



# The Friends of Thringstone



**'Working together to improve our village'**

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**Twitter address: [@Thringstone2](https://twitter.com/Thringstone2)**

## **BULLETIN FOR JUNE 2020**

**AGM** – Under normal circumstances we would have a meeting at this point, where we would vote in the committee for the coming year. However, due to the covid situation, and the lack of physical meetings, members were asked last month if they were happy for the existing committee to continue and given the opportunity to make comments/suggest others. As no written comments were received, the committee continues as follows for another year:

Chairman: Nita Pearson	Secretary: Nita Pearson
Vice Chair: Geoff Wilson	Treasurer: Geoff Wilson
History: Ann Petty	Environment: Bill Enser
Publications: Janet Stevenson	Membership Secretary: Sue Rowbottom
Events Assist: Kathy Mardon	Admin Assist: Vacant

**End of year accounts etc.** These have been submitted to Tony Newton for examination.

**Chairman's report** – Nita has provided a chairman's report which is attached.

### **Announcements.**

**Meetings** - The chance of us being able to have regular monthly meetings continues to look unlikely in the near future. Would people be interested in 'attending' a Zoom meeting, or Facebook Room/Google meet session? Please let Nita know and we will see what we can set up if there is sufficient interest.

**Monthly litter pick total - 78 against 114 bags** for the same month last year. It has been 'interesting' to see the increased volume of litter since VE Day and the advent of warmer weather. NWLDC announced on 12 May that in the first few weeks of lockdown the **recycling centre** processed 60 tonnes more glass recycling than in normal circumstances. Nita arranged for Sam from **Belton Litter Pickers** to help with a litter pick in the woods and to the priory on 2 June. Their figures will be added to the figures next month and he has agreed to go litter picking in the woods once a week for us going forward.

The Coalville tip remains closed but the **Lount tip** opened on 18 May from 9.15am – 4.15pm for people wishing to book a slot to take rubbish. The online booking form requires you to be logged in with Leicestershire County Council SELF ACCOUNT. If you don't have an account, sign up for a self account first. If you don't have an email address and you would like to book an appointment, you can call customer services on 0116 3054444 to book your appointment. Please remember do not turn up without an appointment

In the meantime, people continue to **fly tip** in various places, including the car park at The Bull's Head and on Warren Lane. All reported to NWLDC, but thank you to the management at The Bull's Head for getting a Biffa skip in place to remove the fly tipping there.



Thanks go to Arthur Campbell and Liam who, following on from a facebook request which Nita put out, went out on 26 May to **mow the grass on The Green** round our planting, which is normally the responsibility of the council. This area was looking really tatty and the grass was very long in places, so thank you to them for spending the full day volunteering to do this and remove all excess grass. We got a lot of facebook messages from people who were very impressed, which we passed on.

**Nestle** gave NWLDC a lot of Easter Eggs in early May to give to the crews working on the bin vans and at the recycling centre as a thank you. What a nice touch!

A feasibility study into the possibility of the **Ivanhoe Line through Coalville** reopening was announced by the government on 23 May. This may not happen quickly, or at all, but it is good news that it is at least being considered.

**Thank you** to those members who asked for the bank account details to make a donation to the group. Much appreciated. These amounts will be shown on the finance report as the bank statement are received by us. If other members would like to make donations, please let us know and we will provide the necessary information.

**Face masks** – we have been asked whether we want to start a project to help provide face masks to people in the village. We know of a couple of people who have been making these for friends and family – does anybody want to help provide masks for others? Please let us know.

**Thringstone Creates** – the craft project started by Sarah Baxter to record what we are all going through at the moment appears to be continuing well. In the meantime, Ashby Museum are asking for photographs to be sent to them for their Lockdown Photo Archive, suggesting that future generations will find all this hard to believe. Their email is [lockdown@ashbymuseum.org.uk](mailto:lockdown@ashbymuseum.org.uk) This could possibly include photos of the VE Day celebrations that anybody might want to send in.

**Food outlets reopen:** As you should know from the emails Nita sent out, the George and Dragon opened to do takeouts on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and Ruby's reopened with responsible social distancing measures and a reduced menu from 11 May. There is a small local website that has been started which lists various restaurants and services still open during lockdown. Please go to <http://www.staying-inn.co.uk/> We also understand that KFC in Coalville opened on 27 May as drive through only.

NWLDC plan to reopen the **public toilets** in Coalville and Ashby town centres from Monday 15 June. This supports plans for non-essential retailers to reopen from Monday 15 June if Government guidance allows. The toilets will be open Monday to Saturday, with charges removed to reduce hand contact and the need to use coins at the entrances

We were told that **Squire de Lisle's wife** Edith had died. We believe she may have been 81 years old. We sent a card to him offering our sympathies.

**The Coalville CAN group** – CAN stands for communities and neighbourhoods, and covers not only Coalville town but surrounding villages like our own. If you can spare a little time, the Coalville CAN Steering Crew would appreciate 8 minutes of it! A crew of 11 locals have come together to connect community passion and ideas, to local buildings (currently empty) with a view (and a competent plan!) to take them over. They are not just talking about it, they are DOING it, your views, your skills and your ideas are all wanted and needed... The facebookgroup - Coalville CAN CBS - has been set up and anyone is welcome to join (all reports/ letters/ funding bids etc are in there for anyone to look at). You may also want to go onto the survey sheet (link below) to fill in a form and let the people have your views. <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx...>

**Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club** – during the lockdown, members of the club have been ensuring that the pitch is in tip top condition and also taken to maintenance and repainting of the clubhouse.

**The Bull's Head** have also started to do a tidy up of their garden, repaint garden furniture and do general maintenance work.

**Thringstone Miners Welfare** announced on 16 May that Broomleys Football Club will be playing in both Saturday and Sunday leagues at the Homestead Road ground from the start of the new football season. Members of the committee will be contacting regular hirers of the hall in the coming weeks about resuming use, and will be reopening their books to new users too.



**Hello Heritage** – Our event in September is changing, and is now going to be based on a walk round the village which people can take independently of others, with council provided history boards for people to follow. This can be based on our Village Trail 1 brochure. Next year, the event will be around Easter rather than September and be more traditional in its approach. More details nearer the time.

**The George and Dragon** have been continuing to supply the Hugglescote Community Action group to feed the vulnerable and elderly.

**Centre News:** The centre volunteers have been continuing to collect and deliver Morrison's food parcels to people, collect prescriptions and newspapers, make calls to people and generally help during lockdown. Inside the centre building and redecoration works have continued. The new partition screen has been safely and successfully installed, which of course will make all the downstairs rooms so much more flexible and will provide a really big downstairs area when required. Thanks to some great new volunteers, the decorating work continues and looks really good.. One thing with the lock down and closure of the Centre is that it has enabled work like this, which would have been difficult to achieve in normal circumstances, to be done easily. The house lounge has been transformed and looks really good now. The original wooden floor has been sanded, stained and polished and the whole room re-designed in period style. The Booth family portraits have been re-hung in there and the room will be known from now on as "The Charles Booth Room. " Hopefully the centre will be able to have a grand re-opening ceremony and party in the not too distant future.

Over £24k has been raised by crowd funding for the **lift fund**, which includes another donation from Charles Booth's granddaughter, Fanny Hugill . If anybody would like to add to this, please go to <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/lifting-up-our-community>

A local lady will be taking over the **new preschool**, hopefully in July or at the very outside from January. She is already working with the centre on marketing ideas and when further information is available, this will be forwarded via social media initially. The preschool will be open from 8am-6pm, Monday-Friday, 51 weeks a year. Work has already started to improve the secret garden area to include staining the fencing, putting down bark chippings and repairing the little house there.

### **Chairs Report**

**Letters received:** Card from member seeking to know if Nita is OK.

**Emails received:** Various from people with whom we regularly share information. We have received the latest **Rural Community Council newsletter**. If anybody wants a copy, ask Nita.

**Emails sent:** Various to groups and individuals as usual.

**Promotion:** We have **643 twitter followers**, which is 3 more than last month, and **1,317 facebook followers**, which is 43 more than last month.

One of our facebook followers has suggested a **rock snake** where people paint small stones and make them into the shape of a snake and put them somewhere for children to add to. There are similar snakes in Holly Hayes Wood, Shepshed and Measham. We are leaving this with him to start and then we will help promote it.

**Other:** We are sorry to hear that our member Eddie Henderson is still in hospital and wish him and his family well. We also are sorry to hear that our member Doreen Gough passed away in Ashby Court. Our condolences go to her friends and family.

We have now joined the facebook group called **UK Litter Picking Groups**.

Nita completed **survey with our insurers** on the impact the current situation has had on our group – lack of meetings, no income from memberships, may change us long term.

### **Finance Report**

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty	<b>£2,152.69</b>
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cash + float)			
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Donation	£20	Broadband	15.00
<b>total income to general fund</b>	£20		£15
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>2157.69</b>

### Publications Report

N/A

### Web Report

The webmaster informed us that the website was full and that was the reason there had been no updates. Rather than take stuff off to create a bit of room, it has been decided to find another site with more access availability.

### Police Report

The police continue to deal with issues relating to Covid. They attended more than one local incident of drunkenness on VE Day.

14 April–15 April – Theft of number plates on Shrewsbury Walk, Thringstone

21 May – Man on Melrose Road arrested and taken into police custody. No further details.

31 May – Firemen came out to put out a fire set in Grace Dieu Woods.

### Community Report and What's On

Well done to **Sophie Maycock** from the Swallowdale estate who has raised over £550 for animals at Twycross Zoo by a sponsored bike, bounce and swing.

As far as we are aware, all local events have been cancelled in June, but not sure about the rest of the year.

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 village walk (as above)

### History report

- Leicester Chronicle 25 April 1835 – John Pickering the **collector of tolls at Thringstone** bar on the Ashby to Loughborough Rd was convicted by magistrates of having taken illegal tolls for wagons drawn by oxen, contrary to The General Turnpike Act. The magistrates ordered Mr Pickering to pay all expenses. No further information on Mr Pickering is available.
- Nita sent the **Leicestershire War Memorials** website manager details and a photograph of Frederick Grice who is mentioned on the Coalville War Memorial as having died in WW2. They previously had no information on him at all. She also sent details on Douglas A Richards as again they had no information on him for their Coalville War Memorials section.
- Nita has investigated **Alan James Rennocks** who was born at Lilybank Cottages in 1932 and died at 1 Snarrows Rd, Thringstone in 2014. She has found some photos, his birth certificate and some details of the winding up of his plumbing business in 1970. She has also found photos, marriage certificates, baptism certificates etc., for his siblings Frederick, Constance and Donald, the latter of whom was in business with Alan.
- Nita found a photograph of **John Potter** of Talbot Farm Horse Repository and also found a picture of his grave - he died on 3 January 1877 aged 64. These have been added to our archives and shared with Swannington Research. We also now have copies of other photos posted on



## The Friends of Thringstone

facebook, such as a colour photo of a miners' meeting at Rangers Club, old photos of Calvary Cross in the woodlands, the brook, the priory and others.

- Nita has spent time writing down the memories of a chap who was born and brought up on Homestead Road in the 1960s. This information is now in our archives. Amongst a lot of other things, he told us that Marilyn, wife of **Graham Evans** who used to live at The Gables, used to cut hair and also that **John Alexander Renton** from the garage on the A512 used to live in the house on the corner of Lbro Rd and Booth Rd (see below). Mr Renton was born in Roxburghshire in Scotland on 26 Dec 1931 and died on 12 Dec 2012 in Loughborough. He had married Alexandria Cockburn on 2 April 1954.
- Following some research and conversations with some of our members, we have established that the property on the **corner of Booth Rd and Lbro Rd** was built around the same time as no. 73 for **Albert Henry Hudson** sometime before 1941, as one of his children (Eileen Shirley known as Shirley) was confirmed from that address, at Whitwick Church, on 15 May 1941 whereas on 29 September 1939, when the 1939 register was taken, they were living at 11 Lbro Rd. Several photographs of the family have been given to us and saved to our archives. Born on 18 February 1896 in Belton, Albert married Belton born Ethel Hickling in 1920 and had 4 daughters and one son – Marian, Hetty, Eileen Shirley, Ellen Elizabeth and Harold Colin. Hetty, who had worked in a hosiery factory, and had been confirmed at St Andrew's on 13 March 1935, married Ted Chamberlain who kept the shop near The Fox. She tragically contracted bovine TB from working as a land army girl on Joe Hoult's farm, and died aged 25, after having married 2 years earlier. She had been in Markfield Sanitorium, as we have discussed before. Marian, who was confirmed at Oaks in Charnwood on 28 March 1934, married Frederick Wardle at St Andrew's on 31 May 1952 and died on 7 February 2012. Ellen, who had been confirmed at Belton church on 24 March 1938, married Norman Peach Rose from Belton at St Andrew's on 10 July 1948 and died on 2 July 2011. Eileen Shirley married George Smallwood in 1953 and died on 16 February 2018, and Harold, who had been confirmed at Whitwick church on 11 May 1943, married Beryl Bakewell also at St Andrew's on October 1953, moved to Shepshed and died 23 January 1994. Arthur and Ethel both died at the property on Loughborough Road, she on 14 May 1983 and he on 28 December 1984. They are buried at St Andrew's, sharing their grave with Hetty. The gravestone also mentions her brother in law George Smallwood of 34 School Lane, Whitwick, who died on 2 December 1980 aged 52, having been born on 5 March 1928.
- Nita had an email from a lady whose family were related to the **Freeman family** of Thringstone asking for help with her family tree. Nita sent some information to the lady, which included details on Jessie Freeman married Alfred Sykes who kept the Rose and Crown from 1930-53. She also sent details on Richard and Herbert Freeman who died in WW1 who were brothers of Annie Freeman whose details we had through the work on the WAAC and who was the subject of the banner and display we did years ago which went to Snibston Discovery Park. Annie, who we now believe might have been in a gas attack whilst serving with the WAAC in France, married John Jones, and three of her 4 sons died in WW2. These are commemorated on both the Whitwick and Coalville War Memorials and we have now done considerable research on them – **Diamond Freeman** (illegitimate) was an RAF air gunner in the 106<sup>th</sup> squadron. He held the rank of sergeant, had been married less than 6 months, when he died in a crash on 26 July 1942 along with 4 other crew whilst en route to lay mines in Bordeaux in France. The Lancaster plane in which he was flying was shot down by a flak ship off the coast of La Rochelle. **John Jones** was in the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion of the Northants Regiment and died on 11 April 1943 in Tunisia along with 3 others from his regiment and is commemorated at the Madjez-El Bab cemetery. Finally there was **Henry Jones** of the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders who died on 22 May 1945 in India. From an exchange of information, we have received a death certificate for the half brother of Jessie Sykes from the Rose and Crown, a copy of a marriage certificate where Annie Freeman and Alfred Sykes (Rose and Crown) were witnesses, a copy of the Whitwick parish magazine from 1918 giving details on the deaths of Herbert and Richard Freeman, a photograph of brothers Diamond Freeman and Henry Jones, and a photo of a lady with a son in a WW1 uniform. We are assuming





## The Friends of Thringstone

that this is Eliza Freeman from Talbot Lane, with either Richard or Herbert Freeman, both of whom were killed in WW1.. Nita has shared details and the photo of Henry Jones with the webmaster for the Seaforth Highlanders WW2 site and information on all three sons, and their mother, has been shared with Whitwick Historical Group, Coalville Heritage Society and the web manager of the Leicestershire War memorials site for inclusion on the list of casualties on the Coalville and Whitwick memorials, as they are mentioned on both.

- Nita has done some research into **Frederick Gains Sykes**, a married butcher of Main Street, who died aged 30 years in 1861. She now has both his death certificate and the inquest notes, from which it would seem that he had been drinking at 2 pubs in Osgathorpe when he fell from his pony. He was found with his head being dragged along the road after the pony had taken off at speed. He was taken to his father's house but died of head injuries, having been attended by Mr J A Wood. We currently have no idea who Mr J A Wood was. We also have the death notice for **Thomas Kidger Ayre**, 22 year old son of Elizabeth Ayre who had once kept the Rose and Crown. He was said to have been a liberal benefactor to the aged poor of Thringstone and for a long time the respected superintendant of the Wesleyan Sunday School in Main Street.
- Ashby Gazette 29 Jan 1881 – A football match between **The Rose and Crown**, Thringstone and Whitwick took place on 'the new cricket pitch'. At the end of the game, The Rose and Crown were declared winners with 3 goals (one disputed) to Whitwick's one. Playing for The Rose and Crown were Elijah King (captain), George James Gough who was landlord at the time, William Williams, Herbert Moore, John White, G White, John Gill, W Gill, J Hall, James Burton, Joseph Twigger, Tom Heward and J Upton. William Stretton was umpire. There are several subsequent articles relating to the football team from The Rose and Crown playing other local villages, plus a couple of mentions of the Rose and Crown cricket team. A lot of the team seemed to live on Brook Lane.
- Ashby Gazette 10 March 1883 – The death of a child of 2 years and 11 months was announced as Thringstone's **Bertha Bradley**. She died from the effect of burns received a month earlier after an oil light was accidentally over turned. Research has shown that this child was, at the time, the youngest of 3 daughter of Thomas (a coal miner) and Eliza Bradley of Brook Terrace.
- **Oddfellows group, Thringstone** - Leicester Mail, 11 July 1868 – The Loyal de Lisle Lodge celebrated their 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Talbot Arms, Whitwick on 30 June. They partook of an excellent dinner provided by PDM Hallam. Rev A Paemel was invited to take the chair, PIF Joseph Hull vice chair. After the usual toasts, the Nottingham Ancient Imperial Order of Oddfellows assembled, and a toast was raised to ALP de Lisle, patron of the lodge. Secretary Connelly stated that the lodge had been very prosperous with scarcely any sickness during the previous 12 months. They had previously met at The Three Horseshoes in 1866 and 67 and as a result of increased number, the landlord of the pub, Martin Commons, had added a new and larger club room. In July 1876, the secretary was Mr Berridge, the chair Rev Tolmarche and the vice chair Dr Johnson.

Leicester Chronicle and Mercury, 27 June 1874 – The de Lisle Lodge of the Independent Order Of Oddfellows, MU, which was an unregistered group had 30 members and an account containing £60. The group was said at the time to be a bad group which often flouted rules and was likely to close. They paid 10s a night for liquor and 'pay for the feast from the box.' Until Christmas 1871, there was no separation of funds. They had lately changed their secretary. When the lodge books were first inspected by the district, the inspectors found some very curious things. This included money entered into the book and not accounted for. A sick club, unregistered, had 48 members and £50. The group had broken up a few years earlier then started afresh without the old members. 'They have lodge liquor like the rest and took 1 shilling for the feast from the box last year but profess that there is no more of that. The district office of the Independent Order Of Oddfellows MU is there. So is the district of the Nottingham Oddfellows. Mr Hallam is secretary for both.' This was obviously happening therefore at the Queen's Head.

### Council report

Nothing received.



The Friends of  
Thringstone

**Gardening and environment**

Bernard has done some weeding down Drury Lane. Thanks go to Ruth Gillespie who gave us in excess of **1000 snowdrop bulbs**. Bernard has taken these to plant around the area.

Next bulletin will be in early July all being well.