The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

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Bulletin October 2026

Monthly Litter Pick Total - 74 bags by **4** people against **83** bags by **6** people for the same month last year.

Meeting notes - 7 present 8 apologies

Hello Heritage – Our event on 26 September was a great success with 111 people come along, which is the 2nd highest figure we've had since these started in 2017. People gave us photos and information, and someone gave us a book of poems written by the lady who wrote Born and Bred 1 and 2. It was lovely to see people meeting up with school mates from 50 odd years ago, and also finding photos of themselves and their families. Thanks go to the centre for their help, to Thringstone Co-op for sponsoring the cost of the tea/milk/sugar and to the wonderful people who worked hard beforehand as well as on the day to put on the event and make it a success. Photos were put on social media and sent to Coalville Times and Community Voice magazine.

Greenhouse Coffee Shop – Having closed and with the business up for sale, on 11 September the owners announced they were reopening, much to the pleasure of many in the village. On 12 September the café advertised an opening for a qualified barista to look after the coffee side working 25 hours a week on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, which are their opening days. They then announced their reopening on 18 Sept at 10am. They still have half price cakes on Tuesdays as they are closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Ruby's – a facebook post on 15 September said 'We are delighted to have once again received a Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Award for 2026. In addition, we have maintained the number one spot out of 43 places to eat in Coalville for approximately the last 10 years, according to Tripadvisor! Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to leave a review on Tripadvisor in the past, we do appreciate it!'

Litter Picking Celebration – Nita attended the NWLDC litter picking celebration on 19 September in Coalville at the Newmarket centre. She was given some vouchers to spend on the day with the traders, a printed letter of thanks and a model of a litter picker. There was also a discussion about graffiti removal. NWLDC is keen to have photographic evidence of any graffiti, as they have kits to remove graffiti from some structures. We are endeavouring to work with them on this.

Land off Lilybank – Leaflets have been posted through doors in the village relating to the proposal by Wheeldon 1867 to build 84 new homes with main vehicular access from Lilybank itself (which is a little lane). The site will create affordable homes, improved walking connections, play facilities, plus planting and biodiversity enhancements and sustainable drainage. The developers wanted comments sent to them by 29 September. This area has been in the local plan for ages.

Remembrance Day and poppies – Nita has received confirmation from the scouts that they will put up the plastic poppies on Main St/Lbro Rd again for us this year (they store these in their hut), and also sent emails to all those people who have nets to ask them to put them up again. We

understand that the church are looking to do something a bit different as their poppies got so wet last time that they aren't much use now.
St Andrew's – the church is planning their first ever Christmas tree festival on 28 and 29 November and are hopeful of getting local businesses involved. The idea is that in addition to celebrating Christmas, all local businesses have the chance to be part of the event and provide some decoration and advertise their participation. Plans are currently for the church to be open on 27th for set up. Lesley is investigating what Friends of Thringstone can provide. Local businesses or organisations who want to work with the church on this are asked to contact 07904 053130 or 07864 510854.
Charity Coffee Morning – the coffee morning for MacMillan at the centre in September raised £332.10 for MacMillan, which included some significant donations. Many thanks to everybody who supported this, as that is a terrific amount to raise. October's charity is Air Ambulance. Since FoT started supporting these events by buying the cakes, £2,596.70 has been raised for charities.
Gracedieu Park Cricket Club – are presently renovating the outside of their pavilion and doors in the closed season.
Gracedieu Manor Park – are offering their heated marquee for Christmas parties from 17 November until 19 December. Staffed bar, with bar and drinks packages, and Christmas buffets available, plus DJ, dancing and entertainment options for up to 100 guests until midnight. More details from their website or hello@gracedieumanorpark.co.uk
Next meeting – we are changing the date and time of the next meeting because of firework night. Our next meeting will be on 12th as a one off and start at 7.15pm rather than 7pm. Trust this is OK with everybody.

Chair's report
Promotion – We have **721** twitter followers which is one more than last month and **3,139** facebook followers which is 36 more than last month. Nita sent a history article for April 2027 to Community Voice based on the life of Bob Maloney mentioned in the last bulletin. She also supplied an article on the 1921 Miners Strike for May 2027, and submitted the November Bauble.
Other: In one day (10 Sept) reported 3 lots of fly tipping on Melrose Rd estate. This included nitrous oxide cannisters left on the Melrose football field along with a very large metal chair.
Completed a Duke of Edinburgh assessors report for one of our junior litter pickers.
Nita nominated Janet Stevenson for the Furnley House 2026 volunteer of the year award, and she has made the finals. We wish her well at the awards event in Leicester in November.

What's On

- 9 Oct – **Greenhouse Coffee Shop** – Pizza and pudding night. 7pm-9pm. Pizzas are margherita, pepperoni or bandiera and puddings are tiramisu or cookie dough cheesecake. £19.95 per person. Pre-book on 587150.
- 9 Oct – **Thringstone Members Club** – 7pm. Bryan and Friends plus Thringstone Soul Club Charity night for **Rainbows and LOROS**. Tickets £5. There will also be a raffle.
- 10 Oct – **Thringstone Members Club** – Music and laughter with Trace and Bryan. Tickets £5. Starts at 7.30pm.
- 16 Oct – **Tom The Tale Teller at Cinder Hill Farm**, 6.30pm – 8.30pm. **Halloween stories** at their finest. £7.50pp (booking essential) - message Carol 07960 014981, email minimoonie70@sky.com or facebook message Cinder Hill Farm.
- 31 Oct – Charles Booth Centre – **Halloween fun day** 10.30-12.30pm – free entry
- 4 Nov – **Thringstone Members Club** -11am – 1pm. TV's Charles Hanson, auctioneer, to value your goods.
- 6 Nov – **Thringstone Members Club** – bonfire and fireworks. Fireworks will last about 15 minutes.
- 8 Nov – **Thringstone Members Club** – Remembrance ball with big band. Free entry. Afternoon tea. Starts at 2pm.

- 15 Nov – **Gracedieu Manor Park** Christmas Fayre- 11am – 4pm. .£3 per person. £5 to meet Santa.
- 27 Nov – **Charles Booth Centre** – Christmas Concert with Gresley Male Voice Choir. 7pm. Tickets £12 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre
- 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.
- 5 Dec – **Gracedieu Manor Park** – 80s disco 7pm – midnight. £49.95 to include buffet. Book hello@gracedieumanorpark.co.uk
- 6 Dec – **Carols at Gracedieu Priory** at 3pm. Parking to be advised.

Financial Report

Please note: Only £150 of the previously approved £180 was given to the people who organise the coffee morning to buy cakes, as that should cover their requirements.

.**Gen Fund held 1st of month** (bank + petty cash + float)	**2425.59**		
Income		**Expenditure**	
Publications	15.71	Broadband	£20.00
Raffle at HH	132.00	Insurance	£7.89
Cakes etc. at HH	149.00	Donation for cakes for charity	£150.00
	£296.71	New email and technical help	£68.60
Total income received		**Total**	**2475.81**

Incident reports

- 16 September – Police have issued warnings of **roofing/guttering scammers** on facebook suggesting that there is a plague of this sort of thing going on at the moment. One such group of young men tried to do work to clear some gutters without the proper equipment and were then exceptionally rude when asked to stop. If this happens to you, please tell the police.
- PSCO Abigail Carter-Kyd leaves the Bardon team of which we are a part on 8 October. If anybody with email wants to contact a PCSO direct, the people to contact are Connor Mitchell and Ed Fowkes so that is connor.mitchell@leics.police.uk and edward.fowkes@leics.police.uk
- 29 Sept – car window smashed on Lbro Rd.

History report

- Nita put a post out on facebook relating to **Renee Kirby** and a photo we had of her in her later years. She lived in a ramshackle bungalow with no water or electricity on the A512 which was demolished eventually. Many posted how they used to see her push her pram in the village, how she was looked after by Austin Sykes and his family and Alan Lucas, who used to give her chocolate, and how she used to go up to Lucas Mart to get sticks for her fire. She also used to sit in a garden on Gracedieu Road and talk to cats. People remember the large picture of the last supper in her lounge, her smelling of woodsmoke, and the amount of old newspapers she had. They also said that she either took to you or she didn't, and if she didn't speak to you once, she probably never would. One lady's grandfather said Renee was the prettiest girl in the village in her youth, which we've heard before. Those to whom she spoke found her kindly and softly spoken. A member of the Chamberlain family said he remembers her going into Chamberlain's shop near the Fox all the time after her father died, prior to which she hardly ever went out. They also recalled her interest in the Royal family and knowledge of the history of the Royals. When visiting her you sat on a bale of

straw, and there were pictures of cats round the wall cut from boxes of Go Kat. Another person said they used to call Ted Chamberlain 'Ted The Bread' and remember him having a little notebook with everybody's purchases in it for them to settle up either at the end of the week or when they got paid, whichever came first. Ted's daughter Lynne said that he used to always serve the children first in a morning so that they got to school on time, believing that mothers in the shop, who mostly didn't work could wait. Renee used to buy piles of firelighters. These posts on social media bring forth such a lot of information all the time for which we are most grateful.

- Nita has been researching **Aubrey Joseph Lees** born 17 May 1926 and his family. Aubrey was the son of Frank Lees who played football for Thringstone House around the time of WW1. Frank's brother Thomas also played – see Oct 1917 below. Frank Lees and his wife Sarah Ann nee Hill (known as Sally) had two sons, Thomas Walter born 11 Jan 1921 and Aubrey. Their first born son, also called Frank, was born in August 1917 and died in March 1919 being buried at St Andrew's. They married at St Andrew's on 7 April 1917 at which time Frank was living in Margaret Street, Coalville, and Sarah at 43 Talbot Street, Whitwick. Sarah was born in Griffydam, and there is no father's name on her banns record, indicating she was illegitimate. The 1911 census shows her at 43 Talbot Street with the Fred and Eliza Adams and family, and for relationship to the head of the family it says 'taken to'. She was not Eliza's child as she had been a Griffin prior to marriage. Frank Lees was a miner. People remember that Sally kept a sweetshop in the front room of their home on Talbot Street, Whitwick. The family stayed in Whitwick moving from the family home at 43 Talbot Street in the case of Aubrey to 108 in the fullness of time. Aubrey played football for both Thringstone House FC and Thringstone Imps, as did his brother Tommy who seems to have had to miss matches through work commitments, as in the case in the match at Nailstone in Nov 1946. Aubrey scored 71 goals for Thringstone Imps in 1946 season and then was offered a place with the Whitwick Colliery team which boasted Don Sanderson, a former City player, in its ranks. Aubrey worked for East Midlands Housing at one time, and was a bricklayer. He was musical and played the piano and accordion at events, teaching others to play who showed an interest. Brother Tommy Lees, another bricklayer, played at centre half, and with his wife Sophie kept the Rag and Mop (Man Within Compass) from 1960 until 1978 having moved from George Street, Whitwick. He died in 1999. Aubrey married Nellie Gee in 1952 and died on 25 April 2015. He had lived at 108 Talbot Street, Whitwick. We have a photo of the 1946 Thringstone Imps team with Aubrey on it, as well as many others. This was posted to our facebook page.
- **Oct 1917** – Even though the country was at war, **Thringstone House** were playing football against Stablefords in Coalville. In the first 20 minutes Sykes, Tommy Lees and Swain put in some good work with Lees obtaining a goal. George Croson scored in the second half and the result was 2-1 to Thringstone House. As stated above Tommy Lees had a brother called Frank, who also played for Thringstone House around this time, as we have a photo of them. Frank in turn had a sons called Aubrey and Tommy who both played football for Thringstone House in the 1940s as well as Thringstone Imps – see above. Obviously talent for football ran in the family.
- **Jan 1918** – **Thringstone House** Football Club were playing against Coleorton in the Coalville Ball Competition. Tommy Lees and A Sykes were scorers for Thringstone, but the Coleorton players disputed the goal from Sykes which was scored in the last 3 minutes and left the pitch. In another match against Loughborough Empress Athletic in the same month, Stewart, Moore and Lees scored for Thringstone with the result being 3 – 0. Thringstone House first team had not lost at home and only one match away that season. The same week, the 2nd team lost 2-1 at Griffydam. A match in March 1918 saw good play from Frank Lees, A Swain and A Sykes. A Swain might have been Aaron Swain, who later called himself Wardle, of Swannington.
- **Nov 1919** – The **Thringstone House** team seems to have included Bob Maloney, Sykes, Frank Lees, Hawkins, Toone, Gough, M Turner and Freeman. Hawkins could have been John Hawkins who had a small holding on Anchor Lane, Pegg's Green. Thringstone House Junior team for the

same year included Bernard Newell from Talbot Street and Ernest Waldrum from Main Street. We have a photo of the 1916 Thringstone House Juvenile team.

- **Oct 1918** – Footballers from across the region were in sympathy for **Mr and Mrs W Sykes** of Co-operative Cottages, Thringstone, on the loss of their son Wilfred aged 22. Reported missing on 26 Sept 1917, he was now presumed dead. The Sykes family had for years been connected to local football, and Wilfred and his brothers Austin, Arthur and John William played for Thringstone House club, and one of the brothers was also secretary of the club.
- **Oct 1919** – **Thringstone House FC Reserves** were involved in an accident en route to Oakthorpe for a Coalville League game. Their brake was being pulled by a mule, which ran it into a ditch when going down a hill. The brake overturned injuring some of the players who required medical attention. The journey was resumed but Thringstone lost 10 – 0. The match report said that the accident was a pity as 'Thringstone team are nice lads'.
- **Sept 1921** – **Thringstone House FC** beat Ibstock St Denys 7-0 and proved to be a very good side. The report said that they used to run a good team in the Coalville and District League but dropped out from this and in the previous season were in no league at all, playing only friendly matches. Reporters suggested that they ought to consider joining the Sunday School's League if nothing else. They were said to have everything they could wish for in Thringstone with a splendid village facility and club provided by Charles Booth and 'every facility that a body of young men could wish for. If any village ought to have a good football team, it is Thringstone, and it looks by the way they started on Saturday that the youth of the village mean to come up to this ideal'.
- **Jan 1925** – Playing at their Charnwood Ground on The Warren, **Thringstone House** entertained Measham, where prominent in the home side were Findell, Hall, Stinson, Frank Lees and George Croson who lived on St George's Hill on the Swannington/Coleorton border. Findell was probably Wilfred who lived on Brook Terrace. We have a photo of him together with Edward, Harold and Edwin Hicken and their respective wives. He married on 18 May 1929 at Holy Cross to Norah Mulrooney and had one daughter, Sheila, born on 27 Nov 1929 and a son called Peter William Henry Martin Edward born 13 Sept 1938. Wilfred Findell was killed on 10 Jan 1940 at Ellistown Colliery. He died of shock after a fall of coal at the pit aged only 32. At that time, he was living at 4 City of Dan. We have a copy of his death certificate and also his funeral card.
- **April 1926** – **Thomas Isaac Fox** was killed at New Lount Colliery when an item fell on him as he was working as an on-setter near the bottom of the mine shaft and fractured his skull. He was 23 years of age and one of 4 sons and a daughter of Edward Fox of The Culvert, Swannington. At the inquest, it was said that Thomas would have died more or less instantaneously. The inquest was also told that Thomas was the centre half for **Thringstone House FC.** A forthcoming match between Bardon Hill and Thringstone House was cancelled as a mark of respect. Many of his football colleagues attended his burial at St George's in Swannington.
- **Oct 1927** – **Thringstone Athletic Reserves** played a football match against Shepshed Imperial, which Thringstone won 3-2 at home despite deplorable weather conditions. Scorers for Thringstone were W Wardle, Whyman and A Underwood. The main Thringstone Athletic team played in the Loughborough League and in November 1927 played at Loughborough with a team which included Smith, Orton, Hoult, H Twigger, Neal (in goal), Wyatt and Lowe. They won 4-2. They were unbeaten until Feb 1928 when they met their waterloo against Mountsorrel and were thrashed 5 -0. People there at the time felt that the result did not reflect the game, as the pitch was 'heavy' and the home team adapted more readily to the conditions. J Bradford and Barlow were the best of the

Thringstone side. Thringstone Athletic had an affiliation with the George and Dragon and had all their meetings there. Their treasurer was P Rossell, and Henry Robinson was Hon. Sec.

- **Dec 1929** – **Thringstone House FC** protested to the Coalville League about a player, Cyril Cufflin, who had played against them in a match and they felt was not eligible to play, but their protest was not accepted. **Mr Cecil Burbank** of 24 John Street, secretary of Thringstone House FC, had written a letter about this to the chair of the Coalville Charity Cup. Cecil was a coal miner at Whitwick Colliery. He was born on 21 Dec 1879 and died in 1965. He married Ethel Annie Hopkinson on 2 Sept 1905 at St Andrew's. He had children Joseph William and Hilda.
- **Nov 1935 - R Peace,** captain of Thringstone House FC and **Len Munday** another star player were unfortunately required to work on Saturday afternoons, thus hampering the side being fielded for matches. We think that R Peace is really Percy Peace of Fox Terrace, and this was a mistype in the newspaper article. **Len Munday** also lived on Fox Terrace, in fact next to the Peace family.
- **Nov 1945 – Thringstone Imps Juniors** played against Hathern and won 4-3 with Thringstone scorers being Len White of Talbot Street, R Moore and George Collis Jnr of 60 Lbro Rd.
- **April 1946** – **Thringstone Imps** beat Loughborough Emmanuel with scorers being Len White, Leo Concannon and Danny Gallacher. We are told that Thringstone Imps was formed for the benefit of servicemen returning from overseas. We have several photos of the 1940s Imps team, including the 1946 team. In 1946, Thringstone Imps won the Loughborough Cobbin Cup against Kegworth 11-0.
- **July 1946** – The annual meeting of **Thringstone Imps** took place at The Fox. James W Mitchison of 46 Loughborough Road presided with Hon Sec Henry V Robinson speaking of the humble beginning of the club. Officers elected were President Alan Price, Chairman James W Mitchison, Secretary Henry V Robinson and Treasurer George Croson.
- **Jan 1947** – **Thringstone Imps** beat Belton 3-0 with a team which included A Gee, Humphries, Danny Gallacher and Aubrey Lees. The full team for a later match the same month was Jack Tugby in goal, A Abbott, W Parker, Len White, D Furgusson, A Richards, K Robinson, Len Slattery (of Talbot Street), J Lycett, Tommy Lees, Aubrey Lees, Danny Gallacher captain, A Gee, R Anderson.
- **April 1948** – **Thringstone Imps** completed the double by beating Loughborough Brush Reserves in the final of the Cobbin Cup at Browns Lane, having already won the title of Loughborough Alliance Champions North Section. 200 people from Thringstone travelled to Loughborough to see the Cobbin match with a total audience of 1500. Lees and inside right Munday were hard to hold and Parker and Sutton narrowly missed scoring. Abbott and Humphries played well but the match was sealed by a goal from outside left Gee in last 5 minutes. Final score 3-1. .
- **Nov 1946-52 – Thringstone Imps FC** team included Reg Abbott, Allan, A Lees, Danny Gallacher and Jack Tugby. Thomas Lees should have been in the team against Nailstone but had to work. The team was a top contender in the Loughborough league in 1946/7 and 1948/9, winning their league in 1945/6 and the northern half of the league, as stated above, in 1947/8. We know that they played Hathern in Sept 1949 winning 6 – 2 and again won the Cobbin trophy that season and that in 1950 Thringstone Imps played Thringstone House. They were up against it in October and November 1952 when they withdrew from the Loughborough Alliance League because of outstanding debts. All their players had been suspended as they had not cleared outstanding fines imposed by the Leicestershire and Rutland FA who required that each one pay one tenth of the monies outstanding. Their ground was closed and they were not allowed to play there until at least 1953 and not play within 3 miles of Thringstone. We discussed this in greater detail back in July.

Date of next meeting – 12 November at 7.15pm.