



The Friends of Thringstone

‘Working together to improve our village’

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BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY 2025

Monthly litter pick total – 127 bags removed by 8 people against 144 bags by 6 people for January 2024.

Notes of meeting on 6 February – 6 present, 9 apologies

Nita met with a young chap on 18 Jan who is going to **help litter picking** and also do some tidying up in the churchyard once a week for the next 3 months. This is part of his Duke of Edinburgh award project. The same day he filled a black bin liner with rubbish collected between the church and Loughborough Road by doing down by the garages in Booth Road and elsewhere in that area. Despite 3 emails from Nita to 3 different departments at NWLDC to say that the **can/bottle bin** on The Green is full and has been for over a month, it has not yet been emptied.

Fly tipping - We were sent photos and a CCTV video of a woman putting rubbish in a bag down the church jitty on 4 January at 5.30am. The rubbish was mostly cider cans and vodka bottles. This is happening increasingly all over the village. A lot of recycling is just put in street bins or left somewhere. Someone regularly throws glass bottles onto The Green, and the centre have found lots of wine bottles left in their garden area near to the car park gate. Anybody who leaves bags of rubbish in the street and not in a bin is fly tipping for which there is a fine.

We understand that a lady in **Swallowdale** has made a request to NWLDC for a litter bin/poo bin in the area to help reduce the instances of **dog fouling**. She said that she saw some people with 7 dogs all allow their dogs to foul on the grass verge on her road, offered poo bags to the owners which were refused, and decided enough was enough. We have wished her good luck.

The planning meeting on 9 Jan was cancelled due to weather concerns.

Publications – It is still unclear what we can do to get some small print runs done of books where we currently have low stocks. Nita has been talking to the folks at Community Voice and is currently waiting for a quote back from them.

John Albert Gee’s Grave marking - We have already agreed to give £100 towards this and hope to be in a position to talk to Sue Colledge about this later this month. Due to family illness issues in her circle, it has not been possible to do so to date.

10 May VE day exhibition – this will take place at Charles Booth Centre and be a joint enterprise with Thringstone Panto and Drama Society who are doing a fundraiser on the same day. It will run from 1pm until 5pm with TPADS doing 2 lots of singing between 3pm and 5pm. Nita will try to get some publicity generated in April, and put something out to Community Voice for their April magazine, and Coalville Times, as well as social media, alongside whatever TPADS have planned. Ann is looking forward to putting together a display for the event. We are not sure what form this event will take and are liaising with Mandy from TPADS about this. Ann asked Nita to put something out asking people to donate copies of any WW2 material they might have.

Panto Display in June – Mandy from TPADS asked us some time back to do a display of our archive on the panto society to tie in with a show given it is their 50th year of operation. This is now hopefully going to take place between 14 and 16 June to tie in with their summer production, and be at the front of house. Nita has downloaded photos from newspapers relating to the **panto productions** in 1985, 87 and 93 to add to our archives.

Hello Heritage – This is going to be from 1 – 28 September. We currently have 6 notice boards which go up around the village covering Bauble Yard and Ruby’s, Methodist church, Old School



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House, Wheelwright House and lower end of Main Street, Drury Lane and the centre and our links to welcoming people from other areas and countries. Nita has already worked on a new board for 2025 which acknowledges the men from Thringstone or with Thringstone connections who died in the Whitwick pit disaster and mentions Mary Booth's letter to her husband when she visited the pithead just after the disaster struck. It was suggested that we should consider having an exhibition on 13 September with a theme of 20 years of Friends of Thringstone. We need to discuss this with the centre at some stage first.

Poppy making - Sarah has spoken with Thringstone Members Club to try to get them involved in making poppies and putting poppies up outside their facility. Charles Booth centre trustees are happy to support the erection of a net to go on the front of the centre to which poppies can be attached for the November remembrance event. Nicola Burbidge Mullen who is the poppy co-ordinator for the area said some time ago that she would, for a small donation, get us some large poppies for lampposts and Cathy Irving from Thringstone Scouts said she would work with us to put these up. We still need people to make poppies although 14 people have already said they are interested, and we understand that the WI and local knit and natter group will also help. Please let Sarah or Nita know if you also want to help out. There is a facebook page called Thringstone Creates which will give further details. Janet said there are some poppies already at St Andrew's and St John's, and she will talk to people there to find out what there is already made.

Carols 2025 – The turnout for 2024 was lower than usual. We still feel that this is a valuable local community event, and want to continue to work with the folk from St Andrew's and the centre to put something on. Janet said she would talk to the people at Whitwick St John's and ask if they wanted to join us for 2025.

General promotion - Nita has done history articles for Community Voice up to and including August, and the Bauble for February is currently in print. Baubles for May, August and November will be written by Nita at some point, and she will try to continue to come up with interesting subjects for the history articles. If you have family whose life story might be an interesting topic, please let Nita know.

23rd February marks the **20th anniversary of formation of Friends of Thringstone**, and Nita will endeavour to put publicity out there to mark the event.

Community Litter pick – We are planning a community litter pick on 22 March from the car park on The Green starting at 10.30am and continuing for about 2 hours. Nita has done an article for Community Voice's February edition on this. We have sent an email to Thringstone scouts about this, and understand that Mr Chappell from Thringstone Primary and some of his students will be coming along and Ruby's have kindly agreed to give all kids who litter pick free chips as a thank you. We were wondering how to invite local businesses to work with us on a community volunteer day and tackle the woods en masse, so if anybody is connected with a local business or knows one that might like to do this, please get in touch..

Other information

New 12 bus service in Whitwick - The new service started when there was ice and snow around, and take up was obviously low, but there have already been complaints made about temporary bus stops being in inconvenient places and lack of people on the bus. The service is being trialled until March, so if you live the Whitwick end of Carterdale, King Richards Hill/Hogarth Road/Leicester Road please consider using it with pick up and drop off in the Market Place. Use it or lose it. 2000 people answered the survey! It was felt that the route goes the wrong way and should follow the old one.

Daffodils – Thanks go to Mr Emerson from near the George and Dragon for paying for extra daffodils which have been put in down the lane from the pub and round into Henson's Lane. Thanks also to Bill Enser for arranging more daffodil bulbs and putting them in to fill in the gaps. That area should look stunning in the spring.

Centre – We understand that an IT **Go Learn Project** is being considered for a February start on Wednesdays which could include a talk on scams. More details when known. The new windows are being installed by Swadlincote Windows. The centre was filmed last year as part of the **Great British Menu** because of a desert that was being made to honour Charles Booth. They had to keep



it under wraps until the programme aired on 28 January and said they were honoured to have the BBC2 crew at the centre and celebrate the legacy of Charles Booth who continues to inspire their work. They interviewed chair of the trustees Dr Amanda Berry, and referred in the programme to the centre being Charles Booth's house, but as we know, he lived at Gracedieu Manor.

We understand that the Whitwick and Thringstone RBL no longer operates from Charles Booth Centre and has gone to Hugglescote Working Men's Club.

Thringstone Members Club – congratulations to Margaret Bell who has been manager at the club now for over 21 years and was given an award at a recent party.

Gracedieu Manor Park are now offering professional office spaces and meeting rooms to rent in their historic building with stunning grounds. Whether you want private office space, space for board meetings, or a flexible space for events, you can contact the team and discuss your requirements. With modern amenities, high speed internet and ample parking, the offices are perfect for freelancers, start-up businesses or something more established and suitable for you whether you want something temporary or just for a project. For further details, please fill in the form on the website which is www.gracedieumanorpark.co.uk/room-office-hire

St Andrew's - will be serving tea/coffee about 10.30am at open church on the 1st Sunday of each month.

Chairs Report

Emails received/sent: Usual exchanges of information.

Promotion: We have **743 X followers**, which is one more than last month, and **2,242 facebook followers**, which is 7 more than last month.

Other: **Bill Enser** has resigned from our committee to spend more time with his family. We thank him for his work with us over the years.

Nita reported 3 lots of **fly tipping** on the Melrose Rd estate to NWLDC

Nita passed on to the **Friends of Gracedieu Priory** and their trustees some comments made on facebook relating to the amount of surface water draining from the ruins area onto the A512 and causing flooding, but also pointed out that water also lies quite badly just before the Bull's Head entrance, and that is nothing to do with the priory site but more from the woodlands/fishing pond plus drainage problems from the Osgathorpe side.

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.

- 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. Also at the same venue between 4.45pm and 5.30pm on Mondays is **beginners acrobatics** with Leanne. For a free trial with this contact 07791 705459. Leane also offers **combination classes** on Wednesdays at the same venue between 4-5pm and 5pm-6.30pm, and **street dancing classes** on Thursdays between 4.45pm-5pm and 5.45pm-6.30pm, followed by **grade 4 tap dancing** between 6.30pm and 7.6pm and **festival classes** between 7pm and 8pm..
- 16 Feb – **Thringstone Members Club** – 12-4pm Family Valentine's disco. Food available.
- 20 Feb – and every Thursday morning afterwards between 11am and 12 noon **Thringstone Members Club** – under 5s stay and play. Booking essential with Little Bub's Adventures.
- 22 Feb – **Thringstone Members Club** – Ann Tabbush workshop provided by Roots Community Singers. 10.30am -4.30pm. Tickets from www.folkonthefarm.co.uk
- 22 Feb – **Thringstone Members Club** – **Ace Community Theatre** Rainbow bingo night. Eyes down at 7.30pm. Adults £12, children £6. Free slice of cake included, all tickets must be purchased before the event.
- 22 Feb – Abba cover Queens at **Charles Booth Centre**. Doors open 7pm for 8pm start. Tickets £12 from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/charlesboothcentre/t-yaxavdq>



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- 27 Feb – **Charles Booth Centre** – Quiz night. Doors open 7pm, quiz starts at 7.30pm. Teams of up to 6 people £10 per team. Chip cobs, bar open. raffle.
- 3 March – and every Monday thereafter at **Thringstone Members Club, Ace Community Theatre** workshops. Adults and children over the age of 9 years from 7.30pm-9.30pm. Further details email acecommunitytheatre@gmail.com.
- 29 March – **Charles Booth Centre** – Pride in Coalville presents Ruby's drag bingo. Cash prizes and entertainment from Ruby herself. Entry £8 cash only. 7pm-10pm.
- 23-24 May – **Thringstone Members Club – Ace Community Theatre's Murder Mystery**. Tickets on sale at the end of February, but night will include buffet.

Financial

.Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	2450.11		
Income		Expenditure	
Anonymous donation	£100	Broadband	£20.00
		Insurance	£15.70
total income received	£100	Monthly expenditure	£35.70
		Month end total	2514.41

Web report

The webmaster continues to work on further updates.

Incident Report

- We understand that our beat team have made **bike riding in the woods** and general anti-social behaviour a priority. 'We will adopt a joint agency response to this issue and seek to deal with those riders causing a nuisance in the area or driving dangerously or illegally.'
- 8 and 9 Jan – car and then a school bus **hit ice** near to the George and Dragon. Car ended up in the ditch. Children on the school bus were quite safe. A similar incident happened on Swannymote Road where a car ended up on its side on the grass verge.
- 13 Jan – full fishing kit stolen from a van parked on **Glebe Road**. All on CCTV.
- 25 Jan – lady with her dog attacked by another dog which had broken free from its lead at entrance to Gracedieu woods from **Springfield**. Lady pinned to the floor by dog attack calling for help, which was eventually forthcoming when someone unrelated to the incident ran out of the woods to help. Dog eventually pulled, by owner, from the lady and her dog. Lady sustained bruises and claw marks. Police informed as same dog was responsible for another incident in the same area on 30 December during which someone was bitten.
- Police advised that there are a lot of forged £20 notes about. Please check these.

History Report

- New photos for our archives- Thank you to Mandy from **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society** for letting us have copies of photos and cast lists from the 1980s to add to our archives. We now also have a photo of **Minnie Rosetta Waldram** nee Webb and her children, and a copy of her obituary. Minnie was one of the daughters of Daniel Amos Webb of The Willows and his wife Catherine nee Biddle. We have now also had confirmation on the people in a photo we had – it turns out to be **William James Gough Waldram** and his 2nd wife Frances, one of the Webb family and Norah nee Ladyman who married John Henry Webb.
- Following on from last month, we understand there is a connection between **Moylescourt Farm** and The Gate Inn which we are researching more. We also know a little more about the Alldred family.



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- We were asked to find out more of the history of **Ashby Lodge**, the small cottage next to the Bull's Head which is also known as **Tyrol Cottage**. We have previously recorded that it was probably built in 1853 and is owned by the de Lisle family and that between 1958 and 1977 the Wickwar family lived there, and the previous occupant was said to be Father Kane from Gracedieu Manor. In 1911, we know that the William John and Mary Turner and their family of 5 children lived there, and their son Alec Turner who died in WW1 joined up from there. We also believe that after the Turner family moved out, a family called Hunt lived there, starting with Joe Isaac Hunt, his wife Elizabeth nee Flint and their son Joe Amos, who took over the property when his father died and lived there with his wife Ellen and their 2 sons, Joe and Wilf, and daughter Ellen. We are not sure who lived there after 1939 other than what we have put above. If anybody can help further, please let us know..
- **November 1993** – Peter Lee (Bernard's son) and Gavin Jones from Thringstone won a first in **the Ashby and Coalville district first aid competition** for local scouts after coming top in two set up incidents where they were asked to put their medical expertise into practice. They beat 11 other teams to the title including another Thringstone team made up of Matthew Shepherd and Kevin Allard who came 8th.
- **Jan 1995 -Thringstone's panto** Robinson Crusoe was a sell out, thanks to a block booking made back in September, so they turned the dress rehearsal into a preview night to accommodate more fans. Robert Waterfield played Dame Crusoe, Joe Knifton as son Billy, Deborah Johnson as Robinson Crusoe, and Sarah Griffin as principal girl Polly Perkins.
- **Feb 1995** – Dawn Moore and Carol Allen at the **Bull's Head** passed a demanding 3 part exam by brewery Whitbread's. They passed their silver badges in health, hygiene and safety.
- **July 1995** – Thringstone fitness instructor Carole Whitehead was in negotiations to purchase and alter the former Wesleyan Chapel in Main Street and turn it into a **fitness centre**. Carole had been using church halls and The Rangers Club for some time for her fitness classes. She was faced with a problem playing music at the new venue, as one of the original stipulations was no recorded music could be played, which would mean she would be unable to offer aerobic classes on site.
- **August 1995** – Fire in **Grace Dieu woods** where 2000 sq. ft of grassland caught fire. Emergency crews were kept busy into the night as several areas reignited. The same month NWLDC announced that they were hoping to buy land adjoining Grace Dieu Woods on which they could plant trees etc. This area would be the National Tender Scheme off Springfield (which was at this time a corn field) and applications for funding for £62,000 were being made to the National Forest. Meanwhile, an archaeological crew found remains near the priory of Roman activity and a brick kiln.
- **Oct 1995** – **Archie Reid of Melrose Road**, Thringstone was acting as linesman at a game of football between Woodside Rangers of Thringstone and King's Arms of Coleorton when he collapsed. The game was abandoned and Mr Reid was taken to hospital but later died. He left a wife and three children. Secretary to Woodside Rangers, Farquhar Melvin, said 'Mr Reid will be greatly missed. He was treasurer of Woodside Rangers, and really ran the club and kept it going. Everyone has been upset by his death'. Mr Reid was also a founding member of Thringstone Bowling Club.
- **Dec 1995** – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society** received a grant of £18057 from the Foundation for Sport and Arts. The money will be spent on new staging and tiered seating. Treasurer John Hulbert said that much of the money received from performances went into costume hire and materials to build the sets and scenery. He hoped that the new easy to assemble tiered seating could also be used by the centre for fashion shows. The next panto is Aladdin in January 1996 with a production of My Fair Lady in May.



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- **May 1997 – Thringstone Panto and Drama** Society's production of Calamity Jane was drawing record crowds to Thringstone House Community Centre. The centre seated 160 people, and other than the matinee where 20 seats were still available, the show had been a sell out. Amongst the cast was Mandy Hammonds, Mark Bennett and John Hulbert.
- **Sept 1997 – The Hubert Bancroft Memorial Race** saw 140 runners raise in excess of £500 in a 4 mile race starting from Thringstone Community Centre. The 1998 race will raise money for Breast Cancer care.
- **Sept 1997** – Thringstone couple **Ron and Marjorie Johnson** were presented with a gold badge award for their service to the Royal British Legion. It is believed that this was the first time a husband and wife had been presented with such an award. The award was organised by the Whitwick branch and showed the dedication and commitment the couple had exhibited over the years.
- **April 1998** – Firefighters spent over an hour tackling a blaze at **Thringstone United's** football ground. Flames nearly burnt the club's recently refurbished pavilion, but two sheds and their contents were destroyed. These contained old sports equipment and toys and games belonging to the toddler group. This fire was just one of the mindless examples of vandalism experienced by the club recently. Vandals had smashed the concrete dug outs at the side of the pitch, ripped through the club's perimeter hedges, pulled up goal posts which were set in concrete and burgled the club house. The club had recently spent £3k on new furniture for the club house following a fund raising campaign, and now needed to do more fundraising.
- **June 1998** – Following a strike by Spanish air controllers, many people were stuck in East Midlands Airport, waiting for flights. 12 flights to Spain and other areas in the Mediterranean, including Crete, were affected. One Thringstone couple who made the news were **Kate Hitchcock and her 77 year old mother Elsie Gee** whose flight was affected for 2 hours. Kate said 'It is very frustrating to be hanging around here, particularly when you live so close. It is bad for my mother because she has to walk around with a stick and it is not ideal to be stuck here.'
- **June 1998** – Concern was growing about the amount of burnt out vehicles being dumped in **Gracedieu Woods**. '3 vehicles have been abandoned in the recent weeks, all in the same area close to the viaduct'. The woods cover 31 hectares and the owners of the woodlands, the de Lisle family, were concerned over the increasing amount of this type of dumping, since the woods are a site of special scientific interest and 110 different types of flora can be found there. Gerard de Lisle said that he intended to make sure that the 2 gates providing access to the woods remained locked.
- **Sept 1998 – Thringstone Community Centre** saw a professional production of The Little Black Dress with Carole Lythgoe performing the stories of 5 very different women. With a great script written by John Cheetham, the event produced rave reviews with both nights being sold out.
- **Sept 1998** – 7 year old **Alicia Woodhead** who attends Thringstone Primary School has a need for speed and has taken up go karting. Her parents used to help, but now she is adept at using the controls herself, and loves to take herself round the garden. Her mother Diane said she had been mad about go karting for the last 3 years, and had previously had to have wooden blocks fitted to the pedals to get about, but is now able to reach herself. Her father, Chris, likes to restore classic cars, and she likes to help him with his restorations. Her sisters Eleanor 8 and Charlotte 9 also enjoy speed and they all now want to take advantage of professional tuition to further their need for speed.

Next meeting 6 March at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre. All welcome.