



# 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 SEPTEMBER 2024

**Monthly litter pick total** – 136 bags removed by 9 people against 150 bags by 8 people for August 2023

**Notes of meeting on 5 September** – 9 present, 3 apologies

**Drury Lane** – A person from Openreach was down Drury Lane cutting back trees that had grown near cables and upon being asked to cut back branches to the apple tree, duly obliged. How nice is that! The nettles along the lane have also been removed.

**Shrub bed on The Green** – A huge thank you goes to 1<sup>st</sup> Thringstone Scouts who came out on 13 August to weed and dig and cut back the bushes on The Green. Whilst doing this, we also came across the missing seating plank from one of the nearby benches, which had been thrown into the middle of the bed and was totally obscured by the bushes. It still had one of its bolts on it! Thanks also to Kate, Margaret and Peter for letting us use their green recycling bins for the debris. On 15 August we purchased some bark chippings and Nita put them down to finish the job off.

**Care Home** – We mentioned some time ago about the possibility of another care home on Main St. This was approved on 9 August. No. 73 will cater for 4 children between the ages of 7 and 17. These children will have behavioural difficulties/have suffered physical or sexual abuse/neglect/ or have learning difficulties. This home is next to another one which was given approval 3 years back for similar things

**Hello Heritage** – Hello Heritage runs from 1 September for the month, and Nita arranged for boards to go up in the usual places – 2 at the centre, and one each at Ruby's, Wheelwright House, Old School House and for the first time the one that usually goes at St Andrew's went down to Bill's house on the corner of Henson's Lane.

**Shuttle Bus** – Reminder that the Wednesday shuttle bus from Marlene Reid centre started on 4 September and runs until 20 November. The bus will pick you up from home **FREE OF CHARGE** to take you from Whitwick or Thringstone into Coalville and return. All you need to do is book your seat by ringing 512456. The petition to try to get Arriva to reinstate a bus through Whitwick so that people from Thringstone can more easily attend the GP surgery, go to the chemist etc. was acknowledged by Arriva. County Hall said that local transport was not something they were involved with, as it is a commercial operation, but a meeting with Arriva didn't rule out the return of a bus service at some point, perhaps.

**New housing proposals** – There are proposals in the draft local plan which needs to be approved by council by December 2026 to build between 500 and 800 houses on the land from Talbot Lane to Swannington School. 680 new homes need to be built every year across the whole district. A local action group has been formed as people aren't happy at this amount of housing. Those who are concerned about this have been asked to attend the next Whitwick Parish Council meeting on 19 September, and posters and flyers have been produced about the proposals. If you would like more details, please contact John on 07795604596 who will discuss the situation relating to the action group with you.

**Proposed parish boundary changes** – We understand that the council is looking into changes, which could, potentially, see a Coalville Town Council being formed and leave Thringstone without access to Coalville Special Expenses/see us linked to either Whitwick or Swannington parishes.



**First Charles Booth Event** – We are told that the recording of the event is now available to listen to by going onto the following website – the 1st part is up to the interval we had and the 2nd part is after the interval and includes the questions raised: Part One: <https://vimeo.com/1005740524?share=copy> Part Two: <https://vimeo.com/1005750498?share=copy>. We are in the process of trying to get CDs available for interested parties, and would like to give a CD to the centre and one to Thringstone Primary.

**New event** – The next event on the lives of Charles and Mary Booth – The Gracedieu Years has been organised with the centre for Friday 15 November at 7pm. Tickets are free, yet again, and this time we will be having a film from Pudding Bag Productions as well as a talk and display. Nita emailed everybody on our membership list, plus those who had been before to the previous event and also to the local historical groups, and all tickets were allocated within 9 days of them being available to book. We are now keeping a reserve list and will be asking people who have booked, nearer the time, if they are unlikely to be able to come after all. If you are interested in coming along, and want to go on the reserve list, please email Nita on address above, or ring her, again on the number above. Coalville Historical Society have agreed to come along to the event and record this event for us

**Repointing of wall by St Andrew's** – Nita has written several times to the stonemason who worked on this wall and is getting no response. The meeting suggested taking out the money we have in our current account for this and putting it somewhere where it could gain interest. Anne agreed to talk to our account examiner about this but in the meantime, if anybody knows anybody who can do repointing, please let us know. There was further discussion at this point about emails that people receive from various sources which may not be necessary, and other such things, which then get overlooked.

### **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 **2,214 facebook followers**, which is 7 more than last month. Many people are now leaving X because of issues relating to their owner. We had an article in the VCSE newsletter for August.

**Other:** Nita has written the next **Bauble** to go into Community Voice in November. She has also written another history article which will take us up to and including February 2025. That month will also see our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, so the Bauble for February will be all about how we started.

Mention of our **Charles and Mary Booth event** went into Belton's Maypole magazine and also in the St Andrew's newsletter and that of St John's. Our article on the initial Charles Booth event, complete with colour photo, is in the Community Voice for September.

Nita reported the huge mound of **black bags** in the front garden of the private rented property on Shrewsbury Walk to the council as a health hazard, and understands that the neighbours have also complained. There is also a lot of debris outside a property on Shrewsbury Walk which is being added to on a daily basis. This has also been reported.

We are sad to report the death of Sue Francis. Condolences to Jimmy and family.

We are also sad to report the death of Sheila Jones. For 22 years Sheila was secretary of the local luncheon club. Condolences go to her family and friends.

### **What's On**

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

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)

7 Sept – Belton History Group are putting on a free event from 12 noon until 4pm as part of Hello Heritage, at which artifacts from Gracedieu Priory will be on show.

11 Sept – Bike, vintage car and moped meet at **Thringstone Members Club** from 6pm. Just turn up. Hot drinks available as well as bar open.

14 Sept – **St Andrew's** is taking part in the Ride and Stride with people going round to churches between 10am and 6pm. They are planning to serve cream teas from 2.30pm until 4pm in front of the church, weather permitting.

15 Sept – **St Andrew's** Harvest Festival 10.30am

19 Sept – **Belton History Group** present a talk on the Titanic. 7.30pm. Queen's Head. Tickets £3.

20 Sept – Fundraising quiz night at **Charles Booth Centre** to help volunteer work in an orphanage in Africa. Starts at 7.30 and will be upstairs. Usual costs for taking part apply.

### Financial

<b>.Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>3505.24</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Publications	£103.70	Broadband	£20.00
Publication Donations	£8.50	Insurance	£15.70
Event donations	£190.76	Event speaker and audio	£250
Tea and coffee at event	£11.74	History book purchase	£18.49
Refund of 1 <sup>st</sup> room booking deposit	£50.00	Purchase of bark chippings	£33.96
		Deposit for 2 <sup>nd</sup> event	£50.00
		Payment to centre for 1 <sup>st</sup> event	£60.00
<b>total income to general fund</b>	£364.70		£448.15
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>£3421.79</b>

Regarding deposits for the events at the centre, these deposits are returned by bank transfer after the event, and the invoice for the full amount then paid accordingly. The room booking deposit for the 1<sup>st</sup> event was paid in June.

### Web report

The webmaster continues to work on updates.

### Incident Report

- Another beat surgery was advertised for August – this time at Charles Booth Centre on 7<sup>th</sup> for an hour at 10am, followed by another one at Thringstone Co-op on 22 August for an hour from 6pm. .
- There continue to be thefts from our Co-op. Some of these offenders are known to the shop, others not so, but all are on CCTV and details passed to the police.
- 10 Aug – Police say they visited Springfield and Grace Dieu Woods due to an increase in calls over the previous fortnight around the use of off-road bikes. They said that Section 59 warning signs are displayed in this area (one on the post near to no. 90 Melrose Rd and another on the fencing at the bottom of the football field), meaning if a vehicle is being used in a manner which is causing or likely to cause alarm, distress, or annoyance to members of the public then police have the power to seize the vehicle. The notice near to the woods, which was removed in the last couple of days by youths, suggested that you can report off road motorbikes to [www.leics.police.uk](http://www.leics.police.uk) but that you need to give date, time, type of vehicle, registration number, colour, details of the riders and their attire, their addresses if possible and direction of travel. During the month, on most Saturday lunchtimes, the police have visited the Melrose Rd area and wait to see if motorbikes appear.



## The Friends of Thringstone

- 17 August – The Whitwick and Thringstone People Zone, working with Crimestoppers, brought their Advan round the area between 3pm and 11pm. Their target for us was anti-social behaviour and motorbike issues. The van, and accompanying police car, were seen on Springfield, at Thringstone Members Club and outside the Co-op in the late afternoon and early evening. A subsequent message was sent out from the Police which read 'Further to this PCSO Fowkes & Walker have put up signage which send a clear message that these areas are NOT appropriate. We also completed a mass leaflet drop in the affected areas which again, tell those affected how and what to report. This is just one of the successful operations the Bardon Beat Team have ran over the summer period and in line with our beat priority it seems to be making a difference. We understand that it would be nice to have a purpose-built track for people to take part legally but to put it simply, this would cost a ridiculous amount to do, and we just do not have the funding for it. That said, PCSO Fowkes and I have recently visited the Coleorton MX track on Rempstone Road and I have to say that we were impressed. This track is only a 5-minute drive from Coalville and is great for those who want to take part properly. With the above in mind, we would absolutely encourage off-roaders to take the time to do a little research and take part properly and safely.'
- Towards the end of the month, someone put racist graffiti on the **bench** by the porch at St Andrew's. This was taken off by one of the team at the church.
- 26 Aug – sometime prior to 5am – youths removed **2 steel barriers** from the Thringstone members club car park and put them onto the pedestrian crossing, thus stopping traffic. These were removed by someone at 5am.
- 31 Aug – same issue with the **2 steel barriers** from the Members Club car park. Removed back to the car park. Another of their plastic barriers was put between the traffic calming a bit further down. This was a bit heavy, so Nita put that on the build out to the traffic calming and told the club who then moved it within an hour or so of being informed.

### History Report

- In our existing archives are **many letters from Charles Booth** to Alice Towle who was the warden at the community centre, or Thringstone Club as it was known (it even had its own letterhead with those details). Amongst those letters are various pieces of information. For example, in 1912, Charles Booth was unable to attend meetings in January because of rheumatism, and went off to Campden House Court in Kensington, his London home. By February he had influenza and stayed in London until June. We also found information that, on the outbreak of war in 1914, Mary Booth's St Andrew's Guild, members of the mothers' meeting she ran and the girls' club at the centre resolved that, at their meetings, their time should be devoted to work for soldiers and sailors, both sick and sound. Regular meetings were held and most of the members had also taken work home. Mary Booth ordered calico, flannelette and flannel and wool, the latter used to make socks, helmets, belts and mittens, and in 1914, they also used strips of fabric to make bandages. In 1915, Mary sent lots of wool for helmets and mittens from London and later on sent 18 lbs of wool including 12 lbs of dyed wool in grey for socks to be made, plus 6 in camel hair wool for helmets and mittens.
- **1913** – Upon doing more research into the Whitwick and Thringstone Nursing Association, the 1913 meeting said that Nurse Ada Morley had resigned after 6 years of excellent service, and **Nurse Lilley** had filled the vacancy. Charles Booth at this time was giving £20 a year in funding to the group, his contributions having been reducing over the years from the initial £50 a year he gave, and he was presently out of the country for several weeks and unable to attend the meeting. There was discussion from Dr Burkitt about the fact that there was no midwives left in Thringstone because of the new need to take exams in order to practice, and this was causing more work for him as local doctor. We have no further information on Nurse Lilley but know she was still the nurse for the association in July 1914.
- **1914** – **Alice Concannon** who worked with Whitwick and Thringstone Nursing Association took her qualifications on 21 February to be a certified midwife and 'monthly nurse'. She lived at 10 Parson Wood Hill, Whitwick and continued in her profession until 1944 as is borne out by the UK Midwives Register. She died in the 1960s.



## The Friends of Thringstone

- **Jan 1925 – Nurse Concannon** attended an inquest at Thringstone House in to the death of a baby belonging to Miss Kate Stopp, daughter of William and Fanny Stopp. Miss Stopp had been staying with her family at Hope Terrace, Main Street and the baby had been born 12 days prior to its death, and was unnamed. Nurse Concannon said she had attended at the birth and that the baby had been healthy at 7 lbs. Miss Stopp said the child was not strong and was always crying and Nurse Concannon said that the child never seemed to gain any weight because ‘the mother had not much milk’ and she had suggested a health visitor should keep an eye on the child. The day the baby died, Miss Stopp noticed that the child’s lips were blue. Nurse Concannon told the inquest that she had been the previous Monday and everything was all right, and the child had died in its mother’s arms on the Wednesday. When asked why a doctor was not called, Miss Stopp said she just thought the child was fretting, and that the cost of the doctor was not an issue, although the inquest generally felt this was the case. Miss Stopp said that the father of the child had nothing to do with its upkeep as he had since ‘married another girl’. Prior to the child’s birth the father had said he would help support Miss Stopp but she had seen nothing of him since the baby had been born. Admitting that the child would be a burden on Miss Stopp she said she had wanted it to live. Dr Pryce Jones of Whitwick had seen the child after it died and said it was a weak little baby and could potentially have died from convulsions. The coroner said that the onus was on the parents of any child that was not well to call for a doctor as otherwise, should the child die, the parents could be charged with manslaughter. Poverty was no excuse, as the parents could apply for the parish doctor to attend, and people should know this. The cause of death was listed as convulsions following diarrhoea.
- **April 1991 - A new recycling service** started in Thringstone with NWLDC’s trial involving 200 houses in the village. In the first 11 weeks, the amount of recycling rose from 10% to 45% with the council’s hoping that figures will rise to 70% of all rubbish being recycled in the future. A wheelie bin was provided with 2 compartments – compostables and plastics. The council have asked that all glass and tin be taken to various recycling stations dotted around the area. Of the 200 households, 95% are still using their bin on a regular basis. Mary Evans of Booth Road said that she had given a corner of her kitchen over to recycling. She separates all her rubbish into different bags before placing them in the wheelie bin. ‘Sometimes it gets a bit of a hassle, but I have to keep reminding myself it is for the good of the planet.’ Neighbour Mrs Violet Spence said ‘If such a small number of households can come up with such impressive results, just think what an entire nation can achieve’.
- **Sept 1990 -** At Thringstone’s annual horticultural show, there was a marvellous exhibition of pencil sketches by local man **Dave Hubbard**. Dave, a lorry driver aged 49, took up the drawing of head and shoulder portraits in his leisure time. Self-taught, his sketches caused quite a stir at the event especially since this was his first public exhibition. Buoyed up by the success, he said he hoped to take on some commissions for Christmas time. In **December 1990**, he had an exhibition at Queen’s Hall, Loughborough where his exhibitions included pop stars, members of the royal family, and animals. Dave particularly likes to draw dogs. He draws them with fine precision and remarkable likeness from photographs and magazine pictures.
- **March 1991 – Dave Hubbard**, Thringstone artist, was surprised to receive a letter from Clarence House after having sent drawings of the royal family. A proud Dave, who only took up the hobby of drawing last year, was persuaded by friends to send sketches of the Queen Mother, Princess Diana, Prince Charles and the Duke of Edinburgh and one of the royal corgis. Just two days after sending these, the lady in waiting to the Queen Mother thanking him for the prints, and conveying the Queen Mother’s best wishes for the future. Dave said he had only sent small framed prints and didn’t expect to hear anything back and was astounded to get a letter within two days of him posting them off.
- **Oct 1991 – Rose and Crown** put on a daylong event to raise money for the British Heart Foundation with a steam fairground organ. There was also a miniature steam engine display, and over 1000 villagers came out to enjoy the day. Danny Lee, landlord of the pub was delighted with the response.
- **Oct 1991 –** A new art club has been started by local artist **Chris Reddington** at the Methodist Chapel on Loughborough Road. Called Gracedieu Art Club, people of all ages are welcome to



come along and draw or paint on Saturday mornings. Chris, who worked as organiser for some years for Women's Fun Runs, had her pen and ink drawings featured in Loughborough Echo in 1989 and will be remembered for her drawings of the finishers at several Loughborough half marathon events.

- **Dec 1991** – A series of indoor games at the **George and Dragon**, to raise money for Groby Road hospital's heart link fund, saw 78 sporting competitors take part in 6 events – darts, speed pool, bottle walking, shove halfpenny, beer mat flipping, and hold the hedgehog. Regulars Mark and Lynn George, whose son Thomas was born with a heart defect, had undergone surgery at only 10 days old. On talking to Sue Martyn, landlady at the pub, the idea was born to raise more money for the heart link fund and it was hoped to raise over £1000 once all the money had come in. Gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded to winners.
- **March 1992** – Hundreds of people from across the Midlands are likely to attend the funeral of Springfield resident **Christopher Frank Ives** (41) who died 2 days after an accident on the B591 at 7.20pm on 18 March at Brake Back Lane, near Beacon Crossroads. Mr Ives, who worked at Kegworth, was chairman of Leicestershire Caravan Club, and took part in over 300 rallies during his 11 year involvement with the group. He attended rallies all over the country and many caravan club members are expected to attend his funeral at St Andrew's church. Club Honorary Secretary, Brian Westlake, said that Chris was well respected and everyone associated with caravanning was upset at his death. 'Chris was a wonderful person who gave of his time tirelessly to the club. His dedication, loyalty and great enthusiasm will be missed by everyone, and the club's officers, committee and members offer their sincere condolences to his widow Barbara and children Joanna and Leigh.' Mr Ives and his fellow club members raised over £24,000 for local charities between 1978 and 1991 and £3,200 was collected last year alone. This year the club are raising funds for equipment for the LRI neo-natal unit, Cystic Fibrosis and Contact and Play group based in Hinckley. Only family flowers have been requested, with donations being requested to be given in lieu of flowers to the club's charities. Police are requesting witnesses to the accident which happened on 18 March to come forward. His Ford Granada Scorpio was travelling down hill when it went out of control on a bend, spun round several times, demolished a fence and then hit a tree. Doctors Nicholas Foster and Roger Price from Loughborough Road Accident Care Scheme spent over an hour with the ambulance service trying to release Mr Ives from the vehicle. He received critical head and chest injuries and was taken to Queens Medical Centre, where he died on 20 March. After the funeral, there will be a cremation at Loughborough. After the accident, PC Christopher Lambert, a qualified accident inspector, asked for warning signs to be put up, and white lines and 'slow' warnings to be painted on the road. The inquest in Loughborough in June 1992 heard that these recommendations had been acted upon, and a verdict was given that Mr Ives had died as a result of an accident.

**Next meeting 3 October at Charles Booth Centre in the house lounge at 7pm**