The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

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Bulletin September 2026

Monthly Litter Pick Total - 90 bags by **5** people against **85** bags by **5** people for the same month last year.
Meeting notes: 12 present, 11 apologies
Hello Heritage – Our Hello Heritage event on 26 September from 1pm – 5.30pm is all about school days, and we are working with Whitwick Historical Group on this to put on an event at Charles Booth Centre. This will complement the boards that are scattered around the village as usual to talk about the history of our area. Please come and support out event at the centre if you can. It opens at 1pm for the afternoon, and there will be cakes!! On that subject, if anybody wants to make some cakes for the event, please let me know.
Card Machine – Geoff has investigated having a card machine, and said that Sum Up are the most used option charging 1.69% with seemingly no lower limit. The other option is installing an app onto a smart phone through viva.com, the phone then turns into a card reader and you can do it this way. The meeting felt that the Sum Up was the best option. This will be followed up in due course.
Publications – Nita is still trying to find a suitable printer for Born and Bred 1, Memories 1 and 2 and Thringstone and Its People. Sarah and Janet have both said they can help scan things. Nita will liaise with them on this.
Charity Coffee Morning - £177.10 was raised for Marlene Reid Centre at the recent coffee morning at Charles Booth Centre. There was considerable discussion on how to get more people to come to these coffee mornings when cake is £1 and tea/coffee is also the same. Various suggestions were made regarding poster design, table layout, getting the pre-school involved etc. These will be discussed with the others connected to the coffee mornings. We voted to give another £180 to buy cakes for this event to cover cake purchase.
Arriva bus 12 – The service is continuing, but from 22 August, we understand that the Saturday service to Coalville stopped. Coalville Cabs is offering a service from certain areas in Whitwick in place of the bus, between 7am and 7pm, with the cost kept to the bus fare. Unfortunately, this offer does not cover Thringstone.
Save West Whitwick Valley – a lot of people turned up to the event at Park Hall, Whitwick to look at the issues around local government reorganisation and also at the proposals to build on land in our area. A smaller event was held at Charles Booth Centre saw a steady flow of people come along to talk to people about the possible building on land in West Whitwick Valley and help them fill in forms. Thanks go to the centre for their help with this. People have **one week left** to complete their forms on the building issue, and Gayle came along to bring more forms for people willing to complete these. She explained in great details what any letters should say, that the building suggestions were not sound, not transparent since they had changed the development to include Thornborough Rd which had previously been separate, and that there is an underground

steam which will also be affected. For more details please see Save West Whitwick Valley facebook page or look on the FoT facebook page or contact Nita who will try to help.
Charity cricket match – A charity match for Gary Mansfield and John Harper at Gracedieu Park Cricket club raised £463 to go to Mesothelioma. Thank you to everybody who supported the event and gave of their time as volunteers.
Thringstone Primary – Thanks go to Bruce and the team from I Clean for giving the EYFS outdoor area and ball court a fantastic clean over the summer holidays. Everything is looking fresh and ready for the new school year, and the children will love coming back to such a welcoming environment. The school is really grateful to local businesses that support the school in this way. Their generosity makes a real difference. We are currently working with the school to help them with information on their forthcoming project on Whitwick Pit Disaster.
Cinder Hill Farm – are putting on exotic animal handling events. These are on 20 and 26 September from 9.15-11.15am and between 11.30 and 1.30pm on 20 and 26 September. The exotic animals include geckos, stick insects, spiders, tortoises and snakes. There will also be stone painting, animal treasure hunt, the opportunity to spot other wildlife and a picnic area. £5 per person, booking essential by messaging Lords Exotics via their website/facebook.
Greenhouse Coffee Shop – Carla and Danny announced on facebook on 25 Aug that they were selling the coffee shop and had put it up for sale as a going concern. On 3 September they announced the coffee shop was closing as of that date, but any vouchers could be redeemed at Thurlaston Garden Centre where their restaurant will stay open.

Chair's report
Promotion – We have **720** twitter followers which is one less than last month and **3,103** facebook followers which is 106 more than last month.
Other: We are sorry to report the death of long-time member Doreen Bates on 23 August. Doreen was a huge supporter of Friends of Thringstone doing baking and all sorts for us. We have sent our condolences to her family. We also sadly report the death of Tina Bakewell. Tina was our book keeper for several years before moving to Skegness. She died in hospital 8 weeks after a fall at her home. Condolences have been sent to her daughter.

What's On

- 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
- 6 Sept - **Man Within Compass** – 5k run or walk in aid of **LOROS.** Meet at 9.30am. £7.50 entrance fee. Cake sale. Tears and coffees available.
- 11 Sept - **Thringstone Members Club** – Fairy wishes – 7pm – 10.30pm – mediumship, readings, holistic treatments. Earlybird ticket £5. On the door £10. Book on 07478 423064.
- 13 Sept - **Gracedieu Manor Park** – Wedding Fayre 11am – 3pm. Info from 07762 407266 or contact https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GQIO. Glass of fizz on arrival, free tasting samples, goodie bags and live singer.
- 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. Many of the songs talk about poverty in the 19th century, which was a feature of the **work of Charles Booth**.
- 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
- 1 Oct – MacMillan coffee morning at **St Andrew's**. 10am -11.45am.

- 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.
- 30 Nov – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's Christmas fayre** at Charles Booth Centre. 11am – 3.30pm with free entertainment. Stalls, games and 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.
- 6 Dec – **Carols at Gracedieu Priory** at 3pm. Parking to be advised.

Financial Report

.**Gen Fund held 1st of month** (bank + petty cash + float)	**2482.57**		
Income		**Expenditure**	
		Broadband	£20.00
		Insurance	£7.89
		Litter bags	£29.09
Total income received		**Total**	**£2425.59**

Incident reports

- 9 August – 6 hours of gun shots seemingly within **Gracedieu Woods**, causing concern for people with dogs and children. One person's dog bolted because of the gun shots. Reported to the police as anti-social behaviour, having checked nobody had a license to hold a shooting party in the woods at the time. Turned out it was most likely the farmer shooting crows in fields near to the Bull's Head.
- 10 Aug – police presence on **cricket pitch** and in Springfield, together with drone, looking for someone who might have fled into this area. Police called at houses where necessary to look in rear gardens at 4.15am where fences were high and there was no visibility from the cricket pitch.
- Continuing reports of **loud motorbikes, and cars**, going up Lbro Rd at speed. Various people from The Green down Lbro Rd and elsewhere have reported this, and the speed at which they are travelling, up to nearly midnight. PSCO Abigail Carter-Kyd contacted Nita twice on 12 August about this, and sent out an email on 13 Aug telling people to report these incidents to the police, just in case I didn't tell them to do that myself…..
- Having seen comments on social media relating to lack of police activity following the attack in **Gracedieu Woods** some months back, Nita wrote to the local police inspector to ask if a statement could be put out to say things were still being worked through. The answer was no because it isn't the local force who are dealing with this but a specialised East Midlands Special Operations Unit.
- 26 Aug – window smashed in caravan parked in front garden to home on **Lbro Rd**.
- 2 Sept – Police officers received information from **Thringstone Co-op** that a wanted male had just been seen inside the store. Officers responded quickly and identified an address where the suspect was believed to be hiding. After a brief game of hide-and-seek, officers located and arrested him. The male was wanted in connection with 13 shop theft offences, a burglary, and was also wanted on warrant. He has been remanded to appear before the courts.

History report

- Following on from last month, the Belgian granddaughter of Gertie Matchett has sent us photos of **Ronald Concannon's grave** from Brussels town cemetery for which we've thanked her.
- Nita posted a photo from the mid 1950s on facebook showing some lads in the playground who played football at **Thringstone school**. On there was Richard Sealey, son of Leonard Sealey who was the head of the school. Len moved to the USA with most of his family, and died there. Nita had

been in touch with them 7 years ago when doing research on Len, and got in touch again and sent them a copy of the photo for their own archives with which they were delighted.

- Nita has been doing research into **Bob Maloney** who was a professional footballer born in Thringstone. His parents, James Robert Brownsword Maloney and May nee Emerson moved to 80 Main Street, Thringstone early in their marriage in 1902 and called their home Shamrock House, which it was called until about 10 years back. Called Shamrock House because Bob's grandfather James was born in Kerry, Ireland, Bob, or more properly Robert John Herbert Maloney was a very well-known footballer in his time. Bob's brother Maurice was well known in Thringstone as choirmaster at St Andrews, as well as a baker and Sealyham dog breeder and lived at 111 Loughborough Road where Old Bakery Close now stands. Another brother Bruce Leonard, known as Leonard, worked at one time in a timber yard, and moved to Osgathorpe but was also a footballer with Snibston in the 1930s. Another brother, Eric, was a bricklayer who lived on Main Street, then there was May Adelaide known as Addy, and Kathleen who lived all her life at Shamrock House, even after her marriage in 1945 to Thomas Challoner. Another child called Bernard had died in 1909 aged 2. Eric was in the local papers in 1964 for winning the poultry section at the Bosworth show. He had been keeping chickens for 20 years.
  Bob Maloney was the eldest child and born on 8 June 1903. He started his interest in football by kicking a ball around on Thringstone Green, but went to work at Stablefords in Coalville as a driller before turning to football as a profession. As an amateur, he played for Thringstone House FC, then Thrapston. Come 1923 he was playing for Peterborough Fletton United, and in 1924 for Shepshed Albion. He then played for Walsall briefly in 1925/6 before moving back to Peterborough Fletton for 1926. However, in November 1926 he moved to Northampton Town, a 3rd division club, for 6 seasons and made 194 league cup appearances. He played in the centre half position. He lost his place for the 1931/2 season because of what was seen to be a breakdown in health for some weeks, during which period he suffered with gastritis and made few appearances for his team. There were rumours that he was going to go to Crystal Palace, but they were unfounded. His last season at Northampton was in 1932 when they had a benefit match for him. He then moved to Ireland and played 2 seasons at Shelbourne Park in Dublin from 1932, having 47 appearances, before going to Racing Club Calais for 1934-5 season during which period he played for a representative French side in Belgium. Bob married in Daventry in June 1936 to Katherine Phyllis Chown and they had a daughter called Judith born 1940. Records show that in 1936 the couple were living with in laws at 14 Linden Road, Northampton. In 1937 he moved back to Ireland and played for Dundalk club and was captain. Tragedy struck on 17 March 1938, St Patrick's day. Having been selected to play in the League of Ireland in Dublin he suffered a serious left knee injury which basically ended his career and saw his leg in plaster for some time. There was a benefit match for him in September 1939 at Dalymount Park which made £220. On the 1939 census he still says he is a professional footballer. Bob stayed in Northampton and his 1956 address was 16 Abington Park Crescent, Northampton. Bob died in Rushmere, Northampton on 13 January 1981 and bequeathed £500 to St Andrew's in Thringstone. Having retired from football, he had served in the RAF in Ceylon during WW2 He then joined the rubber manufacturing firm Goodliffe in Northamptonshire and was there for over 20 years, working his way up to managing director before retiring in 1967. We have 2 photos of Bob from his playing career.
- **Sykes family of 36 Loughborough Rd** – Nita was sent a photo of Rita Sykes of this address to put on facebook by Rita's daughter Julie. The photo showed her with other ladies on a float in 1953. Nita was asked by the current occupant of the property to find out anything relating to previous occupants. William and Frances Ellen Williams married in 1919, and the 1939 register shows Frances Ellen as a widow, together with children Wilfred born 14 Jan 1920, Ivy born 25 Oct 1921, Frances born 31 May 1927, Eileen born 3 May 1931 and Rita born in April 1935 living there. We also found out that there had been two other children of Frances and William – John W was born and died in 1923, and Marian was born in 1925 and died aged 16 months in 1926 and was buried at St Andrew's. Ivy appears to have married John W Massey in 1942, Frances married Everard Gent in 1946, Eileen married Edward Shaw in 1952 and Tom McGovern in 1976 and Rita married Arthur

Horne in 1957. Wilfred was unmarried and still living with his mother Frances on 6 April 1966 when he was killed in an accident. He was working for the Electricity Board, having been with them for 2 years after leaving the pits, and was killed when digging a trench for a cable in Shepshed. It had been raining, and there had been a lot of rain in the previous 6 months. A 6 foot wall fell on him. The obituary said that he was unmarried, living with his mother, and his 4 sisters had all left home. The wall had been built 6 months earlier with no foundations but a 3 ft 6 inches base of concrete, and the group of which Wilfred was a part were digging with shovels 9 inches away from the wall when it fell. When found, only Wilfred's head, left shoulder and arm were showing. After releasing him with specialist lifting equipment, he died. Frances Ellen Sykes died in 1967. In 1939, Hextall's farm was still on Lbro Rd with an address of 20 and the council houses started with no. 30 going up to no. 88 after which it was The Meadows. They still start with no. 30 with the houses in the hammer head starting at 22, so there is no longer a 20..

- **1086** – Thringstone was listed in the Domesday Book at Thangesbi in the county of Derbyshire, but recent information sent to us gave more information. The Domesday book was intended to record land ownership as well as many other things, and it would seem, from the translation we have received that the King owned 1/2c of land taxable – land for 4 oxen, and Nigel of Stafford also owned land here. Under his name, it says the following 'Alnoth had 1/2c of land taxable. Waste. Value before 1086 5 shillings now 2 pence.' Alnoth refers to several land owners who owned land prior to the Domesday Book being commissioned. Nigel of Stafford owned a lot of land at the time in Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire including the manor at Drakelow His son, also called Nigel, took on the name Gresley when he bought land in that area.
- **Oct 1909** – Thringstone House FC beat Measham Reserves with Smith heading into the net beautifully from a corner. Who is Smith? Given the link to St Andrew's Cottages (see below), this might be either James Smith or Alfred Smith who were living there around this time. There was also William Smith who lived further down Main Street at Blakesley's Row and James Smith from Fox Terrace.
- **Nov 1909** – Thringstone House FC were fined 2 shillings and 6 pence for a late start to their match on 20 November. They were also removed from Junior Cup Competition on that date for playing ineligible men. The team played within Division 2 of the Coalville and District League. Chairman and Secretary of the club was P Neal, treasurer James Lawrence of St Andrew's Cottages, committee members were Ward, J Shelton, Statham, James, Forsham, Brotherhood, Goodman, Waldron and Rev Shrewsbury. Captain W Brotherhood, vice-captain E Waldron, trainer Ernest Winters of Loughborough Road. We have a photograph of the team, but no names of players other than what is given above. Philip Neal may be P Neal. He was born on 25 April 1881 in Coleorton but lived in Thringstone in John Street around this time. James Lawrence was born in 1880 and was a miner at Whitwick Colliery who died on 18 June 1939. He was a good choice as treasurer as he appears to have invested in property adjacent to his own house, which were sold after his death. These were 2 x 3 bed houses and one 2 bed house in St Andrew's Cottages, rented out to E Beniston, J Waterfield and W Cresswell. James Lawrence left £1279 19 shillings and 10 pence which equates to £111,500 in today's terms. The Statham mentioned is probably Andrew, born 21 Dec 1879 in Newbold Verdon, who lived until 1908 on Main Street when he moved to Whitwick. but then moved to work in farming in the Hinckley area around 1911. He married Sarah Walton in 1900, and had 9 children, which included 7 sons, the 3 eldest children having been born in Thringstone. Andrew lived in Hinckley Road, Stoney Stanton and died in Leicester on 27 May 1963. Brotherhood could have been John William or even Henry or Hubert. John William had Thringstone connections. J Shelton may be John, a miner, who was born in Thringstone on 22 November 1883. John was born 2 years before his mother Elizabeth Shelton married George Wardle. Elizabeth died in February 1896 aged 33 and was buried at St Andrew's, after which John lived with his uncle John Gee. He lived in Thringstone most of his life and married Maud Elizabeth Rose Measures in 1912. In 1939 his address was 66 Loughborough Road and in 1947 his address was Henson's Lane. He died in 1961 as did his wife. Available photos of the above Brotherhoods don't match with the football photo.

- **March 1910** – **Thringstone House FC** were reported for leaving the field 12 minutes before time against Coalville PSA. This happened because William Lawrence, playing for Thringstone, was ordered off the field for use of bad language, and the team weren't happy with this. The match was ordered to be replayed with various terms in place. William was the brother of James as above. Born on 10 Sept 1886, like his brother James, he didn't marry. The 1939 register shows him living with the Beniston family at 36 Main Street, Thringstone. He died in Jan 1965.
- **Jan 1970** – **Alfred Lakin Stinson** of 29 Main Street died having collapsed at work. Known as Lake, he was born on 22 June 1922. He had lived with his parents and siblings at 158 Main Street, and married **Gertie Black** in 1948. Having been a miner Lake changed profession and at the time of his death was a hosiery worker. An inquest was told that he had had a heavy cold over the Christmas period. He had continued to go to work, but died on 5 January of bronchitis. Gertie subsequently re-married **Leonard Victor Bradley** in 1972 and continued to live at 29 Main Street. Len was born on 11 November 1920 in Thringstone and lived on Main Street. The 1939 census shows Gertie at no. 27 Main Street with her parents and siblings, and we know from records that she was a land army girl during WW2 from 1942 until 30 May 1944. She was a hosiery machinist previously, and had a son called Peter in October quarter 1944.. We have a photo of some land army girls around that time which includes Gertie, as well as Betty and Marjorie Sykes. We also have 3 photographs of Len Bradley who served in the army in WW2, which include an army photo and a photo of him as a youngster. Len died on 28 January 1976 and is buried at St Andrew's. He was 55 years old and the death notice in the Leicester Mercury says he had been in a lot of pain prior to death. Gertie died aged 94 on 26 June 2015 and had continued to live in Main Street. She is buried with Alfred Lakin Stinson at St Andrew's. 27 and 29 Main Street were knocked down and there are newer houses on the site now. We have a photo of them prior to their demolition. These houses are close to the Old School House.
- **June 1982** – Former producer of **Thringstone's Musical Comedy group**, Ron Smith, and his wife Margaret came from Bolton to visit Anne Hicken of Talbot Lane and were quite taken aback to find themselves welcomed by many former members of the group. Mrs Hicken had arranged the party as a 'this is your life' surprise for the couple and the assembled party spent some considerable time pouring over photos, scrap books and programmes from 20 years previously. Mr Smith had been assistant chief surveyor for the coal board, based at Coleorton, and had left the district in 1966 to take up the job of chief mining engineer at South Yorkshire County Council, from which he had retired in 1978. He recalled that his first production at Thringstone was Country Girl and his last was Carissima in April 1965. He said 'The Thringstone group were a wonderful and talented group to work with, and we had some great times'. The guests sang songs from some of their productions and, as always, their keyboard player was Mr Joe Bakewell. Although Thringstone Amateur Musical Comedy group is no more, there are still regular shows put on by Thringstone Panto Society with the producer being Clive Fearn.
- **Sept 1982** – **Daniel Gent**, the 8 year old son of Leonard and Angela Gent from Talbot Street, Whitwick collapsed and died at Thringstone Primary school at the start of a games lesson. Headmaster Mr John George was in charge of the boys and had told the boys to run to a tree about 50 yards away and then come back to him. On the way back, he saw Daniel stumble and collapse. An ambulance was called and one of the teachers, Mrs Jean Curd, and the caretaker Mr Howard Ray kept up cardiac massage and artificial resuscitation until the ambulance arrived but the boy died.

Date of next meeting 1 October at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre.