



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2020 AT CHARLES BOOTH CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Ann Petty, Janet Stevenson, Bernard Lee, Bill Enser, Mike Statham, Tina Bakewell, Anita Jones, Pam Porter, Pat Hubbard, Pat Darby, Josie Brownlow, Maureen Simm.

Apologies: Gillian Bates, Ray Woodward, Ron Hill, Shirley Gordon, Geoff and Jane Wilson, Tracy Foulds, John Jackson

Discussions/Decisions.

New room layout – Mike said that we were the first group to use the new downstairs room. All present said how nice it looked, and how much bigger it seemed than they expected.

Monthly litter pick total - 119 against **103 bags** for the same month last year. This included 11 bags of recycling collected by Nita on 4 February in high winds and 6 the following day. Don't forget that if you want to help out, we have a litter pick with Grace Dieu Manor School on **13 March** meeting at 1.30pm at Thringstone Members Club car park. All welcome to come and join us.

Did you know, according to **Keep Britain Tidy**, there are 1.14 billion plastic bottles, 9 billion drink cans and 5 billion glass bottles bought every year in the UK. Soft drink containers are the 3rd most commonly littered item on over 50% of sites they surveyed, and between 40% and 50% of the contents of roadside litter bins are drink cans. **Aldi** announced last week that they are removing the plastic lids from all their own brand cream and ready to drink coffee products. This will remove 34 million single use plastics from the market.

NWLDC have put out a social media post asking people to ensure they crush and squash cans, tins and plastic bottles before putting them into the red boxes. This will double the amount of recycling that the lorries can take away, and therefore reduce mileage and fuel and also mean less trips to unload and fewer emissions.

Hermitage Leisure Centre in Whitwick is collecting green and blue milk bottle tops (not red) to go towards getting a new wheelchair for a local child. They want to collect his weight in plastic tops. Drop these off at reception if you can help.

Membership money has been at the rate of £3.50 now for 10 years, so will increase at the next membership due date, which is May/June this year to £4. We hope that this will not be prohibitive and that people will appreciate that the group has absorbed the increased costs of plant and shrub purchase, as well as Bauble printing for some time. We would also mention that this increase still prices the group's membership at less than many other local organisations.

Miners Welfare – their new monthly bingo starts on 11 March at 7pm and will take place always on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. All welcome.

Grace Dieu Manor School is to close at the end of the current academic term in July 2020. A statement on their website dated 3 March said that they had been battling financial problems for some time, and were closing. The school is owned by the Institute of Charity (Rosminian order),



and there is currently no information about the future of the building after this coming summer. It is, however, Grade 2 listed, so can't be demolished, but there is a wealth of land attached to it, which stretches right the way back to Warren Lane. This could prove quite interesting to prospective developers.

Thringstone Primary School is opening K&C Kids' Cabin's 5th club after Easter from Thringstone Primary School, 3.15-5.30pm from Monday 20th April 2020. For further information, please message Katie or Claire via their facebook page. Thringstone Primary is also now saving empty crisp packets. They can be put in the area at the top of the hall. The crisp packets go towards the charity Adapt for premature babies.

Thringstone Scouts – are looking for a committee secretary and also a fundraiser. If you are interested, please contact them one Tuesday night after 7pm by visiting the scout hut on the centre car park, or contact Joe Smith on mrjrsmith_19@yahoo.co.uk.

Phone box on The Green – NWLDC has been notified by BT that they wish to remove the phone box on The Green. If you wish to make comments and provide feedback, please contact community focus team at NWLDC by 1 April 2020 on 454740 or community.focus@nwleicestershire.gov.uk They will be taking posters to local shops in the vicinity but we agreed to share this with our contacts and service users.

Thringstone Members Club offers free pool every Friday night from 7pm onwards.

Bull's Head – The charity car wash and dog show scheduled for 7 March is now on 28 March.

Centre News: Butterfly Preschool is no longer coming to the centre to offer children's placements citing problems with Ofsted as the reason. Mike said that the centre might well consider taking on their own license for a play group and then seek to recruit people to run it, but did not want this to add to the workload of those in the office, who worked so hard for the centre.

£130 was raised for **Thringstone Methodist Chapel** at the coffee morning on 14 February. Thanks to all who came, helped, and baked.

The centre has started a **crowd funding page** to raise money for the upstairs lift.

The link is <https://acf.crowdfunder.co.uk/lifting-up-our-community> and you can pledge anything from £10 upwards.

The centre now has a basket in the reception area to collect pet food and anything in tins for human consumption or with a good shelf life to forward on to **Feedtheneed** in Coalville. If you have pet food you no longer need, please consider donating it. Pets can often be the only source of comfort in hard times, and having pet food available for families could be the difference between a family keeping a pet or being forced to give it up.

A lady who has an interior design business is currently working with the centre to turn the house lounge into **The Charles Booth Room**. She has some funding for this, and is producing mood boards etc. The aim is for the decoration to be along the 1880-1900 style.

The centre needs a **new main door** from the car park, and the office has put in a funding bid to get work carried out.

Filming took place at the centre last week for the **Charles and Mary Booth film**. This was completed the day after at Grace Dieu Manor School. The first showing will be on 1 May at Grace Dieu Manor School. Nita and Ann are going, along with Pauline Pollard from the trustees.

The Strauss concert was cancelled by the producers 4 hours before curtain up on the day of the event. Efforts were made to tell all concerned and only a sixth of the people due to come actually arrived at the venue. The producers have said that the soprano who was ill would do a free concert for the centre to make up for this sometime later this year, if a suitable date/time can be arranged. **The Race Night** scheduled for 28 February was also postponed.

The centre is now offering **free room and bar hire** to any event with over 35 people attending.

Mike said that students from **Loughborough University** are coming into the centre over the weekend to do decorating. Mike is putting artwork on the wall from the car park to the upstairs hall in an art deco style.

Mike said that quite a few **grants** had been applied for and it was hopeful that some of these would come to fruition.

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 **623 twitter followers**, which is 5 more than last month, and **1,182 facebook followers**, which is 11 more than last month.

Other: Nita has sent emails to 4 members of the Booth family about the meeting with Ann Oakley last month. As a result of this, Nita had a call from Mrs Hugill at which it was possible to discuss the village generally. Nita has also informed all her Booth email contacts about all the improvements being carried out at the centre to date.

Nita sent off for a pack of free wildflower seeds for the area down the bottom of Drury Lane against the cross. These come from Grow Wild. Community groups and schools were able to apply for free wild flower seeds before March 5 from <https://t.co/f6frLluCaH>. There was general discussion about bulbs we purchase and what we might do going forward.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,270.75		
Income		Expenditure	
Publications	£23	Broadband	15.00
Raffle	£8	Spring bauble printing	42.45
		Stamps	7.32
		Printer ink	35.00
total income to general fund	£31		£99.77
		Total general fund at month end	2201.98

Publications Report

The centre purchased a copy of Businesses in Thringstone for the office. Nita sold 2 village trail 1s and a pubs book at a talk she gave to the U3A. Janet sold one Born and Bred 1, one Born and Bred 2 and 1 Born and Bred 3.

Web Report

No change since last month

Police Report

You can now make a non-emergency report online via the police website at www.leics.police.uk/reportonline

Our member Pauline Walker had her purse stolen whilst in a cafe in town, and their instagram post on this went viral. As a result, Pauline and Geoff appeared live on This Morning with Phil and Holly on 11 February, during which they won £1000. The matter was not reported to the police.

From police report:

- Parking Complaint at Thringstone Co-op/ Main Street
- Parking complaint Main Street plus issues regarding car parking on Main Street.
- Person driving under the influence.
- Youths playing chicken in the road on Henson's Lane.



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- Parking issues on the junction with Loughborough road and the new housing estate. Residents have been spoken to and there have been no further issues reported.
- Burglary Dwelling at Springfield – Nita went to see the people who were affected by this. It took place on 11 February between 10.30am and 12.30pm. Access was gained from the rear of the property. The lobby and back door glass were smashed and a quantity of money, coin collection and jewellery were taken. Culprits seem to have left by the front door.
- Distressed dog
- Cloned Licence plate at filling station in Whitwick
- Drink Driver crashed their vehicle on Loughborough Road.

Community Report and What's On

7 March – **Conny Club, Whitwick** – Pete Kendrick performing hits from the 60s to date. 7pm. £1 entry. Members free.

7 March – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's **race night at Thringstone Members Club**. 7pm start. Tickets £5 for adults and £2 for children. This will include bingo race scratch cards and games of higher or lower. Tickets from Scott Coleman on 07495 763972

10 March – **Film club at the centre** – Film is Downton

11 March – Bingo at **Thringstone Miners Welfare**. Starts at 7pm.

13 March – **Coffee morning** from 10-12 noon at Charles Booth Centre. This month's morning is to raise money for St Andrew's church. All welcome.

13 March - **Thringstone Members Club** – Soul and Motown Club from 8pm. Residents DJs Steve Storer, Jed Purkis, Mick Smith, Dave Wilkins and Ken Sylvester.

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

26 March – **Quiz night** at the centre. Starts at 7.30pm.

28 March - **Bull's Head** – £5 car wash in the morning and dog show in the afternoon to raise money for dog tagging and terminally ill children.

28 March - **Hermitage Leisure Centre** – The Greatest Show – Hits from the movies. Theatre and Arena World Tour. Adults £12. Children £10. Ticket hotline 07719 636374. Starts at 6.30pm.

29 March – **Indoor car boot** at centre from 9am-1pm. Free entry.

29 March - **Charles Booth Centre** – The Story of Doris Day. Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesbooth centre This is a charity performance.

4 April – **Thringstone Members' Club** – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's family fun day. Egg hunt, raffle, cakes, refreshments, tombola, games etc. 11am-3pm.

7 April – **Open meeting** at the centre from 7pm-9pm. All welcome.

8 April – Shep Woolley at **Charles Booth Centre**. Tickets £7 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre or from the office Monday-Friday 9am-12noon.

8 April – Bingo at **Thringstone Miners Welfare**. Starts at 7pm. All welcome.

10 April - **Thringstone Members Club** – Soul and Motown Club from 8pm. Residents DJs Steve Storer, Jed Purkis, Mick Smith, Dave Wilkins and Ken Sylvester.

14 April – **Film club at the centre** – Film is Judy

11 April – Centre is organising an **Easter Egg Hunt** again. More details nearer the time.

8 May – **Coffee morning** at the centre from 10-12 noon in aid of raising money for Old School House. All welcome.

8 May – **VE Day celebration** at centre.

8 May – **Conny Club, Whitwick** – Gourmet evening with extensive menu to prebook. Initial deposit of £5 required. Total cost £34.95 per person. Details of the event can be found here. <http://ow.ly/Q0LA50yrtqf>

9 May – **Conny Club, Whitwick**. VE day celebrations from 7pm with music from Jackie and Sophie. £1 entry.



12 May – **Film Club at the centre** – Film is Peanut Butter Falcon
13 May - Bingo at **Thringstone Miners Welfare**. Starts at 7pm. All welcome
17 May – **Grace Dieu Priory** – Festival of archaeology walk. Meet at Bull's Head car park at 3pm. Costs £3.
21 May - – **Grace Dieu Priory** – Festival of archaeology walk. Meet at Bull's Head car park at 10am. Costs £3.
21-23 May – Charles Booth Centre – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's comedy play** – A Surprise Package – tickets £8 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads or ring 0333 666 3366. Curtains up at 7.30pm.
27 May - **Grace Dieu Priory** – Festival of archaeology walk. Meet at Bull's Head car park at 6pm. Costs £3.
10 June - Bingo at **Thringstone Miners Welfare**. Starts at 7pm. All welcome
8 July - Bingo at **Thringstone Miners Welfare**. Starts at 7pm. All welcome
1 Aug – **Thringstone Music Festival** at centre
3 August – **Summer Fete** at Stephenson College
12 Sept – **Hello Heritage** event at the centre and possibly opening up some older houses in the village.

History report

- Continuing the information on the sons of Rev. Edwin Samuel Crane, **Arthur Newall Crane**, born in Whitwick on 2 Jan 1878 to Mary Henrietta, his second wife, also followed his father into holy orders and was vicar for 26 years in total around the Birmingham area, at Perry Barr from 1901-08, St Michael's Washwood Heath from 1908-09, King Norton from 1909-13, Stirchley from 1913-19, St Michael's Smethwick from 1919 - 27, before becoming the vicar at St Peter's in Bardon in 1927. Another keen cricketer, Arthur played cricket for several teams and was also chairman of the governors at King Edward V11 for several years. Arthur was at Bardon for 24 years and represented them on the Ashby Rural District Council for several years. When Bardon then became part of Coalville area, he represented them on Coalville Urban Council for one term. He retired in 1952 died on 12 January 1955 at Thurnby.

The next son was Allen Robert Crane about whom we wrote last month. His brother, **Bertie James Crane**, had a short life, being only 4 years of age when he died in March 1884.

Charles Edmund Crane on the other hand had a long and distinguished career, again as reported at previous meetings. Born on 28 February 1883 in Thringstone he became a solicitor, set up his own practice from his mother's house in Whitwick in 1907, and then formed the firm Crane and Walton in Coalville. A freemason with the Gracedieu Lodge from 9 December 1909, following his marriage, he lived in Ashby with his family, and died on 4 September 1966.

Edwin Whiting Johnson Crane, born on 17 November 1887 also became a vicar. He became curate of Withall, Birmingham from 1915-20 but also served with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in the Church Army from July 1918 for a year. In 1920 he moved to live in Southern Rhodesia, serving at St Alban's Mission in Glendale until at least 1948, before returning to live in Worthing where he died on 9 April 1973.

The final child of Rev Edwin S Crane and his wife Mary was **Samuel** who is probably the most interesting. Born at Thringstone Vicarage on 1 December 1900, Samuel became a solicitor. He took his qualifications and in 1926 started to practice. Having married Louie Goddard in London in 1927, he worked for several years with a company of solicitors, earning £260 per year, but then decided to form his own company around 1931 with £600 capital saved. Moving to Edgware, he found running his own business harder than anticipated. His wife suffered with poor health and had 2 illnesses which saw outlay of over £270 in doctors' bills. The business was failing, and in his second year on his own, he only earned £46, with the family limiting their household expenditure to a mere £5 a week. He soon found himself getting into serious debt, and at one stage considered going bankrupt, but ever the optimist, decided to plod on, hoping that things would change. The couple tried to keep up appearances by moving in circles which, Samuel hoped, would lead to



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more clients. He joined the Edgware and District Choral and Orchestral Society, and played the piano in several of their productions, and he and his wife became involved in local affairs. In 1936, he asked Walter Toovey, a retired builder from Wembley Park whom he had known for some years to lend him money with which to purchase 136 Hale Lane, Edgware where he wanted to practice. Mr Toovey said he was unable to give that sort of money, but talked to his wife about it, and in November 1936, Mrs Kate Toovey gave him a cheque as a first mortgage on the property, with the agreement that it would be repaid over a set period with payments of £12 10 shillings a quarter plus 6% interest. Samuel did repay some money to the Toovey family, paying money during Christmas 1936, and instalments in March and June 1937. Mrs Toovey repeatedly asked to see the deeds of the property to ensure that her name was on them, and was continually fobbed off, but it became apparent that Samuel had put the money into his client account, paid out some money to a Mr Bailey and, 5 months later, taken out a loan with Abbey Road Building Society for the whole of the £850. Samuel was arrested on a charge of fraud, and the matter went to court, with the result being that he was sentenced to 3 years in prison. Samuel's defence solicitor, Mr Ashe Lincoln, said that by temperament, Samuel was not disposed to be a solicitor. He said he was happily married, was not a gambler or heavy drinker, but because he was the youngest of the family, and his father having died when he was only aged 7, he had been heavily pampered as a child and spoilt by his mother, and his brothers and sisters had always subsequently looked after him. Samuel was struck off from the legal register in March 1938 and is recorded on the 1939 register as an inmate at Maidstone Prison. It is unclear what then happened to Samuel or his wife, but he readily admitted that his actions had ruined him, and we believe he may have died in Norfolk in 1966.

- Nita has been looking into the descendants of Charles and Mary Booth and discovered that comedian **Al Murray** (the pub landlord) is their great great grandson. His full name is Alastair James Hay Murray. Charles and Mary Booth's daughter Margaret Pauline Booth (known as Meg) married William Thackeray Denis Ritchie and had a son called James Makepeace Thackeray Ritchie, who was killed in WW2 aged 32 in 1940. However, he had married, and had a daughter called Juliet Anne Thackeray Ritchie. She married Ingram Bernard Hay Murray, and Al Murray is their only son. When the Booth family came along to the centre in 2012, amongst them was Al Murray's parents Ingram and Juliet, and his sister Xenia. She has also discovered that Fanny Hugill who is the granddaughter of Charles and Mary Booth has a daughter called Sarah Jane Tudor Hugill. She was the first wife of **Andrew Lloyd Webber**, and they had two children Imogen and Nicholas, who are therefore also great great grandchildren of Charles and Mary Booth. Another great great grandchild of Charles and Mary is the artist **Peter Gabor Peri**, known just as Peter Peri. His line is Antonio Mary Booth, daughter of Charles and Mary, who married into the **Magnaghten family**. Her daughter, Mary Frances Magnaghten married Peter Laszlo Peri, a Hungarian sculptor and artist. His biography reads 'Peri immigrated to England in 1933, after his wife Mary Macnaghten, granddaughter of social reformer Charles Booth, was arrested in possession of Communist propaganda.' One of their 3 children was William Peri, who had a son who is Peter Gabor Peri. It is understood that Mary, along with her 3 children, Matthew, Ann and William, came to live at Thringstone House, now Charles Booth Centre, during the war period, and stayed for around 2 years, as the warden had gone off to war. Mary's children made several friends in the village, who went to visit the family in London after they left here. Mary Macnaghten, and her sisters Anne and Brigid were all left wing in political terms who did not attend school until they were 11 years old and all three women married communists. **Anne Macnaughten** married twice, the first time to Ernest Skilbeck who fought against the legendary anti-communist Franco in the Spanish Civil War and died in 1947, and the second time to Arnold Ashby. She was an exceptionally talented and well known violinist, and formed the all female Macnaghten string quartet in 1931. She reformed it after the war in 1947 to include men, with her new husband, Arnold Ashby, as cellist. She was awarded a CBE in 1987 for services to music, and was involved in the Macnaughten concerts until 1994. These were set up originally to provide a platform for young composers and counteract what was at the time the prevailing discrimination against female musicians and give



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the public access to new music from both Britain and abroad. Anne also came to Thringstone around the period of WW2 to stay with her sister Mary and family at Thringstone House. **Brigid** (known as Biddy) lived in Germany and married a German in the early 1930s called **Wilhelm Jungmittag**. They had 2 daughters called Clara and Gerda, later changed to Mary. Wilhelm was part of the resistance in Germany, and was executed in 1944 by the Gestapo after having sheltered and worked with someone who had escaped custody whilst Biddy had been sent to East Prussia for safety reasons. Biddy and her two daughters returned to England after the war finished in December 1945 and became known as Youngday rather than Jungmittag and it is believed that Biddy came to Thringstone herself. Biddy wrote a book called *Flags in Berlin* which has the sub title 'An account of life in Berlin 1928-1945'. Nita has bought a copy. It describes Biddy's life and the lives of ordinary Germans before and during the war. In the book, she records the evacuation of Berlin housewives to East Prussia and the arrest, torture and execution of resistance fighters, including her husband. She was there at the entry of the Red Army into Berlin and describes her journey with two young children from camp to camp until they reached England. All this had an effect on Biddy who suffered a nervous breakdown upon her return to the UK feeling all the time that she was still under threat. Sisters Clara and Mary came to the Booth reunion at the centre in 2012 along with some of their own descendants. Biddy was a prolific letter writer to the Hammersmith and Shepherd's Bush Gazette, and from that we have discovered that she was a talented artist and ceramicist, often giving exhibitions. She was also highly political. She had been a member of the communist party until the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 when she resigned but did stand for the communist party in a local election in 1955. She then joined the labour party in 1960, and stood for them in local elections in 1961, 1964 and 1971, becoming chairman in 1973. She was active in her local area to provide safe playing facilities for children and was on the Playground Committee for some time, also arguing that schools needed more books. She was an active member of CND, going on marches in London, and finding herself in Holloway prison for a month in 1961 due to her stance on 'banning the bomb'. She also went to the House of Commons in 1966 to protest against the Vietnam war. Her daughter, **Clara Youngday** married Martin Lowy, went into medicine and became a professor. Her husband, Martin Lowy was born in Czechoslovakia and was also a doctor and the son of a general practitioner. He survived three years in a concentration camp and came to England at the age of 11 with his mother to join his father, who had escaped to England just before the outbreak of WW2. His marriage to Clara, an endocrinologist, was outstandingly happy, and he became consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Whittington Hospital, London. He died on 19 December 2008. She was a consultant physician at St Thomas's Hospital, London where she specialised in endocrinology and diabetes, especially in pregnancy. She was the first in the UK to do a survey into the outcomes of babies born to diabetic mothers, and invented a home glucose monitoring kit to be used in pregnancy. She was part of the Department of Chemical Pathology and Metabolic Disorders at St Thomas's. She came to the 2012 reunion of the Booth family at the centre and Grace Dieu Manor. Thomas Macaulay Booth, son of Charles and Mary Booth, had 4 children, including a son called Chambre Thomas Macaulay Booth who became an actor known as **Tom Macaulay**. He appeared in many films and TV roles, as well as directing, producing and writing stage plays and comedies. His daughter, Janie Booth, who is also an actor, also came along to the 2012 reunion.

- **Wilfred and Mary Bruce** who used to live at The Meadows (the original property on the site where the nursing home of the same name now stands) were living there in 1939 according to the register for that year. Mr Bruce was also, until the transfer of Thringstone House to the County Council in February 1951, one of the trustees of the Thringstone Trust. Other trustees at that time were Mary Imogen Gore-Browne (daughter of Charles Booth), Charles Edmund Crane (solicitor), Arthur John Willmott and Thomas Macaulay Booth (son of Charles Booth). We believe that Mr Bruce was a company director, which may have been something to do with roads, but the records for 1939 showing his occupation are unclear. He also appears to have been an ARP volunteer warden. Mary, who was born on 21 March 1895, died at The Meadows on 24 October 1953. Wilfred was

born on 22 April 1894 and seems to have died in Lympstone, Devon on 30 August 1975. His probate records show that he left £74.383.

The database for Charnwood Roots is now open to search, with over 140 entries for Thringstone. We are steadily making our way through these for new information, but have discovered that in 1876, the Ancient Order of Foresters Court, Charnwood Forest Rangers' registered office was **Rose & Crown Inn**, Thringstone Established in 1873, it had 55 members in 1876:

- Nita asked **Wigston records office** what records they have for St Andrew's/Thringstone generally. Their answer was Christenings 1862 – 1944, Marriages 1876 - 1982, Burials 1862 – 1937, banns 1979 – 1988, Services 1974 – 1981. Thringstone Parish & School Records - DE8917 (not sure what that means), and periodicals The Bauble – Newsletter of the Friends of Thringstone (2012), The Bawble – 1997 – 1999
- Ann has access to the will of **Margaret Mead** who formed a charity in the area to give apprenticeships in London to poor boys of the area – one year in Osgathorpe, the next year in Belton, the next year in Thringstone. This is dated 1735 and proving interesting. In 1752, because boys were unable to take up places in London, apprenticeships were offered nearer to home.

Council report

District and borough councils in Leicestershire will be taking forward discussions about creating an East Midlands Combined Authority. All seven councils wrote to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in January in support of devolution and to make clear their willingness to work with government on its forthcoming devolution framework.

The Secretary of State has now written back to the leaders of Blaby, Charnwood, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, Melton, North West Leicestershire and Oadby and Wigston councils.

In a joint statement, the leaders of all seven district and borough councils in Leicestershire, said: "We are pleased to receive a positive response from the Secretary of State about our views around devolution and closer collaboration and the opportunities they present to this region and its residents. The district and borough council leaders in Leicestershire will be now be taking forward discussions about an East Midlands Combined Authority with the leaders of councils from around the East Midlands."

The Secretary of State has said in his letter that he recognises the district and borough councils' ambition for an East Midlands Combined Authority and welcomes such an idea. He said it could involve all councils from Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire and could be led by an elected mayor if that was the local choice. It was suggested to the Leicestershire borough and district council leaders that if they wished to take it forward, then they should enter into a discussion with other council leaders to develop a proposal that would provide a stable, efficient and accountable form of governance. The letter was copied to all council leaders in the East Midlands and the chairs of the local enterprise partnerships. The seven district and borough councils in Leicestershire recently formed two alliances to develop more collaborative working. The Southern Leicestershire Strategic Alliance comprises Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, Oadby and Wigston and Blaby councils, while the Northern Leicestershire Strategic Alliance will include Melton, Charnwood and North West Leicestershire councils.

Gardening and environment

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

AOB

There were some questions relating to the Doris Day show and was it just one person or a group. Nita said she thought it was one person. There was also general discussion about WW2 from a German standpoint.



Next meeting 2 April at 6.45pm at Charles Booth Centre. All welcome.