



The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR NOVEMBER 2024

Monthly litter pick total – 111 bags removed by **8 people** against **143 bags** by **8 people** for October 2023. We continue to find shopping baskets from Thringstone Co-op in new places. It is usually Whitwick Moor or Drury Lane, but more recently these have been found on the green at the bottom of Main Street and in bushes at the bottom of Lbro Rd near to the Bull's Head.

There has been a lot of adverse publicity about **waste incinerators** recently due to the amount of plastic which isn't recycled and is included in general waste, which when burnt then contains toxins and pollutants. Nita wrote to NWLDC to ask what happened to our general waste. She was directed to County Council, but told in the meantime that In 2022-23, around 75% of general waste was sent for incineration and 25% was sent to landfill, but the County Council is currently working towards sending less than 5% of waste to landfill by 2025. Nita is currently trying to find out where the waste incinerators are that NWLDC use, but we know there is one in Shepshed.

Meeting on 7 November 4 present, 7 apologies

Bulbs – 3000 spring bulbs were delivered to Bill on 4 October as requested. 1000 crocuses were put in on 22 October, 1000 snowdrops on 23 October and daffodils are being planted shortly.

Charles and Mary Booth event 15 November - Final touches have been made to the technical part of the event so that things run smoothly on the night and all the slides are now ready to be shown via Powerpoint presentation which was put together for us by Coalville Heritage. Dr Wendy Freer is coming with her film of the kids from Gracedieu Manor School acting out the story of Charles and Mary Booth, and will also be filming the event for us and bringing a laptop so it is all on one machine. The centre has agreed to more seating and some people now can't come, which means our reserve list have been contacted and have seats. Sarah is going to be manning the door. We will have a display at the rear of the hall, like we did last time, and our publications will also be on sale. We will also have a limited number of CDs of the last talk by Sarah Wise available.

Wall from Loughborough Rd – Around 8.40pm on 8 October, due to the amount of rainfall, part of the wall down the church jitty collapsed. Nita has been talking to the owner of the property as the wall is their boundary and explained the history of the wall etc. She wrote to NWLDC and was told it wasn't any of their concern, and has asked for suggestions as to what to do next.

Gracedieu Woods – We understand that the de Lisle family are aware that the boardwalk is in very bad repair and quite dangerous and are arranging for it to be made good, sooner rather than later.

Gracedieu Park Cricket Club – A donation of £1,270 has been made by the club to Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People. The club said 'It is an absolute honour to be able to help those who help others in our community and we cannot say thank you enough to everyone who donated this year, whether it was just throwing money in the tub at the bar or capping out at £2 fines from a match on Saturday, all this money will do the world of good for our community and make the world a better place.'

Whitwick Historical Group's event on 19 Oct - We were kindly invited to the above event to do an exhibition on Thringstone Panto and Drama Society, and Ann Petty put together her usual wonderful display. During the day we sold 1 pubs book, 1 WW2 book, 1 memories 4, 1 businesses book, 1 Durham miners book, 1 Graveyard trail and 1 WW1 book and received a £6 donation. None of this could have been achieved without Ann, so big thanks to her for her time and support.



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Gracedieu Priory – part of the 800 year old boundary wall has been uncovered by Shepshed volunteers from the National Highways Agency who removed brambles and vegetation to uncover the remains which were last visible about a decade ago. They also created new habitat for wildlife. For the full story go to <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8elnr3gd2no?IYA-mail=c5f44110-6d12-4abe-9183-b52831f04ca2>. The Rosminians have sold the ruins and field to Gracedieu Priory Trust with all the insurance and legal implications involved with this.

Bob's Cross – The National Forest Company have been talking to other shareholders connected to People Zone at a meeting held recently but acknowledge that tree planting cannot take place in the areas previously suggested due to the confirmation of the presence of Meadowsweet, Birds Foot Trefoil, Ragged Robin, Marsh Marigold, Pignut, Common Sorrell and Marsh Thistle to name but a few. It is still hoped to plant fruit trees near to the existing allotments and the meadow areas will still require care on an annual basis. National Forest Company will manage the brambles and elder within the existing woodland areas to ensure that this does not encroach onto the meadow area. This could take place sometime between November and March and there is every intention for some form of public consultation on the remaining part of the site. Volunteers will be sought to help manage the grassland, weed around the newly planted trees and remove their guards in due course, manage existing trees and undergrowth, prune and eventually fruit pick the new trees, and generally maintain the site in good order.

Free buses on Saturdays – Those on email will already be aware that a **free Saturday bus scheme** was introduced in October, which lasts until 30 November allowing passengers of any age to travel across Leicestershire for free. Aviva is one of the companies who has joined in with this initiative. All you have to do is to tell the driver you are travelling as part of the scheme and tell them your destination.

January meeting – The first Thursday in January is 2nd and we will not be having a meeting then. We are proposing to consider 9 January as a one off, subject to everybody being in agreement. Please make a note of this.

Centre – The charity coffee morning on 11 October for Loros raised £172. Thanks to all who came along and helped.

Office – We understand that the office is now open on Thursdays between 4pm and 6pm rather than in the morning, and that it is open from 9am – 4pm on Fridays. All other hours remain the same.

Christmas lights – We have been talking to the centre about their requirements this year, which we agreed to fund some time back. They want a rope light across the front, and we are also looking to provide fairy lights to go round the bushes. This should make the centre look Christmassy.

Carols at the centre – 13 Dec. Procession from St Andrew's at 6.30pm up to centre to sing outside, and for 7pm entertainment with U3A choir inside.

National Lottery Grant – The centre has confirmed that the £82k grant they have been awarded will allow them to put in new boilers, shutters to the windows in the newer part of the building and put in new windows in those areas, put in secondary double glazing in the older farmhouse part of the building, insulate the attic area and provide thermal backed curtains in the hall. The work to instal a new boiler was scheduled for the end of October.

Grave of John Albert Gee - On 13 October, along with many others including members of FoT, Nita attended the memorial to John Albert Gee, youngest victim of the Whitwick Pit Disaster at St Andrew's. Stinsons erected a wooden cross with a view to possibly getting a proper gravestone at some stage in the future, as there was never a gravestone and the site has remained unmarked for around 100 years since the vase his mother put there was broken. The event was filmed by East Midlands TV and broadcast the same day. Nita subsequently wrote an article on the event and sent this to Community Voice for their December edition. Those of us from the membership who attended this event felt that it would be nice to make a contribution from our funds towards a permanent gravestone to match in with others of the correct period, and wonder whether this is something the group would like to consider. We understand a fund is being set up for this purpose, and due to diocese rulings, the gravestone needs to actually be a stone rather than kerbing. The meeting



agreed to give £100 towards the provision of a permanent headstone but had pointed out that James Albert Gee's father, James, was also buried in the same grave according to burial records..

Reprints of brochures – Alvaston Printers are prepared to consider reprinting some of our brochures without their being a digital template available to them. Their studio time is £35 an hour plus VAT. Nita and Janet have done a stocktake, and people at the meeting were given details of the total stock we have. We used to ensure we had at least 10 copies of everything. We therefore possibly need reprints of Village Trail 2 where we have a stock of 4, Born and Bred 1 where we have a stock of 6, Memories 1 where we have a stock of 3 and Durham Miners, where we have a stock of 7. Nita has the Village Trail booklets on external hard drive, and a copy of Durham Miners on her computer, but none of the other publications. She also doesn't have any of these on the cloud. The meeting agreed to postpone authorising any reprints for the time being until more members are present.

Chairs Report

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

Promotion: We have **757 X followers**, which is 2 more than last month, and **2,233 facebook followers**, which is 14 more than last month.

Other: Nita has submitted an article on WW1 soldiers and road names to **Community Voice** for their May 25 edition following contact from someone wondering about the name of Fortnam Close.

Once again Nita had to tell NWLDC that the recycling station on The Green was full. It was emptied the next day.

Get well soon to Trevor who is one of our prolific litter pickers. He has been in hospital.

What's On

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

- 11 Nov – **St Andrew's** Remembrance service starts at 10.30am
- 16 Nov – **Thringstone Members Club** – karaoke with Jim Lindsay from 8pm.
- 22 Nov – **Belton History Group** talk on Richard 3rd at Belton Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets £5 on the door.
- 24 Nov – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's** Xmas fete. Charles Booth Centre, 11am – 3pm. Free entertainment and bar open.
- 30 Nov – **St John's, Belton** – Victorian Christmas fayre 1pm-5pm. Crafts, snacks and gifts organised by Belton History Group.
- 1 Dec – Santa Fun Run at **Charles Booth Centre** – 10am start. Tickets £5.
- 1 Dec – **Carols at Grace Dieu Priory** between 3pm and 4pm. All welcome.
- 6 Dec – **Gracedieu Manor** Christmas Fete – 4pm.
- 7 Dec – **Charles Booth Centre** – Kiddies Christmas Party 6.30pm – 9.30pm.
- 7 Dec – **Thringstone Members Club** – Christmas market 11am – 3pm
- 8 Dec – **Thringstone Members Club** – kids parties 3.30pm-4.45pm and 4.45pm-5.45pm. 35 tickets available to each session £2 per ticket from the club.
- 8 Dec – **Woodstock in Whitwick's Winter Wonderland** – Black Horse, Whitwick from 2.30pm. Music, mulled wine, mince pies and 'the real Santa'.
- 13 Dec – **Carols at the centre** with procession from St Andrew's church at 6.30pm to go to the centre to sing outside and then go inside for entertainment at 7pm. All welcome. Dogs on leads are welcome to come to sing outside.
- 14 Dec – **Thringstone Members Club** – Christmas Quiz. Starts at 7.30pm. £2 per person
- 24 Dec – **Thringstone Members Club** – Christmas Eve disco 3pm-5pm.
- 24 Dec – **Thringstone Members Club** – Christmas Eve party 8pm. Tickets £10 to include buffet and live music.
- 24 Dec – **St Andrew's** – Midnight Mass Service at 11.15pm

- 26 Dec – **Thringstone Members Club** – Kids disco 12pm – 3.30pm.
- 22-25 Jan – **Charles Booth Centre** – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's 50th anniversary production of Aladdin. Ring 0333 666 3366 to book.

Financial

.Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	3380.69		
Income		Expenditure	
Publications	£25	Broadband	£20.00
Donation	£6	Insurance	£15.70
		Bulbs	£114.70
total income to general fund	£31		£149.70
		Total general fund at month end	£3261.99

Web report

The webmaster continues to work on updates.

Incident Report

- Early October – sometime between 6 and 8 October, someone tried to break into a caravan on **Lbro Rd** with a screwdriver. They were not successful and nothing was taken. In addition, none of the cars in the drive were touched.
- 11 Oct – 2 **motorcross trials bikes** stolen from a locked shed overnight sometime before 5am. Police aware. Lots of photos of the bikes on social media and a cash reward offered.
- 12 Oct - Officers were out and about conducting speed checks. One of the areas of concern was **Loughborough Road**, Thringstone. During the 30 mins spent at this location, 3 vehicles were found to be exceeding the 30mph speed limit. Action will be taken.
- 12 Oct – **Ruby's** posted a photo of someone at their counter and asked if anybody knew who he was, as it would appear he didn't pay for his food. Discovered the man had also stolen from Shell in Shepshed, One Stop and Co-op in Thringstone and other fish and chip outlets in Leicester.
- 22 Oct – 3 lots of **noisy motorbikes**, possibly trials bikes, 2 with passengers, travelling the wrong way up Whitwick Moor and pulling out onto The Green. Possibly same people seen later that afternoon riding around Gracedieu Woods. Police informed.
- 24 October – **Police beat surgery** 24 October at the Co-op between 6pm and 7pm and 29 Oct at the centre between 10 and 11am. All members on email informed, plus those on Nita's Neighbourhood Watch database.
- 31 Oct – Reports of potential **rat poison** scattered in the woods. Police notified but no action taken as it may have been flour paste put there during an orienteering event.
- 31 Oct – possible drug use in shed at rear of St Andrew's. Police notified.

History Report

- We have been able to scan some of the **photos** kept by the late Keith Timson and can now add these to our archives. They are photos of Henson Lane's builders, Rose and Crown regulars from Whitsun 1969, Thringstone House FC from 1952, 1972 food parcel distribution during the miners strike, various 1960 photos, the demolition of the Rose and Crown dated 17 Dec 2012, a 1950s photo of kids at Thringstone school and a photo of the Fox darts and dominoes team of 1958.
- Nita received an email from a man looking to trace living descendants of **Thomas Wragg Henson** who was born at The Star in Thringstone, and was the son of James Walter Henson and his wife Lucy Ann. He had seen a mention of this man in our bulletin for October 2020 online and



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mentioned that his great aunt (who he remembered as she died in 2000) had been Thomas Wragg Henson's sister, May Henson, who married James Richard Costello and lived in Ilkeston. He also wanted addresses and emails for descendants. Nita was able to supply some information, but discovered during this that there were in fact two people with the same name – the first Thomas Wragg Henson died in 1883, the same year that the other was born. The first one was the brother of the second one's father. May Henson was, in fact, a half sister to Thomas Wragg Henson as she was born on 1 May 1895, 3 years after James Walter Henson had died. It also got confusing because the second one went to Canada in 1913 and was killed in WW1 in 1917, but in all the Canadian paperwork, his date of birth was given as 23 September 1880 which was incorrect.

- Leon Spence has recorded his mother, **Pam**, talking about things she remembers from the past. For those who want to listen to these, the relevant link is https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/du28fzcmi2h7w9yui814x/AFYIUcY2DUpZwX2RPkc2JNA?e=1&fbclid=IwY2xjawF7Ck9leHRuA2FibQIxMAABHUKeZa3zKxk8akom_-f2fYmxM6J_TLLQ8sFDb2lwxt8Ak0SubyN96HXLnw_aem_rJSRsFzpozVsUmxbECg0UA&rlkey=vtlgc85q04ysgv99j6u5ofeih&st=hypgvmuo&dl=0
- We have been researching the life story of **Benjamin Baxter** of Main Street, who died in November 1923 aged 81. Mr Baxter was the youngest child of Joseph and Jane and born in 1843 in Ravenstone and married Kitty (Catherine) Frost of Snibston on 27 November 1862 at which point in time the church at Ravenstone was described as being in Derbyshire, and both said they were 21 years of age. They had 10 children who survived past infancy, and the family moved quite often. They started off married life in Ravenstone, moved to Coleorton where Benjamin was a farm labourer, and then he went into the collieries as a check weighman. They moved from Coleorton to Hoo Ash, then to Sandholes, to Gracedieu Road and finally to Main Street prior to 1911. When 2 of their daughters were baptised in 1897, Benjamin's occupation was listed as farmer. Mr Baxter died after a long and severe illness at his home in Main Street, Thringstone and was chair of the Parish Council in 1913 having taken over from James Gee. He had endeavoured to become a parish councillor in 1910, but had not received the required number of votes. He was a prominent member of the Liberal party and a member of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes who attended his funeral at St Andrew's. The 1921 census shows us that Benjamin's son David was living with him at Stinson's Row, Main Street, at that time. David's wife Bertha nee Eames had died in 1916, and he had 3 sons, Arthur, Harold and Charles living with the family. In December 1923, less than month after the death of Benjamin, his grandson Arthur Baxter fell from a haystack whilst working with his father, David. Arthur fell onto the hay fork, which penetrated his lower abdomen. He was taken to Loughborough Hospital. Electoral registers show that David, his mother Kitty, and brother Joseph and his wife Elizabeth continued to live together at Stinson's Row, 91 Main Street, after Benjamin died and even after Kitty died in June 1927, they still all stayed there until Joseph moved next door to no. 93. Burial records show that Kitty appears to have died at 42 Brooks Lane, Whitwick. She was buried with Benjamin at St Andrew's. An interesting addition is that Benjamin's daughter Harriet Ann married Charles Thomas Wilkins who went on to keep the Rose and Crown and was related to the Moore family who kept the off licence at the corner of Whitwick Moor.
- We have acquired a photograph of various people who worked as gamekeepers for the de Lisle family around the turn of the 20th century. Amongst these are **George Pratt Jnr**, and his brother Trevor. George Pratt Snr. worked mainly at Gracedieu and died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound in August 1900 aged 65 years. His story is featured in our graveyard booklet, and he is buried at St Andrew's. His son George Jnr worked in this area, and was well known, but he mainly worked for Lord Crawshaw at Long Whatton. Trevor Pratt worked mainly for the de Lisle family, was exceptionally well known to local poachers for his work on the Gracedieu estate, and ended his days at Drybrook Farm in Whitwick. He died aged 54 years of pneumonia on October 1919. He had 6 children, 5 of which were sons. His son Samford/Sandford Willie Pratt (known as Willie or William) was originally a butcher, but became a gamekeeper for the de Lisle family, mainly on the Garendon Estate. He lived on Tickow Lane, Shepshed but was often seen in the Whitwick



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area, especially working around Cademan Woods and was also well known to local poachers. Another one of Trevor's sons, Albert Edward Pratt, died on 4 October 1917 aged 28 in Flanders. He had been an under gamekeeper working with his father on the Garendon Estate prior to his call up. At the time of Albert's death, Trevor had 2 other sons serving in France. Trevor is buried in Shepshed.

- Thringstone had a branch of the **Oddfellows Friendly Society** from 1856. Known as the de Lisle Lodge, and linked to the Manchester Order, the society ran for a very long time. A recent article in Community Voice about Oddfellows in Whitwick mentioned a Rose of England group for women, set up by the wives of male members of the Whitwick Oddfellows in 1843. We wondered if any of these women were from Thringstone, but the only thing we can find is a record of the **Pride of Village Club**, connected to the Cedar of Lebanon Lodge of Whitwick Oddfellows who met at the New Inn on Tuesdays. In July 1876, the Leicester Chronicle said that the women's group met on the Wednesday and dined at Mr Henson's (presumably William Henson's who kept the Prince of Wales at the time, there being no other Henson as a landlord in Whitwick. Chairman of the group was Mr J Knight of Loughborough. Vice chair of the women's group was said in newspaper article to be Sister Poissinett of Thringstone. We can find no such lady, but wonder if this should have read Posnett, as there was a family of that name living in the area around 1875-77. Directories tell that a Mr Posnett was a carrier in the village, and also served Whitwick and Coalville. We assume the strange name of this lady came about due to either a typographical error or the dialect was so strong that the name was spelt as it sounded. We can find no further details, but know that the same ladies met on the Thursday of that same week for tea drinking. As we know from previous notes, in July 1910 a branch of the **Women's Unionist Association** was formed in Thringstone. A large number of women went to a meeting at the gymnasium attached to the community centre where Miss Janet Cooper, the divisional secretary for the South Oxfordshire branch, explained the objects of the association and received much encouragement from those present which included Mrs Macnaghten, daughter to Charles Booth. There had already been a **Thringstone Women's Club** which was in operation in 1907 and had their annual meeting at the 3 Tuns. They were still in operation in 1912 but no further information is known other than in 1907 they had 40 members.
- **Aug 1912** - The wedding of **Mary Imogen Booth** (daughter of Charles Booth) and Eric Gore-Browne took place at St Andrew's. The bride wore an Empire style dress of white and gold brocade trimmed with Honiton lace and with a Honiton lace veil, plus diamond earrings gifted by the bridegroom and a diamond necklace given by her parents. The village was decorated with flags and bowers and an awning was erected through the churchyard and along the carpeted path, school children had strewn flowers in front of the bride and groom as they went to their motorcar after the service. Their honeymoon was to be spent in Surrey for 10 days at a house lent to them by Mr and Mrs R C Trevelyan and then to Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- **July 1913** – Charles and Mary Booth threw open the grounds of Gracedieu Manor for a meeting of the **Thringstone Men and Women's Unionist Association**. During the interval, a cricket match was held between the Men's Unionists and the Women's Unionists. The men were given handicaps in fielding, bowling and batting and it is not recorded which team won. Also at the meeting was Malcolm MacNaughten who addressed the gathering and John Biddle Junior, who was in charge of refreshments.
- **Sept 1922** – **Thringstone jazz band** came first in the comic band section of the Coalville annual charity parade, the competition part taking place in the gala field off Belvoir Road. Shepshed and Swadlincote Jazz bands also competed, the latter coming second.
- **Aug 1941** – During a dance at **Thringstone House Club**, the music stopped suddenly and the 200 dancers were told that prizes would be given to all who could produce their gas masks within a minute. Only one person, Audrey Smith of Osgathorpe, had brought a gas mask, and she won the prize.

Next meeting 5 Dec at Charles Booth Centre in the house lounge at 7pm . This will be our Christmas party. Please bring food to share.