



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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Visit our website at: www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk
We are also on facebook/twitter. Twitter address @Thringstone2

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 JANUARY 2018 AT CHARLES BOOTH CENTRE, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THRINGSTONE HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Ann Petty, Janet Stevenson, Julie and Dave Everitt, Bill Enser, Ron Hill, Maureen Simm, John Jackson

Apologies: Bernard Lee, Nigel and Mary Roberts, Tracy Foulds, Pat Hubbard, Pam Porter

Discussions/Decisions.

Carols On The Green – Due to treacherous ice and pavements, this was cancelled. 9 adults, 5 children and a dog turned up on The Green and 3 at the church. All were very understanding as to why it had been cancelled.

Helpfulpeeps.com is a website on which you can sign up to help other people with things they need help with, from dog walking, to learning to bake, gardening, learning to play the guitar and all sorts. Nita has signed up to this to promote FoT and the history side of our work. She has also offered to help people get started with their family tree. If anybody else wants to sign up, please do. It is a completely free service, and aims to keep community spirit going throughout the country.

Monthly litter pick total – 142 bags against **157** for the same month last year. Yearly litter pick total was 1873 against 2017 for the previous 12 months. Sharon and Dave Astill have collected 634 bags for the group this year. We have posted details of our figures for 2017 to Keep Britain Tidy.

Nita got a surprise on 21 December when Thringstone Co-op presented her with a bag containing 3 food items for 'doing something great in your community as a litter picker'. Thank you Co-op.

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 495 **twitter followers**, which is 24 more than last month, and 557 **facebook followers**, which is 8 more than last month. We are continuing to post details of local events and also historical photos on both sites. The figures for the start of 2017 were 428 twitter followers and 346 facebook followers, so our numbers have increased quite considerably in the last 12 months for facebook particularly.

Other: 19 Christmas cards were sent from the group to individuals and other groups. We received one card back - from Mrs Fanny Hugill



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Stepping out for a greener district



Nita has updated the information on what the group has achieved to include everything from 2017. This has been sent to the webmaster for the site.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,351.13		
Income		Expenditure	
Publications	£36	Broadband	£10.50
Raffle	£13	Insurance renewal	£84.00
		Stamps	£6.72
		Book on history of Griffydam	£12
total income to general fund	£49		£113.22
		Total general fund at month end	£2286.91

Publications Report

Nita sold 2 sets of Thringstone and Its People, Businesses in Thringstone and Pubs in Thringstone.

Web Report

Minutes for December have been put on site, but there are some photos to yet go on.

Police Report

- We have heard reports of a total of 18 broken car windows in Booth Road and Loughborough Road as well as in Thornborough Road and Talbot Street, Whitwick in 10 days from 5 December. Police are unsure why this is happening as nothing is being stolen but do think they know who may be responsible and are working on gathering evidence. If anyone knows anything or seen anything it would be greatly helpful.
- There is a telephone scam coming to police attention in the area, where as someone goes to their bank withdraws money and then they get a phone call from someone acting as the Police and saying the notes are fraudulent and a carrier will collect them. A Facebook warning message from Leicestershire Police has gone out to make people aware.
- There continues to be anti-social behaviour on the football pitch at the rear of the bowling club, and residents whose properties are near the new bench continue to report problems to Nita, as neighbourhood watch for Springfield/Heathfield. These complaints have been passed on to the police. Reports regarding people riding motorbikes of various sizes on the football pitch have been passed to NWLDC's parks department who own the land. They in turn have said this is classed as anti-social behaviour, and anybody seeing this needs to report it to the police.
- A bag of dead hares was found on Redhill Lane on 4 January. Men have been seen in the woodland during the Christmas period with ferrets and dogs. The person who found the bag has reported this to RSPCA as wildlife cruelty and to NWLDC. Nita said she had been given a brace of pheasants prior to Christmas, which were obviously also caught locally. She gave these to another member. Nita said she understands that poaching has been going on in the countryside for years and probably will continue to happen, but said that she understood groups of youths were now also going



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onto the land belonging to Gracedieu Manor School, and this had been reported to them. It was also distressing to see rabbits and hares being killed, as she had over the Christmas period.

Community Report and What's On

£900 was raised at the **Primary School Christmas Fayre**. Thank you to everybody who contributed.

The boxing day football match at Thringstone FC raised £1115 to be split equally between the three charities – Olivia's Journey, Myeloma UK and Mini's Fund. Thank you to everybody who helped and supported the event.

A new line dancing class for beginners is starting at Thringstone Members Club on Monday mornings from 10.30am until 11.30am at a cost of £4. For further information contact Linda on 07907 711282

- 8Jan – new yoga class starting at the centre at 6.30pm. For further information speak with Jenna on shaktiyogaloughborough@hotmail.com or 07975527122
- 12 Jan – **Soul night** at Thringstone Members Club. £3 ent;ry. 8pm until late. All welcome.
- 19-27 Jan – **Rapunzel at Thringstone Community Centre**. Tickets £9 OAP and children £8. Ticket booking line is www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads or you can book on the phone to 0333 666 3366 or you can go into the centre on Thursdays between 7.30pm and 8.30pm and get tickets from the cast. The charity the panto will be supporting is The Little Princess Trust. This charity provides wigs for people up to the age of 24 years for people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other illness.
- 9 Feb - **Valentine's Day dinner** at The Conny Club, Whitwick. Upon arrival you will be presented with a chilled glass of Prosecco, before being seated for your delicious 3 course meal. Jackie Chamberlain will be there to create the perfect, romantic ambiance with a blend of carefully chosen songs. Booking is essential. Tickets available direct from the club. £14.95 per person

History report

- We have agreed to work with Whitwick U3A on part of the **Memorial project for war memorials and rolls of honour** etc. under the heading of 'commemoration in Coalville Urban area'. There is to be an initial meeting next Wednesday at the council offices. There will also be an exhibition and brochure produced (next summer) and the wording of the proposed brief currently reads 'This theme will offer informal learning opportunities for people who wish to learn a *medium, large* or *extra-large* amount. In cooperation with other organisations, we will carry out *broad* research into the ways that the First World War was commemorated in the Coalville urban area. We will research the stories behind the area's freestanding war memorials, imperial and private war graves, rolls of honour and memorial stained glass. The research will examine readily-available source material, including material in local collections and the County Record Office. The *broad* research will form the basis of an informal learning opportunity for [x] people who wish to learn a *medium* or *large* amount. The research will form the basis of touring exhibition and a brochure. The exhibition and brochure will contain a gazetteer of commemorative sites in the Coalville urban area. The exhibition will contain more images than text and will offer a learning opportunity for [x] people who wish to learn a *medium* amount. The brochure will contain more text than images and will offer a learning opportunity for [x] people who wish to learn a *large* amount. The exhibition and brochure will be reproduced on our website to ensure a legacy. In cooperation with the Friends of Thringstone, the Whitwick U3A History Group and other organisations, we will carry out *narrow* research into one of the themes covered by the exhibition and brochure. The research will examine less readily-available source



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material. Volunteer researchers will attend short courses where they will gain skills relevant to ensuring heritage is better understood. The *narrow* research will form the basis of a lecture, which will offer a learning opportunity for [x] people who wish to learn an *extra-large* amount. The lecture will be reproduced in a local publication such as the Leicestershire Historian, to ensure a legacy.

- We were given some old books from the Leicestershire Family History Society in which was a photo of the 1948 Whitwick Colliery football team with **Len White** (formerly of Henson's Lane) on there. We believe that he had trials for Leicester City.
- We have been able to download a copy of the **Spring 1921 electoral registers** for Thringstone showing the whole parish, to include Coleorton and Pegg's Green in part and also the 1931 electoral register. These show who lives where and could be very useful going forward. From this information we have established that Charnwood Farm at that time was occupied by Edward and Mary Atkins, that Eleanor Newbold Winfield and Samuel John Winfield farmed at Glebe Farm, and that Sarah Jacquiss was at Stoneycroft Farm, with Joseph King and John Edward King farming at Mill Farm. Hannah Knight was at Stordon Grange, and Charles and Esther Emily Rose farmed at Elms Farm. We have also established that Frederick George Lambert lived at Gracedieu View on The Green – the blue house next to Thringstone Co-op. Frederick appears to have been born in Belvoir Road, Coalville and was the son of a cycle agent who eventually moved to Ravenstone. After he left, for some time, James Charles Gough lived there. Known as Charlie, he was the son of Charles and Esther Gough who kept The Bull's Head and in later years he had the small holding near to the new Bellway site. We are also able to access electoral registers for 1922, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 and these will be downloaded in due course.
- **Female staff at Gracedieu Manor 1929-31** - Bearing in mind that women over the age of 21 did not get the vote until 1928 and were not previously identified on electoral registers unless married to a householder, we have been able to identify from the Belton electoral registers that the following women worked at Gracedieu Manor for Mrs Booth during that period:- 1929 - Florence Downes, Agnes Howell, Norah Ladyman, Norah Thompson, Florence Vickers. 1930 - Gertrude Andrews, Florence Domoney, Agnes Howell, Norah Ladyman, Norah Thompson, Florence Vickers. 1931 - Gertrude Andrews, Florence Domoney, Norah Ladyman, Norah Thompson, Florence Vickers. Miss Howell is mentioned in Victorian aspirations as "Mrs Booth's faithful ally. She managed the young housemaids perfectly and worked in the linen department, though she was no friend of the children. We called her Mrs Wow". Norah Ladyman was nicknamed Mrs Ladybird by the Booth children. Norah married into the Webb family from The Willows. Agnes Howell was one of 7 children, and had worked for the Booth family since at least 1901. She was born on 4 February 1863 in Somerset and went into service at an early age. After retiring from service, she returned to Shepton Mallet in Somerset where she lived with her 2 spinster sisters, Alice Mary and Ellen Emily (known as Nellie), who had also been in service – Alice worked for the Booth family briefly in 1901 as a housemaid. Another sister, Annie, also went into service and in 1881 had worked with Agnes for the Maitland family in Kensington before Agnes moved to work for Thomas Pelham, also in London and then onto the Booth's. Agnes died on 4 June 1940 at Rowden House, Wells (a hospital which, prior to 1948, was part of the Public Assistance Institution or workhouse), leaving £198 1s 2d to her sister Alice who herself died on 1 January 1952 in Holcombe, Somerset and Nellie was found dead on 4 January 1954.
- We were under the impression that Percy and Edith Rossell left the **George and Dragon** in 1928. That is now incorrect, as they were still there in 1931. We further believed that the Homes family left the Bull's Head in 1928. That is also incorrect, as they were still there in 1931, which means Henry John Domoney was not there from 1929. Alice Shelton from the 3 Tuns also had living there a George Henry Geary and his wife Ethel from the early 1920s. This is new information, as we thought that Alice Shelton was there on her own until the pub closed.
- Gilbert and Florence Ward kept the **Queen's Head** in 1929, 1930 and 31 which is new information. This appears to be Gilbert Ward, son of George William and Fanny Ward of Fern Cottage,



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Thringstone (the house next to the community centre). Born in 1884, and originally a coal miner, he married Florence Fowkes in 1919 in Loughborough. Gilbert was also the brother to Elizabeth Ann Ward, who in 1911 was working for the Booth family in London as 2nd kitchen maid. Gilbert died in 1937 in Loughborough. Previous to the Ward family living at the pub, George William Marklow was landlord and he appears to have been there in 1926, 27 and 28 which are new dates. Our previous information also suggested a first name of John, but this was incorrect. Born in this area in 1903, he married Annie Fern in 1926. He died in 1949 in Shropshire.

- From copies of marriage registers found on line, we have confirmed that Jarvis Millward born 11 November 1865, was a farmer working out of **Rye House, Main Street** from at least December 1925, as three of his daughters were married at St Andrew's between 1925 and 1930 – Annie, Alice and Ethel. In 1911, the family was living at Belton. Jarvis and his wife Millicent also had two sons, Alfred and Arthur. Jarvis died on 24 September 1953 at Rye House, having given up his dairy farm prior to the 1939 register being taken. Alfred Millward went on to keep the Storey Arms in Osgathorpe, and died there on 16 May 1960.
- We have also discovered a marriage certificate for William Thomas Hicken to Mary Elizabeth Carter of **The Moor Farm** dated 26 October 1921. Mary was 41 when she married, and her father is listed as Henson Carter, Draper Dec'd. Mary was the niece of Thomas Carter of the farm, and seems to have lived there after the death of her father on 24 January 1883. Her mother, Mary Gray Carter nee Grounds had died in 1881. Mary Elizabeth was a school teacher. Henson Carter appears to have been the brother of Thomas Carter of the farm.
- Chivers V Cox – December 1907. A newspaper article in the Melton Mowbray Mercury of 12 December tells of a court case relating to a painting of the Royal family, which was swapped with Mr Cox of **The George and Dragon** for a cart and the use of a pony for 6 weeks. Mr Chivers was the owner of the painting and at the time kept the Griffin Inn at Griffydham and was also a fishmonger. The problem was that the cart given was of poor quality and the horse sold before the exchange could take place. After some time, the magistrate ruled that the picture be returned or £7 be given for it. This is the first mention of a Mr Cox at The George and Dragon at that time. A further newspaper article dated June 1907 tells of someone refusing to leave the premises and assaulting the landlord, and names the landlord as Edward Cox but we do not have any further information. We are now also aware that **Fred Brown** kept the George and Dragon in 1910, as his wife was involved as a witness in a court case in May of that year.
- Stella Waldram, daughter of John 'Ruddy' Waldrum of **Ruby's chip shop** fame married William Foster Gamble on 17 May 1930. At that time, the family lived at Co-operative Cottages, The Green, and John Waldrum is listed, not as fish shop owner, but as newsagent.
- The confusion regarding the two Samuel Jarvis's who kept **The Fox** continues. Samuel Jarvis who kept the pub in 1912 -16 was in court in October 1914 for diluting his gin in a room where there was no sign saying this was common practice. He said at that time that he had been at the pub for 2 years and for 14-15 years previously had worked at Whitwick Colliery. In February 1915, Mr Jarvis went personally to court to apply for a renewal of license. This was granted under caution because of the previous incident of the watered down gin. We understood that Mary Ann Jarvis kept the pub from 1920, but have found records of the marriage of James William White to Dora Jarvis of The Fox in October 1922 with her father listed as Samuel Jarvis, licensed victualler, and not deceased. From the 1921 electoral register, we see that Samuel and Sarah Jarvis were at The Fox then and Samuel was also there in 1922 but not 1923. We now believe that Samuel Jarvis born on 1 July 1876 was the son of Charles Jarvis and Jane Richards of Osgathorpe who in 1893-4 themselves kept the George and Dragon. Samuel married Sarah Wallam in Whitwick in 1901 and obviously kept The Fox in 1922. The graveyard index for St Andrew's shows that Sarah Jarvis was buried on 29 January 1922 aged 40 years and had an address of The Fox at that time. By 1939 Samuel was living in Nottingham where he was a blacksmith's striker. He died in 1948 in Nottingham.



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- In our last minutes, we mentioned **Tommy Hatherick** and his WW2 internment in a POW camp. The address at which he had lived in Thringstone was 72 Loughborough Road, not 32. It would appear that he was born on 14 August 1915. He married Constance Mabel Haycroft in Lincoln in 1976, died in Lincoln on 12 February 2001 and was cremated.
- Alan Lucas kept **Lucas Mart** (as we have recorded in our businesses book) in the 1970s and 80s, but what we hadn't known is that he wrote poems. His granddaughter has let us copy two books of his poetry, which include poems on the Post Office, on Thringstone generally and life. We thank his family for sharing this with us.
- We have become aware that Silas Hill, who kept **the Fox** in 1888 and John Emerson who took the pub until 1891 were also involved with pubs in Griffydham. From information we have been given, it would appear that Silas kept the Traveller's Rest from 1894-6 with Tom Hardy and that he kept the Griffin Inn for part on 1896. John Emerson kept the Traveller's Rest from 1905 until 1908. We had previously known that Silas had gone on to keep the Railway Tavern at Gelsmoor in 1891 and that he had been involved in a pub in Worthington in 1895, during which time he had been robbed of a gold Albert chain valued at £6 and £1 in money by William Leewood of Lancashire who had asked to have a room for the night, but this is all new information. We now discover he was born in 1826 in Lenton, and baptised there on 17 Dec 1826, not 1827 as we thought. We now have a copy of the will for Silas Hill, who died 11 May 1897 in Swannington, although his grave says 10th May, and it appears he could not write his name when he signed his will. We also know that he owned property in Nottingham in Connaught Street. We have shared a lot of information with Silas's 4 x great niece.
- **Victor Whitt** who lived on Loughborough Road in 1939 was listed as a master plasterer. Born on 27 July 1913 and married to Irene born 9 December 1911, an advert in the Coalville Times for that year stated that Whitt Brothers, plasterers, of Loughborough Road, Gracedieu were supplying reinforced concrete air raid shelters. We think the other brother may have been Donald who lived in Belton.
- From records we had been given, we believed that the licensee of the Bull's Head around 1953 was K Arness. We now find out this was probably **Kenneth Arthur Amess**, born 23 June 1900 in Ellistown to Arthur and Jane. Kenneth moved to Shepshed and for some time worked in hosiery before coming to run the Bull's Head with his wife Doris nee Calow whom he married in 1927. They had a son called Keith born in 1931. Kenneth was also involved with the 1953 coronation celebrations in Thringstone. He died in 1960 in Loughborough.
- On looking at a copy of the souvenir programme for **Thringstone Coronation celebrations** on 12 May 1937, we have seen a host of names involved with the organization under the presidency of Col T M Booth and his vice-president Rev Shrewsbury. Notable people include Councillor Alfred A Allgood, Councillor John M Kidger, Councillor Michael P Downes, A Sykes, Henry V Robinson and H Betts. There were committees for finance, OAPs, executive committee, catering, sport and field, and judges for the best decorated public premises, business premises and private houses, as well as sports officials and parade officials and fancy dress judges. We see that one of the sport officials was Freeson Yearby Moore on whom we have written before. . We know Cllr. Alfred Allgood was a painter and decorator and lived in Whitwick Market Place and John Mee Kidger kept Lilybank Farm. Michael P Downes was a schoolmaster who lived on Loughborough Road, Whitwick. Other names that stand out to us are Mitcheson, Barlow, Waldrum, Gee, Brotherhood, Benniston, Birkin, King, Sykes, Betts, Watts, Sykes, Gee, Twigg, Hibbert and Munday, amongst others. The back of the programme advertises Ruby's chip shop and Mary's Candy Shop run by Mrs M Smith of The Green, Thringstone. At this shop were sold sweets, chocolates, cigarettes, fruit, minerals and ices, with all leading makes in stock. This was Mary nee Hall, and she ran a little shop by the side of the Queen's Head which her father, John Hall, kept at the time. We are assuming that this eventually became Jack Hall's shop, Jack being Mary's brother. We have shared a scanned copy of the whole programme with the family of Henry V Robinson for their family history details. If anybody else is interested in a scanned copy of this programme, please let us know



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- **The 1953 coronation souvenir programme** also lists a host of committee members, under the chairmanship of Cllr. Benjamin Walter Johnson. George Musson of The Fox Inn was treasurer, Mr Eric Butterworth vice chair and indoor sports chair (he was later caretaker at the primary school), Mr E Griffiths honorary secretary, Mr George Hollis (of Loughborough Road) entertainments chair, Messrs J Kidger and Charlie Toon (of the John St shop) were entertainments joint secretaries, Mr L Stinson indoor sports secretary, Mrs B Griffiths catering chair, Mrs Twigg (of Main Street) catering treasurer and Mrs Edna Commons (from Loughborough Road) catering secretary. There were a further 35 committee members, including Aubrey Rooms the barber from John Street, Mrs Bailey who lived on Loughborough Road and many of the other families also lived on Main Street. According to people who remember this event, it rained all day. Again if anybody wishes to have a scanned copy of this document, please let us know.
- Thringstone Scouts and the building of the 'new' scout hut. Nobody can remember when this was, but we have been told that a local man designed the plans and had a hand in getting the £22k that people seem to think was raised to build the building. We are told that the 4 men that worked on it were Ray Gee, Bernard Lee (doing electrics), Shaun Handy doing carpentry and plumbing and the labourer was Roy Long. All the bricks came from Ibstock brick, the windows were also donated, we believe, although two were broken soon afterwards, and the roofing was carried out by Acton Builders who at the time lived near the centre. The kitchen units were second hand, and most of the builders, being trades, got some sort of payment at mates' rates. When the shell was put up, some local kids set fire to it, and the fire brigade had to come out. We also understand that the old building was full of asbestos with wallpaper over it, and that was removed by a specialist company who had to have a sealed skip. If people can give us dates for the rebuilding, this would be welcome. We understand the initial building went up in 1967.

Ann's taping of people for the East Midlands Oral History archive has now finished. She has given us these notes:

- **David White** - His dad was a poacher who used to swap some of his poached rabbits with a butcher in Swannington for some beef or lambs. His Dad used to save the newspapers to make toilet paper, but he used to scrunch each one up to make them soft and then straighten them out to tie on a string. They also saved them for Ruddle's (Ruby's) chip shop in return for a bag of chips. When David was 18 they were still calling up for the forces. His Dad wouldn't let him go because his eldest brother was missing, lost in Burma, presumed dead, (though he did come back) and made David go down the pit with him. He didn't want 2 sons to worry about.
- **Mary Beeson** - The middle child of 9 who were scattered about between the 4 houses in the row all owned by her Grandfather. She left school at 14 and got a job at the Top of Dumps factory. When she was 15 she joined The Girls Training Corps and at 17 joined the Land Army where she worked on various farms and she loved it. It was the first time in her life that she had had a bed all to herself. Mary married Ron Beeson. They never had a car but Ron had a scooter and when they went to places like Coleorton Show, Ron would take them one at a time on the back of the scooter.
- **Jean Wilkins** - Jean left Thringstone School aged 11 and went to Griffydam School, about 2 miles away. She had to walk down the fields where the Glebe Estate is now, up into Swannington, down Anchor Lane and through Griffydam to the school. At dinnertime she had to run back home, have something to eat, and then go back to school for the afternoon, and then walk back again. Her Dad, Billy Wilkins, was the local coalman. He bought coal from the pits and then delivered it to people's homes but in winter he would always buy extra and keep it in his shed, and if anyone ran out they would come with prams and wheelbarrows to get a few lumps to tide them over.
- **Geoff and Pauline Walker** - When Pauline was at school she was given a dish of Swedes sprinkled with sugar. She couldn't eat it and so wrapped it in her hankie and stuffed it up her knicker leg and then flushed it down the toilet. She described the winter of 1947 as so bad that the snow was up to the street lights in Bagworth, but she also said that the shapes made by the snow blowing through the hedges were magical. They were like Christmas decorations. Pauline and Geoff were



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married in Dec 1951 and in Jan 1952 he was posted to Hong Kong and they didn't see each other again for over 2 years. Geoff was in Border Patrol to stop people crossing from China into Hong Kong. The rifles they were given had fixed bayonets and one bullet which they were told under no circumstances were they to use because it might cause an international incident. He then went to Japan as part of United Nations. It was around the time of the Korean War even though he didn't do any fighting. The war ended as he was due to be demobbed but he couldn't get home because priority was given to the people that had been fighting. He went to see Hiroshima while he was there.

Council report

Dave said that there was nothing to report.

Gardening and environment

Bernard continues to weed, prune and maintain our existing planting.

AOB

Janet asked if anybody knew what was likely to be happening to the Queen's Head, as nobody had ever moved into there after the renovations, and it just lay empty. There were various discussions on this and who the owners are. It was felt that the likelihood is that the property will stay empty.

Next meeting is on 1 February at 6.45pm at Thringstone House/Charles Booth Centre.



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