



# The Friends of Thringstone



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

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## **BULLETIN FOR MARCH 2022**

### **News.**

**Monthly litter pick total – 121 bags** against **140 bags** for the same month last year. We had 6 litter pickers working out there this month. Thanks to all of them.

**Gardening** – Thank you to Bernard for planting a Christmas tree and some wild flowers down the church jitty just prior to the storms we endured.

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee** - In addition to plans at Charles Booth Centre, the Miners' Welfare are also in the process of finalising their Queen's platinum jubilee events.

**Thringstone Methodist Chapel** – The chapel and its grounds are now for sale for £325,000. It is hoped that the person buying the plot might want to sympathetically restore the chapel and use it as a home, as was the case with the chapel at Belton cross roads, although there is a good chance it will turn into a housing development..

**St Andrew's** – The church wants to turn the area at the front of the church into a nature area and have two bird boxes, three robin boxes and are thinking of adding a bird table and hedgehog boxes. They are looking for help with this and would like to hear from anybody who is able to make a bird table or hedgehog boxes for them. They are also looking for anybody who wants to donate bird food or wild flowers. Please contact Jeanette on 222142 if you are able to help.

**Whitwick Mining Disaster** – We understand that Hugglescote Parish Council, and Coalville Historical Group and Whitwick Historical Group are involved in projects to mark the anniversary of the pit disaster, which affected all in the area, and killed several Thringstone men. There are to be two memorials, the first, known as the wheel memorial, will be unveiled on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and is the main memorial and uses a pulley wheel from Whitwick Colliery (acquired in 1987 when the colliery was demolished and stored at Leicestershire Museums who have donated it to the memorial project). This will feature all the names of the men who were killed as well as a short history of the disaster. The memorial will be located on Percival Way in the new Grange View housing development and close to the coal faces the men were working when the disaster occurred. There are several roads which will be named after lost miners, including 3 with Thringstone connections – **Samuel Stacey** who is buried at St Andrew's, **John Albert Gee** who is the subject of a blue plaque at St Andrew's and **Joseph Wilson** who kept the George and Dragon. A further project is to be completed by April 2023. It is being proposed to have 2 memorial benches and also a memorial garden and mosaic project on Hugglescote and Donington Le Heath Parish Council owned land. We understand that a Thringstone lady has been commissioned to provide a mosaic path to go around the plinth.

**Old School House** – at the recent Autism and Mental Health Awards as part of Leicestershire Live Care, Elisah McEwan was declared the winner. Well done!



**Thringstone Miners Welfare** –Ingles FC are now playing at the welfare who are putting in new railings, seating, dugouts, improvements to lighting and a number of other measures to make playing and supporting a much more enjoyable experience. If you or your company would like to join them on this exciting journey please contact them, as they have opportunities for sponsorship and partnership working.

**New tea room at the centre** in the house lounge – The centre felt that a tea room might be popular, and put out something on facebook and got a huge amount of interest. This will now run on a Friday afternoon, initially from April through to September. They will take bookings in advance only with a minimum of 4 people, maximum of 10. Booking needs to be through the website or via [hello@charlesboothcentre.org.uk](mailto:hello@charlesboothcentre.org.uk). The first slot will be available on Friday 8 April from 2-4pm and will comprise high tea with a glass of fizz for £12.50 per head. If demand rises, they will look to provide extra days/slots.

The centre is looking for a Friday-Sunday **weekend cleaner**. This would entail working 5 hours per week. Anybody interested should send their CV and a covering letter to [hello@charlesboothcentre.org.uk](mailto:hello@charlesboothcentre.org.uk)

### What's On

**Charles Booth Centre** - Charity coffee mornings are always on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in the month. . Start at 10am for 2 hours. All welcome. The coffee morning on 11 March is to help raise money for a dementia charity. The April coffee morning will be to support the Old School House, and the 13 May coffee morning will be to raise money for Gracedieu Priory

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month.

**Thringstone Miners' Welfare - 14 March – bingo**. Eyes down at 7.30pm. The **Whatever Church Youth Group** are continuing to meet at Thringstone Miners Welfare every Thursday evening from 7.30pm-9pm, where adult leaders and three young helpers will be on hand to put on activities and run the tuck shop. All welcome.

**Thringstone WI** – The group continue to meet at the Charles Booth Centre with their next meeting being on 15 March at 7.30pm. For further information contact [tringstonewi@gmail.com](mailto:tringstonewi@gmail.com)

**St Andrew's** - The church continue to operate their **café church at Charles Booth Centre** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 2pm-4pm. All welcome.

### Chairs Report

**Letters received:** None

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

**Promotion:** We have **692 twitter followers**, which is the same as last month, and **1,714 facebook followers**, which is 9 more than last month.

**Other:** Our article on litter picking in 2021 was printed in the February edition of Community Voice. Nita had a meeting with a member of the Sports Partnership team to discuss activities for all ages in Thringstone. This may mean that more activities are provided for local people in the coming months.

### Finance Report

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>£2400.45</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Publications		Broadband	20.00
Donation			



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Memberships
<b>total income to general fund</b>

<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>£2380.45</b>

## Web Report

All minutes are on the website, and we now have a different email address for people who want to contact us from the website. Work is still underway to fully populate the rest of the site and a spreadsheet has been done to ensure everything is covered .

## Incident Report

- There continue to be youths sitting on the bench in Drury Lane drinking and also smoking weed, and then scattering bottles, cans etc. all over the place. Police aware.
- Various problems with trees down and structural damage in the village after the recent storms.
- 21 Feb – car hit the garden area to the house opposite the Bull’s Head and drove off. Police were seen driving round the village looking for 2 men in hi viz vests who ran away from the scene. They were later detained by police and a 32 year old Loughborough man was charged with drink driving and leaving the scene of an accident.

## History report

- Nita has been in contact with a lady whose great uncle was one of the Thringstone soldiers who died in WW1 and is commemorated on the Menin Gate in Ypres – **William Edward Moore**, known to his family as Will and have received a wonderful family archive of information to add to our own. Will was born in Hackney on 2 June 1891, but his father and grandfather were Thringstone men and Will lived here around the turn of the century. His father, Joseph, had been in the Scots Guards, but became a policeman in London. Nita contacted the Heritage Centre for the Metropolitan Police to find out more about **Joseph Moore**, father of Will (as above). In 1891 the family was living at 129 Dunlace Road, Lower Clapton and it seems that Joseph served at the Hackney and Victoria Park station in London. We are told that his warrant service number was 73381 and he served from 13 Feb 1888 until 8 Feb 1901 when he resigned, without a pension, and came back to Thringstone. The National Archives MAY hold details of his sick record from which it might be possible to see whether he resigned because of his health. Joseph died in Thringstone on 7 March 1901 aged 36 of TB. We now have a photograph of the grave at St Andrew’s, which shows it near railings, but there is no marker. Will’s mother, Edith, then remarried another policeman called William Cecil Parker in 1909 in London. We swapped information, and she has let us have copies of artwork that Will did, and sent us a huge amount of postcards, starting in 1905 when he was just 15 years of age, and ending in 1914, which he sent to his mother including some from Ceylon and Sierra Leone. These postcards also included a postcard from his cousin Austin Webster, posted in Whitwick in 1906 which shows the Calvary when it was at Gracedieu, and another from Austin the same year of Thringstone Green . Austin lived with his parents who kept The Fox on Main Street. Another from the same year shows the interior of the Town Hall in Leicester and the cards mention other cousins, Joey and Fanny Webster and their mother, Mary Ann. At one point in 1905, he was staying in the Twickenham Orphanage, paid for by the Met Police – his father had been a Metropolitan police officer. Another postcard from 1908, the same year that he joined up, is of the Police Station in Coalville when it was on Belvoir Road and talks about having attended Coalville Flower Show. Other postcards show various barracks. We then received two photos of the trunk that Will used when he went to the Orphanage, plus scans of over 25 letters Will sent to his mother, starting from when he was stationed in Cork in 1914 and ending in 1915 just before his death. Two of the letters mention the Easter Uprising in Dublin in 1914 when many people were shot by British troops, and also mention writing to Thringstone. At that time he presumed he would be home for Christmas 1914, as the Germans



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were getting tired, and the war would likely be ended by that time. In August 1914, Will's mother seems to have bought a pig, as there was concern over the rising cost of food, and Will advised her to keep quiet about the pig in case the War Office found out and took it away, and to think about stocking up for fear of further food shortages! We now also have a copy of Will's funeral card, the mention of his death at his local church in Essex, and a scan of the book that was sent to his mother by the army after several requests. Will was a former member of the Thringstone cycling club. He died on 1 May 1915 aged 23. His brother Sam stayed in the village, became a barrister's clerk, presumably in Coalville, but died in Main Street on 5 September 1907 aged 18, also of TB. We have, with agreement, shared all the postcards and letters from and to Will Moore with the Leicestershire War Memorials folk at County Hall, so they are preserved for posterity for the benefit of future researchers.

- One of our members has moved to **Loughborough Road**, and we found photographs of the area of his new house, prior to it being built, and sent these to him so he can see what the area used to look like.
- There continue to be issues regarding the ownership of '**the church wall**' from Main Street through to Loughborough Road. We have press cuttings from 1911 saying that the wall was built by the church with funds raised from sales and subscriptions, but the church is of the opinion that the council took over the ownership. This does not tally with the deeds of people whose boundary wall that is, and so we have looked back of copies of the Parochial Church Council minutes which we have on file. The PCC came about in 1921, and we have looked at minutes from 1924-1929, the latter year being the year when a wall was built to another part of the churchyard, and are in discussions with the vicar on the issue of the jitty wall, and who put in the wooden structure to support the wall near the entrance to the church.
- April 1918 – **Baden Gill** of John Street, Thringstone, was charged with being drunk in Shepshed, using obscene language, then taking off his belt and hitting a police constable with it when asked to move. Mr Gill said he had reached Shepshed at 8pm and had only had 4 or 5 pints. He claimed not to be drunk and when asked what it would take to make him drunk, he replied 'About 12 or 13 pints really'. He admitted to visiting 3 pubs, but was certain he had not had more than 5 pints in total. **Wilfred Webster**, also of John Street, who was with Mr Gill, said that he had seen the policeman hit Baden Gill on the jaw. Mr Gill was fined 20 shillings or 13 days in gaol.
- **June 1921** – We have the census information for the Rennocks' families who lived on **Lilybank**. These show all the members of the family working at Whitwick colliery, including a blacksmith, out of work, obviously due to the strike situation. We also have census information for Harry and Edith Parker of **Wodyton Farm** at Gracedieu and also Manor Farm and the **Vesty family**, also at Gracedieu. They had family stopping with them from Toronto, Canada. Florence Vesty had eloped to Canada with John Henry Rennocks in 1913 where they married. The marriage was frowned upon because she was wealthy and he wasn't, but the family came back with their young son for a visit to her family. John Henry went back to Canada on 19 August 1921 and Florence in October. She had taken out Canadian citizenship, and said on her paperwork that she was a Methodist. The son she brought to see her parents was Frederick Neville Guy Rennocks, who died aged 38, after returning from swimming with friends, of a brain aneurism.
- **June 1921** – Ruddy Waldrum with wife Lizzie (properly known as Sarah Ann) plus their children Charles, Ruby and Stella are shown on the census as The Green. This is the family who started **Ruby's fish and chip** business. With them as a boarder is Ellen Tugby, sometimes known as Nellie, who was a family member – Lizzie's sister Agnes's child. Ruddy and son Charles were miners from Coleorton colliery, but out of work, Stella was working as a hosiery hand at the Nottingham Manufacturing Company in Loughborough, and Nellie was a boot and shoe machinist working for a Mr Green in Shepshed
- **June 1921** – 1921 census for **Queen's Head** shows George Henry and Rebecca Alice Hallam there, plus Matthew Thurman, who is 37 and says he is from Shepshed and a widower with 2 children living elsewhere aged 6 and 8. He said he was working at Ellistown pit, and had previously been of no fixed abode. This may be the same man as born in Shepshed on 29



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November 1883 with wife Harriet Ann nee Lycett, but she was still alive way past 1921. The property had 5 rooms (excluding bathrooms etc) and 3 public rooms. Further research needs to be done on this.

- **June 1921** – The 1921 census for **Three Tuns** in Main Street confirms that James and Alice Shelton were there and their nephew and his wife George Henry Geary and Ethel. George was an out of work coalminer at Whitwick Colliery. The beer-house had 5 rooms excluding bathroom etc., and 3 public rooms.
- **June 1921** – The 1921 census for the **Rose and Crown** shows James and Matilda Smith there, plus Alfred E and Frederick W Smith and a granddaughter Constance Jane Rennocks aged 4, born at Lilybank cottages, and the daughter of James and Matilda's daughter Mabel, who had married in 1914 at the Wesleyan Chapel (now Chapel Fitness Centre). Both Albert and Frederick worked at Whitwick Colliery, but were both out of work at the time. Albert was a loader and Frederick a pony driver. The property had 6 rooms excluding bathrooms etc. and 6 public rooms.
- **June 1921** – 1921 for **Fox Inn**. This census has confirmed that Samuel, Sarah and Dora Jarvis were at the Fox in 1921. This is the same chap who had kept the pub from around 1912 and was a son of Charles Jarvis and his first wife Mary Rowbottom. His wife Sarah died in 1922, and he left the pub in Dec 1922 after money issues. It also confirms that there were 5 rooms excluding bathrooms etc., and there were also 3 public rooms.
- **June 1921** – We have been looking at the 1921 census for Gracedieu Manor, and see that Mrs Mary Catherine Booth was there with a fair number of staff – all women. These were local girl **Sarah Anne Minnie Abell** aged 21, an under parlour maid who in 1911 had been one of Mary Booth's convalescent patients at Cross Lanes home, **Janet Smith Ferguson** aged 52 from Scotland, a cook and housekeeper, **Gladys Movana Simmons** aged 22 from Norfolk, a kitchen maid, local girl **Sarah Elizabeth King** aged 15, a sewing maid, **Grace Ball** aged 23 from Scotland, a parlour maid, **Agnes Howell** aged 58 from Yorkshire (this is a misprint as she was from Somerset), a ladies maid, **Violet Boone** aged 22 from Birmingham, a housemaid, local girl **Doris Burton** aged 24, an under-house maid, and **Mabel Liffen**, a visiting nurse aged 30 from London. **Sarah Elizabeth King** married George Pickering. Juliette Lowe, granddaughter of Linda Toon of the John Street shop, knew her as Auntie Lizzie, as she was her grandmother's sister. Lizzie worked at the manor for quite a few years. She started her working life in service to a vicar who lived at Barkby Thorpe near to Leicester, and then moved to the Manor. She didn't live in, as her family lived in the village. The census mentions her being a sewing maid. She only ever talked about working in the kitchen, ending up as head cook. When she took over as head cook the outgoing cook gave her a copy of Mrs Beeton, the book of the day! Juliette remembers Auntie Lizzie telling her many times about walking to work very early in the morning. She walked along the drive to the manor from the Bull's Head entrance and often saw the ghost of a lady wearing a long dress and a hat, walking along the drive. She also said there was a room at the manor which was haunted. Apparently one family stayed as guests of the Booth's and left after one night having been kept awake all night in 'the haunted room.' She also used to tell about walking into the kitchen very early in the morning, she would switch on the light and a huge black cloud would move across the kitchen - rats and mice! **Agnes Howell** was working for the Booth family from at least 1901, when she was with them at Gracedieu before going with them to appear on the 1911 census with them at their Kensington residence, working as a housemaid. The only other Thringstone related person at Kensington in 1911 was Elizabeth Ann Ward, who was 21 years old and a second kitchen maid. Records tell that Agnes was head of the housemaids, and went to see Mrs Booth in the drawing room daily. She was a good ally to Mrs Booth and is said to have managed the young housemaids perfectly, although the children didn't get on with her. They called her Mrs Wow. She had a sewing room above the nurseries and every evening lit the fire in Mrs Booth's bedroom, laid out her evening clothes and ran her bath. She later returned to clear up and put the nightgown to warm on the chair by the fire. Agnes was still with Mary Booth at Gracedieu Manor in 1931 as she is on the electoral register for the manor then, but retired in August 1932 to live in Shepton Mallet with her two spinster sisters who had also been in service,



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one of whom (Alice) had also worked for the Booth family in 1901. She is in Shepton Mallet on the 1939 register. Also on the electoral register for 1931 at the manor are **Gertrude Andrews, Florence Domoney, Norah Ladyman** (who married John Henry Webb family of The Willows, Main St), **Norah Thompson** and **Florence Vickers**. Norah Ladyman was known by some of the Booth family as Mrs Ladybird and was housekeeper to Mrs Booth for some time. Said to have been a sharp, difficult woman, her 'friendship' with an aged gentleman friend (who later became her husband) was known to the family. She is said to have had an old and ill-tempered spaniel which lived under the sofa in the housekeeper's room and tried to prevent people using the manor's telephone.

- **June 1921 – George and Dragon** - The census shows Joseph Waldrum from Ruddington, Nottingham as landlord, with wife Mary Jane who is a packer for a clay ring company based in Lount, together with their children Annie, a linker at a Whitwick hosiery factory, Joseph, a pipe maker at Newbold Pipe works, Mabel, Ruth and Mary Jane's grandson Charles Jarvis against which is written 'father dead', alongside Arthur Bird, miner at Whitwick colliery, and his wife Alice (nee Jarvis) and their child Norman who were boarding at the pub. We had not realised that the Bird family stayed there at all, so this is new information. Arthur Bird was a German Prisoner of War in WW1, as mentioned in previous minutes. He was also a member of Thringstone Cycling Club. There were 7 rooms at the pub, but none are specifically listed as rooms for the public.
- **June 1921 – Bull's Head** – The census for this property shows Esther Gough, plus daughters Florence Mary and Gertrude, and son Charlie at the property. The room listing says 4 rooms (less bathrooms etc) and 2 public rooms. We know that later in 1921 the Gough family left the pub and it was taken over by Edmund Holmes and family.
- **June 1921 – Star Inn** – The census shows John William Peters and wife Keziah, plus their children Ruby Irene, Edna Iris and also, still there is James Bowler, their nephew. James's brother Frank Brotherhood Bowler had also lived there in 1911, but was killed in WW1 on 24 November 1917. James Bowler had married Daisy May Annable from Snarrow's Farm, Osgathorpe on 1 Nov 1919 and they had a son called Kenneth Frank who was also at the inn. James Bowler worked for Stablefords in Coalville, as a waggon builder and had another child called James H who was born in 1922 and died in 1925. The Star is listed as having 6 rooms (excluding bathrooms etc) and 3 public rooms.
- **Nov 1921 – Zaph Morley** of John Street died on 11 November aged 70 and his wife, Harriett, went to court to claim that he had died as a result of a pit accident at Whitwick Colliery on 6 June 1918. Zaph had died from a cerebral haemorrhage, having been taken ill on 5 November, and Mrs Morley contended that he had been ill since his accident and this was had contributed to his death. He had received compensation for his injuries from 1918. Dr Prys Jones said that the accident in 1918 had been as a result of a tub hitting Mr Morley and breaking his ribs and one arm, and the haemorrhage was as a result of furred arteries, and was not connected. Mr Thomas Young Hay the manager of the pit was present at the case. Zaph's son John (Jack) was killed in WW1 and features in our book on the lost soldiers.

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