



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 APRIL 2119 AT CHARLES BOOTH CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Tina Bakewell, Ray Woodward, Mike Statham, Nigel Roberts, Bernard Lee, Gillian Bates, Ruth Dumbleton, Maureen Simm, Tony Newton, Shirley Gordon, Ann Petty, Pat Hubbard, Tracy Foulds

Apologies: Geoff and Jane Wilson, Bill Enser, Josie Brownlow, John Jackson, Mary Roberts, Anne Statham

Discussions/Decisions.

Monthly litter pick total - 146 bags against **133 bags** for the same month last year. Since we started keeping records, we have removed over 14,000 bags of litter from the village.

Litter pick with Grace Dieu Manor School on Friday 15 March was postponed due to health and safety concerns over the high winds. This has been rearranged for Friday 3 May.

Nita had an email from NWLDC saying they are in receipt of some **central government funding**, which must be used for environmental community work, and thought they would ask if we would be interested in having a specially developed litter pick trolley to use on our travels. Nita has said yes, which means another photo shoot at some stage with Woodie.

A phone call from **Central England Co-op** was received during the month to ask if we still wanted to work with them going forward on litter picking. A new contact of Karen was given and we are waiting for her to contact us. Thringstone Co-op has, incidentally, a new manager called Mark.

Gracedieu Woods – Nita had an email from the local PCSO regarding motorbikes in the woodland. The police seem to have been unaware of the ownership of the woodland, assuming that because it is listed on the National Forest website that it belonged to them. They were also of the impression that the woodland was called Thringstone Woods. They were intending to put fallen trees across entrance sites to the woods to deter motorbikes, and thought FoT and also Whitwick Parish Council might like to help fundraise. Nita explained the situation, told them who owned the land, that the parish council didn't cover Thringstone and passed the information on to the de Lisle family to contact the police if they want to. In 2014 and 2015, meetings with the police and the de Lisle family were held, at which Nita was present, and various solutions to deter motor biking put forward, which included asking local scouts if they wanted to do camps there and this information was also shared again with the police. Nita subsequently had a phone call from another police officer who said she was plotting times and dates when the Bardon beat gets calls about motorbikes in the woodland, and it transpires that it is mostly weekends when it is dry..... This second police officer was also unaware of the ownership of the woodland, and also said that if



the Belton beat call out this may not be something of which she is aware, as it is a different beat. We will wait to see what transpires.

Thringstone Primary – The latest newsletter from the school informed us that from the Autumn term, the building within the grounds that used to be SureStart will now be a 30 hour a week pre-school provision. The newsletter says that both the Homestead Road and Centre pre-school groups are aware.

Mike said that the centre will hopefully be arranging outside signage indicating that the pre-school is at the centre.

Invitation – April is the month that Nita picks up her BEM. Since invitations to this event are limited, the centre is putting on an event to mark the occasion on Friday 26 April at 10am. There will be tea, coffee, cake and all sorts apparently. Nita would be pleased to see any members of Friends of Thringstone at this event who are able to attend. She will bring along her award.

Money available – we have had an email from NWLDC detailing small grants available. These include environmental grants of up to £500 which can be for environmentally-focused projects relating to climate change, energy efficiency, community orchards, litter picking, and similar. It is open to all groups and organisations in the district, including parish councils. Do we need to put in a grant for more planting? The meeting felt that putting in for trees for a community orchard in The Closs might be useful, but Nita will need to run this past all the trustees first. She will look at the completion date for applications and take it from there.

Nigel said that he could probably find someone to put in gravel paths in The Closs at some stage. Ray said he also had a contact.

Charles Booth Centre – Nigel and Mary Roberts are now trustees.

The centre has booked Nottingham psychic Steve Rhino to come to do a show on 8 June starting at 7.30pm. More details nearer the time, but tickets are expected to be £5.

A new aerobic tutor will be at the centre starting on 21 May. Sharon, from **West Fitness Ltd.**, will be offering pilates from 6pm-7pm and aerobics from 7.15pm-8.15pm. The first two classes (21 and 28 May) will be free taster sessions, but afterwards the price of each class will be £8. Further details will be posted on our facebook page nearer the time.

Friday Coffee bar at the centre – now running from 9am – 12 noon with free cakes, biscuits, tea, coffee and a good time guaranteed. On 14th June it will be Alzheimers Cupcake Day at the coffee bar. Please put the date in your diary and come along with cakes and help us raise money for Alzheimer' research.

The Abba Tribute act (Thank you for the music) that was at the centre the year before last will be back on 12 October. That was booked out really quickly last time, so be prepared to book as soon as it goes onto ticketsource.

Nigel talked at length about the value of community and especially the coffee bar. He also said that he is trying to get another plug and play night at the centre, but is meeting with volunteers shortly. If it works out, there could be plug and play back at the centre on the 2nd Friday of each month. He is also looking to arrange a musical equipment sale at the centre, as there are a lot of bands who keep extra equipment they never use from one year to the next. Finally, he said that Mary Roberts is looking to put on a musical supper on Saturday nights once a month at which a ploughmans' supper would be offered. This musical supper would take place downstairs and be well advertised.

Nita said any further news on the above things would be passed on to members and posted on facebook.

Mike said that the centre needs help with marshalling for the fun run on Sunday, and if anybody was available, they should contact the office tomorrow. He said that the other trustees were delighted that Mary and Nigel had joined their ranks, and that the centre is now doing financially

better than ever before. He said that it would be nice for the centre to start being in a position to give back to community groups in the way of small grants or practical help in the future. At present, Mike is continuing to paint the back stairway at the centre, and one of the bedrooms upstairs had been decorated and he was looking to do a second. This would then enable the centre to consider letting these out for office space to people looking to do start up businesses. He also said that the beer and cider event had gone well, although more people attending would have been nice.

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 **571 twitter followers**, which is 12 more than last month, and **850 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.

Nita has been asked to write historical articles for **Community Voice** to start in June. For the May edition, she has put a small piece together asking for information on various projects.

Other: Sent a lot of photos of the **spring planting** done last October with bulbs we purchased from NWLDC to their offices for their own portfolio following an email request.

Nita did a **presentation** on crime in Thringstone, FoT and the centre to the Gracedieu Road neighbourhood watch group which went well. There was lots of interest in what is on at the centre.

Nita has sent in the required paperwork to NWLDC for us to take part in **Hello Heritage** 2019.

Nita did a telephone interview with a journalist from the Daily Mail on litter picking and how it can improve not only the environment but the lives of those who litter pick. She had also had photos taken today with Woodie, in the rain. This feature may or may not be in the paper on Saturday coming.

The meeting welcomed new member Ruth Dumbleton.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,464.84		
Income		Expenditure	
Membership		Broadband	15.00
Raffle	£14	Teamprint TAIP printing	103.35
total income to general fund	£14		£118.35
		Total general fund at month end	2360.49

The figures for the year end have gone to the auditor. Tina Bakewell has taken over the book keeping from 1st April.

Publications Report

Nothing to report other than we gave Terry Roome a free copy of Businesses in Thringstone in which his father is mentioned as a thank you (see below in history section)



Web Report

The webmaster is still working on updating the site.

Police Report

We received the report below from Lynette Rose who is back on our beat as a PCSO.

Problems with regards to children on the cricket pitch which was resolved by talking to the head of Thringstone Primary

Theft from a motor vehicle on Elgin Walk (which is interesting seeing as there is no roadway there...)

Community Report and What's On

More

Grace Dieu cricket club is on the look out for new players. The first XI have been promoted to div 4 and the second XI are in div 6. If interested please get in touch with them direct. A fantastic club, warm family friendly with a great atmosphere

Thringstone Primary –three young ladies from the school represented NW Leicestershire at the cross country championships at Prestwold Hall.

Laura Hall and Molly Durrant from **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society** won the best principal boy and girl at the recent Pantomime Alliance Awards. Well done to them.

Hare And Hounds – Nita had an email on 3 April saying that the Hare and Hounds has ceased trading. All the events planned there have been transferred to The Bull's Head at Abbots Oak which was/is owned by the same people. A facebook post has suggested that this information is correct and that the pub could be a goldmine in the right hands.

Thringstone Stores and Post office - Back in stock - authentic Indian meals, including meal bags (curry, rice and naan) £3.09

George and Dragon – Starting 1 April, the George and Dragon are doing Mexican Monday's. 4pm-9pm, 2 can dine for £30 which includes first drink if it is Carling, real ale, soft drink or wine.

Menu is Nachos to share, Main - A choice of either Chilli Con Carne served with tortilla chips & basmati rice, Sizzling fajitas, Chicken Fajitas, Vegetable fajitas, Steak fajitas (£3.00 supplement). All are served with guacamole, sour cream, grated cheese & tortilla wraps, Chicken enchilada, Vegetable enchilada, both served with a salad garnish & skinny fries. They are also running early bird menus Monday to Friday 12 noon -3pm and 5-7pm with 2 courses for £9.95 and 3 courses for £11.95.

Thringstone Miners Welfare are looking for people to help open and close up, tidy the car park and plant the borders and help with general maintenance. If you are able to help, please contact them direct through the chair of their trustees, Leon Spence on leon.spence@rocketmail.com

6 April – King's Arms, Whitwick – Golden Oldies Night. Starts at 8pm.

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 will also be a doggie dawdle at the same time for those who want to walk in a group with their dogs. This dog walk will go down to the priory.

9 Apr – **Film night at the centre**. Film is A Star Is Born. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle.

10 April – **Quiz night with Coleorton Heritage Group** – 8pm. King's Arms, Coleorton. Teams of up to 4 players. £8 to include pub meal of vegetarian lasagne, shepherd's pie or curry with a choice of veg. There will also be a raffle. Booking essential via Sandra on 440000 or Terry on 835701 or email heritagegroup@coleorton.org.uk

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

13 April – **VUAS afternoon tea at Beaumont Centre, Pegg's Green/Coleorton**. From 1pm. This is to raise money for Veterans United Against Suicide. Cake, tea, coffee, sandwiches, scones, chat and laughter for £5 per head.



- 13 April – Ravenstone Village Hall, **Craft and vintage fair** from 10am-2pm. £1 entry. There will be teas and refreshments and a raffle.
- 17 April – **King's Arms, Whitwick** – evening of clairvoyance with Patrick Deadman. 7pm. £10 per person on the door. No prebooking.
- 18 Apr – **Bull's Head** – Pizza party 4pm-6pm. £7 per child. Pizza making and party games, disco and photos with the Easter Bunny.
- 18 April – **Bingo at the centre**. Eyes down at 7.30pm.
- 20 Apr – **Easter Egg Hunt** at the centre. 10am – 12 noon. Free event. Find the Easter eggs hidden around the village.
- 21 and 22 Apr – **Bull's Head** – Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. 9,30am. £6 a ticket to include breakfast and Easter egg hunt.
- 25 April – **Quiz night at the centre**. Teams of up to 6 - £10 per team.
- 27 April – **King's Arms, Whitwick** – Carter and Hartmann in concert. Starts at 8pm.
- 4 May – **Plant sale at Coleorton Wood (Pitt Lane)**. 10am – 1pm. Lots of plants plus planters and ornaments available to purchase. Tea and coffee available.
- 4 May – Lee Joshua Rose at **Kings Arm's, Whitwick**. 8pm start.
- 10 May - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club**. 8pm til late. £3 entry.
- 12 May - **King's Arms, Whitwick** – Open mic night with Carter and Hartmann. Starts at 8pm.
- 14 May – **Film night at the centre**. Film is Bohemian Rhapsody. Raffle
- 18 May – **Plant Sale at New Lount Nature Reserve, Newbold Coleorton**. 10am – 1pm. Lots of plants plus planters and ornaments available to purchase. Tea and coffee available.
- 19 May – National Forest Walking Festival – **History of Gracedieu**. Meet at Bull's Head at 3pm. 2 mile walk to learn about the priory and the history of the area. £3 per adult
- 19 May – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – Sheena McHugh (of The Voice) and Keith Buck in concert from 8pm.
- 22 May – **Walk Around Whitwick** – part of the National Walking Festival – meet at Old Station, North Street at 1.30pm and learn about the historical sites in Whitwick and their fascinating stories. Donations welcome. Light refreshments available at the end of the walk.
- 23 May - National Forest Walking Festival – **History of Gracedieu**. Meet at Bull's Head at 6pm. 2 mile walk to learn about the priory and the history of the area. £3 per adult
- 23-25 May – **Stepping Out**, the musical from TPADS at Century Theatre, Coalville. Show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £8 for the Thursday and £10 for Friday and Saturday from www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads or 0333 666 3366
- 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.
- 29 May - - National Forest Walking Festival – **History of Gracedieu**. Meet at Bull's Head at 10am. 2 mile walk to learn about the priory and the history of the area. £3 per adult
- 29 May – **Ancient Rock and Mount St Bernard Abbey**. Part of the National Forest Walking Festival. Meet at Mt. St. Bernard's Abbey at 1.30pm and walk the 2 miles round the area learning about the volcanic quarry area.
- 1 June – **Harvey's Army dog show** at George and Dragon. Opens at 12 noon. Judging starts at 12.30pm. BBQ, outdoor bar and bouncy castle.
- 1 June – **King's Arms, Whitwick** - Lady Rose in concert at 8.30pm. This will be an evening of soul, pop, reggae and blues.
- 8 June – **Steve Rhino**, psychic, at the centre from 7.30pm. Private readings afterwards can be arranged. More details nearer the time.
- 8 June – All That Sass at **King's Arms, Whitwick** – 80s music. Starts at 8pm.
- 11 June – **Film night at the centre**. Film is Favourite. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle
- 14 June – **Alzheimers' cupcake fundraiser** at Charles Booth coffee bar from 9am-12 noon. Please come and help support a worthwhile charity.
- 14 June - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club**. 8pm til late. £3 entry.



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

28 and 29 June – **Coalville Amateur Operative Centenary Concert** – Songs from the musicals. Whitwick Methodist Church, 10 Hall Lane, Whitwick (NOTE- Not Hall Lane Methodist Church!). Starts at 7.30pm, Adults £8, child £5, tickets available from www.caos.org.uk or 01530 834534 from May 1st 2019

6 July - **King's Arms, Whitwick** – Movie Music Party Night from 8pm with live vocal performances from David Mazzei and the Sassettes from All that Sass. Themed dress up encouraged! Dancing shoes essential.

9 July - **Film night at the centre**. Film is Sky Scraper. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle

12 July - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club**. 8pm til late. £3 entry.

13 July – **Alfi Day** – brain tumour research centre charity fund raiser at Coalville Town FC. Gates open 1pm. Ends at 9pm. This will be the last of the Alfi Days, having been going for 7 years and raised in excess of £70k, so the team are going out on a high.

24 July – **Charles Booth Centre** – Family BBC day. More details nearer the time.

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

9 Aug - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club**. 8pm til late. £3 entry.

13 Aug- **Film night at the centre**. Film is Mary Poppins. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle

17 and 18 Aug – **Woodstock in Whitwick** at Hermitage Leisure Centre, Whitwick.

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.

10 Sept – **Film night at the centre**. Film is Aqua Man. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle

13 Sept - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club**. 8pm til late. £3 entry.

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

15 Sept – Coleorton History Group Walk – 2pm from the car park Coleorton Wood, Pitt Lane. Learn about the buildings and people who lived there. Dogs welcome. No cost but booking essential with Sandra on 440000 or email heritagegroup@coleorton.org.uk

19 Sept - Coleorton History Group Walk – 10.30am from the car park Coleorton Wood, Pitt Lane. Learn about the buildings and people who lived there. Dogs welcome. No cost but booking essential with Sandra on 440000 or email heritagegroup@coleorton.org.uk

8 Oct – **Film night at the centre**. Film is Holmes and Watson. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle

11 Oct - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club**. 8pm til late. £3 entry.

12 Oct – **Abba tribute** at the centre. More details later.

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

12 Nov – **Film night at the centre**. Film is Colette. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle

18 Nov - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club**. 8pm til late. £3 entry.

10 Dec – **Film night at the centre**. Film is First Man. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle

History report

- In our last minutes we talked about **Alan B Bradley** in the USA. We are told that this was indeed Harold Bradley the butcher's son from Main Street, as we thought, and locals who remember him tell that it was a really big news story in the village when he emigrated to New Zealand with his family. We are also told that the person whose eggs were stolen by a dog may have been **Joe Denny** as opposed to Joe Dennis as reported.
- **The gamekeeper working in Gracedieu** in 1877 would seem to have been David Cox. There is an article in the Leicester Journal of 7 December 1877 regarding a court case against James and John Burton, colliers of Thringstone who, upon being seen in a plantation by David Cox along with about 8 other men, were challenged about why they were there. The Burton's then charged Mr Cox, pushed him down and kicked him. James Burton was fined £2 2s or 6 week's hard labour, but John Burton failed to attend the court and an arrest warrant was issued for his apprehension. The Burton boys were 2 of the 4 sons of Charlotte Burton who subsequently married William Moore. Born in 1857 and 1861 respectively they seem to have lived on Brook



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Terrace. James, who seems to have remained single, subsequently moved to Blakesley's Row.

- In a couple of months, Swannington Heritage folk will have some new interpretation at Hough Mill, which used to be known as **Thringstone Smock Mill**. The March 1993 edition of Now and Then, their members' magazine has the following item: *'Tony Bayliss tells of a family story that when there was a virulent epidemic in the Thringstone area in the early 1870's, his grandmother Elizabeth Kirby, then aged 12 or 14, took her four youngest sisters, Clara, Mahala, Louisa and Bertha, to the mill to isolate them from the source of infection. Food was delivered by leaving it for collection in the hedge bottom, so that the occupants of the mill would not come into contact with possible carriers of the disease.'* They have told us that Elizabeth was born on 30th April 1857, so would have been 14 years old in 1871, when the ages of her sisters would have been Clara 7 years, Bertha 6 years, Mahala 4 years and Louisa one year. Assuming all this happened at Hough mill, it would have been operated by their relatives the Griffin family in 1871. Elizabeth Kirby's grandmother Sarah was originally a Griffin There would have been periods when the mill was not used, such as when awaiting the new season's grain. The story would also explain the fireplace, which is not a feature that is compatible with flammable flour dust. Nita has looked through our own archives and on line newspaper articles. Whilst we have no date on which to work, it would seem that in 1872 there was a county-wide small-pox epidemic which definitely affected Whitwick and Coalville, as this was mentioned in the Leicester Chronicle of 11 May 1872. It may have also affected Thringstone. The Leicester Journal of 14 June 1872 talks of Ashby Union Workhouse, and the need for vaccination for smallpox which was virulent at that time, and 'the need to prevent the spread of the malady' by various means including the non sharing of rags, clothing and the like, and the various fines that could be applied at beer houses etc. We do know that in Leicestershire in 1872 there were more instances of smallpox than in the previous 20 years put together. This information has been passed back to the Swannington group. Louisa incidentally went on to marry John William Wilson in June 1896, son of James and Mary Ann Wilson of 3 Tuns and Elizabeth went on to marry Joseph Henson, son of Jabez Henson in March 1882. Both Joseph and Jabez were blacksmiths.
- We also had an email this last month from Chris Deuchar who wanted to know about the **western tramways** that came around this area and local collieries. We were unable to supply any further information to that which he already had.
- **Terry Roome** came with the table tennis trophy mentioned in the last minutes, and also provided us with league tables for the league when Thringstone Community Centre's team won the table tennis championships, and photos of the trophies at the time. On the photos were Terry himself, plus Steve Alderson, Phil Foxon, Ian Wortley and Alva Bourne. Phil Foxon was the son of the couple who ran the newsagents on Main Street. The Coalville & District Table Tennis League ran for a total of 21 years from 1962 to 1983. During this period, Thringstone won the 1st Division Championship title more times than any other team (a total of 4) and were also the very last team to win it before the league folded. Thringstone also won the League's KO Cup Competition 5 times over the years, of which 3 were league & cup double years. Records show that including league & cup games in both Coalville and Loughborough, Terry Roome made over 400 appearances for the team winning 70% of his individual games, Phil Foxon made 300 appearances with a win ratio of 78% and Ian Wortley made almost 200 appearances with a win ratio of 64%. These numbers of appearances dwarf those made by the other 21 home team players that periodically passed through the doors of the Community Centre as none achieved greater than double figures. Terry told us when he came that his great uncle was James Bancroft, who was one of the 50 soldiers from the area who went off to WW1 at the start of the war. Terry has visited the site where James died and has followed all the events regarding the march of the 50 last year.
- **Photos** – Terry Roome's grandmother **Edith Bancroft** lived at 1 John Street. She had been married to William Bancroft, brother to James, and Terry has sent photos of her and William



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plus a photo of the George 5th Jubilee Tea Committee taken on 6 May 1935 in which Edith appears. We think this was taken at the centre. Terry also sent copies of photos of his dad **Aubrey Roome**. Terry tells us that Aubrey was called up in Jan 1944 and posted to Southern India in Nov 1944 for 2 years. He reached the rank of Corporal in the RAF Medical Corps. He was very lucky in that the anticipated invasion of India by Japan never materialised. He painted his wife's name 'Thelma' on the door of his ambulance. He learned to drive on a huge open Indian airfield. The problem was that he used to drive as though he was still on an Indian airfield when he got back to the UK ! Terry told us that his parents were both keen sequence dancers, and even after Aubrey died, Thelma used to like to dance given the chance. Terry also sent photos of a family holiday with **Maurice Robinson** and family in 1956, the Robinson's being his god parents, a photo of his father cutting Jack Stanyard's hair and a photo of his mother with the **Thringstone school dinner ladies** of the late 1960s, Kathleen Challoner and Freda Higgs. His final photos are of his grandfather **Albert (known as Dick) Roome** who lived in at 33 Brooks Lane, Whitwick was a labour councillor for Whitwick and was keen on amateur dramatics and a wedding photo from 24 May 1920 when he married Florrie Bunce. Albert died on 4 February 1958 and the LRI. One of the photos sent to us has 3 men on it, with Dick on the far left. The middle man is in the costume of the Thringstone Jollies concert party, although it is not certain that Dick was part of this.

- **January 1918 – Absolom Smith**, aged 23, a collier from Thringstone, was arrested and charged under the Military Service Act for being an absentee from service from 19 December 1917. PC Jones who arrested Smith in Thringstone said he had asked Smith why he had not joined up in answer to his call up papers, and was told Smith thought he would have a holiday before he did so, and had been to Oakham. He was remanded to await an escort from Glen Parva barracks.
- **In 1919** there was every intention of raising a cross on The Green to the fallen of the Great War. Obviously this later came to nothing. However, 120 people were entertained in November 1919 at the centre to a dinner to honour those who had fought in **the war** – the media of the time said that all these 120 were war heroes. The cost of this event was met by public subscriptions. The hall had undergone a transformation at the hands of decorators and was decked out in national colours. The chair was occupied by Henry George William Howe an agent for the local Conservative Association and well known in the area for his political interests. The article calls him 'a septuagenarian who threw all his heart and soul into the welcome'. Mr Watts (secretary) and Mr J Smith (treasurer) were also present. Mr de Lisle, who was not present, had sent a present to the welcome home fund. Mary Booth and her son CZM Booth were present as was Major Sharpe and Capt. Shields. Mentioned in the toast were Corporal J Rennocks and Pt. J Robinson who had won military medals. Others present included Rev. Shrewsbury, Mr J H Weston, Mr Benjamin Baxter of Main Street, and the musical entertainment was provided by Messrs W Burton, RG Waterfield, L Gough, Albert Barlow and Master J Peace. Having at one stage lived at Forest Farm, Whitwick, Mr Howe moved from Ashby to Long Street, Belton, but by 1911 Mr Howe and his large family had moved to Rose Cottage, Gracedieu Road and the census shows he had had 15 children, of whom 9 had survived. He had for years run a drapery, hosiery, glove and millinery business in Market Street, Ashby. Mr Howe was taken to court in August 1919 by John Kirby who wanted him evicted from Forest Edge on Gracedieu Road, which he had purchased from Mrs Biddle, but was now in his ownership. Mr Kirby wanted the property for himself. Mr Howe was not evicted and won his case against Mr Kirby due to not having been offered acceptable alternative accommodation, Mr Howe having 'only' been offered the 4 roomed house in which Mr Kirby had been living which was too small for his purposes. Mr Howe, who was originally from Milton Keynes, died suddenly in Coalville on 23 January 1920. His obituary says that his funeral took place in a hurricane and one of the floral tributes came from the Whitwick and Thringstone Association for the Protection of Property about whom we have written before. He was buried at Ashby Cemetery.

- **1952** – An article in the Coalville Times tells that the 50 prefabricated houses on Henson's Lane and Ellistown had cost the council over £80,000 to build. 'Councillor E J Allen, Chairman of the Finance Committee, told the council on Tuesday that the original estimates had been vastly exceeded, and declared 'these prefab houses are not the bargain we thought'.
- **Thringstone Miners Welfare** – We knew that in 1923 a committee of 12 people was formed for this recreation ground, with Albert Barlow of Loughborough Road as chair and S Johnson as secretary with the Parish Council being expected to co-operate, but were unaware of a conveyance on 23 December 1932 from what currently read Janis Millward, and should read Jarvis Millward, and Roland Hill and 4 others of further land. We also now find that in March 1926, Thringstone Parish Council agreed to undertake the upkeep of an institute in Peggs Green and a recreation ground in Thringstone which the miners welfare committee proposed to provide. We are told by members of his family that Edwin Hicken, who we thought was only involved with the centre, was also part of the committee at the Miners Welfare for many years. We are also told that Jack Gough (Pete Gough's dad), Harold Straw, Charlie Hicken and Billy Betts were also committee members at some time. When John Mee Kidger died in 1962, his obituary said he was a trustee of the village playing field, which might also relate to the Miners Welfare. Albert Barlow died 6 September 1970 and is buried at St Andrew's alongside his wife Isabella.
- **Walter Fisher** kept **The Fox** in Thringstone from around 1891 until 1894. Born in 1859 in Lexden near Colchester in Essex he was the eldest son of Shadrach and Harriett Fisher. His father was a thatcher by profession. We know that he had been a police constable in Essex prior to coming to Thringstone and now discover that, in 1881 he was stationed at Prittlewell near Southend on Sea. An article dated 3 October 1884 tells that he had been stationed at Prittlewell for about 6 years but had recently been 'removed' to Stow Maries near Maldon in Essex. Another article tells that in June 1885 he was moved again to Grays in Essex where he seems to have stayed until at least 1888. He was involved in many court cases during his period in the police force.
- **James Frederick Musson** who kept The Fox from 1924-27 was the son of a collier, and prior to taking on The Fox followed his father's profession. An article in the newspapers of 1907 state that he was asked to give evidence in a court case involving the killing of valuable pigeons in Whitwick.
- George Yates who kept the **George and Dragon** in 1892/3 is an elusive person, but we have found an article from February 1895 relating to an unpaid bill of £1 14s from Betteridge and Sons, Brewers of Woodville against George Yates of Osgathorpe, so are assuming that, upon leaving Thringstone, Mr Yates went to keep one of the pubs at Osgathorpe.

Council report

Council elections are coming up and voting cards will now be needed to prove identity for people wishing to vote.

Gardening and environment

Bernard has been busy tidying and sorting the garden areas and planted some new plants down Drury Lane.

AOB

Shirley said she was concerned about the speed of traffic going down Loughborough Road, as despite the chicanes and speed humps, and the occasional traffic sign showing the speed of vehicles near Melrose Road, a lot of people travel far too quickly down that road. There was general discussion as to whether the chicanes would be replaced, and the height of the one near the Bellway estate.

The next meeting is 2 May 6.45pm at Charles Booth Centre.