



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

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2019 AT CHARLES BOOTH CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Pam Porter, Josie Brownlow, Pat Darby, Ann Petty, Bernard Lee, Tina Bakewell, Bill Enser, Chris Ward, Mike Statham, Geoff Wilson, Janet Stevenson

Apologies: Shirley Gordon, Gillian Bates, Maureen Simm, Pat Hubbard, Jane Wilson, Anne Statham, Ron Hill, Ray Woodward

Discussions/Decisions.

Monthly litter pick total - 99 bags against **127 bags** for the same month last year.

The total for next month is likely to be large, since Nita has picked up 16 bags of firework debris from the football pitch at the back of the bowling club and from near the cattle arch in the woodland in 4 days this week. This included 3 very large Lightening Selection boxes with price tags on them of £199.99.

A report was sent to NWLDC this last month informing them of over 30 black bin liners full of rubbish dumped at the rear of a property on the Woodside estate. The council had to send a lorry out to remove these.

Nita had an interesting conversation on 4 November at the Hermitage Leisure Centre consultation (more about that later) with a member of the leisure team at NWLDC who now shares an office with waste management. He said that there were no plans to put additional bins out in the district because 'there just needs to be education on taking your litter home.' Nita suggested this wouldn't happen, but the reply was that in any event, putting in more bins would add to the waste management wages bill and wasn't feasible and people would 'just use the bins and they would always be full and overflowing and create a health hazard'.....

Bulb planting - As part of the NWLDC's scheme, we ordered 2500 bulbs for planting around now for Spring next year. 500 of these have been given to Charles Booth Centre, 500 to Miners Welfare, leaving us with 500 crocus bulbs and 500 tulip bulbs to plant. Bernard and Nita discussed this, and agreed that the majority of the crocus bulbs should go on Lbro Rd on the corner with Booth Rd where the others are to make more of a show. The tulip bulbs should go on the corner of the new Bellway estate, down the church jitty, and possibly at the back part of Drury Lane. Planting has now been completed, and thank you to everybody who helped.

St Andrews - Volunteers required They are in need of volunteers to help clean St Andrew's church once a month. If you can spare an hour between 10am and 12 noon on the last Saturday of any month it would be very much appreciated. **Ride and Stride** - A total of £122 was raised.



Half goes to St Andrew's and half to Leicestershire Historic Church Trust. Thanks to all sponsors and all who manned the Church and supported the amble.

Whitwick and Thringstone council tenants now have a tenants association, with a committee to represent them, comprising of 11 people. We have agreed to share details of any events they put on to our membership and on social media. They are putting on a coffee morning every Monday starting on 11 November between 10am and 12 noon at Howe Community Lounge, Howe Court. Everybody is welcome and there is a 50p donation charge.

Around a couple of years back, Councillor Dave Everitt and Nita had a meeting with the council on the **Melrose Rd play area**. We discussed all sorts, and it was agreed that there would be a path put down near the fitness equipment leading to the banking which goes down to the sustrans path. It was also agreed that the banking have steps put into it so that it made it easier for people to get up and down, and perhaps also then use the fitness equipment. Pleased to see that work on this started on 29 October. Dave said that there had been a hold up due to legal issues with the de Lisle family who own the banking and the land on which the Sustrans lies.

Future of Hermitage Leisure Centre site – Nita attended the public/community engagement meeting at the centre on 4 November. There were various people there explaining what could be done with the 'open canvas' once the building has gone. Included in the ideas were paddle boarding on the lake, a lawn tennis area, Park runs, triathlons, orienteering, things provided by National Forest, things for young people (because of the amount of existing anti-social behaviour) outdoor sports, model railway and cycling. There were also people there from housing, and provision of housing units was being pushed quite heavily by people including those involved in putting the maps of ideas together. They seemed to be talking about a small amount in a corner of the site, keeping the main part of the site free of housing. Most people Nita spoke with wanted meadow areas, walkways round the lake without any interference from paddle boarding (although a lady did say paddle boarding would cause little upset to the wildlife on the lake, and would be no different to people letting their dogs swim there) a link with the sustrans path for cyclists, something for wheelchair users, and keep the existing railway enthusiasts area and tennis/football areas. However, I think housing in some form is likely to happen.

The new leisure centre will take about 18 months to build and work is starting in January. There will be an 8 lane, 25 metre main pool and learner pool, 120 station gym with 25 spin cycles and 3 dance studios, café, eight court sports hall and three squash courts, changing facilities, car parking for 230 cars, a 'clip 'n climb' and soft play area, sauna, steam and spa pool, trim trail with activity stations and cycle and footpath links.

Dave said he had had a chat with someone about benches being situated around the site for people to sit on and had been told by the council officer that there wouldn't be benches, as people would sit on them.....

Congratulations to our members John and Trish Brindley who married on 26 October.

Did you know? In 2007, with the help of funding from RCC, National Forest and Council, we succeeded in getting the 2 National Forest village entrance signs – one large one near The Bull's Head and the other by Whitwick Moor.

Centre News: New bar stocks – Sharpes Atlantic Pale Ale, Carling Black Fruits, Carling Lager and Thatcher's Gold are now part of the draught items on offer at the centre.

Family Sunday Fun – on 10 November the centre is putting on a free family fun afternoon, with board games, films, quizzes, music, snacks and more, and the bar will be open. Come along and have some fun. This will also take place on 17 and 24 November. If successful, this may turn into a regular event.

Village Quiz this Saturday. Our team is Dave Everitt, David Stevenson, Ann Petty, Gillian and Des Bates and Geoff Wilson. We wish them good luck.

Film night for November is 12 Nov – Film is A Dog's Purpose Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle. Film night for December is 10 Dec. Film is First Man. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle



Coffee morning on 11 October for Breast Cancer Care raised £72. Thank you to everybody who baked and those who came along. The coffee morning for November is on 8 November from 10am-12 noon. This will be for a Once We Were Soldiers, which is a military charity. The December coffee morning on 13 December will be for the homeless charity, Triangle. New event – **Christmas Ceilidh** on 14 Dec from 7pm. There will be some dance tuition, live music, complimentary Christmas buffet and of course the bar will be open. Tickets are £6 from the office or via www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre.

As we approach the Christmas Season and have a fair few events on at the centre, the office team would be most grateful for the receipt of any **unwanted bottles, vouchers or gifts** that can be used as raffle prizes at events. So if there's a dusty unopened bottle in the corner of your wine rack, please think of us! Thank you. Charles Booth Centre, Registered Charity 1166944
Mike said that the centre is now doing quite well for income, and that Mrs Hugill (see history section later) has sent a very large donation to the centre which will cover quite a lot of ongoing costs.

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 601 **twitter followers**, which is 4 more than last month, and **1,084 facebook followers**, which is 68 more than last month.

Other: Congratulations again go to Llynda Baugh for now being runner up in the Community Engagement Awards run by the Rural Community Council for the work she did on the march of the famous 50 from WW1.

Thank you to everybody who sponsored Ray Woodward to shave his legs to raise money for Coalville Care Home. He raised £250.

Thank you also to everybody who went along to the recent Macmillan coffee morning at 22 Springfield. £300 was raised.

Nita has been booked to do a 50 minute talk to U3A on road names and characters in Thringstone on 24 February 2020.

The winter Bauble has been written and printed. It should be delivered before early December if possible by our wonderful volunteers.

Our member Keith Timson is presently in hospital. We wish him well.

We have a new member called Sheila James. Welcome to Sheila.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,498.81		
Income		Expenditure	
Membership	£3.50	Broadband	15.00
Raffle	£9	Website renewal	11.99
		50% cost of 2500 spring bulbs from NWLDC	74.32
total income to general fund	£12.50		101.31
		Total general fund at month end	2410.00



Publications Report

Nothing sold.

Web Report

The webmaster has updated the site. All the minutes are now on there and the newsletters for Summer and Autumn plus the AGM report from the summer. He is now working to update the projects page for 2019.

Police Report

10 October – four men broke into **Thringstone Co-op** around 6.30am, threatened staff with a rock and bottle and took money, cigarettes and spirits. The shop was closed until 11am that morning and then reopened.

11 Oct – robbery at **petrol station** on Talbot Street

Burglary Other - **Gracedieu Road** between 5pm on 10 October and 9.33am on 11th.. Attempted entry to shed, no further information available.

13 Oct – criminal damage and public disorder offence outside a house on **Loughborough Rd.** Man arrested by police.

15 Oct – Attempted Burglary - **Heathfield** - between 2am and 2.23am Suspects smashed back door glass but are disturbed by the occupant.

16 Oct – Elderly pedestrian hit by car outside **Ruby's**. Nissan car was coming from Main Street. The man subsequently died on 17 October. A card was sent to his family on behalf of our group.

25 Oct – Criminal damage to a car on **Loughborough Road**.

We have been told that there have been a number of house and van break-ins, plus the theft of wheel trims on the **Melrose Road** estate this month.

Community Report and What's On

Thringstone Primary students raised £185.53 for Breast Cancer UK as part of a wear pink day at school. They also raised £40.50 for Oxfam and gave tinned produce to the local food bank.

8 Nov – Charles Booth Centre Coffee morning 10am-12 noon in aid of **Once, We Were Soldiers**. Cakes and hot drinks. All welcome.

8 Nov - **Open mic at Charles Booth Centre** from 7.30pm. All welcome

9 Nov – **Conny Club, Whitwick** – Sarah Simms in concert. £1 entry. Members free. Starts at 7pm.

9 Nov – **Bonfire at Broomleys Cricket Club** – Gates open at 5pm with fireworks at 7.30pm.

Rides, sweet stalls, hot and cold drinks, Go to MNHCricket.co.uk to purchase tickets.

10 Nov – **Family Fun afternoon** from 3-6pm at the centre as mentioned earlier.

12 Nov – Charles Booth Centre **Film Club** - Film is A Dog's Purpose Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle.

17 Nov - **Family Fun afternoon** from 3-6pm at the centre as mentioned earlier.

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

22 Nov – **Charity Quiz night** at North Street Club, Whitwick. Starts at 8pm. This is to support the 'Our Space' appeal - Children's Cancer Unit at the LRI. It is an amazing unit providing care for children & young cancer patients in a home from home environment. Teams of 4. £5 per person. Visit Just Giving page to pay for tables / raffle tickets or to make a donation.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/andrea-burton5>

22 Nov – **Conny Club, Whitwick** – Joey Linden as Freddie Mercury. 7pm start. £6 entry, members £4.

24 Nov - **Family Fun afternoon** from 3-6pm at the centre as mentioned earlier.

26 Nov – **Charles Booth Centre** – Christmas Crooners with tributes to Doris Day, Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Bing Crosby . Tickets £10 each of 2 for £15 from



The Friends of Thringstone

www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre or direct from the office Monday-Friday 9am-12 noon.
Show will start at 7.30pm.

30 Nov – **St Joseph's Tea Rooms**, Oaks Rd, Whitwick – Christmas Fayre 10am

30 Nov – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's Christmas Fayre at **Thringstone Members' Club**. 12 noon until 4pm. Cakes, stalls, tombola, raffle and Santa.

30 Nov- **Hermitage Leisure Centre** – Jersey Boys. Tiered seating £14, VIP £19. Starts 7.30pm. Tickets available from the leisure centre.

30 Nov - **Charles Booth Centre – Vintage and Retro Fayre** - 10am- 4pm Lots of pre loved items at great prices. Free entry! There will be clothes, hats, shoes, crockery, collectables, vintange/retro items, jewellery. Come along and pick up a gift from the past. Café area and bar open.

30 Nov – **Whitwick Day Nursery Christmas Fayre** 10.30am-1pm. Stalls and gifts

1 Dec – **Carols at Grace Dieu Priory** from 3pm. All welcome.

1 Dec – Hermitage Leisure Centre – **Antique and collectors' fair**. 9am – 3.30pm

6 Dec – **Thringstone Primary Christmas Fayre** being held after school at 3.30pm

8 Dec – Charles Booth Centre – **Santa Fun run** from 9pm til 1pm. £5 per person or £20 for a team of 6. Book on www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre or talk to the centre direct.

10 Dec. Charles Booth Centre **film club** - Film is First Man. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle

13 Dec – **Charles Booth Centre** – Christmas cake and coffee morning in aid of Triangle, the homeless charity in Leicester. 10am – 12 noon. Cakes, drinks etc.

13 Dec – **Charles Booth Centre** – Open mic Christmas Special – 7.30pm. All welcome.

13 Dec – Oaks in Charnwood Church – **Christmas Concert** with Charnwood Symphonic Wind Orchestra. Tickets £10 from Sandra on 837059. Starts at 7.30pm

14 Dec - Charles Booth Centre – **Christmas Ceilidh** from 7pm. There will be some dance tuition, live music, complimentary Christmas buffet and of course the bar will be open. Tickets are £6 from the office or via www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre.

16 Dec – **Charles Booth Centre** – Christmas film and disco 4pm-7pm. Free. Have some nibbles and see Santa

18 Dec – Ashby and Coalville Lions' **Santa Sleigh** will be coming round the village from around 5.30pm.

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.

22 Dec - **Mince Pie Run from Belton Village Hall**. Organised by Leicestershire and Rutland Cyclists' Touring Club. 10.30-12.30, hundreds of local cyclists meet here, most having ridden from their home towns and cities for refreshments, a chinwag, and a warm. There is a tombola in aid of Rainbows Children's Hospice with lots of prizes. Over £500 was raised in 2017. All cyclists welcome. See http://www.ctc.leic.org.uk/Mince_Pie_Run.php for a flavour of the event and some of its history.

24 Dec – **Conny Club, Whitwick** – Sophie Hardy in concert. £1 entry. Members free. Starts at - 7pm.

26 Dec – **Thringstone Miners FC** – Charity Football match starts at 10.30am. More details nearer the time.

31 Dec – **New Year's Eve party** at the centre. Tickets £15. More details nearer the time.

14 Jan – Centre's AGM. More details nearer the time.

18-25 Jan – **Peter Pan** at Charles Booth Centre.

20 March – **Easter Egg Hunt** at Stephenson College

3 August – **Summer Fete** at Stephenson College

History report

- Thanks to Susan Brennan for sending us a wealth of photos relating to **Terry Robinson and his family**. We now have photos of him with his family, his mother Ginny, his sister Alma, brother Ken, and events in the village including a picture of a crowd of people waiting for the 1953 Coronation Procession on The Green. Things like this greatly add to our archives and we are sure that a lot of people will remember Terry and his family when they look through the photos. Terry played football



The Friends of Thringstone

in his youth. Thanks to facebook, we also now have photos of the **White and Smith family** thanks to Ruth Dumbleton and the **Pollard family** thanks to Jimmy Francis. We also have a photo of **Thringstone Brownies** from the 1960s. We now also have a copy of the blacksmith's indenture of **John Wilson Gough** thanks to Darryl Gough posting this. For some time we have had the photo of this man, who is Pete Gough's grandfather. We are now exchanging information with Darryl which includes copies of court cases and certificates.

- Swannington Research has sent us an excel spreadsheet relating to the **1807 enclosure act**, broken down into area, who owned it, what was to the north, south, east and west. This is really interesting and has thrown up some names in which we have an interest.
- **Thringstone in WW2** - During the war, many dances were held at Thringstone House, including those with the REME band, where HM Forces were entitled to get in for free or in some cases half price. We have scanned several of the adverts for these dances into our archives. The Remeians, as the organisation involved were called, also put on a pantomime in January 1945 entitled Little Red Riding Hood. This was presented on a Thursday evening at the centre before a crowded audience, and was in aid of the British Red Cross Funds. The panto was written and produced by Sargeant Norman Sidney Hodgetts with June Harris in the title role, and the cast being Constance Harris, Tommy Shanks, John Willie, Bert Forrest, Laura Trace, Norman Hodgetts, Margaret Parker, Nancy Cox, Jack Smith, Irene Mason, Betty Thorley and Sheila Johnson with the Reme Theatre Orchestra conducted by William Parr. Norman Hodgetts incidentally married Laura Trace in 1949 in Birmingham. The chair was taken by Henry Robinson and the proceeds raised around £20 for the fund. There was also a newly formed discussion group at the centre with the first debate being 'Will there be a job for me after the war?' Mr Corah was president of this and Henry Robinson was also involved. They discussed many potentialities of post-war labour conditions, and it was agreed to hold similar meetings on alternative Monday evenings. In August 1945, the Loughborough Road council house children had their own special **VJ celebrations** when over 70 of them were invited to share food organised by the ladies' committee. Toffee apples and a new sixpence were given to each child upon leaving. In September 1945, the main VJ celebrations saw a parade through the village in which over 250 people in costumes took part, headed by the ATC band and an amplifier van. A collection was taken for the LRI which raised £5 10s. A tea was provided at Thringstone House for 340 youngsters and a second sitting for the OAPs and widows. There was a subsequent torch light procession and a bonfire with open air dancing and a display of fireworks and community singing. There were 14 classes in the fancy dress parade, in addition to which there was a veterans sports race won by Henry Robinson, with G Fairbrother being second and J Concannon third, a married man's race won by T Williamson with J Pearson second, and a married women's race won by D Williamson with W Ketcher 2nd, T Gould third and B Betts fourth. Ann said that probably David White and others in the group would remember these things.
- **Red Hill Farm** – In 1860 Red Hill Farm was being advertised for auction, and was the property of William Stenson 'who is leaving the farm.' This is new information. We have found the electoral registers for 1921 and 1922 which show that Arthur Fowkes and his wife Jane were there before moving to The Moor, Coleorton. Born in 1875, Arthur went on to work in the colliery industry and lived in 1939 in Woodlands, Coleorton with his children Frank and Frances and wife Jane. By 1923 and 1924, George Bernard Emmett farmed there before moving to Greenhill. He was born on 13 February 1895 the son of a shepherd and a postmistress in Ratcliffe on the Wreake and by 1939 was, we think, living with his wife Agnes in Leicester where he carried on trade as a gardener. By 1926 until 1931 when the registers available stop, John Ashton Pickering, his wife Sarah Ann nee Moon and their son John William farmed at Red Hill Farm during those dates. This is new information. Born in 1884 in Swannington, John had been a coal miner living in Tanyard, Swannington until at least 1924, before turning to farming. He had died before the 1939 register at which point in time his wife and some of the children were living at no. 21 Council Houses, Swannington. The couple had 6 children in total, and it is unclear at present when they left the farm.



- **Talbot House Farm** – The same electoral registers who that Charles and Annie Selina Illsley were at Talbot House Farm from at least 1921. In later registers, their children Gilbert Charles and Catherine Annie also appear on the electoral roll. Previous research had only confirmed they were there in 1939.
- **Stoneycroft Farm** – This farm was demolished many years ago, and on the site just off Millhouse Estate are two houses, one of which is still called Stoneycroft. Research had already shown that widow Sarah Jaquiss (from Worthington) and her sons Fred Knight Jaquiss, Harry Jaquiss and Sam Jaquiss were there from around 1881. Another son called George William had died by the time they moved to the farm. Sarah was born on 2 September 1834 to Thomas Knight and Sarah nee Toon, and baptised 1 March 1835 at Griffydam Wesleyan Chapel. Her parents married on 21 Nov 1831 at the parish church in Whitwick, and father died before she was aged 7. She lived with her grandparents, Joseph and Hannah Knight, who were farmers on Griffy Hill, somewhere near Stordon Grange, and her mother remarried in 1853 to William Hout, a farmer from Peggs Green. The Jaquiss family, to include Sarah's husband George who died aged 40 on 20 March 1872, had prior to that date, kept a grocer's shop somewhere near Thringstone Toll Gate, but on his death was a farmer, so must have moved to Stoneycroft Farm by then. Fred Knight Jaquiss was a groom who married Eveline Mary Henson (daughter of James from Gracedieu Road Farm House) on 16 April 1888 at St Andrew's, but she had died aged 24 by May 1889. The marriage details for his marriage state that Fred's father, George, was a spar manufacturer. Fred stayed at the farm with his brothers and mother, but died on 30 June 1895 aged 32. Harry, who is listed on census information as a miller, died on 10 June 1913 aged 47. Sarah Jaquiss died aged 87 in 1921, and then Sam took over the farm for a year before presumably moving elsewhere as he disappears about this point. From looking through electoral registers we discover that from 1923 until at least 1931 the farm was occupied by Albert Humphries. We cannot currently find any other information on Albert. By 1939, Alexander White b 31 August 1889, a colliery worker who upon marriage had lived on Henson's Lane, and his wife Florence, nee Bowley, and lodger James Stinson were living there. They had married in 1909. Alexander, whose address is given on probate as Stoneycroft Farm, died on 2 April 1965 at 149 Loughborough Road, Whitwick. The farmhouse would appear to have been owned by Tom Pepper who was a teacher at what was Bridge Road school. When Mr White died, the property fell into disrepair, and was knocked down about 26 years ago. The land was then divided into two lots and sold at auction, with Sheila Burton's daughter Diane and her husband Chris Woodhead buying the land near to the jetty and building what then became Stoneyfield. The farmhouse, which was a double fronted property, was apparently about where that house now stands. The other plot of land was then built upon and called Stoneycroft after the farm.
- **Elms Farm** - In 1921 and spring 1923, Charles and Esther Emily Rose (nee Harris) farmed at this farm which had been purchased by the Co-op in 1918 for dairy production. Charles was born on 6 March 1883 in Belton and the couple married in 1906 and had at least a son called Charles and a daughter called Vera. Charles died on 2 December 1952 in Baxtergate, Loughborough the couple having moved to Loughborough some time earlier. Between Autumn 1923 and 1927, Joseph Osborne Nicklinson was there. Joseph was born on 28 October 1896 in Worthington, and was a farmer's son, his parents having farmed at Bendall's Farm, Foremark and The White House, Worthington. He married Gertrude Stella Barton in 1918 and had 4 children. The family subsequently moved to **Stordon Grange**, were recorded on the 1939 register as being there and Joseph died at Stordon Grange on 12 April 1961 and the property was pulled down in 1965. After his death, Gertrude moved to Waterfalls Farm, Linton where she died on 4 February 1969. Thomas Henry Brearley and family (wife Dorothy Sarah, daughter Margaret and son Thomas) moved to Elms Farm in 1928 and were there at least until 1941. Born on 22 August 1891, Thomas died on 17 May 1985 near Sleaford, Lincolnshire. He had married the sister of Joseph Osborne Nicklinson, Dorothy Sarah Nicklinson, in 1919. She was born on 2 May 1892 and died 1 May 1975 in South Rauceby, near Sleaford, Lincolnshire and is buried with her husband at St Peter's churchyard, North Rauceby, Lincolnshire. In July 1945, according to the Coalville Times of 13 July



The Friends of Thringstone

1945, Margaret Brearley (born Helena Margaret on 30 May 1922) was one of 26 girls chosen out of 5,000 to go to London to take part in a ballet scene in the film *Anguish*. Miss Brearley was at the time in the portrayal of a famous picture by Degas. She was trained at the Gilmer School of Dancing, Nottingham and was the holder of the complete Advance Diploma, British Ballet Organisation. She was also an Associate of the Society of Teachers of Dancing. She was an old scholar of Miss Merriman's Private Secondary School, Shepshed, and during the war had given assistance to various charitable efforts. On 3 Oct 1945, Margaret married Flight Sergeant Donald Ian Burges, born 12 December 1923, son of Mr and Mrs Newton Burges of Burges Siding, York, Western Australia at Osgathorpe Church. In August 1946, she moved to Western Australia, but Donald died in 1949. In 1957, on going to Freemantle in Australia, she gave her address on a ships inventory as being The Elms, Thringstone. She visited California and Hawaii in 1957, took a Qantas flight from Singapore to Australia in 1961 and probably stayed in Australia.

- Thringstone Primary went during the first week of October to The Curve for a production of *War House*, and found their cardboard soldier **Isaac Hall**, that was made for the project relating to the famous fifty from WW1 a couple of years ago which started off in Coalville Market, on guard outside the theatre. This was wonderful for the children to see, and nice for the rest of us to hear about. There are still members of Isaac's family in Thringstone – two we know of on The Green and another in John Street.
- Nita has been talking to Richard Clarke about his relations in Thringstone. Richard's mother was **Mary Rossell** and they lived on Sandholes before moving to Brook Lane. There is a picture of Richard's grandmother Sarah in our publications. We know a bit about the Rossell family and that Edith Rossell, his aunt, was in service to the Booth family for years and also in the convalescent home at Cross Lane, with her sister Eva, due to her chronic asthma. This has been in previous minutes. We were unaware that Edith got a front row seat, thanks to the Booth family, when the *Light Of The World* picture was unveiled in St Paul's in 1908. Richard's dad **Arthur Clarke** lived in 2 different properties on Hensons Lane, and took part in the D Day landings. He had been in the army since 1928 and had been in India before the war broke out. Arthur married Mary Rossell in 1941 after her first husband, Claude Shilliam, a painter and decorator of Green Lane Road, Leicester died at the Leicester Royal Infirmary on 23 December 1936, aged only 27. They had married in 1934. Richard's uncle, **Joseph Rossell**, born on 18 February 1894, married Elizabeth Lester and lived on Talbot Lane. He was in WW1 and appears on the Absent Voters list for 1918 as living at Brook Lane and being in the 86th training reserve battalion. They were based at Clipstone, and Joe used to catch the train from Whitwick to Mansfield with others and get off, whilst the train was in motion, to get to camp after time away. Joe ended up in Cologne in WW1 having been through service at Ypres. Unfortunately, his war records are no longer available, but Richard has his medals. Richard says his uncle was a bit of a practical joker, who once hid the window cleaning cart belonging to an Irish family in Whitwick behind his own house for a laugh. We shared what we have on the Rossell family with Richard, including information that was totally new to him.
- The centre continues to have members of the **Booth family** associated with it through its president, Marina Gore-Browne who is the great great granddaughter of Charles Booth. The connection between the Booth family and the Gore Browne's comes through Mary Imogen Booth (known as Imogen), who married Eric Gore Browne, son of Spencer Gore Browne of Rowledge House, Farnham, Surrey at St Andrew's, Thringstone on 8 August 1912. Their marriage was a quiet affair due to the illness at the time of Mary Booth, wife of Charles. The couple left Gracedieu Manor after the reception to go to Shiffolds, Holmbury St Mary, Suffolk, which had been lent to them by Mr and Mrs R C Trevelyan with a view to then travelling on to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Eric Gore Browne served in the 2nd world war in the Leicestershire Yeomanry. The couple had 4 children – John Giles Charles (known as Giles) born 28 June 1914 died 1980, Mary Clemency born 3 Nov 1915, died 18 Oct 1966, Thomas Anthony born 20 June 1918, died 7 Sept 1988 and Fanny (now Mrs Hugill born on 22 January 1922) and the family lived at Glaston House, Uppingham for many years. Eric Gore Browne was a colonel and a distinguished military man who died aged 97 on 28 May 1964. In 1938 he was the ADC to the King, later became Sir Eric, was



also awarded an OBE, and was an active member of the Church Information Committee, chairman of the church's board of finance, and of the Radio and TV Council of the Church of England. A well known person in banking circles, he was also chairman of a number of companies including Southern Railway and involved with Glyn Mills and Co from 1922 until his death and The Bank Clerks Orphans Fund from 1943 until his death. Eric and Imogen's son, Major Sir Thomas Anthony Gore-Browne DSO, OBE was in the Grenadier Guards, gained his knighthood in 1981, and was Senior Partner in Mullens and Company, and a Senior Government Broker. He had 4 children including a son called James Anthony Gore Browne born in 1947, and Marina is the eldest child of the marriage of James Anthony to Jane Anne Dickinson. Marina has two younger brothers, Freddie and Harold.

John Antony Crawford Hugill who married Fanny Gore Browne (Mrs Hugill mentioned above) was also an interesting character. He was born in Hampshire on 15 January 1916 and died 24 January 1987. He disobeyed wartime regulations by keeping a diary 'in the field' during the Normandy D-Day landings and subsequent Liberation of France. He was plucked from Naval Intelligence by Ian Fleming (writer of James Bond) to serve in the front-line commando unit that came to be known as '30AU.'

Pam said that she had been helping at the Palitoy Exhibition in town and that there had been very many people along telling stories about working there, and how far thinking the company had been with regard to female staff with children. She also said that a lady had come in and told her about working in the office when Prince Phillip rang with an order for a doll.

Council report

There was nothing to report.

Gardening and environment

Bernard is still tidying, weeding and sorting the garden areas.

Next meeting 5 December at 6.45pm at Charles Booth Centre. THIS IS ALSO OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY. PLEASE BRING FOOD TO SHARE.