



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

Chairman: Nita Pearson BEM
20 Springfield, Thringstone, Leicestershire, LE67 8LT.
Telephone: 01530 223434
[mail to: nita.pearson@ntlworld.com](mailto:nita.pearson@ntlworld.com)

Visit our website at: www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk
Twitter address: [@Thringstone2](https://twitter.com/Thringstone2)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2119 AT CHARLES BOOTH CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Ann Petty, Geoff Wilson, Bernard Lee, Josie Brownloe, Pat Darby, Mike and Anne Statham, Ray Woodward, Mary and Nigel Roberts, Bill Enser, Dave Everitt, Maureen Simm, Pat Hubbard, Tracy Foulds

Apologies: Janet Stevenson, Shirley Gordon, Gillian Bates, Ron Hill, Fran Skinner, Tina Bakewell, Jane Wilson

Discussions/Decisions.

Monthly litter pick total - 110 bags against **exactly the same total of 110 bags** for the same month last year. Nita and Pam have arranged to carry out a litter pick with students and teachers from Grace Dieu Manor School in the afternoon of 15 March. If anybody wants to come out with us, please let Nita know direct.

New book keeper – The committee have discussed the fact that David wishes to retire as our book keeper from the end of the financial year in March, and would like to propose that this function be taken over by Tina Bakewell. We are very lucky she has agreed to take this on, as even though it is not a very time consuming job, it is something upon which the group relies in order to function effectively. We would like to thank David for his wonderful work and dedication over the past few years. The meeting voted unanimously to accept Tina Bakewell as the new book keeper.

Charles Booth Centre – the centre is now running a **quiz night** every month on the 4th Thursday of the month. Teams of 6 can take part, £5 per person.

There is a new **Slimming World** group which started at Charles Booth Centre on 26 Jan from 8.30am-10.30am and is in the upstairs hall. Just turn up if interested, or ring Carrie on 07875 739979.

For children/grandchildren interested in singing, acting and/or dancing, **Storm Performance Academy** now has sessions at the centre on a Monday evening between the hours of 4.00pm and 9.00pm! .

They are also offering **adult ballet** from 7pm-8pm on Wednesday nights and **adult 'dance through the ages'** on a Friday from 8pm-9pm. Please contact a member of staff on 07815 547373 for further details or email storm--@hotmail.com.

There is also a **new yoga class** with Jelena from Yoga4me on a Tuesday from 6-7pm. Classes cost £8 with concessions £6.

Zumba classes also started on 5 February from 6-7pm in the upstairs hall.

Mike said that the **panto** went well with a lot of youngsters now taking part and good audience numbers, and the **Strauss** event had been very well received despite problems on the evening with two sopranos having fallen ill. The **upstairs kitchen** is now nearly finished, and a

re-decoration project is due to start shortly with some students from Loughborough helping out. It



is hoped to redecorate the bedrooms upstairs and let those out as office space. **Bookings** have increased and there are now more user groups. There is a need to look at the possibility of new **windows and facias** and there are also some big maintenance jobs. The Trustees are drawing up a prioritised project plan which will include the provision of a lift, plus the idea to knock out the **dividing wall** between the middle and end rooms so that the whole of the 3 main downstairs rooms will become a function room in its own right and external redecoration. The meeting felt that any improvements must be sure to retain the character of the building, especially where windows were concerned.

Mike said that the centre are looking to **recruit a further couple of trustees** and if anybody was interested, they should contact the centre.

Mary Roberts said that she is trying to revitalize **the Booth Coffee Mornings** on a Friday morning. She had recruited a couple of volunteers, but wanted to find others to help out, as ideally there should be 2 volunteers per shift, so that they could help each other. There was general discussion as to how to get people to come to the coffee morning, whether there should be a film put on so that people who don't like to go to the film club in an evening could watch the film in a morning, and also the thought that the coffee morning should start earlier and end later, so that it catches mothers dropping off their children and picking them up afterwards. It was also suggested that it might be useful to have this on an afternoon instead of a morning. If anybody is interested in helping out with the rota, please let us know.

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.

Promotion: We have **555 twitter followers**, which is 9 more than last month, and **773 facebook followers**, which is 32 more than last month. We are continuing to post details of local events, general and public notices and also historical photos on both sites.

Other: Nita has signed up to receive information on Heritage Open Days from their website <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk>. This group put on open days in September throughout the country, and we are trying to tie this in with the Hello Heritage event we do for the centre every year as it will give Thringstone more general promotion.

Our event insurance was paid at £84 which is the same price as last year.

Bauble for Spring was written, sent to printers and given to volunteers to deliver.

The 20 copies of Thringstone and Its People we reordered are now printed and with the other stocks.

Nita put in an application for the Charles Maher Awards linked to Living Streets. This is a charity who aim to improve streets so as to encourage walking.

Nita arranged a reduction in the fee for the Foresters Brass concert which was part of our WW1 event in November from £400 to £200. This has been paid and is shown below.

Nita has been spending many hours helping a lady in Aberdeen trace her family tree – Hibbert and Williams, who moved between Thringstone, Coleorton, Shepshed and Coalville.

Congratulations to our members Mike and Ruth King on the arrival of Thomas Michael King on 1 February at 16.28 and weighing in at 7 pounds 14 oz.

We would also like to congratulate David and Janet Stevenson on a milestone 60th wedding anniversary.

The meeting welcomed new member Josie Brownlow.

Finance Report

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float) | £2,786.24 |
|---|------------------|



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| Income | | Expenditure | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|--|-----------------|
| | | Broadband | 15.00 |
| Raffle | £12 | Public Liability insurance | 84.00 |
| publications | £6 | Foresters Brass | 200 |
| total income to general fund | £18 | | £299 |
| | | Total general fund at month end | £2505.24 |

Publications Report

Ann sold a pubs book for us.

Web Report – Information on what was achieved in 2018 is yet to go on along with January's minutes. The photos of the centre's launch and our stand, photos taken of the litter pick with Consortio Security, the Miners' Gala, Nita's Points of Light 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

Grace Dieu Park cricket club had fenced off their cricket square, on which they had worked at great cost, but the fencing disappeared around the Christmas period. We assumed the club had taken it down, but it appears not. They had borrowed the poles which made up the fencing, and now have to replace these. There were also tyre tracks, looking like a bike, from the Bull's Head car park to the cricket square. We are not sure if this was reported to the police, but we were informed by twitter message.

We are told that a quantity of tobacco was stolen from the **Co-op** on 8 January.

Community Report and What's On

NWLDC's street scene department were finalist in the recent Keep Britain Tidy awards for their work on roadside litter on the A511 under the Litter Initiative of the Year category.

Throughout February you can support **Thringstone Primary school** in the Tesco bags of help scheme. Collect a token each time you shop at the Ashby de la Zouch branch and cast your vote. The funds raised will go towards improving their playground space.

The school has won the Aviva Judge's Choice Award and will receive £7500 to further develop their outside space.

3 charity concerts for British Heart Foundation at the school raised £178. Staff and children also raised £112.43 for Save The Children by wearing festive t shirts and jumpers in December.

Thringstone Village Stores is now selling hot vegan sausage rolls. They are also selling burgers and potato wedges at lunchtimes. They have also partnered with Holmes Butchers of Coalville to provide a range of their products in store. If they don't have what you want - pre - orders can also be placed for collection at the store! Ask for further details.

Line dancing has moved from Charles Booth Centre to Thringstone Members Club. The class is now on a Thursday from 7.30pm-9.30pm. This is a beginner/improvers class and the cost is £4.

The New Hare and Hounds is looking for extra staff who must be flexible and happy to work weekends. Anybody interested should pop into the pub when passing.

Grace Dieu Juniors Winter Nets - Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club is looking for new stars in the junior category (girls and boys aged 6 – 16) for the upcoming 2019 season. If you have played cricket before, are looking for a new club, or want a new challenging and enjoyable sport to play, they want to hear from you or your family and friends. Cricket is a great sport that encourages



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group participation, where children can build vital social skills, and nurture sporting ability, in a safe, friendly and secure environment. Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club is a great place for this, so if you are interested, or know someone who might be, they challenge you to come and test yourself at their winter nets. Junior nets began on 28 January at 7-8pm at King Edward V11 High School sports hall, and alternate for 10 weeks between the following 2 forms of the junior game.

Kwik cricket up to year 5 for 5 sessions – 28 Jan, 11 and 25 Feb, 11 and 25 March

Hard ball practice for 5 sessions – 4 and 18 Feb, 4 and 18 March, 8 April

All sessions are £2 per person. Don't worry about equipment – this can be provided. For more information, please contact Neil Marshall, junior coach and club welfare officer, on 07951 347330.

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

9 Feb - **6 nations rugby** at the centre. Scotland v Ireland. Watch the rugby and have a drink with friends from 1.45pm. Bar open.

10 Feb - - **6 nations rugby** at the centre. England v France. Watch the rugby and have a drink with friends from 2.30pm. Bar open.

10 Feb – **Antique and collectors fair** at Hermitage Leisure Centre, Whitwick 9am – 3.30pm. Admission £2

12 Feb – **Film Club at centre** – film is Snatched. Starts at 7.30pm.

15 Feb – **Pie night** at The Conny Club, Whitwick – soup or vol au vents then various pies, including vegetarian. All pies are home made and come with chips or mash, garden or mushy peas or seasonal veg plus extra gravy if required. Apple pie or trifle for afters. Various prices. Book on 836607.

16 Feb – **Bloodwise Coffee Morning at the centre** - 11am-1pm. Admission £3 which includes tea/coffee and a slice of cake. All proceeds to Bloodwise which is a cancer related blood charity.

23 Feb – **6 Nations Rugby** being screened at centre from 4pm. Wales V England. Bar open.

28 Feb – **Quiz night** at the centre from 7.30pm. Details as above.

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

9 March - **6 Nations Rugby** being screened at centre from 1.45pm. Scotland v Wales. Bar open.

15 March – **Ukelele Crazy at Thringstone Miners Welfare FC**. 7pm. Tickets £5 from Pauline on 457291

16 March - **6 Nations Rugby** being screened at centre from 2pm. Wales v Ireland. Bar open.

23 March – **Beer, Cider and Sausages** at the centre. £15 per ticket which includes some free drinks. For more details please contact the centre

30 March – **Pompom and prosecco** workshop at the centre from 7pm-8.15pm. £20 per person. To book please call Steph on 07801 999282

7 April – **Daffodil fun run** from the centre. £5 per person. People are being encouraged to get sponsorship for Marie Curie, whose logo is the daffodil. For more details and application forms, please contact the centre. There may also be a doggie dawdle at the same time for those who want to walk in a group with their dogs.

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

20 April – **Easter Egg Hunt** at the centre. 10am – 12 noon. Free event. Find the Easter eggs hidden around the village.

4 May – **Spring Ball** at the centre – a chance for residents to get 'dressed up'. Tickets £15. For more information, please contact the centre.

25 May – **Thringstone Bank Holiday Soul Night** at Thringstone Members Club with Jayne Lesley. Starts at 8pm. Tickets £5 from 813531. This is a ticket only event.

15 June – Potential sale of **used/pre loved clothes** at Charles Booth Centre. More details nearer the time.

3 August – **Thringstone Live Music Festival**. Gates open at 12 noon. First band on at 1pm.

7 Sept – **Hello Heritage** at the centre from 12 noon. This event will be concentrating on detailing all the play and panto societies that have been based at the centre.



14 Sept – **Thringstone's Got Talent** at the centre

31 Oct – **Halloween family quiz** at the centre. More details nearer the time.

History report

- Pupils of **Grace Dieu Manor School** are currently working with Pudding Bag Productions to film the story of the murder of John Johnson by Lawrence Shirley, 4th Earl Ferrers of Staunton Harold Hall on 18 Jan 1760. John Johnson had worked for the family for more or less the whole of his life and was greatly respected. Earl Ferrers was a womanizer and heavy drinker, prone to bouts of violence against servants and also his wife, whom he kicked senseless on one occasion. The Countess obtained a legal separation from her husband on the grounds of cruelty, for which she had to appeal to parliament. Upon the separation of Ferrers and his wife, Johnson became the steward of the estate trustees and collected money for the maintenance of the Countess from the rental income of the estate. Ferrers disliked Johnson, and tried to get him evicted from his farm, but eventually the trustees agreed that he could stop on a leasehold agreement which displeased the Earl. Ferrers began to suspect that Johnson was working against him, and was very enraged when he found out Johnson had paid money to Ferrers' wife without his knowledge. Having been called to Staunton Harold by the Earl to discuss business in his locked study, and the Earl having ensured all family members and two male servants were not at home, an argument ensued. Ferrers made Johnson get on his knees and suggested that Johnson was defrauding him, and shot him just under his ribs on the left side to a depth of 4 inches. He admitted he had done this calmly, was not sorry for the act, but that if anybody tried to seize him, he would shoot them too. Johnson was taken to another room at Staunton Harold, and Ferrers got drunk, so much so that during the evening, he attacked Johnson, pulling his wig and calling him a villain and threatening to shoot him in the head. When Ferrers eventually fell asleep, Johnson was taken to his own home, a house on the estate called The Lount, where he died the day after the shooting. Dr Kirkland, who had been looking after Johnson, then called together a group of local men to apprehend Ferrers who by this stage was armed. Having been apprehended by a man called Cutler, who was local collier, the Earl was prosecuted, taken to the Tower of London and hanged at Tyburn on 5 May 1760 in front of a large crowd, and then dissected.
- **Retirement of PC Leverett** – PC Walter Henry Leverett was the police person in the village in the 1930s and 40s. He lived at 53 Loughborough Road, and there was a sign on the hedge there so people knew it was a police contact house. His beat was just Thringstone. When he left, Les Cruise took over. Media reports of his retirement presentation say this took place in September 1956. He retired after 27 years with Leicestershire County Police, the last 5 of which were served at Broughton Astley. He had served at Loughborough, Whetstone, Thringstone and Hinckley, which is where he started his police career. He acted as police constable in charge when the Lutterworth sergeant was away. Mr Leverett was moving from Broughton Astley to Walton Under Naze where he had got another job, and he was taking his police dog with him. At his retirement party, he was presented with a pipe rack and pipes and photographs of the Broughton Astley police section, and his wife Avis was presented with an Old Charley Royal Doulton toby jug. He was born in Leytonstone near London in March 1908 and died in March 1980 at Walton Under Naze.
- August 1908 petty sessions – case against Joseph Walker, labourer of Thringstone, for stealing 3 hen's eggs on 9 August from his employer, Thomas Siddons, farmer of Thringstone. Mr Walker was fined £5 6s and £21s and 6d in costs which were to be deducted from his wages by Mr Siddons. John Joseph Sharp of Whitwick, solicitor, of The White House, Loughborough Road, Whitwick, from the firms Sharp and Lancaster and also Sharp and Richardson, appeared on behalf of **Whitwick and Thringstone Association for the Prosecution of Felons**, a group of which we were previously unaware. He appeared for them at several cases, including one in 1906 relating to damage of fencing in Ravenstone, showing that this association covered quite an area. Further research has shown these groups came to prominence nationally before the formation of a proper police force, especially in rural areas. From the second half of 18th century and into the



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19th century, they printed handbills offering rewards for details leading to an arrest. This was a membership society, with members paying an annual subscription and it was only those members that would benefit from the group. **The Whitwick and Thringstone Association** met regularly. The first recorded meeting we can find was in 1861 when they had their annual general meeting at The George, Thringstone parish (this is now Coleorton) thanks to host Mr Statham. The association was said at that time to be in a very prosperous condition and had numerous members so must have started before that date. In May 1865 they offered a reward for people found to be responsible for pulling up evergreens and plants in Miss Sophie Newton's garden on Leicester Road in Whitwick. In November 1865, they had their AGM at The Rose and Crown, Thringstone with landlord James Gough. The vicar of Whitwick, Rev S Smith was in the chair, and as was the case subsequently and until at least 1908, after the meeting, members and friends went to dine. Samuel Hallam of The Queen's Head, Thringstone was secretary of the association for nearly 30 years until his death in 1889.

It is not clear how long Mr Sharp worked in this area or represented the association in a legal capacity. In August 1913, Mr Sharp was involved in the attempted prosecution of a schoolboy from Swannington accused of stealing 3 pennyworth of turnips from a farmer. The case was dismissed because the boy's parents agreed to give money to the Whitwick and District Association for the Prosecution of Felons. In January 1914, there were reports that Mr Sharp had been ill with pneumonia for some time at his residence, The White House, but was showing some signs of improvement. Around the same time, his wife was engaged in working to get items of bedding for the Northern General Hospital in Leicester. In 1916, he divorced his wife Eleanor, whom he had married in Oadby in 1888 when she was 17 and he 23, on the grounds of her adultery at a hotel in London and at The White House, remarried and moved to Devon where he died on 3 March 1944. His son, Aubrey Temple Sharp OBE, born in 1889 in Whitwick, was for some time both before and after WW1 a Leicestershire County Cricketer, and a partner in the Leicester city centre firm of solicitors, Billson and Sharp. He lived in the Grade 2 listed Nether Hall, Scraftoft. This information has been shared with members of the family of Aubrey Temple Sharpe's wife, who are carrying out their own family history research.

- We have previously mentioned the Thringstone connection with the **Whitwick and District Association for the Protection of Persons and Property** which was wound up in 1939 after being formed in 1847, due to lack of interest and the death of the secretary, Thringstone's John William Peters of Main Street. Mr Peters had run the association for 35 years and previously it had been run for over 40 years by his father James Peters, who died in 1911. From 1878 until about 1884, James Peters had run The Bull's Head before running the village post office and manufacturing Baubles. We would like to know how the organisation was set up, and who else was involved, but have discovered that the association was set up due to public pressure after a man was hanged for stealing a sheep. In 1860, the annual meeting was held at Three Crowns, Whitwick at which the Revs. Dr Smith and Henry Wood presided. In 1902, the annual dinner was held at Castle Inn, Hugglescote, and the balance sheet showed a balance going forward of £9 4 shillings and 4 pence. In 1913, Mr Peters, presented a balance sheet showing £12 in funds. In 1913, Dr James Sharpe Hamilton of Coalville, of whom we have written before was president (see also below). Mr Peters continued to be secretary, Mr W T Williams of Coalville was treasurer, and Thomas Carter of Thringstone was voted as vice-president. The only other Thringstone connection in 1913 was George Henry Hallam of the Queen's Head who was re-elected to the committee.
- Nov 1862 – **Society for the Propagation of The Gospel in Foreign Parts** – meetings of the parochial associations for the above were held on consecutive nights in Coleorton, Whitwick, Thringstone and Smisby. Rev. Assheton Pownall, Rector of South Kilworth and subsequently Archdeacon of Leicester, organised these events and £14 16s 10d was collected. This association was set up in 1847 in order to increase interest in missionary work and was still meeting in 1865 but we are unable to find any mention of them after that date.



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- February 1914 - The members of the **Whitwick and Thringstone Citizens' Corps**, some 40 or 50 strong, paraded, headed by the Holy Cross Band and attended service at the Whitwick Parish Church. They afterwards had a march via New Swannington, and were accompanied by the Vicar, the Rev. T. W. Walters, who is one of the chaplains to the corps. Officers of the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps have been elected as follows: Capt. W. E. Stevenson, company commander; Mr G. F. Burton, platoon commander; Mr B. Berry, chairman of the committee; Father O'Reilly, vice-chairman; Mr J. W. Eagles, treasurer; and Mr J. West, secretary. Delegates from the Coalville, Hugglescote and Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps attended a meeting at the Snibston New Inn club room on Monday night and elected Mr B. G. Hale (Coalville) on the Finance Committee of the Leicester County Volunteers Association and Capt. Woods (Hugglescote) a member of the Equipment Committee of the same association. Arrangements were being made for manoeuvres on an extensive scale in the vicinity of Coalville, to take place about Easter time, between various Citizens' Corps in the County. It was proposed that the Leicestershire Corps would be the attacking force against the Coalville, Woodville, Whitwick and Thringstone, Hugglescote, Shepshed, and possibly Loughborough Corps. Mr S. C. Parker, secretary of the Leicester Corps, was corresponding with others concerned in the matter, which created a good deal of interest. As stated previously, the Citizens Corps were only ever intended to be called upon in the event of an invasion. By February 1915 they had formed themselves into a County Regiment. In November 1914, the committee changed to Captain: Capt. W. E. Stevenson; Chairman of Committee: Mr B. Berry; Secretary: Mr H. G. W. Howe; Drill Instructors: Messrs. E. Hanson, and G. H. Hallam. A public meeting was held in Thringstone, following one in Whitwick, to appeal to men over the age of 35 to consider joining the group.
- **Belgian Refugees 1915** - The Belgian Refugees at Whitwick who were accommodated in a house at Forest Side, Whitwick lent by Mr G. F. Burton, and whom Mrs Glynn was also helping, were Naxarie Amand and his wife Anna with one child and Mathelda Derde (whose husband was in the war) and two children. All came from Alost. Those at Thringstone, whom the Right Hon. Charles Booth was helping, as we already knew, were Frans De Mailly and his wife Josephine and their son Joannes. plus Auguste Alnehant (15), and Gustaf Scheive and Marcel De Smet, from Ghent.
- We have found more information about **Mary Hanson** who was one of the head teachers at **Thringstone School**, taking charge on 6 January 1873. Mary, born in Derby in 1845, was the 2nd daughter of Thomas Hanson of 28 Saddler Gate, Derby who was a farmer, baker and provision dealer and his wife Harriet nee Cholerton. Mary left Thringstone school to marry John Wale, of Griffydam, a fellow teacher, in 1874. John's parents, William and Martha worked in hosiery, with William being a stocking maker and Martha being a stocking seamer until 1861 when William became the village draper. Mary died at her residence, The Cedars, Upper Holland Road, Sutton Coldfield on Wednesday 10 August 1921. Her first teaching post was at St James' School, Derby. She left there to work at St Luke's school, also in Derby, and left there to come to Thringstone. Upon marriage, she became mistress at Whitwick school and lived at The School House, Silver Street, Whitwick. In 1888 the family moved to Turnditch where, with her husband as headmaster, she was Infants and Sewing Mistress at Turnditch School, holding this post for over 16 years. Her husband, John, died on 17 July 1917 and, until his resignation in October 1906, for 18 years had been headmaster at Turnditch School. He had also been organist and choirmaster at the church there. They had a son John Martin and a daughter Annie, both born in Whitwick and baptised at St John The Baptist, who also became teachers. We believe Annie died in Bromsgrove in 1966. John Martin Wale, known as Jack, was also for some time a church organist whilst teaching in Somerset between 1899 and 1901, Oakham from 1902-1918 and 3 schools in Herefordshire from 1918 until 1924. He appears to have trained at Saltley Training College, Birmingham, and had a general certificate in education plus a Royal Horticultural Society's school teacher's certificate in cottage and allotment gardening! He took Holy Orders and became a deacon in 1924 when living at Far Forest vicarage near Kidderminster, and was curate at St Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth from 1924-27 and then moved to Much Wenlock before becoming vicar at Hentland and Hoarworthy near Ross and Wye. He went back to Far Forest on 30 August 1937 when the previous vicar



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retired. He then moved on to be acting rector at Bredon in Gloucestershire in 1942 whilst the existing vicar was on active service as chaplain to the RAF and stayed there until after the war ended before moving to Worcester where he died on 19 November 1955. Mary was buried at Sutton Coldfield cemetery.

- Western Mail 14 Dec 1933 – ‘**Miss Gwen Jones** of Ogmore Vale, Wales, was offered two scholastic posts in Leicestershire on Wednesday in schools within 10 miles of each other. She accepted the post at Thringstone School.’
- Edward Mortimer Green of Charnwood Lodge, Leicester Road, Whitwick who gave the land on which the original **Thringstone School** was built seems to have had financial problems and many creditors, and gave all his estates on 8 March 1866 by deed to Edward Chatterton Middleton of Lbro, William Hall of Atherstone and Robert Ward Creswell of Ravenstone before being declared bankrupt.
- We have mentioned previously that **Thomas Cox** was a druggist and chemist in Whitwick and died in 1901. His chemist shop served Thringstone as well as Whitwick. We have now discovered that he had a partner, one William Martin, who traded as Cox and Martin at Pares Hill, Whitwick until he went bankrupt for £622 1s in 1904. At his bankruptcy hearing, Mr Martin said that he had been Mr Cox’s assistant, and in July 1900, Mr Cox had given him the business by deed of gift, but had been unable to sustain the business after Mr Cox left due to bad trade and lack of capital. Furthermore, because he was not a qualified chemist, he had changed the business to that of a drapery. Not being able to satisfy the matter, his business was wound up.
- In previous minutes, regarding the death of Mary Hallam of Queen’s Head, we referred to her doctor as **Dr James Sharpe Hamilton** of Coalville who had died in 1917 aged 42. He was a married man with children who lived at Belvoir Cottage, Coalville. We have now discovered that he was found dead in bed on 11 April 1917 and an inquest was performed. This revealed he had died of an overdose of hydrocyanic acid taken accidentally for indigestion. The verdict was accidental death due to poisoning.

Council report

NWLDC has bought the former Litten Tree pub on Marlborough Square, with plans to transform it into a multi-purpose space for market stalls, food vendors, entertainment and events.

Regular outdoor markets will be held just outside the new indoor space once the planned redesign of Marlborough Square is complete. The current market hall, which is located behind the Belvoir Shopping Centre, currently costs the council over £100,000 to maintain each year. The roof is leaking and some units cannot be used for health and safety reasons. £600,000 has been allocated by the council for the purchase and revamp of the building.

Existing market traders are being supported to move into the new indoor market, onto the new outdoor market or into suitable retail space in the town.

The council also hopes to offer the opportunity for new businesses and start-ups to trade at the revamped indoor market and to programme entertainment and events there as part of its plans to regenerate the town.

The detailed designs for the new indoor market and events space are currently being drawn up and work to replace the roof will begin in the coming weeks.

The current market will stay open at the existing Market Hall until the new market is ready to trade. There was general discussion at this point on the state of Coalville town centre, the broken promises which have been made over the years, and that various hopes never seem to materialise. There was also discussion about drug use at the rear of certain shops and the future of The Red House and former Nat West bank.

Gardening and environment

Bulbs planted last year and now showing signs of coming through which includes some of the planting at the centre.



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