



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR APRIL 2023

News.

Monthly litter pick total – 141 bags removed by 8 people against **122 bags** for the same month last year. Nita has had an email from someone asking if they can join in our **litter pick on 8 May**. Did you know that NWLDC will take **old mobile phones** to recycle? Place them in a box near your recycling, and they will be taken away. The council have now collected over 100kg of mobiles to recycle. They will also take **excess plastics, cans and bottles** if left out in reuseable plastic containers with the other recycling, but glass must be separated.

Notes from meeting on 3 March for the benefit of those not on email who did not get this when sent out. 9 people attended and there were 3 apologies. The meeting ran for an hour. **There are also updates detailed here for everybody to see.**

- Nita was in touch with **Thringstone Primary** about borrowing records again, to see if there were any details of the periods between the wars. As part of her research into this period of time, Nita found a photo believed to include Bertram Keen who was head between 1929 and 1949. She has shared this with Jimmy Francis who is compiling some information on the school for posting on facebook. **UPDATE:** Nita has got a box of stuff. All the written information is stuff we've had before. There are lots of photos, some of which Ann has seen before, but Nita hadn't. They range from 1950s through to 1990s. Nita is posting these daily on facebook for people to comment on.
- Our **financial year ends** on 31 March and work is underway to get the accounts presented for examination. Membership money becomes due in May and will remain at £4. Nita agreed to contact Andy Brown who is going to examine the books.
- Nita's article on **Thringstone Miners Social Centre** is in the March Community Voice magazine along with her usual history article. She has also written an article on Jabez Emmerson who started Toc H in Coalville in the 1920s for the Coalville edition of the magazine.
- We understand that Thringstone Miners Social Centre will be putting on an event for the **coronation**, on a day yet to be announced, but they already have funding for the food element. The street party at the centre is on 8 May, the same day as our litter pick, rather than being on 7th as previously announced.
- Nita has got a poster done for our **litter pick** on 8 May, and asked the school to put it on their intranet. She has also asked the scouts if they want to be involved, asked someone who was interested in forming a work related group if they want to come along, and put details of the event on facebook, twitter, NWLDC's What's On page, sent something to Community Voice on it, and given posters to the centre. She has also spoken to NWLDC about picking up of the litter collected from the gate on Melrose Road near the play area.



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- Nita was asked to provide information on the **Hurst family** from Thringstone House to someone, who has promised to send stuff relating to her own family at some point. Mike said that the centre had had a paranormal group in who had stopped overnight. Nita said this was the same person who had contacted her about Thringstone House.
- Congratulations to **The Old School House** for coming runner up in the Best Care Home of the Year Award at the ceremony on 1 March.
- On 28 February, we were sent details, via a tagged article on facebook, from the Leics. Crime Commissioners, saying that the grant funding for **Thringstone and Whitwick People Zone** was open. It told interested groups to go to the guidance notes in which it said that groups needed to conform in their bids to themes highlighted in the research report already compiled, but did not give a link to this report. Nita queried this, and was sent a copy of the report on 1 March, and told that the steering group of the people zone were to discuss that evening what their themes should be, and these would be added to the guidance notes. In the meantime, the 58 page report is available to people who wish to read it by contacting Nita direct. It incorporated a lot of what Nita said in her hour interview with Mapping for Change, including an actual part of the conversation held. **UPDATE:** We do not appear to have a suitable project in the pipeline to apply to these folk to help fund.
- Nita had arranged a **meeting** with Richard Blunt, leader of NWLDC, to talk about the **cutting of the grass on The Green**, as there had been media details suggesting that this would no longer be cut or the flowerbed the council plant looked after as part of budget cuts and we want to have discussions on how to keep the centre of the village looking attractive. There were also plans to remove some litter bins, which we strongly oppose. Nita wanted to also find out what the exact plans are, and also what is likely to happen to the free tree scheme and the half price bulb agreements which we have had with the council in previous years. Sponsorship was discussed. There was also conversation about getting scouts/school involvement and also the involvement of the Princes' Trust and the Football Academy at Gracedieu who are now integrating into the village well. Nita agreed to talk to Cllr. Blunt and see what came up from the discussion and also whether we can apply for help through the People Zone funding.. **UPDATE:** Having had a meeting with Richard Blunt, which was exceptionally useful, Nita contacted Ed de Lisle. He is going to get his gardening team to cut the grass on The Green and deal with seeding over the existing council flowerbed at his own cost. They will start all this on 1 April. NWLDC have been informed by Nita, who also sent out press releases thanking the de Lisle family. One was in the CV Times of 17 March and it will also go in the April Community Voice magazine. With regard to Richard Blunt, he also went to look at the church wall, and was interested in the old gate propped up against the wall and gave some information on a council officer who can get funding for projects like this. Nita agreed to contact him after the local elections as he said he wanted to make Thringstone a priority. If any litter bins are to go, Nita suggested the one outside the old post office, as it isn't used much.
- Nita had been told that the next **AGM for Charles Booth Centre** is on 21 March. **UPDATE:** This meeting did not take place. The AGM is now on 18 April at 7.30pm. If you have questions to ask, they need to be emailed to the centre 48 hours beforehand.
- There was a lot of discussion about the **People Zone** report, its contents, its aspirations etc. There is a lot of hope for this project, and volunteers were needed in a lot of cases to implement ideas. **UPDATE:** We understand that Thringstone Primary joined in the mini police project in January. This is aimed at helping 9 and 10 year olds build their skills, independence and personal development. The idea behind this is project, funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner, is to promote citizenship and promote an interest in volunteering. On 29 March under this project, Thringstone Primary visited The Meadows and took Easter eggs and daffodils and read out their poems.
- Discussion took place on the **woodland management** at Gracedieu and Cademan. There was also a lot of talk about social media and whilst it was an idea to have classes to show people who are not familiar with this technology how to use it, not everybody will WANT to use it.



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New information:

- **Thringstone Bowling Club** is looking for new members. If you are between 9 and 90 years of age, please pop along any Wednesday morning around 10.30am and have a look around, or get in touch with Michael Carrington on 07768 914748. Bowling is great physical activity and also a sociable game to play. Friendlies are played on a Saturday and league games on Mondays, Wednesday and Thursdays. All welcome. We are told that they used to have a thriving junior section, but only 2 still play. They have all the equipment for youngsters who want to have a go at bowling.
- **Fly tipping** – There has been an increase in fly tipping on the Woodside estate. We understand that Environmental Protection are dealing with this.
Church Wall – Nita has twice spoken to Rob Garner from LCC Highways about the problems with the church wall being down. He said that he has sent a stack of stuff to the vicar showing that the wall is theirs. FoT had already done that before the wall fell down, and his assertion was that the wall wasn't the responsibility of the church because their solicitors had nothing to say it was. Rob said there was a lot of stuff in Highways Records showing that the church built the wall, at the time it was on their land, and that they were responsible for its maintenance and repair, but the church is still not getting back to either council on this issue, so he said it is just a waiting game. We told him that we had found someone who had initially shown an interest in rebuilding the wall at the cost of about £4k, but he had since withdrawn over issues of liability. Rob said that the wall being down is creating problems for older people getting into the church, especially people from The Meadows, and whilst the footpath is technically closed, it is still being used by people, who are just walking past the rubble. Rob did say that, with a similar issue in Kegworth, it took 2 years before anything materialised. He suggested that the wall could be rebuilt and another wooden structure put in place, as a temporary basis, to keep it stable. Nita pointed out that the wall had been repaired by county before, and gave him names of people involved (who have now retired). Nita suggested this created a precedent and also pointed out that the rubble was obscuring the footpath which is a county requirement to sort. At this stage, Rob said Nita should send as much information to county as possible for him to take to his managers, as it was now something they should deal with.... Nita had suggested a GoFundMe page could be set up to help the church with the costs, if the cost is an issue. Geoff Walker said that he would help with this through his Instagram connections if it happened. Nita did have a meeting arranged with Rev. Walker, but this had to be cancelled, and another one will be arranged when convenient for all concerned.
- **Gracedieu Manor** - 2 Roman Catholic Statues – of Virgin Mary and Pope St Gregory 1, which were commissioned and probably produced by Augustus Pugin around 1848 - are likely to be removed to Ratcliffe College, since the FCV Academy who have purchased the manor have no religious connections and Ratcliffe College is an independent Catholic school and has a Pugin chapel.
- **Centre** - Having finished work on improving the downstairs kitchen, we understand that Tony Dandy and Hywel Tidley are scraping off the paint from the **windows** to the building with a view to then repainting them, as this does not form part of the grant application currently being considered.
- **Tanya Coulson** – Thringstone shot putter Tanya is currently ranked 5th in the world in her class and won gold medal recently to take the W45 Shot Put British Masters Indoor Champion title. Well done!
- **Chairs Report**
Emails received/sent: Various from people with whom we regularly share information. Various fly tipping reported, as usual.
Promotion: We have **745 twitter followers**, which is 3 more than last month, and **1,999 facebook followers**, which is 24 more than last month.



Other – water leak reported to Severn Trent on Lbro Rd service road. Road closed off to effect repair.

Public liability insurance renewed with instalments from 15 April at no extra cost.

Welcome to our new member **Hannah Richards**.

What's On

6 April – **Charles Booth Centre** – Easter Egg Hunt.

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 Blood Cancer UK.

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

14 April – Open mic at **Charles Booth Centre** from 7.30pm.

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.

15 April – **Gracedieu Park Cricket Club** – NatWest club day- help the club get ready for the coming season. 1pm.

19 April – **Charles Booth Centre** – new performing through play session for 6mths – 5 years.

9.30am-10.15am weekly. £5 with sibling discounts. Contact Ellie to book at

rayofstarsNWL@yahoo.com

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.

8 May – **Charles Booth Centre** – Street party from 12 noon. Bring your own food. All welcome.

8 May – **Friends of Thringstone** litter pick from The Green at 10am – 12 noon. Sticks provided.

14 May – **Gracedieu Priory walk** from The Bull's Head car park at 3pm. £3 per person

14 May – Swannington Village Hall – Plant sale 11am – 1pm in aid of Hospice Hope

18 May – **Gracedieu Priory walk** from The Bull's Head car park at 10am. £3 per person

24 May – **Gracedieu Priory walk** from The Bull's Head car park at 6pm. £3 per person .

8, 9 and 10 June - **Charles Booth Centre** - Thringstone Panto and Drama Society present Song Contest – Tickets £10 adults, children £8, starts at 7.30pm. Book on ticketsource.co.uk/tpads or ring 0333 666 3366. Bar will be open.

Finance Report

| | | | |
|---|----------------|--|----------------|
| Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float) | 2566.13 | | |
| Income | | Expenditure | |
| Membership | £4 | Broadband | 20.00 |
| total income to general fund | £4 | | £20 |
| | | Total general fund at month end | 2550.13 |

Web Report

The webmaster is continuing to work on updates.

Incident Report

- 2 March – brick thrown at a bungalow in Henson's Lane and something similar into the yard of Rye House. 3 lads seen running away.



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- 2 March – report of a stolen moped from a house in Millhouse Estate. Report then received of one being abandoned on the lane to the George and Dragon and kids on mopeds seen. Through the power of facebook, the moped was rescued by the person to whom it belonged. At the same time a gang of lads on mopeds was seen going into the woods. They stopped under the cattle arch, which upset a man out biking, who came out of the woods to ask how to get to the Bull's Head without having to ride through a gang of lads on mopeds. Same evening there was a report of a motorbike stolen from a house in Thringstone.
- 3 March - Car on Main St targeted by someone and pelted with fresh eggs.
- 21 March – dog attacked and killed by another dog that came out from a house on Dalkeith Walk.

History report

- Nita helped the Snr. Conversation Officer for NWLDC trace the families of 3 graves at **Mt. St. Bernard** belonging to the Worswick family of Birstall and Normanton Halls.
- Nita has been working with the **Cook family** on their family history. This branch of Cook's married into the Twigg family about whom we have written previously. Bill and Sally Cook (nee Twigg) were Old Time Dance teachers at the centre in the 1970s as well as at Oaks in Charnwood. Their daughter Susan married local PC Terry Weston, about whom we have also written in the past. We now have a photo of Sally and some of the Cook family.
- Nita's research into **Thringstone's Toc H** has shown that Philip Emmerson set up the branch on a year's probationary period with the opening meeting being held at Thringstone House in November 1959 under the chairmanship of Austin Sykes. 15 other local Toc H branches attended the opening ceremony along with Rev Fred Parker from Coalville. During the probationary period, visits had been made to Staunton Harold Home, to Markfield hospital and to the retired and sick of Thringstone. Having only 7 members, there was a plea for more to join and Mr Sykes gave thanks to **Philip Emmerson**, son of Jabez Emmerson who had, in the 1920s, started the Coalville Branch, for starting the Thringstone branch off. The aims of TOC H were fair-mindedness, fellowship, service and the building of the Kingdom of God. The TOC H lamp was given to Austin Sykes and the ceremony of light was carried out by Philip Emmerson in total darkness. The following members were initiated – Austin Sykes, William Brotherhood, William Brooks, Arnold Hollis, George Hollis, George Robinson and Harry Wright. Further research has shown that Philip Emmerson's dad, **Jabez Emmerson**, known as Skipper, who lived in Coalville, was Toc H vice president for years and president in 1979. He was also a local magistrate, worked with the police authority, and was a prison visitor. His Toc H obituary from 1980, which we have in our archives, is well worth a read. In November 1961, Thringstone's Toc H decided to correspond with an African branch, adopt a leper boy and pay for his medical treatment, plus tidy up and gravel the paths at St Andrew's and organise a series of whist drives to pay for all this. One of the whist drives raised £4 which was sent to Dr Bernardos for a Christmas party for boys. In December 1961 it was reported that the following people were elected as committee - Chairman and treasurer George Hollis, Secretary John William Brooks, Pilot J W Brotherhood, job master and scribe Ted Chamberlain, Padre Rev Willis from St Andrew's, conference delegate Philip Emmerson. This is the last bit of information we can find about Thringstone's Toc H, and the head office for the charity can't find anything else either. They wonder what has happened to the minute books and lamp. We have asked Whitwick Historical Group if they have any knowledge, since it would seem that the meetings were held in a hut somewhere opposite where Colledge's Florists now stands. Further research has shown that Philip Emmerson and family lived at one time in Clover Place, and his son **David Emmerson** played for Thringstone Miners Welfare FC for a time. He was a winger, was captain in 1974 and won the leading goal scorer award in 1976. Nita went to see him and had a chat, and we subsequently got 3 lots of photos showing mainly Toc H in Coalville, which we have shared with Coalville History Society. He did say that his dad, Philip, took down the Toc H hut, and moved it to his garden.
- **Aug 1787** – The freeholders interested in the commons, waste lands and old enclosures of Thringstone were asked to meet at the house of William Merriman, the sign of **The Bull's Head**, rather than the Red Lion as previously advertised on '14 August at 11 o'clock in the forenoon' to



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discuss the best ways and means of enclosing the said commons and waste lands. This confirms that William Merriman was at the pub at this time, as we mentioned in recent bulletins.

- **Aug 1837** – **Nathaniel Green** aged 43 violently assaulted **Joseph Richards** of Thringstone and stole silver and other articles in an attack in June. The two had been drinking at the Rose and Crown in Thringstone and were en route to Sheepshead. Half way there when they were near a bye-land, Green disappeared leaving Richards on his own and about a quarter of a mile later, Richards was set upon by 2 men, one being Green, and was knocked down and kicked in the head rendering him dazed. He then realised that his basket had been emptied and silver and half-pences had gone from his waistcoat pocket. The landlady at the Rose and Crown said that they had both been drinking and Green had asked to carry Richards' basket, but he'd refused. Two witnesses were called who testified they had seen the two quarrelling en route to Sheepshead but they had been so intoxicated, they wouldn't have known what they were doing. Verdict - not guilty.
- **April 1978** – In an attempt to keep the Jubilee feeling alive and well in Thringstone, a new group, called **Thringstone Action Group**, has been formed to revive the close knit community for which the village was known in former years. The chairman of the group, Jerry Roberts, said that he wanted people from all walks of life to join their ranks. With the village growing in number, he felt that there was a tendency for people to segregate themselves or isolate themselves rather than becoming part of the community. He would like to see a group of people willing to take people to doctors' surgeries or collect prescriptions and set up a village horticultural festival again, as there had been in the past. Vice-chair of the group is John Lloyd, secretary Alan Lucas and treasurer Steve Watson. The group will meet monthly in the Methodist Church Hall.
- **June 1978** – A youth club in Thringstone, the idea of **Thringstone Action Group**, started in June at Thringstone Miners Welfare. At the first meeting, 74 youngsters between the ages of 13 and 17 enrolled. Jerry Roberts, chairman of the Action Group, said that Mr Stephen Walker would be taking over the running of the group assisted by Mrs Millie White and Mrs Audrey Hudson. A programme of activities has already been planned to include a visit to Skegness and a possible trip to the motor show. The young people have all said that they would like to help out in Thringstone, especially in helping the elderly. At the village gala at the end of July, they will help out with anything asked of them, and have 2 stalls to raise funds. By the end of July, there was a waiting list to join the youth club, which already had 80 members. Ian Bull, who chaired a meeting to discuss this, said that the Miners Welfare was bursting at the seams. It was felt that the best thing to do would be to contact the local education authority, rather than speculate on whether the Community Centre would be able to help, or whether that too would need an extension. Rev Matthews said that during the past few weeks, members of the youth club had helped tidy the vicarage garden, for which he was most grateful. A rummage sale and Christmas fair are being planned.
- **May 1979** – **Thringstone Action Group** were asking for bigger litter bins for the village, and repairs to some roads and footpaths. A letter to this effect had been sent to NWLDC. In a leaflet distributed around the village, they were considering doing a monthly leaflet drop detailing what was on in the village and matters of news and concern.
- **Jan 1991** – Thringstone couple Mike and Maggie Brown have set up a group called **Teenagers in Crisis** to help support parents trying to cope with problem youngsters. It started when a woman's daughter ran away, and the Brown's son knew the girl concerned. It was discovered that whilst there were plenty of organisations there to help the youngsters, there was nothing to help the parents.
- **Oct 1992** – A telephone hotline from the **Thringstone Teenagers in Crisis** base was set up. Around 5 parents a day contact the group for help with their teenagers and the issues range from drugs to crime and truancy. Whilst not being professionals, the Brown's know other organisations and signpost callers to help.

Next meeting 6 April at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre