The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

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Bulletin August 2026

Monthly Litter Pick Total- 81 bags by **4** people against **84** bags by **6** people for the same month last year. Nita talked with a guy online who is litter picking in the woods, and doesn't mind going into the stream to clear blockages by the servant's bridge and taking stuff away from site. She is encouraging him to keep doing this for everybody. She also met a lady who claims to pick up cans in the woodlands and fills a red box with these fortnightly. Neither want to feed into our figures. NWLDC are offering community litter pickers the chance to go along to Newmarket, Marlborough Square on 19 Sept between 10 and 3pm to have free refreshments and look round the indoor market. If interested, you need to fill in a form https://nwleics-self.achieveservice.com/en/AchieveForms

Meeting notes 8 present 14 apologies

Carols Round The Tree – Arrangements are being made to have a Christmas tree from one of our members at the centre this year. It is hoped that the tree, which will not be rooted, will be able to be transported to the centre with ease. The event this year will be on 4 December. We are also looking to work with Thringstone Together on this and provide catering opportunities.

Grass area at the bottom of Main Street – An area of grass facing onto Henson's Lane, where there is also a bench situated, had not been cut for some considerable time. People were complaining and contacting us, so we got in touch with the Parks team about this and got the following response: **'**This is a housing site. The Parks team have had correspondence with Housing Management, and they have now asked the Parks team to maintain it. I believe this site was being cut by LCC for a number of years, but now that NWLDC will maintain the area, it has now been scheduled on to the Parks system, so will be cut regularly, with the first cut next week - i.e. week commencing 13 July'. It was eventually done 2 weeks after this self-imposed date.

Recycling changes – Those who have recycling collections on Wednesdays will be getting a letter shortly as you are amongst those chosen to be the first to get the new recycling bins in November.

Jitty down to St Andrew's – The overgrown bushes to 37 Loughborough Road were cut back at the end of June, and our member Dave went down and cut back all the bushes which we planted against the stone wall on 6 July. This is a huge area to keep cut back, and we thank him for his work on this. Dave has also cut back all the bushes down Drury Lane for us.

Thringstone Together cheque presentation – about 20 people came along to the cheque presentation at Bright Hope on 17 July to see the cheque for £1239 handed over to the venue. The staff and volunteers there gave us all a tour of the facilities, and we now appreciate exactly what the venue offers to those in the surrounding area. Some of our group have offered to do things with the venue going forward. Thank you to everybody who came along to the event, and thanks to Lesley for her help with the catering. Photos were taken and put on social media platforms and sent to Coalville Times and Community Voice Magazine.

Thringstone Lawn Bowls Club – if you fancy learning about the game, there is an opportunity to go on Wednesdays from 10.30am to try your hand. If you want to book a place, contact Michael Carrington on michael.carrington156@hotmail.com

Changes in local governance – From 2028, there will be a unitary council covering Leicester, Oadby and Wigston and parts of Blaby, Charnwood, and Harborough and another council for the remaining area in Leicestershire and Rutland, covering Hinckley and Bosworth, North West Leicestershire, Melton, Rutland and parts of Blaby, Charnwood and Harborough. As a consequence, our area will become part of the Leicestershire and Rutland authority. A website called Future Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland has been created and contains information to help to explain how it will impact us. We also received an email from Whitwick Parish Council which was forwarded on 6 July to all those on email. It concerns, amongst other things, the formation of a parish council for Thringstone from 1 April 2027 with councillors coming on board from 6 May 2027. There are two options for Thringstone – to join in with Whitwick Parish Council with 3 councillors from Thringstone, or form one just for our village made up of 9 councillors. This email said 'We are holding a consultation event for residents on Monday 10th August from 2pm-8pm at Whitwick Park Hall, Whitwick Park, North Street LE67 5HB.This will be an informal drop-in event for residents to have their say on the Community Governance Review proposals for Thringstone, Whitwick and Coalville, the Local Plan consultation and the Legacy Grant scheme. Staff and councillors will be in attendance to talk to residents but also help anybody to complete the online consultation forms. https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/elections_community_governance_reviews
The online consultation is open now and runs until Sunday 13th September.
It would also give anyone interested in forming a Parish Council the option to find out a bit more about what being a Parish Councillor or a member of staff may involve. We will be inviting officers from NWLDC to attend, but cannot guarantee anyone will do so – but hopefully!'

The Greenhouse Coffee Shop on The Green – The café have altered their opening days, and are now closed on a Saturday but open on a Sunday. They also remain closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays. All other days they are open from 10am – 3pm. They have also added to their menu with sandwiches, burgers and pizzas. They are currently offering half price cakes every Tuesday and have put edible cookie lids on matchas and iced coffee drinks.

Charles Booth Centre – the monthly quiz night is having a summer break and will return in September. The recent charity coffee morning for British Heart Foundation raised £178.50. Thank you to everybody who supported this.

Youth Club in the village – Charles Booth Centre have put in for a legacy grant to enable the provision of a youth club in the village. Those with long memories will remember there was always a youth club at the centre, but this finished many years ago and was not replaced. The hope is that a grant could enable the centre to provide one again. We were asked for a letter of support for this provision and provided one to the centre. If anybody else feels that a youth facility would be a good idea, please write in to the centre to support their funding bid.

Building on the Whitwick Valley – there is a meeting at Park Hall, Whitwick on 10 August from 2pm until 8pm and between 9am and 1pm on 25 August at Charles Booth Centre with details of the huge area where builders are wishing to build houses. This includes the West Whitwick valley area, as we have discussed before. Please support them in their endeavour to protect the fields around our village.

Social media – Nita has been posting a lot of archive photos from the 70s and 80s, including carnival photos and things from the Members Club and Iris Watret's 60th birthday party in August 1992, onto our facebook page, which has resulted in a huge amount of new followers (see below). It has been lovely to see comments on these photos, discover the names of people who are on them and read their memories, and reunite people who hadn't kept in touch for years. A photo of a carnival in the 1980s shows Jack Tugby taking gala queen Dawn round on the bonnet of his car as part of the procession. She said she was holding on to a rope to stop falling off the car. Health and Safety would go mad! Nita will continue to try to publish photos regularly.

Card reader – We are investigating the cost of having a credit card reader so that people who don't do cash can pay monies to us at events by card.
Publications – We only have 5 copies now of Born and Bred 1 which is the book originally written by Joan Blackey and we only have 3 copies of Memories 1. In addition there are only 9 copies left of Thringstone and its People and a similar number of Memories 2. We have tried in the past to get these reprinted, but had difficulties. Does anybody have any suggestions as to a company that might want to do a cheap, limited print run of these books to keep them in circulation going forward please? Sarah said she would send details of a printing company in Measham who might be able to help, failing which Nita might try Coalville Can again.

Chair's report
Promotion – We have **721** twitter followers down 2 on last month and **2,997** facebook followers which is 168 more than last month – a record. Nita has been posting pictures from the 1970s/80s..
Other: Following the photoshoot at Thringstone Primary School on 6 July, Nita sent press releases to both Coalville Times and Community Voice about our **donation of 2 benches** to the school. It was lovely to see there were brass plaques on both benches about the donation, which gives us a legacy going forward with the school.
Nita provided an assessors report for someone who completed their DoE bronze medal for litter picking with us.
Nita has reported various fly tipping, and collected banners and bunting for Hello Heritage from NWLDC.
Nita wrote the **August Bauble** to go into Community Voice magazine. This is all about organising events, and the need for people to volunteer to help if they want these things to continue. She also submitted a **history article** for March 2027 on Edward Jesser Coope and his wife Pleasance who lived at Gracedieu for 9 years from 1873. See history report for information.
We were sorry to hear of the death of our member Richard Lee, and send condolences to his family.

What's On

- 11 August – Rural Community Council **free coffee afternoon** at Thringstone Co-op 1pm-2.30pm. There will be a van outside, with tables and chairs.
- 7, 18 and 21 Aug – **Cinder Hill Farm** – Storytelling with author Gillian Kitson-Rowntree. Meet Gillian, listen to stories and take part in the colouring competition. 2 hour sessions. £3. 9.45am, 12 noon, 2.15pm and 4.30pm. They have meet the bee keeper and honey tasting sessions on 12, 14, 19 and 20 August and folklore stories in Aug, Sept and Oct.. Booking or further info to minimoonie70@sky.com
- 8 Aug – **Charles Booth Centre** – family music day from 12 noon. Entertainment from Alexander, 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
- 23 Aug – **Thringstone Bowling Club fun day**. Open from 12 noon. Bowling from 1pm. £5 to bowl. £5 entry to include BBQ and raffles. More details from michael.carrington156@hotmail.com
- 5 Sept – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's** production of The Legacy of Talbot Manor at Charles Booth Centre. 7.30pm. Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads
- 13 Sept - **Gracedieu Manor Park** – Wedding Fayre 11am – 3pm. Info from 07762 407266
- 19 Sept – **Charles Booth Centre**. An evening of folk music from 7.30pm featuring songs on Charles Booth from Lauren South, The Cartwheel Pennies and Becky Foord. Tickets £12 in cash or on the door. 2 intervals. It is hoped to make this a regular folk night going forward.
- 26 Sept **- Charles Booth Centre**- Hello Heritage from 1pm-5.30pm with exhibitions and information on Thringstone Schools, alongside Whitwick Historical Group. Free entry. Cakes and refreshments available.
- 26 Sept - **Thringstone Members Club** – Show tunes and bottomless brunch. More details to come.

- 10 Oct – **Thringstone Members Club** – Our Trace with Bryan James. Lots of fun and laughter. 7.30pm. Tickets £5
- 4 Nov – **Thringstone Members Club** -11am – 1pm. TV's Charles Hanson, auctioneer, to value your goods.
- 15 Nov – **Gracedieu Manor Park** Christmas Fayre- 11am – 4pm. .£3 per person. £5 to meet Santa.
- 4 Dec – **Carols Round The Tree at Thringstone House** after procession from St Andrew's starting at 6.30pm. Food will be available inside.

Financial Report

.**Gen Fund held 1st of month** (bank + petty cash + float)	**2582.46**		
Income		**Expenditure**	
		Broadband	£20.00
		Renewal of web host	£72.00
total income received		**Insurance**	£7.89
		Total	**2482.57**

Incident Reports

- 4 July - Woman went into **One Stop Shop** and took items, and was photographed leaving the shop without paying. Picture posted on social media and shared to Neighbourhood Watch group.
- 4 July – during the morning, a chocolate display box with contents was stolen from **Thringstone Co-op**. Box found moments later under a hedge on Whitwick Moor.
- 18 July – Dog walker found smoking fire in **Gracedieu woods** and put it out, as it had been left, which is obviously very dangerous with the hot weather. She posted pictures on facebook. Same happened on 27 July after a disposable BBQ was left unattended. Fire engine came out at 11.10am and again on Tuesday 28 to ensure that the area had been properly dampened down. There was also a fire to haybales on Swannymote Road on 4 August which affected overhead power lines.
- A member nearly had an accident down **Lilybank** when a car came round the bends on the wrong side of the road. On complaining to Highways she was told that they are not going to alter the speed limit down that road from 60mph.
- Reported of motorbikes regularly travelling at high speeds around 8pm on **Lbro Rd**. Police informed.

History report

- Nita spent some considerable time this month helping a lady with her **Edward Gee and Sarah Ann Wright** family tree and sent several documents, but did not receive any response as a result. Nita also had an email from a lady in Evergem in Belgium asking for information on her grandmother, **Gertie Matchett** and passed this on to Chris Matchett who sent lots of information and Whitwick Historical Group who found a copy of her first wedding picture to Ron Concannon and also his grave. The lady was delighted. Nita had another email from a man who had bought an unsigned painting (a photo of which we have) believed to be by **Biddy Youngday**, granddaughter of Charles and Mary Booth as it had her name and address on the frame He wanted help getting this authenticated and more information on her which Nita sent. Biddy did a lot of exhibitions in Acton, London from 1962 until 1980. She then put him in touch with Biddy's grandson.
- **Rose and Crown –** We have for some time been looking for the surname of the man who kept the pub after Isabelle and Enid left. We knew his name was Guy and now discover from electoral registers that he was Guy Bailey. He is on the electoral register for the property at 23 The Green up to 2009.

- **Edward Jesser Coope** and his wife Pleasance lived at Gracedieu Manor from 1872 for 9 years, and Nita has spent time following through on their life after they lived there. They paid £600pa in rent at Gracedieu, the equivalent of £73,680, to the de Lisle family. We have previously detailed some of the fetes etc. which the family organised and their link with the Whitwick Industrial and Horticultural events. We now discover that, at Easter in 1875, the Coope family gave new surpluses to the choir at St Andrew's. and in October 1880, Mrs Coope worked with St John's in Whitwick to help women of the area and had a sewing class. This class met every Tuesday in the boardroom of the National School and consisted of about 60 mothers who made items for use around the home. Mrs Coope provided all the materials needed. When the class went to Gracedieu for an afternoon tea and stroll around the gardens in 1880 as an annual trip out, Mrs Coope was superintendent of the class and whilst the mothers were sewing she read to them from an interesting book. Tea tables were arranged on the lawn in front of the manor complete with tea, coffee and dainty dishes, and grace was said by the vicar of Whitwick. After the tea came singing, recitations and dancing on the grass. Each of the mothers who had received the greatest number of marks for attendance were given a roll of calico, and Mrs Coope was praised for her benevolence. In June 1882,the family had a bazaar at the manor, which ran over 2 days, and was the brainchild of Mrs Coope to raise money locally. Jesser, as he was known, had been master of fox hounds in Essex, and an article on his life tells that he went to Eton and whilst there met with a gun accident whilst hunting. He then went to Christchurch and upon leaving University and moving to Gracedieu, he rode with the Quorn hunt. Mrs Coope was said to follow the chase. On leaving Leicestershire to live at Berechurch Hall near Colchester, he became a JP in Essex (having been one in Leicestershire), and also President of the Essex Agricultural Society and master of East Essex hounds. He also held a commission in the loyal Suffolk hussars but did return to this area when the hunting season was on. We know he stayed at Staunton Harold in January 1883, as he wrote to the Essex Agricultural Society from there thanking them for making him president. We now have a photograph of him taken in 1884 from the Sporting Gazette. In 1887, whilst at Berechurch Hall, the Coope's held a bazaar to raise funds for building a rectory at Abberton, which was less successful than hoped. In December 1888, having returned from a yachting tour of the Mediterranean and as far as Australia, Jesser took people from the Romford Brewery onto his yacht which was steam powered and called Sunrise. It was 375 tons. In 1887 it undertook at 53 week tour to Asia and Japan, and in 1889 he took the yacht from Cowes to Egypt and Syria on a shooting holiday for the winter with Mrs Coope remaining in Egypt, and was on his yacht for 32 weeks until May 1890 on a shooting party trip around the Mediterranean before going with Pleasance to a London address 'for the season', which they did every year around June. In November 1890 he was off on a shooting trip of the Belgian provinces on the yacht. We have a photograph of the yacht, and understand that the couple regularly used it for summer cruises. Jesser was a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron. In 1898 he resigned as secretary and treasurer of the Seaview Yacht Club. In 1899 he let the government use the yacht to transport men to South Africa and then to be used as a hospital ship during the Zulu wars and sold the yacht in 1906. Jesser split from Pleasance sometime in the late 1890s. He sent a wreath to the funeral of his mother in law in Norfolk in August 1898 which Pleasance attended, so was still in touch with the family at that stage. In 1902, he was living at 12 Eggerton Gardens, London. Jesser lived with Annie Marie Cunningham, a Scottish former parlour maid, until his death in 1924. They had 5 sons – Edward Francis (born in South Africa in 1900), Jesser Evelyn Napier, Brownlow Richard Christopher, John Helme and Alexander Allman. Jesser continued to use his yacht and in August 1901 took it from Cowes to Norway. In 1916 he was re-elected to the board of the Adham and United Parishes Insurance Society in Colchester. It would seem that Pleasance, who was the daughter of an honorary canon and vicar, would not give up on her marriage, and in all the subsequent census information, she puts her status as married In January 1891, Pleasance took part in an evening of entertainment in Colchester, and despite a cold sang to great applause. In May 1901 whilst collecting subscriptions to an event for the Metropolitan Hospital in Kingsland Road, Pleasance was living at 12 Egerton Gardens, SW London. In January 1903 she was chairman of the Ladies Association of the Metropolitan Hospital and in December the same year, whilst living at 7 Eccleston Square,

Kensington, she organised a ball at the Empress Rooms, Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington for the Cabman's Benevolent Assoc. From 1910 until at least 1919 she lived at 23 Rossetti Mansions, Flood Street, Kensington before moving to 12 Lincoln House in around 1920. She seems to have lived in Chelsea, Kensington and Westminster, and in 1921 was living at 12 Lincoln House with Lorina Skene, who had been one of her bridesmaids at her wedding. She died on 9 March 1929 at 18 Ashley Gardens, Westminster, 5 years after he died, and her grave details her as the widow of Jesser Coope. She left £1,306 10 shillings and 11 pence. Jesser was a partner in the Ind Coope brewery business and retired from the board in 1906. When he died at Forest Lodge, New Milton, Hampshire, he left £16702 7 shillings and 4 pence to Annie and his sons. This equates to £1.3 million in today's terms which is nothing when you see that his father, Octavius, who was an MP as well as many other things, died in 1886 of liver cancer and left £542,784 15 shillings and 2 pence which is equivalent to over £63 million in today's money! When Annie Marie Cunningham died in 1932 aged 64, her obituary called her Mrs Annie Coope, and said she had been bed ridden with arthritis for over 6 years and that, having received a Catholic service, she was buried in Lymington with 'her husband'. Despite all census information etc. always being in the name of Annie M Coope, they never married and her death was recorded as Annie Cunningham.

- **Fox Inn –** From electoral registers we have discovered that Deborah L Churchman and Alexander McLeod were still at the pub up to 2004. We had them down as there only in 2002. Deborah appears to have been born between 1966-8 and Alexander between 1945-7. We think he moved back to Scotland.
- **1983 - 1985** – Edward Anderson (known as Eddie) and his wife Rosie nee Fillmore together with their children Guy and Claire had the tenancy of the Rose and Crown for nearly 2 years, and we have for some time tried to find out more about them. By posting something on facebook in the last week relating to the Rose and Crown, we have found that they lived at Clyde Court and married in 1972 in Coalville. Eddie was born in 1951 in Lanark. His father was Edward Wallace Anderson, known as Ned, who was a colourful character and well known at the pub. Ned's wife was Margaret McNair nee Easton and they married in 1950 at St Giles in Scotland. We are assuming that Ned and his wife moved from Lanarkshire with the Scottish miners. He was born in 1928 and died in 2002 and is buried at St Andrew's. Eddie has told us that they took on the tenancy of the Rose and Crown when he was still working at Whitwick colliery. There were rumours of redundancies, and as Leicestershire coalfield had around 300 electricians, he felt that a change was best for the family. He said that they took on the pub from Keith and Sue Walker. The pub was quite run down when they took it on and they turned it round. When they left to take on the White Swan at 2 Moor Street, Spondon, The Rose and Crown was doing well. They were in Spondon for 7 years and then beer orders were introduced which meant takings were down, so they got out. He still lives in Derby.
- **June 1985 - Cinder Hill Farm** was up for auction at The Royal Hotel, Ashby. Details suggest that the property was an ideal gentleman's smallholding, with attractive 5 bedroomed residence, a modern range of outbuildings and 39.16 acres of land.
- **Dec 1985 – Cath Fitzpatrick** left Loughborough's Lodge Farm Infant School having been caretaker there for 8 years to take over as caretaker at Thringstone County Primary School. She was presented with a gift token and flowers from the headmistress and staff at Lodge Farm.
- **July 1989 –** Two teachers left **Thringstone Primary** when Mrs Pearl Jones and deputy head David Waugh left the school. Mr Waugh was presented with a briefcase by headmaster Mr George and both he and Mrs Jones received small gifts from the children. Mr Waugh is taking up a post as head of Holy Trinity School in Southport having taught the lower juniors in Thringstone for 6 years. Mrs Jones was presented earlier in the week with garden equipment to mark her retirement after 23 years at the school at a cheese and wine evening attended by hundreds of friends, parents, colleagues and governors

Date of next meeting 3 September 2026 at Charles Booth Centre at 7pm. All welcome.