



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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Bulletin August 2025

Monthly litter pick total – 84 bags removed by **6 people** against **115 bags** by **10 people** for July 2024. A lot of discarded cans were picked up this month where the contents hadn't been drunk!

Meeting notes 7 Aug. 8 people present, 11 apologies

Hello Heritage - Nita collected our new display board, bunting, leaflets and banner today (7 August) from NWLDC. Some leaflets have been left at the centre and others taken to St Andrew's.

Jill Emmerson has offered to do the cake stall, and Chris Jarman and Tracy Foulds will help sell teas and coffees. If anybody else wants to help out on the day, please let us know. We obviously need people to **bake cakes**. Three of our members have already offered to do cakes, and we don't need anything particularly fancy. Any cakes with nuts or things that might trigger an allergy need to be labelled for us so there are no issues. If anybody else would like to make us some cakes, that would be great, but we will need these dropping off to us either the day before, so 19 September, or taken to the event for its opening at 1pm. Nita has done an article for Community Voice on this event.

Weeding etc – Thanks to Simon for cutting back the bushes down the church jitty.

Bus service – Tony Gillard has started a petition to call for the bus service no. 16 to go through Thringstone and into Whitwick past the GP surgery and chemists. The petition can be completed in the One Stop Shop as far as Thringstone is concerned.

Ruby's – The shop will be closed for annual holidays from 9 August until 25th inclusive, with the reopening on 26th.

West Whitwick Valley area - at the Local Plan Committee on 30 July, those people defending the proposal to build on this area asked a few challenging questions and were surprised to be informed that the Council were not aware that drilling had taken place on C77 and had contaminated the stream close to Talbot Lane. The committee considered the results of the public consultation relating to the additional sites and agreed to remove Packington Nook from the plan. Councillor Lees asked that the development on his patch at Measham should be removed and Councillor Wyatt asked that Broomleys should be removed. The committee voted in favour of all the additional sites, apart from Packington, being included in the plan and going through to Section 19, the next stage. The infrastructure and road modelling proposals will be considered in October. We will continue to ask searching questions and gathering further evidence in making our case for West Whitwick Valley being removed from the plan.

Charity coffee morning – The charity coffee morning held at the centre in July raised £110 for British Heart Foundation. Those on email will have received something on 23 July about FoT funding the purchase of the cakes for these events for the next 9 months in the tune of around £180. All the committee are in agreement that this be approved, since it would give the charity of the month ALL of the money raised without deductions. No negative comments were received, and we even got an email of support from the office of Amanda Hack MP. Nita then spoke to one of the organisers of the coffee mornings hosted at the centre with a view to getting the money to them for the August coffee morning. The cheque was issued on 1 August and will appear in the next bulletin's financial



statement. The poster for the September coffee morning will have a thank you for FoT on it, as well as the centre for hosting the event.

Poppies – Nita contacted The Old School House about helping to attach poppies to netting as part of our project for November, and did not receive a response. The Meadows care home will be having a display inside, and on the outside railings will be around 11 panels of poppies which will be installed with the help of the WI. Ladies from St Andrew's are putting some poppies on netting at the front on Main St, and are considering using some red, white and blue bunting to attach some poppies to, like a string, leading up to the church, and behind the porch doors, with further decoration inside. This could concentrate on the front area and/or round the remembrance plaques in the church. They might consider having the church open on some of the days around Remembrance Day for people to come in and see what they have done, but will let Nita know on that. Their ladies will continue, if possible, to make poppies that they might need past our end of August cut off point. We are currently looking to see if Thringstone Miners Social Centre want any poppies, and will report back on that in due course. The centre has been given their netting with poppies on for installation at a time suitable to them. They will then keep this for any future use. Ruby's installation may have to change due to the size of the space to be filled, but the WI will try to help with this also.

Cinderhill farm – our friends at the farm are offering an hour in their wildflower and wellbeing field so that people can decompress and relax. Cost is £10 per hour for up to 6 people. Contact Carol on 07960 014981 or email minimoonie70@sky.com

Chair's report

Promotion – We have **735 X followers** which is 2 less than last month and **2,382 facebook** followers which is 18 more than last month

Other: Nita has written and submitted the January 2026 **history article** to Community Voice on the visit on 15 May 1976 of **Chris Tarrant** to open the Thringstone Grand Gala and crown the gala queen, Joanne James. She has also written the Feb 2026 article on **PC Les Cruse** whose story was mentioned in a recent bulletin and about **Alice Towle nee Wye** who was the first live-in warden at Thringstone House for the March 2026 article .

Nita had contact from Lee Swales, the new head at **Thringstone Primary School** to introduce himself, talk about collaboration on future projects and the booklets we have written and donated to the school in the past.

Nita took part in a phone in on the **Storm Huntley** part of the Jeremy Vine show on Channel 5 on 30 July talking about litter picking, and why people should think of improving their local areas.

Welcome to our new members, Jenny and Adrian Cross and James Lowe

What's On

Remember there is always a coffee morning at the centre on Wednesday mornings and at St Andrew's on a Thursday morning as part of open church.

- 8 August – Charity coffee morning in aid of Loros at **Charles Booth Centre** from 10am-12 noon.
- 9 August – Open garden at **Aquaduct Cottage, Gelsmoor, Coleorton**. 10.30am - 3.30pm. Stalls, coffee and cakes. £5 entry. No dogs.
- 10 Aug – Charity Cricket match at **Grace Dieu Park CC** starting at 1pm. **Gary Mansfield Memorial Day** with past v present cricketers taking part.
- 16 Aug – **Man Within Compass** – Woodstock in Whitwick music festival 12 noon until 12.30am. Tickets £5
- 18 August – **Meadows Care Home** – Annual fete from 1.30pm. All welcome
- 7 Sept – From **Man Within Compass** – charity 5k run for LOROS. Entry £5 per person.
- 12 Sept – Charity Coffee Morning in aid of MacMillan at **Charles Booth Centre** from 10am – 12 noon.
- 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. Free entry.

- 21 Sept – Guided walk around the woods and **Gracedieu Priory** meeting at the Bull’s Head car park at 3pm. £3 per person
- 10 Oct – Charity Coffee Morning in aid of Old School House, Thringstone at **Charles Booth Centre** from 10am – 12 noon
- 14 Nov - Charity Coffee Morning in aid of the poppy appeal at **Charles Booth Centre** from 10am – 12 noon
- 12 Dec - Charity Coffee Morning in aid of Rainbow’s Hospice at **Charles Booth Centre** from 10am – 12 noon

Financial Report

.Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	2971.98		
Income		Expenditure	
Memberships	£12	Broadband	£20.00
Donations	£17	Zurich Insurance	£7.98
		Website renewal	£72.00
total income received	£29	Total expenditure	£99.98
		Total	£2901

Website

The webmaster is continuing to try to update the site.

Incident reporting

The beat police have confirmed that one of their three month targets is to tackle anti-social behaviour and off road motorbiking on the Melrose Road estate, as well other areas. They want to express the concerns of local residents, reassure the community, and gather valuable information to develop actionable intelligence.

The police advised of a beat surgery at the centre on 16 July at 11am.

Police rang Nita on 18 July to say that they have done multiple walks round the jitties by St Andrew’s especially, and patrols, and not seen anything untoward round there. They have also done some house to house enquiries round there, and spoken to a couple of people who have issues but as there is nothing further they can do, they are closing the sentinel on this. If you feel they should do otherwise, please let them know.

- 5 July – **Land Rover** taken from drive on Main St and house broken into. Various reported sightings following facebook post and car found. Also facebook posts about burglaries on Henson’s Lane.
- 8 July – reports of child on a bike doing **wheelies** in the road, weaving in and out of traffic, causing a van do to an emergency stop, and on confronting the child, the van driver got a load of abuse, and the behaviour continued down the road. Police informed.
- 11 July – Motorbikes in **Gracedieu Woods** from 8pm until late for the 2nd night running. Police informed.
- 12 July – Police doing checks on motorbiking in **Gracedieu Woods**. Motorbikes came back an hour after police left.
- 20 July – youth found in garden of property on **Main Street** trying to get into shed. Police informed. Sightings of 3 youths walking around **Lbro Rd** between 2am and 4am the same day.
- 22 July – Rear car window and windscreen smashed to a disabled lady’s car parked outside her house on **Main Street**.
- 23 July – altercation between two males on **Melrose Rd** saw one male swinging a metal bar at the windscreen of a car after it tried to hit him.
- 24 July – one male and one woman with ponytail recorded on CCTV taking used **veg oil containers** from the rear of Ruby’s at 3am.



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- 28 July - 2 men aged 41 and 46 and a 41 year old woman from **Henson's Lane** were arrested following a drugs raid on the property. The charges were suspicion of the production and possession of cocaine plus intent to supply crack cocaine. Additionally, a number of Section 5 firearms, including a Taser and Captor PAVA spray, similar to a pepper spray, were located at the premises and all three were arrested because of possession of these weapons. The suspects were taken into custody and later released on bail pending a court case.
- 2 Aug – someone broke into the scoring shed at **Gracedieu Park Cricket Club** and took the door off. They also tried to do something to the pavilion door.

History report

- A recent posting on social media relating to the history of the local area listed **Andrew Wilkins** as a director of the Olympia Company which set up a roller skating rink in Coalville in 1910. This prompted further research, as the suggestion was that Andrew was a native of Thringstone. Research has shown that Andrew Wilkins was born on 14 September 1854 in Staffordshire, but lived in Thringstone for a short time with his grandparents, the Holland family. Andrew's mother Sarah, who died in 1872, was born in Thringstone. His father, James Wilkins, had no Thringstone connections being born in Hugglescote. Andrew travelled to work on newspapers in Bedworth, Nottingham and Nuneaton and had previously part owned the Nuneaton Observer, which was a partnership with William Wilson. This was dissolved in September 1893, and when this business failed, he came back to the area bringing with him Charles Marston, who was the Observer's chief printer, to run the **Coalville Times** printing works of which he was senior partner. The last page of the Coalville Times used to carry the following statement "Printed and Published by Andrew Wilkins and Son, at their Gas Power Printing Works, "Times" Office, High Street, Coalville in the County of Leicester." Along with his wife Elizabeth nee Baker, whom he married at Nuneaton Congregational Church on 7 May 1880, Andrew lived for many years at 78 London Road, Coalville. The 1939 register shows him at that address and says 'station and news proprietor' for his occupation. He was the first ever president of the Coalville Chamber of Trade and Commerce and was also secretary of the Coalville Plate Glass Association. In 1941, sitting advancing years, he resigned from the Leicestershire Public Assistance Committee of which he had been a part for 11 years, and also resigned from the guardians committee for the western area of the county, which again he had been part of since its formation. He had been part of the Ashby Guardians Committee and for many years was secretary of the Coalville Nursing Association. He died aged 93 years on 4 June 1948 at LRI, at which time it was said he was the oldest resident in Coalville. Research shows that Andrew and his son Edward retired at the same time in 1945, at which point the Coalville Times was sold and changed hands. His executor was his son, Edward James Wilkins, a retired printer and publisher. He left £15,242 0 shillings and 10 pence. Edward Wilkins was born on 21 April 1881 in Bedworth and died on 4 March 1950 at Carlton Hayes Hospital, Leicester and lived near his parents at 74 London Road, Coalville. He had been a strong supporter of Coalville Rugby Club, Coalville cricket club and pigeon racing in the area and was also Vice President of the Coalville Royal British Legion and Vice President of Snibston Colliery Band. Another director of the Olympia Company was solicitor Charles Crane, son of Rev. Crane of St Andrew's church, Thringstone.
- **Oct 1922** – Newspapers nationwide reported that a **left handed boy** from Thringstone had won first prize in a competition for script writing. No name was given. Since being left handed was often punished in schools by a rap on the knuckles with a rule by teachers, it is presumed his left-handedness was newsworthy.
- **August 1923** – Eight thousand children whose parents were members of **Coalville Working Men's Co-operative Society** took part in a procession to collect their annual treat. The children met at various Co-operative stores including Whitwick, Thringstone, Ellistown, Hugglescote, Donington le Heath, Ibstock, Bardon, Ravenstone, Swannington, Coalville East, West and South. They processed through to the Society's field off Ravenstone Turn. Balloons were released, and the children could have donkey rides.



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- **Sept 1925** – Three men, including **Jack Thomas Unwin and Bernard Redfern Sharpe** from Thringstone were lucky to come out alive after an event at Whitwick colliery. They were all severely burnt when working with a light at no. 3 pit. They were working in a carving with 2 candles and an oil lamp when, whilst clearing an airway to let air into a stall, Unwin, who was the chargeman remarked it was getting warm and there wasn't much air. They decided to go outside and get some food. A few seconds later, there was a bang and flash and fire engulfed the area. They were trapped in a small cavity and surrounded by fire. Their clothes were set alight, and they received serious burns. There was a door at the end of the carving, and as fire rushed towards the door, it was forced open. The fire rushed about 100 yards past the door then flashed back into the carving, and the men were burnt a second time. The fire made a rushing noise and the men crawled along in single file, not knowing how each other was. On arriving at the main road, the men were treated by first aid men and conveyed to the LRI in a colliery ambulance. Unwin, who was the most burned, was detained in the LRI where his condition was said to be serious. Bernard Redfern Sharp obtained burns on his hands, face, arms and chest whilst the other man called Clifford from Coalville received the full force of the fire and suffered burns to his hair, hands, face, arms and chest. Bernard Redfern Sharpe was mentioned in our last bulletin. He died on 30 December 1973. Jack Unwin lived on Henson's Lane at the time of the incident. He subsequently moved to 160 Main Street, had 6 children, and died at the LRI on 8 Jan 1959.
- **June 1936** – Two people from Loughborough, who worked for Herbert Morris in the pattern shop, travelling on a motorcycle were injured when the bike they were riding **collided with a bus** in Thringstone. George Vann, who was the pillion rider, sustained a fractured skull and extensive injuries to his leg, which had to be amputated. The rider of the motorcycle, Benjamin Wicksteed, sustained hand injuries and lost a finger. Dr Prys Jones from Whitwick attended the scene and praised local volunteer St John ambulance man Jack Bailey for his help, and said they had treated the men at the scene with the aid of torches and a policeman's flashlamp. The motorcycle was wrecked, but apart from scratches down the side of the bus, the vehicle and its passengers were unhurt.
- **March 1950** – The local education committee approved the erection of a plaque marking the work of Charles Booth in providing **Thringstone House** for the community now that they had taken over the management of the property. Also approved was the use of part of the property for the dwelling of the headmaster of the local primary school, at a cost of £600 which will be recoverable from trust funds. It is expected that the headmaster will have charge of the activities at the centre.
- **Aug 1950** – **Thringstone House** having been transferred to local authority management was in a state of flux as nothing appeared to be happening and people in the village were starting to moan. An article in the Coalville Times had suggested that the building was to become a youth centre, but warden Mr R H Jones wrote to the newspaper to say this was inaccurate. He said that when alterations were completed, the building would open as a community centre under the ministry of education guidelines, for adults providing social, educational and recreational opportunities for the village. A community association would be formed and it was hoped that a meeting to this end would be held later in the month. A management committee would then take over the day to day running of the centre. The centre would provide for the needs of the whole community, not just the youth element, and previous experience suggested that for everything to work well, the youth element and the adult element should be kept apart.
- **Sept 1950** – A preliminary meeting was held to discuss the establishment of the **Thringstone House** Community Centre. Under the chairmanship of Mr Bruce of The Meadows, members of all churches in the community to include Holy Cross in Whitwick, plus members of the Miners Welfare Committee, the Old Age Pensioners' Welfare Committee, the House football club, the Imps football club, Gracedieu Park Cricket Club, the WEA, the WI, the Co-operative Women's Guild, and youth organisations were present. Mr McCarthy was elected as secretary for the meeting. Mr Jones said that the purpose of the meeting was to bring the public together with various organisations to discuss the filling of gaps in community service, giving the village a corporate voice, the management of the centre, the provision of a basis for training and democracy and the making of a



neighbourhood into a community. All people and sectors of community should co-operate in this endeavour and activities would be put on subject to necessary accommodations being available. A committee, comprising of one member of each of the organisations listed above, was formed.

- **Oct 1950** – a free film show was to be shown, along with an exhibition, at **Thringstone Community Centre** explaining about community centres. Children accompanied by an adult were welcome.
- **Dec 1950** – upon the unveiling of a plaque to Charles Booth at the **Community Centre**, Mr Stewart Mason, County director of education, said that this was the second community facility to come under the auspices of the education department following private benefaction. He said that there would be no red tape, and no attempts to administer the centre from Leicester. He said there would be a democratic constitution of representatives of local institutions and individuals to act as a management committee and he was sure with the help of Mr Jones, there would be a number of activities available to benefit the village.
- **Dec 1950** – Coalville Times reported that **Thringstone House Community Centre** was on the up thanks to the hard work of warden Mr Jones, who was getting the word out into the village as to the centre's aims and objectives and seek help from all sections of society. He has received 100% support from his wife, and things have not been that easy, but his ideas and enthusiasm are carrying the day. There have been WEA lectures with a brain's trust and a lecture on the development of the USA, there is a drama group and 3 one act plays are on the horizon and back room boys are working on the stage and getting things ready for the productions. Volunteers are working hard, and thus saving the centre money, and badminton and billiards are going strong with other things being considered for the future. There are signs of a formation of a musical group to start in January, with classical and other forms of music being played, and this will be top of the agenda for Mr Jones, as is also the founding of an old people's centre such as those operating in town. It is hoped that the centre will be the force that was originally envisaged by the Booth family when they set it up. The response from the village is encouraging.
- **July 1967** – **Skegness Magistrates** heard that 18 year old **Carl Ernest Garrett** of The Green, Thringstone admitted to taking a handbag belonging to a lady frequenting the Embassy Ballroom Buffet in the town. Mrs Beryl Upton was talking to a friend and left her handbag on a chair when it was taken. Garret had picked up the bag, hesitated for a few seconds, and then run out of the venue police said. Having taken details of the thief from witnesses, Garrett was arrested in Lumley Road within the hour. Garrett also admitted taking a holdall, containing clothes, toiletries and a clock, from a vehicle parked outside Mr Cecil James' home in Cecil Avenue. Also taken into account were a theft of a handbag from Bottom's amusement park, a holdall taken from a vehicle parked in the Lion Hotel yard and scooter parts from a machine at Gibraltar Point. Most of the articles, including £3 in cash from Mrs Upton's handbag, had been recovered. Garrett told magistrates that he had no money at all and was 'almost starving' and had spent his last sixpence on a bar of chocolate before taking the handbag and running out of the Embassy Ballroom. He did not want the bag or its contents, only the money which he needed for his scooter. He received a conditional discharge.
- **Sept 1938** – Tenders were invited from local builders to construct a **new police house** in Thringstone. Those interested should contact Leicestershire County Council's architect, Mr William Key in Leicester and deposit one guinea (£1 and 1 shilling) which would be returned on receipt of a bona fide tender application. All tenders needed to be in a plain sealed envelope marked Police House, Thringstone and not bear any mark of the sender. All tenders needed to be delivered to the office in Leicester no later than 29 September 1938. The lowest, or any tender, might not be accepted. This would be the building now known as 53 Loughborough Road.
- **Sept 1940** – Thringstone's **Albert Barlow** aged 47, of 76 Loughborough Road, colliery deputy, was thrown from his bike in Coalville on 3 September when a sideboard fell from a passing lorry. Albert Frederick Baker of Bath was fined for driving a vehicle with an insecure load. Barlow said he was not seriously hurt. Baker was fined 10 shillings.

Next meeting 4 September at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre. All welcome.