



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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We are also on facebook/twitter. Twitter address @Thringstone2

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT THRINGSTONE HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Bernard Lee, Bill Enser, Ron Hill, Ann Petty, Pam Porter, Pat Darby, Pat Hubbard, Tracy Foulds, Maureen Simm, John Jackson, Geoff Walker, PCSO Lynette Rose 6596 and PCSO Tiff Lloyd 6438.

Apologies: Andrew Bridgen MP, Janet and David Stevenson, Geoff and Jane Wilson, Gillian Bates, Dave and Julie Everitt

Discussions/Decisions.

Coalville Heritage Event – Ann and Nita attended the event to launch the Heritage Panels in Hotel Street which depict Coalville's history. These panels are moveable, and could in time be transferred to other locations. The event was featured on BBC Radio Leicester and Hermitage FM. Following this event, Nita and Ann went to talk to the Coalville Heroes Project Team about their plans to celebrate the First 50 soldiers who left the Coalville area in 1914 to go to war. We have a lot of information on these men, and 2 of them were from this village. We will be working with others, including the primary school and possibly the local scouts, to produce a display within the market area on our chosen soldier. We will give more information as it is known.

Heritage Open Day - Please consider coming along to the event at the centre on 9 September. Information has been provided to allow this event to be widely advertised. The centre will be open from 12 noon until 3pm.

Prominent women event on 7 October – We are still working on this, in order to put on a good event and get a good turnout. Along with folk from Swannington, Ashby, Whitwick, and Ravenstone, we hope to put on a good exhibition covering the wide variety of things achieved by women from this area. Gemma Steel, the local runner, will open the event, which is on from 12 noon until 5pm.

Old Pound Coins - The old "round pound" will stop being legal tender on October 15. If you have any jars with coins in which you save for things, or in the car to use for trolley use, remember to change them to the new coins.

Hermitage Leisure Centre – Update from last month on the proposals to resite this elsewhere. We believe that contractors have been engaged to do a survey of the golf course by the side of the centre (or the former golf course as they are calling it) to see if the proposed new



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site is viable. There will, within the next 3 weeks, be people, machinery and vehicles on site and people might think that work to build a new centre has already started but it hasn't.

Community Centre Quiz Night - The centre's quiz night this year is on Friday 10 November at 7.30pm. To put a team together, we would need 6 people wishing to take part. A form has to be submitted by 31 October and there is a cost of £5 per person to include supper. Please let Nita know if you want to be part of a team. We did really well with this back in the day, but in the last few years, Ladies Badminton seem to have done better. Maybe this is our year?

Bauble deliveries - . We are looking for someone to take on the delivery of Baubles on the new Bellway site. The next Bauble will be out in November and will need to be delivered before the end of November. *Ann said she would do these deliveries in future. Nita will tell Janet who puts the Bauble packages together.*

Member's suggestion - One of our members has made the following offer, on which we would like everybody's opinion please: 'We read and hear of so many things in the village that give us concern that perhaps people forget too easily about the good things and deeds that also take place in Thringstone. Perhaps it is time that we recognise the latter. To record our thirty years in the village and the happier occurrences we have enjoyed, I should like to donate a trophy to the person who has made the best contribution to the improvement to the village and that has given most benefit, not necessarily tied to any one year - 'The Friend of the Year'. I suggest one way of doing so would be to ask readers of the Bauble to complete a small 'form' indicating their choice of such a person, which could also be shop owners. The Trophy would be awarded on an annual basis and presented at a village event.' Another way of doing this would be by facebook and twitter posts. *The meeting felt that this would be a good idea if it included groups like Scouts, Guides, organizations like the centre, the church, RBL, cricket and bowls clubs, shops like Co-op, Ruby's, Kay's. Nita said she would go back to the member concerned to discuss how he wished to work this.*

Monthly litter pick total – 174 against 191 for the same month last year

Chairs Report

Letters received: Newsletter from Teamprint who print our publications and letter from the centre to complete user group information.

Emails received: Various from people with whom we regularly share information

Emails sent: Various to groups and individuals as usual.

Promotion: We have **462 twitter followers**, which is 7 more than last month, and **512 facebook followers**, which is 30 more than last month. We are continuing to post details of local events and also historical photos on both sites

Other: Autumn Bauble was printed and given to people in August to deliver before 9 Sept.

NWLDC gave Nita a new litter pick stick as her other one broke from its daily use.

We are very sad to report two deaths of members this month, both of whom had been members for years. Firstly, the death of Sandie Newton on 21 August. Sandie joined Friends of Thringstone in April 2005, and had helped Nita with numerous events over the years. Condolences to Tony and family. John Carr joined Friends of Thringstone September 2005. He died on 31 August. Condolences to all his friends in Thringstone.

Finance Report

There was a mistake in the last set of figures given. These have been adjusted this month.



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Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,290.19		
Income		Expenditure	
Publications		Broadband	£10.50
Raffle	£7	Stamps	£6.72
		Teamprint printing	£35.90
		Membership of CVHS	£8.00
total income to general fund	£7	Total expenditure	61.12
		Total general fund at month end	£2236.07

Publications Report

We got 10 copies each reprinted of the Scottish and Durham Miners booklets as previously agreed.

Web Report

Minutes have been added from April to bring that section of the website up to date as has the Autumn newsletter. There are still a number of photos to go onto the project page.

Police Report

There was a beat surgery between 2pm and 4pm on 24 August at the community centre, which was widely advertised, but only Nita turned up to this, which shows either people aren't bothered by crime, or the event was held at a time that people couldn't attend.

- A man was assaulted on Thringstone Green after having left the music festival on 5 August.
- An accident on the Ashby Road on Wednesday 9 August between two cars, one of which ended up on its side, resulted in a man being cut from a car by members of the local fire service.
- Burglary - Henson's Lane - between 07.30am and 5.50pm on 07/08/17. House entered and damage to TV, preview box and video recorder.
- A car left the road on the A512 and hit a wall belonging to one of the houses near the George and Dragon. As a result, there are calls to reduce the speed of the road at the point from 50mph to 30mph or at least look at the road surface.
- Vehicle Crime - Glebe Road - between 5pm on 01/09/17 – 8.25am on 02/09/17. Vehicle left locked and secure has been broken into via side door and tools taken.
- There have been more meat thefts from Thringstone Co-op
- 2 young lads of approximately 12 years of age have been seen putting glue into the locks of cars parked on the Thringstone Members Club car park. One of the cars had been a new Ford Focus. When seen, they ran off into the woods.

The police officers present discussed timings for future beat surgeries with the meeting. The general feeling was that the meeting should be in an evening, perhaps at 7pm, and at the centre,



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as there is sufficient car parking and everybody knows where this is. Lynette Rose said she would report this back to her superiors.

There was also discussion about motorbikes racing around the Melrose Road area. It was suggested that the only way this could be tackled would be if people bothered by this anti-social behaviour got details of the registration numbers of the bikes concerned and passed them on. PCSO Rose said that within the last month a quad bike had been ceased from some youths in Henson's Lane because of anti-social behaviour, but reiterated that the police can't chase people on motorbikes, especially if they have no helmets on, because they could be seen to be putting the riders at risk in their attempts to get away.

Community Report and What's On

Ruby's Fish and Chip Shop now takes credit and debit cards. This includes contactless, Applepay and Android Pay, and there is no minimum spend or fees charged.

Left over fresh food from the **music festival** was donated to the local food bank. Surplus real ale was sold off. We understand that the music festival made in the region of £3k profit for the centre.

Thringstone Members Club is looking to start up a ladies' darts team. Anyone interested should go into the club and see Margaret Bell.

Woodstock in Whitwick has made it through to the final round to get funding from Tesco for next year. Can everyone who shops at Tesco Ashby put a token in to vote for Woodstock 2018 in the 'bags of help' or just call in to Ashby Tesco and make a small purchase so you can vote for Woodstock?

Building work at **Thringstone Primary** was delayed, leading to work still being necessary now that the school has reopened. 4 rooms are only partially completed, and workmen will be coming in over some weekends and the next half term break to complete the contract.

The January panto from **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society** will be Rapunzel – A tangled Panto. They will soon be starting rehearsals but there is still an opportunity to audition to join the chorus especially males and females over 16. Why not try a new hobby? Rehearsals are Tue and Thur each week from 7.30 to 10.00 in Thringstone. If you are interested, email chezcooper@hotmail.co.uk. The Society is also still wanting to build up their backstage crew and need stage managers. If you would like to become a member please email chair@tpads.co.uk for an application form. Membership is due in September and entitles you to the preorder of tickets, access to the membership group, invitations to social events and invite/voting at the AGM. They also have open rehearsals for you to pop along to.

- 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.
- 9 Sept – **Thringstone Soul Mini All Dayer** – 2pm-10pm at Thringstone Members Club. 10 djs. Donations on the door to Antony Nolan Trust and Dementia UK.
- 10 Sept – Tours round **Century Theatre** as part of Heritage Event. This is Britain's oldest travelling theatre. Behind the scenes tours at 11am, 1pm and 2pm.
- 15 Sept – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – The Bench That Rocked – local band.
- 16 Sept – **Hare and Hounds** – The Fugilists in concert. Starts at 7.30pm. This band plays a mix of acoustic and electric music, and several covers.



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- 17 Sept – **Coalville's Colour Run** sets off in Whitwick Park. Lots of other attractions.
- 22 Sept – **Jerseys** – tribute act to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons at Hermitage Leisure Centre. Doors open 6.30pm, starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £13 in the tiered seating and £19 in the VIP seats. Ring 811215 for tickets.
- 22 Sept – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – Keith Buck in concert
- 29 Sept – Park Hall Whitwick – **MacMillan Coffee Morning**. 10am-12 noon. All welcome.
- 29 Sept – **Black Horse Whitwick** – The King of Diamonds – Elvis and Neil Diamond tribute.
- 29-30 Sept – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's** murder mystery evening Soap Suds. Tickets are £10 to include light supper, and available on line at www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads or direct from 0333 666 3366 which is the booking line only.
- 1 Oct – **Thringstone Miners FC** – Charity football match for The Lullaby Trust – The Lullabies v Leicester City Legends. This features players from Thringstone as well as City Legend Muzzy Issitt and Kasabian member Chris Edwards. Donations welcome. Kick off at 2pm.
- 6 Oct – **Conny Club, Whitwick** – Robert Taylor as George Michael. 9pm until late. £5 entrance, members £3.
- 7 Oct – Exhibition at the centre on **The Prominent Women of NW Leicestershire**. 12 noon until 5pm.
- 14 Oct – Macmillan Coffee Charity event at 22 Springfield. 10am – 1pm. All welcome.
- 14 Oct – **Craft Fayre** at the community centre. All welcome. 12 noon until 5pm.
- 20 Oct – **Lesley Smith as Nell Gwynne** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Doors open 7.30pm. Performance starts 8pm. Tickets £8 from the centre or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone
- 20 Oct - **Thringstone Miners Welfare** – Ukulele Crazy perform at 7.30pm with local WI.
- 27 Oct – Conny Club, Whitwick – 9pm til late – Cher and Pink tribute. Tickets £5. Members £3.
- 4 Nov - **George and Dragon** bonfire night. Bonfire lit at 7.15pm. Live music, sweet and candy floss stall, BBQ, bottle bar and Prosecco bar. Free entry. Car parking £5 per car.
- 10 Nov – provisional date for **Thringstone House village quiz**.
- 25 Nov – **Moonshiners 50s tribute** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Tickets £6 7.30pm start. Tickets available through www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone or direct from the centre office.
- 9 Dec - **Abba Tribute** at Thringstone House Community Centre. 7.30pm start. Tickets £8 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone or direct from the centre office.

History report

- Several **photos** of Thringstone people, including Jack Rossell, and 2 weddings, have been posted in the last month on facebook and shared to our archives.
- In the Derby Mercury of 17 June 1779 is an article stating that 'a number of **stocking makers** from Sheepshead, Hatherne, Whitwick, Thringston etc. attended a meeting of the committee of stocking makers at the Turk's Head, Leicester.' In the evening, there looked like there would be riots, and a party of the Royal Regiment of Blues at the request of the mayor paraded the streets on horseback and put paid to the rioting. This shows that Thringstone at the time was very involved with industrial matters.



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- The Coalville Times printed a photo on 25 August of the **Richards family** of Thringstone. Ann has subsequently got the original copy and several others from our member David White to scan. Frank Richards who appears as an infant on the photo is featured in our WW2 booklet talking about this family.
- An article in the Leicester Daily Mercury of 17 April 1950 tells that **Clifford Shelton** of Thringstone, 'the schoolboy cornet player with the Snibston Colliery band,' won first prize and the Clayton Cup at the under 18s cornet solo at Coleshill the previous Saturday. Clifford had also won the Bestwood Music Festival the previous week. Clifford was the son of Herbert and Alice Shelton of 9 The Green. He had a sister called Audrey Kathleen who married John Billing in 1954. Clifford married Margaret Kendrick on 5 September 1959 in this area and eventually moved to live in Kings Lynn.
- Colin Bakewell was in **Thringstone Amateurs** (the forerunner to Thringstone Panto and Drama Society) between 1960 and 1964. It was run by Don Hambleton who was also the school master and lived on site at the community centre. Colin told us he left the area in 1964 and remembers being in a production called Rio Rita along with Diane Knifton. His father was the pianist for the group. If anybody else has memories of the Amateurs from the 1960s, we would be pleased to hear from them.
- An article in Leicester Chronicle of 20 April 1850 tells that **William Gee**, farm labourer, was taken to court by W N Bramley of Sheepshed for deserting his service 'before the expiration of the terms of hire'. William Gee was convicted and received 21 days hard labour. We believe William was born in 1826 and was the son of Samuel and Sarah Gee.
- In our book, Businesses in Thringstone, we talked about **Freeson Yearby Moore's** off licence on the corner of Talbot Street and Whitwick Moor. We believed at that time that he went there around 1941, but from the 1939 register for that address where he is listed as Yearby F Moore, we now know he was there earlier. On that return, his date of birth was given 17 February 1887 (rather than 18th as previously recorded) and his occupation coal miner below ground. His wife Charlotte was running the shop as the grocer which was quite normal at that time – women ran shops and the men carried on with their previous employment. Her date of birth given as 15 November 1900 is incorrect. She was one of 8 children, born on 15 November 1894 and had lived with her parents, Thomas and Emily Belcher in Green Lane, Whitwick. She died in Whitwick on 9 April 1981 as suggested in our publication. Her probate details give an address of 77 Silver Street, Whitwick and a probate amount of £15,723.
- Ann has been to see a relative of **Lot Haywood** of 39 Gracedieu Road Whitwick, who died during WW1 and obtained more information on him and his fate. The information, which included a large photo of Lot who was only 21 when he died, will be scanned and returned.
- In the Leicester Chronicle of 7 July 1900 was printed a letter dated 8 May 1900 from Private W Harris of the Smithfield Field Force fighting in the Free State province of South Africa as part of the **Boer War**. His wife Mrs S Harris of Thringstone had received the letter which told of the soldier having marched for about a month, having received no letters, but that he hoped to receive letters when they got to the garrison. Private Harris was looking forward to coming home. 'We are fairly starved – only one and a half biscuits for a day's rations, with a bit of mutton, nearly all bone, and a drop of dirty water which they call coffee. I shall be glad when we can get a bed. We have not taken our clothes off since we left England. That's how we are treated. Nothing like the papers speak of at home. I miss my



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good food. I don't get the smell of a bit of bread, but I suppose it will have to be put up with. I hope to get home soon, and when I do there will be nothing to part me any more'.

- In December 1940, an application was put to Coalville Urban Council to set up a **Thringstone Fox Inn Comforts Fund**, which was to provide items for soldiers at the front. There was a lot of debate as to whether this should be granted, as other applications on behalf of Thringstone had been 'lumped in' with the Coalville Urban Fund and, as it was felt wrong to have this application stand alone, the application was dismissed. After further debate, the council agreed to accept all registrations which complied with the relevant Act.
- We were aware that **Thringstone School** was built on land donated by solicitor Edward Mortimer Green. We now believe Mr Green was born in 1805 in Normanton le Heath, lived and practiced in Market Street, Ashby between 1841 and 1851 and married twice. His first wife Susannah Eleanor Freer having died in 1836, he then married Mary Penelope Cradock. He had moved to Newtown Linford by 1861, and then moved to Kent and finally Winchester. He died on 25 January 1892 aged 86 years at Ospringe House, St Cross Road, Winchester, Hampshire.
- **Assault at Gracedieu in 1815** – It is quite amusing what made the newspapers, not just locally, but nationally, in 1815. The Northampton Mercury of 9 December 1815 tells the story of Mr Kane, a draper from Loughborough, who had been travelling by horseback from Gracedieu a week earlier when 3 men attacked him. 'The men were stationed 100 yards asunder. The first two attempted to lay hold of the bridle, but did not succeed. The last man struck Mr Kane with a violent blow on the back of his head with some sort of weapon, which stunned him.' He fell from his horse about 200 yards further on, but remounted 'before the villains could get up to him'.
- **Shooting at Gracedieu** – The Leicester Journal of Sat 1 June 1822 tells that Mr Jeffcoat, a gamekeeper from Gracedieu, had a quarrel with Daniel Wilson, a labourer who lived in a cottage near Gracedieu on 27 May. The result was a fight, which Mr Jeffcoat lost. As a result, he 'took up his gun' and shot Daniel Wilson in the face, destroying one of Mr Wilson's eyes, whilst 'the other, it is hoped, is likely to come about again'.
- **Storm at Gracedieu limeworks** – We know from previous research that the limeworks at Gracedieu were in operation from at least October 1793. In several national and local papers, including the Leicester Journal of Sat 29 June 1839 were reports that there had been a terrible thunderstorm the previous Saturday afternoon at 4pm at Gracedieu. Around a dozen workmen employed by Mr Thomas Angrave, part owner of Gracedieu Limeworks, had sought shelter in one of the limekilns, but due to the severity of the storm and fears for safety, two men, Robert Harris and William Wood, decided to make a run for a cabin, which was about 100 yards from the limekiln. They were about half way towards the cabin when they were struck by lightning resulting in an injury to Harris' left shoulder. He fell to the ground, whilst Wood, a very stout man, aged about 33 years, was killed. He was found motionless with his face in the ground, and his clothes on fire. His hat was cut through on the left side, and lay four or five yards away from him. He was turned over by a young boy who was then sent to fetch Mr Angrave, and was declared to be dead. Both men were taken to Belton Church, and examined. Mr Harris said that neither he nor Mr Wood were carrying any tools at the time. It was believed that the lightning had struck Mr Wood in his left ear, travelled down his chin into his clothing, down through his body to his left thigh, with the greater part of his body being severely scorched and his trousers being torn from



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the waist to his knee. An inquest recorded death by lightning.

In the same newspaper, **Thomas Angrave** is mentioned as being at court in Loughborough following a disagreement with John Lisle, bailiff, who had been trying to serve a warrant on someone in Angrave's employ. Mr Angrave tried to obstruct Mr Lisle in the execution of his duties and 'threatened to blow him up'. Mr Angrave created a scene, all the men in his employ came out and there was a lot of foul language. As the men dispersed, there was a loud bang. Mr Angrave offered his apologies, and agreed to sort the matter out away from the court.

- **Thringstone Hall** - An article in the Stamford Mercury of 13 June 1804 says that William Potter, 'a considerable horse dealer of Coleorton' married Elizabeth Sharpe, eldest daughter of Joseph Sharpe of Thringstone Hall, gent. We wonder if Thringstone Hall was in fact Thringstone House or whether this was the manor house down Brook Lane. We know that Thringstone House is on the 1804 enclosure map, so it is possible that Joseph Sharpe was the first owner of what is now the community centre. *Nita said that she had asked trustees if it might be possible, should they get to see the deeds on the handover from County Hall, for members of FoT to view these as this could answer a lot of questions.*
- **Thringstone House** – In the Coventry Standard of Friday 9 December 1842 is a death listing which reads 'On Friday last, sincerely regretted, Mr Thomas Morris of Thringstone House, Leicestershire, son of the late Mr Morris of Griff'. Griff is a hamlet near Nuneaton and we are aware that a family called Morris had a farm there in the 1830s. The 1841 census shows Thomas Morris, born 1786 and his wife and family of 6 children plus servants, farming at Stordon Grange. By 13 January 1847, John Knight was farming at Stordon Grange, as borne out by his grave stone in Griffydham Methodist's churchyard.
- **Attempted murder** – In over 70 regional and national newspapers in November and December 1864, including the Leicester Journal, are articles relating to the court case and subsequent trial on 3 December 1864 of John Potter, aged 23, known as Jack, a groom of Thringstone, son of Thomas and Sarah Potter of Thringstone. Thomas Potter was also a groom. According to the census of 1861, John was working for a retired farmer in Talbot Lane. At around 7.30pm on the night of 12 November 1864, he tried to kill 'his sweetheart' Sarah Ann North, a milliner, by 'pulling her head back and cutting her throat with a razor' resulting in a gash of about an inch and a quarter on the left side of her neck, with other smaller ones on the chin and hand. The larger cut required stitches which were applied by Dr Toone the same night who told the judge that there didn't appear to have been any force applied to make the wound, as would have been the case had someone tried to commit murder and 'it was more a case of a wound having been inflicted by someone incapable of directing his actions.'

Mr Potter and Miss North had been a couple for about 7 years, and had had a child called Thomas North Potter (later changed to Thomas North) who was born in 1860. In the November, Mr Potter been to Miss North's house and caused a nuisance. Miss North, who had previously seen him daily, had a week earlier refused to see him again because of his drunken behaviour. He said to Miss North's stepfather that if she failed to get back with him, he would ensure nobody else had her.

There were arrears in child support payments of 2 shillings and 6 pence. Miss North had been awarded child support in February 1864. Mr Potter had said he couldn't afford this sum. Three days before the incident, Miss North tried to take out a warrant against Mr



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Potter in Ashby because he refused to pay the arrears owed, but had failed because the magistrate had left town. On hearing about this, Mr Potter decided to seek her out. Miss North was a friend of his landlady, Mrs Sarah Gough of Thringstone, wife of Thomas Gough of Main Street, and Miss North had gone to the Gough's house to look at patterns. Mr Potter heard she was there and asked to see her around 4pm, and was refused.

Around 6pm the same night, Mr Potter tried to borrow a razor from Sarah (Sally) Wilkins, tollgate keeper in Thringstone in order to shave himself. She said she had known Jack all his life, and when he was intoxicated he didn't know what he was doing. She had refused to give him a razor, as her husband was out and Jack appeared drunk. A razor had subsequently been taken by Mr Potter from Percival's barbers in Whitwick whilst Hannah Percival, the barber's wife, had her back turned.

On leaving Thringstone later that evening, Miss North and Mrs Gough met Mr Potter several times as they walked up into Whitwick. The ladies went into The Hastings Arms in the Market Place, to be joined by Mr Potter. On leaving the pub Mr Potter put his arm round Miss North and asked her to go for a walk down a dark alley with him, but she refused because he was not sober and said that her stepfather 'could not keep the child' and that if her stepfather saw them together, or word got back to him, she would be thrown out of the house. The ladies went to look in Mr Cox's shop, and were then looking in Brookes's draper's shop window in Whitwick Market Place, which was lit by gas light, when the incident took place. Mr Potter then ran away, calling at the tollhouse in Thringstone to say what he had done, before going to The Fox in Main Street.

Character witnesses Henry Trinder, farmer and veterinary surgeon of Swannington, Thomas Gough, jeweller of Main Street, Thringstone, and William Sharpe grocer and druggist of Main Street, Thringstone, plus David Henson and George Gough, jewellers of Llandudno all said that Mr Potter was incapable of having any intent to kill Miss North and was usually quiet and inoffensive, whilst in the main agreeing that Mr Potter had a drinking issue and was probably drunk at the time of the incident.

Mr Potter was apprehended at 8.30pm the same night at The Fox in Main Street, where he had also told others what he had done and said 'If I have not done for her yet, I will do so'. The defence suggested that Mr Potter could have tried to murder Miss North before, if that is what he had wished, so why should he try to do so outside a lit shop? The judge, Mr Justice Mellor eventually ordered that the crime be reduced from attempted murder to unlawful wounding.

Whilst on remand in Leicester Gaol, Jack Potter tried to kill himself by strangulation using his garter, but gurgling noises were heard and he was stopped. He was convicted of unlawful wounding and sentenced to 'one year's hard labour in the house of correction.'

The judge hoped that this sentence would help Mr Potter overcome 'the passion for drinking to which it appeared he was addicted.' Sarah Ann North was born in 1841 in Heanor, and moved to Brooks Lane, Whitwick when her mother, Mary, married James Peck. She married John Cowlshaw in 1870 and lived in Talbot Street, moving before 1881 to live in Leicester.

- **Continuing the story of Jack Potter**, the Leicester Journal of 1 February 1867 tells that John Potter, groom of Thringstone and Thomas Skermer of Belton were in court in Ashby charged with unlawfully cutting a holly tree at Breedon on 19 December 1866, the property of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington. Damage had been caused to the value of 5



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Stepping out for a greener district



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shillings. Neither defendant appeared. Skermer, 'because of his youth', (he was about 14 years of age) was ordered to pay costs of 14 shillings. However, Potter, who the article said 'has of late spent most of his time in prison' was sentenced to 21 days hard labour. The Leicester Mail of 15 August 1868 tells that John Potter, groom of Thringstone, was sentenced to 2 months' hard labour for the 'non payment of a bastardy order', presumably relating to Sarah Ann North's child. We currently cannot find John Potter on the 1871 census, but by 1881, he was living at The George Inn, Belton where he was a farm servant to a grazier. By 1891 he was working for the Beckworth family, the mineral water manufacturers, in Cademan Street. By 1901 he was a groom lodging in Leicester Road, Whitwick. He appears to have died in 1902 without marrying.

- From 1877, **Gracedieu** became linked to Loughborough as far as petty sessions were concerned. This also applied to their guardians of the poor. The guardian of that time was John Kidger, from the farming family, at the time living at Hillparks Farm. Others connected with the guardianship were William Husbands, farmer of Merrill Grange, George Peat, farmer of 96 acres at Low Woods, William Jesson, farmer of 225 acres at Gracedieu Farm, Thomas Gilbert, also a farmer at Merrill Grange, John Bostock, retired farmer and William Kidger a farmer of 223 acres at Peggs Green.
- Our book, Thringstone and Its People, lists churchwardens at St Andrew's church from 1875 onwards, but nothing before. The Leicester Chronicle of 20 April 1844 tells of the election for a **churchwarden for Thringstone**. Obviously St Andrew's had yet to be built, so this was someone working from St John's in Whitwick, but responsible for Thringstone parish. This election was between Mr Kidger and Mr Garner, which Mr Kidger, a local farmer won. The Leicestershire Mercury of 25 May 1850 tells of problems with accounting at Whitwick and Thringstone parish, during which it is mentioned that the churchwarden responsible for Thringstone was **Mr John Berridge**. Born about 1816 in Nottinghamshire, Mr Berridge was also a farmer. His daughter Frances, born 27 March 1856 in Thringstone married David James Goodyer and died in Quebec in 1951.
- The Leicester Journal of 21 August 1857 tells of the laying of a foundation stone for the building of a national school in Whitwick after huge efforts to raise funds, due to the very poor population in terms of money. The school was built to serve 3 townships. Included in the foundation stone laying party was **Rev G L Gardiner** of Thringstone. At that time, Thringstone did not have its own church, so Rev Gardiner would have worked under the direction of Rev. Francis Merewether. No records of Rev Gardiner can be found in Crockford's Directory of Clergy.
- The Leicester Journal of 5 December 1862 tells of the opening of St Andrew's church. On Tuesday 25 November at 2pm, there was a luncheon provided in the National School rooms for 40 parishioners and guests, laid on by James Gough of The Rose and Crown. A service took place at 3.15pm and the collection amounted to £33. Afterwards, Rev. Francis Merewether of Whitwick chaired a dinner, to which the choirs of Coleorton and Thringstone were invited, along with the ladies. The following day, 90 children attended a service at the new church at 2.30pm after which they were fed with plum cake and given tea in the school rooms. **Rev Thomas Eustace Harwood**, of Old Windsor, who, it says, had been a previous curate for Thringstone, was one of the party involved in these proceedings. Rev Harwood then celebrated Holy communion with the offertory amounting to £5 8 shillings and 11 pence ha'penny. There were so many at the church service that the congregation



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was up to the doors and many stood outside. Rev. Harwood was curate in this area from 1860-62 and was from Shrewsbury. During the period of time working in this area, he lived in Swannington. He died in Hendon, Middlesex on 20 March 1915

- The Leicester Journal of 27 November 1863 talks about the building of St Andrew's church, and that the vicarage was yet to be built. The article states that the provision of a church was vital to protect the area going forward because 'the inhabitants are mainly uneducated miners and stocking makers, who are little impressed with the duties of religion, and are therefore much in need of the ministrations of clergy,' and the area is particularly exposed to 'the influence of the Church of Rome, against which the church of England should unite.' Subscription lists are then printed, in which are detailed **James Kirby as Thringstone churchwarden**. Other Thringstone people listed include James Gough, Joseph Towle, Robert Gregory, Mr T Mills and Mrs Ayre.
- In the Derby Mercury of 5 October 1864, is an article stating that after the death of Rev Francis Merewether, vicar of Whitwick and Rector of Coleorton, Rev. Hughes, **curate of Thringstone**, had resigned his appointment after only a short time, to take up a position in Hanley, Staffordshire. During his period of residence in Thringstone, Rev. Hughes 'appears by his excessive zeal and liberality to the sick and poor, to have entirely gained the hearts of his parishioners, amongst the poor especially, who were determined that he should not leave without some little token of remembrance from them, and with the assistance of Mrs James Gough and Mrs Thomas Potter, who kindly undertook to receive subscriptions, in a few days upwards of 5 shillings was subscribed; even the poor women who get their living by sewing subscribing with the greatest cheerfulness.' With the assistance of Mr James Gough and Mr Joseph Towle of Main Street, they purchased a coromandel (ebony) gilt mounted blotting case, and envelope case, and a gilt and ivory mounted inkstand purchased from Mr Charles Orchard of Ashby. The list of subscribers contained about 200 signatures. James Gough was landlord at the time of the Rose and Crown, and Thomas Potter was landlord of The Fox. Rev HPW Hughes appears to have been Henry Phillip William Hughes who by 1868 was vicar in Ashbourne, Derbyshire. He seems to have moved to Queensland, Australia where he died, according to his probate records, at a place of death being unknown, sometime around 1895.
- The Leicester Chronicle of 30 Dec 1876 tells of a presentation of a ladies' writing desk, made of walnut, with Tonbridge mosaic inlay to **Mrs Crampton**, late teacher and governess of Thringstone school for all the work she did to improve the progress of the children who had been under her care.
- We have been in contact with Cathy Payne, who now lives in Trinity, North Carolina, USA, who ran the Old School House as a restaurant called **School Cross**. Cathy, nee Waters, was married to Dave Frostick, a Loughborough builder, who did up the place for her to run as a restaurant, and they took possession in 1983, and sold the business to some Indian restaurant owners at Christmas 1985. Cathy and Dave were married in Loughborough in 1978, had two daughters, Rebecca and Gemma, and divorced a couple of years after selling the business. It is said that Dave made a video of the renovations to the building. Cathy has said that she used to get all her meat from Brier's butchers in Silver Street and is intending to try to get us some photos of the business taken inside. They lived in the small two bedroomed flat which was behind the kitchen at the side. The restaurant then became



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La Quila Indian Restaurant and then La Dolce Vita which was Italian. It was briefly another English restaurant before closing down and becoming the care home._

Councillors' report

- At the start of August, a 12 week contract started to remove all the green plastic panels to the communal landing areas of the flats on the **Woodside estate** and replace with white plastic panels, and also remove the Perspex glass and replace this with toughened glass and put in new downstairs access doors.
- **The walkway** from opposite the old Fox area to the old Henson's Lane recreation park was very overgrown, and was reported. This was cleared the last week of August.
- The **street lighting column** by 166 Loughborough Road (between the two sets of traffic calming) has been removed temporarily in order for Severn Trent water to carry out some work. Once confirmation is given to the county council that their work is complete, they will arrange to re-install the street light.
- NWLDC started installing new payment points at **council car parks** in Ashby and Coalville from Tuesday 8 August. Motorists will be able to pay for parking by credit or debit card – including contactless payments. The car parking charge will remain frozen until 2020. Car parking machines in Coalville will also now offer drivers the chance to buy monthly or weekly parking tickets. Quarterly, six-monthly and annual season tickets remain available through the council's website. The changes form part of the council's car parking strategy which also saw parking in Coalville become 'Free After Three' in January of this year. For more information about car parking in North West Leicestershire, visit www.nwleics.gov.uk/parking

Gardening and environment

Bernard continues to weed, prune and maintain our existing planting. Anita Jones is continuing to weed down the church jitty, for which she is thanked.

Next meeting is on 5 October at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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