



# The Friends of Thringstone

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

**Chairman: Nita Pearson BEM**  
**20 Springfield, Thringstone, Leicestershire, LE67 8LT.**  
**Telephone: 01530 223434**  
**[mail to: nita.pearson@ntlworld.com](mailto:nita.pearson@ntlworld.com)**

**Visit our website at: [www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk](http://www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk)**  
**Twitter address: @Thringstone2**

## **BULLETIN FOR DECEMBER 2023**

**Monthly litter pick total – 123 bags** removed by 7 people against 120 **bags** for Nov 2022. There have also been over 15 shopping baskets picked up around the village following shop thefts.

**Meeting on 2 Nov** – notes here for the benefit of those without emails. 6 apologies, 5 present

- **Gardening** - Nita had spoken to all but 2 of the committee this afternoon to discuss the problem with gardening. Bill is currently spending time on putting in our spring bulbs, having cleared and mowed the areas, like verges on Henson's Lane and the bit on the corner of Glebe Road, where bulbs are also going. He will be unable to do anything at all on the Drury Lane and The Green until at least November. Nita had spoken to a local gardener who had agreed to tidy up the shrubbed area on The Green for which we are responsible, as it had been pointed out by NWLDC that this wasn't looking its best. As you will recall, we now have a written agreement with them to maintain the area on The Green, including the grass which is mowed for us by the de Lisle gardener, and as a result of this new agreement, the council will also be monitoring the shrub bed area every 6 months. The gardener Nita spoke with has already started on tidying up the shrubbed area, and hopes to finish this week, but there is a cost. The Committee have agreed that the cost of this will be met by the group from our funds. The meeting said that we have a good bank balance and the money in there is for the benefit of the village, and what better than to spend some of it on things that can be seen and enjoyed by all. The cost for what the gardener has done this week will be about £25. In the meantime, we wondered whether Thringstone Scouts might like to help with some of the gardening. Nita agreed to talk to the scout leader about this at some point in time.
- **The People Zone** meeting for 1 November was cancelled as someone who was coming had covid. It has been potentially rearranged for 6pm on 20 Nov., but in the meantime, there are efforts by Zara Barnes at NWLDC to arrange a meeting on either 2, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 16 November at various times just to discuss the orchard project. We are waiting to see what date they agree upon, and Nita has submitted her responses direct. We understand that the leaflets which have been going out have now been altered to include the number for National Forest Company, not just RCC. Please remember that there are meetings at the centre on 3 and 17 November between 10am and 12 noon, to discuss the project in the closs, as mentioned in our bulletin sent out on 1 Nov. Try to attend if you can. In the meantime, People Zone are offering a new grant £10k funding period from 6 November. All details can be found on their facebook site which is <https://www.facebook.com/leicpeoplezones/>
- **Wall** – Nita, helped by Tony Rush, has cut back most of the overhanging ivy from the house side of the wall to prevent it eating into the mortar any further and destabilising the wall.
- **Dumping of rubbish inc. shopping baskets etc.** On 31 Oct at 2am, someone dumped a bucket of bike parts on the jitty from Lbro Rd to St Andrew's. A photo of the person doing this was provided by CCTV and posted to facebook. Amazingly this bucket was removed by the bin crews who emptied the nearby street bin on 31 Oct. During October we have been told of shopping



baskets being found down Whitwick Moor and Drury Lane 7 times. On 1 November, another 2 shopping baskets were found down Drury Lane.

- **Police** - Following on from this, Nita has been in touch with Wayne Nimblette of Leics. Police (he is the area's community engagement officer) on 27 Oct about the amount of shoplifting taking place. He was at a recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting for the area which Nita didn't attend. As a result of this email, Wayne sent PC Luke Jones to see Chris Upton at Thringstone Co-op, and we understand this was a very productive meeting and the police are keen to work with the shop on their issues. The police also sent a monthly update through Neighbourhood Watch, and claim they are working on the problem of motorbikes coming from 'the Melrose Estate' and attended an anti-social behaviour report on Clyde Court recently.
- **Can and plastic recycling bin on The Green** – this had been full since June. Nita reported it 3 times via email to people in Waste Management at NWLDC during the summer but received no response, so made a complaint in early October, which was forwarded on to Waste Services. As at 31 Oct, the bin hadn't been emptied. Nita complained again, as people were putting recyclables in street litter bins, which means all this goes to landfill. She got a reply that the waste department said that the bin had been emptied on 25 Oct which wasn't true. It was eventually emptied on 1 Nov.
- **AOB** - Bill said that he had made provisional enquiries about gardening equipment for any new volunteers needing this, and it would be about £120 but he will confirm this later on. Ann said that she had looked at places that supply display boards and they vary in prices. She will take a look again when she has time, but pointed out that we will probably not be using the boards again for several months anyway.

On 9 November, Nita and Anne Statham attended a meeting at the centre with others to discuss the project in the field behind the centre. These are the notes taken, which were emailed to those who have an email facility. They are repeated here for the benefit of those who don't.

- **Project on Bob's Closs behind centre** –
  - RCC have people's contact details who may be interested in helping with the project and will add to this as things progress. Beata said there are 20 people on the waiting list for allotments and they may also be interested. There is a family with 2 children who want to be involved. Pre-school might be interested in Forestry school aspect. Conservation volunteers are looking at the rare flora and fauna.
  - Plans are still in draft form, but it will be option 2 from previous sends.
  - Probation service helping caused some fears, but these have been allayed as these people will be supervised. Lots of talk on helping people turn their lives around relating to this.
  - RCC have done presentation to trustees at centre and also local scouts who are very positive and want to be involved with regard to planting and woodland management throughout the year and may also want to help with building bird boxes and bug hotels. Obviously the initial 100 trees planted will not need much looking after for a while, but there could still be the opportunity for scouts to learn woodland skills using the trees already there. Nita agreed to send details of the chair of the governors at Thringstone Primary to RCC so a talk can happen there.
  - Coffee van session by RCC at the centre on 2 November was successful and lots of people had good points, especially about planting heritage fruit trees – this is the first time anybody has suggested this for such a project. Fruit trees will probably be at the top of the site.
  - Local people concerned about the rise of anti-social behaviour have been visited and again fears allayed. People must report crimes, as many don't, and then what the police know is limited.
  - Tree planting will happen in the New Year. It is hoped that site clearance by probation service will start in Dec. Paths will go around the site as well as across, and may be stepped where necessary. Beata is having a meeting with scouts to talk about using their hut and facilities when the clearance starts.



## The Friends of Thringstone

- Talk about increasing the access for dog walkers with the resultant increase in dog fouling. Budget is available to help with this, but will possibly be signage suggesting people take their dog poo home rather than having bins for volunteers to empty.
- Donation of trees - trees can be donated, but it would be better to donate trees to the National Forestry Commission – go to their website.
- Vikki Utting from the council is putting in a funding bid to People Zone for fruit pickers and bags which can be used on existing trees and also elsewhere in the village. She also has 10 trees coming from another source. Beata said that some of the storage facilities at the centre could be used for equipment.

### NEW INFORMATION

- **Centre** – We understand that the centre are proposing to do refurbishment to the office area, and that painting of the building is also something that is proposed. £176 was raised at the coffee morning for RBL.
- **Gardening** – Nita has been in touch with the probation service and hopes that we may be able to work with them to do some tidying of the area on Drury Lane, as this leads on to the closs where the probation service hope to be working before Christmas. A meeting is to be held at which things can be discussed in more detail. All bulbs purchased via NWLDC are now planted, included in which were some double bulbs. However, we understand that others were either small or soft and may not flower.
- **Volunteers** – Sakshi Limbu, the senior social prescribing link worker for the local GP services, has confirmed that all practices know about volunteering opportunities available to people wishing to help us and improve their health by either gardening or litter picking. Nita has also liaised with the parents of a lad doing his Duke of Edinburgh award who is now going to help us with litter picking.
- **Police beat surgery** – 5 December at Thringstone Co-op at 5pm. All welcome to see PCSO Emma Ramsey.

### Chairs Report

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

**Promotion:** We have **755 twitter followers**, which is 2 more than last month, and **2,141 facebook followers**, which is 5 more than last month.

**Other:** Nita has written and sent in her history articles to **Community Voice** to cover up to and including April 2024. Topics include Rose and Crown, Bull's Head in the 1930s, St Andrew's graveyard, and the history of police in the village, to include the police houses in St Andrew's Close. The next **Bauble** to go in to the magazine will be in February and will be submitted at the end of December. Nita has also done an interview on litter picking for **Coalville Times**.

### What's On

2 Dec – **Charles Booth Centre** – Cash for Gold event from 12noon – 4pm.

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3 Dec – **Charles Booth Centre** – kids movie from 10am. Free popcorn for kids.

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

8 Dec – **Charles Booth Centre** coffee morning from 10am in aid of Canine Partners.

9 Dec – **Charles Booth Centre** – Christmas party and Santa's Grotto. £1 entry. 6.30pm-9.30pm. Popcorn, glitter tattoos, bar, DJ, tombola, raffle.

10 Dec – **Charles Booth Centre** – Santa Fun Run. Starts at 10am. Tickets £5

15 Dec – **Carols round the tree** – meet at St Andrew's at 6.30pm, walk to centre, and go inside from 7pm for entertainment. All welcome.



19-27Jan – Charles Booth Centre – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society’s** production of Snow White. For further details contact 0333 666 3366 or book online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads)  
 19 May 2024 – **Historical walk** round the village starting on The Green at 10.30am. £2.50.

### Financial

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>3194.02</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Publications		Broadband	20.00
Memberships		Public Liability insurance	15.70
<b>total income to general fund</b>			£35.70
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>3158.32</b>

### **Web report**

The webmaster is continuing to work on updates.

### Incident Report

- 5 Nov – Van fire on Main St – fire engine had to attend and road closed off for a time.
- 25 Nov – lady with cystic fibrosis manhandled by group of youths around 6.30pm on Lbro Rd just past care home. Police involved.

### History Report

- Nita has submitted a series of historical stories of Thringstone folk, and the history of Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club, to **Coalville Can** who are putting it together in a book for us. A contract will be issued and profits will be split 50/50. There is a possibility that they may also help us to sell our existing publications.
- A lady from Rosedale has given us a load of photos of the **Thringstone Primary** school exchange to Italy in 1984. These have been scanned and will also go into our paper archives for future use.
- Nita has spent many hours trying to research the link between the **Tucker family** and the **Gregory family**. This has meant going back to Thringstone hosier John Gregory 1766-1843 and researching all his offspring and their offspring which has been very interesting. We know that John Gregory was living on The Green for decades, and was also the licensee of the Rose and Crown from at least 1809. Unfortunately, Nita can't get anywhere with finding out who John's parents were, as he doesn't appear to have been baptized locally. She discovered that John Gregory obviously had money going back to at least 1792, as he stood surety for 9 landlords in that year when their licenses were up for renewal. He continued to stand surety for other publicans every year up to 1798, then again in 1805, in 1814, and between 1819 and 1827. These included for publicans running the Bull's Head and George and Dragon as well as The Engine in Coleorton which was then part of Thringstone parish. These sureties each cost between £10 and £20, and as he stood surety 45 times from 1792 until 1827, there was considerable money involved. Regarding the Tucker connection, Elizabeth Tucker was formally a Gregory, but her parents weren't the same as John's family. However, her son John Gregory Tucker, was with John Gregory's son, also called John, in 1841, so there must be a link somewhere. What has come out of all this is that John Gregory Tucker and his wife Catherine were the toll gate keepers down Whitwick Moor in 1881, and her mother, Mary Hewitt nee Taylor, was the toll gate keeper at the same time near to the George and Dragon.



## The Friends of Thringstone

- **Nov 1889** – Thomas Moore of Thringstone bought **The Talbot Arms** in Whitwick and the adjoining cottage for £775 at an auction. Mr Moore took over the temporary licence from Mr S W Hallam who moved to the Queen's Head, Thringstone, before the license for Talbot Arms was taken by Ned Hicken in 1890. Thomas Moore and his wife Bessie kept the grocery shop and off sales on the corner of Whitwick Moor for years – both are buried at St Andrew's. The inn comprised entrance hall with staircase, tap room and parlour at the front, large club room and bar at the back, 5 bedrooms, kitchen, cellar and pantry, outbuildings, stabling and gardens. In 1863, having had an extension to the club room at the pub, the ball room was said to be the best in Whitwick. Also for sale were 4 cottages near to the Talbot Arms and a plot of building land which went to Wm. Newham for £252, and a double fronted grocer's shop, 3 cottages and building land in Main Street, Thringstone which went to John Emerson for £457. 2 cottages adjoining the Talbot Arms went to W Henson for £145.
- **Nov 1897** - The Parish Council asked the surveyor for the County Council to repair the footpath in **Fewke Lane**, near John Street, Thringstone and also the causeway adjoining Mrs Hull's property on The Green. Does anybody know where Fewke Lane actually was please?
- **April 1911** - Upon the death of **Thomas Moore** (as above), various properties of his were sold by auction. These included his shop on the corner of Whitwick Moor, which comprised of front shop with cellar underneath, sitting room, living room, kitchen, pantry, 4 bedrooms with closet, piggeries, wood/trap shed and a garden of 400 sq. yds. Also for sale was a garden area/building plot, fenced off from the road, on the opposite corner to the property above and having access from Gracedieu Road, comprising of 221 sq yds, which was suitable for building. 3 cottages with gardens and outbuildings in Main Street were also offered for sale. These properties were in the occupation of W Moore, W Morley and CT Wilkins as weekly tenants, and were next to property belonging to Mr W Watts and Coalville Co-operative Society.
- **Oct 1941** – **John Henry Biddle**, son on law of Cllr. John Mee Kidger, was riding his motorcycle in the blackout at Gracedieu when he hit Alfred Fern who was walking. Both men lived at Pegg's Green. Mr Biddle worked for Annabel's haulage in Shepshed – Wilf Annabel was his uncle. Both men were taken to hospital in Loughborough.
- **May 1957**- The annual general meeting at **Thringstone House** saw Lady Gore-Brown re-elected as president. Mr E Aris was elected as chairman in succession to Mr W Bruce, and E Hicken succeeded E Lowe as treasurer.
- **Nov 1963** – The cost of providing **200 homes for miners** coming to Thringstone from the north on the 21 acre site is estimated to be £445,000 to include incidental works, members of the Coalville UDC heard last night. Because of the delay in starting the project, some miners who were staying in caravans in Ellistown have been asked to move temporarily into houses built for mine workers in Swadlincote. Cllr. J McHugh said that, whilst the people in the caravans were anxious to leave, they were generally not prepared to have a temporary move. One lady living in a caravan at Ellistown said that her husband brought home 9 shillings a week more than he did up north, and the electricity was part of the rent they paid on the caravan. She estimated that the electricity costs would be more than the 30 shillings a week they paid in rent. In addition, because each miner got a share of coal which they could not use, they sold it back to the coal board for cash, and made extra income that way. John and Margaret Bell, however, weren't keen to stop in the caravans and wanted a brick home for winter for themselves and their 2 children. They were prepared to take temporary accommodation in South Derbyshire and then move back to NW Leicestershire when the houses in Thringstone were ready, even though this could mean extra travel to get to and from work.
- **1964** – The owners of **Ruby's**, Mr and Mrs C Handford, closed their shop briefly one Friday night and returned to their home, about 10 yards away on The Green, to find the front door to their home ajar and £115, money they kept as a float for the business, missing from a wardrobe.
- **1965** – **Mr George H Watson** who lived with his daughter Mrs Millie Smith, (who ran the Sunday school for years), at The Cottage in The Fields, Talbot Lane passed away after a short illness at the age of 84. Mr Watson served in the Kings Own Rifles in both the Boer War and First World War and took part in Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Parade when he was just 19 years of age. A native of Winchester, he was president of Thringstone House Football Club for 2 years and had been



## The Friends of Thringstone

connected to the club for over 60. An honorary member of the Whitwick branch of the Royal British Legion, he had lived in Whitwick for the last 54 years.

- **Feb 1965** – Leonard Seeley, former headmaster of **Thringstone School**, was taking the job as principle of the first ever men only teacher training college. Mr Seeley who lives at St Helen's Cottage, Warren Hills, has been offered the job in Bletchley in Buckinghamshire. He said that he was not in favour of single sex education, but said that at present, more women were attracted to teaching than men, and that should change and something was needed to correct the balance. .
- **March 1965** – **Thringstone Musical Comedy Group's** latest performance was Carissima, which would run at Thringstone House from 1 April with Ron Smith as producer.
- **Aug 1965** – **The Thringstone Players** have decided to change their productions to concentrate on things that appeal to local audiences – musicals and thrillers. Their comedy 'Beside the Seaside' will run in October. Some of their members, for example Norma Savage, are members of the music
- **Jan 1966** – **Coalville Co-operative Society** issued an appeal against a decision to refuse to allow them to build 4 garages behind 6 The Green, Thringstone. The appeal was turned down by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, as a blind junction with Loughborough Road constituted a hazard which could only be exaggerated by additional use.
- **Jan 1966** – A complaint had been made to Coalville Urban Council that 43 garages on the **new miners estate** in Thringstone all had the same key, meaning that anybody could go into anybody else's garage. Cllr. Lindsey agreed to investigate.
- **Feb 1967** – Applications were received for the building of a pavilion on the grounds of the **Miners Welfare** on Homestead Road, Thringstone.
- **Sept 1967** – **Clive Buxton** aged 21 from 7 Dalkeith Walk was on trial for having a gun, assaulting Patrick Boyle causing him actual bodily harm by biting his cheek, and for the assault of PC W J Kent and Ralph Mitchell who he had hit and kicked. His bail was refused as it was felt he could try to intimidate witnesses. Mr Buxton said that all his issues were caused by drink. It had started at 2.25am when Ralph Mitchell heard someone banging on the door. He had looked out of the window and saw Mr Buxton with a shotgun, who then issued threats against Mr Mitchell. As a result of a 999 call, 3 police officers went to Mr Buxton's arriving at 2.35am. When told that people were afraid of him and even afraid to speak to him, he said he had been unaware of this and that it was all because of drink. When the 3 police officers went to arrest him, he had run into the corner of the room with his gun and raised it into a firing position causing the officers to back off. He had then run out of the house, and aimed at the police officers giving chase. He had later returned and the gun was found leaning against a wall. It was in a safe position, although it did have cartridges in it and was otherwise ready to use. At a hearing in November, he was remanded for psychiatric reports. Earlier in the year, in March, Mr Boyle, a miner at Whitwick colliery, had lost his eldest son, aged 3, also called Patrick, when he was killed in an accident with a car whilst coming home from shopping with his mother, and her other son Mark aged 4 months. They were at the corner of Booth Road and Loughborough Road when the boy ran into the path of an oncoming vehicle. The vehicle had braked and swerved, but had still hit the boy and killed him.
- **Dec 1967** – **Mr and Mrs Austin Green** of 102 Melrose Road came home to find all their Christmas presents stolen. A chess set and a decanter and 6 wine glasses were missing, along with a bottle of wine and 6 eggs. In addition, the intruder had used the kitchen as a lavatory and the family cat had gone missing. Mr Green said 'we had only been away for a couple of days, and it was an awful shock to come home to. My guests were very understanding, and they will get some presents when we have another get together on New Year's Eve. My neighbours saw a man running away when his dog barked furiously, and the instruction leaflet for the chess set was found in the garden, as if the thief dropped it as he ran off'.

**Next meeting is Dec 7th at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre in the bar lounge. If you fancy bringing some food to share, that would be great. Bar won't be open though.**