



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

News.

Monthly litter pick total – 144 bags removed by 8 people against **122 bags** for the same month last year.

NWLDC can collect unwanted textiles for reuse and recycling. They should be put in a tied carrier bag, and put out next to your red box. They will accept clean clothes and shoes, belts and handbags, clean sheets and linen but NO wet textiles, duvets or pillows.

Next meeting – 8 September at 7pm.

Last meeting notes: These were sent out by email to those on our email list, but are repeated here for the 25% of members not on email.

Centre – the new centre manager, a young lady called Bea (Beata Buczynska), started on 1 August. We are told that she is very energetic, organised and methodical, has lots of ideas, and will be pleased to meet with everybody should they call into the centre.

Crime – Nita explained to the meeting about her conversation on Tuesday evening with the PCSO for the village, and that there are genuine concerns about the amount of problems being caused by 3 youths who seem to want to push the boundaries by their activities which include graffiti, playing loud music at all hours, setting fires and roaming round the village and swearing, with the last case being 11pm on 1 August when 4 people rang in to complain. These may be the same 3 that were involved in setting fire to the play equipment on Melrose Road etc. mentioned in the last bulletin. The police have been given names for these youths, but they do not check out. If anybody has any bother from youngsters, please ring 101 and report this to the police. Conversations about the level of policing in the village showed genuine concern regarding what can be, and is being, done, and what we can do as a community, and we heard about problems with youths in Thringstone Co-op and the issues this creates for staff. The police need names for the kids causing the issues. Someone must know these names, and should pass them on to the police.

Hello Heritage - Please support our group with the Hello Heritage event at the centre on 10th September – 12 noon until 6pm. In addition, there will be a variety of history boards around the village in September, including two new ones – The School and Methodists. These latter two boards will both be placed on Main Street. Bill Enser agreed to help with putting up the boards in September, and could potentially help the centre put up the 2 boards that will be going on their frontage.

Thringstone Methodists – the sale has gone through and the keys have now been handed over to the Plymouth Brethren. There was considerable discussion about the Brethren, with the general consensus being relief that the building was likely to be used going forward rather than bulldozed down and houses built on the site.



Gazebo The gazebo rescued from Bernard's garage is beyond repair, and Bill said that he could order, through Amazon, a new pop up gazebo size 6 x 3, which wouldn't be too expensive. Ann agreed that we needed something of that size for things like Picnic in the Parks, and a vote from those present agreed to this purchase. Bill will source something for us and then confirm the price.

Grace Dieu Nursery - Photos on facebook on 4 August showed that an allotment area at the new pre-school at the Manor is being prepared, and it would seem that the provisions there will be very similar to those also provided at Charles Booth Centre.

AOB - General discussion took place on Nita's recent visit, with Janet Stevenson as guide, to the bell tower at St John's in Whitwick to undertake historical research on the Fern family of Whitwick. Whilst it wasn't on Nita's bucket list, she is delighted to have been able to go up there. Janet said that the bell ringers are looking for newcomers, and anybody who is interested in learning to ring the bells would be most welcome to discuss this with her.

Thringstone Methodists – When the chapel closed, the Brian Mee Challenge Cup was left uncollected. This was given to Nita to rehome, who discovered that Brian had died, and was a Shepshed man. Through the power of facebook, Nita was able to reunite the 9" silver plated trophy with Andrea Mee, Brian's daughter.

People Zone – the fun day at Thringstone Members Club on 20 August was well attended. The organising group are going to be putting a consultation document together to find out what is needed in the village and what can be funded.

Rural Community Council – We were members of this group for years, but stopped when the pandemic hit, despite having won awards with the group, as it was money we didn't need to spend. When asked if we wanted a free membership, we said yes, and we are members again. The RCC was originally set up in 1924 to help people with setting up village halls. They have adapted over the years to try to meet the needs and priorities of rural communities and now offer help to organisations to care for people who might face loneliness, isolation, poor mental wellbeing, unemployment etc. following the decline of valuable rural facilities and services.

Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club - To celebrate the life of the sadly departed Brian Pepper, the club will be holding a memorial game on the afternoon of Sunday 11th September. The day will also include the scattering of his ashes. The club would love to see as many former players taking part as can make it, particularly those that were part of the successful junior sides that he coached. Please let the club know if you would like to be involved in any way.

Grace Dieu Manor Park Day Nursery – Taking bookings for visits from 1st September. Please contact Alison on 07928 287323 to make the necessary arrangements. They are also looking for nursery nurses at level 3 or above. To apply/further details, contact Alison please.

Hello Heritage event at centre 10 Sept – Our exhibition will be at the centre from 12 noon until 6pm. We will have refreshments, and 3 members have agreed to help with this. If anybody fancies baking cakes, please let Nita know. The event will be a great opportunity for people to come and see the bespoke tapestry produced by the community as part of Thringstone Creates. Nita has done a load of social media advertising for this event, produced a poster, and sent a press release to Coalville Times and Hermitage FM and put details on event websites. It is hoped that the event will be successful. There will also be 2 new history boards on Main Street which tell about the Methodists and also The School on Main Street.

Whitwick Historical Group will have information boards at Silver Oaks Care Home; the Wheel in the City of Dan; the children's nursery in the Market Place, St John's Parish Church, Holy Cross Church and the Station. The Station will be open as usual on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Saturdays.

Miners Welfare Ingles FC – A new members scheme has been introduced at Homestead Road for a one off £5 fee. The usual £5 entry fee for 1st team games would then be reduced for members to £3 which over the season is a saving of over £50. Draught bar is £3.50 a pint, and there is hot food at each game thanks to expert cooks Tanya & Toni (Pulled pork cobs, Chips, Burgers). Whilst not fielding a Thringstone team, the club want to engage and work with the local



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community to make the club something to be proud of. If interested then please get in touch via social media or message 07920015331 to sign up. Ruby's has already agreed to have an advertising board which will appear at the ground shortly.

Geoff and Pauline Walker – Nice to see Geoff and Pauline get a mention on Jeremy Vine show on 17 August when talking about 'granfluencers' – older people on social media. Geoff and Pauline were mentioned for their films of walks, and the talks they have about life generally.

Centre – Nita had an hour with Beata from the centre on 9 August talking about ideas, and about what FoT is about and could potentially help with. She has some great ideas and wants to change the perception that some people have about what the centre can offer and wants to offer more for the young people of the village. She also wants to broaden the promotion, and may need leaflets delivering. Nita said we could possibly help with that if given sufficient notice.

The coffee morning on 12 August raised £103 for Prostate Cancer UK. Thank you to all who supported the event.

The centre are looking to put on a **women's group** for discussions etc., on a day/time that most people feel able to make. If you are interested, please let us or the centre know. We would mention that the **WI** meet at the centre on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

We have booked the **carols at the centre** for 16th Dec, with the procession leaving St Andrew's to sing at 6.30pm. The entertainment at the centre afterwards will be the U3A choir.

Grace Dieu Priory – a film crew from series 10 of Digging for Britain was at the priory on 30 August for a couple of hours. Watch our for the TV programme and spot our members!

Century of Stories - 7 years ago, Nita and Ann started Thringstone's Century of Stories project, working with council partners at the centre and recorded its progress on our facebook page. As is usual with facebook, a reminder photo came up at the end of August showing a picture of the hand wreath we made at the time. Nita reposted this on 29 August 2022 to our facebook page saying how great the project had been. We then got feedback from the parents of 2 of the girls who came, both of whom are now at Loughborough College, one studying performing arts and another catering, and both of whom remember our project with fondness. Another person connected to the project is now at University. It was very nice to know that the children who came along benefitted from the work we put into the project, which was to record village life in WW1, included a lot of art work and the production of a play and fabricated family stories based on truth.

What's On

1 and 8 Sept – **Thringstone Members Club** – 7pm – 9pm open evening for people wishing to be part of Ace Community Theatre. Those interested need to email acecommunitytheatre@gmail.com to book their place.

2 and 3 Sept – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's latest Murder Mystery at **Charles Booth Centre**. The nominated charity this year is British Heart Foundation.

3 Sept – **Craft Fayre at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre**. Starts at 11am.

3 Sept – **Thringstone Members Club – Rik Gaynor as Elvis**. Tickets £12 to include food. Tickets from 07881 286851. Proceeds in aid of Ukraine.

6 Sept – **Charles Booth Centre** 7.30pm. Auditions for next Thringstone Panto Society panto. Book your audition via chair@tpads.org.uk

10 Sept – **Hello Heritage event** at **Charles Booth Centre** from 12 noon until 6pm. Lots to see and experience, refreshments etc. All welcome.

11 Sept – **Charles Booth Centre**. **Auditions** for singers aged 9-14 years. All welcome between 10am and 4pm.

11 Sept - **Friends of Grace Dieu Priory guided walk** at 3pm from Bull's Head car park. £3 per person. Just turn up.

17 Sept - **Friends of Grace Dieu Priory exhibition** and details on De Verdun family at Belton church with guided walks around the village at 3pm.

18 Sept – **Fashion show** at **Charles Booth Centre**. Sizes 6 – 30. 3pm. Tickets £5. through www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads



27 Nov – **Christmas craft fayre** at **Charles Booth Centre** presented by Thringstone Panto and Drama Society. 11am-3pm. Santa comes at 2pm.

16 Dec – **Carols round the tree** at the centre. Leave St Andrew’s at 6.30pm and walk to the centre singing carols. U3A choir will be part of the entertainment package at the centre.

Chairs Report

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

Promotion: We have **712 twitter followers**, which is 5 more than last month, and **1,850 facebook followers**, which is 26 more than last month.

Finance Report

St Andrew’s sold a graveyard booklet and ‘a book about Thringstone with a green cover’. As we have a low amount in petty cash and our totals do reflect what is held in petty cash, the money for these publications has gone into there rather than being banked.

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	2801.16		
Income		Expenditure	
Publications	£4	Broadband	20.00
Donations			
Memberships			
total income to general fund	£4		£20
		Total general fund at month end	2785.16

Web Report

Nothing has been updated since March. The webmaster is working on this.

Incident Report

- 1 Aug – Police received 4 reports of problems with 3 youths playing loud music and swearing and attended as mentioned above in last meeting notes. Police have told us that the 3 lads with the boogie box mentioned above have broken their boogie box, and intend to stay in Whitwick now, as ‘Thringstone is boring’.
- 4 Aug – Lady at Kelso Court had her bathroom window smashed and her door vandalised by someone. Lady who parks on the court had her car window smashed around the same time.
- 10 Aug – play equipment previously set fire to had its stability chains broken. Reported to Parks department.
- 17 Aug – Several families on walks with the dogs and kids round Gracedieu woods found a bunch of teens waiting on top of the bridge for people to walk under and drop logs and rocks over the top. One just missed a 6 year old girl. The parent ran up there and they scarpered. Police informed.
- 19 Aug – flat on Lbro Road broken into when occupant went into town for 2 hours mid afternoon. Windows were left on the latch. Latch broken and money stolen. Police informed.
- 24 Aug – bus shelter by 120 Lbro Road badly covered with graffiti overnight. Has some words on it. Reported to NWLDC who we believe own the bus shelters.
- 27 Aug – small fire in Bob’s Closs at the back of the centre around 7pm to which fire brigade were called.

History report



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- In May last year, Nita had contact from Gertie Whitfield who said she was producing a resource for schools on the **Whitwick Mining Disaster** and wanted local information. Nita sent what she could, and included photos of houses built for miners in Thringstone in the 1960s to bring the story up to date. Gertie contacted the centre in July attaching a photo of Mary Booth from 1873 asking for permission to use this, as she thought the centre owned the copyright. The centre didn't know who the picture was, so asked Nita who obliged. Gertie, it would seem, is still working on the resource, which was delayed because of covid issues, and intends to acknowledge the centre in her lists of people/organisations who have helped. This will include FoT as agreed last year.
- As part of Nita's research into the **Fern family** of Whitwick, she sent away at her own cost for the lunacy asylum notes for **Mary Fern**, who went into Leicester asylum in 1884 at the age of 23, went for a few years to Beverley in Yorkshire, but stayed in the system until her death in 1932. Mary was initially seen by Rev. Charles Williams of Christchurch, Coalville, and by Dr John W Watson who recommended she go into the asylum with 'simple mania' as she had been ill for 3 months. She suffered with the delusion that she was being chloroformed at night so that men could take advantage of her and on a journey (with family?) to the Cape of Good Hope, these people followed her. At times she realised this wasn't real, but then slipped back, sometimes got annoyed, and at one time thought her food was being poisoned. She was 5 ft. 5 1/2 inches tall, 140 lbs in weight and described as being stout, fat in the face, depressed, quiet, gloomy, suspicious looking and couldn't understand why she had been 'put away'. Her notes up to 1897 only mention her family visiting once, just over a year after she first went into the asylum. In 1897 she was transferred to the asylum in Beverley, Yorkshire, to return to Leicester in 1908. Her notes from there show her to be 145 lbs and black haired. As her time there progressed, she became quite violent at times, and then afterwards didn't know what had happened. In 1897 2 months after moving to the Beverley asylum she was visited by a sister (probably Emma who lived in Yorkshire at the time) but is said to have shown no interest in conversation and when asked a question usually replied 'I don't know'.
- In 1999, a notice in the Lbro Echo said that Kevin Barnes was taking over the Royal Oak in Long Whatton, and mentioned that for 5 years (?) he had run the **Bull's Head** in Thringstone with his grandmother when his grandfather died. Research shows that Kevin was born in 1955 in Leicestershire and his mother was a Godber. On looking through our archives, we see that Morton Henry and Phyllis Godber ran the Bull's Head from 1965-72, and that Morton had been a former steward of the Longcliffe Golf Club, as had Kevin, according to the 1999 article. Morton died in 1972, so we are assuming therefore that Kevin ran the pub from that date with her. Previously we had it that Phyllis ran the pub on her own until 1975 when Alan Spurr took it over.
 - **July 1854** – **Mary Ensor** of Thringstone was in court having charged a respectable young farmer of assaulting her. On 4 July, Mary presented herself at The Bull's Head, Thringstone with a short pipe in her mouth, and a long paper in her hand which was a petition to collect funds for the purchase of a donkey. On being told that if she had money to get drunk with, she would be best placed not going round asking others for money, she became abusive and indecent in her gestures. She had no witnesses to confirm her account of the 'shocking beating' she had received, and admitted that on the day in question, she had drunk copious amounts of 'peppermint'. She was fined 11 shillings and 6 pence or given 14 days, and a fortnight in which to pay the fine. The article continues 'The old harridan then became rather violent and piped her eye, she had but one'. To pipe your eye was slang for crying. A sympathetic friend paid her fine and she was released.
 - **Aug 1897** – **Edward Birkin Stanley**, collier from Thringstone, was in court for being drunk and disorderly on 31 July. Mr Stanley professed to be a boxer and was always challenging people in the village to fight. He was fined 10s 6d or 14 days. **Henry Freeman** was also fined for being drunk and disorderly on 31 July. He was also summoned on 14 August for a similar offence. He was sentenced for 14 days hard labour, the two sentences to run concurrently.
 - **April 1951** – Thringstone was to have its own **Festival of Britain** celebrations. The community centre committee had drawn up 14 days of events which included a garden fete, a 'forum' where invited speakers will be asked to discuss various topics, a concert, badminton match and demonstration, a series of plays, and an exhibition of old photographs and objects of a local



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historical interest. **Festival of Britain 1951** – The production of Happy and Glorious at the centre, produced by Bob and Kathleen Jones, who also took part in the plays, introduced many new names to the stage. The cast for the plays was Eileen McCarthy as The Queen with Margaret McRobbie as Lady in Waiting. Other cast members included Jack McCarthy, Dudley Watkins, Pam Johnson, Margaret Hault, Eric Lowe, Martin O'Mars, Connie Stinson, Gladys Lowe, Ann Brotherhood, Pat Westgate, Blanche Watts, Eileen Kidger, Pauline Gee, Billie Wilkins and John Stinson. Back stage staff included Bernard Dong, Edwin Hicken, Michael Aris, Mrs Davenport and Judith Stinson.

• **Sept 1952** – Bob Jones, warden at the community centre, was appointed a committee member of the **County Drama Committee**. Ann Veronica by HG Wells was chosen to be the new play put on at the centre. A morality play called Everyman was put on by the group at Oaks in Charnwood. The youth group at the centre reopened. Henry Jones of Ashburton Road, Hugglescote was appointed as youth leader succeeding Mr R Drummond. In July, the junior section of the youth group had won the Deeming Cup at the Leicestershire Youth Organisation Western Area sports day.

• **May 1953** - As part of a day of celebration for the coronation, Thringstone **ladies football team** were playing Bagworth ladies with a 3pm Saturday kickoff.

• **May 1953** - Mr W Bruce of The Meadows was re-elected as chairman of **Thringstone Community Centre's** Management and Executive Committees, with Mr E Aris as vice-chairman and Mr K A Fox as minute secretary. Lady Gore-Brown was re-elected as president and Mr J C Lowe was elected as treasurer.

• **Sept 1953** – **The Fox Inn's** 2nd flower, fruit and vegetable show took place with products auctions for Thringstone Old Age Pensioner's Gift Fund. Mr John Hault won the challenge cup with 93 points, and in the ladies' football match, arranged for the fund, Thringstone ladies beat Swannington ladies 5-2.

• **Jan 1954** – Norman Beard was appointed producer of the **drama group** based at Thringstone House, having taken over from the founder Robert Jones, who had recently left his job as warden at the centre and headmaster of Thringstone School. When the group started, 3 years earlier, it only had use of the hall and stage at the centre, but now had a good properties section, ample costumes and sufficient make up for a whole cast. Mr Beard told reporters that the lighting equipment compared favourably with any other group in the district, and that whilst the scenery was currently insufficient, they intended to buy some flat screens on which to produce something more varied. He said the group worked hard, but were a happy group and one of the advantages was being able to use the stage through all their rehearsals. This helped with confidence for newer members. 4 newcomers had taken part in the last production, and coped well. Mrs Valerie Hall dealt with all bookings and seating matters. Whilst the group had many new members, they also could draw on the experience of Mr Beard, Eileen McCarthy, Margaret Hault, Dudley Watkins, Mrs Haywood and Edward Hicken. For the Festival of Britain in 1951 they had put on a production called Happy and Glorious, had achieved 2 certificates of merit at the British Drama League's festival in 1952, put on performances of the morality play 'Everyman' not only in Thringstone but also at Oaks in Charnwood and Whitwick and an unusual play called Anna Veronica in 1952 with a production of Shaw's Passion, Poison and Petrification at Stamford Hall festival the same year. For this they had to buy stage bombs for the loud noises which, on the night, blew a bucket to pieces causing a lot of dust on stage! They were currently working on putting on something for the National Festival of Community Drama which was likely to be Noel Coward's Fumed Oak and Rose and Crown by J B Priestley. It wasn't all hard work though, and could be a lot of fun, as during a performance of When We Are Married, the lights fused and the company had to strike matches and go on a hunt for new fuses. A noise of a cuckoo for one production was unable to be made without the help of someone off stage but on another occasion, an actor who was unable to see without his glasses, delivered his lines, and turned and walked off stage, but directly into the audience!

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