



# The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

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## BULLETIN FOR APRIL 2024

**Monthly litter pick total – 159 bags** removed by **27 people** against **141 bags** for March 2023. **NWLDC** will be giving new gold litter collection bags out to volunteer litter pickers later this year as part of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. In the meantime, they have given Nita 5 extra rolls of litter bags.

**Notes of meeting from 7 March** repeated here for those who haven't got email and get paper copies.

3 apologies, 7 present.

- **Sustrans path** - Nita has been talking to a gent who used to be a volunteer for Sustrans, and is concerned over the state of the track through Gracedieu Woods. There has never been any maintenance agreement for the upkeep of the path, and Sustrans have limited help and only small budgets. He is hopeful of being able to put together a working party to improve the situation, and will keep in touch with us about this going forward.
- **Motorbikes** - Nita has been speaking to a lady from NWLDC about the field at the rear of the bowling club and the problem with motorbikes, which has been going on for decades. However, in recent months, there has been more activity on that field than in the past, and NWLDC and the police, together with Community Safety are looking at what measures can be implemented to reduce the problems being experienced.
- **Litter pick on 23 March** – Nita has put up posters for the litter pick. Ruby's are offering free chips to any child who come along as they have before. Simon Jaggs who works at Thringstone Primary is also coming to the litter pick so the kids will have someone they know there as well as their parents. Andy is suggesting that the kids go into the chip shop from 1pm but before 1.30pm if possible. The centre is also opening up for adults to go in for a hot tea or coffee, and maybe some cake. All this will be put on social media nearer the time. Nita has had a chat with several children who saw her litter picking on 2 March and they are all saying they will come along on the day to help us. She has also arranged for all the rubbish to be left by the gate near Melrose Rd play area to be picked up on the Tuesday after the litter pick. There was general discussion about dividing up into groups, but it all depends on how many people come, but it would be best to try to cover the whole of the village if possible, and end around 12.30pm at Melrose Road to give people time to walk back to the chip shop/centre.
- **Gracedieu Woods** - Nita has been speaking to a lady from the National Forest who wants to do a litter pick around the same time as we are doing ours, and has suggested she might like to do deep into Gracedieu Woods as we will have the rest covered. Lady concerned has said she will get a group together to do this, and thanked us for our help.
- **Centre** – Immediately after our litter pick on 23 March between 1pm and 3pm, the centre is putting on an Easter Egg Hunt. £3 per child. Best to book through the centre. There was some discussion about the lift, and also about the redecoration of the office at this point.
- **New tree for Bernard** – Bill has donated a walnut tree and will be planting that this week in an agreed place where it should thrive and be out of the way of youths who might want to do it harm.
- **Bulbs** – NWLDC came out and took photos on 27 Feb of the daffodils on Main Street which Bill planted, and Nita was asked for a quote about the scheme, which she has supplied. We have



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been sent copies of the photos. There was some discussion at this point about people picking daffodils. Anne said some on Whitwick Moor had been picked, and Bill said that he had asked someone with a dog not to allow the dog to trample over the ones near him. Anne said that a dog had trampled all over hers on Whitwick Moor, and some people seemed to think that they were wild flowers which could be picked, rather than flowers for the village as a whole to enjoy.

- **Land** - Following on from our statements in the March bulletin, we understand that the land at the rear of 48 Main Street cannot be reached from John St as the neighbouring owners did not wish to sell their land. It is therefore unclear what is going to happen to this land, as it is inaccessible to builders and is currently left overgrown. One plot would, however, certainly not accommodate the original idea to build 2 units

### Chairs Report

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

**Promotion:** We have **758 X followers**, which is the same as last month, and **2,162 facebook followers**, which is 6 more than last month.

**Other:** Welcome to new member Glennis Bowley. Good luck goes to Lucy Brown who is moving to the coast.

### New information

- **Membership** – This becomes due in May, but if anybody fancies paying earlier, please do. If you are planning to pay by bank transfer, please let us know so that we can look out for the payment. The cost remains at £4.
- **Hello Heritage 2024** – We will not be doing an exhibition at the centre this year, but the display boards we already have will be put up around the village as usual from 1 Sept for a month.
- **Local plan** – There are plans, which have been around for some time, to build 64 new houses off Lily Bank. The statement out at present suggests that access to the site will be off Griffin Road and Lily Bank rather than the A512. The existing footpath across the site will remain and there will be a new connection to the pathway that runs near to the Primary School. There will be retention and enhancement of the existing hedgerows and other planting in keeping with the National Forest objectives. Other areas of proposed building in Whitwick may cause additional flooding around Gracedieu valley. Whitwick Parish Council have detailed all their concerns to NWLDC.
- **Centre** – Understand they are still waiting to hear if their new boiler can be funded by National Lottery and that there is a plan to hold a parents group to get funding to facilitate more film events. Someone has already donated a large projector, but there is funding needed of around £5k to develop the plan. We understand that there is to be a music festival on 15 June at the centre.
- **Field at the back of the bowling club** – a meeting was held with the football foundation and they are happy to help with funding for the field to be leased to Ingles FC. However, this is still a long term plan as an asset transfer is needed from NWLDC.
- **Litter pick 23<sup>rd</sup> March** – 22 people, which included 7 children and 6 members of FoT, came out to the litter pick, which is nearly a record. One of the children was only 3 years old! This was part of Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean 2024. 20 bags were collected from the village and surrounding area. Thanks to Ruby's for offering the kids free chips and to the centre for offering refreshments to the adults afterwards. Nita posted photos on various facebook sites including CleanUp UK and Keep Britain Tidy Litter Heroes, and on X and also sent details to Coalville Nub News (printed on 29 March), Coalville Times and Community Voice magazine. She also sent photos to the head of Thringstone Primary to say thank you and one of the 3 year old litter picking on Gracedieu Park cricket pitch to them. Nita also posted a photo on our CleanUp UK web page which is updated weekly with our litter picking figures.

### What's On

19 April - **Thringstone Members Club** – Psychic night from 7pm. Ticket only event. Includes



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buffet, tarot and mediumship. Tickets £25 per person. Deposit required (£10). Book your space on 07478 423064.

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

12 May – **Swannington Village Hall** plant sale and coffee morning 11am – 1pm to raise money for local air ambulance and Bright Hope House, Swannington.

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.

Booking essential on 223434.

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 June – **Charles Booth Centre** – music festival

29 June – **George and Dragon** 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Live music from 2pm with Meatloaf tribute at 7pm.

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>3070.42</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
		Broadband	20.00
<b>total income to general fund</b>			
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>3050.42</b>

In order to boost the money in our petty cash, £14 was taken from the main account and transferred to petty cash during this month. The insurance repayments ended in January. The insurance has been renewed at the same cost as last year with instalment premiums being deducted from April 2024 for 10 months. Anne Statham is currently working on the year end accounts to send for examination.

## Web report

The webmaster continues to work on updates.

## Incident Report

- 2 March – reports of mud being thrown at houses in **Henson’s Lane**
- 13 March – 1.35am. Two cars on **Main Street** (Henson’s Lane end) and one on **Glebe Road** had their windows smashed. Caught on CCTV. Also similar incidents in Henson’s Lane. Police aware.
- 15 March – Attempted theft of car on **Main Street** around 2am. Got into car but couldn’t disable alarm.
- 26 March – **3 horses** got loose from their field off Glebe Road and toured round the village ending up on The Green at 6am. Police came and took them back to their field.



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- Known drug dealer taken into custody by police after incident in the street with an axe.

### History Report

- **May 1896** – A petition was submitted to parliament relating to the closure of public houses on Sundays by Mr Johnson Ferguson of **Thringstone Wesleyan Band of Hope** and also inhabitants of Mountsorrel and in favour of the education bill by Lord Edward Manners from members of the rural-decanal conference. We were previously unaware that Thringstone Wesleyan's had such a group but knew there was a Thringstone Band of Hope group in 1908/9. The Band of Hope wanted people to sign a pledge to become tea-total. We don't know who Mr Johnson Ferguson was.
- **March 1916** – Crane and Moore (forerunners to Crane and Walton) solicitors of Coalville had written to the County Council on behalf of the Trustees of **Thringstone Club** complaining about sewage coming onto their land from properties in **Drury Lane**. It was felt that this was a matter between the Trustees and the owners of the properties in Drury Lane. Further discussion continued to take place on this issue for the remainder of the year.
- **Sept 1916** – **The story of Ellen Wesley and her husbands.** Ellen, known as Nellie, was born on 28 June 1891 in Sullington Road, Shepshed, the youngest daughter of Edward, a framework knitter, and Mary Ann, known as Ann. On 15 October 1910 at Loughborough Registry Office she married **Edward Zaph White Morley**, a collier born at the end of 1878 before his parents, Zaph and Harriet nee White, married on 6 February 1879. Their witnesses were Walter Bradley and Ada Simpson. All this information has come from his WW1 army records (see later). Edward's father, Zaph Morley had the full name Zaphnath Paaneah Morley and according to an article on his grandson from Shepshed who had the same name, found in the Leicester Chronical in 1969, Zaph Morley was a great big chap of about 18 stones, with a reputation as a local strong man, and not particularly religious, and further research has found that he was named after his father. Strangely, the registration of Edward's birth just says Male White Oct-Dec quarter 1878, Ashby de la Zouch registration area. Zaph and Harriet Morley had 11 children, with only a couple baptized (2 had died before 1911). Edward was shown in census information from 1881-1901 as Zaph Morley. It is unclear when he started to just use the name Edward White, although under that name he joined the Leicestershire Regiment on 22 February 1902. He served mainly in India and was transferred to Army Reserve on 23 March 1910. Early on during his time in the army, he deserted, and was imprisoned with hard labour between October and December 1902. His army records show that between 1902 and 1904 he was treated 5 times for syphilis. Edward and Nellie had three children, Ivy born 28 Jan 1912, Andrew born 30 April 1913 and Mary Jane born April 1915. Their marriage was not ideal. In May 1911, both of them were in court in Loughborough for using obscene language in Shepshed on 6 May. Ellen and her sister Lizzie Sleigh had gone to see their mother in Shepshed, and a row had broken out, which also included Lizzie's husband Israel Sleigh also sometimes known as Israel Sleigh Rose. A window was broken and curtains torn down. Ellen and Edward were fined 10 shillings each for causing a great disturbance and 'using frightful language'. In one of the newspaper articles of the time, Edward was stated to be Edward White Morley. In another, he was shown as Edward White. The newspapers said that the argument had been the fault of 'the Morley's' and Nellie's mother had asked them to leave. In April 1912 they were again both in court, this time in Coalville, for using bad language and disturbing the neighbourhood. Neither appeared at the hearing and were fined 2 shillings and 6 pence each, plus 10 shillings costs or 7 days in prison. In September 1912, Edward was again in Coalville court for using bad language, this time to his wife. He said she had provoked him. He was fined 2 shillings and 6 pence, plus 10 shillings and 6 pence costs or 7 days in prison. Records show that he applied to join the army in August 1914 under the name Edward White but was sent home after 99 days of training for not being suitable because he had been injured in the pit after a fall of coal on his right thigh in early 1914. This meant that he was 'laid up' for 22 weeks and would be unlikely to be able to march any distance. He was 5 feet 5 inches tall and 140 lbs in weight with brown hair and grey eyes. His army records state his name as Edward White alias Edward Zaph Morley White. Edward, who was older than Nellie, tragically died around the start of 1916 and was buried at St Andrew's on 6 January 1916 aged 37 years. One of Edward's brothers, John Morley also joined up, and sadly





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died in September 1918. The next mention of Nellie is a newspaper article which states that Ellen White, aged 25, widow of Main Street, Thringstone, was in court over the theft of a gent's gold ring. The court heard that she had been in the Rose and Crown and sat next to 17 year old Joseph Harrison. She was drunk and put her arms around him and said 'I have you now me duck'. He pushed her away and she fell over a bench, and he left, immediately realizing that his ring, which had been his mothers', had gone. The police were involved and Inspector Dobney went to speak to Nellie about the theft. She said she knew nothing about it, and if he found a ring on her he could sentence her to 6 months. He noticed, however, that she put her hands behind her back and the ring was then found on her left hand. She claimed she'd had the ring for 6 months and whilst she'd had a drink, she knew what she was doing. She then said she didn't remember taking the ring, but if she had, it was in foolery rather than theft. Her husband had died 9 months earlier as we know, and she had three small children to look after. All she had coming in was 7 shillings and 6 pence parish pay. Inspector Dobney said that money was for the children, and the woman could work but chose not to. She said she couldn't work because she had to look after the children. Inspector Dobney said that people in the village were crying shame on her because she was neglecting her children and had poor conduct. She was sentenced to one month's hard labour. She said that she was unable to pay any fines because she had no money and would have had to sell her furniture. The chairman said she must go to prison. In April–June quarter 1918, somewhere in the Ashby de la Zouch registration area, Nellie married her husband's younger brother, **Harry Morley**. Harry was 2 years younger than her, and by 1921 they were still living in Main Street, with Ellen's children aged 9, 8 and 6, and their own 2 year old daughter, also called Ellen, who apparently was known as Nina. Nellie died in Coalville in 1969. Along with her husband Harry, we have discussed 'their antics' in previous notes. They were involved in selling stockings without coupons, which Harry had got from a factory where he worked, for which she was fined for aiding and abetting. and the breaking of 30 glasses, associated with drinking at The Fox, in the 1940s. The latter incident was over the fact that they tried to convince George Musson, the landlord at The Fox, that they had given him £1 when in fact it was a 10 shilling note. At that time, they lived at 57 Main Street. They had a further 3 children, Harry in 1921, Harriet in 1925 and Tannie in 1928. Tannie was named after her aunt. The Morley's ended their days living in Henson's Lane. We now have 2 photos of Nellie and one of Harry Morley plus one of Tannie Morley. Nita has also carried out research on all the 11 children of Zaph and Harriet Morley, listing their children, marriages, offspring and deaths where known.

- **Jan 1972 – Thringstone Royal British Legion** were pictured in local press distributing food to **striking miners**, having organised an event with other village organisations co-operating. Women volunteers made up the food parcels. A meeting had previously been held at The Fox which was, at the time, the headquarters for the Thringstone branch. It was agreed at that meeting to co-ordinate the efforts of other organisations who wanted to supply food parcels to miners and their families in the event of hardship. People from every political party and organisation in the village had shown interest in the scheme to help miners and their families and these ranged from the Old People's Fellowship to scouts and guides, with the Thringstone football club also wishing to help out. The scheme had also been discussed with the main branch in Coalville by Mr E Grice, an official with the Thringstone branch. The concern was the hardship which might affect children, and they were looking for many fundraising activities to boost funds. A committee was formed from interested organisations, and George Musson, landlord of The Fox, said he was happy for the pub to be the headquarters for the food organisation as it was already the HQ for the Thringstone branch. It was agreed that RBL funds up to £200 would be made available and anybody wanting to help with money could send this to The Fox for the attention of Jack Gough. Loughborough MP John Cronin said that many miners were facing hardship, and urged them to fight for their full social security benefits during the strike. He urged people to go to the social security offices in Coalville and claim their rights. RBL County chairman, Ron West, openly criticised Thringstone's involvement with the food parcels at the county conference, saying it was creating a dangerous precedent, and could see other such efforts being put forward to branches to help out with other industrial disputes. However Ernest Grice, secretary of the Thringstone branch said that Mr West had previously had the project



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explained to him and made no objections. Thringstone's RBL president, Mr T Welch, said that Mr Jack Gough chairman of the Thringstone branch, along with Mr Grice had been to see Mr West personally and cleared the principle of setting up a food distribution scheme along the lines indicated. Mr West had subsequently been invited to attend a special meeting at the Thringstone branch, but had not turned up. Mr Grice said that Thringstone was very much village community without social clubs, and the legion had, in the past, often acted in a paternal capacity to organise charitable work on a very broad basis. The village was very much a mining village, and 80% of RBL members were miners who had also served in the forces. The president, vice-president, chairman and secretary were all ex-servicemen and Mr Welch said that the fund being set up in Thringstone was an example of a legion branch assuming responsibilities of a kind and charitable nature which was in the best traditions of the British Legion and with an aim to help less fortunate members of the community. Mr Grice said 'All we have suggested now is to carry out some relief work to offset the hardship bound for be caused by the strike to children who could otherwise suffer. Every organisation in the village is helping and people of all shades of opinion have formed a committee. This is by no means entering into a trade dispute. In addition, very careful rules have been worked out, to ensure that the relief goes only to families where the members are entirely dependent upon social security payments. A ladies committee has been set up to pack the parcels and before goods are given away investigations will be made to ensure there is a genuine need. We have always tried to be one of the main sources of charity in this village and will continue to do this, because we are proud that we can undertake this kind of work. All the money for this charitable work has come through prize draws and is therefore village money. As such it is only right that it is used in the community.' By early February, 120 food parcels had gone out to families and further parcels were ready to go out and Union Secretary Frank Smith had gone himself to Thringstone to see how the food parcels were being distributed. He spent some time chatting to the organisers and those who came to receive parcels of eggs, tinned food, cornflakes and other commodities. He said he wanted to show appreciation on behalf of the miners union for the work being done to relieve distress. There was also talk about the possibility of coal deliveries being reinstated to old people, retired miners, their widows and the sick through work being carried out by organisation set up by the union and the coal board. The strike had started on 9 January and ended on 28 February after miners accepted an improved pay offer as a result of a ballot taken on 19 February. It had been the first official miners strike since 1926, although unofficial strikes had taken place as recently as 1969. The last handout of food parcels took place on the first Saturday in March at the Miners Welfare Centre. This remained necessary, because, even though miners had returned to work, they would have no pay packets that week as their pay was kept a week in hand. A spokesman for the welfare committee said 'There will be bumper parcels for the 100 families who have been helped during the strike. We believe that the assistance has been very much appreciated by the mining community, and the committee administering the fund have been congratulated on the work they have done. This applies particularly to the lady members, who have been responsible for the packing.'

- **Aug 1977** – When **Trevor Beales** of 81 Melrose Rd needed to go back to the pit to collect his wages, little did he realise that by using a motor cycle he'd bought the previous evening, he would end up out of pocket by being fined £65 The father of 6 said that he had needed to go to get money from Bagworth pit, but asked to be excused coming to court so he could continue to earn a living. His letter to court said that he was sorry. He had no insurance, no L plates, the motorcycle had dangerous parts, no silencer, and he failed to provide a driving license or test certificate. The court heard that the noise of the motorcycle alerted the police, and he was stopped and the other defects found. Mr Beales said it was 8 miles to Bagworth, and without using the motorcycle, he would have had to walk, as he had no money for the bus fare.

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