



# The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

**Chairman: Nita Pearson BEM**  
20 Springfield, Thringstone, Leicestershire, LE67 8LT.  
Telephone: 01530 223434  
[mail to: nita.pearson@ntlworld.com](mailto:nita.pearson@ntlworld.com)

Visit our website at: [www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk](http://www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk)  
Twitter address: @Thringstone2

## BULLETIN FOR JULY 2024

**Monthly litter pick total – 115 bags** removed by 7 people against **129 bags** by 7 people for June 2023. Since we started recording litter figures in 2010, we have now removed **22000** bags of litter from the village and surrounding woodland.

### **Chairs Report**

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

**Promotion:** We have **758 X followers**, which is 2 more than last month, and **2,182 facebook followers**, which is 5 more than last month.

**Other:** Welcome to our new member Margaret Kent.

Nita has been working on the wording of a **safeguarding policy** and this has been sent around the committee for their comments before being legally checked and approved.

Nita has sent of all **Community Voice history articles** up to and including Jan 2025.

**Meeting on 4 July 2024.** 10 present, 4 apologies.

- **Ruby's** – The 80p chips promotion for D Day saw lots of people queue to support the team at the shop. £240.80 was taken in chip sales and £89 was put in the charity tin making £329.80 in total Ruby's added to this so gave £300 to Bright Hope Hospice and £300 to Coalville foodbank. Well done to all who supported this initiative, and thank you to the team at Ruby's. **Ruby's will be closed** for their annual holiday from 20 July until 3<sup>rd</sup> August.
- **Charles Booth Event** – Please don't forget we have the FREE **Charles Booth talk** with Sarah Wise on at the centre on 26<sup>th</sup> July starting at 7pm. Tickets are still available from <https://buytickets.at/friendsoftringstone/1248560> There was considerable discussion about the event and organising who is doing what etc. and Nita agreed to write to Gracedieu Manor to ensure that Sarah Wise will be able to see inside.
- **NWLDC'S Green Shoots Scheme** – This was launched again with various bulbs being available at a shared cost. We've ordered 1000 each of Snowdrops, Crocus and Daffodils at a cost of £84 to us.
- **Gracedieu Manor Park** – their Air B&B 1 bedroomed apartment for 2 people is now available at £90 a night. For more details please go to <https://www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/959248500854497703...> This comes with kitchen with fridge and microwave plus TV, wifi and free parking.
- **Morrisons** – Every day until 14 July, **Morrisons café** is giving away a free jacket potato and cheesy beans to anybody who wants one, especially aimed at those who are struggling financially. When you get to the till, just ask for Henry, and you will be served.
- **Proposed new care home on Main St** – 3 years ago planning was given for a care home at 75 Main Street. Now another planning application has gone in for no. 73 to turn that into a children's care home for 7-17 year olds with behavioural and emotional development challenges, who have suffered physical or sexual abuse or who have been neglected or have learning difficulties. There are local concerns over parking and other issues associated with this application.
- **Thringstone Primary** - the recent school fete made £1432.84. Well done to the organisers and those who came along to support the day.
- **Centre** – The charity coffee morning on 14 June raised £115 for **Redgate Farm Animal Sanctuary**. The scaffolding around **the lift** was eventually removed in early June.



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The **Monday yoga class** is still running at the centre from 7pm-8pm. For further details contact [MHYoga001@gmail.com](mailto:MHYoga001@gmail.com) and on Tuesday from 6.30-7.20pm there's **Clubbacise with Laura** From 3 July on certain Wednesdays between 1pm and 3pm is a **Men's Positive Pathway session** aimed at giving men the chance to join in activities. BBQ on 31 July! Open to all men from 18 onwards. More information from the centre.

The monthly **quiz night** is still the last Thursday of the month. Contact the centre for more info. The planting of **fruit trees** on the cross has stalled due to the officer dealing being on long-term sick. The centre are still waiting for the results of the flora and fauna survey to come in report form. We understand that the centre put in for money for plants as part of the **Love Your Neighbourhood** event taking place this month.

At the **centre's AGM**, which 7 of our members attended, the following statement was issued. We asked for an official copy of this, as below. Please bear this in mind going forward:

As well as being a charity we are an employer and have a duty of care over our staff who deserve to be able to work in a pleasant environment that conforms to health and safety standards. They also need time to do their jobs efficiently without distractions, so we are proposing a new policy on visitors to the office.

- User groups who want to make bookings and pay bills are welcome to pop in to carry out this business with Claire.
- People who want to book a party or event and need a building tour continue to book that in with Caitlyn as they do already
- All other visitors wishing to speak to our staff will now need to book an appointment.

Inevitably there will be day-to-day things that user groups with a booking need to ask while they are in the building and this is acceptable but we are aiming to reduce the number of distractions and unnecessary conversations that our staff are involved in.

We have limited staff time, they need to be able to get on with their work and we have been very disappointed recently with the amount of inappropriate conversations that have been taking place with and about our staff. So from now on **the office door will be closed** to allow our staff to have confidential conversations without that information ending up spread around the village, and we are going to implement a **zero tolerance policy** and anyone found to be breaching this will be asked to leave the building. Our staff work for us and deserve to be able to carry out their jobs without the constant opinions of some parts of the village. This centre isn't an easy place to run and if anyone has any questions, or suggestions for improvement then we would like these to be put in writing to the trustees. We ask our staff to deliver our vision, and if anyone wants to comment on that then they need to get in touch with us directly.

For information, should you wish to email the chair of the trustees, the address to do so is [amanda@charlesboothcentre.org.uk](mailto:amanda@charlesboothcentre.org.uk). If anybody is interested in the question and answer section of the AGM at the centre, their chair kindly sent us a copy of the minutes taken, so ask Nita.

We understand that the music festival was a great success, although some people didn't know where the stalls were. It was a shame about the weather.

- **AOB** – There was some discussion on overflowing bins and overgrown hedges.

### 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.**

6 July – **Love Your Neighbourhood** event on Melrose Road parkway from 10am until afternoon. All sorts of people there and potential litter pick being planned.

6 July – Grace Dieu Manor – **Grace Dieu Nursery and Charles Booth Pre-School** summer fete. Games, stalls, bouncy castle, face painting and more. Starts at 12 noon.

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.

27-8 July – **Festival of Archaeology at Gracedieu Priory** - 12 noon until 5pm. Exhibition tent, guided tour on Sunday at 2pm, have a go at digging and refreshments available.

3 Aug – **Charles Booth Centre** – Bringing back the 80s – 7pm until late. DJ city disco. Tickets £10 from the centre office. Tickets include first drink on arrival – beer or single shot with mixer.

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.

6 Sept – Charles Booth Centre – ONE NIGHT ONLY. **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society** present Deathly Convention. Tickets from 0333 6663366 or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads)

### Financial

<b>.Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>3713.02</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Memberships	£8	Broadband	20.00
		Insurance	£15.70
		Printer ink	£49.99
		Carrier bags for litter picking	26.39
<b>total income to general fund</b>	£8		£112.08
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>£3608.94</b>

### Web report

The webmaster continues to work on updates.

### Incident Report

- Several incidents of people having to remove themselves from the path of **motorbikes** in the woods. Many took to social media to complain.
- Aware of police being called to domestic incidents
- 26 June – 3.25am - £20 worth of used fat taken in its container from the rear of **Ruby's** fish and chip shop. 2 men caught on CCTV doing this.
- 30 June – incident just inside Whitwick boundary on **Talbot St** when car hit and demolished the traffic calming signage at around 6.30am. Police had to attend as car front smashed to pieces and road partially blocked.
- 1 July – reports of people going round **parked cars** and trying the doors. Keep doors locked!

### History Report

- **1999 village appraisal** – Nita has been looking at the village appraisal carried out in September 1999 and the original brochures and subsequent leaflets. The appraisal came about after a public meeting held in 1998 at the community centre, championed by the Leicestershire and Rutland Rural Development Council and Thringstone Action Group who then formed a Thringstone Appraisal Group committee. Much like was done when the People Zone started here last year, people were asked what they liked and disliked about the village and what they would like to see improved. People's concerns have remain pretty much the same since then. People are still saying there aren't enough police on the streets, there are problems with motorbikes in the woods making them feel unsafe, there is nuisance caused by youths hanging around after dark and so on.



Back in 1999, Thringstone had about 1500 households. We had 3 shops (now two to include the Co-op), 3 pubs now all closed, plus the George and Dragon and Bull's Head, we had a Methodist chapel which is now closed, 2 children's playgrounds and now just one and 3 hairdressers, now just 2, plus things like 2 playgroups, and 2 mother and toddler groups, the community centre etc. A community car service took people to appointments at hospitals etc.. We also had a weekly mobile grocery van come round, which doesn't happen now.

**What people wanted** – a bus service which went past the doctors' surgery, and a less expensive bus service with more direct routes to Leicester, and workers' buses to Loughborough and similar at weekends for the cinema. It was felt that the play area off Melrose Road at the back of the bowling club on which there were swings and climbing frames needed some attention, and it was felt there was a need for after school clubs and more trees in the village.

In addition to seeing more police on the village streets, people wanted better lighting in various dimly lit areas which were mostly small jitty areas, more things for young people and more networking with local organisations. People complained about groups of youths hanging around after dark. Car parking was felt inadequate and people were often seen parking on double yellow lines to access shops etc. People felt that there was no need for further house building, but if that happened people did not want to see large executive type houses. They wanted to see sheltered housing and first time buyer homes plus guaranteed protection for the woodlands. The need for a cash machine in the village was huge. People were concerned about the amount of litter dumped in the woodlands and the question of litter and dog mess on the footpaths and recreation areas. People said they wanted more and bigger litter bins and some dog poo bins, and would be willing to pay for a litter warden.

**What additions we now have** - a recycling scheme and 2 recycling bins – one on The Green and one on Henson's Lane plus plastic and cardboard recycling (outside Thringstone Co-op), a notice board on The Green, the toning table and massage parlour on St Andrew's Close, trees around the Woodside estate and up Loughborough Road, a fit gym on the Melrose estate, new village signage reflecting our position within the National Forest which were provided after FoT got a grant for these, comprehensive traffic calming down Loughborough Road to slow down traffic, a sustrans track which runs through the woods, a zebra crossing on The Green, a good Co-op with a cash machine, and considerably more housing than we did including the Belway estate and social housing on Fortnam Close. In addition to the Panto Society based at the centre, we now also have Ace Community Theatre based at Thringstone Members Club. We also now have a boy's home at Perigrine House, Loughborough Road. With regard to the bus service, routes have changed dramatically, and whilst they did go past the doctors' surgery and all round the village in the past, they now don't go round the village, just up Loughborough Road, and yet again they now don't go past the surgery in Whitwick. However, Skylink does operate a service. The Miners Social centre has been completely rebuilt, and the facilities at the Thringstone football ground have improved no end. There are also now 2 dog poo bins, one which FoT got after a petition, at the rear of the bowling club, and another which was provided by Friends of Gracedieu Priory near to the car park to the Bull's Head. Another large litter bin was provided, after FoT asked the council to help, at the rear of Gracedieu Woods on Turlough Road and one which was removed near the old Fox site was re-sited further down opposite the Henson's Lane junction after FoT complained. There are now also benches in the village including the rainbow one near Henson's Lane junction.

Stapled to this paperwork was an email Nita got from Dwight Barker who was our village PC back in 2007. He had taken over the previous year from Ian Holland. He wrote 3 pages of stuff on what the police were doing in the village, and also about the Youth Offending team, youth outreach workers etc., and getting young people involved in projects and activities. He mentioned that in 2007 Claire MacRory who worked at NWLDC had set up a large youth event during the summer, but this was poorly attended by the people who had asked for it.

- Nita has spent some time this month helping the great granddaughter of **Robin Robinson** who died in WW1 find out both about him and also doing the family tree for her.
- Nita posted some information on facebook about **how people lived before central heating**. One comment came back from Pauline Pollard about St Mary's Terrace, which is just inside the



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Whitwick/Thringstone boundary. She wrote that she was brought up in a two bedroomed cottage and there were 5 of them in the family. They had a scullery with cold running water over a brown sink. Her mother cooked on a range which had to be black leaded. The family shared a toilet with three other families in the row, but it was a flush toilet. The family did have electricity, but only because her father, being an electrical engineer, installed it in the row for Bertha Carter, the landlady. Bertha Carter was the sister of Cuddy Carter, the farmer from over the road.

- During the period of the D Day celebrations, some records were released with free access. From this we have established information relating to the following men, all born in Thringstone who served in WW2 and were **Prisoners of War**. **Wilf Bradley**, born 10 Oct 1918 in Thringstone was captured on 21 April 1940 and sent to Stalag XX1B Schokken in Poland. He was with the Leicestershire Regiment. **Ken Gee**, born 31 August 1913 was in Stalag 4B Muhlberg, in the German province of Saxony, and was with the Northants Regiment and in addition to being in Stalag Gorlitz, **Frank Bowler**, mentioned last month, was sent to Stalag 8B Lamsdorf in Silesia. We also found more details on **George Charles Lillyman** who was born in Northamptonshire on 8 Dec 1909. He was captured on 22 May 1940 and was in the Stalag 20A Thorn camp in Poland. We knew that at one time he was also in Camp 20B Stalag Marienburg in Poland, and that his return to Thringstone after the war was delayed because he was in hospital. George was a gardener and in 1939 had been living in cottages at Garendon Park. He was married to Emily May Warner and had 2 sons. George died on 8 November 1976 in the Coalville area. This is all new information.

- **James Springthorpe** – Following on from the above, we know that someone with this name was connected to Thringstone and was a prisoner of war as £26 12 shillings and 6 pence was given to him on his return from the Thringstone comfort fund. This turns out to be James Springthorpe, born in Swannington on 19 March 1913. His parents were collier Arthur and Sarah Ann nee Earp, and in 1921 the family were living at St George's Terrace, Swannington. Arthur and Sarah Ann's daughter Sarah died as an infant in 1904, their son Walter died as an infant in 1922 and Harold in 1925 again as an infant. TB seems to have been an issue for the family, as son Thomas Albert died of this in 1934 in Markfield Sanitorium aged 18, daughter Harriet in 1928 aged 19 and daughter Doris in 1943 aged 25. By 1939 Arthur had remarried to Grace Evelyn Hall on 24 March 1928 in Worthington - Sarah Ann having died in 1926. The family were living with 6 children (Arthur had at least 19 in total – family say 22) at 156 Main Street, Thringstone. When Arthur and Grace married, he was 47 and Grace 26. We are therefore confident that we have the right person. Incidentally, Arthur's second wife, Grace, also had a daughter called Aileen who died as a baby in 1942, but did have 6 others who lived to adulthood – Glennis, Graham, Leslie Malcolm, Wilfred Roy (died 22 March 2013), Raymond Valentine (known as Vol, died 12 Nov 2016) and Joyce who died last year.

James enlisted on 24 June 1931 and was captured in Greece on 29 April 1941. He was in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps. He was initially put into camps in Greece (Corinthe and Salonika) until 22 June 1941 and then was sent to Stalag 18A Wolfsberg, Germany from 27 June 1941 until 5 July 1941. He was transferred to working camp Steiermark in Austria from 7 July 1941 until 3 November 1941 where he worked on drainage. During this time, in August 1941, he wrote home to his family and said he was well. He then went to Ironing camp in Austria until February 43, then Triben in Austria until July 1943 and then Seltwick until July 1943, all of these being working camps, where he refused to work which was his right under the Geneva convention. He tried to escape from Furstenfeld in Southern Austria with a view to getting to Hungary on 19 Dec 1943, but he had no compass and was recaptured on 23<sup>rd</sup>. He was also in Stalag 18C in Markt Pongau in Germany for 4 days in 1944. He tried to escape from Leizen camp on 12 July 1945 but was recaptured the following day. During his time in the camps, he met a Private Corlander who claimed to be from New Zealand and said he was a white Russian. They met in Stalag 18A in May 1944 – this was a place where many British captured in Greece were sent. He was in the uniform of the free legion, which was formed to fight against the Russians for Germany. Jim said he had entered the German part of the camp and tried to engage him and others in fruitless attempts to get them to volunteer to join this legion to fight against the Russians. Regimental Sargeant Major Stevenson, who was with the Australian forces and was The Man of Confidence (who passed on complaints from POWs to camp



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authorities and negotiated work schedules), refused to accept any responsibility for his safety. An address given for James Springthorpe upon release was 23 Sullington Road, Shepshed. James seems to have married 3 times, the final time being to Ethel May Newton in 1976. He died on 23 September 1987, after a short illness, in Leicester General Hospital, and his funeral service was held at Christ Church Methodist Chapel in Shepshed, after which he was cremated. We have pictures of 6 of James's siblings, 3 of a half sibling, and 4 of James himself and one each of his parents, Arthur and Sarah Ann, plus one of his step-mother Grace Evelyn nee Hall..

- **1907** – Charles Booth was president of the **Coalville and District Philharmonic Society** from 1907 when it was founded until at least 1913. This society was based at Coalville Adult School, and had its first rehearsals in February 1907. Their aim was to encourage the reproduction of first class choral music worthily in the district without cutting across church choirs and encouraging them in further development. This is new information.
- **Feb 1914** – The newly elected committee of **Thringstone House club** held their first meeting. John Henry Stinson was elected as chairman, Walter Watts vice-chair, and 6 committee members were appointed. These were W Henson and W Turner who were chosen by the trustees, John Henry Stinson, F W Wheeldon, T Jones and Walter Watts who were chosen by the members. The secretary W J Gough presented the accounts showing a balance of £41 17 shillings and 4 pence.
- **May 1934 - Forest View** – We have previously discussed the connections between Forest View and the Kirby family, and now understand that the property was up for auction in May 1934. In addition to the house, there was stabling and outbuildings at the rear and a garden well stocked with fruit trees. Also up for auction were the 3 adjoining properties plus 2 in the rear with gardens. The cottages were occupied by John Cliff, Arthur Bird, Ernest Varnham and others. By 1939 Arthur Bird was living at 52 Lbro Rd, John Cliff down The Dumps and Ernest Varnham at 154 Gracedieu Road. There were also two pieces of ground on The Green for auction, these being in the occupation of Mrs Kirby, John and others. We have also now found the notice relating to the property becoming a bookies – Thomas Geoffrey White of 26 Clover Place, Thringstone put in for betting office license and bookmarker's permit in August 1979. In March 1991, planning was put in through NWLDC to raise the roof line of the property and build a first floor rear extension and front canopy. This application was put in by Mr D Walker of Croftside Design, Chapel Street, Donisthorpe.
- **July 1942 – Norman Cyril Springthorpe**, aged 20, (brother to James Springthorpe above) was sent to prison for 3 months for leaving his job at New Lount Colliery without the permission of the National Service Officer. He had failed to go to work, doing underground haulage, at all since April. Roland Lewis, National Service Officer, said he went to the home of Springthorpe at 10.15am to find him in bed. His stepmother, Gladys, said he never got up before 11am. He then went to bed again in the afternoon, got up for tea, then sat up until after midnight. In July 1943 he was sent to prison for 3 months for leaving his work. At that stage his cousin, Frederick William Springthorpe, said he was not fit to work because he had lost a brother and 2 sisters from TB – his brother Thomas Albert died at Markfield Sanatorium in 1934 and was buried at St Andrews. His sister Harriet had died aged 19 in 1928 and his sister Doris died in January 1943. Also in January 1943, he was in court again for a similar offence of not attending work, saying that he was ill and that is why he wasn't at work. He was bound over for 12 months and advised to see a doctor and get a medical certificate, and ordered to pay £2 6 shillings costs. He was saved from being sentenced a month earlier because of the recent death of his sister Doris, known as Dot. In September 1943, he was back in court where the doctor mentioned above reported that he could find no evidence of disease, but due to the family history of TB, it would be better if he were given a job in the open air rather than underground. The probation officer said that Norman had taken one day off since the last hearing, but it was agreed that the supervision order on him should continue. He was back in court again in March 1944 for absenting himself from work. He was fined £7 15 shillings and told that if this happened again, he would be sent to prison. Joseph Land, investigating officer, said that Norman had given him more trouble than any other man at the pit. We believe that Norman died in 1950.

**Next meeting 1 August at Charles Booth Centre in the house lounge at 7pm**