



'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 OCTOBER 2024

**Monthly litter pick total – 128 bags** removed by **7 people** against **154 bags** by 7 people for September 2023

**Meeting on 3 October** was cancelled due to Nita being ill. She had, in any event, received 7 apologies for the meeting.

### **Chairs Report**

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

**Promotion:** We have **755 X followers**, which is the same as last month, and **2,219 facebook followers**, which is 6 more than last month.

**Other:** Nita reported to NWLDC on 7 September that the recycling station on The Green was full again. This was emptied the following day.

Nita has sent off history articles to Community Voice to cover March and April 2025 and the bauble for February.

Congratulations to our member Mandy who got married on 21 Sept.

**Parish boundary changes** – At the last meeting we discussed proposed parish council boundary changes. The following has come from the relevant online site. 'We received different proposals for the wards in this part of the district. The Council suggested some relatively minor modifications to the current Hermitage and Holly Hayes wards. However, its proposal for Swannington and Thringstone parishes was more extensive. It involved dividing Thringstone parish between Swannington and Thringstone wards, with the latter ward incorporating a substantial part of the current Thornborough ward. Labour and Whitwick Parish Council opposed these proposals, stating that they divided communities, split parishes across wards and did not follow natural boundaries. They offered an alternative proposal which used the Grace Dieu Brook as a boundary to create Whitwick North and Whitwick South wards, along with Swannington and Thringstone wards.

We have decided to adopt the proposal made by Labour and Whitwick Parish Council as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that by following the Grace Dieu Brook, this proposal uses more locally recognisable boundaries. It also avoids the division of Thringstone parish between wards, which we consider would not reflect community identities or aid effective and convenient local government. **People can also give their views by e-mail at [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk), and by post at: The Review Officer (North West Leicestershire), LGBCE, 7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row, London, EC1Y 8YZ.'**

**Building at the rear of Talbot Street/Lane** – We understand a lot of people went to the Whitwick Parish Council meeting on 19 September and to meetings at NWLDC on 26 September relating to concern over the issue of building on the fields. We are told that some of the fields in question are owned by World Habitat who will consider a public consultation going forward. As we said before, these fields, and others in Thringstone village and elsewhere, are part of the local plan being considered for future development but there are no planning applications currently in force.

**Bob's Closs** – The botanical survey of the field has now been completed but, in light of the results of the survey, the whole design has had to go back to the planning stage to reorganise what can and cannot be done and where. The probation service who were going to help with things in the closs now find themselves completely in the dark as to what stage anything has reached at present, and it



is clear that it is intended for them to wait for further future instruction. As a result, any work to Drury Lane, which the probation service were going to do at the same time, is also on hold.

**Waste calendars** – NWLDC are no longer going to post these through the door, in order to save £15k. They can be downloaded from [www.nwleics.gov.uk/bins](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/bins)

**Wall by St Andrew's** – The stonewaller came back on 20 and 21 September to repoint and fill in holes that have appeared in the wall, as a total entity, since he finished the rebuild last Autumn. The invoice he presented us with took care of all the extra money that we had kept by for this purpose from the GoFundMe campaign, so that will no longer be an issue in our accounts. This sum has never featured in our financial statement below, because it was never FoT money but was donations specifically for the wall rebuild etc.

**Refuse site opening hours changing** - Coalville site, in Linden Way, is scheduled to be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays - and open on the remaining days from 9am - 4pm, until March 31. The changes to the operation of the recycling and household waste sites have been made in response to the ongoing financial pressures faced by Leicestershire County Council, including a budget gap of £85million by 2028 due to spiralling costs and a growing demand on services.

**Road closure notice** - Gracedieu Road will be closed from 25 November for around 4 days 75m west of Swallowdale for works by Caden Gas Connections.

**Whitwick at Leisure** - Whitwick Methodist Church on 19 Oct – FoT will be there with details of all the local pubs in our village, and with our publications. 10am – 4.30pm.

**Centre – Warm hub** - If you are affected in anyway by the potential loss of the winter fuel allowance, you might want to consider visiting the centre on a Wednesday morning from 10am. There is a group who have been meeting there for some time for tea, coffee and biscuits, and new people would be more than welcome to join in. If you want more information on this, please contact the centre direct on 222337.

The centre has a **new book case** in the house lounge into which the Booth books mentioned during our last talk at the centre are now displayed.

The centre's application for **National Lottery funding** has been successful. More information next time.

The **charity quiz night** at the centre on 20 September raised £325 for charity – to help with volunteers at an orphanage in Africa. Thanks to all who supported the event.

We understand that the centre is considering the purchase of a **dart board** to set up a team going forward. They have been told that the league matches are always on a Monday at 8.30pm and given information on where to get a board etc. from

**Carols Round The Tree** – we are working with the centre to provide some fairy lights for the outside, and once this is sorted, and other issues confirmed, we will be able to let you know when the 2024 event will take place. At the moment it looks like it might be 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Computer** – Nita bought her current computer in 2016, and FoT paid for half of it. Since that time, a lot has been added to the FoT files, including thousands of photos. The computer is now exhibiting problems, and the committee has agreed that a new computer can be sourced and paid for by FoT, with the old computer then having all its contents transferred over to the new one, some time in early January, if possible. If anybody has any objections to this, please let Nita know.

### **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.**

- 5 Oct – Thringstone Members Club – Night at the races. Tickets £10. Doors open 6.30pm, first race £7pm. Ticket price includes ploughman's supper. Tickets need to be booked through facebook.
- 8 Oct – **St Andrews** – book club starts at 7pm
- 9 Oct – **Thringstone Primary** Open Afternoon at 3.45pm for those people looking for a place for their child in the Autumn. Book a place please by contacting 222489.
- 19 Oct – **Whitwick Methodist Church** – Whitwick (and Thringstone) at Leisure as above.
- 25 Oct – **Charles Booth Centre** - Karaoke night party. Starts at 7.30pm. All welcome.

- 26 Oct – **Charles Booth Centre** – Halloween event. Free entry. 6.30pm-9.30pm. Spooky treats, drinks, face painting and tattoos. Prize for the best costume. All welcome.
- 31 Oct – **Thringstone Members Club** – Halloween party at 5pm. Book your place through the club. £2 per child, adults free.
- 2 Nov – **Thringstone Members Club** – Bonfire party from 5pm. Fireworks. Free sparklers for kids.
- 7 Nov - **Thringstone Primary** Open Evening at 6pm for those people looking for a place for their child in the Autumn. Book a place please by contacting 222489.
- 24 Nov – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's** Xmas fete. Charles Booth Centre, 11am – 3pm. Free entertainment and bar open.
- 1 Dec – Santa Fun Run at **Charles Booth Centre** – 10am start. Tickets £5.
- 7 Dec – **Charles Booth Centre** – Christmas Party 7pm
- 22-25 Jan – **Charles Booth Centre** – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary production of Aladdin. Ring 0333 666 3366 to book.

## Financial

<b>.Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>3421.79</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
		Broadband	£20.00
		Insurance	£15.70
		Stamps	£5.40
<b>total income to general fund</b>			£41.10
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>£3380.69</b>

## Web report

The webmaster continues to work on updates.

## Incident Report

- Nita reported to NWLDC on 6 September that the car park on **Dalkeith Walk** had been subjected to graffiti over quite a large area. There are several names written on it. The council housing officer raised an order for this to be cleared away.
- Nita reported to our PCSO about increasing instances of **anti-social behaviour by motor bikers** shown to ladies walking with dogs in Gracedieu woods. She replied that people need to report these either online or on the 101 number, which everybody should already know. Nita replied that some people don't feel they can or should report these things, and others can't be bothered. We understand that the Section 29 notices which have disappeared had already been replaced twice before.
- 8 Sept – Lots of noise in the very early hours with shouting, and loud noises from a male in the **woods**. Two ladies were heard talking on Springfield shortly thereafter about taking a hanging basket, and a gent from the entrance to Springfield had his car number plate removed. This was later found discarded on Loughborough Road by the car's owner. We understand another person in the village had their car number plate stolen and then discarded elsewhere the same night.
- 10 Sept – **Steel barriers** taken from Thringstone Members Club and put in the road on Loughborough Road before 1.30am when we know they were in the road blocking access. One motorist saw these and went another way to get to the A512, but someone on a motorbike didn't see these barriers and had to take quick action when he discovered he couldn't get through, narrowly avoiding an accident. Maybe around 5am if not earlier, **recycling** taken from properties on Loughborough Road and a large number of glass bottles were smashed in the roadway and can and



## The Friends of Thringstone

plastic recycling strewn about. One of our members heard a noise about 1.30am on the Members Club car park area, and has also reported that at 5am two youths were seen putting recycling bins on top of cars in Springfield and Heathfield. Others in the village reported that their green bin got taken and we have been told of 3 lads, all in dark clothing, faces covered, seen putting a bin in the middle of the traffic calming around 1am. Nita cleared up over 100 cans and plastic bottles from Lbro Rd, moved large pieces of glass and reported this to the club, police and council and then went back to clear up glass from the road, paths etc. for an hour. She also put something on social media. The club said that someone had also messed with their garden rubbish bins. A member of the team from there purchased a new security chain and lock to replace the one that was broken by the culprits. The club has now purchased a thicker chain and lock to secure the 4 barriers that keep being moved.

- 16 and 17 Sept – Video and messages relating to male on **unlicensed motorbike**, which has no number plate, and with female passenger aboard, riding at pace around the jitties near the church, coming out onto Loughborough Road were sent to the police.
- 24 Sept – There was a beat surgery at Charles Booth Centre in the morning which Nita and several other people attended to discuss issues affecting people. Local police and Crimestoppers then had a leaflet delivery on Melrose Road estate between 2pm and 4.30pm to try to stop **off road motorbikes**. Lots of notices were handed out and new posters put up around the village (including by the church jitty off Main St) informing people of the Crimestoppers and their number for contact.

### History Report

- Nita has written to the HQs of both the Women's Institute and the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes to seek further information on the history of the Thringstone branches of these organisations.
- Nita had an email from Susan Carr, daughter of **Frank and Alice Bowler**, who were the subject of the September Community Voice history article wondering where our photographs came from and where the information was sourced from. She said her dad never talked about his time as a POW in WW2. Nita duly obliged.
- **6 May 1873** – Wedding at Stanton by Bridge by Rev. E W Whittaker of Charles Gough of Thringstone to **Hester Merriman** of Cross Lanes, near Thringstone. This is Hester Merriman of the Bull's Head. Interesting to know that Cross Lanes was considered a destination in its own right!
- **April 1883** – Local newspapers announced the opening of the **Charnwood Forest railway line**. It was to run through Shepshed, 'Gracedieu with the exquisite ruins' to Thringstone and Whitwick. One article read as follows: 'It will deposit **tourists** within a few minutes' walk of both Longcliffe, Garendon Park, Gracedieu Abbey, the rocks of High Cademan and Sharpley and the restful religious house and the calvary at Mt. St Bernard. The scenery is wild and Sicily-like, with rock and heath and airy hilly ridges but at Charnwood Forest there are no trees. It has been deforested. Even as late as the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it was a woodland wealth forming part of the ancient Celtic Forest of Arden.' The author of the article in the Glossop Times said that he knew the area well having enjoyed 'its undulating wildness of hill and valley, its unadulterated air, so different from the impoverished atmosphere of towns.'
- **Dec 1931** – Mrs Booth opened the annual sale of work carried out by **Thringstone Women's Institute**. The stall holders were Mrs Ford (cakes), Mrs Richards (bran tub) Mrs W Watts and Mrs Barlow (fancy stall). In addition, there was Mrs Annable and helpers, the Thringstone Girl's Club stall and the Misses Whitwell held a chocolate stall. A number of children from the instants school trained by headmistress Miss Palmer gave a graceful dancing display, and the Thringstone Brownies, under the direction of Miss Bailey, gave a dance and sketch entitled Cinderella which was much enjoyed. The first mention we can find of Thringstone Women's Institute is in 1926 when they were involved in basket making. They are then mentioned briefly in newspapers in 1929 and 1931. From 1936 until at least Dec 1968, their president was Mrs Emily Lily Westgate, who lived on The Warren. She gave an annual garden party at her address for the WI members from 1939 onwards and also held Christmas parties with carols. Mrs Westgate died in May 1969 aged 84 years. We



## The Friends of Thringstone

understand, that at least during the period of time she ran the group, it was not affiliated to the National Women's Institute, but ran using similar rules. An article in the Coalville Times of 5 July 1945 states that the branch was formed by Mrs Mary Booth, but no dates are given. The current Thringstone WI started in 1996, and celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021 with a garden party, as covid restrictions were still in place.

- Nita has spent an age on the following research, which we hope members find interesting as it talks about a bygone age and links to Thringstone WI as above. **28 January 1959 – Miss Mildred Chataway**, died aged 88 at Ringing Hill near Gracedieu. Miss Chataway, was one of 7 daughters and 2 sons of Rev Thomas Eagle Chataway of Peckleton Rectory near Desford. Of the 7 daughters, one died aged 5, and none of the remaining daughters married. Mildred is listed in 1901 as a retired teacher. Research has shown her being involved at a school in Benefield near Oundle in Northamptonshire in December 1895. She gave a piano solo at a gala for the school playing Chopin's Polonaise in C Sharp Minor, and also another of Bomische National Tanza by Theodore Kirchner which was a waltz. The Chopin piece is an exceptionally difficult piece to play and even the composer Liszt was unable to sight read it to play! She is also recorded as having selected 2 pieces of piano music for 2 students to play. We therefore assume she was a music teacher at this school. She doesn't appear to have ever worked subsequently, and is always listed as living on her own means. In 1901 Mildred's sister Katherine Ada was listed as superintendent of the GFS Lodge in Shepshed (thought to be Girls' Friendly Society - she later moved to Hampstead). Her sister Agnes was listed in 1911 as a head teacher in Derbyshire (she was head mistress at the girl's day school in Kegworth from at least 1902) and from at least 1921 lived in Kegworth before moving to Long Eaton, presumably upon retirement. Another sister, Margaret Anne was also involved in teaching (see below). Mildred said at a WI meeting in 1945 that Mary Booth had founded the **Thringstone Women's Institute**, and at the death of Miss Chataway, it was recorded that she had been one of its founding members. Another article printed in 1950 in the Loughborough Echo said that she had done much pioneer work with Mrs Booth to set up a WI in Thringstone, and always spoke fondly of Mrs Booth. From the death of her mother at The Red House, Shepshed in April 1905, Mildred lived at Ringing Hill, so named, according to legend because a traveller had once got lost in the forest and got to the hill to hear the bells of Whitwick church, from which he could then navigate his way home. The Loughborough Echo article says that Mildred, along with her sister Ella Beatrice, had initially moved to Northamptonshire which would fit in with the teaching job mentioned above, but Ella's health needed something better than an area where there was a lot of clay in the soil, why we don't know. Mildred had apparently intended to go to live in Canada, but had gone with her sister to Ringing Hill to settle her in, and liked it so much that they both stopped. Records suggest that the property was owned by Mildred along with her spinster sisters Margaret Anne and Ella Beatrice, although in 1889 Margaret Anne had moved to Hampstead and was the principal of a preparatory school called Gothic House School in Belsize Road. A newspaper article from August 1906 contains an advert that Margaret Ann put in asking for a housemaid for September start at a property in South Hampstead, with an address of Ringing Hill, Shepshed for post, confirming she was involved with that property. A newspaper article in the Leicestershire Evening Mail of 8 May 1930 shows that the sisters all held strong views on the future of Peckleton, which they still considered as home. It tells that all 5 sisters went along to a public meeting in Peckleton when it was proposed to amalgamate the church there with that of nearby Kirkby Mallory. After the meeting, it says that all 5 went back to their various homes across England. According to Margaret Anne's obituary, in 1933 which was the year she retired on health grounds, that term the school in Belsize Road had 80 children. Margaret was principal of the school for 44 years. Margaret Anne herself had apparently been a pupil at Cheltenham Ladies' College but we do not know what education Mildred had. . Mildred lived with Ella Beatrice at Ringing Hill until Ella died at the LRI in November 1937 from when Mildred lived alone. When Margaret Anne died in January 1938, she left Mildred £5889 1s 4d which is equivalent now to £475,000. Mildred lived in a 3 bedroomed bungalow built in an enclosure of rock outcrop with grounds of 2 acres, with a 1.5 acre field next to it on the little lane by the side of what used to be known as The Drum and Monkey. This is off the A512 at Ringing Hill not far from the entrance to



## The Friends of Thringstone

Gracedieu Manor. A wonderful article has been found on her life in the Burton Observer and Chronical of 17 November 1960, in which it says she was a relative of the then BBC journalist and former runner Chris Chataway (they were 3<sup>rd</sup> cousins). The article tells that, at the age of 83, in 1953, Miss Chataway had been persuaded to leave behind the candles and oil lamps that had served her so well and get the service provided by The Electricity Board, having been approached about it 3 years earlier. Miss Chataway said that she remembered that the first light at the Midland Station in Leicester always went out when a train approached and didn't trust the service, and it was just the rising cost of candles and paraffin that had made her decide to move to electricity. Miss Chataway had once been persuaded to have her 'cultured and mellow voice' recorded but felt that it sounded pedantic and absurd. She had spoken about the large rectory at Peckleton, the servants, the beautiful gardens, the dogs, the ponies and her sheltered life, all of which ended upon the death of her father in November 1894. He was obviously quite wealthy, as records show that Rev Chataway left £7882 8 shillings and 8 pence, now equivalent to £1,150,000. Miss Chataway was always a bit of a rebel and upset her family and neighbours by having a bicycle, and also by climbing trees. On the wall at her house near Gracedieu was a sepia photograph taken of her on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday sitting on the top bough of a 70 ft. beech tree. Miss Chataway claimed she could climb the tree and be down again in a minute and a half, and on her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, she went back to Peckleton to climb it again, although in her 80s she considered tree climbing 'quite juvenile'. Her chief interest in her 80s were playing the piano, and her loves at that time were Bach, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky. She loved literature and was also prone to recite long passages of Shakespeare. Upon getting an electricity supply, one of her first purchases was to buy a radio, which she almost threw out but upon hearing some Bartok played by violinist Menuhin allowed the radio to stay, even though she considered his music 'modern'. Her Victorian education allowed her to be able to find her way home in the dark by following the stars and her love of bird song saw her frequently call out to birds and listen to their reply. She even bought an ocarina so she could call out to cuckoos. Whilst in Peckleton, Miss Chataway had learnt to use a scythe and could often be found in the autumn at Ringing Hill cutting back the bracken with her scythe. She said that the sound of the scythe was the most beautiful music she had ever heard. The article said she had a monumental personality that those who knew her would never forget and said she was a truly remarkable lady, and obviously well respected locally, as in June 1951 she was the person chosen to open the Belton Church Garden fete! The Loughborough Echo article said that Mildred often practiced music on the piano until midnight, and had been taught to play the piano from the age of 12 by a master who had given her the widest possible education in music. She suggested that the birds used to like listening to Chopin, but with the advent of jazz music now seemed seldom to come to listen to her playing the piano. It went on to say that she loved the noise of the wind through the limes, poplars and beeches at Ringing Hill and had learned to distinguish the different sounds. Furthermore, Mildred had very pronounced political views and always attended any local political election meetings. Interestingly her sister Agnes over in Kegworth was both hon sec. and treasurer of Kegworth's Women's Unionist Association and her sister Christine was a working member of the local Conservative Association in Bexhill on Sea. Mildred's fears going forward were for villages, due to her feeling that the days of small communities had passed and that village life was being spoiled for the future. Miss Chataway died at the Nursing Home, Radmoor Road, Loughborough and was buried in the family plot at Peckleton Church. Nita has shared all her research with another member of the Chataway family who was delighted to get new information.

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