



# The Friends of Thringstone



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

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## **BULLETIN FOR APRIL 2021**

### **News.**

**Monthly litter pick total - 180** against **98 bags** for the same month last year. **This is the highest total we have ever had in 16 years.** This includes a lot of rubbish from an area in the woods used by youngsters. Our figures have again been shared with NW Leics. Litter Wombles, who say that the total number of bags removed in Leicestershire this month has been 8513 which is a ridiculous amount of rubbish.

**Keep Britain Tidy's Spring Clean** takes place between 28 May and 13 June. If you want to pledge to litter pick during this period, please go to <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean/pledge-to-pick>

Following on from the information last month about **litter picking equipment** becoming available from the county council, County Councillor Richardson have told us that they are dealing with the requests and successful applicants will hear soon... in addition, due to the volume of requests across the county from Leicestershire Wombles, additional funding has been set aside... around £100,000 extra for equipment

**Refuse collection times** and collection routes in the village may change. You can't always assume that the crews will come at the same time every week, so please put your bins out by 6am for collection.

**Green recycling bins** - We have been advised that, at the council meeting on 2 March, the cabinet members (Nick Rushton, Andrew Woodman, Richard Blunt, Roger Bayliss, Robert Ashman and Tony Gillard (Whitwick), discussed the possibility of introducing a £45 charge for people who want a 2<sup>nd</sup> green bin. Officers, we understand, are now exploring the possibility of introducing a subscription service for additional green garden waste bins which would include those households that already have a 2<sup>nd</sup> green bin.

**St Andrew's churchwarden** is Kirsty Savory. Anybody wishing to contact her should ring 07864 510864. We understand that Area Dean Gill Pinnington will continue to provide support in the absence of a rector, and that on 12 March adverts were placed for this position with a closing date of 8 April and interviews on 5 May.

**Benches on The Green** – The 3 benches on The Green need sanding down and revarnishing. Charles Booth Centre own one of the benches, the other was provided by the now defunct Millennium committee and the other was put there to commemorate Gladys Gee. The centre has said that they will pay for the varnish etc. if we provide the labour, and Bernard has agreed to do this later in the year. Thank you to the centre for agreeing to pay the costs.

**Gardening – HELP required** - we have several areas we plant and maintain – Drury Lane by the side of The Co-op, by the stone on The Green, down the church jitty from Lbro Rd, down Brook



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Lane, and down by Millhouse Estate. Bernard is now finding it hard to do this gardening and **we need help**. Thanks to Helen Morgan from Rumsey Close and her husband, the bushes down Brook Lane have been cut back, and the brush removed by Bill Enser and his lads. The other areas need looking at, and we are trying to see if we can find funding to appoint a gardening company to get the beds back into shape, for volunteers to help then take over individual areas. **If anybody is willing to help in any way at all, please let us know.**

**Children's care home** - We are told that the planning application to turn 1 Bishopdale into a children's care home has been withdrawn for a second time, after having been withdrawn and then resubmitted. We already were aware that there had been a huge petition against this change of use, but now understand that it was withdrawn after even more objections from local residents. We are told that the vendors of the property didn't like the adverse reaction from local residents and withdrew the sale.

**Gracedieu woodland** – Sometime between 7pm on 8 March and 6am on 9 March, a bench on the sustrans track through the woodland that has sat near to the old railway line just after the turning to The Bull's Head was completely torched and destroyed. This was put in when the sustrans track was put in in the early 2000s and sustrans are not in a position to replace this, in the same way as they are not in a position to replace stolen railings further up the track near the brook. Photos were taken of the bench fire, and sent to the police and logged by them as criminal damage. We were made aware of another incident of arson the previous week in Holly Hayes woods, and it would seem that this sort of thing is quite prevalent in our area at the moment. Someone must know something about who did this, surely.

**The Old School House** has opened a visitor pod, which allows family and friends of residents the chance to get to see their relatives again after a long gap due to covid restrictions.

**George and Dragon** - All being well, the gates to their beer garden will be re-opening on Monday 12th April. They've decided not to take bookings due to the unpredictable nature of the British weather and the uncertainty over how long people will occupy a table but do have over 50 benches available so plenty to go around. Their App is available to download to order drinks and food straight to your table. They will be still serving takeaways, but this will be collection only.

Opening times will be (subject to change following Government guidance):

Kitchen Opening Times - Sunday: 12pm till 7pm, Monday to Saturday: 12pm till 9pm

Bar Opening Times - Sunday 12pm till 10pm, Monday to Saturday 12pm till 11pm

**Thringstone Miners' Social Centre** have their zumba class back on Tuesdays from 6.45pm-7.45pm. To book, please text B on 07900 682438

The centre is thinking of setting up a charity lottery to help pay for their long postponed training ground project (to the top of the site where the playground used to be). This would be a multi user games area for community use, as well as for the football club.

Half of the money raised would go to their charity, and there would be prizes every week with the opportunity of a jackpot of £25,000! Would you be interested in playing weekly at just £1 a go? Please contact the social centre if you have an interest.

**Centre's news:** The centre's **AGM** took place on 2 March. The meeting was mainly for the trustees, but Nita attended to represent our group, along with Alison and John Simpson from pre-school as non-trustees. For details of the paperwork circulated, please go to

<https://www.charlesboothcentre.org.uk/cbc-annual-reports>

At the end of the meeting, there were no questions, but given that Mike Statham and Steve Lilley have retired from the trustees, details were given of a presentation to them both for the work they have done for the centre over the years. This is likely to take place outside on the centre car park in April. The meeting also discussed the relatively low take-up of the covid vaccination by people in the village, and it was agreed that those of us who have had the vaccine might like to put something out on social media to tell of our experiences (positive). The centre will do something on their own facebook page using 3 trustees as examples. Nita put out something on her experiences on the FoT facebook page.



Working alongside Grace Dieu School Parent's Association, the centre is offering **Community 4 £250 grants** to make our village a lovelier place to live. There are four separate grants to choose from. Applications should be made to the centre and interested parties should go to [charlesboothcentre.org.uk/cbc-community-grants](http://charlesboothcentre.org.uk/cbc-community-grants) where you will find more information, the Application Form and Guidance notes to help. Applications by emailed form only, T&Cs do of course apply. Applications open from 1-30 April 2021.

We understand that there was a **pop up refill event** at the centre on 21 March where people could buy things without packaging and put in their own containers. Someone called the police to the event, but they were happy that covid safety was being practiced. It is anticipated that similar events will run on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month between 10am and 1pm, and stall holders are asked to contact Fran Barney via facebook if they wish to take part. They will, however, need public liability insurance cover. **Next event is Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 10am**

The centre is hosting **Megastrikers** weekly sessions from 12 April– for boys and girls to improve their ball skills in a safe environment. Thursdays 10am-10.45.am for 18 months to 3 years. Thursday 5.30pm-6.30pm for 3-6 years. Termly bookings for 18 months through [www.megastrikers.com](http://www.megastrikers.com)

**Gracedieu Park Cricket Club** – The club have felt it necessary to withdraw one of their teams from the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League. The senior side will play in Division 7W. This only affects the Saturday league – the ladies cricket and juniors are unaffected. The seniors are looking for new players. Please contact Colin Pratt on 07770 691934 if you wish to help. The cricket club have had their pavilion repainted for the coming season's start.

### Chairs Report

**Letters received:** . None

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

**Promotion:** We have **670 twitter followers**, which is 5 more than last month, and **1,538 facebook followers**, which is 24 more than last month.

**Other:** Nita has submitted an application to the centre for £250 to go towards the provision of a new bench down Drury Lane – something metal and vandal proof, or at the very outside, more substantial.

### Finance Report

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>£2,176.59</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Donations	£20	Broadband	15.00
Publications		Pub Liability ins.	157.00
<b>total income to general fund</b>	£20		£172
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>2024.59</b>

It is our financial year end on 31 March, so the accounts will go to be checked.

### Web Report

Work is continuing to try to get our website back.

### Police Report

2 March - Thringstone Co-op have found a load of dumped frozen stuff behind the charity clothing bin on their car park - all stuff that was dated 2019 and comprised of a variety of things from peas through to chicken portions and burgers. If people are clearing their freezer, surely they don't need



to resort to fly tipping on the car park of our Co-op. Staff cleared up the area. Nice to know, however, that the person concerned won't eat something that will give them stomach issues.

### History report

- The staff at **The Meadows Care Home** asked for information on the original property, how it came to be built by Mary Booth, after she moved her convalescent home for girls with lung problems from Cross Lanes in 1914, right through to the last people to live there before it became derelict and was pulled down as they want to put together a time capsule as it is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the care home being built. They seemed particularly interested in who had died there, and said that many staff had seen the ghosts of female children in the care home. They also said that someone had told them that a girl had broken her neck in the grounds of the original property whilst out riding a horse. Nita could not substantiate this, and gave details of 2 people we knew to have died at The Meadows, neither of whom were children.

**The Meadows** property was designed by Mr T I McCarthy, local architect, who worked out of Central Chambers, Coalville. From 1922 until Spring 1926, a couple called Patrick and Annie Finn were on the electoral registers for St Andrew's Cottage Home, which was the name of the home set up by Mary Booth. By 1939 Wilfred and Mary Bruce were living there, and it was called The Meadows, and had living with them Mrs Mary Langley, Mrs Bruce's mother. In their garden area was a bungalow which was occupied by William and Mary Dumelow, who were the gardener and his wife who ended up living in East Sussex, where they died, he in 1975 and her in 1982. The Bruce family had their niece, Paula Rawcliffe, staying with them in the early 1940s. Paula's mother was Wilfred Bruce's older sister, Winifred. Paula had worked in the hotel industry in Shropshire, but moved back to Liverpool and wanted to escape possible bombing raids. She left Thringstone after a while when a relationship she'd had with a well known married man in the village became known. Returning to Liverpool, she met up with soldier Major Edward James Woodward, who was 15 years her senior and in the Pioneer Corps. They married at St Michael's parish church in Blundellsands near Liverpool in December 1943, despite family opposition, and she had twin sons, Paul and Bruce, on 9 November of the following year. She then discovered that her marriage to Edward was bigamous, that he had already got a wife and 2 other sons and had been married since 1923. Paula had been totally unaware of all this, as, before their marriage, he had shown her passport and army papers, both of which stated he was unmarried and he had always stayed with her and her mother, at her mother's house, when on leave and sent her money. He stated at his trial that he had no idea why he had married Paula, as he had 'a wife second to none' and wanted the matter 'cleared up so I can live with my wife again'. He was convicted of bigamy in June 1946 and sentenced to 12 months in prison. At his trial, Major Woodward said that he and his wife would adopt Paula's twin sons, but she refused this, despite saying that her life was ruined. Edward returned to his wife Florence when he came out of prison.

- On 15 March, we were approached by James White, Snr. Conservation Officer at NWLDC, regarding the prospect of Gracedieu Woodland becoming a heritage asset. He was particularly interested in the wooded walk that weaves from the Ashby Road lodge via Calvary Rock to Temple Hill. The wood does not appear on the Charnwood Forest enclosure award map but it appears fully formed on the 1882 Ordnance Survey map. He was also interested in the lime quarry. We explained where Gracedieu wood starts, where Cademan wood starts, about the stations of the cross, now lost in history, the link to the manor, and about the **lime quarry**, which was there at the same time as the priory, as the nuns used to use the lime on the farm land and also sold it. It became a commercial operation in 1793. We told him that in 1824 there was a lease drawn up for Gracedieu lime works between Thomas Miles who was the agent for de Lisle and Wm. Forster the agent for George Roland Beaumont of Coleorton. The rent was £100 p.a., and they charged 3s 3d for a wagon load of lime. The last mention of the lime quarry was in 1853. On 9 Oct 1874 in the Leicester Journal, Gracedieu lime works are mentioned. It says that the new railway line will give the opportunity for transporting valuable lime from Gracedieu lime quarries which will 'at once be reopened and extensively worked'. This leads us to think they had closed some time before.



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- David Rossell who used to live in Thringstone sent us a photo of his dad, Jack, on the fields at the back of what was then **Thringstone School**, now The Old School House, where he had a small holding. The photo also shows the temporary classroom that was at the back of the original building. David was in the temporary building at the school from 1942-45 before moving up to the main building. The field shown ran from the rear of Gladstone Cottage in Main St up to Bob's Closs and belonged to the Rose and Crown. He told us that the school did a small extension in the early 1950s and until this was provided, most children went home for lunch. The toilets up until 1948 were pan type and new toilets were installed in 1948
- **The gamekeeper** for Hathern, Shepshed and Gracedieu in 1812 and 1814 was Francis Matson. This has been discovered from newspapers of the time. By 1822 the gamekeeper at Gracedieu was a Mr Jeffcoat, who was involved in an argument with Daniel Wilson of Gracedieu during which Mr Wilson was shot in the face, losing an eye. This may have been Richard Jeffcoat who was listed as a gamekeeper in 1849. However, James Lucas was employed in 1843, and part of 1847, followed by William Taylor in 1844, Robert Prime in 1845, and James Swass in 1847, plus Thomas Smedley who was employed from at least 1848 until 1857 by the Phillipps (de Lisle) family to look after Gracedieu as well as Garendon, Dishley, Thorpe Acre, Hathern, Shepshed, Knightthorpe and Merrill Grange.
- **May 1978** – a meeting was held to discuss forthcoming **Jubilee Celebrations**. To this end, **Thringstone Action Group** was formed, with a view to reviving the close knit, caring community which was evident in former years. Jerry Robert, chairman of the group, said 'Our aim is to involve the people of Thringstone in all kinds of ways, acting as good neighbours and joining in projects and events which the group hope to organise. Thringstone is a growing village, and we feel there is a tendency now for people to segregate into isolated groups'. One of the ideas was to form a drop in centre for the elderly. Another was transporting elderly people to doctors' surgeries and collecting their prescriptions. 'Thringstone has no doctors' surgery or chemist and this can cause difficulties.' There was also an idea to start a youth club, and put on an annual gala or horticultural show. The officers were Jerry Roberts, chairman, Mr John Lloyd vice chair, Alan Lucas secretary, and Steve Watson treasurer. The group aimed to meet monthly at Thringstone Methodist Church Hall.
- **July 1978** – **Thringstone Youth Club** had really taken off following the meeting of the Thringstone Action Group (mentioned above) with 74 youngsters turning up to the first meeting. Steven Walker said he would take over the youth club leader's role, assisted by Mrs Milly White and Mrs Audrey Hudson. A programme of events had already been planned, to include a visit to Skegness. The young people said they wanted to feel part of the village and would like to offer to help the elderly. They would be helping in the village gala at the end of July and as a result of the Action Group's work, a Tuesday morning drop in for the elderly was now taking place at the community centre and newspapers, magazines and books were available to them to read. The day had been changed from a Monday. An appeal for more help at the centre was also made. £50 had been raised for the Action Group as a result of a market garden stall on The Green.
- **Dec 1978** – **Austin and Arthur Sykes** agreed to spend a week of their holidays painting the inside of Thringstone Methodist Chapel's church hall, which had been built about 3 years earlier following the sale of land, fund raising and a grant from the Coalville Methodist Circuit Advance fund. They were helped by Jack King and Alan Reid. The brothers both lived near each other on Main Street and were stalwarts of the chapel - Arthur was the chapel superintendant and Austin the chapel secretary.
- **1885** – Thringstone school records state that **Mrs Gough** went in to school to ask for her daughter Lily to come home. Miss Sarrison refused because the register had been taken. Mrs Gough then, apparently, became abusive, and took the child away anyway. We believe that Mrs Gough was Sarah, wife of Thomas who lived on Main Street and that Lily was born in 1878. Thomas Gough was a traveller and his wife helped with a stall selling items and they had another daughter called Bertha. Bertha married Walter Fisher and in 1892 Sarah, along with Lily, is living in Fobbing in Essex with the Fisher family. We know already that Walter and Bertha Fisher later came to live in



Thringstone again and kept The Fox, but Walter's business failed and he became bankrupt. Lily married John Mann, the wheelwright, in Thringstone in 1895 and died in 1908.

- **John Kirby** of Forest Edge, Gracedieu Road appears to have been a manager for Thringstone School from 1907. His signature has been found on paperwork sent from the school to the Education Committee, along with Daniel Amos Webb and Walter Lindley. Nita did a lot of work on this family tree in 2016, but now finds it also links in with the King family tree that she has been working on this year which links to the Toon family who kept the John Street shop. John Kirby was a miner born on 10 April 1866 and married Roseanna Knight in 1897. His grandparents were John Kirby and Anne Gough who married on 27 Dec 1826. His mother was Sarah Kirby and his father Jabez Hull, to whom his mother was never married, so occasionally he was known as John Hull. He had an older sister called Fanny and prior to marriage is recorded on census information as living in Brook Terrace. His mother, Sarah, about whom we have written before and had quite a history as she was taken to the local the lock up when only in her teens (see previous minutes) eventually married John Gilbert, but had several children out of wedlock. John Kirby himself had several children and died in 1947.
- **Amelia Squires** – In 1896, Amelia was readmitted to Thringstone school having had an absence of 9 months. There is no reason given for this that we can find, but this is one of the longest recorded absences, although many children were off school because of school fees from time to time and the inability of their parents to pay, plus various health outbreaks. Amelia was born in Barrow Upon Soar, but lived on Main Street, Thringstone and went on to marry Wm. White Jnr in 1903 and had 9 children. She died in 1963 in Ellistown where she had lived for some years.
- **Harriet and Willie Stanley** – These children, aged 10 and 8 respectively, are recorded in the log book for April 1896 as coming to school 'having not been in 1<sup>st</sup> standard'. This indicates a lack of previous education on a continuous basis. Harriet and Willie were the children of Edward and Mary Ann Stanley of Talbot Lane or Sandholes as it was also called, who appear to have had 13 children. On a couple of census returns, it says that Edward was born in China. His wife was 24 years his junior. Harriet went on to marry Henry Thomas Cliff in 1905 and by 1911, she and her husband were living with her parents in Mammoth Street, Coalville. Also at the same address were Harriet's brother, a sister and her own 4 children making 10 people in total in one house. Harriet died in 1914 aged 28. The 1911 census for Willie places him and his new wife of 6 months, 18 year old Ethel nee Buck, living in Stone Row, Coalville. Willie went off to WW1 having enlisted in Loughborough, and was killed on 11 Oct 1918 whilst serving with the Leicestershire Regiment in France. He was 30. He left a widow and 2 sons, William aged 7 and James Edward aged 4. His name is on the Coalville war memorial and his grave is at Brancourt Le Grand Military Cemetery in France. His name also appears on the plaque in Christ Church, Coalville and the one in the reception at the council offices in Coalville. Details of his regiment on the date of his death are quite comprehensively recorded in the regiment's war diaries.
- **Imogen Booth** - We have discovered that in 1907 and 1908, Imogen Booth, daughter of Charles Booth, hired a room at Thringstone School on Wednesday nights for some considerable time for singing lessons on behalf of the Parish Council. Her invoice covered both years and started on 23 October 1907 and ran through to April 1908. It is not clear who she taught, or whether she charged, but the invoice came to 15 shillings. Imogen's sister Antonia also had a good voice and for a while sang in the first Bach Choir in London and tutored her own choir later in life. Antonia was also a very gifted pianist taught by Sir Donald Tovey who was a very successful composer, conductor, pianist and music educationalist. Antonia also tutored her brothers and sisters in the piano
- **Mary Booth** – Mary Booth seems to have become a manager at Thringstone School, and we have discovered entries in both 1919 and 1936 where she went into the school, instead of the vicar, and signed the log book and checked records.

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