

**'Working together to improve our village'**

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## **BULLETIN FOR MARCH 2024**

**Monthly litter pick total – 119 bags** removed by **9 people** against **159 bags** for Feb 2023. Our litter pickers continue to find Co-op baskets dumped after shoplifting has taken place, and other items which are reported to the council as fly tipping.

**Leics. County Council** have voted NOT to close the refuse tip at Shepshed, which is good news for the area.

### **Chairs Report**

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

**Promotion:** We have **758 twitter followers**, which is one less than last month, and **2,156 facebook followers**, which is 3 more than last month.

**Other:** Nita briefly attended the February local Heritage Forum meeting, but arrived late and had to leave early!

### **New information**

- Thanks to a concerted effort from one of our members, a **litter bin** has been attached to the 'new' bus stop near Badgerscroft. The remaining part of the pole by the church jitty on Lbro Rd where the bin used to be has now been removed and tarmacked over.
- NWLDC is carrying out a **review relating to recycling** and what people want from any new recycling scheme. This review is open until 14 April. Please try to complete the survey on [www.nwleics.gov.uk/binreview](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/binreview)
- **Clubbercise** with Laura has moved to Charles Booth centre on a Tuesday from 6.30-.7.20pm. For more details please contact Laura on 07825 449485
- **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society** is looking for backstage staff, front of house staff and general helpers. If you are able to help in any way at all, please contact [chair@tpads.org.uk](mailto:chair@tpads.org.uk)
- **Drury Lane** - Thringstone Co-op intend to remove the ivy from the rear of their premises as it provides 'a ladder for rodents' to get into their store area. They may also cut back some of the trees, since they appear not to be in the ownership of any particular individual.
- **Field behind Thringstone Bowling Club** – We received an email from NWLDC about this field which says they are still looking into the football team Ingles FC taking on a lease and maintenance of the football facilities. NWLDC is looking likely to be able to access significant funding through the Football Foundation which would considerably improve the area and put in measures to restrict motorcycle access to the field. They would be looking at a long term lease and need to align with the funding timelines (2025/26 season). A long term lease is essentially an 'asset transfer' which means due legal process must be followed. On average this takes 12-24 months. NWLDC is waiting for their Property Services to provide information before they can move to the next stage, which would involve community consultation. Therefore the aim currently is for Ingles FC to take a 12 month lease for junior football for season 2024/25 and a long term lease from season 2025/26 onwards. In the meantime, NWLDC and the police are looking to reduce the amount of motorbike activity on the field in an afternoon.

- **Bob's Closs** – This is the field at the rear of the centre. We understand that there will be a grass survey carried out in May and that the coppicing of the closs will take place in March before the nesting season.
- **Centre** – The redecoration and updating of the office is nearly completed with a different layout and new furniture plus new wooden flooring.
- **Land at the rear of 48 Main Street** – the people who have recently bought the house did not buy the whole of the land at the rear of the house, which had been fenced off by the previous owner and sides onto the wall which we rebuilt. She still owns that land and intends, at some stage, to sell it off for building of 2 new houses.
- **Marlene Reid shuttle bus** – The shuttle bus operating since January from Thringstone through Whitwick and into Coalville has been suspended 3 weeks early and will be relaunched in the Autumn.
- **Litter pick on 23 March** – Thank you to the centre who have said they would like to offer teas and cakes to all those who attend after the event has finished. All rubbish collected is to be left by the gate to the sustrans track near Melrose Rd play area, and will be collected by NWLDC early the following week. This has been arranged with Mick Hughes at the council. NWLDC have asked that we take pictures at the start and of the litter collected so they can give us some publicity through their communications team.
- **Display boards** – Thanks to Llynda Baugh for gifting to us some unused display boards to replace those we have which have broken hinges. Much appreciated.
- **Daffodil planting** – NWLDC came out and took a few photos of the daffodils planted at the end of Main Street. We have asked for copies. They intend to use these photos as part of their follow up on grants given to groups like ours.
- **Village Trail booklets** – Thanks to our webmaster for providing an external hard drive, which has enabled us to retrieve the original copies of these booklets from the computer of John Dickinson who wrote these for us years ago. We can now get reprints done should this prove advisable.

### What's On

3 March – **Charles Booth Centre**. Family film starts at 10.15. Doors open 10am.

8 March – Charity coffee morning, **Charles Booth Centre**, 10-12noon in aid of Stroke 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 may have adults with them. Includes free slice of cake. You need to book through Ace Community Theatre on facebook.

21 April – **Gracedieu Manor Park** – Spring Open Day 12 noon until 4pm. Stalls, tours and games.

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

18 May – **Gracedieu Manor Park** – Outdoor cinema showing Mamma Mia. To book ticket go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/outdoor-cinema-leicester-mamma-mia-tickets>

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.

19 May - **Gracedieu Manor Park** – open air showing of film The Greatest Showman. 7.30pm.

Tickets only through Eventbrite on <https://www.cinemaoutdoor.co.uk/leicesteroutdoorcinema>

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

23-25 May – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's** production of Nunsense. Adults £10, children £8 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads)

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](http://www.peakrunning.co.uk/trailtherapy)

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

**Financial**

<b>.Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>3100.42</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Donation		Broadband	20.00
Memberships		Public Liability insurance	15.70
		Flyer printing	10.00
<b>total income to general fund</b>			£45.70
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>£3054.72</b>

**Please note** – due to clerical error, the amount carried forward has increased by £4.50 from last month. Our financial year ends at the end of March, and work will be carried out to get the accounts examined, as usual. Our insurance expires in April and will be renegotiated as usual.

**Web report**

The webmaster continues to work on updates.

**Incident Report**

- 2 Feb – Car number plates stolen from car in Melrose Road. Police informed.
- 3 Feb – Bike stolen from inside a porch on Elgin Walk. Police informed.
- 10 Feb – Large amount of discarded drug plants etc. found in field on Warren Lane. Police informed.

**History Report**

- Nita had an email from Peter Smith of Cropston who is researching pinfolds in Leicestershire and intends to submit evidence he has found to the Pounds and Pinfolds register ([www.poundsandpinfolds.co.uk](http://www.poundsandpinfolds.co.uk)) and also write an article for Leicestershire Historian. Pinfolds are where animals were kept, often overnight. He wanted more information on the **Thringstone and Gracedieu pinfolds**, and we endeavoured to help. The latest information came from 1956 when Thringstone’s pinfold was said to still be in a sound condition. Thringstone’s pinfold was close to the entrance of the Millhouse Estate, and we know to have still been in use in 1906 as it was mentioned in parish minutes. This apparently is later than the national norm, as most pinfolds stopped being used in late 1880s.
- Following the article Nita did on the police houses in a recent Community Voice magazine, Nita had a message from one of our members who was brought up in **the police house on Loughborough Rd**. The family moved in around 1971 after it had been vacant for a while. It was in quite a mess and had no inside toilet, no gas, no heating, just a sink on bricks etc. The police phone box was still on the outside where the porch window now is near the front door. The garden was overgrown both front and back, and the windows were still metal framed. There were two fire places in the two large front bedrooms and the two front living rooms to heat the house. The glass in the windows used to crack when the coal fires were lit and it was freezing cold, and there were red tiles to the kitchen floor and lino everywhere else in the house. Nita also had an email from Pauline Hart, the **granddaughter of PC Leverett** who used to live at 53 Lbro Rd, and information was exchanged about policing locally. Her grandparents were amongst the first people involved in training dogs for work with the police. Apparently, her grandfather’s records on training police dogs were sent to the police archives

- Nita has been researching the dates of build for **101, 103 and 105 Main Street**, which are the houses running up to The Three Tuns. It would appear that Eric White (known as Salty) lived at 99 Main Street and next to there was his allotment. The whole of the row from the butcher's shop down to no. 99 was known as Blakesley's Row. Eric's son Les bought that allotment from his dad and built a house in the 1970s (101) and then extended it. He lived there for some time, until around 2009. 103 is an older property built around 1934 by James William Wilkins (known as Billy) who was a haulage contractor. He had moved from Primrose Cottage which is just down Main Street. After Billy died on 28 December 1985, his wife Adelaide moved away, and the house was sold by their daughter Jean to Sue and Chris Mason, who then sold it shortly afterwards to Anne Baxter, daughter of Horace Poxon who was moving from no. 91. During Anne's ownership the house was extended, and Anne left there in 2005. At the rear of that property were several allotments which used to be used by the Upton's, Domoney's and Ray Baxter. Next to 103 used to be Billy Wilkinson's garage but that was pulled down and the land sold by Billy's daughter Jean to Anne and Colin Jones who built 105 Main Street on there. In 1939, numbers for Main Street go from 99 to 103 then 109 and 111. Numbers of properties aren't given on the 1921 census, but the White family, who we know to have been at 99 Main Street appear on the schedule next to the 3 Tuns, so perhaps that part of the village was just fields at that time.
- **May 1859** – At Hugglescote a sprint race of 120 yards took place between George Holt of Whitwick and **John Halliday of Thringstone** with a purse of £2. The concourse was full of people there to view the race. Holt was the favourite, but little or no betting took place. The race started with the pull of a handkerchief and Holt led from the first, winning by 3 or 4 yards. The winner was then asked to race Robert Gamble of Coalville to run 440 yards for £6 to the winner. This will take place on 30 May with Gamble being given a 10 yard start. We believe that George Holt was also known as Bally and was a collier. John Halliday appears to have been a tailor born in 1836. He married and moved to Loughborough and had 6 children. He died in 1911.
- **Dec 1865** – To let to drapers and milliners a shop and good house opposite **The Green**, lately in the occupation of a draper. Well fitted with gas, and offering good business opportunity for trade. Apply to John Sketchley, Whitwick.
- **June 1880** – Around this time, the **Workman's Peace Association**, (known as the WPA and supported by many trade and craft unions and workers), usually chaired by members of the clergy was in full force, and going around this area, and others, to talk about peace. Set up originally in 1870 by Sir William Randal Cremer in London at the time of the Franco-Prussian war, the whole idea of the association was to suggest that all disputes be settled by arbitration rather than war and to set up a High Court of Nations, to explain to people the danger and immorality of setting up 'standing armies', and to urge MPs to take the initiative in promoting international peace by reducing all armed forces with a view to their eventual entire abolition. The whole stance of the association was to see peace on earth and during the 1880s many conferences and meetings took place throughout England and Scotland, and in Europe, to talk about peace, including discussing wars taking place at that time in Africa and Egypt. Similar associations had been set up in the US in the 1870s and the organization as a whole continued into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In April 1880 a Coalville branch was set up by Mr S Topliss, who wrote to local MP Mr T T Paget for onward transmission to Mr Gladstone, who was the Prime Minister at the time, saying that 'in the opinion of the meeting, the government have acted with justice and equity in making peace with the Boers in the Transvaal'. Reports tell that Rev Charles Williams, vicar of Coalville, chaired a meeting at 'the old market place' in June, and sat on what had previously been used as a market stall. He was surrounded by other speakers and Rev Charles Haddon of Bardon moved a petition, signed by the chairman, to go to the House of Commons from the inhabitants of Coalville and surroundings 'in public meeting assembled' calling for the mutual reduction of armaments in Europe. The motion was seconded by Mr Kidger of Whitwick and supported by Messrs Wale and Gough of **Thringstone**. The motion was then put to the whole meeting and carried unanimously. The Leicester secretary of the Workman's Peace Association then explained the workings of the association and Mr Gardiner from London also

addressed the meeting. During the same week, Mr Gardiner attended a similar meeting in Shepshed, where the chair was occupied by Mr Kidger from Griffydam.

- **March 1884 – Elizabeth Kirby**, wife of **Thomas Kirby** of Thringstone was in court for being found drunk on 1<sup>st</sup> March. PC Darby said he saw the woman lying in a ditch with her shoes, bonnet and furs off, and she was fast asleep. She was taken home in a wheelbarrow. She was fined 5 shillings and 6 pence and costs, or 7 days' hard labour. Elizabeth and husband Thomas and son William lived at the time in Brook Terrace **Thomas Kirby**, a miner, and son of John and Ann Kirby (nee Gough) of Whitwick Moor, Thringstone had died, aged 53, in an accident in April 1893. At that time, the family appear to have been living on Main Street. Along with many of the time, Thomas was well known locally for poaching. An **inquest** held at the Queen's Head heard that Dr Houghton had seen the deceased after being called out at 11.30pm. Mr Kirby had fallen down stairs and was lying dead on the couch in the living room. The larynx was ruptured and there was partial dislocation of the neck. The inquest was told by Elizabeth Kirby that at 7pm he had gone to the Three Tuns in order to pay his club money. Thomas had returned home about 10.15pm and appeared to be quite sober, quite healthy and in good spirits. He had a hearty supper of mackerel and bread with some beer which he had brought back with him, and had got up to go to bed, saying to his wife that she shouldn't be long behind him. She then heard a lumbering noise, and went to find him lying on his back at the foot of the stairs. She called to him but he did not reply, so she called for her son, William (born in 1860 and also a miner), who was in the yard, and they carried him to the couch but he appeared to be dead. She said her husband had been subject to fainting fits, and had fallen down the stairs before. Widow Elizabeth White, living next door, said she had heard the commotion and had gone next door with her son-in-law and seen Mrs Kirby standing next to her husband at the foot of the stairs. PC Potter said that he had seen Mr Kirby coming out of the Three Tuns about 10pm and he appeared to be quite sober. A verdict of accidental death was recorded. Thomas was buried at St Andrew's and the burial record makes mention of his father having died in 1889 aged 85 years. In December 1899, Elizabeth who was now a widow, was in court for using indecent language in Thringstone on 24 October, witnessed by PC Garton. She was fined 21 shillings including costs of 11 shillings and 6 pence or 14 days in prison. She did not appear in court. By 1911, William Kirby and his mother Elizabeth were living at Henson's Row, Brook Lane, Thringstone. William was on parish relief, and listed as such on the census. William Kirby died in November 1912 and was buried at St Andrew's, and Elizabeth died in 1924. We can find no burial records for Elizabeth but believe she was the daughter of Harriet Shipman and married Thomas Kirby in 1860.
- **Dec 1899 – Private W Harris**, reservist of Thringstone left Taunton to join his battalion, the 1<sup>st</sup> Somerset Light, en route to Ladysmith in Africa.
- **Jan 1909** – When S W Hallam of the Queen's Head died, there was an auction of some of his properties. Included in this auction was the 2 houses known as **Gladstone Cottages**, which comprised 3 bedrooms, living room, parlour and kitchen with usual out offices, plus a piece of land adjoining on which a house could be built. These houses were at the time in the occupation of William Ward and John Manders. Also for sale was a **thatched cottage** on The Green, in the occupation of William Upton, and with a 53 foot frontage to include gardens front and rear.
- **Nov 1909** – A sewer was smashed by a traction engine, and at a local meeting, Mr Brewin, the owner of **Brook Terrace in Thringstone**, said that the drains were blocked as a result and needed sorting. We found a newspaper article from April 1894 about the sale of 8 cottages belonging to Edwin Ayre, deceased, being sold to James Brewin along with other things being sold to other people, and from that have been trying to find out more about James Brewin. He may have been a colliery banksman at Snibston pit who lived near Hoo Ash in Coalville. He had 2 children and died in 1926, leaving £1076 17s 8d which was a sizeable amount in those days.
- **May 1951 – Kenneth Rennocks**, a 20 year old miner from Thringstone, was put on probation for 2 years for stealing a bicycle belonging to J B Fern. Having been stopped by 2 policemen, PCs Smith and Newnham, for riding a bike without lights, it transpired that he gave a false address and the bike was subsequently found to be stolen. He was also fined 10 shillings for riding the bike without lights and 15 shillings costs.

- **April 1956 – Stealing groceries from doorsteps** has been happening for years, as a report from this year tells. Harold Pollard, aged 53 of no fixed abode was jailed for 3 months for stealing a pint of milk and a loaf to the value of £1 4 pence halfpenny from the doorstep of Mrs Mayes of Booth Road, Thringstone. Pollard said he had eaten half the loaf and drunk all the milk, because he was thirsty. Pollard was found to be guilty of several other convictions, and on sentencing the magistrate said ‘You are a problem. There is plenty of work available today if you are willing, but apparently, you are not’.
- **Sept 1956 – William Henry Hall**, aged 18, of Main Street Thringstone, was in court for reckless driving of a motor cycle. The court heard that he had rounded a bend near Thringstone school and had hit a stationary laundry van. His excuse was that, on rounding the bend, he realised there wasn’t much room for him to get past the van, so applied his breaks and got into a skid. He was fined £6 and ordered to pay advocates costs of £3 and 3 shillings.
- **June 1957 – Two young lovers** were returned home from Scotland after they ran away to get married. The couple, coal miner John Charles Eaton, aged 21 of Waterworks Road, Coalville and 17 year old Ann Martin of Hensons Lane, Thringstone, had been seeing each other for about a year and had tried to get to Gretna Green. On realising his brother had not returned home one morning, Arthur Eaton alerted his mother. It was found that the couple had boarded a Carlisle bound train around 10pm in Leicester, having previously the same evening attended a church service in Thringstone. They had made the decision to go very quickly, and had travelled without luggage or coats. Police had entered their carriage at Carlisle and said that Leicestershire police were looking for them, and they had to return. It was Ann’s lemon coloured dress, which it was known she was wearing when she left, that attracted the police to the couple. Mrs Martin felt that her daughter was far too young to marry, stating that she had no problem with John and he was a nice lad, but that she was disappointed with their actions. ‘When they come and ask me and my husband about getting engaged or married in the proper manner, then they will get a sensible reply’ she said. Records show that the couple eventually married later that year in October.
- **1980** – Nita has found a copy of the **register of electors for 1980** covering several streets in the village and some in Whitwick. From this we have found out that in the 1980s, there were only 2 houses on the even number side in **Brook lane** – the Hoults at no. 2 and the Rose family at no. 8 with nothing in between. We have also discovered that at **Lily Bank Farmhouse** were Arthur Tolley and his wife Barbara which is new information. At **Rosemary Cottage** on Talbot Lane were William and Mary Hume. **Whitwick Moor** consisted of numbers 1, 3, 5, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 and **Manor House Lodge** on Gracedieu Road was still the home of John and Joyce Poynton (of the car lot in Whitwick). No. 23 **The Green** was Stanley and Nancy Mellor which is the address of The Rose and Crown, but it isn’t listed as such, whereas The Queen’s Head is listed as that with occupants Joseph and June Perkins. Next to the Rose and Crown were Tom and Monica Straw at no. 27 and Frank and Ada Frettsome at 31. Addresses where details can be found are Ashdale, Bishopdale, Booth Road, Brook Lane, Carterdale, Clover Place, Clyde Court, Coverdale, Cragdale, Dalkeith Walk, Elgin Walk, Farndale, Glebe Road, Gracedieu Road (Thringstone side only), The Green, Henson’s Lane, Holcome Close, Homestead Road, John St, Lanton Close, Loughborough Rd, Main St, Melrose Rd, Mossdale, Priory Close, Rosedale, Rumsey Close, Shrewsbury Walk, St Andrew’s Close, Swallowdale, Talbot Lane and Street, Tithe Close and Whitwick Moor.
- **June 1980 – Thomas Lees** of Talbot Lane died. He was born on 29 September 1893, possibly in Staffordshire, and despite having severe gout and walking with a frame, he remained a cheerful regular at the Rose and Crown. He was full of tales of the past and was a local legend for downing 17 pints on his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. For this feat he used a special two handed quart glass, which had pride of place behind the bar for years. He also had an unusual way of smoking a cigar, standing it in the bowl of his pipe. He used the pub daily, rain or shine and there were always birthday parties.

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