



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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Bulletin

Monthly Litter Pick Total - 83 bags by 6 people against 128 bags by 7 people for the same month last year. We were told that a young lady called Primrose did a litter pick for a brownies bag by picking up litter down Main Street. Thank you.

Meeting notes – Meeting 2 Oct – 7 present, 11 apologies

Hello Heritage – Due to illnesses within our team, we did not do a Hello Heritage event last year but were able to go back to putting on an event at the centre this time. The last one we did in 2023 attracted 151 people. 60 people came along to the event this time, which included 13 FoT members not involved in the running of the event, and we had some really nice comments made to us. Huge thanks to everybody who helped with catering and displays. The cake crew went over and above, as usual, and also produced a huge raffle for us and donated all the money made from this to us in memory of their dad, Terry Robinson. The only thing that was remotely negative (other than the weather), was one gent who wanted to know why we weren't selling sandwiches, which was a first. Nita had invited Cllr. Kevin Crook from Kirby Muxloe, who is the portfolio holder from county hall for Heritage, Libraries and Adult Learning. He came along and was given a tour of Charles Booth Centre, told of its history and previous links to the county council. Thanks again to everybody that supported the event and to the FoT team for their hard work on the day and in making so many wonderful cakes.

Publication stocks –Nita took a hard drive to Coalville Can with Village Trail 2 and Durham Miners to see what they made of this and we now have an extra 10 copies of Village Trail 2. Nita has been in touch with them about going in again to get 10 copies of Durham Miners. We currently have 6 copies of Born and Bred 1 which is OK to be going on with. At the Whitwick Historical Society's event on 12 October, which is about wars, we will take copies of our WW2 book and the Lost in WW1 book only.

Poppies – Nita has spoken to Cathy Irving of the scouts to see if they are still willing to put up all the plastic poppies, when they arrive. They are, and Nita will try to liaise with Cathy over their installation sometime towards the back end of October. With regard to our knitted poppy installations, we understand that the ones for Thringstone Members Club and for outside The Meadows are now all ready to go. Thanks a lot to the WI for their help with this. The ones for Charles Booth Centre were done some time back. Lesley Mansfield is making poppy wreaths to go on to the railings near her house, and everything is well underway with the installation for the church, the chip shop and the Miners Social Centre/football club. Installation will be 1st and 2nd November.

Whitwick and Thringstone Tenants and Residents meeting - Nita went to the Whitwick and Thringstone Tenants and Residents Association meeting on 12 September at the Members Club for 2 hours. After initial chats, we got down to talking about things that people want, what is happening on the estates, what isn't happening on the estates, drugs and all sorts.



The Friends of Thringstone

One of the things that we talked about is getting the whole village engaged in provision of stuff for bored kids who don't want to play football, cricket, bowls etc. We talked about the Thringstone and Whitwick People Zone, its lack of legacy and how most projects just fizzled out, other than the Whitwick Scout hut Wi-Fi project, work with Thringstone Primary and the building put up at St Joseph's tea rooms. We also talked about lack of things for kids on the Melrose Road estate in the summer which Laura Smythe and Andy Wallace from NWLDC agreed was something they could possibly do next year. We came up with some green shoots ideas and they said that they would like the centre to be involved in all this going forward.

As far as the council is concerned, they are now talking about doing an appraisal of people in council properties to see what they want, and that would possibly be a starting point. The last thing that happened like that was the Village Appraisal back in 1999/2000 which was a useful exercise at that time in finding out what people thought and wanted and was done by a group formed from villagers specifically for that project.

Network meeting – Following on from the meeting mentioned above, a meeting of folk from FoT, Thringstone and Whitwick Tenants and Residents Association, the centre, Miners Social Centre, school, Members Club, NWLDC and possibly also the church has been arranged at the centre for 14 October. The aim is to try to network together to improve things in the village, ask people to promote each other's events, get more things organised going forward and provide more opportunities for people. A monthly list of what's on everywhere has been suggested already. Janet will provide labels for people to put their name on at this meeting.

Thringstone Members Club – Every Friday until at least the end of October between 10am and 12 noon will be a drop in coffee morning and warm hub which has been organised by the Tenants and Residents Association. All welcome.

Ruby's – It is the 130th anniversary of the original opening of the fish and chip business in Thringstone by Ruddy Waldrum. This year, the fish and chip shop has been awarded a Travellers Choice Award by Tripadvisor. This award places them among the top 10% of 'restaurants' worldwide. They have also maintained their position as Number 1 place out of 40 to eat in the Coalville area, according to Tripadvisor. Andy said that they are deeply overwhelmed by the support shown by customers over the years, couldn't have achieved these awards without their patrons

West Whitwick Valley area – This was recently posted on their social media site: We are delighted to announce that Treasure No. 43 – the D-shaped enclosure near Whitwick – has been officially included in the **100 Treasures of Charnwood Forest**. Registered with Historic England as Monument 1581539, this remarkable site is visible in crop marks and is thought to date back to the Iron Age or Roman period. Its inclusion on the list highlights the rich archaeological heritage of the area and the importance of protecting and celebrating sites that connect us with our distant past. As a scheduled monument, the enclosure represents a vital link to our history. It must be safeguarded from destruction or inappropriate development, so that future generations can continue to learn from and be inspired by this extraordinary piece of our landscape. You can explore the full list of treasures here: [100 Treasures of Charnwood Forest](#). The steering group is proud to see this historic site recognised among Charnwood Forest's most treasured places, and we call on the community to stand with us in ensuring its protection for the future.

Thringstone Panto and Drama Society – recently took their cast to Broomleys Cricket Club for a special performance of Stumped By Murder. £600 was raised to be split between Loros and Bright Hope House. Well done to all involved.

New coffee shop – A new coffee shop is opening shortly where Gail's hairdressers was on The Green, not far from Thringstone Co-op. This will offer a really interesting menu, plus a loyalty card scheme, and afternoon teas. There is no disability access. More details will follow.

Charity Coffee Morning – The Charity Coffee Morning for McMillan at the centre on 12 September raised £223 for the charity, which is thought to be a record. Thanks go to all who came along and to the people who help out on the morning.



The Friends of Thringstone

Centre – A new class for balance and relief from stress and chronic pain has started on Wednesdays at 10.30am. It is a 70 minute class, and the teacher comes highly recommended. To book go to www.celestial-sound.co.uk.

The centre would like to thank 3 volunteers from DHL for redecorating the upstairs room vacated by Darren's band.

Christmas carols – Gracedieu Priory is holding their carol concert at the ruins on 7 December so Nita has talked to the centre about our carol event to arrange a suitable date. The centre intend to talk to the U3A choir to see their availability and then get back to us.

Gardening - In order to try to tidy up the area, we will be having a **gardening session down Drury Lane on 25 October** starting at 10.3am. Those who want to help are encouraged to come along with gardening equipment, and help us cut back bushes and generally tidy up the area. All are welcome.

Chair's report

Promotion – We have **734** twitter followers which is 3 less than last month and **2,405** facebook followers which 6 more than last month.

Other: Nita has reported 4 lots of fly tipping this month.

Nita has submitted an article on **Andrew White** (last month's history) to Community Voice for May 2026, has submitted the **November Bauble** for Community Voice, and sent some photos of the Hello Heritage event. She also submitted a huge article on **Thringstone Community Players** and all their plays for the history article for June 2026.

Welcome to our new members Jenny Crane and Theresa Kilday.

Get well soon wishes go to Chris Dowell.

What's On

- 4 Oct – Gold and silver purchasers at **Charles Booth Centre** from 12 noon until 4pm.
- 10 Oct – Charity Coffee Morning in aid of Old School House, Thringstone at **Charles Booth Centre** from 10am – 12 noon
- 11 Oct – **Whitwick Historical Group's** event at the Methodist Hall, Hall Lane on the subject of the village in WW2. We will have a presence at this event, which is open from 10am – 4pm.
- 22 Oct – **Charles Booth Centre** – Beat surgery between 10am and 11am.
- 30 Oct – Halloween Quiz Night at **Charles Booth Centre**. Starts at 7.30pm. Teams of up to 6 people. £10 per team. Chip cobs. Cash prizes.
- 1 Nov – **Broomleys Cricket Club and Farm firework night**. Gates open £3pm. Silent fireworks from 6pm-6.30pm, loud fireworks 8pm-8.45pm. Live music, bar, stalls, rides, bonfire, food. Tickets £10 per adult and £2.50 per child. Advance tickets can be booked through Eventbrite.
- 9 Nov – **Thringstone Members Club** – Christmas gift fayre from 12 noon until 4pm. Full family event with proceeds to Alzheimers' Society. Teddy tombola and free Santa gifts for under 10s.
- 14 Nov - Charity Coffee Morning in aid of the poppy appeal at **Charles Booth Centre** from 10am – 12 noon
- 30 Nov – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's Christmas Fayre at **Charles Booth Centre**.
- 7 Dec - Carol Concert at 3pm at **Gracedieu Priory**. All welcome.
- 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)	2693.29		
Income		Expenditure	
Memberships	£8.00	Broadband	£20.00
HH raffle	£80	Zurich insurance	£7.89



The Friends of Thringstone

HH cake sales	£66.85		
HH tea and coffee sales	£40.00	Poppy nets etc	£31.42
HH publication sales	£7.50	Paper plates and tablecloth	£8.00
total income received	£202.35		
		Total monthly expenditure	67.31
		Total	2828.33

Website

Work is still underway to update the site.

Incident reports

- 10 Sept – 3 men in unmarked **white van** claiming to be roofers climbed onto the roof of a house in the village, dislodged tiles etc., kicked them back into place and told the occupants that their roof was faulty, which it wasn't before they went up there. Police informed.
- 21 Sept – Police intercepted two **off road motor bikers** riding along The Warren. They were issued with Section 59 warnings and left the location.
- 26 Sept – **Cannabis** grow found on Castle St, Whitwick. 363 plants and associated equipment recovered and destroyed.
- 30 Sept – **Motorbike** taken from house on Talbot St, Whitwick at 2am. Lady on Melrose Road said she saw a white car pull up at her house and also attempt to steal a bike, but they were seen and ran off.
- 2 Oct – large police presence, plus overhead helicopter, in **Gracedieu Woods** stopping pedestrians. Suggestions are that someone was assaulted in the woods.
- **New beat priorities** for our area include drugs/drug taking, anti-social behaviour/motor bikes.

History report

- Thanks to Amanda at the centre for letting us have the certificate of merit issued by the British Drama League relating to a performance of Strained Relations by Laurence Housman put on by **Thringstone Community Players** at a festival held in Melton Mowbray on 29 March 1952. They had produced 3 plays – The Price of Coal, Strained Relations and Gossip's Glory during the preliminary rounds of that festival. The same year, the group presented the challenging morality play Everyman during Easter Week for St Andrew's church funds. Thringstone Community Players operated throughout the 1950s, and in 1953 reached the finals of the British Drama festival with the George Bernard Shaw play Passion, Poison and Petrification, having been runners up at the Leicestershire Drama Festival at Lutterworth with the same play. Also in 1953, they put on a production of When We Are Married, which was produced by Norman Beard, and had amongst its cast was Thringstone teacher Viv Carey, and The Knight of the Burning Pestle at Gracedieu Priory. In 1954 their 2 one act plays Rose and Crown and Fumed Oak were submitted to the County Drama Festival. Helping with the lighting for that was the centre warden and headmaster of the local school, Leonard Sealey. In 1956, with an all women cast in Charade, they won the Columbine Trophy in the County Drama Shield competitions. In 1957, the opening night of Mystery at Greenfingers was cancelled as the electricity failed at the centre! In 1959, at the County Drama Festival in Wigston, the group achieved an award of Merit for their production of The Trap. They put on several other plays including Sailor Beware in which Jean Reid, formerly Taylor, wore her actual wedding dress from earlier in the year as part of her costumes. The group finished in 1960 having produced Separate Tables by Terrance Rattigan to be replaced by Thringstone Musical Comedy Group. Nita has done a very comprehensive list of their productions, should anybody have an interest, plus names of some of their cast and has press cuttings.



The Friends of Thringstone

- Nita is currently trying to put together a comprehensive family tree for the **Waldrum family** starting with Ruddy and Sarah Ann known as Lizzie who started the chip shop business in 1895. It would be nice to get some new photos for this family and Nita is hopeful that a contact will provide some .
- Nita has been trying to research the history of the 65 acre **Cinder Hill Farm** on the A512. We know that it was farmed from the 1950s and up to 1983 by John James and his wife Elizabeth May nee White (known as Bessie). Bessie, the daughter of a farmer from Tonge, was born in Shardlow in 1923 and died in 2020 in Tixover, Rutland. John and Bessie had two children, William and Hilary, and Mrs James was a staunch member of Osgathorpe Mother's Union. She was the enrolling member in 1971 and still an active part of the group in 1979. John James was born on 1 October 1916 in Wanlip, Leicestershire, one of 4 children of Edward Dodgson James and his wife Mary nee Parkinson. In 1921 along with his 2 brothers and one sister, he was living at Wanlip Hill Farm (his father was a farmer) and by 1939 they were at Barrow Hill Lodge in Top Brand, Osgathorpe where they were still farming. We believe the James family went to Cinder Hill Farm shortly after marrying in Loughborough in 1951 and had the house built there. John James died in Leicester on 19 April 1983 and the farm was then put up for auction on 10 July 1985. It was said to have a 5 bedroomed house and 39 acres of farmland. We have a copy of a photograph of the farm from the 1950s. The farm was bought in 1985 by Sidney Armett, of whom we have photographs, farmed locally at Woodside Farm, and he rented the house out but still farmed some of the land. In 1989 and 1990 reflexologist, masseur and aromatherapist Win Wood was living there having moved from Anstey. She advertised regularly in local papers. There have been various tenants over the years, and it is thought that Sidney Armett bought what is known as Snarrow's Field from the James family before the auction in 1985. He also bought a small field from David Armett to join up with that field and also fields towards the Bull's Head, on the opposite side of the road which made over 90 acres in total to the farm. The canal terminus ran close to the farm, and you can still walk near to the farm along a path to what used to be the junction house (now a ruin) and then on to Osgathorpe. Sidney Armett had the bottom footpath moved from running down the middle of the farm stackyard so it now runs along the side of the brook - it makes a lovely walk along the old canal banks into Osgathorpe towards the ruins of Junction House. There is also a footpath which runs along the hedge at the top of the hill which gives lovely views over the valley. We have no idea why it is called Cinder Hill Farm and from when. The farm is now run by Carol Webster nee Armett. If anybody has any further information, please let us know. With regards to Junction House, it was built for the toll keeper of the canal and to provide stables around 1794. It's first occupant appears to have been John Gilbert who was appointed at a salary of £40 p.a. but the canal project did not succeed and he was given notice on 8 April 1796. In 1861 it was the home to an agricultural labourer called Joseph Siddons. We can't find it on 1871 census information, but from 1881 up until 1939 it was the home to graziers – William Edwards 1881, Job Nicklinson 1891, empty in 1901, Sanford Pratt 1911, William Henry Keeling 1921, T Leeson 1925 and 1939 Hannah Hall, and Thringstone man John Thomas Bradford Murfin, upon his marriage on 19 November 1927 at St Andrew's church, gave his address as Junction House. It was still occupied afterwards.
- **July 1889 – John Wilton West**, labourer, aged 61 of Talbot Lane, Thringstone, was crushed to death in a freak accident in Coalville. Also known as John Wilton, which is how he appears on census forms, he is thought to be the son of framework knitter Thomas Wilton and Ann nee West of Thringstone who were married at Whitwick St John's on 2 December 1822, years before John was born. Mr West was one of 5 children, all born in wedlock, so why he chose to change his name to West is unknown. He was in the employment of William Haynes, carter, and was engaged in carting bricks from the Scotland's brickyard to a field on London Road where a row of



The Friends of Thringstone

cottages were being built by Walter Moss for John William Nunley, who was headmaster of Christ Church day school from 1879 until 1911 and a director of Whitwick Granite Company, and who also lived nearby. Mr Haynes, who was also a farmer, said he was taking his cows out at 7.30am and had seen Mr West coming along the road with a load of bricks. A minute later, he turned around and saw Mr West lying at the horse's feet at the entrance to the cottages. The entrance to the field was rather narrow, with a hedge on one side and a wall on the other. On leading the horse through the entrance, he had turned too sharply from the road, and was caught between the shafts of the cart and the wall and crushed to death. He was taken by Mr Haynes and some men to the house of Mr Haynes on London Road, Coalville, but did not speak and died within minutes of the accident. Dr Jamie and PC Darby were called, but could do nothing. A verdict of accidental death was returned at the inquest at The Fox and Goose. He was buried at St Andrew's

- **Jan 1889** - Dr Houghton of Whitwick was unable to attend a suspected death in Thringstone of William Bradley, and sent along his assistant **Dr Alfred Ernest Richardson**. This is a new name. Dr Richardson was born in 1865 in Galby, Leicestershire, and appears to have initially studied at Rossall, Fleetwood. He was one of 6 sons of John and Caroline Richardson, his father being a farmer and corn merchant. His mother, Caroline, was the daughter of the Benjamin Walker, the owner of the Coleorton Colliery Company, and is mentioned in information on the website for Swannington Heritage Trust. Dr Richardson was a medical student in Durham where he obtained his Bachelor of Medicine in 1887, where he also passed his MRCP and LRCS in the same year. He obtained his MD in 1889 and was one of Sir Frederick Treves's dressers at the London Hospital where he trained. Sir Frederick Treves is remembered as having taken care of Leicester's Joseph Merrick (known as **the elephant man**) during his lifetime. A member of the BMA and at one time president of the Midland Medical Society, Dr Richardson's obituary says that he had been practicing in Tamworth for 39 years suggesting therefore that he started there in 1890, and indeed we can see from the 1891 census that he was at 2 Albert Road, Glascote, Tamworth as a medical practitioner. He married Kate Josephine Leveaux (who was born in Birkenhead) in Islington in 1892, and lived at The Hollies, Upper Gungate, Tamworth, where he died on 4 November 1929, leaving an estate to the value of £18745 13 shillings and 5 pence to his widow. In today's terms, this equates to over £1.5 million. They had no children. It is not possible at present to say why or when he came to this area to help Dr Houghton, but it is worthwhile mentioning that his unmarried brother **John Walker Richardson** was colliery manager at **Whitwick Colliery** from 1888-1891 and living on London Road in Coalville, so maybe he came to this area to stay briefly with his brother or visit relatives in Swannington. However, it seems that both Dr Richardson and Miss Leveaux attended the Shepshed Cricket Club Ball in March 1889, along with Dr and Mrs Houghton, indicating that he was still in this area then, and possibly also played cricket for Shepshed. We know that he played cricket for Tamworth and was at one time the Vice President of the Tamworth Cricket Club, and he is listed as a member of the Tamworth Marmion Masonic lodge from at least 1894. He became a Master of that lodge in 1907, becoming a First Principal of that lodge in 1911, 1916 and 1917. He was also a foundation member of the St Chad Chapter Rose Croix of Lichfield, of which he was appointed Marshall in 1928. He was chairman of the Tamworth Gaslight and Coke Company, a trustee of the Tamworth Permanent Benefit Building Society and of Guy's and Rawlett's charities in Tamworth, honorary medical officer of Tamworth Hospital and Vice President of Tamworth Rugby Football Club. We have shared this information with distant relatives of Dr Richardson and also with Swannington Heritage Trust and Whitwick Historical Group.

Date of next meeting 6 November at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre. All welcome.