



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 2021

News.

Monthly litter pick total - 123 against **103 bags** for the same month last year.
NWLDC's regular 6 week **litter pick of the A42** started on 11 September.

Leicestershire Live Environmental Heroes Award 2021 went to **FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE.**

Thank you to everybody who, over the years since we started in 2005, has helped us with our environmental projects. Our first one was clearing and planting Drury Lane, the lane by the side of Thringstone Co-op. 5 other planting projects followed, including planting on The Green and down by church jitty. We've also litter picked with scouts, guides, school kids, businesses and on our own, and even, way back when at a time they were considered odd, offered a smart meter loan scheme. Thanks to everybody who has helped us achieve this award. Thanks also to the support we have received from our council, councillors and civic dignitaries. SO PROUD of our group.

Leicestershire Community Champions Awards 2021 – This awards system returns for 2021 and Nita has completed a nomination for our group under Community Organisations. If anybody wishes to see the wording for the nomination, please contact Nita direct. The results will be announced on 18 November.

Neighbour of the Year Awards 2021 – Nita has completed a nomination for our group under Community of the year, subsection Environmental. These awards are sponsored by Co-operative Insurance and Neighbourhood Watch and are open to nominations through to 26 October.

Planting – On 5 September, we discovered that the planting down Brook Lane next to Ruby's had, for the 3rd time, been uprooted and thrown in the brook. This was replanted again, but was again pulled up on 8 September. Creeping plants have now been put in that area, some of which have been trampled by children. We understand the same culprits threw a basket full of apples left outside someone's house in Gracedieu Road into the brook, and at other times have thrown recycling in there from people's boxes left out for emptying by NWLDC. Nita went to speak face to face with all people on Gracedieu Road who contacted us with their concerns. The police also did door to door work in Gracedieu Road to talk to local residents about what they had seen, intend to talk to students at school, and may have a beat surgery.

A living Christmas tree in a pot, left and not removed by the recycling crew, was rescued and will be planted somewhere at some stage.

Bernard has been dealing with weeds down the church jitty and Millhouse.

St Andrew's – We were gifted a lot of stones and have covered the graves down the centre path. Another lady has helped with shale for other graves, making 9 covered down that path and 2 further back. We also covered the Towle grave at the front, and the lady with the shale did the



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other next to it. Nita continues to weed the graveyard on a regular basis and others have offered help. There is still a lot to do, and if anybody wishes to help, please contact Nita direct. There will be the benefice **harvest festival service** at 10.30am on 17 Oct at St George's, Swannington.

Old School House – Congratulations to Jodie Robertson who won an Individual Service Award in the recent June Faulkner Awards 2021.

Hare and Hounds – Every Friday between 10.30am and 3.30pm there will be a stall on the carpark from Quackers Bakery selling home made brownies and cakes. Go along and see what is on offer.

Co-op – now offers deliveries in Thringstone, as well as click and collect. More details are available in store.

Thringstone Primary – Birch House won the recent house cup and Slow Leopards won the reading trophy and Teddy bear. The youngsters have recommenced their swimming activities and also took part in a taster football session run by NWL Schools' Partnership.

Members Club events - Line dance classes have started up on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm. Tel 07914 358050 for further details. There is also a class on Mondays between 12.30pm and 2pm. £5 per session.

2 October – **Race night** for Ace Community Theatre. £5 for adults and £2 for children. This includes light buffet. There will also be a raffle. Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/ace

18 Oct – **Auditions** for January's Murder Mystery. 16s and over 7pm start.

Roots community singers are now holding their practices at the members club. If anybody is interested in joining the group, please contact them on 07981 356388.

14 Nov - **Christmas Fayre** – 11-3pm. Raffle, tombola, lots of stalls and Santa.

5 Dec - **Thringstone's Got Talent** this year also takes place at Thringstone Members Club between 2pm and 5pm. There will be 4 age categories with winners getting a goodie hamper. The overall winner will also get £50 in cash. Email

acecommunitytheatre@gmail.com for entrance form or further details. Tickets are £5 and can be purchased through www.ticketsource.co.uk/ace

11 Dec – **Bingo** at 7pm. All welcome.

7 and 8 January 2022 – **Murder Mystery** starting at 7pm. Tickets only will include a meal. More details later

Thringstone's Friday Art Group, which for over 20 years has been at Charles Booth centre, is relocating to Swannington Village Hall. In addition to their Friday afternoon class, they will still be holding their art exhibitions but from the new venue.

Thringstone Miners Welfare – Quiz night with Fish and Chip supper organised by NWL Conservative Association. Friday 15 Oct at 7.30. Teams of 4 people. Cost £12 per person. Contact Leon Spence for further details via his facebook page.

Centre news: The charity Friday coffee mornings are back from 8 October. That date will be to raise money for NHS charities, 12 Nov Royal British Legion, 10 Dec Marlene Reid Centre Food Bank, 14 Jan Help The Homeless Leicester and 11 Feb Rainbows

9 Oct - **Fashion Show** –at 2.30pm. Sizes 6 – 30 Tickets £5 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads Some clothing 75% off.

28 Nov – Thringstone Panto and Drama Soc's Christmas Fayre. 11am-3pm. Santa from 2pm.

Bingo started back on 16 September at 7pm and is now on every 3rd Thursday of the month. **Open Mike night** started back on 10 September and is now on every 2nd Friday of the month from 7.30pm – the October date is 8th. **Quiz night** starts back at 6.30pm on 28 October and every last Thursday from then onwards. £10 per team. Bar open.

Film club will start back in January 2022. **Book club** – every last Wednesday of the month in the house lounge. 7pm-9pm. £2.50. Bring along some biscuits and your favourite



books! More info from allenpurplepaula@aol.com **Wednesday Night Supper Club** - starts 3 November, with a theme of food from the 70s, and then the 1st Wednesday night each month from 7pm. £2 per person. The rules are simple: A different food theme each month, bring a dish to share (don't forget the serving spoon!), bring your own plate & fork (not to share!). Then try, taste, mingle, make new friends, share a drink with old ones (bar open), have a good laugh and share recipe ideas and your love of food!

Everyone is welcome, no need to book. Just £2 per person

Thringstone WI is now meeting at the centre. Their first meeting was 21 September and they will meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month starting at 7.30pm. If anybody is interested in joining the local WI, please contact Helen on 458872.

Welcome to Claire who is the new assistant in the office.

Future plans – the centre is working with Marlene Reid centre on providing activities for youngsters, as well as considering kick boxing, and meditation/yoga sessions for adults shortly. Other ideas are in the pipeline. More information to come in the press/social media.

Chairs Report

Survey – completed VCSE 2021 survey asking about our group following pandemic issues.

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

Promotion: We have **688 twitter followers**, which is 2 more than last month, and **1,645 facebook followers**, which is 25 more than last month.

Details of our August litter pick totals in CV Times of 3 September and we were mentioned in the 10 Sept article on the death of Pam Clayfield.

Other: Welcome to our new member Christine Dowell.

Lots of flytipping reported this month.

£240 was raised at Pam Clayfield's funeral, split between Wildlife Trust and Alzheimers' Society.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2689.64		
Income		Expenditure	
Membership	£4	Broadband	15.00
Donation	£96		
total income to general fund	£100		£15
		Total general fund at month end	2774.64

Web Report

All the minutes are now on site, but work is still underway to get the new website fully populated

Police Report

We were told on 5 September that some children had been flashed at by a **man in the woods** near to the play area on Melrose Road and that the police had been informed.

Rubbish was set alight at the side of the **cricket club pavilion** on 4 September. Fortunately only a small area at the side of the pavilion was scorched. Metal items were dumped on the cricket pitch on 10 Sept



A quad bike was dumped in the woods during the weekend of 4 Sept (and removed), a bag of clothing left for a charity collection removed and scattered throughout the woodland, and some of this then attached to a metal pole and set alight, leaving burnt items going down the sustrans path.

Car on Melrose Road hit by another which left the scene over the weekend of 11/12 September. Driver tracked with the help of CCTV and social media. **Another car** on Melrose Road corner had its windows smashed on 28 Sept.

Broken glass was scattered all over the playground at **Thringstone Primary** over the weekend of 11/12 September. Police informed.

Police car and van on **Dalkeith Walk** car park early morning on 18 Sept. Vehicle removal company took away a white VW. Previous evening there was an altercation between 2 men and a woman on the corner of Melrose Road in which glass was broken in the roadway.

History report

- **The field behind Fox Inn** – In the 1800s, this field was used for pigeon racing, and was known as Blue Mills. This field was built on when the Glebe Road estate came about.
- **Jan 1935** – A series of misfortunes had hit young married couple. **Horace Twigger** and his wife Annie (nee Siddon) had been affected when zinc and woodwork had been torn from the roof of a barn on Henson's Lane in a gale a week earlier, and crashed into the chimney stack of their cottage. The chimney stack shattered, and ripped off tiles and made a large hole in the roof. Whilst the plaster of the bedroom ceiling was not penetrated, rubble fell down the chimney and into the fireplace in the living room, throwing coals onto the floor and the room was set on fire. Mr Twigger was at the pit at work, and Mrs Twigger was out with her baby, also called Horace. A youth had run up to Mrs Twigger and told her about the chimney and she ran back to the house. On entering the property she found the living room full of smoke and the table, tablecloth and rug were on fire but with assistance, she managed to put the fire out. To make matters worse, Mr Twigger had suffered a broken nose requiring hospital treatment the same day, after a pit prop fell on him. Both Mrs Twigger and her 14 month old baby had recently been ill and the roof of the cottage in which Mrs Twigger lived was badly damaged. **Mrs Merriman**, who lived in the adjoining cottage, was hit by some falling bricks whilst pegging her washing out in the garden, but escaped serious injury. The electoral registers show that Henry Everard Merriman and his wife Annie Elizabeth lived in Henson's Lane in the 1930s, and we believe the families lived in the two cottages at the entrance to Henson's Lane near the barn on the corner of Main Street. These cottages were pulled down in the early 1950s. Henry was the son of Everard Griffin Merriman and married Annie Elizabeth Twynning from Talbot House Farm at St Andrew's on 15 May 1915. We believe that Horace Twigger died aged 29 in 1937 and that Annie remarried to George A Bunce in 1939 and moved to Hugglescote.
- **March 1935 – Thringstone's Silver Jubilee Committee** was set up with Rev. Shrewsbury presiding over a large gathering. There was a lot of discussion as to whether all children should be given silver jubilee mugs and a tea, or whether it should be confined to children up to the age of 14 years. It was decided that all children should get mugs, but only those on the school register be invited for tea. A member of the audience asked whether a day old child would get a mug or not, and the committee voted that the term children covered from 1 day old. Mr Keen, Headmaster at Thringstone school, said there were 220 children on the school register and it was decided to have a public collection to raise funds, rather than putting money on the rates. Mr John Mee Kidger, chairman of the parish council, was elected as chairman of the committee, Rev Shrewsbury was appointed as secretary to the new group with Mr Keen as treasurer. Finance, sports and catering committee members were also elected. Come May 1935, the committee had decided to give out 3 prizes for the best decorated properties in the village. 2 judges have been appointed. It was also proposed to have a comic band to lead the children to and from the sports pitches and 30 OAPs were to receive groceries. Funds totalled £25 13s 6d of which £22 had already been spent.
- **April 1935 – Rev Shrewsbury** was ordered to rest for 2 months by his doctor. He had been taken ill on Easter Sunday. The vestry committee met in his absence and John Henry Webb was



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re-elected as people's warden with Walter Watts as vicar's warden. John Biddle presided at the PCC meeting and said it was unlikely that the vicar would be well enough to continue his duties for some time. Mr Biddle and George Fortnam of Brooks Lane were re-elected as rural representatives to the rural deaconal conference, and Mr Biddle to the diocesan conference. The church council was also elected.

- **May 1935 – Thringstone Jubilee Committee's treasurer** announced that there was a balance of £3 7 shillings earmarked for sports events. It was agreed to hold another sports day for village children on the recreation ground on Whit Saturday.
- **Dec 1935 – Miss Gwendolyne Jones**, teacher at Thringstone School, was married to Winstone Rees, sports master at Fronwen School in Wales. We had no previous knowledge of Miss Jones.
- **Jan 1936 - The panto at the centre** was Cinderella, and parts were taken by Denis Betts, Geoffrey Fortnum, Lois Franklin, Joan Whitmill, Ronald Roome, Muriel Massey, Pearl Pollard, William Franklin, Joan Brotherhood, Peggy Brotherhood, Joan Domoney, Joyce Walker and Henry Betts. Herbert Shelton was at the piano, and the dances were arranged by Miss Josie Westgate.
- **1936 – Village children went on a trip to London** to see a play written by Mr T M Booth, which two years earlier, was given in the centre. Mr and Mrs Whitmill were the organisers of this outing, and the children were entertained in the grill room at St Pancras Hotel by Col T M Booth and Mr and Mrs Whitmill then conducted the children on a sight-seeing tour of London
- **March 1937 – PC Townley** left Thringstone as police constable to move to Oadby, after serving the village for 4 and a half years to be replaced by PC Leverett.
- **March 1937 – Thringstone Coronation Committee** announced their ambitious plans for May next year. A carnival queen would lead a procession with a band, and the whole village would be decorated. After a united service on The Green, the coronation service in London would be heard through loud speakers. There would be sports and entertainment in the afternoon, and children and OAPs will be provided by tea at the community centre where a dance would be held in the evening. To supplement the grant being made by Coalville UDC, all households in the village were contributing 1 penny each. Secretary of the Coronation Committee was Arthur Whitmill, superintendant at the centre.
- **April 1937 –** In addition to being presented with an engraved vase by members of Thringstone House Club, **Mr and Mrs Whitmill**, who were leaving for Coventry, were presented with a purse and treasury notes by William Towle, the oldest member of the club. 63 people had subscribed to the gift. At the presentation, Henry Robinson, as MC, said that the Whitmills had rendered good service and wished them well in their future.
- **June 1937 – Thringstone Coronation Committee** held a meeting chaired by Councillor Alfred A Allgood of 9 Market Place, Whitwick, at which a financial statement showed that the total received for the village festivities inc. the Coalville UDC grant of a 1 penny rate, equalled £109 leaving a balance in hand of £10 5 shillings after payments had been made. The committee were deciding what to do with this excess money.
- **Dec 1937 –** News was received of the death of **Flight Lieutenant Patrick Arthur Booth** who was killed at Kalafrana in Malta when his plane, of which he was the pilot, fouled a cable between two radio masts, and dived into the sea. A passenger in the plane was also killed. Mr Booth was the grandson of Charles and Mary Booth, and son of Col. Tom Booth of Thringstone, local magistrate, who also had a house in Hove. He was 30 years old.
- **April 1938 – John Gee**, unemployed miner, was in court charged with stealing 45 feet of floor boarding on 1 April. He pleaded guilty saying he had never stolen anything before but had been ill for 15 years and was about to go into hospital again. PC Leverett said that he saw Gee taking the boards away from council houses being built in the village. He was put on probation for 12 months and fined £1 10 shillings and 6 pence.
- **July 1938 –** A meeting was held at Thringstone House in connection with **air raid precautions**. Cllr. E Aris, chairman of the council's ARP Committee, presided and area organizer, J McDougall (who was connected to the Whitwick British Legion) gave an address. Most of those present, including many woman, volunteered to help.



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- **Aug 1938** – A carnival was held in Mr Hextall's field to raise money for **Whitwick and Thringstone Nursing Association**. Arranged by council tenants, over 80 children came along for tea, sports and games. The carnival queen, Miss M Brooks, was crowned by Mrs Violet Unwin of Main Street, and children dressed in costumes paraded around the village. Thanks were given to local shopkeepers for apples, oranges and ices.
- **1939 onwards** – School records show that **Joyce Ella Stevens** was working at Thringstone school in 1939/40. It is unclear when she started or left, but this lady, born on 22 Sept 1920, lived in 1939 at Highlands, Manor Road, Desford with her mother Charlotte, wife of Thomas Morris Stevens, grandmother Jessie Wesley (from Canada) and 2 aunts. It would seem Jessie Cameron had married Walter Wesley, from Leicester, in Canada in 1887, and that the Wesley family lived in Manitoba, Canada, for several years, moving to Nashville, Tennessee in 1914. Joyce's mother was born in Manitoba. Joyce married Derrick J R Bott in Leicester in 1955 and seems to have died in Leicester in 2003.
- **March 1940** – Before amalgamating with the Coalville Soldiers Comforts Fund, the **Thringstone Committee** (which did not include the Fox Inn who wished to stand alone) had raised £30 for men from Thringstone serving in the forces, and before Christmas every Thringstone man had been sent 2 shillings and 6 pence. A comforts parcel to the value of 10 shillings had subsequently been sent to all serving men and another gift of 2 shillings and 6 pence.
- **Evacuees in WW2** – From previous research, we knew about **Barbara and Margaret Henstock**, and interviewed Barbara some time back and recorded her memories. We also know that 2 members of the **Booth family** came to stop at the community centre, and again have researched this in the past, along with **Paula Rawcliffe** from Liverpool who stopped with her uncle, Mr Bruce at The Meadows. From information we saw some years back in school registers, we also believe that **Colin Ockleton** b 27 Jan 1933 and **Bernard Ockleton** b 10 July 1934 stopped with Mr and Mrs Limb at 139 Talbot Street. In the same registers, **David Cope** is recorded as stopping with Mrs Hatton, who we think may have been Zoe Hatton from Loughborough Road. His dob is 26 Sept 1933. **Eileen Dale** was also an evacuee. She seems to have been born in Birmingham on 8 September 1933, and was here in 1941, as she won a prize at a village event. We put a post out on facebook for details of other evacuees but received nothing Thringstone related. Pam Spence told us that around 1941, her relative Arthur Domoney went up to see what was happening with the arrival of children from Birmingham. His parents had a bungalow on Lbro Rd at the time, and apparently, all the kids were taken with the exception of one lad called **John Smith** from Birmingham, so Arthur felt sorry for him and brought him back. He didn't stop long, because he accidentally hit Pam on the head with a hoe whilst tidying the strawberry patch in the garden. Pam was taken up to Dr Prys Jones, and had to go several times afterwards because it was a really bad cut. John Smith was born about 1934, and he came here with his father, who got a job working in Coalville with another member of Pam's family. Pam says that the Limbs of Talbot Street also had an evacuee called **Lorna** with whom she went to school. Joseph and Emma Burton of Brook Lane hosted a lad called **Alan** who stayed in the village after the war. Ada and George West of 24 Main Street hosted a girl called Margaret (obviously not Henstock as we know she lived with the Gee family). We also believe that Mrs Brotherhood, of Lbro Road, hosted **Colin Bevin**. David Rossell used to live at 21 Main Street and had an evacuee called **Bobby Tranter** staying with them from Birmingham. From time to time, his mother would visit. When it came time for him to go home, they had to take him to the village school where an old type Midland Red Bus was ready to transport him and others back to Birmingham. David's sister Jean tried to put David on the bus too, saying he was an evacuee, which caused a row with his mother! Bobby Tranter appears to have been born on 3 April 1934.

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