



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 2021

News.

Monthly litter pick total - 118 against **115 bags** for the same month last year.

Gracedieu Manor – We understand that the manor has been purchased and will be turned into a special school. Some of the land has been returned to the de Lisle estates. If anybody has any more information, please let us know.

Thringstone Scouts – Reopens on 7 Sept at 7pm for anybody interested.

Thringstone Soul Club – back at Thringstone Members Club on 13 August from 8pm until 12.30am. £4 on the door. Please wear a mask until seated.

Thringstone Panto and Drama Society – Don't forget that the panto folk are putting on a performance called Surprise Package at the centre on 12, 13 and 14 August with tickets at £8 from 0333 666 3366. The group is also looking for people interested in joining their company. Please contact them if you feel able to help.

Dog show – George and Dragon, Sunday 29 August. 10 categories inc. best in show and reserve. £1.50 per entry. 10am-5pm. Judging starts at 11am.

Thringstone Bowls Club is looking for people who might want to play there. Please contact Mick Carrington on 07768914748 for further details. Women players especially welcome.

St Andrew's is now able to allow singing at services. The wearing of face masks is encouraged, and there will be sanitation stations which people are encouraged to use when they go to church and when they leave.

Hello Heritage –For various reasons, we have decided not to do an exhibition as part of this event. We are concentrating on the boards as we did last year. However, we will be having a board called Thringstone Welcomes All, on which there will be photos of an Italian POW in WW2 working at Turry Log farm, photos of the Rangers Football club's team from years back, and a picture of Sam Jardine the Scottish piper. Mention will also be made of the Belgian refugees in WW1 and the help given to them by the Wilkin's brothers of Thringstone, the evacuees hosted by families during WW2, the influx of Scottish and Durham miners, the Demetriou family taking over Ruby's on 3 October 1977 and of the Lakhman family taking over the John Street shop in the 1980s on to the change of ownership a couple of years back. These boards will be scattered around the village from 4 – 18 September.

Forgotten Wives - A couple of years ago, Ann Petty and Nita met with Professor Ann Oakley (really wanted to call her Annie Oakley) to help her with a book she was writing on the wives of famous men which was to include Mary Booth, wife of Charles. The book is called Forgotten Wives, how women get written out of history. This is now in print, and one of the wives of the Booth



descendants sent us a scan of the thank you part of the book in which our help is acknowledged and the centre mentioned.

Drury Lane – our gardening team continue to do maintenance and planting including putting Pieris and Phygelius small shrubs and also Helianthus and Asters down Drury Lane. These may take a while to create a good show, but are an addition to our original planting.

Centre news: The centre is looking for bar staff to work events and is also looking for local caterers who might wish to work with them in the future on wedding bookings. Please contact hello@charlesboothcentre.org.uk if you are able to help.

The planned party at the centre on 7 August which was to replace the music festival this year has had to be cancelled due to the covid situation. The centre is, however, running **an outdoor cultural event** on 18 September which will be opened by Andrew Bridgen, and to which a representative of the violence reduction team and Police will be attending. This is running in the afternoon until 8pm, and there will also be a bouncy castle and gin shack. Caribbean and Gujurati food will also be available, there will be drumming and wood whittling workshops and Asian dancing.

Someone has been fly-tipping in the **Community Bottle Bank** which is on the centre's car park. Not only is this smelly, messy and a very selfish thing to do, but if it continues, the Council are likely to remove the service. Sadly it only takes a few to ruin an amenity for the many

May Chadwick who was working in the office left at the end of July to go to live in Scarborough. Her husband Geoff, who was caretaker, obviously has also left. May's replacement is Michelle Bray.

After nearly 30 years of being involved in the running of the centre on the executive committee and management committee, prior to 2017, and then as a trustee, **Ray Woodward** has retired. Ray was one of the original 3 trustees that set up the new charity in 2017 along with Mike Statham and Steve Lilley. Other trustees who have left since 2017 are Kath Ingall, Robert Price, Nita Pearson, Phil Jones, Margaret Fern, Mary and Nigel Roberts, Mike Statham and Steve Lilley.

Chairs Report

Letters received: None

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

Promotion: We have **683 twitter followers**, which is 4 more than last month, and **1,603 facebook followers**, which is 13 more than last month.

Other: Welcome to our new member Rebecca Large.

Our condolences go to Sue Henderson and family on the death of Eddie.

Several reports of flytipping submitted to NWLDC.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£3101.64		
Income		Expenditure	
Membership	£8	Broadband	15.00
Publications		New web host	60.00
Grant from centre			
Donations			
total income to general fund	£8		£75.00
		Total general fund at month end	3034.64



Web Report

We have paid for a new web host. The cost for this will be £60 p.a and the website is now back and being updated to cover things from May 2020 to date. We would like to thank Mike for all his work on this, as it has not been easy by any stretch of the imagination.

Police Report

6 July – men's slant Apollo **Men's mountain bike** stolen from front garden in Melrose Road. 3 bikes went missing on Dalkeith Walk around the same time as did a scooter. We also heard that 2 months ago, a man who lived on the corner of Shrewsbury Walk and Lbro Road was attacked by 3 men who were trying to take his sons e-scooter. A fight ensued, and the man was beaten by the men with a baseball bat and ended up with a broken arm. The police are still investigating the incident, but in the meantime, the man has left Thringstone and moved to Ibstock.

Some **number plates** have been stolen from Melrose Road and the police are of the opinion that the **ASB in Grace Dieu woods** has been improving since neighbourhood patrols.

History report

- Nita investigated a photo of some of St Andrew's choir, taken at Thringstone House of 5 people at an unknown date, concluding that this was taken in the early 1900s. On the photo were **Alec James Turner** who died in WW1 about whom we have written before, plus **Joe Amos Knight** - born 6 May 1896. He lived in Talbot Lane with his family. He was one of 8 children of Arthur Knight and Jane Hunt. The whole family eventually moved to Ashby Road in Coalville where Joe worked in the pit. He died 8 June 1991 in this area somewhere and never married. The next person was **Albert Ward** - born about 1900, had a sister called Elizabeth Ann and is only on census info up to 1911 with his grandfather Jacob Yates and his mother and sister and doesn't appear in anything after 1911, no death, marriage, 1939 register or anything. Jacob Yates had been married to Matilda. Albert's mother was their daughter Eliza. She married George William Ward on 6 April 1896 at St Andrew's. Eliza was 27 and he was 24. George was the son of John Ward who in 1891 kept The Star on Main Street. The family moved to Manchester and in 1901 George is with them in Manchester. His 2 children were baptised at St Andrew's, and he was listed as a bricklayer and living in Thringstone, so presume he went to Manchester for work and left the wife and children behind. When Jacob Yates died in 1914 in Main Street, his executor was Eliza Ward, wife of George Ward. George Ward seems to have moved to Canada as did his parents and, saying he was a widower which he wasn't as Eliza didn't die until 1930, married again in Ontario in 1923. We assume that Albert also went to Canada, but at the moment can't prove this, and if he did when. The next person was **George Fortnam** - parents were George Fortnam (died 1900 of typhoid and had been chairman of Thringstone Flying Pigeon Club) and Harriet nee Toon. Our George was born in January 1898 and joined up for WW1 in 1916 and then was sent back because he said he was an apprentice joiner and hadn't got papers to prove it so couldn't make stretchers as they wanted him to, so rejoined again in 1917. He made it through the war in the Coldstream Guards and died in Melton Mowbray in 1968. The final person was **Bill Henson** –we think this is John William Henson. He was born on 18 November 1884 and lived on The Green at Rose Cottage, the former forge, near Whitwick Moor corner with his parents, Jabez and Sarah Ann. He married Elizabeth Dilks in 1922, initially moved to the Market Bosworth area to 7 Elm Terrace by 1939, and died at Rose Cottage, 1 The Green, Thringstone on 3 July 1968.
- Nita has been looking at the history of properties between **80 and 72 Main Street**. The Gee family owned what is now 72 Main Street, and we have details of their deeds which go back to 1793. 78 and 80 which are next door were owned by the Maloney family. Both Thomas and Mary Jane Gee had been married before, and together they had one child, a son called Samuel Gee. Samuel married Annie Beniston in 1930 in Whitwick and we think may have owned the land on which were 2 cottages and a small holding. We have a photo of Sam in a press cutting when he stood for local



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councilor. The present bungalow at 72 has a pig sty and chicken house at the back, which were part of Sam Gee's smallholding. **No. 80** has a stable, which at one time was used to house a pony, but that was always with the property. However, a strip of land at the back of it belonged to 72 and was sold to give Kathleen Challoner, nee Maloney, who used to live at no. 80 to give her access to the churchyard. Sam and Annie Gee had two children, James (Jimmy) born in 1932 and Margaret born in 1940. Jimmy continued to live on Main Street and was married twice. Initially he married Mary Pauline Lynas in 1954. They had a son John in 1956. Pauline, as she was known, killed herself during a bout of depression in 1963 aged 28 years. Jimmy then married Ann Wilkins who he met on a cruise. They married in Bromley, Kent in 1967 and had two sons, Anthony Paul in 1968 and Mark James in 1970. Research has shown that at some stage, after 1973 when Samuel died, the numbering of that part of Main Street changed, as the bungalow now known as no. 72 was numbered 74. There is now no number 74 or 76, as the properties go from no. 72 to 78 and then 80. The 1939 register shows the numbers at that time were 74, 78 and 80 with no 72 or 76! Does anybody know when the numbering changed? With regard to **no. 78**, we have spoken to Vivienne Emerson, daughter of Kathleen Challoner. The property had belonged to Viv's great aunt, Alice Brown, and in 1939 she was renting it out to John Concannon. It was empty for years and she eventually gifted it to her niece, Kathleen Challoner at no. 80, who in turn gifted it to her daughter around 1968. Along with her husband Keith, the couple worked to turn what was a tumble down small property into something bigger, by adding an extension and garage. They were there for 12 years, named it Priory Cottage, and then sold it on to a bank manager in Coalville called Mr Bayby, from whom the present owners bought it.

- Nita was asked for help regarding the **Baxter family**. David Baxter and his wife lived at 91 Main Street, next to his brother Joseph and Nita ended up producing a mini-family tree. They were one of 11 children of Benjamin and Kitty Baxter who lived on Sandholes. When David died, the house passed to his son John. We now have a photo of John Baxter with his wife Ann and 2 daughters. We are trying to establish whether **91-99 Main Street** was once called Stinson Row. We think this might be the case, as in the 1921 baptism register for St Andrew's, the Baxter family's address was down as Stinson Row, and we know they were at no. 91 then.
- Does anybody know where **White Row, Main Street** was please? We understand from someone that it was near to the church and there was also a well nearby, but it is mentioned in the list of properties subject to a clearance order in the 1930s, and the lady who thinks it was near to the church is too young to remember that period of time. We are also trying to find out where **Southend Cottages** were, which were also on Main Street and subject to a clearance order in the 1930s.
- Nita was contacted through facebook by the owners of **20 The Green** asking for details of the pub that used to be next door about which they had no knowledge (The Queen's Head) and their house. In their deeds, it states that their property used to be owned by Marston's brewery. Nita sent a wealth of information and 7 lots of photos and has been promised a copy of the deeds.
- Nita was contacted by a man called Colin Tolley whose father bought **Lilybank Farm** when it was a mere shell and did it up. We are trying to get more information from Colin to add to our archive information.
- **August 1819** – Lbro – A procession of **framework knitters**, out of work due to a complete standstill in work for stocking makers over a lack of increase in wages, marched through Loughborough. An estimated 2000 people from Sheepshed, Quorn, Barrow, Sibley, Woodhouse, Whitwick and Thringstone, to include also children and women employed in the trade assembled in Loughborough and, joining in with those from Loughborough, marched through the principle streets of the town. Marching two on two, with flags dressed with black crepe, the women of each parish preceded the men, and there was no trouble.
- **22 April 1825** – **John Williams**, alias Matchett, alias Harris, was hanged in Warwick for highway robbery of James Heritage on 6 September 1824. A married man aged only 21 years, whose wife earned money in Oxford by taking in washing to support herself and her 3 year old child, Mr Williams made a speech before his hanging during which he asked others to shun bad company,



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drunkenness and Sabbath breaking for they had been his ruin. Born in Thringstone, with parents, brothers and sisters living in Leicestershire, Williams was a stout, good looking man who had been a stocking weaver before turning to work as bricklayer's labourer and hawker of earthen ware. Whilst under sentence for transportation in Gloucester in July 1824, Williams had tried to break out of prison by squeezing through the window of his cell and dropping down a high wall. He had commenced by weaving a rope made from the rug and blankets from his bed, capable of holding the weight of someone considerably heavier than him.

- **May 1849** – A delegation of 23 groups of **framework knitters** met at The Britannia, Mount Street, Nottingham, and included in the 5 Leicestershire based contingent were framework knitters from Thringstone. The following statement was then issued 'We, the framework knitters, in public meeting assembled, do still contend for the 28 statement as regards price lengths and widths.
- The diary for Antonia Booth, daughter of Charles Booth, is being serialised in a blog, and from that, we saw that in 1899, the gardener at Gracedieu, **James Bale**, said to Antonia Booth that he hoped that she would be as happy in her forthcoming marriage as he had been with his wife Jane, and whilst others were against the idea of marriage, he was very much for it. James was born in 1849 in Kibworth Harcourt, and Jane in 1850 in Lutterworth. In 1891 the couple's address was just Gracedieu, and they were living with their son Henry and daughters Bronwyn and Edith. The birthplaces of their children show they had previously lived in Dunchurch in Warwickshire and Knighton in Leicester. By 1901, the Bale family were living at Parkside Cottage, Gracedieu but by 1911 had retired and moved to Barkby near Syston. James Bale died in 1921 and his wife in 1938.
- **July 1911** – A report into prize giving at **Thringstone School** records that Mr Boulter, the headmaster, thanked Mrs Booth for the prizes and also for providing utensils to Thringstone House for the cookery classes taken there. Thringstone School had been given the honour of being amongst 6 schools in the county to be asked to send a nature study exhibition to the agricultural show at Leicester. Their exhibit had been much admired and it was a compliment that the school had been asked to send specimens to the show. The report also mentions that Mrs Gertrude Watts (formerly Gee) was leaving Thringstone school at the end of the term. Mrs Watts had always been a loyal and willing colleague and would be much missed. She had never missed more than half a day at school since she began teaching there.
- **Turner family from Ashby Lodge** - This property is on the A512 and stands next to the Bull's Head. Nita has been doing further research into the siblings of Alec James Turner, one of the casualties of WW1. Alec was a Sunday school teacher, and by looking through a page we have on file from a church magazine from 1914, we discovered that his sisters, Frances Mary (born 26 Dec 1895) and Dorothy Sarah (born 7 March 1899) were also Sunday school teachers. Newspaper records of events held in Coalville show that both sisters went to Coalville Grammar School, having previously attended Thringstone School where, in 1911, Dorothy won a prize under Standards 6 and 7. By 1939, these ladies were living with their younger brother Ernest Robert Turner (born 13 April 1901) and his wife and family at 53 Gainsborough Road, Leicester. Ernest was a clerk for Leicestershire County Council, and both Dorothy and Frances were school teachers. Their mother, Mary was blind, and by 1939 was living at the Rest Home For The Blind in Leicester where she died in 1950. Ernest died at Gainsborough Road on 24 June 1978, but both ladies obviously returned to this area, and to the family home at 7 Meadow Lane, Coalville, where their father had lived up until his death on 26 July 1934. Frances died at 7 Meadow Lane in September 1969 and Dorothy on 29 August 1975. If anybody knows about these ladies' teaching careers, please let us know.
- **May 1915 – Assault on Soldier's Wife** - Louisa Squires, wife of serving soldier John Squires, was in court having been assaulted by Edward White. Both Mrs Squires and Mr White lived in Main St. Mrs Squires said that her husband was currently in Hampshire. The previous Sunday Mr White had accused Louisa of trapping his son's fingers in a door. He knocked her down, threatened her with a knife and punched her. He was pulled off by his wife Ellen after the knife cut Louisa's ear. He later went back and dragged Louisa into the street by her hair and then knelt on her, gripping her by her throat, and threatened to strangle her. In his defence, Mr White said that Mrs Squires



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had taken a poker to him and made comments about himself and his family. He was fined £1 4 shillings and 6 pence or 21 days. Mrs Squires's husband, John, was killed in the war. He died aged 29 on his birthday on 21 December 1917 leaving his wife with 3 children to bring up on her own. She married Harry Baxter in 1919 and had a daughter Edith shortly thereafter, a son called Joseph in 1921 and a daughter called Ivy in 1923. Harry died in 1929 and in 1930, she married Samuel V Hill and moved to 26 Alfred Street, Loughborough, and worked in hosiery. Samuel died in 1959 and we believe Louisa may have died in 1967 in Leicester.

- **March 1962** – Personal items of clothing, around 60 records, including those of Adam Faith and Cliff Richard, plus toiletries belonging to Jacqueline Townsend were stolen from 2 drawers in the sitting room of a house and from the washing line in **Booth Road**. Mrs Townsend suggested that this was a targeted attack against her daughter, as only her things were taken, and money left in the house wasn't touched yet about £25 worth of treasured possessions had been stolen from the girl. Jacqueline, a popular girl who loved to dance, was a former Castle Rock student, and was at the time working at a Loughborough hosiery factory. She appears to have married in 1966 to William Aldridge.
- **April 1962** – **Thringstone Musical Comedy Group** presented *Wild Violets*, which included 'a bicycle made for 2' with Norma Savage as Augusta and Roy Burton as Hans.
- **July 1962** – The chairman of **Coalville Urban Council**, Mr L Robinson, represented Thringstone, and as a result the annual civic service and associated parade took place from Thringstone with the service being held at St Andrew's. A parade was assembled on The Green and led by Snibston Colliery Band, who marched to the church where Rev. Willis officiated. The chairman was accompanied by his niece, Lyn Smith. Members of Ashby and Shepshed councils were also present, plus a detachment of Coalville police
- **Sept 1962** – The **Community Centre Youth Club** re-elected Roy Severn as their leader with M Bryan and M Garner as assistant leaders. Miss M Annable was elected secretary, M Garner treasurer, D Wilcox and J Ward publicity, A Poxon, J and D Weston, K Neal and P Casey club organisers.
- **April 1963** – The *Quaker Girl* was the **Thringstone Players** production at Thringstone House which ran from 26 March until 6 April. Put on after problems rehearsing during the big freeze, there was 6 weeks when there was no heating in the hall at all. Ron Smith, producer, had a new assistant, John Halsall, who had been associated with amateur theatre for some years at Chesterfield and Burton on Trent. Christine Lowe, who joined the society this year, took her first leading role opposite another newcomer, Jim Hutchinson in the romantic lead. The players had a policy of encouraging young people to become associated with the amateur musical stage and largely made their own stars. Musical direction for the show was the responsibility of Don Hambleton and the chorus master was George Beniston. Margaret Smith was Phoebe, Ray Burton was Jeremiah, Jean Simmons was Diane, and Kathryn Brown was Prudence Pym.
- **July 1963** – A meeting was held at **Thringstone House** to discuss future developments of the village, in connection with the proposed estate in the parish for miners coming to the district. Amongst matters urged were the necessity for a new day school and an adequate lay out of the new estate. A committee was formed to investigate the points raised, and report back to a subsequent public meeting.
- **Oct 1963** – It was the end of the line for what had been known as **The Bluebell Railway** when it closed. The single track railway, which was about 120 years old, ran through Charnwood Forest from Coalville to Loughborough. An unusual feature, when it carried passenger traffic, was that in addition to station stops, it had additional stops known as halts notably at Thringstone and Grace Dieu. The closure involved the shutting down of conventional stations at Coalville East, Whitwick and Shepshed. The unofficial halts ceased to exist about 30 years before, when the passenger service was withdrawn. Since then, the line had been kept open for goods traffic only.

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