



The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR JUNE 2024

AGM –

5 present, 6 apologies.

The following people have put themselves forward for the committee:

Chairman: Nita Pearson	Secretary: Nita Pearson
Vice Chair: Geoff Wilson	Treasurer: Geoff Wilson
History: Ann Petty	Environment: Bill Enser
Publications: Janet Stevenson	Membership Secretary: Sue Rowbottom
Events Assist: Kathy Mardon	Thringstone Creates: Sarah Baxter

Admin Assist: Vacant

Funding assist: Vacant

Social media assist: Vacant

Proposed by Tracey Foulds, seconded by Anne Statham. All in favour.

The gardening team, book keeper and webmaster, all of whom we wouldn't be without, sit outside the committee structure

End of year accounts. An examination of the accounts has taken place and a glowing report has been given. If anybody wants a copy of the statement, please contact Nita direct.

Chairman's AGM report – Nita has provided a chairman's report which is attached.

Monthly litter pick total – 132 bags removed by **9 people** against **191 bags** by 13 people for May 2023.

Nita has been talking to the **cricket club** about their bin. People who use the storage facilities just inside the ground are putting no end of stuff in the cricket club bin, mostly cardboard and bottles, which leads to it being full within a day of being emptied. It is emptied once a month. When full, they then just throw their litter in heaps next to the bin. Nita has taken to telling people doing this to take their litter home with them, especially the cardboard boxes. This is sometimes not appreciated. The cricket club committee are to discuss this and put a notice on the bin saying it is for the use of the cricket club only. They only rent out the concrete base, not the storage facilities, so can't talk to the people who use these facilities direct.

Nita raised a complaint with NWLDC about the **recycling facilities on The Green** not being emptied regularly, and that the bin had been full for 3 months. This was eventually emptied on 21 May. Nita subsequently wrote to her contact at NWLDC asking how often it was down to be emptied and whether this could be altered to reflect the increasing amount of recycling put in it on a regular basis. No reply was received.

Nita also raised a complaint with the county council about **the overgrown hedges** on the footpath down the side of St Andrew's, as people weren't able to get past easily with prams, pushchairs and strollers. The county council said they do not own the hedges and have written to the people in



Badgerscroft whose rear gardens have these hedges as a boundary and asked that they be cut back. Another similar instance was reported off Clover Place.

Nita reported that the **yellow bollard** on the build out by Meadows Care Home had been broken from its moorings and thrown onto the grass verge at the end of Elgin Walk.

Chairs Report

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

Promotion: We have **756 X followers**, which is one more than last month, and **2,177 facebook followers**, which is 7 more than last month.

Other: Nita has written history articles for Community Voice to cover up to the end of the year, with a concentration latterly on local artists and their life and work. Nita was leading a guided walk as part of the National Forest Walks Festival on 19 May, but nobody came. Nita has written the Bauble to go into Community Voice in August listing a handful of our achievements over the years.

New information

- **Event on 26 July** - The ticket sales are being advertised, having set up a hosting site for this, and a lot of promotion both on social media and via email for the event has been done. This has been helped by local heritage groups (like Coleorton), U3A and Coalville Nub News also advertising our event. We have been in touch with our speaker and arranged timetables for getting to Loughborough etc., and liaised with Gracedieu Manor Park about visiting there en route to Thringstone. We have also booked the services of frontrowfilmsmedia to do an audio recording of the event for those who are unable to attend to listen to in their own time. Many thanks to Old School House for designing a poster and letting us have laminated copies to distribute. Posters have been put up in various locations. If anybody would like to have a poster to display, please contact Nita direct. Likewise, if you know of somewhere that might like to have a poster, tell Nita. Nita has discussed with the centre having access to the volumes of Charles Booth's work stored at the centre. These will be available for the event, and it has been agreed that FoT can have these going forward. We will have our own bookstall and perhaps also a display and copies of the poverty maps. There was concern showed over issues with the upstairs hall. Nita agreed to write to the chair of the trustees about our concerns.
- **St Andrew's church** collected £136 for Dementia UK as part of a fund raising event on 2 May.
- **Weeding** – thanks to our members Dave and Sarah for doing weeding for us during May. The area round the shrub bed on The Green to include the seated area was weeded and cleaned up, and the flowerbed down the church jitty was also cleared of weeds over several days. Much appreciated.
- **Wall** – Nita has been in touch with Kyle who rebuilt the wall near St Andrew's with a view to coming back and doing some repointing along the full length of the structure. A date is being discussed.
- **Ingles FC** – The football club, who play at the Thringstone ground, are looking for new sponsors for the 2024/5 season. They would like sponsors for both home and away team kit, a home dugout sponsor, and sponsors who wish to advertise on boards around the ground. Please contact them direct if you can help on inglesfcshepshed@gmail.com
- **Love Your Neighbourhood – NWLDC** is hosting an event on Melrose Road parkway on 6 July between 10am and 2pm where people can come and take part in community activities. Nita was hoping to arrange a litter pick on that day, but cannot find anybody to help with this, but has been asked by NWLDC to work with them on the day, probably doing litter picking. If anybody wants to help organise a more FoT centred litter pick with Nita, please let her know BEFORE 9 June which is the cut-off date for registration. Ann said her grandchildren might want to litter pick.
- **Charles Booth centre** – remember they are having their AGM on 11 June at 7pm. All welcome. They are also looking for volunteers for their music festival on 15 June. Volunteers will get food and drink vouchers as a thank you. Contact the centre direct if interested please. Concern was expressed that money raised at the coffee mornings is not mentioned anymore on social media. People like to know what has been raised.

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.

8 June – **Griffydam Open Gardens and Heritage Trail**– 10am – 5pm. Passports from Griffydam school. Plant sales, cake stall, refreshments and exhibition of Griffydam during WW2.

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

11 June – **Charles Booth Centre** – Centre's AGM starting at 7.30pm. Your chance to see how YOUR centre is doing and ask questions of the trustees.

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

22 June – Table top sale at **Holy Cross** 10am-12 noon. £1 entry. Kids free.

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

6 July – Grace Dieu Manor – **Grace Dieu Nursery and Charles Booth Pre-School** summer fete. Games, stalls, bouncy castle, face painting and more. Times to be announced.

6 July – **Melrose Park** – Love Your Neighbourhood event (as above)

26 July – **Charles Booth Centre** – Professor Sarah Wise's talk on the life of **Charles Booth**. 7pm start. Free event, but donations welcome. Ticket bookings from

<https://buytickets.at/friendsofthringstone/1248560> or for those without computers, ring Nita on 223434.

Financial

.Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	3617.72		
Income		Expenditure	
Memberships	164	Broadband	20.00
Donations	17	Insurance	£15.70
		Room booking deposit	£50.00
total income to general fund	£181		£85.70
		Total general fund at month end	3713.02

Web report

Event poster for 26 July is now on homepage. The webmaster continues to work on updates.

Incident Report

- There have been numerous reports online about the **Sylvicola Fenstralis** flies which have come from larvae used at the treatment works at Osgathorpe escaping from the nets that contain them and growing into flies. Severn Trent have had numerous complaints about this.
- During the whole of the month there have been issues relating to a property on **Henson's Lane** where the tenant has been causing extreme nuisance to neighbours and others in the village by posting spurious posts on social media and making threatening videos. Police have been very active in trying to document all these issues in order to get a case together, but some retaliation has taken place. The situation is under review by both police and also council's ASB team.
- 27 May – damage caused to the memorial bench by entrance to **St Andrew's**. Arm of the bench ripped off and left on the grass.
- There continues to be problems with **motorbikes**, especially in the woods and on the field behind the bowling club. Nita attended the beat surgery on 5 June and talked to our PCSO about this. June is crackdown month with police on off road bikers, and Nita was also advised that the notices are going up shortly on the field behind the bowling club about this issue.



History Report

- Following the printing of the article on **John William Stevenson**, cyclist of Whitwick Moor, in the May edition of Community Voice (previously in one of our bulletins), Nita got a call from his grandson, Phil Bradley, and now has a photo of John with some of his trophies. Information was also sent to Community Voice direct by another grandson, John Bradley, who printed this in their June edition. It turns out that John William Stevenson's daughter Barbara born in 1928 is Barbara who married into the Toon family who were connected to the John Street shop. We then contacted Juliette Lowe who is connected to the Toon family, and she sent us a copy of JWS's certificate of appreciation from the Coal Board for 45 years' service. We also understand that Phil's great grandparents were the King family who lived for years on The Green. John William Stevenson married Clarice King in 1926. Her parents, Thomas and Sarah, were in the paper when they had a large wedding anniversary celebration. Clarice's grandparents were Joseph and Sarah King, who had a son, also called Joseph King, who died in the Whitwick Pit disaster. His wife lived in Bauble Yard, Thringstone, and is buried in St Andrew's churchyard. The King family bible is with Juliette. We were also told that John Wm Stevenson was initially picked to be one of the GB cycling team for the 1924 Olympics in Paris, but was dropped from the team at the last minute.
- Nita was sent a photo found when a house was being cleared of a group of around 40 women from Thringstone and Whitwick who were apparently on a **coach trip in the late 1950s to Wedgewood**. Nita was asked if any of the people could be identified and asked 3 of our older members. The following people were named: Mary Bailey, Pam Spence, Gertie Brooks, May Fortnam, Lizzie Rossell, Elsie Hicken, Ada Hollis, Evelyn Chamberlain, Rosie Coltman, Sheila Measures, Gladys Lowe, Doreen Bailey, Nellie Lees nee Gee, Sarah Lees, Edith Lord, Elizabeth Watkins, Clarice Perry, Hilda Burbank, Nancy Sykes, Maggie Domoney, Clara Hurst, Lily Brotherhood, Olive Brown, Cissie Jarvis, Agnes Brotherhood, Edith Bancroft, Kathleen Lawrence, Florence Bradley who was the late Ron Hill's grandmother, Emma Adelaide Wilkins, Emma Gee, Joyce Pickering nee Pountney, and Lizzie Pickering. Several of these ladies lived on John Street or Loughborough Road. Nita posted the photo on social media asking if anybody could identify others. Someone said there was a Mrs Needham on there, but no further details are known on the handful of unidentified ladies. Many of these ladies were known to us but we had no idea what they looked like, so this photo has been a real boon to our archives.
- Nita has been looking at people associated with Thringstone who were POWs in WW2. We knew that **Frank Bowler**, who was secretary at Thringstone House Club, was in a German POW camp, and now have photos of him, thanks to his grandson Jason, plus a copy of a card he sent from the camp in 1944, and a photo of him and his wife Alice, plus of his regiment. Records show that he was captured on 18 March 1943 and was a private in the Leicestershire Regiment, with whom he served in North Africa. He was sent to Camp 8A, Stalag Gorlitz which is now in Poland near Zgorzelec and by 1944, the camp contained over 47,000 prisoners from all over the world. We understand that he was born as Kenneth Frank Bowler on 11 April 1920 in Osgathorpe. On the 1921 census he is living at The Star on Main Street with the Peters family who were his great aunt and uncle. The 1939 register shows him as Frank K Bowler, and he is with his parents at 217 Brooks Lane, Whitwick (or New Swannington as it was sometimes known) from where he enlisted. He was an apprentice brick layer. He married somewhere in the Coalville area in 1947 to Alice May Carter, and moved to Leicester at one point. He had two sons, John James and Frank Brian and a daughter Susan. John James died in November 1998 aged 49 years. In 1960 Kenneth Frank had a building company at 229 Thornborough Road, Coalville, which got into difficulties and ceased trading. In 1976, newspaper articles show that he lived at 38 London Road, Coalville and records show that he died in 1988. He never spoke about the war.
- **Jan 1814** – to be sold at auction, the dwelling house known by the sign of the **Queen's Head** in the village of Thringstone. Suitable for grocery/butcher's shop. Consists of house, parlour, kitchen and

shop with chambers over, large arched cellar, with bakers oven and dairy. An entire yard with pump, warehouse, swill cistern, out-yard, barns, cowhouse, stables and piggeries, together with small tenement. Large garden, well fenced and planted with choice fruit trees. To be sold at next Lady Day (25 March). For further details apply to **James Walker** on the premises. This is the first mention of the Queen's Head in Thringstone village prior to 1830, although we know that there was a public house called The Queen's Head which straddled the boundaries between Coleorton and Swannington and had a history going back to the 1780s. Some suggest that this pub stood where no. 16 Moor Lane, Coleorton now is. Others suggests elsewhere, but in most cases, this pub was said to be in Thringstone parish, which included Swannington and part of Coleorton, rather than, in this case, the article says in the village of Thringstone. In the Leicestershire alehouse registers from 1799 through to 1814, James Walker is listed as a licensee in Thringstone with surety people being a mixture – Wm. Roe of Swannington, Joseph Henson of Thringstone who is mentioned several times plus Thomas Stinson of Coleorton again mentioned several times, Samuel Stretton of Coleorton, James Kerby of Coleorton, John Gregory of Thringstone about whom we have a lot of information since he is connected to the Rose and Crown, Richard Smith of Belton, John Potter of Thringstone, William Hutchinson of Whitwick, again mentioned more than once, Charles Robins of Thringstone and John Smith of Thringstone. Nothing further can be found about the Queen's Head after 1814 until 1830s. The only James Walker we can find are James Walker who appears on the 1841 census in Sandholes (Talbot Lane) along with Robert Hallam, a shoemaker aged 15. He seems to live a few doors away from William Potter who is a publican. James was in his 80s, with a suggested birthdate around 1753/5 and is listed as being of independent means. There is also a record of a James Walker of Whitwick marrying Sarah Burton at St John's in Whitwick on 2 February 1784, which may fit. Both were able to sign their names, and there is a Sarah Walker born around 1760 buried at St John's in Whitwick in 1818. Her address was listed as Swannington and the couple appear to have had children Mary born 1786, Maria born 1797, William Henry born 1800 and Henry born 1804. James Walker died in 1844 aged 89 and his burial record says he was of Swannington. He was buried at St John's in Whitwick on 25 March 1844.

- **July 1907** – Discussions took place on whether the **burial ground at St Andrew's** could be extended. In 1861, half an acre of ground was bought for a burial ground, but some of this had been built on with houses and the vicarage when the land was handed over to the Ecclesiastical authorities. This matter needed further discussion at another meeting.
- **Jan 1917** – The funeral took place of **Mr Jason White** after a long illness lasting over 25 years. He died in a nursing home in Northamptonshire. He was the son of Mr J P White JP of Scotlands, Coalville and for years before his illness was the manager at Snibston Colliery. He was in charge of the pit at the time that no. 3 shaft was deepened and at the same time as having this position, he had a farm in Thringstone. He also for a time served on the Ashby Board of Guardians. He was 65 years of age. We believe this is the same man whose wife briefly owned the farm at Thringstone House.
- **March 1917** – A memorial service was held at Thringstone Wesleyan Chapel for the late **Pt. Herbert Grainger** who was killed in action. He had attended this chapel before joining the army. .
- **May 1917** – The **Thringstone Cycling club** opened up again with headquarters being at the Queen's Head. John Lee was appointed captain and J A Hunt honorary secretary. A good number of people turned out to cycle to Ravenstone, Heather and Ibstock. The following week was a cycle ride to Congerstone.
- **Sept 1947** – Sale by auction at Rose and Crown on 7 October of nos. 13, 14, 17, 19 and 21 **Loughborough Road** and 4 dwellings in **Star Row, Main Street**, Thringstone by unnamed owner.



The Friends of Thringstone

Rents achieved on the properties on Lbro' Rd were £128 7 shillings and 6 pence a year and for the properties on Main Street were £54 12 shillings a year.

- **June 1974** – A fete organised by Mr Dunbar, deputy head of **Thringstone Primary School** raised £500 for school funds. Some of the money will be used on special books and aids for remedial teaching. There was a fancy dress parade, a judo demonstration and a tug of war as well as a ladies' five a side football match. The fete was opened by Mrs Duncan Smith of Osgathorpe who had been head of Thringstone's infant school for 24 years.
- **Dec 1976** – As part of the Diocesan Jubilee Celebrations, a coachload of members of **Thringstone St Andrew's** went along to St Andrew's church in Foxton near Market Harborough for a service which was conducted by Rev J Wardle-Harper. A member of the Thringstone church read the lesson and afterwards the whole congregation went to Robert Monk Hall where ladies from the Foxton congregation had prepared lunch..
- **July 1977** – **Rev Archibald Benjamin Pettit** retired from St Andrew's where he'd been vicar from 1969. Succeeding Rev Richard Willis, Rev Pettit was born on 27 July 1906 in Wellingborough, Northants, and was one of 5 children. His parents were John and Jane, and his father was a leather dresser. The 1921 census shows him with his father, a widower, and his aunt Mary Ann, as a gas fitter. He married Ethel Armess in Lothingland, Suffolk in 1935 and they had a daughter Angela and one son, Roger. Prior to the outbreak of WW1, he was a district inspector for a gas company, and lived in Hornchurch in Essex. Rising through the ranks to become a 2nd lieutenant in the pioneer corps in 1942, served for a time as a major in the Royal Engineers and thereafter in the Sudanese Defence Force with the same rank, being Arabic speaking. On returning to England, he settled in Redditch, Worcestershire, and was the goods manager at Bromsgrove Station until seeking holy orders at Worcester College. Rev Pettit was ordained by R R Williams, bishop of Leicester in June 1966, and it is recorded that at that time he was a curate in Lutterworth. Between 1965 and 1968, he served as Assistant Curate at St Mary's in Lutterworth, and then until 1969 as Assistant Curate at St Peter's, Oadby, the vicar there having health problems from which he was told to rest. After leaving Oadby, he came to Thringstone until his retirement in 1977. A notable addition to the church fabric during Rev Pettit's time was the internal wooden vestibule over the south doorway, which was presented in memory of Grace and Edward Hicken of Thringstone by their son and daughter in 1972. Rev Pettit retired to Skipton with his wife Ethel, and continued to keep in touch with a number of his former parishioners in Thringstone until he passed away on 3 June 1993.
- **Dec 1977** – A well- attended Christmas party at **Thringstone Community Centre** for members and friends was provided by acting warden, Anne Hicken. Mrs Gladys Gee, chairman of the governing body, presented Mrs Hicken with a gold locket and chain, and Mrs Hicken presented the caretaker with a gift.
- **Aug 1978** – **Neil Hicken**, aged 18 of Talbot Street won the Cookery Section in the Thringstone Horticultural, Crafts and Hobbies exhibition at the centre for the second year running. He had also won it in 1977. The Amateur Garden Red Ribbon was won by Harold Straw who also won the culinary and vegetable section. There were 61 classes in the exhibition, organised by Anne Hicken and her husband Edwin. In the children's section, Heather Hodgkin won the wild flower arrangement, Deborah Knifton won painting and Sarah Hault won hobbies. The flower section was won by Mr Hodges.
- **Dec 1978** – The newly formed **Youth Club's** first ever Christmas fair was held at the Community Centre and raised £138 towards the £600 target that the club has to raise by next June.

Next meeting 4 July at Charles Booth Centre in the house lounge at 7pm . Please remember to vote before you come