



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR MAY 2025

Monthly litter pick total – 87 bags removed by 5 people against 126 bags by 6 people for April 2024.

Meeting 1 May.- 6 apologies, 8 present

New council waste systems announced – NWLDC are set to introduce a two-bin recycling system in stages between autumn 2026 and autumn 2027 to replace the red box system and paper and cardboard collections. One bin will be for plastics, glass and metal and the other for paper and cardboard which means we will now have 4 bins with the garden waste bin and the household waste bin. Almost 20,000 responses were received to a 2024 survey asking questions as to what customers wanted, with 61% of local people saying they preferred the two-bin option. This approach was approved at a meeting of the council's Cabinet on 22 April. Details of the rollout of the new system to households in the district, and how it will be funded, are subject to further approval. However, the vehicles and bins required will likely be funded by the council's business rates reserves, which have built up over a number of years and can be used to pay for one-off costs like this. NWLDC is currently the second top recycling council in Leicestershire, with a recycling rate of 44.7% in 2023/24. They hope that a simpler recycling system will help improve this rate even further and reduce the amount of waste that is sent for incineration.

VE Day Event 10 May - Please come and support our event which is downstairs at Charles Booth Centre from 1pm until 5pm. We have recently been given an authentic WW2 baby's gas mask, which is wonderful, plus a comprehensive map of Leicestershire showing where bombs dropped. We already have extensive archives which will prove interesting to everybody irrespective if you have a Thringstone connection or not, and if you want, you can also have the chance to pick up a pattern to knit or crochet some poppies for our displays in November and drop off poppies you have already made. **All those people already making poppies – we need these back to us by the end of August at the outside please.** Let us know if you want us to pick these up and where from. We are hopeful that displays of these poppies will be at the centre, St Andrew's and also at Thringstone Members Club. Nita has sent direct emails about the event to about 400 people on databases she holds, done a press release for Coalville Times and done some online marketing for the event. Nita and Ann are meeting tomorrow with a representative of the Royal British Legion to borrow some items from their cabinet at the centre. Mary Roberts is making a VE Day sign, and Nita has liaised with the panto society. They have no problem if we offer tea and coffee to anybody who comes along, so intends to talk to the Co-op to see if they will sponsor us for the cost of this.

Post box cover for The Green – Inspired by the ladies in Whitwick with their cover to the post box in the Market Place, Sarah Baxter has been busy making our own VE Day cover with a bomber on it for VE Day to go on the post box outside the old Post Office. Thank you to Sarah for doing this for us.

Poppies for lamp posts – Nita had a meeting with the RBL Poppy Co-ordinator, and has made arrangements for our group to buy extra plastic poppies to go onto lamp posts ready for Remembrance Sunday. Previously the scouts have said they will put these up for us (unless we have a rush of male volunteers with ladders). We have also confirmed with the centre that they are happy for a net of poppies to go at the front of the house during the period of Remembrance in November.



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Membership – Membership is now due and remains at £4. We do hope you feel it worthwhile to keep supporting us in what we do, both in and for the village. If you joined this year, don't worry, we are not asking you to pay again. If you joined last year, including those who joined at our November event, and wish to stay with us, you need to let us have £4 again please. The price has not increased in nearly a decade, and we are holding the price at £4 as we are well aware that people are feeling the pinch right now. People can pay by bank transfer if they wish, and we know this is becoming more popular as people now seldom seem to have ready cash. If you need the bank account details, please email Nita and she will pass these onto you. People who paid by bank transfer before should already have this information.

Committee – It will be our AGM in June, and we have several vacancies on our committee. These include environmental officer, admin assistant, social media assistant and funding assistant. If anybody has any interest in any of these roles, please contact Nita **before 20th May** to discuss further.

Changes to our procedures – Geoff Wilson, who is our treasurer, has proposed two minor changes to our financial procedures, which will if agreed then mean that we will alter the wording in our volunteer expenses statement. These are:

1. The petty cash float held by the chair, in the light of rising costs/prices, be increased from the current £10 to £75 to allow for the reimbursement to volunteers for small expense sums. With the closure of many banks, it can be difficult for people to present cheques easily, and that isn't fair on the volunteers.

2. Thinking about reimbursement of things to people, I would like to suggest that the amount of expense above which a receipt is required for a claim be raised to £100. The increase in on-line purchasing and parking etc. is often without a formal receipt process.

We had considerable discussion on this point, and it was agreed that the maximum as above not be £100 but £75. For those purchases where cash is provided, it is recommended that the volunteer tells the chairman this in advance so that an email can be sent to all the committee, plus the book keeper, on the issue. The general consensus was that we need to be both transparent and fair to our volunteers and not make them jump through hoops for reimbursement of monies spent in good faith. Nita will alter the volunteer expenses statement, and send it to the committee for agreement.

Printer - Nita's ancient printer gave up the ghost on 28 April. Nita bought another one on her credit card for £209.99. Given the amount of printing, scanning and copying Nita does, she would like to ask, please, for reimbursement for at least some of this cost. It was agreed that this money be reimbursed to Nita and the printer become an FoT asset. Anne was asked about sending printing she needs doing to Nita to print on the FoT printer, but Anne said she preferred to print things on her own printer herself.

- **Centre** – The centre has advertised for volunteers for their movies which run once a month on a Sunday. Anybody interested needs to be available between 9am and 12 noon, prepare popcorn, set up the movie equipment and bouncy castle and serve tea and coffee. All interested should contact the centre direct.
- **David Taylor's memorial plaque on The Green** – This had been taken away for repair and returned to The Green on 16th April. Let's hope nobody else pulls it up in the future.

Thringstone and Whitwick People Zone – At the meeting on 10 April, the following was discussed:

1. It is hopeful the 'Thringstone Youth Group' will start after Easter, with a provisional date of **Thursday 1st May** at the Thringstone Members' Club. **NOTE:** Update. The club will operate at the Members' Club on Thursdays from 1 May until 28 August. 5pm-6.30pm for 7-12 year olds, 6.30pm-8pm for 13 – 17 year olds. It is a free service, but you have to book through www.superstarsport.co.uk, click on book now and select the relevant club. There will be free refreshments and on offer will be games, X box and crafts.

- 2. A digital divide project is in the works with Charles Booth Centre and Whitwick Scout Group. They are awaiting contact from GoLearn regarding dates



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- **3. Illegal motor-biking** is on the rise again around the Melrose playing fields and throughout the woods in general. A gate is being installed at one end to try to reduce this, and a Crimestoppers awareness campaign is to get underway. Please support in sharing where possible
- **4.** There were no successful/eligible applications from R3 of the last People Zones Grant Fund. People Zone is still shaping what this financial year will look like although they will be focusing on more of a partnership, collaborative approach.
- **5.** The Gleaning based 'Fruitful' project remains on hold. There is potential for further collaboration with Green Life Innovation's Holly Hayes woodland management.
- o **6.** The 'Community Planter' project at Bob's Closs alongside the Charles Booth Centre is awaiting legal sign off from the National Probation Service for their Community Payback team to support. Once these are in place, People Zone will seek to coordinate a community/volunteer approach to their ongoing maintenance. The Wildlife Trust have recommended that no tree planting take place on this site as "it would be detrimental to the grassland as a whole as there is such little grassland like it in the area". The National Forest Company also endorsed this stance, which is why the original orchard plans were not progressed. **NOTE:** To this end, we have been approached by People Zone to see if FoT would be willing to deal with the maintenance of community planters in the closs going forward. Nita has replied that this has already been mentioned to members, and nobody has put themselves forward, but we will help with advertising this.
- o **7.** There is a mental health awareness week coming up from 12-18 May. This year's focus is on Community, and the group wondered if any events were being planned.
- o **Thringstone Miners Social Centre** – There is a new baby and toddler group on Fridays between 10am and 12.30pm. The cost is £1.50 per child, and every child thereafter is an extra 10p.

Chairs Report

Emails received/sent: Usual exchanges of information.

Promotion: We have **740 X followers**, which is 2 less than last month, and **2,340 facebook followers**, which is 3 more than last month.

Other: Well done to Markas Marriott for winning the Club Man of the Year award at the recent Charnwood Forest Hockey Club annual awards night.

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.

- 10 May – **Charles Booth Centre** – 1pm – 5pm - Friends of Thringstone VE day exhibition with free entry. At the same venue from 3pm-5pm upstairs will be TPADs fundraising event with songs and afternoon tea at £12 per person. You need to book for this part of the event by going onto www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads or ringing 0333 666 3366.
- 10 May – **Thringstone Members Club** – Eurovision Karaoke 8pm.
- 11 May – **Swannington Open Gardens plant and veg sale** – 11am – 1.30pm Swannington Village Hall. More info from Sue on 07914 527291
- 18 May – **Gracedieu Priory Guided Walk** from Bull's Head car park at 3pm. £3 per person.
- 22 May – **Gracedieu Priory Guided Walk** from Bull's Head car park at 10am. £3 per person.
- 24 May – **Charles Booth Centre** – Drag Bingo 7pm-10pm. Tickets £8. Cash only.
- 23-24 May – **Thringstone Members Club** – **Ace Community Theatre's Murder Mystery – Death by Chocolate.** Tickets £12 to include buffet from www.ticketsource.co.uk/ace



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- 26 May – **Oaks Spring Fair** – Oaks in Charnwood. 10am – 4pm. A traditional country fair with fun for all the family including a fun dog show, classic vehicle display, steam engines, shopping stalls, food court, BBQ, bar and open church.
- 11-14 June – **Charles Booth Centre** – Oklahoma - 7.30pm. Took on 0333 666 3366 or go to www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads.
- 21 June – **Thringstone Primary** – summer fayre. 11am - 2pm.
- 21 June – **Gracedieu Manor Park** – Picnic in the park with music, stalls, food drinks and more. 11am – 9pm. Tickets from <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../picnic-in-the-park-tickets...>
- 21 June – **Thringstone Members Club** – Death by Chocolate with Ace Community Theatre. Tickets £12 to include light buffet. Show starts at 7pm. Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/ace
- 13 July – Ashby Show
- 13 Sept – Diseworth Show

Financial

.Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	2396.92		
Income		Expenditure	
Publication sales	£6	Broadband	£20.00
Renewal of membership	£4		
total income received		Total expenditure	£20.00
		Total	2386.92

Website

The webmaster continues to work on further updates.

Incident Report

- 1 April – garden ornaments were taken from the **Hare and Hounds**.
- 6 April – police visiting **Gracedieu Woods** in search of motorbikes noticed the burnt areas of land which have been there for some time, and issued an email suggesting that people be more careful in the woodland in warm weather.
- 11 April – the police sent out the following **message** - As the weather gets nicer there will be more reports regarding people riding off road motorbikes in public places
You can report this to the council on the link below:- Reporting ASB
https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/community_safety
If you are a council tenant, call the council housing department on 01530 454545.
If you own your home or rent from a private landlord or housing association, contact the council's ASB co-coordinator on 01530 454696 or by email
mailto:community.safety@nwleicestershire.gov.uk.
Anti-social behaviour incident diary (Word Document, 0.19 Mb) will help you keep a record of incidents relating to your complaint and will assist us in handling your complaint.
[https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/.../anti_social_behaviour.../Log Sheet - ASB.docx](https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/.../anti_social_behaviour.../Log_Sheet_-_ASB.docx)
PCSO 6110 Ramsay
- 12 April – Motorbike belonging to staff member taken from **George and Dragon** car park. Yamaha MT-125 registration no : FH17UFY.
- 12 April – Car owned by footballer, left on overflow parking at the **rear of Ingles FC** on Homestead Rd (former Henson's Lane recreation area) was smashed up, windows broken etc. by unknown person(s). Police informed. Social media posts made about the incident by the club.



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- 16 April – Police had a **beat surgery** at Charles Booth Centre between 11am and 12 noon.
- 17 April – Police were doing a **speed check** on vehicles going past Thringstone Members Club. 75 vehicles were captured, but only one was doing over 30 mph at 34 mph and was warned of their speed.
- 18 April – **our bench** down Drury Lane was subjected to graffiti. Will try to find a way to remove this.
- 28 April – **Hare and Hounds** reported thefts of salt pots, rolls of dog poo bags, a watering can, chairs and dog bowls from their garden area.

History Report

- We now have 2 photos of **Walter Fisher** who kept The Fox in Main Street for 3 years in the 1890s, including one with his family, two photos of his daughter Effie, and a photo of **John Thorley**, who kept the same pub for 2 years, also in the 1890s, plus a photo of **Sarah Ann Hallam** nee Brinsley of the Queen's head who died in 1889.
- Nita has been researching the **Moore family** from Whitwick, following a request for help, along with helping research the King family of Osgathorpe. The Moore family are connected to another tree Nita was studying for someone, and from that we have found out more on the siblings and parents of Mary Ann Moore who married **James Frederick Musson** and kept the Fox in Main Street up until 1940. She was one of 13 children of William Moore and Elizabeth nee Tugby who lived on Silver Street, Whitwick, and we now have her marriage certificate. The job of publican is also linked to the Musson's through the Three Crowns in Whitwick which they kept for some time, and to the wider Moore family, as Mary Ann's uncle, Henry, had a son called Albert Edward Moore who kept the Greyhound in Coalville and then the Bull's Head at Greenhill. Nita was also asked to help someone connected to the Musson family with details of what we have in our archives, so Nita duly obliged by sending lots of photos of The Fox, which the Musson family kept for 2 generations plus other written stuff. One of Mary Ann Moore's brothers, Andrew Moore, was a footballer and played for Whitwick Imperials for some considerable time, probably from 1912, and at one point was offered a trial at Nottingham County. Whitwick Imperials played on the ground at the back of the Duke of Newcastle (near to where Whitwick doctors surgery now stands), started with the Leicestershire league in 1909 and stopped playing as a team in 1929 and obviously didn't play during WW1. We have a photo of him and also of a cup winning medal that he won. He broke a leg whilst playing against Coalville Swifts, and was unable to work as a miner from March 1923 until December 1923. The club did various fund raising to allow him to receive £2 a week to help with finances. One of these, in June 1923, was a cricket match at **Gracedieu Park** between Frank Middleton's team (Frank was a former Derby County footballer) and Harry Whitehead's team (Harry was from Ibstock and was a Leics. County cricketer), with City football player Mic O'Brien being part of Frank Middleton's team. Mr Middleton's team were easy winners. Andy never played again after his leg break and died aged only 37 of pulmonary TB with a secondary cause of having had an operation for a perforated ulcer. Andrew, who lived on Silver Street in Whitwick, joined up for service in December 1915, served in France, was 5 ft 5 inches tall and had auburn hair and grey eyes. He had had 2 spells in hospital due to infections during this service. He was demobbed in January 1919. He married Alice Jane Varnham at St John's in Whitwick on 3 April 1920, and had a son also called Andrew and a daughter Joan. Mary Ann also had a brother called Walter whose son Herbert, from Shepshed, died aged 19 in Salerno, Italy on 25 Oct 1944. He had been a private in the 6th battalion, Queens Own Royal Kent Regiment. He is remembered at the Santerno Valley War Cemetery in Italy.
- **Wilfred Bruce**, who lived with his wife Mary at The Meadows, was a lieutenant in charge of Whitwick and Thringstone **Home Guard** during WW2. A manager at Shepshed Quarry, he originally allowed the newly formed Home Guard to use his garden hut as the HQ when it formed in 1940, but by the autumn, the HQ had moved to Whitwick Station. The 1939 register shows Mr Bruce as an ARP Warden.
- **Recollections of WW2** – Peter Wheeldon wrote in a book of his experiences as a young lad in WW2, and part of this book tells that the Community Centre was the venue where people had to go



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to get their gasmasks fitted. These were issued for free but almost overnight, families had to find material for curtains to black out their windows. As money was tight, this was a challenge for a whole house and some people made shutters to be taken down during the day, or they managed without lights in bedrooms until thick curtains could be afforded. Peter remembers trains full of evacuees coming from Birmingham, and indeed some came to Thringstone and were 'unloaded' at Coalville station. Peter, who was a member of the Home Guard from the age of 17, recalled going out nightly for a 2 hour patrol to see if they could spot any parachutists. These home guard men patrolled an area covering Whitwick, Thringstone from Gracedieu and Swannington Common to The Oaks and Warren Hills. Their all night duty was on a three or four day rota, leaving men who still had to turn up to work the following day rather tired. On two occasions they challenged suspect groups in the middle of the night, one turning out to be some miners gambling with cards off Main Street in Thringstone and another being local poachers raiding the Gracedieu Estate. Exercises were organised for the home guard with the Whitwick Colliery Home Guard winning the shooting in 1941. One of the Thringstone air raid wardens was very concerned about the glow of his pipe, which might be seen from the air, so had a special metal place fitted over it. He also lodged a complaint about the glow from cigarettes, so all Home Guard men were asked to use the nearby air raid shelter if they wanted to smoke.

- We understand that a **John Biddle** owned the property known as Wheelwright House in Main Street, from 2 May 1825 until December 1826. By looking through the list of owners of the property, someone called **Richard Potter** is also listed, and Nita has downloaded his will, which is exceptionally long and detailed. He died in 1828, owned lots of property all over Leicestershire and was a yeoman of Thringstone. He seems to have had sons called Francis, John and William, as well as a daughter Elizabeth.
- **Dec 1760** – In Thringstone, a labourer was **sealing a well** 20 yards deep when the side gave way and fell in upon him. It took 11 hours for some colliers to remove the earth from him. They found him alive, and when he came out of the well, notwithstanding bruises from the weight of the earth, he was able to walk away.
- **Oct 1849** – For sale at The Bull's Head, Thringstone a close of land, known as **Hewitt's Warren**, situated in the parish of Belton in the occupation of Mrs Hannah Merriman. To view the land, it was necessary to see Mrs Merriman in person. Anybody have any idea where Hewitt's Warren was please?
- **April 1888** – **The Bull's Head** was up for sale. The public house was held on a 10 year lease by Mr George Offiler and would expire on 25 March 1897. The commodious house adjoining the pub was in the occupation of Mrs. Merriman and Charles Gough, together with the garden and there were also 3 cottages for sale which joined on to all this plus barn, stabling, cowshed and 2 small plots of garden ground immediately opposite the public house on the other side of the road. The public house could be viewed on application to the tenants.
- **Jan 1909** – **Thomas Radcliffe** from Talbot Villas, Thringstone won 10 shillings in a competition run by Pearson's Weekly. Tom Radcliffe was born in 1872 in Codnor, Derbyshire. He was a single miner who lived with his sister Nellie and his niece Annie. Nellie married Harry Springthorpe in 1912 and by 1921, Tom was living with her and her family comprising Annie and 5 other children, still at Talbot Villas. Tom was now a boiler fireman at Swannington Pumping Company. He died in 1936.

Next meeting is our AGM on 5 June at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre. All welcome