



# The Friends of Thringstone



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

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## **BULLETIN FOR APRIL 2022**

### **News.**

**Monthly litter pick total – 122 bags** against **180 bags** for the same month last year at which time one of our volunteers was removing upwards of 6 bags a day from the woodland, mostly stuff that had been there for some time. 9 people litter picked this month for us. We now have another young man, 13 year old James O'Mara, who is litter picking for us as part of his Duke of Edinburgh awards project. He has been given a stick, bags and hi viz vest.

**Great British Spring Clean** – This takes place on 9 and 10 April and NWLDC are saying that they would like up to 10 people per street to sign up to do litter picking..... Not sure that this will happen, but if anybody wants to help us with litter picking, please get in touch. We are thinking of doing a **community litter pick** at the end of May, so keep your eyes on your emails etc. for the date, time etc. Caroline, one of our regular litter pickers, is helping to organise this for the group.

**NWLDC** have announced that their fleet is now powered by waste veg oil. They've said goodbye to fossil diesel and hello to HVO as part of their Zero Carbon roadmap. Also, as part of their district campaign to improve off road parking, the entrance to the Dalkeith Walk car park has been resurfaced, which has got rid of a lot of pot holes, but there are still a load of them as you turn towards the garages.

**FoT meetings** - We will be having a **social only** meeting at Charles Booth Centre on 5 May starting at 6.45pm for anybody who might want to come along. The bulletin will still go out on 1 May and this meeting is just a get together for people who want to come along. NO BAR. All welcome.

**Gardening** – A lady who lives on the Glebe Road estate and is not an FoT member has agreed to help keep the church jitty planting looking tidy and weed-free. Mike Statham will look after The Green, Drury Lane and Brook Lane, and the 'natural' area at the bottom of Main Street is maintained by Bill Enser.

**Thringstone Primary** – Raised in excess of £240 for Red Nose Day.

**Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club** – The first games for the season will take place on 23 April for the first 11 and 30 April for the second 11. There will be an inter-club friendly, as a warm up, on Easter Saturday 16 April. This will involve mixed teams with the aim of everybody having the chance to ply their favoured skills, whether this be batting, bowling, keeping or standing in the field etc. It will be played in a competitive but friendly spirit. Brian Humphries has taken over from Jonno Jordan as captain of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 11.

**Grace Dieu Priory Culvert** – There have been meetings and discussions about this, and about finding a new access point to the ruins. A gent has drawn up the necessary submission to the Environmental Agency, to produce the detailed foundation design for submission to Historic England. The chairman of Friends of Grace Dieu Priory is hopeful that he will receive plans and



information in two week's time. In the meantime the group is still waiting for a decision from NW Leicestershire Planning Department for the demolition of the culvert. If permission is granted the Grace Dieu Estate would be prepared to delay demolition until plans are in place for the new bridge. **The Chapter House at Grace Dieu Priory** - anyone fancy helping excavate the wider medieval landscape between 18 and 29 July? Bookings are available via the Past To Present Archaeology website, but note there is a cost to join in. If you have any questions, please use the email address on the webpage <https://pasttopresent.org/field-school-medieval-grace-dieu/>

**Ruby's** – In addition to a televised piece on fish and chip shops, which featured Ruby's, shown on the East Midlands Politics Show on 27 March, Andrew Bridgen posted on twitter that fat costs had increased by over £100 in one week, and the cost of fish had gone up, and was concerned. Nita reposted to our FoT facebook page and asked that people continue to support Ruby's as the local business. This produced a wealth of responses from all over, including claims that the National Federation of Fish Friers had stated a fear that a third of shops would close over the rising costs in the coming months. Andy from Ruby's said that a large fish had been costing them 75p more since Christmas, and yet at that point they had only added 30p to the customer's cost in order to keep people coming in to get fish and chips. He also said that every week there are problems getting supplies, whether it is large or small fish. He added 'We've always put quality and service before profits, and that's what we will continue to do. We would sooner stop selling fish if it meant sacrificing quality in order to increase profits'. Please continue to try to support our local fish and chip shop if you are able to do so.

**Centre** – The monthly outdoor market which has run for about a year has been cancelled after 7 stall holders failed to turn up to the one organised for 20 March. The centre team wish to thank those who supported the venture in the past.

Coffee mornings - **Dementia UK** coffee morning on 11 March raised £155.80. We believe that the one **for Ukraine** raised in excess of £700. There were lots of donations of toiletries to go to the country, plus some great raffle prizes donated, including the WI who donated a patchwork quilt which raised £25 on its own. Thank you to everybody who came along and contributed to either or both of these events.

The centre held their **AGM** on 22 March 2022, and details of the chair's report and financial statement can be found on the centre's website for those that are interested in seeing these. All trustees remain the same, and we understand that **Ray Woodward** received a presentation having retired last year from the trustees after also serving the community centre for over 30 years as a member of various committees prior to the trustees being set up.

Nita used to help the centre with direct email **promotion**, but no longer does this, so has helped the centre to set up their own database of people interested in the centre's activities. This will help them contact people who don't use social media.

### What's On

**Thringstone Miners Welfare** – Zumba fitness every Tuesday from 7pm-8pm. Book on 07900 682438. Classes are £4.50. Also Street Dance classes with Bianca every Saturday morning. Same number to book in.

**Hough Mill, Swannington** – 18 April from 2pm. The annual Easter event is back! Activity trail, craft activities, games, refreshments and you can explore Hough Mill. Admission is free but donations are welcome. There is an Easter egg for every child registered through the event brite page: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../easter-at-the-mill...>

**Thringstone Members Club** - Ace Community Theatre will be having an **Easter fayre** on **2 April** from 11am-3pm with various stalls etc. The club is having a **fayre and easter egg hunt** for their own funds on 17 April from 11am – 3pm. All welcome. **Free pool Wednesdays** are back. That's right 7pm till close, grab a game or a few games with your family/friends and enjoy a nice pint or two. Good selection of drinks to choose from. All welcome, we are not just for members.

**Charles Booth Centre** – 9 April – 1pm-5pm. **Flower arranging masterclass**. Price £45 per person including a certificate of attendance. All flowers, foliage, sundries included in the course.



future booking discount available for next session on the day. Limited places, call Chris on 0791037720 or book at [www.forgetmeknotflorist.co.uk](http://www.forgetmeknotflorist.co.uk) – workshop tabs. Thringstone Panto and Drama Society’s next **comedy play, based on 1950s B&B in Blackpool** will be on 9, 10 and 11 June and called Beside The Seaside. More details to follow. The **coffee morning** on 8 April is for Old School House and then on 13 May for Grace Dieu Priory. The **book club** is on the last Wednesday of every month at the centre from 7-9pm – contact [allenpurplepaula@aol.com](mailto:allenpurplepaula@aol.com) for further details.

### Chairs Report

**Letters received:** Letter from new member

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

**Promotion:** We have **705 twitter followers**, which 13 more than last month, and **1,750 facebook followers**, which is 36 more than last month.

**Other:** It is with deep regret that we report the death on 2 March of **Bernard Lee**. Bernard had been part of FoT from the start and for over a decade had been our main gardener, helped to plant trees, bulbs etc., worked with the school on eco things and came on most community litter picks. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, as the complete and utter one off that he was. For years prior to joining FoT he worked with the scouts, and helped to build the existing scout hut. He also helped many others in the village and worked with St Andrew’s from time to time when they did well dressing. We put out a facebook post with photos, which brought about nearly 3000 views, over 95 comments and a lovely post from Bernard’s son James, thanking people for their comments and saying the family hadn’t realised the wealth of affection out there for their dad. Thanks go to Simon and Aileen Smith, who sourced, paid for and planted a sorbus tree in memory of Bernard down Drury Lane. We understand that the Neal family wish to put a plaque by the tree in his memory.

Welcome to our new member Duncan Spalding from Nottinghamshire.

### Finance Report

The end of our financial year was 31 March. Initial checks seem to suggest that we ended the year with more money than we started the year, which is a positive state of affairs.

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>£2380.45</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Publications		Broadband	20.00
Donation			
Memberships			
<b>total income to general fund</b>			
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>£2360.45</b>

### Web Report

All the minutes are on site, and work is continuing in other areas.

### Incident Report

17 March – lots of police activity in the village and also an ambulance. Not sure reason.

18 March – lady from unknown street had her caravan and house broken into but managed to stop the intruders who were driving a white van with foreign plates.



## The Friends of Thringstone

19-20 March - Over the weekend, the changing rooms at The Miners Welfare were broken into and damaged. The cost to put this right, even if it is just the insurance excess, will be significant to such a small charity. If anybody has any idea who was involved, please contact the police.

26 March - Police called to flat on Melrose Rd where arrest was made of man for assault.

### History report

- We have been reading St Andrew's **church council minute books** from 1920 onwards and scanned details of all the names of parish council committee members from 1920-1930 and also details of organists, and members of the parish council in the 1970s and 80s. The first ever church council meeting was held on 17 June 1920 at the vicarage in the parish rooms (vicarage's dining room). Looking through the books has thrown up that in November 1926 the church was still committed to helping feed the children of miners out on strike. At that time, they had enough funds to continue to feed the children for another two-three weeks. Altogether, around £100 had been raised for this provision to be carried out.
- In our March bulletin, we mentioned the Parker family being on the 1921 census for **Wodyton Farm**, Gracedieu. This prompted queries as to where that is. The answer is having gone up the hill, past the Gracedieu School entrance, on the right hand side there is a lane and it is down there. We were then told that it was believed that George Pratt died there on 27 August 1900. George was the gamekeeper for the de Lisle family, and died as a result of a gun shot wound to the head which shattered his skull and face. At an inquest, held at the home of Thomas Lee at Wodyton Farm, Gracedieu, a verdict of accidental death was given, and it was suggested that George had dropped his rifle accidentally and it had gone off about 18 inches from his head. The area round there used to be known as Pratty's levels. Thomas Lee was at the farm in 1891 and his daughter Lilian Kate was born there. The previous person farming there had been George Hook - Thomas Lee was his son in law. Thomas had become the farmer there by 1901 but by 1911 had moved with his family to Shortcliffe Farm, Ingleberry Road, Shepshed. George Pratt's son, also called George, was gamekeeper for Lord Crawshaw at Long Whatton. Trevor Pratt, George Senior's grandson, who lived for many years at Hookhill Cottage in Shepshed before moving to Drybrook Farm, Whitwick, took over as gamekeeper for the de Lisle's upon George's death but died of pneumonia on 18 October 1919 aged 54. We believe his job as gamekeeper to the de Lisle family then passed to Trevor's son Willie who was gamekeeper until at least 1941.
- Nita was contacted by Andy Shaw-White from a local group interested in history to ask for information on **The Bull's Head**, its history, relationship to the local area and the land on which it sits. The group make videos to go onto Youtube under Explore Leicestershire and want to record the history of the land from the pub down to the priory, to include the lime works. Considerable information has been passed on, and we have asked what else they require in order to provide help.
- **Nov 1880** – There was a presentation at Thringstone Vicarage to **PC Barsby** who was retiring. He was very well liked in the district and Rev Crane handed him a family bible. PC Barsby was very emotional, and said that he hoped that the bible would be handed down to his descendants as a valuable heirloom. We are currently unable to give further information on PC Barsby.
- **Aug 1882** – **Mr and Mrs Coope** were about to leave **Gracedieu Manor** after 9 years there. A garden party was held at the manor, which was attended by about 500 people. Entrance was 6 pence for adults and 3 pence for children. Mrs Donovan of The Old Vicarage, Whitwick, representing the Whitwick Mother's meeting attended and gave a presentation and the choir from St Andrew's entertained people during the tea. On bank holiday, the grounds of the manor were thrown open to the public and surplus bazaar stock was sold from within the manor, following an earlier sale held on 5 and 6 July, by Mrs Coope assisted by other ladies with funds being given to St Andrew's for the completion of the church. The July event, which also had wax works to view, a conjurer, ventriloquist, Punch and Judy, and the opportunity to play tennis and have your photograph taken (a rare treat), had admission prices of 1 shilling on the first day and 6 pence on the second. The July event also gave attendees the opportunity to travel by train from Leicester. In August there was also a cricket match between



Whitwick and Clarendon, and donkey races which proved to be most popular. The Whitwick Colliery band was in attendance, and there was dancing until the evening. Rev Crane gave a presentation on behalf of Thringstone and the poor of the village and expressed regret that the family were leaving the area, but wished them long life and happiness in their new home.

- **Sept 1883** – James Wilson from **The Three Tuns** advertised that he was holding the **Thringstone Athletic Sports** event on 10<sup>th</sup>. There are no further mentions of this sports event in future years.
- **Oct 1886** – **The Rose and Crown** was advertised to let with 2.5 acres of land attached. £200 capital was required. Those interested were asked to contact Brunt and Co, The Wooden Box, Burton..
- **April 1894** – **Henry Towle** of Thringstone resigned as guardian of the Ashby de la Zouch district for Thringstone. His resignation was considered, and the reasons for his resignation accepted, and an election called. Mr Towle worked for the Midland Railway and it is assumed that he had to move nearer to his employment, which was Matlock.
- **Feb 1898** – The auction of a 6 roomed, double fronted house on **Main Street**, somewhere near the Fox Inn was to take place. The property had been in the occupation of Benjamin Rose Gough, butcher, who had gone to the USA. The next door property was in the occupation of James Wardle. Also in the auction were the gardens to the property which fronted onto Main Street and a building plot next door which had a frontage of 23 feet.
- **April 1898** – **Whitwick Pit Disaster**. On looking through the excellent publication Banded Together, produced by Whitwick Historical Group, we've seen photos of **Everard Merriman, Mary Ann Richards and 2 sons** (husband John Richards died in the disaster), **Hannah Wilson** whose husband Joseph had kept the George and Dragon and who also died in the disaster, and his daughter **Mary Ann Wilson**. These have been saved to our files.
- **April 1898** – **Everard Merriman** was the illegitimate son of Hannah Merriman, and was born and brought up at The Bull's Head, Thringstone which was at the time (13 Dec 1860) kept by his grandmother. We have mentioned him before and that he played cricket for Gracedieu Park. He married Kate Elizabeth Orridge in 1882 (she died in 1902 aged 39) and married again to Bessie Bancroft in 1904. He had 2 sons with Kate – Henry Everard and Arthur. . We also know that in 1919 he got compensation from Whitwick Colliery Company for the loss of his thumb. He died on 7 June 1940 at Bosworth Park Infirmary in Market Bosworth, and lived in the village for many years, latterly at Victoria Cottage, 83 Main Street. We also know that he helped out at Thringstone School and was actively involved with life at St Andrew's church. By looking at the book on the Whitwick Pit Disaster, we realise that despite having been a bricklayer at the pit and having, with others, built up walls to contain the fire on the day of the disaster, he didn't get a certificate of thanks or medal from the committee because he was not at work on the Friday that the 9 bodies were recovered.
- **Nov 1898** – Mr Beckworth, of **Beckworth's Mineral Waters** in Whitwick, was selling an area of land in his ownership, adjoining St Andrew's churchyard, covering 1714 sq. yards with a 66 feet frontage to Main Street.
- **July 1899** – Several properties were auctioned including **Thringstone House**, late in the ownership of Mrs Mary Hurst, deceased. This was bought by Jason White, as we already knew. The purchase price was £600. 2 properties in Main Street occupied by Messrs Toone and Smith were sold for £163 to Price Kidger, farmer.
- **Jan 1909** – **Charles Booth's** campaign to get old age pensions finally allowed the sum of 5 shillings a week to be paid to those over 70 with an income of less than £21 a year. 5 shillings equates to £26.64 in today's terms. To people who had an income of up to £31 a year, a smaller pension was given, but to those over that, nothing was given at all.
- **Feb 1909** – The will of **John Emerson** of Osgathorpe shows that he was the owner of **Fox Terrace** in Thringstone – and they are listed as 7 new houses in the occupation of Wilmot, Emerson, Thomas Falkner and others, and were left to John Emerson's daughters Florence, Lily and Violette.. It is also noted that he owned 6 cottages known as **Church Row**, Thringstone which he left to his daughter May Maloney. Given that she lived at 80 Main Street which isn't far from the church, we wonder which properties these actually were. In addition John Emerson owned Pinfold Field at the



bottom of Main Street which was at the time in the occupation of Henry Jacques. The field was left to Alice Brown and May Maloney (both daughters of John Emerson).

- **1939** – We knew that Robert Henry Hextall of **Charnwood Farm** was a good singer, and also a Baptist. We did not know that his daughter, Frances Elizabeth, born 29 September 1913, and shown with Robert and his wife and son on the 1939 register at Charnwood Farm, was also a staunch Baptist and a senior deacon, preacher, Sunday School teacher and worker for the church right up until her death in 1975.
- **June 1980** – **Mrs Kathleen Price** of Thringstone became the new part time community support organizer for Age Concern which ran from ‘the new Coalville Library’. Mrs Price, who had worked with the health authority nursing services in Coalville, said she would be responsible for developing community support for older people less able to care for themselves.
- **Feb 1986** – **The Rose and Crown** reached the regional finals in The Great Pub Lunch of the Midlands Competition with a steak and ale pie. Other pubs going through to the finals were the New Inn of Five Lane Ends and the Locomotive of Station Street, Burton. Contestants had to prepare a meal as they would in their pub and which appeared on their menu.
- **Jan 1990** – **Thringstone Scout master** Andrew McMorran together with assistant leader Colin Ingall met with scouts to discuss a new patrol project. David Jardine, Mrs Bell and Mrs Hayes were there to help out and Terry Farmer, group scout leader, was dealing with the hiking part of the project. Anne Jones would do all the promotion. The outright winner would be put forward to attend a Jambouree in South Korea in 1991.
- **March 1990** – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society** began rehearsals for a play called Cat Amongst The Pigeons. Produced by Robert Waterfield, the play ran at the community centre from 25-28 April. Amongst the cast were Arthur Sykes, Joe Knifton, Neil Burns, Carol Hulbert, Robert Waterfield, Deborah Knifton and newcomer Stephanie Burke.
- **June 1990** – The annual **well dressing** in Thringstone took place on 23 and 24 June with one well dressing being produced by the youth group at St Andrew’s. This depicts the baptism of Jesus by St John, and the other was made by the 3<sup>rd</sup> year pupils from Thringstone Primary, and portrays St Francis of Assisi. 18 children have taken part in the well dressings and Thringstone guides will be contributing miniature gardens. The foundation of the well dressing is a huge frame which incorporates the picture. Made by **Bernard Lee** (as was also the case in 1991) a huge amount of clay was needed to form the picture and this was provided by Redbank Ltd of Measham. As part of the service at St Andrew’s, local children will perform a play entitled Saints. A pram service will also take place and there will be sponsored hymn requests played on the organ by **Pat Lowe** and **Leon Spence** which will take place at intervals throughout the afternoon.
- **June 1990** – **Thringstone School fete** and Thringstone village Queen, who would reign for a week of festivities was taking part. **Margaret Fern**, Chairperson, arranged a procession from The Green to go down to the school playing fields. **Pamela Wraithmell**, organiser of the school fete, said there would be lots of outdoor stalls and entertainment, which would include a visit from Coalville Fire Brigade
- **Aug 1990** - **Thringstone Gala**, which usually covered a full week of events, was scaled down due to lack of helpers. There had, however, been a 3 legged pub crawl, a family quiz, and a gala day on the Saturday with a float. The procession left The Green at 1pm to travel to the Miners Welfare ground, where carnival queen, Sarah Marie Cook, attended by Sarah Porter and Kim Lawrence, opened the event. There was a band, a display by an American football team, and a cowpat throwing contest

**Social meeting on 5 May** as above. As you may be aware, there has been an increase locally and nationally in the number of covid cases. In order to protect members from infection, some of whom may be vulnerable, if you are in any way feeling unwell, it would be appreciated if you take a lateral flow test before you come out. Those who want to wear masks are welcome to do so.