



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR JULY 2023

Monthly litter pick total – 129 bags removed by 7 people against **127 bags** for the same month last year.

Wall by St Andrew's update – On 4 June, a full risk assessment having previously been carried out and forms given out to confirm they were doing this at their own risk, 12 people from the community (which included 4 members of FoT) helped move stones from the church jitty into the graveyard. The resultant hole left was partially blocked by the old red boarding, but most of the stones were saved from being taken to the tip by the County Council within that week. On 6 June in the evening, 3 scout leaders from 1st Thringstone Scouts and 15 scouts came to clear the remaining rubble from the pathway and sweep up and tidy the path, so that no stones remain on the path from the fallen wall. They also completed the form mentioned above. During the clearance exercise, a cast iron item was found within the wall which is in the shape of a chalice. It is wondered whether, since the wall was built at the same time as the porch was built to the church and by the same builders in the winter of 1910/11, the cast iron chalice may have been part of the waste water structures previously outside the church.

With regarding funding a wall rebuild, discussions have subsequently taken place about setting up a GoFundMe page, what this should be called. All committee, plus book keeper, are in agreement that this be set up, and that the Friends of Thringstone bank account details be used for this project. We did a similar fund raising exercise in 2012, 13 and 14 when our graveyard booklet was written and sold to fund the renovations to the grave of Charles Booth which was completed in December 2014. Our constitution also supports us working on things that affect the village. The funding blurb relating to the wall will make it VERY clear that the project does not mean that FoT are taking ownership of the wall or maintenance of it long term, but just facilitating the rebuild at this moment in time as a one off for the village. The quote received from the stone waller is for £7k.

The Green – Nita had a meeting with Ed de Lisle on 6 June in advance of the meeting with NWLDC officers on 8 June to discuss the mowing of the grass of which all committee were informed at the time. It would seem that, in May, whilst the de Lisle gardener was there doing the mowing, NWLDC turned up to mow the same area, saying that they didn't know not to do so, as it 'was still on their sheet'. This shows that the discussion with Grounds Maintenance that Nita had on the phone in March with 'Steve' wasn't properly recorded their end, and would explain why NWLDC then wanted a meeting. Gardening, which includes mowing, as well as litter picking, are covered by our £5m public liability insurance, and we also have employer's liability insurance, both with Zurich. The subsequent meeting with NWLDC, to which all members of the committee were invited, consolidated that the mowing was being done under our guidance, and that, as far as The Green is concerned, we were also only continuing to look after our existing flowerbed. The council



did mention that The Green also included kerbs, roads, trees, the Millenium stone, 3 benches, waste bins and block paving, and asked, several times, if we wanted to take over those too, to which the answer was obviously no, just the mowing and our existing flowerbed. If we want to give up the mowing, or the flowerbed, at any time, we have to give NWLDC 3 month's notice, and they reserve the right to inspect the grass and shrub bed annually to ensure that things are being done correctly.

Garages on Melrose Road – The council put up notices at the end of May to say that 26 garages were to be demolished, 8 new ones built, and 26 parking spaces created. Another notice talked about a further 20 garages, 6 new ones and 12 parking spaces and yet another one talked about the demolition of 14 garages and the creation of 36 car parking spaces .

Church – Is anybody available to help cut back the holly bushes near the cremation area please? These have grown so much that they are now obscuring some of the grave markers, causing issues with people who wish to put flowers on the stones. Just needs someone with a battery powered hedge trimmer and some spare time.

Centre – The centre team were looking for someone to **cut their grass**. Nita put something out on facebook and on twitter, and emailed people on our own lists, and found someone to help the centre from within our membership. Thank you.

Every Wednesday the centre now has a **social supermarket** with reduced goods available. This is open from 11.30am until 1pm and includes meat, vegetables and other grocery items. This is not just for people who have little in the way of money to pay for groceries, but is open to everybody, as the group running this will always have food to sell and don't want to see anything go to waste. They also use the money raised to help with other projects.

The coffee morning for **Meadow Barn View** raised £121.15. Thank you to all who supported this.

Sunday morning family film club – The centre is looking for volunteers to help with this project which is being supported by Thringstone and Whitwick People Zone. The idea is that doors open at 10am with films starting at 10.15am. The centre has posted on facebook that they want to know what sort of films people would want to see, and that they are looking for help from volunteers to deliver this. Others have posted that they would like movie nights for adults in the week.

Homestead Road playgroup – after serving the village for 40 years, the group is to close on 6 July.

Thringstone Members Club – Every Tuesday from 8pm there is a **crib and dominoes** social club. Just come along and join in. Non members welcome. Membership is £2 per year.

Thringstone Primary – Year 3-4 quad kids won the Spirit of the Games award in recognition of their team work and enthusiasm. Well done!

Ruby's – Due to illness amongst staff and other staff retiring, Ruby's announced on 13 June that they are stopping selling chicken kebabs with doner kebabs following soon, and will just concentrate on fish and chips.

On 22 June they announced that they were thrilled to have won the ShopAppy's Favourite Family Business Award for 2023, and wished to thank everybody for their support.

International Football Academy, Gracedieu – Nita has been speaking to the manager of the academy and arranged to have a meeting with her on 5 July. Nita, Ann, Sarah and Beata from the centre are going. The academy would like to work with FoT on litter picks and help with fundraising going forward. On 30 June the academy announced that they have a semi-pro football team ready to join the **Nottinghamshire League Division 1** for 2023/4.

Hello Heritage – We have booked the centre again for Hello Heritage on 16 September from 12 noon until 5pm. Anybody available to help with catering again please? It would also be nice if anybody who can bake could provide some cakes perhaps? Nita is at present designing another board for the event, based on the history of the Methodist movement in the village. It has already been agreed that this new board will go on the railings of Rye House, as the barn there was originally used by the Methodists before any chapel was built.

Green Shoots Scheme - We have ordered 2000 daffodil bulbs to be planted later this year at the bottom end of the village on Main Street/Henson's Lane and on Whitwick Moor area.



Thringstone Parish Council – Councillors from NWLDC intend to try to get this into place before Dec 2026. We last had a parish council in the 1930s.

Chairs Report

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

Promotion: We have **749 twitter followers**, which is one less than last month, and **2,069 facebook followers**, which is 37 more than last month.

Welcome back to our membership Toni Scully-Proud and her son Henry, her husband and family.

What's On

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

22 July – **Charles Booth Centre** - Thringstone Music Day.

26 July – **Gracedieu Priory walk** – meet at 6pm at Bull's Head car park. £3 per person. Part of the festival of archeology.

29 July – **Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre** – Ace Community Theatre Craft fayre from 11am – 3pm.

6 Aug – **Thringstone Miners Social Centre** - Family Fun Day

12 Aug – **Meadows car home** summer fete from 2pm. Cake and craft stalls, BBQ, raffles etc. Stalls are £5 if anybody wants to have one. Contact 223800 to discuss.

19 Aug – **Woodstock in Whitwick Music Festival** at Man within Compass. Starts at 12.30pm. Entry is £2 per adult, and £5 family (2 adults plus children).

16 Sept – Hello Heritage at **Charles Booth Centre** 12 noon until 5.30pm.

29 and 30 Sept – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society** – murder mystery – The Half Monty.

6 and 7 Oct – **Thringstone Members Club** – Murder mystery play Great British Bump Off. Tickets £12 to inc. light buffet from www.ticketsource.co.uk/ace

Financial

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	3182.73		
Income		Expenditure	
Memberships	£20	Broadband	20.00
Donations	£4	Public Liability insurance	15.70
total income to general fund	£24		£35.70
		Total general fund at month end	£3171.03

Web Report

The webmaster is continuing to work on updates.

Incident Report

- 2 June – cycles stolen from someone's drive on **Homestead Road** by 3 males. CCTV photos posted on facebook showing males clearly. Culprits later apprehended by people from Homestead Road near to the John St shop and bikes removed from their possession along with other bikes belonging to their neighbours, which had also been stolen. On talking to the culprits, who have thick eastern European accents, they told the actual owners that they had been given permission to take these things! Culprits believed to live on Lbro Road and police have twice visited their property. These people have also been seen taking things from skips, trying doors, walking into people's drives to see what is there to take and looking through windows. They have also taken trolleys from the Co-op to



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move stuff they have found. One person filmed them taking a motor out of a washer left outside their house which the owners were taking to the tip later that day. Police seem not to know about a lot of these incidents which are just talked about on facebook. People need to report everything like this to them on 101 so that they know what is happening in the village.

- 7 June – person on **Field Close** saw a bald headed man on a bike cycling into his drive and looking through windows. Description matches the person from Lbro Road. Police informed.
- 7 June – mowers etc. from **Thringstone Bowling Club** stolen. Police informed. Insurance company refused their claim as they did not have a 5 bar padlock, even though the locks were still in tact as the brackets had been removed, and despite having CCTV. Cricket club have been told so that they can take the necessary precautions to keep their stuff safer.
- 8 June – E scooter stolen from Woodside Estate.
- 8 June – People at 55 **Glebe Rd** got up to find a man in a mask staring at them through their kitchen window. Police informed. Person requested people look at their doorbell cameras for more footage to share with the police. Doorbell footage from neighbour found and has been offered to police.
- 8 June – 7am - gate from **Main Street** up to the church which was part of the original build in 1862 was found hanging across the jitty, as someone had tried to take it off its hinges. Neighbours saw foreign looking men around the area the previous night. Nita got someone who was passing to remove it back to its original position, and told the Police.
- 15 June – drone seen outside windows on **Main Street** hovering and taking footage of inside people's properties. Drone then went down Glebe Road and also down Lbro Rd where it set off the burglar alarm to Thringstone Members Club. Once that sounded, it sharply flew away. Similar thing seen earlier in the month on Swallowdale.
- 16 June – 1am – lady on **Main Street** heard someone trying to get in through a window. She got up and saw a man with a torch, who then ran off when it became apparent that he'd been seen. Late in the evening, the drone was again seen flying down Main Street and towards Henson's Lane and Clover Place.
- 21 June – drones flying over people's gardens, looking into windows etc. on **Main Street and Glebe Road**. Flying over some properties several times. Police informed.
- 22 June – **Thringstone Bowling Club** – had to stop their evening game because youths were throwing rocks over onto the rink, making playing on dangerous. Apparently, a week earlier over several days a man on **Booth Road** had a similar problem with rocks being thrown at his house. He chased the lads up to the Co-op and they then went down Drury Lane and into the closs and he lost them.
- 23 June – lady on **Melrose Road** saw a man open her back gate and come to her house and try the door at 2am in the morning. On seeing her turn the light on, he ran off.
- 29 June – 10pm. Fire found in the corner of the **Gracedieu Park cricket pitch** left by club unattended. Two people from Springfield put the fire out with 4 large buckets of water, and told the club that it really isn't safe to leave fires burning during periods of hot weather.
- 30 June – **Motorbikes** in the woods for hours – reports made to the police.

History report

- **April 1884** – Lot 8, **Star Inn**, now in the occupation of John Ward was to let through its owner James Henson (who was listed as landlord previously). Property comprised of public house, outbuildings, grounds/yard and gardens. Sale was through Fisher, Jesson and Wilkins, Ashby. We know that John Ward was landlord there for some time, and especially between August 1886 and Dec 1889 from various newspaper reports of after-hours drinking, disturbances etc, and he still appears there on the 1891 census. As part of research into The Star, Ann has a copy of the will of Richard Walker of Newbold which mentions Thringstone and is dated **1587** and was scanned from a document borrowed from Horace Charlton who lived at The Star in the 1990s. There are several Richard Walker's of Thringstone whose wills are on line covering the period from 1634-1659 and another for George Walker dated 1598.



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- **Sept 1889 – The Star** was up for let with immediate possession through Burton Brewery Company, Ashby. This is new information.
- **Sept 1909** – the annual dinner of the 5 shillings sick and dividend club was held at **The Star** in Main Street. G Wardle, secretary, said that the club had done well despite a lot of claims on it this year, and members were each paid 5 shillings and 7 pence. 27 then sat down to a meal with songs and entertainment afterwards. We have never heard of the 5 shilling club before and can currently find no further information on them in Thringstone.
- **1921 census for Dust Hill** - Arthur James Gee, wife Mary and 2 daughters. Arthur is an out of work engine driver at Whitwick Pit. His daughters work for Brown and Sons boot makers in Coalville, and for Albert Haywood as a hosiery winder. Also James Watkins, general labourer at Stablefords.
- **1921 census for The Green** - Laurence and Lily Gough, their 2 daughters and one son. James is an out of work collier at Sth. Leics. pit. Also Herbert and Evelyn Wardle nee Bonser and their son. Herbert is an out of work miner at Moira colliery. They had been married one year.
- **1921 census for Near George and Dragon** – John Arthur and wife Emily Jarvis, and 2 daughters, 2 sons and one cousin. John Arthur is an out of work miner at Whitwick pit.
- **1921 census for St Andrew's House** – this was the convalescent home that Mary Booth had originally set up near to the Bull's Head but now had an address of Loughborough Road. It was run by Miss Susannah M Whiffin, who was 52 and from Lindon in Cambridgeshire. As 'inmates' were Eliza A Holmes, Doris M Ward, Gladys V Howard and Laura C Butcher. Other than Doris, the other girls were from London. Doris's parents were listed as dead.
- **1921 census for Fox Terrace, Main St** - 8 families lived there at this time. Fred and Alice Munday and their 5 children, Samuel James Peace, wife Elizabeth Ann and 4 sons, Thomas and Sarah Ann Fortnam and their 3 children, John Wm. and Sarah Knapp and their son, John Wm. Eaton and wife Evelyn and their son, John Henry White Robinson and wife Hannah and their 4 children, David and Beatrice Mary Robinson and their 3 children, and Ernest and Cecilia Gee, their daughter, niece and a visitor. Most of the men were out of work miners, working at Whitwick, Bagworth, Coleorton and Ellistown.
- **1921 census for Lilybank** – 5 households – Andrew and Charlotte Ann King, and their great niece Dorothy Rennocks, John Mee and Tamar Kidger (farmers), Alexander and Lucy White and their 3 grandchildren, Alexander and Florence White and their 2 children, and John and Mabel Rennocks and their son. Andrew King worked at Whitwick Colliery, as did the older Alexander White, and John Rennocks, whilst the younger Alexander White worked at Moira Colliery. All were out of work due to the miners' strike. Also listed at Lilybank were John and Jane Rennocks and 2 daughters and a son. John was an out of work blacksmith's striker at Whitwick pit where his son was a boiler fireman. His daughters worked for Braund Ltd., hosiery manufacturers of Loughborough.
- **Dec 1928 – St Andrew's** finally got electric lighting.
- **July 1929 – Smallpox outbreak** – There were 8 cases of smallpox reported in Thringstone and 13 cases in Leicestershire as a whole. As recorded previously new cases in the village were still being reported in August.
- **Aug 1947** – concern was expressed over the state of the **miners welfare field** and lack of play facilities for youngsters. A letter received by the Leicester Daily Mercury said 'Thringstone is a growing community, and has a five and a half acre welfare field (miners) which has been in existence for 10 – 12 years. Nothing is done with it to make it somewhere for children to play, although it is mowed once a year. Something should be done to improve it. There isn't even a seat for older people. During the 6 week holiday period, the children are left to organise themselves and their own activities. Complaints are received regularly about the amount of damage caused by children during this time to crops and it would appear that the authorities think that, if a child has a field in which to play in, that is all that is required to keep him or her happy and out of mischief. Swings, slides, sandpits and paddling pools should be provided. Whether living in the country or the town, these are the things that children need, to keep them away from other fields containing crops.'
- **Sept 1947** – Whilst playing in the garden of her house, a little girl was **shot in the head**, so a court heard. A pellet was later removed. A 10 year old boy was in court charged with firing the gun. PC



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Leverett said an older brother of the boy bought a rifle and pellets, and after showing them to his brother and father, hid the rifle under the stairs. Whilst everybody was out, the youngster found the rifle and from the front door step, shot at various items in the street. He then aimed at a cardboard box on the wall opposite, and hit the girl by accident. The boy was fined 10 shillings and 14 shillings and 9 pence costs. The judge asked that the rifle be properly stored, as it could not be confiscated.

- **May 1948 – Enid Irene Cooke**, aged 5, of The Council Houses, Thringstone, was killed whilst playing near her home by a lorry driven by a lorry owned by Mr T Annabel of Shepshed which was travelling to Nottingham from Whitwick Quarry. A stationary bus was near the accident, and it is understood that the girl had been playing on the grass verge and stepped out into the road.. At the inquest, a verdict of accidental death was given.
- **March 1950** – Nearly 100 chickens perished in a fire in a hen house on **Main Street**. The fire was extinguished by Coalville firemen.
- **Sept 1955 – David Allan Wright**, a 19 year old Ellistown miner of 27 Henson's Lane attended a week's NCB course at Oxford. He is the only representative from Leicestershire. David attended Coalville Grammar School and has taken qualifications in mining theory and practice at Coalville
- **April 1956** – To mark the resignation of Mr Sealey as warden at **Thringstone House**, Mr and Mrs Sealey were presented by Mr Bruce (who lived at The Meadows) on behalf of members of groups at the centre with a coffee table, coffee set, flower bowl and ashtray.
- **May 1956** – Members of **Leicester and Leicestershire Guides** spent 3 days at Whitsun at a camp at Gracedieu. The Community Centre formed a football team for youths the same month. 2 teams will be entered into the Loughborough league. Jackie Hurst was elected as chairman, with Gordon Robinson secretary and Charles Watts treasurer.
- **Nov 1956 – Thringstone Community Centre's Executive Committee** presented a set of wine glasses and Italian tray to Mr and Mrs W Bruce of The Meadows as a token of esteem to mark their recent marriage. The presentation was made by Mr Don Hambleton on behalf of the centre and the committees.
- **March 1979** – Members of the Scottish community who came to '**Little Scotland**' in Thringstone in the 1960s felt that devolution for Scotland should be left alone, following a no vote taking place in their homeland. Jim Shirkie, who now works for Brush in Loughborough, came down with the miners and said he was puzzled by the motives. He said that if he could have got the same conditions in Scotland as he did in Leicestershire, he would have gone back to Scotland in a flash. He had tried, and had gone back to Scotland once, but came back as it wasn't worth staying. Alan Bell, secretary of the Rangers Supporters Club and an electrician at Whitwick Colliery said 'I have no desire to go back to Scotland. What has happened with the devolution debate does not affect Scottish people in Thringstone. Mrs Gilmour of Melrose Road is an auxiliary nurse in Loughborough and said 'I am happy here, and wouldn't want to go back to Scotland, but this is an issue for the men.' Another resident of Melrose Road, Alex Stewart said 'This is Britain and we want to leave it as it is. We don't have any votes on the matter down here, but we do have opinions'. Adam Gall of Elgin Walk, former chairman of the Rangers' Supporters Club said 'We Scots down here have not had a lot of time to think about the results. The no vote should be accepted and the government should not try to alter it.'. Mrs Agnes Smith of Dalkeith Walk, councillor for Thringstone said 'This is a political matter and it is no use pretending it isn't. It is up to the government to take action on the basis of the vote. The government, on the basis of the vote, go before parliament on the question of a national assembly for Scotland. Despite this being against the existing rules of the referendum, it is in the interests of the assembly for Scotland.'. Irene Rafferty of Melrose Road said 'We are doing fine as we are. We have never been so well off, so why change things?'

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