



The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR NOVEMBER 2023

Monthly litter pick total – 143 bags removed by 8 people against **118 bags** for Oct 2022.

Meeting on 5 Oct – repeated here for the benefit of those without emails who only get paper copies of the bulletin.

2 apologies, 8 present

Former Methodist chapel – work has now started to refurb the chapel and hall by Gospel Hall Trust. They have already put flood boards against the doors from the street, and moved the 4 air bricks in the chapel wall up from pavement height by about 6", having blocked off the lower air bricks. They have also started internal redecoration etc.

St Andrew's - raised £106 at their MacMillan coffee morning in September.

Centre – the new events manager is Caitlin. She started on 2 October.

Thringstone Miners Social Centre – Their cash bingo has been cancelled due to scheduling issues. They are currently looking for people who might want to run something similar for older people in an afternoon.

Wall – Kyle completed the wall on 30 Sept. The broken red board that used to prop up the wall and its poles were left behind and taken away by Bill for which we thank him. There are a lot of stones still left in the churchyard, and Nita is working with 1st Thringstone Scouts to get these moved to somewhere else. There were also 2 bags left behind – one of sand and one of building rubble. Kyle is aware of this but can't find room in his van to remove them at present. He thought, in any event, that the bag of sand would be useful to the church for their gravestone renovation projects. In addition to putting in the 3 stones that had previously fallen out away from the rebuilt area and repointing where necessary, Kyle also put a stone in further up the wall against the side of 35 Lbro Road, as a stone was out and there was a large hole which could have led to further collapse. He also filled in the gap in the wall where stones from the top had been taken out allowing a view towards John Street. We have £599.90 left over. This money was given to us for the refurbishment and rebuilding of the wall. We agreed to hold this in reserve in the event that further monies are needed at some stage.

Thringstone and Whitwick People Zone project relating to the field at the rear of the centre – Nita was approached by NWLDC on 29 September to consider putting in a funding package relating to a County Hall project called fruitful, which was looking at a community orchard on Bob's Closs, which is the name for the field at the back of the centre. The email suggested a possibility of funding a new gate to the field from Drury Lane (by the side of the Co-op) which had been identified as the main access point for this project, talked about volunteer fruit pickers and a volunteer driven community package. After a lot of queries to various folk, and lots of emails, Nita discovered that this was part of a larger project which the centre trustees had already discussed, and are fully behind. It includes working with National Forest, Forest Schools and others to transform Bob's Closs. No public consultation has yet taken place because they wanted to be able to present something for discussion. This has angered residents near Drury Lane who are already concerned about anti-social behaviour.



The scheme would see trees planted, pathways etc. established, and include this orchard, which would be properly managed going forward. We contacted the centre and obtained copies of the proposals. Nita subsequently established from National Forest that they are looking to find a new volunteer group (not FoT) to work on the project and take on the management of it once completed. They intend to keep in touch with us about this as the project goes forward as 'gatekeepers to the community'.

Initial clearance of the closs is to be carried out by the probation service. Nita was told by People Zone on 2 October that the grass/debris they clear would be put in a trailer at the top of the slope. They were looking for farmers to take this away, so asked Nita if she knew any (no). Three email exchanges subsequently took place over the next day and they were made aware of potential issues with this if youths see that there is another thing they can set fire to (as they did with our bench).

Access to the whole project will be via Drury Lane, rather than the car park of the centre. Nita told both RCC, who are doing the public consultation exercise, and National Forest on 4 October about the ASB down the lane, and concerns of residents near there. This has included giving details of the repairs to the Co-op wall yet to take place, and those already done in the past, and about the vandalism to our old bench, which had to be scrapped, and to the new one by trying to set it alight a couple of months back.

Since the initial contact from NWLDC and our subsequent considerable email discussions with them and others, they are now aware that we will not be involved in applying for funding any part of this, as it is a 3rd party provision rather than our own project. On 3 October, Nita subsequently received a list of other things we might like to apply for funding for, to which she replied. This included any other environmental project, a heritage project, and working to improve broadband connectivity.

Nita has told RCC, who are going to do the public consultation for the project, of what help we could give in 2 email exchanges on 4 October. Both they, and the National Forest, were previously unaware there was no local newsletter which they intended to use as part of this consultation process. Nita has explained the current situation and that she writes a newsletter quarterly for Community Voice. RCC is currently talking about having a RCC van at the centre during a coffee morning, doing social media posts (which we can share) and doing leaflet drops. We have said we could also, if requested, help with an article to go into Community Voice.

The meeting discussed all this in depth, looked at the plans, and Nita was asked to feed back to RCC/National Forest/People Zone/Councils as follows:

- We think that the ideas to improve things on the closs are good.
- With regard to the removal of grass and bracken etc., in the past, after raking up grass, this has been put in a compost heap which has been then used by the allotment holders. This has happened for years. Rather than the probation service removing grass etc. to be put into a trailer to take away, would it not be more sensible for the grass to go into the existing compost heap?
- With regard to provision of fruit trees, are people already aware that in the copse area there are damson and other fruit trees, and further into the site there is a greengage?
- Some years ago BTCV (now TCV) did a full survey of the closs for the centre, which included identifying flora and fauna. This brought to light that there are some very rare wetland plants at the bottom of the site, and it was felt that someone should contact them, or other conservation people, to do a full survey of what is already on site. By so doing, these areas can be protected and preserved, rather than just being raked up/possibly destroyed by people from the probation service who might not have the conservation knowledge to identify these plants. We did have a copy of this survey, but are currently unable to locate it. The centre will no longer have copies, as copies of all things that took place before the trustees came along were destroyed if they were in paper form and deleted from computers if they were digital.
- Are there any intentions to mobilise the dog walking public who use the site regularly to help with volunteering? It was felt that it will be a hard task to engage with any people willing to put effort into this project, especially given that Thringstone does not have a parish council.



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- With regard to anti-social behaviour, we were reminded that years back, the centre bought picnic tables and benches for the closs. These were then vandalised by local youths, and ended up in the brook at the bottom, and had to be scrapped. Therefore, anti-social behaviour has been going on in the closs for years, and is not just a new thing.
- It was felt that getting the scouts involved in the project would be a good idea.
- With regard to meetings, it was wondered if people working on the project are fully aware of the topography of the site. It was suggested that everybody involved attend a meeting one morning, probably around 10am, to tie in with the coffee mornings which take place at the centre on Wednesdays and monthly on Fridays, so that, as part of public consultation, everybody with an interest could meet with those involved in the project and ask direct questions.

Other business – Nita was asked to contact NWLDC about the provision of new **display boards** for heritage events and ask if we were able to be funded to buy new ones, as our existing ones are old and falling apart. The meeting also discussed the need for **gardening equipment**. Bill said he would deal with sorting this, and liaise with others direct.

New Information

- **Field at the rear of the centre** - All the information, as above, about the closs was passed to the network concerned. It has been confirmed that this will be discussed by the project team and also that the old play equipment at the top of the closs will be removed and that our daffodil planting there has been acknowledged. A leaflet drop asking people if they wanted to be involved was done to neighbouring properties week commencing 8 Oct. **IMPORTANT:** The centre have an open period for people to go and discuss the project on 3 Nov between 10am and 12 noon and same time on 17 November.
- **St Andrew's** – Thringstone Scouts, along with Nita, cleared the piles of stones left on the grass by the railings. These were put onto a grave nearby, with the agreement of the descendants.
- **Centre** – Prince's Trust are repainting the upstairs hall. Work continues to try to open a youth club. £177 was raised at the coffee morning for Parkinson's UK.
- Our member **Llynda Baugh**, who may be known to people from working on local history projects in the last few years, as well as with NWLDC, won the Heritage on your Doorstep award at the recent Leics. and Rutland Heritage Awards for working on the street boards for Hello Heritage. She also won two special commendations, one for work at NWLDC and one for an archaeology project, and was the winner of the Heritage Group of the Year award. Well done, and well deserved Llynda. **Whitwick Historical Group**, at the same awards, received a special commendation for their outstanding entry into archives and research. Well done to Marlene and her team.
- The **George and Dragon** are not doing a firework bonfire this year because of issues they had last year with people parking in silly places and hindering access for any emergency services that might have been needed. They thank everybody for supporting the event for the last 9 years. **Thringstone Members Club** aren't doing a firework party either, but a family disco on 5th Nov between 4pm and 6pm with sparklers for every child. There is a firework display at the **Hare and Hounds** on 4 November from 7.30pm for an hour.
- **Thringstone Miners Social Centre** are advertising a new playgroup from Jan 2024 for 3-4 year olds. More details from 07488312296. .
- **Funding bid** – we are not going ahead with asking for funding for exhibition boards as the criteria is too prohibitive – QR codes linking to facebook/website and that sort of thing.
- **Leicestershire and Rutland Heritage Forum** – We are not members of this, and annual membership is £30. It may be useful to become members. What are people's views?

Chairs Report

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

Promotion: We have **753 twitter followers**, which is 4 more than last month, and **2,136 facebook followers**, which is 11 more than last month.



Other: **Fanny Hugill**, the last remaining grandchild of Charles Booth, died on 28 September aged 100. Condolences to her family. Welcome to new members **Danny and Joan Hatton**.

What's On

- 8 Nov – **St Joseph's tearooms** 6pm-8pm. Xmas fayre with 45 crafters selling local wares.
- 10 Nov – **Charles Booth Centre** – Coffee morning 10am-12 noon in aid of Royal British Legion.
- 17 Nov – **Thringstone Members Club** – Ladies night 7-10pm. Ring to register 07971 572117.
- 26 Nov - **Charles Booth Centre** – Panto Society Christmas fayre 10am-3pm on 2 floors. Special visit from Santa and also Morris dancing, Hugglescote dance and drama group. Cake stall, raffle.
- 2 Dec – **Charles Booth Centre** - Gresley Male Voice Choir. Starts at 7.15pm. Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre
- 3 Dec – **Gracedieu Priory** – Carol concert from 3pm.
- 15 Dec – **Carols round the tree** – meet at St Andrew's at 6.30pm, walk to centre, and go inside from 7pm for entertainment. All welcome.
- 19 May 2024 – **Historical walk** round the village starting on The Green at 10.30am. £2.50.

Financial

We sold 4 graveyard booklets this month and also 4 pubs book at the Whitwick event on 14th Oct.

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	3278.97		
Income		Expenditure	
Publications	£30	Broadband	20.00
Memberships	£12	Public Liability insurance	15.70
		Gloves	19.74
		Half cost of bulbs	71.51
total income to general fund	£42		126.95
		Total general fund at month end	3194.02

Web Report

The webmaster is continuing to work on updates.

Incident Report

- 6 Oct – Youths seen pulling up hedging from **Lbro Rd** end of cricket pitch and throwing these into road from 11pm onwards. Cars having to swerve. Police informed and given description of youths.
- 12 Oct – Drugs bust on **Kelso Court and Dalkeith Walk**. Apparently 2 men taken into custody and cars removed.
- 26 Oct – Police on A512 at tea time blocking access to Lilybank after 'an incident'.

History report

- Nita has been doing some facebook posting including posting photos of **The Gables**. This property became Grade 2 listed on 15 Nov 1976 with a minor amendment on 20 Aug 2018. It was in the ownership of Joseph Almond Cropper in the early 1800s, who willed it to St George's Hospital in London, after which it was bought by Joseph Towle. We have learnt from Laurence Evans that he lived there from July 1966 until 1985 with his sister Emily and parents Graham and Marilyn. He recalls the wonderful large conker tree, and the large garden around which he raced petrol go karts and motorbikes. Most of this garden was sold off in the late 1980s early 1990s to build another property. Further research has shown that the property was sold in 1966, 1985, 1988 and 1998. The 1988 sale particulars talk about the former bakehouse at the rear, which fits in with the **Towle family** having been bakers and grocers there in the 1800s. The last member of the Towle family



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died there in 1940. We know that the **Haynes family** then lived there, but also discovered that **Mary Martin** lived there in 1953. Furthermore, we have discovered that the property was open to visitors as part of the National Garden Scheme in the 1990s. Reports tell us that the property at that time belonged to **Valerie and Peter Baker** who had moved from Middlesex around 1988. Presumably they left in 1998. In 1994 the couple said they'd had 134 visitors to their open garden, and raised £317 for various charities. It is said that the garden was renowned for its hollyhocks at that time, and we also know that the Baker's arranged for a rear extension and a detached garage during their time at the property, which was part of an original application in 1977 by Graham Evans.. The Gables was last sold in June 2004.

- Nita has been in touch with the Californian family of **Effie Walton** of Thringstone, about whom Nita did articles on for Community Voice. Effie was in Mary Booth's convalescent home for girls with breathing difficulties. She married twice, and died in the 1960s of bronchitis. We now have lots of photos the whole family, and know that Charlotte, Effie's mother, died aged 34 of TB. In addition, Nita was sent photos of Harold Bradley who kept the butchers, and some of the Robinson family.
- In our last bulletin we mentioned **Gregor Rimmel** being at The Fox being in the early 1980s. We now discover that our lists called him George Frederick Rimmel which is why we found nothing when trying to research him, and in fact his surname is **Rimell**, as we have contacted him by email. Gregor was born in 1944 in The Wirral, and married Exeter born Patricia Gooding in Lewisham, London in 1968. After leaving and moving to Mountsorrel, he moved to run a small hotel in Newtonmore near Aviemore, Scotland, where his wife then died. Newspaper archives show that, in 2003, he was given a 4 year term to serve on the committee of the newly created Cairngorms National Park, and we know he was still part of this in 2009. In 2007 he became a liberal democrat local councillor for Badenoch and Strathspey, and in 2012 was congratulated by the local press for asking people what they wanted, and querying decisions on roadbuilding schemes relating to the A9, seeking people's views on public transport and asking what bus services they used. In 2014 was very vocal against the erections of further pylons over the Monadhliath. He is no longer on the council. Again in 2014, he was part of the Cairngorms National Park Authority planning committee and is recorded attending a meeting of that group in August of that year. He had to absent himself from the meeting when they were discussing clay pigeon shooting at Gaich, as he had already declared an interest in that item and therefore couldn't be included in the discussions. He returned to the meeting after that item was discussed. The last thing we can find is dated May 2021 when he was part of the Badenoch and Strathspey Transport Committee and was in consultation with others regarding the alteration of a local bus service. We now have a photograph of him. If anybody has any more information, please let us know.
- **May 1901** – 7 plots of land adjoining the **Three Tuns** and fronting onto Main Street were auctioned by Mr Orchard. Thomas Bradley bought one plot at 9 pence per yard and Thomas Watts bought the other 6. Thomas Watts was a colliery wagon builder working at Whitwick pit, and lived on Main St. He died on 22 May 1927. Thomas Bradley was a collier who lived on Loughborough Rd, Thringstone who died on 30 Dec 1917.
- **April 1913** – **John Mee Kidger** was returned as one of the councillors for Thringstone at a recent election after a second poll was requested. Others returned were James Gee, Benjamin Baxter, Thomas Watts, Thomas Fretter Siddons and John Wm. Peters. Mr Kidger's son Edward Price Kidger (known as Price) did not get enough votes to join his father as a councillor despite being 5th out of 6 in the original polling. Mr Siddons farmed at The Elms, Osgathorpe and died in Ashby on 13 April 1954.
- **Nov 1961** – The annual **Thringstone RBL** remembrance parade included the Whitwick RBL, Buffs, Toc H and the Snibston Colliery welfare band, who led the procession through the village to St Andrew's. Bill Parker, branch secretary, read out the names of fallen men from the village as part of the service, which was led by Rev Willis.
- **Nov 1961** – A fire to the storage facility for **Armstrong's Fair, in a field near The Green**, saw the Noah's ark roundabout and several wooden horses burnt. The caretaker of the field, Mrs Annie



Stokes, who lived in a caravan on site, didn't realise what was happening until she saw the fire raging out of control about 1.30am.

- **Nov 1962** – the timetable for **things on at the centre** was: Sunday – Kindergarten Sunday School, Monday - Musical Comedy Group in the evening in the hall. Tuesday - Infant Welfare Clinic and Handbell ringing in the evening, plus Badminton and Choral Singing. Wednesday - canework in the evening plus old time dancing and youth club in the hall. Thursday - retired peoples fellowship in the afternoon and county library plus orchestra for the musical comedy group in the hall. Friday - dressmaking in the evening plus football whist drive, youth club and record group in the hall, and on Saturday Football and RPF Chiropody in the afternoon, with bookings for weddings in the hall..
- **April 1963** – Due to the death of John Mee Kidger, an auction took place at The Bull's Head, Gracedieu, of properties he had owned. First was **Lily Bank Farm**, which included 5 acres of land. Second was 2444 sq yards of land suitable for building, and third was 1.75 acres of pasture land. We are unable to find details of the purchasers.
- **May 1963** – The council has borrowed £26,000 to purchase a 21 acre site off Loughborough Road in Thringstone to build **200 homes for miners** coming to the area from the north. The council also agreed to agree to the coal board using a site in Ellistown to develop as a caravan site for the miners until the houses in Thringstone were built.
- **July 1963** – Residents of Market Bosworth's Westhaven home were entertained by Norma Savage and Margaret Smith as soloists from **Thringstone Community Centre**. The conductor was Ron Smith and the instrumental and choral concert was well received.
- **July 1963** – Thringstone's **Wesleyan Methodist** church on Main Street is to close down on 25 August, a year before it reaches its centenary. The original church was built in 1822 but the current one was built 41 years later. The congregation from Thringstone Methodists on Loughborough Road will join the last service. In **May 1964**, Stevenson and Barrett were advertising the former chapel for sale at £1,500. The property was 35' x 25' and covered an overall site of 168 sq. yds.
- **July 1963** – **Cllr. Peter Elderfield** expressed concern over the amount of children needing local schooling as a result of the 200 miners coming to Thringstone from the north. Discussions suggested that Thringstone Primary would not be able to cope, but it was mentioned that some of the children coming down would be going to secondary schools.
- **May 1963** – the take up for classes at **Thringstone Community Centre** has been so great that the centre has found itself unable to house all the students. As a result, some classes will now take place at Thringstone Primary School. Mr A Randall, the community centre warden, said that the centre has classes for dressmaking, kendo, judo and many other things in between as well as for retired folk and youth activities, and the finances are in excellent condition. Mr James Gee was re-elected chairman at the AGM and A Webster as secretary. The deputy warden is currently Mr D Fitt and the treasurer Mr E Hicken. A number of representatives from the membership and associated bodies were also elected to the management committee.
- **Oct 1963** – **Thringstone Musical Comedy** group are going through a boom period with over 40 applications for membership and there are over 75 people in rehearsal for Rio Rita. The snag is that the stage will only hold 45 people and Ron Smith said he was, for the first time, having to audition for the chorus. Christine Lowe and Christine Smith have left the district, but Norma Savage is back (as Dolly) and with Anne Hicken (as Katie) will handle the comedy for the next production in March. Harry Bates and Roy Burton as Chick Bean will be the male comedy leads. Roy and June Anderson are expected to make their mark. The review in March 1964 said that the show, whilst colourful and enthusiastic, didn't live up to expectations. Norma Savage was, as usual, impressive, as was Margaret Smith, but there was little back up from supporting performers. Roy Anderson was suffering from a throat infection and his performance as Texas Ranger Jim Stewart was weak. Eric Giles gave his best as General Esteban, but the performance lacked substance.

Next meeting is 2 Nov at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre in the house lounge