



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR MAY 2023

News.

Monthly litter pick total – 164 bags removed by 7 people against **122 bags** for the same month last year. Thanks to those who gave Nita some carrier bags, and to Thringstone Miners Social Centre for helping with this too.

Remember that we have a **community litter pick on 8 May** at 10am from The Green for 2 hours max. All welcome.

Notes from meeting on 6 April for the benefit of those not on email who did not get this when sent out. **UPDATES** are given where relevant.

There were 5 present at our meeting, and 6 apologies. The meeting lasted an hour.

- **Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club** now have a defibrillator which was fitted at the end of March following a year of fundraising during which they raised in excess of £1000. **UPDATE:** The new playing shirt for the team was seen for the first time on 21 April.
- We have asked Charles Booth Centre whether they want to work with FoT and FOGDP on having a tent at **Picnic in the Parks** on 18 June. We are awaiting a response before deciding what we are doing on this, as obviously we need help putting up the gazebo that Bill stores for us, and help with the manning of the stall. **UPDATE:** It seems unlikely that we will do the event this year due to lack of volunteers willing to help.
- We were invited to attend a **community funding briefing session** on 14 April by NWLDC. As Nita is unable to go to this, she asked for a member of the committee to go in her stead, and Sarah Baxter has agreed to go along and keep us posted. The fund for projects opened on 3 April and applications are accepted until 30 June. Projects obviously have to conform to a specific criteria, and also have a legacy with outputs and outcomes recognised from the start.
- Nita needs **carrier bags** for litter picking. These must be strong and with sturdy handles, but not bags for life please. Nita has bad grip due to arthritis, and can't hold a black bin liner to litter pick, hence wanting carrier bags from supermarkets. Anybody able to help? Please contact Nita if you can. **UPDATE:** Thank you to people who came forward to give carrier bags and to Thringstone Miners Social Centre for sending us some from Amazon.
- Since the start of covid, Nita has been ordering **protective gloves** for her to use whilst litter picking daily for the group and to give to others who request them from the litter picking team. These orders are usually about £22 every 2 months, and Nita has absorbed this cost herself. This was discussed by the meeting and it was felt that the group should pay for these. If anybody has any violent objections to this, please let us know. Nita currently has 200 of these which she has just



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ordered, so won't need to order any more for a couple of months, giving people the time to reply if they object to the group paying for this.

- Nita received an email from **Supporters for Carers** asking for help for someone in Talbot Street who had problems with their Virgin Media. After sending out emails to our membership, Tina Bakewell came forward to help her and the problem was fixed.
- Friends of **Grace Dieu Priory** are considering scattering wild flower seeds near to the brook in an area previously covered in brambles. They wish to firstly look to see what existing wild flowers are there, as these are part of the natural heritage of the area, in the same way as the priory is archeological heritage. If carried out, this could add to the beauty of the area generally.
- The de Lisle family have done their first **mowing of The Green** and put killer down on the flowerbed which is to be removed. In the meantime, Mike Statham has had to call time on his **gardening work for our group**. We therefore **URGENTLY** need a volunteer or volunteers who will weed down Drury Lane, cut back the bushes there once a year and generally make sure it looks nice, as well as the flowerbed near the benches on The Green and down Brook Lane. Bill Enser said along with a friend of his, he would take a look at this over the weekend and see if it was something he could possibly help with. Nita had also received an offer of help with weeding down Brook Lane by Facebook messenger, and had replied accordingly. If anybody else wishes to help out, please let Nita know. **UPDATE:** Bill Enser has agreed to look after the flowerbed on The Green and down Drury Lane with the help of another chap from Henson's Lane, and our new member Dave Pickersgill saw the request for help on facebook has agreed to look after the area down Brook Lane. We also notice that the de Lisle family have mown The Green twice in April and the former flowerbed has been seeded.
- As part of writing the Thringstone Bauble to send to Community Voice, Nita asked **what is happening at the centre**, and found out that there is to be a Eurovision party at the centre on 13 May from 7pm. A big screen will allow people to enjoy the evening with friends in pleasant surroundings. A similar big screen event is happening for the coronation on 6 May. We were also given the dates of 21, 22 and 23 July as the 3 day Music Festival for 2023.
- We have managed to go over the 2000 mark with **facebook followers**, helped in no small way by Nita posting photos from Thringstone Primary every day for 2 weeks.
- Pam Porter said that she, along with others, had planted a lot of **daffodils** along Gracedieu Road, and had been alarmed that a lady and her child were picking these as they walked round, as 'they were there for everybody'. Nita said this has happened numerous times with FoT planting in the past, and she was not surprised. Bill said he and his mate he had planted a lot of bulbs at the bottom of Main Street. These were growing well.
- **Litter pick on 8 May** – discussion took place on the routes to be used on the day. Pam and Bill wish to do their own roads en route to The Green which is fine. Nita hoped that we would be able to do some picking in the woods which is often missed out with regular picks, and did say that she would not be picking her normal route on the day of the community litter pick. All bags need to be taken to the gate to the sustrans track near the play area on Melrose Road for collection. Nita will also endeavour to take photos for press purposes etc. Caroline has 6 litter pick sticks to bring, Pam has a similar number plus high viz vests, Caroline has 60 bags and Nita has about 6 sticks to bring on the day. All will be welcome to come and join in with the community litter pick.
UPDATE: Members of Thringstone Scouts may be able to come and join us on the day.
- There was general discussion about the new proposed **Eco Park** on the Hermitage Leisure Centre site. Various things about this had been posted online for people to then discuss and talk to the council. This prompted a lot of discussion about the fact that not everybody uses online sources, and where are the **posters and information leaflets**, not only from the council but also from the centre. There never seems to be any promotion, other than online, from the centre, and some people felt that the coffee morning should be promoted more widely than just online.



- **Centre AGM** - there was mention made that the AGM was changing date due to the WI meeting on the same night. This does not appear to be the case, as it is advertised online and the centre's website as taking place on 18 April at 7.30pm. **UPDATE:** AGM held. See below.

NEW INFORMATION:

- One of our members has informed us that visitors wishing to go to the **chapel at Gracedieu Manor** are unable to do this at the moment, as the chapel is being restored and repaired.
- **Funding opportunity** – Sarah Baxter kindly attended a funding workshop for us to talk with NWLDC about **community funding** available to Thringstone. Sarah is now going to help Nita put together a bid and also a survey revolving around creating more of a memorial garden down Drury Lane, as was our intention last year. The bid needs to show that volunteer involvement will take place, and that people in the village are in support of our plans. Applications close in June.
- **Gracedieu Brook** – Along with another lady, Nita reported hedge and tree cuttings were in the brook down Brook Lane to the **Environment Agency** by telephone. Should anybody else have concerns about things like this, the phone number is 0800 807060.
- **Belton's Maypole Magazine** – Nita has been asked to write historical articles for this monthly magazine, and has submitted one to cover two months on the subject of Charles Booth's founding of Whitwick and Thringstone Nurses Association in 1899, which we covered some months back in our bulletin. She has also been invited to submit other articles on any subject going forward.
- **Centre** – The **April coffee morning** raised £112.90 for Blood Cancer UK. Now that the warm hub has ended, every Wednesday between 10am and 1pm there will be a **community café** at the centre. All are welcome to come along and have a drink and a chat. The centre is installing an **extra toilet upstairs** by removing part of the kitchen, which is too big for modern requirements anyway despite having been totally renovated a few years back. They may possibly insulate **the loft space** in the future to add to their green agenda, and also are intending to **reline the carpark**. The bid in for a heritage lottery grant is for windows and a new boiler, which will be more eco friendly than the present boiler. The windows in the old farm house part of the centre will be secondary double glazed to retain the character of that part of the building. Nita attended **the centre's AGM** at which several questions were asked about the centre. Details of the presentations given by the trustees can be found on the centre's website, but if anybody needs a copy, please ask Nita as she has downloaded them. Nita can also provide anybody who is interested with details of the questions asked and the replies given.
St. Andrew's Church – We understand that 53 graves in the churchyard are unstable and relatives need to look to see if their family graves are affected. We also understand that the choir pews are to be removed to provide room for children and families. With regard to the wall issue, Nita had a lengthy meeting on 21 April with the vicar and churchwarden, and it was felt that it was up to the county council to repair the wall, not the church. Nita had been asked by the county council to give them contact details for the vicar and benefice, so told the vicar and he will contact them himself. Comparisons were made between that wall and the one on Drury Lane, but Nita explained that the ownership of the wall there had been taken on by the Co-op when the Rose and Crown was knocked down, and repairs to that wall were dealt with by the Co-op. For further details on the wall near the church, please contact Nita direct.
Old School House – Opening their own residents' shop on 6 May.
- **Chairs Report**
Emails received/sent: Usual exchanges of information. Various fly tipping reported, as usual.
Promotion: We have **750 twitter followers**, which is 5 more than last month, and **2,016 facebook followers**, which is 17 more than last month.
Other – Welcome to our new member Dave Pickersgill.

What's On



- 6 May – **Charles Booth Centre** – coronation event with large screen, bouncy castle, cakes and children’s entertainment
- 7 May – **Thringstone Members Club** – 12 noon – 3pm – carvery and grill, kids’ meals, bouncy castle, music, soft play. All welcome
- 8 May – **Charles Booth Centre** – Street party from 12 noon – 4pm. Bring your own food. All welcome.
- 8 May – **Friends of Thringstone** litter pick from The Green at 10am – 12 noon. Sticks provided.
- 13 May – **Charles Booth Centre** – Eurovision party with big screen. Evening kicks off at 7pm.
- 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
- 18 May – **Charles Booth Centre** – Thringo Bingo from 7pm.
- 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.
- 21, 22 July – **Charles Booth Centre** - Thringstone Music Festival.
- 29 July – **Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre** – Ace Community Theatre Craft fayre from 11am – 3pm.

Finance Report

Thanks go to Andy Brown for carrying out an examination of our accounts and to Anne Statham for doing the work to get them presented. The actual report will be available to view at our AGM in June, but states that the accounts have been meticulously maintained in great detail and to a high standard. Thank you to both Andy and to Anne.

MEMBERSHIP IS NOW DUE. Many thanks to those who have already paid and to those who have spoken to Nita when she has called round and said such positive things about FoT . If you’ve paid by bank transfer before, you can do so again, but please email Nita to tell her this, and put your name as the subject. Membership remains at £4 per person. Want to pay by bank transfer for the first time? Contact Nita for the relevant sort code and bank account details..

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	2550.13		
Income		Expenditure	
Memberships	£140	Broadband	20.00
Donations	£71	Public Liability insurance	15.70
total income to general fund	£211		£35.70
		Total general fund at month end	2,725.43

Web Report

The webmaster is continuing to work on updates.

Incident Report

- Ingles FC have put something out on facebook with a photo showing children climbing onto the football stand that backs onto Homestead Road, asking them not to do this, as if the roof gave way, they could incur serious injuries. For years, kids have done this by climbing onto the sheds on the Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club with similar warnings.
- 22 April – man believed to be involved in a hit and run around the area of The Green. Sustained facial injuries.



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History report

- Nita has been spending many hours researching the history of homes down **Brook Lane**, and found some new information. Ideally it would be nice to do a House Through Time series on the properties down there. One of the interesting things is that Rose Cottage was named after the Rose family, and the land to the property originally went further up the lane (there is a small bungalow now on part of it), and also further down to the brook. The land on which 10 and 12 Brook Lane are built was sold off after Walter Rose died without issue in 1994/5 and the property seems to have passed to grandchildren of Mrs Mary Ellen Rose through her daughter Irene's family. Irene (later Mrs Waring) had been born before Fred and Mary Ellen Rose married and was not Fred Rose's child. A similar situation with gardens being sold off happened with regard to The Old Manor House. Nita has also been looking at Brook Terrace (Gracedieu Rd) and the residents there.
- Nita now has a list of all **landowners in Thringstone** in 1873. Largest was John Potter with 201 acres with Mary Hurst of **Thringstone House** being next with 46 acres, 2 rods and 32 perches.
- **June 1876 – William Holt**, brickmaker of Thringstone, was in court charged with assault by 19 year old Rose Hannah Hodges, his servant who had been in his employment for 6 months. It was alleged that Mr Holt, albeit worse for drink, got into bed with Miss Hodges on 8 June. Mr Holt, a married man with a heavily pregnant wife, left his own bed, went downstairs for a drink, and claimed he had got into the wrong bed on his return upstairs. The bed was that of Miss Hodges and Mr Holt's 5 year old child. Miss Hodges felt whiskers on her face, and got out of bed and fetched the nurse who brought a light. She then lay awake until dawn when she returned to her home which was 2 miles away. Mr Holt said that he had not taken any liberties with Miss Hodges, and in all the time she had been at his house, he had behaved properly. He said he was very sorry for the incident, but had come home at 4pm that afternoon worse for drink and had just gone into the wrong room on the same landing. He was fined 5 shillings plus costs or 2 month's hard labour, but was locked up by default.
- **March 1899** – At the same time as appointing parish constables and assessors for the year, the parish council recommended that **Annie Bradley**, aged 20 daughter of James and Kate of Main Street, be recommended for the Lady Beaumont Charity, or failing Annie, her sister Elizabeth, aged 17. Both girls were dressmakers, and at that time the charity offered apprenticeships for girls to improve on their trade. On 1 Nov 1902, Annie married William Wilkins at St Andrew's.
- **1921 census, Cross Lanes cottages (opposite Bull's Head)** – Joe Isaac Hunt, wife Elizabeth and son who is an out of work miner at Snibston colliery. Also Alf and Laura Webster his father William and their son Ambrose. Alf is an out of work miner at South Leics. pit. Also Arthur and Clara Wilkins, their daughter Ada Betts and her husband John Henry and their son Dennis. Arthur is the under gardener at Grace Dieu Manor. John Henry works at Stablefords in Coalville.
- **Jan 1934 – The Thringstone players** put on a 2 act play called The Diamond Marble at Thringstone House. The play, written and adapted by Col. Booth and Tom Macauley from an original story by Sidney Hodges, was well received. Mr and Mrs Whitmill were mainly responsible for the presentation. The orchestra was conducted by Mr H Rudkin and Miss Renee Watts was at the piano. The play made £40 which would be split between the LRI and Loughborough Hospital.
- **1936** - Thringstone became an independent and autonomous **civil parish** in 1875. This was dissolved in 1936 when outlying parts of the parish were transferred to other surrounding parishes and the remainder was transferred to the civil parish and Urban District of Coalville.
- **June 1936 – John Mee Kidger**, farmer, of Lily Bank, Thringstone was returned to Ashby Rural District Council as councillor for Coleorton with a majority of 75. No candidate had been nominated at the recent election which had come about as a result of boundary changes. Mr Kidger had been a member of the Ashby Rural District Council for 2 years and a former member of Thringstone Parish Council for a number of years. The election had a 50% turnout.
- **Aug 1937** – The death of 21 month old Thringstone boy **Douglas Arthur Rennocks** was described at an inquest at the LRI. Mabel Rennocks, his mother, said she had been boiling hot water for washing, and had carried a bucket into the kitchen when she saw her son playing with coal on the doorstep. She told him to come in and he ran into the bucket, knocking it over himself. He died of shock after suffering burns to his chest, arms and back. A verdict of accidental death was given.



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- **Oct 1959** - Brenda Merrill Farmer aged 28 of Loughborough Road, Whitwick was charged with 5 cases of altering duplicate receipts from **Thringstone Co-op** with intent to defraud. This came to light because a Thringstone housewife, Norah Annie Hammond of Homestead Road, kept all her receipts in order to check her 'divi' and found that it was considerably lower than she expected. The total involved was £24 16 shillings and 11 pence and covered the period from September 1948 to March 1959. When she discovered the discrepancy, Mrs Hammond went to see the chief clerk, who then went through the duplicate receipts to discover what had happened. Mrs Hammond said she spent between £5 and £6 per week at the Co-op shop and when she checked her half yearly dividend, it was far less than her receipts suggested. Mrs Farmer, who had worked at the Thringstone shop, denied she had done this, and said that the writing on the receipts was not hers, but was found guilty and was put on probation for 12 months.
- **Feb 1961** – **Thringstone RBL** had a meeting at which the following officers were elected – Col T Welch president, A E Gough Chairman, Oliver Cresswell vice chairman, W Parker secretary, G W Musson treasurer. Service committee – A E Gough chairman, D Gallacher vice chairman, R Henshaw secretary, Col T Welch pensions, Ernest Grice, employment, entertainments, section and standard bearer. General committee R Harrold, G Wilson, P Grice, R Robinson, A A Pickering, E A King, H Challoner and T Murfin.
- **Oct 1963** – **Len Higgs** of 13 Lbro Road bought a safe at auction at a knockdown price, because it was locked. On getting a locksmith to open the safe, he found that it contained old documents relating to financial dealings, a faded copy of the London Times from 22 June 1815 which contained the first eye witness account to reach England of the Battle of Waterloo. Mr Higgs wondered whether the paperwork in the safe was actually worth more than he had paid for the safe!
- **Oct 1963** – Concern was expressed over proposals to cut the cost of building **200 homes for miners** in Thringstone by £34,000. A report said that unless the cost of the build were reduced, the cost of the rents would be £3 10 shillings a week, which miners and their families would be unable to afford. One of the cost cutting measures is to change the type of heating offered. It has been decided not to have full hot air central heating in each house but to rely on one radiator heated by a back boiler, which will reduce the cost of the build by £25,000 on its own.
- **Nov 1967** – At a meeting of the local licensed victualler's association in Thringstone, the talk was to try to get the **breathalyser law** reversed. Takings in all pubs in the Coalville area had dropped by 20-25 percent a week and the further away from the town you got the worse the percentages. Those in isolated villages feared they would have to close. Each member agreed to give 10 shillings towards a fighting fund to raise money for an independent inquiry into the relationship between drinking and road accidents. It was felt that this was very slight, and the meeting heard that tests were being carried out at one university to find an antidote to the effects of alcohol on the body. The meeting heard that in some instances, just having a dirty number plate would lead to a vehicle being stopped and its driver breathalysed. Customers from the area were to be invited to contribute to the fighting fund and to support the petition into an independent investigation into the relationship between drinking and driving.
- **April 1976** – **Freda Kelly** and her son Peter Vince of Melrose Road received **an award from Royal Humane Society** for the rescue of people following the overturning of a boat on the River Soar near Barrow on 4 August 1975. 16 year old Peter Vince dived in and swam towards the upturned boat which had capsized when a swimmer had tried to get into the boat containing 4 people. Peter managed to get a 4 year old girl and a woman to the bank. The 4 year old girl was not breathing, but he gave her artificial respiration and she recovered. Another woman got to the bank on her own. A man (the swimmer) and a 7 year old girl were still missing, so Freda dived in to try to find them. The two bodies were later found. The water was 12 feet deep, there was a strong current and heavy weeding at the bottom of the river.

Next meeting 4 May at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre