The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

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Bulletin March 2026

Monthly Litter Pick Total 72 bags by **7** people against **84** bags by **6** people for the same month last year.
13-29 March is Keep Britain Tidy's latest campaign period, which fits in with our own litter pick on 28 March at 10.30am from The Green. All welcome.
Meeting cancelled this month – Nita has a hospital operation booked in for the day before.
Thringstone Brownies – The Brownies joined with the Rainbows at the scout hut from Wednesday 4 Feb having previously been down at Thringstone Members Club. The Guides are already meeting at Charles Booth Centre.
Centre - We understand that the centre team is continuing to try to start a youth group there, and that there is every likelihood that Thringstone's Got Talent will reappear as an event in the Spring with the centre's music event being in August.
Thringstone Members Club – the new managers are Emma and Bryan Kennedy. Nita has been to see them, introduced herself and FoT to them (plus also Neighbourhood Watch and Thringstone Together) and has added them to our bulletin mailout.
The club is looking to start both **darts and pool** teams. Contact them direct if you are interested.
They have a new **darts and pool night** every Thursday from 7pm called Killer Darts and Pool, with people paying £1 and the winner takes the pot.
The club is having a **welcome evening** for their new management team on 21 March from 7pm. Emma and Bryan have booked a group called The Detours, and there will be a free buffet.
They are now also offering **free pool and free jukebox** every Wednesday and Saturday, and offering other new things as part of their ongoing revamp. All new things are posted on facebook.
The club is also starting a **quiz night every Monday at 7.30pm** from 2 March. £1 per person with teams of no more than 5 people. Cash and drink prizes to be won.
Ingles FC – A new **girls team** called Ingles Red Roses is being formed. Girls from current school years 3 and 4 (under 9 years) are welcome to come along to training days on Wednesdays from 5pm-6pm at Thringstone Primary School's 3g pitch. For further details call Jenna on 07460 456371. The club is also starting an inclusive programme to encourage **adults with disabilities** to consider playing football. This starts on 16 April and every Thursday thereafter at 7pm for an hour. For further details please contact the club on inglesinclusive@gmail.com
The Bull's Head went **dog friendly** from 23 February. People with dogs are asked to enter from the Loughborough Road door rather than from the car park door, and to use tables marked 38 – 44 only. These will be signed. Dog bowls, lead hooks and treats will be available. The remainder of the seating area will remain unchanged.
Thringstone Bowls Club – have new signage which is stencilled onto their white wall from the car park so that it is visible from Lbro Rd.

Thringstone Together – Agreement has been reached that the event on 20 June will be at Thringstone Miners Social Centre/Ingles FC under their banner, and that TT will work with that facility to put on the event, rather than it being a TT event. This enables funding to be achieved, since it was never intended that TT become a constituted group with a bank account etc. The whole idea that Nita presented when forming the group was for TT to be an enabler for events to take place, by supporting and promoting such things, rather than a facilitator putting on their own events. Several charities have agreed to be present including Canine Partners and Bright Hope Hospice, and it is hoped that the bowling club and cricket club will also be present, depending on their fixtures. Friends of Thringstone will have a stall, and Coalville Community Radio have agreed to be present. In addition to all this, there will be live music to include a group and a solo singer, plus Limelight Dance group will entertain people. Thringstone Together is currently looking for sponsorship for prizes, raffle prizes and other stall holders and would like to thank those who have already given vouchers. If anybody from FoT can help with organising things for the day – for example organising a fancy dress competition perhaps - please let Nita know. We are also looking for volunteers to help on the day with setting up and things. Finally, if anybody would like to offer some sponsorship for the event, please let Nita know. Whilst it is hopeful there might be a grant available from NWLDC, providing bouncy castles, PA, and other such things comes at a cost. Thank you.

Writing Competition – The entries from Thringstone Primary were collected on 27 February and judging is underway to find 2 winners who will be presented with certificates and prizes by Community Voice Magazine some time in April. We would like to thank the school for working with us on this. The submissions are very comprehensive in some cases, and contain a lot of very positive things that children like about the village. These include the school, woods, priory, George and Dragon, football club and shops including Ruby's and the new cafe. Many also say how friendly people are, and that the village is welcoming and clean.

Thringstone Primary – the pavement to the school was resurfaced on 27 February as it had areas where water gathered and didn't look its best, shall we say!

Charity Coffee Mornings – these once a month events at Charles Booth Centre support a series of charities, and the event on 13 February was for the stroke club. £177.50 was raised. Members will recall that we agreed to sponsor the purchase of cakes for these coffee mornings, initially until the end of March. As money is still available from our initial donation, the purchase of cakes is secure for probably another 6 months. We are intending to continue this support, with your agreement, and would like to know what you think, please.

Brook – Well done to volunteers from Friends of Gracedieu Priory for clearing brambles from the banks of the brook on 21 February.

Chair's report

Promotion – We have **724** twitter followers which is 2 less than last month and **2,623** facebook followers which is 17 more than last month.

What's On

- 11 March – **Queen's Head, Belton**. Belton History Group together with Whitwick Historical Group present a talk on The Monastery by Marlene Pearson and Sue Calcutt. 7pm. Admission £3.
- 21 March – **Thringstone Members Club** – meet the management event. Starts at 7pm. Free buffet and music from The Detours.
- 28 March – **Community Litter Pick** at 10.30am from The Green. All welcome.
- 26 April – **Ravenstone Village Green**, St George's day market – stalls and kids' attractions
- 10 May – Thringstone Soul Club at Thringstone Members Club 2pm-8pm. £5.
- 6 and 7 June – **Open Osgathorpe** 12 noon until 5pm at St Mary's church, Osgathorpe. Includes access to open gardens. Adults £5.
- 19 June – **Coalville Theatre Festival** – 4pm-9pm. More details nearer the time.

- 20 June – **Thringstone Together Carnival**, 12 noon – 5pm at Thringstone Miners Social Centre/Ingles FC, Homestead Road. More details later.
- 28 June – **Gracedieu Priory** – celebrate 20 years of the site being open to the public. Will include re-enactors, stalls, food and much more. Further details later.
- 8 Aug – **Charles Booth Centre family music day**. More details to come.

Financial Report

.**Gen Fund held 1st of month** (bank + petty cash + float)	**2721.33**		
Income		**Expenditure**	
		Broadband	£20.00
		Zurich Insurance	£7.89
Total income received		**Total**	**£2693.44**

Website

Nothing to report.

Incident reports

- 20 Feb - The A512 was closed early in the morning after a road accident just outside the village

History report

- Nita found a tape recording of **Hilda Sykes** talking about life in WW2 including evacuees, food coupons and the like. She was an ARP warden and her husband was a lorry driver who had to fetch things from the ports and also transported armaments around the country. He also was an ARP warden. She talked about the ARP wardens meeting in the cellar at **Thringstone House**, and about views in the village on rationing and poaching and how evacuees were treated unfairly in some cases. This tape had never been transcribed, but now has. It is 6 pages long and includes all sorts of general information. If anybody wants a copy, please let Nita know. Hilda was married to Fred Sykes, son of Alfred and Jessie who kept the Rose and Crown for some considerable time. Fred and Hilda lived at 9 Whitwick Moor which was demolished some time back. **See below entry for July 1938** about the recruitment of ARP wardens, which to some degree tallies with Mrs Sykes' account.
- Nita has been helping a gent with his family tree. His interest was in his grandmother, **Mabel Mattison nee Barrs.** Born in Mountsorrel on 19 May 1896 to Walter and Mary Jane nee Baxter who had married on 25 Dec 1894, Mabel had two half-sisters, Edith and Clara as her father's first wife, Hannah Hardy, had died in 1893 aged 33. Mabel's father, Walter Barrs, died on 22 October 1905 when he collapsed and died suddenly at the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Mountsorrel. He was a lay preacher, and had been in bad health for some time, but was shown to be in distress towards the end of the service. He was making for the door, was taken into the vestry but died aged 43 within 10 minutes. In 1908, his wife Mary Jane remarried to Thomas Gee of Thringstone, whose first wife Mary Ann nee Wardle had died in May 1904, and they had a son Samuel who became Cllr. Samuel Gee about whom we have written before. They lived at White Row, Thringstone. They are shown there, with Mabel, in 1921. Mabel married Joseph Mattison, born 19 Dec 1892, later in 1921, and was shown on the 1939 register with him as **both ARP Wardens** at 40 Loughborough Road, Thringstone. Mabel had 5 children including a son called Kenneth Iliffe Mattison who died aged 2 as a result of a scalding accident on 4 January 1925. The coroner, and Doctors Jones and Burkitt, all

said that Mabel was not to blame. The family was at the time living in rooms in Stinson Row in Thringstone, which 'were not suitable for cooking or general service' as there was just an open fire on which to cook. This was because of the national housing crisis. Kenneth and his brother Walter Joseph Benjamin Mattison were playing and squabbling over a toy engine. Kenneth accidentally knocked a pan of boiling water over himself from neck to thigh and despite covering him in oil and sending for doctors, he died after a few days. Walter went on to be in the Royal Marines, but apparently did not collect his medals. Mabel was very advanced for her age and passed the equivalent of the 11 plus aged 9. She applied through the ARP scheme to become a fire guard instructor, and was appointed, which was quite rare in those days, as this promotion was usually reserved for people like doctors. Mabel was a contralto and apparently performed regularly in choirs, performing, amongst other things, in performances of Handel's Messiah. Mabel died on 28 June 1978 at which time she was living in Talbot Street. The gent that Nita was helping has sent photos of the Mary Jane Gee and family including Mabel on there, plus a photo of her in uniform, 2 WW1 photos of Joseph Mattison who was in the labour corps and at the time lived in Hathern, and a photo of Walter in the marines in WW2 and of his wedding, for which we thank him.

- **ARP wardens** - The 1939 register shows the following people were ARP wardens in addition to the Mattison's – Loughborough Road - James Mitchison no. 46 part time, Edwin Garner no. 62, John Walker no. 64, Gertrude Gould no. 88, Monica Gould no. 88, William Gamble no. 8. Albert King, 5 The Green. Sam Gee 74 Main Street was Head Warden. In addition, John Holland from 44 Lbro Rd, Thomas Hextall from 20 Lbro Road, and Arthur Sykes from 10 Lbro Rd were ARP wardens working with Coalville Urban District Council. Joseph Smith from the Queen's Head was a special constable. Albert Ottey the shoe repairer from 1 Lbro Rd was an auxiliary fireman. Thringstone's ARP wardens **stood down in June 1945** and there was a party at Thringstone House, organised by Sam Gee, at which all ARP wardens were thanked. Divisional head warden Mr Parsons attended. It was also noted that during the period of their service, Charles Barker had died, as had John William Moore, but their efforts should be acknowledged.
- **July 1938** – a meeting was held at Thringstone House to discuss air raid precautions, after an initial meeting in Coalville in September 1937 following home office guidelines. The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Ernest Aris of the **Air Raid Precaution Committee** of Coalville UDC alongside local councillors Downes and Allgood. Air organiser J McDougall gave an address and most of those present volunteered to be **ARP wardens**, including several women. Instruction classes were being set up on Thursday evenings at the Mining and Technical Institute, and it was hoped to get 1000 volunteers across the district to take up the position of ARP wardens. Many from the Whitwick branch of the Royal British Legion had enrolled. There was, however, ongoing concern that some schools were given air raid shelters and others in the district weren't. There were also concerns raised about sudden births in air raid shelters, and the medical officer recommended that a list of required articles be kept in cupboards of such shelters.
- **Dec 1851** – The sale of contents of **The Parsonage House, Thringstone** upon the death of Rev. Matthew Drake Babington was advertised in local newspapers as taking place at The Bull's Head, Loughborough. Amongst the items being sold were 5 volumes of Nichol's History of Leicestershire and an 'elaborately and curiously carved antique 4 post oak bedstead, described in said Nichol's History of Leicestershire as **the bed of King Richard 3rd**' but some antiquarians stated that it belonged to the reign of Elizabeth. Rev Babington had been vicar at St George's, Swannington, as well as previously in Shepshed. He was also chaplain at Massina, Sicily, where he died on 26 July 1851. Rev. Babington's son, Churchill Babington, a professor of archaeology, made mention of the

bed in a letter to newspapers in October 1866 as there had been reports that this bed had come from Appleby not from the Blue Boar in Leicester. He said that the bed had been originally at the Blue Boar in Leicester, passed to Alderman Drake and thence to his father. It had been examined by M H Boxham of Rugby on his father's death in 1851 who said it was Elizabethan. Churchill Babington said that few people knew the bed as well as he did, since he had often hit his head on the projecting carved work when first waking in a morning, and the link between this bed and Richard 3rd sleeping in it at The Blue Boar was genuine. The bed was now in the position of W P Herrick of Beaumanor Park. Churchill Babington said he had not wanted to part with the bed but had no room for it himself, and was delighted that it was in the safe care of Mr Herrick.

- **Aug 1871** – The first Whitwick Agricultural, Horticultural, Poultry and Industrial show took place in Whitwick in a field adjoining North Street. Amongst the winners was **Harriet Hurst of Thringstone House** who, in the industrial section, received a 2nd place for a cockatoo and flowers in the fancy needlework category. James Gough of Thringstone was one of the judges in the poultry category.
- **Sept 1916** – **Albert Arthur Pearson,** a married man with three children from Main Street, Thringstone, and a railway waggon painter, helped a lady called Mrs Rowse of Swannington who fell from one of the carriages of a train at Whitwick onto the platform. Mr Pearson had been towards the rear of the train and alerted the guard. Mrs Rowse was unconscious when picked up but came round and with the assistance of the police was taken up the steps of the station and arrangements were made to take her home. Mr Pearson left Thringstone prior to 1921 and moved to Newcastle Under Lyme.
- **Nov 1924** – **Thomas Hallam and Herbert Wallbank** were in court for causing a nuisance at Thringstone House by trying to gate-crash a dance. The centre, at that time, did not have a license to sell alcohol, and these colliers had come from a nearby pub and damaged a door trying to get into the dance. Harry Aris, the door keeper, said that a crowd of about 20 men had tried to get into the dance, and that the two in court were at the head of the crowd, pulling at the door handle. The chairman of Thringstone House Mr Maloney was kicked in the ensuing scuffle. Police Superintendent Dobney said that they were often getting complaints about young men trying to get access to dances there after being turfed out of local pubs. Hallam was fined £1 16s 6d or 14 days in prison and Wallbank £1 6s and 6d or 14 days in prison.
- **Nov 1935** - **Mr S F Peace**, honorary secretary of Thringstone House Football Club has had to cancel all fixture for the 2nd 11 as a result of several of the players in both the first and second teams having to stay at work on a Saturday afternoon, and also due to the injury of players. These include an ankle injury, a blood poisoned hand and one with an unknown illness.
- **Nov 1935** – **Horace Twigger**, a coal cutter, of Henson's Lane was in court claiming compensation following an accident on 26 January at New Lount Colliery. Mr Twigger had been employed by the company since he was 14 and on 26 January he received a blow on his nose and chest from a pit prop. His nose was broken and his chest bruised, which was said to have set up pulmonary tuberculosis and as a result he was now unable to work. Prior to the accident, his earnings were £2 19 shillings and 10 pence and for a period of only 9 weeks afterwards he was paid £1 9 shillings and 11 pence in compensation. He wanted this latter figure to continue. The pit owners said there was evidence that he was struck on the nose, but not on the chest. Mr Twigger was too ill to attend court and had made a statement. Dr Prys Jones said that Mr Twigger was 27 years of age, and he had known him since he was 15. He had examined Twigger on the date of the accident, and he did have a broken nose and bruised chest. He had subsequently been found to be suffering from tuberculosis, and had been admitted to Markfield Sanitorium. There had been no evidence of this

disease prior to the accident. The doctor felt he was unlikely to be able to work again. Dr Lane, a specialist in tuberculosis, had examined him on 27 August, and said that it may have been the case that the disease was present prior to the accident, but had been hastened by the blow on the chest and it was quite possible for a person to be suffering the early stages of tuberculosis without knowing it. A black eye or a kick on the shin might set up the disease latent in any person. Dr Harry Selby (previously known as Dr Seelenfreund) from Markfield Sanitorium backed up this thought, and said that, whilst Twigger had now left the Sanitorium, he would never work again in a mine. William Gair, deputy at New Lount Colliery, said that Twigger had worked under him, and whilst not a strong man, he had always turned up for work, but on the date in question, he had not mentioned being struck on the chest. George Herbert Ogden said he was working with Twigger when the accident happened, and saw the prop fly out with terrible force and hit Twigger on the nose. Dr John Thomson McOuat from 90 Leicester Road, Loughborough said he had examined the patient and said that the patient had told him that his chest had not hurt him until some weeks after the accident. He said he had tuberculosis in both lungs, but could find no evidence of a chest injury. He did not think that the accident had caused the disease, and it might have been present for some time beforehand. The judge, however, said he was satisfied that a blow to the chest had occurred, and judgement was given in the sum of the £1 9 shillings and 11 pence a week which had been claimed, payable from the date it was stopped which was 13 March. Horace, who was born on 4 November 1908 in Thringstone, had married at St Andrew's on 2 July 1932 to Annie Harriet Siddon. We have a photograph of them on their wedding day. Horace was very active at that time in local football, and was often a goal scorer. Also on 26 January 1935, the same day as the accident, following a gale, structural damage occurred to their home which left the roof open to the elements. Debris fell down the chimney into the living room and set fire to the flooring. Mrs Twigger was out with their 14 month old baby, called **Carl Horace**, at the time, and was alerted to the situation by a youth, and on entering into the property found it full of smoke. Some of the furniture, rugs and a tablecloth were on fire, but she managed to put this out. The situation was compounded when Horace came home with a broken nose, and was taken to the Leicester Royal Infirmary having been hit by a pit prop at New Lount Colliery, as above. Mrs Twigger said that they were insured through several newspapers, but she had left the paperwork on the table when she went out, and they were now all burnt. Horace died on 2 December 1937 aged just 29. Their son, Carl, died in August 1941 aged 7 years during a serious lung operation. Mrs Twigger, by now leaving at Fairfield Road, Hugglescote, said that Carl had suffered with lung problems following a bout of pneumonia. She had agreed to the operation because without it, her son would have been a permanent invalid. The operation had been underway for an hour when the boy went into operative shock and died. Despite heart massage, it was not possible to revive Carl.

- **June 1936** – Following the death of **Joseph Robinson**, 52, of Thringstone, an inquest concluded that his death had come about as a result of blood poisoning following an accident at Lount Colliery 6 months earlier. On 2 December 1935, he had reported an injury to his right hand, having cut his finger on a stone. He worked for a few shifts after that, despite the fact that he knocked his finger again on 9 December. However on 18 December he saw Dr Prys Jones who said the cut had gone septic, and was told to go to Loughborough Hospital. Dr Sedley-Denfield from the hospital said that Robinson had responded well to treatment for the first 2-3 weeks, but death had been a result of blood poisoning from the infected hand. Born in 1882, he had lived at Bauble Yard, had married Margaret Ellen Thompson in 1905 and had 2 sons.

Date of next meeting 2 April at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre.