

**‘Working together to improve our village’**

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## **BULLETIN FOR JANUARY 2024**

**Monthly litter pick total – 144 bags** removed by 6 people against **127 bags** for Dec 2022.  
**From NWLDC** - Wondering what happens to all those **glass bottles and jars** in your red box? They're recycled in Yorkshire! Your glass is processed into glass cullet (crushed glass), then sorted by size and colour. The glass cullet is then used to make new food and drinks bottles and jars in the UK. The energy saved from recycling just one glass bottle will power a 100 watt light bulb for almost an hour or a computer for 20 minutes!

**Notes of our meeting on 7 Dec** for the benefit of those who didn't get the email. There were 6 people present and 8 apologies received. The meeting was also our Christmas party.

- **Old School House** – Jodie Robertson won Care Home Professional of the year at the recent Care Home awards and Lesley Mansfield won Care Professional of the Year. Well done to both.
- **Carols at the Priory** was hit by persistent rain after the end of the cold spell, but around 80 people braved the weather to attend.
- **Publications and networking** - Nita is endeavouring to get our publications advertised to a wider audience. Having put something out on social media about purchasing for Christmas, she has contacted Whitwick HS, Swannington Heritage Trust and Coleorton Heritage Trust to work together on this. Coleorton are going to put our details on their website. Nita is also trying to get display copies of our publications at Coalville Can in town and is continuing to work with their editor in chief there to try to get other things published, and off Nita's computer. This includes stories from Thringstone folk, details of police in the village in the past, a rehash of our book on Durham Miners and the history of Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club. A contract has been issued and has been checked over before signing by one of our members who has a legal background. There are a couple of queries we may have, and Nita has checked the contents of this with others in her possession to see what similarities there are. Nita is waiting for more people from the committee to come forward with their views on the contract before signing it. Nita is also trying to find a new printer to get some of our books reprinted where we have low stock numbers and has made some initial approaches to companies without any success at all. **SEE UPDATE BELOW.**
- **FoT website** - All the bulletins are now up to date on our website.
- **Litter picking** – An article on our litter picking appears in the Coalville Times this week. It doesn't mention FoT, but concentrates on Nita and her helpers, including a photo with Woodie.
- **Centre closure** – The centre will close on 22 Dec and reopen on 3 Jan, so **our next meeting on 4 Jan** is still on the schedule. At that meeting, we might find it useful to talk about what expenditure we could expect to have in 2024 so we can plan accordingly.

### **New Information**

- The hoped-for collaboration with Coalville Can to get **new material published** came to nothing, despite a lot of hard work on both sides. This was due to complications with our voluntary status and lack of registration through the charities commission and other such organisations which they required. They also had difficulties with putting Friends of Thringstone down as author. All this

also meant that they were unable to agree that Nita could sign any contract as our chairman. History groups in Swannington, Whitwick and Coleorton have agreed to help advertise our publications.

- **Centre** - £182 was raised for Canine Partners at the December coffee morning
- **Carols on 15 Dec** – Thank you to the 60 or more people who came along to the carols at St Andrew’s and walked up to the centre, singing all the way (more or less). It was heartening to see so many youngsters come along with their families. Friends of Thringstone started organising this event in 2008, and other than 2017 when the weather was so icy that we were forced to cancel and 2020 when, due to covid, we did a Carols From Your Doorstep event with Hermitage FM, the event has run every year, with one year when it was held at Thringstone Methodists.
- **Gracedieu Park Cricket Club** will be playing in Division 6 west for the 2024 season after a promotion. The ladies team has been promoted to Division 1 south.
- **The luncheon club**, started originally, decades ago, by Pam Spence, has now finished. In recent years it has run from Thringstone Members Club, but closed in the run up to Christmas due to low numbers. All monies in the account are going to go to charity.
- **Chick Robertson** did a facebook interview with Robert Henderson telling the story of the formation of Thringstone Rangers Club. This more or less matches what we have in our Scottish in Thringstone booklet, but can be viewed online by going to <https://www.facebook.com/TheGersTV/videos/366426129261586/>
- **New garages** – The garages at the rear of 37 Melrose were knocked down in November, and by 22 December the new ones were built, and the road tarmacked with new parking spaces in one area. Photos have been taken for our archives.
- **Police Beat Surgery** - There will be a police beat surgery at Charles Booth Centre on 24 Jan from 10.30am until 12 noon. If you need a face to face discussion with local police, please come along, and tell your friends.
- **Severn Trent** – Severn Trent are doing work to improve the waste network locally and will be working in Osgathorpe and Belton in January and February

### Chairs Report

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

**Promotion:** We have **758 twitter followers**, which is 3 more than last month, and **2,147 facebook followers**, which is 6 more than last month.

**Other:** Nita has written, and submitted to Community Voice, the Bauble for publication in February.

We received a Christmas card from the Police and Crime Commissioner which was sent to us via the community centre.

### What's On

3, 4 5 Jan – **Thringstone Miners Social Centre** – Holiday activity and food club. 9.30am-1.30pm. £25 per day to inc. food, with some funded places available to those on eligible benefits.

19-27Jan – Charles Booth Centre – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society’s** production of Snow White. For further details contact 0333 666 3366 or book online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads)

19 May 2024 – **Historical walk** round the village starting on The Green at 10.30am. £2.50.

### Financial

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>3158.32</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Publications		Broadband	20.00

Memberships		Public Liability insurance	15.70
<b>total income to general fund</b>			£35.70
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>3122.62</b>

## Web report

The bulletin section is up to date, and the webmaster is now working on other updates.

## Incident Report

- Neighbourhood Watch report for Nov 2023 talks about youth ASB on Clyde Court, and continues to mention motorbikes from Melrose Rd. Jan 2024 report again talks about motorbikes.
- 2 Dec – Lady on **Dalkeith Walk** left her shopping on the pavement whilst she sorted her children out and someone took her shopping. Was asking on facebook for anybody with CCTV to help.
- 2 Dec – two cars on **Kelso Court** were vandalised. Believed to have had paint poured on them.
- 29 Dec – 3am - milk holder containing 4 pints of fresh milk and a pint of orange juice stolen from house on **Springfield**. Similar reports received from person on Gee Lane over several nights.
- 31 Dec – 5am. 3 tall lads were filmed trying car doors on **Gee Lane**. Entry to one car secured, but nothing taken and car left where it was. Police informed.

## History Report

- In our last bulletin, we asked about **Fewkes Lane** and where it was. We believe this may have been known as Wheelbarrow Lane, and ran from the end of John Street across to St Andrew's church.
- Nita has this month helped a lady in Whitwick trace her great great grandfather's life – he was **James Horton Leeson** who kept the George and Dragon for a time in the 1880s.
- **June 1967** – Thringstone House was advertising for **an assistant warden** to work 2 nights a week to help foster activities for girls and women members. The salary was £206 per annum and applicants should write to the Director of Education at Grey Friars, Leicester.
- **June 1969** – The death was announced of **John Wm. Stevenson** of The Bungalow, **2 Whitwick Moor** who died on 18 June at Leicester Royal Infirmary. He was 66 years old, and had been ill for a short time. Mr Stevenson was born on 9 January 1903 in Griffydam, and was brought up with his parents and sister, Olive, at The Red Lion, Peggs Green which his parents ran. He was married Clarice King, who lived on The Green in Thringstone, by Rev. Shrewsbury at 2pm on 27 December 1926 at St Andrew's. With his wife and 2 daughters, Marjorie and Barbara, he lived in Thringstone for about 35 years, and is recorded in 1939 at 9 Loughborough Road. He had been a miner most of his adult life, and had been a deputy at Lount and Snibston. His obituary says he was a keen cyclist, that was county champion of Leicestershire and Rutland from 1927-30, and that he was a member of Coalville Cycling Club. It says he won 2 gold medals, 15 silver medals and many cups and trophies in both road and track racing. His funeral service was at St Andrew's where he had been a sidesman for 30 years, and then he was cremated. Research has shown that in June 1923, he was second in a race in Barwell whilst riding for Derby and County Racing Cyclists Club. In August of that year, whilst still riding for Derby and County RCC he reached the finals of the half mile handicap at Ambergate. Also in August 1923, at Shepshed, he won his final in wet conditions. In May 1924, still riding for Derby and County RCC, he rode in Market Harborough at the Leicestershire Amateur Athletic Championships as part of the Leicestershire and Rutland 5 mile NCU Championship. He came 3<sup>rd</sup>. The same month he won the half mile final at Herne Hill in the rain. What you have to remember is that track racing in those days was on grass. There were no velodromes as such. In June 1926, he was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the half mile cycling race in Derbyshire. He was now riding for Hugglescote CC and the event was organized by the British Legion. In August 1927 he won the 5 mile Leicestershire and Rutland NCU Championship. In order to win, he had to ride 20 laps of the Leicestershire County Cricket ground, and due to a terrific burst of speed on the last lap

on damp ground, he won in a thrilling race. In September 1927, he won the Leicestershire and Rutland half mile cycling championship and was still riding for Hugglescote District Cycling Club. In July 1928, he was second to Fred Leadbetter in the NCU Championships at the AAA Sports held at the County Ground in Leicester. In 1931, riding for Reynards Wheelers, the forerunner to Coalville Wheelers, he was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 5 mile championship to J Humphries at the Hugglescote Show which was run on their Crescent Road ground on grass. This was the first time this championship had come to Hugglescote. In June 1931 he was again 2<sup>nd</sup> to J Humphries in the 1 mile scratch race as part of Loughborough Athletic Club's first ever sports meeting. In August 1931, he was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 3 mile point to point cycle race in a time of 8 minutes and 26 seconds. We now have photos of him from 1927 and 1928 and a picture of the Hugglescote 'track'.

- **July 1970** - Former Nottinghamshire County winger, Brian Moore from Burton Joyce, has agreed to coach the junior side at **Thringstone Miners Welfare**. Tony Hume, the former Long Eaton and Loughborough player, has been appointed as manager. Hume aimed to put the Thringstone team into the senior league as quickly as possible, but resigned in January 1971. By August 1971, Derrek Robinson of Hathern had taken over as club manager and the team had already made an impact on the senior scene.
- **Oct 1970** – For the first time in its history, the Thringstone branch of the **Royal British Legion** was selected to carry the branch standard at the festival of remembrance at the **Royal Albert Hall** in November. The small but active branch 'has a reputation of looking after old comrades in the village'. The standard was to be carried by Mr R Henshaw, a former Sherwood Forester.
- **April 1971** - The body of **William White**, 54 years old, of **Henson's Lane** was found in a field near the railway line at Gracedieu with 460 aspirins in his pocket. He had been missing for 4 days having gone to sign on at the labour exchange in Coalville. Death was due to aspirin poisoning, Mr White having taken about 40 tablets. His body was found by his brother-in-law Norman Perkins of Shepshed after hearing that some boys had seen a man near the line. His coat, jacket and belt were hanging from a fence. The inquest heard that Mr White had been a stoker in the Royal Navy and had similar jobs at collieries and Loughborough University. He had been out of work for 18 months and become very depressed. He had become frightened to go out because he felt that people were talking about him being unemployed. The verdict was that he killed himself whilst the balance of his mind was disturbed.
- **Aug 1971** – Mrs Hammond resigned as organist at **St Andrew's** having played for 9 Sundays as well as for other services.
- **July 1972** – The council were making plans to improve the safety of the area near **Booth Road** after a series of accidents in recent years involving children, some of whom had been killed, including the recent death of Marie Jardine. In 1971, 3 year old Ellis Ashcroft from Elgin Walk had been killed after running into the road and being hit by a van. At that time, the coroner said that the hedge on the corner of Booth Road and Loughborough Road was too high, and should be either removed or reduced in height which didn't happen. In 1967 a three and a half year old boy had been killed in the same spot, in 1968 there were 5 separate road incidents there, 4 involving children, and in 1969 there were 4 separate incidents, including one fatality. Of these figures, 10 of them involved pedestrians. Residents had made a gap in hedging from the Woodside Estate onto Loughborough Rd., and the new plans were for this gap to be filled in to prevent children dashing through rather than using the barriers which had been erected. The remains of the hedge on the corner of Booth Road, cut down by around 70 protestors armed with axes on 9 July after the death of Marie Jardine, were to be removed, and a post and rail fence erected. At that time, the men with axes had also tried to fell an ash tree, but were stopped as the branches to the tree were caught in overhead electric cables. Local councillor Walter Johnson said that the recreation facilities on Henson's Lane which Marie Jardine had visited and from which she was returning should have been provided on the Woodside Estate itself, so that children didn't have to cross the busy Loughborough Road. Mrs Sylvia Bell of 8 Elgin Walk said that the action of the men involved in removing the hedges and trees was done out of anger as something had to be done to protect the lives of children living locally. 'A child had been lying dead in the road at the same spot a few hours before, and the men were very

very angry indeed because they felt nothing was being done to reduce the danger. Mrs Jardine had been in church when the event happened.' The tenant of the property on the corner of Booth Road whose trees and hedging were removed by the men was Joseph Wheeldon who had to clear up the debris from fallen trees and branches. He said he had been in bed when this all happened. His wife had gone out to talk to the men but they had sworn at her, so she had gone back into the property. The new line of vision proposed for the fence would be better for people leaving Booth Road to come onto Loughborough Road. At the inquest for Ann Marie Agnes Jardine, the coroner said there had been 11 accidents at that spot in the last 5 years, and 3 of them had been fatal. Mrs Gilmore who lived on the Woodside Estate said it was wrong that children had to cross a busy main road to access swings. The inquest heard that Marie was in a group of children who ran across the road, but had herself stopped to pull up her socks, and was hit by a car. Residents were asking for a subway, bridge or pedestrian crossing at the Booth Road corner and wanted a play area on Melrose Road, but the council had said that the volume of traffic did not warrant a subway, bridge or pedestrian crossing, hence the idea of removing what was left of the hedging and putting in a post and rail fence.. Does anybody remember this post and rail fence at all given that there is hedging there now?

- **Jan 1973** – Accidents on **Loughborough Road** in Thringstone are well above the national average. In 3 years and 9 months, there have been 18 accidents on the mile long road where people have been injured. A Midland Road Safety Unit investigation suggested that the cost of this was £59,490 in financial terms. The safety unit made a number of suggestions, but the Department of the Environment had refused an extension to the 30mph speed limit or the erection of an 'accident blackspot' sign. The recommendations from the safety report are being sent to Coalville Urban District Council for consideration.
- **March 1973** – a complaint was received by Cllr. Aris that Whitwick, with a population of 10,000, has no **doctors' surgery**, and that people had to travel to Thringstone, which in turn had no chemist so people had to either go into Coalville with their prescriptions or go back to Whitwick. Mr Aris agreed to discuss the matter with colleagues.
- **April 1973** – Thringstone's kendo instructor **Bill Prytherch** has started a new class at Thringstone Community Centre, with 9 students eager to learn the martial art. Mr Prytherch of Melrose Road joined a class in the north about 9 years ago and is now the national chairman of the Kendo Association. Mr Prytherch hopes to bring the world Kendo championships to Britain for 1976.
- **April 1973** – The death was announced of Mr Victor Henderson, aged 56, licensee of The **George and Dragon**, Thringstone. He had been ill for some time. He took over the license 5 and a half years ago and had previously been the works manager for John Ellis, the precast concrete company from Barrow Upon Soar. A lifelong sportsman, Mr Henderson was an honorary official for the Amateur Athletic Association, and at one time travelled throughout the country as time keeper at events. His wife, Betty, is intending to take over the license of the pub.
- **Nov 1972** – **Catherine Young** of Melrose Road won £164 in damages from John Newberry having fallen down the steps of his mobile shop in February when it stopped near her home and she went to buy some groceries. The court heard that she had slipped on some cooking oil spilled by a young girl earlier and suffered lacerations to her arm and severe bruising, which caused her to be off work for 8 weeks. She denied that she had been in a hurry and also that she had been told to wait whilst the oil spillage was cleared. A £30 claim by Mrs Young's husband for taking a week off work to look after their 3 year old daughter was refused, as by that time, Mrs Young was back on her feet.
- **August 1973** – Thringstone boy **Shaun Fitzsimmons** aged 5 received head injuries when he was in collision with a car on the junction of Melrose Road and Loughborough Road. Shaun of Melrose Road was detained in the LRI for observation.
- **Dec 1973** – **Thringstone Community Centre** produced its first newsletter this month with the editor being the warden Mr D C Fitt with the help of Mr Hicken. Various clubs and societies which meet at the centre have made a contribution and it is hoped to publish other editions periodically. Whilst many in the area view the centre as an educational facility, Mr Fitt said that they like to think they are operating a social centre as well. The centre is open all week, and people are invited in anytime to

come and have a tea or coffee, watch TV and have a chat. The centre, which is for the benefit of the people of Thringstone and surrounding areas, currently has 230 paid up members. The newsletter contains much information about things taking place at the centre, including details of the orchestra which has been at the centre for the last 13 years and has a youngest member of 15 years and an oldest of 80.

- **Dec 1973** – The Thringstone branch of the **Royal British Legion** held their annual meeting at The Fox Inn, at which Mr Ernest Grice, secretary, told the group that their next meeting would be at the head quarters. There was much interest about reforming the Coalville branch, and Mr J Wilson, poppy organiser, said that poppy sales had increased on the previous year by £25. All members and widows receive £2 from the group at Christmas time.
- **Aug 1974** – By order of the Trustees of **Thringstone Methodist Church**, a double residential plot on Loughborough Road was for sale with outline planning permission, by order of the administrators of the estate of Mrs I M Fearn (Dec'd).
- **Aug 1974** – **Ron Brewin** of 63 Henson's Lane and his wife Margaret were the first winners of £1000 prize in the Leicester Mercury's Where's the ball competition. When the Mercury called to tell Mr Brewin about their win, they found nobody at home, but then found Margaret Brewin in a local grocery store and off license on the corner of Whitwick Moor, kept by her husband's cousin Gertrude Tugby, where she works part time. A message was sent to Mr Brewin who works at a Loughborough knitting machine company. A former footballer, Mr Brewin (43) has yet to decide what to do with the money, but is going to the lake district for a holiday, and may change his Morris 1000 for a more up to date car. He went to celebrate with his wife, Gertie Tugby and his aunt Mrs George Brookes.
- **Jan 1975** – Police were appealing for witnesses to an accident in Whitwick in which 17 year old David Steel of **Melrose Road** died. He received extensive burns when his motorcycle was in collision with a stationary van in Talbot Street and then burst into flames. He was returning from his plumbing course at Coalville Tech, where he had been studying for his apprenticeship with the Ibstock firm of Shelton. Earlier that day, David had sent off an application for a driving test so that he could drive a car. He had been having lessons for some time, and had intended to give up riding his moped when his driving test was passed. This is the second tragedy for the Steel family whose daughter Catheryn died a year earlier, aged 22, following a car accident in Yorkshire when she was 18. The family had moved from Durham in the early 1960s as part of the movement of Scottish and Durham miners to the new Woodside Estate. Mr and Mrs Steel have 5 other children.
- **Feb 1975** – The new production at Thringstone of **Aladdin** went well, despite the fact that rehearsals only started a few weeks earlier. Richard Hammond was producer, and David Fitt, and wife Kay, wardens at the centre were in the cast, along with many young people who go to the centre.
- **Aug 1975** – Thringstone's **first horticultural show** at the community centre was organised by warden, David Fitt. The tradition of growing large onions which used to see Thringstone go up against neighbour Shepshed, continued with Mr J Webster's produce. Neil Nicken won the flower arranging class, the 15 year old beating the ladies of the village. Neil has been interested in flower arranging since he was 9. The show attracted 125 entries for the 5 classes. Mr Fitt said 'Thringstone used to host horticultural events in the past in the village pubs, but these were abandoned due to lack of interest and support. We hope to revive the tradition going forward.'
- **Aug 1975** – Work began on the £12,000 church hall for **Thringstone Methodists**, with Aeron Hart, supported by 150 onlookers, cut the first sod. The cost of the build has come from lots of fund raising events, plus the sale of land for £4,500 and a grant from the Methodist Church fund. The hall is expected to be completed by October..
- **Nov 1975** – Mr David Fitt is to leave **Thringstone Community Centre** as warden to take up a post at Market Bosworth Community Centre after the Christmas break. He will also be teaching physical education at the high school there.

**Next meeting 4 Jan at Charles Booth Centre, back in the house lounge at 7pm All welcome.**