



**CHARLES BOOTH  
CENTRE**

Thringstone House  
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20 February 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to inform you of recent changes at Thringstone House Community Centre as this might be of interest to the inhabitants of your parish.

As you may know, under the original foundation and bequest in 1911 by Charles Booth, the centre was intended not just for the benefit of the inhabitants of Thringstone, but also for the adjacent parishes of Whitwick, Swannington, Belton, Osgathorpe, Coleorton and Worthington. Charles Booth was the Victorian philanthropist and social reformer who lived at Grace Dieu Manor.

The Booth family eventually handed over the trusteeship of the centre to Leicestershire County Council in 1951 and they have been the custodians of the centre and responsible for its management and funding until recently.

However, with the present severe cuts in local authority spending now taking effect, the County Council have decided to dissolve their trusteeship and withdraw all their funding for the centre. This was formally and legally concluded in the middle of December last year.

Many of us locally are determined to keep the centre going. We have set up a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with a new board of trustees for the future management of the centre which we are renaming as Charles Booth Centre and new professional, paid staff have been appointed. We have healthy financial reserves and have some exciting and innovative new plans for the future development of the centre.

Under the CIO scheme of governance, all the parishes mentioned above have been retained as within 'the area of benefit' of the centre. This means that all the inhabitants aged 18 years or upwards in the area of benefit are entitled to attend and vote at an Annual general Meeting, and can attend to vote on the election of Charity trustees. Formal notice of the next Annual General Meeting will be posted closer to the date for the meeting.

The new board of trustees are very keen to make the centre more available, and open to the wider community in North West Leicestershire. We already have over 30 user groups, catering for everything and everyone from our pre-school nursery to the Retired People's Fellowship. There are many interest and activity groups and classes, and regular shows and concerts, including our well known annual pantomime and the annual Music Festival. We extend a very warm welcome to everyone in your parish, and hope you will become actively involved and supportive as we embark on an exciting new future for this great, much loved, and valued local community asset, and should be grateful if you could bring this letter and matter to the attention of your council and parish.

You are welcome to contact our new Business Development Manager, Holly Kerley, for further information and details about the centre - E mail [hello@charlesboothcentre.org.uk](mailto:hello@charlesboothcentre.org.uk) or telephone 01530 222337. We also have facebook and twitter pages and a comprehensive website.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Fern, Chair of the Board of Trustees