



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 2023

Monthly litter pick total – 154 bags removed by 7 people against **118 bags** for the same month last year.

Meeting on 7 September – here are the notes sent out to those on email following our meeting. These are printed here for the benefit of those who only get paper copies of the bulletin because of lack of emails.

5 present and 4 apologies

Police - Nita has had calls from the police to discuss shoplifting at the Co-op and also relating to cars without road tax. She has also had emails and several conversations with people who have witnessed shoplifting. The meeting suggested that Nita write to the manager of the Co-op to say that villagers are horrified at the amount of shoplifting going on, and ask about their wastage budget.

Co-op Wall – Nita had reported that the wall to the Co-op had been vandalised, and had received an email back saying that they would send someone out but there is a lot of ivy on the wall to get rid of first. Nita was asked to write to the Co-op again about the wall as there are concerns over its collapse, and it should be pointed out that the ivy on the wall was not planted by our group.

Drury Lane - Bill asked if we knew the ownership of the land between our planting and the closs, as there is a dead tree with ivy growing up it which may fall. Nita explained the history of the site and that no actual proof of ownership of that particular parcel have ever been forthcoming from discussions in the past. Nita has various details of the sale of some of the properties in Drury Lane up to their demolition in the 1930s to various people. Bill and his son are hopeful of being able to tackle some of the gardening down Drury Lane shortly.

Wall – Kyle is getting on well with rebuilding the wall. It is possible that the remaining wall will need some serious repointing after the rebuild. Are people OK with us using the extra money we got from GoFundMe towards this cost? It was agreed that we have money available for this, and should use it. Kyle hopes to finish shortly. He said if he has concrete left after finishing, he will use it on repointing, but if he needs to make up more, he will send us a quote for that. He has also spoken to the nearby householder about stuff in the garden which will be removed. Certain misconceptions about the project were discussed. The agreement with the builder is that it is a fixed rate contract for £7k for the rebuild, irrespective of time taken on this, days worked and manpower needed.

Thringstone Bowling Club – are looking for new members. Any age welcome from 9 -90. For the first year the membership is free. Contact Mike Carrington on 07768 914748 if you want further details.

Ruby's – The family have announced that because potato prices have fallen, they are reducing the price of chips. A large portion of chips has gone down by 30p and a small portion by 20p. The meeting said that Andy and his family should be congratulated for doing this.

Charles Booth Pre-school – still has places for children to start this month. Contact them direct if you have an interest



Free tree scheme – the council's free tree scheme is back offering rowan, elder, wild cherry and hazel. We are not ordering any free trees this time.

Hello Heritage – Nita has spoken to some people about making cakes, has delivered through doors some spare brochures on the event, put up posters all over the place and also managed to get the Community Voice for September to mention our event. Hopefully we will get more people than last year! Centre has all the banners, bunting etc. but we need something out on the A frame on The Green. If nothing appears, Nita will put up some posters she has spare in the car. Anne said that she is still meeting people who don't know anything about Hello Heritage, which is a sad state of affairs, as over 50 posters have been put up, plus articles on social media and in the press. Anne said that she would be available to help set up on the day. Nita said she was still looking for people who might want to bake cakes.

Charity Coffee Morning – the centre's coffee morning is tomorrow (8th September) and is for MacMillan, despite it not being the date on which the national coffee morning is taking place. Apparently there have been some discussions at the centre about this. **UPDATE:** £154 was raised

New Information:

Co-op – Nita wrote to the Co-op about various issues and as a result, they sponsored the tea, coffee, milk, sugar and squash for Hello Heritage for which we thank them. Shopping baskets still keep being found on Whitwick Moor and Drury Lane after shoplifting takes place.

Thringstone Primary – are looking for two new governors – one parent governor and one community governor. Please contact them for further information if you feel able to help out on 222489.

Thringstone Methodist Chapel – The Gospel Hall Trust have finally, 18 months after their purchase, received planning permission to put in 13 car parking spaces with access from Loughborough Road so that the site can be used again for religious worship. Nita had contacted them after the heavy rain on 18/19 September as the road and pavement outside were flooded. They rang Nita afterwards to say thank you and say that the whole of the carpet in the chapel was wet and they were going to have to put dryers in there. Nita then met with her contact on 25 Sept., and was told that they intend to use the chapel itself for storage or the occasional trustee meeting, and will use the chapel hall for their services. She was also told that they are working on reducing the impact of water ingress when it rains, and that they are hopeful of being able to repaint the old chapel building so it looks more presentable.

Hello Heritage – Thank you to everybody who came along and to all the volunteers who helped with the event. Special thanks to Ann Petty for the wonderful exhibition and display material which takes hours to put together and is done to the highest possible standard.

Huge thanks also go to our catering ladies, who not only manned the stall, but baked over 4 dozen cakes and organised a raffle without being prompted to do so. I call them 'The Robinson girls'. They also had help from their cousin Joanne and their young helper Rosie who can have a job clearing tables and washing up anytime she wants one!

Thanks also to The Old School House for designing and then running off endless posters for us, which was very much appreciated. It was nice to see some of their staff and residents come to the event.

Thanks also to those people who had a display board outside their property, which seem to have attracted more attention than usual. A lot of social media advertising was done prior to the event, press releases done etc., as well as emails sent to hundreds of people who have expressed an interest in things we've done before.

151 people came to the event, and we had some exceptionally positive comments made to us in person, in our visitors' book and after the event, including from a professional historian. It was lovely to see people who hadn't seen each other for ages meet up again. £269.53 was made at the event, as detailed in the financial report below. This is more than twice the amount of money we have taken on any Hello Heritage event previously and the turn out was more than double the



amount previously hit in 2018 when it was 62 people. We have returned the evaluation report to NWLDC as requested.

St Andrews – On 23 Sept, a small working party set about working in the churchyard to do general weeding etc. They made a start to cut back the holy hedge that borders the Garden of Remembrance, but ask that people bear with them, as there is a lot to remove and they have limited access to dispose of the waste, so it will take a few weeks. They will meet again in a few weeks, and people will be informed via facebook of the date and time.. If you could spare a couple of hours on a Saturday morning please go and help. There might even be a cuppa and biscuits.

Thringstone Miners Social Centre – From 24 Oct, there will be Clubbercise classes with Laura Woolcock – a fun workout in the dark with disco lights and glow sticks. 6.30pm until 7.20pm. £5.

Booking via <https://gymcatch.com/app/provider/6692/events/4277644>

Chairs Report

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

Promotion: We have **749 twitter followers**, which is 2 less than last month, and **2,125 facebook followers**, which is 23 more than last month.

Other: We've recently bid goodbye to **Tina Bakewell**, who for some years was our book keeper. She has left to live at the seaside in Lincolnshire. We wish her well.

Welcome to **Billie Davidson** who joined us this month. Her financial contributions will be listed next month.

What's On

6 and 7 Oct – **Thringstone Members Club** – Murder mystery play Great British Bump Off. Tickets £12 to inc. light buffet.

13 Oct – Charity coffee morning at **Charles Booth Centre** for Parkinson's UK. 10am – 12 noon.

13 Oct – **Charles Booth Centre** – open mike night. Bar opens at 7.30pm.

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

28 Oct – **Charles Booth Centre** – The Crow on the Table – Roots Community Singers in concert. 7pm – 11pm. Tickets £10 each. There is an optional Fish & Chip supper from Ruby's. This must be pre-ordered, £8.50

29 Oct – **Charles Booth Centre** – 2pm Halloween party. Free entry. Prize for the best costume.

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.

2 Dec – **Charles Booth Centre** - Gresley Male Voice Choir. Starts at 7.15pm. Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre

3 Dec – **Gracedieu Priory** – Carol concert from 3pm.

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

Financial

Publications sold at Hello Heritage were 1 graveyard, 4 Thringstone and Its People, 1 businesses, 1 pubs, 1 memories 1, 1 each of Born and Bred 1 and 2, 2 Village Trail 1, 3 village trail 2, 3 village trail 3, 1 memories 3, 1 WW2, 1 Durham miners, and 1 Scottish in Thringstone.

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	3045.14		
Income		Expenditure	
Publications	£77	Broadband	20.00
Cake sales	£112	Public Liability insurance	15.70
Raffle	£80.53		



The Friends of Thringstone

total income to general fund	£269.53
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	£35.70
Total general fund at month end	3278.97

Web Report

The webmaster is continuing to work on updates.

Incident Report

- 1 Sept – older lady seen taking cans of Stella from **Thringstone Co-op** and leaving in a car travelling down Loughborough Road. Shop assistant suggested to witness that she had done this before. We have continued to find shopping baskets down Whitwick Moor and Drury Lane.
- 8 Sept – reports of **noisy motorbikes** coming from Melrose Road and racing up and down Loughborough Road. Also as a result of hot weather, there were lots of motorbikes in Gracedieu Woods causing problems for pedestrians and also dog walkers. 24 Sept – Police claimed via Neighbourhood Watch Link that they are working on motorbike problems in Greenhill and Thringstone. Name given as one of the people involved was passed to police.
- 23 Sept – NHS worker parked off **Melrose Rd** found someone had punctured the valve in her tyre and it was flat.
- Sept – several reports of people **trying doors** late at night/early in the morning. Please be careful and ensure all cars and house doors are properly locked.

History report

- Nita is researching **Lilybank Barn** and **Lilybank Farm** area, and trying to find out who lived at the farm prior to 1908 when **John Mee Kidger and family** moved there. She has been told that there is a beam in Lilybank barn that dates to the 1500s, and also learned that the land on which Spinney Hill, the bungalow next to the school drive, was built was also once part of the farm. We now have copies of the planning applications for the farm submitted in 1977 by David Green and also the planning application submitted for the barn by P Ramsell. We also now know that in 1980, whilst under renovation, the farm house was subjected to £2ks worth of vandalism. Whilst researching the Kidger family and finding photos of the family, Nita discovered that John Mee Kidger had 7 children – 6 daughters and a son – and has been looking at their descendants. 3 of John Mee Kidger's children didn't appear to have children of their own, and, as we already knew, one of his daughters, Mabel Annie, married John Henry Biddle who in turn was the son of one of the Webb girls (Ethel Annie) from The Willows This will be ongoing research.
- Nita was given some photos of the panto group in the 1980s by Pauline Walker and a lot of other photos from Pam Spence, amongst which was a picture of the bungalow and bakehouse owned by **Maurice and Audrey Maloney**. This was knocked down and became Old Bakery Close. Nita posted the photo of the bungalow and bakehouse on facebook, mentioned Maurice and Audrey also bred Sealyham dogs, and asked for memories. She got this reply from David Rossell. 'In 1947 when my cousin Frank Richards got married my dad, Jack Rossell, provided a whole leg of ham which aunty Lilly Brotherhood looked after. I took it to Maurice's bakery, in a wheel barrow covered by a sack. When it was cooked I collected it in the barrow for Aunty Lilly, already carved up for the reception.' No health and safety in those days!
- Nita posted a picture on facebook of the old outside swimming baths at **Gracedieu**. This prompted a lot of memories, including from Georgie Peters (known in her youth as Lesley) and also Stephanie Farwell whose mother was Dorothy Jones. They lived on Millhouse Estate, and Dorothy worked in the linen room. Boarders had big wicker baskets in which to put their clothes, and people remembered Father Fox, Mr Galway who as the head for a while, Brother McCarthy, Brother Chris Quinn, Brother Bernard Sherrat and Brother Mark Walker and Father Duffy. Father Bell was head before Father Fox and after Father Little. There was also a Father Cavanan as I recall and a Brother Samuel who wore a beret and cycled everywhere. Many left the Rosminian order and some



later married. 'Old Brother Walker', Brother Mahoney, Father Little, the headmaster before Father Fox and the linen room used to be on the ground floor just along from Sister Warren's sitting room, back in the early days before the new kitchen was built. The community room where the priests ate was also along that corridor. There was a spiral staircase that went up and down at the end. When the new kitchen was built, the old one became the art room, the cellars were cleared out and painted, and the one under the old linen room was a woodwork shop. The dorm names were Matthew, Mark, Little Green and Big Green.. Jock Patter, an Irish chap who played football for Ibstock United, taught Maths and Geography and I think there was a Mr Tucker who lived on site somewhere.

- **Feb 1931 – Daisy Alice Smith** of Lilybank, Thringstone (see also below), was charged with stealing a handbag and cash to the value £3 10 shillings in Hugglescote between Feb 13th and 22nd, the property of Margaret de Souza. The court heard that Daisy had come to work for Dr and Mrs Souza on 13 February as a domestic, and since then, as a result of her daughter missing something, a search had taken place. When the police were called, the handbag was found stuffed up the chimney, but the money had gone. On visiting Daisy in Thringstone, the police said she admitted the theft, having previously said she knew nothing about it. She said she had wanted to buy clothes, and handed the police £2 10 shillings and 1.5 pence which had not been spent. The girl's parents were both deceased, and she lived with her grandparents, who were old aged pensioners. The magistrate said he did not wish to send the girl to prison, but put her on probation for 2 years. The money was returned to Mrs de Souza, who said that the clothes the girl had purchased could be kept by her.
- **Oct 1931 – Daisy Alice Smith** (17) of Lilybank, Thringstone was in court charged with the theft of a 5 stone diamond ring, the property of Ada Blythe of Coalville. On asking her about the ring at her home in Lilybank, the police were told she knew nothing of it, but she later went to her room and came down with the ring. She admitted the theft, and was sent to Coalville magistrates for the next sitting, but in the meantime was sent to St Mary's Home in Leicester. Daisy was the granddaughter of Alexander and Lucy White, who appears on the 1921 census with them in Thringstone. Marked against her is 'mother dead'. Also at the address are 3 grandsons of Alexander and Lucy – Alexander, Basil and Maitland Stinson. We believe that Daisy's mother was Emily (also known as Emma) who may have married Albert Smith, who in 1911 was lodging with the White family on Lilybank. Emily died in 1917, at which time her address was Lilybank Cottages. She was buried at St Andrew's. We can find no trace of Daisy after 1931 other than she may have married George F Walker in the Ibstock area in 1935.
- **Jan 1954 – Mr Aubrey Chapman** of the **Rose and Crown** was in court to tell of the theft from his premises of 12 wine and spirit glasses to the value of 10 shillings. Ronald Bradford of Brookside, Osgathorpe, and Dennis Freeman of The Council Houses, Osgathorpe were fined 3 shillings and 2 shillings respectively for the theft which happened on 23 Dec. 1953. Mr Chapman moved from The Rose and Crown sometime after this and by 1956 appears to have been a self-employed grocer at Thornton. He may have possibly then moved to Leicester as there are details of a Mr Aubrey Chapman of Jarrom Street off license at that time..
- **June 1957 – Miss Ruth Smith** of 14b Booth Road, a 67 year old retired postwoman, killed herself after her cat had to be put to sleep, an inquest heard. She had left 3 letters which the coroner felt should be kept private. Her niece Mrs Ethel Dolman of Talbot Street, Whitwick said that she was last seen in the street on 28 May at which time she said that she had had to have her cat put to sleep, and it was her only companion. When the cat died, she felt she had lost everything. Mrs Dolman said that her aunt was unduly suspicious of almost everybody, and carried around with her some of her valuables wrapped in brown paper in shopping bags. The inquest ruled that Miss Smith had committed suicide whilst the balance of her mind was disturbed.
- **April 1968 –** There was concern over proposals to build more properties fronting onto **Talbot Street** close to the turning to Whitwick Moor due to possible subsidence, but also because it would mean that Whitwick and Thringstone would join together. The site, with the disused and derelict farm that used to be Cuddy Carter's home standing on it, should, some felt, stay as agricultural land. Others



The Friends of Thringstone

felt that the area was becoming an eyesore, and should be developed, especially given the need for housing in the area. Obviously, the building proposals finally went through.

- **Nov 1968 – Arthur Armstrong** of Brook Lane, Thringstone lost his temper when a builder threw a pebble at his bedroom window to attract his attention whilst Mr Armstrong was asleep, but the pebble smashed the window. The builder had arrived at 8.30am to erect a garage, but couldn't get anybody's attention so threw a pebble. Mr Armstrong got up and there was some shouting and Mr Armstrong felt that the builder had scratched his car when leaving. Mr Armstrong was so annoyed that he drove the 20 miles to Stapleford in Nottingham and smashed the windscreen and rear window of the builder's Jaguar car and attacked the dashboard causing damage to the value of £95. Mr Armstrong admitted guilt, but said he had been out on business until around 4am that day, and there had been a child sleeping in the same room at the time the window was broken. Mr Armstrong had to pay the £95 bill and was asked to pay £11 2 shillings and 6 pence in costs.
- **1981** - A newspaper article in Loughborough Mail of 7 May 1986 talks about Gregor Rimell, his wife Patsy, 2 daughters and one son aged 5 leaving Mountsorrel to live in Scotland. The article says that the couple had arrived in Mountsorrel 7 years earlier, and Gregor had worked for Sarsons wine merchants as managing director before taking on the licence of **The Fox**, Thringstone for a year, but left when his son Gregor now aged 5 was born. That then means he ran the Fox in 1981 which is new information to us. Gregor had subsequently worked as manager of East Anglian based Inns of Interest and latterly accounts manager for Carter's Soft Drinks at Kegworth, whilst Patsy had been a member of the parish council for 3 years.
- **1983** – The landlord of **The Bull's Head** from 1983-6 was Christopher John Groves. We believe this man was born in 1948 in Wilnecote, near Tamworth, and married Susan Ann Dwyer in September 1977. No further information can be found.
- **Nov 1993 – The Rose and Crown** had an advert in local papers which said their **intimate upstairs dining room** was now open, where you would assured of a warm welcome by telephoning 222636. Real ale, bar food, children welcome, beer area, children's play area, car parking and live music every Sunday night. Good food and a good range of beers, wines and spirits.
- **April 1995 – The Queen's Head** was putting on 3 weeks of fund raising for the Sue Ryder Hospice at Staunton Harold in memory of regular Dennis Birkenshaw who died in March.
- **July 1995 – The Fox** in Thringstone was awarded pub of the month by Greenalls. Landlady Tracey Thompson said she took over the pub in May 1994 and there had been a lot of hard work put in to get it to its current standard. 'The pub was very quiet and the garden was like a jungle. We have had to clean it up completely, fence the garden off and add a children's area. We have been working 18 hour days for 7 days a week to get things right. We could not have done all this without the help of the staff, and of course the regulars.' Tracey was born in the pub business, and her parents still run a pub in Gotham.
- **Aug 1996** – Team members at **the Bull's Head** received a Team Hospitality Award from Whitbread Inns which has recently introduced this initiative to its 1600 pubs. There was a basic task sheet for all pubs which included how quickly members of the public were acknowledged upon entering a pub through to how often the toilets were checked, and staff were given extra training in order to maintain standards as well as the opportunity to train for an NVQ.
- **March 1998 – Queen's Head** were advertising comedy every first Thursday evening, a music quiz every Friday night, live entertainment every Saturday night, a general knowledge quiz every Sunday night, as well as darts, dominoes and Sky TV and many low alcohol beverages.

Next meeting is 5 October at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre in the house lounge