



# The Friends of Thringstone



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

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## **BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 2023**

**Monthly litter pick total – 155 bags** removed by 7 people against **154 bags** for the same month last year. We've heard that **Co-op baskets** are being found on Whitwick Moor, some with groceries in, which leads us to think these are dumped after a shop lifting spree, as we know these continue.

**Notes of meeting held on 6 July -** Members on email will have already got this, but it is repeated here for the benefit of those who get paper copies of the bulletins.  
5 attendees and 3 apologies.

**Wall situation** – A GoFundMe page has been set up to try to raise funds for the rebuilding of the fallen part of the wall down the church jitty. It got off to a slow start despite social media posts to 7 different sites, emails to all FoT members, and 2 press releases having been issued. Several inaccurate comments have been made on social media by people reading about the fundraising, and these comments have been corrected. Kyle Donan, the person who gave the quote for £7k for the rebuilding of the wall, asked what was happening and has been updated. Nita is in consultation with someone outside the group who can apparently give us details of other stone wall builders we can ask to quote for the project. Everybody appreciates that there are huge pressures on people's finances at the moment, but any donations would be gratefully received. Go to [www.gofundme.com/f/thringstone-stone-wall](http://www.gofundme.com/f/thringstone-stone-wall) to make a donation if you wish to do so. Thank you. If you are unable to use technology, you can give money direct to us by cheque, cash or bank transfer, but you would need to make it clear that you were donating money towards the wall repair, as this is being kept separate from other monies. Thanks to Geoff Walker for sharing details of the project onto his Instagram page. This has made quite a difference in totals being received but nothing has been received now for over 24 hours, leaving the total collected at £703.

**Football Academy at Gracedieu Manor** – Nita, Ann and Sarah went along on 5 July for a tour round the facilities and to talk to the manager of the academy, Janeanne Moulton, about their work and what help they can offer in the community. They also met Ann Dyte who is one of the directors, learnt details of the history of the football academy from the 1980s in Northamptonshire to date, and talked about networking in the future. The main funding person is a wealthy Turkish man who, having sunk money into buying the 66 acre site, regularly sends things in lorries from Turkey to the academy. There are two companies on site – the football academy and also Gracedieu Manor Park which deals with the remaining part of the building and site which is not part of the footballing side. The directors are keen to work with the community, and with Thringstone Primary, going forward. From September, a children and adults swim is to be offered on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and on Sundays an adult swim class will be offered. More details of these will be given in the August bulletin. There is also still the prospect



that the onsite gym will be completed and open to the public to use at a cost. Several other thoughts are being worked through, including hiring out rooms for conferences, using some of the residential units out of term time for Air B&B as well as other areas within the main house, using the venue for antiques fairs, wedding receptions etc. The directors are keen to work with the village on joint projects, and help us with fundraising and litter picking. It was a shame that the Beata from centre team couldn't go to the meeting due to feeling ill.

**Ruby's** – will be closed for their holidays from 6 August until 20<sup>th</sup> August with the next opening day being the Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August as they no longer open on Mondays.

**Homestead Road playgroup** – this playgroup closed today after 40 years with a party thrown by the Thringstone Miners Social Centre. All children had a great time using the soft play equipment provided, and there was a buffet and presents given to staff. Andrea Beagles, who has been chairman of the group for decades, said she was very emotional that it had closed, and others in the village praised the work done by the playgroup with them and in some cases their mothers and other members of their family over this time.

**Other promotional opportunities** - Nita brought a copy of the Maypole Magazine (Belton) to the meeting. She had written an article for them on Charles Booth's links to the Whitwick and Thringstone Nursing Association.

**History things** - Nita also showed people a copy of a will from the Elizabethan period which Ann Petty had let her borrow and which was mentioned in our July bulletin. This will relates to land around where The Star now stands in Main Street. This property has just changed hands, and Nita has helped the new owners with information on its history.

### **New information**

**Hello Heritage** – our event on 16 September is being advertised in the council's literature shortly. Nita has written a quiz, which will be given out on the day of our exhibition and is intended to try to get more people walking round the village to look at the boards that we are putting up was on the feedback from last year. On returning the sheets to us at the exhibition, all winning quiz sheets will be put into a tub and a winner drawn. The winner will be rewarded with a small prize plus a free 12 month membership of our group. We are hopefully getting the school involved with supplying some artwork, and the centre have said they might let us use their bouncy castle.

Nita is working on getting some promotional material done so that we have as many people coming to the event as possible and has advertised the event in the Community Voice for September and on the NWLDC's What's On pages. Old School House residents are likely to attend.

Jill Emmerson and family has said they will help to man the catering stand, but will need help. Set up will be from 11am and the event goes on until 6pm.

Old School house are helping with cakes, but we are still looking for people to **bake cakes** for us to sell. Doesn't need to be anything fancy. Please let Nita know if you are able to help.

**Wall project** - Thanks to Geoff Walker for doing another Instagram post where he sang to his wife, money started coming in again from all over the world, with some exceptionally lovely comments made about the impact that Geoff has made to followers of his posts. One said 'We wanted to donate to the wall project to thank Geoff and Pauline for all the smiles they've spread throughout the world'. Others thanked him for his recipes. We also received £250 from an anonymous doner, £500 from Ruby's and £1000 from Fleet Auction Group after more social media promotion was done and members were emailed. 9 people on twitter shared the social media post, and 6 from facebook did too. Taking into account the GoFundMe costs of 2.9%, we are about £1k short of our target but are hopeful that this will come shortly. In the meantime, the stone waller has agreed to start work on 28 August. He wants 50% upfront with the remainder after he's finished. The work is likely to take 4 weeks to complete as it is very complicated.

**Bus stop** – Following a lot of campaigning by one of our members, the bus stop next to the traffic calming at the top of the church jitty on Loughborough Road was moved on 11 and 12 July to further down the road by the Badgerscroft estate, opposite no. 88 Lbro Rd. This should allow for



more free-flowing movement of vehicles going forward. New kerbs were put in by other existing bus stops on Loughborough Rd. The movement of the bus stop has caused some concern in the village, as it is closer now to the service road entrance and also to Melrose Road junction and 'hidden' by bushes.

**Old School House** – it will be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the care home in December, and Nita has been asked to help provide photo and information on the property before it became a care home. Nita sent a lot of stuff to them for their displays. They are satisfied with what we sent, despite us having a lot more in our archives.

**George and Dragon** – SBV car valeting are at the pub every Wednesday throughout the summer from 12.30pm-7pm. weather permitting.

**FCV Football Academy** – have been given the green light to instal an international size pitch by NWLDC despite one objection from a neighbour.

**Centre** – The centre has a **Cook Meet and Eat** free course available through Stephenson College on 1, 8, 15 and 22 August. This will run as a 4 week course between 10am and 12.30pm on those dates. To book a place, ring 0800 988 0308 and quote code no. 23SN509N.

The centre also has a FREE 9 week course starting on 4 August called **Couch to 5K** – take on a new challenge with a supportive group of women this summer. Starts at 6.30pm on 4 August and for more information contact the centre to book.

The centre cancelled their planned music day on 22 July because of difficulties.

From August, **the social supermarket** on Wednesday mornings will run from 10.30am until 12 noon. Also every Wednesday from 10am – 1pm is a **community café** for people to attend.

The charity coffee morning in July raised £147 for the **Stroke Club**.

### Chairs Report

**Emails received/sent:** Usual exchanges of information. Various fly tipping reported, as usual.

**Promotion:** We have **754 twitter followers**, which is 5 more than last month, and **2,087 facebook followers**, which is 18 more than last month.

**Other: Welcome** to our new member Suzanna Nicola.

**We are sorry** to report that our member Brenda Simpson died on 14 June. Her funeral was 20 July at Bretby. Brenda had been a member for some years and worked for a very long time behind the bar at the community centre. Condolences go to Jacqui and Iain.

### What's On

2 Aug – **Charles Booth Centre** 10am – 12 noon – NWLDC's health and well being van to discuss anything health related, including cost of living anxieties. FREE.

6 Aug – **Thringstone Miners Social Centre** - Family Fun Day, face painting, stalls, bouncy castle, games, raffle, entry £1. Open 2pm-6pm.

12 Aug – **Meadows car home** summer fete from 2pm. Cake and craft stalls, BBQ, raffles etc. Stalls are £5 if anybody wants to have one. Contact 223800 to discuss.

19 Aug – **Woodstock in Whitwick Music Festival** at Man within Compass. Starts at 12.30pm. Entry is £2 per adult, and £5 family (2 adults plus children).

**Sept** – Starting in September at FCV International Football Academy at **Gracedieu Manor**, adult and child swimming lessons Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. £68 for 8 lessons. .For further details contact [admin@splishsplashswim.co.uk](mailto:admin@splishsplashswim.co.uk) Also starting in September on Sundays between 1.30 and 3.30pm will be small swimming classes, organised by [www.swimwithjo.co.uk](http://www.swimwithjo.co.uk) from where you can find further details.

16 Sept – Hello Heritage at **Charles Booth Centre** 12 noon until 5.30pm.

17 Sept – Shopping and fundraising fashion show at **Charles Booth Centre**. 3pm. Tickets £5 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads)

29 and 30 Sept – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society** – murder mystery – The Half Monty. 7.30pm start. £10 inc. chip cob. Book via [www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads) or ring 0333 666 3366. Raffle for Coalville Stroke Association.



6 and 7 Oct – **Thringstone Members Club** – Murder mystery play Great British Bump Off. Tickets £12 to inc. light buffet from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/ace](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ace)

### Financial

The totals given below do not include any money sent to us from GoFundMe for the wall. This is being kept separate from our own accounts.

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>3171.03</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Memberships	£4	Broadband	20.00
		Public Liability insurance	15.70
		Website renewal	£72.00
		Rubber gloves for litter picking	£14.10
		300 bags for litter picking	£26.39
<b>total income to general fund</b>	£4		£148.19
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>3,026.84</b>

### Web Report

The webmaster is continuing to work on updates.

### Incident Report

- 7 July – group of lads down **Drury Lane** were abusive to a young child and her friend and were generally misbehaving. Mother of child reported this to police.
- 12 July – continued problems with stones etc. being thrown as houses and flats on **Booth Road**. It would seem that this had been carrying on daily for 2 months, and 10 or so lads were meeting in the churchyard at St Andrew's between 6pm and 9pm at night. Police have been informed on a number of occasions, and eventually visited the victim after Nita submitted another report and told the vicar. Incidents then stopped.
- 18 July- van broken into in **Carterdale** in early hours of the morning and tools stolen.
- 21 July – Large white van stolen from its parking place on **King Richards Hill**, Whitwick
- 24 July – burglary at commercial premises at **North St, Whitwick** sometime between midnight and 8am. Police asking for witnesses.

### History report

- **Feb 1859** – On 27<sup>th</sup>, Adolphus William, the eldest child of James Hopper of **The Queen's Head** died aged 1 year and 10 months.
- **Dec 1864** – Joseph Moore, collier of Thringstone, was fined 2 shillings and 6 pence or 14 days hard labour for an assault on James Hopper of **The Queen's Head** on 26 Dec.
- **Feb 1869** – **Three Tuns** advertised for sale with brewhouse, stabling, cowhouse and piggeries and garden adjoining currently in the occupation of James Holland. Also involved was the adjoining cottage in the occupation of John Walker. Property was owned by Henry Henson of Loughborough, and the beerhouse was occupied by unspecified tenants. This is new information.
- **Aug 1880** – Death announced of **Mr J Orditch** on 6 August with burial at St Andrew's. Mr Orditch was 54 years of age and went through the Indian mutiny and was severely wounded, 'a ball having lodged in his foot.' He received prize money from Cawnpore and Lucknow. The deceased had been a member of the Marquis of Hastings Lodge, Loughborough Unity and as a mark of respect, many members of the lodge attended the funeral which was conducted by the vicar.



## The Friends of Thringstone

- **June 1883 – Miss Mary Ann Hurst**, (known as Annie), daughter of Mrs Mary Hurst of **Thringstone House**, was married at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Griffydham to Samuel Benjamin Draper of London. As a mark of respect, singers and children from the Wesleyan Sunday School presented her with an electroplated biscuit tin and teapot, commemorating the fact that for 20 years she had been their Sunday school teacher. Mr Draper was a carriagebuilder, and the couple lived for a while in Hackney before moving to Hampshire. She was 34 when they married and they did not have a family. During our research we found a photograph of Mary Ann Hurst and her husband Samuel Draper. These have been added to our archives. The wedding was conducted by Wesleyan minister Rev. Mark Potter Gilbert who had in 1870 had been married to Mary Ann's sister **Emma Hurst**. This is new information. We have subsequently been able to follow through the family of Emma and Rev. Mark Potter Gilbert and complete the Hurst family tree – they had 3 sons and 3 daughters. He was Wesleyan Minister in various parishes - Britton Ferry, Glamorgan, Glossop Dale, Rotherham, Redruth in Cornwall, Lancashire, Swindon and Gainsborough in Lincolnshire before settling down in Durham where he died in 1916. Emma died in 1931 in Middlesex. Mary Hurst's husband Thomas is buried at Griffydham, as is her eldest son Gilbert.
- **July/August 1885 – The Fox** was up to let with immediate possession through Wm. Armstrong, valuer of Loughborough, at a rent of £22 pa to include the small field adjacent. It advert also says 'valuation low. Good opportunity for small capital'. This is new information.
- **Oct/Nov 1888 – William Hutchinson otherwise known as Scrouch**, collier of Drury Lane was sent down for 12 months' hard labour for stealing money and a gold albert chain from Thomas Watts, having attacked him between the George and Dragon and Fox Inn. Hutchinson had been drinking rum in the George and Dragon when the incident took place. He had spent a lot of the money when arrested, and the chain was found behind loose bricks in his chimney down Drury Lane. In evidence he said that on the Sunday he had run a pedestrian road race with a man called Gee. We have discussed these races before as they took place generally on what is now the A512. On sentencing, it was noted he had 10 previous convictions which were mostly drunkenness and theft. He was 5 ft. 2.5 inches tall, stout with an oval face, a large scar on his forehead, another above his left eyebrow, a blue mark on his nose and on his right eyebrow, an anchor and crucifix on his left forearm, and had 2 missing front teeth. During the trial he said he had a brother called 'Chicken'. We don't know which brother this was, as he was one of 7 and had 4 brothers.
- **1921 census for Brookside, Gracedieu Road** – The only 2 families with this address were the family of Louis Campbell Etchells, coal miner out of work from South Leics. pit, who is with wife Isabel and daughter who is also called Isabel. There is also William and Violetta Fortnam who were c/o Mrs Hallam at Brookside. William was a boiler fireman, out of work, at Whitwick pit. William and Violetta (nee Williamson) had been married less than 2 months, having been married at St John's in Whitwick on 30 April 1921.
- **1921 census for Brook Terrace, Gracedieu Rd** – 8 households – Albert John and Mary Jane Kirby and Rene, Harry and Grace Stopp and their 2 daughters, Bernard and Charlotte Hibbert, their 3 sons, 2 daughters and 2 nieces, George and Julia Smith, their 2 sons, Hilda's 2 sons and her one daughter, Harry and Eliza Findell and their 2 sons, William and Emma Winters and their son and 2 daughters, John and Hilda Grice and their 5 sons and one daughter, and John and Lily Hatton, and their 2 sons and 1 daughter. Other than Albert John Kirby who was an insurance agent, all the other men worked in the pits, some at Sth Leics. and others at Whitwick.
- **1921 census for White Row, Main St** – 2 households – Wm. Henry and Bertha Wallbank, their 8 children and a lodger (he worked at Coleorton pit and was out of work) and Herbert and Fanny Hill and their 4 children. He worked at Whitwick pit and was out of work.
- **Feb 1943** – Wilfred Gee, Joseph Waldrum and John Burton were in court having been charged with breaking into **Gracedieu View**, the home of James Charles Gough. On returning to his house, Mr Gough had found £1 in money, a leather purse, a metal watch, pocket knives, 7lbs of sugar, a pint of milk, 4 eggs, and several old coins missing. He had seen 2 men run away. The police on attending to the suspects, all of whom had been missing for a few days, heard them admit the theft. They were remanded to the assizes.



## The Friends of Thringstone

- **June 1946** – Dorothy May Twigger nee Bunce had received a divorce absolute from her husband Harold Twigger of Main Street in September 1945, and was in court to ask for permanent maintenance. They had married in 1933, but she had moved to Mountsorrel, and had been intimate with an American soldier. He had refused to marry her and had been repatriated, leaving her with a son, Karl Herbert Francis Twigger, born on 24 September 1945. The case was complicated over various dates for the divorce, and also because of an outstanding issue of furniture. Leave was granted for Mrs Twigger to claim maintenance. Karl Twigger worked in accounts for a company called Burns Philp, and in the 1960s moved to Seattle, Washington, USA.
- **July 1947** - PC Leverett was called to a house in Main Street after neighbours said they thought something was amiss to find the 83 year old occupant, who lived alone, **James Kearins**, a retired miner, dead. PC Leverett had to break a pane of glass and climb through a window. An inquest was not felt necessary.
- **March 1958** – 3 miners who went to the aid of police were commended by the chairman of Coalville Magistrate after being witnesses to an assault by a man and his son on police, after being stopped in a car in which they were travelling.. The men were **Albert Grice** (son of John and Hilda mentioned before and brother to the late Fred who died in WW2) of 40 Henson's Lane, James Leslie Leeson of Diseworth and Alwyn Brown of New Swannington. .
- **April 1978** - An archive Leicester Advertiser article posted by Leicestershire and Rutland Records Office on Thringstone in November 2020 contained many photos and interesting pieces of information from the time the article was written. One of these is a photograph of **Tommy Lees** from Talbot Street, who was 86 years old at the time. His claims to fame included downing 17 pints, on his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, at the **Rose and Crown**. To do this, he used a 2 handed quart glass which was then kept behind the bar. He also smoked a cigar by standing it in the bowl of his pipe. Landlord Stan Mellor said Tommy came to the pub in all weathers, rain, shine, snow, and they held a party for him every year. Tommy was born on 28 July 1891 and was one of 12 children. He married Julia White, also of Talbot Street, on 27 December 1913 at St Andrew's. At that time, his address was Margaret Street, Coalville. By 1939 they were living at 202 Talbot Street, Whitwick with their two daughters, Phyllis and Sarah. Julia died in 1945 and Tommy on 17 December 1980. The whole article was posted on the Friends of Thringstone facebook page on 20 November 2020.
- **April 1978** – The **Methodist minister** at this time was Rev. Christopher Edwards, who lived at Whitwick.
- **June 1978** – **Thringstone Community Centre** started a drop in for older people during the first week of June. The idea of having a group one day a week where people could come and have a cup of tea and chat came from Thringstone Action Group chairman Jerry Roberts and the first visitor was John Concannon a 71 year old widower from Gracedieu Road. Newspapers, magazines and books were made available. After a couple of weeks, it was agreed to move the day of the meeting from Monday to Tuesday but more volunteers were needed to run the group. A mini market held on The Green raised £50 for funds.
- **April 1999** – Andrew Else was appointed as activities officer at **The Meadows Nursing Home**. Andrew had worked for Age Concern for some time previously setting up clubs and organising lunches for people in local villages. He has lots of ideas and is full of enthusiasm, and will be welcomed by all at the unit.
- **June 1999** – Tributes poured in after the death of **Councillor Agnes Smith**, aged 75. Elected as a councillor when NWLDC was formed in 1973, Mrs Smith was chairman of governors at King Edward V11 where she was well liked, and vice chair of governors at Thringstone school. Widow to Alec, Mrs Smith left a daughter, Martha, and son in law Richard. Thringstone Primary School head Mr Ed McGovern said she had been a true friend of the school for many years, and there would be nobody else like her as her commitment to the school was irreplaceable. Margaret Fern, acting warden at Thringstone Community Centre, said that she would be a hard act to follow and had done a lot for the centre and the village as a whole.

**Next meeting which is 3 August at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre**