The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

Chairman: Nita Pearson BEM
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Bulletin June 2026

AGM 2026 13 present 12 apologies
The following people have put themselves forward for the committee:
Chairman: Nita Pearson Vice Chair: Geoff Wilson
Secretary: Nita Pearson Environment Secretary: Caroline Townsend
Treasurer: Geoff Wilson History: Ann Petty
Publications: Janet Stevenson Membership Secretary: Sue Rowbottom
Events Assist: Kathy Mardon
Pam Porter proposed and Caroline Townsend seconded that all the above be appointed. Members interested in being part of the committee were asked to email Nita by 10 May, but nobody has come forward. The book keeper and webmaster sit outside the committee structure.
End of year accounts. An examination of the accounts has taken place and a glowing report has been given. If anybody wants a copy of the statement, please contact Nita direct.
Chairman's AGM report – Nita has written a chairman's report which is attached and was read out.
Meeting notes
Monthly Litter Pick Total 78 bags by **6** people against **89** bags by **6** people for the same month last year. Our records show that we have collected in excess of 24200 bags of litter since we started making a note of these figures. Well done to everybody who helps and has helped in the past. If anybody fancies coming litter picking on Sun 7 June with Nita, please let her know. It is volunteer week and Gracedieu Woods could do with a bit of attention.
Company Litter picks – Nita has been in touch with John Reddington of David Wilson Homes about doing a litter pick with our group in the woods in the summer, as he had been in the papers about the company's work in this area. He is enthusiastic about working with others in the village and said we could try to organise a half day for Rubys, Chapel gym , Post Office , Reddington's, Charles Booth Centre, Thringstone Club etc to do a pick. Nita and Caroline will liaise with John about this going forward.
Charity coffee morning in May - £211.50 was made for Fibromyalgia Friends Together. Well done to everybody.
Crime and Police Commissioner's Asset map – Nita was sent details of this and forwarded it onto the centre, to discover that the centre are already listed as a community asset through this scheme in 18 places, plus 2 entries for the scouts. Nita had previously spoken in 2023 to NWLDC about getting the centre listed as a historical community asset, but was unaware of the current level of listings.
St Andrew's – thanks go to Bruce and I Clean for clearing out the church downpipes and gutters.
Thringstone Members Club Charity Night – on 23 May raised £601 for Rainbows Hospice. Well done to them and a big thank you to all who came to support the event.

Mother and Baby Yoga Classes – have started at Bright Hope House, Swannington every Wednesday morning from 11.30-12.30pm. Free taster session with donation to the hospice. For more details contact Baj on 07790 558683

Save West Whitwick Valley – this refers to the area of land behind Talbot Street on which it is proposed to build 150 houses. Gayle gave a comprehensive statement regarding this. Houses are already likely to be built off Thornborough Rd but it is hoped that this area could become an area of separation and no houses built due to potential flooding. An underground steam already exists and historical landmarks. Gayle would like to have more people involved in the consultation process which happens in July. Please contact her on savewestwhitwickvalley@gmail.com if you can help out or have any interest. The amount of extra roadworks, traffic islands etc. that will be created to service these areas is frightening in itself. There are also plans for Lilybank to come.

Shrub Bed on The Green – Nita and Anne met with 3 members of Leicestershire Conservation Volunteers on 16 May. The dead stuff was removed and the bed weeded and tidied, and some soil improver that Anne had bought was put down with a view to buying replacement shrubs which were put in on 28 May. The committee have discussed the size of the bed and the amount of maintenance needed to keep it looking acceptable. There were huge amounts of weeds in the bed again this time, which was weeded by the same people back in September. Despite putting out requests, nobody came forward to take over its care on a regular basis. The committee agreed to grass over a small area of the bed so that it is easier to maintain and plant fewer shrubs to fill in the missing areas. Grass seed was put down on 18 May in time for the rain and thunderstorms. As you may remember from March 2023, after the council said they were only cutting the grass on The Green twice a year, Nita arranged with the de Lisle family for their gardener, Jim, to cut the grass for us for free. This was widely acknowledged in newspapers and media at the time. He has now said that he will look after the weeding of the bed for us in future by spraying weed killer on anything and then waiting for it to die back before pulling it up next time he is there. Nita has obviously thanked him for this and said yes.

Thringstone Carnival – 20 June from 12 noon at Thringstone Miners Social Centre. Please support this event which has lots to see and do, including storyteller, stalls, 3 bouncy castles, ice cream van, games, fancy dress competition, fresh food and live music from 2 choirs, one group and a soloist. This is a free event and all profits are going to Bright Hope Hospice.

FoT future events - We have Hello Heritage on 26 Sept, but Nita has been asked about poppy displays again. Last year, we did nets for poppy installations having got people to start knitting them during the year. Nita has given 50 poppies to Mary so she can repair her installation for Thringstone Miners Social Centre, and Anne is altering the display for Ruby's. All venues which were decorated last year have their installation for this year. Anne would like some help with more poppies if anybody can do some and Lesley would also like extras/ Any helpers please?

Chair's report

Promotion – We have **722** twitter followers which is the same as last month and **2,786** facebook followers which is 97 more than last month. The piece about Pete Gough (as below) attracted over 440 likes and more than 62,500 views. A further posting of photos attracted over 17,000 views and over 170 likes. Over 21,000 viewed the funeral details posting we posted for the family.

Other Reported more fly tipping on **Dalkeith Walk and Melrose Road.**

Reported overgrown hedges to the **footpath from Lbro Rd** down to the church and down the side of the church towards Booth Rd to LCC following a series of complaints.

Nita wrote an article on **Rev Shrewsbury** for the Feb 2027 Community Voice.

Nita has renewed our free membership of **Voluntary Action Leicestershire.**

Our honorary member Pete Gough, who became an honorary member in 2008, died on 14 May. For 10 years from 1980, Pete, along with Margaret Fern and their respective partners, organised annual 3 day village galas, parades through the streets, three legged races, charity auctions and all sorts, including discos. Along with partners, he took on the George and Dragon from 2007-14. Pete let us use his venue regularly for exhibitions, talks and other events. Along

with Lesley Mansfield, and with the help of Ray Whitmore and Andy Watts, he started the Thringstone Music Festival, which he then helped, along with Ray Whitmore, to transfer to the centre. A great cook, he did pies for the New Inn, and also continued to do his supper club at the community centre for some time. Along with everybody who knew him, I would like to say how sorry I am to hear the news. Our thoughts go out to his widow, Ann, son Ben and family, his sister Carol and her sons Joe and Alex and to Margaret and her family. **The funeral** is 12 June at 12pm at Bretby followed by The New Inn. All welcome, and come in colours – Pete supported Liverpool so red would be a good idea. There will be a collection for Royal British Legion.

Condolences also to the Shirkie family on the death of Christine, who once was the Thringstone lollypop lady for over 20 years.

What's On

- 5 June – 20% off all food at **Ruby's** for National Fish and Chip Day.
- 6 and 7 June – **Open Osgathorpe** 12 noon until 5pm at St Mary's church, Osgathorpe. Includes access to open gardens. Adults £5.
- 6 June – **Charles Booth Centre** – Cash for gold 12pm until 4pm.
- 7 June – **Bright Hope Hospice Fun Run** – 2k or 5k with registration from 9am and racing from 10am. Snibston Colliery Park, Ashby Road, Coalville.
- 18-20 June – Charles Booth Centre – Rapunzel by **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society**. Thursday and Friday 7.30pm, Saturday 2pm and 7.30pm. Tickets on sale NOW from www.ticketsource.co.uk/tapds or ring 0333 666 3366
- 20 June – **Thringstone Together Carnival**, 12 noon – 5pm at Thringstone Miners Social Centre/Ingles FC, Homestead Road. Free entry. Face painter, 3 bouncy castles, children's games, story teller, fancy dress, stalls, live music and dance from Thringstone's own D Day Darlings, U3A Choir, Thirsty Business, Beata and Limelight Performing Arts. Refreshments, bar open. Please support your village event.
- 27 June – **Belton Village Hall** – Oompah night. £20 per ticket to include light supper. All profits go to Together We Can Build Hope. Ring 07986 466085 for tickets.
- 28 June – **Gracedieu Priory** – celebrate 20 years of the site being open to the public. Will include re-enactors from Friends of Thomas Grey and the Ferrers household, local stalls, cottage crafts, archery, food and much more. Further details later. 10.30am - 4pm. Free entry.
- 28 June – Coalville Rugby Club, Hall Lane – **Fun Dog show** from 11.30am-4pm. Contact Leicester Sighthounds for more details.
- 4 and 5 July – **Picnic in the Parks event at Coalville Park**. 4 July 4pm-9.30pm with music. 5 July – stalls and entertainment from 12 noon until 5.30pm. Free event.
- 8 August – **Charles Booth Centre – family music day**. Entertainment from Alexander, Roots Community Singers, Altered Ego Live, Smiles Academy, Calling Time musical theatre school, Adam Tarleton, Beata and the Oblivious Live music band.

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Financial Report

.**Gen Fund held 1st of month** (bank + petty cash + float)	**£3346.88**		
Income		**Expenditure**	
Memberships	£12	Broadband	£20.00
Donation	£16	Insurance	£7.98
Publications	£16	School for benches	£747.00
total income received	£44		£774.98
		Total	**£2615.90**

The Friends of Thringstone

The publications above were to a new member and comprise one each of Durham Miners, Thringstone and its people, Scottish in Thringstone and Village Trails 2 and 3.

Incident reports

- 9 May – another theft of display boxes of chocolates from **Thringstone Co-op** – empty boxes found on Main St. 1 x Cadbury's dairy milk, 1 x Cadbury's fruit and nut and 1 x Mars bars.
- 11 May – **Scooter on Melrose Road** which was covered in gaffer tape and road tax expired in Nov 2025 removed by police under DVLA powers. Owned lives in London.
- 14 May – more chocolate thefts from **Thringstone Co-op**. Very large empty display box found in Thringstone churchyard near the bench where lads sit at night time.
- 15 May – lad found smoking drugs at the rear of the **church** was told by a parishioner not to be so disrespectful and go somewhere else. Regular bottles and cans found in the churchyard.
- 16 May – a lady's 1 year old Yorkshire Terrier was attacked by a very large black dog belonging to an older lady near to **Dalkeith Walk/Melrose Road**. Both were heading towards the woods. Owner of terrier has appealed for help finding the owner of the dog because of vets bills.
- 25 May – police and ambulance called to young man found initially unresponsive on a landing to a couple of flats on **Dalkeith Walk**. Man eventually moved on.
- 26 May – **Severn Trent** came to investigate and deal with serious sewage pollution problem in Gracedieu Woods.
- 28 May – NWLDC took a **Thringstone property owner** to court over overgrown garden full of litter which impacted on neighbours. Person significantly fined. Area to cleared within 28 days and monitored up to and including May 2029.

History report

- Earlier this year, you may remember that Nita researched Jack Harris, who was also known as both Horace and Motta Holt. He owned Gracedieu garage on the A512 in the 1930s. She shared this information with the Griffydam History Society as Jack moved from Thringstone to Griffydam in 1940. They have used her research on their website. See this link for further information: https://www.griffydamhistory.com/jackharris
- Nita has been investigating the history of Lilybank Farm for some time, and we know that John Mee Kidger went there in 1908 and died in 1962. We now know **from a new member** that Arthur Vincent Tolley went there in the 1970s from Tower House on Oaks Road in Whitwick, and did the property up. We had already got plans of the barn to the property being done up in 1977 and we know from a newspaper report in Dec 1980 that, whilst being renovated, vandals caused £2k in damage to walls, supporting beams etc. at the farmhouse Mr Tolley moved around 1982 to a farm in Ravenstone. Our member said 'When my grandparents lived there, the entrance was at the back (off Henson's Lane) and on the front of the farm house. We had a large field/rough land to the rear, going downhill. We used to have large bonfires on bonfire night and lots of family there.'
- Nita had an email from Jo Singh who is the great granddaughter of **Arthur Barker of One Barrow Lodge** (near Oaks in Charnwood), born 1853 asking for more information. She had found a mention of him in our history articles from May 2024 regarding his involvement in Thringstone's Band Of Hope event in 1908. This was a temperance movement. Nita shared some photos she had of the gentleman in question and told her that there is a picture of One Barrow in Marjorie Schulz's book called Gracedieu & Garendon Revisited published in 2009. We now have a host of other photos of the family and One Barrow, including photos of the house and occupants going back to 1900 and also the sale particulars from 1871 for Upper Blackbrook Farm for which we are grateful.
- **28 Jan 1840** – According to an article in The Sportsman confirmed by an article in Sporting Chronicle, **Bill Ward** took on Jack Bakewell in a boxing match in Thringstone. The match was won by Bill Ward after **42 rounds** covering 90 minutes in total! The purse was £2.
- **May 1926** – A 9 hour thunderstorm with snow falling hit Thringstone and the surrounding area with many people fearing floods.

Bertram Haywood of Thringstone and his family, a one name study -

- **April 1931** – When **Bertram Haywood** from Sandholes, Talbot Lane, Thringstone and his companion **Horace Findell** from Gracedieu Road were stopped by police for riding a motorcycle without insurance, driving license and a proper pillion seat, they decided to give false addresses. Haywood was fined £4 and Findell 30 shillings and costs for aiding and abetting an offence.
- **Sept 1935** - **Bertram Haywood** of Thringstone, known as Jock, and the 23 year old son of Joseph and Sarah Ann of Talbot Lane, was in court as a result of 'clouting' Jack Wright, a boy who lived with his grandmother and mother Mary in Main Street, round the head whilst playing in Gracedieu Woods. Mr Haywood said that for weeks boys had been shouting at him 'Jock, the man who won't work', and he had had enough. Jack Wright could not understand what taking the oath meant and burst into tears in court. He was 12 years of age, and admitted to using this phrase towards Haywood who he said had hit him, punched him, pushed him down and kicked him. Another boy aged 10 was a witness to this attack and said he had seen Haywood hit his friend with a flat hand, punching him with his fist and kicking him in the back several times. Wright said he had been left lying on the ground unable to get up until his friend, who saw Jack bleeding from the mouth ran away to tell his mother. Howard Burton and Harold Kirby who were with Haywood when the assault took place said all Haywood did was clout the boy around the ear. Police Constable Barker told the court that Wright was left in a poor state. He had injuries to his head, a swelling over his left temple, abrasions to the left eye, and bleeding from the nose, the bridge of which was swollen. Haywood said he had chased after the boy and 'clouted him over the left earhole twice. The boys have been shouting at me for weeks and weeks, and using filthy expressions, even when I have been in the company of girlfriends. If I tell their parents, they just laugh at me'. Haywood was fined £2 with 10 shillings in costs. Bertram appears on the 1939 register as living on Talbot Lane with his father. He was, by that time, a labourer at the local brickworks. Along with his wife, Clarice Phyllis nee Shirley to whom he had been married in 1940, he moved to Loughborough in 1946. They had a son called Michael Percy born in Bedford in 1941, a son called John R in Macclesfield in 1944 and a son called Paul Robert in Loughborough in 1949. There was a court case in Loughborough in late August 1950 involving both **Bertram and his wife, Clarice Phyllis nee Shirley.** She had left their youngest son, Pau Robert Haywood, on 12 August, somewhere where it was considered the child was vulnerable. She was leaving Bertram, and Inspector Harry Madeleine of the NSPCC had felt her culpable of child abandonment, which was disproved. The judge said that, had the inspector kept out of it, the child would have been with his father, and he would have been responsible. The judge said she was not guilty of wilfully abandoning a child in a manner to cause him unnecessary suffering and jail. This was thanks to her probation officer, Miss Rattenbury's report. Mrs Haywood, who had been seen by Inspector Madeleine in early August said she wanted to leave her husband, but had been persuaded to consider her youngest child, Paul, as he was still being bottle fed. Alternative accommodation for Mrs Haywood and the baby had been agreed in Pinfold Street, but on the second visit to view the new house Mrs Haywood had failed to turn up. She apparently left Paul at the top of the steps, under an elderberry bush, near to the station on Nottingham Road, Loughborough and told a 7 year old boy called John Casey to take her son's ration cards and identity card to her home, which she pointed towards, and to tell people that the baby had been left at the Railway Station where also was found some of Mrs Haywood's belongings. John Casey had done this, and then went off to play. Clarice, a native of Manchester and former member of the WAAF had then walked into The Rushes and caught a bus to Manchester to stay with her mother. She had subsequently stayed in a mission in Blackpool before going to get a job in Nottingham, when she was then told there was a job back in Loughborough and accommodation available for

herself and her children. Bertram Haywood said that a boy had come to his home about an hour and three quarters after he believed his wife had left home with the baby, and given him the child's identity card and ration book and said where he was. 2 hours later, Michael, another son, with whom John Casey had been playing, brought the baby home. Clarice said that she would never have left Paul had she had somewhere to go, but was bound over on probation for 2 years. See below for more about Paul Robert Haywood. Bertram was in court in December 1952 at which time he was a builder's labourer, still living at 3 Railway Terrace, Loughborough, for failure to provide 23 shillings a week in maintenance for his 3 children. In August 1961 Bertram was in court again. He was living in Victoria Street, Loughborough and was fined £25 and banned from driving for 3 years after pleading guilty to driving a motorcycle under the influence of drink. He had been in Burton on the Wolds and had been previously seen by police sitting by the roadside with his motorbike. He then got on his motorbike and headed towards Loughborough, zig zagging from side to side until he fell off, at which time he was seen again by police who said he smelt of alcohol. He told the police he was drunk. He said 'I went on a spree. I just get these spasms. You go out to have a gay time, and when you get drunk, you have had it.' **Michael Percy Haywood** was himself in court in Spilsby, Lincolnshire in August 1977 after being stopped by the police in July. Michael, a crane driver, was driving a car with his father, Bertram aged 66 as passenger, from the village of Scremby 4 miles towards Partney and was being followed by PC Clarke in a police car. The address of both Michael and Bertram was North Road, Loughborough. PC Clarke saw the car being driven erratically from one side of the road to another, and was eventually able to stop it. At that point, Michael got out of the car and refused to give a breath test, and was walking back to the car when his father, Bertram, got hold of him and there was a tussle between him and the officer. The officer managed to separate them after which Michael started a fight with the officer, who was kicked in the stomach. During this, Bertram was pulling at the officer's arm to get his son away. Bertram said that he was sorry about the fight, but he was trying to protect his son. He had had a lot to drink, which is why Michael was driving. Michael said there would have been no problem had the officer not pushed him so hard. He claimed that his right eye had been closed for a week having been hit by the officer's torch, and said he had not had a lot to drink, probably about 4 pints. Bertram said he had seen his son and the officer pushing against each other, and had tried to step in to stop matters escalating. Michael received a fine of £50 for occasioning actual bodily harm, £5 for not giving a breath test, £30 for not providing a blood or urine sample, £10 for not having a driving licence, and disqualified for driving for 12 months. He was also asked to pay £19 for doctors' bills and the sum total of £114 had to be paid within 7 days. Michael said he would like to thank the court for being so lenient. **Paul Robert Haywood** died aged 18 years on 6 August 1968 after an accident on his Suzuki 50cc motorbike with another bike of the same make. He was living with foster parent, Cecil Francis Cooke of Somerby near Melton Mowbray. He had been travelling about 40mph, reached a bend, not slowed down, and was in collision with a Hillman Imp and was then run over by another biker travelling behind. He had not been wearing a crash helmet and it was thought he'd have died anyway, irrespective of then having been run over by the other biker. Paul was riding in the middle of the road and had hit the car travelling in the opposite direction on the apex of the bend. He came off the bike which was flung into the air. Both he and the other biker had bought their machines 17 days earlier. Clarice Phyllis Haywood subsequently changed her name back to Shirley and died in Loughborough in 2015. Bertram appears to have died in Loughborough in 1981.

Date of next meeting 2 July at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre. All welcome.