



The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

Chairman: Nita Pearson BEM
20 Springfield, Thringstone, Leicestershire, LE67 8LT.
Telephone: 01530 223434
mail to: nita.pearson@ntlworld.com

Visit our website at: www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk
Twitter address: [@Thringstone2](https://twitter.com/Thringstone2)

BULLETIN FOR JULY 2025

Monthly litter pick total – 109 bags removed by **7 people** against **115 bags by 7 people** for June 2024. A burnt out motorbike was found in the woods on 17 June after an explosion heard over night. We have not been able to move this.

Meeting 3 July – 6 present, 10 apologies

Well done to Thringstone Brownies – who did a litter pick around Coalville on 18 June collecting 17 bags.

Litter pick 5 July – As part of the Love Your Neighbourhood project with NWLDC, we have a small litter pick for an hour from The Green at 10am. Nita has already emailed members about this, and mentioned it in previous bulletins. If you want to come litter picking with Nita, she needs to have numbers to ensure there are enough sticks to go round. Please email or ring and let her know if you are coming along.

Poppies – The displays for the church and centre are completed. Janet is still working on the display for Thringstone Members Club. With regard to poppies yet to come to us (people have until the end of August to complete this and let Janet have these), we have contacted Ruby's about a possible display there, and also The Old School House for a possible display there and are waiting for a response. The Meadows has said that, if there are sufficient poppies, they will have some on their fencing and we understand Thringstone Primary have started their display. Janet said that you need 140 poppies per sq. mtr. We are not sure how many more poppies are likely to come in. There was talk about measuring netting outside Thringstone Members Club and using small patches of poppies to put onto railings rather than having a huge area covered. Nita will put something out on facebook about the poppies. Mike was asked to help with some installations as he is taller than most of us.

Thringstone and Whitwick People Zone – The crime and police commissioner sent a letter this month saying that our people zone had granted £63k in funding to 15 projects, but the police would be stepping back from our zone to start other projects elsewhere. He said that there would be a community listening and responding model set up to help existing partners and in September 2025, a new legacy funding stream would come into effect, alongside a community action fund, aimed at reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. Anne said there had been a good talk on cyber security at the centre recently as part of this scheme. On that subject Mike King said Almost 700 **Brother printer** models have been found to contain a number of serious security flaws that could allow an attacker to access other devices on your network, and potentially access your documents. The same is true of some printer models made by Fujifilm, Toshiba, Ricoh, and Konica Minolta. How to protect yourself: Brother says that seven of the eight vulnerabilities can be fixed by a firmware update, so this should be done by all users. However, the default password generation flaw cannot be fixed, so if you have not already changed it, do so now.

Source: <https://9to5mac.com/2025/07/01/psa-if-you-have-a-brother-printer-change-the-password-now/>

Hello Heritage – We are still looking for help with cakes etc. for this event on 20 September

Weeding – Thank you to Steve Springthorpe for working with us to remove weeds and nettles from Drury Lane and to a neighbour who has also done some tidying up. A lady we spoke with a few



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weeks ago has now started to tidy up the area, cut back bushes and plant in the lane, as she likes gardening. However, there is a lot more still to do if anybody fancies helping out.

Volunteering with our group – Do you have half an hour a month to spare? Would you like to help Friends of Thringstone by volunteering? We have quite a few things we could do with some help with, and volunteers are thin on the ground. Nationally, only 16% of adults volunteer in this country, which is sad as you can get a lot of satisfaction by volunteering. Since covid, along with many other groups both in this area and nationally, we have seen the number of volunteers we can call upon reduce. Around 37% of our membership is under retirement age and will probably be too busy with work and family to help out, but irrespective of age, just half an hour a month would help us. Please let us know if you can volunteer with us.

Save West Whitwick Valley Area – At the council meeting on 11 June, many local residents went along to Stenson House to discuss the petition to stop building on this green field site at the rear of Talbot Street/Lane/Thornborough Rd. Cllr. Craig Smith and Cllr. Tony Gillard attended, but Cllr. Peter Moulton, who, unlike the other two, would have been able to speak on behalf of residents as the ward councillor failed to attend. With no local voice in the room to move a motion, the petition was simply “noted.” After the meeting, the two other councillors held an impromptu meeting in the car park to explain to residents what had happened and where the fight goes from here. They feel that Whitwick West is wholly unsuitable for development, and if a planning application comes forward, they will endeavour to fight it every step of the way. Since that time, there have been social media reports of an EMH van being seen in the fields at the rear of Talbot Street.

Manor Park Gracedieu – There are now weekly netball sessions, with coaches, available for people to join. These started on Friday 20 June and run weekly from 6pm-7pm. Cost is £6 per week, with payments preferred monthly. For more details contact coach Ally on 07913 026 216.

Our display boards for Oklahoma – Ann spent a lot of time putting together the boards for the panto society, and these were put up in the downstairs bar before every performance, and then put away again. We are told that these created a lot of interest.

Chair's report

Promotion: We have **737 X followers**, which is the same as last month, and **2,364 facebook followers**, which is 7 more than last month.

Other: Exceptionally sorry to report the death of Geoff Walker on 13 June at 8.30am. Geoff had been part of the family of Friends of Thringstone since 2005. He contributed a lot to the village, from the panto society, through the centre by helping them fundraise for their lift and also for championing Thringstone's Got Talent and taking it to the centre, to working with us on raising money through his 300,000 instagram followers for the rebuilding of the wall down the church jitty. Condolences to all the family. We understand that the funeral will be at St Andrew's on 10th July at 2pm, and that Geoff did not wish people to wear black. Any financial donations should be made to British Heart Foundation.

Nita has written the August bauble and sent this to Community Voice.

Sarah Baxter has resigned from our committee. We thank her for her work over the years.

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.

- 5 and 6 July – **Coalville's Picnic in the Parks** in Coalville Park. 5th – 6pm-9.30pm, 6th 12 noon until 5.30pm
- 11 July – Charity coffee morning at **Charles Booth Centre** from 10am-12 noon.
- 13 July – **Ashby Show**
- 19 and 20 July – **Gracedieu Priory** – Festival of archaeology weekend 12noon until 5pm both days. Exhibition, refreshments, guided tours each day at 2pm, and have a go at archaeology. Free entry.
- 19 July – **Thringstone Members Club** – Family fun day from 2pm onwards. Activities for all ages.



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- 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.
- 24 July – **Queen’s Head, Belton** - Talk on the Whitwick Mining Disaster of 1898 by members of Whitwick Historical Group. 7.30pm start. £3 entry.
- 2 August – **Charles Booth Centre** – music day with live music and activities from 12 noon until late.
- 8 August – Charity coffee morning at **Charles Booth Centre** from 10am-12 noon.
- 16 Aug – **Man Within Compass** – music festival 12 noon until 12.30am. Tickets £5
- 18 August – **Meadows Care Home** – Annual fete from 1.30pm. All welcome
- 12-13 Sept – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society’s** production of Stumped by Murder at Charles Booth Centre. Starts at 7.30pm. For tickets go to 0333 666 3366.
- 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

.Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	3000.96		
Income		Expenditure	
Memberships	£4 (paid into petty cash)	Broadband	£20.00
		Zurich Insurance	£7.98
		Scrap book	£5.00
total income received	£4	Total expenditure	£32.98
		Total	2971.98

Website

The webmaster continues to work on further updates having helped us considerably this month with a data issue on a bulletin from 2021 which recorded the name of a member who joined at that time. She had contacted us this month to ask for her name to be redacted as she didn’t want an internet presence, and our bulletin appeared on a Google search. Mike spent some time explaining to the meeting what he had done to rectify the issue, and we agreed that all new members will be asked if we can mention their names in our bulletins. Mike has also updated our achievements page to cover the end of 2024.

Incident Report

If you want to report any anti-social behaviour to NWLDC, you need to talk to the officers who deal with this, who are Kevin Bradley and Michaela Cort.

Nita had a 20 minute conversation with our PCSO over various issues of concern in the village on 21 June. These included e bikes and motorbike issues, drugs concerns and general anti-social behaviour. If anybody wishes to report something to the police, we are advised to do this via the Leicestershire Police website. Where this is not a crime that is happening, you can fill in the section **Tell Us About** and then go to ‘tell us about something you have seen or heard’ and fill in details there. This is then immediately passed to the local beat team. <https://www.leics.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/soh/seen-or-heard/>

- 7 June – blue and white **bike** reported to police speeding around church jitties. Caught on CCTV. Rider not wearing any helmet.
- 11 June – lady and her two dogs were **attacked** by another dog on Dalkeith Walk which came out through a hole in the hedge to the property. This is the second time the same dog has attacked her dogs, although the first time it came through the gate. One dog was injured and so was the lady



concerned. Police and housing officer informed as the dog had attacked this lady before, and had also attacked someone and their dog who live on Elgin Walk.

- 13 June – Large police presence on **Dalkeith Walk**. Man taken away.
- 13 and 14 June – police seen in woods possibly looking for **motorbikes**.
- 14 June – Red and white bike plus e **bike** seen riding around church jitty reported to our Police contact who said she was at that point in time working on Melrose estate.
- 23 June – Council put an **electrical signs** at the entrance to Melrose Road (top end) to advertise Love Your Neighbourhood Week. Someone then decided to take a brick to it. A local man came to try to intervene and got hit for his interference. Police informed. Person with the brick now continues to annoy neighbours with anti-social behaviour.
- 27 June – green and white motorbike speeding down into **woods** at 9.25pm then driven around the woods and the field at the back of the bowling club for an hour, revving up and speeding about. Police informed.
- 27 June – out of control car hit and demolished the wall of a house on **Melrose Road**.
- 28 June – Police patrolling in **Gracedieu woods** over reports of motorbikes for the 3rd evening in a row.
- 30 June – Fight on **Dalkeith Walk** between group of young men.
- 1 July – car parked on **The Green** close to Drury Lane was hit by another car reversing from the council car park. Person drove off.
- 3 July – theft of **groceries** from One Stop Shop, Lbro Rd.
The meeting was concerned over the level of anti-social behaviour in the village at the moment, and about drug issues.

History Report

- We were contacted by Dr Ursula Ackrill, special collections librarian at Nottingham University. Amongst others, she looks after the books that once formed part of Ashby Parish Library, which was opened between 1707 and 1712. This special collection moved to Nottingham in 2013. She wanted more information on L J Mitchell who we mentioned in a 2022 bulletin as being the librarian at Ashby and Coalville in the 1950s, as the University have a catalogue, written by him in the 1950s, listing all the books then held at Ashby de la Zouch library which at that time included the special collection. They wanted to add his biography to the catalogue, which is the only record showing what was held at the library other than the original catalogue from the 18th century when the original Ashby Parish Library opened. Extensive research showed that **Leonard John Mitchell** was born in Balham on 18 February 1926, married in Belfast on 30 June 1949 to Isabella Gibson, became a librarian in Lambeth in 1952, then moved to Coalville and Ashby libraries before moving to the library in Herne Bay in Kent in 1956. In 1959 he took up the librarian's job in Londonderry. He was awarded the Fellowship of the Librarian's Association in 1963, and moved to the Isle of Wight in 1970 where he stopped until he retired in 1989 at which point in time he was the cultural services director for the island. He continued to live, with his wife and 3 children, in the Isle of Wight and died on 22 November 2010. His wife died on 7 March 2016. This information, and various copies of newspaper articles, was passed back to the University for their records. Dr Ackrill said that the information provided was 'beyond my wildest dreams' and allowed her to do a full biography to attach to Mr Mitchell's catalogue.
- Following on from our post last month about **Mary Adams** and her family, we have been taken to see her gravestone, which is in the un-mowed part of the churchyard at St Andrew's. It is the oldest gravestone there, is very discoloured, but the name is just about readable. We now have a photograph of it when the area around the stone was regularly mowed which is a bit easier to read. However, there was considerable erosion to the stone, and it isn't possible to read the actual date of death. Her burial took place on 18 December 1863, with records saying she was 50 years of age. We believe she had previously been an inmate of the Leicestershire County Asylum which stood on what is now University Road in Leicester. There is a Mary Adams, of similar age, admitted there on



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25 September 1863 who died on 13 December 1863, which would fit. This asylum catered for people with both cognitive and physical illnesses and debilities, not necessarily people who were mentally ill. We further wonder if Mary was the daughter of Jeremiah and Hannah Adams of Selsdon, which is a small village on the outskirts of Croydon, which is where she always said she was born. If so, she was baptized at All Saints, Sanderstead on 3 October 1813, along with her sibling Elizabeth, and father Jeremiah was a bailiff. We have been in touch with Croydon archives in the hope they might be able to shed some light on all this, but they merely said that Jeremiah might have worked for the Byron family at Coulsdon Court and we are welcome to go to Croydon if we then book an appointment to view their archives personally....

- For our event around VE Day, we were able to borrow some medals belonging to **Cecil Leslie Cruse**, known in our village as Les. He was a policeman who lived in the police house which is now 53 Loughborough Road and with 12 others he received a long service award from the Police in October 1973. He retired from the police in 1976. His obituary tells that he was born on 11 June 1923 in Berkshire, and was a member of an old Inkpen family. He died on 3 April 1997 at Glenfield hospital after a short illness aged 73. The youngest son in a family of 3 sons and 2 daughters, his father was a gardener. Les was born in Totterdown, and the family lived in a cottage in Inkpen, provided by the wealthy family for whom Frank was the gardener. He is on the 1939 register with his family at Totterdown Cottage, where he is a gardener working in glass houses, along with his brother Albert who was also known by his middle name, in this case Donald. His other brother Ted is listed as a pigman and gardener. On leaving school, Les worked in the gardens at Hungerford Park before joining the army – he joined the Royal Sussex regiment when he was 18 and served in Burma where he saw active service, and contracted malaria 5 times. Returning to his home after the war, he settled down in Totterdown, working with his father as a gardener and playing cricket for the Inkpen team with his father and one of his brothers. He joined the police force in Leicestershire in 1951, first serving in Hinckley then in Melton Mowbray where he met and married Miss Beryl Ward who survived him. He was a popular member of the police force in all his stations including Coalville, Thringstone and Market Bosworth, and he maintained his love of cricket and also took up golf. He was a loyal member of the Burma Star Association and attended the annual reunions of his regiment at Chichester. Latterly living in Mosssdale, Whitwick, he was a valued member of the local Royal British Legion Branch, serving as president at one time, and vice-president when he died. He was much involved with Poppy Day collections. His interest in history was fostered in retirement and he served as a guide and steward at the National Trust's Calke Abbey, known as the house that time forgot. He was on duty there, came home and felt ill so went to hospital and never came back home. He returned to Newbury every year with his wife to visit family and friends in the district. The funeral took place at St Andrew's, Thringstone with full British Legion honours. This information was shared with Dave Sharman from the RBL, together with information on John Frank Upton of Highfield Street who died in 1943 aged 21, and Walter Leslie Egginton from Ibstock who died in 1979 in Hugglescote, whose medals the RBL also have in their archives.
- **May 1882** – 6 houses in Skinner's Lane, Whitwick were bought at auction for £140 by **Mr Biddle Snr.** of Thringstone.
- **July 1882** – Following the closure of Snibston Colliery No. 1, various items were for sale at auction. According to the newspaper articles, these included 200 cottages which were the remaining and westward portion of 'Snibston Buildings West', situated in Clampville, within Ashby Road, which were bought by **Mr Thomas Gough Jnr.**, a traveller of Main Street, Thringstone, for £620 – a house was therefore worth £31. Mr Gough died on 17 July 1890 at his daughter Bertha's home – Southend Cottage - and is buried at St Andrew's, leaving £951 19s 6d which equates in today's terms to £132,500. His will, however, sheds more light on these houses, as 20 cottages and gardens at Snibston were mentioned, not 200, and these were left to his daughters Bertha Fisher and Lily Else Gough. A further 2 brick and tile cottages and gardens in the centre of the village were left to Lily Else Gough. She married John Mann in 1895, had 8 children and died on 15 Dec 1908 aged 31 years. There is also mention in Thomas's will of his foster children **Harry Handford Fewkes and Ida Fewkes**. Harry was born on 19 January 1882 and his sister 2 years later on 21



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July 1884. The will makes several mentions of both of these, and money was left to Thomas's wife, Sarah Gough, for their maintenance prior to becoming 21 years of age. Unlike his sister, Harry was also singled out to receive items. He was to receive £50 at the age of 21, £50 at the age of 23 and £100 at the age of 25. In addition, he was left a silver English lever watch, a gold sovereign, a gold 2.5 dollar coin and a gold and crystal seal to be given to him at the age of 21. He was also left a single barrel gun, which had originally belonged to Thomas Gough's father, also called Thomas Gough who had died in 1886, but only to be given to Harry at the age of 25, at which point in time he would also receive a third of the old coin collection belonging to Thomas Gough, the other 2/3rds being split between Bertha and Lily. With regard to Ida, she merely received £10 at the age of 21. It would appear that Harry was born to John Fewkes and Julia Handford who had married in 1877. Julia died in 1887. It is assumed that John Fewkes could not look after his family, as he continued to live until 1914, leaving his home in Brook Lane, Thringstone to move all over the place as a lodger. After the death of Thomas Gough, Harry was brought up by Bertha Fisher and her husband Walter who kept The Fox Inn. In 1904 Harry joined the army, but that was short lived and in 1905, at the age of 23, Harry married Ellen Maud Fitzhugh, and had 5 children. He moved to Jubilee Crescent in Narborough, and died of a coronary thrombosis on 21 June 1955 at 8 Cromford Avenue, Wigston. Ida Fewkes was initially adopted by the Gough family, but was brought up after 1890 by other family (The Williamson's) in Hugglescote before moving to Leicester to work in the boot and shoe industry and then in service, also in Leicester. She married Archibald Jackson in Leicester on 7 May 1908, but her husband died in WW1 of injuries on 7 September 1916, leaving her widowed with 3 sons, Fred, William and Frank. She had a further son called Arthur by an unknown person on 11 January 1919. Ida died in Leicester in 1949 and was buried at Saffron Hill Cemetery.

- **Dec 1895** – A new company was set up called **Whitwick and Thringstone Conservative Club Company Ltd.** with shares being offered at 10 shillings up to a maximum of 2000.
- **April 1899** – A company called **Thringstone Limited** was set up on 12 April by C Double of 14 Sargeant's Inn, London EC1 with a view to purchasing the manors of Thringstone and Peggs Green and to win, get, quarry and prepare for market ore, metals and minerals. This company was set up without articles of association.
- **July 1903** – A Rotherham newspaper told of **John Vaughan**, who had reached the age of 102. Born in Thringstone on 13 March 1801, Mr Vaughan had just returned from a visit to Loughborough. He enlisted in the 17th lancers in 1815 and served at Waterloo as a bugler. Mr Vaughan was still hale and hearty, and claimed to be able to speak 5 or 6 languages.
- **November 1910** - **Albert Glover Ottey** of Thringstone, formerly of Whitwick,, occupation cricket grounds man for Gracedieu Park Cricket Club and formerly a shoe maker was listed as bankrupt in London newspapers.
- **April 1911** – At a ceremony to open the new building at Thringstone House, Charles Booth handed out **St John Ambulance Certificates** to those who had taken part in Dr Burkitt's classes during the winter months and were now capable of rendering first aid. The 10 certificates were given to Rev Shrewsbury, A J Wilmot, A Baker, Walter Watts, Philip Neal, J W Henson, Charles W Watts, Thomas Fortnam and Goerge H James. It was the second time that Philip Neal had been given a certificate and the fourth year that George James had received the award. At that point in time, Philip Neal and family were living in John St.
- **September 1913** – **Thomas Toon** of Main Street, Thringstone, and formerly of 19 Hotel Street, Coalville, was listed as bankrupt in London newspapers. He had been a seedsman and fruiterer but was now of no occupation.

Next meeting 7 August at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre. All welcome