



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

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## **BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 2023**

**Monthly litter pick total – 150 bags** removed by 8 people against 144 **bags** for the same month last year.

**Meeting on 4 August** – these are the notes emailed out after the meeting. These are repeated here for the benefit of those members not on email who receive paper copies.  
7 people at the meeting and 3 apologies.

- **Co-operative store** – Nita had a chat with the manager of the store over the issues of litter and shop lifting, following the comments made in our bulletin relating to finding shopping baskets down Whitwick Moor area, some with vegetables still in there. He said they are being 'hit hard at the moment' with shoplifting, as is the Whitwick branch. The thieves are taking meat and detergents, as these are expensive to buy, putting them in the bottom of the baskets and then putting potatoes or vegetables on top, so as to not attract suspicion, and then 'doing a runner'. They are keeping a watch on this where they can. We discussed the social supermarket at the centre and how people can use that every Wednesday to help with costs, and also the community café there also on a Wednesday. With regard to litter he said that someone is using their bins outside the shop to put in all their household rubbish. This is meaning that the bins fill quickly, so he is trying to order bigger bins. I told him that there had been someone a year or two back putting similar rubbish in the bin near to the can recycling area, but this was stopped after the council found out who it was and said they would be fined if they continued to do this under 'abuse of a litter bin'. Janet said things like this had been on the news recently, and baby powder was also being stolen nationwide for drug dealers to mix in with their existing drug supplies.
- **Fallen tree** – Nita has reported to the de Lisle estates that there is a fallen tree in Gracedieu Woods. It is on the path that runs parallel to the sustrans route. **Update** – now removed.
- **Police** - Nita had sent some information on Thringstone police from the 1800s onwards to Janet to forward on to Whitwick Historical Group as they are doing a project on policing. This then led to considerable discussion on the lack of local policing now, problems with anti-social behaviour etc., and general issues in the village. Nita said that she had sent contact details of the police last month to all members on email. It was also wondered what would happen with issues of pavement parking which is now illegal, as it would seem that there are no police out there monitoring this. Concern was also expressed about motorbikes and their speed, especially around Whitwick Moor, and in the woods.
- **FCV Gracedieu** – Looking for volunteers – matchday secretary, commercial manager and social media manager. Contact [manager.fcvglacedieu@gmail.com](mailto:manager.fcvglacedieu@gmail.com) if you are able to help.
- **Charles Booth** – There is a 10 minute video available on the life of Charles Booth which you can view on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIGYEAcK73A>
- **Panto Society** – TPADS are holding auditions for new cast members. Anybody welcome over the age of 16 years. 29 August at 7.30pm at Charles Booth centre.
- **Charles Booth Preschool and Gracedieu Nursery** – are looking for staff members. Please contact them direct if you are interested.



## The Friends of Thringstone

- **Thringstone Primary** – Have a new head from September – David Chappel, who has come from another school where he was deputy head.
- **Thringstone Members Club** – social crib and dominoes every Tuesday from 8pm. All welcome. Carveries every Sunday from 12-4pm. Adults £8.90, children £4.50, under 3s eat for free. Monday and Tuesday from 12-2pm, help yourself Ploughman's £5. Having also issued a statement telling people they couldn't bring in their own drink, but needed to buy it on site, they have put out an advert asking for bar staff, evenings and weekends, 16 hours per week, and also a cleaner for 6 hours on Mondays, Saturdays and Sundays. If interested, and suitably qualified, contact them on 07491 977283.
- **Festival of Archaeology at Gracedieu Priory** – This was over 2 days last weekend and was well attended, especially on the Saturday when children came to look at the digs. There were some prehistoric, medieval and Roman finds in the 5 trenches dug in Rusty Mary's field, and also a guided tour. The Friends of Gracedieu Priory wish to thank all volunteers and also Leicestershire Fieldworkers. Ann Petty said over 50 people had turned up for a walk on one of the days.
- **Maypole magazine** – Nita has been asked to provide another article for this Belton magazine. She provided an article on pedestrian racing on the A512 in the 1850s which had been researched some years ago, as it is not just about Thringstone but the whole area.
- **Wall project** – We had some administration difficulties last week with the GoFundMe page, due to Adyen, the Dutch company that GoFundMe use to deal with funds, asking for more verification of our group, and temporarily suspending all payments to us. This was rectified eventually after 4 days and lots of emails and scanning in of information. Anne Statham explained that, whilst it looks like we now have now received just over the £7k we initially asked for, we also need to cover the admin costs we are charged by GoFundMe which amount to 2.9% of every donation plus 30 cents (this is a US company). At the moment, the GoFundMe page shows payments made through them of £7101, but this is less after deductions. Several people had said that they would like to donate to the wall project, but won't use collection sites because of these administration costs. Nita has asked County Hall for details as to whether they have done a survey of the wall, and intends to talk to the stone waller about all this face to face when the 50% initial payment is made.
- **Gardening** – Bill has some trees he intends to donate to us in the Autumn, one of which is a walnut tree which will replace the tree for Bernard Lee which died.

### New Information

- **Centre** – a Thringstone lady who wishes to remain anonymous has, in addition to donating a huge amount to our own stone wall project, gave another substantial amount to the centre to be used on transforming their **front garden** into something more bio-diverse, with lavender, hydrangeas, buddleias etc. to attract butterflies and bees next summer. We have thanked the lady concerned. The centre is still advertising for a **new events and bar manager**. 20 hours per week, mainly evenings and weekends. Deadline for applications 18 Sept. Centre is also starting their regular **Sunday family movies** on 3 Sept at 10.15am with Supermario. Free popcorn and drinks for children. £191 was raised for the Fibromyalgia Friends Together at the recent **coffee morning**.
- **Wall** – A cheque for £3500 for Kyle, the stone waller's 50% payment was given to Kyle, the stone waller, when Nita met him on site on 22 August along with Anne Statham and Janet Stevenson. All arrangements were sorted and work commenced on 29 August. It was useful that the church was open, as Kyle got to meet the vicar and church warden and sort storage and power issues direct. Agreement made with neighbour regarding delivery of materials and their storage on 29 Aug. Nita closed the GoFundMe page on 24 August, following further generous donations made in that previous week. A global thank you for donating post was put out on social media.
- **Thringstone Miners Social Centre** – ladies only **kick boxing** classes every Monday and Wednesday at 6.30pm. For more information contact Richard Moon of Moon Martial Arts on 07760 703060. **Slimming World** has now moved from Charles Booth Centre and is at The



Thringstone Miners Social Centre every Saturday at 8am and 9.30am. For further details please contact Steph on 07377 855765.

- **Thringstone Members Club** – We are informed that Margaret Bell was responsible for the organisation and provision of the buffet when Homestead Road play group closed. Information in the August bulletin was taken straight from a facebook post, which did not give this level of detail. The club now has a Tiktok account for promotion, as well as facebook.
- **Police** – Nita attended the beat surgery in Whitwick on 14 August and went through a list of things happening in our village with PCSO Emma Ramsay who covers Whitwick and Agar Nook. She then passed on Nita's comments to PCSO Aimee Carney who is our PCSO who rang Nita for a chat and update over the issues raised.
- **Hello Heritage** – Thanks to the **Old School House** for their help in designing and providing posts for our event. This was much appreciated. We are busy putting up posters all round the village and beyond, and have put details of our event on social media. If you feel able to help with putting up a poster on your fence/in your window or elsewhere, please let us know. **Whitwick WI** will be having a stand at our event to help them raise funds. We are hopeful that Thringstone Primary will do some artwork to display. Posters have been put up all over the village and also in Swannington.
- **Old School House** – raised over £530 at their summer fete. Thanks to all who came/helped out.
- **Whitwick Historical Group** – We have been invited to take part in an event at Hall Lane Methodist Chapel on 14 October around the theme of pubs and clubs. Ann Petty is going to do a display. The event will run from 10am until 4.30pm. All welcome to come and see what we have.

### Chairs Report

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

**Promotion:** We have **751 twitter followers**, which is 3 less than last month, and **2,102 facebook followers**, which is 15 more than last month. Nita did an 'advert' for membership on twitter and facebook, which got some positive responses, as below!

**Other: Welcome** to new members Sue Bray, Pauline Jardine, Carol Moon, Zara Barnes, Peter Robinson and Mandy Dear, and welcome back to another member who had previously let her membership lapse.

### What's On

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.

14 Oct – Whitwick Historical Group event at Hall Lane Methodist 10am-4.30pm. We will be there showing our information on pubs and clubs.

26 Nov - **Charles Booth Centre** – Panto Society Christmas fayre 10am-3pm on 2 floors. Special visit from Santa and also Morris dancing, Hugglescote dance and drama group. Cake stall, raffle.

19 May 2024 – **Historical walk** round the village starting on The Green at 10.30am. £2.50.

### 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.

Janet sold 8 Scottish in Thringstone and also a Thringstone and Its People at a discounted rate.

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty)	<b>3026.84</b>
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## The Friends of Thringstone

cash + float)			
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Publications	£25	Broadband	20.00
Memberships	£28	Public Liability insurance	15.70
Donation	£1		
<b>total income to general fund</b>	£54		£35.70
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>£3045.14</b>

### Web Report

The webmaster is continuing to work on updates.

### Incident Report

- 5 Aug – following days of motorbike activity on the **field at the rear of Thringstone Bowling Club**, a resident of Springfield wrote an email personally to the Sgt. heading our local beat team.
- 6 Aug – 1pm - incident of shop lifting at **Thringstone Co-op**. Male, adult culprit on white bike seen transferring his goods from a basket into a carrier bag on Whitwick Moor and discarding the basket. Photo taken and shown to staff at shop. Police won't do anything unless the shop reports this. Another basket was found down Whitwick Moor on 7 Aug and also on 29 Aug..
- 6 Aug – Police reckon they were in our woodland, as well as up at Greenhill, Hugglescote and Cademan Woods trying to deal with **bikers**, but weren't seen by locals. 2 males were issued section 59 anti-social behaviour vehicle warnings at Greenhill, and a number of enquiries into offenders are continuing, and they also held a beat surgery at Greenhill. The police say that this issue is something they are working on with NWLDC and encourage people to continue to report the use of off-road motorcycles causing anti- social behaviour.
- 12 Aug – Eggs and oranges have been reportedly thrown at houses on **Lbro Rd** for some weeks. Nothing ever seen on CCTV. If anybody knows who is doing this, please tell the police.
- 13 Aug – Police attended suspected break-in at **Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club** but it was just that a door was open to the changing room and the light left on, possibly after the previous day's game.
- 23 Aug – reports of a drone flying up to windows etc. on **Melrose Rd**.
- 24 Aug – Youngsters filmed causing damage at **priory**. Other youngsters seen pelting dog walkers with eggs from the **viaduct**.
- 25 Aug – kids appear to have had a go at setting fire to the bench on **Drury Lane**. In theory this is impossible, as it was bought under the agreement that it is vandal proof. They have also caused more damage to the car park wall. Nita informed Central England Co-op HQ who have confirmed they will get repairs organised once they have removed some ivy from the wall. She has also asked that the police consider making the area a sentinel area again for more police presence.

### History report

- Dec 1862 – On New Year's Eve an **auction** took place at the Rose and Crown of 3 houses with outbuildings and gardens in the occupation of Wm. Grice, Wm. Stinson and James Birkin. An additional field of 1 acre, 1 rood and 11 perches next to these properties in the occupation of Wm. Grice was also for sale. An additional 2 houses in the occupation of Isaac Bakewell and Henry Matchett were for sale. These properties appear to be on Main St.
- **July 1863** – An auction took place at the Rose and Crown which included **3 cottages** fronting Town Street (Main St) with gardens and outbuildings, in the occupation of John Halliday Snr., John Halliday Jnr., and Francis Allen, plus **4 cottages** near to the Rose and Crown with gardens and outbuildings, in the occupation of John King, Wm. White, Thomas Kirby and Thomas White.



## The Friends of Thringstone

- **Sept 1886** – George James Gough of the **Rose and Crown Hotel**, Thringstone was advertising his premises – ‘Parties visiting Gracedieu and The Forest will find every accommodation at The Rose and Crown Hotel, Thringstone, within 5 minutes’ walk of Gracedieu Wood and Grounds, and The Forest. Parties contracted for. Large rooms. Good stabling.’
- **May 1912** – The annual dinner of the **Thringstone Conservative Association** took place at the Rose and Crown. In the chair was Mr William Jesson Gough. The Association had been formed in July 1909, prior to which it had been linked in with Whitwick. A letter was read out which was to be sent to **Charles Booth** ‘The members of the Thringstone Unionist Association, representing the Unionist electors of the polling district of Thringstone in the Loughborough Parliamentary Division of Leicestershire, have received with sincere regret the intimation of your resignation as president, and beg to assure you of the sympathy for the reason which has occasioned your feeling that it is necessary to relinquish the office. All connected with the Association which to express their appreciation of the many valuable services that you have generously rendered, and to tend you their best thanks for the interest and encouragement you have given for promoting success to the Association. That you may speedily be granted improved health is the earnest wish of all who have had the opportunity of being associated with you in endeavouring to further the best interests of the Unionist cause. Signed W J Gough, chairman, J W Knight, vice chairman, H Peters, secretary, George Lawrence Jnr., treasurer.’ On the motion of Mr J Gee, it was decided to forward the letter, which was drawn up by Mr HGW Howe, to Mr Booth. Songs were given by Messrs Yearby, H Finch, Gee and others. **Prior to 1910**, the chairman had been Mr J W Knight. By **April 1910** the chairman was John Nicklinson and secretary H Peters. In **February 1915**, the following people were elected: President Hon. Malcolm Macnaghten, Chairman John Mee Kidger, Vice chairman James Gee, Secretary H C Peters. Other committee members were W Watts, J Burton, J W Knight, J Kidger, George Lawrence Snr., George Lawrence Jnr., J Hatton, T F Siddons, J Bancroft, H Tolly, J Henson, F Richards, E Kidger and A L Peters. H C Peters represented the group on the executive at Loughborough.
- **August 1931** – 14 men were hurt when two lorries collided at Diseworth. The men, employees of F Perks and Son, building contractors of Long Eaton, were en route to Thringstone where they were being employed to **build 30 houses** in the village for Ashby Rural District Council. Some of the men were thrown onto the grass when the lorries collided head on. 4 of the men were seriously injured with one having skull injuries and others broken shoulders etc. They were taken to hospital in Long Eaton.
- **July 1939** – 3 cottages on Main Street were auctioned, known as **St Andrew’s cottages**, and with an annual gross rental of £48 15 shillings. They were sold to Mr John George Fewkes Jnr. for £420. Mr Fewkes was born on 26 December 1911, was a metal turner and also an ARP warden and lived at St George’s Hill with his parents, sister and brother. He was one of 8 children, and his father was a grazier and former colliery banksman. His sister, Maud, was a school teacher. Mr Fewkes died in 1986 at which time he was living at Loughborough Road, Coleorton.
- **March 1957** – A St Bernard dog and its brother belonging to Mrs Walker of **St Bernard’s Kennels, Gracedieu**, won prizes at the Scottish Kennel Club show in Glasgow. The dogs were both 18 months old. The bitch, Peldartor Ranee, won her third challenge certificate and was voted best of her sex making her now a champion. Her brother, Peldartor Rachtar, was first in the limit class, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the open class and won a reserve challenge certificate.
- **Nov 1957** – **Brian Vernon Townsend**, aged 17 of Booth Road, was fined £5 and disqualified from driving for 12 months as a result of dangerously driving a motorbike through the Market Place in Melbourne. He was also fined £1 for using the bike without lights, as he had switched the lights of when followed by police, and a further £2 for unlicensed passengers whilst holding a provisional licence. The passenger, from Church Lane, Whitwick, was also fined.
- **May 1958** – The elections at **Thringstone House** took place. Jackie Hurst was re-elected as chairman, G Robinson secretary and P Fox treasurer.
- **March 1961** – the amateur musical comedy performance of **The Arcadians** met with resounding success at the community centre. The 10 month old amateur company put on the performance



## The Friends of Thringstone

through hard work and had a mere 3 feet of space in the wings. 4 or 5 of the principles were obviously experienced singers. Hughie Adcock and Norma Savage were singled out for special comment. Margaret Smith was calm and charming, and 14 year old Diane Harding, in her first part, was also excellent. Peter Doody gave the funniest performance seen in an amateur show and Harry Bates made everybody laugh with his performance. Christine Kaye had a good Irish accent, and John Brook was promising. Ron Smith was the producer, and was assisted by Norma Savage. Since forming, the group have transformed the stage area to give useful depth, and have doubled the stage area. One of the members is a local builder, and his expertise has certainly helped. After the performances, the extra part of the stage now slides back to give the hall more floor space. They have also installed extra stage lighting and this gives colour and lift to the flats and backcloths which are executed by artistically minded members. The group is careful with its budgets, using home-made outfits where it can, and the cost of The Arcadians was only £150. Without personal effort, this could have cost up to £500.

- **April 1961 – The church organist at St Andrew’s**, Mr A Lord, resigned on 23 April and Mr Preston who had previously been an organist returned temporarily before Miss Anne Hicken then took over. We are unsure who Mr Lord was unless he was Alex from Griffydam. By 1975, the organist was Mrs Ann Allen, who resigned in April of that year. Pat Lowe then became organist and by June 1982, Mr James William Wilkins was welcomed back as choirmaster, and Pat Lowe resigned after 7.5 years. Her replacement was Mrs Hollingshead who took over for only a month so Pat Lowe returned. J W Wilkins died 3 days after Christmas 1985. He had lived at 103 Main Street. We have spoken to Pat Lowe’s daughter and she said that her mother took over from Ann Allan in the 1970s just until they got a new organist, so guess the 7 years refers to her time as the official organist. She also acted as choir mistress as well as organist for a time and in her 30 years she never took a penny for the role (it was a paid position) as she donated it all back to the church. She had to give up helping when she became ill. Bob Lowe was deputy warden at the church for years until 1981 when his shift pattern changed and he was unable to give as much time as he would have liked to have done. Pat Lowe’s husband Ron (cousin to Bob) was a cabinet maker and made the pulpit in St. Andrews. He also built a bookcase in memory of Pat which was used to hold music books etc. and has a brass plaque on it.
- **March 1963 – Thringstone Musical Comedy Group** announced that they were going to promote some of their younger members to better parts, starting with Kathryn Brown, who was to take the lead in Quaker Girl in April. Christine Lowe will be Mathilde and Jeremiah will be played by Roy Burton. Margaret Smith will play Phoebe, Gerald Callidon will play Duhamel, Harry Bates is Tony, Jim Hutchinson will play Charteris and Ann Hickin will be Madam Blum with Eric Marriott as The Prince. Producer Ron Smith said that he is in need of a piano for rehearsals. Anybody with one should contact Director Don Hambleton at Thringstone School. Mr Smith is being assisted by John Horsfall who is new to the company but experienced, having come from a similar group in Chesterfield. Mr Horsfall is also doubling as Le Roche.
- **1963** – A meeting was held to discuss the plans for a miners’ estate in the village. **Thringstone Residents’ Association** Chairman Jack Down heard several concerns raised – the need for a carefully laid out estate with villagers consulted, the need for a new village school given the amount of children that would arrive to live on the new estate, and the need for playing fields. A committee was chosen to represent the views of villagers. By 1965 Mr Down was taking on the county council over their provision for school places, suggesting that children in Thringstone were not getting a fair chance of a decent education. He suggested that providing temporary classrooms when the site was already there for a new school was not the way forward, and just because the menfolk of the village walked round with flat caps on their heads didn’t mean they were illiterate and should be downtrodden. The school, which had been built over 120 years previously to educate 70 children, was now coping with over 200, and the temporary tin hut put up 60 years earlier was still in use.

**Next meeting is 7 September at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre**