



# The Friends of Thringstone



**'Working together to improve our village'**

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## **BULLETIN FOR MAY 2020**

### **Announcements.**

**Monthly litter pick total - 73 against 107 bags** for the same month last year.

Thank you to Ian and Di Bull for coming to collect a **litter pick stick**, as they litter pick for us when they do their daily exercise, along with our regulars Dave and Sharon Astill.

**NWLDC** went out on 16 April and cleared up all the rubbish and cannabis plants dumped at the end of March, even though these were on de Lisle land. They also removed a lot of flytipping reported on the Dalkeith Walk car park. Thank you to them. They also announced on 24 April that the green bin collections would resume at the end of April. All households should have received a letter about collection dates.

**From our county councillor: *Tony Gillard***

Leicestershire County Council is looking to re open **waste recycling centres** from the 18th May with a booking system, so you will be able to book your slot on line and arrive at your allocated time.

**Friends of Thringstone going forward** - As you are aware, May and June is usually when Nita goes round door to door to talk to members and collect membership monies. This year she will not be doing this for obvious reasons. The committee have discussed the situation and, given the current circumstances, it has been agreed that membership monies will not be collected this year. In other words you all have a free membership for a year. At the moment we have a reasonably healthy bank balance, and since we are unable to get printed, or delivered, any Baubles, we are not anticipating any expenditure in the near future. In addition, about 20% of our membership don't have computers or emails, and they are therefore at the moment missing out on getting anything from us at all, which isn't fair. However, should members wish to make a donation to us via BACS transfer, please get in touch with Nita by email, and we will give you our bank account details for this to be done.

Our AGM should also be taking place in the not too distant future, and we are advising members that all existing committee are willing to stand for re-election. If anybody has any comments to make on this, please let Nita know by email, failing which the committee we presently have will continue for another year.

**Our insurance** – because of the corona virus, Zurich insurance, who are our insurers, have granted us 3 months extra on our policy because we are unable to hold meetings or events at present. That means our renewal next year will be April rather than January.

**Crafting our history** – Our member Sarah Baxter came up with an idea to make a craft item which could either be in a hanging form or a book form recording what is happening at the moment for future useage at events concentrating on positive quotes and memories, such as including



rainbows and teddy bears or even Col. Tom. She agreed to put items of material in her drive for people to take away, and we sent a message round to everybody and the idea was also posted on social media. Several people have shown an interest in this, and her basket was soon emptied and had to be topped up. We wait eagerly to see what transpires on this.

**Community singalongs** – Has your street done a community singalong? Tithe Close do some on Saturday nights using Alexa as their background. We understand that they've sung, amongst other things 'Don't Stand So Close To Me', 'I Will Survive' and 'Climb Every Mountain'.

**VE Day acknowledgement/street party** - We are pleased to have joined with others in the village to promote the idea of a lock down street party on 8 May with people having parties in their own streets but keeping to their driveways/front gardens. The idea is to also decorate the area in red white and blue. This obviously replaces the original idea of an event at the centre. We do hope people take this on board.

**Thringstone United Under 11s** are looking for players for the 2020/21 season. This is open to boys or girls and training will be on Wednesdays and Fridays. If anybody is interested, they need to contact Josh Turner by facebook.

**The George and Dragon** has been cooking dinners for community groups to take out during this current crisis. On 28 April they cooked 75 portions.

**Centre News:** The centre continues to work with the Community Champions team from Morrison's to collect and deliver bags of essential supplies for elderly and infirm people who are unable to go out to get shopping with over 120 bags delivered to people. There are 57+ members of the **Thringstone Covid 19 volunteer team** who all signed up to help during the recent problems. The centre has also, through working with a local lady, provided porridge pots for delivery to the needy, and had an arrangement with Ruby's for 35 lots of fish and chips to go out to these folk on Good Friday. The centre continues to work with the community and has joined forces with Woodstock in Whitwick to ensure that the whole area is covered when people ask for help. This has included not only shopping, but collecting of prescriptions, phone calls and one dog has been walked!

The centre has got initial approval to receive a grant from the **county council** in the sum of £12,500.

**Painting work** continues internally to transform the downstairs into something with a colour scheme which follows through the rooms.

Thanks to a lot of Geoff Walker's instagram followers, the **Aviva fund for getting a lift** for the community centre shot up to over £13k just prior to Geoff going onto BBC Radio Leicester on 16 April to talk about this on the breakfast show. Aviva had already extended the date for donations by another 6 months because of the current situation and donations keep coming in. Many people have donated to the fund as a result of Geoff's instagram page, and there have been donations from USA, New Zealand and Australia as a result.

### Chairs Report

**Letters received:** None

**Emails received:** Various from people with whom we regularly share information.

**Emails sent:** Various to groups and individuals as usual.

**Promotion:** We have **640 twitter followers**, which is 11 more than last month, and **1,274 facebook followers**, which is 46 more than last month.

In this current period of time, Nita is posting a lot of up to date public information on our sites which has helped with our following. These are not just about what is happening, what offers shops have etc., but have included games for children to do during the lockdown.

One of our facebook followers **knitted a lot of dolls**, which she offered through social media to children or grandchildren of key workers. These were snapped up in no time at all.

We were particularly pleased to be able to get a lady, suffering with mental health issues, a bicycle by posting her request on our facebook site. This was answered by several people, but one man gave her his bike which he thoroughly serviced for her before passing it on to her. We also got



involved in telling the owners of a dog that it had got out, and returning a pair of lost glasses to their owner, all through facebook postings.

### Finance Report

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>£2,167.69</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Publications		Broadband	15.00
Raffle			
<b>total income to general fund</b>			£15
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>2152.69</b>

### Publications Report

N/A

### Web Report

No change since last month. We have asked for some updates, if possible, to be done shortly.

### Police Report

There continue to be lots of people out in the woodlands. We were told that early in April, a cyclist going down from the railway line on his bike into the lime quarry fell off and ended up with quite nasty injuries. Hopefully that will deter others from following suit, but we doubt it. The police have stated that there are several reported cases of fraud because of Covid 19 and also they have had several call outs to people as a result of concerns by local people.

### Community Report and What's On

As far as we are aware, all local events have been cancelled in May, but not sure about the rest of the year.

During the lockdown, the **Chapel Fitness Centre** has been undergoing a makeover, with walls painted, new flooring and the gym extended into the reception area.

1 Aug – **Thringstone Music Festival** at centre

3 August – **Summer Fete** at Stephenson College

6 Sept - **Grace Dieu Priory** – historical walk at 3pm from Bull's Head car park. £3 per person. All welcome.

12 Sept – **Hello Heritage** event at the centre and possibly opening up some older houses in the village.

### History report

- The centre received an email from Pete Winfield a former sergeant from the Royal Signals who was based at Thringstone House with the **Green Goddess fire crew** in 1977. He wanted to get hold of Iris Watret, so his email was forwarded to us, and we put them in touch with each other. He recalled the kindness of Thringstone people to his 2 teams of fire crew who were stationed at Thringstone House for 3 months.



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- Nita has downloaded wills for Jemima Hextall of **Charnwood Farm**, George Jacquiss, husband of Sarah the **cow keeper of Millhouse**, James King, one of the early landlords of the **George and Dragon**. From this new information, we have established that James King died in 1836 not later as suspected as was still at the George and Dragon at that time, rather than leaving in 1832 as suspected. Interestingly, his executors were W Henson (farmer) and Benjamin Rose (butcher), who is an ancestor of Pete Gough who also kept the George and Dragon. We now also know more details of the property and land James King owned in the area, and that his wife was called Ann and he had children called Elizabeth and William Lash King and a niece called Mary Campbell. This is new information.
- Nita was contacted through facebook by someone wanting photos of 3 of **Thringstone's pubs**, but specifically from the 1950s. Nita sent them 17 photos from all time periods through facebook. Under normal circumstances, there would have been a cost for this, but it was done for free. They subsequently wanted photos of a relative which we don't have, and asked that a photograph of the Fox darts and dominoes team from the 1940s be posted on our facebook page to ask for names of the people involved.
- Nita shared family history information with Michael Picker, the great great grandson of **Charles Jarvis** who kept the George and Dragon, which included information on other members of the Jarvis family who kept other pubs locally. Nita has also helped **Terry Roome** again with his family tree, tracing marriages and occupations of various ancestors, including the fate of the 21 children of one man. This has taken many hours. Terry kindly sent Nita a bouquet of flowers for her trouble.
- Nita was contacted by a member of Coleorton History Group regarding **Francis Barkby**, who was a **school teacher** in Thringstone for a period of time, but known to have been so in the 1840s. Francis was born in Saunton in 1808, married Elizabeth Toone on 29 August 1831 in Whitwick and appears to have died in March 1879 and was buried at St George's at Swannington. He had 2 children, and lived most of his life in or near to Pegg's Green, so it is by no means certain that the 'Thringstone' address of the school at which he worked was in our village, as in those times, Thringstone covered Pegg's Green and part of Swannington as well as our own village. His obituary tells that he had been a teacher for 50 years and parish clerk for 53. For 26 years he was also the secretary of the Golden Fleece Lodge no. 160 of the Oddfellows at Griffydham which met at The Waggon and Horses in Griffydham. For people interested in the history of Coleorton, Pegg's Green, Griffydham etc., please have a look at the website <https://samuelstewart940.wixsite.com/mysite> where you can download books written by Samuel T Stewart on local history.
- Leicester Chronicle 22 April 1882 tells of James Gee of Whitwick going to court over the theft of a fowl from John Parker of Whitwick. The fowl in question had a strange foot, and could be easily identified, and was found at **Star Inn, Thringstone** in the hen roost belonging to James Henson, landlord. The court case was quite long as it was not clear who had taken the fowl, since James Henson had shown an interest in the chicken for some time previously. Eventually, given the doubt as to who had done this deed, the case was dismissed. A further report in the Burton Chronicle of 2 Jan 1890 tells of another theft of hens this time from the hen house at The Star on 26 Dec 1889. The landlord at that time was John Ward. 2 fowls were stolen by John Squires who admitted that he had stolen them and sold them to a neighbour. He was sentenced to 14 days hard labour. This is the first time we were aware that hens were kept at The Star. We were aware that The Star Inn had its own pigeon homing society which started in 1908. An article in Melton Mowbray Mercury of 20 May 1909 tells of their second race running from Normanton in Yorkshire to Thringstone, a distance of 65 miles. Seven members had sent 35 birds which were liberated, in fine weather, by the station master at 2.38pm. Winners were Robert Maloney from Main Street, Thomas Fortnam from Fox Terrace, John William Peters from The Star, Ernest Gee from Fox Terrace, and J and E Twigger from Fox Terrace. The bird owned by George Wardle did not time in.



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- Keeping with the pigeon theme, the Leicester Daily Post of 27 Nov 1911 talked about the 14<sup>th</sup> annual show of the Thringstone Pigeon Flying Club. This was held at the **Rose and Crown** and Sir Maurice Levy, MP came as president of the club whilst E Robinson of Polesworth judged the pigeons and J Blower of Ellistown the poultry. Thringstone winners included W Lawrence, Class 1 winner of the cock or hen which had flown 100 miles, J Smith was highly commended in the Class 2 Flying Homer Cock category, Class 4 cock flying 75 miles was won by H Stacey, with Robert Maloney second and Edward Gee highly commended. Other winners in lesser categories included T Siddons and G Hollis.
- Leicester Daily Post of 5 July 1915 talks of the **Daily Post's** Wayzgoose held for their staff when they journeyed by brake to Grace Dieu via Loughborough. The trip started in bright sunshine, but there were a few showers later. A dinner was served at **The Rose and Crown** and various toasts were made, and discussions held about the war. Sales of the Daily Post had risen in the previous 2 years despite a lot of extra stress for writers and printers, and the event concluded with a ramble around the ruins of Grace Dieu Priory, thanks to Charles Booth. A tea was then held at The Rose and Crown, and the party returned to Leicester via Coalville and Groby.
- **The Fox Inn** - The Leicester Journal of 3 July 1863 tells that the Fox Inn, Thringstone was to be auctioned on 10 July at 5pm. This is new information. The landlord at that time was Robert Gregory. The property also included brew house, piggeries, cowshed, plus other outbuildings and garden. An area of pasture land of 1 acre, 2 roods and 24 perches, also in the occupation of Robert Gregory, were to be included in the sale. 2 cottages, with gardens, which adjoined the pub were also included. These were in the occupation of collier Richard Sharp from Hugglescote and his family and Samuel Biddle. Further details could be obtained from Mr Branson of Osgathorpe or George F Brown, solicitor, Ashby de la Zouch. A further article in Leicester Mail of 25 July 1868 tells how **Mr Potter Snr**, landlord of the Fox took his daughter to court regarding the sum of £7 6s. The daughter, whose name was not given, eventually admitted that she had found some gold coins in the lining of an old garment belonging to her mother after her death. She had sold some of this gold. The court ordered her to give the money and coins back to her father, as they belonged to him. We believe the daughter to have been either Elizabeth or Harriett Potter, whose mother, Sarah died in 1857. Another article in several papers of July 1887 relating to a court case against George Horne, where 5 shillings and 6 pence was apparently stolen on 15 June, records that **Mr Saywell** the landlord was accused of being drunk when the money went missing. He replied that this could not be the case as he had been unable to drink for some time because of being unable to use his right arm. This is new information. It is not clear what the issue was with his arm, and whether it was through illness such as stroke or an accident. We had already been aware that **Fanny Henson** kept The Fox between 1852 and her marriage to James Clarke a farmer from Osgathorpe in 1854. We have now found their marriage certificate which gives her maiden name as Nicklinson and tells that her father John was a farmer, and later publican. We knew that she from Worthington but had no details of her parents. The witnesses were her sister Harriett and her husband Jesse Sketchley. We have also found her original marriage banns from 1836 to John Henson which took place at Breedon. Fanny was baptised on 8 May 1814 in Worthington. James was from Battleflat, and farmed 76 acres in Osgathorpe, had previously been married to Sarah who had died, and had at least 6 children. By 1861, the couple and 3 of his children were farming 92 acres in Town Street, Ravenstone. By 1871 they were keeping The Crown Inn at Ibstock and one of his daughters, Caroline, was with them. Fanny appears to have died in 1872 and been buried in Ibstock on 5 August, and James died in 1879.
- **William Merriman Chester** kept the **Bull's Head** for a couple of years around 1847. We have been able to find information about him, all of which is new. He was born in 1821 in Osgathorpe, his forebears having been Shepshed people. He married Eleanor Fields of Whitwick in 1841 and they appear to have had 6 sons and one daughter. William had several jobs, but was a saddler and harness maker for most of his time, and by 1851 the family were





living at South Main Street, Whitwick with their 3 eldest children, John Fields Chester, William Chester and Alfred Chester all born in Thringstone. We can currently find no christening records for the two elder boys. The family subsequently moved to Silver Street, Whitwick, where Alfred along with his younger brother George was christened in 1851 at St John's in Whitwick. The baptism record for their son Edwin in 1854 also at St John's and their son Joseph Charles in 1859 give William's occupation as grocer of Whitwick but by 1861 when their daughter Mary Ellen was christened, the occupation is saddler. We knew from previous research that William got into debt in 1861 and went to prison, and that whilst in Whitwick he became a grocer, dealer in tea, tobacco, ropes, oil, drugs, pots, glass and provisions, baker, flour seller and small farmer and grazier. The family moved sometimes between 1871 and 81 to Blackfordby, where William became a farmer helped by his son George. Of his children born in Thringstone, his eldest son John became a teacher at the National School, Burgh le Marsh, Lincolnshire and his son William became a miller and farmer in Worthington. Other details of his children are not currently accessible. We were already aware that William Merriman Chester died in 1889 in Blackfordby and his wife in 1894 also in Blackfordby. Records we have subsequently accessed show he was buried on 21 January 1889 at St Margaret of Antioch Church, Blackfordby and was 69 years old at his death. His wife Eleanor or Ellen, of Worthington Fields, Blackfordby, was buried on 27 January 1894 aged 75 years. She had been living, with her son George and daughter Mary Ellen, with Edward Taylor, church clerk and sexton. George went on to run a brickworks and lived at Providence House, High Street, Woodville.

- Continuing with **The Bull's Head**, in the Leicester Journal of 1 September 1865 is mention that John Hutchinson of The Bull's Head, Thringstone and Thomas Gostellow of the Waggon and Horses, Worthington, were both admonished and cautioned as to the way their houses had been conducted, but licenses were granted. John Hutchinson is a new name to us. This means that John was at the pub at least in 1865 if not before. The Loughborough Monitor of 4 January 1866 and also the Leicester Journal of 16 February 1866 is a notice relating to the bankruptcy of John Hutchinson, licensed victualler and labourer of Cross Lanes, Thringstone, which is new information. The notice says that the hearing for the bankruptcy was to take place in Ashby on 11 January 1866 at 11am with Mr Bostock Cheate and that the bankruptcy was originally registered on 2 November 1865. We were aware of a gap in the listings of licensees of the pub around that time, and were unaware of John Hutchinson and are currently unable to find out who he was. We already knew, however, that John Emerson who went on to run The Fox took over the license of The Bull's Head in August 1866.
- Again continuing with **The Bull's Head**, we have established that in June 1869, at the same court hearing where **Maurice/Morris Kirk**, landlord of the pub from 1867, was fined for allowing gambling at the pub, his wife Mary was taken to court for assault on a Mrs Mary Ann King, which was quashed after it was proven that Mrs King was the aggressor. It was not the first time Mrs King had been in court, as she was there twice in 1860 after her husband, collier William Lacey King (who kept the George and Dragon from 1862-70) had been violent towards her and turned her and her 2 sons, one of whom was a baby, out of the house, causing her to ask for help from Ashby Union Workhouse. She had also taken someone to court in 1867. This was William Henson of Whitwick who she took to court for assault, and lost. We previously had almost no information on Maurice, and what happened to him. Looking through online information knowing now that his wife was called Mary, we have been able to find out what happened to this man. Maurice Kirk married Mary Henson in Melton in 1864. He appears to have been born on 16 November 1840 in East Leake, the son of a farmer, and in 1861 was working in Bramcote, Notts as a groom. The couple had a daughter called Emily, born in Thringstone in on 15 February 1867 and another daughter called Elizabeth was born on 24 April 1869. Emily was baptised in Whitwick on 14 April 1867 and Elizabeth on 5 September 1869. In both cases Maurice is listed as labourer. Another child called Mary was born to the family with the baptism, also at Whitwick, taking place on 4 December 1870. Emily was staying



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with her aunt and uncle, John and Elizabeth Line in South Croxton in April 1871. Sometime after that, the family emigrated to Pottsville, Pennsylvania. Mary, and her 3 daughters seem to have gone via storage from Liverpool, arriving in New York on 6 June 1871 so it is probably that Maurice went earlier to prepare. Daughter Mary died soon after getting to the USA. By 1880 the family were living on Howard Street, and Maurice was a groom/ostler. Mrs Mary Kirk died on 3 June 1880 of pleurisy and Maurice died on 30 January 1889 and both were buried at Charles Baber Cemetery in Pottsville. Daughter Emily married Stephen Joseph Connell, had a son called Maurice Thomas Connell, and died 20 January 1938 and Elizabeth married Eugene Diener who died aged in 1900. Elizabeth died on 7 January 1929. They are also buried at Charles Baber Cemetery in Pottsville.

- Thomas Toone kept the **George and Dragon** from 1844-1861. We have new information on him. We believed that his wife Ann was nee King and had died in 1859, but now find she was in fact Ann Varley and died in 1861. Thomas went on to marry Sarah Thompson in 1867. She died in 1873. In 1875 he then married Mary Clifford. We recorded in our pubs book that he moved to farm in Swannington, and we now find that he died there on 30 June 1883, leaving £39 7 shillings and 6 pence to his son, also called Thomas.
- From the Leicester Journal 19 November 1841 comes an advert for the sale of what we now know as **Lily Bank Farm**: 'To be sold by private contract, a substantial farm house with dovecote and all requisite outbuildings and also a malt house adjoining thereto and 35 acres of very first rate land, tithe free and chiefly old turf in the occupation of Mr William Kidger. Possession may be had at Lady Day (25 March). A reasonable part of the purchase money of the above property may remain on mortgage if desired. Apply to Mr Green, Solicitor, Ashby de la Zouch.'

### **Council report**

Nothing to report other than there has been confusion over the collection of the green waste bins. Half of the village had these collected at the end of April. The other half of the village should get letters, but expect the collection next time the red boxes go out.

### **Gardening and environment**

We have been told that all the bulbs given to the centre to plant this year came out, as did the lovely tulips planted along the church railings on Main Street. Despite all the gloom of the current situation, it is still nice to see nature carrying on as usual.

### **AOB**

Next bulletin will be in early June all being well.