



# The Friends of Thringstone



**'Working together to improve our village'**

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## **BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY 2023**

### **News.**

**Monthly litter pick total – 142 bags** removed by 9 people against **93 bags** for the same month last year. Quite noticeable how much extra litter appeared once the frosts subsided.

**Next meeting** – 2 Feb at 7pm in the lounge at the front of the building.

### **Notes from meeting on 5 Jan**

The meeting could not take place as the centre was locked up, and Nita was unable to get hold of keys to get in. Apologies to those who turned up for the meeting and we are sorry that they had a wasted trip out. The notes made for discussion at that meeting were sent to those on email and are printed here for the benefit of those who do not have access to emails and have paper deliveries.

**Church Wall** - This is still in a state of collapse and it would seem that there is some confusion about whose responsibility it is to repair it. A local man who is a qualified stone wall builder had expressed an interest in rebuilding the wall, but decided against putting in a tender because of liabilities involved if the wall continued to deteriorate long term. The council have suggested the cost could be about £4k.

**Talbot House Farm** is up for sale again at £999,950. It has 6 bedrooms, a cinema room and library and is for sale through Newton Fallowell. It was wondered whether it was for sale because of the nearby building of the Bright Hope House hospice.

**Hough Mill** – This Swannington attraction had a break in just after Christmas and hedge cutters, strimmers and other kit was taken. All are marked with Hough Mill. If anybody sees these items being offered for sale, please tell the police.

**Main Street** – Nita was asked via facebook why there was an old van and a car parked on the road near the Henson's Lane junction with Main St. People said that the van had no current insurance etc. It transpires that these vehicles are being done up by 2 people who don't have their own drives, but we were told that the council had written to all neighbouring properties to take matters further.

**Ruby's** – The chip shop is no longer opening on a Monday. There are some health issues in the family, and they have decided to re-evaluate their work life balance.

**Centre** - We understand that the centre has taken on a new events/bar manager. This is a gent who will start mid-January. He has worked abroad and has also worked in the charitable sector and has some good ideas going forward. We understand that the next film club is likely to be in February. The centre have put out on facebook a request that people say what films they want to see to ensure that people come along. Only one person turned up to the screening in December, so should numbers for February continue to be low, the club will cease. We understand that the



centre is putting together a list of charities for the coffee mornings for 2023 and are currently unsure when the quiz nights will return, but all such info will be put on social media.

**Miners Social Centre** – A new seated exercise class is starting on Monday 9 January and will take place every Monday between 2pm-3pm. Ideal for helping those less mobile to keep their joints supple, for more information please contact [jenny.gaunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.gaunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk) or Thringstone Miners on 07956889394 or [tringstoneminers@gmail.com](mailto:tringstoneminers@gmail.com). They have also started an afternoon club for years 3-6, girls football is starting on the Melrose Road field every Saturday from 14 January from 10-11am followed by multisports from 11am until 12 noon. All ages welcome to that.

**Methodist Chapel** – We have written to the person who put in the planning application asking if the daffodil bulbs we and others from the chapel planted down the path at the front can be saved when they put in their 13 new parking spaces. We may not get a reply, but thought it worthwhile asking.

Other news:

**Whitwick and Thringstone People Zone** – In addition to being asked if she wanted to be the area co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch, Nita was asked if she would like to go on the steering committee for this project, but said no to both of these because of time constraints and wishing to have more time to herself. A meeting was held to discuss the people zone, and a committee formed with Sam from Thringstone Members Club as chair. Also present, we understand, were Nigel Roberts, Beata and Cees, new events manager from Charles Booth Centre, Tom Walters and Rev. Darren Walters. It would seem that, yet again, nobody came specifically from Whitwick. They are looking to work together to put more information out there about what is in offer in the village, and were talking about new notice boards, as well as various social media ideas. They apparently also talked about more joined up working between venues etc.

**Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club** - Senior winter nets confirmed on Saturday 4th Feb and every week after. Start time of 12:00 - 1:00. Venue: Grace Dieu Manor School. All players and new faces welcome.

The club is also looking for sponsorship. They would particularly like to hear from anybody able to sponsor boards around the ground, match days or shirts.

**Centre** – now offering free boxing sessions for kids aged 11-15, started 31 Jan 5pm-6pm. For further information, contact the centre direct.

The coffee morning on 13 Jan raised £153.40 for Rainbows. The March coffee morning will be for Blood Cancer UK

The event manager Cees Valk's working hours at the centre are Monday afternoons, Tuesdays and Thursday mornings.

Coronation plans -The plan is to have a screen at the centre on the day of the coronation, a street party on the Sunday and a volunteer day on the Monday, as that is the Festival of Volunteering day. More details will follow. There are also plans to have the music festival again at the end of August, over a possible 3 day period, with the Friday revolving around the open mike event, the music festival on the Saturday and a family day on the Sunday. Again more details nearer the time.

The centre needs new volunteers to help with events. If anybody has spare time and an interest in helping, please contact Cees (pronounced Case) at the centre or email him on [events@charlesboothcentre.org.uk](mailto:events@charlesboothcentre.org.uk)

**International Football Academy, Grace Dieu Manor** is looking for an account manager. This is a part time job with a salary of £28k. Please contact them direct if you are interested.

**Thringstone Miners' Social Centre** – There are plans next season to look to set up an over 35s veterans' football team, so watch this space for more details in the coming months. Lee Jaggard Delta Construction and Build has agreed to provide the sponsorship for this. The seated exercise class is going well, and lots of volunteer hours are being given to provide more for the community



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in the coming months, including possibly working with the centre on something in the summer and maybe also on the coronation event. Again, watch this space.

**Grace Dieu Manor Nursery** is looking for level 2 or 3 nursery staff, either part time or full time. They are also looking for lunchtime supervisors between 12-2pm Monday to Friday. Please contact Alison on 07928 287323.

**Burst Pipes** – if you see a burst pipe in the pavement or street, even if you don't live nearby, please report it on 0800 783 4444. Nita recently did this for one spotted whilst litter picking and discovered none of the neighbouring properties had reported this.

**Police enquiries** – the council office in the precinct now has an enquiry desk for the police to 'provide greater engagement with the local community, although it is preferred that people report things online unless urgent'. This new centre is open Monday – Wednesday and Friday 9am – 5pm and 9am – 4pm on Thursdays.

**Church Wall** - Nita spoke to the lady at 48 Main St who is in touch with the Highways Agency about the wall. The lady spoke to her contact on 30 Jan and was told that he is still waiting to hear from The Dean as to whether the church accepts, not only the responsibility of rebuilding, but of maintaining the wall long term. He was intending to go out to look at the wall again before 1 Feb.

**St Andrews** – The bin lorries are, for some reason, not always emptying the bins at the church, and on Friday 27 Jan, the church said that they had filled up 6 bags of rubbish that had been left to rot by the church wall. They are asking that people take their rubbish home if they see that the bins are already full.

**Gracedieu Park Cricket Club** – More bin issues. People using the cricket pitch (including companies like British Gas who use the lockers just inside the club gate and dog walking companies who park on the Bull's Head car park) have overfilled the club's waste bin, so that the lid won't shut and have also started to leave rubbish by the side of the bin. The club only pays for the bin to be emptied during the cricket season. If you have some rubbish, rather than try to shove it in the bin or leaving it in front of the bin, like someone did a mop and bucket and a cardboard box full of broken glass, please take it home....

**Thringstone Co-op** - For the past few weeks the Co-op alarm has been going off at least once in the middle of the night which has been waking up neighbours. For anyone who has been affected by the Co-op alarm, please email this address - [enquiries@centralengland.coop](mailto:enquiries@centralengland.coop) using reference 329961. Those bothered by this understand why the alarm is needed but would like the management to investigate the issue and maybe upgrade the system if that is what is needed. We understand that both manager and staff are getting annoyed about the issue.

### Chairs Report

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

**Promotion:** We have **740 twitter followers**, which is 2 more than last month, and **1,965 facebook followers**, which is 25 more than last month.

**Other:** We now have keys to the centre and the car park should we need access in the future. Nita is writing some articles on the village for Community Voice to help promote what the village has to offer.

### What's On

11 Feb - **International Football Academy**, Grace Dieu Manor – Student Open Day.

21 Feb – **International Football Academy**, Grace Dieu Manor – Student Taster Day

8 April – **Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre** – Spring craft fayre 11am-3pm. Free entry.

29 April – **George and Dragon trip to Leicester races**. Breakfast 9.30am, bus 11am £25 per ticket to include entry to the races. Contact the pub to book a place and pay in full at that time.

### Finance Report

Nita sold a copy of Durham Miners to a lady from County Durham.



We have been told that £30 is due from Thringstone and Whitwick People Zone surveys, as 30 people nominated us during that process. This will be paid direct into our bank account and should be shown on next month's statement.

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>2562.13</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Publication	2.50	Broadband	20.00
Donation	2.50		
	£5		
<b>total income to general fund</b>			£20
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>2547.13</b>

### Web Report

The webmaster is continuing to work on updates.

### Incident Report

- From a facebook post on 09 Jan – a drill was taken from a van on 23 Dec between 2pm and 2.45pm outside 96 Loughborough Road - Makita sds drill, 18v 6mh battery, with S.E in black marker pen on it.
- Someone committed suicide by hanging themselves in a property on John Street on 5 Jan which brought out 3 police cars and an ambulance in the evening. We understand he was working on one of the properties at the end of the street.
- 8 Jan – Lady dropped a handbag on St Andrew's Close whilst getting into her car and was appealing on facebook for its return by offering a £50 reward.
- 26 Jan – armed police on Loughborough Road near the John Street shop. Drones were also being used. It is thought that this was as a result of a domestic incident where the perpetrator then ran away.

### History report

- The Conservation Officer at NWLDC wanted us to find out what **police house** was built around 1938. We believe this to be 53 Loughborough Road, which was a police house at that time, and sent the relevant information to him. In return he sent us an aerial photo taken in 1948 of the development on Booth Road for East Midlands Housing.
- We were asked by one of our members to look at the children of **Thomas and Eliza Bradley** nee Hutchinson who were her great grandparents.. From that came to realise that Eliza Hutchinson was the illegitimate daughter of Jane Hutchinson and John Watson (aka Old Duke of Drury Lane) about whom we have written before. It was quite a shock to discover that the member had such an infamous family!
- **Dec 1813** – One undivided fifth of the **Manor of Thringstone and Pegg's Green**, to include all messuages, cottages, lands, royalties and appurtenances was for sale, with particulars available from Mr Paget, solicitor of Atherstone, Warks.
- **Feb 1817** – A **gale and storm** hit the area at 7am on 27<sup>th</sup>, with 'Thringstone fields looking like the site of a war. Many hedges and trees were damaged, houses lost their roofs and a number of chimneys were blown down. Mr Wm. Potter had a barley hovel blown down, and a cow killed on the spot.'
- **April 1878** – The **Coalville Celery Show** saw several Thringstone winners. First prize went to George Gough of the Rose and Crown who won 10 shillings. James Nichols from Thringstone was third and won 5 shillings and Andrew Hurst of Thringstone House was 5<sup>th</sup> and won 2 shillings.



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- **Nov 1899** – Following the death of Mary Hurst, **Thringstone House** was listed in newspapers as being for sale or to let. The property at that time comprised entrance hall, dining and drawing rooms, kitchen, cellar and pantry, 4 bedrooms and 3 attics. Outside there was a wash house, room over a stable for 3 horses, shedding for 8 cows, barn, trap shed, cart house, slaughter house and piggeries. For more particulars, people were asked to contact Mrs White of St George's, Swannington or Fisher, Jesson and Wilkins in Ashby. Mrs White owned the property for a short time, as previously noted.
- **April 1911** – In an article in the Nuneaton Chronicle relating to the opening of Thringstone House as a community facility by Charles Booth, mention is made that **Charles Booth** was once a partner in the Nuneaton Leather Works. This is news to us!
- **May, June, July 1921** – Mrs Holmes of **The Bull's Head**, who had lived at Gracedieu View (Loughborough Road – now next to the Bellway estate) was advertising Gracedieu View as accommodation for holiday makers – apartments were available with or without board. Described as being in beautiful surroundings, the cost was 'moderate' and rooms were available after 20 August.
- **April 1924** – An **Irish paper** published a short article saying that Thringstone, a village with 1600 inhabitants, had no telephone, possibly because its inhabitants were engaged in agricultural and mining pursuits.
- **June 1927** – Mrs Holmes from **The Bull's Head** was advertising that the pub was available for bed and breakfast for holiday makers and it was part of a list of recommended places from the Midland Holiday Bureau Register.
- **Feb 1927** – **Ashby Rural District Council** was told that 8 people were sharing 2 beds in a home in Thringstone. There was a mother, 4 daughters aged 27, 22, 20 and 15, and 3 granddaughters aged 7, 4 and 3 sleeping in one bedroom, with 8 people to 2 beds. In another bedroom were 2 male lodgers.
- **Aug 1930** – **Charles Bradley**, a 47 year old miner from Main Street, was killed after the roof fell in on him at Whitwick colliery. The inquest heard that he been trying to drop a stone by dropping it from the gate end with a ringer. When he could not do that, he had gone under the roof to the other side. He could not move the stone from that point either, and was about to return when the roof collapsed. He had sounded the roof, but did not do so all the way as he walked along. The inquest felt that even if he had done this, there had not been any guarantee that the roof would not have fallen. Accidental death was returned.
- **Oct 1930** – **John Thomas Wilkins**, known as Jack, aged 26, a shunter from Primrose Cottage, Main Street, was killed after a crash when the motorbike which he was riding was hit by a car which had crossed into his path after passing a bus. A month earlier, Wilkins, a passenger on a motorcycle, was in another accident at Hathern Turn when the bike hit a car. Mr Wilkins had at that time suffered a fractured knee cap and various lacerations.
- **June 1950** – **Belton Horse Fair**, started in the reign of Queen Victoria and once the second largest fair of its kind in the UK, was said to be dying on its feet by several local people including **John Matchett** of Thringstone. John, who was a veteran of nearly 60 fairs said 'The fair has gone wallop. It grieves me because I don't know how people manage without horses. I remember the time when all the roads to Belton were packed on fair day, and it was nothing for a man to swap his horse 3 times before arriving. Auctions started to kill the fair, and cars and tractors have finished it off'. As an 11 year old boy, Mr Matchett won a reputation for ridging the horses tails and manes with straw and raffia at the fair in Belton. 'You can't ridge a tractor, and it's poor company, even though it will rip up a field in half a day' he said.
- **August 1950** – Over 100 pensioners, including some married couples in the village, received 30 shillings each at a ceremony at the community centre as part of the **Old Age Pension fund** collections. The money was raised by holding whist drives, dances and other such events.
- **Jan 1952** – Members of **Thringstone Players** produced 3 plays – The Price of Coal by Harold Brighouse, Strange Relations by Laurence Housman, and Gossips Glory by TB Morriss as part of the preliminary round of the 1952 County Drama Festival.



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- **May 1952** – **Thringstone House** made history in the Coalville and District Football League by winning the championship of both divisions of the league in successive years. Last year they won Division 2 and were promoted to Division 1 which they won this year.
- **April 1955** – The annual general meeting took place at **Thringstone House**. Lady Gore-Brown was re-elected president, Mr W Bruce as vice-president, E Lowe as treasurer and Miss Jean Taylor minute secretary.
- **Nov 1958** – 4 local miners who attended the **Ashby Statutes fair** on 20 Sept were in court charged with stealing a bubble gum machine worth £30 10 shillings, the property of Machine Sales Company of Nottingham. Alan George Burton (22) of 173 Main Street, Thringstone pleaded guilty, whilst Peter Desmond Marshall (19) of 40 Henson's Lane, Thringstone, Patrick Dunn (17) of 17 Homestead Road, Thringstone and Keith Harlow (21) of 87 Talbot Street, Whitwick all pleaded not guilty. The machine was fixed to a wall outside a shop in Upper Church Street and was seen by a witness to be removed and carried along the street at midnight by 2 men, and then discarded on wasteland. The men returned with a van, but the witness had already removed the machine. The cases against Marshall and Harlow were dismissed, Dunn was fined £3 and Burton £10. The offence was described by the chairman of the bench as a case of hooliganism.
- **Feb 1989** – When **The Meadows** was being pulled down to build the care home, various tenants of the old property who were living in the bedsits there complained to the press that they were to be made homeless from March. Andrew and Audrey Sowden lived in a bedsit in the property and Julian Osborn was in another flat there. He said that the conditions were disgusting as he had no heating, there was no hot water, and the only cooker was thick with grease and the toilet, which was shared by 9 people, was continually blocked. Mr Osborn also said there were mice in the property. Landlord David Bell said that he had told all tenants of the plans to demolish the property and build a care home as part of a £1 million project, and said he would try to help all tenants if he could, but they had known from the start that their accommodation was only temporary. The Sowden family later withdrew their complaint against Mr Bell. He said that Mr Osborn's bedsit had been fully decorated before he moved in on 13 Mr January, and had a new handbasin with hot and cold running water. Mr Bell had also supplied Mr Osborn with a portable gas fire. He said that Mr Osborn had turned his unit into an electrical workshop and used the handbasin, rather than the kitchen, to wash pots. Mr Bell said it was the responsibility of all tenants to keep the cooker clean and there were two toilets, the blocked one having been subject to misuse. The central heating had been off for some time because Mr Osborn had plugged his soldering iron into the wrong socket. Both the Sowdens and Mr Osborn had found alternative accommodation by April, and left with rent arrears, which Mr Bell had written off.
- **Aug 1989** – Thringstone's 9<sup>th</sup> **annual gala** began with Brain of Britain Quiz at Rangers Club, followed by a three legged fun run, family disco, and gala on 12<sup>th</sup>. A parade assembled on The Green followed by the judging of the fancy dress, with, for the first time, children of the Methodist Church Sunday School with their float entitled God's Garden. Gala Queen, Angela Martindale, opened the event on the Miners Welfare field with music by Millfield Militia Band, a display by Delta Hawks Flying Team, judo bouts and a demonstration by King Edward V11 popmobility class. There were swings, slides, roundabouts, stalls, wellie wanging and the event ended at Rangers Club on 13<sup>th</sup> with crib, darts and dominoes finals.
- **Dec 1993** – 3 Thringstone teenagers started a petition to **stop speeding cars** travelling through the village. Emily Carter and Emma and Laura Stevenson, all of Loughborough Road, decided to take action after hearing about an accident 2 months earlier. They handed their petition to local councillors Agnes Smith and David Taylor. They said it took a long time to cross the road and the speed of cars was frightening. The 140 signature petition was accepted by David Taylor who said that he would press the county council to do something.

**Next meeting 2 Feb at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre**