



# The Friends of Thringstone



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

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## **BULLETIN FOR NOVEMBER 2021**

### **News.**

**Monthly litter pick total – 113** against **108 bags** for the same month last year. 6 of us litter picked this month.

After 6 long weeks, the **NWLDC** team has finished their annual litter pick of the A42. They've been out every weekend in all weathers to complete this gruelling task.

- ✔ Over 54 tonnes of litter collected
- ✔ 32km of road picked and swept by 8 members of staff
- ✔ Over 1000 black bags filled

There would be no need for this work if everyone took their litter home with them.

Junctions 11, 13 and 23a are really bad for fast food litter. You can help tackle this issue by reporting littering if you see it: [www.nwleics.gov.uk/litter](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/litter)

**Meetings** – Some members wanted to start meetings again, but having spoken to members of the committee and various other people, including the centre and a local doctor, it was decided against having meetings whilst covid cases continue to be high both nationally and locally. This will be looked at again in 2022.

**Leicestershire Community Champions Awards** – Friends of Thringstone has made the final of these awards in 2 categories – Environmental Group of the year and Community Organisation of the year. The awards will be announced at an event in Leicester on 18 November. In the environmental section we are up against Leicestershire Litter Wombles and Leicester Community Benefit Society, and in the community section we are up against Lulu's Kitchen and Tiny Whiskers Rodent Rescue from Wigston. Two videos had to be presented to the organisers for the two separate awards and these will be seen by the judges along with the submission made originally and from that the winners chosen. Ann Petty and Caroline Townsend are going to represent us on the night.

**Neighbourhood Watch and Co-op Community of the year awards** – Nita was encouraged to put together a nomination for these national awards, which she had already done under the sub section environmental, but she has now put the group forward as an entity under good neighbours. If anybody wishes to see what was submitted, please contact Nita direct.

**New publication** – The WW1 publication *The Lost Men of WW1* is now available to purchase. Detailing the lives of the 27 men from Thringstone who are commemorated on the plaque within St Andrew's church, the book is available from us at £4 per copy. A copy has been given Thringstone Primary and one will be given to the local studies section at Coalville Library at some stage. A letter advertising the book for sale was printed in the Coalville Times of 15 October, and also several adverts were placed on social media.



## The Friends of Thringstone

**Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment** – We were advised that 3 areas of land are on this current assessment proposal -3.42 ha of land on Lilybank plus 0.70 on Frettsome's Field (also Lilybank), and 1.37 ha of land at the rear of Glebe Road. Having discussed the situation with our local councillor, an email was sent to the planning policy group at NWLDC expressing concern that a potential 115 houses could possibly be built on remaining green belt land in our village and asking to be kept informed of any progress.

**Thringstone Creates** – You may remember back in May of 2020 Thringstone Creates put on a craft and art project for families during lockdown to create something that represented their feelings on the pandemic at that time. Around 14 exceptionally brilliant items were given to Sarah who organised this, and put in a folder. We are now considering putting these into something more able to be displayed, and intend to try to find a venue in which to display the items. We have some very talented people out there!

**Ruby's** has once again scored a 5 in hygiene rating with NWLDC. This rating scheme came about in 2010, and Ruby's have always scored a full 5. Well done to them.

**Graffiti** - During the first weekend in October, local young people with spray cans decided to display their artwork on the cattle arch leading from the Bull's Head to the sustrans track. Photos were taken, and we were asked by someone to post these on facebook, but having done similar things before and been accused of giving the youngsters concerned more notoriety, this was not done, although the de Lisle estate office and police were told. We may at some time try to reduce the impact of this artwork with brushes and chemicals. If anybody fancies helping with this, please let Nita know.

**Planting** – The builders working on the new garage to the property by the side of **Drury Lane** threw a load of mortar into our planting. The person whose property this is was informed, and Bernard spoke to the builders concerned, and got them to remove what they could. One lump of mortar was on top of one of our bushes.

Bernard has been heavily cutting back the bushes down the **church jitty**, as there were concerns over their size. We reckon we need another 6 new shrubs to go down there now.

**Thringstone Members Club** – 14 Nov – Christmas Fayre between 11am and 3pm.

**Centre** – The **coffee morning** on 8 October raised £141 for NHS charities.

**Monthly quiz night** is back – first one was 28 October. Starts at 7.30pm with chip cobs at half time.

**New contemporary dance classes** started on Tuesday 26 October Parent & toddlers 9:30am, Over 50's 10:30am. For more information contact 07842896432

**Yoga Flow** starts this month – 3, 10 and 24 November 7.30pm-8.30pm. Register with [dp1205@gmail.com](mailto:dp1205@gmail.com) Special offer for 1<sup>st</sup> 2 lessons. Instructor is Dora Pratley.

3 Nov – launch of the new **supper club**. £2 per person. 7pm start. Theme is 70s food. Bring some food from that decade and share with friends old and new.

7 Nov – **Juke Joint**

12 Nov – **Charity coffee morning** from 10am for RBL.

12 Nov – **Open Mike** from 7pm.

28 Nov – **Christmas craft fayre** brought to you by Thringstone Panto and Drama Society between 11am and 3pm. Santa will be there at 2pm.

Jan 22 – 29 – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's** production of Mother Goose. This panto was last performed in 2000. Tickets £8 adults and £7 for children and OAPs are available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads)

### **Chairs Report**

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

**Promotion:** We have **687 twitter followers**, which is one less than last month, and **1,661 facebook followers**, which is 17 more than last month.

**Other:** Several reports of flytipping submitted to NWLDC.



We are sad to report the death of long time member, Keith Timson. Condolences go to his brothers, sisters and family.  
Welcome to new member Dot Wheatley.

### Finance Report

Janet sold 3 walks brochures to a lady as below and one of the new WW1 publications. Nita sold several WW1 booklets as did Ann.

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>£2774.64</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Publications	£57	Broadband	15.00
Donation	£1		
Membership	£4	Printing new publication	231.80
<b>total income to general fund</b>	£62		246.80
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>2589.84</b>

### Web Report

Work is still underway to get the new website fully populated

### Police Report

- We understand there has been some police activity at a flat on Dalkeith Walk.
- 21 Oct – 2 cars were involved in a collision on Talbot Lane at 8.30am. One person was said to be trapped in their car, but had released themselves before the fire services arrived.
- There continue to be motorbikes on the field at the back of the bowls club. Police aware.

PCSO Lynette Rose has given a talk to students at Thringstone Primary about anti social behaviour following the incidents with our planting. She is moving to work with youth officers in Coalville, and we will be getting another PCSO after 5 November.

### History report

- Thank you to Iris Watret who told us that her parents (the Fortnam family of John St) also hosted 2 **evacuees** from Birmingham during WW2. One of them was Leslie Herbert. This would probably be Leslie Harold Herbert who was born 22 May 1930. It would seem that he joined the navy when he was 18 and married twice. He died in 1990 in Birmingham. She remembers them standing in the garden watching the searchlights in the sky and also the air raid shelter on The Green.
- **May 1876** – A testimonial has been presented to **Mr H Seale** of Snibston Colliery in recognition of his voluntarily training of the choir at St Andrew's. The presentation was made at the National School and comprised a purse of £10 (which would be about £960 in today's money). Mr Seale has subsequently been appointed by the rural dean under commission of the bishop of the diocese to be a lay reader at St Andrew's and its parish, and to minister at Swannington School when requested to do so by the vicar of St George's.
- **Feb 1895** – A testimonial was held at the National School for **PC Thomas Potter** who was leaving the village after 4 years as constable to go to Woodhouse Eaves. The presentation was made by Rev Crane, Price Kidger, Samuel W Hallam, Daniel A Webb and Sam Towle. Police Sargeant Darby testified to the zeal with which PC Potter discharged his duty and the excellent character he showed. A collection had been organised by G Merriman and T Toon and a purse of £3 10 shillings and 6 pence was given to Mrs Potter (this would be about £415 in today's money). We believe PC Potter may have lived in Swannington, and Sargeant Darby lived in Whitwick.



## The Friends of Thringstone

- **April 1901** – A photograph in the Coalville Times shows ‘the new Coalville parliament’ – the councillors in charge of the area. Included in this is a photo of Dr Burkitt and also of Walter Lindley who, from 1904, was a manager at Thringstone School. These photos also include W. Sheffield, J Ford, J W Stableford, W B Beckworth, W Fellowes, B Drewett, J Taylor and R Blower and have gone into our archives.
- **1911 – Oliver Geary** of Swannington, a colliery winding engine driver, started his career in politics in this year, and was elected to Ashby Rural Council as it was at that time. Born on 29 May 1874, Oliver was councillor for Thringstone in 1936/7 and started his life as a Liberal supporter becoming councillor for Whitwick in 1943 when he was also chair of the whole council. He married Louisa (Louie) Wakefield in July 1898 and was a staunch supporter of Whitwick Baptist Church, where he was the Sunday school superintendent, organist and choirmaster. The couple had 2 children, Ida May and Clarice Gwendoline. When he died on 11 March 1955, he was living at 253 Church Lane, New Swannington. He is buried with Louie in Whitwick cemetery.
- **Aug 1919 – Forest Edge**, Gracedieu Road – Henry George William Howe of Thringstone was the respondent in a case brought about by John Kirby for an ejection order. Mr Howe was renting Forest Edge for 5 shillings and 6 pence a week, and had been in the house for around 9 years having previously lived at Rose Cottage on Gracedieu Road and before that at High Tor Farm on Abbey Road, Coalville. Forest Edge had formerly been owned by Mr Biddle, a baker and grocer, and had been bought by John Kirby in July. As the father of 9 children presently living in crowded accommodation, Mr Kirby wanted to live in Forest Edge himself. Mr Howe would be then given Mr Kirby’s home to rent. Mr Biddle told magistrates that Mr Kirby had lived in his house for 12 or 13 years and did not buy the other house on the agreement that Mr Howe left. A week’s notice had been served and rent had continued to be paid. It was agreed that it was a quarterly tenancy, and Mr Howe should be given 6 months’ notice.  
Mr Howe died on 23 Jan 1920 of heart disease whilst at work at Stablefords, where he was an assistant timekeeper. He was an interesting man, having been the local Conservative agent for a while, but he started life as a draper in Market Street, Ashby. At one time he was the honorary secretary of 21 associations, including Thringstone Pig Keepers’ Association. Mr Howe had 15 children, some of whom didn’t reach adulthood, and all his sons had 3 Christian names. In addition to his son George William Wavendon Howe who died in WW1, those who survived into adulthood were Henrietta Mary, Norah Caroline, Dorothy Eleanor, Gwendoline Hannah, John Oliver King, Henry Milton Foster, Rowena Harrietta and Arthur Lucas Nelson. The children who died were Charles Ernest Dring (died at 1 year 3 months), Emily Julia (died at 1 year), Ernest Alexander Herbert (died at 2 months), Henry George William (died at 8 days), Lancelot Charles Wavendon (died at 3 months) and Lionel Bernard Robinson (died at 18 days).
- **Nov 1919** – 130 former servicemen and their families were treated to a meal and concert at Thringstone House on their return from war. The menu comprised of roast beef, roast and boiled mutton, lamb, venison, pies, plum pudding, cheese and celery and ‘an abundance of beer for those that wanted it’ with minerals for the abstainers. Various dignitaries had been invited, some sent apologies, but Mary Booth and her son CSM Booth made an appearance. Major A T Sharp said that the number of men who went to war from Thringstone was extraordinary, and the village was proud of them. He spoke of the gallantry of the Leicestershire Regiment in the war and that their feat in crossing the canal should be recorded as one of the greatest feats of British arms. The toast, coupled with the names of **Corp. J Rennocks and Pt. Henry Robinson**, two military medallists, was drunk with enthusiasm. Corp. Rennocks recorded his thanks for the event and said he had enjoyed himself, and thanked the committee for organising the event. Pt. Robinson also expressed his thanks for the reception and said ‘he was full’. The white haired chairman, Mr Henry George William Howe (see above), spoke seriously about the number of men from the village who would not come back, which included his son, rifleman **George William Wavendon Howe** who had died on 23 March 1918. The vicar proposed a toast for fallen comrades and a minute’s silence was held. A toast was proposed by Mr Merriman for the ladies of the committee and Mr Howe said he hoped that a memorial cross would be erected on the village green as had been done in the village





## The Friends of Thringstone

of Twycross. Mr W Burton, Coalville comedian, then entertained the room with comedy and songs and was joined by A G Waterfield, L Gough, A Barlow and Master J Peace. Mr Ernest Watts was secretary of the event, and Mr J Smith treasurer.

- **Aug 1937** – Mr J King, the new superintendant at **Thringstone House Club**, was secretary for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual horticultural show at the clubhouse. Participants were down on the previous year and Col Tom Booth opened the event, with Mr Biddle, the president. Little is known about Mr J King, but it is believed his family did not settle in the village and he left after about 6 months to be succeeded by **Leonard Weston** in January 1938 who had to leave to serve in the forces. A photograph we have of him signed 'sincere wishes Len 1940' shows him as a lieutenant in the Royal Artillery. We wonder if this may be Leonard Weston born in Leicester on 28 June 1903, who married Florence Gray in 1929 and by 1939 had 5 children, including sons Leonard and Brian and was living at 58 The Newry. He had previously been a railway porter and died in Leicester in 1959 whilst living at the same address as in 1939, hence the query as to whether this is the same man.
- **Sept 1940** – Death aged 33 years at Leicester Royal Infirmary of **Alfred Berkin** (also recorded as Birkin) of 86 Loughborough Road. Alf was a foreman bricklayer with Moss and Sons in Coalville, but also a special constable and ARP warden. He never got to wear his uniform as a special constable as it came too late. He left behind wife Vera, to whom he was married in 1927, and sons Alfred Jnr. and Owen. At his funeral, the cortege was headed by a number of police and special constables and many Odd Fellows, as Mr Berkin was a member of that organisation. The Odd Fellows service was read at the graveside at St Andrew's. Alfred had an older brother, Samuel Thomas Berkin, known as Tom. He was in the Grenadier Guards and killed having been shot through the head during the battle of Hill 70 in France in WW1 on 29 July 1915. This was his first charge, as he had only been at the front for 3 months having, prior to enlistment, been stationed at Buckingham Palace. Prior to the war Samuel had been employed at Stablefords. At that time, the family were living at Ivyleigh Cottage, Swannington.
- **1940s** – There are mentions in school memories of **Miss Joan Page** at **Thringstone school**. She lived in Ibstock, and during the bad weather often found getting to school difficult especially if the buses didn't run. We believe she married George Patrick in 1944 and stayed on at Thringstone School. There is a mention of Mrs Patrick in 1946 along with the information that **Mrs Maud Aris**, wife of Ernest from Church Lane, Whitwick, was starting at the school in March 1946. She was still there at the end of the 1950s. Mrs Patrick appears to have died in March 2006. We asked for people's memories of the time on facebook, and got several things including 'there was a **Mrs Phyllis Smith** who taught with Mrs Aris in the reception classes then **Miss White, Viv Carey and Mr Sealey** was headmaster. Then **Don Hambleton**. I remember Miss White going home to the east coast one holiday to her parents and there was a big flood and she came back with a broken arm.' Another message we got was this: 'I went to Thringstone infants school in 1943 where the head mistress was Miss Palmer - she came from Swannington. I was in Miss Page's class and I can remember buying a tea service when she married. In the junior school the first class was Miss White from Loughborough, the next class was Mrs Smith who came to school on a bike from Osgathorpe. The head master was Mr Keen who came from the top of Hall Lane near the old railway crossing. If my memory serves me right he had a green painted car reg ABC 123 - then would be worth a lot. He retired in July 1949 I think.'
- **March 1942** – **Mrs Maud Shelton**, wife of John Shelton of 66 Loughborough Road, Thringstone took Mrs Constance Barbour, an evacuee from Lambeth, London, to court for assaulting a 9 year old child, an evacuee, in Mrs Shelton's charge. Mrs Barbour said that older children were always picking on her son, but would not admit to having had a boy up against a wall, shaking him, cutting his face and giving him a black eye. The boy concerned said he had not hit Mrs Barbour's son. Mrs Barbour said her life in Thringstone was terrible, and the family were utterly unhappy. She had sought help from the school, who said they could do nothing. The court ruled that Mrs Barbour should pay costs, but that the case should not really have been brought, and it was a shame that people could not live together in peace during this period of warfare.



## The Friends of Thringstone

- **May 1946** – Nos. 13-21 Lbro Road and 4 properties next to Star Beer House, known as **Star Row** were up for sale. These were tenanted properties, and there was an auction at the Rose and Crown. Unfortunately, the sales details do not say who owned the properties, but we have been told by David Rossell that the Waldram and Sykes families lived on Lbro Road, and Wilfred Sykes was in the Snibston band. In the Star Row were the Lillyman family and the White family, and Wesleyan chapel caretaker Mrs Bradley. At the Star itself was the Fortnam family who sold Beckworth's pop.
- **May 1946** - One hundredweight of bricks and tiles crashed into the roadway in Thringstone nearly hitting a local policeman after a house was hit by lightning and knocking out the electricity supply. The house in **Fox Terrace**, was occupied by Mrs Knock who was evacuated from London during the war.
- **Oct 1946** – Discussions were taking place about forming a Thringstone branch of the **Royal British Legion**, but interested parties were told to wait until the beginning of 1947 and to continue to support the branch at Whitwick. It is unclear when the Whitwick branch started, although there is an indication that it was formed in 1921 just after the national British Legion was started. It was certainly in place in **1932** when its president was Captain John Stenson Turner. Other committee members in 1932 were vice presidents Dr Prys Jones, Col H German and Capt. Guy German and councillor E Aris. Chairman was George Waterfield, vice chairman Mr F W West, treasurer and secretary Mr A W Hanson and committee Messrs Webster, J W Ward, S E Perry, R P Rice, A Fellows, W H Eames, W West, J A Armstrong, Frank Vennart, E Aris, P B Danvers and T Hopkinson. **In 1938** the Whitwick British Legion helped with ARP work under the guidance of Mr J McDougall. George Waterfield was a prominent figure with that group, and was at one time secretary, and is noted as such in 1951 before becoming president. George died in 1955 and much was made of his involvement with the British Legion.
- **Aug 1947** – **Former US GI Freeman Arnold Gowers**, a cotton farmer from Shelby, Vincent, in Alabama, came back to England with his Coalville born wife (formerly Vera Stephenson of Broughton Street, Coalville) and baby daughter, Glenis, born in 1945, and started working in Thringstone on a building site. He had been promised work before returning to England. The couple appreciated that they were living in comparative luxury in the US and would come to England and be faced with food shortages and rationing, but had plans to stay indefinitely, despite Mrs Gowers noticing how things had changed in the 17 months she had been away. Mr Gowers said he would retain his US citizenship. Freeman appears to have died in 1995 in the Coalville area and Vera in 1991. Glenis married John Winterton in 1964.

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