



The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR JANUARY 2025

Monthly litter pick total – 101 bags removed by **6 people** against **144 bags** for December 2023.

Nest meeting on 9 Jan will be a planning meeting for 2025. See below.

Coalville Public Radio – Nita has been in touch with David Hyde who is the station manager for this new local radio facility. He would be happy to put on air details of anything we are doing going forward and may in the fullness of time be able to offer outside broadcast facilities. This information has been shared with the centre and Friends of Gracedieu Priory.

Whitwick St John's - A recent newsletter said that work has started on the outside walls of the church to repair and replace stonework on various areas including the tower. This is due to be finished later in December. The church has funds available to do the work, but are also applying for grants from a number of organisations. If received, details will be published. The total cost of the work including fees and VAT totals £30,443. A donation of £200 was received from Midland Quarry Products.

Sonia Demetriou – Ruby's want to thank everybody who turned up to the shop to pay their respects on the day of the funeral, which literally stopped the traffic. People clapped whilst the funeral cortege went up the road. There were well over 100 people outside the shop and many people also attended the burial at St Andrew's. It was wonderful of Andy and the family at such a time to think of putting sandwiches outside the shop for anybody who wanted them and to give those at the graveside roses to throw into the grave, and to give out packages afterwards. £7,500 was raised from donations for the LRI to give to patients undergoing cancer treatment. This was given personally to patients on by the family on a visit there. Many thanks to everybody who donated.

Carols Round The Tree – Friends of Thringstone started this event with St Andrew's in 2008, and apart from 2017 when it was called off because of ice and snow and 2020 when it didn't take place because of covid, it has taken place every year. Thanks to the 40 plus people who turned out for the event this year, and to those who then went into the centre for a drink and to listen to the U3A choir. Whilst numbers turning out are not as high as they used to be, we feel it is still a worthwhile event for the Christmas social calendar.

Civil Society Covenant Framework – The government, through the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, have set up a new framework to work with groups like ours. This includes their 4 draft principles. The email sent suggested their attached survey is an important and valuable opportunity to shape the final version of the Covenant Framework, and ensure this helps to support and create a more sustainable and effective VCSE sector and relationship with all levels of government. Nita completed the survey and returned this. It is unclear what this might lead to, but we will see.

Amalgamating district and county councils – It has been suggested that the government want to amalgamate councils like ours where there are both types of council in operation. Cllr. Blunt, chair of NWLDC, said Cllr Blunt said: "Local government in Leicestershire works. No single authority is failing. Here at NWLDC, we are a well-run council with a great financial record, and we'll be fighting our corner to make sure we get the best for our residents. We want to make sure local government remains local. Bigger isn't always better, and we think that a population of 500,000 would be way too big to be able to provide good local services to local people, especially in our rural areas. The big drain on council budgets is with social care. Putting this huge, important, and costly service in the same authority as other services that are important to local people – things like street cleaning, anti-



social behaviour, parks, leisure centres – we believe would put these other services at risk as the cost of providing social care increases. We welcome the opportunity for devolution of powers and funding from central government to the regions as a good way to secure investment and stimulate economic growth within our communities, but don't believe that a single unitary for Leicestershire is the answer. It isn't a good solution to the problem and requires significant thought. We're here for the discussion and will shout loudly to encourage the government to listen to the views of local people."

Thringstone Primary - £372.96 was raised for the school at the PTA Christmas Raffle. Many thanks to all who supported this initiative.

Bingo at the centre – The last bingo took place in December. From January the organisers have moved to Thringstone Members Club.

Police Beat Surgery – The next police beat surgery is at Thringstone Co-op at 6pm on 22 Jan.

Fly tipping on de lisle land - On 30 Dec, Nita found a large quantity of empty vegetable oil containers, both in bags and about 20 greasy loose ones, dumped near to the entrance of the Bull's Head car park enough to fill a skip. A smaller amount was found there a week or two earlier, but Nita removed these. Nita reported the latest pile to the de Lisle's as it is private land and the council won't deal with this, and took away about a third of what was there this time herself.

Chairs Report

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

Promotion: We have **742 X followers**, which is 11 less than last month, and **2,235 facebook followers**, which is 2 less than last month.

Other: Nita has been helping Coalville Heritage by researching the photographer **Frederick Wm. Broadhead** who had a studio in Coalville around the turn of the 1900s for about a decade. She found a photo of this man to send to them to add to the text she sent. They had previously no information on this man or his business.

Nita had messages through our CleanUp UK webpage from 4 people asking to **litter pick** with us. Turned out all of them live in Loughborough and only want to litter pick there, so passed on their details to Sam Laywood who operates in that area doing litter picking.

Nita has done another history article for **Community Voice** taking us up to and including June 2025 and written the year-end report as usual.

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.

- 22-25 Jan – **Charles Booth Centre** – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's 50th anniversary production of Aladdin. Ring 0333 666 3366 to book. Charity being supported this year is Bright Hope Hospice.
- 24 Jan – **Thringstone Members Club**. Psychic event starting at 6.30pm. Tickets £25 to include buffet, and table readings with cards/flowers etc. There will be a demonstration of mediumship at the end of the evening. Tickets are available on facebook through Fairywishes.
- 3 Feb – **Thringstone Members Club**. From 3rd Feb every Monday and Friday at 10.30am-11.15am, Bini Boppers, singing, music, dance, play and education for 0 – 4 year olds.

Financial

.Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	3215.81		
Income		Expenditure	
Refund of deposit from centre	£50	Broadband	£20.00



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		Insurance	£15.70
		Computer	£800
total income received	£50	Total expenditure	£835.70
		Month end total	£2450.11

Web report

The webmaster continues to work on further updates.

Incident Report

- 8 Dec - Reports of unidentified people trying to open back gates to houses at 2am on **Melrose Road**
- 8 Dec – three men in a Fiesta stopped to talk to a motor biker who was riding round on the green wedge leading to the **woods** from Springfield around 3pm. Motor biker decided to do wheelies and churn up the grass and when approached by neighbours then did a back wheel spin and shot loads of mud all over the pavement and roadway. People who approached these men were not met with polite conversation. Police informed and number plate of car given. Same thing with the biker spreading mud all over the place on 14 Dec. There is video evidence of these events.
- 18 Dec – reported to police and to **cricket club** that the door to their pavilion was found open at 6.30am. Turned out it hadn't been shut properly by a club member.
- 21 Dec – House on **Talbot Lane** broken into during the night and items taken. Family were away for the night. Access was gained by breaking an upstairs window

History Report

- Nita has been talking through the powers of the internet with Jean MacIntyre, whose grandmother Mary McNaghten was **Charles Booth's eldest grandchild**. Jean is trying to write a book on her grandmother, who spent a lot of time in Germany, was a communist, and was married to a Hungarian sculptor called Ladislaus Peri in Berlin, Germany on 15 Dec 1931. Mary and her sister Bidy are the subject of the book *Flags Over Berlin* which Nita mentioned during her talk at the centre in November. Jean has sent Nita 2 photos of Mary McNaghten taken in 1921 when Mary was 18, and in turn Nita has provided information on when Mary and some of her family came to live at Thringstone House in 1944 after they were back from Berlin and had been evacuated from London. Some of the information Nita has provided was new to Jean. In one of the internet exchanges Jean said 'Bidy was feisty. At my cousin Alison's wedding (Alison Eckersley), when the vicar asked Alison if she would love honour and obey. Bidy shouted out 'male chauvinist pig'. I always think their rebellion had to do with the Gracedieu woods. The freedom that they had to wander the woods made them disinclined to be 'ladies'. She also said that Charles Booth, when ill, started to weigh and record what food he ate so he could tell how much he was eating. Nita's comment at the recent talk about his diet resembling Weight Watchers therefore wasn't too wide of the mark!
- Nita has also been talking to people about the **Drum and Monkey at Gracedieu**, which used to be a tavern at some stage and in later years was somewhere to which people went for afternoon teas. The only reference we can find relating to the tavern is that it is used to exist in the 18th and 19th centuries and the monkey was some sort of gun or cannon. We are told that there was a murder at the property at some stage (date unknown) and after that the tavern was closed. The murder, which was allegedly of a local gamekeeper who was killed with a pitchfork, apparently took place in what later became the lounge in the house, which was a small room. Local legend goes on to say that the murderer was hanged down the lane at the side for the murder, but we can find no details on that. We do know that Maureen and Richard Westgate kept a garage there in the 1970s with his



brother Peter. That lead on to talking about Ernest and Annie Allard nee Bott who lived at **Moylescourt Farm** with their children Bill, John and Christine. We know they had previously farmed near The Gate Inn at Osgathorpe, were at Moylescourt Farm in 1939 and eventually moved to Longcliffe Lodge Farm in Shepshed, where Ernest died in January 1975. He was buried up at Oaks in Charnwood. If anybody has further information about the Drum and Monkey or the Allards, please let Nita know.

- Nita has been talking to the owner of one of the semi-detached houses next to the Chapel Fitness Centre on **Main Street (17 and 19)**. She was told that these two properties were built in 1952 after the previous properties of the same numbers were declared unfit in 1949. Apparently, it would have cost 7 shillings and 6 pence for remedial works to be done which was not considered worthwhile. There is a white mark on the gable end to the Chapel Fitness Centre next to no. 17 and Nita was told that that is where an abattoir was, as the person in no. 17 was a butcher, and kept his animals in the fields at the rear of the property and slaughtered his own beasts, although census information cannot be found at present to confirm this. Both 'new' properties had a back boiler for water heating and coal fires. Nita can presently find nothing in newspaper archives confirming the demolition of properties at this address or the building of newer ones.
- On 31 July 1882, Thringstone man and cordwainer **William Waldram**, who had married Thringstone's Charlotte Gough in 1868 and lived on Brook Terrace, near The Green, saved the life from drowning of James Springthorpe aged 4 who had accidentally fallen into a well of 8 yards depth containing 9' of water as it only had a few boards covering it. He clambered down the sides of the well to get him out and was awarded a bronze medal by the Royal Humane Society in October of that year. We now have a copy of that certificate and medal in our archives along with various other photos from this family line. We don't know where the well was. That has led to us looking at who lived at Holly Dene, Brook Lane. We know that William James Gough Waldram lived there from 1911 until 1926 when he moved to 61 Gracedieu Road, and we know that his sister, Mrs Elizabeth Ann Yearby and her husband Charles lived at Holly Dene from about 1928 until Mrs Yearby's death in 1950 when it passed to the Waterfield family. We also know that William James Gough Waldram lived at Forest View, the blue house on The Green, in 1909, and his father William Waldram (as above) lived there from at least 1921 until 1929 as he is on the electoral registers there. However, William is with the Yearby's on the 1921 census.
- **July 1929** – An inquest into the death of **Sarah Ann Henson**, wife of Jabez Henson of Rose Cottage, Thringstone concluded that she had died from toxicity following a fall 12 months earlier when she fractured a thigh. She was said to have never fully recovered. She was 75 years of age.
- **Aug 1936** – As part of a fete at **Thringstone House Club**, 25 babies were entered into the Thringstone baby contest, with the judges being Dr Prys-Jones and Nurse Deane. There was a great deal of difficulty with the judging with only a few points between all the entrants. Nurse Deane had started working with the Nurses Association in 1935.
- **March 1939** – 9 houses in **John Street** producing a rent of £170 1s 8d were sold to Mr A H Bentham of Ashby for £1210. A further 9 houses in the same street with rents of £162 2s were sold to Mr James Nelson of Forest Road, Coalville for £1080. Mr Nelson also bought an area of land comprising 1620 sq yards adjoining the properties for £79.
- **Aug 1941** – **Thringstone House Club president**, Captain J Richie, grandson of Charles and Mary Booth, was reported as missing earlier in the year, and is now confirmed as dead. He had been buried at Hazebrouck where he died. A letter of sympathy was sent to Mrs Gore-Browne, the new president, who is the daughter of Charles and Mary Booth.



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- **Sept 1953 – Charlie Allen** from 71 Main Street grew onions. He was well known locally for his powers to grow really big vegetables, and often kept watch on his produce coming up to exhibitions and competitions. However, in September 1953 he discovered that two of his most immaculate onions had been torn up in the night. He followed a trail of leaves through the village but could not find the onions. Charlie, known as The Onion King of Thringstone, still took some produce to the Bardon Hill Onion Show at the Birch Tree, Coalville a couple of days later where he won first and second in one class and first in another. He was still upset at having lost the other onions, as he said they were grown to be specimens, not end up in a stewpot, the thought of which he just couldn't bear. 'As pedigree seed onions, I couldn't put a price on the two that went' he said. 'The thought that they might have been cut up and put in a pot brought tears to my eyes'.
- **April 1965 –** When during a production of **Carissima** at the community centre the leading singer's voice, June Anderson, failed half way through the first act, producer Ron Smith realised there was no stand in. A girl in the orchestra who was playing the viola, Rita Bakewell, jumped up and got a microphone and stood in the wings and sang the part, whilst June mimed her part of Guiletta. Ron Smith told the audience what had happened afterwards but said that he hadn't any need to have done so because it had gone so well that nobody in the audience had noticed.
- **Dec 1970 – Janie Hambleton** daughter of the headmaster of Thringstone School was offered a week's holiday to Nassau in the Bahamas by her godfather, at a cost of £300. The holiday, which was to take place over the Christmas period, meant that Janie would spend time on her own, about which she had no qualms. She was looking forward to spending time in the sun. The gift from her godfather, who lived in California, included the opportunity for underwater diving, perfect for Janie who was an aqualung expert.
- **March 1975 – PC Tony Abbott** of 5 Henson's Lane was commended for his actions, along with a nurse, Patricia Whittaker from Coalville, after a moped rider was engulfed in flames on Talbot Street. Also at the scene was Peter Ramsell of Talbot Street. 17 year old David Steel had collided with a van and his moped burst into flames. He had died 2 days later of his injuries. PC Abbott was quick to try to help, despite not knowing whether there would be a petrol explosion, and despite the existing fire. He said he has seen the motorcyclist still sitting on his moped, engulfed in flames, and said that he had grabbed the back of his clothing, the only bit not to be in flames, and dragged him clear of his machine. The coroner heard that the petrol cap of the machine had become dislodged when the accident happened, causing the fire, and said he was recommending PC Abbott for an official commendation from the police.
- **Nov 1992 –** Nearly 43 years ago, Gladys Gee started the **Thringstone Retired People's Fellowship**, and has been its president ever since. Mrs Gee is 82 and still very active in the village. Mrs Gee serves on several local bodies, is chairman of the centre's governing committee, church warden and vice chair of church meetings.
- **Nov 1992 – David Taylor** won the vacant Thringstone council seat in NW Leicestershire polling 70% of the votes. This is thought to be the highest margin in the district in decades. Turnout was 40% Mr Taylor is a resident of Heather.
- **March 1993 - St Andrew's** was asking families to come to their 10.30am services and chose what hymns to sing, select a reading and prayer and maybe perform a piece on a musical instrument.
- **March 1993 –** Tony and Carol Spence of **The Fox** were inviting people to try their hand in the newly erected skittle alley.
- **June 1993 –** Thringstone **portrait artist Dave Hubbard** surprised BBC Radio Leicester presenter Monica Winfield with a portrait of herself at the RSPCA show in Leicester. Dave, a lorry driver, said



he was just a dabbler in art. He specialises in painting pictures of well-known entertainers and family pets. Monica praised Dave for the staggering likeness and the magnificent portfolio of his work displayed at the RSPCA exhibition.

- **July 1993 – Thringstone Community Centre** asked residents what they would like to see done with Bob's Closs after suggestions to use it for housing seemed to have been quashed. The field was part of Charles Booth's gift to the village, and governors at the centre said that for years it had been used by the late Jack Rossell who let his animals graze on it, and they were going to lobby the county council to ensure that it was saved for posterity. 40 people who had turned up for a meeting were in favour of the site becoming part of the new National Forest and planted with trees. However, the governors wanted villagers to be able to have permanent access to the field, and were wondering about picnic areas, play equipment, a nature trail or camping facilities for overnight stops.
- **July 1993** - Residents were being asked to come up with ideas for **Bob's Closs**, the area around Talbot Lane having been 'saved' from being built on. David Taylor who was at the time one of the governors at the centre was quoted as saying that for years the area had been used for grazing by animals in the care of Jack Rossell, and governors were now committed to finding some other use for the land. At a public meeting, 40% of people wanted the land turned over to the National Forest, and other ideas included a picnic area, public access to the land for walks, a nature trail and even overnight camping.
- **July 1994** – The local council for voluntary service is currently visiting all **public amenities** in the village to see if they are disability friendly.
- **Aug 1994** – Thringstone artist, **Dave Hubbard**, a window cleaner by trade, was so moved at the story of how an RSPCA inspector saved a dog that he painted a portrait of the dog and presented it to her. Inspector Janet Harvey rescued Billy after she found him wrapped in a plastic bag in a rubbish chute, and left to die. He had been too thin and exhausted to even lift his head and had obviously been starved and neglected for months. It took a long time for Bristol vets to nurse the dog back to health, and one day he managed to eat a little and then wagged his tail. Upon reading the story, Dave Hubbard felt compelled to paint his picture to say thanks to Janet. We have done more research into Dave and understand he worked for years for Midland Red and left there after an accident to work for Hale Models Knitwear in Ashby, before becoming a window cleaner. His full name was David Ernest Harry Hubbard, and he married Pat Merriott and had a daughter called Sharon and lived on Priory Close. He was a keen fisherman and once did a large rogues gallery of regulars at The Fox which hung on the wall for years. There was once an auction of his works at the Queen's Head for whom he played darts. He passed away on 7 June 2014.
- **Nov 1994 – Thringstone postmaster** David Tomlinson found that the new computer to launch the national lottery in Thringstone didn't work for some time, and people were annoyed at not being able to join the new lottery. 'We had to wait until lunchtime for a new computer, but once we were up and running it was very much busier than I anticipated' said David.

Next meeting 9 Jan at Charles Booth Centre in the house lounge at 7pm to discuss plans for 2025 to include financial matters and events. All welcome