



# The Friends of Thringstone

‘Working together to improve our village’

**Chairman: Nita Pearson BEM**  
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**Twitter address: [@Thringstone2](https://twitter.com/Thringstone2)**

## BULLETIN FOR JUNE 2025

### AGM 2025

6 present 9 apologies

The following people have put themselves forward for the committee:

Chairman: Nita Pearson	Environment Secretary: Vacant
Secretary: Nita Pearson	Admin Assistant: Vacant
Vice Chair: Geoff Wilson	Funding Assistant: Vacant
Treasurer: Geoff Wilson	Social Media assistant: Vacant

History: Ann Petty

Publications: Janet Stevenson

Membership Secretary: Sue Rowbottom

Events Assist: Kathy Mardon

Thringstone Creates: Sarah Baxter

Members interested in being part of the committee were asked to email Nita by 20 May, but nobody has come forward. It was agreed to delete all vacant posts other than environment going forward.

New structure and committee proposed by: Kathy Mardon Seconded by Dave Everitt

The book keeper and webmaster, both of whom we wouldn't be without, sit outside the committee structure.

End of year accounts. An examination of the accounts has taken place and a glowing report has been given, although for the first time since we started in 2005, we have spent more money than we had coming in. Anne answered some questions on the accounts. If anybody wants a copy of the statement, please contact Nita direct.

Chairman's AGM report – Nita has provided a chairman's report which is attached.

**Monthly litter pick total – 89 bags** removed by **6 people** against **132 bags by 9 people** for May 2024.

Nita has received extra litter pick sticks, tabards and bags from NWLDC so that we might take part in Love Your Neighbourhood week which is 30 June – 6 July. Nita would like to do a one hour litter pick with anybody who wants to join her from **The Green on Saturday 5 July at 10am**. Please let Nita know if you are coming along.

**Memberships – Thank you** to everybody who has paid their memberships. Thanks also to everybody who paid in cash following a visit. So many people were very complementary about our group, our monthly bulletin, and very welcoming to us, which was lovely. We start our new membership year with 175 members. Nita said she thought that 40% of people pay by bank transfer, (it is actually 42%) and there was discussion about why this is so low and what memberships would be if we didn't collect cash. We also discussed the cost of living/people who find difficulty paying.

**VE Day event** – Sarah Baxter did a wonderful job in creating a post box cover on The Green for VE Day, with a bomber plane and lots of poppies which were made by Janet. This will be taken off and reused for later events. Mary Roberts made a plaque out of poppies with a centre commemorating Thringstone's VE Day which can be turned into a wreath in November. Thanks to them and to other volunteers for helping on the day, and also to Thringstone Co-op for sponsoring the purchase of tea,



coffee, sugar and milk and also to Dave Sharman from RBL for letting us borrow some medals and other memorabilia from the RBL cabinet at the centre. Our event attracted 103 people, and several people came with their carers from The Meadows. We also had some very nice comments about the event, including an online comment that the event was amazing. It was lovely to see people singing along to Bill's gramophone records and looking at the wonderful artifacts and displays. These events take a lot of putting together, and without the help of Ann Petty and her excellent display boards and the artifacts that Bill and Lynne Newton have, it would not have been possible, so huge thanks go to them. Thanks also to the ladies for sitting with the crochet hooks, wool and knitting needles talking people into making poppies and instructing newcomers. Many people dropped off the poppies they had already made, and new people were attracted who showed an interest in making poppies, which is just as well as we need a lot! We sold the following publications 2 memories 2, 3 WW2, 1 TAIP, 1 Memories 3, 1 pubs, 1 Scottish and 1 Durham miners. Nita did some online publicity after the event, and also sent information to Coalville Times which was printed on 15 May, and to Community Voice. **Charles Booth Pre-school** - planted a special tree to mark 80 years since **VE Day**. Thringstone Co-op generously donated a fruit tree to Charles Booth Pre-School, as a living tribute to peace and remembrance for future generations.

**Poppies for remembrance day** – Janet Stevenson will be collecting all the poppies together for this project. The trustees at the centre have agreed to us putting a couple of nets outside the centre but not on the building itself, and it is also hoped that something can go at the Thringstone Members Club. St Andrew's is having a cascade down the notice board round the railings and up the path, so it looks like it's leading people to church. The first net is now completed. Anybody who is making poppies should, please, carry on, and let us have these by the end of August. Janet will be taking any poppies that people have to give at her house, so if you have poppies and would prefer that they weren't at your house, please let us know. Royal British Legion have approved our request to have 33 large poppies to put on lamp posts and we are now in discussion with them over payment for these of the £100 agreed, and delivery and fixing, hopefully by Thringstone Scouts.

**Hello Heritage** – We have booked our room with the centre for 20<sup>th</sup> September to do an exhibition between 1pm and 5.30pm, and Nita has ordered 2 banners and 2 lots of bunting from NWLDC to be available to make it more obvious that we are holding an event. We are also thinking of offering tea, coffee, cakes etc. as we have in the past. Is anybody willing to help with this, and/or make cakes? Please let us know.

**Weeding** – Thanks to our members Simon, who cut back the bushes we planted down the church jitty, and to Sarah who filled 3 bags full of weeds from the same area. Much appreciated. Nita and Mike King had a go at clearing some of the nettles and weeds down Drury Lane and Kate from next to the lane spent an hour cutting back dead things. If anybody wants to help with weeding, please get in touch, as we could do with the help!

**Save West Whitwick Valley Area** – This is the area of land, discussed before in previous bulletins and at meetings, behind Talbot Street/Lane and Thornborough Road which is subject to a planning application. We understand that, following great work done to protect the area by local people, that council officers needed longer to prepare to respond to the petition. The petition will be considered on 11 June at 6pm at Stenson House. If people wish to go along please do, or you can log on to proceedings online.

**Coalville bus service improvements** – From 14 July, an Arriva bus service LC15 will run from Coalville via Stanton under Bardon, Markfield, Newtown Linford and Anstey to Leicester with stops at Hugglescote, Ellistown, Markfield Court, Glenfield and Glenfield hospital.

**Thringstone Panto and Drama Society** – Ann has been busy putting together a series of boards for the panto front of house to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. These will be in the downstairs bar, and put out and taken away by the bar staff at the centre before and after each show.

**Ingles FC** – This team, who play at Homestead Road, are looking for volunteers to help out, to also consider becoming trustees and taking a firm interest in the club. If you are interested, please contact the club direct. We have agreed to try to promote the club when their fixture list becomes available and have written an article on their club for Community Voice magazine.



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**Ruby's** – Well done to Andy and the team – Leicestershire Live has voted Ruby's the best fish and chip shop in Leicestershire! They received 3,032 votes, double the nearest rival.

**Thringstone Brownies** – meet every Wednesday at Thringstone Members Club. The brownie leader is Sam Lee, and anybody who has an interest in joining should contact her on 07491 977283. Nita is meeting them on 18 June in Coalville to talk about the effect of litter on the surrounding area, and how much litter is dropped locally and has asked them to help with litter picking on 5 July. They will get back to Nita on this. Nita has, in the meantime, put something in July's Community Voice magazine to say that the brownies meet at the Members Club for them.

**Viaduct in Gracedieu Woods** – A member of the public has asked to for this structure to be listed, and were asked our opinion on this by the Chief Conservation Officer from NWLDC on 21 May. We replied that we would support its inclusion in any listing, as it is a unique and special structure and should be both recognised and protected for the future.

**Motorbikes** - There have been reports of youths congregating around St Andrew's which has been reported to police and the church, and e bikes and scooters going round the **St Andrew's jitty area** at speed and nearly hitting pedestrians. The police say they are continuously and actively trying to combat the issues with off road motorbikes/e-bikes and e scooters, and have recently completed an undercover operation in both police and plain car to try and see these riders when they are out and about. They are unable to chase these people and need to see them entering their address to know who they are, and most of the time they are wearing a face covering. Police will continue to patrol the area, and look out for them when out and about but need details of who it is/where they live etc. This message was received from the police on 28 May: PCSO 6667 and PC 1550 from the Bardon Beat Team have held a joint agency meeting with NWLDC Community safety officers and contractors regarding **off road bikers accessing the woods** from the football pitch at the rear of the bowling club. Several access points were identified and marked up for **added fencing and horse/wheelchair friendly gates**. The illegal use of off-road bikes is a beat priority, with police and NWLDC implementing a number of actions to tackle the problem. There is a **beat surgery** at the centre at 11am on 18 June for an hour. All welcome.

**Parking near to Thringstone Co-op** – For several years, we have been concerned about parking near to the Co-op. People park right up to the yellow lines at the top of Drury Lane and also at/near the junction immediately outside of the shop making it difficult for people both to see as they exit the shop's car park, and also reverse out of the parking on the council car park.. It also makes it difficult for people leaving the shop's car park to get out if a vehicle is coming from either Main Street or The Green to get to the shop, trying to access the houses nearby and/or the centre. She reported this to our new county councillor, and received the following response: 'I've now reported the issue to the relevant team at the County Council, and I've received confirmation that it's being reviewed by the Traffic & Safety team. The reference number for this case is FS714914724. If I receive any updates from them, I'll be sure to keep you informed. If you don't hear anything further or if the situation doesn't improve, please feel free to come back to me and I'll be happy to follow it up again'.

**Whitwick Historical Event** – We are planning to work with this group on an event on 11<sup>th</sup> October with a theme of wartime. If anybody would like to help us with this, please let us know.

**Gracedieu woods access** – Savills, on behalf of the de Lisle's, have put up a notice on the entrance to the woods from the football pitch about rights of way in order to stop people (motorbikers?) saying they've used that access for 20 years and claiming they have a legal right of way, which they don't. See incident report below.

**Centre** – The centre has a smashing new updated website. Go to [www.charlesboothcentre.org.uk](http://www.charlesboothcentre.org.uk) The centre is advertising for people to have stalls at £10 per head at the music event on 2 August with set up from 11am. They are looking for businesses to sponsor raffle prizes for the same event. Contact the centre team if you can help. The event will be from 12 noon until late, and consist of live music throughout the day followed by a family disco in the evening with Lights to Go disco and karaoke. There will also be Lee's ice cream van, tea cups, hook a duck and Cotton's cobs. Concern was raised about promotion for the event outside the centre's facebook posts.



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## Chair's report

**Promotion:** We have **737 X followers**, which is 3 less than last month, and **2,357 facebook followers**, which is 17 more than last month.

**Other: Welcome** to our new members Chris Jarman, Gayle Baker, Michelle Baugh and Sharon Hopewell. **We are sorry** to have to report the death of our member Keith Wortley and our former member Jan Cufflin.

## 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.**

- 11-14 June – **Charles Booth Centre** – Oklahoma - 7.30pm. Book on 0333 666 3366 or go to [www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads).
- 13 June – **Charles Booth Centre coffee morning** 10-12 noon in aid of Bright Hope.
- 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...>
- 5 and 6 July – **Coalville's Picnic in the Parks** in Coalville Park.
- 13 July – **Ashby Show**
- 19 July – **Thringstone Members Club** – Family fun day from 2pm onwards. Activities for all ages.
- 20 July – **Thringstone Members Club** – Classic car and scooter meet at 2pm onwards. Outside bar, BBQ and live entertainment. £2 per person entry fee. Children free.
- 2 August – **Charles Booth Centre** – music day with live music and activities from 12 noon until late.
- 13 Sept – **Diseworth Show**
- 20 Sept – **Hello Heritage** at Charles Booth Centre from 1pm – 5.30pm.
- 21 Sept – Guided walk around the woods and Gracedieu Priory meeting at the Bull's Head car park at 3pm. £3 per person

## Financial

<b>.Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)</b>	<b>2386.92</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Publication sales	£40	Broadband	£20.00
Donations from church booklet sale	£20	Zurich Insurance	£7.98
Memberships	£696	Bags (money from petty cash)	£3.99
Other donations	£113	Printer	£209.99
Teas and coffees VE Day event	£37	Ink for Ann (from petty cash)	£50.00
<b>total income received</b>	<b>£906</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>291.96</b>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>3000.96</b>

## Website

The webmaster continues to work on further updates.

## Incident Report

- 21 May – eggs smashed on the Millenium stones on The Green cleared up by a litter picker.
- 23 May – group of youngsters running around the village in a gang. Police later called to group of youths with knives in Melrose play area, and someone who is new to the village threw a can of blue



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paint at a car on the carpark of Dalkeith Walk. Same evening police and firefighters were called to an incident on Swannymote Road which was closed off.

- 24 May – youth from Dalkeith Walk stabbed 4 times by another youth aged 19 who was arrested.
- 28 May – 4.50pm - car mounted the kerb by 38 Main St to avoid oncoming traffic and damaged another car. Driver said he would pull over the other side of the street but drove off.
- 2 June – man pulled from car by 8 others who possibly dislike his driving. All over facebook.

### History Report

- We now have a photo of **Mary Jane and Joseph Waldrum** who kept the George and Dragon from 1916-23. Mary Jane Richards married twice, firstly to Charles Jarvis who kept the same pub in the 1890s and by whom she bore 15 children (3 died as infants). Charles died of typhoid on 16 January 1900, and Mary Jane married Joseph Waldrum, brother of John who started the business now known as Ruby's and had another 5 children. She died aged 56. We have some photos of Jarvis children.
- One of our members has given us an original **wartime Ministry of Food cookery leaflet no. 17**, with recipes relating for white bread, quick bread, brown bread, rolls, doughnuts, malt fruit loaf, Chelsea buns and hot cross buns.
- We were sent scans of letters written between **1937 and 1945**. The letters are from all around the UK and some mention knitting. There are letters from Alice and Eileen at 31 Northfield Road, Dagenham to Nell and Reg, a letter from 214 Hastings Road, Bromley Common, Kent dated 18 October 1940 sent to Mrs Heath at 1 Dunstan's Road, Peckham Heath, SE, asking her to pay the rent for them because they were going away, and another from 22 Morden Court, Morden, Surrey. One from Aunt Pollie of 147 Goddard Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire talks of terrible destruction and asking when the war will end, but one of the letters, to a lady called Betty from Rose Cottage, High Street, Sevenoaks, Kent detailed the situation in the war relating to general life in Kent. It says ' You can hardly leave your house without the siren going off, and there is so much damage. There is always a blue pencil banshee howler going off. This morning our electricity failed and a barrage balloon fouled a cable. During the failure, we had two air raid warnings but they couldn't sound the sirens, so wardens had to run round telling everybody and blowing whistles. Dad has been made transport controller for the ARP and is now entitled to a white tin helmet and several gas masks as one of the higher folk. Yesterday we went through the gas chamber to have our gas masks tested. They were all A1. It was fun watching the gas rise and fade away but not feeling any ill effects'.
- People who remember **VE Day in 1945** have said there were tables up Loughborough Road from about no. 88 to The Green. People from Main Street didn't have their own party. Some joined in the one on Loughborough Road, where there were sandwiches, trifles and jelly plus balloons for the children. It is thought that the parade that took place started from The Green, and went round the whole village and that the Rose and Crown had a hand in the organization of the day. Main Street's Jackie Wardle was in the parade, and dressed as Ghandi, and it is said that he looked more like Ghandi than the man himself. Others have mentioned the competition for the best fancy dress. A short mention in the Leicester Mercury of 10 May 1945 said that scores of residents donned fancy dress and marched through the decorated village, headed by a trumpeter and torches were carried at a procession in Whitwick.. Some people, however, with family in POW camps and/or fighting in the far east weren't celebrating. VJ day was 15 August. We are currently trying to get local photographs if there are any of the original VE day in 1945.
- **Mary Adams and her descendants** – Nita has been researching Charles Adams who was born in Thringstone, went to school locally, yet moved to Belgium to be an engineer in the 1860/70s, where, presumably, he had no knowledge of the language. **Mary Adams**, Charles' mother, was born in Croydon in around 1813 and was in Thringstone from at least the 1830s. She had 3 illegitimate children, and in April 1863 we know was keeping the Thringstone toll gate down Whitwick Moor (which was subsequently taken over by her daughter Bessie Moore). The elder two of Mary's children were baptised at St John's in Whitwick. Mary appears to have died later in 1863 and was buried at St Andrew's. Her first child, **Charles Adams** was born on 19 February 1839 in Thringstone and died in Uccle, near to Brussels, Belgium on 24 November 1924. He was buried at the now



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disused Dieweg cemetery in Uccle. At some stage after 1861 when he appears as a joiner on the census along with his mother who is listed as a laundress and his sister Sarah, Charles Adams moved to Brussels. Together with his wife Mary Ann, who might be Mary Ann Tarr from Radford, they had a son called Arthur in Belgium in 1872, but Mary Ann died on 18 September 1879, and by 1881, Arthur was living with aunt Bessie Moore, and subsequently he went to Hugglescote, where in 1891 he was a joiner's apprentice. He then disappears. It is interesting that Charles' sister Sarah was also living in Belgium during this period. At some time, widower Charles returned to the UK, presumably to see family, including Arthur, but he does not appear on the 1881 census. However, we do know from records that he married Sarah Williams, from Gracedieu, at St John's in Whitwick on 18 August 1881. His address at that time was St Jean, Brussels, Belgium. He was now an engineer, rather than a joiner. The couple moved back to Brussels, where they had what we believe to be twins, Ada Catherine and John William in Molenbeek St Jean, Belgium. We know for sure that Ada was born in April 1885. Charles' wife, Sarah nee Williams, died on 13 March 1932 at Koekleberg in Brussels aged 83, and was buried in the Dieweg cemetery with Charles. We have a photo of the grave. We understand that their daughter Ada Catherine married George Luff in Belgium, and lived there at least until his death in 1929, dying in 1970 in Headingley, Leeds. John William married a lady with the first names Ellen Esther from Clapham, London and in 1911, together with their son Charles Frank born 9 April 1909, was living at 28 Enfield Street, Beeston. Charles Frank Adams went to work in 1960 in Rio de Janeiro from his home in Sutton, Surrey, and we have a photo. Charles Frank married Joyce Clavennae Beecroft in Wetherby, Yorkshire, in 1937, had one daughter, and died in April 1978 in Claro in North Yorkshire. By 1921 John William Adams and his family were in Rodley, Leeds, where John was the manager of a ball bearing company, and with them was their youngest son, George Edward who was 7 and born in Beeston. John William died on 28 October 1938 at Mon Abri, 12 Otley Old Road, Headingley, Leeds, leaving £6089 0s 4 pence to his wife who died on 16 September 1941 at 8 Laurel Bank Court, Headington. Mon Abri is French for 'My Refuge'. George Edward, known as Ted, stayed in the Leeds area, married Barbara Mabel Green in 1945 and had 2 sons. He died on 6 June 1966. Mary Adams' daughter, **Elizabeth (Bessie)** was born in January 1841, and appears with her mother and Charles on the 1841 census as a 4 month old living on Main Street, She married Thomas Moore, and they kept the grocery shop on the corner of Whitwick Moor for some time, and Bessie was also the keeper of the toll gate. The couple had no children. When she died intestate on 17 May 1906, her estate of £35 in value went to her husband, but he then died intestate, and the only living relative of Bessie that could be found was her brother, **Charles** Adams, engineer, whose address at that time was 299 Rue de Palais, Brussels. It took until 1914 for her will to be sorted and John William Adams of Enfield Street, Beeston (as above, son of Charles and Sarah Williams), agreed that his father, Charles Adams, was the next of kin. **Sarah Adams**, Mary Adams' youngest child, was born in 1843, married William Wilkins at St John's in Whitwick in 1864, and had 9 children. William died in Thringstone in 1905, but that family also moved to Brussels and we are lead to believe, lived there for 25 years coming back to the UK every winter period. One of their sons, John Wilkins, born in Thringstone in 1874, was educated in Belgium, and spoke fluent French and Flemish. We are told that he acted as an interpreter on tours for English speaking people around the Waterloo battlefields and helped no end with Belgian refugees in this area in WW1. Two of William and Sarah's children, twins Elizabeth and Sarah, were born on 11 January 1882 in Molenbeek, Brussels. We have a copy of their birth registration from 14 January 1882 showing that Elizabeth was born at 7am and Sarah at 7.15am Several family tree listings, and the 1939 register, give their date of birth as 12<sup>th</sup> January. Both girls lived in the UK. Elizabeth married William John Batson on 17 January 1903 at St Andrew's at which time both were living at Talbot Lane, Swannington, moved to live in North Street, Whitwick and she died in 1941. Sarah married Philip Neal on 21 September 1901 at St George's, Swannington and died in 1964.

**Next meeting 2 July at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre. All welcome**