



# The Friends of Thringstone



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

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**Twitter address: [@Thringstone2](https://twitter.com/Thringstone2)**

## **BULLETIN FOR JUNE 2021**

**AGM** – Under normal circumstances we would have a meeting at this point, where we would vote in the committee for the coming year. However, due to the covid situation, and the lack of physical meetings, this has not been possible. The committee for 2021/22 will be:

Chairman: Nita Pearson	Secretary: Nita Pearson
Vice Chair: Geoff Wilson	Treasurer: Geoff Wilson
History: Ann Petty	Environment: Bill Enser
Publications: Janet Stevenson	Membership Secretary: Sue Rowbottom
Events Assist: Kathy Mardon	Thringstone Creates: Sarah Baxter
Admin Assist: Vacant	

**End of year accounts etc.** See finance report below.

**Chairman's report** – Nita has provided a chairman's report which is attached.

### **News.**

**Monthly litter pick total** - **164** against **148 bags** for the same month last year. We are continuing to have one volunteer who concentrates on regularly litter picking in, and removing items from, the woodland, although he was away for 3 weeks this month. We are keeping the landowners aware of our work there.

Since we believe that we have been litter picking longer than any other local litter picking group in Leicestershire, Nita has nominated the group for the **Leicestershire Live Environmental Award for 2021**. We probably won't win anything, but Nita felt that the work of our group of litter pickers should be at least put forward to a bigger audience than just Thringstone.

**Drury Lane** - We were successful in securing a **grant from Charles Booth Centre** for the memorial bench to be replaced down Drury Lane, next to the Co-op. Having spoken to NWLDC and discussed our requirements with them, an eco rest bench has been ordered and will be supplied and fitted for us, at an extra cost, and the old bench taken away. The new bench is made out of recycled materials, which fits in with our group's ethos, and is weather and vandal resistant. We were advised that on 16 May that an older aged man took away some of the **aquilegia plants** from Drury Lane. We put out on facebook that this was not in order, and got several people offering to give us plants. We also heard from Sue Colledge from Whitwick Florists, who offered us some plants, which were collected and put into the area. Many thanks to Sue. We also removed several **nettle plants** in the planting down by the church after receiving a complaint about these being capable of hurting infants passing in pushchairs and weeding is continuing.

**The Green** – our gardening team have been putting some bedding plants in our planting. Many thanks to them for their hard work.



## The Friends of Thringstone

**Future meetings** – we have spoken to the people who usually attend our meetings and many are still unhappy with the prospect of coming to an indoor meeting at the centre on the first Thursday in July at 6.45pm, which would be the first available date after the 21 June proposed reopening of venues, a scenario of which we have informed the centre management. We were wondering whether people would like to meet in an outside area, subject to the weather, and may offer this as an alternative in the short term through the summer months. If anybody has any particular views, please let us know.

**Rev. Brian Matthews** – Rev Matthews was for many years vicar at St Andrew's, and retired to Devon. We were told mid May that he had died, and asked to post something on our social media pages. We also shared this with St Andrew's page. Many people subsequently posted wonderful memories about Brian, and we received this, from Peggy Round's daughter, Carolyn Trussell, with further information from her sister in law. 'We are overwhelmed by the lovely responses from everybody; it means so much! Brian loved being in Devon and in true character never stopped being the wonderful caring man we all knew. I remember my mum and Brian often talking about you all. I recognise so many of your names from the posts you have put. This is just a thought - if anybody wants to make a donation in memory of Brian, it would be cheques to Sid Valley Mission Community sent to c/o Potburys Funeral Services, 111 High Street Sidmouth EX10 8LB or go on line to [www.potburys-funerals.co.uk](http://www.potburys-funerals.co.uk). The funeral service was a lovely tribute to Brian and the wonderful response from the people of Thringstone was highlighted during the service, and very much appreciated by the family. The photograph of Brian in front of St Andrew's Church was on the front cover of the order of service. Brian was truly a much loved gentleman and will be greatly missed.. Love to you all and thank you so much for your thoughts and words'.

**New publication?** In 2014, Ann and Nita spent an age compiling details for a book that was to be published as part of a NWL initiative relating to **men with a Thringstone connection who died in WW1**. Each book was to be linked with another area, and Thringstone was linked with Coalville. Every book got published, except ours, because Coalville researchers were unable to finish their research within the given time frame, probably because they concentrated their efforts on everybody on the town's war memorial. Nita has spent many hours updating information we have on soldiers with Thringstone connections who died in WW1. Much has been found, including birthdates and all the information we found, including some photos, is on computer and in hard copies for exhibitions, but we feel this should be published. Is the membership generally in favour of this? The booklet we would be able to produce would be black and white, around 50 pages plus cover, at a cost to print of around £150 for 100 copies.

**St Andrew's church** - The first service back in church will be the 6th of June at 10:30am. It will be an open church style service with no hymns, in line with current guidance. Places are limited to 15 at the moment whilst the church works out a safe capacity. To reserve a place please contact Geoff Pinnington on 810655. The Methodist Chapel continues to have monthly services.

**Thringstone Members Club** is having a summer fayre on 31 July from 11am-3pm. All welcome.

**Melrose Road play area** – For some time a railing had been missing from the fencing around the play area, but someone complained to Nita that a child got through the gap and ran off. Nita reported the missing strut to the council who, within days, welded in another. This lasted less than a week before this was also removed, so Nita told the council again and now a wooden board has been put in place where the hole was.

**Centre news:** May Chadwick, the Management Assistant, is leaving and whilst the centre is very sorry to see her go, it gives a great opportunity for someone else to help make a real difference. Looking to work in the local Community and join a vibrant team? Enjoy working with people, earning a wage but with the added opportunity to do some volunteering and feel passionate about where you live? The centre is recruiting. Please contact them if you are interested on 222337 or go to their website <https://www.charlesboothcentre.org.uk/volunteer> Don't be put off by the title, as this is a paid position.



The centre is willing to promote anything Thringstone related, and have set up the following page on their website. [Community News | CBC \(charlesboothcentre.org.uk\)](http://charlesboothcentre.org.uk) If anybody wants to promote anything, please let them know.

Royal British Legion cabinet of war honours is being moved from the old reception area to the original entrance, and is going on the wall there. The RBL are said to be delighted to be pride of place.

We understand that 2 ladies from Thringstone have been put forward to join the ranks of the trustees at the centre, which means that there would be 4 female trustees and 5 male.

**The pre-school** is looking to appoint a full time level 3 or above Nursery Nurse to join their friendly, successful Pre-school team. They are also looking for bank staff to cover holidays and staff absences. Flexible working hours are available. For further details, please contact the pre-school direct, or write to them at Charles Booth Centre.

**Yoga flow classes** have now started on Tuesdays between 6pm and 7pm. Pre-booking is essential on 07800 636429.

**Emily's mum's club Tea and Tots**– Every Thursday from 10.15am until 12.15pm, this club is anything you want it to be for mothers and is £2. There will be tea, coffee and cakes available and those that come along will feel part of something supportive, or it could be just somewhere different to go. Many young mothers feel quite isolated and the group seeks to help mums relax and make new friends. Babies welcome.

### **Chairs Report**

**Letters received:** . Letters including membership monies.

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

**Promotion:** We have **677 twitter followers**, which is 3 more than last month, and **1,579 facebook followers**, which is 29 more than last month.

**Other:** Welcome to our new members Nigel and James Dickinson, Robert and Karen Henderson, Trish Scullin and Lisa Collins.

### **Finance Report**

Thank you to everybody who got in touch about paying their membership monies by bank transfer. This is much appreciated. These amounts will be shown in the finance report once they appear on the bank statement which, until our request for online banking is approved, comes monthly.

Thanks also to those who have put money through the door or paid in cash in some other way. There are several people who have yet to renew their membership, and they will be contacted shortly.

**The accounts for our last financial year** have now been examined. We received the following from the examiner for which we are grateful: 'I have completed my review of the 2020/21 accounts for Friends of Thringstone. Everything was spot on and easy to follow. I have no concerns, nor any suggestion for improvements. It was almost a pleasure as it took 30 minutes from start to finish'. We would like to thank Tony Newton for his work on this.

We received £6 this month for a pubs in Thringstone booklet which was sold to the George and Dragon.

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>£2,023.59</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Membership	£388	Broadband	15.00
Publications	£6		
Donations	£82		
<b>total income to</b>	<b>£476</b>		<b>£15</b>



# The Friends of Thringstone

general fund
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Total general fund at month end	2484.59
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## Web Report

Work is continuing to try to get our website back.

## Police Report

Nita received the Neighbourhood Watch Report for April and May in which details of the car thefts reported in last month's bulletin in Gee Lane on 21 April and Melrose Road on 24 April were the only things mentioned. Nothing else we knew about appeared.

16 May - There was an incident of Anti Social Behaviour on Lbro Road

22 May - There was an incident with a dog getting out through an open gate at a property and attacking other dogs, and its owner, on the corner of Melrose Road and Lbro Road

The new **Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner** is Rupert Matthews.

## History report

- Nita was approached by a drama tutor and author for help providing photographs from the 1890s/1900s of Thringstone mining families, but was unable to find any, probably because mining families in Thringstone at that time did not have access to photography studios. Nita was also approached by someone from English Heritage to ask, amongst other things, if we have any plans for more blue plaques in the village. The answer was no.
- **Woodside estate** – We were asked if we had any photos of Thringstone's Woodside Estate when first built, or of the area prior to it being there. We referred the person to the MACE film <https://www.macearchive.org/films/midlands-news-07041965-new-housing> which is a 35 second, silent, black and white film taken by ATV on 7 April 1965 when the estate first opened and was completely open plan. This was posted on our facebook and twitter pages, and also on the two Coalville history sites on facebook, and proved very interesting to people. We also posted a 10 minute film of a parade in Coalville in 1932 from MACE on the latter two sites, which also proved interesting to folk. There is also a film available to view online of **Mrs Walker's dogs** (from the garage on the A512) taken in August 1957 <https://www.macearchive.org/films/midlands-news-00081957-st-bernard-dogs-thringstone-leicestershire>
- Following on from last month's information on **James Horton Leeson** of the **George and Dragon**, we now have a photograph of him, and also more information. James was born in Worthington in 1837 to Joseph Leeson and Sarah. He was one of several siblings and whilst he was baptised with the middle name Orton. This should have been Horton, and comes from his father's mother's maiden name. Research has shown that his father, Joseph Leeson, died of inflammation of the lungs on 14 November 1846 at Griffydam, a year after the couple had another child called Horton Leeson, who was baptised in Worthington in 1845, died aged 4 in 1849 and was buried at the Methodist Churchyard in Griffydam. Joseph was also buried at the Methodist Churchyard in Griffydam close to the grave of his eldest son, Thomas, who had died aged 6 in 1840 and upon her death in 1889, Sarah was also buried there. James, with middle name given as Horton with an 'h', married Catherine nee Cotton on 26 July 1857 in Kegworth. His signature shows him signing as James Horton Leeson. The couple went back to Griffydam to Brand Hill and James was a collier, moving to Osgathorpe by 1871 and then back to Griffydam by 1881. He took over running the George and Dragon in 1886 but may not have stopped there for long. With his large family of around 11 children, 4 sons and 7 daughters, the couple moved on to run The Engine at Peggs Green and on the 1891 census, he is listed as licensed victualler and coal miner, so he obviously kept his mining going and his wife ran the pub, as was quite common at that time. Catherine died in 1898 and James went on to run the Red Lion at Peggs Green with his daughter where he is shown on the 1901 census. He was in court in November 1906 relating to £50 given to his daughters following the sale of cattle in 1904. He was hard up and had wanted the money back, but did not succeed. He said that when he left The Red Lion, he had to go to the workhouse, as



## The Friends of Thringstone

money was short and did not wish to go back, but 'the old woman' – his second wife, Mary Jane nee Hill, the widow Swanwick and previously landlady of The Griffin Inn in Griffydam, to whom he had been married in 1902, was urging him to get the money back. He said that before he married her he had been quite comfortable, but things had changed. In 1905, his Mary Jane took him to court for cruelty, but it transpired that this was not the case, and it was thrown out. By 1911 Mr Leeson was living with his daughter Sarah, now Mrs Roadley, who kept a grocery shop in Russell Street, Loughborough, where he died in 1918. This information has been shared with members of the Roadley family who provided us with the photograph mentioned above.

- **George and Dragon** – April 1909 the transfer is mentioned of the pub from **John Shepherd** to Fred Brown. We thought Fred had only been there from 1911, but now know otherwise. We have never known much about John Shepherd, but now find that he is really John Shephard although in many newspaper reports he is down as Sheppard and other spellings. Our research has shown that John was born in 1853 in Markfield, one of 8 children of agricultural labourer Henry Shephard and his wife Mary. In 1861 he is with his father (widowed) and 3 siblings at The Green, Markfield. By 1871 he was living in Old Lane in Swannington, at the home of people called Heales, which should be Eales. He was a colliery labourer. He married Betsy nee Eales at St George's, Swannington on 3 October 1871, and he was unable to sign his name on the marriage certificate which probably contributes to the various spellings of his name. He was 20 and she 22. By 1881, still a colliery labourer, the couple are living at Hugglescote Lane, Donington le Heath. By Nov 1886, he was the publican at The Engine at Hugglescote and by 1891 was the landlord of Leicester Hotel in Coalville. He appears to have been there from at least April 1891 until November 1894 when he moved to Snibstone New Inn. The 1891 census just says publican of London Road. He was still at Snibstone New Inn in 1896 when there was a court case involving his wife and a cork puller, and in Sept. 1898 when there was another court case in which he was involved. He is not listed in the 1899 trace directories as a publican in Coalville. By 1901, the couple are at Oxford Cottage, London Road, Coalville and he is listed as retired publican, and there are notices in local newspapers about land owned by Mr Sheppard being sold. His retirement seems to have been short lived. Sometime before May 1908, he moved to the George and Dragon, and newspapers report that he witnessed an accident then. By August 1909, when he was in court again, was keeping a pub in Osgathorpe, but we don't know which. He had been driving a cart whilst intoxicated having been to the Market Bosworth show, and around 9.30pm on 5 August had hit 3 cyclists whilst coming through the Market Place in Coalville. One of the bikes was smashed. He was said to have lived in the neighbourhood for 40 years and was highly respected. He was fined a guinea with 8 shillings and 6 pence costs or 21 days. By 1911, Betsy Shephard is living at The Limes, Coalville Lane, Ravenstone, whilst John is landlord of the Corporation Arms Hotel, New Street, Burton on Trent with his nieces, Mary and Kate Ash, helping him run the business. He was listed there in the town directory for 1912, but had left by Dec 1912. We think he may have died at the LRI in May 1925 and was buried in Coalville and there is a John Sheppard living in Margaret Street from 1921 until 1924 on the electoral registers. Betsy had died on 21 Sept 1921 in Gutteridge Street, Coalville. She was buried at the church at Snibston and left £2748 10s 6d. Neither of her executors were her husband and one appears to be her brother, Charles. This information has been shared with Coalville Historical Group, along with other information found whilst researching information.
- We have found out some more information on **Percy Holland** who kept the **George and Dragon** in the 1930s and then moved to keep The Queen's Head on Thornborough Road where he stayed until at least 1943. We believe he may have been born in Nottingham. He appears to have married Kate Brooks from Burton on Trent in Nottingham on 18 March 1917 at St James'. His occupation at that time was a rifleman, so he obviously served in WW1, and his address was Alfreton Road, Nottingham. There is someone of that name on the Alfreton Road electoral registers at no. 360 with wife called Kate up to and including 1931. The couple had a son, John Henry Holland, who was born on 22 June 1920 in Radford, Nottingham. He was a railway clerk. He went off from the Queen's Head on Thornborough Road to serve in the Navy in WW2 and was killed on



## The Friends of Thringstone

10 August 1943. He was an able seaman serving on HMS Hornet and died of head injuries after an accidental explosion in Lowestoft, and is buried in Whitwick cemetery. We don't think the couple had other children. The information on John Henry has been shared with Leics. County Council's war memorial project. They had no information on him other than his burial details and the fact that he is listed on Coalville's war memorial and on the plaque in Christchurch, Coalville. This information has been shared with Coalville Heritage Society.

- **Jan 1822** – various newspapers were reporting on the need for more than one church for Whitwick, Thringstone and Swannington, there just being the church in Whitwick at that time. The populations for these villages were 1004, 1181 and 541 respectively. Thringstone was said to be 'burdened by a population of frame work knitters' whilst Swannington was 'impoverished by the heavy demands of colliers'. By 1922, the population of Thringstone was 1447.
- **1884** – In March, the organ at St Andrew's church was decorated. On 9 July, a chimney at the vicarage was damaged by lightning. On 31 October **Joseph Henry Henson**, aged 15, son of James Henson and Emily nee Lager of Gracedieu Road farmhouse, was killed at an accident at Whitwick colliery. Joseph was a horse driver and was crushed between loaded tubs and the roof of the roadway. His inquest, held at The Hare and Hounds in Whitwick, heard that George Toon, colliery deputy, saw Joe's horse, a very quiet and slow animal, standing alone, and went to find Joe. He found him with his chin resting on coal and his head pinned against the roof. The height to the middle of the road to the roof was about 5 ft. Joe had previously stopped twice because his lamp kept going out. It was pointed out that there was a stone by the door near where the body was found, which was sticking out and preventing the door from closing properly. The inquest asked for the projecting stone to be removed and death was recorded as accidental.
- **1885 – Elizabeth Toone** aged 13 years, daughter to Joseph and Charlotte nee Hagger, of Main Street, was killed in an accident with a pony. An inquest held at The Rose and Crown heard that Elizabeth had been in charge of a pony and coal cart and a boy called Samuel Clarke came up to the pony, and tried to get it to move forward by talking to it. Elizabeth told Samuel to go away and Elizabeth left the pony and went down hill to some houses a short distance away. Samuel went up to the pony again, and Elizabeth shouted to him to leave the pony alone but he kept hold of the bridle and lead the horse a few yards before running away. Elizabeth returned, took hold of the bridle, and partly turned the pony around when the reins dropped, the pony became frightened and got its legs in the reins. Elizabeth kept hold of the bridle until the pony bolted forward and knocked her down. The pony fell to its knees, got up and continued to run away. The wheel of the coal cart ran over Elizabeth's face as she lay at the kerbside and broke her neck. A verdict of accidental death was returned.
- **John Kirby, grocer** – The Coalville Times of 29 March 1907 tells of an accident to John Kirby and his wife. John kept the grocery shop now known as **The Blue House** on The Green. They were travelling home in a cart between Thornborough and New Swannington when the horse shied at a handcart containing toy balloons. Mr and Mrs Kirby were thrown out by got away with little injury. The horse was caught, but the trap collided with another vehicle owned by Mr Albert Gough of Redhills and was smashed. Several valuable paintings were also damaged.
- **July 1905** – Mrs Booth and Lady Beaumont, respectively president and secretary of the NSPCC held a garden party at Gracedieu Manor. Many of the 'leading residents of the neighbourhood' were present and 'the smart dresses of the ladies with pretty parasols dotted about on the fresh greensward, with the wood in its full verdure, formed a pleasing background from the sloping lawn in front of the manor'. Mr and the Misses Towle were there for Thringstone.
- **1907 school report** – The report into the scripture examinations held, which covered a 6 month period, gave great credit to Mr Boulter and Miss Lee. 'The tone is admirable, and the teaching thoughtful. Some very good papers were written by the upper group (Mr Boulter's classes) and the progress made is remarkable'. The infants' group taught by Miss Lee was also very satisfactory.

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