



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2019 AT CHARLES BOOTH CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Tracy Foulds, Tina Bakewell, Mike Statham, Bill Enser, Bernard Lee, Pam Porter, Josie Brownload, Janet Stevenson, Ann Petty

Apologies: Ron Hill, Chris Ward, Geoff and Jane Wilson, Ruth Dumbleton, Gillian Bates, Ray Woodward, Jackie Spalding, Maureen Simm, John Jackson, Shirley Gordon, Pat Hubbard, Pat Darby, Geoff Walker, Anne Statham

Discussions/Decisions.

Monthly litter pick total - 93 bags against **159 bags** for the same month last year.

The daughter of one of our facebook followers who lives in Bishopdale has been putting up don't litter posters around the **Melrose Rd estate**. We have told her that she is a star for doing this, as so often the posters get torn down and become the litter they are warning against. We also gave her a silver mounted piece of blue agate to go on any chain she may have as a thank you.

If you are interested in what happens to recycling, please go to the following pages on the internet:

Plastic: nwleics.gov.uk/pages/plastics Aluminium: nwleics.gov.uk/pages/aluminium Steel: nwleics.gov.uk/pages/steel Paper & cardboard: [nwleics.gov.uk/pages/paper ca....](http://nwleics.gov.uk/pages/paper_ca....) Glass: nwleics.gov.uk/pages/glass

Hello Heritage – 51 people came along to this event against 62 last year. We made £45 on the cake sales against £61 last year and sold £4 in publications, against £68.50 last year. The feedback forms that some people completed were interesting, as several felt that the most interesting and entertaining part of the event were the dancers from Hugglescote Dance and Drama. They were very pleased with the response they got. Thanks go to Jill Emmerson and her sister Susan and family for dealing with serving teas and coffees and cakes for us, and to Janet, Ann and Robert for the baking. A huge thanks must also go to Ann for doing the wonderful displays which take an age to put together.

Tent – After the last meeting, there was some discussion, and we agreed not to get another tent, as we already have a gazebo. Chris Ward has said that we can borrow his pop up tent for the 2 times a year we need one. Thank you to Chris.

Hermitage Leisure Centre – there is to be a meeting, open to the public, at Hermitage Leisure Centre on 4 November between 5pm and 9pm. This will be to discuss the future of the present Hermitage Leisure Centre site and recreation site. All welcome. Go along if you want to have your say.



Nita was asked to send details of **what FoT does** to the CEO of NWLDC which was done and acknowledged. Bev Smith, the CEO, has said she now understands more about our group and its volunteers. If anybody wants a copy, please contact Nita.

Bulbs – The bulbs ordered through NWLDC are being delivered on 17 October, and are to be split, as agreed, between FoT, the centre and the Miners Welfare. Nita will arrange for the bulbs for these other two organisations to get to them for them to arrange their own planting. Once we have our bulbs sorted out, we may need some help. We are mainly planting crocuses.

Centre News:

Work on **The Charles and Mary Booth play** mentioned before is now getting quite advanced, with a script prepared and various other things in place. Nita had a copy of a script entitled Useful Citizens, Charles Booth by Anna Baber, relating to Charles Booth's work on poverty. We believe this is from Thringstone School, as it is dated Spring Term 1944. Nita has copied this for the team undertaking the script preparation work, as it may help with extra information.

People still claim they are missing what's happening at the centre. In addition to the lists given in our minutes, **advertising** of things on at the centre, including regular monthly events, is put on our Friends of Thringstone facebook and twitter pages. Posters for one off events are put up round the village, and around Whitwick, Swannington and Coleorton and there are often banners outside the centre. We also put details of events in our quarterly Bauble. This includes quiz nights, coffee mornings, film club, bingo, plug and play and Juke Joint which is on the first Sunday in the month starting this week. We were asked this month by a newcomer to the village to consider putting on things like the dates of the RBL meetings, wine circle, bridge club etc. This will be considered, depending on room. There was general discussion at this point about the advertising outside the centre on the A boards, and why this was not promoting Abba which is the next event. Nita agreed to talk to the centre about this in the morning.

The centre has a new fitness programme starting with trainer Gareth. It is called **Gareth's Outdoor Athletic Training** and comprises a lot of things including mountain biking. Running on Monday and Wednesday at 9pm and Tuesday and Thursday at 6am, please contact Gareth on 07494 161368 for further details. One session is £4, 2 will be £7, 3 will be £9 and 4 will be £10. There are a lot of **events** happening at the centre in the next couple of months, including some very good shows – Abba, Mozart, Rat Pack, Christmas Crooners etc. Please see the what's on below for all the details. Do not miss out on these great events. The Mozart event later this month is a charity fundraiser with all monies going to the centre as is the Christmas Crooners in November where there is the opportunity to get two tickets for £15 .

Village quiz is taking place on Saturday 9 November. Nita has already asked members on email if they wish to be part of the quiz team. It is £5 per person and we need a team of 6 players and so far had 4. Ann Petty said she would take part and so did David Stevenson (Janet said he did anyway). Nita will contact the people concerned about their £5 fee.

Mike said that with the money raised from the beer festival and music festival, the centre is now breaking even. The new preschool are raring to go but there are some alterations and improvements needed as a result of the Ofsted visit which need to be done first. Nita wondered whether proposed alterations to knock the end room and middle room together with a dividing door should be done whilst there is no pre-school. Mike said that there are estimates being prepared, but it won't be an easy job to get done, but took the point about doing it when there would be the least disruption.

Mike also said that the Panto Society now have a new stage manager and new youngsters taking part. Peter Pan will be the panto in 2020. Pam was surprised at this as she thought they had moved to Century Theatre, but it was explained that was for another performance as a one off. Mike said that the tiered seating is going, which will help the centre going forward with other bookings.

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 **597 twitter followers**, which 4 more than last month, and **1016 facebook followers**, which is 13 more than last month.

Other: Welcome to new member Susan Brennan.

We were asked to help one of our members regarding a car left on the roadway in Main Street which was not MOTd and should have been kept off the road. 2 days later it was removed.

Congratulations to our member **Llynda Baugh** from Main Street who won a Heart of the Community award as part of the Regional Heritage Awards recently for organising the March of the 50 (WW1 event) through Coalville and Hugglescote. Llynda also raised £150 for MacMillan at a coffee morning in September and gave a cake to Old School House for their residents to enjoy.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,498.53		
Income		Expenditure	
Memberships	£7	Broadband	15.00
Raffle	£7	Teamprint Bauble printing - 1800	42.90
Cake sales	£45	Stamps	7.32
Publications	£6.50		
total income to general fund	65.50		65.22
		Total general fund at month end	2498.81

Publications Report

At the Hello Heritage event, Nita sold a graveyard booklet and a Scottish in Thringstone. Nita subsequently sold a Durham Miners booklet.

Web Report

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

Police Report

A car travelling too fast along **Warren Lane** during the 3rd week of September ended up going into some bushes near Dead Man's Hollow. Passers by had to help get the car onto the road again. There continues to be flytipping of building materials along the road which also get thrown into ditches.

One of our members has received a **scam phone call** from someone claiming to be from Amazon Prime. Even if you haven't had an Amazon Prime account, you can still get these calls. Please be careful. There are also scam calls going out to people suggesting the caller can get refunds on Thomas Cook holidays. These are going out to people who haven't even booked a holiday. Janet and Bill said there are also scams doing the rounds from people saying that £600 has been taken out of your bank account without authorisation and asking for banking details. Please be careful and be on your guard about scam calls.

A flat on Melrose Road had its window broken during the 1st week of September.



Between 23 and 25 Sept – Main Street. Theft of front and rear number plates from car parked on the street outside a house.

Community Report and What's On

We understand that **Rev Liz Angell** from St Andrew's, St George's and St John's has announced that she will retire on 6 January 2020.

Hermitage FM has secured another 5 years' operating licence for the 3 radio station they run. They are presently working on getting a new transmitter installed on Bardon Hill which will increase the range of transmission.

Hare and Hounds are doing coffee and cake mornings every Monday and Friday from 11.45am until 3pm. These will be in aid of Forest Way School and Meadow Barn View for children and adults with a wide range of difficulties.

A recent cup cake competition at **Thringstone Primary** in aid of Macmillan raised £127.80 The **coffee morning** at the centre on 13 September raised £100 for Charnwood Diabetic Camp. Thank you to people who came along, had some cake and drinks and took part in the raffle.

4 Oct – **Conny Club, Whitwick** – Stacy Green as both Cher and Pink. Starts 7pm. £6 or members £4.

5 Oct – **Conny Club, Whitwick** - Claire Mac from 7.30pm. £1 entry. Members free.

8 Oct – **Film night at the centre.** Film is Stan and Ollie. Starts at 7.30pm. Raffle

11 Oct - **Coffee, Tea and Cake** - Charity fundraiser at centre 9.30am-12 noon for Breast Cancer Support. All welcome.

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

11 Oct - **Open mic at Charles Booth Centre** from 7.30pm. All welcome

12 Oct – **Abba tribute** at the centre. Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre or from the office, weekdays only 9-12 noon. The show will start at 7.30pm. BOOK EARLY FOR THIS ONE.

13 Oct – Antique and collectors fair at **Hermitage Leisure Centre** 9am – 3.30pm. Entrance £2

20 Oct – Charles Booth Centre – **Mozart evening.** This is a charity fund raiser. Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre. Starts at 7.30pm. The professional singers are Denver Martin-Smith (South Africa), Saira Luther (Australia) and Alinka Kozari (Hungary) and they will be aided by the European Baroque Ensemble.

31 Oct – **Halloween family quiz** at the centre. Children out trick or treating are welcome to come to the centre between 6pm and 7pm to pick up some sweets. The theme of the quiz will be Halloween related.

1 Nov – **Charles Booth Centre** – Pocket Playhouse Company present A Tribute To The Rat Pack. Tickets £10 from www.thepocketplayhouse.co.uk/boxoffice Show starts at 7.30pm

1 Nov – **Whitwick Conny Club** firework party. Bonfire starts at 7pm, fireworks start at 8pm, band (Analogue Haze) on at 9pm. £3 for adults, children free.

1 Nov – **Northern Soul and Motown** at Black Horse, Whitwick. 7.30pm til late.

2 Nov – **George and Dragon** – bonfire night. Starts at 7.30pm. £5 per car.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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26 Nov – **Charles Booth Centre** – Christmas Crooners with tributes to Doris Day, Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Bing Crosby . Tickets £10 each of 2 for £15 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre or direct from the office Monday-Friday 9am-12 noon. Show will start at 7.30pm.

29 Nov – **Conny Club, Whitwick** – Santa is coming from 6.30pm. There is also live music. Entrance is £1 adults, children free.

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

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

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

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

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

3 Dec - Antique and collectors fair at **Hermitage Leisure Centre** 9am – 3.30pm. Entrance £2

8 Dec – Charles Booth Centre – **Santa Fun run** from 9pm til 1pm. More details nearer the time.

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

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

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

20 Dec – **Carols at the centre**. Procession leaves St Andrew's at 6.30pm to get to the centre for 7pm. Entertainment will be available after the singing at the centre.

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

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

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

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

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

History report

- Nita has started to investigate the history of the **blacksmith's in Thringstone** called Henson which is proving very complicated. As part of this, she was given photos and marriage certificates for various people. Included in this was a photo taken in the 1930s of a group of men on the bench outside what is now 1a and 1b The Green. On this photo was a William Henson, but research has shown this man lived on Sandholes and was not related to the Thringstone Henson blacksmiths. This William's grandfather, another William Henson born in 1838, kept the Prince of Wales in Whitwick from 1865-90. He married Margaret Stinson in 1859 in Whitwick, and had several children, including a daughter called Margaret. She married John Joseph Clarke Houlton who kept Warren Farm, Gracedieu mentioned in previous minutes, who passed the farm on to their son Joseph Stinson Houlton, who was there from at least 1939 until his death in 1965. Nita has passed on all her research to the granddaughter of the William from the photo. Others on the photo were Thomas Murfin from Sandholes, Jim Smith from Whitwick Moor, Tommy Lees from Talbot Street, John Grice from Whitwick Moor (father of Fred who is commemorated in St Andrew's having died in WW2), Ernest Varnham from Gracedieu Road and Sid White from Main Street.
- **Facebook posts** this month have added to our archives with a photograph of the Baxter family and also of the Croson family with a photo of the 1926 Belton Villa football team which contained George Croson.
- **Silver Jubilee 1977** – We were aware that a committee was set up at the centre for the purposes of putting on something for the village, and that the committee was Mrs G Gee, Chair, vice chair Mr G Cutler, secretary Alan Lucas, treasurer, Mr E Hicken, committee – Mr J Down, Mr G Robinson,



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Mr H Brumby, Mr D Freer, Mrs H J Lucas and Dr R Andrews. We also know that it was agreed that in addition there would be representatives from organisations in the village and 3 councillors. We are now aware that the centre held a cheese and wine party on 3 June, and 200 commemorative goblets were given out at this event to selected residents.

- Nita has discovered that **Rev Richard F Willis**, Vicar of Thringstone, from 1961-69, was a member of the Whitwick Park Bowls Club and at one stage arranged a service at St Andrew's for the Bowls Club and their fellow bowlers.
- In 1867, several pieces of land and properties fronting onto **The Green** were advertised as for sale. These included 3 properties in the occupation of William Wykes, Mr Dexter and William Watson and some building land fronting onto The Green in the occupation of Miss Theresa Hallam of The Post Office (daughter of William and Elizabeth of The Queen's Head, who kept the post office until William's death on 21 Dec 1866). Our book Thringstone and Its People states, from trade directory references, that Theresa kept the post office from 1870, but this is obviously incorrect. According to census records, the post office at that time was 3 properties away from The Queen's Head. There was also another house in the occupation of James Smith, 2 houses and shop, land and a stable in the occupation of Samuel Hibbert and William Upton. Since application for further information should be directed to Miss Hallam, we wonder if the Hallam family owned the properties in question. Theresa Hallam subsequently moved to Pick Street, Shepshed, started a grocery business and married into the Kidger family, after which her brother Samuel Hallam of The Queen's Head took over the post office.
- On a recent programme by Michael Portillo on railway journeys, he went to York and discussed the work carried out by Quaker Benjamin Seebom Rowntree and his father Joseph into poverty in York. These were conducted in 1899, 1935 and 1951 and the 1899 study saw researchers visiting every home in York. The programme went on to say that Benjamin was inspired by his father's work and that of **Charles Booth** in London. For people interested in this work, there is a wealth of information on the internet.
- As part of research for the history articles Nita writes for Community Voice, further work was put into finding out more about men from the village who served their country, particularly in the **Napoleonic wars of 1803-1815** – these are the dates during which the UK were involved. Here is the information discovered:

William Bradley joined up in 1804. We know from records that he was in hospital in York at one time and was in the 59th regiment of foot. He was discharged on 24 March 1811 just prior to returning to Europe, due to a 'delicate but incurable health issue' which prevented him from continuing to serve. At that time he was in his early 20s, and was tall at close to 6 feet in height, had dark brown hair, hazel eyes and a fair complexion and by trade was a framework knitter.

Another man known to have served in the Napoleonic wars was **Thomas Cooper** who served in the 1st Battalion of the 45th regiment of foot as a corporal. He was a stocking weaver, who enlisted at the age of 22 and served for 2 years and 38 days before being injured by shotgun at the battle of Busaco, which took place on 27 September 1810. This was part of a battle between Wellington's Anglo-Portuguese forces and the French under Napoleon, who were defeated.

William Mason was in the 1st battalion of the 45th regiment of foot. He served from 23 May 1805 until 24 January 1814 and his discharge came about because he was shot by a musket in the left foot whilst serving with Wellington in Vitoria in Spain. This battle, taking place in 1813, saw the British, Portuguese and Spanish army under Wellington break the French army under King Joseph Bonaparte and Marshal Jean-Baptiste Jourdan, eventually leading to victory in the Peninsular War. He was 27 years of age, a framework knitter by profession, and was 5 feet 6 inches tall, had brown hair and grey eyes.

Other men from Thringstone who served include **James Cooper** who was born in 1805, and served with the 58th Foot in Ceylon and for 11 years in the East Indies. He joined up in Sevenoaks, Kent in 1823 at the age of 18, and went on to serve for 21 years and 174 days before being discharged. Said upon discharge to be a man of most exemplary character, he seemed to go from private to corporal and back before being promoted to sergeant. He was 5 feet eight and



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a quarter inches, had light brown hair, blue eyes, a sallow complexion and was intending to return to being a labourer at the time of his discharge.

William Cooper, who may have been a relation to James, joined the Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards in Cirencester on 23 April 1831. He was 20 years and 6 months old when he enlisted, and received a bounty of £2 10 shillings for so doing, a considerable amount of money at the time. He served for nearly 14 years and was discharged after being diagnosed with consumption. He was of good character and another tall man for the time at 5 feet 10 and a half inches. He had light brown hair, grey eyes and fair complexion and had been a wheelwright prior to enlisting.

Other men had an interesting time of it, according to records and certainly ventured far around the world. We have **John Potter** a framework knitter who, aged 20, and with the 17th foot, deserted in 1836, and **Sergeant Major William Stinson** of the 48th regiment of foot, a shoemaker by trade, who joined up on 16 February 1835 in Canterbury. He twice he went to court martial, once for desertion, and then returned to serve in India, Crimea, Malta, Gibraltar, Ionian Islands, West Indies and East Indies, before leaving on aged 43 on 15 September 1860. He had a good conduct badge prior to being promoted to Sergeant Major in 1857 and received 2 medals including a Crimea medal with clasp for being part of the Crimean battle at Sebastapol. He was 5 feet 7 inches tall, dark hair, grey eyes and a fresh complexion, and had a small scar on his right wrist. Others we have discovered include **William King**, a gunner and driver in the Royal Artillery, serving with both the 8th and 10th battalions. He was discharged in September 1850 because of breathing issues. Originally a labourer, he joined up on 9 January 1846 and appeared 4 times in the defaulter book for minor offenses for which he was duly punished. He was 5 feet 8 inches tall, had brown hair, hazel eyes and a dark complexion. It is unclear where he served during his 4 years of service.

Finally we have **Samuel Whaite**, a framework knitter, who originally served in the 32nd and 33rd Regiment of Foot, joining up in Nottingham on 22 July 1825 aged 17. Upon discharge on 10 July 1848, he claimed a pension of 10 pence a day and said he intended to reside in London Central West. He served for over 22 years in North America and Canada, seemed to be promoted then demoted, and is recorded as being paid 2 pence a day from 1 July 1840. He volunteered on 1 June 1841 to serve permanently in North America which saw him transfer to 14th Regiment. He received 2 distinguishing marks on 11 September 1843 and had been deprived of both of these by 1848. On 1 May 1847 he transferred to the Reserve Battalion of the 20th Regiment when serving in Halifax, Nova Scotia. On discharge he was said to be 5 feet 6 and a quarter inches, with brown hair, hazel eyes and a fresh complexion

Council report

There was nothing to report.

Gardening and environment

Bernard is still tidying, weeding and sorting the garden areas. He has also been removing overhanging ivy from the church jitty wall.

Next meeting 7 November at 6.45pm at Charles Booth Centre. All welcome.