



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 JANUARY 2119 AT CHARLES BOOTH CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Bernard Lee, Mike Statham, Ray Woodward, Ron Hill, Bill Enser, Shirley Gordon, Pat Hubbard, Maureen Simm, Pam Porter, Janet Stevenson, Ann Petty, Tracy Foulds, Nigel and Mary Roberts

Apologies: Gillian Bates, Tina Bakewell, Anne Statham, John Jackson

Discussions/Decisions.

Nita's Award – Mike Statham started the meeting by asking people to give Nita a round of applause on being awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's New Year's Honours list. Nita was given a bottle of champagne and a card. Nita thanked everybody for the wonderful comments and congratulations she's received both from the group, and from social media and people in the village generally. Having spent the whole morning on 29 December filming with ITV News, a film acknowledging the work of Nita through Friends of Thringstone went out the same evening. It showed all our FoT publications, went round the the Bellway estate talking about road names and some blue plaques, and recorded Nita talking about her work, including litter picking, alongside her dog Woodie. It also mentioned the heritage events and talks and The Bauble. The award has also featured in the Leicester Mercury, on BBC Radio Leicester, and in this week's Coalville Times and Loughborough Echo.

Our annual litter pick total for 2018 was 1628 against 1744 for 2017.

Monthly litter pick total - 126 bags against **142 bags** for the same month last year. Keep Britain Tidy's Spring Clean up for 2019 is 22 March-23 April. We are looking to see if we can do something within the community during this period possibly with Grace Dieu Manor School.

A group called **www.5thingsclear.com/Pledge/** has asked people to sign up to pick up just 5 pieces of litter a day. If the group get 550 people litter picking like this, they will have picked up over a million pieces of litter by the end of 2019. With information from this pledge, they feel they will be more able to lobby big corporations about the impact of litter from packaging. They will award prizes every month for the best litter picker. Please consider joining the group if you are able to help, or contact us about litter picking with us.

People Power – An email was received from NWLDC asking for information about anything that our group, and others, had done under the title of People Power – things that people have done to transform their community. Nita submitted information on how we transformed Drury Lane, started our own blue plaque scheme, continue to work on improving the village, putting on historical and heritage events and distributing information etc. to the people involved with this scheme.

Chairs Report

Letters received: From NWLDC stating that 2 invoices hadn't been paid. One had been sent in error – they said we'd had 2 lots of bulb deliveries – and the other one had been paid. David sorted this with the accounts office.

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

Emails sent: Various to groups and individuals as usual. Also sent the evaluation form, and lots of covering information and photographs, to NWLDC following the WW1 event we did in November.

Promotion: We have **546 twitter followers**, which is 6 more than last month, and **741 facebook followers**, which is 14 more than last month. We are continuing to post details of local events, public notices and also historical photos on both sites.

Other: Nita produced the normal information for the website on what we have achieved during 2018. That should go on the site shortly.

Someone on the Bellway estate has **lost their cat** which went missing on Boxing Day. Nita has put details of this on our facebook page.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,788.20		
Income		Expenditure	
		Broadband	15.00
Raffle	15.00	Stamps	6.96
publications	5.00		
total income to general fund	£20		£21.96
		Total general fund at month end	£2,786.24

Publications Report

Janet sold copies of the 3 village trail booklets for £5.

Web Report – minutes for November and December and the winter newsletter have been put on site, plus the correct email address for Charles Booth Centre and a link created to their proper website. As stated above, information on what was achieved in 2018 is to go on. The photos of the centre's launch and our stand, photos taken of the litter pick with Consortio Security, the Miners' Gala, Nita's award, the Hello Heritage event, our stand at Whitwick Historical Society's 35 anniversary event, our own WW1 event and carols at the centre are also to go on site shortly.

Police Report

The police left leaflets at local Co-ops on 24 December stating that they are targeting criminals in our area, aiming to **reduce drug dealing**. Anybody with information should call Leicestershire Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. The police say that they are committed to working with us to make our community safer.

People continue to ride round **the woods** on motorbikes without wearing crash helmets and smoking weed. This was reported to the police again.

There was **a theft of meat** on 30 December from Thringstone Co-op in the morning, followed by one by the same person in the afternoon. We believe there have been others recently. We have spoken to staff and sent in a report to the police, as staff said it is pointless doing this themselves as nothing ever happens. A reply was received from them saying PC Dudley of the Bardon Hill



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beat will visit the store. There was general discussion about the disappointment people have in the police force at present.

Car theft - 12 Dec – BMW car stolen from the Bellway estate off Loughborough Road. No further details.

Vehicle Crime - Rennocks Place (Bellway estate) - between 11pm on 12 December – 4.30am on 13th. Entry gained to vehicle by unknown means and property stolen.

In addition to the crimes reported at our December meeting, the following details for crimes happening in Thringstone in November have been made available on the police website:-

3 violent/sexual assaults on or near Old Bakery Close, 1 vehicle crime near Rumsey Close and 1 violent of sexual assault in the same area, 1 theft from a person on or near Loughborough Road and 2 violent or sexual crimes in the same area, 1 criminal damage on or near John Street and one other theft in the same area, and 1 violent or sexual assault on or near Whitwick Moor.

Community Report and What's On

Thringstone Primary children raised £120 for Children in Need at their Yellow and Spotty day and £112 for Save The Children with their Christmas Jumper Day. Well done to all.

The PTA are very proud to announce that funds have been spent over the past couple of months to purchase new equipment and new microphones to improve the sound from the stage, aiding the children to be heard throughout their performances. Over £1500 has been spent, but this is a significant investment in the school and will be available to all the children for many years to come.

Thringstone Stores and Post Office is now selling hot sausage rolls and bacon and cheese turnovers as well as fresh vegetables.

The Christmas raffle from Charles Booth Centre raised £408 for the centre's funds less the costs of having printed tickets. Thank you to all who bought tickets – all winners were notified on 21 December. Thanks also go to all the people and businesses who gave raffle prizes.

Thank you to all the players **Thringstone XI & Hare and Hounds XI** who played football at the Boxing Day match at Thringstone FC. With your fee and the raffle the event raised £932 for the two charities. You were amazing. (Money is still coming in)

The New Hare and Hounds now offer free pool on Monday nights. Winter opening hours are from 6.00pm on Mondays, 3.00pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays, Noon on Fridays and from 11.00am at the weekend.

4 January – Open Mike at **The New Hare and Hounds**, Gracedieu Road. Starts 9pm.

8 January – **Film club at the centre** – film will be The Book Club. 7pm start for 7.30pm. Please bring money for a raffle ticket.

11 Jan – **Viennese Strauss Gala at Charles Booth Centre**. This is a charity event with all ticket costs going to the centre. Performance starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £10. Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre or from the office, Monday-Friday mornings only between 9am and 12 noon.

11Jan – **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club** with DJ Dave Wilkins. 8pm til late. £3 entry.

19-26 Jan – **Aladdin at the centre** – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's panto. Adults £8, children and OAPs £7. Ticket on the Monday will be £6 only. Tickets from 0333 666 33 66 or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads or [Thursday nights 3](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/thursdaynights), 10 and 17 January at the centre from 7pm-8pm.. T pads will be supporting Sands as their charity this year. Sands is the stillbirth and neonatal death charity. They operate throughout the UK, supporting anyone affected by the death of a baby, working to improve the care bereaved parents receive, and promoting research to reduce the loss of babies' lives.

20 Jan – **The George, Coleorton** – Acoustic night with local duo Unplugged from 6.30pm. £14 per person to include home made pie, chips and vegetables. Book on 834639.

8 Feb - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club** with DJs John and Debbie Dennis. 8pm til late. £3 entry.



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8 Mar - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club** with DJ Rob Harris. 8pm til late. £3 entry.

12 Apr - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club** with DJs Mick Sly and Chris Louca. 8pm til late. £3 entry.

History report

- Sue Millership let us have a lot of **photos from the 1977 and the 1980s** which included a sports day at the school, the Silver Jubilee fancy dress, a three legged race for men in dresses featuring Roy Eaton, and the guides parade for remembrance day down Main Street lead by Jack Gough. Sue has been thanked for these photos to add to our archives.
- We put out a photograph of a fun race from Gracedieu Road taken around 1987 and understand that in the 1980s, there were regular races for runners under the banner of the **Hubert Bancroft Memorial Race**. Hubert Charles Henry Bancroft, who was born in Quorn on 13 July 1912 and died in Thringstone on 27 February 1988, lived at The Old Manor House, Brook Lane and used to run in the veterans races with the Coalville Harriers. The family had previously lived in Castledine Street, Loughborough. We know that also involved with both the Harriers and these runs were Ray Gee and Mick Handy and were for charities, usually scouts and Breast Cancer Care . We are told that for many years the race ran up through Whitwick and around Carterdale.. We are also told that before it became the memorial race, a similar race ran from outside The Fox. If people have more information, please let us know.
- We have never been sure as to who Mr Blaza was who kept **The Rose and Crown** in the 1950s. Nita has spoken to a lady whose maiden name was Blaza and has done the family tree, and she feels that it was Bernard Blaza not Herbert as we thought. She said her uncle Maurice played accordion and went out giving concerts, and could well have worked with Bernard on The Blazaways who were based at the pub. If this is the right man, he was married in 1910 to Mary Belcher and in 1939 had been a roadworker living in Shackerstone. Investigations are continuing on this one.
- The Northampton Mercury of 8 November 1788 tells of various bankruptcies including the certificate to be granted to **James Hanford**, Grocer, late of Thringstone. We have no further details on this man.
- We have previously mentioned **Dr T R Rolston** as working in Whitwick for Dr Burkitt during WW1. We knew he had refused to see a child because of an outstanding account, and on 14 October 1918 was called out to Talbot Farm after Mr Illesley was assaulted by miner Baden Gill of John Street over the poaching of partridges on his farm land. Mr Gill hit Mr Illesley with the butt of a gun causing a wound of 2 and a half inches in length and concussion. Mr Gill was sent to prison for 6 weeks' hard labour. We have now established that this was Thomas Restarick Rolston, MRCS, LRCP (London 1888), surgeon, whose grandfather, father and brother were also doctors. His father was also mayor of Devonport in 1868. One of 9 children, Thomas was born in Stoke Damerel, Devon in 1861, and for the main part of his life, practiced in the Plymouth area or at hospitals in Devonport, although at some stage he worked at Guy's hospital in London and in 1890 practiced in Iver, Buckinghamshire. He married Caroline Webster in Sussex in 1889 and had 2 sons and a daughter. In 1912, he was listed as being the honorary ophthalmic surgeon to the Devonport Royal Dockyard Orphanage. We know he was in this area from at least April 1915, that he helped at a quarry accident in April 1917, and was called to give evidence in a death from gunshot wounds in November 1917. In the 1920 Medical Register his address was Kingscroft, Whitwick. A newspaper report into an accident in Whitwick tells that he was still in the area in April 1921, but he appears to have died in late 1921 in Southwark, London. Baden Gill later married and moved to Castle Donington.
- We have been researching the history of the Blue House (Forest View) next to Thringstone Co-op which used to be occupied by the Kirby family and discovered that the house used to have a tenement building at its rear, as well as an orchard. Her husband John having died in 1923, in 1927 local media reported that Emma Kirby of **Forest View** had applied to Ashby Rural Council for an ejectment order against Rebecca Hallam, who lived in the tenement outbuilding in Kirby's yard.



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This was a one room up and one down house, with a small cupboard downstairs which was used as a coalhouse, lavatory and larder. The bedroom upstairs was occupied by Mrs Hallam, her four daughters aged 15-27, one of whom was called Catherine, and three granddaughters. During the night pigeons and rabbits which were kept outside in the daytime also came into the bedroom. The landing upstairs was occupied by 2 male lodgers, and the place was in a deplorable condition. The lodgers often came home drunk and committed a nuisance by the well from which neighbours took their drinking water. The rent was 6 shillings and 6 pence a week, but often not paid, and Mrs Hallam had been there for 12 years. The Kirby family said they were still having to pay rates and do sanitary work on the tenement, and wanted the people to leave, but it was acknowledged there were 10 people to be considered. There had been an order from the Ashby Rural Council to this respect. Emma Kirby had been assaulted on 28 March 1926 as was Albert Kirby. He claimed he was in his garden pruning trees and saw John Thomas Hibbert assault his mother, knocking her down, after which Rebecca Hallam hit her and Catherine Hallam hit her on the head with a brush. Reports say that Hibbert was often drunk. On trying to protect his mother, Albert Kirby was hit by a brick and fell to the floor with a severe cut to his head. All this happened because it was stated that the Kirby's had tried to prevent the Hallam family using their fireplace by putting a flat piece of iron on top of the chimney, something which they dismissed. Mrs Kirby admitted to kicking a bucket fire over in the yard because neighbours had complained about smoke. Rebecca Hallam was born in 1872 in Swannington, and was formerly a Hibbert. She married Thomas Hallam in 1894 and had 6 children. She died in 1948. In 1911, the family were living at Brook Lane, Thringstone. We believe John Thomas Hibbert to be the son of Rebecca, as whilst he was called Hallam on all census information currently available, there is no birth record of him under the name of Hallam, his birth record being in 1893 as John Thomas Hibbert. Later in 1933, by which time the Hallam family had left, the CV Times of 17 March recorded that a demolition order had been operative on the house since November 28th 1932. The property had been let to Jessie Wardle who gave up the house on 26 November, and then, despite the demolition order being in place, the Kirby family let the property to John Vincent Cliff who was still living there for 6s a week in rent. The Kirby family claimed that they hadn't received a demolition order and other letters had not been properly delivered. Mr Kirby said at the time that his mother was ill in bed, and all this hassle would kill her off. Mrs Kirby didn't, however, die until 1940. Forest View, The Green went up for auction on 1st May 1934. The property was in the occupation of Mrs Kirby. Albert John Kirby and others. The details said that the house also had stabling and outbuildings in the rear and a garden well stocked with fruit trees. Adjoining the property were 2 houses in the rear and a piece of garden ground with cottages being occupied by John Cliff, Arthur Bird, Ernest Varnham and others. There were also two pieces of garden ground adjoining. It is unclear who bought it. In May 1934, Thomas Hibbert was cycling with his friends near Long Whatton, fell from his bike and died. Rebecca Hallam of Main Street said the deceased was her son and lived with her. He was 41. He had been in good health and was on her daughter's bicycle. Hibbert had complained of a pain in the chest whilst riding, but previously had been in good spirits and had been singing. Towards the end of 1934, Albert John Kirby, born in Thringstone in 1877 and formerly of Forest View, was summoned for the 3rd time by the Ashby Rural District council for living in a property on Cinder Hill, Ashby Road that had no water supply and that he and his family had occupied it without getting the required certificate. The prosecutor said that it had invariably been Mr Kirby's practice to act for his mother and say that she was too ill to attend to matters. The bungalow in which he lived was built, he said, on the correct instructions, by Harlow Bros of Long Whatton for his mother, who was the owner of it. There was no call for a well to be sunk at that time, and at no time did the builders have any dealings with Mrs Kirby. At that time, living in the bungalow was Mr Kirby, his mother, wife and daughter, Rene. There was a supply of water from a nearby spring. His mother, he said, had owned cottages but had to get rid of them because of problems with the Sanitary Authorities, and hence had little feeling towards them as they had made life intolerable. His mother was bedridden and he had to pull the bed to the windows for her to see the flowers in the garden. He said that his family had been part of Thringstone for hundreds of years and should be treated



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accordingly. Mr Kirby was duly fined £3 3s plus costs, and said that the court would have a hard job getting the money. He failed to pay and a warrant was issued and he was brought again to court. He was given bail in the sum of £20 with a view to returning to court in 14 days. As he left court, Mr Kirby said that the police had broken the door to the bungalow in order to arrest him, and should replace it. The police said he should have opened the door. May 1938 - court case revolving around **Rene Kirby** of The Bungalow, Ashby Road. Daughter of Albert John Kirby, it seems the Rene, who had been sitting up all night for some time with her ailing grandmother, Emma Kirby, had hit her on the head by the right ear with a broom handle. Rene said that her grandmother had fallen, was scratched and was a liar. Albert Kirby said it had happened several times before and that Rene was out of hand. The grandmother was 84 and had a slight wound just above the temple on the right hand side. Rene said she was sorry, but her grandmother was irritable and she lost her temper. The police who called at the bungalow said that Mrs Kirby was very frail and deaf. Mr Kirby, a former insurance salesman now with no occupation, said he was prepared to look after Rene (Irene), and she was basically a good girl. Mrs Kirby had previously fallen on the fire, and had it not been for his daughter, she would have died. Rene said she would have liked to leave the district but would go back. She was bound over for a year in the sum of £5 and put under the care of a probation officer for that period.

- Sept 56 – **William Parker, 42 of Forest View** (The Green) was put on probation for 2 years by Coalville Magistrates after being found guilty of indecent assault on a 10 year old girl. He claimed he didn't know what came over him. He felt thoroughly disgraced by what he had done. In Oct 65 he was in court again charged with indecently assaulting an 11 year old girl. Because of lack of evidence, the case was dropped.
- 1940 – **The Gables** was up for auction following the death of Hannah Towle. It was bought by George Coleman of Coalville for £225.
- **The Thringstone Carnival Queen for 1945** was Sheila Costello. Her attendants were Peggy Croson, Beryl Bennett, Doris Springthorpe and Vina Birch. Graham Fox was her page boy.
- When **Thomas Henry Challoner** only son of Mr and Mrs Challoner of the Prince of Wales, Whitwick married Kathleen Maloney (Shamrock House, 80 Main Street) in 1945, having spent 4 and a half years in the middle east, he came home to make his own wedding cake. During his time in the army, he saw service in South and North Africa, Egypt, Greece, Cyprus and Syria. Prior to joining up, he worked for Maurice Maloney's bakery at Thringstone, to which he returned upon being demobbed.
- When the **Thringstone Comforts Fund** was wound up in August 1946, The Fox Inn had raised a total of £2935 of which £753 had been raised by Thringstone House Club. President at the time was Mr A Pickering. Thanks were given to Cllr. Samuel Gee chairman of Thringstone House Club and secretary W B Jarvis for their efforts. The committee were anxious to include all names on the register and needed to know if people had changed addresses. They were advised that they should contact the Hon Treasurer Mr B Sharp or the Hon Sec William Lowe.
- Feb 1953 – death of **Edward Atkins** at his home on The Green aged 77 years. He was formerly the tenant of Charnwood Farm and left a widow, one son and one daughter. We believe that Edward was born in 1876 in Leicester. We have currently been unable to find out more information on this man.
- May 1955 – **Members of the Thringstone Youth Club** started to build their own HQ in the grounds of the community centre because the rooms inside were too small for them to use. They had estimated that £125 would cover the costs of renovating what was the gymnasium at the centre. The children, both girls and boys, were working on this themselves, and hoped to finish it before too long.
- June 62 – **John Mee Kidger** died aged 86 having farmed in Thringstone for 54 years at Lily Bank Farm. He had been a member of the old Ashby Board of Guardians and for 20 years was a Thringstone representative of the Ashby Rural District Council. He had also been a former chair of the Thringstone Parish Council, a school manager, a trustee of the village playing field and a special constable.



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- Sept 1928 – Mary Booth opened the annual sale of fruit and vegetables at the centre in aid of **LRI and Lbro Hospital**. This event started in September 1912 when Mary Booth opened the first event at Thringstone Clubhouse, praising the work of the organizers and the work done by the LRI as Lbro Hospital was not at that time involved. The event carried on during WW1 and in 1915, Charles Booth said, upon opening the event, that people should both produce and save as much as they could to serve the country. He said 'That which you save will be yours at the end of the war, providing for the after-blow. Leicester Hospital is serving doubly now as part of the institution had been set aside for sick and wounded soldiers and Thringstone people are doing their share.' The 1917 event also saw a parade with fancy dress, comics and someone in a pushchair. By 1923 the show also included a rummage sale and cake and sweet stalls. The event in 1928 saw all fruit and veg sold, and there was also a white elephant stall run by Mrs Watts, Mrs Ottey, Mrs Annable, Mrs Payne, Mrs Bradley, Miss Smith, Miss Stopp, Mrs Gould, and Messrs W Leggett, W Annable and J W Brotherhood, secretary to the group. There was also a skittles match and a dance in the evening. A house to house collection raised £5 8 shillings and £3 10 shillings was handed over from an organ recital at Thringstone Wakes. It is presently uncertain when this annual event stopped although Ann has press cuttings indicating it continued well into the 1950s.

Council report

Residents can expect their council tax to rise by nearly four per cent. The group in charge at County Hall says the rise is needed because a surge in demand for social care and special educational needs and disabilities, combined with inflation, is driving up costs by £94 million. Budget plans for the next four years which were outlined reveal that a 3.99 per cent increase would generate £12 million for 2019, which would be invested in "supporting vulnerable people". The four-year proposal reveals that Leicestershire County Council needs to make £74 million of savings between 2019 and 2023. There is also a plan to reduce special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) costs by £20 million by investing in creating more places locally, ensuring children have access to high quality specialist education close to home. That leaves £20 million of savings still to be found.

Gardening and environment

Bernard has spent some time pruning bushes on The Green and down Drury Lane, but has others to do, which will include digging up the dead bush in the church jetty.

AOB – There was some discussion about having fruit and veg sales at the centre going forward, having regular quiz nights to include setting up a quiz league, doing more fitness runs including maybe running with dogs, and having gigs with youngsters like 'battle of the bands.' Pam said some of her friends who came to the Christmas Crooners were really impressed with the centre and they are now coming to other events. It was wondered whether any other fun run outside of the Christmas period should be given a title like the Charles Booth Fun Run, or be dedicated to someone else from the village as a memorial.

The next meeting is 7 February 2019 at 6.45pm at Charles Booth Centre.