



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 2022

News.

Monthly litter pick total – 118 bags removed by 6 people against **123 bags** for the same month last year. Worthington brownies, rainbows and guides also did a litter pick using our sticks. Nita logs our litter collection figures onto our page on CleanupUK, which shows that since we started recording details of our litter collections in 2010, we have removed a few short of 19,000 bags of rubbish from our village and its woodlands.

Next meeting – 6 October in the house lounge at Charles Booth Centre at 7pm.

Last meeting notes: For the benefit of those not on email: *Our meeting went ahead despite the news that evening of the death of our Queen. There were 7 people there, and 3 apologies. We spoke at the start of the meeting about the shining example she gave of service to the country, and Nita agreed to send a message to the Royal Family, through twitter, given that we are holders of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, expressing our sorrow on the day's events but our thanks for her example through the years. This was done.*

Gazebo – We are being gifted a 3 x 6 gazebo by the granddaughter of one of our members who works for a quarry in Shepshed, for which we are grateful. **UPDATE** – the gazebo was delivered to the centre on 9 September addressed to Nita and was supplied by the quarry at Shepshed. It is now with Bill Enser in his barn until we need to use it.

Enrych choir – This choir is trying to bring together those who want to sing, and there will be an initial meeting on 21 Sept at 10am for those that want to come along. Nita had already sent an email to our members, and put something on social media. Many of our members can't do Wednesdays, and some wanted evenings, but like Nita said, others who are older might not like to come out in an evening, especially if they are on their own.

Family disco – Pam said that about 40 adults turned up to the family disco 2 weeks ago, and she thought it was a success and would be repeated going forward. We discussed the help we had given in delivering leaflets for the event at length.

Women's group – Nita had sent something round to members about the possibility of starting a women's group at the centre, but it had been pointed out by the WI who also meet at the centre that this could cut across what they offer. All emails Nita received on this issue, including one from the WI, have been sent direct to the office as it is their decision as to whether a new group is started or not.

Centre funding/cost of living – there had been concern expressed over the rising cost of energy and how this could affect the centre. Nita understands from the chair of the trustees that there is a funding bid going in for a new boiler. It was mentioned that this issue had been discussed many moons ago when there was a management committee and nothing had ever happened. In any event, should a funding bid be successful, it would be a while before a new boiler appeared. Nita



The Friends of Thringstone

said that she had told B that the centre is listed as a historical asset, as this would be useful in funding bids. Nita had also asked the chair of the trustees whether there were any plans to offer villagers a warm space in which to meet during the winter months. Given that the lights and heating have to be on for the pre-school, and there are some empty rooms, it was felt that offering somewhere for people who might be struggling to heat their own homes to meet would be a good idea. The centre team are considering this, but there is already an open morning on Mondays for people to meet if they wish to. Nita also said that, following the announcement today about the price cap, it was understood that charities, like the centre, would be helped through for 6 months from October by a price cap, and that things after that would be reviewed.

Hello Heritage – our event was 10 Sept from 12 noon. Nita went through the rota of helpers and those who had offered cakes. Nita has bought tea, coffee, milk and sugar for the event. Set up would be from 11am. There is a flag which would be erected on the lawn. Pam wondered what other promotion had been done. Nita had put details of the event on several websites, had put up posters locally, and put things on social media and the boards were all out. Pam and Ann Petty said that they would put out the flyers for the Hello Heritage event at the coffee morning on Friday 9th. Nita said she had sent photos of some of the tapestry which will be put up on the day to the communications folk at NWLDC to use for publicity in the lead up to the weekend.

Janet said that she was off to ring muffled bells at St John's in Whitwick to mark the death of The Queen, and they were trying to arrange for the flag there to be at half-mast. St Andrew's were open from 7pm-9pm that night for people to pay their respects and would be open from 11.30am the following morning for similar reflection.

Hello Heritage – Many thanks to all who baked, came to help on the day, and gave of their valued time to put on our event at Charles Booth Centre on 10 September.

Hello Heritage is a yearly district wide event, started by NWLDC in 2017 running for 2 weeks in September. Groups work on information for local history boards to put up in their area during the period, and Council provided leaflets detailing those taking part, when and where. We have been part of this since day one, and have 6 history boards in Thringstone for people to read and see. Nita puts these together, and the artwork etc. is then sent to the council to produce the boards. In addition to our boards, we provide a comprehensive, museum quality display around a theme, and Ann brings dozens of history folders on all sorts of subjects for people to look through. Prior to Hello Heritage, we did our own events, starting on 30 June 2007. This was huge and was to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the opening of the primary school. As well as our school themed exhibition, we had penny garland dances, Punch and Judy and all sorts, and the event was opened by Squire de Lisle. The next was in September 2008 to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the Whitwick Pit Disaster. We had magicians, a band, bouncy castles, craft and charity stalls, a fairground organ and pony rides, as well as the history exhibition at the centre. We also put on smaller history events, starting in May 2009, at George and Dragon as well as at the centre, but we moved to exclusively use the centre when Pete Gough left the pub.

In more recent years, our events have included Century of Stories, Charles Booth (to work with the anniversary of his death), Prominent Women in NWL which included displays from Whitwick Historical Group, Ibstock Historical Group, Ravenstone Almshouses and others, and a 3 day WW1 event in 2014, where we had displays, talks, slide shows, and all sorts at the centre and another WW1 event in 2018 to coincide with the end of WW1.

Your views required please.

Turnout was low to our Hello Heritage event this year at the centre. Was it because of the Queen's death? We need to know why so few people from our group, and the village, came to support the event in order to work out what we put on next year. Many other organisations who take part merely had history boards around their area and no inside event or exhibition this time. Perhaps people may have thought that the event was cancelled, although Nita got 2 calls from people asking that question beforehand.

Due to covid, there were no inside events in 2020 or 2021 but our boards were around to see.



Here are some stats to help you come to a decision:

2022 – Theme was from the Queen’s coronation onwards, and included our unique tapestry pieces, which were the major promotional point in our publicity. 30 people came along, which included 3 children and 9 members. Cake sales made £41.24, and publications to the value of £16 were sold. Nita worked with NWLDC to produce 2 new history boards this year about the village – Methodists and School.

2021 – Although we had no indoor event, Nita did produce a new board on the inclusivity and diversity of our population. This fitted in with an event at the centre later in the year.

2020 - no event but boards put up as before.

2019 - Theme was Thringstone Panto and Drama Society, and we also arranged for a dance display by Hugglescote Dance and Drama team which was very well received. At that event we got 51 people along, and made £45 in cake sales and sold £4 in publications.

2018 – Theme was the history of the centre. David White also gave a slide show at 6pm, and Tom came in so we had a bar open. We had 62 people attend, made £61 in cake sales and £68.50 in publication sales.

2017 – Theme was Booth family. It was well attended, but we are unable to find a record of actual numbers and it seems no money was made by our group. We remember however that former Thringstone teacher Viv Carey came along to the event .

Value of being part of Hello Heritage- allows our name to be in all the council’s publicity, could potentially increase footfall at the centre by bringing in new people to see the building, increases our opportunities to show our dedication to recording the history of the village and also attract new members and aids publicity sales.

Please let us know your views.

Christmas Carols On The Green – Nita has been working with the centre to produce a poster for our carols on 16 Dec. We have various people who have agreed to help with getting the word out there. If you can also help with putting up a poster/sharing social media posts etc., please let Nita know.

Thringstone Primary - Some fantastic news to start this year...the school was awarded the NWLSSP Gold School Sports Award for 21/22. Well done to all children and staff who work so hard to provide the excellent sporting opportunities at Thringstone.

Thringstone Scouts are looking for new trustees, plus a secretary and treasurer. If you think you can help, please contact them direct.

Charles Booth Centre - The coffee morning on 9 September raised £127. Thank you to all who came along. The coffee morning in October is to raise money for LRI Children’s Ward.

Thringstone Members Club has a new website which is www.thringstonemembersclub.org.uk The club is not just for members, and offers weekend and weekday meals and entertainment.

They have also announced **new classes** run by Leanne on 07791 705450. These are Mondays 4pm-4.45pm Red Festival, 4.45-5.30 Aerobatics 1, 5.30-6.30 Aerobatics 2, 6.30-7.30 Aerobatics 3 and Thursdays 4.15pm-5pm Street Dance 1, 5-5.45 – Musical theatre, 5.45-6.30 Street Dance 2.

Thringstone Panto and Drama Society collections during their murder mystery play in September raised money for The Bridge, to help homeless folk. Their fashion show raised £204.53 for British Heart Foundation.

Juke Joint at the centre finishes for good on 2 October. Annie Duggan has decided that, since audience levels have dropped, they need to concentrate their efforts in other directions. The last one on 2 Oct will run at the centre from 3pm-6pm.

Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club’s match on 11 September in memory of Brian Pepper saw many players from the past returning to take part in a friendly game, and money was raised for the club’s defibrillator fund.

What’s On

8 Oct – **Hare and Hounds** – MacMillan Coffee Morning from 11am. All welcome.



14 Oct – Coffee Morning from 10am–12 noon at **Charles Booth Centre** for LRI Children’s ward
 15 Oct – **Thringstone Members Club**. MacMillan Coffee afternoon 1pm-5pm. All welcome.
 29 Oct – **Thringstone members Club** Halloween bingo inc. supper. Tickets in advance for £12 children £5. Starts at 6.30pm. Costumes recommended.
 30 Oct – Charles Booth Centre – **Halloween party** 2pm. All free. Costumes a must. Prizes.
 5 November - Firework display at **Thringstone Members Club**. Starts at 8.30pm. Tickets £6 family of 2 adults, 3 children, £2 per adult, children £1.
 5 November – **George and Dragon**. Fireworks display plus live band The Mercians. Gates open at 4pm. Tickets for parking are £10 Bonfire lit at 7pm.
 19 Nov – **Thringstone Members Club** – Rod Stuart (a Rod Stewart tribute). Tickets £12
 27 Nov – **Christmas craft fayre** at **Charles Booth Centre** presented by Thringstone Panto and Drama Society. 11am-3pm. Santa comes at 2pm.
 3 Dec – Christmas Fayre at **Thringstone Members Club** 4.30-8.30pm. Grotto and carol singers
 4 Dec – **Carols at the Priory**. Starts at 3pm. Parking at the bottom car park of Bull’s Head.
 11 Dec – **Santa Fun run** from Charles Booth Centre. Starts at 9am. £5 on the day for ticket.
 16 Dec – **Carols round the tree** at the centre. Leave St Andrew’s at 6.30pm and walk to the centre singing carols. U3A choir will be part of the entertainment package at the centre.

Chairs Report

Emails received/sent: Various from people with whom we regularly share information. Various fly tipping reported, as usual.

Promotion: We have **716 twitter followers**, which is 4 more than last month, and **1,913 facebook followers**, which is 63 more than last month. **The increase in facebook followers** is due to a post Nita put out about a dog found in a poor condition on the A512. This attracted over 640 shares.

Finance Report

Nita sold a memories 1, 3 and 4, plus a graveyard booklet and businesses book at Hello Heritage.

| | | | |
|---|----------------|--|----------------|
| Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float) | 2785.16 | | |
| Income | | Expenditure | |
| Publications | £16 | Broadband | 20.00 |
| Cake sales | £41.24 | | |
| Memberships | | | |
| total income to general fund | £57.24 | | £20 |
| | | Total general fund at month end | 2822.40 |

Web Report

Nothing has been updated since March. The webmaster is still working on this.

Incident Report

- Issues at bus stop with children waiting for the school bus picking on other children.
- 9 Sept – huge police presence on Melrose Rd/Lbro Road. Police chasing a man seen jumping over fences to avoid capture. Man eventually found and arrested.
- 13 Sept – Police chase of stolen BMW from Shepshed and into Thringstone then through Whitwick, to Nanpantan. Car was travelling in excess of 80mph in a 30 area. 3 people were arrested. One then ran away but was located hiding in a wheelie bin and rearrested.



History report

- Nita was contacted by a lady from Nottingham, whose gran was **Bella Ivy Hallam**, born in Thringstone on 18 Aug 1922, for help with the family tree. The Hallam family lived in what is now known as The Blue House on The Green, and formerly lived in the tenement at the rear of that property, known as Kirby's Yard. Rebecca Hallam and her son John Thomas also lived for a time in the 1920/30s on Drury Lane. Bella was a very secretive person and the illegitimate daughter of Catherine, daughter of Rebecca. Bella married Thomas Walker in 1943 in Loughborough, but he died in 1947, and she moved and remarried Clarence Clarke in 1948 in Chesterfield. Bella died in 1993 in Worksop, Nottinghamshire. Interestingly the 1921 census for Rebecca and Catherine Hallam and family show another Bella Hallam born in 1920, who disappears, and there are no burial records for this person. We provided the lady with a lot of information about Rebecca Hallam and her family, plus supplied a copy of the 1921 census for the family, which includes her grandmother, and a photo of Bella which we had acquired from another source. We also gave her various marriage certificates and baptism details we had on file.
- In September's copy of The Maypole magazine, produced for the folk of Belton, are a couple of pages on the life of **Margaret Richardson**, who was one of our members for some years. Margaret lived in the large house on the corner of Henson's Lane and Loughborough Road and had connections to Belton Church going back decades.
- Nita was contacted by Colin the grandson of **Sarah Ann Minnie Pickering** nee Abell who worked at Gracedieu Manor for the Booth family for information on his family. He said he thought she had been the housekeeper, although the 1921 census shows her as an under parlour maid. When she left her employment with the Booths, she was given a sideboard, silk purse and silk picture of a hunting scene by the Booth family, which his family still have. He was unaware that his grandmother was in Mary Booth's convalescent home opposite the Bull's Head, or any of the other details we had on file about his grandmother which we were pleased to share with him. He told us that his gran was living on Booth Road when she died, and that he had no idea about his grandfather Jack's jobs prior to working for Charnwood council, so telling him what was on the 1939 register was a revelation.
- **Jan 1920** – Mr Burton, **Thringstone newsagent**, was attacked whilst coming back from delivering newspapers to a lonely part of Thringstone at 8pm on 7 Jan. A man jumped out of a hedge and demanded money. There was a struggle, during which Mr Burton fell, and a second man appeared. Mr Burton was badly assaulted and robbed of around 8 shillings. The assailants ran off. Police were investigating.
- **March 1939** – **Thringstone Methodist Chapel** was solemnised to be able to carry out marriages on 29 March 1939.
- **May 1939** – When George Slim took over the **George and Dragon**, he advertised in Long Eaton stating that his wife was the former Jessie Smith of that town and people should visit. Advertising themselves as being a Worthington's pub, the couple promised visitors a good experience all round.
- **April 1952** – **A tennis club**, formed by Bernard Dong at the community centre, already had a membership of 16 people
- **July 1952** – Ex sergeant **W Eagle RA of Henson's Lane** received a package in which was a meritorious medal for his services in the army. Mr Eagle joined up in 1921 to the Royal Garrison Artillery and served until the end of WW2 and was at this time working at Pegson's. In a covering letter, it was explained that Mr Eagle would also receive a financial annuity. Mr Eagle was stationed in Turkey, Malta and India and when the army was trying out a new lorry from England, Mr Eagle was chosen to take guns in to the Himalayas as part of a trial. His long service brought him The North West Frontier, Jubilee, Coronation, Long Service and Good Conduct Medals and the army rating of having an exemplary character as well as the leisure time distinctions in cricket and boxing. He now helps with youth work and plays cricket at Markfield.
- **October 1954** – **George Widdowson** of Combe Vale, Loughborough Road, Thringstone returned from a night out with his wife and found a man in the living room of his house at 1am on Sunday 10 October and rang the police. Frederick Dryden Thompson of Melton Mowbray told police he had



The Friends of Thringstone

broken in by breaking 2 panes of glass in the French windows, as he wanted to use the telephone to get a taxi home, and was described as being rather tipsy, having been seen at a dance in Loughborough earlier that night in a state of drunkenness. Prior to the police being informed, Mr Thompson offered to pay for the damage to the windows but Mr Widdowson refused, and said it was a police matter.

- **Jan 1955** – Elections of officers at **Thringstone Methodist Chapel, Loughborough Road** saw Arthur Sykes re-elected as head of the youth fellowship with J Burbank as deputy leader. Gordon Robinson was elected as chairman with A Sykes as junior secretary, Clifford Shelton as treasurer and Wilfred Sykes as organist and Victor Burbank as assistant organist.
- **Jan 1955** – **Jackie Hurst** of 3 John Street, a miner at New Lount colliery, had a portrait in oils exhibited at the first exhibition held by **Thringstone Art Group** at Coalville Library where the exhibition was being held. Leonard Sealey, warden at the community centre and the only experienced painter amongst the group said 'Mr L J Mitchell, the librarian, is asking people to come along and fill in a form indicating which pictures they like best. This is being done to encourage people to look at the pictures objectively, and with added interest.' He said that most of the exhibitors had only been painting for a year and whilst they were not striving to be professional, they wanted people to see what pleasure could be had by painting themselves.
- **April 1955** - Zac Parker retired from the council and there was a local election. **Eric Butterworth** stood as the new candidate for Thringstone. Eric lived at 4 Homestead Road, having previously lived on Meadow Lane, and had become vice chair of the Thringstone Coronation Committee in 1953. We have a newspaper cutting which contains his photograph. He was born on 30 December 1919 and died on 17 August 1978 and was married to Whitwick girl Emma Roberts in 1943. Eric ended his career as caretaker at Thringstone Primary from 1971 and lived on site in the bungalow as reported in previous minutes. The couple had 3 daughters, May, Elaine and Pauline who married Don Badcock. Their son Stephen was very involved with St Andrew's and also with local history for some time, and was also a local musician.
- **Oct 1955** – A St Bernard dog known as Charnwood Bruno belonging to **Mrs Walker** of the garage at Gracedieu won 5 first prizes, a diploma for the best non-sporting dog and best in show at a dog show in West Bridgford. The dog won its second challenge certificate at Edinburgh Championship show a few weeks earlier.
- **Feb 1985** – After committing arson in October 1984 on her property in **Booth Road** which would cost £2195 to put right, mother of two, 38 year old Pauline McAuley nee Murphy, who had a life limiting illness, had spent 10 weeks in Holloway prison as there was no secure hospital place available to her. It was felt that a standard hospital place could not be offered, as Mrs McAuley was guilty of arson and could place other patients in danger. Mrs McAuley had Huntington's Chorea, a disease which is hereditary and fatal, and killed her own mother aged 42. She had married her husband Hugh in Coalville in 1969. Following an article by Leicester Mercury, and pressure put to bear on authorities, a bed had been found for her in Carlton Hayes, but a judge had to approve her removal to the hospital before anything was set in place. Because of her condition, it was felt unlikely at the time that the trial would ever take place, and the whole issue was branded as a scandal by social workers and prison staff, and a judge described the whole thing as a disgrace. Her case was taken up by her MP David Ashby. Eventually the arson charge against her was dropped at a special hearing at Leicester Crown Court, where she was dealt with under the Mental Health Act rather than criminal law and she was admitted to Carlton Hayes hospital. The recorder said this was an extraordinary case, and the change of heart came about as a result of the pressure from Leicester Mercury and a wish to take a humane course of action. The case gave cause for concern that similar issues were being faced by others in the country because of the lack of secure hospital places. Pauline died in Leicester in 1990 aged 43 years.

There will be no meeting in November.