



# 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](mailto:nita.pearson@ntlworld.com)

Visit our website at: [www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk](http://www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk)

Twitter address: @Thringstone2

## Bulletin September 2025

**Monthly Litter Pick Total** 85 bags picked up by 5 people against 136 bags by 9 people for the same month last year.

**Meeting on 4 September** - 11 present, 9 apologies. We had 3 newcomers to meetings.

**Hello Heritage** – Ann has done her usual magic with the display boards, which will include some photos from Panto's 50 years at the centre. Please come along and support our event on 20 September from 1pm until 5.30pm at Charles Booth Centre. Not only do we have lots to see but we also have coffee, tea and cakes available, plus publications to buy. We hope to see you there. Nita has sent special invites to certain local dignitaries, put up posters at Ruby's, St Andrew's, The Green, Co-op and Thringstone Miners Social Centre, and done a mass email-out to people on 4 separate data bases she has on her computer of people interested in Thringstone. Thanks go to Samantha Perry for adding date and time to the existing council banner and to the centre for putting these up for us along with everybody else who has put up our boards. We look forward to people coming along and any photos they have to add to our collection would be welcome. Information on our event is in the September Community Voice magazine, in which we have also announced our sponsorship for the charity coffee mornings at the centre. John Perry said he would see if a family member could mend the A frame on The Green.

**Poppies** – We heard from Ingles FC on 11 August that they would love to have a poppy installation there, and Mary and Nigel are working on that. Janet is working on an installation for Thringstone Members Club, the WI is organising The Meadows railings with the care home putting something inside themselves, Charles Booth Centre has their poppy installation ready to go up, the church are organised and doing their front, railings and also maybe inside, Anne Statham is doing We Will Remember Them letters outside Ruby's, and Nita is hoping to get a couple of large poppies to go on the railings at The Meadows, in addition to 30 around the village once delivery has been sorted with the Royal British Legion. Lesley Mansfield has poppies to attach to Main Street railings (near Old School House). Nita has also been in touch with the RBL to ask when we are getting the 33 large poppies that we have ordered from them and understands these will be with us before November, but if there are any delays, our contact has stocks we can use. We will need 4 plastic ones for our installations. We now need to find someone to help us put up these large poppies on lampposts. If we need more knitted poppies, an emergency knit will happen in October.

**Thringstone Primary School** – Welcome to Lee Swales who is the new head. The school have already made plans to work with Charles Booth Centre on events and generally work together on things, and have confirmed that they will continue to help FoT with any bulb planting or litter picking we might organise in the future.



**August's charity coffee morning** - £132.50 was raised for LOROS at the coffee morning on 8 August at the centre. The September coffee morning (mentioned in what's on below) is for MacMillan.

**Centre's AGM** - This is due to take place at the centre on 9 September at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend. If you wish to ask questions, it would be appreciated if these were sent in to the centre in writing at least 48 hours before the meeting, but if there is time, there will be the opportunity for those who haven't been able to do this to ask questions at the end of the meeting.

**Gardening** – Nita has asked the scouts if they might be available this month to help cut back bushes on The Green, like they did at this time last year, and is awaiting a response. A local man who is currently out of work has said he would like to help weed The Green and Drury Lane. Nita is going to meet with him shortly.

**Gracedieu Park Cricket Club** – The club recently took part in a 6 a side tournament in Long Eaton which they won. The Gary Mansfield tribute match with players from the past and present on 10 August saw hundreds of people come to the pitch for the match. Over £1000 was raised for the club's Parkinson's charity and nearly £400 for Gary's family's chosen charity Mesothelioma UK. Thanks go to everybody who supported this event. Their 'end of term' party on 30 August saw the usual fancy dress parade.

**Rainbow Care** – This organisation provides dementia classes and has started these at Thringstone Miners Social Centre. Nita has spoken to them about their work, and is waiting for some more information so that she can help with promotion both locally and hopefully through Community Voice magazine.

**Football pitch at the rear of Thringstone Bowling Club** - a council notice on the future of this field was put on the changing room cabin in early August indicating that the council, who own the field, were wishing to lease it to a football club. For some time, Ingle FC who play in Thringstone, have expressed interest in using this field for training, and we understand from NWLDC that whilst they have expressed an interest in having a long term lease on the site, due diligence means that the council have to test the market to see if any other clubs might also be interested. The outcome will determine timescales, but assuming only Ingles FC express an interest, and a lease can be agreed, then the council is hoping they can get it signed early next summer. If, for any reason, a lease cannot be agreed, then it won't progress. Adam Smith from Ingles FC has indicated to us that they are still very keen, and if they get the lease they might consider putting some extra fencing around the changing area.

**Gracedieu Priory site** – new signage has gone up at the priory, and the recently installed trough has been filled with planting: Lavender - Munstead - dwarf - max 60cm to the side and rear so it can bush out without obscuring the sign, Thyme - Golden - trailing so hopefully will run down the trough to break it up - centre and sides, Thyme - Doone Valley - creeping variegated – centre, Iris - Harmony - 6" tall - planted directly under the panel, Snowdrops - 4" tall - planted in front of the Irises as you view the sign, Violas - will flower all winter hopefully and all over. To add to all this, once available, miniature narcissi all through the trough. Nita said that a lady she knew was going to try to crochet some sunflowers and put them into the trough. Friends of Gracedieu Priory's latest meeting aims to discuss dwindling volunteer numbers to help with things, a sad situation in which they are not alone.

**Flags** – Nita said that Friends of Thringstone was formed back in 2005 as a non-political organisation. Our aims and objectives contain statements on inclusivity, and following on from this we have a separate equal opportunities policy. The group believe in encouraging a diverse, welcoming and cohesive village irrespective of the race, gender, sexual orientation, disability or politics of individuals. As there is a wide range of opinions on the erection of national flags recently, any discussions on this is best left to be discussed by individuals outside the meeting.

### **Chairs report**

**Promotion** – We have **737 X followers** which is on more than last month and **2,399 facebook** followers which is 15 more than last month



**Other:** Nita has submitted the April 2026 history article to Community Voice on the topic of **street names** which are no longer used. Part of this is in the history report below .

### What's On

- 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**
- 18 Sept - Whitwick Historical Group 7pm slide show and talk about **Mt St Bernard Reformatory**. You need to book online by emailing [Whitwickhistoricalgroup83@gmail.com](mailto:Whitwickhistoricalgroup83@gmail.com). The event is free, however there should be a small donation given for refreshments.
- 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
- 21 Sept – Take Teddy to the Mill at **Hough Mill**, Swannington. 2pm.

### **Financial report**

<b>.Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>2901.00**</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
June/July Zurich adjustment	0.18	Broadband	£20.00
		Zurich Insurance	£7.89
		Funding of coffee morning	180.00
<b>total income received</b>			£207.89
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2693.29</b>

### Website

The webmaster is continuing to try to update the site.

### Incident Reporting

The police beat report for 24 August said 'We have carried out multiple high-visibility patrols in response to reports of off-road biking in the Thringstone, Melrose, and Greenhill regions. Our inquiries are ongoing, and we are currently following up on local intelligence which has led to the potential identification of suspects. Retrospective action is being prepared as necessary'.

- 7 August – men seen behaving suspiciously near to the containers on the **Gracedieu Park cricket** pitch. Club put out a request to everybody walking dogs nearby to report any suspicious activity going forward to the authorities, following a break-in on 2 August.
- 23 Aug – 6.45am group of lads trying to steal alcohol from **One Stop Shop** were stopped by staff.
- 23 August -A gentleman walking his daughter's dog was attacked by a dog that lives on **Loughborough Road/Melrose Road corner**. He was crossing over not far from The Meadows Nursing Home and the dog got out from its garden and attacked him in the middle of the road, from which he receive multiple bites. This dog has attacked several others in the past and should always be on a lead when in its front garden. The dog attacked was seen by a local vet.
- 25 Aug – car which was preceded by 2 motorbikes and was said to be followed by a police car which was chasing it, went across the **football pitch** at the back of the bowling club and tried to get into



## The Friends of Thringstone

the woods but failed and hit the fencing to a corner house in Springfield. There was then a fire which took 2 fire engines to put out. Witnesses said they saw 5 people fleeing the scene and others said that the police had previously been chasing the car on Swallowdale. Damage was caused to the trees and fencing of the house and to their outbuildings. There was an armed police presence at the time, plus police helicopter and searches being carried out in the woodland. There is local speculation that 5 lads were involved and 2 were arrested.

- 25 Aug – around the same time as above, a window was smashed at **The Bull's Head** during an incident.
- 27 Aug – man formerly living on Dalkeith Walk arrested on **The Green**.
- 30 Aug – bin fire on **Homestead Rd** put out by a neighbour. Please be careful what you put in your bins. Batteries can be taken up to the Co-op for collection, as can vapes.

### History Report

- **March 1843** – An auction was to be held in Coleorton by order of the mortgagees of 3 cottages in **Town Street** (now Main Street) with shop attached thereto, large gardens and appurtenances with the cottages being in the occupation of James Millward, Thomas King and Thomas Gresley. It is uncertain when Town Street became Main Street. The 1861 census says Town Street, the 1871 census hardly gives any street names, but Main Street is given on the 1881 census.
- **Jan 1851** – **A house and grocer's shop**, with garden and appurtenances situated in Town Street, now known as Main Street, Thringstone was being offered at an auction at the Rose and Crown. The property also came with over an acre of old turf land, and was in the occupation of Mr Potter Snr. Adjacent to this property was being offered a **farm house** with outbuildings and home close thereto adjoining containing 6.5 acres of old turf land in the occupation of John Potter Jnr. Two cottages in the occupation of Frederick Sykes and William Hall situated near to the farm house were up for auction, and adjoining the last lot and the turnpike road to Loughborough, in the ownership of John Potter was **Avarne Close** or Clover Close, which comprised of 5 acres or upwards. Immediately opposite the grocer's shop and farm house was an area called **Football Close** adjoining Town Street, Thringstone. This comprised of 1.5 acres and was in the ownership of John Potter with adjoining land being owned by Mr Hurst and others. We believe all these properties were close to the Community Centre, as Avarne Close was near there, Mr Hurst owned the farm building which is now part of the community centre at that time, and John Potter was involved with farming at Talbot Farm. The address of The Green doesn't appear to have become commonplace until about 1890 according to census information. People who were noted as living in Main Street, on which Drury Lane was also featured in 1881, seem to be quoted as living on The Green, on which Drury Lane was again featured, in 1891. In June 1889, a **Mrs Sketchley** of Whitwick was advertising a 3 bedroomed cottage, with kitchen and 2 sitting rooms available at a moderate rent. The address given was **Thringstone Green**. Given that no address for Mrs Sketchley was given in the advert, we assumed she was well known, and indeed she was. Sarah Sketchley nee Moore, born around 1812 in Whitwick, was a grocer on North Street. She had been married to John Sketchley who was a shoemaker and grocer and a prominent Wesleyan who died in 1881. She died on 2 March 1897 aged 85 whilst living in Griffydham, possibly at the home of her son David who lived in that area.
- **Oct 1930** – **Andrew White**, a 17 year old coal trammer from Main Street, Thringstone was in court claiming compensation, following an injury received at work, against the Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Company Ltd. under the Workman's Compensation Act of 1925. Andrew was the son of Edward White, also known as Edward Zaph White Morley and his wife Ellen, also known as Nellie which we will discuss in greater detail below. Mr Loseby, acting for Andrew told Judge Haydon that he would be a cripple for life. He had also been examined by Dr Stamford, who sat with the judge as medical assessor. The court heard that Andrew had been pushing loaded tubs in and out of the stall, on an incline, on 29 November 1929 when he injured his shoulder. He had put his right arm around a prop in order to hold back a tub with his left arm, which had caused an injury to his right



## The Friends of Thringstone

shoulder. He could not lift his right arm for a minute or two afterwards, but with the help of his mate, he finished his shift. He went home and told his mother that he had injured his arm and lay on the sofa. Dr Prys Jones was called to see the boy on 30 November and found a swelling of the right shoulder joint. He was taken to the LRI on 9 December and was there until May 1930. At the time of the case, Andrew was still very ill having had 9 operations which the court heard had left him incapacitated. It was said that the weight of the tub had snapped a muscle in Andrew's shoulder, which afterwards turned septic. The court case was adjourned, and when it reopened on 20 November 1930, the judge said that the case had caused the medical examiner and himself great difficulty, but there had been an accident and they were satisfied that the disease was not pre-existent. As a result, Andrew was awarded compensation of 17 shillings and 9 pence a week on the grounds of total incapacity. This amount was appealed by Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Company on 29 April 1931 at a court case in front of Lord Justices Lawrence and Slesser, during which time that court heard that no notice of the accident had been given to the employers on the date that the accident happened, and as such they felt that they did not have to give any compensation in accord with Section 14 of the Act. Another ground for appeal was that, at the resumed hearing of the case, it came out that Dr Stamford had in the interim investigated the case and had obtained certain information of which the employers were ignorant. It was also said that the hospital note relating to his case was improperly admitted as evidence, and all this invalidated the original ruling. As a result, the appeal was upheld and Andrew's compensation withdrawn. This was not the end of the matter as it was taken to the House of Lords in May 1932, when Andrew's step father Harry Morley took the matter as far as he could. The case was held before Lords Tomlin, Warrington, Thankerton, MacMillan and Wright. Lord Thankerton said that he felt that the lack of reporting of the accident was a failure on behalf of Andrew to give the statutory notice required under the compensation act, despite Andrew's mother and step father having given notice to the employers of the severity of the accident on 11 December 1929 and twice afterwards. The original judge, Judge Haydon, who gave the compensation award, had felt that this delay in reporting was practicable and reasonable, and that the injury happened as a result of Andrew's employment. Lord Thankerton felt otherwise. Andrew's legal representative, Mr Loseby, said that Andrew had been under the care of his own doctor within 2 days of the accident, and had remained under the care of the doctor and nurses until he went into hospital and from then had been under the care of the hospital until May 1930. He suggested that any of these medical people could have been called to confirm this evidence. However, this fell on deaf ears. The order was affirmed and Andrew's appeal dismissed. They said that the pain Andrew said he felt was due to a disease in the bone of his shoulder, and not the result of the accident, whereas Judge Haydon had felt that the disease in the bone was a direct result of the accident and the lack of reporting of the event by Andrew should not be held against him. The appeal heard that Andrew himself had not given notice of the accident until March 1930. We have a photograph of Andrew taken in 1932. Further research has shown that by 1939, Andrew, who was born on 30 April 1913, was living at The Waggon and Horses, Griffydham along with John Edward Ford and his wife and family. Andrew was known to his family as Zaph (a Morley family name) and was still a coal miner trammer. Andrew was one of 9 surviving children of Swannington born Edward White who was also known as Edward Zaph White Morley as he was born before his parents **Zaph Morley and Harriet White** married. In census information from 1881 – 1901 Edward was recorded as Zaph Morley. We have previously recorded his colourful story of his army career from 1902-10, bad language and fights with relatives and with Ellen. His was also in court over punching a neighbour (Louise Squires), then taking a knife to her over



trapping his son Andrew's fingers in a door in May 1915. Ellen had pulled him off as he had cut Louise's ear. He had then returned later and dragged Louise by the hair into the street and threatened to strangle her. We acquired a copy of Edward's death certificate which shows that he died at Main Street on 3 January 1916. He was a chargeman and present at his death, which was from a cystic sarcoma of the left shoulder, was his wife Ellen. He was only 37 years and was buried at St Andrew's on 6 January 1916. Andrew's mother, Ellen nee Wesley from Sullington Road, Shepshed, had married Edward at the Register Office in Loughborough on 15 October 1910 and married Edward's younger brother, Harry Morley, in 1918, making Harry Morley Andrew's step-father and also uncle. Andrew's mother Ellen was known as Nellie, and we have written before about the 'exploits' of Harry and Nellie Morley. Andrew had two full sisters, Ivy and Mary Jane, and 3 half-sisters, Ellen (known as Nina), Harriet and Tannie plus a half-brother also called Harry Morley. Andrew married Vera Wright (known as Vidge) in Coalville in 1964 and moved to Heather, his last address being 22 St John's Close, Heather. He died in hospital after a short illness on 5 May 1974 and was buried at Heather church. Nita has undertaken a complete Morley family tree which is more than lengthy at 9 pages.

- **Nov 1921** - Following on from the above, we now look at Andrew's grandfather, **Zaph Morley**. This article came from the Coalville Times. An accident which occurred to an aged Thringstone miner in the Whitwick Colliery on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1918 was recalled on Tuesday afternoon in an inquest held by Mr R. Lancaster (Deputy Coroner) at the house of P.C. Topliss at Thringstone, concerning the death of **Zaph Morley**, aged 70 years, which occurred at his home in John Street, Thringstone on Friday after a very short illness. Mr Eliot Smith, of Mansfield, appeared for the Whitwick Colliery Co. the manager of the mine, Mr T. Y. Hay, also being present, and Mr T. Gowdrige, secretary of the Leicestershire Miners' Association, attended in the interests of the deceased's relatives, whilst Dr. Moir, of Newhall, was in a similar capacity for the Indemnity Co. **Harriet Morley**, the widow, said her husband formerly worked at the Whitwick Colliery. He had an accident at the mine on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1918, and had not worked since, having received compensation. He was taken ill on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. and died on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. Dr. H. T. Prys-Jones, assistant to Dr. Burkitt, of Whitwick, said he was called to see the deceased on the evening of the fifth, and found him suffering from cerebral haemorrhage. He attended him until the 11<sup>th</sup>. The cause of death was cerebral haemorrhage, and was in no way attributable to the colliery accident which caused injury to the deceased's ribs. Mr Gowdrige asked whether the doctor was quite clear that the accident had nothing to do with the death. The doctor said that he understood that the injury was to the ribs. The Coroner read a statement as to the accident, which was stated to be due to tubs running into the deceased and crushing him. His ribs and arm were broken, and he was attended by the late Dr. Rolston and Dr. Dunkin. The Coroner: 'You are satisfied there was no connection between the death and the accident?' Witness: 'Yes'. Mr Gowdrige asked what caused the haemorrhage. The doctor said it was due to arterial sclerosis. The Coroner said that they were not all acquainted with medical terms. Mr Smith said it was often said that a man was as old as his arteries. When they were worn out, something burst. The Coroner said the only other evidence was as to the accident. Mr Smith said that the Coroner could take it that there was an accident, and that up to last Friday, deceased was receiving compensation from the Whitwick Colliery Co. The Coroner recorded a verdict that death was due to cerebral haemorrhage. It should be noted at this point that Zaph and Harriet's son Jack Morley (and uncle to Andrew) was killed in action in France on 5 September 1918, aged only 23 years old. This obviously happened at a time when, we would assume, Zaph was still recuperating from his accident at Whitwick pit.

**Date of next meeting – 2 October 2025 at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre. All welcome.**