



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 JANUARY 2020 AT CHARLES BOOTH CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Ann Petty, Bill Enser, Janet Stevenson, Tina Bakewell, Shirley Gordon, Pat Hubbard, Dave Everitt

Apologies: Gillian Bates, Ron Hill, Ray Woodward, Bernard Lee, Max Bazeley, Tracy Foulds, Maureen Simm, John Jackson

Discussions/Decisions.

Monthly litter pick total - 99 bags against **126 bags** for the same month last year. The total amount of litter removed during 2019 totalled 1,147 bags against 1,628 in 2018. Nita has sent a message to Grace Dieu Manor School asking if their students would like to carry out another litter pick with us this year.

Fencing round the lime quarry at Gracedieu – new fencing was put round the two areas from the sustrans track near to the Bull's Head on 17 December, where dog walkers take a shortcut to the priory. Signage telling people of the steep drop into the quarry was also erected. By 19 December, someone had cut through and removed the wooden part of the fence, leaving the 2 wires going across and the signage in tact. The wires disappeared a day later. The de Lisle estate has been told of the removal, and advised not to bother replacing it again, as it really isn't worth it.

Motorbikes in the woodland - over the festive period, there has been a huge increase, again, in the amount of motorbikes and quad bikes in the woodland. Nita received a concerned message from a resident, who regularly reports these, but feels that nothing is ever achieved by so doing.

Centre News: 71 children came along to see Santa at the **free disco, film and Santa event** on 16 December. The centre would like to thank Leon Spence for being santa for the evening.

The Centre's AGM takes place on 14 January starting at 7.30pm. All welcome.

The meeting wondered whether the money raised at the music festival would be made known, as nothing had appeared in the local press. Some at the meeting were unaware who the trustees are, and they wondered why their names and/or photographs are not in the hallway to indicate to people their involvement. There was general concern over transparency issues between the centre with the village at large.

The plans to knock through **the wall between the middle and end rooms** have come on a pace, and it is likely that the wall will be knocked through next week. The meeting wondered what consultation had been done with user groups affected by this work, or whether they had just been told it was happening rather than being involved in the decision process.

The **coffee morning on 17 January** (not 10th) will be starting at 8.45am in order to catch parents dropping off their children. They will be raising money for Thringstone PTA.

Film club will not run in January because it clashes with the AGM.



Christmas Lights - At the carol event on 20 December, there had been concern raised by several people who attended about the lack of decorative lights outside at the centre. Nita said that people had also raised this concern on line, and reiterated that FoT had stopped supplying a tree 2 years back because of soil problems and the fact that trees were dying due to a fungus issue. FoT also used to supply lighting, but had left this to the centre this time. It was felt that the centre would have looked much better if there had been Christmas lighting, and it was wondered what had happened to the coloured lighting which had been projected at the front of the house in years gone by. Nita said she would talk to the office about this when they return from holidays.

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 **608 twitter followers**, which is 3 more than last month, and **1,144 facebook followers**, which is 36 more than last month. Over the year, the facebook following has increased by 536 and the twitter following by 60.

Other: Anita Jones has rejoined our group, and we have a new member – welcome to Max Bazeley. We ended the year with 145 **members**.

We received a Christmas card from **Mrs Fanny Hugill**, granddaughter of Charles Booth wishing a happy Christmas to all her friends in Thringstone.

A Secret Santa delivered a box of Pedigree products to Woodie for Christmas to say thank you for litter picking with me. To whoever did this, Woodie said thanks.

Nita completed the **list of things carried out by the group in 2019** to go onto the website, and sent this to the webmaster. If anybody wants a copy, please ask Nita.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,369.75		
Income		Expenditure	
Membership	£7	Broadband	15.00
Raffle	£15		
total income to general fund	£22		£15
		Total general fund at month end	2,376.75

Publications Report

Nothing sold.

Web Report

No change since last month

Police Report

Burglary -Springfield - between 11pm on 2 Dec - 8.15am on 3rd. Lock on the side of the caravan broken into and property stolen.



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The police would like us to be aware that an elderly, aggrieved lady had her **purse stolen** from her as she was walking to the local corner shop in Whitwick with it being snatched out of her hand. No assault. Please make sure you keep your purse and bags safe ladies.

Community Report and What's On

Thringstone Primary raised £920 at their Christmas Fayre. Thank you to all who came along and made the event successful.

The charity football match on Boxing Day at the **Miners Welfare** raised £557 for the 3 charities involved in awfully wet and muddy conditions. Thank you to everybody who came and who also played. The score was 7-3 to team Hares/MJW3 against Thringstone all comers.

5 Jan - **Charles Booth Centre** - Juke Joint from 3pm-6pm. Guest artist Danny Willson.

Admission £4 on the door.

14 Jan – Centre's AGM at 7.30pm.

17 Jan – Charles Booth Centre coffee morning in aid of **Thringstone Primary PTA**. 8.45am- 12 noon all welcome.

18-25 Jan – **Peter Pan** at Charles Booth Centre. Charity being supported is Jaxon's Chance – children's physiotherapy.

22 Jan – **Strauss concert** at the centre. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £10.

25 Jan – **Conny Club, Whitwick** – Neil Warner. Concert starts at £7. Entrance £1 members free.

2 Feb - **Charles Booth Centre** - Juke Joint from 3pm-6pm. Guest artists Phil Riley and Neil Mercer. Admission £4 on the door.

14 Feb – Charles Booth Centre coffee morning in aid of **Thringstone Methodist Church**. 10-12 noon. All welcome.

1 March - **Charles Booth Centre** - Juke Joint from 3pm-6pm. Guest artists Hopkins Kaff'ee Light. Admission £4 on the door.

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

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

History report

- Nita has found the military records for **William Hayes**, born in Thringstone in 1782 who joined up in Loughborough on 25 Oct 1800 for unlimited service. He had been a frame work knitter. For 23 years he was in the 45th foot regiment during which, for 4 years, he served in the East Indies. His record also shows that he served in the whole of the Peninsula Campaign against Napoleon. When he left the service aged 40 years, he was said to be 5 feet 6 inches tall, with brown hair, grey eyes and a fresh complexion.
- Nita also found the service record and photo for **Gilbert Henry Hurst**, born in Thringstone in 1877 who joined the merchant navy and sailed all over the world. Whilst born in the village, he was brought up in Cheshire, where, prior to joining up around 1911, he was a butcher, as was his father.
- Nita has been doing some research into **Rev Edwin Samuel Crane**, first vicar of Thringstone and his 2 marriages. Some existing research is in our book Thringstone and Its People, and we know that Rev Crane came to the area in 1873 prior to the church being completed. We have discovered that he had 14 children, not 12 as previously believed. Not all these made adulthood, and of those, there were two called Edwin St John Crane (one lived, one died as a baby) and there was another called Mary Brilliana Crane, where again, one lived and one died as a baby. Mary was named after Edwin's aunt who brought him up after the death of his parents. Rev Edwin's first wife Francis Emily Elizabeth St John, to whom he was married in the summer of 1870 in Hampshire, died aged 29 on 28 November 1875 at The White House, Whitwick, which was lent to the church as the vicarage until a vicarage in Thringstone was built. She died 'of scarlatina after confinement', according to the obituary we found, having borne him 4 children, 2 of which died as babies. Another child, their daughter, Fanny Catherine, died aged 3 years just 4 days after her mother on 2 December 1875, also of scarlatina. Rev Crane married again to Mary Henrietta



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Johnson on 2 January 1877. The one remaining child from his first marriage, Edwin St John Crane was born in 1873. He followed his father into the church and became vicar at St Mary's, Twyford, Berkshire where he was involved in the local cricket scene, playing for the Twyford team and scoring well for them and chairing their junior team. He also took part in several local concerts where his fine singing was noted in local media of the time. He went off to do missionary work in Rhodesia in 1921, returning in 1926 for a break, visiting another brother who was a vicar in the West Midlands. He then became ill and found himself in the Old Manor Mental Institution in Salisbury by 1939 and died in Salisbury in February 1946.

- **Allen Robert Crane** was another one of the sons of the Rev. Crane in Thringstone. We have briefly mentioned him before. Born on 5 April 1881 at Thringstone Vicarage, he studied to be an engineering and electrical student from 1898 and spent 3 years at Brush Electrical Engineering as well as being a testing room assistant at Goldsmiths Co in London. He worked at Leicester Military Hospital in WW1 and in 1921 took a change in career by gaining a qualification with Society of Apothecaries, giving him the right in those days to practice as a doctor, and in 1927, he registered as a doctor at his mother's address, which was Charnwood Dale, Whitwick. In 1933 he left for South Africa, and worked in Angola. He died in South Africa at Riverside East, Griqualand on 30 April 1957, leaving £5762 to his spinster sisters Florence Catherine and Henrietta Christina. Nita is currently researching other siblings of Allen and will give out information at the next meeting.
- **Victory Day celebrations in June 1946** – CV Times said that a lot of events were planned, but the weather was awful. PC Leverett tried to get some order at Thringstone House celebrations by banging a drum, whirling a rattle and yelling, but was ignored. Youngsters and adults turned up in force for the fancy dress parade but after the assembly in the hall, it was decided that the parade would best be met by a short perambulation of The Green. Inside, they were sat in rows with youngsters waiting to be fed and judging took place on stage by Councillor S Gee and other members of the committee. Food was distributed and demolished, as was ice cream. The rain certainly didn't temper the enthusiasm for the event. A sports programme was deferred from the Victory Day celebrations and held a week later. It included a range of handicap races, sack races and obstacle races with the winners of the treasure hunt being J Brooks, G Fox and G Waring. The tugs of war were contested by men's teams with the winners being Fox Inn. Refreshments were provided, there was a Punch and Judy show organised by Mr W Archer Jnr. of Coalville. Music was provided throughout the afternoon by Messrs Kemps amplifiers. The previous Wednesday all OAPs of the village (98 of them) were presented with 2 shillings and 6 pence from the celebration funds.
- Miss Griffiths, the domestic science teacher at **Thringstone school**, left in July 1946 to take up a similar post at Market Harborough and was replaced by Miss Hardy of Hugglescote.
- There was a posting on facebook with a newspaper report and photograph from 29 Oct 1993 showing a cheque presentation from **Thringstone Primary** to the British Heart Foundation for a sponsored skip at the school which raised £671. On the picture is David Maksymiw and a member of the BHF team, plus Jean Curd who organised the skip and pupils from the school at the time. This has been saved to our archives.
- The Ashby Gazette was published from 1876-1888 and is now available to view on Findmypast. From those newspapers, the following information has been found. The Ashby Gazette, 15 July 1882 – Fair held at **Grace Dieu Manor** organised by Mr Jesser Coope and in aid of building works at St Andrew's and completing the organ. Event was opened by Major General Burnaby MP Music was available and the fair was kept open until the Thursday. Same paper 22 July 1882 says that a total of £825 was made and the grounds of the manor would be open again on August 7, Bank Holiday Monday, for a small charge.
- Ashby Gazette, 20 Sept 1879 – Charnwood Forest Rangers Court No 5751 of the **Ancient Order of Foresters** held their anniversary at the Rose and Crown with Mr Gough the host on 9 Sept. A dinner was provided at 2pm by the hosts Mr F Wright of Bournemouth and late of Thringstone was appointed chair, Samuel Wilson Hallam vice chair and other members were T Richards, William Severn, David Reid and John A White.



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- Ashby Gazette – 20 July 1878 – 20 squares of glass were broken at **St Andrew's church** by someone hurling stones through the transept window. There has also been some damage to plants and shrubs in the churchyard.
- Ashby Gazette – 25 June 1881 – Subscriptions have allowed three painted glass panels to go into the eastern lancet windows at **St Andrew's**. These windows are in harmony with 13th century art, and feature Jesus as The Good Shepherd with St Peter and St Andrew at the side windows. Mr J A Oldaker of Epsom was responsible for the design.
- **Jubilee Day, 21 June 1887** in Thringstone saw events happening for all age ranges. We had little information about this before, but the Ashby Gazette of 25 June 1887 contains more information. Several hundred children went along to the village school rooms for tea and then marched in procession, with a band, to Grace Dieu Manor where they were entertained by Mr and Mrs Booth. Whilst the children were marching to Grace Dieu, the older people in the village were given a meat tea by the same committee who had provided for the children. Middle aged people were also catered for during the event, as funds were sufficient to allow this to happen. For the children, at the manor, were swings, cricket and football, skipping and foot racing competitions. The children were twice served with refreshments from the manor, and as evening drew in, thousands of Chinese lanterns and coloured lights, scattered around the trees were lit, at the same time as a beacon was lit on a nearby hill known as Swannymote Rock. The band played music for dancing throughout the proceedings, and around 11pm, the national anthem was sung, and people started to leave for their homes.
- From around 1874 until 1882, the **gamekeeper at Grace Dieu Manor** was James Keen. Born in 1837 in Capel, Surrey and married, the couple had several children, including 3 born on Gracedieu Road. The family moved back to Surrey where, in 1883, Mrs Emma Keen died. James then remarried and carried on being a game keeper in Kings Walden, Herts.

Council report

Brooks Lane in Whitwick will be closed to traffic from North Street junction to Church Lane corner from 23 – 28 January from 9am -3pm to allow for the removal of a damaged tree. A diversion will be in place down North Street to Church Lane and vice versa.

Gardening and environment

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

AOB

Concern was expressed over the length of wiring from the Christmas lights by the bar, which was trailing on the floor and could be constituted a trip hazard.

Next meeting 6 February at Charles Booth Centre at 6.45pm. All welcome.