



# The Friends of Thringstone



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

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## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 JULY 2019 AT CHARLES BOOTH CENTRE**

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Bernard Lee, Bill Enser, Tina Bakewell, Mike Statham, Pat Darby, Josie Brownloe, Dave and Julie Everitt, Ann Petty, Geoff Walker, Shirley Gordon, Maureen Simm, Pat Hubbard, Janet Stevenson

**Apologies:** Geoff and Jane Wilson, Tony Newton, Ron Hill, Anne Statham

### **Discussions/Decisions.**

**Monthly litter pick total - 81 bags** against **161 bags** for the same month last year. This is the lowest monthly figure we have had since we started keeping records.

Nita has signed up to Plastic Free July. This is an Australian based campaign which hopes that the people of the world will consider going plastic free. For those that are interested in also signing up the link is <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>

Nita heard from the PDSA that her dog Woodie, who litter picks with her daily, has been awarded a **PDSA Commendation**. This is to be presented in a ceremony later in the year. Woodie is obviously very happy about this and Nita is delighted!

From a twitter post, it would seem the NWLDC has been out and about with gangs of folk analysing **what people throw into street bins**. On questioning them about this exercise, we received this reply 'Keep Britain Tidy [@KeepBritainTidy](https://twitter.com/KeepBritainTidy) and the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs [@DefraGovUK](https://twitter.com/DefraGovUK) have been commissioned to research litter dropped versus binned and brand types. [@NWLEnviro](https://twitter.com/NWLEnviro) were assisting and yes the results will be published.'

In the middle of June, a local child or children started drawing '**no littering**' posters and putting them around Melrose Road area. We are not sure who did this, but thanked them via our facebook page. Tragically, they were all torn down in a matter of days and then left, as litter, in the street.....

Nita had a call from someone on 19 June asking if she was interested in and could help with **rubbish clearance**, which is a first. Nita explained she just picks up litter from the street and woodlands.....

**Recycling** - A lady at 47 Ashford Rd, Whitwick is the local collection point, at the moment, for recycling of crisp packets and empty and washed cat food pouches. All you need to do is make sure any crisp packets are open and flat, and any pouches clean and then take them and leave them in a container on her doorstep, and she is happy to then deal with it. She recycles these through Terracycle and gains money from so doing for a local charity.

Nita also mentioned the recycling situation at the cricket club about which members with emails are already aware.



**Picnic in the Parks** - Thank you to Bernard and Tony for helping put up and take down the tent. Thank you to Ann for doing the displays and coming to man the stall for the day, and to Janet, Maureen and Pat for helping on the stall. We met John Renton whose family used to have the garage on the A512 who promised to send us some photos and information. We also met several people who went to school in Thringstone and found themselves and their friends on various photographs which Ann had brought along as part of the display. We also met a man whose family came to Thringstone from Somerset as part of the influx of miners from other areas in the late 1960s early 1970s. This is the first time we have heard of Somerset miners coming to this area. We sold several publications (see later) which covered the stall cost of £22.

**New Tent for festivals** – at Picnic in the Parks we realised that our tent is nearly past the point of being able to be used and has holes in it and bent poles. We therefore need to source and buy a similar tent which hopefully will be easier to put up than this one, which is very difficult. We do have a small, sideless gazebo, but have sourced a heavy duty, easy to assemble tent, with sides, and wish to discuss this with members. At nearly £200, the meeting felt this was too expensive, and Maureen agreed to go away and find something cheaper, but equally sturdy.

**Music Festival** – we want to have a presence at the music festival, and need people to help man the stall, as Nita will be doing marshalling, and it isn't fair for Ann to be there on her own. Please may we have some volunteers who can also come around 10.30am to put up the tent. Gillian has already said she will help Ann, as will Julie in the morning with set up. If other members can help, please just turn up.

**Henson's Lane former recreation ground** - We have been asked the current position with regard to the plans that were discussed around 2 years ago, and ascertained that this area is actually owned by Thringstone Miners Social Centre. There were/are plans for it to be turned into a training ground and a rerouting of the footpath was requested and approved some time back. Developing a training ground/MUGA is still very much in the plan and in the early stages of negotiation with the football foundation, but it is unlikely to be something that will be looked at before next year. The following message was put out by the trustees this week: 'For several years there has been an aspiration to turn the land into a training facility / multi-use games area for our community. For various reasons that project has been held abeyance. As our centre moves forward our thoughts once again start to turn towards delivering what could be an amazing community resource for Thringstone and our neighbouring villages. We are very much at a planning stage but we would love to hear from you if you could help to turn our vision into a reality.'

Maybe you could spare some time in joining a project team? Maybe you run a business and would like to be one of our founding sponsors? In the coming months we will be letting you know about this important project as well as listening to the views of our neighbours.'

For people that want to support **Thringstone Primary**, their summer fayre is now TOMORROW immediately after school.

**Publications** – No sales have been forthcoming from the community centre in over 2 years, so we have removed our books from there and the copies retrieved have gone back into stock. Some that were damaged have been swapped with others in Nita's personal collection so they can be sold. We have also removed our books from Thringstone Members Club who haven't sold anything for over 3 years. People wishing to buy books now need to contact Nita.

There was some confusion over the printing of the extra Scottish in Thringstone booklets, which were printed in colour when the quote was for black and white. As a result, the committee agreed to pay Teamprint for the cost of the printing so they don't lose out.

We also needed to consider reprinting a limited supply of village trail booklets which normally sell at events we do. These were originally printed by Pukka Publishing who no longer exist, and we doubted that our current printers had copies of them on their computer, which means that they have had to be photocopied. We currently have 6 x VT1, 4 x VT2 and 7 x VT3.



**Centre News: Friday coffee mornings** – These are now monthly with the first one being 12<sup>th</sup> July at 10am which is a fund raiser for Marie Curie Cancer Care. The next ones are 16 August, 13 September, 11 October and 15 November with other charities (see events listings) Slimming World classes are going really well at the centre, and the organiser is really happy with things.

The centre played host on 30 June to some filming by Gatling Gun Productions who came with some youngsters to film (we believe) Master Holmes. They are booked in to come again.

**Pre-school** is finishing at the end of the summer term on 12 July. This is a sad state of affairs, and we wish the ladies there well going forward. The centre has put an advert out offering the facilities to anybody else who wishes to set up a pre-school or something similar using the facilities and running it themselves. We understand that a lot of the toys are staying at the centre to be used going forward. Anybody who is interested should contact Tom at the centre direct. We believe there has already been initial interest. In the meantime, we are told that Homestead Road pre-school will have extra places from September and will be advertising these shortly.

**A suggestion box** has been ordered for the centre so that people with ideas for events or other things can put something in writing. This is especially useful for those without emails.

The situation regarding having **water points to fill bottles** at the music festival has been mentioned at the trustees meeting. This was something Nita raised in the office, as it will reduce single use plastics.

### 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 **591 twitter followers**, which is 6 more than last month, and **953 facebook followers**, which is 17 more than last month.

**Other:** Nita wrote a letter about the reduction of litter in the village which was printed in the Coalville Times of 14 June.

Nita has recommenced scanning old panto programmes since people who offered to let us have actual copies have thus far failed to deliver. This is an arduous task, since the programmes we have to scan start in the 1980s and often there are 2 productions a year.

Nita spent about 6 hours helping a 93 year old chap from Wales with his local family tree (see history report). This resulted in him sending FoT a cheque for £50. A huge thank you email was sent back to him. This is the largest single donation ever received by the group.

Nita sent a letter of support (as requested) to the business focus team at NWLDC. They are putting in for money from Historic England to regenerate Coalville town centre in some small way, and we were delighted to offer our support.

### Finance Report

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>£2,545.70</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Memberships	£7	Broadband	15.00
Raffle	£8	AGM bar bill	20.00
Donation	£50	Stationery	8.94
Publications	31.50	Photos from Whitwick Hist.	2.00
<b>total income to general fund</b>	<b>£96.50</b>		<b>45.94</b>
		<b>Total general fund at month</b>	<b>2,596.26</b>



## Publications Report

The following publications were sold at Picnic in the Parks.

1 x pubs, 2 x graveyard, 2 x Charles Booth, 1 pubs at discounted rate as it was damaged, 2 WW1 CDs, 1 x WW2 book, 1 x Durham miners, 1 x BB1 and 1 x BB2 at discounted rate for double purchase. This totalled £31.50 against the £30.50 we took at the same event last year when we had a free stall against £22 this year.

## Web Report

The webmaster is still working on updating the site. Nothing has been added since February.

## Police Report

Nothing received.

## Community Report and What's On

**A new youth club** is operating from Thringstone Miners Social Centre from 7pm-8.30pm every Thursday during term time. Aimed at children from the ages of 11 to 14, this is part of a Youth For Christ programme. For further details, please contact Rachel on 07813 976983.

Congratulations to Jodie Robertson who works at **The Old School House** and has been nominated for the June Faulkner Cup 2019.

A walk from the centre to Mt St Bernard in aid of **British Liver Trust** on 29 June (in the heat), raised in excess of £1700 with around 80 walkers doing the route. Thank you to everybody who came to support the event. The organisers are now intending to make this a yearly event.

**Hare and Hounds** – a couple called Maz and Alan Greenwood have taken over this pub. It has taken about 2 weeks to clean through and replace fixtures and fittings and paint inside and out and sort out stock, but will be open from 4pm tomorrow, 5 July, when a warm welcome will be guaranteed. **Please note** due to technical problems, it is cash only until 12 July.

**The Alzheimers coffee morning** held at the centre on 14 June raised £95 for Alzheimers Research. A thank you letter has come to the centre from the charity. Thank you to all who came along and to those who baked especially for the event.

Asset management group Threadneedle have sold the **Belvoir Shopping Centre** in Coalville to property investment company Gylo. They in turn have hired property consultants Lathdale to look at improving the centre and renting out vacant shops. NWLDC sold the surrounding car park to the centre to the new company on 10 June.

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.

7 July – **Thringstone Miners Social Centre** – High Tea from 3.30pm – 6pm with finger sandwiches, cakes and scones. Cost £8 per person or £10 with a glass of prosecco. Please book on 07754 208265.

7 July – Swannington Heritage Trust's **Strawberry Fayre – Swannington Village Hall**. Cream teas, cakes, prosecco and pims, raffle, craft stalls, games and children's activities. 2pm-4pm. For further details ring 838331.

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

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

12 July- **Coffee, Tea and Cake** - Charity fundraiser for Marie Curie Cancer Care at centre 9.30am-12 noon. All welcome.

12 July - **Open mic at Charles Booth Centre** from 7.30pm. All welcome



- 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.
- 14 July – **Grace Dieu Priory Walk** as part of archaeology festival. Meet at Bull's Head carpark at 3pm. Adults £3.
- 18 July - **Grace Dieu Priory Walk** as part of archaeology festival. Meet at Bull's Head carpark at 10am. Adults £3.
- 21 July – Swannington Heritage Walk – Tour of Califat Coal Mine Excavation. Starts from Hough Mill, Swannington at 2pm.
- 23 July – Swannington Heritage Walk – Hidden treasures of St George's Hill. Starts at 7pm from Hough Mill, Swannington..
- 24 July - **Grace Dieu Priory Walk** as part of archaeology festival. Meet at Bull's Head carpark at 6pm. Adults £3.
- 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.
- 9 August - **Open mic at Charles Booth Centre** from 7.30pm. All welcome
- 10 Aug – **St Joseph's Tea Rooms, Oaks Road** – Summer Fayre from 10am-4pm. Crafts, games, rides, food and drink and music by Annie Duggan. Free entry.
- 13 Aug- **Film night at the centre**. Film is Fisherman's Friends. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle
- 16 Aug - **Coffee, Tea and Cake** - Charity fundraiser at centre 9.30am-12 noon for Forest Way School. All welcome.
- 17 Aug – **Osgathorpe Hall** – 40s big band night. Tickets £15 to include food and access to licensed bar. Under 16s £7. £40 for family of 4. Doors open 7pm. Bands start at 7.30pm. Music from the Ockbrook Big Band dressed in US Air Force uniforms. This is a fund raiser for St Mary's Church, Osgathorpe. For more information, ring 07795 958980
- 17 and 18 Aug – **Woodstock in Whitwick** at Hermitage Leisure Centre, Whitwick.
- 17 Aug – Ibstock showground on Pretoria Rd - **Poppy Fields Music Festival** – raising money for ex-forces. 2pm-9.30pm. Headliners are T-Rextasy. Adults £15, under 16s £5. Free parking.
- 17-26 Aug – **Art Exhibition** at the centre. More details nearer the time
- 6 Sept – **Northern Soul and Motown** at Black Horse, Whitwick. 7.30pm til late.
- 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.
- 8 Sept – **Grace Dieu Priory Walk** as part of Hello Heritage. Meet at Bull's Head car park at 3pm. There is no charge, but a donation would be gratefully received. This will help in the upkeep of the site.
- 10 Sept – **Film night at the centre**. Film is All is True. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle
- 13 Sept - **Coffee, Tea and Cake** - Charity fundraiser at centre 9.30am-12 noon for Diabetes UK. All welcome.
- 13 Sept - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club**. 8pm til late. £3 entry.
- 13 Sept - **Open mic at Charles Booth Centre** from 7.30pm. All welcome
- 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](mailto: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](mailto:heritagegroup@coleorton.org.uk)
- 26-29 Sept – Beer festival at **Charles Booth Centre**. £10 a day entrance but look out for the discount vouchers.
- 8 Oct – **Film night at the centre**. Film is Stan and Ollie. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle
- 11Oct - **Coffee, Tea and Cake** - Charity fundraiser at centre 9.30am-12 noon for Breast Cancer Support. All welcome.



- 11 Oct - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club**. 8pm til late. £3 entry.
- 11 Oct - **Open mic at Charles Booth Centre** from 7.30pm. All welcome
- 12 Oct – **Abba tribute** at the centre. Tickets £10 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre) or from the office, weekdays only 9-12 noon. The show will start at 7.30pm. **BOOK EARLY FOR THIS ONE.**
- 13 Oct – Antique and collectors fair at **Hermitage Leisure Centre** 9am – 3.30pm. Entrance £2
- 27 Oct – **Halloween Fun Run** at the centre. Start time of 10am. Please come dressed in spooky costume. £5 per runner.
- 31 Oct – **Halloween family party and quiz** at the centre. More details nearer the time.
- 1 Nov – **Northern Soul and Motown** at Black Horse, Whitwick. 7.30pm til late.
- 2 Nov – **George and Dragon** – bonfire night.
- 2 Nov - **Sally Barker and Anna Ryder** in concert at Charles Booth Centre. Ticket details to follow nearer the time
- 8 Nov - **Open mic at Charles Booth Centre** from 7.30pm. All welcome
- 12 Nov – **Film night at the centre**. Film is A Dog's Purpose Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle
- 15 Nov - **Coffee, Tea and Cake** - Charity fundraiser at centre 10am-12 noon. All welcome.
- 18 Nov - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club**. 8pm til late. £3 entry.
- 3 Dec - Antique and collectors fair at **Hermitage Leisure Centre** 9am – 3.30pm. Entrance £2
- 10 Dec – **Film night at the centre**. Film is First Man. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle
- 13 Dec - **Open mic at Charles Booth Centre** from 7.30pm. All welcome
- 13 Dec – Potential **Santa event** at the centre
- 20 Dec – **Carols at the centre**. Procession leaves St Andrew's at 6.30pm to get to the centre for 7pm. Entertainment will be available after the singing at the centre.

### History report

- Nita was contacted by a gentleman, born in Leicester in 1926, and living in Wales from 1951, asking to help with his **Rennocks** and Brooks family tree. Nita spent around 6 hours on this, sending lots of copies of marriage and death certificates and also photos where we had them. Nita discovered that two sisters who were relations through his Brooks family tree married two brothers called Rennocks, one of whom was the grandfather of Frederick William Lawrence Rennocks who won the Military Medal in WW1. There was also a connection in his family tree to The Royal Oak at Osgathorpe, and the Kidger family who farmed in Thringstone at one point. This exercise also through up that John Rennocks who kept the George and Dragon from 1875-1884 was appointed overseer for Osgathorpe, along with his brother William, in 1870.
- Thank you to Norma Berry for letting us have photographs from her time with **Thringstone Players** in the 1960s and other photos of the time. Thringstone Musical Comedy Group performed A Country Girl in May 1960, The Arcadians in March 1961, Wild Violets in April 1962, Rio Rita in April 1963 and Carissima in March 1964. They then disbanded and Thringstone Community Players were formed. All their performances were comedies. In 1965 they did Beside the Seaside, 1966 ws Friends and Neighbours, 1967 was Strike Happy and in 1968 they were intending to put on Something to Hide, but this did not run and they disbanded. These are particularly useful to us for our exhibition on 7 September at the centre, and will be scanned and returned to her
- Thank you to Swannington Heritage Research for letting us have copies of a transcript of a lady called Katherine James, nee Pickering who lived at **Redhill Farm** in Swannington talking about her life from the 1920s. They have also told us that in the 1740s, William Newarke farmed and coal mined at what is now **Talbot Farm**. He died in 1749, and we have been given details of the inventory taken at his death, which shows the wealth of the man, and also describes the farmhouse at that time.
- **TADDAC** (Thringstone and District Disabled Activities Club) is a group which runs fortnightly at the centre. It has been running, we think, since about 1996/7. According to Joan who currently runs the group and cooks the meals that the group enjoy, it was started by Lynn Goulbourn at the centre, who was the warden at the time, with, she believes, someone called Kathy from Marlene



## The Friends of Thringstone

Reid. After a couple of years of running it, Lynn left in 1998, and Joan took over. The group serves lunches and offers days out to members. If people are interested in either helping or coming along to the group, please contact the centre direct for Joan's contact details. Lynn herself remembers it starting, and is pleased it continues. She remembers a lady called Ruby who had awful arthritis, a lady called Minnie from Thringstone and a chap called Arthur who was the volunteer bus driver.

- In our May minutes we mentioned Thomas Jesson who was born at **Manor Farm, Gracedieu**. We knew that he died in Ashby on 2 January 1909, but now find from Leicester Journal, 8 January 1909: "Thomas Jesson, solicitor, head of the firm of Fisher Jesson & Wilkins and ex-chairman of the Ashby urban council, had been discovered dead at his residence at Ashby. An inquest was held on Tuesday morning [5 January]. The jury returned a verdict of suicide. The funeral took place in the afternoon. The Rev Fowler conducted services at Holy Trinity Church and at the graveside. Mr Jesson was also clerk of the Coalville urban council." . He was 52 years of age, is buried at the churchyard in Belton. Further research has shown that he was found in his greenhouse at 1am with his throat cut which was believed to have been done with a razor. Mr Jesson had left the house the previous evening after dinner with his family and not returned. His family had been concerned over his health for some time, especially since the death of his partner, William Wilkins a few weeks earlier, and had been trying to get him to take a holiday. He had only just resigned from the Urban Council because a conflict of interest which had been raised about him also being a justice of the peace and pleading in the police court. He was chairman of Ashby Urban District Council in 1902 and 1903 and in 1907 and 1908. He was an active volunteer locally, a school governor and member of the Ferrers and Ivanhoe branch of Freemasons.
- We have been in touch with the granddaughter of **Annie Maude Armstrong**, who we understand was a ladies' maid for the Booth family at Gracedieu. Born in Westminster, London on 26 July 1883, we have no idea how long she worked for the family, but know she was working near Hyde Park in London for a very wealthy family by the name of Parish in 1901. She was, however, working for the Booths in 1906 as her granddaughter said she was at the wedding on 8 August 1906 of one of the Booth daughters, although the confirmatory photo is not a Booth wedding. We have 3 photographs of her, one of which is with Harry Domoney and other staff of the Booth family. As was the custom at that time, we believe she left in 1908 when she married Bernard McCarthy at Holy Cross, Whitwick. He was a Whitwick butcher and she moved to live in Whitwick. She died on 25 May 1947 in Whitwick.
- A photo of a drama production from Thringstone Players at the centre in 1930 was posted on facebook, and we now have names for 5 people on it, with a probable 6<sup>th</sup>. Frank Waterfield is on there, as is Pearl Francis nee Pollard, Marjorie Sykes is next to Frank Waterfield, Terry Robinson's oldest brother Ken is the cat on the front row, and on the far right are **Mr and Mrs Arthur Whitmill**, who were wardens at the centre and lived there between 1930 and 1937 when they moved to Coventry. We were unaware that they were also involved with drama productions at the centre until their names were given to us as being on the photograph. Apparently Pearl Francis was part of this group for around 9 or 10 years. Further press cuttings about productions in 1933, 1936 and 1937 tell us that Joan Whitmill was Fairy Godmother in Cinderella in 1936. Also in the 1936 production was Ron Roome, who was brother to Aubrey Roome the barber. He played Choddles which appears to be a part especially written for this performance, as it does not appear in other productions of Cinderella. The 1936 panto was produced by Josie Westgate from The Warren, who also helped with a 'touring performance' to Whitwick of Aladdin in 1937 in which Joan Whitmill was The Princess, which was to raise funds for the British Legion. The 1933 production of Cinderella had also toured in Swannington, and the final production in Thringstone was for Leicester Royal Infirmary and Loughborough Hospital funds. Joan Whitmill was Cinderella in this production with Mary Whitmill as The Prince. Bertram Keen the headmaster from Thringstone school was the pianist and Mr Arthur Whitmill also took part. We also know from the same sources that Albert Whitmill and one of his daughters, together with others, was responsible for the scenery painting for the production of Cinderella at the centre in 1936.



We believe Arthur William Whitmill was born 2 June 1892 in Banbury, Oxfordshire to Eliza and William Whitmill, and died in Leicester in 1974. He married Mary Winifred Prescott in Banbury on 23 December 1915 at which time he was a soldier with the household cavalry serving in a subunit of the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars. She was born on 30 April 1892 in Banbury and died at Kibworth Beauchamp near Market Harborough on 23 March 1983. We have heard that Arthur Whitmill made ice cream in the cellars at the centre. In 1939, Arthur and Mary were in Coventry at 66 Marlborough Road, and he was a bakery salesman. They had 4 children – Emily Joan (known as Joan) and Kathleen (possibly known as Win) who were twins and born on 21 December 1919, Betty who was born in 1922 and died in 1925, and Peter Arthur born on 21 July 1930 in Banbury, who died 8 April 1988 having married Ella J James in Leicester in 1952. We believe that Emily Joan married and moved to Australia shortly after the end of WW2. With her husband engineer Alan Vincent Atkins and 3 children Margaret Ann, Peter Westbury and Christine Claire, she came back to England in 1957 for a visit in excess of a year and stayed at 368 Aylestone Road, Leicester. Thanks to receiving the press cuttings from 1936 and 37, we also have names of other people who were in Thringstone Players at that time. After the Whitmill's left, a Mr King was warden at the centre for about 6 months before being succeeded by Leonard Weston and his family who left at the outbreak of war to join up. The 1939 register for the centre shows Amy Gee there on her own.

- **The Fox** advert for Nov 1999 in the Panto Programme for Jeremy Clapham shows that the couple had just taken over. Our Pubs Book suggests they got there in 2000 which is obviously incorrect. The advert reads ' We welcome well behaved adults and children to use our free indoor bouncy castle and fairground ride. Visit the ponies, goats, rabbits and guinea pigs in the beer garden. Sunday lunches with varied menus. Bar is full of fairground memorabilia, one armed bandits and antiques, plus a genuine 1967 black leader Dalek from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr Who film. Big screen TV and bingo nights on Wednesdays, disco on Fridays with DJ Mac starting at 8pm. We've already had a bungee jump for charity and a fireworks display. We are down Main Street, Thringstone.' A subsequent advert in 2002 says 'live music, pool, darts, dominoes, big screen for sports, warm friendly atmosphere, private parties catered for and Karaoke every Saturday night.' This advert might have just been into the time that Debbie Churchman and Sandy MacLeod ran the pub.
- **Queen's Head** advert for 1986 in a panto programme advertised the landlords as Graham and Shirley and told of real Marston's ales and hot and cold snacks always being available. Another panto programme from 2002 ' A warm welcome awaits all who visit the pub. Live entertainment every Friday and Saturday, Sunday lunchtime karaoke, Sunday evening quiz night.' The landlady at that time was Pat Kerr. We had little information about this lady when we wrote the Pubs in Thringstone book, but Nita tracked her down, with the help of facebook, to speak to her about her time at the pub. Pat said with her former husband, she had been in the pub trade for some time running pubs in Leicester and Derby as well as The Red House in Coalville as a tenant before coming to the Queen's which she ran from 2001-3. Pat came to Thringstone originally aged 8 when he parents moved here from New Cumnock following the pit closures in Scotland, so knew the village, and its people, well and was pleased to come back to run The Queen's Head . Pat said that, despite taking on pubs with her husband, the business of running the pubs was always left to her, and the idea was to take on a pub that needed some input to improve trade, do it up and then move on to the next one. She enjoyed putting on entertainment, and started to put on meals, having spent a lot of time and money on the kitchen, and ensuring it passed health and hygiene standards. When her marriage split up, she left the pub trade. About 2 years after having left the pub, she had a small stroke, but she soon got better and now lives in Coalville.
- In our pubs book, we said that James Gough who kept **the Rose and Crown** from 1861 had previously kept the Pack Horse Inn at Coleorton. This is incorrect as research has thrown up a story about his involvement in the craze of pedestrian races and a different pub has come to light. There was to be a race between Thomas Stockley of Pitt Lane, Coleorton and James Holmes of Blackfordby with James Gough of the Queen's Head Inn, Coleorton holding the £5 purse in May 1847. The 120 yard race was to be run from either the Coleorton pub or The Black Lion in



Blackfordby. James Gough continues to be listed in newspapers as landlord at the Queen's Head in Coleorton as in December 1852, there was a fight at his pub on Christmas Day during which someone was injured. He appears in the Trade Directories for 1849, 1853 and 1855 at Queen's Head, Moortown, Coleorton as publican and initially shoemaker, was still there in July 1857, and at Rose and Crown, Thringstone from 1861. Moor Town is now The Moor. We have also ascertained that from at least 1841-43 he was a local constable in Coleorton

- Continuing with **The Rose and Crown**, an advert from 1986 says the landlords were Eddie and Rosie Anderson. We thought they left there in 1984. A similar advert in 1988 says it offered a beer garden plus children's play area and live music at weekends with 'mine hosts Richard and Elaine Meason'. Lunchtime snacks and meals were also available Monday to Saturday.
- **Bull's Head** – In the Paris News from Paris, Atlanta of 10 November 1946 is an article relating to Mrs Mabe of The Bull's Head. The article reads 'Gracedieu, England - Mrs John Mabe of Gracedieu has a tame fox, 6 months old, which accompanies her when she goes shopping, goes into the chicken yard without harming the fowls, and joins customers in the bar of the Bull's Head Tavern, Gracedieu. Mrs Mabe has had other pets, including a goat aged 25, a hen 21, a cat 20, and a dog 18, not to mention a badger, magpie and jackdaw'.
- We talked about the Kidger family under the farming section in Thringstone and Its People and mentioned Price Kidger, who was father to Jack Mee Kidger of Lilybank Farm. We have now found the **obituary for Price Kidger in papers of May 1908** – The death occurred somewhat unexpectedly on Monday 18 May of Mr Price Kidger of Pegg's Green from cancer. He was 60 years of age. Mr Kidger was in business locally as a butcher and farmer and was well known in local agricultural circles. He had represented Thringstone for many years on the Ashby Board of Guardians and the Rural District Council, and was also chairman of Thringstone Parish Council.

### Council report

At a meeting held on 25 June, a climate emergency motion proposed by Andrew Woolman and seconded by John Legrys was passed unanimously meaning that they have agreed to move towards being carbon neutral by 2030.

### Gardening and environment

Bernard is still tidying, weeding and sorting the garden areas and has planted some bedding plants..

### AOB

- There was discussion about putting out **water** in your gardens and around the village for hedgehogs in the hot weather. Nita said last year there were several 'water stations' around the village that she noticed whilst litter picking.
- Conversation turned to whether there were still the amount of **swallows and swifts** in the village as there don't appear to have been many seen this year.
- Bill said how disgusting the **grass verges** have been, and once cut (badly), the grass is left to block drains and blow about and no weedkiller is ever used around the edges of the verges. He also said that 3 times NWLDC have failed to pick up his dustbins and he was beginning to wonder what we were paying for. The fact that other councils, such as Rotherham and Leicester, have sown wildflower seeds in their verges so they are a mass of colour was discussed. These are then mown after the flowers have seeded to give an even better display the following year. Nita said this had been mentioned to councillors as a way forward in NWLDC but nothing had been heard back.
- Janet said that there is a scheme where **brown or black plastic trays** can be taken back to be recycled, as apparently only clear trays can be recycled by the council. If anybody knows of supermarkets that do this, please let us know.

**Next meeting 1 August 2019 at 6.45pm at Charles Booth Centre. All welcome.**