



# The Friends of Thringstone



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

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## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT CHARLES BOOTH CENTRE**

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Ann Petty, Geoff Wilson, Bernard Lee, Mike Statham, Ray Woodward, Nigel and Mary Roberts, Janet Stevenson

**Apologies:** Gillian Bates, Ron Hill, Dave and Julie Everitt, John Brindley, Shirley Gordon, Jane Wilson, Tracy Foulds, Pat Hubbard, Pam Porter

### **Discussions/Decisions.**

**Music Festival at centre 4 August** –. Thank you to everybody from the group who helped with our stall at the festival, and for coming to the event. Our team sold some publications, and it was also nice to see so many members coming along to the event. Some also helped centre volunteers by selling raffle tickets, putting up and taking down tents and helping clear up afterwards etc. It is not clear as yet as to how much money was made for the centre, but initial indications are positive and in the region of £4,500. Nita said staff time, production of posters and volunteer time was never taken into account in these sorts of figures.

**Monthly litter pick total** – **138** bags against **174** bags for the same month last year. One day this week, Nita picked up over 400 items of litter from the football pitch at the back of the bowling club, so the reduction in the amount of bags is not really telling the full story. The amount of bags filled depends entirely on the size of the litter, and 400 sweet wrappers/ crisp packets etc., doesn't take up much space, whereas litter comprising of nappies and things from fast food outlets does.

We were alerted to a pile of litter in the woodland down the steep banking where kids congregate, and have made arrangements to move this on Monday.

Nita has written to Haribo who produce the Maoam sweets, to Fruitella, and to Mars who produce the Starburst sweets to ask if they have any plans to stop individually wrapping their sweets, as a good 75% of sweet wrappers picked up on daily litter picks comprise of these product wrappers. This is great for the company but not so good for the environment. Fruitella have said 'Fruitella care about nature. We use environmental-friendly ink for printing and all the packaging materials are recyclable. We are always trying to reduce our environmental footprint and will pass your comments to our sales and marketing team'. The others have yet to reply.

**Memorial Project** – Several months' work has gone into this from Nita and Ann. Both of us were unable to attend a recent meeting to discuss the lecture tour, but Nita is still part of this project going forward with the lecture probably taking place at Century Theatre on 9 November at 6.30pm. The brochure has gone to print but just prior to this it was realised that Whitwick Holy Cross' memorial had been missed out. It is hoped to rectify this in some way with the banner design, of which there will be 8 rather than the 10 originally mentioned, but this wasn't



possible either, so the information on Holy Cross will just be available on the download from the web. One banner (no. 4) relates just to Mary Booth, and in the brochure there is a full page on Thringstone mentioning both the church and centre.

**Grass verge from Lbro Rd down Booth Road** – the county council finally got back to us to say that they have no records of cutting the grass verge here, which is ridiculous as they have done it for years. They said we should contact either NWLDC or our parish council, and obviously we don't have a parish council. As a result, Nita referred this to our county councillor to investigate further. On 5 September, the grass verge was cut, but we are yet to establish whether this is now back on the plans for the grass cutters going forward.

**Hello Heritage event** – A banner, bunting, posters and leaflets have been done for this event, which takes place on 15 September from 12 noon. From 5.30pm, David White will be doing a slide show. Please come along to this if you can. It is a totally free event. We have baking on sale from Doreen, Janet, Ann, Gillian and Tina. Teas and coffees will be served from 12 noon until 5pm. John Brindley has agreed to help out, Holly has agreed to help until 3pm and Maureen is doing until 5pm. The bar will then be open from 5pm until 7.45pm thanks to Tom coming in to do this. The council want us to do a questionnaire asking where people have come from to the event, and what they thought of it, and take numbers of visitors and give details of any donations received. Nita has updated our evaluation forms.

**Marking the end of WW1** – We are still continuing to work on our event on 10 November. The poster design was finalized, and Mike Statham is working on providing a banner. As part of the end of World War One Centenary remembrance event in November St Andrew's church is proposing to produce displays made up of **knitted poppies** at the 3 local churches. They are aiming to produce up to 1000 poppies and would like contributions from anyone who can knit (very easy just plain knitting). They would also welcome donations of any poppy red double knitting wool. Contact Terry Watson on 835373 or Maureen Simm on 223288 if you can help and for the pattern (copies will also be available in the churches). We are also in discussion with our member Sarah Baxter about displaying the rug she made for the famous 50 display. It commemorates people who lost their lives in the Battle of Passchendaele, from the Leicestershire area.

Nita ordered some films from the **Imperial War Museum** of the work of women during WW1 and has downloaded these so that they can be shown at the event. They are obviously silent films.

**The Royal British Legion** is encouraging people to get involved with writing a note to commemorate the fallen. 'There is now an opportunity to write a message and to have it included in the Centenary Field of Thanks at The National Memorial Arboretum, our nation's centre of Remembrance situated in Staffordshire on the edge of the National Forest. Whether you are remembering a loved one or want to honour the First World War generation, you can join us in making history. We will place a weatherproof poppy with your message of thanks alongside thousands of others in the Centenary Field of Thanks from 8 August. Any messages submitted after 1st October will not be placed in the field for Remembrance Sunday. Go to <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-centenary/thank-you/how-to-get-involved/> for further details.

We were also asked to help provide information to the church and one of the governors at Thringstone Primary on the soldiers who are mentioned on the **war memorial** at the church. This was provided to the school in the past, but the information has subsequently been updated, and has been resent to interested parties.

**Nita's Award** – on 24 August, Nita was awarded a Points of Light award for her work for Friends of Thringstone on both litter picking and on her work to record the history of the village. This award comes from the Prime Minister's office, and recognises outstanding individual volunteering and was presented by Andrew Bridgen MP, who, as part of his speech, said he saw Nita litter picking in the early morning quite regularly, in all weathers, and was surprised the RSPCA hadn't been in touch about her dragging her dog out in inclement weather to litter pick! Nita was awarded a certificate and also received a framed letter from Mrs May.



## The Friends of Thringstone

Following various internet posts, Nita received a huge amount of congratulations from people and some very lovely comments were made, for which she is very grateful. This event also made the Coalville Times of 31 August and subsequent to that, Nita has had a lot of people congratulate her whilst she is out litterpicking. Mike said that the trustees wished to also give their congratulations. Nita wished to thank you to everybody who came along to the event to support Nita at the award, and for the kind words.

**Rehoming articles** – within August, we were given several items of bedding, kitchen equipment, a music centre, curtains, mirrors and an iron to find homes for, as one of our members is moving. Nita gave stuff to people on low incomes or OAPs within the village, with a lot of stuff also going to The Old School House, who are collecting stuff to sell for future fundraising events. Thank you to Peter for letting us have these things to rehome.

**Centre news** – Two new exercise classes have been set up at the centre with Laura Browne. These are Legs, Bums and Tums, 10.30am-11.15am on Thursdays and Megafit and Abs Blast on Thursdays from 9.30am-10.30am and 9am-10am on Saturdays. Classes started today, 6<sup>th</sup> September and are £5 per class and had gone well. If you fancy doing both Thursday classes, the cost is £9. For more information call Laura on 07805 335728.

Families are being invited to come to the centre after going out trick or treating on **Halloween** to swap ghost stories and learn about the White Lady from the priory and other local stories between 6.30pm and 8pm. There will be refreshments. All welcome. Posters will be going up shortly

Mike said that Tom Walters had been working voluntarily before his contract started at the end of August and had already made quite an impact and had lots of ideas to take the centre forward. There has been an appointment made of a bar manager, Carole Cox, who will manager the bar for anything between 4 and 10 hours a week, do stock control, and sort out bar staff. Phil Whitehurst will still do the cellar work. By appointing a bar manager, the office staff would have more time to do other things. Margaret Fern had temporarily stepped down as chair of the trustees due to personal issues, and Steve Lilley has stepped in as interim chair. There will be an AGM in October/November which will be widely advertised. At that point in time, people can come and nominate new trustees, and there will also hopefully be another open evening for people to ask questions. A grant of £3,500 had been received from NWLDC to help with the costs of signage and IT during the transition period. Mike said that anybody can come and ask to view the minutes of the meetings of trustees. All they had to do was to ask in the office. Nita questioned this, but was told that this was the way forward, and all trustees were in agreement that the village should be able to see these minutes.

Nigel said that an event committee is being formed to guide events going forward. He had agreed with Tom today that there would be a **Christmas Crooners** event at the centre on 23 November with rehearsal space being also provided to the performers, and it was hoped this would be lucrative to the centre. He had also agreed with Tom to have a **Cliff Richard and Olivia Newton-John tribute** at the centre on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. This is the date that had provisionally been given to Carols Round The Tree, so Nita agreed to talk to the centre and churches about altering this date.

Nigel asked what people's views were on ticket costs for events exceeding £10 per person. This was discussed in depth, and it was agreed that the area does not support ticket costs exceeding £10 and increasing prices could lead to a drop in ticket sales. Bill said that there should be a business format used for each event and this should be closely monitored. The issue is that the centre never really knows how things will sell, and can find, as is the case in the not too distant future, that several events are on in the local area on the same evening, thus reducing the amount of people available to attend events at the centre.

### **Chairs Report**

**Letters received:** None

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



**Emails sent:** Various to groups and individuals as usual. Also informed NWLDC of flytipping and the fact that one of the railings to the Melrose Play Area is being bent most days, and is now dangerous.

**Promotion:** We have **537 twitter followers**, which is 7 more than last month, and **650 facebook followers**, which is 29 more than last month. We are continuing to post details of local events, public notices and also historical photos on both sites, and Nita is also posting stuff on the Coalville History facebook site. One facebook post on our facebook page of the site office on Booth Road just after the war reached over 3,000 people.

**Other:** Nita and Ann have been asked to take part in the **Whitwick Historical Group's** anniversary exhibition at Hall Lane Methodist chapel on 20 October from 10.30am-5pm. If anybody else would like to help man our stand, please let us know.

After the last meeting, Nita reported the overgrown hedges on the two corners of **Booth Road** to EMHA. These were cut over the bank holiday weekend.

### Finance Report

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>£2,916.86</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Memberships		Broadband	15.00
Raffle	16.00	Purchase of raffle prizes	4.89
publications	22.00	Purchase of banner	35.99
Donations		Purchase of flags	24.00
		Stationery	5.00
		ink for Ann	20.98
<b>total income to general fund</b>	<b>£38</b>		<b>105.86</b>
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>2849.00</b>

### Publications Report

The team at the music festival sold 2x TAIP 1x Village trail 3 1x Born & Bred 2 and 1 x Memories 4

**Web Report** – minutes for June, July and August are yet to go on site, together with photos of the centre's launch and our stand, plus photos taken of the litter pick with Consortio Security and the Miners' Gala.

### Police Report

The information below was passed to our PSCO for comments.

Several times Nita has tried to contact the police through 101 but not been successful and has sent emails instead.

**Oaks Road and Abbey Road**, Whitwick are to have their speed limits cut from 60mph to 50mph. There was a man arrested at the top of **Melrose Road** at the end of August with a number of police cars and a riot van deployed.

Despite the notices, there continue to be motorbikes in **Gracedieu Woods**. These are reported to the police but seemingly never stopped. There are also people building small fires in the woods. One of our members has done a brief survey of the damage caused by bikers in the woods and noted how many trees' roots are affected, thus causing the tree to die back when fungus attacks



the roots. She has taken many photographs of this and also reported that several nesting areas are no longer being used by birds.

There continues to be anti-social behaviour with littering and smoking of 'weed' around the pavilion to the **Melrose Sports Field**.

The PCSO said 'With regards to the male arrested that was an isolated incident.

Any further issues with bikes please report to us and if we can catch them and speak to them we may be able to issue a section 59 warning which is anti-social behaviour on bikes, and if caught given warning but if they persist then we may be able to get the bike off them.

Also if we have registrations of bikes then we may be able to check the documents and seize under other powers if not in order re insurance etc.

Please report any issues with drug smoking through 101 when they are happening rather than emailing a report, mainly so there is an audit trail and so its recorded somewhere rather than just email.

We will continue to patrol these areas as we are already. Any issues such as fires or bikes, please advise people to call 101 or any other issues that don't require an immediate response.'

### **Community Report and What's On**

The **Hare and Hounds** is now open from 12 noon on Tuesdays through to Fridays.

**Thringstone's Got Talent** raised £129 for the Children's Society from the raffle proceeds, and £280 to the centre from the entrance costs. Many thanks to everybody who supported this event.

**A new beauty salon** opened in Thringstone on 3 September at 121 Glebe Road. They are currently offering various discounts until 31 October. All details are on our facebook page, but for appointments or more information, all you need to do is ring Jane on 07833 311355 or go to facebook and type in [airbrushmakeupandbeautybyjane](#)

**Thringstone Primary** – work on their new multi use games area is to start in October with work due to be finished for Christmas.

**Marlene Reid Centre** is looking for volunteer drivers for their minibus to ferry people over the age of 60 around the area. You must be over 25 years of age and have a full, clean, driving license. If interested, please contact Trudy Marlow on 512456 or email [tmarlow@mrc.uk.net](mailto:tmarlow@mrc.uk.net)

**Messages from the panto society** - We are **rolling back prices!** One of TPADS main aims is to bring high quality live entertainment to the community. We know that in a lot of instances our pantomime in particular is where a lot of children first experience the theatre and we love that. To help support you, we are rolling back our ticket prices to £8 for adults and £7 for children. We are also introducing a discount price flat rate on our Friday night performance of £6 per ticket. We do however need your help! It is very expensive to put on our shows and we need your support to keep our show on the road. Our costume bill alone is around £2,000 per show We have been entertaining the community since 1975 and want to continue for many years. Please support local theatre They are also looking for DBS checked chaperones to help look after the younger members of the cast. Please contact them direct if you are interested in helping with this.

TPADS are holding a **Christmas Fair** on the 2nd December at Thringstone Members Club, (1pm till 5pm) Set up from 11am. They are asking for £10 per stall and a raffle prize. Please email Scott on [scottcoleman12896@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:scottcoleman12896@hotmail.co.uk) if you are interested.

Over the bank holiday, residents and staff of **The Old School House** did a sponsored walk into Coalville and back to raise money for their home. When the amount raised is known, we will let people know.

7 Sept – **Comedy Night at Coalville Rugby Club**, Hall Lane. Doors open 6.30pm. 3 comedians with compere Alan Seaman. Tickets £10. Please ring 812090 for further information.

8-9 Sept – **Hare and Hounds beer festival**, opens 11am with live music and entertainment.

8 Sept – **The Black Horse, Whitwick** – The Inspired from 9pm.

10 Sept – **Introduction to Tai Chi** at Thringstone Methodist Chapel Hall. 6.50pm £6. For more information and to book, ring Stephanie Padbury on 01509 218043.

11 Sept – **Film Club at the centre** – film will be A Dog's Purpose. Doors open 7pm.





- 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 with slide show afterwards til 8pm. Free event. All welcome.
- 15 Sept – **Hare and Hounds** – Northern Soul and Motown at 8pm with Steve Storer, Jed Purkis, Mick Smith and Steve Frost. Free admission.
- 16 Sept – **Hello Heritage at Grace Dieu Priory** – join a walk to the priory at 3pm from Bull’s Head car park. Donations welcome..
- 21 Sept – **Hermitage Leisure Centre** – The Jerseys. Tickets VIP £19, seated £14. Doors open 6pm. Starts 7.30pm. Tickets from 811215.
- 21 Sept – **Holy Cross School** – All human family circus with magicians, acrobats and clowns. Starts at 6pm with gates open from 4pm. Tickets – family ticket for 4 people £34, individual ticket £9.50. To buy visit [www.pta-events.co.uk/FOHC](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/FOHC)
- 21 Sept – **Comedy night at the centre**. Tickets £8 from [www.ncfcomedy.co.uk](http://www.ncfcomedy.co.uk). Starts at 8pm.
- 28 Sept – **Charles Booth Centre** – MacMillan Coffee Morning. Starts at 11am. Please come along if you are able.
- 29 Sept – **Evening of Mediumship** at Century Theatre with Gareth Lewis and Craig Morris. Ticket prices yet to be advised.
- 29 Sept – **Hare and Hounds** –MacMillan coffee morning. No further details available as yet.
- 29 Sept – **Conny Club, Whitwick**- Elvis Tribute with Dean Craig. Starts 9pm.
- 31 Oct – **The scary side at Charles Booth Centre** from 6.30-8pm. Come and take part in exchange of ghost stories. Some food will be available but you can bring your own to share.
- 6 Oct – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society’s **race night at Thringstone Members Club**. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £1. Raffle. 8 races, minimum 50p bet. Book please through Scott Coleman on 07495 763972.
- 9 Oct – **Film Club at the centre** – film will be The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society. Doors open at 7pm.
- 11 Oct – **Gin tasting** event at Charles Booth Centre. More details nearer the time.
- 12 Oct – Film night at centre showing film of the life of **Roseia de Verdun** (Grace Dieu priory) and some other short films. 7.30pm start. Admission £2 by raffle ticket.
- 19 Oct – Abba Tribute at **Whitwick Conny Club**. Starts at 9pm. More details nearer the time.
- 20 Oct – **Thringstone Soul Club** charity event for Prostate Cancer. 2pm – 10pm at Thringstone Members Club.
- 20 Oct – **Whitwick Historical Group**’s anniversary exhibition at Hall Lane Methodist chapel. 10.30am – 5pm. All welcome. Friends of Thringstone will be present at this event.
- 26-27 Oct – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society**’s murder mystery play. Charles Booth Centre. The production is a 70’s disco themed murder mystery called ‘A Taste for Murder’ and will start at 7.30 pm. Tickets are available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads). Price is £10 including a light supper. Licensed bar will be available and a prize will be awarded to the best dressed person.
- 31 Oct – **Halloween ghost stories** at the centre from 6.30pm-8pm. All welcome.
- 3 Nov – Bonfire night at **George and Dragon**. Starts at 4pm. Bonfire lit at 7pm with fireworks starting at 7.30pm. Lots going on including hook a duck, homemade cakes, sweet stall, candy floss, slush machine, bbq and lots more
- 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
- 23 Nov – **North Street Club** – Charity quiz night and raffle in aid of ‘Our Space’ appeal - Children’s Cancer Unit at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. It’s an amazing facility providing care for children and young cancer patients in a home from home environment.. Teams of 4, £5.00 per person. Tables can be booked (pay in advance) or the just giving page can be used to make payments or donations. <https://home.justgiving.com/?take=10>



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24 Nov – Andy Kayne as Barry White at **Whitwick Conny Club**

2 Dec - **Thringstone Members Club** – Panto Society Christmas Fayre. 1pm-5pm. All welcome.

### History report

For some time, Nita and Ann have been trying to find out more details on the **blue house** next to Thringstone Co-op. The adjoining house has a date of 1753 within the plaster work at the front but the owners of that property have nothing in writing to confirm this date is accurate. Following a conversation with the builder working on the blue house (Forest View), which suggested the house was built around 290 years ago, Nita has contacted the owners, Mr and Mrs Whitney, and given all the details on the property we currently have in a 3 page letter. They have emailed back to say that they are going to try to get to see their deeds to add to our information, and that Ann and Nita are welcome to go to the property for a look round, as other villagers have already done this. This offer is going to be taken up.

The Community Voice for August contained an interesting article on **Dr Burkitt**, who has been discussed before in minutes and was mentioned in our Thringstone and Its People book. Dr Burkitt moved to Whitwick in 1886 when he bought the general practice at The Old Vicarage in Silver Street, where he remained until his retirement in 1926. The article gave an interesting glimpse into the cost of medication etc. prior to the formation of the NHS, as it recalls a court case in July 1914 involving a Mr William Webster, a retired carpenter and former grocer aged 84 of Tower House, Oaks Road, Whitwick, who was taken to court because he had failed to pay a bill of £49 15s and 6d for professional attendance and medication. Mr Webster said that he had only agreed to pay £40. We have read the original media reports of the case, and it would seem that Dr Burkitt had made 47 visits, both day and night, at a reduced rate of 10s 6d per visit between 7 and 11 July 1914, dispensed medication and assisted in an operation on a strangulated hernia at a cost of £25 alone, which was performed by Dr Robert Basil Stamford of Leicester Road, Loughborough (who moved shortly thereafter to The Red House, Burton Walks, Loughborough). A charge of £8 17s had also been made for the services of nurses, which included the district nurse and a night nurse who was brought in from Leicester. One of the nurses, Gertrude Lilley, said she had heard Mr Webster say he might not be able to pay for all Dr Burkitt's visits. Dr Stamford said the operation was difficult and had he not carried it out there and then, Mr Webster would certainly have died, despite Mr Webster saying at the time that he did not think he could afford an operation and it was not worth it because he was elderly. The reports suggest that there had also been difficulty getting Mr Webster's agreement for his wound to be properly dressed. Dr Burkitt had, according to his own records, made several other visits to see Mr Webster for which he did not charge, and neither had he actually charged for assisting Dr Stamford with the operation. Mr Webster lost his case. Research shows that William Webster was born in Heather on 17 July 1829, and died on 24 January 1917 leaving £3,293 2s 11d. He seems to have had 11 children.

The article also goes on to say that Dr Burkitt paid an important role in the help offered after the Whitwick Pit Disaster and hardly left the pit from the Tuesday morning of the fire until Friday afternoon. We had not realised that Dr Burkitt was a founder member and past master of the Freemasons in Coalville, was a founder of Coalville Rugby Club, and was a keen supporter at local level of the Conservative cause. He was also the first person in Whitwick to own a motor vehicle. We recorded in our book, as above, that this was purchased for him by Charles Booth because of the amount of time Dr Burkitt spent delivering the Booth children and the amount of time it took Dr Burkitt to get from Whitwick to Grace Dieu by horse and cart.

Most of the following information has come from Coalville Times articles.

**School** – Thringstone school log book dated 6 January 1873 suggests that the school started with no apparatus whatever to carry on school work. Sept 25 1907 Mr Boulter said Miss Gee took classes 3 and 4 to Sharpley Rock, for a talk relating to Leicestershire and its relationships with the counties and England topography and any other ideas 'which the children, teacher, time and place may suggest'. Mr Boulter was obviously well ahead of his day.



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Miss Arabella Sarrison remarked that in Jan 1882, the school reopened but many children had left school owing to their parents removing from the village, but no reason was given. School attendance dropped from 99 a week to 78.

Martha Price certificated teacher of first class in Sept 1875 said 'discipline somewhat lax, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> class boy cut a child's face badly with a stone being thrown'. Her successor was Mary J Crampton. She arrived on Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 1875 and her new regime included home lessons, but parents objected and in January 1876 a lady came to school and said that her son should not do home lessons. She had rubbed out the night's work he had done and did not wish him to continue doing this. The work given was 2 sums in simple multiplication by 2 figures. The child's mother was told he needed to conform to the rules, but she said she would take him home if he were asked to do so again. It should be remembered that children were needed for a variety of duties at home such as seaming for girls, or working in fields. Miss Crampton opened the school at 8am. This continued until at least 1881.

From 1875, children were given a halfpenny each on Friday as an inducement for them to attend regularly and this was paid to children who had made ten attendances during the week. This stopped in 1877. There was a smallpox outbreak in February 1883. In October 1900 there was an outbreak of mumps and scarlet fever.

A meeting was held in July 1907 to discuss increased Thringstone school numbers in addition to similar issues at Worthington and Swannington and the possible provision of a new school to cope with increasing pressures. They proposed to keep Thringstone merely for infants. Mr Boulter, headmaster, said that there were 119 children in the mixed department, and 86 in the infants, pointing to the fact that the infants numbers were out of proportion to the mixed department, and as they moved up the mixed department numbers would enlarge. He estimated that by 1909 there would be between 160 and 180 children in the mixed department. The representative from Swannington was against the enforcement to keep existing local schools for infants and the provision of a new school for mixed departments, and said there had been a lack of consultation on the matter.

**School March** 1956 – along with children from Whitwick, a group of youngsters spent 10 days travelling around Northern Ireland at Easter. They were accompanied by Mr Dudley Watkins from Whitwick School, his sister Estell and Vivian Carey from Thringstone. They stayed at youth hostels and crossed into Southern Ireland 4 times to stay in hostels there. There were 13 girls and 3 boys. In April 1959, another visit to Ireland took place with 18 children and 4 adults from Whitwick and Thringstone going to Western Ireland. The children, mostly 10 or 11 years of age, went to Killarney and Dublin, and stayed in youth hostels, bought their own food and did most of their own cooking. It was the 8<sup>th</sup> annual outing arranged by the 2 schools, and the children were supervised by Mr Vivian Carey, Mr Dudley Watkins, Mr N H Bowler and Miss Pearl Horton.

Jan 1967 – From August, children from Thringstone Primary were able to go to the Newbridge High School instead of Castle Rock. The distance from the centre of Thringstone to Newbridge is only half a mile more than to Castle Road, and Thringstone was felt to be an area of projected housing development. As such, it was felt that Newbridge should have this prospect of growth which otherwise would be confined to the Castle Rock vicinity.

Other things:

Leics. Chronicle 22 Jan 1881 – court case between Joseph Brooks and W B Beckworth and Michael McCarthy. The latter were the joint owners under the lease of **The Fox Inn**. They also owned the stock in trade, goodwill and carriers business carried out there, the carrier Mr Hornbuckle having quit. According to Mr Brooks, on 22 March 1880, a sale was negotiated with Mr J Brooks to buy the pub based on the beer sales being 36.5 gallons a week with 7d profit per gallon. Brooks took the tenancy for 3 months at a rent of £8 15s and it was agreed he have the benefit of the business. If after 3 months what Beckworth and Mc Carthy had said were true, he would buy the business for £90 and a further lease be granted to him. The money should be deposited at once, and if the representations proved to be untrue and the business prove to be unsatisfactory, he leave and they take back the business. He felt during the 3 months that the





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representations were indeed untrue and the business not for him. On 21 June, he told Beckworth and McCarthy this and said he would return the Fox to them on refund of the £90 deposit he'd paid. They refused to act upon their agreement and after having given notice, Brooks sold the stock in trade at auction for £29. 16s. Beckworth and McCarthy took possession of the pub on 19 August, but still refused to pay Brooks the £60 4s that he was owed from the original £90. Beckworth and McCarthy said they had never made these claims, and said that Brooks had agreed to be the tenant of The Fox from 22 March for a year at £35 not for 3 months, and that he had agreed to buy certain horses and other stock in trade for £65 and pay £25 for fixtures and stock in trade belonging to the outgoing tenant. That amounted to the £90 he paid. The agreement was not conditional upon trade generated, and he had not told them of his intention to quit the premises or purchase the goodwill and stock in trade. It is not clear how the court case ended, but Mr Brooks was only there for a few months. Beckworth and McCarthy, who were both Roman Catholics, had other Thringstone interests – in 1894 we know they owned land close to John Street as recorded in our minutes of Sept 2016. We also know they had a partnership in the Mineral Water works that Beckworth ran in Cademan Street, and their partnership was dissolved in September 1881. Wm. B Beckworth and family left for Canada in 1905, setting up home in Ottawa. He returned in 1920 to live in Hugglescote, before moving back to Ottawa House, Hall Lane, Whitwick. Records state that Mr Beckworth lost his left arm in the 1860s when an adolescent. We also believe that Mr McCarthy once lived at The Belfry when it was called Tower House.

Feb 1907 – **Samuel Towle** died on Wednesday morning. He was a grocer and provision dealer and had been taken seriously ill before Christmas, and despite constant and careful attention by Dr Burkitt, had been gradually sinking since then. He was 49. His funeral saw a large number of people assembled, and amongst the mourners were his wife, his brother from Nottingham, another brother from Worcestershire, another brother from Rochdale and his sisters Hannah and Pollie. The coffin bearers were Mrs William Jesson Gough, Henry Webb, John Henry Stinson, J Lawrence, John Winters and J Waldram, all members of Thringstone House club and library, in which Mr Towle took a great interest.

July 1907 – There were various meetings to discuss what should happen to provide more **burial accommodation** for the parish. Within the reports, it is stated that the population of in 1901 was Thringstone 805, Whitwick 560, Swannington 252. The average number of internments for the previous 4 years was 26 per annum, Thringstone 13, Swannington 4 and Whitwick 9. There had been many previous double internments and there were only 70 spaces left unoccupied, and 130 graves in which there was room for further internments. The boundary of Thringstone ecclesiastical parish at that time were where the include starts on Spring Lane to the Queen's Head, Thornborough, and then it turned sharp to the left along the main road to New Swannington. From there it proceeded along Brooks Lane to The Dumps and Gracedieu Road until you got to Carr Hill Road and then the Warren. From there is went to Bales Cottage then it followed the Thringstone parish boundary through the wood to the back of The Bull's Head at Cross Lanes, and still following the Thringstone Boundary, through the old turn until it met the Calcutta Brook. Following that past the George and Dragon until the road leading from Thringstone to Swannington was passed, it then followed the little brook almost into Swannington village to the point where the incline crosses the brook and from there right up again in line until you get to Spring Lane again. This included Calcutta Colliery. From 1862 until 1876, the churchyard was used for the south of Thringstone only then in 1876, the vicar came and the people in the new area received the right of burial in St Andrew's. The area of the churchyard was half an acre. Eventually, about a year later, the graveyard was extended using some land within the ownership of the church already.

Oct 1910 - a new porch at **St Andrew's** to the memory of the late Vicar Rev E S Crane was commenced. Mr Thomas Ignatius McCarthy of Coalville was the architect and the contractors were Messrs Griffin Bros of Hugglescote. These appear to be Arthur Griffin of North Street, Hugglescote and his brother Frederick, Mr Oliver Lindley of Coalville being the subcontractor for the stonework. Arthur Griffin died on 20 April 1917 at Home Hospital, De Montfort Square,



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Leicester and Fred on 21 December 1930 at Forest Road, Hugglescote. Oliver Lindley was a memorial stonemason who lived at Islington House, Belvoir Road, Coalville at the time, then moved to Derby where he died on 25 Feb 1920. . A memorial tablet was to be placed in the porch. A portion of the cost was being defrayed by public subscription and a portion by Mrs Crane, the later vicar's wife.

May 1911 – Charles Booth presided at a meeting of the **Thringstone Coronation Committee**. The idea was to organise a collection to raise money for celebrations, but they found themselves on the horns of a dilemma, in as much as they could hardly formulate a scheme without knowing how much money they were likely to receive, and they could not collect without having a scheme to submit to the village. The idea was to give a tea to all children attending the day school, those of the village who attended other schools and those from four years of age who do not attend, but had siblings who did. A coronation mug was to be presented to each child, and sports arranged. There would be a meat tea for old people over the age of 65 years and a prize offered for the best decoration.

Writing in the CV Times in April 1955, a journalist said that the **Grace Dieu cricket club** was coached for some time by Leicestershire cricketer Billy Bottomore. Whilst we cannot confirm or deny this claim, Billy was from Shepshed and was a framework knitter in wool, living in Pick Street. He was born in 1845 and died in 1905 and seems to have played for Leicestershire in the late 1870s into the 1880s after which, in late 1889, he played for Loughborough then Shepshed in the 1890s. In September 1890, he even put a team together to play against Grace Dieu. Billy's side won. A US cricket site claims that he played one match for the USA in 1883. Subsequent info in 1956 suggested he was also the coach at Lbro Grammar School.

July 67 – 49 year old **Henry Hall** of 160 Main Street won a silver medal for swimming. The 49 year old partially paralysed man only gained the Amateur Swimming Association's bronze personal survival ward a few weeks ago. He lost the use of parts of his legs after a car crash several years before. He was required to swim 100 yards in 4 minutes wearing a pair of pygamas and a short sleeved pullover and to treat water by various methods for 4 minutes. He also had to undress in the water and demonstrate his ability to make a float from an article of clothing, surface dive in 6 feet of water and swim 5 yards completely submerged, swim half a mile and climb out of deep water unaided.

CVT June 1968 – **Ernest Grice** of 140 Main Street has, so the article suggested, achieved a reputation of growing the finest tomatoes in the area and he grew them in ash. Using the ring culture method, he obtained good results. He brought the ash from the boiler house at Desford Colliery where he worked.

Aug 1968 – **Gloria's hair salon** at 2 Booth Road had been modernised. Cheap days were Tuesday and Wednesday for OAPs. We believe this was Gloria Deny who had a son called Simon. She moved to open a salon in Church Lane, Whitwick. After she left it was Mrs Hudson and the shop was subsequently run by Peggy Domoney.

Dec 1968 – **Rose Cottage**, 1 The Green was sold at auction for £1,350 by Freckleton's of Lbro.

### Council report

No report received.

### Gardening and environment

Bernard continues to weed, prune and maintain our existing planting. Thank you to Pam Spence for donating some plants to us to replace those which did not survive the summer. More plants and bushes will, however, be needed. Bernard welcomes any new plants please that people wish to donate.

**Next meeting is 4 October at 6.45pm at Charles Booth Centre.**

