



The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR MAY 2024

Membership is now due. Thanks to all those who have already paid their £4 and extra thanks to those who have paid more in donations. If you have yet to rejoin and do online banking, rather than someone coming to collect the money in cash, perhaps you might like to pay by bank transfer. All you need do is email Nita on nita.pearson@ntlworld.com and she will pass on the bank account details to you. It is much easier that way, but we will still collect cash if you prefer.

Monthly litter pick total – 126 bags removed by 6 **people** against **164 bags** for April 2023. We continue to find numerous Co-op baskets dumped around the village after shoplifting has taken place. Nita has complained to NWLDC that the can/plastic bin on The Green hasn't been emptied for nearly 2 months, leading to a lot of cans being left in overfull street bins..

This bulletin is being sent out after our meeting on 2 May. Please see updates and new information below.

Below are the notes taken of the **meeting held on 4 April**, for the benefit of a fifth of our membership who do not have email and reply on paper copies of the bulletin.

5 members present, 5 apologies

- As committee members and litter pickers in our group will know, Nita was given the chance to view the council's draft **Love Your Neighbourhood** litter strategy. From this, we have learnt that Thringstone, Greenhill and Measham are likely to be target areas for this new project which replaces the previous Zero Litter Strategy. The new strategy wants to increase litter bins, send officers to do talks in schools/with scouts, attend fetes and roadshows, work with businesses, put together new littering signage, work with local landowners to put up pop up cameras on private land, do 2 weekly patrols to look at high dog fouling/litter areas, work with the People Zone to identify hot spot areas, and work more with local groups on planting trees/bulbs. It would seem that an event is likely to be held over the weekend of 6 and 7 July to showcase the issue with littering, pavement parking, fly tipping and poor recycling habits locally. Nita has asked that FoT be involved with all this if possible, and was surprised, or maybe not, that nobody from NWLDC had contacted us to work with us in the past on such joined up working. Nita has fed back her thoughts on the new strategy to a councillor and has suggested more networking with local groups might help going forward. **UPDATE:** We understand that the strategy is to go to cabinet on 22 May. We have heard from NWLDC that they would be pleased to work with us on future issues, and have got an engagement and community plan lined up. They also have assigned an officer to liaise with us on this and the date of the proposed roadshow.
- Nita has put FoT forward for an award with **Keep Britain Tidy** under their Litter Legends title. These awards are new to KBT and came about as a result of the recent Great British Spring Clean event we supported.
- Nita has been asked to attend a meeting with officers from NWLDC to discuss setting up a new **constituted group** in the village. She hopes to be able to do this via zoom or Microsoft teams. In addition, another constituted group will need to be set up at some stage to run/manage/work on the closs once that is cleared. Discussions took place about the fact that the Gracedieu Manor play equipment is still in the closs and has yet to be moved, and what progress has been made by the probation service. **UPDATE:** The meeting was held and general information shared about our



constitution and the setting up of something to allow a new youth provision in the village with money from People Zone.

- The next **People Zone** meeting is on Monday 8th. Nita has sent her apologies. **UPDATE:** This meeting has now been cancelled and replaced by a network meeting on 22 May at New Parks, which Nita can't attend.
- There were various discussions relating to the social supermarket at the centre, which did not run this week due to Easter holidays, the future of the film club at the centre, and the general lack of volunteers for existing projects in the village going forward. Concern was also expressed about the lift at the centre, and the fact that it does not appear that work has yet begun to get this running again. **UPDATE:** The **lift** is working and has been since Easter. The **social supermarket** has not returned to the centre, as yet. The centre is still waiting for the **survey** on the flora and fauna to be done on the cross, which would then allow the probation service to get cracking with clearing the overgrowth there and arrange for removal of the broken play equipment. It is expected that this will be received by the end of May.

Chairs Report

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

Promotion: We have **755 X followers**, which is 3 less than last month, and **2,170 facebook followers**, which is 8 more than last month.

Other: Nita received correspondence from a member complaining about the centre. This was forwarded to the trustees to answer.

Nita reported to County Hall that the road closure notices for the roadworks on Lbro Rd/The Green that took place in March are still there and need removing. They have said they will do this in due course.

May's Community Voice magazine contains the quarterly Bauble, plus an article on our March litter pick, in addition to the usual history article.

Welcome to our new members Serena Tyers and Paula Foulds.

New information

Charles Booth – Date for your diary -Nita has been in touch with Sarah Wise who is an authority on 19th century history and on **Charles Booth** and his poverty maps, with a view to Sarah coming to Thringstone and doing a talk for the village. This has been booked for **26 July** at Charles Booth Centre for 7pm. The talk will be free but donations will be welcome, as there is a cost element in hiring the facility/bar staff etc., and also covering Sarah's costs. The centre needs to know how many people are expected because of booking the necessary bar staff, so we need to have a proper booking system, rather than just telling people to turn up. Booking may be through TicketTailor – we are presently looking at this, as it allows for free events at no cost to us, and without a contract being necessary, with the possibility of donations being mentioned, although to get the donations it appears we would have to set up a PayPal or Stripe account, which isn't really something we wanted to do. It also allows a print out to be made of people who have booked and sends them a ticket. If anybody is able to help on the night with setting up/taking down, please let Nita know. We will try to take Sarah to see Charles Booth's grave and have already made plans with the staff there for her to look round Gracedieu Manor. The team at The Old School House have agreed to help design a poster.

Centre –We understand that an **energy assessment** is being done to send along with further information to the National Lottery grant people, and the centre will get to know sometime in June whether the grant to cover new boiler, windows, shutters, curtains etc. has been successful. We also understand that the **AGM will be on 11 June**. More details on this will be forwarded to those on email giving timings etc. in due course. The centre is advertising on their facebook page that it needs musicians, a face painter, stall holders and businesses willing to donate raffle prizes for their **music event** on 15 June. For those who wish to contact them, the centre's trustees now have **emails** linked to the centre's email system which will be promoted through their website when this is updated shortly.



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Fines - North West Leicestershire District Council is cracking down on environmental crime by increasing fines. • Fly-tipping fines have increased from £400 to £600. • Littering fines have increased from £150 to £225. • Graffitiing and Flyposting have increased from £150 to £225

People Zone – We understand that the signage relating **motorbikes** on the field at the rear of the bowling club and in the woods is on the cards to be erected shortly in an attempt to stop them this. In the meantime, at weekends especially, we have noticed police cars parked on the car park facing this field. We also understand that Coalville CAN is utilizing **Gracedieu Woods** to teach kids about woodland skills. People Zone are considering a similar exercise.

Notes of meeting held on 2 May - 6 present, 2 apologies

Having gone through all the updates, the meeting concentrated on the event on 26 July with Sarah Wise as mentioned above. **There are various jobs that need doing and help is required please:** It was agreed that Nita try to set up the TicketTailor system for booking, but as this may be seen to discriminate against those without computers, people could still ring Nita to book, and her number would appear on publicity info.

Mandy Baughurst briefly came into the meeting to say that details of the event could go into their programme if Nita got the information to them in time. Nita agreed to do this.

Janet Stevenson said that she would pick up Sarah from the station, take her to Gracedieu for a visit and to the church (with Ann Petty if available) and then return her to the station after the event. It was felt that half an hour at Gracedieu and half an hour at the grave should cover the timings.

We will need help to set up the room and someone to check people in as they arrive.

We need help with this please. We might use rows rather than tables and chairs depending on take up of tickets. No tables would be easier to set up. We also need to take everything down after the event. We have a cheque to give to the centre for their deposit requirements.

We need to ensure that the technical things (microphone, projector and screen) being provided by the centre are working. We wondered whether a member of centre staff would be there to do this, as none of us felt particularly confident doing this ourselves. Nita will enquire.

Nita showed everybody the photos she'd sent to Sarah Wise to go on the posters, and once these are approved, the poster design can be sorted. She also showed people the 2 page list of promotion she intends to do. There will also be posters to deliver. Janet will help with some of these as would Kathy Mardon who had already agreed to help via email.

Nita agreed to tell Rev Walker that the event was taking place and a visit to St Andrew's would happen.

Other business – Bernard's new walnut tree is sprouting. Bill has today cut back the buddleia at the top of Drury Lane. Ann had seen some Asian people litter picking in the woods yesterday.

What's On

Please be aware that this is not an exhaustive list, and various classes and group meetings take place on a weekly or monthly basis at various venues which are not listed here.

5 May – **Charles Booth Centre** – Sunday family film Little Mermaid. Starts at 10.15am.

6 May – **Hough Mill, Swannington** – Roots Community Choir, Bare Bones Morris and May Day Mummers, plus face painting, Maypole dancing and live music. 11am-3pm. Free entry.

8 May – **Thringstone Members Club** – Healthy me – 10am – 1pm. Free goody bag. Book on 0800 988 0308

10 May – **Charles Booth Centre** charity coffee morning in aid of Feed The Need Coalville. 10am-12 noon.

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

12 May – **Charles Booth Centre** – table top sale. Free entry. Open from 11.45am. Stall holders £3.

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 ONLY 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

27 May – **Oaks Spring Fair**, Oaks Road, Oaks in Charnwood. 10am-4pm. Lots to see and buy

30 May - **Charles Booth Centre** – monthly quiz. Teams of up to 6 £10. Starts at 7.30pm Email centre to book your table.

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

1 June – **Charles Booth Centre** – free family quiz 2.30pm-4.30pm. Prizes etc.

8 June – **Hare and Hounds** – T Rex tribute at 9pm.

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

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

26 July – **Charles Booth Centre** – Professor Sarah Wise’s talk on the life of Charles Booth. 7pm start. Free event, but donations welcome. Email Nita on nita.pearson@ntlworld.com to talk about booking your place.

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

Financial

.Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	3050.42		
Income		Expenditure	
Memberships	£492	Broadband	20.00
Donations	£111	Insurance	£15.70
total income to general fund			£35.70
		Total general fund at month end	3617.72

Web report

The webmaster continues to work on updates.

Incident Report

- 5 April - Bike taken from rear garden on **Melrose Road** caught on CCTV. Bike found dumped on corner of Elgin Walk, in pieces, on 6 April.
- Sometime recently we are told that a motorbike was apprehended by police coming from the **woods** area, and confiscated.
- 12 April – sheep got out of a field on the **A512** and were spotted wandering across the road. Eventually they were herded back to their original field.
- 14 April – several police cars seen visiting a man living in bungalow on **Henson’s Lane** and also on **Melrose Road**.
- 16 April – fallen tree on **Talbot Lane** and several in Gracedieu Woods reported by people via facebook to our county councillor.
- 21 April – reports of possible damage at the **football club** reported to them direct.



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- 25 April – reports of further damage at the **football club** on Homestead Rd – one stand set alight and other damaged. All walls and fences have vandal proof paint on them, so if any youths/others came home with red paint on their clothing/person, they could have been involved. Police aware.
- 29 April – Man and woman going round **Bellway estate** at 2.38am trying car doors. Door camera footage taken. People identified. Police informed.

History Report

- In our April bulletin, we talked about the Thringstone Wesleyan Band of Hope and **Mr Johnson Ferguson**. We now find that this man was Jabez Edward Johnson-Ferguson who was MP for Loughborough in 1885. He was a radical Liberal, and lost his seat the following year to Mr Edward de Lisle, but regained it in 1892 and held it until 1900. In 1906 he was made a baronet of Springkell, Kenyon and Wiston (in Scotland). He was born as Edward Johnson and assumed the additional Ferguson name by Royal license in 1881. He died in 1929.
- **Aug 1864 – John Biddle**, grocer, was in court to bring about a case against Samuel Elliot, who had been trading at his shop for some time and had been indebted to him for £25. Biddle got a blank bill, said to be to the value of £10, for the defendant to sign but the bill then filled up, unknown to the defendant, to the value of £25 which was when he was then asked to pay. £20 had been paid, but £5 plus interest was still outstanding. Elliot objected to this but said he was willing to pay, and an order was given that he pay in 10 shilling instalments every month. The magistrate did suggest to Mr Biddle that what he did was 'sharp practice'. Samuel Elliot had a large family and lived in Whitwick. In later years he worked as an agricultural labourer. Biddles' shop was on Gracedieu Rd.
- **Oct 1864 – 150 children** from the Swannington and Thringstone schools were given a treat and tea on the lawn at the St George's parsonage in Swannington, the home of Rev S Smith of Whitwick. Dr Smith and his wife, children and friends waited upon the children, and the evening was spent with games.
- **May 1902** – Despite mixed weather conditions, the annual procession from Holy Cross in Whitwick to '**find the cross in Gracedieu Woods**' took place as always on the 1st Sunday in May at 4pm. This is an ancient custom amongst Roman Catholics, and always takes place on that date. There were several thousands of spectators, who had come from all directions by vehicles, cycles or on foot. Whitwick Brass Band headed the procession with a chant sung by members of the procession as they wended their way to the cross. The cross bearer was followed by a number of girls dressed in white, with veils, and many of the boys wore red sashes. These represented various guilds connected to Holy Cross church and there were several bannerettes carried in the procession. At the rear walked several senior members of the congregation. The priests present were Father O'Reilly, assistant priest Rev Father Quilter, and Father Philip Fletcher, Master of the Guild of Ransome. The latter preached a sermon to those gathered under the cross in the wood. Owing to the weather the return route was somewhat shortened, and the group disbanded once they had returned to Holy Cross. Despite the huge numbers, everybody returned intact, unlike in 1897 when a man fainted and had to be taken away for medical assistance.
- **Dec 1908 – Thringstone's Band of Hope** put on an evening of entertainment at the National School. The Band of Hope was an organisation formed nationally in the mid 1800s aiming to encourage people to sign a pledge to avoid alcohol. The weather was poor, but Arthur Barker from One Barrow presided over the drills, songs and recitations etc. The children had been trained by Miss Vesty from Gracedieu Manor Farm, and the children were a credit to her, especially little Dorothy Rennocks who sang an amusing song called The New Baby. There was also an amusing sketch called Lodger and Dodgers performed by Arthur Caurah, James H Rennocks, John Rennocks, Willie Watts, and Misses Vesty and Biddle. All proceeds went to the Band of Hope funds. **Arthur Caurah** lived on The Green and was a manager of a boot and shoe department. **Arthur Barker** had relatively recently moved from Sutton Bonington to farm at One Barrow Lodge, and died aged 73 in 1926, being buried at the church in Oaks in Charnwood. Arthur was born in Nottinghamshire in 1853, was a lay preacher and prominent member of Whitwick Wesleyan congregation. Arthur and his 1st wife Betsy nee Walker had 5 sons and 4 daughters. One of his



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sons by Betsy, George Harold Barker, was killed in action in Ypres on 13 May 1915 aged 26. After Betsy's death in 1913, Arthur remarried Lucy Harris on 2 March 1914 at the church in Oaks in Charnwood. She was a lady half his age and they had a further son, who he also named George H Barker, and 4 daughters. After Arthur's death, she moved to Toothill Road in Loughborough. We have photos of him and his family with wife Betsy, plus a portrait picture of him on his own and photos of One Barrow Lodge.

- **June 1909 - Thringstone's Band of Hope** had an outing to Woodhouse with about 10 people being conveyed in brakes. They enjoyed tea and games and the arrangements were carried out by Miss Vesty and Arthur Caurah. Later in the week, the Church of England Band of Hope children were taken in brakes to Burleigh Brook but unfortunately rain marred the event.
- **May 1917** - The funeral took place of **Mrs Beatrice Jeffery Hull** in Whitwick. She had been residing for some time with Mr and Mrs Joseph Hutchinson at The Green, Thringstone. She was aged 46, had died on 13 May, and for some years had resided with her cousin, Samuel Hallam at The Queen's Head. She was the owner of a considerable amount of property in Thringstone, including The Queen's Head (see below). The funeral service was conducted by Father O'Reilly and the body was taken to Holy Cross Church and she was buried in Whitwick cemetery. The chief mourners were her three cousins, Mrs Mary Squires of Whitwick, Mrs Clarkson of Loughborough and George Henry Hallam of Thringstone. Beatrice was the only surviving child of **Richard and Kate Hallam** who kept the **Queen's Head** from May 1871 until April 1889. Her elder brother Luke had died aged 2 and her twin sister, Clotilda, died aged 5 months. By the census time of 1891 Beatrice had her own property, her father having died in the January, and on 2 November 1892 at Leicester Register Office, Beatrice married Mark Hull. He was born in 1865 in Illston on the Hill and died in 1936 in Barlestone, and, it would seem, had several jobs including miner and labourer. In April 1893, Mark was in court over non-payment of costs incurred following an eviction, by the trustees acting on behalf of Beatrice, from a property belonging to her and during the case, were mentioned various items including a horse and cart, and £180 in cash which he had taken from his wife. In his evidence, he said he had separated from his wife after a few months of marriage but hoped for a reconciliation. On 2 September 1893, the couple had a daughter Minnie Hallam Hull who died on 16 September the same year. There was an inquest at which time it was reported that the couple had separated, and Mark Hull was a journeyman baker. The mother and child were living with widow Mary Stenson, and the child had been well until it started having convulsions but Dr Griffin, who had been called and suggested hot baths, had not seen these. From the time of her separation, Beatrice lived with other folk, as above. Two reports in a Leicestershire paper mention that on 4 May 1895, someone called Mark Hull, a caretaker at St Martin's Schools, Friar Lane, Leicester had tried to commit suicide by trying to shoot himself in the head, but had failed. It would seem that he had a wound to his ear, and had left a note to his father saying he should not be blamed for his rash act, and that it had nothing to do with the woman with whom he was living. He was discovered after beckoning to a neighbour and was semi conscious. His address at that time was 74 Friar Lane. His father agreed to look after him. When Beatrice died, she left £1583 18 shillings and 2 pence. Her will details £100 each to Mary Stenson and William Alfred Musson and also directs the monies from sale of properties etc. to go to the children of Samuel Wilson Hallam, Mary Squires and Theresa Kidger (aunt). It also mentions cousins William and Gertrude Beckworth. The will was dated 30 Jan 1893, which may be around the time Beatrice and Mark Hull separated, as he is not mentioned as having any right to her monies. In June 1917 following the death of Mrs Hull, as above, an auction to sell **The Queen's Head** took place at the public house. It was said to have a large clubroom, yard, outbuildings and stables. Also for sale were 5 adjoining cottages with gardens and outbuildings. Viewing was through the tenant Mr G H Hallam.
- **July 1917 - Dr Hart**, the chief medical officer, reported a case of scarlet fever in Thringstone and 3 cases of diphtheria all in one house in the village.

Next meeting 6 June at Charles Booth Centre in the house lounge at 7pm This will also be our AGM. If anybody new wants to stand for committee, please contact Nita direct.