



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 MAY 2021

News.

Monthly litter pick total - 188 against 73 bags for the same month last year.

We now have another volunteer helping collect litter from the woods with her family.

Despite one volunteer spending 2 hours in the woods every day for 5 weeks clearing rubbish away and removing in excess of 600 bags of dog poo and 58 bin bags of rubbish, there is still much litter to clear. He has found a motorbike in the old quarry, fridge/metal carcass at the little bridge leading up to Gracedieu, table and chairs and sofa near the back of the manor, motorbike seat near the viaduct, sun lounge frame in the new plantation area, and a forty five gallon drum at the side of the stream near a fallen tree den which had a nailed on cover. This is in addition to a huge structure in the woods near to the Gracedieu Rd end of which the de Lisle family are aware, a wheel and other items, some of which we were able to move. Larger items still remain.

The structure came in 'useful' when a film crew from Loughborough came to film a short film based on the life of someone who left civilisation to live in woodland. They were taken by our volunteer to the structure and filmed there, as well as by the viaduct. Their presence caused quite a stir locally!

ITV Tonight programme— we were approached by programme makers for a forthcoming ITV programme on litter to try to record how many bags of litter we pick per day, most common item of litter, how much PPE and how many dog poo bags, and our strangest item. They also wanted photos and videos. We have tried to be as accurate as we can on these figures by asking some of our regular litter pickers to help and have fed information back to the programme makers and received their thanks.

Litter on Warren Lane – There is a new litter bin on the hard standing at the bottom of Warren Lane, thanks to Whitwick Parish Council, in whose are it lies. Nita contacted them to take over the request as NWLDC had already said no. We asked for this to be concreted in to prevent it being vandalised/moved but this is not possible due to not knowing if there are any services there.

Membership monies – As you know, we didn't collect any membership monies last year and relied on donations. However, one of our members has now agreed to help collect membership monies by calling on people to collect cash. It would be preferable if people who were able to do online banking agreed to pay this way. Nita would be pleased to provide the necessary details. Please let us know if you can pay by this method and we will then sort it out with you. Membership is now £4 per annum per person, which is still considerably less than other groups.

The area round the Booth memorial – Bernard has re-stained and varnished the 3 benches on The Green, and was reimbursed for the material cost by the centre. Mike and Anne have been doing some tidying up of the flowerbed there and also tidied up the planting down the church jetty.



The Friends of Thringstone

Ray Woodward also put back the plaque to the late MP David Taylor which is by the tree planted in his memory. We thank everybody for their help.

Thringstone Primary – the school raised £510.20 for new books as part of a recent Readathon. Well done to all who took part. On Friday 7 May, the school will be taking part in the NSPCC Number Day. Fun Maths activities with a difference will take place during the day. Children and staff are being asked to go to school dressed in an item of clothing with a Maths theme.

Message from NWLDC – The district's household recycling rate has improved by 1.3 per cent up to March 2020, taking recycling from 45% to 46.3%. Everybody is helping the council's recycle more plan and their ambition to be zero carbon by 2030.

Bull's Head – reopens, all being well, on Monday 17 May.

Old School House – their first newsletter has been produced and shared on our social media pages.

Thringstone Members Club – are hoping to hold a summer fayre on 31 July from 11am-3pm. This will be a mainly indoor event with a small presence outside. For more information on having a stall contact acecommunitytheatre@gmail.com

Thringstone Bauble – now they are back open, we are in discussion with our printers in Lbro about getting one of these out and delivered for the summer months. Watch this space!

Thringstone Methodist Chapel – We have had conversations with members of the chapel over their future. We were told that their minister retires in the summer, and has come up with 5 suggestions as to the way forward – 1. Close 2. Get more people and grow the congregation 3. Continue with help from the circuit for a max. of 2 years 4. Get another church to take over the business and running of Thringstone 5. Become a joint Methodist church with another and share roles and responsibilities. The existing congregation obviously don't want to see the chapel shut, since it has been a part of the religious scene in the village since the 1860s. Nita wrote press releases for the chapel, which were sent out to tell people about the issue and ask if they would like to join the chapel group. If anybody would like to help in any way, please let us know, and we will pass your information on to the chapel's secretary. They have a service at 3pm this Sunday.

St Andrew's – the PCC for the church have provisionally agreed that Mike Statham can re-do the mural in the jetty opposite the Church main gate. Mike is working on some designs at the moment to submit to them, possibly a Russian icon type picture of St. Andrew with the diagonal cross structure.

The church council at St Andrew's is interested in learning from the village what you would like their **churchyard** to look like, and Nita has done various social media posts on behalf of the church to find out people's views. Do you want it close mowed, or would you be interested in seeing it less cultivated, and possibly with a wildlife area? Once the church reopens, they will also run a lottery which will be used, in part, to pay for things like mowing. Would you be interested in taking part to win prizes? If you are interested, please let us know.

Gracedieu Park Cricket Club LADIES – The group is looking to recruit more ladies over 14 years of age who enjoy a get together and a little sporty exercise. Any shape/size/ability/age welcomed to the softball (like rounders) sessions every Monday at Gracedieu Park Cricket club behind the Bull's Head pub. They call themselves Gracedieuettes. If you loved being in a team, missed the socialisation that the lockdown brought, are new to the area or want to try something new please come down at 6-7.30pm every Monday with matches for those who wish to play on some weekends. Progression into hardball optional!

Grace Dieu Men's cricket team – the club has too many people for one team and not enough for a second team, and is intending to do more local advertising of their club on notice boards etc., as they feel many people, including those new to the village, don't know of their existence. They are also having problems with damage to their pitch, and wish to advise that they have CCTV which runs 24/7 and are not afraid of getting the police involved if this continues.

Thringstone Bowling Club – We understand there are concerns about the amount of people who will come back to bowl with the club after lockdown. If anybody is interested in joining the club, please contact them direct on **07768 914748**



Thringstone Panto and Drama Society is looking for a male to play a role aged 18-20s or 30-50 for a forthcoming comedy production in Sept. Rehearsals at Charles Booth Centre Tues and Thurs from May. Contact chair@tpads.org.uk if interested.

Kickstart project – Nita was contacted by Deana Wildgoose asking for help to put together a slide show for June relating to the history of Thringstone. A young man on Melrose Rd wants to help with this, and is particularly interested in the miners coming to Thringstone, so was gifted our Durham Miners and Scottish in Thringstone books to start his research. Nita has told him she will work with him on getting something together. He also wants to start a parish council. He has been put in touch with parish councillors in Whitwick to talk to them about that.

Congratulations to our member Geoff Walker for being awarded Maundy money from HM Queen at Easter in recognition of his work for St Andrew's and the local community.

Centre: The centre received a card from the Lord Lieutenant of Leics. to thank volunteers for their work as part of the local covid response teams in the county.

There are spaces on Sundays in the **over 11s cheer leading class**. For more information contact thecheercircle@gmail.com

The centre is planning a **summer party** on 7 August at 2pm. There will be live music upstairs and down, and the bars upstairs and downstairs will be open. All welcome.

There will be a **Santa Fun run** on 12 Dec.

The lift is likely to go in this year, and the centre is to try to get national coverage inc. local TV.

This new addition has come about as a result of crowd funding and money from Awards For All.

The **pre-school group** are taking up the challenge of doing 100 of something, for which they will try to get sponsorship, in memory of Capt. Sir Tom Moore whose family would like the nation to acknowledge his birthday in May. For more details, please contact the pre-school direct or watch our social media posts.

Chairs Report

Letters received: . None

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

Promotion: We have **674 twitter followers**, which is 4 more than last month, and **1,550 facebook followers**, which is 12 more than last month.

Other: Nita has submitted an application to the centre for £250 to go towards the provision of a new bench down **Drury Lane** – something metal and vandal proof, or at the very outside, more substantial. Nita did a **radio interview** with Fosse 107 to discuss litter and environmental issues, and also had an interview with Coalville Nub News along similar lines and her letter on litter was in the **Coalville Times** of 9 April. She also wrote to **Andrew Bridgen MP** about litter issues. He said he has spoken about his litter concerns in parliament (in Feb 2020), and would be interested in helping with any community litter pick arranged in the future.

Welcome to our new member Margaret Whittaker.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,024.59		
Income		Expenditure	
Membership	£12	Broadband	15.00
Donations	£2		
total income to general fund	£14		£15
		Total general fund at month end	2,023.59

Web Report



Work is continuing to try to get our website back despite a car accident this month.

Police Report

1 April – Raid on a property on Melrose Rd where cannabis was discovered. 37 year old woman dealt with by out of court disposal.

17 April - Violent incident at a flat on Dalkeith Walk. One person was arrested. The following day a further 2 men connected to the same incident were arrested. We understand a car belonging to a property on Melrose Road was damaged after the initial event.

19 April – a cat was shot in the eye on Melrose Rd (near play area) by someone with a pellet gun. It had to have its eye removed. Another cat came in with a hole in its shoulder, and someone on Swallowdale had a window cracked by a pellet gun.

21 April – car stolen from a driveway in the early hours of the morning.

24 April – another car stolen from a driveway on Melrose Road between 12am and 3.30am.

24 April – incident at Thringstone Members Club requiring police attendance

We have discovered that a van was stolen on Glebe Road around 11pm on 16 March. The police did not tell us this when we asked for a report for that month.

We understand that Police cadet recruitment opens up on 4th May if there is any young person aged 13-18 who is interested.

History report

- We were given photos of the graves of **Joan and Don Hambleton, Thomas Kirby, Dr Muir and Jennifer Bream** this month. Mrs Hambleton, who was a nurse at Pegson's, died in 1975 aged 53 whilst Mr Hambleton was still head at Thringstone Primary. These photos have been saved to our archives. We posted the picture of the Hambleton's grave on facebook and received a lot of comments about Mr Hambleton's prowess as a teacher, his love of music and his encouragement to the children in his care. This comment came from Lorraine Jones:
I remember the family well. Mr Hambleton was my head teacher in the late 60s/early 70s and my next door neighbour as well. They had a Dalmatian dog called Sugarfoot, who used to run into our house, do a quick circuit of the living room, and run out again! Mr Hambleton used to let me go into his garden to pick apples from his trees, then teased me about scrumping.
We also had contact from David Rossell who remembers **Mr Sealey** and the school taking part in the 1953 Coronation parade. The school chose the theme of Thringstone in 1853. David and his brother Arthur followed the dray with Mr Sealey and other school pupils. Their horse Bambi pulled the cart and 'danced' to the bands all round the area. He also remembers the school had a goat, which was kept on an area of land near to the school. His father, Jack, used to look after the goat at weekends. It was milked daily by one of the Hall family from 27 The Green and they kept the milk. There were no canteen facilities at the school until the 1950s, and most went home for lunch. Once the kitchen was in place, Jack Rossell, used to collect scraps to feed to his pigs.
- **The Meadows** – we have been talking to people who remember the O'Connor family who used to live at The Meadows on Lbro Rd in the 1970s and have also been in touch with Dominic O'Connor who is a priest. Michael Villiers Forbes O'Connor was born on 19 March 1933 and was a pilot. It is said that he had flown the then PM Harold Wilson to South Africa on one occasion. He was married to Mary nee Singleton in 1961 in Southport, Lancashire, and they had 4 sons, Dominic, Christopher, Gregory and Benedict, all born in the 1960s in Surrey and a daughter Catharine born in 1972 in Thringstone. All the family went to school at Gracedieu Manor School and then went on to Ratcliffe College. Chris went into the Roman Catholic church and is now a Canon. He was ordained in 1995 at St Thomas More Church in Leicester, served for 2 years at Holy Spirit, West Bridgford before going to St Mary's in Grantham for 5 years and moved to serve the community of Market Harborough in 2020. Dominic also went into the church and at one time was in Lourdes. He is now serving the church in Skegness and Spilsby, Lincolnshire. Gregory became a joiner in Loughborough, married Yvonne and now runs a design company in Loughborough where most of his work comes via Vision Express, and Benedict got married, had 5 children, is a teacher and



The Friends of Thringstone

lives in Stonyhurst. Catherine married Peter D Mellor in Leicester in 1994 and had 4 children. She lives in Leicester. Michael, who appears to have had a short period of time serving in the Royal Artillery in 1951/2, died in Leicester in 2001. Fr. Dominic told us 'Dad built a Trident which was a sea going boat (sailing) but we had to remove the beams from the garage to get it in and out!! We ended up completing it eventually in around 1990/1 and sailed it from Newton Ferrars. The garage was enormous and had been a bungalow for the gardener when previous owners lived there. Dad always tended to pick up diseases and there was one especially bad one which necessitated a treatment similar to rabies. I think we left the Meadows in 1976 or 77.'

- **Marriages and baptisms at Gracedieu** – Ann has found a list of Catholic marriages and baptisms which interest us. One in particular is James Gough marrying Rebecca Ayre, daughter of Edwin Ayre in 1864. This couple went to live in Bridlington and ran a shop. James died aged 36 in 1878 and Rebecca carried on with the shop but ended up being a railway station waiting room attendant. They had 2 children, Edwin and Frank. Rebecca died 22 March 1929.
- **Free teas** – A free tea for all old people over the age of 60 in Thringstone was held in the National School rooms in June 1902 after which they could attend the vicarage grounds for entertainment, along with other parishioners. All children under the age of 16 living in Thringstone or Sandholes, or attending Sunday school or the day school, were also invited to a free tea in the school rooms. The Booth family also gave free teas to children during the first week of every New Year. In 1906, 270 children presented themselves for the free tea. They were also treated to a magic lantern show and given half a pound of sweets and an orange each when they left. The Booths also gave free teas to members of the Wesleyan Sunday School every August. Children were invited to the manor, given tea and sports were played. St Andrew's always offered villagers a free tea on St Andrew's day, and Thringstone Primitive Methodists also gave free teas. One record from Jan 1909 shows that 30 old people were given a tea by the Methodists thanks to money collected from carolling. About 60 people in total assembled for the tea and subsequent entertainment.
- **Illnesses in Thringstone** – Following on from our book Thringstone and Its People, it is worthwhile noting that in June and Dec 1880, many children were off with scarletina, measles in 1882, smallpox in Dec 1882 which is still around in Dec 1883 causing many parents not to send their children to school. There were typhoid outbreaks from July 1884 and school closed early and the school was reopened in Sept but there were still cases around. This lasted until end of Oct 1884. Scarletina was rife in the area from September 1885 until Jan 1886. There was another measles outbreak in May 1886. Scarlet fever took hold for at least 3 months from March 1887, and in April 1888, the school had to be closed for a week as so many children had colds. In March 1889 there was an outbreak of whooping cough and in November the same year, cases of measles, which saw the school close for a week in April 1889 as there were too few pupils and several mentions of ringworm from 1897 onwards. October 1900 saw cases of scarlet fever again with mumps in February, March and April 1901. In August 1902 there were cases of ringworm, mumps and measles with typhoid joining that list by October. 1903 saw another bout of scarlet fever (see below) which saw the school close for 6 weeks. There was an epidemic of measles in October 1904 which again saw the school close for 10 days and a case of diphtheria in 1909 proved fatal. Moving closer to date, we understand that there was outbreak of smallpox, confined to 5 people in one house, in 1929 and an influenza outbreak in 1933. In 1934 there was a serious outbreak of measles and chickenpox, followed by influenza, scarlet fever and diphtheria, and in December a lot of cases of tonsillitis. In 1935 there were scarlet fever, measles and diphtheria outbreaks where children died.
- **Dec 1881 – Elizabeth Ann Waldram** left Thringstone school 'in consequence of malicious tale-bearing and mischief making'. We cannot find a record of her returning to school. Elizabeth was 10 years old and the daughter of William and Charlotte Waldram of Forest View, The Green (the blue house). By 1881 she was in the charge of her grandmother Elizabeth Gough, and her parents had another child, a son also called William. It is a strange case of obviously then turning her life around, as by 1911, Elizabeth was an assistant school mistress living on Brook Lane. She appears to have died in Loughborough in 1945.



The Friends of Thringstone

- **Fire brigade 1898** - An article in the Coalville Times of 14 October mentions a fire to a haystack belonging to a Mr Brooks, which neighbours tried to put out. Interestingly, the article goes on to say that they felt they needed help, so 'a messenger volunteered to cycle to Ashby to summon the fire brigade'. That would indicate that there was nothing in Coalville perhaps.
- **March 1899 – Thringstone Parish Council** met at Thringstone school to discuss various items including drainage from the late Mrs Hurst's field (this would be Bob's Closs). The **committee** comprised Rev Crane (chairman), Price Kidger (vice chair), and Messrs. Carter, Peters, Burton and Waldrum with Daniel Amos Webb as clerk. **Constables** for the coming year were voted in and were Thomas Toon Jnr, James Gee Jnr, John Mann, George Bancroft, James Burton, Thomas Knight and David Sketchley. **Assessors of taxes** were also voted in and these were Price Kidger, David Sketchley, T Burton, Daniel A Webb, John Emerson and George Bancroft. An apprenticeship under **Lady Beaumont's charity** was noted as available to a Thringstone person this year and Annie Bradley was put forward, or if not her Elizabeth Bradley. Research has shown that Annie was born in 1879, the daughter of James and Kate of Main Street. Elizabeth was her younger sister. On the 1901 census, both girls were at home and were dress makers. Annie married William Wilkins in 1902 and they lived in Blakesley's Row. She died on 9 Dec 1969 and is buried at St Andrew's. Her husband had died on 3 March
- **School punishments** – Punishment in school for bad or unacceptable behaviour varied wildly. In March 1878, **Mary Whatnall** was punished by the head teacher for running away, but her mother then came to school and was very abusive about this, and took both Mary and her sister Annie out of school. Neither child returned to school until mid June the same year. The girls were the children of Charles and Sarah Whatnall and lived on Henson's Lane. Mary died in 1890 aged 22. Another child by the surname **Fewkes** played truant and was then made to stand in the corner facing away from class the following morning as a punishment, whilst it was widely accepted that children be hit with a cane or other item. Even pupil teachers were punished or reprimanded as mentioned in previous minutes. Sometimes teachers who were late to school, even by 30 minutes because of snow or other weather conditions, were noted in the log books.
- **George and Dragon** – James Horton Leeson, at one time the landlord of the George and Dragon, was in court in January 1905 under the Married Women's Act 1895 on the charge of persistent cruelty to his wife, Mary Jane, nee Hill, who he had married in 1902. James' first wife, Catherine, nee Cotton, had died in 1898. In turn, Mary Jane, together with Arthur Swanwick, labourer of Thringstone, were charged with assaulting Mr Leeson on 14 Dec 1904. Research has shown that Mary Jane had been a widow, and their wedding in 1902 was in the same year that Mary Jane's husband Samuel Swanwick had died – Sam had kept The Griffin Inn in Griffydham having previously been an inspector in the Police, and that Arthur was one of Mary Jane's sons. The case was eventually sorted and classed as a family issue. Mr Leeson had left the George and Dragon to be landlord of The Red Lion in Pegg's Green. By 1911 when Mr Leeson is living with his daughter Sarah in Loughborough, it would appear the couple had split up, as Mary Jane is listed as running a grocery shop in Bulwell, Nottinghamshire. She died in 1935 in Basford, Notts.
- **Dec 1913** – Presumably in an attempt to get people to think of leaving England for Canada, a lecture by Thomas Hammond, Canadian Government Emigration Agent, was held at Thringstone House on 15 Dec at 7.30pm. Admission was free.
- **Whitwick Pit Disaster** – This happened on 19 April 1898, and we have recently been given a copy of a certificate issued to a mining inspector called James Fox from Coalville who was part of the rescue party. The certificate is signed by Walter Lindley JP who has been mentioned in the minutes for March as one of the school managers at **Thringstone School**. As we already recorded, he was secretary to Whitwick Colliery Co. The other signature on the certificate is of Sam W. Hallam from Queen's Head, Thringstone, who was Hon. Sec of the Memento Committee.

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