



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR JANUARY 2021

Monthly litter pick total - 121 against **99 bags** for the same month last year. Our annual litter picking total comes to 1,298, against 1,147 in 2019. Thank you to everybody who has helped with our litter picking in 2020.

NWLDC have advised that brown paper, including brown envelopes, must now be recycled in the cardboard recycling bag not in the blue bag. This is because the mill they now use for paper recycling say brown paper affects the quality of the paper they then produce. They have also said that they will recycle natural Christmas trees if put into the green bin, but the lid needs to close, so the trees may have to be cut down to fit in.

Homestead Road playgroup raised £143 from parents and online donations for their Christmas Jumper Day in support of Save The Children, and wish to say thank you to all who donated.

Thringstone Primary raised £173.85 for Children in Need in November and £262.46 for RBL's poppy appeal. Congratulations to them. Temple Trees in Shepshed once again donated a Christmas tree to the school for which they gave thanks.

They also created some fabulous window displays which were shared on our facebook and twitter pages. Friends of Thringstone member Nigel Roberts is now a community governor for the school, and is looking forward to working with the school on various projects.

Centre News: The centre staff are considering the position regarding the 2021 music festival. The issue would be that, having been unemployed for nearly a year, bands may not be happy to do the event for free and the cost of the audio stage might be increased.

We understand from Mike Statham that there are still issues with moles on the back lawn and someone has been in to try to deal with this.

Chairs Report

Letters received: None

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

Promotion: We have 666 **twitter followers**, which is 3 more than last month, and **1,472 facebook followers**, which is 12 more than last month.

Other: Nita has sent everybody on email a copy of the annual report for 2020. Those of you who are not on email and require a copy should contact Nita if they want one posted to them.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,207.69		
Income		Expenditure	
Donations		Broadband	15.00
Publications			
total income to general fund	£0		15.00
		Total general fund at month end	2192.69

Publications Report

None sold.

Web Report

Work is continuing to try to get our website back.

Police Report

13 Dec – anti social behaviour - motorbikes riding round on football pitch off Melrose Rd.

Community Report and What's On

Nothing to report

History report

- We have been looking again at **military records**, and added the details of 3 men with Thringstone connections to our database archive – Joseph Robinson of Bauble Yard, Bertram Ward of Fern Cottage and James Peace of Fox Terrace. We also found POW details and grave photos for Ronnie Concannon, Norman Mason, Douglas Arthur Richards and Fred Grice. We now have **WW1 POW records** for Arthur Bird Jnr. of Main Street, William Edward Horne of Elms Farm and William Lawrence of St Andrew's Cottages, all of whom were listed as POWs on the 1918 Absent Voters Lists. As a side issue, on the County Council page for the Coalville Memorial they were asking for information on Douglas Richards, so Nita sent in what we have.
- Ann has borrowed some log books and minute books from **Thringstone Primary** to add to our archive research information.
- Over the Christmas break, Nita has been helping a lady with her Thringstone family tree. This relates to the Toon family, who link into the Fortnam, Gee, and King families. Through this research, one of the people discovered was Sarah Hutchinson who married Joseph King. It now transpires that her father was **John Hutchinson, who kept the Bull's Head** for a while and was declared bankrupt whilst there in 1865. Her marriage certificate to Joseph King shows he was there in 1863, and from that start we have traced him and his details. He was born around 1824 in Coleorton to Samuel Hutchinson and Frances nee Towe, married Hannah Tomlinson in 1844 at St John's in Whitwick, and seems to have died on 27 Oct 1871 at Hagar Nook, Whitwick, the original name for Agar Nook. He had 3 children, Sarah, Margaret and John and had been a collier before taking on The Bull's Head.
- Nita has downloaded several wills, including one for **William Merriman of Bull's Head** which gives a date of death of 14 September 1819, which is new information. His wife was Hannah, he had a son called William (whose will we also now have and who seems to have died in 1848 aged 42), and 6 daughters, Mary by then Mrs John Chester, Ann, Elizabeth, Jane, Frances and Hannah. He had a farm as well as the pub and also land in Shepshed and Thringstone. It would seem that after William Snr. died, Hannah, his wife took over the pub where she lived with Wm. Jnr, who took over the pub. The Merriman family continued to be connected to the pub for decades.
- We were given details of **Samuel Phillips May** who was head at Thringstone School until 1905 when he died after an illness lasting some months. We did not know that he owned various

properties including 3 cottages in Talbot Lane and 1-5 Mammoth St, Coalville. We have also been given details of **Miss Elsie Palmer** who lived in Swannington and taught at Thringstone from 1926 until she retired in August 1949, having been absent for some time because of failing eyesight. She was short, weak and thin and had sparse hair which was in a brown plait and twisted around her head. She was dominated at home by her older sister Eva, and in later years had crippled feet with toes which turned up and made it hard for her to walk. Throughout her time working at Thringstone school, she walked in all weathers from Hough Hill in Swannington. She had a serious speech impediment, was kind and gentle, and was a keen painter, going as far as painting a local dustbin in WW2 with bright flowers. In her older years, she went blind. Her sister, Eva also went blind.

- Following on from the investigation into military records last month, we have spent time researching the Horne family from **Elms Farm** (opposite the G&D). The farm was run by Edward Archibald Horne born in 1872 in Somerset who married Nell, properly Ellen Louisa Chandler (born 1873 in Gloucestershire) in Redhill, Somerset in June 1894. Edward was a railway porter and signalman for most of his early career, and the family moved around a fair bit with his job, starting by moving from Somerset to Branston near Burton on Trent, Swadlincote, then Ravenstone and by 1901 to Workhouse Lane, Coleorton although railway records show that he worked at the station in Swannington from 22 November 1901. It is unclear when they went to Elms Farm, but by the time they were there, Edward had obviously given up his railway job to concentrate on farming. We knew that Elms Farm was purchased by the Co-op in December 1918, in order for them to concentrate on milk production. Edward and Ellen had several children – William Edward Horne was born in Redhill in 29 July 1896. His brother Wilfred John, who served in WW1 in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve, was born on 23 December 1898. There then followed Nellie Phoebe in 1900, Gladys Kate in 1904 and in 1918, at Elms Farm, Albert Edward A Horne was born. It is not clear when the family left the farm but they appear to all have moved to the Ipswich area of Suffolk before 1921 when the farm was taken over by the Rose family. The family appear to have stayed in farming, with many of the children going into farming or marrying farmers. Edward died in 1929 and Ellen in 1945. Wilfred John Horne moved away from Ipswich and died in 1973 in Reading, but we are unable to find out what happened to William Edward Horne, known as Willie, who was a prisoner of war after WW1 ended, although there is a possibility that he became a salesman as there is a William Edward Horne in Blackpool in 1939 with a birth date 2 days away from the man from Elms Farm.

From local newspaper archives:

- **Dec 1819** – At Thringstone on Tuesday midnight, 3 male servants of Mr Frank Nedhouse took a quantity of heated coal from a chafing dish and placed it in their room to keep warm. One of them was unfortunately suffocated, and the other two also nearly died had a friend, who was aroused by their groaning, not gone to their assistance. 'It is hoped that this will operate as a caution against placing fire in bedrooms where there is no chimney or ventilation to carry away the noxious fumes'.
- **May 1859** – A sprint race of 120 yards took place in Hugglescote between George Holt of Whitwick and **John Halliday of Thringstone** for £2. A huge crowd watched on and little or no betting took place, which was abnormal for the times. The start was by the pull of a handkerchief and Holt immediately showed in front and there was no chance of him being beaten. Holt was the winner by 3 or 4 yards. John Halliday was a tailor, and appears to have been born in 1835. He lived on Main Street before moving to Loughborough.
- **June 1861** – A train from Ashby went to London with one of the passengers being **Jane Hault** of Thringstone. She was in fine health when she left but was taken ill in London and died shortly afterwards. We are assuming that the article was intimating that train journeys could be lethal! We can find no substantiation to this story. It would appear that Jane was born in 1828 and lived at home with her mother, Elizabeth, older sister and 2 younger brothers.
- **April 1875** – The obituary for **Ann Gough**, wife of Edward Gough, butcher, of Thringstone. This lady was the mother of the Faith, Hope and Charity Gough of whom much has been written. In fact, the couple had 13 children, with their daughter Theresa sadly dying aged 12 in 1861. The



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obituary reads that she died on 3 April aged 54 years, and had suffered a painful and protracted affliction, which she endured with singular fortitude, exemplary patience and Christian resignation. She was said to be warm hearted, a kind neighbour who always acted with love and the article tells of her many acts of quiet unaffected benevolence, of which the outside world knew nothing. Rev. Crane conducted her funeral on 7 April which was attended by her husband and 12 sons and daughters, with the vicar referring in emotional terms to her many virtues, useful life and happy death. Edward Gough died in 1884.

- **Sept 1879** – death notice – On 18 September at Rue de Avenir, Brussels, Belgium, Mary Ann wife of **Charles Adams**, formerly of Thringstone, aged 39 years. The 1861 census shows Charles Adams with his mother Mary living somewhere near The Bull's Head. He was a joiner and was baptised at St John's in Whitwick in August 1839. No father's occupation is listed, and we can find no father in previous census information for Charles or his sisters Elizabeth and Sarah - Elizabeth married Thomas Moore at St John's in Whitwick on 30 January 1860 and became known as Bessie Moore, toll gate keeper, and later keeper of the shop on the corner of Whitwick Moor. Charles and Mary Ann Adams had a son called Albert born in Belgium in 1872 who in 1881 was living with Bessie Moore at the shop on the corner of Whitwick Moor, and listed as her nephew along with Charles Wilkins, another nephew and son of Sarah Adams and William Wilkins (the Wilkins brothers were translators for the Belgian evacuees in WW1). We know that Charles returned to the area and married Sarah Williams of Grace Dieu on 18 August 1881 at St John's in Whitwick. On that marriage certificate he claimed a father's name of William Adams, farmer, although this may have just been made up as was often the case when people didn't know their parentage. His sister Elizabeth, mentioned above, had a gap where father's name was to go on her marriage certificate, whereas the other sister Sarah, who married William Wilkins on 6 Sept 1864, had a name which looks like Horace Green as father, but this is crossed out. It is currently unclear whether Charles returned again to England after his marriage, as his job was in Belgium, but Albert, his son, is found on censuses up to 1891.
- **July 1916** – **Charles Booth**, represented by Mr Crane of Coalville, went to court to ask for an exemption for military service for a man aged 37 who acted as his groom and gardener. Mr Booth said that he was the only person left on his staff of military age, as 11 out of 14 men previously employed had now joined up. The man was said to be in charge of a large kitchen garden from which produce was sent to a local hospital base. Exemption was granted to 30 September on the proviso that the man joined the volunteer training corps, which was a home defence militia.
- **March 1919** – **Mrs Mary Booth** resigned her presidency of the Whitwick and Thringstone Nursing Association. The committee expressed their great thanks for the interest she had taken in the work.
- **April 1921** – **Out of work miners** made two pits either side of the stream in 2 fields in Thringstone looking for coal in which they were successful. The numbers out of work in Leicester now stands at 25,691.
- **March 1940** – The death was announced of **Hannah Towle**, in her 91st year of The Gables, Thringstone. Miss Towle lived with her brother William, aged 87, who would be leaving the property to live with his son in Torquay. Miss Towle had lived all her life at The Gables, and had continued the grocery business started by her father in around 1840 and during her life had only once been attended by a doctor, and that was 7 years earlier when she broke her leg in a fall, from which she had made a swift recovery. Miss Towle was a member of the local Women's Institute, and formerly a parish church worker. The Gables will now be offered for sale.
- **April 1943** – **Glebe Farm** was offered for sale by W and F Armstrong and Co. It was described as 28,600 acres with detached farm house, yard, buildings, and 6 enclosures of well watered land situated in a ring fence fronting Main Street with main town services. Total annual £66 4 shillings per annum.
- **Aug 1946** – **Mr J Wilkins** of Main Street has found an old half penny on the site of demolished houses in his street. The coin was dated 1746 and had George 2 on one side and Hibernia on the other.



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- **Nov 1949** – Shortly after throwing the winning dart for **The Fox Inn**, Thringstone at a match in Swannington, John Brown, aged 36, miner working from Snibstone Colliery and living at Barrack Yard collapsed and died. Shortly after the match he complained of feeling ill and was rushed to Thringstone by car. He was taken to the house of his sister in law, Mrs Wheeldon, and shortly after his wife arrived there he died. He left a widow and 3 children including year old twins.
- **Aug 1956** – Frederick Alan Stenson of Loughborough died aged 79. His obituary says that he was a councillor and alderman, had had a wine shop in Loughborough, and at one time owned 12 public houses and 4 off licenses. At his death, the only pub he still owned was **The Bull's Head** at Thringstone.
- **Jan 1972** – The **Thringstone branch of the RBL** got its knuckled rapped by head office for offering to give out food parcels to the families of striking miners whose families face hardship. Jack Gough (chairman) and Ernest Grice (secretary) had been to a meeting with officers from HQ, but were told that the RBL were non-political and shouldn't enter into trade disputes. The Thringstone group argued that the village was made up of mining families and 80% of the Royal British Legion membership in the village was from people who had served in the forces. The president, secretary, chairman and vice chairman were all ex-service personnel.
- **Feb 1972** – Frank Smith, Miners Union Secretary (Leics) went to Thringstone to see the food parcel distribution arranged by members of **Thringstone Royal British Legion (RBL)** and other organisations in the village. He spent some time chatting to those who were there collecting eggs, tinned food, cornflakes and other commodities as well as to members and their helpers. Afterwards he said 'My idea in coming here was to show appreciation on behalf of the union for the work that is being done to relieve distress'.
- **Feb 1972** – More about Thringstone's **Royal British Legion (RBL)** -Some miners and their wives, totalling 40 people, went to Benidorm, Spain for a long weekend during the miners strike. The trip was organised by a local women's organisation, and the party came back to find a row brewing over food parcels being handed out at **Thringstone Miners Welfare**. Someone had gone to collect 2 food parcels for a family that had gone to Spain. The parcels were handed over to the proxy collector, as all paperwork was given, but 10 parcels were left unaccounted for. Marjorie Rowlinson, wife of RBL official Joe, said she had spent hours packing parcels and felt she had been 'made to be a sucker'. Ironically it was so cold in the Miners Welfare that the process was speeded up to avoid the cold. Whilst acknowledging that the trip had been paid for weeks earlier, Mr and Mrs Rowlinson said the weekend plans should have been revised and people should have asked for their money back. 'For anybody to arrange for a go-between to collect a food parcel for them while they are living it up in Spain is a joke' said Mrs Rowlinson.
- **Oct 1972** – **Kathleen Williams**, a widow, and her son Paul were to be helped by **Thringstone RBL**. Derek Williams had died the previous June and Mrs Williams and son were living with Derek's family on Melrose Rd. Having been a miner, Derek had joined the Navy in 1968 and passed as fit, but became ill and was flown from a position between Malta and Venice to hospital where he was found to be suffering from leukaemia. He was discharged from the navy without a pension, and his family were left without support after he died. The family had appealed for a pension, and this had been turned down 3 times, but Thringstone RBL was backing another appeal. Mrs Williams had met her husband when she was in the Royal Navy Nursing Service. We understand no money was ever forthcoming.
- **April 1974** – **Thringstone Community Centre** held an open week. Their motto 'You are never too old to learn something new' saw various exhibitions of photography, jewellery, soft furnishing and embroidery. There were also demonstrations of keep fit, yoga and judo. A fashion show took place with young people from the centre modelling clothes they had made, plus there was a concert by the centre orchestra whose ages ranged from 15 – 80. There were stalls from the guides, scouts, play group, and retired people's fellowship who met weekly at the centre and representation from old time music hall and old time dance. The warden David Fitt and Mrs Ann Hicken, deputy warden, arranged the week of activities.



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- **Dec 1974 – Thringstone branch of RBL** had their AGM meeting which Mr Ernest Grice, secretary chaired. The Poppy Day Organiser was J Wilson and said that a record £97 had been collected this year. This was a considerable sum for a village without an industry. All pensioner members or widows would receive a dressed chicken for Christmas. President Joe Rowlinson, vice president J Jones, chairman Albert Eric Gough, vice chairman D Gallagher, secretary Ernest Grice, treasurer George Musson, standard bearer H Murby. Records show that Mr Gough was also a member of the Burma Star Association.
- **March 1975 – Alfred Lewis Moore** of 21 Henson's Lane was killed on his way home from Loughborough where he worked when his cycle was hit by a white Cortina on 7 March. Born on 31 October 1913, he was a keen gardener, and had completed a night shift in Lbro when he was killed near Blackbrook Farm. Married in 1942 to Gladys Wilkins, he had 5 children.
- **March 1975 - Jack Rennocks**, aged 81 from Henson's Lane reckoned that he had consumed 77,792 pints since he'd started drinking, mostly at The George and Dragon. He was presented with a tankard by Bass Brewery to mark the achievement. The landlady, Betty Henderson, said that it had all been worked out on his 4 pints of mild consumed during his nightly drinking. She suggested that he had drunk 270 36 gallon barrels. Mr Rennocks worked for 54 years at Whitwick Colliery and started drinking at the age of 15. He said it had never done him any harm and seven years earlier, had been given a straight backed chair at the pub in which he could take his drink. On the chair was a plaque which read 'reserved for Jack Rennocks'. Jack was born in Shepshed, but brought up on Lilybank, married Mabel Smith, had 6 children and died on 3 November 1980.
- **March 1976 - 156 tenants from Woodside estate** sent in a petition to NWLDC saying that they wanted their front gardens fenced off to give more privacy and didn't like the open plan aspect on the estate. They wanted a privet hedge, brick wall or fencing erected. Cllr. Agnes Smith said that the tenants had given the open plan idea 'a good go' having tried to live with it for 12 years. They found that paperboys, milkmen and postmen walked across in front of their windows regularly because the gardens were all open plan and some boys cycled across the grass whilst on their deliveries. The council felt that it would create problems if some people fenced off their areas and others didn't. Malcolm Sutcliffe of the council said that some of the people who had signed the petition were in arrears with their rent. The housing officer, Mr L Phillips said that many of the back gardens to the properties were not cultivated, and he feared the same would apply to the front gardens if fenced off. In April, the council agreed to let tenants plan privet hedges, but no fences or walls to enclose their front gardens.

Council report

Nothing to report.

Gardening and environment

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

Next bulletin will be in February. Please try to keep safe