



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

Chairman: Nita Pearson BEM
20 Springfield, Thringstone, Leicestershire, LE67 8LT.
Telephone: 01530 223434
[mail to: nita.pearson@ntlworld.com](mailto:nita.pearson@ntlworld.com)

Visit our website at: www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk
Twitter address: [@Thringstone2](https://twitter.com/Thringstone2)

BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY 2021

News.

Monthly litter pick total - 92 against **126 bags** for the same month last year. As you know, we feed our figures into N&S Leics. Litter Wombles, and the figure for litter pickers for Leicestershire for January was 4340 bags which is a ridiculous amount of litter.

NW Leicestershire awarded their local heroes award on 27 Jan to all community litter picking teams, so we posted this on our twitter and facebook pages. Thank you to all who help.

We have been made aware by many people of problems with dog fouling on the jitties from Henson's Lane to Main Street and along Main Street and other areas of the village, and the woodland. People need to report this online <https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/report> We have also completed an online survey with NWLDC who during January were looking at their open areas policies relating to dog fouling. We have spoken to the police about this and they are aware. We have now joined **Eco Green Communities** team on facebook. They are a litter picking organisation wishing to see changes to how litter is viewed.

4 Car charging points: NWLDC appear to have secured £45k from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) to combine with council funding to install car charging points at Vicarage Street, Whitwick, The Green, Thringstone and Clapgun Street, Castle Donington. This has produced a lot of local comment about the reduction in car parking spaces for Ruby's and the Co-op.

Thringstone Creates – competition for children. Draw a picture of flowers, take a photograph of this and send it to Thringstone Creates on facebook. There will be a prize for chosen pictures. These will then be turned into an appliqué picture for one of our local crafters. It is then hoped that this will be displayed, in the village, as a tapestry, and lasting record of these difficult times.

Thringstone's link to housebuilder's tribute to Whitwick Mining Disaster: A memorial commemorating The 1898 Whitwick Colliery disaster is set to be constructed by a Leicestershire homebuilder. Stored at Snibston Colliery Park, with the intention of being used for a mining community memorial, it is being donated by the county council, and moved free of charge by Thringstone based **Leicester Machine Movers**. The memorial will occupy an area of David Wilson Homes' Grange View development, which is being built on the site of part of the former Whitwick Colliery. The project is being undertaken in partnership with Leicestershire County Council Museums Service, Hugglescote and Donnington le Heath Parish Council, Coalville Heritage Society, and Snibston Heritage Trust. The centre piece will be a six-metre diameter headstock pulley wheel, collected by Leicestershire County Council Museums Service from Whitwick Colliery during demolition in 1987. In memory of those who lost their lives, the homebuilder will also name the 18 streets at its Grange Road development after some of the



miners. Thringstone resident, John Reddington, Managing Director at David Wilson Homes East Midlands, said: "The Whitwick Colliery Disaster is such a renowned part of Leicestershire's history and we're proud to have the opportunity to honour those who lost their lives. Our partners have worked very hard to make this memorial possible and it's a privilege to be involved in the project, with the commemorative street names set to become an integral part of our new community in Hugglescote, Leicestershire." The pulley wheel was moved on August 20, and the memorial will be located at the new entrance to the Grange View development, due to be completed during 2021 and 2022.

The **mobile fish and chip van** from A&S catering is coming round Thringstone and Whitwick again on Wednesday nights. It gets to Springfield around 6.45pm if that helps with timings, but starts out in the general area at 4pm and goes on until 9pm.

Chairs Report

Letters received: None

Emails received: Various from people with whom we regularly share information.

Promotion: We have **665 twitter followers**, which is one less than last month, and **1,491 facebook followers**, which is 19 more than last month.

Other: Nita continues to write monthly history articles on Thringstone for **Community Voice**.

Nita did a **press release** and sent this to Leics. Mercury, CV Times, Community Voice and Hermitage FM regarding our litter picking totals for 2020 and the amount of masks we are picking up and the problems they can create. This was printed in the CV Times of 8 Jan and will be in February's Community Voice. Nita was subsequently asked for more information from Leics. Mercury, who, on 14 January, published an online article on their www.Inyourarea.co.uk link, about Nita, and our litter picking members.

We are sorry to report the death of our member Megan Cross. Condolences to all her family.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,192.69		
Income		Expenditure	
Donations	£10	Broadband	15.00
Publications		Plastic A4 filing sleeves	5.10
total income to general fund	£10		
		Total general fund at month end	2182.59

Publications Report

None sold.

Web Report

Work is continuing to try to get our website back.

Police Report

Our police contact had covid at the end of 2020 and that is the reason for a lack of information. There have been reports of drug taking down by the **blue bench** in Drury Lane. This has been reported to the police, and those who see it have been encouraged to ring 101 and report it and a sentinel case for anti-social behaviour has been created. There is also drug taking and drinking going on down there of which the police are aware. Huge litter issues result from all this.

There have been cases of **dog on dog attacks** due to dogs being off leads in the woods. Please remember to keep an eye on your pet to avoid problems.

There are two **motor bikers** who regularly go into the woods in an afternoon, both with trials bikes and fully kitted out. These vehicles are not road registered, but they ride from Thringstone



The Friends of Thringstone

Members Club down to Bull's Head car park and go into the woods that way. Police are aware. Also police are aware that on Sunday 17 Jan, several bikers, as a group, went into the woods from Warren Lane

Nita was asked to **complete a survey** on behalf of our group for the prospective Conservative candidate for Police Commissioner on views regarding local policing, and got the following information back after the survey had been analysed. 'The survey was sent to over 6,000 people across Leicestershire and Rutland, making this the biggest email survey of attitudes to crime and policing ever undertaken in our area. We are still tabulating the results across the board, and will be taking action accordingly. However, some trends are already clear. Here in North West Leicestershire:

- Only 21% of people in North West Leicestershire are satisfied with the visibility of police.
- Only 28% were satisfied with the level of communication between police and public.
- 30% had noticed a rise in crime as covid restrictions were lifted in December.
- 88% felt more safe than unsafe walking near their home
- More people were worried about burglary [35%] than any other issue. Road Safety was the second most serious worry at 25%.
- More people prioritised more police on regular patrols [28%] than any other law and order measure, with tougher fines for anti-social behaviour coming second with 21%.
- 96% want to see the police more involved with our community here in North West Leicestershire.'

History report

- A history writer called Lawrence Goldman is writing a biography of **Charles Booth**. We have been in touch with him and offered to share information on the family from a Thringstone perspective. We have also shared with members of the family some letters and other information found whilst researching things from Thringstone school.
- Nita was contacted by a man from **Missouri** who wanted help with his family tree. She supplied 5 lots of certificate copies that he hadn't got for his family research.
- Nita received copies of photographs from a lady whose family tree she has been helping with, but most were unidentified. Thanks to members, some photos were identified. Those we couldn't identify were posted onto various local history facebook pages but nothing concrete was forthcoming. One of the newspaper articles we found relating to her tree mentioned that **Sarah Kirby** (1828-1904) was found shouting obscene language in the street in September 1842 and was asked to go home, but in a struggle tore the handkerchief belonging to Thomas Price, constable. He then had difficulty taking her to the **local lock up**. Nobody seems to know where this was. Do you?
- Following on from receipt of photographs as above, one photograph which was identified showed members of the **Liquorice** family, and we were able to send a copy of it to the sister of a person on the photo, which also showed Linda Toon, her sister Clarice and Linda's daughter Pat. From that sharing, we have discovered that the photograph was taken at Windsor Castle. It was a works outing organised by John Scott Nicholl's hosiery firm at Shepshed and included the outworkers who made men's special socks on Griswald Machines at home. They were able to witness King George and Queen Elizabeth driving to Ascot for the races and Princess Elizabeth was wearing black and heavily pregnant with Prince Charles.
- We now have pictures of the wedding of **Ruth Robinson to William Betts** at St Andrew's in 1931 and others of their family thanks to a contact via facebook. In 1939 they lived on Gracedieu Road and later lived in the council houses on Loughborough Road and had two daughters, June and Barbara. William was the son of Eli Betts, a police sergeant who lived on Leicester Road in Whitwick, who, it is said, arrested Ruth's father, John Henry White Robinson, for poaching the same day as his daughter was born. It is said Mr Robinson chose the name Ruth by opening the bible and seeing the name. We can find nothing in newspaper reports to substantiate this.
- Nita was contacted by **Thringstone Scouts** who want to try to increase membership in 2021 and put on a fun day or evening in the summer and promote the fact that they were first registered at



The Friends of Thringstone

Scout HQ in 1921. However, we have pointed out to them that the first mention in newspaper archives of Thringstone Scouts with Scout Master L Gough was in June 1910. They also wanted to know why the group was re-registered in 1967 and we believe this is due to a new leader for the cubs talking to the District Commissioners and asking for help around that time, given there was no scouts group for the cubs to move on to. The last date we have for the scouts in Thringstone is in Sept. 1938 when the scouts and guides gave a guard of honour for Mary Booth when she went to the community centre. We know that Joe Burbank of John Street was scout leader in 1956, but think he left, and the scouts in Thringstone stopped operating. This is borne out by an article in the CV Times in Nov 1966 talking about Graham Wileman, aged 18 of 19 Henson's Lane getting a Duke of Edinburgh gold award with 1st Coalville Scouts rather than one more local.

- Nita and Ann are still going through a box of things we have borrowed from **Thringstone School** which go back to 1873 and finish in 1909. Amongst those is a note from January 1907 saying that the temperature at start of school was 36 degrees Fahrenheit and by end of day had risen to only 50. There are also various things relating to outbreaks of scarlatina in 1885 and measles outbreaks in 1908. We found an infectious disease cleaning guide for schools for April 1909! This was posted on our facebook page. We also discovered 3 missing head teachers from our list – Mrs J Farmer who was a temporary position for a month at the end of 1876, and Sarah Eleanor Webster of Shepshed, who was head between April and Dec 1878 and Worthy Jordan Gulliver who was there for a month in 1905. Miss Webster left to marry Alfred Lowe at St Mark's, Winsill, nr Burton on Trent, but continued to teach in Leicestershire. We will give more information next month.
- We had already established that Joseph Thornewill kept **The 3 Tuns** and died in Nov 1874. We were however unaware that his daughter Jane had been undertaking training as a pupil teacher at Thringstone primary in Sept 1873. Unfortunately, due to the death of her father, she had to give this up in December 1874.
- **Thringstone Cycling Club** – Losing children at an early age was relatively commonplace at one time. Here is one example. Buried at St Andrew's are Annie Louisa Lee nee Hollis, originally from Staffordshire, who died in childbirth in Sept 1917. She is buried with her youngest son Harry aged 25 days. Nearby, buried in 1913, is her daughter Beatrice Frances Lee aged 5, and son Isaac Lee aged 19 months buried in 1915. Annie and John Lee may have married in 1904. The 1911 census shows them with 5 children, the eldest two being born to Annie Louisa prior to meeting John, and have the surname Hollis. They were all living at 196 St Mary's Terrace, Talbot Street, Whitwick where John Lee had his bike shop and set up the **Thringstone Cycling Club** sometime before the start of WW1. We have photos of John Lee with the cycling club, where he is identified also as 'Earring Jack' and 'Darkie Lee'. John Lee was, however, not his real name. We are told that he was born in Chorlton, Lancs in 1860, left school aged 8 to go out to work as a labourer, and was married to Annie Critchley in Manchester on 1 Jan 1885 with whom he had a family. By 1901 he was living with his parents, and his wife was living in Droylesden. It seems that there was an incident and fight whilst he was out poaching, someone was injured, for which he felt responsible, so in order to maintain his freedom, he went straight home to his family packed his bags and joined the navy gangs building dams all over Britain before coming to work on Blackbrook reservoir. Whilst working there, Annie's then partner was seen by John Lee thrashing her, John stepped in to protect her, and they later set up home together in Doman's Row. John was a very keen cyclist and worked at South Leics. pit having been a collier before his move down south. He married again in March 1921 to Annie Smith nee Upton. It was not a happy marriage, there were money issues and she eventually left, and he went to live in Duffield with his daughter, and continued to cycle regularly, sometimes travelling between Duffield and Crewe. He died at Derby Royal Infirmary on 21 August 1936 of acute peritonitis.
- We have been given this information by someone who worked at **Talbot House Farm** in the 1970s. Jack and Bill White were in partnership until Bill married and moved to Stoney Stanton where he bought and ran a farm, but this caused family issues. Jack stayed at Talbot House Farm and carried on running the dairy farm with his sister Polly until his death. The farm was owned by



The Friends of Thringstone

Wyggeston Hospital and the Whites were tenants. Jack and Polly never married. Polly's real name was Francis Eleanor. Jack was John Francis. Jack had served in WW2.

- We were asked to find out at what point in time Hilary Robinson lived at **Thringstone House** and looked after the property by her daughter, Deb. Going back through records, we have discovered that she became deputy warden on 1 September 1972 and may have lived at the property during the period up until March 1973. It is recorded in records from April 1973 that she had left, and had been replaced by David Fitt, who was the last person to live at Thringstone House.

Getting Thringstone a mains water supply – We discovered that Thringstone did not have a mains water supply to all houses for some considerable time, due to a catalogue of unfulfilled promises and council bureaucracy. The following details relate to various reports in local papers from council meetings:

- **Feb 29** – A letter to Ashby Rural Council suggested that the well serving 5 cottages in Thringstone contained water unfit for drinking. However, the owner of the well said he had drunk from the well for years without any problem. It was agreed to send the water for analysis.
- **Jan 30** – A letter to Ashby Rural Council suggested that Thringstone needed a better water supply. Richard Vesty from Gracedieu Manor Farm, the local councillor, suggested that Thringstone had a beautiful water supply, at a reasonable depth, and during the long hot summer of 1929 had heard of no problems and no well had run dry. He felt 'a public water supply would be a needless expense and he would strongly oppose it'. It was left to the clerk to reply to the letter.
- **Nov 30** – At Ashby de la Zouch Rural Council meeting set to discuss the supply of water to Thringstone, Swannington and Ravenstone, a London engineer agreed to report on the scheme for no fee other than expenses. Cllr. Richard Vesty said that they did not want a water scheme for Thringstone, as 'there are springs there that would support a town, not least a village'. Bore holes were subsequently discussed, but given there were no government grants available, the idea was dropped.
- **Feb 31** – A Birmingham engineer, asked to provide costs for providing water to Thringstone, Coleorton, Ravenstone and Swannington presented to Ashby Rural Council gave a figure of £21,535 plus cost of rights. The annual price for running the plant would be £955.
- **Nov 31** - Ashby Rural Council had decided to proceed with the water scheme for Thringstone, Coleorton, Swannington and Ravenstone.
- **Jan 32** – At an Ashby Rural Council meeting, Cllr. Richard Vesty said that there was no drainage at the 3 cottages owned by Coalville Co-operative Society (The Green). The surveyor for the council said it was impossible to use the existing sewers for these properties and given the state of the sewers in Thringstone, once the County Council had agreed the boundaries, work should be put in hand. Cllr. Vesty said that it was all well and good to suggest a new scheme to save a bit of trouble, and the drains could be connected to the nearby brook. Mr Cook said that the council were committed to providing a proper sewage scheme in Thringstone, which it had needed for years, and that new sewers could not be discharged into a brook which was something that Cllr. Vesty should know.
- **April 34** – Boring for water, from 2 new bore holes, was due to take place in Thringstone, at a cost of £30k, in order to supply water to Thringstone, Swannington, Ravenstone, Osgathorpe, Worthington and Coleorton. It had been suggested that the water come from Coalville but due to the effects of a dry season, Coalville UDC had stopped all correspondence on the matter with Ashby Rural Council. Frank Hodges, of New Lount Colliery, had offered to supply water, as a large underground reservoir had been built, but Ashby RDC said they preferred to go with their own scheme. It was assumed there would be large financial assistance given by central government.
- **March 35** – The water supply to several villages, including Thringstone was discussed at Ashby Rural Council's recent meeting at Swannington. 2 bore holes were expected to be sunk near Elms Farm, Thringstone and it was anticipated that a minimum yield of 125,000 gallons a day would be obtained. It was anticipated that each property would have to pay around £1 a year for their water supply, but that most ladies would prefer getting water from a tap in their properties rather than going to pump it, especially people in Swannington who had to go at least half a mile to the pump



at Limby Hall spring. Mr L L Baldwin, Coalville surveyor said, as far as Thringstone was concerned, it was only a matter of continuing a 4 inch main along the main street in Thringstone and that would be done as soon as the village transferred to Coalville Urban District Council. The councillor now representing Thringstone was farmer John Mee Kidger.

- **July 35** – A meeting of the Coalville Urban District Council heard that the council have no power to supply Thringstone with water until the boundaries order has taken effect, but an arrangement might be made with Ashby RC for a supply in bulk. The clerk had written to Ashby RC for their comments.
- **Aug 35** - Thringstone's water supply was to be provided by Coalville Urban District Council from 1 April 1936 when the new boundary scheme took place. The water supply was previously part of the responsibilities of Ashby Rural Council, but given the relatively short time that Thringstone would remain within this council boundary, it was felt best that the handover started early.
- **April 36** – The scarcity of a water supply to Thringstone was discussed at the committee meeting at Coalville UDC. Cllr. A Allgood, representing Thringstone, said that at the 30 new council houses, there were 2 pumps, neither of them were old, one had never worked and 'you have to hold the other up whilst you pump'. Mr Geary said that Thringstone had been promised a water supply some time ago and told that work on this would start immediately, but one of the wells was running sand, and at the other well, the pump was in bad order. It was surely best to provide a public supply than spend money on pumps. This matter was referred to a special committee, with Cllr. Allgood requesting that the pump should be repaired in the meantime.
- **June 36** – Cllr. Geary pressed Coalville UDC at a meeting over the issue of a water supply to Thringstone. The boundary extension committee had been on a tour of inspection, and when their report had been presented and passed, the work would be carried out. Cllr. Geary said he had seen shocking conditions in Thringstone with regard to the water supply, and there seemed to be 'so much red tape' that he was surprised that nobody had been strangled by it! There was talk about improving the lighting provision which was also mentioned in the past, and by doing this, people would realise that things were improving.
- **Aug 37** - The provision of the water scheme for Thringstone had still not taken place. At a meeting of Coalville Urban District Council, Mr Hurst, assistant surveyor, reported that the pipes had already been laid on the road, but were waiting for valves and fittings to come. Some councillors felt that the water supply to the village was more important than armaments and others reported that it had been 18 months since Thringstone had become part of the Coalville UDC district, and yet some of the drinking water was still polluted. The council voted to write to officials asking for speed to rectify the issues.
- **May 38** – Water had now been laid on to all council properties in Thringstone, but it would mean that rents would increase by 4d a week.
- **May 40** – Mr M Ward became the Coalville UDC councillor for Thringstone as Cllr. A A Allgood was serving in the forces and had resigned. Mr Ward was a builder from Whitwick.

Council report

Change of use has been approved for **75 Main Street** to become a care home.

There is a **tree preservation order** on 3 of the trees in the garden to 103 Loughborough Road where there is a planning application for the building of new properties.

A new detached dwelling has been given permission to be built next to 23 Clyde Court.

We understand 31 people have signed a petition and others have written in to NWLDC about the provision of a care home for 3 youngsters at a property in **Bishopdale** off Swallowdale

Gardening and environment

Nothing to report.

Next bulletin will be in March. Please try to keep safe