



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 2022

News.

Monthly litter pick total –154 bags removed against **118 bags** for the same month last year. There are regularly bags full of recycling/cider cans deposited in the hedging near the church. Several bags of rubbish thrown into the electricity sub-station near the back of the church were reported to Western Power Distribution on 22 July and they cleared these.

Next meeting – 7pm on 4 August at Charles Booth Centre. No bar.

Last meeting notes: We had 6 people turn up to our meeting on 7 July at the centre, with 2 apologies. This is what was discussed at that meeting:

Centre covid situation: Carole Cox who works at the centre and members of the pre-school team apparently have covid, and the coffee morning on 8 July was cancelled by the centre because of a concern over public safety. As a result, despite the fact that the exercise class was going on inside the centre, we had our meeting outside on the bench at the front, also using chairs from the house lounge, so as not to put ourselves at additional risk.

Constitution : The constitution, equal opportunities policy and parental consent forms have been revisited in the last week or so by the committee, and alterations made to include the mention of social media, payment by online bank transfer and regarding the quorum necessary to make decisions at any meeting. The equal opportunities policy now also mentions that members without email get paper copies of bulletins etc., an omission which should have been noticed years ago. It was also agreed that any meeting held where it is necessary to make decisions should have at least 5 members present. Those there agreed to the proposed alterations and additions, and the necessary policies will now be sent to the webmaster for adding to the information on our website.

Drury Lane: Mike is not going to put any bedding plants in the area because of vandalism. It was agreed that Nita will contact Simon Smith in the Autumn about a replacement for Bernard's tree which has not survived. Mike was going to continue to tidy the lane.

Promotion: Discussions took place on the value of social media and how to keep people who do not use this format up to date with things happening, to include things happening at the centre. There was some concern that people in the village don't know what is happening, and it was wondered whether the A board could be used by the centre as it was in the past, so that people can see what is happening as they drive past and/or something put in the Co-op or on the notice boards on The Green. Nita said that she tries to tell people by social media and email what is happening at the centre, but doesn't manage to tell people everything. Mike said that he understood that a new centre manager is due to come into post in August, and he was sure she would have things like this to look into but as far as the centre was concerned, there were now fewer volunteers available to help out.



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Thringstone Members Club – Sunday carvery every week from 12 – 4pm. Take away also available for £8.90. Daily menu and kids' menu now available daily Monday – Thursday 1-4pm Friday to Sunday 12 – 4pm.

Thringstone Panto and Drama Society had to get rid of their tiered seating in order that the hall can be used by others when the panto group have the room for their events. This went to Whetstone Drama Group. They have also cleared out one of their sheds of old scenery etc. The group are now being supported by Central England Co-op.

Friends of Grace Dieu Priory - are excited to announce the launch of their **latest guidebook!** 'A Walk-Around Guide to Grace Dieu', written by [Tom Clayton](#), does what it says on the tin! A handy companion for anyone who is intrigued and interested in Grace Dieu.

An easy read, full of colourful illustrations and photographs, this guidebook explains how Grace Dieu has developed since the area first formed as part of the volcanic Charnwood Forest over 500 million years ago! through to the foundation of the medieval priory 🏰 and then a glamorous Victorian mansion and parkland. All proceeds are going to support the Friends of Grace Dieu Priory in their work to conserve the site. For more information and to purchase, visit their Facebook shop or contact our merchandise coordinator, Ann (details can be found on gracedieupriory.org.uk) If you live in Thringstone or Whitwick, then Tom might be able to deliver the guidebook to you. Collection can also be arranged if preferred. Get in touch before purchasing if this applies to you. Note - please be patient and allow a couple of days to dispatch your guidebook.

Homestead Road Play group – every Friday 10am – 12.30pm. Come along to our group offering parents and carers the chance to meet up and have a coffee and some cake whilst the children play in a safe, clean, room. £1.50 for the first child, 10p for each additional child. Drinks and cakes 30p each. For more information, call Kath on 222824.

Hare and Hounds – From 1 August the pub is open for lunch from 12 noon 7 days a week.

Thringstone Methodist Chapel – an offer has been received by another religious organisation to buy the chapel, and things are currently going through the motions towards a purchase.

Gardening – Nita has spoken with Simon Smith about providing a new tree for Bernard which is free rooted rather than a root ball. This could be planted around October time, and we have been quoted a price of around £250 which has been accepted.

We were offered the chance to take part again in the NWLDC's **Green Shoots Scheme** which allows groups like ours to buy 2000 bulbs at a discounted price of £63.33. We have ordered daffodils, tulips, crocus and narcissis which Bill Enser will arrange to be planted down the bottom end of the village.

If anybody fancies doing some **weeding** down the central path in the **churchyard at St Andrew's** that we did last year, please go for it. Some of it was done on 29 July, but there is an awful lot still to do.

Centre: The coffee morning on 8 July was cancelled due to illnesses and covid amongst staff and volunteers. The next coffee morning will be 12 August at 10am. The car and bike rally on 17 July attracted only one car and one bike, so the event was cancelled at 10.30am. There will be another attempt at this on 21 August from 10am – 1pm. Maybe the heat put people off, so please support this event at the centre if you are able to do so.

The upstairs bar had a makeover this month. Thanks go to Tony Dandy for his work and also to John Reddington for securing a donation from Symphony Kitchens

What's On

12 Aug - Coffee morning at Charles Booth Centre from 10-12 noon.

12 Aug – Thringstone Members Club – Soul Club from 8pm.

21 Aug – Charles Booth Centre – car and bike rally 10am – 1pm. All welcome.

2 and 3 Sept – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's latest Murder Mystery at Charles Booth Centre

Chairs Report

Emails received/sent: Various from people with whom we regularly share information. Various fly tipping reported, as usual.

Promotion: We have **707 twitter followers**, which is one more than last month, and **1,824 facebook followers**, which is 18 more than last month.

Nita did an interview with Graham from Coalville Nub News about the damage to our planting etc. down Drury Lane and also wrote a letter to the Coalville Times.

Nita wrote the latest half page news sheet (which replaced The Bauble). This is in the Community Voice for their August edition.

Finance Report

Nita sold one Thringstone and Its People, one businesses and one pubs book. In addition, we had a £4.10 payment into the bank relating to the purchase of Born and Bred 3 to include postage.

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	2855.06		
Income		Expenditure	
Publications	£22.10	Broadband	20.00
Donations		Annual website renewal	60.00
Memberships	£4		
total income to general fund	£26.10		£80
		Total general fund at month end	2801.16

Web Report

All the minutes are on site up to April, and work is continuing in other areas.

Incident Report

- 1 July – 5 youths of about 14 years of age were seen throwing cans, bottles, litter etc. **from Drury Lane** into the centre garden whilst pre-school children were there. The deputy pre-school manager talked to them about this, and warned them of their behaviour. In the meantime, more damage is being caused down the lane, and the police are well aware of this.
- 1 July – tenant on Shrewsbury Walk reported having eggs thrown at her window by a 25 year old neighbour. Decided the way forward was to post all this on facebook, with photos.
- 9 July – 9pm 3 teenage boys seen setting fire to play equipment on Melrose Road. Police informed and descriptions given of the people concerned. NWLDC put in replacement unit on 11th.
- 19 July – three teenage boys smeared dog poo over a car parked on Melrose Road, and also threw things at a property. Police informed, as they may be the same three kids as above.
- 19 July – bus stops and Melrose Rd sign targeted by graffiti on the way up Loughborough Road, and one of the BT/Virgin Media cabinets at the end of Shrewsbury Walk – ‘Jamie’ seems to have done this.
- 28 July – several cars parked on The Green were vandalised, wing mirrors pulled off, windows smashed etc. Pictures put on facebook by some of the owners asking for information. Police were out in force on 29 July with forensic team, as apparently blood was found on one of the damaged vehicles near the old Post Office.
- 31 July – police were called to talk to 2 young men on a moped down Drury Lane who were being anti-social to passers by.

Nita has signed the group up to the Community Safety Charter. This charter links in with our own aims and objectives and encourages active bystanders to take the lead in their local community by



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- **PROMOTE** - promote a culture that does not tolerate harmful language, antisocial behaviour and hostility toward others
- **ENABLE** - enable others to identify and take an active stance to prevent harassment, antisocial behaviour and intimidation within their community
- **REPORT** - actively encourage and support others to report harassment, antisocial behaviour and intimidation and share intelligence about these crimes with the relevant authorities
- **SUPPORT** - support those affected by harassment, antisocial behaviour and intimidation and refer victims to the appropriate support agency

History report

- There was another half price offer on the 1921 census, so Nita downloaded information for the 5 households at that time on Henson's Lane - Sarah Bancroft, a 79 year old widow, Henry and Annie Merriman, newly married – he was a collier at Bagworth who was out of work, John and Catherine Hall, a retired couple, John and Violet Unwin and their children 4 and 1 (Eileen and Phyllis) – he was an out of work collier working at Coleorton, and finally Fred and Emma Sheen, another newly married couple. Fred was an out of work collier at the south Leicestershire pit.
- Nita was asked to help the conservation officer at NWLDC with research into residences in the area and people who were listed in the local directories of the turn of the 20th century. Whilst these were mostly in **Whitwick**, she found out about some really interesting people, and undertook to do many hours of research into the **Rowell** family, who married into the **Upton** family and then into the **Fern** family who connect to the Hastings Arms, producing 9 pages of notes. **Daniel Fern** had 16 children and married a lady with another 4. Thanks to Janet Stevenson for taking Nita up into the bell tower at St John's to carry out further research and take photos of the certificates etc. associated with Albert and Walter Fern's bell ringing. This was much appreciated. Nita's research has been shared with Whitwick Historical Group and a couple of members of the Fern family.
- Nita had a call from a Shepshed man aged 89 who has been living in Rotherham, Yorkshire for the last 30 years wishing to have information about the Eames and Orridge families of Thringstone. The Orridge clan was quite huge, and, according to newspaper archives, had many court appearances. Their link to his family tree comes from his great great grandfather's second wife. The gentleman's father, **William Eames**, died of sepsis aged 29 in September 1935 and is buried at Shepshed. His grandfather, Arthur Eames, was a Thringstone man, born on Main Street, who moved to Whitwick and then to Shepshed. Nita agreed to see what else she could find out.
- Thanks to our member Duncan Spalding for shedding some light on the wills of the **Jesson** family from Gracedieu and also sending information through about **William White**, otherwise known as Cuckoo or The King of the Poachers, and various others, such as **George Kirby** alias Diddle and **William Edwards** alias Dit Dot. The White family had been associated with poaching for some decades, and William White appears in newspaper archives from 1856 through to 1880, and did serve some prison time for his poaching activities which covered anywhere from Lount, to Worthington, Coleorton, Mt St Bernard and Gracedieu .
- **June 1874** – For sale by Whitwick Horticultural fete, dog and poultry show – Refreshment tents, are available to see on the showground, and the committee are looking to give the right to sell refreshments at the next show on 4 August to interested parties. The committee are also interested to receive tenders and allot ground to photographers, shooting galleries and any other amusements. Contact **Andrew Hurst, Thringstone** – Hon Sec. This is the first time that we have been aware that Thringstone House's Andrew Hurst was part of this committee. We knew he was connected to Thringstone's Wesleyan chapel where he was organist and choir master, but didn't realise he was also involved in this sort of fete.
- **June 1875** – Auction at Rose and Crown of properties belonging to William Pickering of Swannington, comprising 8 cottages on **Main Street** together with yards, gardens and outbuildings, attracting a combined rent of £29 18 shillings p.a. Tenants were William Moore, Mark Hawksworth, Jacob Tansley and others.



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- **April 1879 – Mr Hallam** of The Queen's Head advertised that he had 4 newly built houses to rent on Main Street.
- **1880s** – Nita found an article about Thringstone from the 1950s which looked back at the time of the 1880s and talked about the people of the village at that time. **Grace Dieu Park cricketers** remembered were Jimmy Bowler, William Bottimore (the Lbro Grammar School coach who we have mentioned previously), Edwin Crane, Ernie Watts, H Upton, Albert Ottey, Arthur Beer, John Stinson, Aubrey Sharpe, Herbert Moore, Sam Webster, Edward Merriman, Geo. Morris, John Winters, John Gill, William Beeson, Tom Watts and Ted Hawkins.
- **1880s continued – Lizzie White**, daughter of John White the grocer and sweet maker, sold homemade rock at 1 penny for half a pound, George Bancroft was a carter and farmer on Main Street with a well-recognised old grey mare. **Charles Mann**, the wheelwright on Main Street was so well respected that farmers from Anstey and Markfield came to Thringstone to buy their carts from him. Members of the **Loughborough Road Methodists** at the time were the Gill family, Webster family, Wilson family, Wardle and Sykes families, whereas the Main Street Methodists were the Gough family, Hurst, Beniston and Nicholls family. Mr Weston was the Sunday school teacher, and preachers were Ben Baxter, Johnny Grimley, Butcher Toone of Swannington and Mr Lager of Coalville. There was an **old barn** on The Green, and 3 large poplar trees stood near the centre. There was dog racing regularly on **Redhills**, and respected landlords included Johnny Ward from The Star, Tom Chesterton from the George and Dragon, John Emmerson from the Fox and '**Silver**' **Gough** at the Bull's Head, who was properly Charles Gough who married into the Merriman family, his wife being Esther. He died of a heart attack in 1905, and was found in a field near Belton where he had gone to tend some cows.
- **April 1939** – Coalville council sanctioned the building of 10 new council houses on **Main Street** and 16 on **Henson's Lane** at a loan cost of £8485.
- **1946** – J W Ward retired as councillor for Thringstone.
- **Jan 1948** – The first house to be completed by **East Midlands Housing Association** in Thringstone was to be handed over by Charles Key MP, Minister of Works on 5 Feb.
- **March 1948** – Leicestershire Football Association Council meeting decided that, following an incident in Loughborough when a referee was assaulted, George Croson, secretary of **Thringstone Imperial**, be suspended from attending all football matches until the end of the season. Mr A Pickering, committee member from Thringstone was suspended from attending any management meetings for one month. Gallacher, a player with Thringstone, was suspended from playing until the end of the season. Thringstone Imperial FC were severely censured and warned as to their future conduct. They were ordered to pay the whole cost of the enquiry.
- **1950** – The councillor for Thringstone was **Zac Parker** of Hall Lane, Whitwick, eldest son of Zac Parker who was the landlord of The Royal George, North St, Whitwick from 1905-8 and then The Man Within Compass Inn, Loughborough Road, Whitwick from 1908-11. He was born on 27 November 1903 and married Stella Cecilia Wayte on 30 May 1931 at St John's in Whitwick. Zac Jnr. had previously stood in 1948 for the Whitwick ward and stood for Thringstone in 1949, where he was returned, unopposed. Along with others, also miners, in 1950 he went along to an international conference in Belgium. In 1952, Mr Parker became chair of the highways committee at the council and by 1962 was chairman of Bosworth Labour Party group. Zac died on 20 October 1992 and Stella at Coalville Nursing Home on 6 July 2003. Does anybody know anything more about Zac Parker please?
- **Jan 1950** – **Thringstone Women's Institute** re-elected Mrs Westgate as president for the 11th successive year. Other officers were Mrs E Watts, vice chair, Mrs Fortnam as treasurer and Mrs Amy Grace Morriss as secretary (see May 1950 below). Other committee members were Misses Willmott, Campbell, Leveritt, Gee and Wilkins.
- **March 1950** – Plans were submitted and approved by Leicestershire Education Committee to provide accommodation at **Thringstone House** for the headmaster of the C of E school. The cost is estimated to be about £600 and will be recovered from Trust funds. When in residence, the headmaster will be responsible for the running of the centre. Mr J Hughes was quoted as saying that the centre was used by various football teams and also by other organisations of village life and under the new jurisdiction of the Education Committee would continue to function as before.



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- **May 1950** – The death was announced of **Amy Grace Morriss**, known as Grace, former secretary to Thringstone Women's Institute. She died on 20 May aged 63 years. Her burial at Thringstone Church was attended by Kindergarten Sunday School, the parochial church council, and parish church choir. Several people from Hugglescote and Whitwick attended. Mrs Morriss had been a teacher at Hugglescote school and was Miss Webb, daughter of Daniel Amos Webb of The Willows, Main St.
- **July 1950** – The **Thringstone Old People's gift fund** received some welcome monies thanks to a variety of events put on by pubs in the village. There were children's races, a ladies' football match, the top end of the village and the bottom end played football with the result being a 1-0 win for the bottom end. The football match for ladies was between the older people of The Fox against the younger people of Thringstone House, with Mrs Barker scoring the winning goal for the Fox team after the House team missed a penalty. The Queen's Head, Fox and Bull's Head joined with the community centre to provide teams for a tug of war, and Queen's Head were the winners. A live pig was won by Mr Stinson after a long alley skittles game.
- **August 1950** – A total of 114 pensioners over the age of 65 were given £1 10 shillings each as part of the **Thringstone's Old Age Pensioners Gift Fund Committee** at Thringstone House. This is the fourth time a distribution of this kind has taken place, and it is always eagerly awaited. Fund raising has taken place all year, including running a sports programme at The Fox. No expenses have been forthcoming. The chairman of the committee is H Shelton and the secretary is George Robinson.
- **Sept 1950** – Three members of a **Thringstone women's darts team** were injured when their van hit the cable pole which supplied the lighting to the village. The women, Mrs A E Gough, Mrs A Hall and Mrs R Holt were seen by a doctor and taken to hospital in Loughborough. They were later sent home with bruises, abrasions and cuts but told to visit Leicester Royal Infirmary outpatients department the following day. Mrs Gough, who was unconscious after the accident said 'We had lost the darts game and were offered a lift by a van driver. Mr and Mrs Wright had already been dropped off when the accident happened.' **George and Dragon Ladies' darts team** – won the Whitwick Charity League Cup. Members of the team included Mrs Moore, Agnes Wright (Capt), Audrey Johnson, Mary Newberry, Mabel Wild, Gladys Hammond and Averil Hall.
- **Oct 1950** – Two old cottages at the Main Street entrance to **Henson's Lane** were demolished in addition to other derelict buildings, and road access widened. By June 1951, the council had built bungalows on the empty site.
- **Oct 1950** – A freak blue shower hit Gracedieu over the weekend. Central to the shower was the garage on the main road (now A512) owned by **Mr H Walker**. All the garage buildings, petrol pumps and windows to the house together with the concrete yard were splattered with a sticky blue substance. The shower, which came from the west, was about 100 feet wide and seemed to contain some solid particles, including seed. Weather watchers think that a whirlwind some distance away may have taken with it some elderberries from the hedgerow and carried these to deposit elsewhere. There is an old legend that the lake at Garendon Hall, 4 miles from Gracedieu, once turned blood red, and was seen as a portent of disaster. Gracedieu people are now hoping that blue is their lucky colour.

Details of the meeting in September will be posted out to those on email later.