# The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

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## Bulletin January 2026

**Monthly Litter Pick Total 106** bags by **9** people against 101 bags by 6 people in Dec 2024. This is the highest monthly total since July. We now have two young ladies who are doing their Duke of Edinburgh awards helping us with litter picking from this month plus their parents. 3 people who no longer litter pick with us returned their sticks prior to Christmas. One lady reported that her litter pick stick had broken and returned it for repair. In 2025 we collected and removed 1,171 bags of litter against 1,536 in 2024.

**Meeting for 5 January cancelled because of weather conditions.**

**Community litter pick –** We would like to do another community litter pick, probably asking the scouts/beavers/rainbows and school on Saturday 28 March at 10.30am from The Green. Caroline has already said that this is acceptable to her, and we will contact others to let them know nearer the time.

**Old School House –** £705 was raised at the recent Christmas fayre. Thank you from all at the home to everybody who supported the event. We now in regular contact with the new manager at the home, and hope to do some networking in the future.

**Thringstone Scouts** - 1st Thringstone Scouts have been awarded £16,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund! This fantastic funding will allow them to continue refurbishments and update the Scout hut, helping to create a safe, welcoming and modern space for local young people to learn skills, build confidence, and have a bit of good old-fashioned fun - mud optional!

**Charity Coffee Morning** – The event for Rainbows in December raised £193.10. Thanks to all who helped out and those who came along.

**Bull's Head** – Raised over £1400 over the Christmas period for Festival of Kindness Social Bite.

**Paving on The Green** – on 15 December, Bruce and his team from I Clean jet washed and cleaned all the paving sets around the Booth memorial on The Green and removed all the ingrowing grass. We reckons that the last time the sets were that colour is when they were put down in 1999. Bruce has family in Thringstone and did this for no charge as he just wanted to help the community. They have even said that they will keep on top of that area from now on for us. How nice is that! Nita posted this information, with photos, onto our facebook and twitter pages. We had over 330 facebook likes for this post. Nita submitted articles for Coalville Times and Community Voice magazine to thank Bruce and I Clean for their work.

**Manhole cover by 132 Loughborough Road –** every time there is heavy rain, this manhole cover raises, and sewage leaks onto the grass verge and down the path where school children walk to cross over to go to Henson's Lane. Nita has raised this issue with Severn Trent and NWLDC's environmental health department before, but decided to contact our MP as nothing ever happened. As a result Amanda Hack's office wrote to both County Hall and Severn Trent. The following replies were received : Highways from County Hall subsequently raised works to investigate the manhole. This is an unmapped drainage asset so they will check both its functionality and its

ownership as they are unclear of ownership at present. These works have been planned in for 30th January 2026 (all dates subject to change). Severn Trent replied that they had arranged for a crew to attend and investigate the sewer pipes/manhole cover here, so that that they can assess if there are any defects leading to these reoccurring issues. This inspection was carried out on 16 December, and They located the manhole directly outside of 132 Loughborough road at grids X:442926, Y:317786 - this was inspected and the line was clear and free flowing, with no signs of previous high levels. They CCTV'd all the way to the mains. No issues or defects were found with this line. They then checked the manhole outside of the club, at grids X: 442942, Y: 317845. This is a completely seized cover and the crew do not believe this will be able to lift, so they do not believe that this manhole will be the one that has previously flooded. Following the visit, the crew were unable to identify and blockages or defects in our assets. We understand that there has been a history or flooding here as the customer has noted, we ask that next time the customer notices any issues that this is reported to our emergency line on 0800 783 4444 and a crew can go back out when the flooding is actively happening to investigate the issue further, as the recent visit did not find any current issues that can be looked into at this time. Nita will report the next time that the manhole has lifted, and not remove all the sewage from the grass verge and pathway so they can see for themselves.

**Building on land off Thornborough Road** – This is part of the Save West Whitwick Valley project. There will be a public consultation carried out by Whitwick Parish Council at Park Hall, Whitwick on **15 Jan at 7pm**. This is to discuss the planning application submitted by David Wilson Homes East Midlands to build 180 houses on the land which will comprise of market and assessable housing plus open spaces. The company has already carried out an online survey of public opinion.

**103 Lbro Rd** – This is the house on the corner of Henson's Lane that has been empty since 2018. Lychgate properties have applied for planning for 2 bungalows and a 1.5 storey property in the garden area to this house, plus a 2 storey side extension and one storey rear extension to the existing property.

**New Thringstone Co-op Manager** – New manager from 11 Jan will be a lady called Helen who lives in town, and has previously run the Desford shop. Simon, the present manager, has been promoted to a bigger shop in Staffordshire.

**Parish Council for Thringstone** – As those with emails will know, NWLDC is carrying out a survey as to what people's views are on Thringstone having a parish council so we can have a say in how things in the village are run. If you are interested in this survey, you need to submit your response before 7 February. The link is
https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/do_you_want_a_parish_council_in_thringstone

**New recycling scheme to come in 2026-7** – At the cabinet meeting in December, NWLDC voted to go forward with the proposed scheme to deal with waste and recycling. The new system will use the following containers: A new wheeled bin for glass, cans, tins, cartons, plastic pots, tubs and trays and flexible plastics (replacing the current red boxes), a new wheeled bin for paper and cardboard (replacing the current yellow and blue bags), a new kitchen caddy and a new outdoor container for food waste, a wheeled bin for garden waste and a wheeled bin for non-recyclable waste.

**Chair's report**

Promotion – We have **731** twitter followers which is one less than last month and **2,597** facebook followers which is 20 more than last month.

Other: Reported water leak outside 85 Lbro Rd to Severn Trent which was repaired the same week. Reported uprooted bollard sign on traffic calming outside Meadows care home to LCC. This was repaired by the county council on the morning of 23 Dec.

Nita submitted an article on Rose Walker's St Bernard dogs to Community Voice for September 2026 and sent off the Bauble for February 2026 and has done the year end report..

The Friends of Thringstone

**What's On**

- 9 Jan – Charity coffee morning at the centre is the Stoke Association. Open from 10 – 12 noon.
- 28-31 Jan – **Wizard of Oz at Charles Booth Centre**. Tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk'tpads or ring 0333 666 3366.
- 13 Feb – Charity Coffee morning at the centre is for LOROS. Open from 10am – 12 noon
- 13 March – Charity Coffee morning at the centre is for Alzheimers Association. Open from 10am – 12 noon

**Financial Report**

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| .**Gen Fund held 1st of month** (bank + petty cash + float) | **2764.61** | | |
| **Income** | | **Expenditure** | |
| Cash from external sales put into petty cash | £12.50 | Broadband | £20.00 |
| | | Zurich Insurance | £7.89 |
| | | | |
| **total income received** | £12.50 | | |
| | | **Total** | **2749.22** |

**Website**

The bulletin section on the website is now up to date and other updates have taken place.

**Incident reports**

- 14 Dec - Person causing a nuisance on **Henson's Lane** from 2.40am until about 6am shouting and screaming and walking with a coat on upside down.
- 20 Dec – Dog owned by person on **Lbro Rd** got out and attacked another dog. This is the 13th or 14th time that the dog has attacked another dog and/or a person. Police involved.
- 25 Dec – Silver ford focus drove over the traffic calming on **Lbro Rd** near the church jitty taking out the illuminated bollards en route to The Green. Didn't stop but must have damaged car considerably. County Council repaired the bollard area on 30 December.
- 27 Dec – large quantity of unused nappies in unopened bags dumped on **Swannymote Road**. Council collected on 30 Dec.
- The **beat newsletter** for December suggested that the police had been continuing to try to stop motorbikes in the woods and also said that they had investigated drugs problems on Booth Road. The **next beat surgery** is on 24 Jan between 10am and 11am at the Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre. The police have also said that, following complaints, they intend to deal with speeding cars on Loughborough Road, Thringstone, and will start this work, along with other areas, on 14 Jan.

**History report**

- Nita spent several days helping a gentleman interested in the Walker family with details of awards and trophies won by **Rose Walker of the Gracedieu Garage** between 1949 and 1969. She bred St Bernard dogs from 1947, and also Basset Hounds, and travelled around the UK to various shows. She was president of the Coalville and District Canine Society for some considerable time, and gave her name to the Walker Cup in these events and was, in 1953 and 1957, the President of the United St Bernard's Club of Great Britain. She was also a judge, won awards at Crufts several times and awards at the Kennel Club of Scotland show. In the 1940s she created the Peldator shield which was presented to the St Bernard Club of Great Britain to be used for winners at shows. We have a photo of this, and several photos of some of her earlier dogs, showing their link to others at the kennels as she bred with many of them. In 1953 reports said that she had the largest St

Bernard kennel in Europe with 25 dogs but went up later to 35 and she became the world's biggest kennel for the dogs. She was even approached by the Maharajah of Nepal to send a dog to him, but she refused, saying she didn't export her dogs. A diminutive woman who was often seen walking her dogs on pavements to keep their nails short, she had unorthodox training methods but was very successful as a breeder. Rose's son, Gilbert Walker, was secretary of the United St Bernards Club of Great Britain from 1958 for 17 years after which it ceased operation until 1980 and press reports state that he was showing his own dogs from the kennels in August 1971 in Leicester. Following on from that, Nita researched the Walker family's ownership of the garage at Gracedieu. The family were all from Nottingham, and were there in 1939 but not in 1937. They comprised of Harold Leslie Walker and his wife Rose Louise Ward Walker who had married in Southwell, Nottinghamshire in 1914, plus sons Harold Leslie Chapman Walker born 12 October 1915, and twins Gilbert Leslie and Eric Leslie born on 31 August 1921. Harold Snr. was born on 8 August 1891 in Nottingham, and died suddenly at the garage on 12 March 1963 and was buried at Carlton Cemetery, Nottingham. From baptism records for his eldest son, it seems that in 1915, Harold Snr was a solicitor's clerk and other records confirm that during WW1 he served as a lance bombardier with the Royal Garrison artillery. By 1921, along with his wife and young son, he was living at Arkwright Street, Nottingham and was an art dealer. In addition to running the garage and the kennels, the family had a taxi business and did MOTs and wedding cars. At the time of her husband's death in 1963, newspapers suggested that Rose, who was born on 28 January 1891, was ill, but she doesn't appear to have died until 10 June 1980 aged 89 years, at which point in time she left £72,439. She was buried at Carlton Cemetery, Nottingham. Upon the death of their father, the business was taken over by the twins with Eric being the main partner it would seem with Gilbert being a motor engineer. Eric had married Jean Peck in 1946 but Gilbert never married. He was involved in an accident in 1969 when a car hit a lorry being driven by Eric, and Gilbert suffered hip injuries. Eric died at the garage on 31 July 1979 and Gilbert followed in 1980. It was said locally that Tom Wheatcroft bought some cars from Walkers for his Donington Park Collection, including one that was quite rare, but we cannot find anything to confirm this from archives. Back on 8 October 1950 there was an incident of blue rain falling at the garage. Various local and national newspapers covered this incident It splattered the windows of the kitchen with blue blobs about the size of an old penny coin, and fell for 15 minutes covering a large area of the garage and its surroundings. Mrs Walker rang the police thinking it was from a passing aeroplane, but there were not explanations given by anybody. It would appear that Harold Leslie Chapman Walker married Clarice Hall in Loughborough in 1948 and died on 8 July 1966 in Leicester and was also buried at Carlton Cemetery in Nottingham. We believe that the garage was sold soon afterwards to **John Alexander Renton** who operated as J A Renton and Sons, haulage. They were in the phone book from 1981. We have an advert they put in local papers in March 1985 and know they worked country wide. We know Mr Renton was still at the garage in 2003 but are not sure when he left. John Renton was born in Roxburghshire in Scotland on 26 December 1931, married Alexandria Virtue Cockburn in Scotland in 1954, had 4 sons and a daughter, and died in Loughborough on 12 Dec 2012. We are currently looking for more information on exact dates for the Gracedieu Garage. The current occupants of the site at Gracedieu Garage, **Leicester Machine Movers**, who are the Evans family from Glenfield, went there in 2006 having outgrown their site in Leicester centre.

- We now have a photo of **Mary Ann Allen** who married Harry Upton, and for years lived on Brook Lane before moving to the council houses at 152 Main Street. Born on 30 May 1895, Mary Ann had 6 children. She died on 2 January 1990 aged 94 and was buried at St Andrew's.
- Looking at the 1937 Coronation programme, there are several people who put adverts into this souvenir of whom we had little information. Firstly there is an **A Mitchell**, **boot and shoe repairer** operating from The Green. This appears to be William Arthur Mitchell who married Hilda Twigger from Fox Terrace in 1932. They had a daughter called Yvonne in 1937 and a son called Arthur Horace Patrick in 1941 and on the 1939 register appear to have been living at 115 Main Street with Hilda's parents. The couple divorced in December 1948 with Hilda citing cruelty and her husband having also committed adultery with an unknown woman. Hilda got custody of the children and

remarried Thomas Hendrie in 1949 and William Arthur moved away. He died in 1999 in Winchester, Hampshire. Continuing the research, we have **Mary Smith** (nee Hall) who advertised her **sweet shop on The Green**. This lady was born 4 June 1910 in Swannington. In 1939 she was living at The Queen's Head with her grandmother Sarah and father John, where her father was landlord, plus her husband Joe who was a market fruit salesman. She'd married Joe in 1936. They appear to have had a daughter called Valerie in 1940. Mary died on 7 April 1994 at which time her address was Sharpley Road, Loughborough. We also know from previous research that John Hall died at his daughter's home in Loughborough in 1956. We have known for some time that a Jack Hall had a sweet shop next to The Queen's Head. That is John Hall's son, and Mary's brother, John Thomas, who kept the sweet shop after Mary left. Then there is **Jack Harris** who advertised his **petrol station** on what is now the A512, and after he left was taken over by the Walker family. Phone books from the 1930s show him at the petrol station from 1934 until 1938. He was not in the phone book there in 1933. In December 1935, he was advertising the sale of an 8 horse power Singer 2 seater with no reasonable offer refused. In 1939 he was a retired garage proprietor living with the Robinson family near to Gracedieu Garage, which was by that time run by the Walker family. It says he was single and had a birthdate of 10 Jan 1887, but further research has suggested this should have been 1889, as a Jack Harris was born and registered in Peterborough with that birthdate. This chap was brought up in Dallington, then a small parish but now part of Northampton, and in 1911 was living in Clumber Street, Mansfield, where he was a motor body maker. One of the people where he was lodging was Emma Needham, who was the niece of the householder. By 1921, he was a motor body builder, but out of work and living with his wife Emma nee Needham to whom he had been married in 1912, in Godmanchester near Huntingdon. What happened to that marriage is unknown, but it would make sense that this is the right person, and there is certainly nobody else that fits the criteria. **Ernest Gee** said he was a **grocer** in the 1937 programme, and we know this was 147 Main Street, which he started in 1925. This shop is mentioned in our book on Thringstone businesses and in fact is the picture on the front of the book. In 1926, 7 properties in Fox Terrace, which stood next to the Fox Inn, were up for sale and bought by B Platts of Leicester for £700 – believed to be engine driver and fireman Benjamin Platts who was born in Griffydam but lived in Melbourne Road, Leicester. The occupants there at that time were Ernest Gee, Fred Munday, Mrs Elizabeth Ann Peace who was a widow, John William Eaton, John Henry White Robinson, David Robinson and Thomas Fortnam. In May 1930 Ernest and Cissie Gee from Fox Terrace put a notice out thanking people for their sympathies on a recent bereavement. This was Ernest's wife Cecilia who died aged 51 years according to records, but this family is complicated since both Ernest's wife and daughter were called Cecilia, shortened to Cissie. Ernest Gee died on 28 February 1939 after an illness of several weeks and was buried at St Andrew's. He was 60 years of age. The mourners included Cissie (Ernest's daughter) and Barlett Jarvis who, after their marriage in the spring of 1939 ran a shop on Fox Terrace, Main Street, as borne out by the 1939 register and 1946 trade directories. Then there is **A Whitwell, grocer and oil man**. We have no idea who this person is. A person called Leo Frederick Whitwell and his wife Catherine came to 1 The Dumps, Whitwick after the 1921 census. Leo was from Wolverhampton but had been brought up with his sister Winifred in Derby. Catherine was from Yorkshire, and they had no children. They moved before 1939 to 139 Gracedieu Road where they also ran a shop. We also cannot find **M Wilkin** who said he was a haulage contractor. In the unlikely event that someone has more information on any of these folk, please let us know.

- **1930s onwards –** During research done into the Harris/Walker's garage on the A512, we saw from **phone books** that the telephone number there was on the Osgathorpe exchange and was no. 24. In 1937, the Leicester Mercury office at 53 Belvoir Road, Coalville had the number Coalville 68 showing how few people had telephones. None of the local pubs seems to have had telephone numbers either in the name of the pub or the landlords, so Jack Harris having a telephone number for the garage from 1934 was quite a thing. By the start of the 1950s, their phone number had become 224 but was still on the Osgathorpe exchange and the **Fox Inn**, which was listed under the name of George W Musson, was 220 also on the Osgathorpe exchange so we are assuming that

this was originally just no 20. Come 1964 and George Domoney was at the **Queen's Head** in Thringstone, and the telephone number was 384 at the Osgathorpe exchange. We cannot find a number for the **George and Dragon** in the 1950s, but in 1964 under the name of Robert Abbott, and again in 1968, under the name of Vic Henderson, the George and Dragon's number was again on the Osgathorpe exchange and was 282. In 1970, the **Bull's Head** was listed in its own right under the Osgathorpe exchange as 389 but come 1975, it was under the Coalville exchange as 222389.

- **May 1916** – Properties on **Drury Lane and Main Street** were the subject of the sanitary officer's inspection. This matter had been brought up before, but nothing had been done to abate the nuisance from the drainage to the rear of these properties, and an order was issued for this to be done without delay.
- **Dec 1918 -** The publication called **Fur and Feather** (a rabbit magazine which is still published) was advertising the following for sale – Grand fawn doe, Brown's direct, mated, 25 shillings. Lovely fawn buck, 8 months, 16 shillings. Dark grey doe, maiden 17 shillings and 6 pence on approval. One Flemish-Belgian doe 15 shillings. Member of Silver Club. E A Holmes, Gracedieu View, Thringstone. This gent subsequently went on to keep the Bull's Head. The Silver Club seems to have been formed in 1889 and relates to the silver rabbit, one of the oldest breeds of domestic rabbit, which dates back to the 1500s. This rabbit is now considered a threatened breed.
- **April 1931** – **Elizabeth Bradley**, widow of Main Street,Thringstone, was in court being sued over the cost of repairing the radiator of a car in the sum of £5 5 shillings as executrix of her husband's estate. Her husband, Charles Bradley had promised to pay, and the radiator had been repaired during her husband's lifetime, but he had since been unfortunately killed. He died on 15 August 1930 at no. 3 pit at the colliery. There had been a fall of stone as he was trying to get some stone down from the roof at the gate end by knocking it with a ringer. He could not move the stone, went to the other side, and as he returned the stone dislodged and fell on him, fracturing his neck and death was almost instantaneous. He had left a widow and 5 children. The miners inspector said he should have sounded the roof as he went under it, but had failed to do so and a verdict of accidental death was given. Probate records show that he left £382 15 shillings and 8 pence to his wife Elizabeth. At the court case, Mrs Bradley said neither herself nor her late husband owed any money, but it should be paid by insurance companies. Mrs Bradley who lived opposite the school said that she had received £200 from newspapers and also compensation from Whitwick Colliery and her late husband, Charles, had had money in the Co-operative Society. The plaintiff said that the radiator had burst through being left in the frost in a shed which comprised of carelessness so the insurance company would not pay out. Mrs Bradley said she was receiving 8 shillings a week from the colliery, and could not afford anything else. She said that her husband had only left one or two pounds in the Co-operative Society. Shortly after her husband's death, Mrs Bradley had received £50 from the Eagle Star and British Dominions Insurance through the Leicester Mail newspaper insurance scheme but had also received other money from newspapers. She said she was living on the £200 from these newspapers, but the judge said she needed to clear her debts first. Mrs Bradley said she had two daughters out of work, but the judge said he couldn't help that, and the ruling was that she needed to pay £5 and 5 shillings, plus costs, within the next 14 days. The 1939 register shows Mrs Bradley and her daughter Edith, a hosiery presser, at 32 Main Street, Thringstone. Mrs Bradley died in 1975 aged 92.

**Date of next meeting 5 February at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre**