



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 2020

Monthly litter pick total - 103 against **93 bags** for the same month last year.

Nita was interviewed by the **Coalville Times** on 16 September regarding the amount of face masks that she is picking up, together with the fact that she found a full NHS covid test kit in the street during the month. The article appeared in the edition of 18 September. Another article in the same edition suggested that the RSPCA are now finding lots of birds and other animals with face masks attached to them because the cords aren't cut when people dispose of them and they then end up in landfill. Only last weekend, Nita picked up 7 facemasks whilst litter picking. Please put facemasks in the bin if you don't want them, and think about cutting the cords as well.

Nita has made the final 10 in the annual **UK Amplifon Awards** for her work litter picking with Woodie. She undertook an online interview on 15 September, and was invited to take part in the zoom presentation awards ceremony, hosted by Simon Weston the Faulklands Hero, on 13 October.

The Meadows Care Home was nominated as a local hero for their work to keep residents safe and thus far covid free during the crisis.

Thringstone Miners Welfare was given a £1500 grant this month by being successful in a funding bid to Western Power Distributions In This Together – Community Matters fund. The charity is looking to cut its fuel costs by converting to LED lighting with the help of the funding as well as continuing to do things in the community.

Thringstone Members Club has posted its covid guidelines for opening on social media. This includes information that all drinks come via table service and that you can't have more than 6 people from 2 families per table. It also says that bingo will now be at 8pm in the function room. Last entry to the club will be at 8.45pm with last orders being called at 9.30pm. All patrons will have to leave the club no later than 9.55pm.

BEGINNERS LINE DANCING CLASS 6pm til 7pm every Thursday, commencing October 1st, at THRINGSTONE MEMBERS CLUB. £5. Further details from Ann 07914358050.

St Andrews – message from them reads 'Rev Joanne Dyer is being seconded to our three churches during the period whilst we are waiting for the appointment of a Rector.' She commences her duties on 4 October. The services will continue to be available to those on Zoom.

Following strict covid guidelines, **Thringstone Methodist Chapel** has reopened for Sunday services.

Thringstone Scouts started back again after 6 months on 15 September at 7pm for an hour and a half. It is hoped that this will continue every Tuesday for the foreseeable future. The scout's plans for fundraising events are on hold at the moment but there's a great way we can all help to raise funds for the group without even leaving the house. They have registered Thringstone Scout



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Group with 'easyfundraising', which means over 4,000 shops and sites will now donate to them for FREE every time you use 'easyfundraising' to shop with them. It's so simple, just download the free app and then access the online shop via the app to receive a donation straight to the group funds. Here is the link

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/thringstonescoutgroup/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=w1

On 24 September, Nita attended a Zoom meeting of Whitwick Parish Council at which **Ray Woodward**, who with Pam Clayfield founded Friends of Thringstone, was honoured by being given the award of Honorary Freeman of Whitwick. Ray's connection with our group was acknowledged at the meeting by Dave Everitt, and it was a pleasure to be involved. Congratulations to Ray.

Message on the progress for Snibston Country Park improvements : The Snibston Stakeholder Group met online on 25 September to discuss the progress with the creation of the Snibston Colliery Park and the improvements to the Century Theatre. Covid-19 has delayed matters - but the contractors Fortem have worked closely with LCC to find safe ways to get the job done. The roof is going on to the theatre extension. The mountain-bike trails are coming together. The mining heritage is safely retained and Snibston Heritage Trust have been writing the interpretation boards.

Internet scams - One of our members alerted us to the continuation of a **scam** that has been going round for some time. It comes by email and is a TV licence email being sent out to say that you're not covered or about to lose your TV licence if you don't contact them to set up a direct debit or give account details through a link. It looks official but when checked the TV licence number on the email is totally different from your real TV licence account number. Our member also contacted the real TV licensing and they are aware that there is this scam going on. Please don't give anybody your details unless you are 100% certain it is a genuine email.

Our three heritage boards for **Hello Heritage** created quite an impression around the village in September. There was also a film on the internet on Charles Booth and another on Grace Dieu Priory. Thanks go to Llynda Baugh for helping us with this.

Thringstone Creates – back in April, our member Sarah Baxter started a project to put together art and craft items reflecting the lockdown period and the changes in society. She put out a post on social media and offered to help people by giving fabric, needles etc. to anybody wishing to take part. This project generated a lot of interest, was completed at the end of September, and a press release has been sent out with some photographs of some of the items produced. There are indeed some very talented people in the village, and many have said that having the project to get on with cheered them up and kept their minds occupied at a difficult time. All the items submitted to the project are coming to Friends of Thringstone to preserve for the village in a folder donated by Mary Roberts. We thank Sarah for the huge commitment she gave to the project, to everybody who took part, and to Mary for her support. Sarah is now thinking of doing another project in the future.

Centre News: Annie Duggan has decided against starting up **Juke Joint** at the centre this year. This is what she posted on facebook: 'After a lot of consideration and in discussion with The Charles Booth Centre and in line with Covid 19 guidelines, Al and I have decided that we cannot reopen the Juke Joint until next year when we hope to start it up again in February and are already starting to book some great artists in. Thank you everyone for being so understanding. We desperately want to get back to normal but have to make sure that everyone is safe.' A similar scenario is likely to apply to plug and play, film nights, bingo, quiz nights etc.

The New Bhangara dancing sessions which started last month at Charles Booth centre – Mondays 7-8pm and Wednesdays 10am-11am - advertised it was changing the venue to Thringstone Members Club but then changed back!. You need to book your place by contacting Reema on either 07881 423116 or email reemabhakri@gmail.com.

Thringstone Panto and Drama Society suspended its rehearsals at the centre prior to the change in numbers being allowed inside because guidelines received suggested that they could only have 6 people rehearsing OUTSIDE and 2 families inside. They are hopeful that things will



change in due course allowing them to continue going forward. They sent this message: 'We've been planning what our entertainment for you will bring next year, and have been working hard, but every time we're about to launch, rules and regulations change! Hopefully we'll have some things you may be interested in soon!'

The centre is following the NHS **formal track and trace protocols** and, in addition to a sign in book, now have the official QR Code scanning icon set up for CBC that people can scan on entry and the App will do the rest when they've downloaded it

The centre took on **2 new regular bookings** with Simply Dancing and a cheerleading group joining the user group list just prior to the change in numbers allowed inside venues etc.

We understand that the centre bought/acquired some furniture and sheds from **Grace Dieu Priory School** when it closed. The furniture has gone into the house lounge now Charles Booth Room and the sheds are being used for extra storage.

Chairs Report

Letters received: None

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

Promotion: We have **661 twitter followers**, which is 6 more than last month, and **1,404 facebook followers**, which is 19 more than last month.

Other: Forwarded NWLDC's Community Response Newsletter round to everybody on email.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,267.69		
Income		Expenditure	
Donations	£15	Broadband	15.00
Publications	£5	RCC membership	60.00
total income to general fund	£20		£75
		Total general fund at month end	2212.69

Publications Report

Nita sold a Thringstone and Its People to a person mentioned in the history report (later). The money for this will appear next time, together with a donation.

Web Report

Webmaster has been away, so no change from last month.

Police Report

From local reports and social media:

11 Sept – Police seen to be chasing a man running round the village without some of his clothing. Caused quite a sensation on social media when he ran up Shrewsbury Walk.

17 Sept – large police presence at property on Henson's Lane

27 Sept – a car belonging to a person on Glebe Road found, on driving on the motorway in the dark, that someone had poured oil over his windscreen. This is potentially dangerous, and a scathing report was put out on social media.

From the police:

We have nothing else to add to this. However, there is an increase of Catalytic Converter thefts. Dog walkers are particularly being targeted when they park up in remote locations and go for a walk. I have none to report in Thringstone, but surrounding areas have been targeted.



Community Report and What's On

Please check that these events are still on before venturing out to them.

31 Oct - **Thringstone Members Club Halloween event.** 6pm-10pm. This is the message from the club – there will be Halloween bingo for the kids, glitter tattoos and much more. We will be doing a fancy dress competition, and there will be one for the kids and one for the adults, so please dress to impress. Cold cobs and chips will be on sale. Social distancing and temperature checks will be in place. If you could please let us know how many of you will be attending per family, we would be very grateful so we can ensure all guidelines are adhered to. We can't wait to see you all.

18 Dec – **Carols at Miners Welfare.** Procession will run from St Andrew's at 6.30pm to get to the Miners Welfare for 7pm. Refreshments will be available, there will be a Santa grotto and a Christmas tree with lights.

History report

- We had a call from John Colledge in Whitwick to say that he thought that the **Clover Place Cooperative store** opened at the same time as the estate was built, as he remembers it there in the 1950s. If anybody is able to throw any further light on this subject, please let us know.
- Nita had a series of emails from David Gedye whose wife's ancestor was **Samuel Wayte**, grocer of Thringstone. He was the subject of earlier minutes, and Nita wrote an article for Community Voice about him in September. Mr Gedye wanted to say he enjoyed the article, and ask for details of the source information. During the exchange of emails, he gave us information into the reason for the deaths of the 5 children mentioned on the gravestone for Samuel's wife, **Ellen Harper Doman**, all of whom died in their infancy. This is as follows: Mary Elizabeth 1864 fever & tetanic spasms, Edmund 1866 debility, Ellen 1874 convulsions, Mary Ann 1874 convulsions, Theresa 1876 convulsions. He also sent us a copy of a chapter of a book on the family, which concentrates on Samuel and Ellen which he updated following discussions with Nita on the family history she had researched. Nita has learnt from this that there was a spate of typhoid cases in Thringstone in 1868 and several died.
- **Mantle Arts** have been busy working on the N.W Leicestershire Voices project – a project supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, to digitise and preserve **a collection of 1980's recordings of local peoples' memories stretching back to before the First World War.** They will be showcasing the recordings on their social media channels over the coming weeks and hope you'll find them fascinating. The first video takes a look back at Coalville Cinema; The Golden Age of the Grand, Rex and Regal. Find out more about the project: bit.ly/NWleicsvoices
- The Evening Mail of 2 November 1855 tells how Earl Howe, who happened to be in Ashby at the time, was asked to come to help judge cases at the **petty sessions** due to lack of 'presiding functionaries' from the Ashby quorum. It seems that this had happened on more than one occasion during the summer of 1855, but it was interesting that one of the cases at this particular time was the prosecution by the Leicester board of guardians of the overseer for Thringstone who had illegally removed a pauper from the area without sufficient justification to do so. 14 prosecutors, defendant, plaintiffs, their friends and supporters plus attorneys and policeman were sent home 'without a word of comfort or a prospect of compensation' due to the cases being unable to be heard. Records show that the overseer for Thringstone in 1855 was Edwin Ayre, carpenter. His second wife, Mary nee Cox, was a former ladies maid to Mrs Phillipps at Grace Dieu Manor. Edwin had himself been committed to trial in March 1844 charged with fraud, but was acquitted. Joseph Towle, constable, is also referred to as overseer in some instances during this year. Edwin Ayre was born on 15 April 1809 and died in Thringstone on 13 February 1893. Twice married, we believe he had one daughter from his first marriage – Rebecca Mary, who was 5 years old when her mother died. We believe that Edwin was born in Coleorton and may have been buried there.



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- There are probably hundreds of articles available in newspapers regarding **poaching of rabbits** and fines and prison sentences being handed out to those caught. What we were not aware of (and thank you to a BBC antiques programme for pointing this out) is that rabbits, and other game, were protected by the 14th century game laws until a new law in 1884. At that point, it became legal to sell rabbit to everybody, rather than just the nobility or landed gentry, and for their skins to be sold and used. Despite that, poaching continued in an effort for people to acquire more money and feed their families. While the rural poor were consuming a diet of fish with potatoes and "stirabout" (a crude porridge of oats and milk), Peter Greaves from the University of Leicester has said that they were often healthier than the poor in urban areas, who lived on a diet of bread, dripping, tea and sugar, and had difficulty obtaining vegetables, meat, fruit and fish.
- The Leicester Chronicle of 20 October 1917 gives a list of people winning prizes at the **annual Thringstone parade** which coincided with the 6th annual show of vegetables, fruit and flowers taking place at Thringstone House. £4 was collected for Leicester Royal Infirmary. The report mentions that Mr J Walker, dressed as clown, 'accompanied the parade and had a small army of boy followers.' It is currently unclear who J Walker is.
- Nita downloaded the medical register of midwives relating to **Alice Richards nee Bradley** for 1910. She had enrolled on the register as a midwife on 30 June 1904 and lived in Talbot Lane with her husband Samuel who she married in Osgathorpe in October 1863. They had produced 17 children, of whom 5 had died by 1911, so she was well qualified to help other women we would have thought! Other than 3 of the children, all seem to have been baptised in Osgathorpe, and the ones who died, and were buried at Osgathorpe, seem to have been Faith, who died in 1881 at 10 months, Charles William who died in 1883 at 11 months, Louisa who died in 1884 at 1 day old, John who was married with 2 children when he died in the Whitwick Pit Disaster of 1898, and Sarah Catherine who appears to have died before the age of 1 in 1881 but whose details, other than birth and baptism, we can't find and who doesn't appear on any census information. Alice died in 1916 and was buried on 7 August at St Andrew's church. Her address at that time is recorded as The George and Dragon. Samuel Richards died in October 1917 and was buried on 1 November also at St Andrew's and also with an address of **The George and Dragon**. This would be because Mary Jane Waldrum, whose husband Joseph was licensee, was a daughter of Alice and Samuel.
- We have downloaded the **bankruptcy notices** relating to the following people from the London Gazette: **William Merriman Chester**, also known as just William Chester, from Bull's Head, who also did everything from harness making, labouring, pot and glass selling, baker and flour selling, farming and grazing to rope selling and grocery sales, in 1861, **John Hutchinson** of Bull's Head 1865, **Thomas Geary**, Rose and Crown 1888, **Thomas Bowley Hull** from Fox Inn 1830 (seems to have been born in Mountsorrel in 1789), **Wm Knight** 1830, **Walter Fisher** from Fox Inn 1894, **Robert Cox** grocer, publican from The New Inn, Pegg's Green, also pig cow and horse dealer 1830, **Wm. Henson**, a cooper from 1844, **Wm. Horsley Foster** (who was born in Northumberland) from 1867 – he died the following year - he was a grocer, collier and carrier, **Joseph Richards** of Limby Hall, an innkeeper in Swannington and Griffydam from 1869, **Wm. Bingham**, labourer 1894 and **Richard Jesson**, farmer of Gracedieu 1863.
- We have found the WW1 records relating to **Thomas Wragg Henson**, one of the 11 children of James Henson and Emily nee Lager, who seems to have moved to Canada at some point, probably 1913. Born on 23 September 1880 in Thringstone, he was a fisherman, living in Vancouver when he enlisted on 18 May 1916. He was sent to France and died on 9 April 1917. He was buried at Calais. Thomas was the younger brother of James Walter and George Henson who had connections with The Star Beer House in Main Street, Thringstone in the early 1880s.
- The Burton Chronicle of 2 May 1895 tells of a festival at Gracedieu to take place on 5 May with visitors being able to find accommodation at **The Rose and Crown, Thringstone** with Mr George Painter. We knew of Mr Painter, but had been unable to find any further information on this gentleman. There were 2 George Painters, both of whom could be the person keeping this pub, although we feel it may have been the older George because of a Thringstone connection.



George was born in 1851 in Ripley, and married to Ellen nee Banton whom he married in Derby in 1873 and by whom he had 9 children, one of whom died. His son George also married an Ellen - Ellen Holmes of Main Street in Thringstone in 1900 at St Andrew's and by 1901 was living in Hartshill, Warwickshire, where he was a miner whilst George Snr. was in Wales working. By 1911 both George's were at The Talbot in Talbot Street, Church Gresley, George Jnr's wife having died in Hartshill in 1903. We can currently find no further information but think that the elder George died in 1929.

- We have been continuing to try and find out more about the **Westgate family** who lived on The Warren from at least 1938, having previously lived in Newton Burgoland and Enderby. We know that because we have found details of a panto (Dick Whittington) taking place at Whitwick Picture House in January 1938 in which Bridget McCarthy, who later married Dick Westgate, together with Joan Brotherhood and Emily Josephine (known as Jo) and Dick Westgate took leading roles. A person connected to the family has posted various memories of Dick Westgate's garage at the former site of the Drum and Monkey on the A512 on facebook, and has been asked if he can provide more information since he refers to both Dick and Peter Westgate as Uncle.
- A new magazine called The Gentlewoman became available to read on line in September. This is really quite fascinating reading and contains a lot of information about women of the period, and also news items. One of the news items for 30 June 1906 tells of the baptism of **Chambre Thomas Macauley Booth**, grandson of Charles Booth. Chambre went on to become an actor, as mentioned in previous minutes, under the name of Tom Macauley. The article reads that he was the son of Captain T M Booth of the Gordon Highlanders and was born on 17 March 1906 at 4 St George's Square, London. He was baptised in Thringstone at St Andrew's on 22 April 1906 by Rev E S Crane. His godparents are listed as Charles Booth, Mary Booth, George Macauley Booth and Mrs Vesey Stockley who was a famous author of the time, writing mostly about India. Amongst those present at the baptism were Mr Horace and Mrs Emma Darwin (Horace was a civil engineer and son of Charles Darwin who lived in Cambridgeshire at the time), Irish Nationalist activist the Rt. Hon Mary Spring Rice, Mr and Miss Cropper (local landowners), Mr Robert Edmund Martin who was a civil engineer at the time, subsequently became chairman of Leicestershire County Council was knighted and lived at The Brand House, Woodhouse Eaves, Booth family members the Hon Mr and Mrs Macnaghten and their children, Miss Margaret Booth and Miss Imogen Booth and members of the Booth household from Grace Dieu Manor.

Council report

Thringstone Post Office is planning improvements to the shop and an extension between the shop and the storage areas. There are notices on lampposts to this end.

Gardening and environment

Bernard continues to do various weeding and tidying around the planted areas.

Next bulletin will be in November.