



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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We are also on facebook/twitter. Twitter address @Thringstone2

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2015 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Pam Porter, Bernard Lee, Mike Statham, Janet Stevenson, Ron Hill, Roy Hill, Geoff Walker, Peter and Jenny Walker, John Carr, PSCO Mark Ball, Kath Ingall, Tracy Foulds, Bill Enser, Mary Randall, Trish Nicholson, Eddie Henderson, Gillian Bates

Apologies: Rowena Summers, Marlene Pearson, Ann Petty, Nigel and Mary Roberts, David Stephenson, Ray Woodward, Jackie Spalding, Geoff and Jane Wilson

Discussions/Decisions

The Christmas Tree at the centre – This is being acquired next week and will be planted immediately thereafter.

Bus Route 16 – Cllr. Leon Spence and Cllr. Dave Everitt met with a person from Arriva recently regarding service buses in Thringstone. Nita read from his email:

Arriva has advised them that the old 26 service has not been financially viable for a number of years as well as intimating about the ongoing commercial viability of the old 126 service. He explained that after much consideration Arriva felt it was absolutely necessary to effectively merge the two services during the daytime and this has guaranteed a in the long term a half hourly service from Coalville to Loughborough.

There was talk about a less frequent local route, comparing it specifically to Greenhill, but Arriva maintains such a service would not be possible for two reasons. Firstly Arriva do not have capacity within their fleet to run such a route, secondly the Greenhill 11 services runs so often because it does make money. Subsidies for routes were discussed but it is fair to say no such support is currently available from County Hall and the situation is likely to worsen in the longer term. There was a discussion about petitions but it was suggested that unless such a petition were overwhelming it is likely to have little bearing on whether the old route could be reintroduced. They did speak about the options for routing through Thringstone and there are at least possibilities for alternative routes.



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Stepping out for a greener district



Arriva would be prepared to consider moving the route away from Melrose Road and keeping buses to Loughborough Road with the possibility of adding an additional stop to Loughborough Road around the entrance to Booth Road but with the bus continuing down Loughborough Road. This could mean better accessibility for passengers living on Main Street and Glebe Road without inconveniencing residents on Melrose Road too much. It is also likely to mean a reduction in the number of resident incidences that we have seen on Melrose Road since the new route commenced. *(Nita explained there was gridlock recently when 2 buses were unable to get past parked cars and owners refused to move their vehicles and people were late for work and missed connecting transport elsewhere).*

Arriva would also be willing to consider routing the 26 along Main Street and Hensons Lane before travelling onwards, although this clearly would mean moving buses further away from Melrose Road and inconveniencing a whole new set of customers.

It was agreed to put the possible options forward to local residents initially through Friends of Thringstone before going back to Arriva with a preferred option.

Andrew Bridgen has also been working hard on this and has contacted the regional director.

If anybody has any comments to make, please either pass them to Nita or contact Leon direct.

These can then be collated together to put a response back to Arriva.

For information purposes, the adult fare from Thringstone to Coalville is 70p less on the Skylink service and we understand that the children's price is even more of a bargain. The Skylink bus also operates through the village on a Sunday allowing people to access shops like Lidl and Aldi with a one hour turn round.

There was considerable discussion on why the bus service was now going round both ways on Melrose Road and the problems of having no bus stops on one side of the road. Nita was asked what consultation had been done, and what could be gained by this new route. Nita explained that the consultation had been with the Sustainable Travel Group at County Hall, but not with local people. Many people thought that smaller buses would be easier, and others explained the route of the new bus through Loughborough where there are similar issues.

It was pointed out that it now took people an hour to get from Thringstone to Coalville Hospital and a change of buses as well, which is not acceptable. There was also talk about why a double decker is needed to contend with school children when often the buses appear half used.

It was pointed out that a lady on Millhouse Estate now can't get to the bus stop because of the walk to get there, and it costs her £13 return in taxis which she can't afford. It was also pointed out that someone waited 40 minutes on Saturday night for a bus which didn't come, and the service was unreliable.

The PSCO said that he often used the buses to get around his beat, and now couldn't get around so easily with the change of routes.

The amount of parking on the roads was discussed and whether a double decker could easily negotiate any of the roads in the village, and it was pointed out that it was only because of the skill of the drivers that they have managed thus far.

The meeting felt that there was a social obligation to serve the community which was not being met at present, and that the social conscience of the operators had disappeared.

A vote was taken and it was unanimous that the bus service would be better served ignoring Melrose Road and going down Loughborough Road, down Main Street, down Glebe Road, and down Henson's Lane, as there are far more people on that route that would benefit than are currently served by going along Melrose Road.



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Nita agreed to pass all this on to Leon Spence and Dave Everitt for them to take to their next meeting with Arriva.

Century of Stories –The art project ended on 2 November with lots of good work being done by the 5 young people who have joined this project. A presentation was given to parents and other interested parties by the children on 2 November. Kath said it was a wonderful presentation and a pleasure to see.

As a group, FoT was invited to go to the records office in Leicester on 6 November with the county council team, but we are not going. Mike said it was a wonderful project, and the centre was looking forward to the banners being done from the artwork created, and hoped these would be soon up at the centre for everybody to see.

Following on from things relating to WW1, a **Peace Garden** was opened at Coalville Park on Tuesday November 3 at 11am to mark the 100 year anniversary of the First World War.

The deputy leader of North West Leicestershire District Council officially opened this tribute to all of the local people that suffered and gave their lives for their country during World War I and every conflict since. The ceremony included a short blessing by the local priest as well as refreshments in the Balfe Room at St Wilfred of York Church after.

2000 spring bulbs from NWLDC's Green Shoots Grants – The bulbs were delivered on 15 October, and it was agreed to try to plant these on 17 October. We got 500 mixed narcissi, 500 mixed daffodils, 300 mixed crocus, 450 yellow tulips and 250 English bluebells. The bluebells went straight to the community centre.

A group of 10 of us planted about two thirds of the remainder on that day, with Bernard agreeing to put in others on The Green and down Millhouse, and Nita agreeing to plant more crocuses near the Booth Road corner. 3 other people offered to help put in some in set areas after our morning planting session and were given bulbs to plant. The area down Drury Lane has been saturated with bulbs and we hope these come up and are left undisturbed once in bloom, as they should look a picture next Spring. Spare crocus have been given to the Community Centre to plant there. Thanks to everybody who has helped with this. Pictures were taken, and a press release sent to local media with photos, which were also sent to our webmaster, and a photo and details put on our facebook and twitter pages.

NWLDC's Free Tree Scheme – We put in for 6 free trees and are currently waiting to see if our application has been successful.

Dog Fouling down the jitty to St Andrew's – Someone has taken a dislike to this, and has been putting pink rings round dog fouling and leaving messages on the pathway for some time. One of the latest ones was quite lengthy, and said that the person was known and had been reported to the dog warden. We have ascertained from NWLDC that there is no dog warden, and that nothing has been reported to the streetscene people who deal with such matters. Nobody seems to know who it putting these pink signs on the pavements down by the church. Nita said it would be nice if the person said who they were.

Flood warden wanted for Thringstone – We have received an email from Kevin Roberts at NWLDC. He is updating the Community Flood Plan for NW Leicestershire for which Thringstone is included. In a nutshell this is a plan based on the Environment Agency data for the potential of flooding to properties. This flooding can come from rivers and streams nearby or indeed, because of the low lying area within the town or village, surface water flooding. Thringstone as you well know has potential flooding issues with the Gracedieu Brook.



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Part of the early response to this is the engagement of the local community through a voluntary flood warden (or indeed wardens). The role is purely voluntary and is not an onerous task. Local knowledge is found to be very beneficial to agencies dealing with the potential of flooding. I have enclosed a flood warden booklet outlining the role. There is a little bit of training which can be done locally for the convenience of the volunteer and it mainly covers their safety and also how the Environment Agency issue warnings and alerts. He has asked that this matter is brought to our attention. He asked us to kindly raise the matter at our meeting to see if anyone locally to the village may wish to volunteer. He is more than happy to answer any questions you may have in relation to this. Kevin can be reached on 454680.

Post box on The Green – One of our members made enquiries with the post office about whether it would be possible to have a post box by the new post office, They have replied that there are 3 post boxes in the village within a certain distance, and another post box is not warranted.

What is happening at the community centre – The centre now **has wifi** which will help those attending meetings and giving presentations in the future. There is also a **new PA system in the middle room**, which will help with many of the functions planned and also with existing things, like the plug and play etc.

There has been considerable discussion about updating the constitution and trusteeship statements. The management committee have voted to investigate becoming a **CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**.

This means the centre can still be a registered charity, still get the same tax breaks etc., and would operate with a group of what was recommended to be 7-9 trustees with limited responsibility, so should things go wrong, the responsibility would be £1 per trustee, so no houses at risk. It is hoped that about 3 of these trustees will be professional people, like architects, lawyers etc., so it isn't just a group of user group representatives making business decisions. This means the centre needs to recruit such people. Mike said that the idea is to have 3 people who live locally, 3 who represent user groups, and 3 professional people. If anybody is interested in being part of this, it would be nice for them to contact Mike Statham, chairman of the management committee, direct please.

The RCC, and Kevin Butcher in particular, who is helping us with this, have a template for use, and it would take 6 weeks or thereabouts to set up. The centre is hopeful that everything will be set up by April next year, but it all has to be approved by cabinet at County Hall first.

The centre is keen that whatever is put in place continues to mention other villages, not just Thringstone.

The current Trusteeship, held by County Hall, mentions Thringstone, Whitwick, Osgathorpe, Belton and Worthington as the area which the centre should serve

Going towards a CIO would not immediately affect the money the centre currently gets from LCC, but would protect the centre going forward and show the County Council that the centre is trying to become self-supporting in the modern age.

The funding from the LCC will be phased out, but it is by no means certain when this will happen, and we need to protect ourselves, going forward, in light of what happened at Snibston Discovery Museum.

In order to run events etc., and to operate the bar as a paying concern, it will also be necessary to set up a CIC which is a Community Interest Company. A CIC is anything that wants to do things for the good of the community and use its profits for the community's benefit.



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That would mean any events would be run by this group by hiring the facility from the CIO. By doing this, there would be no business rate implications, and the centre would still have limited responsibility. Any money any event raised would be paid to the CIO or parent group, to limit responsibility at all avenues, and in order for the centre to continue to operate and develop ideas. The CIC would have to have a board of directors which should ideally be made up of some of the trustees of the CIO and some others.

There are a lot of new things happening at the centre, and these were mentioned, and are contained within the community report later on.

Monthly litter pick total – 138 against 178 last October. However, last year we had conducted a community litter pick in the month, and we have not had an organized litter pick for some time.

New Member – welcome to Sylvia Hall who joined us this week. Her membership monies will be on the November statement for the December meeting.

Chairs Report

Letters received:

- From **East Midlands Housing** asking us to attend a specially organized trip to Fortnam Close and then afternoon tea on 20 November. We intend to take our archive information relating to John Thomas Fortnam and other men from the village involved in WW1 so that family members and others can see what we have on the men of the village from that time. Bill said there were still sewer issues down that end of the village.
- From Dr. Diane Davies enclosing a copy of her book **Leicestershire Dialect**. We participated in a project in 2011 called Village Voices, where various people were taped, and two of our residents are quoted in the book, in the introduction and the villages section.

Emails Received:

- Various from members and agencies with which we regularly deal
- Email newsletter from our printers, Teamprint, in Loughborough explaining new procedures for sending things to print.
- From **National Forest Walk Festival** people about their festival which is from 14-26 May 2016. In that brochure is a walk to Grace Dieu Priory which Ann will be doing on 15th May. The walk carries with it a cost of £2.50 and will meet at The Bull's Head at 3pm. Another walk which includes Grace Dieu woods and the ruins runs at 7pm from The Hare and Hounds on 19th May and is a 5 mile walk organized by The Ramblers. On 25th May there is a 2 mile historical walk from Whitwick Historical Group's site around Whitwick starting at 1.30pm with refreshments afterwards.

Emails Sent:

- Various to agencies with which we deal.
- To NWLDC asking for stakes to resecure the bench down Drury Lane which was targeted by vandals on 22 October and moved from its original position.
- To all members on email regarding the survey that NWLDC are carrying out into people's views on how to best regenerate Coalville. If non-email members would like more details, please get in touch.



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Promotion:

- We have 338 **twitter followers**, an increase of 3 this month, and 188 **facebook followers**, an increase of 7 this month.
- We have a half page advert in the Autumn/Winter copy of the centre's **Focus magazine**. Thank you to the centre!
- Our photo and editorial on the bulb planting appeared in the **Coalville Times** of 23 October, with a headline suggesting only 200 bulbs were planted.
- Leon Spence, who writes for **The Catholic Universe**, used FoT as an example of good practice for volunteering, mentioning our awards, and our recent bulb planting. Thank you.
- We have advertised **Carols Round The Tree** on the NWLDC's What's On internet page and on the internet page for Things To Do In Leicestershire.

Other:

- Completed survey for **Litter Action UK** and discovered they have a facebook page, which we have now joined.
- Had a call from the **Job Centre** asking us to take on a volunteer who wanted to work in conservation. As he lives in Kirkby Mallory, which is close to Mallory Park. Despite him having transport, he wasn't currently interested in litter picking, which was all we could offer. We have therefore declined the application.
- We have joined the **Pick Up Some Litter** facebook group page.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)			£3,137.56
Income		Expenditure	
Donation	£9.50	Broadband etc.	£17.42
Raffle	£6	NWLDC – our portion of bulb cost	£87.00
		Typing paper	£3.00
Publications	£20.50	Stamps	£6.48
total income to general fund		Total expenditure	£113.90
		Total general fund at month end	3,059.66

Publications Report

Nita has sold 3 businesses booklets, which came with a donation of £2. David sold a Scottish in Thringstone booklet obtaining a donation at the same time of £7.50. Nothing was sold at either the Community Centre or the Members Club. David has offered to do a presentation to the bowls club on the publications of FoT in the hope that some might wish to make purchases.



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Web Report

There have been no updates done to the site since August. The webmaster is aware of this situation.

Police Report – PCSO Mark Ball

- There has been an issue with drug taking near the garages on **Clover Place**, but the force has been dealing with this and the issue seems resolved.
- Following a lot of activity by children on bikes making ramps from the car park to the **Melrose Sports Pavilion** and also people taking cars onto the football pitch, the parks department decided to increase the banking, and take it to its original height of a few years back. Fencing was an option but the normal knee rail fencing used to stop access is wooden and it was felt that this site was not the best place to use that. The parks department had previously used concrete bollards many years ago but they got vandalised. As a result of this raising of the banking, there have been fewer children playing on the car park, although some damage has continued to be caused to the banking area by children continuing to dig into it, to create holes which we presume enhances their biking experience. As a result of all this, another option may now be considered long term and this is now being discussed between the housing department and the parks department at NWLDC.
- Mark said that the **football pitch at the back of the bowls club** is no longer used on a regular basis, and the council could consider selling it off. He was in discussions with them on whether it would be an idea to set up a skate park there or something else for children, rather than just sell it straight off for other development. If there were a tenants and residents association on the Melrose Road estate, maybe they could put their views forwards, but at the moment there isn't one.
- Someone set fire (again) to the bin in the **Melrose Play area** on 4 October. The fire brigade had to come and put this out.
- On Halloween, someone set fire to a car **parked on Main Street** near the church jitty. This belonged to a person on the force. It appears to have also caused issues for the road surface there.
- Nita said she understood that **Thringstone Members Club** has had to close their front door and ask people to go in by the side door because of children going in and vandalizing the toilets. Mark said the club had not told the police this.
- Nita had been told of men, saying they work for **various charities**, going round houses after dark asking for donations. Mark said it is relatively easy now for people to get personal information on anybody including details of their property. If you feel unhappy opening the door to anybody after dark, irrespective of who they claim to be, please don't open the door. Mark said that people need to tell the police of these issues rather than just talking about it amongst themselves or with the Neighbourhood Watch team.

Mark said it is really important that people report things to the police.

Failure to do this could see the neighbourhood police team reduced or disappear completely.

There was talk at this point about people just getting an incident number and nothing else being done, and this led to a long discussion on budget cuts within the police service nationwide.



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There was a general discussion on personal concerns, including parking on Main Street, and also on whether it was true that at one point the police were only dealing with odd numbers on call outs. This had now stopped.

Mark said there were lots of issues in the police generally due to budget cuts, and if people felt strongly about the lack of policing they should contact the Police Commissioner and put their views across.

Community Report and What's On

A recent MacMillan Coffee Morning at **Thringstone Primary** raised £212 for the charity. Well done to all concerned. A further £245.12 was raised on the Wear Pink day which was donated to the Breast Cancer Campaign.

The sponsored walk conducted by **Thringstone Primary** just before half term raised £50.160. Thanks to all who contributed

Children in church. St Andrew's Church would like to encourage more children to come to church so are trying "Messy Church" with crafts, activities and refreshments, on the first Sunday of the month beginning on December 5th at 10.00am. Please help us to launch this with any family who has children and grandchildren just for one hour a month. Families will be catered for so please come and give it a try.

Ride and Stride held recently raised £55 for **St Andrew's Church** funds.

The raffle held at the Murder Mystery 'Over My Dead Body' on 9 and 10 October raised £179 for the community centre. Thanks to all who bought tickets.

The Bull's Head have a raffle going to raise funds for Adapt – extra special babies, extra special support. This is a local charity, and the raffle is to win a luxury hamper. Tickets are £1 a strip and are available now by asking bar staff. The raffle will be drawn at 3pm on Christmas Eve.

Thringstone Panto And Drama Society is looking for volunteers to help in their next production in January 2016. They are looking for Front of House, Backstage staff and Lighting staff and also people who can make scenery items. If you would like further details please email chair@tpads.org.uk. You can be assured of a warm welcome and lots of fun

- 6 Nov – Whitwick Constitutional Club (The Conny Club), **bonfire night party** from 7pm with Maximum Jam.
- 6 Nov – **Band night** at Thringstone House Community Centre.
- 7 Nov – Hall Lane Methodist Church, by Rugby Club – **Ladies Pamper Fayre**. 10am-2pm. Includes health checks plus beauty, fashion, accessories, crafts and gifts. Entrance 50p. Refreshments will be available.
- 7 Nov – Big Plan performing at **Lady Jane, Whitwick**, from 9pm
- 8 Nov – **Remembrance Day** parade etc. in Coalville. For Whitwick, the parade leaves the Leisure Centre at 2pm with the church service at St John's at 2.30pm.
- 8 Nov – **Fireworks and BBQ** at Lady Jane, Whitwick. Starts at 4pm
- 9 Nov – **County Music and Dance at Thringstone House Community Centre** from 7pm-11pm. Bar open. Live music. Costs £4. This is a weekly music night.
- 12 Nov – **Folk night at Thringstone House Community Centre**. Starts at 8.30pm and will take place every 2nd Thursday of the month.
- 13 Nov – Ultimately Eva – **Tribute to Eva Cassidy** at Thringstone House Community Centre with Lesley Curtis. Tickets £8 from the centre. Starts at 7.30pm.
- 13 Nov – **Whitwick Constitutional Club** – Skamanga Ska group.



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- 14 Nov – Cut and Run are performing 60s and 70s music at **Lady Jane, Whitwick**
- 16 Nov - **County Music and Dance at Thringstone House Community Centre** from 7pm-11pm. Bar open. Costs £4. This is a weekly music night.
- 18 Nov – **Quiz night** at Lady Jane, Whitwick
- 19 Nov – **Adult Bingo** at Thringstone House Community Centre – 7pm for 7.30pm start
- 20 Nov – **Charity quiz night at North Street Club.** 8pm start. Teams of 4 @ £5 per person. Money goes to LRI Children’s Cancer Unit. Cash prize for winner.
- 20 Nov – **Whitwick Constitutional club** – Nicola Marie – Lady Gaga tribute act
- 20 Nov – **Annual Village Quiz Night** at Thringstone House Community Centre. FoT have a team entered.
- 21 Nov – **Coalville Food and Drink Festival** in town Santa and reindeer, market stalls, entertainment and Christmas light switch on.
- 21 Nov – Rock night with MLC at **Lady Jane, Whitwick**
- 21 Nov – **Folk night at Swannington Village Hall** raising funds for Coleorton and New Lount Volunteer Group. Tickets £10 each from 223456.
- 23 Nov - **County Music and Dance at Thringstone House Community Centre** from 7pm-11pm. Bar open. Live music. Costs £4. This is a weekly music night.
- 27 Nov – **Thringstone Primary Christmas Fayre.** 3.30pm-5pm. All welcome.
- 27 Nov – **Friday Christmas Fayre at Belton Church** from 6pm-8pm. All welcome
- 27 Nov – **Whitwick Constitutional Club** – Dan Budd as Robbie Williams
- 27 Nov – **Open Mike night** at Thringstone House Community Centre. 8pm start.
- 28 Nov – **St John’s in Whitwick. Christmas Fayre.** 3pm-5pm. Refreshments and stalls. All proceeds to church funds.
- 28 Nov – The Cheeze performing at **Lady Jane, Whitwick**
- 28 Nov – Whitwick Methodist Church, Hall Lane – Rossini Petite Messe Solemnelle with Broomleys Choral Society. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £6 from 01455 290840 or on the door.
- 30 Nov - **County Music and Dance at Thringstone House Community Centre** from 7pm-11pm. Bar open. Live music. Costs £4. This is a weekly music night.
- 30 Nov – downstairs at Thringstone House Community Centre – **film club** – Far from the madding crowd. Starts at 7.30pm
- 5 Dec – **Thringstone Scouts Christmas Fair** in the scout hut. No times known.
- 7 Dec - **County Music and Dance at Thringstone House Community Centre** from 7pm-11pm. Bar open. Live music. Costs £4. This is a weekly music night.
- 10 Dec - **Folk night at Thringstone House Community Centre.** Starts at 8.30pm and will take place every 2nd Thursday of the month.
- 11 Dec – **Carols Round The Tree** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Meet at St Andrew’s at 6.30pm and walk to the centre for 7pm and carols outside (or inside if wet) with Ukulele entertainment inside afterwards. Bar open.
- 12 Dec – **Leicestershire Co-op Band** in concert at St David’s Church, Broomleys. 7.30pm start, tickets £6 (children free). Contact 07935 263988.
- 13 Dec – **Carols at Grace Dieu Priory.** Starts at 3pm. All welcome.
- 14 Dec - **County Music and Dance at Thringstone House Community Centre** from 7pm-11pm. Bar open. Live music. Costs £4. This is a weekly music night.



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- 17 Dec – **Adult Bingo** at Thringstone House Community Centre – 7pm for 7.30pm start
- 20 Dec – **Carols by Candlelight** at St John's in Whitwick from 6pm.
- 31 Dec – **Village New Year's Eve Party** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Bring food to share and enjoy the party disco. Doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets £2 on sale shortly.
- 15 -23 Jan 2016 – The panto at the Community Centre will be Little Red Riding Hood. Tickets will be £8, concessions/children £7. To book a ticket, please contact 834575.
- 15 May – Grace Dieu Historical Walk with members of Friends of Grace Dieu Priory. Meet at Bull's Head at 3pm. Cost £2.50. Children free.
- 19 May – Walk through Grace Dieu Woods with the Ramblers as part of the National Forest Walk Festival. Meets at the Hare and Hounds in Whitwick at 7pm.
- 25 May – Whitwick Historical Group is leading a historical walk round Whitwick meeting at their Old Station Close HQ at 1pm. Light refreshments afterwards.

History report

- Ann attended the Heritage Forum meeting, and told people about our two latest books (pubs and businesses), about our work with Century of Stories and mentioned that we have in the past researched the Wesleyan church in the village. There are ideas of producing a book on non-conformist churches in NWL in 2016, and at that point in time, some of our research may prove useful to the forum group.
- We were invited to go to an event in Ibstock next May aimed at promoting the history of villages during the **industrial revolution**. We have decided not to participate this time.
- We mentioned in earlier reports that **The 1939 register** would soon become available on Findmypast. The 1931 census was lost in WW2 and the 1941 census not taken, so this becomes of vital interest to people researching family and local histories around WW2. This register, which was taken on 29 September 1939 was released on 2 November, and covers parts of streets, rather than just an individual household. The register was used to help work out how many young people may be able to be called up, and was also used as a foundation for the NHS. On asking to view an image, you can see the household of anybody born more than 100 years ago who has died between 1939 and 1990. This is because the register was kept up to date until 1990, so sometimes where it is known that a person married after 1939, both their maiden and married names can be shown and from that knowledge, it could be determined if the person had died.
It is the 100 year ruling that the UK government has put in place which means that the latest census you can access is that for 1911, unlike the USA where you can currently view census information up to and including 1940.
Various households where a person within it is not known to now be dead are blanked out as closed records, and if your relative is one of those affected, you need to provide a copy of their death certificate in order to see the image. The other downside is that you need to pay £6.95 per household or £24.95 for a bundle of 5 households (taking the cost down to £4.95 per household) to view these.
These restrictions make it impossible for us to effectively say we will be able to do any research on Thringstone as a village.
- **East Midlands Oral History Archive's YouTube channel** playlist featuring videos about Leicestershire & Rutland now includes British Pathe films and has more than 75 titles. See



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it all here - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3Rnsga7PXcsUPoh9LNfWwwP0aZvqpw7f>

The footage available covers Bardon, Castle Donington's 1938 British Empire Motorcar Trophy, and a film on the history of framework knitting as far as our area is concerned .

- We met the new owner of **the house next to Thringstone Co-op** who says he intends to do it up to live in, and hopes to be living there before Christmas. We have offered him photographs of the property around the turn of the 1900s if he needs them to take the property back to how it used to look externally.
- In our latest publication, Businesses in Thringstone, we made mention of **Albert Glover Ottey** being a boot and shoe repairer, and that he was at one time declared bankrupt and stopped operating his business to become a groundsman, but by 1911 had started his business up again. Having looked at the **Deed of Trust for Thringstone House Community Centre** dated 27 May 1911, one of the signatures on the paperwork is Albert Glover Ottey of Thringstone, groundsman, along with Arthur John Willmott, who was in the employment of Charles Booth at Grace Dieu Manor as Butler.

It is now quite obvious that Albert Ottey was also working for Charles Booth, and kept the cricket pitch for Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club, which was located at the manor at that time. Other signatures on these documents, along with Charles Booth, are his son Charles Zachary Macaulay Booth, his son-in-law William Thackery Denis Ritchie of Chelsea, Rev. Cheverton Shrewsbury and Charles Edmund Crane also of Thringstone, son of the first vicar at St Andrew's, solicitor and founder of what became Crane and Walton. In fact, the final signature is Cyril Thomas Walton, Solicitor's Clerk, Coalville. Mr Walton became a solicitor himself in 1926. Charles Edmund Crane started his work as an independent solicitor from his mother's house in Whitwick in 1907 and opened his first office in High Street, Coalville, above what was then Hands the Chemist, in 1908.

Along with the trust papers is a map of the area owned by the community centre, with the proper name for Bob's Closs being given as Home Close, that area being conveyed to Charles Booth from Mrs Louisa White (of Thringstone House) on 25 March 1901. The map also shows neighbouring properties, working from Whitwick Moor to the centre, being owned by **Jabez Henson, J Biddle and G Ward**.

Jabez Henson was one of the Henson family of blacksmiths about whom we have written previously whose address at that time was 1 The Green.

J Biddle was John Biddle, baker, whose address in 1911 was Myrtle House, Thringstone. He was 59 years of age and married to Elizabeth nee Smith. They had had 9 children of whom 2 had died by the time of the 1911 census. John Biddle died on 10 January 1929 and is buried at St Andrew's church. We are not sure where Myrtle House was, but he appears to have owned 3, 5, 7 and 9 The Green. We do know that John Biddle had not always lived in Thringstone and that in 1909, he lived at Rose Cottage, 111 Grace Dieu Road, Whitwick.

G Ward was George William Ward, married to Fanny Kirby. George died on 18 February 1930, and lived at Fern Cottage, Thringstone which is now 11 The Green, (a property built in 1909), which is where he also died. He was a foreman platelayer on the railways, and had had 8 children of whom 2 had died by the time of the 1911 census.

The 1911 census shows Mr Richards, Mr Watts, Mr Biddle then Mr Ward in the 4 houses leading from Whitwick Moor corner to 'the club house', which is detailed as a public



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library and club.

- We had a call from a man from Northamptonshire ringing from St Andrew's wanting to trace his family tree. He had been told by one of our members who he met in the graveyard that we would help. He was looking for details on the parents of **Charles Harold Robinson**, born in Thringstone in 1861, and did not have access to any genealogy sites to further his enquiries. We ascertained from Ancestry.co.uk,, and told the enquirer, that this man moved from Thringstone at an early age to Whitwick and then to Annesley in Nottinghamshire, and that his parents were John Robinson a bricklayer born 1840 in Swannington and Ann Harris born 1837 in Thringstone. Ann died locally in 1916. Charles's parents had 9 children of whom 4 had died by 1911. The couple appear to have lived apart from sometime between the 1881 and 1891 censuses, and Ann ran a tobacconist shop in Nottingham for a while. As they had married in 1860, this would probably have taken place at St John's or St George's, so we advised the man to further his research in other villages. We did, however, confirm to the gent that Charles Harold Robinson ended up in Wakefield in 1911 as a science teacher having lived for a while in Sherborne in Dorset where he taught in a grammar school. Charles had 2 children and died on 26 May 1918 in Newton Hill, Wakefield.

Councillors' report

- Proposals to **improve grass cutting** after a review of the 2015 season are set to be considered by Leicestershire County Council. North West Leicestershire residents could be affected by the council's decision on whether to increase grass cutting in urban areas from five to six cuts a year and adopt a more flexible system. Councillor Peter Osborne, cabinet member for highways, said: "It is a difficult balancing act, making tough savings while delivering the best service we can for the money. I think that by listening to the public and reviewing the first year of our in house operation, we can improve on our performance from this year and deliver an improved grass cutting service around our towns." This year, the council spent £902,265 cutting grass on road verges around the county, using its own in house staff and 30 parish councils. This was £135,000 less than the previous year but still £100,000 above its budget target. The frequency of cuts had been reduced to five a year, in light of budget consultation responses which showed the public wanted less money spent on the service. The council has now reviewed the service, as the overall budget did not meet the savings target and there was a 27 per cent rise in calls to the customer service centre about grass cutting. There is genuine confusion about who cuts what areas, as grass near to council houses is cut by NWLDC, as are play areas etc.
- Resurfacing of parts of **Loughborough Road** and the top end of Melrose Road took place on 18 October by the county council's highways team and Jordan road surfacing. Despite there being advisory signs up of this work taking place 2 weeks before it started, motorists still seemed to have difficulty getting to various parts of the village.
- Council leader Richard Blunt wants to have people's views on what should be **the future for Coalville**, so that plans can be developed to turn the town around - and about time some of you might say. Others might think it a lost cause, and just a political thing to be able to say that people were consulted, when nobody is going to take any notice anyway but unless people give their views, those in power will never know what we actually think,



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footprints
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and we won't be in a position to criticize what is happening if we don't respond to these sorts of requests for our views.

There is a survey on line about this at

http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/regenerating_coalville

Gardening and environment

- All the bulbs have now been planted. We have also purchased more bulbs to plant in another area, as 2000 bulbs, whilst it is a lot, actually doesn't go far.
- We had been asked about improving a neglected area on the **Glebe Road estate**, but feel that we do not have the reserves to be able to tackle this area.
- Someone moved the **blue bench down Drury Lane** and by doing so, we have lost the stakes that were holding it in place. If anybody has any that we could use to ensure that the bench stays put, please let us know.

AOB

Geoff Walker kindly gave the group a copy of his book From Budbrooke Barracks to China and Japan. This covers his national service between 1951 and 1953. Thank you Geoff.

Next meeting is our Christmas party: 3rd December starting at 6.45pm in the bar lounge, as usual. Please bring food to share.



R C C

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