



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR JULY 2021

News.

Monthly litter pick total - 131 against **148 bags** for the same month last year. One of our volunteers found a Hula Hoops packet in the woods with a sell by date in the 1980s!

Some of our volunteers are now back at work and unable to give as much time to litter picking as they previously were, and we notice from the North and South Leicestershire Litter Wombles' figures for May that these were 2k less than in April, so we are not on our own. However, those that litter pick continue to do so with gusto and dedication, and we thank each and every one who helps us to try to keep the village and woodland litter free.

Thanks to our member Caroline Townsend who went over to County Hall for us, we now have signage to say 'litter picking in progress', which can be used on long stretches when we do community picking, and also extra litter pick sticks. Ann Petty also picked up some stuff to share with Friends of Gracedieu Priory inc. some very long litter pick sticks.

Planting - Nita got over 40 free plants from a lady named Zoe Sharp, who lives in Berrisford Street, Coalville, who wanted to donate to us. Over 20 geraniums were put in on The Green, and others, including fuchsia plants, were put in other areas of planting. Mike and Anne Statham have dug down Drury Lane and put in planting that 'was spare' from their allotment, and Mike has also repainted the footpath sign, tidied up again on The Green and started to tidy up down Brook Lane. Thanks also to Sarah for filling her garden bin with weeds from down the church jetty.

Hello Heritage 2021 - All being well, there will be an exhibition at Charles Booth Centre on 18 September between 1.30pm and 6pm for Hello Heritage. This will be in addition to the boards used last year in the village, which will be sited in the same places. The exhibition's theme will be WW2, and anybody who has any village or family photos relating to WW2 which they would like to share should let us know.

New vicar - Rev Darren Walker - The Bishop is pleased to announce the appointment of The Revd Darren Walker, Curate in the Benefice of Mountsorrel Christ Church and Saint Peter with St. Leonards, Swithland, as Rector of the Benefice of Whitwick, Thringstone and Swannington. Darren's service of Institution and Induction will be conducted by the Bishop of Leicester, The Rt Revd Martyn Snow, on Tuesday 3 August 2021 at 7.30pm at St John the Baptist Church, Whitwick. The new contact email for anybody wanting to get hold of St Andrew's churchwardens is standrewsthtringstone@gmail.com

Thringstone Post Office – Due to refurbishment, the post office and shop will be closed from 8 – 23 July.



The Friends of Thringstone

Thringstone Scouts recently received a donation of some free tents which were badly needed. They further had a donation of sleeping bags which will help some of their membership out in the future. They are shortly reopening so if you have any youngsters aged 10 and 14 who might be interested, please contact the scout leader on 07773 557897. The cubs are also available to younger children, as are the explorers for older ones.

Homestead Road playgroup has new play equipment to enhance the learning experience being offered. For more information on this group, please contact them on 07980 498028.

Thringstone Panto and Drama Society – 12,13 and 14 Aug at Charles Booth Centre – Surprise Package, a comedy play about holidays, with cabaret seating and bar open. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £8 from 0333 666 3366 or via ticketsource.co.uk/tpads The group are also putting on a Christmas fayre at the centre on 27 Nov from 11am-3pm. If anybody is interested in having a stall, please contact chair@tpads.org.uk

Thringstone Members Club – Stars in Your Eyes – 10 July at 7pm. Everybody invited to come and sing their favourite songs to win a prize. You need to book in at the club to take part.

Council offices – The council have put forward proposals to demolish their offices, with the exception of the older part fronting London Road, and relocate officers to Whitwick Business Park and Stenson House. The site would then be offered to social housing. This is to be considered and discussed by cabinet on 27 July. Nita wrote to Cllr. Blunt, leader of the council, to ask for some protection to be afforded to the war memorial plaque within the council office reception area, detailing men who went to war and didn't return, plus the saving of the poplar trees on Whitwick Road, which we understand were planted by NCB when the pits closed in memory of their existence in the town and surrounding villages. She received the following reply: 'We can assure you that we are aware of the significance of both the plaque and the trees, and that our plans will take into account their preservation and/or relocation. While the proposals are at the very early stages, I have spoken to the project lead to ensure that this essential consideration is not overlooked as our plans advance in the coming months'. There will, we understand, be a public consultation later this year.

We believe Thringstone men Lawrence Whitmore, Hebert and Richard Freeman and Ernest Hall are commemorated on the plaque in the office reception.

Centre news: The centre is looking for some extra **cleaning cover** for annual leave and functions as and when required. If you're flexible, reliable and want a few hours extra from time to time, please email hello@charlesboothcentre.org.uk. Pay is living wage and references will be required. The centre now has a Whitwick church group using the facilities on a Sunday.

Charles Booth **Preschool group** have been busy working on their allotment and growing vegetables. They have also hung bird feeders in the trees. The Lower Pre-School had fun taking part in the Sir Captain Tom fundraiser in May. As part of the challenge the children had to participate in 100 games. The children engaged in lots of different games such as The Farmers in his den, Yoga, an Obstacle course, Ring o Ring o Roses, Parachute games and circle time games such as Sandy Girl. There was lots of singing and moving in different ways as well as following simple instructions. The Upper Pre-School children had lots of fun riding on their scooters and bikes and completed 100 laps of riding and pedalled and pushed their little legs from start to finish! They spoke about the important legacy that Sir Captain Tom had left behind and how special and brave he was and watched a video of Tom walking up and down and listened to him speak about the importance of looking after each other. The children had lots of questions to ask and were very keen "to make Captain Tom really happy riding". The children and staff had lots of fun sharing their bikes and scooters and having a huge space to whiz around. £700 was raised for the Captain Sir Tom Moore Foundation. A huge thank you to everyone who donated.

Chairs Report

Letters received: None

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



Promotion: We have **679 twitter followers**, which is 2 more than last month, and **1,590 facebook followers**, which is 11 more than last month.

Other: The **Coalville Times** of 4 June contained a letter from Nita about plant thefts.

Welcome to new members, Claire Hames and Steph Beeby.

Finance Report

Thank you to everybody who has paid their membership. We now have online banking, so can see when people are paying. There are still a handful of people whose money has yet to come through.

As a result of a facebook post, Nita sold 2 copies of Village Trail 2 to a lady wanting to explore Cademan Woods. Another booklet (Graveyard booklet) was sold to one of our new members.

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,484.59		
Income		Expenditure	
Membership	£228	Broadband	15.00
Publications	£6.50	Bauble printing	42.45
Grant from centre	£250		
Donations	£190		
total income to general fund			
		Total general fund at month end	3101.64

Web Report

Work is continuing to try to get our website back.

Police Report

Nothing to report

History report

- **Charles Booth's work into poverty in London** was the feature of a BBCR4 broadcast at 9am on 10 June. Hosted by Melvyn Bragg, the contributors were Sarah Wise (with whom Nita corresponds through twitter quite regularly), Emma Griffin from UEA and Lawrence Goldman who is currently writing a book on Charles Booth. It covered the work he did, why he did it, the influence it had on the Liberal party's work when they came into power, and also on the subsequent work done in later years by Seebohm Rowntree and William Beveridge. It was worthwhile listening to.
- A lady called Pam Wells posted a photograph on facebook of the front of **Thringstone House** taken by her grandparents, **Arthur and Winifred Whitmill**, who were stewards there from Autumn 1930-April 1937 having moved from Banbury in Oxfordshire. Arthur Whitmill was one of 8 surviving children of William and Eliza Whitmill who were grocers and met his wife at night school when they were both 15. Arthur had been the manager of a pawn shop in Banbury, Oxfordshire for several years and it is believed the couple moved to Leicestershire as his elder brother George, a police man who later went on to run a remand home on Aylestone Road, Leicester, had moved to Leicestershire prior to WW1 and married a Leicester girl in 1919. William and Eliza had, in 1939, been living with their daughter Ivy in Leamington Spa. Another one of Arthur's brothers, Leonard, became a vicar and in 1944 was vicar at Mortimer in Berkshire, which is where William died in 1944, Eliza dying in 1947 in Leicester having moved to live with her son George. We got in touch through email and Nita spent dozens of hours of investigation, allowing us to swap a lot of information. Pam sent us a copy of a photograph of the vase with which the couple were presented when they left the centre, on which is the following wording 'Thringstone House Club.



The Friends of Thringstone

Presented to Mr and Mrs A W Whitmill by members and friends of the Thringstone House Club in appreciation of their services 1930 – 1937'. We also received a photo of Arthur, his wife and her sister, and a photo of Arthur's daughter, Mary Whitmill, as Dick Whittington, at the centre, several family group photos, a photo of the Thringstone House King George 5th Jubilee Tea Committee, which has several ladies on it including Winifred Whitmill and Edith Bancroft, a photo of the sports committee for the same event, a photo taken in the garden of the centre, photos of Arthur Whitmill during WW1 and others including a picture of Arthur in the Oxfordshire Hussars sitting on his horse. Pam Wells said that her grandfather wrote several plays, and one was taken by a London producer and put on in the West End and the family were invited to see the play as guests of honour. Arthur Whitmill, aided by Mary, his daughter, painted all the scenery for the plays etc. they put on and Mary went to Coalville Grammar School and won a scholarship to study fine art at University, but was unable to go due to the cost. We also have a photograph of Arthur Whitmill's mother, Eliza, sitting in a deckchair outside the centre in the 1930s, another of the front of Thringstone House. From these photos, it has become apparent that the porch around the front door to the centre, which is there on one of the photos, but not on the other, was removed during the time that the Whitmill family were in charge. Pam Wells has also written plays and pantomimes, so the theatre connection has continued down the family line. We also received a copy of a photo from 1954 of the Aylestone Hall bowling team that won the Bramley cup. Arthur Whitmill is on that photo, and it appears that both he and his wife were at one time presidents of that club, and also played for Leicestershire. When they left Thringstone, they went to live in Coventry to be near family who lived in the same street to which they moved. They were there when Coventry was bombed, and Arthur was an ARP warden. A family in the street were bombed out and lost everything, and the Whitmill family, despite having no doors and windows in their house, had the family and neighbours in and fed everybody breakfast. Mary Whitmill, by then Mary Booth, worked at the theatre in Coventry and went to work one day to find it was in ruins. The whole family left Coventry and returned to Leicester to Aylestone Road and Arthur worked at Wilt Mellor Bromley. Mary Booth and her husband Ron lived with the Whitmill family until the early 1950s and Pam was born in Leicester. Pam recalls Arthur Whitmill, who died of a stroke in 1974, as someone who could make anything, and who was a true family man.

- **March 1838** – Richard Cain of Leicester challenged Sam Merriman of Nottingham to a fight and would confine himself to 10 stone in weight for the fight with prize money of £25. Mr Cain further challenged Sidney Tivvey of Melbourne on the same terms and also Bill Lakin '**The Thringstone Slasher**' for the same sum if he would confine himself to 10 stones and 7 pounds. Cain could be found at the Crown and Magpie, Gallowtree Gate, Leicester to talk to any opponents. Who was Bill Lakin, and why was he the Thringstone Slasher? It may be William Lakin, framework knitter and subsequently agricultural labourer, born around 1807 in Shepshed, who married Eliza from Thringstone, and lived mainly in Loughborough
- **1910** – Half an acre of land was given to the churchyard by the glebe, and was consecrated by the Bishop of Leicester on 17 March 1910. The cost of laying out, walling and draining was £106.
- **School, Sept 1913** – When Mr Boulter left Thringstone School to go to Wigston, he was presented with an armchair a cushion by the village, plus a silver topped walking cane, silver inkstand, and silver pen by teachers and pupils. In turn, Mr Boulter gave **Mr Francis Needham** a silver cigarette holder as Mr Needham, who came along as a pupil teacher in 1909, was leaving the school to go to college. Mr Boulter said that Mr Needham had been a good colleague and wished him every success. The other teachers presented Mr Needham with a silver match box.
- **School, Miss Bradbury** – There is mention in school books that Miss E G Bradbury left as a teacher at Thringstone on 3 October 1913. We have been able to establish that this lady was Ethel Gertrude Bradbury, born 23 August 1893 in Woodville. She lived in Woodville at The Hawthornes, had been a pupil teacher in Woodville, and was a Wesleyan by religion. She married Herefordshire born William Philip Morgan, another teacher, in 1923. William's parents were also teachers. At some stage, Ethel seems to have attended Dudley training college. Her details show that she left Thringstone after a year to go to work at Albert Village Council school for 2 years.



The Friends of Thringstone

From 1915-17, she had no teaching work, and probably during this time went to the Dudley training college, and then in 1917 for 2 years worked at Church Road School in Yardley, Birmingham before moving on to Acock's Green School (Birmingham) until 1923. She had one son called John in 1927 and then became a council supply teacher in 1929. By 1939 she was living in Cannock Road, Stafford, and was a housewife who was also involved as deputy organiser for the receipt of evacuees in Stafford whilst her husband was also a special constable. She died on 13 July 1966 in Sparkhill, Birmingham.

- **School, Rebecca Mary Haywood - 1913** – There is mention in school books that after the departure from school of Miss E G Bradbury, on 8 October, Miss Rebecca Mary Haywood started and that she had previously been head at Nailstone School. This lady was born in Nailstone on 15 Sept 1899 and by 1939 was living in Turnbull Drive, Blaby with a lady companion. It is currently unclear when she left Thringstone or any further details on her life or death.
- **School in 1914** – When Arthur Woodward started at Thringstone school, his team of teachers were Miss Grace Webb, Miss Turner and Mrs Watts (formerly Gee), who had returned to teaching after having her daughter. It is unclear when she then left for good.
- **Thringstone Pig Keepers' Association** - In 1919 their first annual meeting was held at Thringstone House, with the help of the warden Mrs Towle. The meeting was chaired by **Mr Henry George William Howe** and discussed rules and amendments. Mr Howe was re-elected as chair with Mr William James Gough Waldram as secretary, John Mee Kidger as treasurer and the remaining committee were re-elected. Mr Howe lived at Rose Cottage, Gracedieu Road. Prior to that he had been a draper in Belton, and was also the agent for the local Conservative party. He had at one time lived in Ashby, where he had 21 Hon. Sec posts and was also parish clerk. He had also been a draper and undertaker, but gave that up to be a farmer at High Tor Farm. With his wife he had 15 children, 9 of whom were still alive in 1911. His son George William Wavendon Howe was killed in WW1 in March 1918. Aged 71, he was found dead in his chair at Stablefords, where he was acting as time keeper in January 1920. He had come from having lunch with the conservative group in Coalville, and had the morning of his death walked from Thringstone to Ravenstone with no ill health. Known locally as Lord Howe, he dressed in a very old fashioned manner and was a well known character.
- **July 1920** – **Ephraim Webster**, 9 year old son of Alfred Webster of Thringstone, was killed by The Bull's Head when he was run over by a brewery lorry. It is believed he died instantly.
- **Jan 1931** – **Thringstone Girl Guides** put on a play called Sleeping Beauty at the community centre. Taking part were Mona Laurence, Jessie White, Iris Bancroft, Sarah Smith, Hannah Holland, Cissie White, Irene Davenport, and Joan and Mary Whitmill.
- **Oct 1931** – Tenants of council houses on **Loughborough Road** were told they would not be allowed to grow vegetables in their front gardens. Ashby Rural Council suggested that the properties had a splendid layout, and growing vegetables in front gardens would be detrimental and they could only plant flowers. In any event, it was pointed out they had adequate rear gardens in which to grow vegetables and there were local allotments available.
- **The sad case of Maurice Vincent Rose** – Newspaper reports from Oct 1931 tell of the court case of Maurice Vincent Rose a miner aged 18 and his friend Charles Matchett, a rag gatherer of 17, both of Thringstone, being put on probation for the theft of a bike part, plus overalls from a clothes line in John Street. The court heard that Maurice Bowley Jordan had been visiting his sister in Thringstone and left his motorcycle by the back gate and upon returning found that the generator was missing from his bike, so he was unable to turn the lights on. The court heard that Rose was already on probation and in a lot of trouble, and it was suggested that the boy go to the local Church Home for 6 months, but he said he preferred to stay with his father. He was fined 10 shillings and it was said that Charles Matchett, who was also put on probation and fined 15 shillings in cost, had been led by his friend, and was of previously good character. Rose, whose probation was due to end in February 1932 would have his probation extended by a further 12 months at that point. In January 1937, it was reported that Rose, who had moved to Worcestershire, had been killed in an accident near Worcester. He had been employed as a casual labourer by Acton in

Worcester and had been cycling from work when he was hit by a motor car and suffered severe head injuries from which he had died a few hours later in hospital. His father, who still lived in Thringstone, was said to be devastated. Maurice, who had been born in 1913 had married Phyllis Bird in 1932.

- **Miss Carpenter - Teacher reprimanded according to School records.** Records for October 1916 tell of the headmaster, Mr Lester, having to reprimand a teacher, for the first time in his career, for being rude on several occasions and for allegedly beating a boy who had just started at school. He said he knew that she had beaten children in the past, as he had heard this, which makes one wonder why he did nothing before, but you have to bear in mind that the cane was regularly used by most teachers and we understand Mr Lester was a frequent user of such a thing. The head lodged a complaint with the managers of the school. Upon telling Miss Carpenter of his complaint, she was said to have been exceptionally rude, and since that time there had been a lot of unpleasantness and her work had been poor. As a result, she was asked to leave in January 1917, having previously been away for 4 weeks after she fell and broke a small bone in her foot and dislocated her ankle. She was replaced by Miss Ball in April 1917 who left in January 1918. We have been trying to find out who Miss Carpenter was. The only candidate we can come up with is May Carpenter from Walmer in Kent, the daughter of a quantity surveyor and architect who lived in Burton on Trent in 1878 and Leicester by 1901. Her father, Robey Edward Carpenter, had been in prison for 3 months as a 19 year old for embezzlement but had obviously turned his life around and after his death in 1903, his wife continued to live in Leicester with her son Hugh who later served as a pilot in WW1. May was educated at a boarding school in Cheltenham. She was an infants mistress in Leicestershire around the same time. She left Huncote school in February 1913 to teach at Kirby Muxloe Council School after which we lose track of her, but she appears to have died in 1926 in Billesdon, Nr. Market Harborough, aged 50.
- **Miss Willmott – School records** show that Miss Willmott, student teacher, left Thringstone school on 23 July 1926. We believe this may be Dorothy Willmott who was born in Belton in January 1908. She trained to be a teacher for some time, possibly in Derby at one point, and married Tom Flinn in 1937. She appears to have died in 2005. A Miss Tozer is then mentioned, but we can find nothing about her at all.
- **1928 –** We have received details of traders in Thringstone during this year, which includes Joe Burton who kept a shop on Main Street, and **Ernest Elliott who was a cycle agent** also on Main Street. Also on the list was Cecilia Gee, grocer of Fox Terrace (who died in 1930), John William Holland, born in 1891 and died in 1966, who kept the John Street shop with wife Mary Lizzie and is listed on the electoral registers there from 1921, and James William Wilkins, coal merchant and haulier of Primrose Cottage, Main Street – James born 7 April 1903 was married to Emma Adelaide nee Newton, and died in Jan quarter 1986. We found a Joseph Burton on the electoral roll for 1928 living Near The Green, which may link with Joseph Burton, who in the 1939 register, is living at Forest View (the blue house next to the Co-op) with the Hallam family, and may not be the same person, and another Joseph Burton at 111 Main Street, which might fit. However we can find no Thringstone details for **Ernest Elliott**. There was someone of that name living in Shepshed and another in Ibstock during the 1920s. Can anybody help?
- **April 1933 – Mr Etchells** from Thringstone took the family of a 12 year old girl to the juvenile court for theft. The family comprised of 7 children between the ages of 16 months and 18 years, and their father, a miner, said he rented rooms from Mr Etchells, in his house, for 7 shillings a week. The money, 5 shillings and 3 pence, had been taken from a cash box and only 3 shillings and 5 pence had been returned to Mr Etchells. The girl said she had spent the rest on chocolates and sweets. The father, who said his daughter had always been a good girl previously, had to pay 30 shillings court costs at the rate of 1 shilling per week. The girl was put on probation for 18 months. In 1939, the Etchells family lived at 156 Gracedieu Road and Louis Campbell Etchells and his wife Isabelle Mowbray Etchells were there from at least 1921 according to electoral registers.

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