



# The Friends of Thringstone



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

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## **BULLETIN FOR JANUARY 2022**

### **News.**

**Monthly litter pick total – 104** against 121 **bags** for the same month last year. Our annual litter pick total for 2021 came to 1,586 against 1,298 for 2020. We started the year with 14 regular litter pickers, and now have 5. One of our volunteers collected 135 face masks this year alone! Keep Britain Tidy's Spring Clean will take place between 25 March and 10 April 2022.

**Thringstone Scouts** - Thringstone Scouts reopened back in September with no scouts and now have 19 on the books.

**Ruby's** now have digital screens showing all their prices!

**Thringstone Primary** – Raised £230.43 for the Royal British Legion for their poppy appeal. They were given a Christmas tree for the school by Blackbrook Farm, for which they were most grateful. The school also raised £86.04 for Save the Children from their Christmas jumper day.

**Planting** – Mike has tidied up the bed on The Green, dug it over, and cut back the bushes ready for Spring. Many thanks to Mike.

**Friends of Gracedieu Priory** – Now have a go fund me page for people who wish to donate to the upkeep of the Priory. The link is <https://gofund.me/f6b72039> A recent Leicester Mercury article suggested that the priory could close to the public unless money is raised. The Gracedieu group spend thousands per year to keep the grass cut, had £1000 worth of damage caused by vandals in 2021, and need to find another means of access to the site to avoid a collapsing culvert. Estimated costs for the latter suggest a figure of around £40,000. Grants seem to be difficult to obtain, as a new access does not add to the site, and so does not meet the criteria. The Friends of Gracedieu Priory do not have the money for this upkeep without help.

**Centre** – Over 30 people took part in the Santa Fun Run in December. Thank you to all involved and to those who took part.

We believe the coffee morning for Marlene Reid Centre raised in excess of £140 for that charity plus various food items.

The Retired People's Fellowship, which has been at the centre for decades, has now folded, and all monies left in their account has been gifted to the centre, which has amounted to around £1500. The centre staff are thinking of buying something that they need with the money rather than just put it in an account for bill paying etc.

The lift is now complete and working and an Evac chair has been purchased. It is hopeful that the lift opening will take place in the Spring with the chance of less covid and better weather.



### Chairs Report

**Letters received:** Letter sent to us via the centre wanting to buy any books relating to Gracedieu Manor and/or Charles Booth for someone for Christmas. Rang them and referred them to Gracedieu group.

Christmas cards received from Fanny Hugill, Charles Booth's granddaughter, and Giving World On Line and 2 people on Lbro Road to thank us for litter picking.

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

**Promotion:** We have **692 twitter followers**, which is the same as last month, and **1,689 facebook followers**, which is 11 more than last month. Over 2021, we have increased our twitter following by 25 and our facebook following by 218.

**Other:** Several reports of flytipping submitted to NWLDC. Sent usual Christmas cards on behalf of group.

Over 2021, despite not having meetings, we have attracted **15 new members**, 7 since the AGM. Unfortunately, two members have died during 2021.

### Finance Report

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>£2495.92</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Publications		Broadband	20.00
		Stamps	7.92
Donation		Stationery	10.45
Memberships		Winter bauble printing	41.10
<b>total income to general fund</b>			79.47
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>2416.45</b>

### Web Report

Work is still underway to get the new website fully populated and to put in a new email address to contact the webmaster.

### Incident Report

Break-in to cricket club scorer's hut, things thrown about and trashed 2<sup>nd</sup> week in Dec.

### History report

We now have photos of the **Massey, Vesty and Webb families**, including Daniel Amos Webb, his wife and some of his daughters, thanks to a visit to one of our group recently by a friend who is a family member. This has added tremendously to our archive information.

The report this month is concentrating on 3 items - Drury Lane, John Watson and the Biggs family  
**Drury Lane** – Drury Lane is the little lane by the side of the Co-op, and used to contain rented houses of differing sizes, as shown on the 1911 census. We aren't sure when these were built, but know they were very basic, and lacked many amenities, including a water supply, with a midden in most cases instead of an outside toilet. There were 3 cottages behind the Rose and Crown (now Co-op), which were known as Duke's Castle. All the properties finally got knocked down in the 1930s. We know, as mentioned in Thringstone and Its People, that a chap called Old Duke lived at the bottom of the lane, and used to keep warm with turf fires, and now know this to be John Watson. A series of articles in 1859 relating to an assault John Watson made on Robert Grimley whilst drunk called Drury Lane resident John Watson 'Duke' so we are quite confident that John is Old Duke. A further newspaper article of April 1865 said that John Watson of Thringstone - known



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as The Duke of Thringstone – was in court for picking the pocket of John Gilbert and stealing 9 pence, for which a subsequent article said that he got sent down for 1 month's hard labour. We have researched the lane because we are always asked about the families were who lived there, and their occupations. Because of the number of families involved, this has necessitated a huge number of hours of research, and looking at baptism records, marriage records, absent voters lists, burial indexes, newspaper archives, wills, electoral registers, clearance orders and census reports as well as talking to older members of our village. What has been discovered is a lot of intermarrying, a period of time when many people in the lane seemed to be related, and people's names changing between one census and another. We know, from a conversation we had with the late **Ron Brewin** in 2013, that he was born on Drury Lane in early 1929, which is the one year that we do not have the electoral register. Ron said at one time you could drive a truck down the lane, and he lived in a cottage with his parents, **Syd and Edith Brewin**. His Aunt Gertie May Brooks also lived there with her husband John William Brooks and his mother. Ron's mother Edith and Gertie Brooks were sisters and brought up on John Street. **Bill Horrobin**, proper name Frank, was also born on the lane in 1929 to Albert Horrobin and his wife Violet nee Biggs. Bill remembers living there, and said it was 'living in the slums'.

The 1841 and 1851 censuses for Thringstone are quite illegible in places, but what follows is what we have discovered.

**1861 census** - 11 families were living there - **Charles Watson**, framework knitter, plus his wife Sarah who died in February 1869 aged 82 and was buried at St Andrew's, plus a lodger called **Henry Hull** a horseman, **Joseph Hawksworth** a salt dealer who had previously lived in Whitwick Moor and died in Dec 1867 aged 67 (see below), **John King**, a general labourer, who died in July 1867 and was buried at St Andrew's, plus his wife Mary, daughter and grandchild Jane, **Ann Upton** a charwoman who died in 1893 aged 80 and is also buried at St Andrew's, plus visitor **Fanny Wardle** a seamstress, **John Moore** a framework knitter, with his wife Hannah who died in June 1866 and was buried at St Andrew's, and 6 children including one called William (see below), **Emma White** a seamstress and her 6 children, Clara, Sarah, Harriet, Thomas, William and Laura (her husband William is elsewhere), **Joseph Griffin** a framework knitter who died in December 1872 aged 90 and was buried at St Andrew's, plus his wife Mary who died in July 1866 aged 84 and was buried at St Andrew's, sons John and William and a son in law George, **John Watson**, a drover, son of Charles Watson and Sarah as above, plus his wife Jane who he had married in 1857, and 6 children all down on the census as Watson - Fanny, William, Sarah Ann (who later married John Varnham), Joseph, Frederick and Arthur (see below regarding these children many of whom were registered as Hutchinson, and also census for 1891), **Francis Allen** a labourer, and his wife Mary and 2 daughters Fanny and Sarah, **Samuel Hibbett** a framework knitter and his wife Jane and 5 children Elizabeth, Sarah, Joseph, Charlotte and Eliza and **William Orridge** a labourer, and his wife Catherine, one daughter Mary and 3 grandchildren called William, John and Sarah – William Snr. died aged 87 in Ashby workhouse in April 1879 and was buried at St Andrew's and Catherine died aged 68 in October 1861 and was buried at St John's, Whitwick. The White family moved to Swannington, Francis Allen and family moved to near Thringstone Toll Gate House, the Hibbert's moved to Main Street. With regard to the death of Joseph Hawksworth, newspaper reports of December 1867 say that he had been to Shardlow to purchase salt, and stopped off at his daughter's, Mrs Mary Powdrill who lived in Belton. He left at 6.30am after saying he hadn't slept well. At the inquest his daughter reported that he was often short of breath on exertion, had broken his leg two years earlier, and also had had bronchitis within the last year. He was 3 miles from Belton when he was met by John Watson (as above) and they discussed a horse purchase. John Watson said he was speaking in his usual loud tone. John was about 40 yards away on Freke Lane when he heard Mr Hawksworth fall, and ran back to find him 'all his length on the ground'. He raised his head, and Joseph made a couple of gasps. John Watson put him on Joseph's cart and took him back to his house. Dr Toone from Whitwick was sent for, but he was pronounced dead. Dr Toone said he had seen Mr Hawksworth a year earlier, and knew he had heart disease. The verdict was heart attack. He was buried at St Andrew's on 22 Dec 1867.



**1871 census-** The 1871 census does not detail Drury Lane. There was, however, an advert for the sale of 4 brick and slate properties in Drury Lane (known at that time by its nickname as Duday Lane) in the Hinckley papers of 27 May 1871 and listed as tenants/recent tenants were **Mary King, Thomas Holland, William Hutchinson** and **Hannah Dobson**. The 1871 census shows Hannah Dobson with her son Thomas next to Mary King aged 83, **Frederick Holland** from Ratby, who is a chair bottomer, plus wife Selina and 3 children, Moses, Susannah and Fred, then William and Mary Hutchinson and their 2 sons, so we know for certain that these families were there in 1871. Mary King died aged 89 in July 1877 and was buried at St Andrew's. Fred and Selina Holland and family cannot be traced after this. **John Griffin** is also on that part of the census (see 1881), along with **John Allgood**, aged 54, painter. John Allgood seems to have moved to Utah and died in 1890. There is also **John Beeson**, aged 46, huckster who appears to have died in January 1890 and was buried at St Andrew's. One property is unoccupied. Others in the same part of the 1871 census are **Charles Watson** framework knitter as above, listed with his son **John Watson**, labourer, and a grandson called Jeremiah Hurst, a spa turner. Charles Watson died in 1872 aged 86. There is, however, another 1871 listing for a John Watson, framework knitter, in Thringstone with wife Jane and children Sarah Ann, Joseph, Frederick, Isaac, and grandson John. We can find no Isaac anywhere although one is mentioned in newspaper articles, and the ages don't quite match up, but Sarah Ann, Joseph and Frederick were indeed 3 of the children of the couple.

**1881 census-** there were 6 families there, with one house marked as empty - **William Hutchinson**, (see below on Watson links) a miner, his wife Mary, a seamstress, whom he married in 1869 and their 4 children one called John Wright who was born in 1869, and other children are William, Eliza and Joseph. The family split up in 1889 when Mary took the children and moved to live with John Poyser in Hucknall. (See 1901 when William Hutchinson is with the Varnham family, Sarah Ann Varnham being William's sister), **John Hutchinson** a labourer, believed to be Fred Jnr. (see below), **Jeremiah Watson** (possibly real name Hurst), a spa turner from Belton and possible grandson of Charles Watson, with his common law wife **Isabella Howard**, a seamstress, their daughter Sarah and a lodger Joseph Richards, who both disappear after 1881, **Jemima Richards** a seamstress, who died in Oct 1899 aged 72 plus son Thomas who was a labourer, **John Griffin**, a framework knitter and possibly the son of Joseph from 1861 census, and **Joseph Hutchinson**, a labourer, (see below to Watson links) and his wife Mary Ann and son who had moved by 1901 to live next to The Queen's Head on The Green.

**1891 census** – 4 families - **Frederick Hutchinson**, a miner, his wife Hannah and son **John Frederick** who was **known as Frederick Jnr.**, and Fred Snr's mother **Jane Watson**, wife of John Watson, who was a hosiery worker and died aged 87 in 1902, **John Griffin** who is still a framework knitter, and who died aged 80 in March 1898, **John Varnham**, a miner, who died in Sept 1910 aged 63 plus his wife Sarah Ann nee Hutchinson and daughter of Jane Watson, and **John Watson**, general labourer and husband of Jane above. John died in July 1897 aged 80 and was buried at St Andrew's. In May 1897, 4 properties in Thringstone were for sale, with one having a frontage for Drury Lane, the other three fronting onto The Green. These had a combined rental of £26 15 shillings and were sold to Mr Emerson of Osgathorpe for £281 with the tenants being Sykes, Henson, Varnham and Bailey. We take it therefore that John Varnham's house was the one fronting Drury Lane. We think that the owner had previously been Mr Sketchley of Griffydham. In July 1899, 2 brick built properties in Drury Lane itself were auctioned off, with the purchaser also being Mr Emerson of Osgathorpe, who paid £40.

**1901 census** - Drury Lane does not appear as an identified address on the 1901 census. As **Fred Hutchinson** and family were still in Drury Lane in 1911, and appear as Main Street in 1901, perhaps he should really be listed in Drury Lane. They are there along with **William Sykes** next door, a brickmaker and wife Eve and family of 6 children who included Methodist stalwarts **Austin and Arthur Sykes, Andrew and Emily Thurman**, a miner, **Joseph Hicken** a miner, plus wife Sarah and daughter, **John and Sarah Ann Varnham** (nee Hutchinson), as above, and her brother **William Hutchinson**, a farm labourer whose wife and one of his children are now in Hucknall (see 1881), **Michael Mulvey**, a miner from Killukin, Roscommon, Ireland, plus wife Kate and 7 children,





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and **Harry Stopp**, a miner, his wife Jane and 3 children who later move to Brook Lane. William and Eve Sykes and family moved to Talbot Street, the Thurman's moved to Chesterfield then to Margaret Street in Coalville. They had a son baptized at St Andrew's in 1902 called Barnabas who died at 1 year, and their daughter Maggie seems to have also been born in Thringstone in December 1902, so perhaps they were in Drury Lane for some time. The Hicken family moved to St Saviour's Road in Coalville. Michael Mulvey died on 21 March 1902 and his family moved to Newhall.

A newspaper report from **1902** states that a house on Drury Lane in the occupation of **John Varnham** (reinforcing the belief that they were there in 1901) and realizing a rent of £5 4 shillings pa (2 shillings per week) was sold to S W Twiggs for £70 (for a 2 roomed property – see below). We believe this to be Rev Samuel William Twiggs, who was Baptist minister at the Ebenezer Chapel in Coalville. Baptism records for **1907** show that **William and Ellen Abell** lived on Drury Lane at that time, as their son William Henry was baptized from that address – they later moved to St Mary's Terrace, Whitwick. Newspaper articles state that the parish council were asked to look at the pavement down Drury Lane in March **1908**. Eventually the parish council reported that they had repaired the path down Drury Lane and the road there had been cleaned in March **1909**. The will of John Emerson of Osgathorpe, dated **February 1909**, contains the detail that he had owned the 3 freehold cottages called Duke's Castle, in the occupation of **Thomas Wardle, Fred Hutchinson** and one other unnamed. These were left to James Emerson during his lifetime, and subsequently to John's granddaughter Alice Eve Emerson. Thomas Wardle must have moved shortly thereafter, as by **1911** he was in Main Street.

**1911 census - William Upton**, a pensioner, and former hawker, who died at 9 St Saviour's Road, Coalville in March 1916, and his 2 sons Joseph, a miner, who died in Drury Lane in August 1918 aged 58, plus Charles, a miner, and one granddaughter called Nellie Tugby, **Sarah Ann Varnham** a hosiery seamstress, who died in October 1917 at Gladstone Cottages, Main Street, plus her grandson **John William Hawkins, Fred Hutchinson Snr.** a miner, who died in Drury Lane aged 62 in November 1916 and was buried at St Andrew's, plus his son **Frederick Jnr**, a miner whose wife Hannah had died in 1903, housekeeper **Annie Biggs** (see later) and her 3 daughters, Rose, Violet and Doris, and **Fred Sharrod** a farm labourer, who died in Loughborough in 1937 plus his wife Catherine – 5 households if you include **Emma Knapp** and her son John William, who put on their census form that their address was Drury Lane, whereas the enumerator put Nr The Green, along with several other families. The 1911 census tells you how many rooms, minus kitchen or bathroom, each property contained. William Upton's house and Fred Hutchinson's house had 4 rooms, Emma Knapp's had 3, whereas Sarah Ann Varnham's and Fred Sharrod's had 2.

William Upton had 9 children to include Joseph and Charles mentioned above and also James who also lived in Drury Lane from at least 1921. One of William Upton's daughters was Sarah Ann, known as Lizzie, who married Ruddy Waldrum and set up **Ruby's chip shop in 1895**. When William died at St Saviour's Road, Coalville, as mentioned above, he was living with his daughter Mrs Mary Ann Evans, and Charles Upton was also there.

Annie Biggs' daughter Doris was baptized in **1911** from a Drury Lane address with a birth date of 16 Dec 1910. No father's name is shown on her baptism.

Newspapers report that PC Jones had attended a fight in Drury Lane in **July 1914** which was between **Thomas Bailey** and George Bailey, who were uncle and nephew. There is a Thomas Bailey of Drury Lane dying there in October **1917** aged 74 years.

**1921 electoral records - Fred Hutchinson Jnr, Joseph and Mary Hutchinson, John William Knapp** (who is also down on the list of absent voters in 1918 at that address), **Edwin Thorley** and common law wife **Mary Elizabeth Lowe** who had had a child together in 1911 called John Edwin Thorley Lowe, and brothers **James and Charles Upton**.

**1922 electoral records** – as above, other than the Knapp family have gone to John Street before moving to Fox Terrace (where they lived for 2 years before moving back to live near The Green) and **Thomas Chambers** is now there, as is the same for **1923 and 1924** other than Charles Upton who had died in March 1924 and Edwin Thorley had also died in 1923. Thomas Chambers died in



1925.

**1926 electoral records - Fred Hutchinson Jnr, Joseph and Mary Hutchinson, Mary Elizabeth Lowe and James Upton.**

**1927 electoral records - Fred Hutchinson Jnr, the Lowes and Upton's** were joined by **John Thomas Hibbert** who had moved from round the corner at Kirby's Yard (rear of what is now The Blue House). John Thomas Hibbert was in Drury Lane until at least **1931**.

**1930 electoral records - Annie Biggs** who was previously the housekeeper in 1911 to Fred Hutchinson, **Gertrude May and John William Brooks, Albert William and Violet Horrobin** (nee Biggs and daughter of Annie Biggs – they had married in 1925), **John Thomas Hibbert, James Upton, Fred Hutchinson and the Lowe's**. The Horrobin's had 10 children in all including one called Albert, born out of wedlock in 1922 so brought up as Albert Biggs. A further still born Horrobin child was born in Drury Lane in **1931** and we believe that Violet had another child called Frederick born in 1924 who died in 1925, the same year as she married. Violet died in 1978.

**1931 electoral records - Annie Biggs, John Morgan, John William and Gertrude May Brooks, Rebecca Hallam** (from last month's bulletin), **Albert William and Violet Horrobin, Fred Hutchinson, John Edwin Thorley Lowe** and his mother **Mary Elizabeth Lowe and James Upton**. John William and Gertrude May Brooks had 3 children, Gertrude born 1922, John born 1925, and Margaret born in 1931, all born on Drury Lane.

Jane Horrobin was born to Albert William and Violet at Drury Lane in **1932** and died after 1 day. It is currently unclear where James Upton went to after 1931, but he died in Loughborough in 1948 and by **1939** John William and Gertrude May Brooks and children were living at 84 Loughborough Road, Thringstone. Annie Biggs died whilst living in Drury Lane in **June 1935** aged 64 meaning she was born in 1871 (see below). Mary Elizabeth Lowe died in **November 1935**. Whilst she is recorded as still living at Drury Lane, she died at 1 Nottingham Road, Ashby, and is buried at St Andrew's. Records seem to suggest that 1 Nottingham Road was the address of the workhouse, so presumably she went into the hospital there to be nursed through her final illness.

**Clearance orders for 1936 - John William Knapp** is listed as back at Drury Lane, at a time when the houses were due for demolition. Also there in 1936 were **John Edwin Thorley Lowe, and the Horrobin** family listed above. Another house down Drury Lane was already empty at that time.

By **1939**, most of the houses were no longer there, the only one that was housed **Emma Knapp**, mother to John William Knapp. Emma was born in March 1858, who we believe died in 1945.

Fred Hutchinson was living in the lodging house at the City of Dan, the Horrobin family were at 14 Western Avenue, Coalville, and John Edwin Thorley Lowe had married in 1938 to Catherine Birch and moved to 14 Wilfred Place, Ashby. John William Knapp died in Thringstone on 31 May 1941. James Upton died in Loughborough in 1948. John Edwin Thorley Lowe died in 1980 in Coalville.

**Fred Hutchinson Jnr.**, properly known as John Frederick Hutchinson, seems to have ended his days in a caravan at the rear of the Storey Arms in Osgathorpe, and died at Markfield Sanatorium on 12 April 1965 leaving money to Violet Horrobin nee Biggs.

**Watson/Hutchinson family – John Watson** was born around 1817 and died in 1897. He was one of 6 children of Charles and Sarah Watson and his life is very complicated. He lived in Drury Lane for some time both with his wife Jane born around 1818, and family, and also on his own. John married **Jane Hutchinson** in 1857 after most of the children shown with him in Drury Lane on the 1861 census had been born, which is why all save Frederick and Arthur were listed in the birth registers as Hutchinson, rather than Watson. Despite being registered as Frederick Watson, Fred chose to be known by the name of **Frederick Hutchinson**. Jane Hutchinson was the daughter of William Hutchinson born in 1782 and died in 1864 (a former army man who also appears in Thringstone census information) and his wife Mary nee Dealey. In 1841, Jane Hutchinson was living in Whitwick with her parents and a son and daughter. The daughter is called Mary and disappears. In 1851, John was living with his father Charles and sister Hannah Hurst and her daughter and Jane was single, and living elsewhere with a son and daughter. The son called **John Hutchinson** was born on 17 November 1840, and was known as Dukey, presumably after his



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father John Watson? A newspaper report from September 1858 says that John Watson was sentenced to a month's hard labour for failing to maintain his wife and children, so we assume all those mentioned on the 1861 census with him were his. In 1861, Jane's son John Hutchinson was living with his mother's sister Ann, now Mrs William Hibbert. He married on 21 April 1862 but died on 29 May 1863 in a pit accident at Coleorton. We will give more information on John next month. Jane's daughter Eliza is shown with Jane in 1851 but then disappears. Looking at the 1861 census for the Watson clan, you will see Sarah Ann, Jane's daughter. Registered as Sarah Ann Hutchinson, she married John Varnham, and continued to live on Drury Lane. It then gets complicated when you realise that John Varnham's sister Selina married Jane Hutchinson's firstborn son John who was born in 1840! Jane's other sons, properly named Joseph, Frederick and William Hutchinson, appear later on in Drury Lane census information, as can be seen from above. The other son, Arthur, lived with his mother for a while before marrying Rose Hall and moving to live on Talbot Lane. He died in 1932 and was buried at St Andrew's with his wife who had died in 1920. It is currently unclear what happened to Frances Hutchinson, down on the 1861 census as Fanny Watson. The Watson/Hutchinson family were no strangers to the court system. John's father **Charles**, who also lived in Drury Lane for a time, had deserted from the army and had several convictions for poaching and carrying a gun which had seen him in prison on more than one occasion. John's brother **Jeremiah** also had several convictions, mostly for poaching and larceny, the last one being in 1842 when Jeremiah was sent down for 1 month for stealing 3 live rabbits and selling them on. Jeremiah also fathered a child by Ann Atkins of Shepshed, for which in 1845 he was made to pay 2 shillings per week. John Watson also had a considerable criminal record. In 1837 he was in court for unlawfully fishing at Gracedieu, for which he received a fine of 40 shillings or 2 months hard labour. In January 1839, he was again found poaching on Gracedieu land and was sent down for 2 months. In June 1841, he went into prison for 2 months for theft, in late July 1841 he was fined 10 shillings for unlawfully fishing at Gracedieu, and in December 1841 he was locked up for 2 months for stealing a lock valued at 1 shilling and 1 penny, and then there was the assault on Robert Grimley and the stealing from John Gilbert mentioned earlier. He was in court in 1872 for theft of a shawl, and in 1876 when in court again for being drunk and riotous was described as an old offender. In May 1877, his sons William, a collier from Thringstone, and Joseph, a groom living in Stoney Stanton, and both reported as having the surname Watson, were in court to explain why they should not be subject to an order to maintain their father, John, who was at that time chargeable to the common fund of the Ashby Union Workhouse. William was ordered to pay 1 shilling per week and Joseph to pay 1 shilling and 3 pence per week. In 1879 **William Hutchinson** was in court and fined for being drunk, which happened many subsequent times, also for not sending his children to school, and received 6 weeks hard labour in prison for theft of candles and tea. The following year was in court again for having stolen a coat belonging to someone in Whitwick. In 1887 he received 3 months' hard labour for a theft from the landlord of the Rose and Crown. William appears in the **habitual criminals register for 1889**, and is described as 5'2 1/2", brown hair, hazel eyes with scars on his forehead and above his left eyebrow, blue marks on his nose and right eyebrow, anchor and crucifix on left forearm, and missing 2 top front teeth. He was in Leicester prison for 12 months from 24 November 1888 and had 10 previous convictions. John Watson does not appear on the 1881 census, and Joseph Hutchinson is now living on Drury Lane (as above). By 1881 his wife Jane is living in Main Street without him being there, saying that she is a widow, together with her youngest son Arthur and grandson John (Fred) Hutchinson and by 1891 they are both in Drury Lane, but not living together. John Watson was often in court for being drunk. He was in court in March 1883 for being drunk and incapable on the highway, and the last time being in October 1883 for being drunk in The Star in Thringstone. John died in July 1897 and is buried at St Andrew's.

Linked to the Hutchinsons were the Biggs family.

**Biggs family** –Annie Biggs and her family, Rose Mary, Violet and Doris are named on the 1911 census in Drury Lane. The descendants of **Rose Mary Biggs**, born on 14 November 1901, believe



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that Annie's original name was White, and that she married a Thomas Biggs, a shoe hand, at some point. There is no marriage to be found. They believe that all Annie's daughters had different fathers. In 1897 at St Andrew's, Thringstone, a child called **Edith Biggs** was baptized, with parents Annie and Thomas, a shoe hand from Oxenden Street, Leicester. This child then appears as niece of James Biggs in Leicester in 1901 with a birth address of Whitwick and then in 1911 with Henry James Biggs, shoe hand, in Clarendon Park in Leicester and is listed as his daughter. It is therefore unclear who she was. In 1901, Annie Biggs, aged 30 from Whitwick was living with Scottish miner James McCrorie in Main Street as his housekeeper. The census was taken in April and Rose Mary was born in November. Rose Mary was not baptized, and we are unable to find her marriage details online to see if a name of a father is given. Annie's daughter **Violet's baptism** record dated December 1908 gives an address of Drury Lane for Annie and a father of Thomas Biggs, shoe hand. Violet was born on 5 January 1904. **Doris Biggs** was born in Thringstone to Annie on 16 Dec 1910, and was baptized, but no father's name given. By 1911, Annie Biggs, is living with the Hutchinson's, and she has given her age incorrectly. There is an Ann White born in 1871 on the 1881 census living with parents William and Sarah in Talbot Lane which is believed to be her. The family of Rose Mary assume that Rose's father was James McCrorie, that Violet's father was Thomas Biggs as claimed on her baptism, and Doris was the child of Fred Hutchinson Jnr, given that in 1908 Annie was living on Drury Lane, and there is never any mention of a Thomas Biggs anywhere. Annie Biggs died aged 64 in 1935. Rose Mary Biggs also had an eventful life. We now have a photo of her. She had an illegitimate son called George Freeman Biggs on 21 January 1923. George's father was Frederick Freeman, a widower aged 39, whose wife Dinah had died in 1925 after having had several children. Fred was the son of Eliza Freeman late of Talbot Lane who had 10 children in all before her husband left her. Fred had two brothers called Richard and Herbert who died in WW1 and his sister was Annie Freeman whose WW1 exploits with the QMAAC have been chronicled before. By 1939, George had moved to live with a family called Cox at St Peter's Street in Syston and was working as a boot and shoe scourer. He returned to this area and married Edna Spencer in 1946, had a son called George H the following year and died in Coalville in Jan 1985. Rose went on to marry John Arthur Cartilidge and had a further 9 children, and died on 14 July 1990 in Leicester. We have already mentioned Violet marrying Albert William Horrobin and her life as above. Doris Biggs seems to have been at the public assistance nurses and master's home in Regent Street, Loughborough in 1939. In 1953 she married Edwin Dalby in Loughborough and died in Leicester in 1988.

Newspaper articles on the Biggs and Hutchinsons are interesting.

**May 1906** –5 May 1906, **Fred Hutchinson Snr.** (John Watson's son) **Fred Hutchinson Jnr. and Annie Biggs** were all up in court relating to an assault on PC Arthur Atkinson who came across them arguing on The Green whilst carrying out his duties. All were said to be drunk. It is worthwhile noting that Annie Biggs had daughters Rose who would be nearly 5 and Violet who would be nearly 2 at this point. Fred Snr. and Annie Biggs went away as requested, but Fred Jnr. continued to be a nuisance, and PC Atkinson was about to take him away when the row resumed. Fred Jnr. was arrested and taken to Coalville Police Station during which PC Atkinson was kicked on the shin several times. Only Fred Hutchinson Snr. appeared in court. Fred Snr. was fined 10s and 6 pence plus the same in costs or 14 days, Annie was fined 5 shillings and 3 pence plus 10 shillings and 6 pence costs or 14 days and Fred Jnr. 5 shillings and 6 pence and 12 shillings and 6 pence costs or 7 days for being drunk and disorderly and 21 shillings plus 12 shillings and 6 pence costs or 21 days for the attack on PC Atkinson, the sentences to run concurrently. In **November 1906, Annie Biggs** was in court again for using indecent language on 20 October. She did not appear and on the evidence of PC Atkinson was fined 7 shillings and 6 pence plus 14 shillings costs or 7 days. At the same court, **Fred Hutchinson Jnr.** pleaded guilty to being drunk on the highway on 20 October and was fined 7 shillings and 6 pence, plus costs, amounting to a total sum of 18 shillings or 7 days.

Next bulletin will be in February. Please try to keep safe