



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY 2022

News.

We celebrate our 17th birthday on 23 February – the date of our first meeting being 23 Feb 2005. Those with email will see a list of some of the things we have done in that time. Those without email can get to see that list if they ring Nita.

Monthly litter pick total – 93 bags against **92 bags** for the same month last year. When the Thringstone Members Club cut back the shrubs on their carpark, quite a lot of litter was revealed. Sean Hughes has joined our litter picking team as part of his DoE awards work. He has been given a litter pick stick, hi vis vest and bags and will litter pick once a week in the woodland.

Gardening – Mike has spent time doing a winter tidy up along and down Drury Lane and The Green - final leaf clear, hoeing, weeding and raking the beds etc. Bulbs are coming up a bit early where shrubs were cut back last year. A lady who is not one of our members has said she will help doing a bit of gardening later in the year on an occasional basis. If anybody else wants to help with gardening, please let us know.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee - We have been talking to various people in the village, as well as to council folk, about plans for the forthcoming jubilee. **The centre** is organising an open day on 2 June from 12 noon with tables, cake competition, food, music etc., but there is also the covid situation to bear in mind. Nita suggested that there needed to be a living legacy, and a tree or tree planting scheme would be something to consider, and has been in contact with various people to see if this can be achieved, either within the curtilage of the closs or on The Green or both. The centre is looking for funding for a tree and maybe also a solar lamp on The Green. There is, of course, The Queen's Green Canopy scheme as well and it is possible that we might be able to get free trees from the Woodland Trust through this. If anybody has any ideas, please get in touch.

Nita has booked a 3m x 3m stall for **5 June at Coalville park** as part of the general Coalville celebrations. This is a joint stall with Friends of Gracedieu Priory and will allow that group to promote the priory and collect donations to keep it open, and also our group to sell publications.

Ruby's - Restaurant Guru have rated Ruby's as No.1 out of 53 fast food places in the Coalville area, based on customer reviews. Well done to them!

Thringstone Panto and Drama Society – their panto in January also raised money for 2 poorly children in the village as part of their charitable work. The group also hosted 27 carers and their children to attend a dress rehearsal of the panto before it went 'live'.

Thringstone Primary – We understand that Mrs Ella Roberts, head at the school, is retiring at the end of the school year. The current deputy, Cheryl Hammersley will be seconded to the role for one year. On 11 Jan, students from the school won a boccia tournament, which now means that they go through to another round at Loughborough in April.



The Friends of Thringstone

Thringstone Methodist Chapel – We understand that everything has now been taken out of the chapel, with the exception of the organ which is going to a school in Northampton. Other things have been claimed/given to folk and the pews are going to the chapel near St Joseph's Tea Rooms at Oaks in Charnwood. It is a private chapel used by people from St Joseph's.

Thringstone Members Club will be having an **Easter fayre** on **2 April** from 11am-3pm with various stalls etc. **9 April – Cash and prize bingo.** Eyes down at 7.30pm. Tickets £12 adults and £5 children. Free slice of cake included. **The Soul Club** is back again from 8pm on the 2nd Friday of every month.

Main Street hairdressers – Hair by Katie Attwood has now been replaced by Salon 20 run by a lady called Jess. The change-over happened the first week in January.

NWLDC – The current **CEO of the council**, Bev Smith, is leaving at the end of April after 6 years in post and going back to work in Wales. Bev has been very supportive of Friends of Thringstone in her time here, and will be missed. The **new leisure centre** opens on 14 Feb, ahead of schedule.

Hare and Hounds – the couple running the pub left on 26 January to go to another venture in Nottingham. The new tenants are Martin and Jill, and the pub reopened on 27 January.

Bauble deliveries – Thank you to those who offered to help with deliveries. The Bauble will need to be delivered in late April/early May. Going forward, **we are discontinuing these newsletters**. We have been given 4 half page slots in Community Voice per year. We will still write something to go on our website, and send it to the centre for the community section on their website but use Community Voice to make it easier all round. The magazine is delivered to the whole of Whitwick and Swannington so will also reach a wider audience.

Centre – FREE daytime yoga class began Thursday 13 January at 10.30am at the Charles Booth Centre! All you need is yourself and a mat. All levels welcome. This gentle flow, breathwork and meditation class will leave you feeling restored and refreshed. To reserve your spot, book online here - <https://www.theinnermovement.co.uk/booking.../breathe...>

The new Monday morning open group started on 10 January. Anybody can come along, play card or board games, have a natter and drinks. Cost is £1. There is also the regular monthly coffee morning for charity for people to attend. Numbers for the supper club have been very disappointing. Quiz nights are back the last Thursday of each month, as is the Sunday music events with Ann Duggan. Please contact the centre if you are interested in any of these events. The Sunday Morning markets were cancelled in January and February, and the next one will be Sunday 20th March at 10am. The centre may start putting banners up outside to advertise events such as this going forward, so those who don't do social media know what is happening. £40 was raised for Help the Homeless at a recent coffee morning.

The centre may be starting a knit and natter club shortly. Should this happen, it will be advertised on facebook and on posters outside the centre.

Nita is due to have a meeting with a member of the Sports Partnership team about improving the amount of physical activity opportunities for people in Thringstone. The centre has some money through a grant process to set up some sessions for people, which could also link with activities being set up by NWLDC on the field at the back of the bowling club. Other groups in the village are also involved. Further information will be given as things progress.

Chairs Report

Letters received: None

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

Promotion: We have **691 twitter followers**, which is one less than last month, and **1,705 facebook followers**, which is 16 more than last month. Several press releases on our litter picking activities were sent out and we know Coalville Nub News put something onto their facebook pages and that it was in the Coalville Times of 8 Jan. Community Voice magazine intend to print it in their March edition.

Other: A lady whose Thringstone family tree was researched by Nita last year bought her a copy of **Victorian Aspirations**, written by the granddaughter of Charles and Mary Booth as a thank you for her work.

Welcome to new member Maureen Henson.

Finance Report

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2416.45		
Income		Expenditure	
Publications		Broadband	20.00
Donation			
Memberships	£4		
total income to general fund	£4		
		Total general fund at month end	2400.45

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.

Incident Report

- Young men continue to gather in Gracedieu Woods in an evening, appearing on Springfield around 3am with their ghetto blasters going. There have also been reports of quad bikes in the woods again.
- 3 Jan - Lady who was out with her husband for a walk in Gracedieu woods fell in the mud and broke her ankle. Ambulance called.
- Police called to Dalkeith Walk to arrest man who had broken his probation order.
- 11 Jan – council enforcement officers took away a large fly tip on Talbot Lane and had sufficient evidence to take matters further towards a prosecution.
- 19 Jan – van broken into on Millhouse Estate, and a range of power tools taken.
- 25 Jan – 2 men with torches on a driveway on Lbro Rd at 4am. Saw the video door bell and left. CCTV picked them up on film. Police aware. At 5.27 a similar sort of scenario happened on Springfield, but the culprits didn't go onto the drive, just shone their torch down the drive from the pavement.

History report

- We now have a photo of **Nurse Alice Concannon** who worked prior to the NHS being set up and was part of the Whitwick and Thringstone Nursing Association. David Rossell records her walking in the snow from Whitwick to Bauble Yard in Thringstone to deliver him 84 years ago. We also have photos of various members of **the Betts family**, and **Gordon Robinson**.
- Nita was approached by Howard Burton Jnr, son of Thringstone's **Howard Burton** born in 1912 at The Green about his family tree. The older Howard's sister, Nora, married Richard Love and they kept the Rose and Crown for a while from 1958.
Howard Snr's father was Joseph Burton who married Mary Jane Knapp. They had 12 children, of which only 5 became adults. Mary Jane nee Knapp died 1 hour after giving birth to her youngest daughter, also called Mary Jane, in 1923 of heart failure and exhaustion. She was buried on 14 October 1923 at St Andrew's The younger Mary Jane, of whom we have a photo, was sent to Dr Barnardo's, as the family couldn't cope, and was eventually raised by foster parents in Kettering. Other surviving children were Nora, Howard, Gladys and Joseph Jnr. Joseph Burton Snr. was a miner, but ended up delivering newspapers to earn a living when he couldn't get work in the pits due to health issues. He was himself in the newspapers in 1919 for having fallen from his bike whilst



The Friends of Thringstone

delivering newspapers, and ended up in hospital, as the bag got entangled with the bike. He was again in the papers in 1922 for cruelty to a 25 year old horse which he used in his newspaper round. It was reported by the RSPCA that the animal was pulling a dray, and had sores on its withers and under its tail and was too old to work. Joseph said using the horse was the only way he could earn a living, he was very poor, and just trying to look after his large family. He was fined 30 shillings and given 2 weeks in which to pay. Joseph Burton Snr. remarried in 1942 to Emily Catherine White Allen, the same year that he was in hospital for accidentally drinking liniment thinking it was medicine, and died in Loughborough on 31 December 1956. Nita passed all details on to Howard Jnr. together with a photo and press cutting on Nora and Richard Love at The Rose and Crown and a copy of a certificate issued to Joseph Burton by the rescue team involved in the Whitwick Pit disaster of 1899 for bravery, which we were given by Whitwick Historical Group. In return we got a photo of Howard Burton born in Thringstone in 1912.

- More on the **Watson family from Drury Lane**. The Mercury of 29 September 1849 reports that Hannah Hurst (nee Watson) was in court. She had charged that her husband, Samuel, who she had married in July 1847, was violent towards her, had thrown knives at her and threatened to kill her on several occasions. She said she was frightened, and quite willing to live on her own. Sureties were asked for 6 months. Sarah Watson then charged Samuel Hurst for breaking down her front door to get to Hannah, her daughter, who had taken refuge at Sarah's house. Samuel was fined 2 pence, plus damage and costs. Hannah obviously continued to live with Samuel, as she had children in 1850 and 1853 with the surname Hurst. Sarah Watson was the mother of John Watson and also lived on Drury Lane with her husband Charles.
- **The 1921 census**, which was delayed due to industrial action, was taken on 19 June 1921. Many miners had gone on strike over a proposed cut to wages in March 1921 (which nationally averaged £4 9 shillings and 8 pence a week and it was proposed should be nearly halved), and on 1 April collieries locked out anybody unwilling to work. Transport and rail unions were asked to join the miners' strike, but refused on 15 April 1921. The miners continued to strike throughout the summer of 1921, but their average pay fell from £4 9 shillings and 8 pence a week in the first quarter of 1921 to £2 18 shillings and 10 pence in the fourth. Locally, in April 1921, many families headed to a field off Thornborough Road, belonging to Whitwick Colliery, where a new brickyard was to be built, as workmen had uncovered thousands of wooden ammunition boxes and cases dumped and buried there after the war. The colliery gave permission for families to take these cases away to use as fuel, as coal was in short supply due to the strike. The 1921 census became available on Findmypast on 6 January. They have taken out an exclusive arrangement to host these records for the next 3 years. Nita has a personal subscription to Ancestry and also to Findmypast, both of which she uses daily for all the FoT history research. However, there is an extra cost to access 1921 information. Nita gets to access and download transcriptions for £2.25 rather than £2.50, and the actual form completed by the household costs Nita £3.15 rather than £3.50. If you want Nita to do look ups for you, you will be asked to reimburse her for the cost, as the subscription is hers, and not Friends of Thringstone's. Nita has looked up the address of **Drury Lane** on the 1921 census, in order to complete the research from last month. She has looked at the transcriptions only as this is cheaper. On the address index, **Fred Hutchinson Jnr**, together with **Annie Biggs** (or Briggs as it is transcribed), plus her daughters Violet and Doris are there. Fred was an out of work miner who had been working at Whitwick Colliery, and Violet Biggs was a laundry hand at Charnwood Forest Laundry Co. The other family that were listed are **John Edward Thorley**, a bricklayer with Moss and Co in Coalville, plus his common law wife **Mary Ellen Lowe** and their son **John Edward Lowe** who is a newsboy. **Joseph and Mary Hutchinson** were also there, but the translation from the 1921 census says Durg Lane. Joseph was a retired miner from Whitwick Colliery Co, and his wife Mary was listed too. **James and Charles Upton** were listed as living in Drug Lane. James was a general labourer, and Charles an out of work chageman from Whitwick colliery. Nita has told Findmypast about their transcription errors, and trusts that this will be put right for future researchers. The other family we had listed on the 1921 electoral registers as at Drury Lane in the Spring of 1921 were the Knapps. The 1921



The Friends of Thringstone

census, carried out in June 1921, lists John William Knapp, wife Sarah and son John Thomas at Fox Terrace, which is where they appear on the electoral registers from Autumn 1921. John William was out of work miner from Coleorton Colliery. As we know, Drury Lane was cleared of houses around 1938, by which time the Horrobin family had moved to The Green. However, there were 3 clearance orders that year for **The Green**, including their house. Others affected were widow Mrs Sarah Ann Shilliam, who was 62 years of age, and M Joyce and family..

- **Rent takings** – We have been asked, following the details given last month relating to the rent of 2 shillings a week for John Varnham in Drury Lane in 1902, what sort of rents people were charged. Some years back, we were fortunate enough to be able to copy the rent books for Ruddy Waldrum who founded Ruby's Chip Shop, and his wife Sarah Ann nee Upton known as Lizzie. They owned properties down **Brook Lane**, and the **Co-op Cottages** on The Green. For 1929, these show as follows: Brook Lane - Arthur Rossell paid 5 shillings and 1 penny, Bernard Redfern Sharpe paid 1 shilling and 6 pence, and Herbert Redfern paid 3 shillings and 7 pence. We know from baptism records that Herbert and his wife Evelyn Redfern had children whilst living in Brook Lane, and were there from at least 1920. Co-operative Cottages - Mrs Eve Sykes paid 7 shillings and 5 pence, John Waldrum paid 4 shillings and 9 pence (daughter Ruby of fish shop fame was born there in 1915) and William Gamble, also at Co-op cottages, paid 5 shillings. There is also an entry in 1927 for Mark Cooper who paid 5 shillings, so must have lived at Co-op Cottages. In 1938 eight cottages were scheduled for demolition, the tenants being Charity Gough, Herbert and Edith Peters, Herbert Redfern, H Upton, John and Ann Allen, Joseph and Emma Burton, Arthur and Lilian Parker and S Gee. The 1939 register shows that Charity Gough, the Peters', Allen's, Burton's, Parker's and Redfern's were still in residence, along with the Rossell's, Leeson's, Yearby's and Stopps', Moore's and Rose's.
- **Nov 1862** – Thringstone seems to have been **the place for fights**. **Thomas White, William Moore and John Hutchinson** (son of John Watson from last month's Drury Lane information) allegedly assaulted **Samuel Watts** at Thringstone. The report reads 'This was one of those disgraceful **quarrels or riots** so frequent amongst the colliers of Whitwick and Thringstone, in which **men and women fight indiscriminately** and from which it is very difficult to discover who is the aggressive party.' A large number of colliers, who had been drinking at a beer house in Thringstone proposed a race at 11am, to be run by men called Newby and Watlington for 5 shillings, the money being staked and held by White, one of the defendants (other newspapers say Newbury not Newby – we think it is Newberry, and Whatlington not Watlington). The race was declared to have been won by Newby. Watlington went away to talk to his wife, and returned and asked White if the money had been handed over to Newby, and if it had, he must fight for it. The men went into the yard and fought, and several others joined in. A relative of Watlington was engaged with fighting William Moore. Watts had got the worse of it and said that Moore struck him first and knocked him down, when Hutchinson kicked him in the ribs saying at the same time 'smash the bastard'. He got up and was struck by White on the cheek. 6 or 8 prosecution witnesses were heard, and a similar number of witnesses for the defence who said that Watts had challenged Moore and at that time, Mrs Watlington, whose husband was fighting with someone else, assisted by other women, grabbed hold of Mr Moore's hair and pulled it out by the handful, with all the parties 'going down' together. The women eventually succeeded in getting Watts away. The magistrate said there had been perjury committed by one side, but it was difficult to say on which side the truth lay. Each party were told to pay their own costs, and warned as to their behaviour going forward. **William Moore** lived in Drury Lane, before marrying and moving to Derbyshire. **John Hutchinson**, born 17 November 1840, and mentioned last month in the information on the Watson/Hutchinson family, lived with his uncle and aunt (William and Ann Hibbert) on The Green. He married Coleorton girl, Sarah Varnham, on 21 April 1862 and tragically died on 29 May 1863, aged 22, having fallen down the shaft at No. 2 pit at Coleorton Colliery (Califat) and fracturing his skull. The inquest held at The Fox Inn heard that the improperly supervised cage carrying 2 men had come up the shaft with a jerk, and John had fallen head first 130 yards to the bottom of the pit, where his dead and mutilated body was found. The other man called William Clements had managed to grab hold of the cross rail at the top of the cage and was



The Friends of Thringstone

uninjured. John's wife, Selina, remarried to Andrew Newman on 11 Feb 1867. In 1862 when the fight occurred, Moore was also in his 20s, whilst **Samuel Watts** was 18 at the time and lived on Main Street, where he continued to live until the 1880s when he moved to Hugglescote. We can find out nothing about Mr Watlington/Whatlington. We know from an advert for an auction in July 1869 that **William Newberry** lived on Main Street, and was a tenant of Francis Harvey of Burton on Trent.

- **Feb 1915** – Court case between **William Stinson** and **Lucy White**, wife of Alexander White, a miner. Mrs White said she had been struck by Mr Stinson. Mr Stinson, originally from Yorkshire, had been married to Lucy's late daughter Elizabeth Alice, known as Alice, who had died 4 years earlier in May 1911. The Stinson family had lived at Lily Bank, Thringstone. Since the death of her daughter, Mrs White had been looking after the 4 children of the marriage, and Mr Stinson had been paying 12 shillings a week. Mr Stinson had remarried in 1914 to Elizabeth Billson, nee Wallam, known as Lizzie and since that time had not been paying the money to Mrs White. This issue had been referred to court in the past and a court order had been made against him for 5 shillings and 8 pence to be paid per week, but Mrs White said nothing was ever received. On 17 February, one of the children had run to Mrs White, but Mr Stinson had taken the child away, despite the child having resisted, with Mr Stinson saying he wanted his children back. Mrs White asked for the child to come back to her until he was a bit older, but at this point, it was alleged that Mr Stinson refused, struck her on the ear, breaking her earring, and knocked her to the floor. Her clothes had been damaged, and she had been under the care of a doctor. Mrs White had been to the police station to report the assault, and the police corroborated that she had a swollen ear, and her clothes were dirty when she went to them. Mr Stinson told the court that Mrs White had slipped and fallen and he had not struck her at all. In fact, she had struck him with her fist, and then with a bag of potatoes. He claimed that Mrs White had refused the money for the upkeep of the children since he had remarried. Two independent witnesses corroborated his assertion that Mr Stinson had not struck Mrs White, and she had indeed slipped, when she struck him with the bag of potatoes. The court however ruled against him and Mr Stinson was fined £1 10 shillings and 6 pence to include costs or 7 days hard labour, and was given 14 days in which to pay. This is not the first time that William Stinson had been in court, since in 1904, along with another man called William Smith, Mr Stinson was found guilty of assaulting Cooper Platts, a collier from Griffydham and breaking his leg. There had been a fight and Mr Stinson had taken a running leap at Mr Platts outside the George and Dragon. The fight was initially between Platts and Smith, which Platts may or may not have started. Having leapt at Mr Platts, Stinson was then alleged to have kicked Platts a further 3 or 4 times whilst he was lying in a ditch, which is why Platts broke his leg. The court was told that Stinson had been of previous good character. Having agreed to pay the fines, Mr Stinson had stopped paying his instalments, and had ended up in prison as a result, and a further court case was then held upon his release to ensure the remaining money was paid to Mr Platts. Research has shown that William and Alice Stinson married in 1901 and the 4 children were William Alexander, Basil, Joseph Henry and James Stinson. In later years, William and Lizzie Stinson (the 2nd wife) seem to have lived in the council houses opposite The Fox in Main Street. They appear to have had 6 children of their own – Reginald, Dennis Roy, Florence, Edith, Ethel and Alfred. William Stinson died in 1961 and Lizzie in 1958.
- **Dec 1828** – Catharine Gemson was charged by **Thomas Bottamore of Thringstone** with neglecting to complete a piece of lace in proper time. As she was not present to answer the charges, a warrant was issued to arrest her and bring her before the magistrates. This seems very harsh to us in this century, but was quite commonplace in the early 19th century,
- **July 1829** – William Edwards, 25, was convicted of having stolen on 14 February 4 hens and one cock belonging to **William Vernon of Thringstone**. Edwards was sentenced to transportation to Australia for 7 years! We know that in 1821, William Vernon had a shop which also sold beef somewhere in Thringstone Parish, but we are not sure where. By 1841, William Vernon, butcher, who was born about 1791, was trading from Swannington. We believe he died in 1861

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