



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR APRIL 2020

Announcements.

Monthly litter pick total - 98 against 146 bags for the same month last year.

The litter pick with 17 students and 3 staff from Grace Dieu Manor School went ahead with 14 bags being collected. Also included in the collection was a pram base and several items of clothing. Litter picking duties have been seriously scaled back in the last few weeks, but still continue from time to time.

We are aware of the flytipping on de Lisle land at the corner of **Turlough Road and Warren Lane**. The Council are aware of this too, and details of the people who did the dumping shared with them, as they were seen. The de Lisle family were also informed within a day of this happening. A lot of this seems to be cannabis plants plus general rubbish, but it is unlikely to be cleared in the short term if at all.

Council textile and shoe recycling – This was passed to us before the current lockdown and is not currently available, but will be again in the future. NWLDC will take textiles away if left out when it is recycling day. Apparently, it takes 7,600 litres of water to make a pair of jeans, yet so many are thrown out. The council say: 'Please put textiles in a carrier bag and tie the top to stop any water getting in. Please do not use black bin bags or charity bags as legally we cannot take them. Please leave textiles next to your red boxes along with the blue bag(s) as the crew who empty the boxes and blue bag will collect the textiles. Unfortunately we cannot accept wet textiles, duvets or pillows. Once we have collected your old clothes and shoes, we sell them to a textile re-processing company called **SOEX**. This company ships the material to their recycling facility in Wolfen, Germany. It is then cleaned and sorted into different grades, ready to be sold on or turned into new products such as new shoe parts, judo mats and insulation in car seats and buildings. Even the dust generated when processing textiles is compacted into briquettes which are used in the manufacture of paper and concrete. Any re-wearable shoes are sent all over the world to be worn again, mainly to Africa, but also to Eastern Europe and the Middle East. SOEX ensures they only sell exactly what is required by their customers to ensure the process is sustainable, and nothing ends up in landfill. 1% of collected shoes and clothing which is not suitable for reuse or re-processing is sent for incineration.'

For those who do social media, please continue to look online to see what is happening locally and look at the **Friends of Thringstone facebook page** where Nita is endeavouring to keep updates going. Where possible, Nita will also try to continue to give email updates to members.



For those members not on email, we are unable to do **paper copies** of these bulletins, so if you know someone who used to get paper copies, please tell them that has stopped for the time being. Nita has tried to contact all these people by telephone but not managed to get hold of everybody.

Centre News: The centre got a **grant** of £5000 from The Co-op towards the cost of the renovations.

The coffee morning for St Andrew's raised £160 which we believe is the most that has been raised at one of these events. This included £44 from the raffle and book sale. Thank you to all who came, helped out and baked.

The centre closed to user groups and all events were cancelled week beginning 16 March. Tom has continued to go to the centre office, and between FoT and the centre, lists of volunteers who are willing to help people in the village was drawn up. The centre had meetings with local businesses including restaurants about what they could at the time offer in terms of deliveries etc., and put out a leaflet with all the details on there for people to use if they see fit. Since then, the George and Dragon, Bull's Head, Ruby's and Whitwick Fryer have ceased to operate take away services. People have offered to get food for others, dog walk and all sorts. Email the centre on hello@charlesboothcentre.org.uk if you or someone in your community needs some help.

A Thringstone Coronavirus Community Fund has been set up, where people can pay money by Paypal to help fund things that people in the village might need. Details of this are on the centre's facebook page, the Friends of Thringstone facebook page, the Thringstone Live facebook page, and Friends of Thringstone twitter page.

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 **629 twitter followers**, which is 6 more than last month, and **1,228 facebook followers**, which is 46 more than last month. In this current period of time, Nita is posting a lot of up to date information on our sites.

Other: Nita received an email from one of the Booth family after she emailed all those she knew about the closure of Grace Dieu Manor School. The lady who wrote was thinking of writing to CV Times, the Institute of Charity who own the property and the current head of the school.

We were sorry to hear of the death of our member John Jackson due to natural causes. Condolences to his partner and family.

In theory, it was our financial year end on 31 March. Things will progress as and when they are able to do so.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,201.98		
Income		Expenditure	
Publications		Broadband	15.00
Raffle	£14	Donation to lift fund	£10.00
		Ink for Ann	£23.29
total income to general fund	£14		£48.29
		Total general fund at month end	£2167.69



Publications Report

N/A

Web Report

No change since last month

Police Report

20 March – Van broken into on Booth Rd and tools worth £3k stolen. Another van on Henson's Lane targeted the same night, but nothing taken.

There appears to be an increase in drug dealing in the woodland area. The police are being kept informed.

A fire at a house in Swallowdale on 27 March resulted in the total destruction of the garage to the property. The owners and their 2 dogs were unharmed. The fire brigade came out quickly, and police were called to try to disperse the neighbours wishing to help because of social distancing issues.

Community Report and What's On

As far as we are aware, all local events have been cancelled in April. Those listed below for May might also be cancelled, so please check before going.

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

17 May – **Grace Dieu Priory** – Festival of archaeology walk. Meet at Bull's Head car park at 3pm. Costs £3.

21 May – **Grace Dieu Priory** – Festival of archaeology walk. Meet at Bull's Head car park at 10am. Costs £3.

27 May – **Grace Dieu Priory** – Festival of archaeology walk. Meet at Bull's Head car park at 6pm. Costs £3.

10 June - Bingo at **Thringstone Miners Welfare.** Starts at 7pm. All welcome

30 June - **Grace Dieu Priory** – historical walk at 6pm from Bull's Head car park. £3 per person. All welcome

5 July – **Grace Dieu Priory** – historical walk at 3pm from Bull's Head car park. £3 per person. All welcome.

22 July - **Grace Dieu Priory** – historical walk at 10am from Bull's Head car park. £3 per person. All welcome.

1 Aug – **Thringstone Music Festival** at centre

3 August – **Summer Fete** at Stephenson College

6 Sept - **Grace Dieu Priory** – historical walk at 3pm from Bull's Head car park. £3 per person. All welcome.

12 Sept – **Hello Heritage** event at the centre and possibly opening up some older houses in the village.

History report

- In the March minutes, we talked about **Wilfred and Mary Bruce** from The Meadows. Mr Bruce was, it seems, a manager at Charnwood Quarry near the motorway island at Shepshed. Thanks to Pam Spence for enlightening us.
- **The 1379 poll tax return** for Thringstone stated that there were 39 entries for Thringstone with an estimated population overall of 117 people which included one farmer and one female Brewster.
- Information about the wartime days of **Thringstone House** as a community centre have come to light. The annual report for 1940 talks of one case of gambling being reported and that some difficulty being experienced in getting in the last half year's subscription from people who were



members of the Club House. The centre was open between 10am and 10pm and used a lot by miners who were on shifts. In addition to a card room, a reading room had all the daily national newspapers delivered every morning, which was a luxury that many households could not afford and allowed people to keep up with news around the world. In October 1940, ninety evacuees arrived, made up of mothers and children from the London area. Tea was served, and they were then placed around the upstairs hall and made comfortable. Members of the ARP and VAD and a maternity nurse were on duty all night to look after them. Breakfast was served on the Sunday morning and then they were taken to their billet. Those who couldn't find a billet stayed at the centre for a 2nd night, the superintendent staying with them. When they all found homes, the building was scrubbed. We know that other evacuees from Birmingham came to the village and were housed locally. At that time, the upstairs hall was available for recreation from 11am-6pm daily, but was only used 2-3 times. Military authorities asked to use the hall for one week as a PT room. From 1941 until her death, Mrs Booth held women's meetings in the 2 front rooms of the clubhouse, because they weren't allowed in the rest of the house, as it was for men. The men's section report for 1947 states that 'the young members conduct has been very unsatisfactory' and lack of payment for subscriptions of 1s 6d was rife. At that time, the accommodation comprised a large billiard room, women's meeting or classroom, card room and library or reading room with toilets on the ground floor. On the first floor was the hall, committee room and caretaker's quarters, consisting of living room and 2 bedrooms. In the garden was a skittle alley, shed (formerly used as a gym) and a field let for grazing at a rent of £5 6d pa. Notes from the time suggested that the meeting rooms were used by the local parish council, National Savings group, village cricket and football committees, scouts, cubs and others, in addition to which dances, flower shows, whist drives and large meetings were held upstairs. The women's room was used for meetings of the WI (something that Mary Booth set up which was not affiliated to the national WI Scheme), cookery classes, infants' Sunday school, girls' club, guides and brownies, mothers' meetings and choral classes and debates. The state of the property around 1947 was reported as reasonable, although general wear and tear were noted, and there had been a great deal of difficulty getting repairs carried out during and immediately after the war. As a result, some urgent maintenance was necessary plus it was felt important for an inside toilet to be provided. All this came to £450. It was because of this, plus the fact that all the Booth trustees had moved away, and one (grandson of Charles Booth Captain James Makepeace Thakeray Ritchie) had been killed in France in 1940 that the decision be made to contact Leicestershire County Council under the Physical Training Act 1937 as amended by the Education Act of 1944, and this was done with the permission of the charities commission, resulting in the centre coming under the trusteeship of the county council in the 1950s.

- **The Women's Trust** at the centre was set up by Mary Booth on 22 September 1919 with the object being the provision of instruction in housewifery, cooking, needlework, laundry work and the general welfare of women and girls, and to provide instruction in the Christian religion to children under the age of 7 years. Trustees were Mrs Booth, her daughters Hon Lady Antonia MacNaughton and Mrs Mary Imogen Gore-Browne, Mrs Shrewsbury the vicar's wife and Mr Crane, solicitor. In the first year, 12 girls went to housekeeping classes and it was stipulated that absolute cottage conditions were to be adhered to, 'the girls thus being brought face to face with the identical problems they may expect to deal with in later life'.
- Continuing with the Booth family we have discovered that **Antonia Margaret Booth**, granddaughter of Charles Booth, and daughter of George Booth, once director of the Bank of England and minister of munitions during WW1, was another famous musician. She died in 1993 and was one of the last surviving musicians who played with the Busch Chamber Orchestra in Europe in the 1930s. Like her mother, she studied at Leipzig and then went to Berlin before moving to Basle in 1927. During the war, she played for Ensa, did some teaching in Essex and was first violin with the Reid Orchestra in Edinburgh. After the war, she played for about three years with a quartet led by Andre Mangeot. Her sister Polly was also a musician – a cellist. Toni Booth had been lively and striking in appearance in her youth, and remained a gamine figure to the



end, her eyes closing as a pencil- thin smile spread right across her face. She always said exactly what she thought. She was shy and invincibly unworldly. In her Basle days she regularly dined with Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England (her father was a director of the Bank), and not yet a married man, when he came to Switzerland for meetings of the International Bank of Settlements. A journalist from the Financial Times got to hear of this and tracked Booth down to ask whether she had inside intelligence on the Bank Rate. She had no idea what the Bank Rate was, and this side of life was always a mystery to her. She lived for music, and in later days, her first question to a stranger at dinner was often: 'Which is your favourite Brandenburg Concerto?' If there was no satisfactory answer forthcoming, the conversation usually ended there.

Their brother **John Sebastian Macaulay Booth** was a businessman who ran the Booth tannery business who died in 1994. He lived in Nottinghamshire, and as managing director of his family tanning business in Nottingham, when he arrived at work, he would make a point of leaving his car not in the directors' car park, but in the general car park at the far end of the factory, so that he could walk the length of its workshops chatting to individuals on the factory floor. It was a mark of the unconventional style he brought both to his business affairs and to all aspects of his life. Like others in his family, he was much taken with socialist ideals, but also musical. All his siblings learnt the piano and one other instrument. John studied the clarinet and went on to play in the early seasons of the Glyndebourne Festival.

He served in WW2 as part of the British Expeditionary Force, then by early 1941 he had started work at the Combined Ops Photographic Interpretation Unit at Medmenham, in Buckinghamshire, examining aerial reconnaissance photographs for the Army. He was one of the first such specialists and was sent to help plan the invasion of Italy from North Africa, working long hours to provide back-up for General George Patton's 7th Army. He succumbed to pleurisy and pneumonia in Tunisia and returned to Medmenham after the invasion of Sicily. During the build-up to D-Day, Booth was assigned to the 11th Armoured Division, and took charge of its air-photo interpretation section. He served the division, under the command of Maj- Gen Pip Roberts, throughout the campaign, from the early battles in Normandy, through the lightning advance to Antwerp and the sweep across north Germany as the spearhead of 21 Army Group, all the way to the Danish frontier. His fellow officers found him a first-class photographic interpreter under battle conditions; shrewd, perceptive, and imaginative. In 1964, after a family rift, the holdings of Alfred Booth & Co were split into its building concerns, which retained the company name, and the leather businesses. John Booth's cousins kept the building side, while he took charge of the leather. Booth was an avid skier and it was on a skiing holiday that he fell in love with Juno Liddell, the daughter of Guy Liddell, deputy head of MI5. They were married in 1957, but Juno died 11 years later, still in her thirties, after suffering from Hodgkin's disease. It fell to John to bring up their two daughters. He was an indefatigable host, and in retirement kept to a strict domestic routine. He would don a kimono at 6.30pm, and mix a Martini. He would regale family and friends with stories, or music from an old 78 record player.

- The Burton Chronicle of 11 April 1889 states there was a transfer of license from **Richard Hill to John Wait of The Fox Inn, Thringstone**. During that period, the public house was in the ownership of John Emerson of Belton, and we knew that John Wait or What was there in June 1889 from previous research. It may be the case that both these men, Richard Hill being new to us, were managers for him. We are currently unable to say who Richard Hill was. Also in the Burton Chronicle dated 30 January 1890 are details of a transfer of license from John Emerson to **Albert Edward Hardy**. This is also new information and we believe that Albert, who was born in 1864, and his wife Sarah Anne Ada nee Brailsford and 2 children were from Leicester and a year later had moved to keep The Cambridge Hotel in Wellingborough, Northants. Albert died there aged 35 in 1899 and the following year, Sarah remarried Hugh Sheldon Hill and they continued to run The Cambridge Hotel. In the South Notts Echo of 3 March 1912, and the Nottingham Evening Post of 23 November 1923, there are creditors reports relating to **Samuel Jarvis**, born 1 July 1876, formerly of Fox Inn, Thringstone and now of 275 Main Street, Bulwell. The later dated article said that Samuel had been a miner and had taken over the pub in October 1912. He disclosed



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that some of the debt had come about due to the illness of his wife for 12 months prior to his leaving The Fox Inn. This would be Sarah who died in January 1922 and is buried at St Andrew's. In August 1922, an action of slander had been brought against him (but we don't know who by), which went to court in early 1923 and which he did not defend, resulting in a £50 fine and costs. Samuel claimed that he did not know of his insolvency until he had to pay his damages. Because of this, the brewery issued him notice to quit in December 1922, and he left, selling his furniture at the same time. His debt had been £163 19s 6d, but had been reduced due to money in his bank at the initial meeting to £59 11s 5d. The matter was eventually referred to the Official Receiver with an overall debt of £124 19s 10d. Samuel was one of the 2 sons of Charles Jarvis and his first wife Mary Ann Rowbottom, not as in previous minutes the second wife, and was the grandson, not son, of Samuel and Mary Ann Jarvis who we mention in our pubs book. Charles Jarvis kept the George and Dragon in 1893/4. By 1939, Samuel, a blacksmith's striker, was living in Thames Street, Nottingham with his sister Dora Commons and her husband Henry and family, with whom he had also been living in Whitwick in 1901. His only daughter, also called Dora, married James White in 1922 and remained in Thringstone, living in Main Street according to the 1939 register. Samuel he died in 1948. In the same Burton Chronicle of 1889 as mentioned above, it also records the transfer of license of **Queen's Head, Thringstone** from Richard Hallam to Silas Hill. Silas had been at The Fox until 1888, and subsequently moved to The Gelsmoor in 1891, but this is a new link to the Queen's Head. The same newspaper dated 22 March 1888 tells that **The Bull's Head, Cross Lanes, Thringstone** was being sold on 10 April. It states that the property was in the joint occupation of Charles Gough and Mrs Merriman (who later became his wife). There were also 3 cottages, a barn, cowshed and small plot of garden on the opposite side of the road involved in the sale. The pub was held on a 10 year lease by George Offiler, a brewery owner from Derby, the lease expiring on 25 March 1897 with the yearly rent being £30. Some of this is new information.

- August 1909 saw an increase in diseases in the area with a new case of **diphtheria** being reported in Thringstone, along with cases of scarlet fever being reported in Donisthorpe and Snibstone.
- In March 1906, the Burton Chronicle reported that **James Peters** of Thringstone, spar manufacturer, had filed for bankruptcy at Burton Registrar's Office. This gentleman lived at Gracedieu Road, Thringstone and had a wife called Eva nee Gough. He was born in Coleorton, and between 1878 and 1884 had kept **The Bull's Head** and also been a sub postmaster. In 1901 he had 5 of his 8 children living with him and 2 lodgers, including David Gough, butcher. There are more details on this man in our pubs book but we had previously been unaware of his bankruptcy.

Council report

NWLDC have shut their offices to the public, but are continuing to work. If you need to contact them, please email them or ring them direct on 454545.

Gardening and environment

Bernard finished tidying, weeding and sorting the area down to St Andrew's before the lockdown.

AOB

Next bulletin will be in early May all being well.