Fisher family at 124 Ashby Road, Coalville and died there. She left all her money to her daughter Bertha Fisher.

- A notice in the Coalville Times of 25 Oct 1912 says that the license of **The Fox** was transferred from William Wileman to Samuel Jarvis. We have no previous knowledge of this, and do not know who William Wileman was. There was a man of the same name on Hermitage Road in Whitwick in 1911, but that is the only lead we have. We know that the pub was advertised by Michael McCarthy as being to let in January 1912.
- The obituary for James Musson who died on 20 December 1927 says that in addition to being the landlord of the **Fox Inn**, he was a director of the Whitwick Picture House. This is new information
- March 1910 - meeting to re-elect **Thringstone parish councillors**- councillors had to stand down and then stand for re-election. These were Daniel Webb (Chairman), Thomas Carter, James Gee, E Merriman, Thomas Watts and James Burton. Messrs Carter and Merriman did not seek re-election. There were six seats available, and those chosen to go forward for election were Daniel Webb, James Burton, E P Kidger, Thomas Watts, James Gee, and Thomas Fretter Siddons. Later in the year in August 1910, following the death of Daniel Amos Webb of The Willows, a new chairman of the Parish Council had to be chosen. This was James Gee of Ivy Dene, Loughborough Road. Two further nominations were handed in – Thomas Fretter Siddons of Home Farm and Mr Arthur Caurah of Thringstone. Mr Siddons was elected. Thomas Siddon's Home Farm was The Elms near the George and Dragon. He farmed there for several years with his wife Martha nee Slater. They had no children. Also in 1910, Mr E Watts became manager of the temporary schools, a post previously also held by Daniel Webb. The August 1910 meeting voted to send a letter to the London and North Western Railway Company asking that a shelter be erected at the Motor (rail) Station in Thringstone.
- Melton Mowbray Mercury 27 April 1911 – the opening of **Thringstone House** saw Charles Booth be presented with an inscribed silver rose bowl filled with crimson roses by Mr John Winters, chairman of the Thringstone House and Library who said he hoped that the name of Charles Booth would never be forgotten in the village which at the time had a population of around 900. Mrs Booth was ill and unable to attend but a silver inkstand and pen were given to Mr Booth to give to her from the Mothers' Union. Mrs Alice Towle, the warden and president of the Women's Association, gave Miss Imogen Booth a bouquet, and wished her mother well. The secretary at the centre at that time was William Jesson Gough (see below). After the presentations, Charles Booth presented various St John Ambulance certificates.
- Leicester Post 10 May 1911 – Charles Booth presided over a meeting at Thringstone House to discuss the proposals for the celebration of the forthcoming **coronation of George 5<sup>th</sup>**. Mr Holloway, honorary secretary, said the proposals were for all children in the village who attended the day school, plus children in the village who went to other schools and those over the age of 4 years plus those who had siblings who also attended the day school to be given a tea. Coronation mugs were to be provided, sports were to be arranged and a meat tea provided for those over the age of 60 years. Prizes would be offered for the best decorations. These suggestions were proposed by Mr Gee and seconded by Mr Hallam. It was suggested that provisions be made for those who were not children and were below 60 years but Mr Booth said it was best left as it was so it didn't become difficult, and therefore no decision was made on this final point.
- **John Winters**, mentioned above, was born in 1858 in Thringstone, and was a colliery blacksmith. He moved about the village but by 1911 was living on Loughborough Road. He had married Eliza Toon in 1876 and they had 12 children, of whom only 6 survived.



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Along with Charles Booth as chairman, Rev. Shrewsbury, William Jesson Gough of Talbot House farm, Arthur Caurah of The Green and John Wilson of 2 Olga Terrace, St George's Hill, Mr Winters was also part of the WW1 National Relief Committee. Mr Winters played cricket for Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club, as mentioned in previous notes, was a member of the Thringstone Lodge of the Ancient Order of Foresters, and died in 1926.

- **Arthur Caurah** also mentioned above, as well as being an overseer for the parish for several years, was a manager of the Co-op's boot and shoe department. He was a Wesleyan, and born in Shepshed on 6 January 1873. the son of Benjamin Caurah, a hawker, who latterly lived in John Street and who died there in 1906 of heart failure having been seen previously by Dr Atkinson of Osgathorpe. Arthur married Elizabeth Clarkson in 1891. She was born in Shepshed on 26 May 1870. They had 4 children – Elizabeth, Mary, Lilian May Clarkson and Cyril Henry. Arthur moved to 34 Locarno Road, Ipswich before 1939 and was there in that year with wife Elizabeth, daughter Lilian and her husband Edward Horne (a bread and milk roundsman, later market gardener, who she had married in Leicester in 1920) and their son Gordon Horne. Arthur had taken up a job as a market gardener. We believe he died in 1950 in Ipswich. From lists of men nominating candidates for election in 1910, it would appear that Arthur Caurah was a supporter of the Liberal Party. From a letter sent to Leicester Daily Post in July 1914, it would seem that he visited Ireland as part of the Loughborough Working Men's Group. In a further newspaper in the same month, seeking to give a good character reference for himself, Mr Caurah claimed he would fearlessly express his own views, but also appreciate his opponent's point of view. He was a busy man and not one whose sole interest was politics and he is shown on the score sheets as playing cricket for Grace Dieu Park during the period of WW1. His son Cyril, who also played for Grace Dieu Park, seems to have joined up and served in the Coldstream Guards during WW1 and his joining up papers state that the family lived on The Green, and he enlisted on 5 April 1917 aged 19. He was 5 feet 7 inches tall, with brown hair and blue eyes and remained a keen cricketer when he left Thringstone, married Clarice Cooper in 1921 and moved to Braunstone where he died in 1961.
- New information - **Dr Atkinson** who helped with the local nursing association, was Samuel Ernest Atkinson, known as Ernest, born in Chapel Allerton, Yorkshire on 7 July 1873. He was a Wesleyan and baptised into that faith when a month old. He practiced from Osgathorpe House and qualified in 1901 at the University College London and the Yorks College, Leeds, having married in 1900 to Edith Frances Inkson in Croydon. He was a qualified surgeon and a member of the Leicestershire Medical Society and British Medical Association. He had previously been the house surgeon at the Brighton Throat and Ear Hospital. In 1920 he became embroiled in a heated debate with Ashby Rural Council which was reported on as far away as London. Dr Atkinson said that in his opinion, there was not a single sound cottage roof in the whole of the Thringstone area, and that many times he had seen buckets in bedrooms catching water from leaking roofs. Dr Atkinson suggested to the parish meeting in February 1920 that his comments had been loosely reported and should not to be taken to heart. In 1920, Dr Atkinson was elected to the board of Ashby Grammar School. In 1924, Dr Atkinson attended at the scene when Charles Herbert Cook, aged 17, died by drowning at what was known as Island Pond at Gracedieu having been swimming with George Foulds, Alfred James Hughes and Harold Smith. Dr Atkinson died in 1958 in Leeds having left Osgathorpe between 1924 when his wife Edith died, and 1939, as at that time he had remarried and was living at 612 Scott Hall Road, Leeds.
- New information - **Dr Norman Webster Laing** practised in this area from at least 1939 to mid 1940 and was involved in various local inquests. Born on 28 November 1903 in Cathcart, Lanarkshire, to John Laing, a tailor's cutter and his wife Maggie nee Strathern, he was one of at least 6 sons, and qualified in Scotland in 1928. Records tell of him practicing in Scotland and Peterborough Memorial Hospital, where he was in around 1935 whilst living at nearby Glinton, and at The Royal Infirmary, Wigan. In 1937 he successfully had a





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driving ban, imposed as a result of driving whilst intoxicated, overturned whilst working in Lanarkshire. He had been working in a nursing home, and had left to avoid the publicity, but said he had learnt his lesson. In early 1939, he would appear to have practised at Bank Square, Southport, where he was the assistant, from May 1938 to February 1939 to the police surgeon there. He was in court charged with 8 counts of obtaining dangerous drugs without recording them in the register, this medication being 1061 tablets of morphine, some from a chemist in St Helens and some from Liverpool. He admitted to taking some of the drugs himself 'to keep going', but then said he became disgusted with himself and threw the others in the fire. He was fined £60, having voluntarily left his position with the police surgeons and his ability to stock, prescribe or supply drugs was withdrawn.

As far as this area is concerned, his practice was at 11 Silver Street and he is recorded there in April 1939 along with Dr Prys-Jones. In June 1940, whilst still working in Whitwick, he was fined £20 and disqualified from driving for 10 years as a result of being under the influence of alcohol and hitting a member of the local defence volunteers when crashing his car into a barricade. A nearby policeman had to jump out of the way, and the volunteer was badly hurt. At court, Dr Webster Laing said he was married with 2 children. He offered to join the army with immediate effect if he were let off the charge and this was accepted, although the magistrates said that had there not been a war, he would have faced a period of imprisonment.

Dr Laing died on 18 May 1941 at St Ebba's Hospital, Epsom, Surrey but his home address stated on his death certificate was 23 North Crescent, St Anne's On Sea, Lancashire. He had a safety razor wound on his right arm from which he had bled to death. There was an inquest on 21 May which concluded that he had committed suicide whilst the balance of his mind was disturbed. He was 37.

- New information - **Dr Thomas Restarick Rolston**, who has been mentioned briefly before, practiced in Whitwick from at least 1915 to 1920 at an address of Kingscroft, Whitwick, according to the UK medical directory for 1920. He was married with 3 children. He qualified in London in 1888, and worked for a while at Guy's hospital, Iver, Buckinghamshire, and the Royal Albert Hospital, Devonport. The first mention of him in this area is in 1915. He was born in 1861 in Stoke Damerel and was also a freemason. He died in 1921 in Southwark, London. Kingscroft is now the Conny Club in Silver Street.
- Mention is made in the Coalville Times in 1915 of a **Dr Milligan of Whitwick** being called to an incident in Coleorton in August of that year. We are currently unable to trace who this may have been, the nearest being a man who practiced before and after the war in Long Eaton.
- **Thringstone Women's Association** –in Leicester Chronicle of 16 November 1912 are details of a meeting of the Secretaries of the Coalville area of the Bosworth Division of Women's associations, at which Thringstone members were present.
- In March 1923, a meeting was held at Thringstone School to discuss the formation of a **Miners' Welfare Committee**. 12 people were appointed, with Albert Barlow being appointed as chairman and S Johnson as secretary.
- The Market Harborough Advertiser of 2 September 1949 had a picture of **Albert White** of Thringstone aged 19. Because of a spinal problem, Albert had only had 9 months schooling in the whole of his life. He was attending the Ministry of Labour Rehabilitation and Training centre at Leicester which at that time had been open for a year. He was hoping to catch up with his education. Ultimately he planned to qualify as an engineering inspector. The centre dealt with people from Leicestershire, Rutland, Northamptonshire, Lincoln, Huntingdon and Derby. We understand from those who remember Albert that he was always ill, sometimes used a wheelchair and sometimes crutches.
- July 1915 – newspapers at the time reported the death of **William Jesson Gough** of Talbot House Farm, Thringstone aged 41 after an illness lasting only a little over 2 weeks. Whilst we knew this, we did not know that Mr Gough was a former sidesman of St Andrew's, and



## The Friends of Thringstone

that his funeral was attended by Charles Booth. Mr Gough had also been honorary secretary of Thringstone House and Library for 9 years, was also an overseer, chairman of the parish council, manager of Swannington C of E school, and had only recently become a member of the Ashby Board of Guardians and a rural district councillor. He was a staunch Conservative who had worked hard for his party, and on the occasion of his funeral, the flag at Thringstone House was flown at half mast.

### **Council report**

Nita has asked the county councillor to investigate why there are still lampposts on Homstead Road, St Andrew's Close and Clover Place that have not been upgraded. These lampposts all still have the yellow signage on saying they will be upgraded in April. She has also asked him to investigate why the grass verge running down Booth Road from Lbro Rd has not been mown this year and is feet high.

### **Gardening and environment**

Bernard continues to weed, prune and maintain our existing planting

### **AOB**

Mike said that he had recently attended a meeting of the Ramblers at which the access group had asked the National Forest Company if they were interested in purchasing the portion of Cademan Woods that is currently up for sale. They are unable to do this through lack of funds to do so. There had been a set aside scheme whereby landowners could get money from the EU for woodlands, but with Brexit this will stop, and there is general concern in all areas about woodland maintenance going forward, as it isn't just about purchasing woodland, but maintaining it, keeping it litter free etc., and maintaining fencing. The National Trust, Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission are also not in a position to buy extra woodland.

**Next meeting is 5 July at 6.45pm at Thringstone House/Charles Booth Centre.**