



The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR DECEMBER 2024

Monthly litter pick total – 112 bags removed by 5 people against 123 bags by 7 people for November 2023.

Meeting 5 Dec - 6 apologies, 6 present.

Reprinting publications – This was deferred at the last meeting because of low numbers to discuss the issue. We originally agreed to have 10 copies of all our publications. We are down to 4 Village Trail 2, 1 Born and Bred 1, 3 Memories 1 and 7 Durham miners, a situation of which we have been aware for some time, but there have been problems finding a printer for short print runs. We have the village trail booklets on computer and also the Durham Miners so these can be reprinted more easily, but do not have the others in a digital form. We have been quoted £35 an hour plus VAT to digitise these and then get them reprinted, which means having a short supply printed off will cost more than the sales value. That said the Leicestershire Archaeology and Public Heritage fund does offer grants for groups who wish to get historical literature printed and also for the digitisation process. Do we stick with having 10 of everything or let some of our publications go out of print? For information in the last 2 years, we have sold 5 copies of Village Trail 2, 1 Born and Bred 1, 2 Memories 1 and 3 Durham Miners. It was suggested that Nita enquire how many pages can be digitised in an hour, but generally people were in favour of a reprint.

Recycling – We have been in touch with NWLDC about recycling and understand that they don't recycle cans, bottles and glass from street litter bins because a survey they commissioned suggested these might be compromised by being in contact with other waste, including dog fouling. However, there are plans to introduce a national deposit return scheme for plastic and metal drinks containers. It's hoped this will reduce the amount on waste 'on the go' and also help reduce littering. There's information about it here – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/deposit-return-scheme-for-drinks-containers-policy-statements/deposit-return-scheme-for-drinks-containers-joint-policy-statement> The current government are still intending to introduce the scheme. It's not been confirmed when, but hopefully by 2027.

Arriva bus news – with effect from 6 January, there will be a new route 12 bus which will run hourly, Monday to Friday, between Whitwick and Memorial Square, Coalville. It will stop at City of 3 Waters, King Richard's Hill and Whitwick Market Place. Unfortunately, the bus will not take people from Thringstone to the doctors. Well done to all those who have campaigned long and hard for this, including Jackie McNeice.

Gracedieu Woods – Following on from our last bulletin, we understand that the boardwalk was repaired on 7 November.

Bull's Head – The venue is collecting for the homeless in the run up to Christmas, anytime that the venue is open up to 20 December. They are looking for warm clothes (coats, scarves, gloves, hats), non-perishable food items, toiletries and essentials and blankets. Every donation helps provide comfort and hope to the homeless.

Charles Booth event 15 November – Thanks to everybody who came to support the event and to those who helped on the night. It was yet again a full house, even though some people failed to come, as we got people just turning up on the night and others were on a reserve list and contacted. We have received a lot of praise from people about the event in person, by telephone and email, including Ann's state of the art displays, and hope that it also generates more interest in the centre



going forward. We got quite a lot in donations again and people were very generous with their comments on the night. A small percentage of people were disappointed that we did not have teas and coffees available like we did with Sarah Wise's talk in the summer, but we decided that a bigger display was the way forward, as having teas and coffees for sale in the room took up a lot of space for little overall interest. Some books were sold and we attracted 9 new members (as detailed below). Wendy Freer filmed Nita's talk and posted this on YouTube for people to view from there. This is the link: <https://youtu.be/B3RdqThCbFw?si=HMmtWJZKnHAiqPcA> Nita has had some calls and emails from members who have viewed this, so give it a go if you have an hour to spare. Nita sent out various press releases, and the one in the Coalville Times was printed on 22 November and will be in Community Voice in January. She also sent the YouTube link to Sarah Wise who gave the talk in July on Charles's work on poverty etc.

VE Day event 2025 – We are working with the panto society on a joint event and fundraiser on 10 May 2025 to commemorate VE day. This will be at the centre during the afternoon. More details nearer the time.

Miners Social Centre – is advertising for volunteers to help with odd jobs, gardening and general maintenance. Please contact Adam on 07920 015331

David Taylor's memorial plaque – This was found on the grass on The Green, the stake on which it was housed having been at an angle for some time. Nita asked a local councillor to collect it, which he has. He will try to get a new post for the plaque, clean up the brass, and then put it back in due course.

Remembrance day poppies – Following discussions with people in the village unhappy about the fact that there were so few poppies on lamp posts again this year (centre put up the ones on The Green), we emailed our membership and put out a facebook post about this for views. Nicola Burbidge Mullen, who is the Poppy Appeal co-ordinator for Whitwick, Coalville and District said that she can supply poppies for a small donation. Cathy Irving, from Thringstone Scouts, said they would like to be involved in anything for next year, as did scout leader Joe Smith, so Nita has been in touch with them to see what can be arranged as most of our volunteers would be unable to go up and down ladders putting up any poppies. Nicola said she can get a group of ex-service volunteers to help too. We have also had a suggestion for a cascade of poppies to go outside the centre, and are talking to them about that with the lead on this being through Sarah and Thringstone Creates. Several people have said they will work on this with us. It has also been suggested that the centre consider getting a Union Jack for their flagpole. The trustees at the centre are considering whether they would be amenable to having a net of poppies at the front of the centre.

Co-op - Thringstone Co-op will have 2 self-service tills at the far end of the till area from January. They hope that this will speed up transactions.

Centre - £179 was raised for the Poppy Appeal at the charity coffee morning on 8 November. Thanks to all who came and supported this.

The Santa Fun Run on 1 December attracted about 30 runners despite the rain, and it was nice to see people dressing up accordingly.

Gracedieu Priory carol concert – Many thanks from the organisers to everybody who came along to support the event and to those who helped. £345.51 was taken after costs.

Decorations – As you will see from the financial report, we have bought external lighting for the centre for the Christmas period. Nita also donated 2 large bags of Christmas tree decorations.

Bob's Closs Update from People Zone – Hollie from the National Forest Trust gave an update on the community orchard project at a recent meeting. The recent grass survey to update the one taken in 2008 has highlighted the closs as a local wildlife site, and doesn't recommend planting trees at this time. This does not surprise many of us in our village given what was put in the 2008 report. A further meeting with the Wildlife Trust at the end of November was due to take place to further understand recommendations on how the land could be used and the existing trees managed by the local community, but we have no knowledge of these discussions. An option is to create some planters for community use, and perhaps some pathways to support grassland protection, which was something considered way before the centre changed its name, and these projects can be supported

by the Community Payback scheme in 2025. It is very unlikely that tree planting will take place in 2024 but the National Forest Trust are open to identifying other sites for a community woodland, probably in Whitwick. Nita said she was sorry that the Probation Service were not now going to work in the class, as they have also agreed to deal with the overgrowth down Drury Lane. Other options were put forward to keep the weeds down.

Sonia Demetriou – We were very sorry to learn of the death of Sonia from Ruby’s on 26 November, and have sent our condolences. Sonia and Michael have been part of the village since 1977 and have always played a big part in community life.

Chairs Report

Emails received/sent: Usual exchanges of information. Various fly tipping reported, as usual.

Promotion: We have **753 X followers**, which is 3 less than last month, and **2,237 facebook followers**, which is 16 more than last month.

Other: Welcome to our new members – Jane Harris, Sue Haynes, John and Gail Perry, Di Lackenby, Pam Nutting, Christine Hollis, Amanda Berry, Ian Croson, Helen Thompson and Christine Stacey.

What’s On

Please be aware that this is not an exhaustive list. Some classes and group meetings take place on a weekly or monthly basis at various venues and are not listed here. Remember there is always a coffee morning at the centre on Wednesday mornings.

- 6 Dec – **Gracedieu Manor** Christmas Fete – 4pm.
- 7 Dec – **Charles Booth Centre** – Kiddies Christmas Party 6.30pm – 9.30pm.
- 7 Dec – **Thringstone Members Club** – Christmas market 11am – 3pm
- 8 Dec – **Thringstone Members Club** – kids parties 3.30pm-4.45pm and 4.45pm-5.45pm. 35 tickets available to each session £2 per ticket from the club.
- 8 Dec – **Woodstock in Whitwick’s Winter Wonderland** – Black Horse, Whitwick from 2.30pm. Music, mulled wine, mince pies and ‘the real Santa’.
- 13 Dec – **Charity coffee morning** at the centre in aid of Rainbows 10am – 12 noon. All welcome.
- **13 Dec – Carols at the centre with procession from St Andrew’s church at 6.30pm to go to the centre to sing outside and then go inside for entertainment at 7pm. All welcome. Dogs on leads are welcome to come to sing outside.**
- 14 Dec – **Thringstone Members Club** – Christmas Quiz. Starts at 7.30pm. £2 per person
- 24 Dec – **Thringstone Members Club** – Christmas Eve disco 3pm-5pm.
- 24 Dec – **Thringstone Members Club** – Christmas Eve party 8pm. Tickets £10 to include buffet and live music.
- 24 Dec – **St Andrew’s** – Midnight Mass Service at 11.15pm
- 26 Dec – **Thringstone Members Club** – Kids disco 12pm – 3.30pm.
- 22-25 Jan – **Charles Booth Centre** – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society’s 50th anniversary production of Aladdin. Ring 0333 666 3366 to book.

Financial

.Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	3261.29		
Income		Expenditure	
Publications	£27	Broadband	£20.00
Donations	£139.98	Insurance	£15.70
New memberships	£44	Lights for centre for Xmas	£160.76
		Room hire at centre	£60



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total income to general fund	210.98		256.46
		Total general fund at month end	3215.81

Web report

The webmaster continues to work on updates with all the bulletins now on the site to November 2024

Incident Report

- 6 Nov – Police shut down a cannabis grower in Whitwick thanks to local intel.
- 10 Nov – man taken away by police following incident on Main Street.
- 11 Nov - beat surgery at Thringstone Co-op from 6pm-7pm, although Nita didn't know about this until after it had closed. The email to her was sent at 4.15pm on that day, and Nita was out. Further beat surgery advised on 13th November as taking place on 15th at Charles Booth Centre between 10am and 11am.
- 20 Nov – Gentleman collapsed and died on The Green which involved a lot of emergency vehicles being deployed.
- 25 Nov – 2 cars parked on opposite sides of the road on the corner of John Street and Lbro Road were given parking tickets because they were both parked on the pavement and were also severely hindering access to John Street.
- 26 Nov – Nita reported to a local councillor that the plaque to David Taylor had been uprooted from the grass area near the benches on The Green, and asked that this be put back in place so as to avoid it disappearing altogether. It was taken away to be repaired and cleaned.

History Report

- Nita has been talking with 2 members of the Darker family, both in person and by facebook postings. Their family members were killed on 28 November 1908 in a car accident on what is now the A512 near Blackbrook Farm when a car driven by Charles Booth Jnr. hit their pony and trap on a bend where visibility for both parties was poor. **Jack and Emma Darker**, who had moved 6 weeks earlier to Margaret Street, Coalville from Stanton Under Bardon with a view to opening a grocery shop, were killed along with their pony. Two of their sons (Lewin and Breedon) who were travelling in the cart were also thrown out, Breedon receiving a bad cut to his leg. 8 children were left orphaned. The driver of the car, Charles Booth Jnr, and his front seat passenger, Stephen Martin of Charley Hall, received cuts to their faces and hands. There is quite a lot of information in newspaper articles about the incident, and one of these said that Charles Booth Snr. intended to ensure that the orphans were helped. If anybody wants further information, please contact Nita direct.
- We have previously recorded in our bulletins **details of foot races** taking place in Thringstone in the 1840s and 1850s and now find, from a national sports magazine called Bells Sporting Chronicle, that there were other Thringstone people involved in races. In April 1849, John Johnson of Swadlincote was challenged by **John Gilbert** of Thringstone to a race of 100 yards for £5 a side, to take place a month from the first deposit. It is no surprise that the money was held at the Rose and Crown, as this always seemed to be the place where the money was held, as previously mentioned in bulletins of the past. In September 1849 it was announced that a **hurdle race** of 400 yards would be run at the Rose and Crown. This would be in heats and men would be handicapped according to their performances. The winner would receive £2, 2nd 10 shillings and entrance was 2 shillings each. We have not come across a hurdle race before. A 140 yard race in



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heats would be run after the hurdle race. The winner would receive £1, the 2nd 5 shillings and entrance would be a shilling. The hurdle race would start at 2pm. In October 1849, **Edward Watson**, alias Lawyer, said that he would run the following people for 140 yards – Smee of Leicester, John Mills of Newhall, Hill of Ashby or Bodycoat of Leicester if he would give 2 yards start for £10 or £15 a side. Money again at the Rose and Crown. The run should take place half ways between either person's home. In January 1850 the same Edward Watson of Thringstone said he would run 120 yards for between £1 and £10 against Ducky of Castle Donington, Jarvis Kilbourne of Heanor, John Bell of Newhall, Milner Potts or David Davis of Derby or any man within 10 miles of Thringstone. Again the money was ready at the Rose and Crown. In a separate article, Edward said he would run Yardley of Wooden Box 140 yards for £10 a side, with money at the Rose and Crown. Watson said he would give Yardley 5 shillings to come to Thringstone or would take 5 shillings to go to Wooden Box. We have no idea where Wooden Box was. In February 1859, George Holt of Whitwick said he would run Cook of Melbourne, Rennocks of Osgathorpe or **Henson of Thringstone** 200 yards or Thurman of Sheepshed or Puddin of Loughborough 440 yards for £5 a side in 1 month from signing to race. The contact this time was George Holt at the Crown and Cushion in Whitwick. At this date, the Crown and Cushion was a beer house, not a public house (i.e. it only sold beer).

- **May 1861 – Edward Watson**, as above, known to family as Ned, 36 year old framework knitter of Thringstone was found guilty of stealing a fowl and 5 eggs valued at 2 shillings and 4 pence (now the equivalent of £14) from farmer William Kidger of Thringstone, along with a man called Richard Boot. They were also charged with having stolen 2 fowls and a quarter of beans, total value 4 shilling and 6 pence, the property of Thomas Gilbert of Osgathorpe. Mr Kidger's fowl had been killed, its head, wings and feathers left behind. It was not his first offence, as he had been fined £1 plus costs previously in 1847 for poaching. Boot managed to get the money together for bail, but Edward Watson, who it was said by his parents was of low mood for some time before his committal, had failed and was sent to prison awaiting trial. He committed suicide and was found in Leicester gaol by a warder who had gone to give him breakfast. He was hanging by his neckerchief from the handle of his cell ventilator, was cut down but was unable to be revived. The inquest carried out gave a verdict of temporary insanity. It is not clear whether this is the same Edward Watson as that mentioned above. Boot was subsequently sent to prison for 2 months' hard labour and it was said that, as a younger man, he had been led astray by Watson.
- **1860** – Between at least 1860 and 1880 newspapers carried many a story about poaching in the area, and many of these stories include nicknames. Most of the poachers were well known to the police and local game keepers. These poachers were also known to each other, and sometimes were grouped together especially in 1862 when six men were known as 'a notorious gang of 6 poachers.' In 1862, the 6 notorious poachers, William White, Thomas Kirby, Henry Pemberton, Bates, George Platts and John Williamson were found with 22 rabbits, 1 hare, bags netting and dogs in Coleorton and taken to court. **William White**, a carpenter in the pits who lived on Whitwick Moor, was known as Cuckoo and was also called The King Of The Poachers. He often went out poaching with his brother Thomas. Brothers **Thomas and George Kirby** lived 'Forest Side' in Whitwick and also often accompanied White in his poaching activities. George was known as Diddle. Then we have **William Edwards** who was known as Dit Dot. He lived in Thringstone but in an area now part of Swannington. Not only did he get involved in poaching, but also in cock fighting, and in 1866 there was a very long story about how his cockfighting session in the area of The Engine in Swannington was brought to a close by local police. Other local poachers were **John Williamson** from City of Dan, Leicester Road in Whitwick, known as Jippy, **Henry Pemberton** known as Slenderman and lived on Whitwick Moor, **George Platts** from Peggs Green known as Durgin and **William Jayes** from Castle Street, Whitwick, known as Touch who received a 6 months sentence in 1860 for poaching with William White. Henry Pemberton had several



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sentences for poaching, including in 1861 when he attacked a policeman who tried to apprehend him and was sentenced to 3 months hard labour. Many of these men were married with large families, and went to prison for a minimum of 2 months for their poaching activities after the 1862 New Game Laws came into force. Occasionally they paid the £2 fine as was the case with Dit Dot in 1862. William White was, it is said, the first local man to go to prison under the new laws, and when he came out, he often went straight back in. He is mentioned in newspaper reports for at least 20 years, and in 1860, received a 9 month sentence with hard labour for poaching and assaulting a game keeper, but was still in the papers for his poaching activities in 1880. Other names we have come across involved in poaching include Whitwick men **John Freer** who was known as Crabby, **John Smith** who was known as Gutta Percha (which was a form of whip) and **Thomas Price** who was known as Glummy and lived in Swannington. We have previously discussed other people with nicknames, which may now be a thing of the past, unless you know otherwise. The only one we are currently aware of belongs to Cob (John Kirby of Booth Road).

- **Henry Pemberton** was also involved in a **riot on 20 October 1861** in Whitwick, where it is said that a large number of people assembled for the purpose of disturbing the peace. This was due to issues between local miners and 'the Irish' which seemed to happen on a fortnightly basis.. On 19th October, when the miners had been paid, Pemberton and others had been in the Waggon and Horses causing trouble with the Irish people in there between 10pm and 11.30pm, and the police had been involved when a series of fights broke out. The Waggon and Horses was on the corner of Church Lane and was closed and demolished in 1986. 200 people had gathered on that night and stones were thrown and windows and doors smashed. Sargeant Peberdy, on his first night on duty, was hit by an Irish woman called Mary Merriman with a stone on the cheek causing a huge wound and a loss of blood. He said his cheek was cut through to the bone. (Mary subsequently went to trial over this and because she couldn't pay the fine of 30 shillings, went to prison for a month). The landlady of the pub, Mrs Charlotte Pickering, said that the fault had been with the English and it was a problem over nationalities. Sargeant Peberdy said that, had he tried to stop the riot that ensued, he feared he would have been killed. The following day, groups were formed and there was fear of an escalation. At about 2.30pm, the police went into the Kings Arms in Silver Street, Whitwick and suggested that the English people might like to go home to avoid problems. People were driven towards what was then called Irish Yard next to the church yard of St John's where many of the Irish men had lodgings. Eventually the street was cleared by other police officers and parish constables (who were not the police) coming to the aid of Sargeant Peberdy which included PC Thomas Challoner. Along with Pemberton at the riot on 20 October were Thomas Cooper, Thomas Price and John Smith mentioned above as poachers and all 4 men were sent to trial, which resulted in them being bound over to keep the peace for 6 months. Henry Pemberton was the only one not to be given bail after the initial hearing and before the court case. By 1871, he had married his housekeeper, and moved to Burntwood in Staffordshire where he was running a beerhouse. He died in 1879.
- **May 1920** – Coalville magistrates were amused by a case brought by local miner **Charles Yearby** who said that the occupant of his house, a Mr White, had said that if Yearby came anywhere near his house, he would take a gun and, as Nelson was said to have shouted, bring him out of the rigging. The case was dismissed.

Next meeting 9 Jan at Charles Booth Centre in the house lounge at 7pm . Please note change from normal date.