

'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Monthly litter pick total – 182 bags removed by 10 people against **127 bags** for Jan 2023.
Please Note – the Coalville tip will be closed on 5 Feb for 4 weeks due to maintenance issues.

Here are the notes taken at the January meeting for those who don't have email addresses. A further meeting was held on 1 February, and updates given below and in the new information section, all of which were discussed at the meeting on 1 February. 7 people attended that meeting and there were 2 apologies.

Jan meeting - 3 apologies, 5 present. The meeting lasted half an hour.

Bulletins – Nita is having problems sending bulletins to people with a TalkTalk email address because of some issue with Virgin Media, and had to enlist the help of Janet Stevenson to send out January bulletins to the 4 people affected. One of these people is dealing with TalkTalk about this, another has given us a different email address, but we still have 2 people who we can't contact by email. **UPDATE:** 2 people changed their email addresses and the others now seem to be working, which is a relief!

Centre – On 3 January, due to heavy rainfall, there was a considerable ingress of water into the room where one of the boilers to the centre is housed. This meant that the boiler had to be shut off for safety reasons. A pump has been sourced to pump out the water and then the boiler is to be checked by an electrician, along with some lights. We understand that the lift is now broken completely, and will have to be rebuilt, so scaffolding is going up to do this shortly. Next Heritage Forum meeting will be held at the centre on 10 Feb at 10am. Marlene Reid's social supermarket came back to the centre on 3 January. It is open every Wednesday from 10.30am until 11.30am, and there is also a café for people who wish to have a hot drink to do so. Nita has posted details of this to 10 social media pages on behalf of the centre. She has also provided the centre with details of acts which played at the centre in 2018 and are within the price range to consider rebooking. **UPDATE:** The charity coffee morning on 12 Jan raised £153 for Help The Homeless. Nita has continued to help the centre in January by providing information about previous events and has sent the new events manager details of how previous events were managed.

Finances – We have £3122.62 in the bank. In addition to this, we still have £599.90 left over from the wall project to be used for any ongoing repairs to the wall. Ann is going to let us know the cost of new exhibition display boards, but what else do we need this year? Given the situation with there being no fairy lights at the centre this Christmas, can we purchase some for them to use as we have 3 times in the past? The centre would be happy for us to do this, as we have spoken to Beata about this. We agreed that we would source these, and could also provide similar funding for other venues who may want help and make an approach to us. **UPDATE:** Anne Statham

has agreed to work with the centre in providing something suitable. She has spoken to Tony Dandy about this, and discussed the sort of lights they feel would be suitable long term.

Litter picking – Beata and her son have taken litter pick sticks to do litter picking in the woods for us. It is worrying that our 2023 total figure was the highest it has been since 2017. We agreed to try to organise another community litter pick in the spring. **UPDATE:** We will be holding a litter pick on 23 March at 11am from The Green. All welcome to come along and help out. Nita has asked that something go into Community Voice magazine to help get people interested. In addition, Nita is doing a talk to the students at Thringstone Primary's assembly on 5 February to discuss the importance of using bins and the damage to the environment that litter can cause.

Police stuff – We understand that the evening beat surgery in December at Thringstone Co-op was well attended. The next one is at the centre on 24 Jan at 10.30am until 12 noon. Several people have said that there needs to be more of these in an evening for those people who work. Thringstone Co-op says there has been a drop in thefts following a closer working relationship with PCSO Emma Ramsey. **UPDATE:** The beat surgery at Charles Booth centre was also well attended, with many wanting to talk about the motorbikes situation in the wood and at the back of the bowling club, whilst others wanted to talk about other issues of anti-social behaviour.

Publications – We need to source another printer to get small number reprints of Durham Miners, Village Trail 2 and Memories 1. Nita emailed a company in Packington in December which was recommended, but got no response. Janet said we might want to contact Melbourne Printing. Nita is still talking to the centre about getting some of our leaflets printed off. The centre were waiting for a new photocopier to do this. Posters advertising our publications are being taken to Whitwick Historical Group at the weekend, and we will still try to get to Coalville Can with some display copies for them to see if they can drum up any interest. **UPDATE:** Ann Petty took a copy of every one of our publications into Coalville Can on 24 Jan. Nita then sent them a poster to go with the display. Nita also sent a smaller poster to Whitwick Historical Group, as the ones delivered to them were too big for their window. John Dickinson found copies of the original Village Trail booklets on his computer, and efforts are now being made to put these onto an external hard drive, so that future reprints can be done. Janet said that she might have a spare one. We've also had 20 updated copies of our flyer printed. Invoice for £10 will show on next month's finance report.

Drury Lane planting – Nita had not heard anything at all from the probation service with regard to helping us tidy up the planting whilst they deal with Bob's Closs, and had emailed the contact again. **UPDATE:** We received this update from the probation service on 9 Jan - We are waiting for updates from The Forestry body on their final plans for Bob's Meadow before we can establish a work group. As such we cannot give you any firm dates but believe the window for effective tree planting would possibly take us up to the end of February/beginning of March so we would hope that we are able to organise something earlier than that. Also we are hoping to be able to use the scout hut as a welfare room and toilet facilities. The scout contact to seek agreement has been approached via Beata at the centre, but as yet we have had no further information on this. We also got sent a copy of the environmental report from 2011 and Nita has forwarded this to the relevant people from the People Zone and to the centre. Bill wondered whether it would be a good idea to have another one done but it was agreed that this was something that the centre would need to organise with the project team.

New Information

Gracedieu Park Cricket Club – at the AGM in January, Martin Staley stepped down as first team captain after 3 years. The new captain is Jack Hutt.

Thringstone and Whitwick People Zone - Funding has been given to Thringstone Primary for a sensory garden and to the Hare and Hounds for a defib. Other funding has gone to Charles Booth Centre for their Sunday family film shows, to Thringstone scouts for broadband and a new squirrels section, Whitwick Scouts for a heating upgrade, Marlene Reid Centre for community transport between Thringstone, Whitwick and Coalville on a Wednesday, to Active Sports for a new project

and to St Joseph's tearoom at Oaks In Charnwood for a wellbeing sanctuary. Other things in the pipeline include funding for the Limelight Performing Arts community choir, and possible funding to help put on a youth club at Thringstone Members Club. The People Zone also worked with Crimestoppers to do leaflet deliveries and put up posters on 23 Jan.

George and Dragon – now open for breakfast every Friday 8am - 11am. Breakfasts start at £7.

The Green – Nita asked NWLDC if they could clear The Green of fallen branches following Storms Isha and Jocelyn, and they did this immediately.

Hermitage FM – We understand that the radio station and café in town are to close after 17 years at the end of March. We know Jon Sketchley has health issues, and wish him and Jan well. It was agreed to give some flowers to the couple sometime before they close as a thank you for all they have done for our group in the past.

Big Help Out – this national campaign is running again between 7 and 9 June. Nita has emailed the centre and school to see if we can work together on something during the period.

Ruby's - will be closed for essential maintenance on 20 and 21 February.

Bus service – a lady from Gracedieu Road has been in touch as she has started a petition to Arriva to ask for the 16, 29 and 29a bus service to go back through Whitwick Market Place. At the time the route changed, Arriva said it was a purely commercial decision. However, as she rightly said, school children, older people, people with disabilities and mothers with toddlers can all be affected as they can't get a bus to where they want to go, including doctors and chemists. Nita said she would help promote this, and has put something out on social media and sent something to Community Voice. If anybody wants to sign the petition, please contact Jackie on 07857 532399 or email her on jackimac@live.co.uk Further details of the petition are in the Coalville Times this week. Remember That there is a shuttle bus thanks to People Zone and Marlene Reid which runs through Thringstone and Whitwick into town on Wednesday mornings. Book on 512456.

Daffodil planting – Nita had received an email from NWLDC asking for photos of the daffodils planted by us when they are in bloom. Bill said that he had seen people walking on some of the bulbs, and there was general discussion about people picking the flowers in the past and therefore ruining the display for others in the village. This has been happening for a long time, especially around Mothering Sunday.

Chairs Report

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

Promotion: We have **759 twitter followers**, which is one more than last month, and **2,153 facebook followers**, which is 5 more than last month.

Other: Welcome to Becky Astwood and Marilyn Greenwood who have joined as a members. We are sorry to report the death of our member Billie Davidson on 16 Jan. Our thoughts are with Theresa and her siblings in their loss.

Nita spent an hour or more cutting back **bushes**, including an ivy bush, which were sticking out onto the pathway to the Bull's Head from Springfield and in some cases blocking the path.

Nita has also reported to County Council that there are 2 **men at work signs** that have been left after work has been completed, and at least 3 sandbags – these are by 123 Lbro Rd, 71 Lbro Rd and by Thringstone Co-op's wall.

What's On

4 Feb - Charles Booth Centre **Sunday Family Film** – doors open 10am, film starts 10.15am – A Teenage Kraken

9 Feb – Charles Booth Centre **charity coffee morning** 10am in aid of Rainbows.

11 Feb – Charles Booth Centre – **decorate your pancake** – 9.30am – 10.15am and 10.30am – 11.15am. Needs to be booked via facebook. £4.

15 Feb – Thringstone Primary's **Little Acorns Pre-school** – open morning from 9am – 11am.

16 Feb – Elton John Tribute Joel Coombes at **Charles Booth Centre**. Tickets £13 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre

17 Feb – **Thringstone Members Club** – 10am. The Rye Sisters. Tickets £25 to include lunch.

17 Feb -**Thringstone Members Club** – 7pm start at 8pm. Neil Elliot in concert. Tickets only £2 for over 18s only available from the club.

9 March - **Thringstone Members Club** – Fairy Wishes Wellness day 12 noon until 6pm followed by Psychic Night at 7pm with cost of £25 per person. Deposit required. Food included. Book on 07888 645720

23 March – **Litter pick** from The Green at 11am. All welcome. This is part of the Great British Spring Clean.

23 March – **Thringstone Members Club** cash and prize bingo. Doors open 6.30pm, starts 7pm. Adults £12, children £4. All children my have adults with them. Includes free slice of cake. You need to book through Ace Community Theatre on facebook.

18 May – Walk to **Gracedieu Priory** from Bull’s Head carpark at 6pm. £3 per person.

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

19 May – Walk to **Gracedieu Priory** from Bull’s Head car park at 3pm. £3 per person.

23 May – Walk to **Gracedieu Priory** from Bull’s Head car park at 10am. £3 per person

1 June – **Thringstone Members Club Wedding Fayre** – 12-5pm. Free event.

15 Aug – Trail Therapy **2 mile walk** in Thringstone from 9.45am. All details from www.peakrunning.co.uk/trailtherapy

17 Aug – **Woodstock in Whitwick** at Man Within Compass.

Financial

.Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	3122.62		
Income		Expenditure	
Donation	£1	Broadband	20.00
Memberships	£8	Public Liability insurance	15.70
total income to general fund	£9		£35.70
		Total general fund at month end	3095.92

Web report

The bulletin section is up to date to the end of 2023, and the webmaster is now working on other updates.

Incident Report

- 6 Jan – Lady with a dog got knocked over on the zebra crossing on **The Green**. Ambulance came. Witnesses helped.
- 9 Jan – Persons seen trying doors around 2.30am in **Tithe Close**. Police aware.
- 10 Jan – wooden pole holding the sign saying **Brook Lane** (Gracedieu Rd end) broken. NWLDC aware.
- 22 Jan – **motocross type bike** seen riding up and down Loughbro Rd and onto the Members Club car park without lights and driving erratically. Probably the same bike that has been tearing round the field at the back of the bowls club ridden by one lad with 2 others joining in by sitting on it over the previous weekend. Damage has also been caused to the green changing room structure on that field. NWLDC and police all aware of this.

- 22 Jan – empty bungalow on **Heathfield** broken into by youths. Place trashed. Out of date wine drunk, tomatoes and prunes emptied over the carpet. Access gained through smashing conservatory door. Culprits seen on neighbours' CCTV.
- 28 Jan – white van hit and demolished the **signage pole** to St Andrew's onto which a bin was attached at the top of the church jitty between 35 and 37 Loughborough Road. Photos were taken of the van involved. Police informed, as well as local councillors/district council and waste management team who came out immediately and removed the bin.

History Report

- Someone sent Nita a press cutting from Jan 1979 relating to **Nan Murray** whose parents lived at that time on Clyde Court. She had become a wren and had just completed radar training.
- Last month we talked about **John Wm. Stevenson** of 2 Whitwick Moor and his cycling prowess. We are now told that in 1925, he was riding for Ashby Ivanhoe Wheelers, which is new information. It appears that he won a race at the carnival at Leicestershire County Cricket Ground.
- Last month we also talked about the suicide of **William White** of Henson's Lane who died in 1971. He was born on 15 April 1916 and was the elder son of Alec and Rose White nee Hall and known as Rosie of Main Street, Thringstone who married on 1 November 1913 at St Andrew's, at which time both were living in John Street. Alec White died in 1931 aged 42, leaving a family of 6 children, the youngest being Eva who married Norman Perkins mentioned as one of the witnesses at the inquest to William White in 1971. He was buried at St. Andrew's. William's eldest sister, Sarah White, died in January 1934 at Markfield Sanatorium aged only 19 years and we believe was buried with her father. William's mother, Rose, remarried to Loammi Wellington Hatton in 1933 and continued to live on Main Street until her death in 1948 aged 56 years. We are now told that William was quite a character, and was known locally as Slick. He was known to the people of Henson's Lane as the chap who stood at his gate in a morning and had a wet shave with a razor, throwing the soap from the razor onto the ground. His wife, Kath, was tall and used to go into The Fox.
- **March 1967** – Applications were being requested from contractors and builders who might wish to tender to build a **caretaker's bungalow** at Thringstone Primary School. A deposit of £2 2 shillings was required to see the Bills of Quantities, which would be returnable on the provision of a bona fide tender
- **Jan 1971** – **A Persian cat** was found locked in a cupboard when a Thringstone pre-school returned after the Christmas break. The cat had survived for 3 weeks without any food or water. When the school reopened and someone went to get the toys out, they found what looked like a dead cat, but it showed a spark of life and recovered.
- **Jan 1976** – Harry Hodgson and Alf Williams, playing for **Fox Inn**, Thringstone, won the Bradley Pairs darts trophy at Coalville St Wilfred's Catholic Club.
- **March 1976** – Eric Marshall of **Clyde Court** was in front of magistrates having hit the driver of a Midland Red bus following a late night bus ride. Marshall had heard the bus driver in conversation with another person about miners leaving early when on afternoon shifts. This upset Marshall, and when leaving the bus, he hit the driver several times in the face causing serious swelling. The incident had happened the previous October, but it had taken some time to find out who Marshall was and where he lived. Marshall's defence was that he had heard the bus driver make several rude comments about miners, and being a miner himself, he wasn't going to stand for this. He said that the day before the incident, a miner at Whitwick Colliery had nearly been killed, and that he had little income, as he was saving for his wedding, and was only earning £61 a week. He was fined £100 and ordered to pay this at the rate of £10 per week.
- **June 1976** – **George Salmund** (30) of Melrose Road, a father of 3 children, was killed in an accident with a bus and a lorry on the A75 at Carrutherstown in Scotland. Mr Salmund was a miner who worked at Bagworth pit and had been sitting at the back of the bus. The bus was heading to Leicester, and the local MP said that the road was not suitable for the amount of traffic that it had to deal with, and was surprised that there had not been more accidents. All 44 people on the bus were taken to hospital in Dumfries, but Mr Salmund, who was given first aid at the scene, died before

getting to the hospital. Mr Salmond had been to Ayrshire to attend his mother's funeral, and had stayed for an extra 2 weeks to comfort his father.

- **April 1976** - The population of Thringstone in 1976 is said to have been 5384.
- **Aug 1976** – A scheme to spend £10k on **public lavatories** on Thringstone Green has been deferred, as no costings had been made for the work to be carried out. It was also wondered whether The Green in Thringstone was the best place for this type of structure, given that in Measham, Hugglescote and Ibstock similar structures had been vandalised. The matter was referred back for further consideration.
- **March 1977 – Thringstone's Jubilee Committee** have set a target of £2000 to raise in order to put on a great set of events. One event, an old time music hall, at Thringstone Community centre, was well received and raised over £200. The event was so popular that many people had to be turned away. All the audience came in Edwardian costume, and it is hoped to put on a similar event later in the year. All the performers were local people, and the night included musical numbers, songs, dancing and comic acts under the chairmanship of John Fraser. In May a drama, music, dance and song event at Thringstone Primary, under the direction of Mr Don Hambleton, donated all the proceeds to the committee.
- **May 1977** – Within half an hour of putting fresh produce on The Green, Thringstone's **Jubilee Committee** had raised £85. The committee has now raised £1100 for the festivities in June.
- **June 1977** – Members of Thringstone Community Centre held a cheese and wine evening at the centre to celebrate the **Queen's Jubilee**.
- **March 1979** – It cost £10,000 to repair **vandalised street lighting** on a large housing estate in Thringstone, (thought to be Woodside Estate) as doors had been ripped off lamp standards and wires pulled out. The county council were concerned about dangers to children because some of the exposed wires were live, so installed new lamp standards which were vandal resistant.
- **March 1979 – Ernest Grice and Jack Gough** were presented with gold merit badges, the **Royal British Legion's** highest honour, by Thringstone RBL at a ceremony at The Fox, Thringstone by Jack Jones of the NUM.
- **May 1979** – At the parochial **church council AGM**, a financial report was given by Mrs Brayford. Mrs F Willmott resigned, and Mrs Janet Spencer was elected to fill the vacancy. Mr J L Gee and Mr J W Whaley were re-elected as church wardens and Mrs Sykes and Mrs Whaley as the deanery synod representatives.
- **Aug 1979 – Bill Simmons** of Main Street retired as transport manager of Herbert Morris in Loughborough after a career with the company of 40 years. He joined Herbert Morris as a mechanic in the plant department in 1939 and after service in the RAF in WW2, became a mechanic in the garage. He became transport manager in 1964. He was presented with a leather wallet and a cash gift from Patrick McTighe of Davy Engineering who own Herbert Morris. He also received an electric razor and digital clock from colleagues. Mr Simmons intends to take up model making and shooting in his retirement.
- **Nov 1979** – Broken glass on the **playing field** at the rear of Thringstone's Rangers Club was causing concern to local councillor Peter Kane, as well as Rev. Frank Jennings, who felt that local children were in danger of getting hurt. Cllr. Kane said that teenagers often brought glass when they went to sit on the field, and then intentionally broke it or threw bottles down into the grass. Those mowing the field then had an issue and were being asked to look out for such things in the future.
- **Nov 1979** – Mr Harry Liggins, who has a **newsagent shop** in Thringstone and another one on Cropston Drive in Greenhill expressed his concerns regarding the closure of the mines, with several shops facing closure because of lack of trade, as many depended on miners getting supplies en route to work. Mr Liggins said 'It is going to hit us hard, but we will have to face it when it comes. If new industry does not come to Coalville, it is as good as dead'.

Next meeting 7 March at Charles Booth Centre in the house lounge at 7pm All welcome.