The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

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Bulletin April 2026

Monthly Litter Pick Total 140 bags by **30** people against **175 bags** by **46 people** for the same month last year. We have another new litter picker to add to our regular pickers – Julie who came along to the community litter pick with her dog Flo.

Meeting notes 6 apologies

New fines for littering - On March 3, the government announced new guidance for councils to help tackle littering and seizing vehicles used for fly-tipping. Under the new guidance instead of prosecuting, local authorities can issue fixed penalty notices between £65 and £500 for littering. The fine will include litter that is thrown from cars and will double if not paid within 28 days.

For litter that is thrown from cars, if the person littering cannot be identified then the owner of the vehicle will be held responsible. Guidance for tackling fly-tipping was also issued to offer council clear instructions on identifying, seizing, and disposing of vehicles involved in fly-tipping, as well as advice on taking cases to court and securing convictions against vehicle owners.

The new guidance also calls on local authorities to share intelligence with the police, the Environment Agency and National Trading Standards to build cases and run joint operations.

The government has said it is making around £78billion available to council budgets in England this year. The money is part of the first multi-year funding settlement in over a decade to help pay for key responsibilities like fly-tipping. Nita contacted NWLDC who said that video evidence isn't always required. If a witness can accurately provide the date, time and vehicle details, we can proceed based on their statement alone. Issuing an FPN relies on either a witness statement or CCTV evidence, and so far this year they have issued over **20** littering fines. They encourage anyone who witnesses littering to report it to us using the following link: Littering - North West Leicestershire District Council. We also now understand you can recycle empty toothpaste tubes as many now have the recycling symbol on them.

Keep Britain Tidy contacted Nita to say that the nomination for an award that Nita put forward to them for their 2025 campaign had been taken into consideration, and a new category created called Young Litter Legend. A certificate for the school was sent, which Nita laminated and gave to the school. She also wrote an article on this for Community Voice. Well done to all the students who came litter picking with us last year.

Our litter pick on 28 March attracted 18 people including 7 children, plus 2 dogs. We managed to go round the village in groups finishing just in time, as whilst at Rubys' collecting our free tray of chips, the heavens opened and it seriously hailed. Thanks to everybody who helped. Nita did a press release for Coalville Times and has included details within the Bauble for Community Voice.

Love Your Neighbourhood – NWLDC is promoting this idea for the 2nd year. It will take place between 1 and 30 June and fits in with the Thringstone Carnival on 20 June. The idea is for

people to take more pride in their community by litter picking, planting flowers etc. and generally doing things around their community. If anybody wants to do something in Thringstone, please let Nita know.

Shrub bed on The Green – One of our members kindly removed a pile of broken glass from this bed on 7 March. We have some dead shrubs there that really need digging up and replacing so Nita contacted the Leicestershire Conservation Volunteers again for help and they are going to help us dig up dead stuff and replant other stuff on 17 May, all free of charge. We are now working on getting new shrubs sorted. Geoff said he would send details of a man in Measham who does plants and shrubs, and there is also the various plant sales that happen locally to look at.

Thringstone Panto and Drama Society – in the Leicestershire Panto Alliance awards for 2026, this group won 9 categories including best panto of 2026, best director, best lighting, best sound and others. Well done to them.

Cinder Hill Farm – The license for the farm's ¾ acre fully enclosed grass site for caravans and motorhome club members came through on 23 March. For more details, go to **https://www.caravanclub.co.uk/…/ashby…/cinder-hill-farm/**

Save West Whitwick Valley Area – As you know, this includes the area at the rear of Talbot Street. We understand that NWLDC have refused the petition put forward because of changes to policy stating that one cannot be submitted 12 months before a consultation. There is no clue when the consultation will take place, but indications are that it will be later than originally planned. However, the former policy remained on NWLDC's website for some time. The group involved in the petition are challenging the decision and looking at new strategies of their own. There is concern over a public footpath behind Talbot Street being closed off now, and they need people who have used this footpath since 1993 to WhatsApp Michael Elton on +447903035027.

Ruby's – A new historical mural was started to replace the Christmas message on the side of the shop on 3 March. The same team are responsible for this, and have included 2 photos supplied to the shop from our archives – one of Ruby and her husband Chris and another of the building that was Ruby's taken in 1953 for the coronation of Elizabeth 2. They have also announced that they will be closed from 5 April until 13 April inclusive for holidays.

Thringstone Members Club – have teamed up with Ingles FC. If you become a member of the club and show your membership card when going to a game at Homestead Road, you will receive a discounted entrance fee! The membership fee for Thringstone Members Club is £3 p.a.

Thringstone's Got Talent – back on at Charles Booth Centre on 9 May. There is a downloadable form that you have to complete to take part on the centre's website, which you then must email to the centre at hello@charlesboothcentre.org.uk

Care home proposal for 81 Main Street – We understand that the application to change this property into a care home has been 'called in' for discussion, which basically means that the decision to go forward or not will be discussed by district councillors rather than planners. As there have been several people who contacted us concerned about this issue, we have made sure that they are all aware of the situation.

Charity Coffee Morning – The charity coffee morning for Alzheimer's raised £190. Since we started sponsoring the purchase of the cakes in August 2025, we believe that a total of £1280.80 has been raised for 7 charities, the January coffee morning having been cancelled due to inclement weather. Of the £180 we gave for cakes, £62.46 is left going forward, plus someone has given another £100 to this. We feel that this initiative is worthwhile supporting going forward, and will let members know when another donation to these coffee mornings is required.

Thringstone Together – the group have sorted various musical acts to be at the event at Thringstone Miners Social Centre on 20 June, organised PA., bouncy castles, stalls and some sponsorship. They are currently working on grant funding through NWLDC and will start advertising the event more in the coming month.

Charles Booth Centre - the bar area is having a makeover with new seating and tables. All the old stuff was offered free to people on social media for collection last weekend.

Smart phone – Nita does not have a smart phone, and the committee feel that this needs to be rectified given the amount of work she does, which could more easily be done at times using a smart phone when away from home. The meeting unanimously voted for Nita to have a smart phone and sim at a cost of a maximum of £20 per month for the latter. Kathy was thanked for her work on the proposal, and all agreed it would be useful if Nita were on What'sApp. Nita will look at a phone and report back.

Chair's report

Promotion – We have **723** twitter followers which is one less than last month and **2,637** facebook followers which is 14 more than last month.

Other Reported fly tip on **Elgin Walk**. Also reported to Severn Trent that the manhole by 132 **Loughborough Rd** had leaked again due to heavy rain at the end of February, and caused a lot of toilet paper items and wet wipes to be washed onto the verge and pathway again. Also reported 2 fly tips on **Shrewsbury walk.** Reported and got moved branches which had fallen across the path near **103 Loughborough Road**. Nita also wrote an article for **Community Voice's Jan 2027** magazine on the Kirby family (see below). **The May Bauble** has gone to Community Voice along with the litter pick details from March and a save the day poster for the Thringstone Carnival.

What's On

- 3 April - **Good Friday Walk of Witness** will get to St Andrew's at 12 noon and to Thringstone Green at 12.20pm
- 4 April – **Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre** – Ace Community Theatre's spring fayre with over 40 stalls. 10am – 3pm. Entry free.
- 6 April – Kids Easter disco at **Thringstone Members Club**. 2-4pm with free entry.
- 16 April – **Charnwood Geopark** are offering people the chance to do outdoor sound recording at Gracedieu meeting on the Bull's Head car park at 10.30am for 2 hours. To book a spot go to www.eventbrite.co.uk. The editing session for what is recorded will take place at Coalville Can on 22 April between 2-4pm.
- 21 April – **Thringstone Members Club Bike Night.** Food truck. Live music.
- 16 April – **Ingles FC, Homestead Road** – Ingles All Stars launches at 7pm until 8pm. Open to all adults including **those with disabilities**. For more information contact Nat at inglesinclusivefc@gmail.com
- 26 April – **Ravenstone Village Green**, St George's day market – stalls and kids' attractions
- 30 April – **Quiz night at Charles Booth Centre**. Starts at 7.30pm. Teams of up to 6 people. £10 per team. Chip cobs, bar open and raffle.
- 2 May – **Thringstone Members Club** – Music and Comedy night with 6 comedians. Tickets £7 from the club. Starts at 7.30pm.
- 4 May – **Hough Mill, Swannington** – Heritage open day from 11am – 3pm. Live entertainment inc. Morris dancing, maypole dancing and face painting. Refreshments available.
- 9 May – **Coalville Spring fayre**, 10am – 4pm at Marlborough Square, Coalville. Lots of things to do and see plus live music.
- 9 May – **Thringstone's Got Talent** at Charles Booth Centre from 7pm.
- 10 May – Thringstone Soul Club at **Thringstone Members Club** 2pm-8pm. £5.
- 25 May – **Oaks in Charnwood** fair – near St James The Greater, Oaks in Charnwood. Starts at 10am. All sorts of things to see and do.
- 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

Our financial year ends on 31 March. All outstanding invoices have been paid. Nita has renewed our public liability insurance to commence on 15 April with cost remaining the same as last year. The first payment will be taken out on 1 May.

Memberships can start to be paid from 1 April. The cost remains at £4 per person. We hope that existing members will want to renew. People who paid before straight into our bank account are encouraged to do the same this time, please, putting your name as reference so that we know who's paid. If others who have paid in cash before wish to pay direct into the bank, please contact us to receive the necessary banking details. This will save a lot of time calling round to people.

.**Gen Fund held 1st of month** (bank + petty cash + float)	**2693.44**		
Income		**Expenditure**	
Membership	£4	Broadband	£20.00
total income received	£4	**Litter picking bags**	£15.56
			£35.56
		Total	**£2661.88**

Website

Nothing to report

Incident reports

- The **police newsletter** for March said that on 2 March they were holding a beat meeting at Thringstone Youth Club at Thringstone Miners Social Centre. A later post from PCSO Abigail said they talked about favourite pets, shared plenty of laughs, and got stuck into lots of games – including dodgeball. Engaging with local youth is so important to show that the police aren't scary but are there to listen, support, and help our communities grow stronger. Thanks to everyone who joined in and made the evening so much fun! The police also went to Thringstone Primary on 6 March to talk to students there.
- Thefts from **Thringstone Co-op** are continuing. An example is that week commencing 2 March there was one in the evening on 3 March and another in the morning on 5th. We understand that there is a gang of people going round all Co-ops in NWL and the police are dealing with this.
- 14 March – Man arrested after severe domestic incident on **Shrewsbury Walk**.
- 24 March – A tree fell near the **Bull's Head**. All this was due to rain and strong winds. Police put out an avoid the area message on social media.
- There is a **beat surgery on 21 April** between 11am and 12 noon at The Abbey Grange Tearooms, Oaks Road, Coalville.

History report

- Nita was given a box of letters, photos and memorial cards to look through relating to the **Kirby family** who lived at the blue house on The Green. Most of the contents of the box have been scanned, and all the letters transcribed. In this box were memorial cards for **Moses Burton**, father of Emma Kirby to whom many letters were written by her son Arthur Everard Kirby who died in 1912 of nephritis (kidney disease) from which he had been suffering for 2 years, inflammation of the abdomen and cardiac failure aged 27. He had been an apprentice chemist at John Porter and Son in Coalville and had also been a student at Osgathorpe Grammer School. John Porter and Son's shops were in Belvoir Road and High Street, Coalville, and also Station Road in Hugglescote. Other memorial cards were for Emma's brother **Charles Burton**, a draper in Whitwick Market Place, and **Joseph Moseley**, originally from Osgathorpe, husband of Emma's sister Sarah. Joseph died in

tragic circumstances aged 24 whilst in a horse and cart crossing a ford near his farm in Sawley. The horse stumbled, went under the water, and despite having been thrown a rope to save him, Joseph drowned trying to save his horse. We also have photos of **Arthur Everard Kirby**, Emma's sister **Fanny and her husband Joseph Glover Norman, and their daughter also called Fanny**, plus a memorial card for their other daughter **Lilian Burton Norman** who died aged 2 in 1883. Of the letters, there are 5 letters from London from Arthur to Emma Kirby (his mother), and one letter to **Albert Kirby**, his brother all dated 1905. Arthur who had gone to Osgathorpe Grammar School, had gone to London in August 1905 to college to study to be a chemist, having been an apprentice to John Thomas Porter at John Porter and Sons in Coalville, and also worked in a shop in London. He talked about a girl with 'yellow hair' who worked as a telegraph girl and came into the shop, who said she would 'walk with me'. That is very forward for 1905. He lodged with the Thompson family in Bow, and paints an interesting picture about the life in London, the electric light, people's Sunday shopping habits, cheap travel for 1 penny, his train travel and working in the shop, as well as the vests and shirts his mother sent him. In the one letter to Albert, he talks about political things and football, and mentioned that a post master in Coalville had absconded with £70 because he had a gambling addiction. Arthur talked also about Albert's marriage in 1905 to Mary Hallam, and indicated that things weren't that happy leading up to the marriage. Arthur went to the wedding and was keen on Albert's wife's sister, Maud Hallam, as well as Kittie Biddle. He also mentions that Albert had seen a ghost and made fun of that. **Albert John Kirby** did indeed have an unhappy marriage. In April 1924, newspaper articles show that Mary Jane Kirby had been in the asylum part of the workhouse in Ashby, **classed as a lunatic**, since before November 1923, and he was brought to court as he needed to pay for her upkeep. He said he had debts, was living with his mother, was an insurance agent on commission only, and had even sold his furniture to pay debts. He could not afford the money to keep his wife in the asylum. He said he wanted her home to look after his daughter Irene. When Ashby workhouse closed, she then moved to the Loughborough facility. In the box, there are also 2 letters from Fanny Norman, sister to Emma Kirby, dated 1927 and 1928. Fanny lived at 25 Humberstone Gate, Leicester. In one letter she wishes her sister Emma a happy birthday and the other talks about the death of Mrs Rossell and her leaving 3 houses and coal shares, with her executor being John Stinson. Mrs Rossell lived down Brook Lane.. There are also two very sad letters which Albert Kirby's daughter Irene sent from Ward 3, Carlton Hayes Hospital, Leicester in June 1954. She had gone in their voluntarily having lived with her father in a bungalow of sorts on Cinder Hill in Thringstone. He had been attacked by her (she had in 1930s attacked Emma, her grandmother too) and these letters plead for her Dada to let her come home because she is 'quiet now' and won't 'smash him up'.. We also have scanned some confirmation certificates, other certificates and Albert Kirby's identity card.

- Nita was contacted by a relative of **Miss Annie Symonds Lee**, a former head of Thringstone school who died in the village 1947 having retired in 1926. Nita sent some information, plus scans of report books we had scanned years ago from the school with Miss Lee's writing and details contained therein, plus a photo of her with Miss Gee from 1910. None of this help was subsequently acknowledged by the person asking for help…..
- We have been sent two new photos of **Elizabeth Joy Towers**, daughter of **Effie Walton** of Thringstone. Elizabeth married a GI and moved to the USA. We also have 5 new photos of Effie, including the photo of her whole family and husband Lesley Clarence Towers who was killed when only 37 as reported previously, and her marriage photo to second husband Fred. These came from her granddaughter in the USA.
- **Aug 1901** – **Thomas Johnson** aged 51, a gardener living at **Gracedieu Lodge**, in Belton Parish, was found dead due to poisoning. The resultant inquest said that he had died from cyanide of potassium poisoning which he had ingested whilst in an unstable state of mind. A verdict of suicide was returned.
- **March- July 1937 –** The **Thringstone Coronation Committee** expected enough money to come in by May to meet the cost of coronation celebrations. Each household is contributing a penny a week and with a penny rate coming from Coalville Urban District Council, the committee currently have

over £40 in hand. A carnival dance had been held at Thringstone House with proceeds going to the fund, and a carnival queen contest was held. There were 39 girls aged between 10 and 14 years involved in this. 10 girls were chosen with a further dance to be held at which the final carnival queen and her attendants could be selected. The plan for the coronation was for a procession led by a band to go round the village, which would be decorated. The coronation service was expected to be heard through loudspeakers on The Green, where there would be a united service. A souvenir programme comprising of 6 pages was produced, and a stage would be erected for entertainments which included a concert party. Children and older pensioners would be provided with a tea at Thringstone House, and a dance was to be held in the evening. Sports were to be held on the recreation ground in the afternoon. The Coronation took place on Wednesday 12 May, but because of rain, the coronation sports day was postponed until Whit Monday 17 May. A large crowd gathered to see the torch light procession headed by 'The Mayor' and carnival Queen and jazz band, and the finale was community singing and dancing on the village green. The competition to judge the best decorated properties resulted in E Marshall winning the best decorated house, with J W Brotherhood being second and S Watson third. J Waldrum won the best decorated shop for decorating the chip shop, and The Queen's Head won the best decorated licensed premises. Over 260 children completed in the sports, and all had prizes, with winners having prizes. There were also obstacle races, veterans races and 6 aside football, and both ladies and men's tug of war. There was also a darts match, both ladies and gents skittles and a treasure hunt In July, there was a report that in total £109 was raised, and after the celebrations, a sum of £10 5 shillings was left. The committee were to decide at a later date what to do with this surplus. The Committee was chaired by Councillor A Allgood with A Whitmill as secretary. Unfortunately, George and Harriet Upton were killed on the way home from the coronation events when walking home from Thringstone along Talbot Street. They were hit by a car near to the fork in the road to Swannington.

Date of next meeting 7 May 2026 at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre. All welcome.