



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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

Visit our website at: www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk
We are also on facebook/twitter. Twitter address @Thringstone2

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 MAY 2017 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Kathy Mardon, Bill Enser, Ann Petty, Shirley Gordon, Tracy Foulds, Maureen Simm, John Jackson, Anita Jones, Ron Hill, Mike Statham

Apologies: Dave and Julie Everitt, Tam Bream, k Janet Stevenson, Bernard Lee

Discussions/Decisions.

Your membership is now due. If you haven't already paid this, and you wish to continue to support the group, we should be pleased to receive your £3.50 for the year. The subscription rate has been at £3.50 since the AGM in 2010 when it went up from £2.50.

Anti-Social Behaviour - We have received reports of increasing amounts of anti-social behaviour down Drury Lane. The police have been informed. We were also told of a fire lit in the woodland near Swallowdale by a boy and two girls on 18 April. Details of this latest incident were shared with our local police team and people associated with Thringstone Primary. A car was set on fire in the woodland in the early hours of 20 April and exploded because of the petrol in it. Police are aware as the fire service had to come out to put this out, as it was torched underneath some yew trees which were also damaged. Someone pulled up one of the concrete bollards from the Dalkeith Walk car park and left it on the grass. The council had to reinstate it in its original place. There has also been some graffiti carried out to the blue bench down Drury Lane, as well as the ongoing issue of litter. Nita is going to Thringstone Primary on 8 May to their assembly to talk about our environment and how we should protect it.

Miners' Gala 25 June – we have a stand at this event, and want to do wine and water and also sell publications. Does anybody want to help on the stall and with set up. Set up will be from 9am (we will need help with getting a table), and also need donations of wine for the stall, and someone to work with Nita until it closes at 6pm. As Nita is working the night before, she will definitely not be able to man the stall all day, and if we don't get volunteers, we won't bother having a stall. Please contact Nita if you think you can help.

Volunteers' week - 1-7 June. Tuesday 6 June has been chosen and a time of 10am-12.30pm for a celebration of volunteering at Thringstone Community Centre. During this



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time, any of our volunteers who want to come up to the centre to have a 'thank you' cup of tea or coffee would be most welcome. We also will be welcoming anybody who wants to volunteer either with us or with the centre, and show people round the facilities. To all the people who deliver newsletters for us or do other things for the group, this is your chance to come up to the centre for a 'thank you'.

Heritage Open Days - The centre will be open on 9 September between 12 noon and 3pm for people to come and see what there is there, learn a bit about Charles Booth and the centre generally, and have a cup of tea, coffee or just a chat. All welcome.

Prominent women event on 7 October –We have invited Gemma Steel, the runner from Whitwick, to open the event and she has said yes. We have also heard from Ashby Museum who will be bringing an exhibition/display to the event relating to Dolly Shepherd who was a parachutist in the Edwardian era. After a series of conversations with Professor Wendy Freer, she is letting us have a DVD on the life of Ann Hely who ended her time at the Ravenstone Almshouses, and was also a nurse in the Crimea. We have arranged for this film to be shown on a loop during the whole event. We are also intending to have cake sales again and are currently in discussion with the local WI to see if they wish to help with this.

St James's Business Centre, Coalville - We had a call from Paul Tallett who is connected to the Rotary organization about this former church in Coalville which has been converted, using private funding, into a business centre. Whilst doing renovations, they have found lots of church archives with photos and details, and are busy talking to Coalville Heritage Group about this. They wanted to know if we would like to go to visit their centre, look at their archives etc. one Friday by arrangement. Please let Nita know if you have an interest, and a date can be arranged. Ann and Mike expressed an interest in going along, one Friday. Nita will get back to them with a date.

Monthly litter pick total – .167 against 140 for April 2016.

If we think we are doing well, NWLDC did a litter pick of the central reservation of the A453 prior to Easter, between junctions 23a and 24 and collected a staggering 690 kg of litter!

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. Reported several cases of flytipping.

Promotion:

- We have **447 twitter followers**, which is 3 more than last month and **436 facebook followers**, which is 24 more than last month. We are continuing to post details of events and also historical photos on both sites.
- **St Andrew's church newsletter** for May mentioned our volunteer event and also the free personal safety event at the centre in June.

Other:

- Welcome to our new member Sarah Baxter.

Finance Report



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Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,021.58		
Income		Expenditure	
Publications	£2.50	Broadband	£10.50
Raffle	£15	Donation to music festival	£250.00
Memberships	£28	Stamps	£3.36
Donation	£1.50		
total income to general fund		£47 Total expenditure	£263.86
		Total general fund at month end	£1,804.72

Publications Report

Ann sold a WW2 book.

Web Report

All minutes are up to date. The webmaster has started putting on photos previously sent relating to various projects

Police Report

From 24 April, speeding fines changed. There are three bands of fines and consequences. All details can be found on the internet.

- On 9 April, someone attempted to break into a works van parked on a drive in Glebe Road. This is the second time someone has targeted that van in the last 6 months. They did not succeed in getting into the van, but damage was caused to it.
- As stated earlier, a car was torched, and exploded, in the Yew Grove in the woodland on 20 April. The fire brigade was called to put this out, and the police informed. The car was later removed by the de Lisle family.
- There was a break in attempt on a van on Main Street. The owner did not call it in but spoke to me about it while on patrol. This would tie in with the Glebe Road jobs.
- Builder on Glebe Road found his work van door damaged by someone trying to break in to steal tools on 21 April. They failed by they needed a new door to the van.

We heard that someone on Loughborough Rd has had 2 of their cars damaged whilst in their drive

Community Report and What's On

The Yellow Mobile Fish and Chip Van returns to Whitwick and Thringstone on Fridays between 4 and 8pm. For more information ring Shaun Hurdman on 07850 445309

Reminder that the **Bull's Head closed on 2 May** for refurbishments. It will open again on 19 May at 12 noon as a Stonehouse Pizza and Carvery. For more details, look at

<http://www.stonehouserestaurants.co.uk/food>

Collections made at the time of the death of Ann Wilkinson allowed a cheque for £325 to be sent to **British Heart Foundation**. Thank you to all who contributed. A series of competitions at the Hare and Hounds on 17 April raised a further £43.50 for this charity.



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Coalville Colour Run will happen again this year on 17 September. This is a partnership between NWLDC and Living Without Abuse. The Colour Run is an approximately 5km course that will take place in and around the centre of Coalville, starting at the Market Hall car park, running alongside the precinct, over to Coalville Town Football Club, taking in Snibston Country Park and the Urban Forest, passing Memorial Square and finishing in Coalville Park. Registration is now open at www.giving-back.co.uk/coalville-colour-run.asp

- 1-31 May – **Ashby Museum** – Looking through the lens – a mix of my favourite photos – local lady Lesley Hextall's photos of landscape and nature. Opening times vary. Usual admission charge applies.
- 6 May – Donington le Heath Manor House **Plant Sale** 10am-4pm. Entry to gardens and plant fair only £1.
- 6 May – **Coleorton and New Lount Volunteers' plant sale** – 10am-1pm at Coleorton Wood, Pitt Lane, Coleorton.
- 7 May – **Hermitage Leisure Centre** – Blood donation session from 1pm-3.30pm and 5pm-7.45pm. To book an appointment call 03001 232323 or visit www.blood.co.uk.
- 12 May – A Question of Love – Nick Gravestock and Carmel Edwards at **Donington le Heath Manor House**. This evening will comprise of songs and poems from the Elizabethan period. Doors open at 7pm fr 7.30pm start. £7.50 per person. Please book by contacting the manor house direct.
- 13 May – **Queen's Head, Belton** – 50s and 60s charity night with the Del Sharrons live from 9pm in conjunction with Belton Villa FC. All proceeds to Cancer Research. Tickets £5 on sale at the pub now.
- 14 May – **Coleorton Railway and Jessop's Tramway** guided walk, Swannington – Starts at 2pm and will be 5 miles, including some stiles. Meet at Hough Mill. Entrance free but donations are welcome. Please book on 07474 610112 or email swanningtonwalks@gmail.com
- 14 May – Loughborough Does Vintage **fashion event** from 11am til 3pm at Rosebery St Peter's Community Centre, Loughborough (near Storer Road just off the Ashby Road). Vintage clothes home ware and gifts, plus live music. Milkshakes available plus afternoon tea. £2 entry on the day.
- 16 May – **National Forest Walking Festival Buggy Walk** – Starts outside the main entrance of Hermitage Leisure Centre at 9.30am. 2.5 miles. Booking on 454606 or email zara.barnes@nwleicestershire.gov.uk
- 17-20 May – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's production of **White Christmas** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Tickets £8 for adults, children £7. Tickets can be bought by ringing 834575 or by contacting tickets@tpads.org.uk
- 17 May – **National Forest Walking Festival Walk Around Whitwick** – meets at The Old Station, Whitwick at 1.30pm. 2 miles to discover the history of Whitwick. Donations welcome.
- 18 May – **National Forest Walking Festival Walk around Griffydham** - meet at Top Road, Griffydham at 7pm and find out all about the history of Griffydham. 1.5 miles. Booking on 222833 or email griffydhamhistory@yahoo.com
- 20 May – **Coleorton and New Lount Volunteers' Plant Sale** – New Lount Nature Reserve, Newbold Coleorton. 10am-1pm.



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- 20 May – Century Theatre presents a tribute to **Tommy Cooper** with John Hewer. This is an award winning show from the Edinburgh fringe. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £12 from the theatre direct.
- 21 May – **National Forest Walking Festival Walk around Gracedieu** – starts at 2pm from The Bull's Head car park. Cost £3. Learn about the history of the priory.
- 22 May – **National Forest Walking Festival Walk from Griffydam to Osgathorpe** – meet at Griffydam Primary School at 2pm and take a 4 mile walk around the area learning about the interesting historical sights. Booking on 222934 or david@davidmaltby1@wannadoo.co.uk
- 23 May – **National Forest Walking Festival walk around Mt St Bernard Abbey** – starts at Mt St Bernard Abbey at 1.30pm and takes a 2 mile walk around the area and rocks. The route includes steep slopes and uneven tracks.
- 26 May – **Hare and Hounds** – Ladies Night - from 8pm. A whole host of fun including Ann Summers and Avon, butlers for personal drinks service and delicious Fizz Friday deal too! Plenty of fun and games (most of which will be naughty if not hilarious) and there will be some prizes to be won too! **FREE EVENT!**
- 26-29 May – **Beer Festival** at the George and Dragon. Lots of new beers to try.
- 27 May – **Conkers** – Bon Jovi UK – Tribute act. 8pm start. Adults £14, children £8. Book online on 01283 216633. Free parking.
- 27-29 May – **Ashby Arts Festival**. For more details go to <http://ashbyartsfestival.co.uk/>
- 3 June – Confidence Academy's **FREE personal safety tutorial** at Thringstone House Community Centre from 3pm-4pm.. This is a chance to learn from experts all about personal safety.
- 6 June – **Volunteer Event** for all FoT volunteers, both past, present and potential at Thringstone House Community Centre from 10am-12.30pm. New volunteers for FoT, Friends of Grace Dieu Priory or the centre are particularly welcome. Come and have a cup of tea and some cake and see what we have to offer.
- 7-10 June – **Coalville Drama Group** present Hitchcock Blonde at the Adult School, Coalville. Tickets £8 or £6 concessions. Tickets available from tickets@cvdg.co.uk More details nearer the time.
- 17 June – **Belton and Osgathorpe Race Night** at Belton Village Hall - Doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets £7.50 to include supper. Prize for the best hat. Profits to be split between MIND research and Osgathorpe Church Water Project. For more details ring Bev on 07986 466085.
- 21 June – **Melrose Road play area and surrounding grass** – Starting at 1pm, there will be a summer picnic afternoon. Bring your own blanket/chair/food and drink and whilst the children play on the equipment, adults can either sit and chat or get fit on the fitness equipment. All welcome.
- 24 June – **Beat 45s** – wonderful 60s music played by great musicians at Thringstone House Community Centre. Tickets £8 from the centre or www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone
- 25 June – **Picnic in the Parks and Miners Gala**, Coalville.
- 25 June – **Bull's Head, Thringstone** – Something for the kids – Sleeping Beauty and Chase are coming for breakfast between 10am and 11.am. Tickets £6 from the pub direct. Limited supply. Cash only.
- 1 July – **Thringstone Primary Summer Fayre**.



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- 2 July – **Bull's Head, Thringstone** – Something for the kids – Sleeping Beauty and Chase are coming for breakfast between 10am and 11.am. Tickets £6 from the pub direct. Limited supply. Cash only.
- 7 July – D-Tour Theatre Company present **3 one act comedy plays** by David Tristram at Thringstone House Community Centre. Tickets will be £12.50 to include a fish and chip supper (alternative available if booked in advance). Curtain up at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available from the centre and from the theatre company direct on 07958 777191
- 8 July – **Alfi Day** – Coalville Rugby Club, Hall Lane – 12 noon until 10pm. Charity football match, stalls, live music. Charity event for Children's brain tumour research.
- 15 July – **Gresley Youth Band** in concert at Thringstone House Community Centre. Start 7.30pm. Tickets £7 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone or from the centre office, open Monday-Friday 9am-12noon.
- 22 July – **Hare and Hounds Music Festival**. More information nearer the time.
- 5 August – **Thringstone Live Music Festival 2017**. All day free music event at the community centre with doors open at 12 noon.
- 19-20 August – **Woodstock in Whitwick**
- 9 Sept – **Heritage Open Day at Thringstone House Community Centre** from 12-3pm. Come and learn about the centre, have a look round, learn a bit more about Charles Booth and have a cup or tea or coffee and a chat.
- 9 Sept – **Thringstone's Got Talent** at Thringstone Community Centre. Local acts putting on performances. The charity this year is the British Kidney Transplant Support Association.
- 7 October – Exhibition at the centre on **The Prominent Women of NW Leicestershire**. Will start at 12 noon and go on until about 5pm.
- 14 Oct – **Craft Fayre** at the community centre. All welcome. 12 noon until 5pm.
- 20 October – **Lesley Smith as Nell Gwynne** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Doors open at 7.30pm with performance starting at 8pm. Tickets £8 from the centre or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone
- 10 Nov – provisional date for **Thringstone House village quiz**.
- 9 Dec - **Abba Tribute** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Further details nearer the time.

History report

- A facebook posting recently contained pictures of the women helpers from the 1947 **Thringstone Imperials** football team and of an advert from 1953 regarding the building of **Clover Place**, both of which we had already got in our archives. The advert for properties on Clover Place said there were 4 types of house or bungalow from which to chose, with prices of £1,500, £1,525 and £1,575. 90% mortgages were available, and a deposit of £150 was required with repayments of £1 13s 7d per week.
- On 3 May 1997 the **new scout hut** was opened in Thringstone. The local scouts put a copy of the press coverage on twitter. This has now been saved to our archives.
- A member of the Magic Attic Archives from Swadlincote let Ann have a copy of a photograph of **The Green** (undated but probably taken in the 1930s) showing the Queen's



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Head which was taken before it extended, and before Ruby's was there. This was put on our facebook page and reached over 1500 people.

- **Jimmy Francis** has given Ann several CDs containing information, and the offer of a book. This information is going into our archives.
- The Nottingham Evening Post of 19 August 1924 gives details of the death by drowning of William Cook of Leicester Road, Whitwick in the fishpond at **Gracedieu Manor**. It would seem that 3 youths were swimming in the pond on 17 August when one of them, William Cook, called for help. Before he could be reached, he disappeared, and his body was recovered 2 hours later. We are currently unable to find out who William was.
- We now have a copy of a photograph of **Joan Barbara Maria Pitt Chatham** (born in 1908) at Gracedieu Manor riding a horse from the Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News from 1926. At the time, Joan was a well known actress and soprano. In 1927 she appeared as Nina in a film called The Bright Young Things directed by George Dewhurst. It seems that Joan married solicitor Guy Wainwright in 1932 in Kensington, gave up her career and had several children.
- In our last minutes, we mentioned that George James Gough was still keeping **the Rose and Crown** in 1884. Further research has unearthed that his wife Catherine died on 7 January 1886 and by December 1886, George had definitely become a farmer. There is a report in the Leicester Chronicle of 11 December 1886 regarding the theft of a fork and bag, valued at 6 shillings by **William Hutchinson**, said at the time to be aged 47, a collier and brother in law of George James Gough, a farmer of Thringstone on 3 December 1886. George had been to a stable to feed his mares and left the stable at 7pm at which time he had closed the stable door leaving the fork and a bag containing oats inside the stable. About 9pm the same night, Mr Hutchinson was in the Rose and Crown and gave the bag of oats to his uncle, Robert Walker. Mr Walker had said it wasn't his bag, but his wife took it, and put it under the settle to take home later and see if it belonged to their son. When George Gough went to the stable and found the bag and fork gone, he went to the Rose and Crown and found the bag there and subsequently went to the uncle's house and found the fork at the back of a tub. The police became involved and made enquiries. William Hutchinson denied taking the bag into the Rose and Crown, was asked about this again, became violent and struck and kicked witnesses several times. He later admitted that he wouldn't have taken the items had he not been drinking. As Mr Hutchinson had a record of previous offences, he was sent to trial. He eventually was sentenced to 3 months' hard labour. Mr Hutchinson's previous recorded crimes included assault in 1858, being drunk and riotous in Thringstone in 1870, not sending his children to school in 1879, stealing an overcoat in 1880 from a soldier in Whitwick and being found later the same night in a pub in Thringstone trying to sell the coat. Moving on, in 1882 he was found guilty of being drunk and disorderly, and sentenced to one month's hard labour. At that time he was said to be an old offender, and there are several other mentions of him, usually associated with drink related incidents up to and including 1896. Mr Hutchinson was known, apparently, as Boney. It is not currently clear where he lived in Thringstone after 1871 when he was shown with his wife Mary nee Wright (born in Leicester Road, Whitwick) and two children, John aged 2 and 8 month old William living close to the Rose and Crown. It is also not clear when he died.



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- Thanks to information from John Colledge, we have been able to investigate 3 doctors who also worked in Whitwick during the Victorian era. **Richard Bradnick Swinfen** was born in Leicester in about 1796 to Edmund Swinfin and Lucy nee Bradnick. His father was a druggist and also at one time Mayor of Leicester. He married at St Martins in The Fields, London on 4 January 1815 to Ann Buxton and became a druggist in Leicester with Charles Redfern. By March 1823 that partnership was dissolved, and a notice placed in the London Gazette to that effect. In 1828, 1830 and 1832 he was recorded as a chemist and druggist in his own right in Market Place, Leicester. He went on to be a surgeon and general practitioner and in 1841 was practicing in Thurcaston. By 1851, he was living at The Forest, Leicester Road, Whitwick. He had 5 children, 2 sons and 3 daughters, and died in February 1854. As our access to medical registers only starts in the late 1850s, we are unable to add more about his background..

Thomas Mallabar Clewley practiced in Whitwick during the late 1850s early 1860 period. Dr Clewley was born in 1815 in Uttoxeter, Staffordshire to Michael Clewley, an innkeeper of the White Hart and Star Inn, Uttoxeter, and Elizabeth nee Goodwin whose properties these inns had been prior to marriage. Under law at that time, her possessions became his. His father was prominent in Uttoxeter, and is listed in various publications as ironmonger, grocer, tea dealer, and proprietor of the stamp office. It is also known that Michael Clewley owned several properties in Uttoxeter including a malthouse and several shops. Thomas Mallabar Clewley had 2 sisters, 5 other siblings having died as infants. He married Ann Baker on 13 January 1846 in Barlestone, where she was born, and according to press notices announcing the marriage, he was practicing as a doctor in Ibstock at that time. By 1851, he was living in Monks Kirby in Warwickshire with his wife and another (incapacitated) apothecary called Arthur Buckby and two servants. Medical registers from 1859 show him practicing in Whitwick at that time, and state that his qualifications relate to the Licensed Society of Apothecaries with whom he qualified in 1843. The Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal for 1843 gives further information saying that he was invested into that society, with several others, on 25 May 1843 at which time his address was Ashby de la Zouch. He is also listed in the 1859 Journal. In February 1860, he was admitted to the Royal College of Surgeons, having undergone the necessary examinations for a diploma to be issued. A notice was posted in The Globe newspaper advertising this fact. By 1861, according to census information, he was living with his wife on Leicester Road, Whitwick. He died aged 45 on 25 May 1861 in Whitwick and left effects of less than £200 to his wife. His solicitors at that time were Green and Smith in Ashby, who placed notices in local papers suggesting any creditors of Dr Clewley contact themselves.

We have been told that **Arthur Sandford** practiced in Whitwick in 1862 but no records can be found and the only Arthur Sandford listed in the medical register did not qualify until 1883...

- Whilst researching doctors, we have been able to confirm that **Thomas Jenkins**, surgeon, mentioned in our book Thringstone and Its People, was operating in the area, based in Whitwick, between 1855 and 1861, as he is mentioned in trade directories for that period. We have also been able to establish that there was a chemist called **Thomas Cox** who had a business on Castle Street, Whitwick between at least 1867 and 1876. He is listed in the 1871 census as Chemist and Druggist with his wife Mary from Whitwick, prior to which he was a hosier and had a haberdashery at the same address. Thomas appears to have been



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born in East Leake in 1829. By 1881, he had moved his chemist business to Pares Hill (now North Street) and is still shown there in 1891. Thomas died in 1901. Other chemists in the area included **John Burgess and John Freeman**, both listed in directories for 1867. Little is known about these men.

Councillors' report

Nothing to report

Gardening and environment

- Thank you to Anita Jones who has weeded the 100 yards of planting down the church jitty.
- Bernard has been clearing down Drury Lane of weeds and planted some Nasturtiums and raked the gravel off the flowerbeds back onto the lane. Some stones have been pulled from the wall to the Co-op carpark, and this has been reported to them.
- NWLDC has planted 4 silver birch trees on the grass at the rear of the adult fitness equipment on Melrose Road.

Centre matters

Mike said that papers are being submitted to cabinet at County Hall in mid June for cabinet to look at during July with the centre then transferring out of the hands of the county council. There is a lot of paperwork to put together in order to facilitate this, including information on future staffing options. The centre also needs to sort out what is happening during the transitional period with regard to cover in the office. There is still a funding gap to try to fill, and so consequently the trustees are looking at all sorts of things to bring in more money.

Nita said that there will be an increasing reliance upon volunteers, and if anybody could volunteer some time at all, they would be more than welcome. It would be quite acceptable to have say 20 volunteers who could only offer an hour a month, rather than no volunteers offering anything at all, or existing volunteers feeling over-stretched. If you feel able to offer your services in any way at all, please let the centre know. This includes trying to find volunteers who may in the future wish to deliver the centre's Focus Magazine around the village.

AOB

Thanks to everybody who paid their membership subscriptions at the meeting. Much appreciated.

Next meeting is THE AGM which will be held on 1 June 2017 at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre



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