



The Friends of  
Thringstone



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

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**Twitter address: [@Thringstone2](https://twitter.com/Thringstone2)**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 MAY 2119 AT CHARLES BOOTH CENTRE**

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Geoff Wilson, Tina Bakewell, Ann Petty, Pat Darby, Josie Brownlow, Maureen Simm, Shirley Gordon, Pat Hubbard, Pam Porter

**Apologies:** Tony Newton, Ron Hill, Ray Woodward, Janet and David Stevenson, Dave and Julie Everitt, Ruth Dumbleton, Gillian Bates, Mike and Anne Statham, Bill Enser, Nigel and Mary Roberts, Jane Wilson, Tracy Foulds, John Jackson, Bernard Lee

### **Discussions/Decisions.**

**Membership is now due. It remains at £3.50. It hasn't changed since 2010. Please can you let us have your membership if you wish to continue to support us.**

**Monthly litter pick total - 107 bags** against **124 bags** for the same month last year. Information on all the litter collected during **Keep Britain Tidy's Spring Clean Campaign** which ran from 22 March to 23 April was given to them by us for their national statistics. This had to be broken down into general waste, plastics and cans and minutes taken litter picking! This campaign has seen 563,163 volunteers getting involved with litter picks and beach cleans all over the country. With 17,970 clean-ups held and over 957,377 bags collected, and 1.1 million hours of volunteering, it is safe to say that this year has been the biggest yet! The new Keep Britain Tidy campaign concentrates on people who toss rubbish out of their vehicles. It is fair to say that, with the nice weather over Easter, the amount of litter in Gracedieu Woods and around the priory area escalated dramatically. It was nice to meet some people walking their dogs at the time who also picked up litter they encountered. If only it wasn't dropped in the first place. We are having a clear up in the woods tomorrow (3 May) with students from **Grace Dieu Manor School**.

There continues to be issues with regard to anti-social behaviour, litter and dog fouling on **Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club**. The club are about to take action to protect the roof to their clubhouse and also the cricket square. NWLDC's litter and environment officers are aware of the issue and are increasing their surveillance of the sports pitch but feel that the public have no right of access although they always have. Nita has offered to help deliver letters for the club promoting what it offers and asking for help to reduce current issues.

**The Public Spaces Protection Order notice** which is sited near to the containers on the Melrose Road sports area seems to be having no effect. It talks about dog fouling, keeping your dog on a lead, not allowing them on the sports pitch etc. Within a yard of the sign on 25 April were 3 large deposits of unbagged dog fouling.



## The Friends of Thringstone

**Recycling textiles** - Every year in the UK 300,000 tonnes of textiles are thrown away. Did you know you can recycle them at the kerbside and not just take them to the local Air Ambulance or other such collection point? Just leave them in a carrier bag next to your red boxes and blue bag! From a conversation picked up from facebook, it would appear that the district council is thinking of trialling a **new scheme of stackable wheeled recycling containers** with a few hundred volunteer households this year, intending to make recycling easier and prevent litter blowing around on windy days. It is not clear which area will trial this scheme, but if it works, it could be rolled out across the district.

**The Campaign to Protect Rural England** is trying to get enough support for a can, bottle and carton returns scheme to keep the countryside free of litter. You can find them on line and fill in your name if you wish at <https://www.cpre.org.uk> but act quickly as this consultation countdown ends on 13 May

**Picnic in the Parks** takes place on Sunday 23 June at Coalville Park. Unlike the last 2 years, there isn't to be a free miners gala at the same time. Do we want to have a stall to sell our publications and have a presence? The cost would be £22 for a 3 x 3 pitch. It will mean someone coming around 8.30am to help put up the tent, and we will need table and chairs etc. from the centre if possible. We would also need people other than Nita and Ann to man the stall for the day. *Nobody came forward to help with taking the chairs and table down, so Nita will have to try to find someone. Nita will also have to find someone to help take and put up the gazebo and help clear up at the end of the event but she will fill in the form and get a cheque issued for the cost of the stall. There were a couple of people who said they might be able to help with the manning of the stall. Nita had asked if anybody from the centre was available to come down to 'sell' the centre, but nobody could be found, so Nita said she would try to take some leaflets so at least the centre could be promoted.*

Nita contacted **Red Bull** asking them to consider sponsoring us for a year, but as they sponsor Keep Britain Tidy (which we knew), they said no. However, they sent us 196 cans of Red Bull to give out at events. We can now say we are sponsored by Red Bull. Some of these cans will be given to the centre for the music festival as part of the Red Bull sponsorship.

**Melrose Road Play area** - It was agreed by the Coalville Special Expenses working party to provide a hard permissive footpath to run alongside the exercise equipment to the area where children climb down to the woods, where it is agreed to also put steps for safety reasons. This is something that was discussed at a meeting with Nita and Dave Everitt some time ago. However agreement for signage has still to be provided.

**Grace Dieuettes/Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club** - A local amateur ladies softball cricket team has been formed for fitness and fun at Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club behind the Bull's Head in Thringstone. This runs from April until September. No experience is necessary - just come along, get a bit fitter, learn a few new things and enjoy being part of a team. They meet on Mondays. The next session is Bank Holiday Monday 6 May between 4pm and 6pm. For further details, call 07895 757739. If any children are interested in taking up cricket, there is an under 11s group that meet at the club. Contact 07770 691934 or email [gracedieupark@gmail.com](mailto:gracedieupark@gmail.com) for further details. You can also follow the club on twitter and facebook.

**Dognapping** – There are posts doing the rounds on social media about a dog being stolen in Markfield area for dog baiting, and then dumped in Measham and 2 found loose in Thringstone and 3 found by College Garth in Hathern. Please be careful about leaving your dogs unattended when outside. Our facebook post on this issue has currently been seen by over 91,000 people and shared 1,600 times.

**The Thringstone Panto And Drama Society's** production of Stepping Out due to take place this month has had to be cancelled due to various problems. There are rumours going about the village that the Panto Society is to fold, but we are advised that this is not the case, and they are preparing for their September show and next year's Panto.

**Future publications** – Nita and Ann have been discussing the probability of putting together a book on the hamlet of Gracedieu, as all that is available at the moment are books on the Booth



family and the priory, and nothing about the hamlet and its people. As a result the whole of the history section this time is devoted to Gracedieu.

**Charles Booth Centre** – Open mic night restarts at the centre on 10 May and will run every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month. All are welcome. Come along to hear the music, have a drink and have a good time. Starts at 8pm

### 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 **582 twitter followers**, which is 11 more than last month, and **903 facebook followers**, which is 53 more than last month. We are continuing to post details of local events, general and public notices and also historical photos on both sites. A lot of the extra facebook followers have come about because of the dognapping post, and they may well decide not to follow us in due course.

**Other:** Nita wrote a letter to the **Coalville Times** about the adverse impact of litter to wildlife, which was printed in their edition of 12 April.

Nita was presented with her **British Empire Medal** at a ceremony on 18 April. A party was then held at the centre on 26 April at which Nita was given 3 lots of flowers and a lovely crystal bowl, and a further photo shoot took place at NWLDC on 29 April where Nita was given a litter collection cart and presented with a bouquet by Bev Smith, CEO of NWLDC.

Nita has been asked to do a **presentation** on the miners who came to Thringstone from Scotland and Durham at Nottingham Trent University in June. We are currently trying to see if we can do this.

Summer edition of the **Bauble** has been written, printed and is in the process of being given to our volunteers to deliver.

### Finance Report

The audit of the accounts has taken place and we have had 'a clean bill of health'. These show a profit of £138.17 against £198.34 last year.

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>£2,360.49</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Memberships	10.50	Broadband	15.00
Raffle	£10	Postage	1.50
<b>total income to general fund</b>	<b>£20.50</b>		16.50
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>£2,364.49</b>

### Publications Report

Nita gave a copy each of Scottish in Thringstone and Durham Miners to a lady from the Coal Mining in Leicestershire group, as they are putting together an exhibition to tour round and it is good publicity for our group.

### Web Report



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

### **Police Report**

There was a fire in a flat on Kelso Court prior to Easter. The tenant there died of injuries sustained.

The police say that there have been no other recorded incidents happening in the village. Nita then received a report via Neighbourhood Watch which said:

Burglary Other - Melrose Road, Thringstone - between midnight on 18/04/19 and 5pm on 24/04/19. White goods have been stolen from the shed.

### **Community Report and What's On**

A recent cake and bake at 22 Springfield raised £277 for **MS Research**. Thank you to everybody who came along.

A Red Nose day at **Thringstone Primary** raised £133.88. Miranda Laidlaw, Edith Watson and Kaitlin Coulson from the school took part in the NW Leicestershire Championship Cross Country finals at Prestwold Hall. Kaitlin and her team won the bronze medal. Well done to them. Some members of the school choir entertained TADDAC at the centre recently, and were very well received. A thank you card was sent to them.

£473.90 was raised by **Old School House** at their Easter Egg event at the home. Margaret Truman won the 'name the bunny' with Thumper, and Raffle -.1st prize 56-60 Pauline Boam, 2nd prize 146-150 Aid, 3rd prize 166-170 Sarah B. The staff would like to thank everybody who came for their continued support. The day also saw the renaming of their 3 units. For 25 years the units have been know as Upstairs Unit, Downstairs Unit, and New Unit . As a fitting tribute to 3 residents who passed away during their 25 years open, the units are now officially known as Jackie's Unit, Brian's Unit and Susan's Unit . Sarah Ball has been promoted to deputy manager at Old School House and Hayes Close from 19 April. Well done to her.

Broomleys FC will be using **Thringstone Miners FC** ground as their home ground for next season. Trustees of the **Miners Social Centre** took on the responsibility for the operational management from 1 May.

If you are interested in being part of **Thringstone's Got Talent** on 14 September, please contact [talent.thringstone@gmail.com](mailto:talent.thringstone@gmail.com) for further information about taking part.

More

4 May – **Plant sale at Coleorton Wood (Pitt Lane)**. 10am – 1pm. Lots of plants plus planters and ornaments available to purchase. Tea and coffee available.

4 May – Lee Joshua Rose at **Kings Arm's, Whitwick**. 8pm start.

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

10 May –**Charles Booth Centre** – the new plug and play. Starts at 8pm. All welcome.

11 May – **Swannington Open Gardens, Pop Up Plant and Garden Tools Sale** – 10am-1pm at Swannington Village Hall. Free admission.

12 May – **Charity Day in Whitwick** – Hermitage Recreation Ground, 11am-3.30pm. Raising money for Loros and Rainbows with free train rides on the newly reconstructed train tracks.

12 May - **King's Arms, Whitwick** – Open mic night with Carter and Hartmann. Starts at 8pm.

14 May – **Film night at the centre**. Film is Bohemian Rhapsody. Raffle

18 May – **Plant Sale at New Lount Nature Reserve**, Newbold Coleorton. 10am – 1pm. Lots of plants plus planters and ornaments available to purchase. Tea and coffee available.

18 May – **King's Arms, Whitwick** –All that Sas in concert from 8pm with decades showcase.

19 May – **Spring into Summer** table top, cream teas and plant sale at centre from 10am-2pm.

Free admission. All welcome. There are still some stalls available for the Spring into Summer sale on Sunday 19th May at Charles Booth Centre. Handmade, artisan, beauty, clothing, crafts - all sellers are welcome! If you're interested in being a stallholder for just £5, please contact Jan on 07429528961.



- 19 May – National Forest Walking Festival – **History of Gracedieu**. Meet at Bull's Head at 3pm. 2 mile walk to learn about the priory and the history of the area. £3 per adult
- 19 May – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – Sheena McHugh (of The Voice) and Keith Buck in concert from 8pm.
- 22 May – **Walk Around Whitwick** – part of the National Walking Festival – meet at Old Station, North Street at 1.30pm and learn about the historical sites in Whitwick and their fascinating stories. Donations welcome. Light refreshments available at the end of the walk.
- 23 May - National Forest Walking Festival – **History of Gracedieu**. Meet at Bull's Head at 6pm. 2 mile walk to learn about the priory and the history of the area. £3 per adult
- 25 May – **Thringstone Bank Holiday Soul Night** at Thringstone Members Club with Jayne Lesley. Starts at 8pm. Tickets £5 from 813531. This is a ticket only event.
- 25-26 May – **Hermitage Leisure Centre** – American Style BBQ Competition - 10.30am-10.30pm. £3.50 entry on the gate. Live music, fairground and bars. Part of the fundraising for Woodstock in Whitwick.
- 29 May - - National Forest Walking Festival – **History of Gracedieu**. Meet at Bull's Head at 10am. 2 mile walk to learn about the priory and the history of the area. £3 per adult
- 29 May – **Ancient Rock and Mount St Bernard Abbey**. Part of the National Forest Walking Festival. Meet at Mt. St. Bernard's Abbey at 1.30pm and walk the 2 miles round the area learning about the volcanic quarry area.
- 31 May – Conny Club, Whitwick – Charity night in aid of **Prostate Cancer charity**. Live music, auction and raffle. Doors open at 7pm.
- 1 June – **Harvey's Army dog show** at George and Dragon. Opens at 12 noon. Judging starts at 12.30pm. BBQ, outdoor bar and bouncy castle.
- 1 June – **King's Arms, Whitwick** - Lady Rose in concert at 8.30pm. This will be an evening of soul, pop, reggae and blues.
- 7 June – **Charles Booth centre** - volunteer week open morning from 9 am until 12 noon to tie in with the coffee bar being open. This gives you the chance to come in and have a drink and something to eat and talk about what you would like to see from the centre, and also, for those interested in volunteering, what you might be able to offer.
- 8 June – **Steve Rhino**, psychic, at the centre from 7.30pm. Private readings afterwards can be arranged. £5 per ticket through [www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre).
- 8 June – All That Sass at **King's Arms, Whitwick** – 80s music. Starts at 8pm.
- 11 June – **Film night at the centre**. Film is Favourite. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle
- 14 June – **Alzheimers' cupcake fundraiser** at Charles Booth coffee bar from 9am-12 noon. Please come and help support a worthwhile charity.
- 14 June - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club**. 8pm til late. £3 entry.
- 15 June – **Thringstone Primary School's** summer fayre. Open from 2pm?
- 15 & 16 June – **Heather In The Park Music Festival**. Open from 11am until 10.30pm
- 22 June – **New Swannington Primary School's fete**, 1pm-4pm. Bouncy castles, games, competitions, refreshments. Entrance 50p per adult, children free.
- 28 and 29 June – **Coalville Amateur Operative Centenary Concert** – Songs from the musicals. Whitwick Methodist Church, 10 Hall Lane, Whitwick (NOTE- Not Hall Lane Methodist Church!). Starts at 7.30pm, Adults £8, child £5, tickets available from [www.caos.org.uk](http://www.caos.org.uk) or 01530 834534 from May 1st 2019
- 6 July - **King's Arms, Whitwick** – Movie Music Party Night from 8pm with live vocal performances from David Mazzei and the Sassettes from All that Sass. Themed dress up encouraged! Dancing shoes essential.
- 9 July - **Film night at the centre**. Film is Sky Scraper. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle
- 12 July – **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club**. 8pm til late. £3 entry.
- 13 July – **Alfi Day** – brain tumour research centre charity fund raiser at Coalville Town FC. Gates open 1pm. Ends at 9pm. This will be the last of the Alfi Days, having been going for 7 years and raised in excess of £70k, so the team are going out on a high.



- 24 July – **Charles Booth Centre** – Family fun day and BBC day. More details nearer the time.
- 3 August – **Thringstone Live Music Festival**. Gates open at 12 noon. First band on at 1pm.
- 9 Aug - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club**. 8pm til late. £3 entry.
- 13 Aug- **Film night at the centre**. Film is Mary Poppins. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle
- 17 and 18 Aug – **Woodstock in Whitwick** at Hermitage Leisure Centre, Whitwick.
- 17 Aug – lbstock showground on Pretoria Rd - **Poppy Fields Music Festival** – raising money for ex-forces. 2pm-9.30pm. Headliners are T-Rextasy. Adults £15, under 16s £5. Free parking.
- 17-26 Aug – Provisional dates for Art Exhibition at the centre. More details nearer the time
- 7 Sept – **Hello Heritage** at the centre from 12 noon. This event will be concentrating on detailing all the play and panto societies that have been based at the centre.
- 10 Sept – **Film night at the centre**. Film is Aqua Man. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle
- 13 Sept - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club**. 8pm til late. £3 entry.
- 14 Sept – **Thringstone's Got Talent** at the centre
- 15 Sept – Coleorton History Group Walk – 2pm from the car park Coleorton Wood, Pitt Lane. Learn about the buildings and people who lived there. Dogs welcome. No cost but booking essential with Sandra on 440000 or email [heritagegroup@coleorton.org.uk](mailto:heritagegroup@coleorton.org.uk)
- 19 Sept - Coleorton History Group Walk – 10.30am from the car park Coleorton Wood, Pitt Lane. Learn about the buildings and people who lived there. Dogs welcome. No cost but booking essential with Sandra on 440000 or email [heritagegroup@coleorton.org.uk](mailto:heritagegroup@coleorton.org.uk)
- 8 Oct – **Film night at the centre**. Film is Holmes and Watson. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle
- 11 Oct - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club**. 8pm til late. £3 entry.
- 12 Oct – **Abba tribute** at the centre. More details later.
- 27 Oct – **Halloween Fun Run** at the centre. Start time of 10am. Please come dressed in spooky costume. £5 per runner.
- 31 Oct – **Halloween family party and quiz** at the centre. More details nearer the time.
- 12 Nov – **Film night at the centre**. Film is Colette. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle
- 18 Nov - **Soul Night at Thringstone Members Club**. 8pm til late. £3 entry.
- 10 Dec – **Film night at the centre**. Film is First Man. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle
- 13 Dec – Potential **Santa event** at the centre
- 20 Dec – **Carols at the centre**.

### History report

- Nita has been given over 30 programmes from past productions of **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society** going back to 1986 and is busy scanning these for our archives, as they are only on loan. This is proving interesting, as not only do they list committee, cast and crew, they also contain many interesting adverts, such as Gracedieu Florists, Queen's Head, The Fox, Lucas Mart, Thringstone Newsagents, Rose and Crown, Ruby's, Charnwood Video, Aubrey Waldram solid fuel merchant, Thringstone Butchers, Hare and Hounds and others. Cars advertised by John Poynton Cars in Whitwick are also interesting as the prices are really low by today's standards.
- Nita discovered that the Jesson family who farmed for decades in the 1800's at **Manor Farm, Gracedieu** are buried at Belton Parish Church. Photos have been taken of the graves of Thomas and Elizabeth, their nephew William who took over the farm in 1869, and their other nephew John who died in 1859 and helped at the farm from at least 1841. Some of this information was known, and the **Jesson family** are mentioned in Thringstone and Its People in the farming section. What we were not aware of is that, following William's death in January 1887, there was an auction on 12 October 1887 of stock, which tells us that there were 44 head of cattle, 240 sheep, horses and implements being sold. We were also not aware that, in addition to John and William, a niece called Jane was also brought up by Thomas and Elizabeth Jesson. Jane went on to marry William Bramley a Shepshed farmer. John Jesson had married Mary Knight, daughter of the farmer from Stordon Grange, 4 years before his death aged 33 following a short but severe illness, and had one son called Thomas born at Gracedieu Manor farm. Thomas was 2 when his father died, and 14 when his mother died. Thomas Jesson married Charlotte Peach from Shepshed and went on to



become a solicitor in Ashby and for a while lived at Bardon Lodge, Beverage Lane before moving to Kilwardby Street, Ashby. He had 7 children and died at Hill House, Ashby on 2 January 1909 aged 52, leaving in excess of £38,000 (now equivalent to £3.8 million). Both his 2 sons became solicitors and of those, one also became an MP. In 1891, according to census information, the farm was being run by **Joseph Brown** aged 40 from Loughborough. He was there along with his wife Eliza and 4 children, his sister and 4 servants. They don't appear to have been there long as the youngest child aged 3 was born in Derby. An advert in the Derbyshire Advertiser of 8 February 1896 says that Manor Farm, Gracedieu was to let from 6 April 1896 with John German and Son of Ashby. Comprising a good house with commodious buildings, the farm was 1.5 miles from Whitwick on the L and NW Railway, 3 miles from Coalville on the MR and L and NW Railways, 5 miles from Ashby and 7 from Loughborough both also on the MR and L and NW Railways. In 1939 **William Cecil Jones** was there. Born in June 1892, he was a dairy farmer and widower and was there with his son William and daughter Evelyn. He was there until 1946. By 1949, the farm was run by Mr J H Woodford.

- An advert in Leicestershire papers says that on 8 March 1854, **Warren Farm, Gracedieu** (also known as Warren Lodge Farm) was to be sold. The sale comprised of 31 cows and calves, 13 sheep, 6 horses, 3 pigs, a part stack of oats, same of barley, 1 waggon, 2 carts, 2 ploughs, various implements and horse tackle, plus 24 cheese, dairy and brewing utensils. The farmer, **Thomas Tyler**, was quitting the farm. We believe he may have taken over in the short term from **William Moseley**, as the 1851 census talks of a farm on Warren Hill, without saying Warren Farm. The farm is then mentioned in March 1869 when Mrs Susannah James was said to be leaving the farm. Research has shown the 117 acre farm was run from at least 1861 by **Joseph James** born in 1811 in Staunton Harold with his wife Susannah and their 4 children. Up for sale were the whole of the farming stock, both live and dead, plus household furniture, 10 cows and 3 cart horses and a foal. In addition, 2 waggons, 2 carts, one trap, and various horse tackle and farm implements were to be sold. The census for 1871 tells us that the farm was occupied by **William Upton** born in Baxterley, Warwickshire. He was there with his wife Julianna and their 3 children. The family subsequently moved to Missouri, USA and the farm was taken over by John Carter. The Nottinghamshire papers of 15 February 1884 tell that the farm was to be let from Ladyday next (March). The farm was 'currently in the occupation of **Mr John Carter**' and was a mile from Thringstone village and comprised of 110 acres, 3 roods and 31 perches. The house was described as overlooking Gracedieu Manor Park. John Carter seems to have been an uncle to Cuddy Carter of Carter's Farm, Whitwick Moor, as he was born in 1832 in Whitwick, one of 7 children of farmer John Carter Snr. and his wife Elizabeth, who were also the parents of Thomas Carter, Cuddy Carter's dad. He had been at the farm from at least 1874 and in 1878 he was in the papers with a strange tale of a lamb being delivered of a dog. John Carter died 14 November 1884. Married to Sarah, the couple seem to have had one daughter, Gertrude, born in 1873. His probate shows a figure of £66 15s 3d. In 1891, the census suggests that John Joseph Clarke Houlth was the farmer there, before going for a few years to nearby One Barrow Farm. He was definitely back there from around 1899, with his wife Margaret nee Henson. When he died in 1939, Margaret moved to Top Road, Griffydam and the farm was run by their youngest son Joseph Stinson Houlth, born in 1903, with his wife Mary nee Joyce and children Margaret, Janet and, John. Other children, Joyce, Carol and Peter came later. In April 1950, Peter was knocked off his bike whilst cycling near home and ended up in hospital with head and shoulder injuries. A car swerved to avoid him coming out of Warren Lane, and hit another car. Both drivers were uninjured. Joe Houlth is remembered for coming round with his horse and cart selling milk from a pail to local people, and ending up at the Rose and Crown. He died in 1965 and Mary in 2001. We are currently unable to trace Mary's parents, although there Walter and Mary Joyce were at the Hare and Hounds from 1927-35. They may be her parents.
- A severe fire in Gracedieu Woods on 1 March 1949 saw masters and pupils of the **Gracedieu Manor Preparatory School** come out to help fire fight along with a large number of firemen from Coalville. An article in the Nottingham Evening Post of 2 March 1949 said that the fire had



surrounded the school. The fire burned in the dense undergrowth and a number of tall trees were burnt through and fell. The fire, at its height, was around 20 feet, and was aided by a strong wind. Hundreds of small trees and shrubs were destroyed and a spinney, several hundred square yards in area, was totally destroyed.

- In July 1913, the 25<sup>th</sup> annual flower show and 12<sup>th</sup> annual industrial exhibition took place at Ashby Bath Grounds. **Charles Booth's head gardener**, William Thomas Avenell, whose address in 1911 was Park Side Cottage, Whitwick took an awful lot of prizes - 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for his cactus dahlias, and 1<sup>st</sup> prize for his annuals, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for his cut flowers and foliage, plus 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for his gooseberries, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for raspberries, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for redcurrants, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for kidney white potatoes, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for tomatoes, 1<sup>st</sup> prize for peas, 1<sup>st</sup> prize for broad beans, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for longpod beans, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for turnips, 1<sup>st</sup> prize for celery and 1<sup>st</sup> prize for cabbage lettuce. Born near Wooton under Edge in Gloucestershire on 26 Sept 1875, he and his wife Annie must have moved to this area around 1909 as his daughter was born here. Previously he was in Norfolk. He subsequently moved to Derbyshire where he died in 1952. In 1901, the head gardener at Gracedieu Manor was **James Bale**. In the census of 1891 he had an address of just Gracedieu, but by 1901 his address was also Park Side Cottage. He had previously worked and lived in Knighton in Leicester and in Warwickshire. James Bale was still working for the Booth family in 1907, as he was horticultural judge in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Belton Annual Exhibition. Mr Bale had retired by 1911 and was living in Wanlip Road, Barkby near Syston and appears to have died around 1921.
- We have previously discussed George Pratt who was **gamekeeper at Gracedieu Manor** in the early 1870s until his death in 1900 when he was followed by a man who we believe was his son, Trevor Pratt, and David Cox who was gamekeeper in 1877, and now find from Loughborough Monitor of 16 August 1865 that the gamekeeper for the de Lisle family at the manor at that time was Jesse Atkins. We know this as a result of a recorded case against Thomas Hurst who was found fishing illegally at Gracedieu. He had caught several fish worth about 6 shillings and was fined the sum of £1 6 shillings as a consequence or offered 7 days imprisonment. Further research shows that Jesse was gamekeeper from at least 1863. Jesse appears to have been born in 1830 in Shepshed, and lived for a while at Bailey's Lodge, Gracedieu before moving back to Shepshed. Trevor Pratt seems to have been from The Breach, was born in 1864, had 7 children and lived at Hookhill Cottage, Tickow Lane in Shepshed. He died in 1919. George Pratt for some time lived at Warren Cottage, which according to census information was sometimes known as Warren Lodge, Gracedieu and was adjacent to Warren House.
- In October 1859, Ambrose Lisle Phillipps of **Gracedieu Manor** was in court regarding damage to the value of £1 (equivalent to £95 today) done by his donkey to the shrubbery of Miss Margaret Caroline Elizabeth Chandos Van Notten Pole of Warren Cottage, Gracedieu. The donkey had subsequently been impounded. Miss Pole was living at the property with Miss Elizabeth Ford at the time. Miss Pole would appear to have been born in 1835 in Marylebone, London to Sir Peter Van Notten Pole, 3<sup>rd</sup> baronet Pole. Due to the position and standing locally of the parties concerned, the court was packed for the case. It was suggested that the donkey had jumped over a 2 foot 9 inch high fence on 2 August although the Phillipps family suggested there was no evidence for this, and had even been round to Miss Pole's address to look for hoof marks, but the fence had subsequently been raised anyway. There were two fields occupied by Mr Thomas Jesson of Gracedieu Farmhouse in front of Warren House and it was the next field from which the donkey had escaped. A page in the employment of Mr Phillipps had seen it happen and ordered the gardener to the ladies, George Holbrook, to take the animal to the pinfold. This had happened at least twice. There were various people called to give evidence, including Charles Holbrook, son of George, plus William Lowe and John Revell, employees of the Phillipps family and Thomas Lawson who also worked for the ladies. They had not seen the incident but had heard of it, and there was an assertion that the fence in question was damaged, which allowed the animal to escape, despite the fact that various horses were also kept in the same field. Mr Phillipps lost the case and had to pay for the damage plus costs. Miss Pole married solicitor Thomas Baker at St Thomas's Catholic Church, Kensington on 24 April 1864. He subsequently filed for divorce in July





1877 citing 'restriction of conjugal rights' after Margaret had left him. He wrote to her several times asking her to return and she said she would but only under certain conditions to which he would not agree. The divorce petition was not followed through but the couple lived apart. Whilst Thomas remained living in London with his parents, probably because of his career, until he retired and moved to Herne Bay in Kent, Margaret and their son and 2 daughters moved to Hastings. They then also went on to live in Herne Bay where she ran a lodging house. She died on 23 March 1914 in Brentford, Essex. Her husband had died 4 years earlier. We are unsure who George and Charles Holbrooke were, but in 1851, there was a George Holbrook with son Charles living in Silver Street, Whitwick but we think this is the wrong person. In 1859 at the court hearing, George said he and his family lived at Gracedieu. John Revell was a groom and coachman born around 1829 in Atherstone, Warwickshire, who went on to work at Gracedieu Warren House in 1881 helping in the stables.

- A story from 1836 in Leicester Journal of 19 Feb 1836 tells the story of the parish priest of Gracedieu and Whitwick, a man by the name of Father William Odilo Woolfrey, seemingly curing a lady called Ann Fullard of epilepsy on 6 December 1835. This was during a period of time when the Phillipps' family were in residence at the Manor. Father Woolfrey made the mistake of publishing details of his 'miracle', for which he was castigated far and wide including from within his church, and including in his articles the names of people who had witnessed the event. According to the publication called John Bull of 27 March 1836, these were mostly **staff at the manor**, but included Ambrose and Laura Phillipps and Henrietta Clifford and 7 others including 'protestants' from the local area. Staff names were Elizabeth Higgs, housekeeper, Lydia Flanagan, lady's maid, Elizabeth Hunt, housemaid, Mary Barnes, laundry maid, Catherine Key, known as Kitty, nursery maid, John Moore, groom and James Jinks, page. The 1841 census for the manor gives staff names of Elizabeth Hunt, Thomas Mullin, Sarah Skillington, Elizabeth Roome, Mary Harrison, John Ironmonger and Mary Rose the latter 4 having been born in Leicestershire. With regard to the 'miracle' there were subsequent articles published in Leicestershire papers calling this rubbish, amongst other more forthright words.

**Father Woolfrey's** association with Gracedieu and Whitwick parishes and Mt St Bernard's Abbey, which had started in 1835 when he became the first prior at Mt St Bernard, ended around 1839 when he went to France, and he was replaced at Mt St Bernard by Benedict Johnson. The monks who commenced the foundation at Mt St Bernard's were Reverend Father Odilo Woolfrey, presbyter, Father Bernard Palmer, presbyter, Brother Luke Levermore, Brother Xavier, Brother Augustine and lay brethren, and they lived in a leaking cottage for months whilst starting some building work and to turn the land to agriculture. The land in question was a 30 acre patch known as Tin Meadow, purchased from Thomas Gisborne MP. On later becoming an abbey years later, Father Bernard Palmer became the first abbot in 1841. It is worthwhile noting that Odilo's older brother, Rev Norbert Henry Woolfrey had been instrumental in working with the Phillipps family from 1833 on setting up a Cisterian monastery in this area. Odilo and Norbert eventually returned from France returned to England and went to Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania), setting sale in the summer of 1846. The original intention in going to Australia was for the Dorset born brothers to form a Cisterian community, but they ended up being mission priests. An article in the Sydney Chronicle of September 1847 tells of Odilo's recent illness and that he had moved some distance from Hobart Town in the company of Rev. Mr Cottham who 'has gone to reside with him in order to be nearer to his duties among the outstations'. He was still in Tasmania in December 1850, as he was robbed of £6 in money and his horse by The Baron de Berherp which was again recorded in the Sydney Chronicle. Between 1852 and 1853 he was based at MacDonald River in New South Wales, he moved in March 1853 to Gosport in the district of Brisbane Water near Sydney, and by 1855 he was at Kincumba in New South Wales at the Church of the Holy Cross of Stone. In the same year a 12 year old orphan in his charge, Edward Parker, absconded from his care and was seen on the road to Sydney according to the New South Wales Police Gazette. Rev Odilo Woolfrey died on 31 March 1856 aged 53 years in Lewisham, New South Wales, and was buried

at St Thomas Becket church. His brother Norbert died on 13 March 1872 at Waverley near Sydney at the age of 73 years. They were buried together.

- **Death of Alexander Charles Nicholas March Phillipps de Lisle** – Many papers reported the death of the youngest son of Mr and Mrs Edwin de Lisle, and grandson of Ambrose Phillipps de Lisle (mentioned above), born 6 December 1895, who was killed just short of his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on 20 November 1917. Born at Charnwood Lodge, near Oaks in Charnwood, he was a lieutenant in the 21<sup>st</sup> squadron Flying Corps having been previously in the 9<sup>th</sup> battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment. Records show that he had been previously wounded in 1915 and 1916 and in 1911 had attended Beaumont College in Old Windsor. His death came in the 3<sup>rd</sup> battle of Ypres or more properly the Battle of Cambrai. He was flying over the area of Ypres having left the aerodrome a Lovie, where he also resided. He, and his co-pilot Lt. S M Goodeve, were brought down by a British artillery shell. He was buried at Dozinghem Military Cemetery in Belgium. Membership books found at Longcliffe Golf Club, Nanpantan, in 2015 tell that he was one of 6 members of that golf club killed in WW1. The late Edwin de Lisle, his father, who was born at Gracedieu Manor, had been MP for Loughborough from 1886-92 and at one time private secretary to St Frederick Weld, Governor of the Straits Settlement. He had acted in the same capacity to the then Duke of Rutland, when as Lord John Manners he was Postmaster General in Lord Salisbury's government. Charnwood Lodge was demolished by the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust when it took over management of the area.

### **Council report**

A meeting of residents of the **Woodside estate**, and in particular those who rent garages there, is taking place on 22 May at 5pm at the Thringstone Members Club. Nita has been invited to come along to report back to anybody who is unable to get to the meeting themselves.

**The large pot holes** in the entrances to the car parks on the Woodside estate seem to have been filled in, but there are still a lot of smaller pot holes there. At least with the large ones now gone, people are less likely to complain about the suspension of their cars being damaged.

On 1 May the council handed over management of **Hermitage Leisure Centre** and Hood Park Leisure Centre to Everyone Active.

**Waymarkers** in Gracedieu Woods have been erected by the county council but these are on the soil tracks rather than on the Sustrans. Concern has already been raised as to the increasing footfall on these soil tracks leading to soil erosion and the death of trees whose roots are exposed, and we have raised the question of who put these waymarkers in with county.

### **Gardening and environment**

Bernard is still tidying and sorting the garden areas.

### **AOB**

Ann said that Booth Lodge at Gracedieu has been sold and a cottage within the manor grounds, complete with 7 acres, was up for sale. The meeting said even if we all clubbed together, we were unable to buy it!

There was some concern over the fact that there was nobody with keys to close up the centre after we left, but we were told by contacting the manager by phone how to deal with this situation.

**The next meeting is our AGM which takes place on 6 June at 6.45pm at Charles Booth Centre. If you haven't already paid your membership for this year, please come prepared!**