



# The Friends of Thringstone



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

**Chairman: Nita Pearson BEM**  
**20 Springfield, Thringstone, Leicestershire, LE67 8LT.**  
**Telephone: 01530 223434**  
**[mail to: nita.pearson@ntlworld.com](mailto:nita.pearson@ntlworld.com)**

**Visit our website at: [www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk](http://www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk)**  
**Twitter address: [@Thringstone2](https://twitter.com/Thringstone2)**

## **BULLETIN FOR MARCH 2023**

### **News.**

**Monthly litter pick total – 159 bags** removed by 8 people against **121 bags** for the same month last year. **Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean** is 17 March to 2 April. We have signed up to add our figures to their campaign.

Nita reported to County Hall that 7 bags of sand had been left in the village after roadworks had been completed in October. Nothing happened, so Nita filled in an official complaint form and these bags were finally removed on 23 Feb.

Did you know all **glass recycled** around here goes to Sheffield, to a company who sort it by colour and turn it into crushed glass. This can then be remelted onto container glass for use in the food, beverage and pharmaceutical industries in the UK. All **the paper** in our blue bags goes to a company in Norfolk where it is recycled into other paper products.

It is **Global Recycling Day** on 18 March. Let's try to recycle more than we do!

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

**Notes from meeting on 2 Feb** for the benefit of those not on email who did not get this when sent out.

7 people attended, and we had 4 apologies.

**Membership news** - Nita reported that our member Anita had been taken into hospital having had a very nasty fall. She has now left the village to live with her son, taking with her the standard poodle she was often seen walking around with, plus her cat. The house is being renovated, a new kitchen put in, downstairs toilet and new fencing erected, and will be put on the market.

Our member Tony Newton has now gone to live in Austria, and we would all like to congratulate him on his recent marriage.

Our member Ruth is moving this week to Redcar and we wish her and husband Phil well in their new adventure. We also wish a speedy recovery to our member Margaret who has broken her leg and are thinking of our member Gill who is poorly in hospital.

**Former Methodist Chapel** – Nita wrote to the person who had put in the planning application to alter the access to the former Methodist Chapel about the huge number of daffodils planted there which represent a tribute to the fallen of the village from warfare. She has now had a call from a gent from Peggs Green who is associated with the new owners, and said that they were unaware of the daffodils being there (as well as some snowdrops) but they are now coming through. It is unlikely that the access work will happen until after Spring, so once in bloom, he intends to take photos of the flowers and get them moved and replanted within the site after they have finished blooming, so they are not destroyed by concrete. He said that they had cut back all the existing hedging and are making sure the grass stays at a reasonable level in the meantime, and thanked us for contacting him about the issue.



**Centre** - Nita interviewed the new events manager, and has sent the approved article to Community Voice to go in the April edition, as it mentions the plans for the Coronation weekend. A further article on the Whitwick and Thringstone People Zone may be written shortly and will talk about everything that the centre, miners welfare and members club intend to work towards. At a meeting with the centre, Nita discovered that nobody knew where the Friends of Thringstone marquee had gone to. Nita contacted Tom Walters who said where he thought it was, but did say it might subsequently have been dumped – it was not the centre's to dump. Nita is investigating what we can do about this. Nita also shared information on the running of previous music festivals, sent details of procedures etc. used in the past, and provided information on the websites she used to post details of events to when she did all the event promotion and of the radio and other media agencies she sent stuff to. In addition, she reminded the centre of the email database she provided them 2 years ago so they can do email adverts should they wish to do so. Conversation took place on centre finances and fund raising possibilities as well as grants available as well as the amount of work needed to put on events covering 3 days.

**Thringstone Bauble** – This is in the Community Voice magazine for February. There is also an article in there about Nita's fundraising in the past.

**Miners Social Centre** - Nita supplied Community Voice with an article on the Miners Social Centre. Nigel Roberts, their new chairman, provided considerable information in order for this article to be written. It will be in the March edition of the magazine.

**Litter picking** - The centre is contemplating holding a volunteer day on 8 May as part of the Coronation festivities, as the palace are suggesting that the day be labelled National Volunteering Day. It was agreed that we should do a litter pick on that day. Caroline said she would help. Nita will see what we can sort.

**Leicestershire Cares** – A group called Leicestershire Cares offers to help community groups with one off projects and other things. Whilst they are based in Leicester City, they may be able to help us with things perhaps. Nita has contacted them to see whether they might want to work with us on projects, and asked specifically if they offer ongoing volunteer help, rather than just work on a specific project to get it up and running.

**Together Partnership** – These folk follow us on facebook and appear to be a group supporting vulnerable adults in our area. Nita has written to them to ask them what they do, and whether there might be opportunities to work together at some stage.

**Short dated products in shops** – Bill said that in the evening at the Co-op there are often trolleys full of short dated produce, and wondered whether people were aware of this. The conversation then got on to the support available for vulnerable people with low incomes and the fact that some companies offer discounts (like the social tariff for broadband) but this is seldom promoted and many don't know it is available. Nita said that Beata at the centre had said she would like to work towards having a food bank at the centre at some point in time in the future. There was also discussion on child care costs, and the necessity now to shop around, especially where insurances and banks were concerned, and that many people were helped by watching Martin Lewis's programmes currently on TV.

**Panto** – Ann said she was disappointed with the seating at the panto, as now the tiered seating has gone, it was difficult for her grandchildren to see properly, even with booster seats. It was, however, a good show.

#### **NEW news:**

**Severn Trent** - Are you aware that there is a Severn Trent Big Difference scheme to help reduce water bills? The Big Difference Scheme can offer a reduction of water bills to any Severn Trent customer with a household income below £18,278.

Households with child dependants may be eligible for an additional income allowance in excess of this amount. You could get up to 90% off the average Severn Trent bill.

The Big Difference Scheme will assess your household income when you apply.

That assessment determines how big a reduction you're able to get.



If your application is successful, you'll get a new payment plan designed especially for you. Your new plan will include payments towards any debt on your account.

The scheme runs for 12 months at a time. You'll have to apply again at the end of each year-long period.

There are two ways you can apply for help from the Big Difference Scheme but go to [www.stwater.co.uk](http://www.stwater.co.uk) and follow the links there for Big Difference or help paying your bill..

Whichever way you apply, you'll need to provide evidence of your household income.

This could include payslips from within the last 3 months, benefit award letters from the Department for Work and Pensions or scans of your income from bank statements.

**Council housing** - council tenants in Thringstone now have a new housing officer, as Polly Page has moved to look after another part of the area. The new housing officer is Tendai Chikoto. We understand that there may be a **family fun day** on the play area field on Melrose Road in the summer.

**Gracedieu Park Cricket Club** – Still looking for players for their teams, including ladies who will meet on Monday nights. If anybody is interested, please contact the club direct. The men's team are currently practicing at weekends at the nets in Gracedieu Park. The club is also looking for new sponsorship deals.

**Centre** – The centre is advertising for **bar staff** and also a **quiz master** to start the monthly quizzes again.. If anybody is interested, please contact the centre direct.

£175 was raised for Breast Cancer UK at the **February coffee morning**. Thanks to all who came and those who volunteered to help out.

The centre's **street party** for the Coronation will be on 8 May from 12 – 4pm with music and games. Further details when known.

**New latin and ballroom dance fitness class** now on at the centre on Wednesdays at 7pm with Irina. First class free. Book on 07808 661057

**Thingstone Miners Social Centre and Ingles FC**– sponsorship boards are now up for several local businesses – Ruby's Fish and Chip Shop, Teddy's Raw Pet Food from North St, Whitwick, Abacus Flooring Solutions Ltd., Meridian Blinds Charnwood, The Horse at Shepshed, MCE Brooks Construction Ltd., Cosmic Brickwork Ltd., Kroyair Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Taylor's Drainage, Bull and Bush at Shepshed and Autoworks UK.

The seated exercise class is going well with 18 people attending.

**BBC Make A Difference Awards** – Nita filled in the necessary paperwork to enter us into the Community Group Awards section. This closes on 5 March and the panel will give awards to groups across all BBC local radio station areas. The awards will take place in September.

**Girls' Football** – Unfortunately the girls' football session on Saturdays failed to take off, as nobody turned up, so after 4 weeks of trying it was cancelled.

**FCV Football Academy at Gracedieu Manor** are looking for a housekeeper (20 hrs per week) and a kitchen assistant, also 20 hours per week. Interested parties should contact the academy direct.

**Litter issues and other stuff from NWLDC** - To preserve the freeze on the district council's portion of council tax, Cabinet are reducing the Coalville Special Expenses budgets (which covers Thringstone as we are unparished) to avoid an increase in council tax bills for households in the Coalville area. This was ratified at the budget meeting on 23 Feb. There will, however, be cuts also by County. These NWLDC cuts mean that there will be a reduction in our village of grass cutting to reduce costs from £50,000 to around £27,000, litter bins in playgrounds and cemeteries will be reduced, wild flowers will be planted in flowerbeds instead of bedding plants to reduce costs, and the sports pavilion on the field off Melrose Road will close. The hut and toilet at Broomleys' Cemetery will also close.

**Church** – Thanks to a couple of our members who live nearby for cutting back the hedging in the corner of the churchyard by the jitty which eventually leads to Booth Road, This hasn't been done for years.



**Signage on The Warren relating to Gracedieu and Cademan Woods saying ‘private’ and ‘no trespass’** - New signs have been put up as a precaution to warn people that if they are injured while in the woods, it is at their own risk. Unless they are on the definitive footpaths or the permissive path to the ruins, it is still technically trespass regardless of the fact Grace Dieu and Cademan have been essentially free-for-all ground for years. The Estate will not be held liable for any harm caused to anyone in the woods.

### Chairs Report

**Emails received/sent:** Various from people with whom we regularly share information. Various fly tipping reported, as usual. **In fact Nita has reported 7 flytips this month alone!**

**Promotion:** We have **742 twitter followers**, which is 2 more than last month, and **1,975 facebook followers**, which is 10 more than last month.

**Other:** We wish member Sue Henderson well in her new home. We also said goodbye to Adam and Emma Clarke who have gone with their family to start a new life in Europe. We are very sorry to report the death of our member Gill. Congratulations to Sarah Baxter on the birth of her son.

### What’s On

10 March – **Coffee morning** from 10am – 12 noon at Charles Booth Centre in aid of Blood Cancer UK

10 March – **Soul club** at Thringstone Members Club from 8pm with Okeh Ian. Entrance £4 on the door.

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

14 April – **Coffee morning** from 10am – 12 noon at Charles Booth Centre in aid of Air Ambulance.

14 April – **Soul club** at Thringstone Members Club from 8pm with Martin Manning. Entrance £4 on the door.

15 April– Christchurch, Coalville - 10am – exhibition on the **Whitwick Pit Disaster** with all family history for the lost miners on display. Exhibition by South Leicestershire Mining Heritage group.

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.

29 April – **Charles Booth Centre** 7.15pm Gresley Male Voice Choir with guest soprano Steph Addison. Tickets £8 available from the centre.

### Finance Report

Nita sold a Memories 3 to a member, and a graveyard book and a WW1 lost men book to another gent.

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>2547.13</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Publication	7.50	Broadband	20.00
Donation	1.50		
People Zone	30.00		
<b>total income to general fund</b>	£39		£20
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>2566.13</b>

### Web Report

The webmaster is continuing to work on updates.



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### Incident Report

- 22 Feb – Two men had fight outside Thringstone Co-op. Large police presence. Victim was knocked out, other man drove off.
- 26 Feb – Items and tools left in a driveway on Glebe Road stolen whilst person was out. Also a security camera on Shrewsbury Walk was smashed just after midnight by a youth.

### History report

- Nita is currently researching the 'life' of Thringstone's Toc H branch which started in 1959. The last we can find on it is in 1962. Nita has had a lot of information from Toc H itself and also posted requests on facebook and sent a letter to CV Times asking for more information.
- We received a message from Sheila Bell who bought the **Durham** Miners book from us recently about her time in the village. Her family came to Thringstone when she was 11 and she did her schooling in Whitwick before going to work for Evedon's factory at the top of The Dumps and then Mansfield Hosiery. Her parents were finding it hard to settle here and decided when she was 18 to return to Stanley in Co. Durham, telling her she had to go with them but could return if she wanted when she was 21. By that time she had met her future husband so never came back, but remembers feeling gutted at leaving her friends behind and all the people who had welcomed her 'with open arms' in Thringstone. She said Thringstone is still her happy place. Her sister Yvonne, on the other hand said that she had only just started school when she came here. The school in Whitwick segregated her and her brother from local children. Local kids had to use the inside toilet, but they had to use the outside. Her brother, despite being 3 years older than her, was in the same class as her, and when they returned to Co. Durham, it took 3 years for her to catch up as she had had no education. All she remembers is being with other kids from Durham and with Scottish kids.
- **Pete Rush** has done a video on family memories from the 1930s onwards. The Rush family lived on Hensons Lane. Worth a view. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWJXJPRgMfs>
- Thanks go to **the White family** for letting us have the late David White's slides, films and photos for our archives. These are a wonderful archive in their own right into life in our part of the world over the last 60 odd years. We are also pleased to say that we were given the slide projector too!
- **1921 census – Ashby Turnpike – (Gracedieu) Sydney and William Warrington and daughter, the Newton family, Cross Lane Lodge – Willmott family (worked for the Booth family), Warren Farm – John and Margaret Houlton and 3 children and a servant - farmer. The Warren – Patrick Finn, his wife Annie, 2 sons and a daughter, with all but the daughter being born in Dublin. Patrick has no job. In a separate property on The Warren where Thringstone headmaster Jimmy Lester and his wife. Thringstone Mill – Joseph King, son John Edward and daughters Iris and Georgina - farmers.**
- **1921 census for Talbot Lane – 13 families.** John and Mabel Morley and 2 sons, 2 daughters and 2 boarders. John was out of work as a miner at Whitwick Pit. William and Julia White and son Gilbert and a boarder. Gilbert was only visiting, as he lived in Nottingham. William was also out of work as a miner at Whitwick pit. James Whittle, licensed hawker, about whom we have written in our publications. Edwin and Ethel May Fewkes nee Gee. Edwin was also an out of work miner at Whitwick pit. Edwin and Ethel had married in 1916 when he was 34 and she 19. Mary Rowell, 4 sons and one daughter 3 of the sons were out of work miners from South Leics. pit. Elias and Ellen Elizabeth Darby, widowed daughter Martha Wood and her 4 children and another grandchild with the surname of Darby. Martha Darby had married James Wood in 1908. Arthur and Jane Elizabeth Knight and 3 sons and 3 daughters. Along with one son, Arthur was an out of work miner at Whitwick pit, and one of his sons was out of work miner at Snibston. John Arthur and Elizabeth Smith and one year old son. John was another out of work miner from Whitwick pit. Joseph and Mary Fewkes (father of Edwin as above), plus invalid son John Thomas and grandson Eric. Joseph was another out of work miner from Whitwick pit. Arthur Watson, brickyard labourer at Bagworth. Joseph and Sarah Ann Haywood and 4 sons and 2 daughters. Joseph was an out of work miner at Whitwick pit, and 2 of his sons worked at the pipe works in Lount. Mary Ann Gough, a 70 year old lady living alone with no income. Finally, at Talbot Villas, Talbot Lane was Thomas Ratcliffe, a boiler fireman at Swannington Pumping Station. With him were Harry and Ellen (known as Nellie)



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Springthorpe nee Ratcliffe, and their children Annie Ratcliffe, John, Harry, Albert, Arthur and Edith Springthorpe. Harry Springthorpe was an out of work miner at Whitwick pit. Harry and Nellie had married in 1912 and daughter Annie had been born 2 years earlier.

- **April 1957 – Mr and Mrs Henry Domoney** of 51 Lbro Rd celebrated their golden wedding at the Queen's Head. 4 generations attended, including a great grandson of the couple. They were married at Holy Cross and think they are the first couple in Leicestershire to have arrived at their wedding reception in a motor car. Mr Domoney is a Dorset man, and came to the area to work as a groom in the stables at Gracedieu Manor for **Charles Booth**. In the Edwardian days, he became the family chauffeur. 'Cars were more reliable in those days than most people think' he said 'but Enoch Briers of Whitwick always had a horse and pair on stand-by to bring us in. The first car I drove for Mr Booth had acetylene headlights and paraffin side and rear lamps. Later we had one of the first cars in the county with electric lighting. Punctures were the chief trouble in those days although I often drove to London and back in a day without any delays'.
- **Jan 1964** – Hearing the sound of breaking glass, elderly widow **Norah Webb, of The Willows**, 9 Main Street, lifted her blinds and saw the face of a man staring back at her through the broken window. She shouted at the man, and saw 2 men run away churning up the soft soil of the garden as they fled. After dismissing the intruders at 3am, Mrs Webb decided not to return to bed, and stayed up until the morning light to contact the police. The same night, intruders tried to break into the house of John Carter of **Carter's Farm**, a distance of about 30 yards from Mrs Webb's property. 80 year old John's property also suffered from broken windows.
- **Dec 1964** – The Thringstone branch of the **Royal British Legion** held their annual prize competition at The Fox Inn and afterwards announced that they had raised £88 10 shillings. The president, Colonel T Welch, expressed thanks to all who helped and took part. The monies would be spent through the benevolent fund and retired members would receive groceries at Christmas, thanks to the work of service secretary Mr K Grice. A record £34 15 shillings had been received in poppy sales, and the people of Osgathorpe and Swannington were said to have contributed in achieving this result.
- **Jan 1990** - The panto for the year at the recently refurbished community centre was Babes in The Wood. Treading the boards in his 13<sup>th</sup> panto was Main Street's **Arthur Sykes** aged 59 who will be playing Slipper Sam, the robber. Well known locally for his comedy sketches and monologues, he has also played some serious roles. His first outing was in the play Goodnight Mrs Puffin in 1977 opposite Joyce Lucas, and his first panto role was as Tweedledum in the 1978 Humpty Dumpty panto. Out of the 27 reviews, plays and pantos the group has put on, he has been in 22. Arthur said he enjoyed roles as a henpecked husband, but also daft roles such as baron or king. His love of theatre began at secondary modern when he was in Pirates of Penzance. Having joined the Thringstone Methodist Church Youth Club, he toured in concert parties around Leicestershire. He was the founder of the Methodist Youth Fellowship in around 1951 and was leader of the youth fellowship for many years. His association with another local vaudeville troupe, the Haywires, has gone on for about a decade, and thousands of pounds have been raised by this group for local charities. Arthur is also well known for his solo performances at church fellowships, senior citizen's groups and other public functions. He is both Sunday school teacher at the Methodist chapel and caretaker. His wife Lorna has been by his side for over 35 years, and the couple have a son and a daughter and grandchildren. Panto member Clive Fearn said 'Arthur is kind-hearted, and can always be relied upon to make new members welcome. He will always give a hand, whether it is with stage scenery or improvising with a 5 minute sketch should a technical hitch arise. Not only is he a valued member of our group, but he is an extremely funny and talented man.' Others in the village sing his praises for all he does. Arthur became superintendent of the Methodist Chapel in 1992.

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