



# 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 JUNE 2023**

### **AGM**

Meeting held on 1 June - 7 people present, 3 apologies

Chairman: Nita Pearson	Secretary: Nita Pearson
Vice Chair: Geoff Wilson	Treasurer: Geoff Wilson
History: Ann Petty	Environment: Bill Enser
Publications: Janet Stevenson	Membership Secretary: Sue Rowbottom
Events Assist: Kathy Mardon	Thringstone Creates: Sarah Baxter
Admin Assist: Vacant	Funding assist: Vacant
Social media assist: Vacant	

The gardening team, book keeper and webmaster, all of whom we wouldn't be without, sit outside the committee structure, but we thank them for the work they do for the group and would like to thank Mike Statham for all he has done to help with gardening in the last few years.

The committee were voted in en bloc. Proposed by Ann Petty seconded by Bill Enser. All in favour.

**End of year accounts.** An examination of the accounts has taken place as mentioned last month. If anybody wants a copy of the statement, please contact Nita direct.

**Chairman's AGM report** – Nita has provided a chairman's report [which is attached.](#)

### **Other business**

**Monthly litter pick total – 191 bags** removed by 13 people (excluding those who came on the community litter pick) against **119 bags** for the same month last year. This is a record for us – the highest number in a month we've seen before is 188 in May 2021. Over the last 12 months, we have removed 1719 bags of litter from the village and woodlands. Those present said that this was a sad indictment on society. Nita has done some press releases on this.

**Thank you** to everybody who has renewed their membership. There are a handful of people yet to pay, and we hope that they will continue to support us going forward by renewing their memberships in due course.

**Notes from meeting on 4 May** [for the benefit of those not on email](#) who did not get this when sent out. **UPDATES** are given where relevant, including what was said at the 1 June meeting. There were 8 people present, and 5 apologies.

- **Memberships** - Thank you to all who have paid their memberships for another year. Nita is continuing to collect memberships, but still has a way to go. Those who wish to pay by cheque



## The Friends of Thringstone

should note that cheques need to be made out to Friends of Thringstone and NOT to Nita herself. Those who want to pay by bank transfer can get details of the account from Nita.

- **Bauble** - The Bauble newsletter is in this month's Community Voice magazine, although, it does intimate that the music festival would be 3 days rather than 2, as this was sent before notification was received from the centre that this had changed.
- **Wall by St Andrew's** - Nita had an email today (4 May) from the Highways officer at County Hall who was originally dealing with the matter of the wall by St Andrew's, asking, yet again, for contact details for the vicar as she was told they keep ringing and get no response. Having sent the vicar a copy of an earlier email asking the same question, to which he agreed to respond at our meeting last month, it concerns Nita that she is again being asked to help get some dialogue going. She sent a copy of the latest email to the vicar, again, and replied to the officer, giving both the email address for the vicar as well as two contact numbers for them to try. Nita got a thank you from the officer concerned, and also from the vicar. **UPDATE:** County council rang Nita to say they were removing the stones in 2 weeks (from 11 May). Nobody was taking ownership of the wall. Nita made several calls, and was initially told that £5k would be given from the unused part of the budget of Cllr. Tony Gillard. This offer was then withdrawn on 1 June, as the council felt that giving this money to rebuild the wall might lead to them being seen as responsible for its upkeep. Nita had previously spoken to 2 wall builders, In the meantime, Nita was hopeful that the stones might be moved by local scouts and put in the churchyard in the position requested by the vicar, but Whitwick scouts have refused to help due to insurance implications if any of the scouts were injured in moving the stones. County Hall emailed Nita on 30 May and have agreed to hold back on getting the stones taken to the tip, but will not move the stones to the churchyard. If the stones go to the tip, the cost to rebuild the wall will go sky high. The church are reluctant to help with all this organisation to get the stones moved/the wall rebuilt for fear that it might seem to indicate they are taking ownership of the issue. Nita is trying to get people to help move the stones on 4 June but will ask people to agree that they are doing this at their own risk. A GoFundMe page will then be done.
- **Litter bins** - Nita was offered 3 waste bins from Coleorton Litter Wombles who had them spare, and in turn offered them to Friends of Grace Dieu Priory to put round the ruins so that people can use them in the summer. This was discussed by them at their recent meeting but they thought there may be difficulty affixing stakes for the bins to be attached into the site because of English Heritage rulings, and because nobody volunteered to empty these (and Nita has already said she won't because she already empties the poo bin daily), they told Nita that they will not be taking them from the Wombles.
- **Viaduct** - At the Friends of Grace Dieu Priory meeting, there was a discussion about the graffiti under the viaduct which isn't pleasant. There has been graffiti there for years, and Nita and Bernard once had a go at getting rid of this, but it has increased recently, and there is other graffiti under the cattle arch. The meeting decided to investigate having a painted mural to cover over the graffiti, despite hearing that a similar piece of 'artwork' by Whitwick Historical Group's cellars was covered with graffiti within days of being finished.
- **Events** - We are not going to do Picnic in the Parks this year due to lack of volunteers.
- **UK SPF Funding bid** - Nita had made a start on filling in the paperwork for a grant from this project but needs to get some quotes in before completing the rest of the paperwork. This would be to continue to provide a memorial garden area down Drury Lane. Bill agreed to get some prices for Bernard's tree and also for equipment for the funding bid. The situation regarding the tidying up of the existing planting was discussed, and Bill was going to talk to his friend and sort this going forward. **UPDATE:** Bid sent off but there were problems with it, and a lot more work was needed before it could be considered. Nita decided to withdraw the bid as we have sufficient monies in our own budget.
- **Gracedieuettes Ladies Softball Cricket** team are looking for new members to join their ranks. They play every Monday in the cricket season at Gracedieu Park Cricket Club starting at 6pm for



## The Friends of Thringstone

an hour and a half. It looks to be good fun, and there is a great social element to it. Newcomers should just turn up – any age, any size, any fitness level.

- **Thringstone Miners Social Centre** has a new clubhouse manager – Carla Brooks, who is working with the centre as a volunteer. If you want to contact them to book a room for any event, please contact [tringstoneminers@gmail.com](mailto:tringstoneminers@gmail.com) or you can message them through their facebook page or ring 07956 889394.
- **Thringstone Soul Club** continues to operate from Thringstone Members Club on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday night of every month from 8pm until midnight. It is £4 entry on the door. They have some well known DJs coming along during the rest of the year, and are a friendly bunch.
- **Centre** - Gresley Male Voice Choir performed to a sold out audience at Charles Booth Centre, and are likely to be booked to perform again at Christmas. There was considerable discussion regarding things at the centre, and it was suggested that Nita do a letter to the trustees on the issues raised.
- **Centre trustees** – Nita was asked to tell the membership who the trustees are. This information can be found from going onto the centre's website and looking there, but for information Dr Amanda Berry is chair, Pauline Pollard is secretary, and other trustees are Tony Dandy, Kate Reddington, Hywel Tidley and Markas Marriott.

### NEW INFORMATION

- **FoT Litter pick** – Thank you to Caroline, Pam and Ann for taking over the organisation of this when Nita was ill. Thank you also to all the people who came out to remove such a lot of rubbish from the area, to include springs, a shopping trolley which has been doing the rounds for a week or more, a chair and general rubbish. It was nice to have the help of 1<sup>st</sup> Thringstone Scouts as well.
- **Thanks** to Sarah for weeding down the church jitty.
- **Centre** - £143.50 was raised at the coffee morning on 12 May for Air Ambulance.
- **Grass on The Green** – Nita was approached by NWLDC about the agreements made to cut the grass on The Green way back in March, as NWLDC needed some formalised arrangement to cover asset and liability management. Nita said that FoT had taken on the 'asset' as we did with the flowerbed, the church jitty planting etc., and would deal with the necessary paperwork. Nita has therefore got to attend yet another meeting to discuss this further, despite having put in writing everything that was done to get us to this stage. There was some discussion on the matter of liabilities if a stone hits a car whilst the grass cutting is in place, but we have £6m public liability.
- **Thringstone Primary School** - are attending a graduation ceremony at Enderby Police HQ on 27 June as part of the Mini Police project.
- **Old School House** – Thanks to the 2 events that Tithe Close organised recently, £186 was raised for the Old School House. Well done Tithe Close!
- **Gracedieu Manor** – The proposed removal of statues from the chapel at Gracedieu Manor to Radcliffe College, mentioned in previous bulletins, has been blocked, as it would harm the building.
- **Morrisons** – Nita contacted Morrisons to ask if they would sponsor FoT with litter picking bags with handles. They gave 80 small black vac bags which can be used as long as there is nothing sharp or heavy for litter picking. Thank you to Morrisons.
- **Keep Britain Tidy** – Nita applied to this group for help with litter picking equipment some time ago, and got an email on 5 May offering a £30 voucher, which Nita then spent on some new stuff.
- **Wigston volunteer** – On 18 May we met up with Vicki from Wigston who has been coming over to this area regularly to walk her dog and litter picks in the woodlands. Despite our litter pick on 8 May, she managed to remove several large bags of rubbish, and even went into the stream to remove things blocking the watercourse by the bridge. She came out to Thringstone again on 18 and 25 May and again had been in the brook and cleared several bags from the woodland. Much appreciated.
- **Leicester company litter pick** - The day after having met Vicki, Nita met up with 6 men from a company in Leicester who were doing a volunteering day and given that one of their staff was from



Whitwick, had decided to litter pick Gracedieu Woods. Despite Vicki's efforts and our litter pick on 8 May, the company removed 12 black bags full of litter. The owner of the company said he would put them in his vehicle and take them to the tip.

- **Thringstone Members Club** – A new rock and roll club is coming to the venue on the last Saturday of the month at 7.30pm.
- **Keep Britain Tidy bags and tabbards** – Caroline has some of these for future use.

### Chairs Report

**Emails received/sent:** Usual exchanges of information. Various fly tipping reported, as usual.

**Promotion:** We have **750 twitter followers**, which is the same as last month, and **2,032 facebook followers**, which is 16 more than last month.

### What's On

2 June – **Charles Booth Centre**. Open mic 7.30pm start.

8 June – Charity coffee morning at Charles Booth centre in aid of Meadow Barn View. 10am – 12 noon. All welcome

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](http://ticketsource.co.uk/tpads) or ring 0333 666 3366. Bar will be open.

10 June – **Thringstone Primary school fete**. 10am – 2pm.

15 June – Charles Booth Centre – Speed Quiz. Starts at 7.30pm until 9pm, but get there for 7pm please. £2 on the door. Will need teams of 2-8 people to take part.

17 June – **Charles Booth Centre** – Cover Queens perform an ABBA Tribute. Show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the centre or go to [www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre)

24 June – **Thringstone Members Club** – Whiskey Jean and the Chasers plus the Rock and Roll Roadshow. Tickets £8. For more details go to [www.thringstonerocknroll.com](http://www.thringstonerocknroll.com) or ring Steve on 07821 78811.

9 July – **Gracedieu Priory walk** – meet at 3pm at Bull's Head car park. £3 per person. Part of the festival of archeology.

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>2725.43</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Memberships	£448	Broadband	20.00
Donations	£45	Public Liability insurance	15.70
<b>total income to general fund</b>	£493		£35.70
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>£3182.73</b>

### Web Report

The webmaster is continuing to work on updates.

### Incident Report

- 4 May – lady inadvertently left money in the ATM in **Thringstone Co-op**, and upon realising her mistake at the cash desk went back but the money had gone.
- 15 May – stones reportedly being thrown at windows of houses in **Booth Rd** by gang of youths
- 17 May – 3 youths with foreign accents found in garden to a house on **Whitwick Moor** looking at the car there. Seen off by a neighbour. One lad had a green bike. They went up towards Thringstone Green.



## The Friends of Thringstone

- 17 May – 11am older lady and young man were standing by the bus stop on **Lbro Rd** (Henson's Lane end) waiting for a bus to Lbro when a light blue car came, not a taxi firm, stopped, and the man driving it suggested they should both get in the car and he could take them to Shepshed. Since neither knew the man, they stepped back and refused. Police advise that nobody should get into a car driven by someone they don't know.
- 20 May – Young man lost a wallet with all his wages in **near Co-op**. On realising this, went back to where he thought he had dropped it (pulling something from his pocket) but the wallet was gone.
- 21 May – **Thringstone Miners Social Centre** found seats in the seated stand had been pulled from their moorings again - believed to be youths who climb into the ground. 48 hours later, volunteers discovered two youths trying to do the same thing again. They were 14/15 years of age. One wore a grey tracksuit, and the other a blue and white hoody and had a black bike which was lifted on the roof. They left when spotted. Police informed.
- 26 May – **Melrose Road** - A lady on Melrose Road was awakened by her dog barking at 4am, and went outside to see 4 men on motorbikes acting suspiciously near 2 Clyde Court. They had full motorbike gear on, and were carrying petrol cannisters. On seeing her, they ran off, leaving one of the motorbikes behind. She rang the police who came out quickly, and took the motorbike away, but left a helmet on the seat in the play area. It would seem that the men had arrived by car and the bikes had been stolen from another property in Melrose Road, where they had been stored in a shed, which had been broken into. The same morning at 6.15am, a man further round on Melrose Road found his van open, and tools had been taken. Please keep things locked, and don't leave tools in vans. Also, if anybody has any CCTV camera footage showing any of this, please contact the police and make this available to them for their enquiries.
- May sometime – two **dog attacks**. One at the Hare and Hounds where a member of staff was attacked by a dog in the pub, and taken to hospital (dog later destroyed) and another when a man entering the Co-op was attacked by a dog outside.

### History report

- **March 1824** – Mrs Merriman of **The Bull's Head** was selling her land tenancy of 17 acres, 1 rood and 30 perches in Charnwood Forest by auction.
- **Aug 1861**- A cricket match between 11 players under **Gilbert Hurst of Thringstone House** and Thringstone's James Kirby's 11 took place with the latter proving victorious. Mr Hurst's team was George Beniston, George Gough, Moore, Andrew Hurst, James Hall, Thomas Potter, Gilbert Hurst, James Hallam, J Henson, D Henson and Taylor. Mr Kirby's 11 were Joseph Bird, Samuel Wayte, William Fisher, Samuel Watts, William Trussell, A Wells, James Kirby, D Reed, William Wilkins, William Dobson.
- **Oct 1862** – **Eliza Kirby** charged Joseph Bradford with assaulting her by kicking her in the face at the Rose and Crown during Wakes Week. Eliza had been in the premises having a drink. Bradford admitted the charge but said that Kirby had called his sister foul names. Bradford was fined 16 shillings or 14 days.
- **Jan 1900** - 14 year old Herbert Gill of Sandholes was killed at Whitwick Colliery. It would seem he made contact with the haulage rope, which became detached from the wheels, struck him breaking his neck and legs and shooting him across to hit a wall. His body was returned home in a cart.
- **1921 census, Brook House, Gracedieu Road** – Emma Barker, son and his wife and grandson. Son Albert was out of work miner at South Leics. pit.
- **1921 census for Stordon Grange** – This farm was part of the Coalville Co-operative Society's farms and was run by Frank and Harriet Leedham. They had 6 children, and were helped on the farm by sons Geoffrey and Bernard and Walter Clark aged 66 from Essex.
- **1921 census – Elms Farm** – Charles and Esther Emily Rose and their 2 daughters and one son. Elms farm is another one linked to Coalville Co-operative Society.
- **1921 census – Kirby's Yard** - This was at the top of The Green behind what was Kirby's shop (the blue house). David Gough, butcher. Also Rebecca Hallam, 2 sons, 4 daughters and a grandchild.





One son (Leonard) was visiting from Yorkshire, and another son was an out of work miner from Coleorton.

- **Ernest Grice**, brother to Fred who was killed on 10 July 1944, was secretary for many years of the Thringstone branch of the Royal British Legion.
- **June 1945** – Repatriated POW, Thringstone's **Kenneth Gee**, was in court alongside fellow miners William White and Leonard Unwin regarding damage to a wall to the tune of £3. Gee told the court that he had been a POW for 3 and a half years and had had no beer at all in Germany. Going for a night out with friends, he said that the beer had got to him. The group had pushed stones off a wall for a distance of 65 yards, a fence had been thrown across the road and a gate knocked down. White and Unwin were fined £1 and 1s each and ordered to pay £1 each for the damage. Given that he had been a POW, Gee was just asked to pay £1 towards the repairs and the case against him was dismissed. In May 1945, Kenneth Gee along with another POW, Donald Hudson, had received £20 each from the Fox Inn Comforts Fund.
- **Oct 1945** – To celebrate the **end of the war**, Thringstone children were given a tea party at Thringstone House organised by the women of the Thringstone Co-operative Guild..
- **Jan 1946** – **Charles E Knox**, aged 50 of Main Street was imprisoned for 2 months for stealing £100 from the bank account of Brush Works in Loughborough. Mr Knox, who worked with the chief cashier, said that since April 1945, he had had custody of a special box used to pay out monies on occasion. The box usually contained £180. On 18 January, several thousands of pounds had been taken from the bank and put into separate areas, and it was at this time that the £100 was found to be missing. Mr Knox admitted that he had taken the £100 to replace money he had taken from his special box. He had been hoping to put the money back previously, but had been unable to do so, and needed to cover up his transgressions. Mr Knox had 4 children.
- **May 1946** – PC Leverett was lucky to escape injury when a chimney stack fell to the ground in front of him whilst he was cycling along Main Street. The property, occupied by Mr Knox and owned by George Sitdown of Broomleys Avenue, Coalville had been hit by lightning. The chimney stack was split in two and a large hole was made in the roof. Bricks and slates were scattered all over the road, but nobody was hurt.
- **Feb 1980** – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society** chairman Robert Waterfield presented cheques at a supper and dance held at the community centre, the money having come from the charity collections at the recent pantomime. A cheque for £450 was given to Gladys Gee for the Community Centre Fund, plus £80 to Coalville Children's Home and £80 to Loughborough Children's Home.
- **March 1980** – The Festival of Queens held at Marlborough Square in Coalville had as its entertainment the choir from **Thringstone Primary School** under the direction of Miss Pearl Horton. Other entertainment was provided by magician Brian Lee.
- **July 1980** – 14 years of fundraising is likely to finally see a wooden **scout hut** built next to Thringstone Community Centre, their present headquarters. £3500 had been raised by the committee responsible and a wooden building already bought. It was hoped that this would be in situ within the next 6 months. .
- **Oct 1980** – Marion Griffin, a tutor at King Edward 7<sup>th</sup>, could possibly be made redundant and this could threaten **Thringstone Community Centre**, where Miss Griffin had been working for some time said Michael Kirby, the college's acting principal. If Miss Griffin were to go, the future of the centre was in danger.
- **Nov 1980** – 4 members of **Thringstone's Royal British Legion** were presented by Jack Jones of the NUM with diamond jubilee medals for services rendered. These men were Albert Pickering, D Gallagher, Joe Rowlinson and Herbert Murby.
- **Dec 1980** – Vandals caused £2000 damage to **Lily Bank Farm** which is presently undergoing renovation. Walls, support beams and brickwork were all damaged in the attack.

**Next meeting which is 6 July at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre**