



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR DECEMBER 2021

News.

Monthly litter pick total –111 against 110 bags for the same month last year

Leicestershire Community Champions Awards — we reached the final 3 in the environmental and community sections of these awards, and Ann and Caroline went along to Leicester to the awards on 18 November to find that we **won the Community Organisation Award 2021**. We are delighted to have been acknowledged in these awards, which are all about providing inspiration and stepping up to challenges, and included the work we have done since our start in 2005. When you look back, as you have to do when putting together a submission like this, you realise all the things we have done aren't just history research and litter picking, but a whole raft of other things – I remember way back in time when we organised a collection for Eddie Morris, who had lost his flat in Shrewsbury Walk (and his dog) after a fire. We arranged collection points all over Whitwick and Thringstone for both money and goods and ended up kitting out a new flat for him with furniture and also providing him with clothing and necessities, even down to a comb and a toothbrush. We also helped various local people and the Methodist Church when there was flooding in the area, and I well remember going round with the North Leicestershire Flood Relief Organiser dishing out cleaning products to people on Fardale and Gracedieu Road. Thank you to everybody who has helped us over the years. This is what community is all about. Details of the awards were shared with local media, to include Coalville Nub News, and with local radio, as a result of which Nita and Ann were interviewed by Summaya Mughal of Radio Leicester on 23rd November for a piece which went out on 24th.

Return of a parish council for Thringstone? - We were told that Michael Wyatt was putting a motion forward to NWLDC for the creation of a town council for Coalville, and a parish council for Thringstone, as he has concerns that in a couple of years, the whole of our area will be run by a unitary authority, and both the town and our village will be left behind because we have no local representation. In years gone by, Thringstone did have its own parish council, but not in the lifetime of most in the village now as it finished in 1936. As we understand it, in order to get a parish council through the system, there needs to be either a petition with signatures of 10% of the population put forward, or the council can choose to carry one out themselves. Nita spoke to Michael Wyatt about this, and he says he has spoken to several local residents, and feels that it is something the village and its residents should support. We will have to wait and see what transpires.

Hello Heritage 2022 – Following the receipt of an evaluation on the whole NWLDC scheme for 2021, Thringstone Creates have said that they would like to put together a unique tapestry/collage for the village, which could then be displayed in September 2022. We are hoping that this project should take inspiration from the surrounding landscape and our heritage, and aim to produce a



piece of community artwork, depicting key events in the history of Thringstone. Choose from Grace Dieu Priory, Charnwood Forest Railway, Route 52 cycleway, Bauble industry, Charles Booth, St Andrews church, football clubs, cricket, bowling team, water-mill, drama groups, rangers club, Ruby's...or you choose. Topics already taken - scouts, woodlands, primary school and viaduct. Schools, groups and other community organisations are invited to choose from these events in Thringstone's history and create a section of the artwork. Each section needs to be 50cm high so that it can be joined with other pieces to make a continuous mural. The length of the piece can vary, but we would recommend no more than 100cm. The style and materials used would be entirely up to you, so there is no need to consider embroidery, knitting or crochet cutting and stitching fabric to be unacceptable. We would, however, strongly encourage the use of previously used fabrics, such as old, unusable clothing, as much as possible, so that the final piece is an example of upcycling. They will then be joined together and displayed in the village for everybody to enjoy during the Hello Heritage event. If you are interested in taking part, please go to the facebook page for Thringstone Creates to register. This project will also be publicised on facebook and other social media platforms. The group are also considering doing a poppy collage for St Andrew's for Remembrance Day 2022, and intend to run this past the committee there in due course.

Concerns over Gracedieu Brook - Severn Trent Water has accepted an invitation from Whitwick Parish Council to attend a public meeting to respond to concerns voiced by residents at the two last meetings. This will be held at Park Hall (in Whitwick Park) on Thursday 16 December 2021 at 7 pm. The Environment Agency has also been asked to attend (or they may provide information on how to report problems). If you have information or photographs of specific sewage discharge or water level problems by your home, please provide details to the Community Office in Whitwick so that areas can be accurately identified before the meeting. You can email photos/videos or simply sketch a quick map and put it through the Parish Council office's letter box.

Gracedieu Manor – We understand that the sale of the manor has fallen through. It is now being advertised as for sale for £3.5m.

Thringstone Members Club - now have soft play equipment. This will be hired out for birthday parties. The club is also looking at starting up a baby and toddler morning. Party packages are available, Soft Play, Disco with games included, room decor and food packages available with the added option of individual lunch boxes to save on food waste. Direct message via facebook to the club with any queries

Thringstone's Got Talent Cancelled - Unfortunately due to the rise in Coronavirus cases in Leicestershire and the threat of a new variant, this event was postponed. A new date will be announced on facebook in due course. Ace Community Theatre do however have online raffles running everyday up until Christmas, lots of amazing prizes to be won. Just search (ACE RAFFLES AND EVENTS) on Facebook. They also have a Christmas Bingo night which will be going ahead (fingers crossed) at the Thringstone Members Club in the big hall on the 11th December 2021. There are limiting the tickets to 40 people and it's first come first served, so please message the page if you would like more information for that event.

Old School House – Thanks to David Wilson Homes and The Curve for giving the staff 20 tickets to see The Chorus Line in Leicester on 21 December in recognition of the work they have done and care given to their residents.

Thringstone Primary – Starting on 19 November, the school took on the subject of anti bullying, by wearing odd socks in school and at assemblies. The school children are now able to become members of the Everyone Active scheme at the leisure centre, following a visit to school by one of the leisure centre team. The children have been selling items made in their Christmas crafts club.

St Andrew's - The church has been awarded a Bronze Eco Award in recognition of their efforts in three areas of looking after the earth – worship and teaching, management of buildings and land and community and global engagement lifestyle.

Charles Booth Pre-School raised £70 for Children in Need on 19 November by making and selling their own cakes and biscuits. Well done to them.



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Planting – Bernard has bought several new shrubs for the church jetty which have been put in to see if they last without being stolen.... Mike has cut and pruned back quite vigorously some of the shrubs down Drury Lane to let in more light and help the smaller shrubs, bulbs and flowers etc. next spring and summer as well as making the whole lane brighter and lighter. He intends to try to do some more later on in December and try and clear the beds back to the old stone wall on the left hand side. He will tidy up the plot on The Green when the bedding plants finish. They have certainly been good value this year. We thank these gents for their help with our gardening. Lots of people have said it all looks better this year than ever before!

3 Dec – Christmas Quiz from Thringstone Panto and Drama Society at Charles Booth Centre. Tickets £1 per person with max. 6 to a team. Price for the best Christmas Jumper!

5 Dec – **Carols** at the Priory.

Dec 5 and 12 - Santa Specials – Hermitage Recreation Ground, Whitwick –from 11am until 3pm. Visit Santa in his grotto and ride in the train £6. Tickets can be booked in advance or on the door, and refreshments will be available. For more information contact 07922 692076

6 Dec – Miners Welfare – Bingo. Always the first Monday in the month. Doors open 7.30pm. Starts 8pm. Bring and buy raffle also.

10 Dec – Calling Time and Friends – a folk celebration of the season in song, verse and poetry at Charles Booth Centre, with members of Roots Community Choir. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £15 to include supper. For tickets or enquiries contact <https://folkonthefarm.co.uk/contact/>

11 Dec – Thringstone Members Club bingo. Starts at 7.30pm. Adults £12 children £5 which includes prize and cash bingo. Tickets from Scott on 07495 763972. Tickets must be purchased before the event.

12 Dec – Santa Fun Run from Charles Booth Centre. Starts at 10am. £5 entry or family ticket for £15. Please dress in red and white. You will receive a free Santa hat, and there will be a fire engine at the event for the kids. The bar will be open and there will be bacon cobs available.

There is a health form to complete initially so go to charlesboothcentre.org.uk/fun-run-health-form

17 Dec – Carols from St Andrew’s, walking up to The Green, then down to Miners Welfare where there will be a Santa grotto and refreshments available. Meet at the church at 6.30pm.

17 Dec – U3A singing carols at Charles Booth Centre. 6.45pm start. Bar open.

Centre – Tea and Tots sessions at the centre ended in November due to lack of numbers. £187 was collected for the RBL at the November coffee morning, and £70 was raised in crochet poppy sales.

Every Monday **starting on 10** Jan from 10.30am – 12.30am – bingo, quizzes and a chance to chat. £1 a session. Come and go as you please. All welcome.

Chairs Report

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

Promotion: We have **692 twitter followers**, which is 5 more than last month, and **1,678 facebook followers**, which is 17 more than last month. Details of our success in the Environmental Awards we announced last month was mentioned in the Community Voice of November 2021 and the Coalville Times of 26 November contained a press release on the tapestry project.

Other: Several reports of flytipping submitted to NWLDC.

Welcome to new members Claire Jose and Andy Butler

Finance Report

Nita sold another WW1 booklet



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Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2589.84		
Income		Expenditure	
Publications	£4	Broadband	20.00
Donation	£1	Shrubs	86.92
Memberships	£8		
total income to general fund	£13		106.92
		Total general fund at month end	2495.92

Web Report

Work is still underway to get the new website fully populated and to put in a new email address to contact the webmaster.

Police Report

Having asked our new PCSO for a police report, as we have done for the last 16 years, we got this response – ‘I have been advised that all data we give out will be on the Police.uk site or visit our own website and go to your local beat team page, and it will show figures/details’. We were also advised to consider looking at streetcheck.co.uk. The problem with that is that it is months out of date with statistics being shown at present for September. These were:

- 3 instances of anti-social behaviour near Badgerscroft
- 3 instances of criminal damage near Henson’s Lane
- 1 theft near Clover Place
- 2 public order offences near Henson’s Lane
- 1 theft near Henson’s Lane
- 7 instances of violence near Badgerscroft
- 2 other crimes near Loughborough Road

In the meantime, Nita got this message from one of our members on 10 November: ‘My hubby has just returned from the garage after having a knocking sound in the car checked. It turns out that the wheel nuts (except the locking nuts) on ALL 4 wheels have been deliberately loosened, shearing off 2 nuts after the car was driven. Clearly this is very concerning, it's a miracle we weren't in a serious accident. We haven't upset anyone recently to our knowledge. Mechanic suggested possibly kids but whoever is responsible he is sure it's deliberate. Police are being informed. This is most likely to have happened on Melrose Road where the car is parked up at night as Glenfield staff car park has CCTV. We suggest local car drivers check wheel nuts and take the car straight to a garage if they hear any knocking sounds. If anyone has seen anything suspicious, please let the police know’.

- Family on Melrose Road had items stolen from their garden around 7am on 3 November and asked locals with CCTV to give them the registration number of a van seen at the time.
- Resident on Main Street had 3 tyres and a wing mirror damaged. Tyres had been let down. Police informed.
- Lady on Dalkeith Walk had her wing mirror pulled off and smashed.
- 13 Nov – Both wooden gates to and signage around Gracedieu Priory were smashed up. Lots of beer and cider cans also thrown around the area. In addition, around 21 fence posts will need to be replaced, and all the rails in between these posts. The fence on the A512 side is by far the worst, where a long stretch of fence has been wrecked. Additionally, on the railway embankment side, about 3-4 rails have been broken. A meeting was held with members of the Gracedieu group and the police, who have agreed to patrol the area on a Saturday night to see if they can see people drinking there. The damaged

fencing/gates are to be removed so they are not set alight, and the barbed wire fencing removed.

- 23 Nov – lady passing by a flat on Loughborough Road had her dog attacked by resident's dog as she passed. Police informed and council aware.
- 28 Nov – car parked on Melrose Road was hit by a light blue car which did not stop. One side panel dented, and car badly scratched. Owner asking for CCTV footage locally.

History report

Nita had contact this month from the great great granddaughter of Elizabeth Chandos Von Notten Pole relating to something in our minutes from 2019. The information we had discovered was new information to the lady concerned, and she wanted to know the source of the information, which was then provided. Nita also had contact from the great granddaughter of John Squires regarding her article in Community Voice, and requesting further information, which was supplied, to include details on the effects given to his family after his death. All the information given on John Squires' wife was new to the family. Nita is also trying to contact family members of Brian Mee and Horace Pickering to return things to them currently being stored at Thringstone Methodists so that they aren't lost when the buildings are emptied. The tapestry which hung in the hall and which contained lots of signatures of people from the 1970s has already found a new home.

- **Oct 1901** – Mr Holland, agent for the brewery Alton and Co of Derby, put in an application and plans for proposed additions to **Three Tuns**. The plans were approved.
- **July 1907 – Thringstone Women's Club** had their annual meeting at The Three Tuns. 40 members were present in the club room, and all the catering was done by landlady Mrs Wilson with help from Mrs Bowley and Miss Bombroff. Mr S Gee, Secretary, showed the balance sheet at £20 7s less expenses, leaving a balance of £9 11s. Each member would get a dividend of 6s 4d. There was a card on the table to Mrs Sarah Fortnam (nee Gee) of Main Street, a long-standing member who had recently died aged 70 years. She had been the wife of Charles Reeves Fortnam who died in 1898. There was tea, songs and dancing which carried on until closing time. The club was reformed, and a good number joined. We can currently find no further media records on the group other than some members from the Thringstone group went to a local meeting in 1912.
- **March 1918 – Fred Hutchinson** aged 38 years and **George Bailey** also aged 38 years were in court and fined £2 and remanded for an escort as absentees under the reserved forces act. Both were colliers.
- **June 1918** - Rev Shrewsbury conducted a memorial service at St Andrew's for **Reggie Dring**, recently killed on 29 April in the war. He had been a chorister at the church.
- **June 1918** – A committee was formed to run a **Pig Club** in the village. This relates to the mention in the last bulletin under Forest Edge and Aug 1919, where Mr Howe was mentioned as having been chairman of the Thringstone Pig Keeper's Association. It had obviously only formed for a year at that point.
- **Sept 1918** - Arrested in Thringstone as being absent from the **Machine Gun Corps** during a time of war were Privates Herbert Hall and John William Roxby. They were returned to the army. Neither were Thringstone men.
- **May 1920** - Thomas Hallam a 46 year old miner from Coalville was summoned by his wife, **Rebecca Hallam** nee Hibbert of Thringstone, who applied for a separation order. Mrs Hallam and her daughter gave evidence and Mr Hallam said he did not wish to return to his wife. He said that there had been considerable domestic strife, and a son had knocked his teeth out, and his wife, amongst other things, had said she had hoped he would be brought home 'stiff' from the colliery. He was ordered to pay 35 shillings a week in maintenance to his wife and children, and 14 shillings and 6 pence court costs. In 1911, the couple had been living in Henson's Row, Brook Lane, Thringstone and had 6 children. The 1939 register shows Rebecca at **Forest View** (the blue house on The Green), and we now realise we have recorded other information about Rebecca, in the past, which included an eviction order against her in 1927 at which time she was living in a one



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up one down tenement in the garden of Forest View with 4 daughters and 3 granddaughters. We have also already noted that Rebecca's daughter Edna and her husband took over Forest View after Rebecca died. Other details discovered include Rebecca being in court over an incident of violent conduct, along with her son Thomas Hallam Jnr. and 3 others on 12 Sept 1920. The court heard that there was a fight around 3pm outside the Wesleyan Chapel in Main Street whilst a service was being conducted. The men were being urged on by the women present. Everybody was fined 10 shillings. It is also worthwhile noting that Thomas had hit both his mother and sister Catherine in 1927 and was reported as often drunk. In August 1926, along with 5 other people, Rebecca was in court for trying to stop William Lacey of Thringstone from gaining entry to his work at Whitwick Pit. They were all fined £2 and given 2 months in which to pay. Thomas Hallam Jnr, also known as Thomas Hibbert, died whilst out cycling with others in May 1934 in Kegworth of a heart attack. His father died in 1947 and Rebecca in 1948. We have found photographs of Thomas and Rebecca's daughter Florence Amelia, and of their son Leonard, who were all born in Thringstone, plus a photo of Florence's illegitimate daughter Bella, also born in Thringstone in 1922 who is with her family at Forest View on the 1939 register along with another child called Ada Annie born in 1923, whose parentage is unclear. These photos are now in our archives.

- **1930s** – From at least 1932, Holy Cross headmaster, **Michael Downes**, was a councillor for Thringstone. Born in December 1877 in Clare, Ireland, the 3rd son of farmer Thomas Downes, Mr Downes, who also spoke Gaelic, retired from Holy Cross in 1946 at which time his address was given as The Rockies, Whitwick. He had trained at De La Salle Training College in Waterford, Ireland, and became assistant master at Holy Cross in 1904, becoming head in 1907. In 1913, Mr Downes was elected secretary of a newly formed football club known as Holy Cross FC. A former member of the Holy Cross Amateur Dramatic Society, Mr Downes was vice chair of the Council in Coalville in 1933 and then became chair. It is currently unclear when his council work started. We do know that in 1935 he was chair of the Coalville Social Services Centre, and that he became a magistrate and JP. He married Ann Farrell in 1909 and by 1911 was living at Tara House, Church Lane, Whitwick. He later moved to 183 Loughborough Road, Whitwick. He had 2 daughters, Mona Kathleen Mary and Mary Antonia and a son Thomas Michael Patrick. Mr Downes died in Wimbledon on 7 May 1963. Another Thringstone Councillor of the time was **Alfred Amsley Allgood**, a painter and decorator of 9 Market Street, Whitwick, who was councillor for the village along with Michael Downes and Oliver Geary. Mr Allgood was born on 28 August 1891 and was also a manager of Broomleys school. He retired from politics in 1940 to serve in WW2, where he was a quartermaster's Sargeant, serving some time in Gibraltar. His place was taken by W Ward, a Whitwick builder. Mr Allgood was an independent candidate, and in 1937 received 746 votes when standing for Thringstone with S Higgins (Labour). Mr Allgood married Benedicta L Dranfield in Belper in 1913 and had a son called Robert Henry Dranfield Allgood, followed by two daughters, Mary and Joyce. Mr Allgood died on 8 July 1972.

Next bulletin will be in January. Have a safe and happy time over the festive period. Please try to keep safe