The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

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Bulletin July 2026

Monthly Litter Pick Total 81 bags by **5** people against **109** bags by **7** people for the same month last year. One of our litter pickers found a box of unopened takeaway meals plus a carrier bag of unopened takeaway meals in hedges on one day in Talbot Street during this month. She concluded that the delivery person was unable to find the addresses for these deliveries and threw them in the bushes to go home! If anybody in that area didn't get their meals, you now know why!

Meeting notes Only 5 people attended and there were 11 apologies

Thringstone Together Event – The event at Thringstone Miners Social centre went well. The weather dried up and it became summer again. 3 stall holders failed to come, but those that did reported that they enjoyed the event and it was successful for them. One of the nicest things was to get emails back from people who had had a stand saying what benefit it had been to them, their business, their charity, their cause or whatever and to get messages from people who came and had a good time. Cllr Paul Lees came for a tour round and stayed twice as long as intended, and Amanda Hack MP also came even though she had previously said she might not be able to attend. The musicians, singers and dancers were brilliant and well received, and a debrief meeting took place on 30 June to talk through all the things that happened, who did what, and hand over notes on everything that is needed to replicate the event in the future. Nita would like to thank Sarah, Lesley, Caroline, Anne, Ann, Tim, Nigel and Theresa who are all Friends of Thringstone members for their support before the event and the work they did on the day, and in the case of Sarah and Lesley the huge amount of work they put in to get the event off the ground. As far as the FoT stall went, we attracted a new member, and lots of books were sold. See below. We could have sold more had we had card facilities as one lady wanted to buy a full set of all our books. Once things are sorted, we will announce what money is going to Bright Hope Hospice.

Field at rear of Bowling Club – Two sets of solicitors, including those of the FA, are still working on the legal aspects of the 25 year lease for Ingles FC. It is proposed to fence off the area near to the existing cabin, and add another one, with a gate for motorbike access. No other changes to the field are anticipated

Thringstone Primary School Benches – we are having a photo shoot on Monday with the benches that we have paid for. Look out for stuff in the CV Times, and social media etc.

Save West Whitwick Valley – last month the figure given for houses to be built at the rear of Talbot Street was incorrect, and should have read 350. A further meeting took place on 29 June, but the powers that be had already put together a statement saying that the 900 houses that were being built between Stephenson College and Thringstone were 'a done deal'. We hope not.

Friends of Gracedieu Priory – They recently reported that they are to instal a David Attenborough sculpture thanks to Charnwood Forest Geo Park. The gate into Rusty Mary's field has been cleared. The sculpture should be installed at the site of the proposed new bridge. Contact will be made with Charnwood Forest Geo Park to confirm arrangements. Their Medieval Fayre on 28th

was a huge success with probably about 1000 people going to the event. They have set up an account for people to use who want to donate so future events can be held. This is paypal.me/gracedieupriory

Thringstone Primary – have once again been awarded the Platinum School Games Mark. This award reflects the commitment of so many people across the school community.

Coffee Morning – The charity coffee morning on 12 June raised £200 for Bright Hope Hospice. Well done to everybody who supported the event.

Thringstone Members Club – will have a tea dance from 12-3pm on 16 July at £10 per ticket and hope to make this a regular monthly event on 1st Thursday of every month.

Thringstone Parish Council – We believe that there is a consultation underway to glean the ideas of people about a parish council, which would seem to be a necessity with various local authority changes afoot.

Gardening – We needed someone to cut back the bushes down the stone wall running from Loughborough Road to the church since Simon Jaggs moved from no. 37 to the Isle of Man. Our member Dave Pickersgill has said he will try to cut back the shrubs in the next week or two.

Jean's Luncheon Club – This groups meets on Wednesdays for lunch and a chat, and occasionally do days out. This is a self-funded group, meeting in different places and going all over the general area. Anybody who wants to join is asked to contact Kim on 07807 719317. You can become a regular or just join in when it suits. You don't have to join anything.

Chair's report

Promotion – We have **723** X/twitter followers which one more than last month and **2,829** facebook followers which is 43 more than last month.

Other: Welcome to our new members Rosey Ramskir, Laura Kilday and Celia Foskett

Nita reported to the parks department that some of the trees on The Green had been damaged, and branches pulled off by youths. These were removed by parks the same day that this was reported. She also reported some fly tipping on Dalkeith Walk.

What's On

- 4 and 5 July – Picnic in the Parks event at **Coalville Park**. 4 July 4pm-9.30pm with music. 5 July – as above - stalls and entertainment from 12 noon until 5.30pm. Free event
- 4 July – **Thringstone members Club** – Summer Fayre to include dancing from Limelight Performing Arts .
- 11 July – open garden at 2 Batsons Court, Top Rd, **Griffydam**.
- 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.
- 22 Aug – **Woodstock in Whitwick** at Man Within Compass 12 noon until late. £5 per ticket

Financial Report

.Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	**2615.90**		
Income		**Expenditure**	
Memberships	£12	Broadband	£20.00
Donation	£4.50	Insurance	£7.89
Publications	£71.50	Gardening stuff, soil enhancer, grass seed and litter gloves	£93.55
total income received	£88		
		Total	**2582.46**

Publication sales were 1 x VT1, 2 and 3, plus 3 x VT2, 1 x BB1, 1 x BB2, 2 x BB3, 3 pubs, 2 graveyard, 1 x Scottish, 1 x WW1, 1 x TAIP, 1 x Mem 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Incident reports

6 June – PCSO Connor Mitchell and an ISA posted notes through people's doors on **Griffin Road** to ask if anybody had seen a female being assaulted outside an address close by on 11 May between 8pm and 10pm by a male. It transpired that it was a domestic incident, and the inspectors at the station were unaware that the notes had gone out and weren't happy about this.
12 June – Car hit on **Glebe Road**. Other vehicle didn't stop.
14 June – Someone went to the wash me machine at **Whitwick garage** and washed a load of horse bedding, complete with hay and horse poo, which left the machine unusable by those who use it to clean blankets and duvets. Garage put out a very sharp social media post on the matter.
20 June – Incident on **Melrose Road** with fire engines, ambulances, police. Body apparently removed.
23 June – rear car window broken on **St Andrew's Close**.
24 June – thefts of 5 boxes of Cadbury's Caramel and Whole Nut displays and contents from Thringstone **Co-op.** Boxes found in churchyard.
25 June – Untaxed vehicle which was subject to SORN notice removed by police from **Henson's Lane.** Owner not traced but apparently the car was being used on a daily basis.

History report

- We acquired 3 photos of **John Harper** who played at **Gracedieu Park Cricket Club** and was treasurer for many years after details of his funeral were posted on facebook. Amongst these photos was one of the 2nd team in the 1980s in which John was featured along with Mick Collenett, John Jordan, Eric Brookes, Tony Birch, Arthur Johnson, Len Wass, Ian Merison, M Birch, R Jordan, Stu Parsons and Clive Green.
- Nita was contacted by the granddaughter of former **Queen's Head landlord George William Marklow** who kept the pub for about a year until November 1928 when it passed to Gilbert Ward, to see if we had any photos, but we don't. We knew that Mr Marklow played football for Thringstone House in 1927 and 28 but had little other information. She gave information suggesting that he had a tragic life and died at a young age. We had thought the landlord was John William Marklow, but now know otherwise. From this information, Nita was able to find out more about him. Born on 12 May 1903 in Ashby de la Zouch workhouse, he was illegitimate. His father was Ambrose Vincent Tolley and his mother Matilda Marklow who had already had a daughter in 1900. The family believe that Matilda kept George for a couple of years then took him back to the workhouse, and he then went to live with members of the Tolley family who collected him from the workhouse. He does not appear on the 1911 census. In 1921 George William was out of work, and living in Chapel Street, Shepshed, with Joseph White and his wife Laura and her children, all with the surname Tolley. From that it was discovered that Laura had previously been married to George Williams's father Ambrose Vincent Tolley, a miner who died on 22 June 1905 , and in 1901 the couple had lived in Packington. In 1926 George William married Annie Marie nee Fern somewhere in this area. She was from Oakamoor in Staffordshire. By 1939 he was a cinema projectionist in Tape Street, Cheadle, and had at least one child. George became a member of Shrewsbury Fire Brigade, which is confirmed by an article in 1941 saying that he was living at High Street, Cheadle and receiving £3 10 shillings a week from the fire service.. George then met a young 19 year old girl called Margaret Joan Salt, who was an usherette at the cinema, and he had a daughter called Margaret Elizabeth with her in 1943. Apparently, along with his wife, he wanted to adopt this child, but Margaret wanted to keep her baby and eventually went on to marry Sidney Shaw in 1947. George's fire service job was terminated after the war, and he took up a labouring job, resulting in a loss of £2 5 shillings a week in income. He left his wife and family in 1946, and initially paid money to his wife for the upkeep of his child/children but this had stopped in June 1949 because he could no longer afford this. His wife had received £1 three months earlier. He had moved to lodge with Mrs Zena Kathleen

Bath nee Griffiths (born 1923) at 17 Sultana Road, Ditherington, Shrewsbury, and they had a child, William C Bath born in 1948 in Shrewsbury. Zena had been married to Pte. Harry Bath of Rockey Lane, Birmingham in November 1945. At the inquest into his death, Zena said that she had known George Marklow was a married man and living apart from his wife and he had come to live at her home. Where her husband was is anybody's guess. In September 1949 George Marklow had become increasingly upset at lack of money, and grumbled a lot about his circumstances. He was also upset at the fact that Mrs Bath had been seen talking to a young man who she had known all her life. He was very jealous and the day before he was found dead, whilst she was lying on the bed with the baby, he had tried to strangle her saying he was desperate. He left the house in a state of annoyance, and was found drowned near a weir on the River Severn at Sydney Avenue, Shrewsbury by a passer-by on the following day. An inquest heard that his wife, from whom he had never sought a separation order, was continuing to live at Osborne Cinema House, Cheadle. The inquest concluded he had taken his life whilst the balance of his mind was disturbed. His wife, Annie Maria remarried in 1956 to James A Plant and died in 1977.

- Does anybody have any information on **lollipop people** who have served the village over the years. We know Christine Shirkie did this for about 20 years, including in the 1980s, and we also have the names of Mr Wardle who did the job in the 1960s, Mary Rafferty who we think took over from Christine Shirkie, Jennifer Philo, Alana Bowden and Denis Jardin. Any help would be welcome.
- Does anybody remember Mr Belcher who was the manager at the Co-op when it was in **Clover Place** please. Let us know if you do.
- We have been able to update our information on **Rye House** and the fields known as Botts Close which were nearby, thanks to information provided by the current owner.
- **Sept 1866** – **Animals poisoned**. '2 dogs and a favourite cat belonging to **Thomas Potter of Thringstone** plus a dog belonging to a rifle gallery proprietor currently staying in Thringstone and a dog belonging to Mr Bosworth the watchmaker of Whitwick and a game fowl belonging to the landlord of the Beaumont Arms' had been poisoned by food laid in their way, some of which had been found. Notices that action against the perpetrators would be taken if this continued were placed in local newspapers.
- **1894** - We have discovered another doctor called **Dr Charles Griffin** working from the Old Vicarage in Whitwick. Newly qualified from Dublin, newspaper records said that Dr Burkitt had had to leave the area for London temporarily in January 1894, and left Dr Griffin in charge, but on his return had received a complaint of neglect from a patient. He was waiting to talk to Dr Griffin before taking matters further with The Board of Guardians. He was still in the area in 1897 as he was called to a fatality in Coalville where a lady fell down stairs having caught her foot in a loose carpet. He was also a witness in court in October 1899 relating to a case of child neglect in Coalville as he had attended the family as a doctor. He was involved in further court cases in 1900 after which he disappears.
- **1900** – In addition to various pigeon racing matches in Thringstone, there were what would now be considered quite barbaric **pigeon shooting matches** which took place in the field at the back of The Fox Inn in Main Street. Known for some reason as **Blue Mills**, the field used to be full of people watching the spectacle for the sum of 3 pence a person. Bets would be made on the best out of 7 shots with birds having to have been shot before they got to the white ring on the outskirts of the field. Washing day in Thringstone used to be on a Saturday, and most houses did not have mangles to get the water out of the clothing, so it was usually the case of youngsters being given the job of taking piles of wet washing to the mangle, where you were usually charged 2 pence a load. The mangle was a fearsome monstrosity with a box filled with boulders to give the necessary pressure, plus 3 large rollers.
- **1901** – The census for this year tells of **Harry Mann**, wife Sarah and family living near the George and Dragon. The interesting thing is that Harry is a **photographer.** Further research has shown that Harry was born on 21 July 1869 in Leicester and started his photography business in 1889 in

Baggrave Street, Leicester. He moved about a bit around the Leicester area, and in 1892 is listed in Wright's Directory as having a studio at 48 Church Gate, Leicester. Whilst there, also in 1892, his photography business failed, and he turned his studio into a tobacconist, about which he said he knew nothing but thought anybody could do, and went into bankruptcy owing £125 14s 3d with assets of £23 8 shillings. He said he traded on credit as his takings were £2 to £2 10 shillings a week, and more at holiday times, but did not cover his debts. He moved to Thringstone to live near the George and Dragon in 1896 and in 1903 moved to Whitwick, where he kept a shop on North Street which included his photography business. He appears on the 1911 census as a photographer. In 1914, whilst at 29 North Street and still in records as a photographer, his 3 year old daughter Dorothy, was run over and killed instantly by a Shipstone's lorry. She had been playing with others at 6.30pm.near the Liberal Club, and ran in front of the lorry despite it sounding its horn and trying to turn back, leading to safety discussions with children at the school in the Market Place about running into the road without looking to see if traffic was coming. It is unclear how long he was a photographer in Whitwick, as in 1921, still living at 29 North Street, he was an engine cleaner at Whitwick Colliery, although his occupation in 1928 was shopkeeper. He had moved to 57 North Street by 1939 where he was a general dealer, and died on 1 January 1940. He left £638 1s 4d.

- **March 1908** – Newspaper reports state that **Rev Shrewsbury** and his wife bucked the trend with regard to new people coming into the village with their arrival who were normally treated with suspicion , as it was obvious to villagers that these were people who were workers and would give as good as they took. Rev Crane had retired in 1907 and during the interregnum, a missionary priest had carried out duties at St Andrew's and this person had stopped at Charlie Gough's house on Loughborough Road (a property which is still there and known as Gracedieu). It was, reports suggest, due to Mr Gough's efforts that Rev Shrewsbury came to such a large congregation with a regular and well-trained choir. Previously, choristers had always worn surpluses without cassocks, but Rev Shrewsbury changed all that by providing new cassocks which were worn beneath the surpluses – purple for the boys and black for the men. The surpluses were washed twice yearly – for Easter and Harvest Festival, at one of the small cottages near The Fox. Rev Shrewsbury also introduced flowers on the altar. Supported in his work by James Gee, Daniel Amos Webb and Everard Griffin Merriman, the church grew under the care of Rev. Shrewsbury. The Sunday school was transferred from the church to the school. Kindergarten Sunday School was held at Thringstone House on Sundays and was founded by Miss Saunders who acted as a secretary for Mrs Mary Booth. This was interdenominational and not in the control of St Andrew's. Miss Saunders also ran various other adult organisations in the village. Prior to Rev Shrewsbury coming to Thringstone, the annual Sunday School treats were held on the vicarage lawn, but Rev Shrewsbury changed this by working with the Booth family, and children were invited to Gracedieu Manor. In another link to The Manor, Rev Shrewsbury became an enthusiastic member of Gracedieu Cricket Club, which held its matches also on the lawns at Gracedieu Manor. Rev Crane had always helped local people in need out of his own pocket but Rev Shrewsbury created a sick and poor fund at St Andrew's to deal with such matters, which became a real boon in the time of emergencies. When Mrs Shrewsbury died, the village helped the vicar through some hard times, but rejoiced when he married the eldest daughter of the Rev Crane who was already well-loved in the parish. For over a quarter of a century, she was the organist at the church. Within a dozen years, Rev Shrewsbury was again a widower, and for the remaining 20 years or so of his incumbency, he relied on the help of his sister. Unlike others in his profession, he was as happy in the company of non-conformists as those who came to church. Until relatively late in life, Rev Shrewsbury met another cleric every Thursday morning for a game of billiards at Thringstone House and great lengths were gone to in order to ensure that there

was always a table available for the gentlemen to use, even if it meant turning others away. Rev Shrewsbury had an obsession against debt and always ensured that there were sufficient funds within the church for any eventuality and that matters were discussed at church council meetings. If there was not unanimity within the church council for any repairs, Rev Shrewsbury would still get the matter sorted, using his own funds. Failing health eventually saw him leave St Andrew's in 1954 and move to his sister's house in Long Eaton. He had celebrated his 82nd birthday on the Sunday and resigned on the Tuesday. In 1957 he celebrated the diamond jubilee of his priesthood. He was visited in Lond Eaton by the current vicar Rev Chesterton (who had been installed as vicar in 1955) and choir leader Maurice Maloney, who presented him with a pipe, tobacco, cheques and gifts from the Thringstone congregation. Rev Shrewsbury died in May 1958 aged 86 years. He was buried at St Andrew's. In 1959, his brother F Butler Shrewsbury of Old Colwyn placed an oak tablet in the church in memory of Rev. Shrewsbury.

- **March 1923** – A committee for **Thringstone Miners Welfare** was formed whereby one penny per ton on all coal raised was being set aside for a Miners Welfare Scheme under the provisions of the Miners Industry Act. The meeting took place at the school where there was a good attendance. 12 people were appointed to the committee with the chair being A Barlow and secretary S Johnson. Discussions would be taking place as to whether to have a recreation ground or an institute. It would seem that it was agreed to have a recreation ground which was taken over by the committee in 1932. This was further discussed in 1936 at council meetings with regard to a grant for fencing etc., and at a meeting in December that year, it was agreed to postpone further discussions on the council taking over the maintenance of the recreation ground. By 1945 two of the trustees of the Miners Welfare, JM Kidger and A King, were interviewed again about the council taking over the recreation ground from the committee. We know that Thringstone Imps played on the ground until late 1951 but the first mention of Thringstone Imps in newspapers seems to be in 1925 when on the Gracedieu Ground (lent out by Mr S Warrington), they entertained Spinney Hill FC from Leicester. Their 1945 team seem to have included Parker, Ferguson, Wallbank and Richards as in 1945, they beat Loughborough Switchgear Swifts by 7-1. They also had a junior side around the same period. In March 1948, 2 officials and one player from the club were suspended, along with a player from Morris FC in Loughborough and one Thringstone man was warned to keep away from all Leicestershire FAC matches. This followed a match in Loughborough where referee Mr A Burton of Shepshed was assaulted Mr George Croson, secretary of the club, who is appears lived at 19 Loughborough Road, was banned from attending any football matches until the end of the season and Mr A Pickering, a committee member, was suspended from attending matches for a month. D Gallacher who played for Thringstone was suspended until the end of the season and a Morris player suspended for a month. The club were warned of their behaviour and told that they would have to pay all the costs of the action brought against them. A further incident at the ground against Quorn on 30 August 1952 saw them closed down until 9 May 1953. They were also told they were unable to play within 3 miles of the village. Secretary Croson was fined 21 shillings for failing to disclose the name of the person entering the field of play at that match, and D Gallacher was fined £5 and suspended until 9 May 1953. We believe that the club surfaced again in 1963 as Thringstone Miners Welfare FC. George Croson ended his days living at 2 Booth Road, and died on 11 January 1978 aged 77 years.

Date of next meeting 6 August at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre. All welcome.