



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR MAY 2022

News.

Monthly litter pick total – 148 bags removed against **188 bags** for the same month last year. **Leicestershire County Council's survey** into waste ended on 25 April. One of their suggestions is to do weekly waste food collections, thinking that this will reduce the amount of stuff that people put into their black bins, and allow a 3 weekly collection rather than fortnightly. We feel that this could cause all sorts of issues with those people who already struggle to get everything into their bins. We know many who take stuff regularly to the tip in order to be able to cope and/or don't recycle and so their bins are more full than they need to be. The results of the survey will be made known shortly apparently.

Membership monies – Membership monies are now due, other than for 2 people who joined this year. The 52 people who paid their membership to us last time by paying direct to the bank are encouraged to do the same this year please, as it makes it so much easier for us. For those who can do this now but couldn't before, please send us an email or contact Nita so that she can give you the relevant information to pay. For those without the opportunity to do this, Nita will try to come and see you to collect, unless you fancy coming to her at 20 Springfield to drop it off. Please let us know anyway, so we know what we are doing.

Summer Bauble – These were given to people last month to deliver. We would like to thank everybody who has helped with deliveries, both with these last ones and previously. As you know, we are now streamlining, so there will be no more bauble deliveries, and we will place information 4 times a year in Community Voice magazine instead. By announcing this in the bauble, we discovered that people down Whitwick Moor and Brook Lane didn't get the magazine, so these are now going to be delivered by Nita.

5 June Picnic in the Parks – We have a stand here, and are trying to sort a gazebo and someone to take tables there for us. We do need people to help us man this on a rota basis. We have to set up from 9.30am and be ready to go by 11am despite the event not starting until 12 noon. We can't then take anything away until 6pm. Even if you can only manage an hour to help, it would be useful. Please contact Nita on 223434 if you can help.

Gardening – Mike has been tidying down Drury Lane, Brook Lane and on The Green. After Bernard's funeral on 7 April, we decided to dedicate the whole of the area down the bottom end of Drury Lane, where Bernard's tree was planted, as a memorial garden, known as Bernard's garden. Others who wish to have somewhere they can visit to think of their loved ones are welcome, space permitting, to plant bulbs or small shrubs down there in the future. Mike would like to clear right back to the old stone wall and restore/rebuild it again and clear all the dead wood etc. away. An approach may be made to local scouts, but if anybody wants to help, please let us know - no



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skills, special tools etc. needed, just willingness and physical work for two or three hours under Mike's direction. He may bring a sketch plan together to bring to the 5th May social meeting. On 12 and 20 April, the county council **planted trees on Loughborough Road** – 6 in the verges from The Bull's Head up to the Rangers Club, and three near Shrewsbury Walk entrance plus another one on the corner of Melrose Road. These trees will need watering if anybody wants to do this.

Grace Dieu Manor – Confirmation has been received that the 66 acre estate has been bought by FCV International Football Academy. Providing high-level football and education courses, the academy aims to equip aspiring players with the skills they need to progress in the professional game. FCV plan to move to the site by mid August. Work will now begin in earnest from the football academy in transforming the estate's sports pitches into football facilities, and renovate areas to provide residential accommodation. They've also confirmed that they will preserve the area's prestigious buildings as part of their move to the NWL area and intend to provide a gym which would be available to the community to use.

Thringstone Primary – children have recently raised £109.05 for Brain Cancer research, £334.90 for Red Nose Day and £214 for Operation Ocelot. Well done!

103 Loughborough Rd – a new planning application has gone into NWLDC for the building of 2 detached properties in the garden to this property. There are several protected trees including a hornbeam involved in this application, plus a new site access.

St Andrew's – After working hard for the last few months, the church has been awarded Rocha Eco Silver Award. Well done.

Centre – From 9 May, every week – 6pm Zumba, 7pm kettleball class, 7.50pm Pilates. £5 per class. Contact Jane on 077791 44972.

What's On

15 May – Grace Dieu Priory – Walking festival event. Walk leaves from Bull's Head car park at 3pm. Price £3 per person.

15 May – Charles Booth Centre – Car Enthusiasts day from 10am. All welcome.

28 May – Thringstone Members Club – Ace Community Theatre Race Night. Starts at 7pm. £5 per ticket from Scott on 07495 763972

18 June – Thringstone Primary's annual fayre from 11am – 2pm.

Chairs Report

Letters received: None

Emails received: Various from people with whom we regularly share information. Various flytipping reported, as usual.

Promotion: We have **705 twitter followers**, which is the same as last month, and **1,775 facebook followers**, which is 25 more than last month.

Other: Nita has written the first of the quarterly information notices to go into **Community Voice** in May and advertise what is happening for the Jubilee. The magazine's publishers may be looking for volunteers to deliver on the Bellway estate and Gracedieu Road from June onwards.

Our member Tony Gelsthorpe died on 23 April. Condolences to Joyce and Janet.

We are considering getting copies of some of our **publications** which are running low in stock and are seeking a price for a handful of copies of the relevant ones.

Nita was contacted by Vikki Warburton from Enrich who is interested in setting up a **Guardians of the Woods** group and is concerned over kids building cycle ramps all over the woods and destroying the flora and fauna. Nita emailed someone who works with the de Lisle's to flag up this issue.

Finance Report

Tina Bakewell has stepped down from doing our accounts and has been replaced by Anne Statham. We would like to thank Tina for working with us on the books for the last few years. Nita



has done a tidy up of our online banking, removed unnecessary signatories and contact details, as well as getting all bank statements sent to her with different starting and end dates. A check made against our bank account figures is now reflected in the figures given below.

Nita sold copies of Village Trails 1, 2 and 3, a graveyard booklet, WW2 booklet and Memories 1-4, Durham miners, WW1, Born and Bred 3, Thringstone and Its People, Business and Pubs

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	2323.67		
Income		Expenditure	
Publications	£52	Broadband	20.00
Donation	£8	Public liability insurance	157.00
Memberships		Bauble printing	46.15
total income to general fund			
		Total general fund at month end	2160.52

Web Report

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

Incident Report

- 3 firemen attended a small fire in the woodland around lunchtime on 9 April with buckets.
- 20 April – Man exposing himself near Melrose Rd play area. Police arrested him apparently later in the day.
- 29 April – Thringstone Members Club had to close as some customers at a birthday party broke a toilet cistern off the wall plus broke a water heater. The water had to be turned off and because of health and safety the club closed. Repairs were organised and the club anticipated it would reopen the following afternoon.

History report

- Nita mentioned last month that she had been helping a man connected with a Youtube service, giving information on the area from The Bull's Head through to the priory. A video has now appeared on Youtube from the group talking about the **limeworks at Gracedieu**, and mentioning Friends of Thringstone and Nita. It is an amusing video (as always from this group) and very local in its delivery. You can see it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXPSKoZv668>
- For a period of a week, Findmypast gave 50% off to download 1921 census information taking the price to £1.75 per download. Nita downloaded all 13 census forms for Brook Lane at her own cost. These show the Redfern, Waldram, Stopp, Hibbert, Howse, Russell, Yearby, Gough, Rose, Gee, Allen, Upton and Moore families. Nearly all were mining families on strike.
- **Webb family from The Willows** - We've received a copy of the wedding photo from 9 Jan 1931 of Norah Ladyman to John Henry Webb (known as Henry) at St Andrew's. On the photo, as well as Norah and John Henry are 5 of the Webb daughters and some of their husbands - John Henry Biddle (known as Harry) and his wife Ethel Annie nee Webb, Harry Morris and his wife Amy Grace nee Webb, Wilf Annable and his wife Edith May nee Webb, Louie Maud Massey nee Webb and Sarah Jessie Wayne nee Webb plus 2 of Norah's family. There is one person, probably female, partly obscured, whose name we don't know. Mary Gertrude Webb had died in 1918, and we still don't have photos of several other Webb girls - Kate Webb, Lily Phronesia, Ellen Jane and Minnie Rosetta, who had died before this wedding took place. On filing the photo away, together with all the baptism records on the family, we realised there was another child born 28 May 1876 called Arthur Biddle Webb. He died 14 days later and was buried at St Andrew's. We also now have the marriage certificate for Daniel Amos Webb and Catherine Biddle whose family these all were and baptism



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records for all their family, plus have taken details of Minnie Rosetta Waldram nee Webb and her family in 1921. They were living in Brook Lane, and William James Gough Waldram was a colliery railway clerk with South Leicestershire Colliery Co. With the family were their children, Aubrey Webb Waldram and Catherine who were at school. Minnie died on 12 September 1930 at 61 Gracedieu Road, Whitwick.

- **June 1915** – George Frederick Burton (known as Fred), commander of the **Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps**, and grocer of North Street, Whitwick, was notified by the war office that his brother, lance corporal **Harold Sidney Burton** (known as Sidney) of the London Regiment had been killed in action. The brothers had been baptised on the same day – 21 December 1877, at St John's in Whitwick and were the sons of George and Sarah Burton, tailors and drapers of South Street, Whitwick and grandchildren to **Moses Burton**, about whom we have written a considerable amount in the past, was the subject of one of Nita's history write-ups in Community Voice and is also mentioned in our Thringstone and Its People book. Sidney's father, George, died on 16 May 1878 aged only 39. George's sister, Emma, married John Kirby who had the grocery shop on The Green, Thringstone (The Blue House). The deceased, who had left the area to be a school teacher in Clapham, London, had joined up just after the war started, on 14 September 1914 – England had declared war on 4 August. He stated that he was 34 years and 6 months old, when in fact he was 41. His obituary states that he had recently sent some very interesting and quite graphic letters to his brother about life in the trenches, and fascinating snippets of these were printed in the Coalville Times in 1915 and can be read on the Leicestershire War Memorials site: <http://www.leicestershirowarmemorials.co.uk/war/casualty/view/25471>. His obituary states that he had been a teacher at Whitwick National School where he had also been a pupil teacher, before moving to teach in Hucknall and, after a successful college career at King's College, became assistant master at the Wirtemberg Street School in Clapham, from where he joined the regiment. He had been at the Clapham school for 20 years, and being both French and German speaking, was a translator whilst in the army. The head at that school told his sister, Alice that 'he was a big hearted man who would be much missed and regretted. He was a good colleague and as unselfish as he was courageous'. It seemed that he had stopped to bind up the wound of a fallen soldier when he was killed by shrapnel. Records show that Sidney was born in 1873 and was the youngest child. He was brought up in Castle Street, Whitwick and died on 25 May 1915 along with several others in the battle at Givenchy. He had been in France for only 2 months. All his effects were sent to his eldest sister, Alice (Mrs Amos), who lived in Field Street, Shepshed. A bachelor, he is remembered on Le Touret memorial and on the memorials in Coalville, in Whitwick and in the current council offices. There was a memorial service for him at Whitwick church.
- **July 1915** – The Moira parade took place and included within it three members of **Thringstone Cycling Club** who swept the board for prizes in the event for comic cycles. The members were John William Knapp, John Lee (captain) and Harry Morley.
- **Oct 1915** – Members of **Thringstone Cycling Club** held their annual dinner at Queen's Head, Thringstone thanks to the landlord George Henry Hallam and his wife. Members from other clubs, such as the Alpine Club of Leicester came along. Cllr. T Kelly of Whitwick occupied the chair and gave a toast during which he said that the club was well represented on the battle fields of France and Flanders. He said that 2 members had fallen in the fight for King and Country (one being Will Moore). He said that members had taken part in charity parades, for which they were to be congratulated. They had also won 4 first prizes, one second and one third. The members each received a dividend of 7 shillings and 4 pence from the monies held. Officers for the coming season were John Lee (captain), John Knapp, chairman, A Knight, secretary, Joseph Hunt as general helper and George H Hallam as treasurer. Two medals, given by Mr Hallam were presented by the chairman to the secretary and captain for their excellent service. Songs were sung by Mr Albert Glover Ottey, John Knapp, Fred Gill, Fred Harper, A
- **March 1917** – **Mr Eric Albert Stinson Ottey**, son of Albert Glover Ottey, boot and shoe-maker of Thringstone was in hospital in a dangerous condition having been shot in the leg and thigh received in action. Eric survived, married Ethel Clarke, became a school's inspector, and died in Bracebridge Heath, Lincolnshire in 1971.



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- **May 1917** – **James Gee**, former collier of Thringstone and at that time a private in the Third Training Reserve Battalion at Rugeley was tried with being absent from the army since 30 March. He joined the battalion on 12th March and was sent to the training camp, from which he was sent to be a ploughman at a farm at Boundary near Burton on Trent. He left the farm on 30 March and returned to Thringstone for 3 days until his arrest. An escort returned him to the camp. James Gee was killed in action on 25 March 1918.
- **Aug 1917** – Benjamin Baxter presided over a meeting to discuss what the village could do to honour **Corp. F W L Rennocks** who had recently won the military medal in the war. Those present also included Hubert Bradley, Thomas Watts, Ernest Watts, John Henry Weston, J Smith, Joseph T Briers, Henry G W Howe, John Waldrum, Philip Neal, Ernest Gee, and W Abell who were appointed to the committee.
- **Oct 1918** – Having been ‘reported missing for over 12 months, it is now believed that **Thomas Bailey** of the Royal Scots Fusiliers is dead.’ He lived with his grandfather in Drury Lane, Thringstone. His mother lived in Mountsorrel. This gent, along with others mentioned below, features in FoT’s book on the lost men from WW1. Also in October, a **memorial service** was held at St Andrew’s for Corp. **Wilfred Sykes** of Co-operative Cottages, Privates **John Thomas Fortnam** of Fox Terrace, **Amos Griffin** and **John Morley** of Loughborough Road was held. Wilfred Sykes had been missing in action from 26 September 1917
- **Dec 1918** - **William Lawrence** of St Andrew’s Cottages, Main Street, Thringstone was announced in August 1917 as a prisoner of war in Germany. Previously a boot and shoe maker, he returned home in December 1918 after 20 months as a prisoner. His POW report card shows that he was probably in 4 different camps. Before the war he had been captain of the Thringstone House Football Club. He told people about poor food, hard work and brutal treatment in his camp and said that he had lived mainly on the food parcels sent to the camp from England. During the period there had been a Leicestershire Prisoners of War fund, and events were held at the community centre, usually by Rev. Shrewsbury, to contribute to this.
- **Sept 1947** – Having defended protests in the summer relating to the subsidies they were being paid, **East Midlands Housing Association** defended claims from Coalville Council that they were paying labourers 3 pence an hour more to work on their 42 unit site in Thringstone than the going wage in order to slow down work on Council projects. The number of men on site in Thringstone was 52, of which 16 were local. The remaining men had been brought in by EMHA who hadn’t the slightest desire to take men from Council building projects. It was accepted that conditions on the EMHA site were superior to those on the Council sites, and council men were paid between 2 shillings and 2 shillings and 6 pence an hour whereas EMHA paid more. However, the EMHA contractors did not qualify for superannuation, but got paid a good wage for a clean job. By November 1947 permission had been given for a further 48 houses to be built in Thringstone.
- **Oct 1947** – A court case in Ashby to decide the ownership of a field on the A512 known as Judge Field, in which **Albert John Kirby** lived in a bungalow, stated that Mr Kirby was the grandson of Moses Burton who had died in November 1893 and son of John Kirby, grocer of The Green, Thringstone (what is now known as The Blue House). Mr Kirby said he had lived at the bungalow for 30 years but Ethel Marian Haywood of Breedon Brand, Griffydham (his sister) and George Frederick Burton of Louth (another of Moses Burton’s grandchildren), claimed ownership of the field and the property on it and wanted possession as they were trustees under the terms of the will. Upon the death of Albert’s mother, Mrs Emma Kirby in 1940, it had become necessary to sell the field, as her life interest in the land, mentioned in her own father’s will, ended upon her death. When Mr Kirby lost the case, despite his protestations that he had looked after his mother Emma for 30 years, he produced a will in which he said his mother left him everything (which was thrown out of court). He also said he’d owned the land in question for 50 years, and all the work on the land in question had been done ‘by the sweat of my own brow’. He said that the bungalow had been paid for with money from his mother, but it didn’t matter, as the bungalow was portable anyway, and he could shift it. We were unaware that Mr Kirby was the grandson of Moses Burton who lived on Gracedieu Road and was a prominent employer of framework knitters in his day and also a local board member, but now realise Albert’s mother, Emma, was Moses



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Burton's daughter. Moses is mentioned in our book Thringstone and Its People. As a result of this information, we did more research and uncovered the will of Moses Burton, in which it lists the land he owned, both in Whitwick and Thringstone, of which there was an awful lot. It also revealed that at the time of the writing of his will, which was 20 June 1891, he owned The George and Dragon, and lots of land that end of the village. We were aware that he bought 5 acres of land near Thringstone in 1865 from newspaper records we had previously seen and that, after his death, 8 acres of land he had owned in Whitwick was sold in 1897 for £900 in order to help the sewage scheme being considered for Whitwick. The will also details the names of his children, including one borne to his housekeeper, to whom the will refers as 'the reputed daughter', born in the summer of 1880. His eldest son, Charles, who was a director of Charnwood Forest Railway, churchwarden in Whitwick and also became a board member of the Ashby Board of Guardians, and inherited a lot of the estate, died 12 days after his father and we now have details of all the properties sold in Feb 1894 as a result of his death. All of this was new information.

- **April 1948 – Albert Roome** stood for the first time as councillor for Thringstone and continued to be the village councillor until 1956 with one of his first jobs as a councillor, in 1950, being in charge of farms and allotments. Born on 4 May 1896 in Whitwick, one of 4 girls and 6 boys of Frederick, a bricklayer, and Elizabeth. Albert lived on Brooks Lane, Whitwick and married Florrie Bunce on 24 May 1920. The couple had 2 sons, Aubrey and Ronald, and a daughter called Joy, born 16 years after Aubrey. People may remember that Aubrey Roome was a barber in John Street, Thringstone. Albert was very keen on amateur dramatics, and worked with others in the area to put on concerts, working at one time with the Thringstone Jollies concert party. From a political standpoint, he worked for many years with Benjamin Walter Johnson, another labour councillor for Coalville and father of Pam Spence. Albert was chairman of the council in 1953/4 having taken over from Bardon and Ellistown councillor R H E Glover, was a very proactive member of the Royal Antedeluvian Order of Buffaloes and during WW2 was a local ARP warden. A miner, Albert is mentioned in a book called 'A Coalville Miner's Story' as he and George Ward were the key architects of the Retired Miners and Widows Concessionary Coal Scheme which was approved back in 1955. The book refers to him as D. Roomes because everyone knew him as Dickie rather than Albert and many people got the surname wrong calling the family 'Roomes' rather than 'Roome'. Albert gave up his seat on the council in April 1956 on medical advice, although he still retained his union seat on the Leicestershire Miners' Council and had only been re-elected to that position 2 weeks before his death on 4 February 1958 at LRI. Albert is buried in the cemetery in Whitwick.
- **Dec 1948** – The **community centre** invested in a new dance floor in the upstairs hall.
- **Feb 1949 – Cyril Webb**, aged 28, former sub postmaster at Thringstone was in court charged with fraud. The previous November he had stolen 444 postal orders, 2048 postage stamps, 37 books of postage stamps, 24 health and pensions insurance stamps, plus 48 x 2 shillings and 6 pence National Savings Stamps. He also admitted to stealing £20 in cash in Sept 1948 which he put on horses that did not win. Mr Webb had tried to say there was a burglary, but investigations proved this was not the case and on investigating Mr Webb's lorry, which was parked at the back of the post office, some of the stamps were found. Mr Webb had been sub postmaster from August 1947 until he was suspended on 8 November 1948. Webb had found the work difficult and the accounts never seemed to tally. When shortages were noted, he had tried to top up the missing money with his own cash, and at one stage borrowed £50 to make the amount good. Mr Webb said that the shortages were getting more and more each week that he felt the only way out was to stage a burglary. Cyril appears to have been born in Ellistown on 21 May 1921 and died in the Coalville area in 1999.

Social meeting on 5 May at 7pm as above. Please meet at the entrance to Drury Lane at 7pm. 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. We will see how this meeting goes before deciding whether to go back to monthly gatherings.