



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2020 AT CHARLES BOOTH CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Ann Petty, Mike and Anne Statham, Tracy Foulds, Bernard Lee, Julie and Dave Everitt, Carole Cox, Anita Jones

Apologies: Gillian Bates, Ray Woodward, Ron Hill, Shirley Gordon, Bill Enser, Tina Bakewell, Jane and Geoff Wilson, Maureen Simm, John Jackson, Pat Hubbard

Discussions/Decisions.

Monthly litter pick total - 126 bags against **110 bags** for the same month last year. This included 14 bags in the street collected by Nita and Woodie on 8 January after the bin and recycling collection day.

Nita and Woodie made page 10 of **Daily Mail** of 27 January regarding litter picking. The article suggested we pick up 70 bags a month which is about right. It also said we had 1600 facebook followers. We have less, see below. Nita has signed up with the Mail and Keep Britain Tidy for the **Great British Spring Clean** which runs from 20 March to 13 April, and offered to litter pick for 195 minutes which is the maximum you can pledge (actually Nita will be doing a lot more). If you are interested in signing up, go to <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>

We are now being followed on twitter by Alex Thomson, presenter from **Channel 4**. who has done pieces on litter in the UK and why volunteers are so heavily relied upon. We have had a chat on twitter about our litter collection and given figures.

NWLDC have announced that their trial collection of **food waste** has now exceeded 25 tonnes. They are now looking to extend the trial to new people. For more information, please go to https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/news/2019/11/27/teabags_bones_fish_and_more_to_be_collected_as_food_waste_trials_starts_in_north_west_leicestershire

World Clean Up Day 2020 will be 19 September. We may try to arrange a litter pick for that day. There is to be another litter pick with students from **Grace Dieu Manor School** on Friday 13 March starting at 1.30pm from Thringstone Members Club. All welcome to come and help us.

There have been a lot of facebook complaints about **dog fouling** near the school. Whilst it is possible that this comes from people taking their dogs out for walks, it could also be a case of dogs that go out on their own contributing to the issue. Nita suggested that people tell NWLDC about this so they can set up an enforcement process.

Message from Tesco HQ - We're removing 67m pieces of plastic by replacing tinned multipacks with plastic-free multi buys. That's the same value for money, just without plastic. It's part of our goal to remove 1bn pieces of plastic by the end of this year.



NWLDC can **recycle textiles**, left in a carrier bag and left out with the other recycling. They say this is ideal for clothing that cannot be reworn etc. If, however, you prefer to donate locally to charitable causes, there are clothing banks on the car parks of Thringstone Co-op for Salvation Army, The Bull's Head for Star Foundation, and 2 on the Thringstone Members Club car park for Air Ambulance.

Since they started their scheme, **NWLDC's Terracycle collection point for crisp packets** at the council offices has collected enough to raise £100 for Alzheimer's Research. If you want to help with this, just take your packets to the council offices.

There is a similar collection at **Charles Booth Centre** for crisp packets etc. These can be left with the centre and then will be collected. All packets should be clean and empty.

Thringstone Primary - is in the process of developing a new garden area for the kids to grow fruit veg and flowers. As ever they have no funding, so Nita put a facebook post out which went viral. As a result, they posted on Wednesday that they now had enough to plant the garden on Friday. If, however, you still have seeds, pots, garden equipment - basically anything that can be used by the school to make this area a wonderful experience for the children, please contact the school direct.

Mike said that years ago, and even more recently, the centre had asked the school if they wished to have an allotment at the centre, but this was turned down because it was too far from the school and there were concerns over the type of tools that might need to be used.

Thringstone Miners Welfare – We understand that there will be a bingo night set up on a monthly basis shortly and they will be putting on another one of their cream tea afternoons. When we have more details, we will let people know, failing which contact Leon Spence on leon.spence@rocketmail.com

Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club is looking to take on new players for the 2020 season, whether from other clubs or people who haven't played for a while. Net training starts on 22 February at King Ed from 11.30am – 12.30pm and continue for 6 weeks. If interested, please contact 07504 826395

Centre News:

£62 was raised at the coffee morning on 17 Jan for **Thringstone Primary PTA**. Thank you to everybody who came to support the event and to those who baked. The coffee morning on 14 Feb is for Thringstone Methodist Chapel.

The centre's AGM took place on 14 January and after the formalities, there was a good question and answer session. It was announced that the trustees are looking to work on a board in the centre with their names and photographs on so that people know who the trustees are, and that another **open meeting** would be considered after the knock through of the middle and end rooms has taken place. This would then serve to open up the centre to local people who could then meet trustees in a relaxed atmosphere, and look at the new downstairs area. This has subsequently been arranged for **7 April between 7pm and 9pm**. Everybody will be welcome, but if you have suggestions, ideas or complaints, please submit them to the office 24 hours before the event is taking place.

It was also disclosed that the **music festival** had made around £4000 and that the finances of the centre were better than had been expected from the original business plan. If anybody would like to see copies of the papers given out at the meeting, please ask Nita.

The knock through to the **end room** has gone well, with the steel girder in, and the wall out. The idea is to then extend the corridor down as far as the final window and put a door into that area from there, and also put in a sliding door between middle and end rooms. Mike said that there had been difficulties as the floor levels differed slightly, but there will eventually be one type of flooring throughout the whole area, which unfortunately means that the parkay floor from the 1920s in the end room will be covered over.

The lift project is still continuing with funding options being completed. It would be useful if people of any age who are currently unable to access the upstairs because of infirmity would put



something in writing to the centre saying this, and saying they hope a lift will be provided. This can then go with any funding bids sent in.

The film club films for March, April and May are to be Judy (Garland), Downton Abbey and Peanut Butter Falcon.

The centre will be holding **cycling proficiency courses** on 18 and 20 February after considerable work by Nita to get this organised. 12 places were offered to Thringstone Primary school pupils in year 6.

Strauss Gala was postponed from 22 January and now takes place on 20 February. Tickets remain at £10 per person and can be purchased from www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre or direct from the office, Monday-Friday between 9am and 12 noon.

28 February will be **Race Night** at the centre – Tickets £7.50 to include a hot pie, made by Thringstone's very own **Peter Gough**. This starts at 7pm. Prebook tickets weekdays between 9am and 12 noon at the centre or on www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre Sponsor a race for just £5. The ticketsource booking line also allows people to order which pie they want. Pies are steak and ale, chicken and leek and the vegetarian option is cheese, onion and potato, and all dishes will come with peas.

There is to be an **indoor car boot** on 29 March between 9am and 1pm. £5 per table (free entry to public!) Booking of a table essential. First come, first served - places limited. Enquiries/bookings to hello@charlesboothcentre.org.uk

Shep Woolley has been booked to appear at the centre on 8 April with tickets at £7. This man is an internationally known folk artist, raconteur and comedian and has been part of the circuit for many years. He is well worth coming along to see. Tickets are available on www.ticket-source.co.uk/charlesboothcentre or direct from the centre office as usual.

There will, as usual, be an **Easter Egg hunt** in the village on Saturday 18 April. More details nearer the time. At this stage, Carole said she thought that the event was the week before. We will check on this for the next meeting.

Work is still underway to put on a **VE Day celebration on 8 May**. It is planned to have tressle tables out so people can bring their own food. There will also be games, music and fancy dress if people want to come dressed for the era. This will be a free village event.

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. We also reported that the Loughborough Road sign on the corner of the A512 opposite the Bull's Head is mangled and in the ditch.

Promotion: We have **619 twitter followers**, which is 11 more than last month, and **1,172 facebook followers**, which is 28 more than last month.

Other: Spring edition of the **Bauble** was written, printed and given to volunteers to deliver.

Nita was contacted by a lady from **Coalmining in Leicestershire** charity, and with Ann had a 2 hour meeting to discuss Thringstone's involvement with mining, and the Scottish and Durham miners. The idea is to do a mining exhibition and display at the centre on 21 and 22 November all being well.

Ann and Nita are taking part in the Ibstock History Society's event on Sat 2 May which is to promote Charles Booth and the centre.

Nita was also contacted by a lady who is a professor of sociology and social policy at University of London Institute of Education. She is writing a book to include **Mary Booth** and the way in which wives of famous men are treated, and wanted some help. Nita sent some information and offered further help. Meeting was held on 3 Feb. Further details in history section.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,376.75		
Income		Expenditure	
		Broadband	15.00
Raffle	£6	Zurich Insurance	84.00
		History research	13.00
total income to general fund	£6		£112
		Total general fund at month end	2270.75

It is our financial year end on 31 March, and we are pleased to report that Tony Newton has agreed, once again, to do the examination of the accounts for us._

Dave said that he wondered whether FoT would be in a position to give some match funding for a public bench at the corner of Henson's Lane. Nita said she would discuss this with the committee after more details are provided/known._

Publications Report

Nothing sold but one copy of Durham Miners and one of Scottish in Thringstone given to Coalmining in Leicestershire charity.

Web Report

No change since last month

Police Report

On 14 January, a car pulling out of Grace Dieu Manor School around 5pm hit someone travelling on the A512, ran them off the road and then left the scene. This information was shared on facebook, and video footage was taken on a dash cam. Someone has also said that there was an assault on Main Street, but we have no information on that.

The police have told Nita that they now want to know if she finds boxes/used silver canisters that should be used for squirry cream and are in fact being inhaled.

We got an email from PCSO Hodgson which asked us to post the following on our FoT facebook page: 'The Police are conducting regular patrols in and around Melrose Play Park, Melrose Rd, Thringstone. The patrols are to clamp down on **Off Road Bikes**. If caught, the owner will receive a S.59 which will result in the bike being taken by the police. I also have some WARNING signs which I would like to put up in the woods, with the land owners permission.' He then went on to say that he thought the woodland was owned by NWLDC and was he right. Yet again, like I did last year with another PCSO, I told him who the owners are and sent contact details for him to email them. The reply received suggested that FoT might like to put the signs up, but we declined, and told them the sites best suited for such signs. The facebook posting has brought out a lot of varied comments.....

From the police we also got the following report:

- Burglary Residential: Break in to a Caravan, items stolen from inside.
- Vehicle recovered under DVLA POWERS
- Report of a vehicle parked up on the street with No Tax.



- Vehicle parked causing an obstruction to Driveway.
- Suspicious vehicle looking in to peoples windows and then driving off.
- Off Road motorbike on the local playing field off Melrose Road. Matter added to Sentinel 95217.
- Currently there are a high number of calls coming from the Children's Home on Loughborough Road.. Police are aware and working with the relevant services involved.
- Vehicle related ASB: person using streets as a racetrack. This is the only incident that has been reported so far. Any further reports please can call police, any further info such as registrations, please let us know.
- Loose horse on Glebe Road, owner has been located and horse safely returned.

Community Report and What's On

Collections at **Thringstone Primary** for LOROS raised £205.30. Congratulations to everybody who took part.

The raffle at **Peter Pan** from TPADS this year raised £250 for Jaxon's Chance charity. Thank you to all who contributed.

Hare and Hounds pool team were finalists in the Coalville Pool League Division 2 for 2019/20. Congratulations to them.

Thringstone Primary school will also be offering **after school care** through the use of K & C Kid's cabins after the Easter break. This will cater for ages 3 – 11 and will be based in the school hall. It will run from 3.15pm-6pm and cost £3 per half hour. There is a 10% sibling discount if there is another sibling taking part in the sessions.

George and Dragon have changed their menu/opening hours for 2020. These are now Monday New Lunch menu 12-4, Monday Pizza Night only 4-9, Tuesday new lunch Menu 12-4, Tuesday night pie night only 4-9, Wednesday to Saturday full menu 12-9 and Early bird menu served 12-7, Sunday lunch and full menu served 12 – 5, Sunday evening 5 - 9 Pizzas & Side orders. Good reports have been given recently about the food there.

Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club's senior team shirts are being sponsored once again by George and Dragon.

St Andrew's Church, Open Church every Thursday 10.00am-11.45am. Drop in at any time. A chance to meet, chat, join in the sing-along and have a cup of tea/coffee. They finish with a short informal act of worship at 11.15am.

Thringstone Miners Social Centre, Homestead Road - Whatever! Youth Group Thursday Evenings in term time 7.00pm–8.30pm for ages 11-14. Bible activities, arts & crafts, games and tuck. For more information contact Rachel 07813976983.

7 Feb – **Black Horse, Whitwick** - Dave Taylor at 9pm

8 Feb – Thringstone Members Club – Fundraiser for Thringstone Panto and Drama Society –

Fashion show and shopping event. Get some real bargains from named companies. Tickets £5 from 07943 687085 or book online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads

10 Feb – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – W3, live band at 9pm.

11 Feb – Film Club at **Charles Booth Centre**. Film will be Rocket Man.

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

14 Feb – Valentine Special Open Mic at **Charles Booth Centre**. Starts at 7.30pm

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

15 Feb – **Kings Arms, Whitwick** – Valentine Event - All That Sass, female duo from 8.30pm

17 Feb – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – Top Secret, live band at 9pm.

20 Feb – **Strauss at the centre**. £10 per ticket. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets from the office or www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre

21 Feb – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – Undercover at 9.15pm



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22 Feb – **Conny Club, Whitwick** – Rachael Ball in concert from 7pm. £1 entry. Members free.
24 Feb – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – New York Minute, duo, at 9pm.
27 Feb – **Quiz night** at the centre. Starts at 7.30pm
28 February - **race night at the centre** – Tickets £7.50 to include a hot pie, 7pm start. Prebook tickets weekdays between 9am and 12 noon at the centre or on www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre Sponsor a race for just £5.
28 Feb – **King's Arms, Whitwick** – All That Sass – female duo. 8pm start.
31 Feb – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – Mark Bolton at 9pm.
1 March - **Charles Booth Centre** - Juke Joint from 3pm-6pm. Guest artists Hopkins Kaff'ee Light. Admission £4 on the door.
7 March – **Bull's Head** – £5 car wash in the morning and dog show in the afternoon to raise money for dog tagging and terminally ill children. More details nearer the time.
7 March – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's **race night at Thringstone Members Club**. 7pm start. Tickets £5 for adults and £2 for children. This will include bingo race scratch cards and games of higher or lower. Tickets from Scott Coleman on 07495 763972
10 March – **Film club at the centre** – Film is Downton
13 March - **Thringstone Members Club** – Soul and Motown Club from 8pm. Residents DJs Steve Storer, Jed Purkis, Mick Smith, Dave Wilkins and Ken Sylvester.
20 March – **Easter Egg Hunt** at Stephenson College
26 March – **Quiz night** at the centre. Starts at 7.30pm.
28 March - **Hermitage Leisure Centre** – The Greatest Show – Hits from the movies. Theatre and Arena World Tour. Adults £12. Children £10. Ticket hotline 07719 636374. Starts at 6.30pm.
29 March – **Indoor car boot** at centre from 9am-1pm. Free entry.
7 April – **Open meeting** at the centre from 7pm-9pm. All welcome.
10 April - **Thringstone Members Club** – Soul and Motown Club from 8pm. Residents DJs Steve Storer, Jed Purkis, Mick Smith, Dave Wilkins and Ken Sylvester.
14 April – **Film club at the centre** – Film is Judy
18 April – Centre is organising an **Easter Egg Hunt** again. More details nearer the time.
8 May – **VE Day celebration** at centre.
12 May – **Film Club at the centre** – Film is Peanut Butter Falcon
1 Aug – **Thringstone Music Festival** at centre
3 August – **Summer Fete** at Stephenson College
12 Sept – **Hello Heritage** event at the centre and possibly opening up some older houses in the village.

History report

- We were sent a photo, taken about 1885/6, of Arthur James, William Jesson and Mabel Annie Gough, children of George James Gough of **Talbot House Farm** in their pony and trap just outside the farm. George kept the Rose and Crown from around 1874 to 1885 when he then moved to the farm. He died in 10 December 1893 at the farm. This information was shared with Swannington Research, since the farm is part of their village. Arthur went on marry, have 8 children and keep Redhill Farm, Mabel married Donald George McMillan, had 2 sons and moved to the London area. We have discussed William Jesson Gough in previous minutes when we discovered that he had married in London and had 2 daughters – he died in 5 June 1915 at Talbot House Farm and his daughter Catherine on 1 June 1993 at Woodhouse Road, in Quorn. She was unmarried and had in 1939 was living with her sister Isabel and mother.
- An article of one sentence in the **South Notts Echo** of 7 October 1922 reads 'A left handed boy from Thringstone, Leicestershire, won first prize in a competition for script writing'. No name was given but it was wondered what is strange about a left hander winning something (said Nita who is left handed).
- Thanks to a facebook posting, we now have a copy of an article written in 1966 about Thringstone people in the **Territorial Army**. Pictured were Cecil Kirby of Forest Edge, Gracedieu Road and



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Norman Mitchison of Loughborough Road. We also have a copy of a photo of **Joe Hoult's farm** on The Warren, taken in 1958. Thringstone House Football club changed in the barn to the right of the photo and played almost opposite the farm yard. The players travelled on the back of the Len Higgs' lorry back and forth from the community centre to the ground and if you were lucky, supporters could also hitch a ride with friends..

- We were sent a copy of the wedding photograph from 1920 of **Florrie Limb** of Talbot Street to Mark Turner. On the photo are several people from our immediate area. We were also given copies of various obituaries in papers relating to **Robert John Herbert Maloney**, who died on 13 January 1981 in Northamptonshire. Robert was born on 8 June 1903, and had been a professional footballer in Northampton amongst other places. He was born at The Fox Inn, Thringstone, and before leaving the village played football for Thringstone House, and cricket for Gracedieu Park Cricket Club. He left the village aged 19 in 1926. The articles state that he left £500 in his will to St Andrew's church.
- We were contacted by a gentleman looking for information on **Idris George Hurt** who is buried in Thringstone churchyard. Nita looked through newspaper articles and found out that he had been engaged to the gentleman's aunt, with a view to being married at Easter, but was killed in an accident on 24 February 1939 at Charnwood cross roads in Shepshed aged 26. He was lodging with his intended and her family at 140 Talbot Street, Whitwick, and was on a motorcycle coming from a side road onto a main road, having finished a night shift. He hit a car being driven by Mr K S Lewis, manager of Loughborough Cinema. The impact was so severe that the car flipped over and ended in a ditch, and Mr Hurt was thrown over the car. He died on 6 March 1939 in hospital having sustained serious head, chest and leg injuries, but died from a combination of his injuries and an infection he got from a sore throat which his immune system was unable to fight off. Mr Lewis was exonerated from all charges. Months later, a lady called Daisy Catherine Ann Booth of Stone House, Swannington, mother of Idris, tried to claim damages from Mr Lewis, but failed. Idris's father, Frank, had died in 1921 and Daisy and her 2 children moved to Derbyshire where she married James Thomas Booth in 1922, with a child born to the new couple that same year. The gentleman who contacted us was interested in all we found, especially in the link to Mrs Booth, since the family had understood that Idris was an orphan. We also found out that Idris's full sister who was living in 1939 at St George's Terrace in Swannington and that at the time of his death, Idris also had a nephew, called Idris Michael and his sister Betsy May Bird was pregnant with another child, Pamela Wendy, born in July 1939. Idris was therefore no orphan.
- Nita has been doing research into the live of **Rev. Cheverton Shrewsbury** for an article in Community Voice. From this she has discovered he had 2 sons – Francis Henry Cheverton Shrewsbury, who studied English at Cambridge, and wrote poetry and Charles Farrar Shrewsbury who became an insurance company official. Francis died aged 30 in Fulham on 28 October 1949 and is commemorated within the churchyard at St Andrew's. His death certificate says he died of pulmonary oedema but also suffered with anterior poliomyelitis and schizophrenia. Francis was considered a little odd at the time, and known by the nick-name Timothy, presumably after Tiny Tim in the Dickens' story Christmas Carol. Charles died in Southport, Merseyside on 2 January 2008. Also buried within the churchyard are Rev Shrewsbury's spinster sister, Annie, his brother Herbert and his wife Florence, and both Rev Shrewsbury's wives. The wording on the grave for Herbert says 'sincerity, truth and kindness were his' which is nice. Rev Shrewsbury was heavily involved in the setting up of the **Thringstone Children's Relief Committee in 1926**. Parish magazines for the time tell of a committee set up to help children during 'the present trouble in the coal industry' following a public meeting held at Thringstone House (now Charles Booth Centre), during which it was insisted that children did not suffer. Children were given good substantial meals 'as far as the foods would allow' and three meals were provided. The first two meals were given by Rev Shrewsbury and Mr Lester the headmaster of the school, and committee members were drawn upon for supplying other meals. Many people contributed to the fund, and it was noticeable that Mrs Booth gave £10. One of the favourite meals was rice pudding, followed closely by meat, gravy, potatoes and peas. Thringstone House was the venue for the meals, and thanks



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were given at the time to those who 'have lent their coppers, to the cooks, and those who distribute the food.' Local farmers the Carter's, Siddons' and Illsley's gave milk, and the Co-operative Society supplied 20 4lb. loaves weekly. The cost of a meal worked out about £1 15 shillings to feed the 250 and more children.

- On the subject of nick-names, we have been told of a chap called **Milky Twigg**. It is believed that he is George Albert Twigg, one of the 5 sons of Thomas and Susannah Twigg who kept Glebe Farm, and the same man with learning difficulties who ran off to WW1 but was sent back because of his problems. The family story we were told in 2014 is that to stop him running away again he was locked up in the shed but he got out. Records show that he joined up on 10 March 1916 and was sent home on 4 August but then rejoined again on 5 November 1917 and was discharged again on 25 March 1918. The surviving military records state that he had very low mental state, low standard of intelligence, sluggish gait and vacant expression, and that he had had a mental deficiency since childhood. We believe he was born in 1886 and died in 1959.
- **Framework knitting** is something we discussed in our book Thringstone and Its People. We now understand, following the details in the press of the time of the bankruptcy of Thomas Needham in 1802, that there were stocking frames owned by Mr Needham in the village and still being used by various people -18 machines being used at the time by J Wardle and 15 by Richard Dobson.
- **Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust** has just completed a 3 year project looking into the history of villages within a certain mileage from Loughborough. This includes Thringstone, and we understand there are 144 items in the links for our village. The database is going to be made public shortly, and we will see what they have about our village which might be new.
- Nita had a call on 9 January from James White who is the conservation officer for NWLDC, asking if she knew when the **milestone on the grass verge on the A512** near Grace Dieu ruins had been moved there. Apparently, the listed building point data from Historic England says it should be the other side of the road between the Bull's Head and the canal bed. Nita made enquiries, and nobody remembers it being moved, and it has been there since at least 1998. She consequently reported back to NWLDC, along with the suggestion that it might have been moved in the 1960s when the road was widened.
- In October 1975, **St Andrew's church** asked NWLDC for monies to help them maintain their churchyard, which they said had cost them £88 since 1972. The meeting to discuss this was held in private.
- In the CV Times of 2 January, there were a couple of David White's photos which included a photo of Luke White of Blakesley's Row and George Hollis, from Loughborough Road, plus a photo of the old police house next to Bauble Yard with, it is thought, members of the Leverett family and possibly The Cheney family who married into the Leverett's. There was also an article from January 1920 relating to the robbery of **Mr Burton, Thringstone newsagent**, who had been delivering papers in the lower end of the village (near the George and Dragon) when someone jumped out and demanded money. There was a struggle, during which both men fell to the ground, then a second man appeared, and Mr Burton was overpowered. He was hit about the face and neck, and the men ran off leaving Mr Burton in the road. Due to lack of lighting, he was unable to identify the men. This would have been Joseph Burton born 22 June 1886, who kept the newsagents in Main Street until at least 1946. We had previously been unaware that he was there as far back as 1920. It would appear that his wife, Mary Jane died in 1923. His daughter, Gladys, married Ted Wardle in November 1930 at St Andrew's.
- At the meeting with the professor from London University, the following information was discovered about Mary Booth, wife of Charles.
 - Not only did Charles Booth have health issues, but Mary herself was in Wimpole Street at one time with exhaustion
 - Mary was a very organised woman who also wrote herself, but could never get her work published.



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- Mary was very close to her father, which annoyed Charles who often said she loved her father more than she did him. There is a Valentine's card from her father to Mary which talks of her as 'my one and only beloved, and the only woman I think about each day'.
- Mary Booth's mother had mental breakdowns, or so it is said, although letters from her to Mary are quite ordinary, if lacking in emotion.
- Mary Booth knew many people involved in researching poverty in London well before Charles got involved, and indeed introduced Charles to several he subsequently worked with.
- Mary Booth invited every single one of the people working on the investigation into poverty to Grace Dieu Manor. She put them up there, and involved them in all sorts, including (in the winter), going skating on the pool with children from the Booth family.
- Mary listed in her diary every book she read, and all details of things she was involved with, including Thringstone Women's Trust and mothers' meetings
- There are lists in her diary of everybody she invited to Grace Dieu for parties, had meetings with etc., as well as to whom she sent presents and their cost
- Mary paid all wages for Grace Dieu Manor and kept all the accounts. She paid all the wages cheques. Charles Booth wrote no cheques at all for the house. Details of servants wages are also noted. There was one case amongst staff of pilfering and another of a servant with a drink issue. Both Mary and Charles were tee total and Charles was a vegetarian.
- Charles paid all the people involved in his shipping business more than the going rate but still made enough money to fund the whole of the poverty map exercise himself. In today's terms he paid out £4m from his own wallet.
- Mary arranged everything to do with holidays, nursing and education for the children.
- Mary's diaries contain recipes to help overcome various health issues, including whooping cough.
- Volume 17 of Charles Booth's books was written entirely by Mary but in Charles' name and in that volume is the following dedication 'My work, now completed, has been from first to last dedicated to my wife, without whose constant sympathy, help and criticism it could never have been begun, continued, or ended at all'.

Council report

The council are removing the **traffic calming** along Ashby Rd in town because it creates tailbacks... This includes 3 chicanes and several build outs.

The County Council started today, 6th February, to do the ground works for the new eco-café to be built at **Snibston** next to the Century Theatre as part of their project 'to transform the former colliery site'. The site will also feature solar panels and electric vehicle charging points, heritage trail, play area and picnic site.

NWLDC were carrying out a 2020/21 **council budget consultation**, which closed on 3 February, in which it is stated that they expect to spend £13.8m next year on day to day activities, and a further £1.1m in the following areas:

- An additional £1 million set aside to reduce our carbon footprint, following the council's declaration of a climate emergency in June 2019.
- £50,000 to kick start a project to develop Hermitage Recreation Ground, the existing Hermitage Leisure Centre site and create links to the new Coalville Leisure Centre when it opens in 2022.
- £20,000 to develop the tourism offer in North West Leicestershire.
- An additional £13,000 to expand our existing free tree scheme.



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- A grant to the 'Timber Festival' of £10,000 to provide the last year of three years' worth of grant assistance to establish this festival in the district.
- £10,000 on letting agents to assist the council in reducing the number of vacant units for its commercial properties and ensure letting income is maximised.
- An increase of £15,000 in tree maintenance to fund the ongoing costs of maintaining additional trees planted in Coalville.
- A new £10,000 budget to help part fund bids for funding from the Bardon Quarry fund.

Gardening and environment

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

AOB

Mike said that he has had meetings with the Ramblers to look to press for approaches to be made to Woodland Trust, National Trust and landowners locally to consider the purchase of local woodland presently up for sale, and to look to manage and maintain woodland already in private ownership. There was considerable discussion at this point about the lack of maintenance in woodland, and the reluctance of some landowners to keep the woodland in its best state.

Next meeting 5 March at 6.45pm at Charles Booth Centre. All welcome.