

The Unveiling Ceremony

THESE NAMES ARE LAMPS OF SACRIFICE

Mary Booth, wife of the eminent social researcher Charles Booth and a philanthropist in her own right, performed the unveiling. Mary was well known in the community, having supported the families of local miners through the difficult times of a strike in the mid-1890s and the Whitwick pit accident in 1898.



The Booths lived at Grace Dieu Manor in Thringstone which is now a school. In 1903 Charles Booth bought a former farm in Thringstone and by 1911 had turned this into a community centre, now called the Charles Booth Centre.

Mary set up the Women's Trust and with her husband, founded the Whitwick and Thringstone Nursing Association. She personally financed the St Andrew's Home for invalid children in Thringstone and was president of the Ashby and District Boy Scouts Association.

Archive documents provide a minute by minute schedule for the event starting with the depositing of wreaths on a table at Memorial Square between 1 -1.30pm. Ex-servicemen from Leicestershire, Coalville, Hugglescote and Whitwick marched to the Memorial Clock Tower from various points around the town ready for the formalities to commence at 2.25pm. A detailed hand drawn plan of where all the servicemen, dignitaries and the community would be located at the event is shown to the right.



After Mrs Booth's speech the ex-service men were called to order by a Captain Jamie before the tablets were unveiled. Buglers then sounded the "Last Post", followed by one minutes' silence and the final "Reveille". After which various groups came forward to lay wreaths.

Images
Mary Booth
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