



# The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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## Bulletin November 2025

**Monthly Litter Pick Total** - 72 bags by 4 people against 111 bags by 8 people for the same month last year. We seem to be losing litter pickers every month.

### Meeting notes- 9 present 10 apologies

**St Andrews** - £194.12 was made at the MacMillan charity coffee morning, for which many thanks are given. **Carols with the centre** will take place on 5 Dec. Starting at 6.30pm at St Andrew's, we will, as usual, walk up to the centre singing carols and then from 7.15pm, the centre will be open for refreshments and entertainment from the U3A choir.

**Poppies** – Installations of poppies has now taken place. Plastic poppies came from RBL on 7 October and huge thanks go to 1<sup>st</sup> Thringstone Scouts who Nita asked to help get these installed on lampposts. We have had hundreds of really positive comments on social media and in person about the work done and the impact this has made to the village. The scouts and beavers are decorating the scout hut with handmade and knitted poppies, many of which came from FoT, and silhouettes of soldiers which will be decorated. Nita sent them lots of photos of Thringstone soldiers to use as part of the display. A string of poppies has been given to the new Green House coffee shop, and Lesley Mansfield donated 2 flags to go with the display at the Miners Social Centre. Our installations are 2 nets at Ruby's, 9 panels at The Meadows care home, 2 large poppy nets at Thringstone Members Club, 5 rows of poppies plus flags at Thringstone Miners Social Centre – unfortunately some vandalism took place - lots of poppies, bunting etc. at St Andrew's church, one large net at Charles Booth Centre, flags, soldiers and poppies on an area of railings on Main Street/John Street jitty and poppies at the entrance to the village on Bill's fence. The Old School House have done their own display and there is a display at Gracedieu Manor nursery, and at the pre-school. This has been a huge project, and we thank everybody involved in this. Nita has posted various photos of the installations on our social media pages and an article about this went into the Coalville Times of 31 October. The Panto Society want to borrow the poppies from the centre's display to use at their panto in January – Wizard of Oz as there are poppy fields in that. Ruby's had gifted us £100 for this project. It was agreed to keep this money in our reserves for future projects which could require wool or other items to be purchased for volunteers.

**Publications** – We now have another 10 complete copies of Durham Miners. The only publication where we have short stocks is Born and Bred 1.

**Drury Lane** – Thanks go to Janet, Anne, Dave, Caroline, Tim and Michael from Henson's Lane for coming out to help clear things down the lane which was in a very bad state. Bushes were cut right back, weeding was done, general tidying and all in all a great 2 hours' work which made the lane lighter, safer and nicer. Thank you is a very inadequate phrase in these circumstances.

**Bushes on The Green** – Nita has been speaking with the Leicester Conservation Volunteers about the flowerbed on The Green, and has secured their assistance to deal with cutting the bushes back, as the scouts were unable to help this year. Meetings are taking place to arrange a



date to do this. The group normally charge for their services but have agreed to waive their charge. Nita has an initial meeting on site with one of their team on Sunday.

**Whitwick's history event** – We were up at the Methodist Chapel on 11 October as part of Whitwick Historical Group's war themed event. Once again, huge thanks to Ann Petty for putting our board together and manning the stall along with brother Bill. There were a lot of people there, and interest in our displays which were extensive, as always. This display has gone to St Andrew's as part of their remembrance celebrations.

**October's Charity Coffee Morning** - £162 was raised for Old School House at the coffee morning on 10 October. Thank you to all who came to support this. The list has been issued for charities to support in 2026. January – Stroke Club, February – Loros, March - Alzheimers, April - Parkinsons UK, May - Fibromyalgia Friends Together, June - Bright Hope Hospice, July - British Heart Foundation, August - Marlene Reid Centre, September – MacMillan, October - Old School House, November - Poppy Appeal, December – Rainbows. These might change in the latter months of 2026.

**Network meeting on 14 Oct** – A group of people from FoT, Thringstone Miners Social Centre, Ingles FC, Whitwick and Thringstone Tenants and Residents Association, NWLDC, St Andrew's and the centre met to discuss an alliance going forward to put on joint events and promote things in the village. This meeting produced some good networking opportunities, and another meeting is planned for 10am on 18 November at Thringstone Miners Social Centre. If anybody wants a copy of Nita's notes, please let her know. Following this meeting, several posters and other details have been shared by Nita to the group to help promote events etc., including coffee mornings. The Co-op have been given details of people in the group to contact in order to work with them too, as they suggested in another meeting that they would like to work more with the community. The Whitwick and Thringstone Tenants and Residents Association are in the process of putting together their first newsletter, and that will also add to the opportunities to promote things in the village. Nita had a meeting on 8 October with **Coalville Can** to discuss possible funding for joint working in Thringstone going forward with other venues/groups connected to the network meeting. We heard on 31 October that the money to help work with this group has come through to Coalville Can. Deana is going to liaise with people from the group at the next meeting about the project. Lesley Mansfield has offered to help with this new group going forward, and will also be going to the next meeting. Zara Barnes who works for NWLDC in safeguarding has also been invited.

**Whitwick and Thringstone Tenants and Residents Association** – this group have moved their weekly Friday coffee mornings from Thringstone Members Club to Charles Booth Centre from November. This does mean that, once a month, there will be two coffee mornings at the centre on a Friday. The WTTRA will, on that Friday, have theirs upstairs.

**Changes in local authorities** – from information received, it looks like the demise of local authorities such as ours to form a unitary authority will possibly take place in 2028. NWLDC has published a detailed draft plan about the best way to provide council services in the future across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. <https://www.northcitysouth.co.uk/draft-proposal>  
The North, City, South plan sets out a vision for three unitary councils and a mayoral strategic authority to lead the area into a more prosperous future. The plan calls it a once in a generation opportunity. Others may feel differently as it takes away local councils working for local communities.

**New bus stops** – There are two new bus stops near Springfield for Arriva and Skylink. One is outside Gracedieu View which will take people out of the village, and the other is immediately opposite outside 166 Loughborough Road, bringing people into the village.

**Dog Walking Group** – The dog walking group which Nita suggested and is run by Kaye now has 25 members. If any lady wants to walk in the woods with others, please contact Nita with details of your phone number etc. and she will pass on this information to Kaye, who tells people about walks via What'sapp. There was some talk relating to facebook postings about 'strange' people in the woods, and that these were probably quite innocent people doing nothing of harm.

**Dog fouling** – A gent in Ashdale contacted Nita to complain about the amount of dog fouling on grass near his house, and asked if we could arrange for dog fouling signage to go up. Nita spoke



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to the Environmental Enforcement folk at NWLDC who are arranging for a temporary sign to go up, as they no longer do permanent dog fouling signage. Nita is also trying to get a Neighbourhood Watch Sign down Ashdale, as the one that used to be there disappeared.

**The Green House Coffee Shop** - This new cafe near Thringstone Co-op opened on 16 October. Its opening hours are 9am-3pm Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We wish them well in their new venture.

**Postcode Lottery winners** – film crew seen on Glebe Road on 28 October, with at least 3 families winning large sums of money. Congratulations to them. This made the front page of the CV Times this week.

**1st Thringstone Scouts** – are having a spruce up. Having installed new doors, they have been busy painting the inside before a new floor is installed.

**Thringstone Bowling Club** – We understand from their chairman that the club will be unaffected by anything that happens at Thringstone Members Club following Margaret's retirement in January.

**St Joseph's Tearoom** – Due to the change of lease and a chance to look at a possible change of direction, this venture is changing its name to Abbey Grange Tearooms and the well-being side of their business will be The Monos Centre, which is a return to their original ideas. Their main focus will be on their well-being work.

**Bright Hope Hospice, Swannington** – a reminder that there is now a seated exercise class every Friday, open to everybody, from 12.30pm – 1.15pm. £3.50.

**Melrose Road Field** – Nigel said that the Ingles FC had now got the lease to the field, and over a period of time would be developing the site so that it could be used for youth football.

### Chair's report

**Promotion** – We have **734** twitter followers which is the same as last month and **2,532** facebook followers which is 127 more than last month. This increase is mostly due to people wanting to see what we put about the incident in the woods and other subsequent police activities plus the photo we found of the film crew from People's Postcode Lottery on Glebe Rd (as above) and our village activities with poppies.

**Other** Nita helped advise a resident on Whitwick Moor on concerns relating to environmental issues.

All the best in their new Nottinghamshire home to **Ian and Maggie Smith** who have been members since the start of our group.

### What's On

- 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.
- 9 Nov – **Whitwick Remembrance Parade** starting from old Hermitage Leisure Centre car park at 2pm. After the church service at St John's, the parade will return back to the car park. Roads will be closed during the whole event
- 14 Nov - Charity Coffee Morning in aid of the poppy appeal at **Charles Booth Centre** from 10am – 12 noon
- 15 Nov – **Winter Fayre** at Thringstone Scouts (Charles Booth Centre car park area). 10am – 5pm. All sorts of stalls and food available.
- 30 Nov – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's Christmas Fayre at **Charles Booth Centre**. 11am – 3.30pm. Santa, stalls, raffle, tombola, hot and cold drinks (bar open) and entertainment all day.
- 5 Dec – **Carols round the tree**. Starting at 6.30pm from **St Andrew's**, walking up to the centre and then entertainment inside the centre from 7.15pm. All welcome
- 7 Dec - 5k Santa Fun Run from Charles Booth Centre. Starts at 10am. Tickets £5
- 7 Dec - Carols at **Gracedieu Priory** from 3pm. All welcome.
- 12 Dec - Charity Coffee Morning in aid of Rainbow's Hospice at **Charles Booth Centre** from 10am – 12 noon



- 28-31 Jan – **Wizard of Oz at Charles Booth Centre**. Tickets available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads) or ring 0333 666 3366.
- 30 Dec – Hare and Hounds charity quiz night for Rainbows Hospice Tickets £5 from 610487.. Starts at 7.30pm.

### Financial Report

<b>.Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>2828.33</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
		Broadband	£20.00
		Zurich Insurance	£7.89
		RBL donation for poppies	£100.00
<b>total income received</b>			127.89
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2700.44</b>

### Website

Nothing to report

### Incident reports

- There has continued to be a huge **police presence** over the incident in the woods on 2 October, and door to door enquiries and police around the village has been prominent. This has turned into a manhunt with East Midlands Special Operations Unit leading the search. Considerable discussion and speculation has taken place on social media on this, much of it very unhelpful to the search and potentially harmful to the family of the victim. We have put out several posts ourselves from the police and the family, to try to quash misinformation being spread. Nita has also spoken to a Detective Will Musson from the East Midlands Special Ops Unit about the situation.
- 4 October – Break in and damage caused at **Thringstone Members Club** necessitated them telling folk they couldn't serve Sunday lunch. Police there again on 17<sup>th</sup> with speculation of another break-in.
- 8 Oct – Disabled lady on **Main St** who on 22 July had her car windows smashed when parked outside her house, had her lounge window broken with a brick by someone passing in a car. Police involved and did door to door enquiries to see if anything was seen. She now parks her car away from her house, which causes mobility issues.
- 14/15 Oct – police activity at house on **Loughborough Road** with upwards of 6 officers there at any one time removing items and then visiting neighbouring properties
- 15 Oct – 9pm - case of indecent exposure to woman on **Melrose Rd**. Police involved, and detailed description obtained of male. CCTV footage obtained of him on the estate.
- 16 Oct – people took used vegetable oil from the back of **Ruby's** again. Caught on CCTV. Police informed.
- 23 Oct – lady parked on **The Green**, windows open for ventilation, keys on passenger seat – lad on a bike tried to take the keys by putting his hand through the window. She shouted, and he sped off towards the garage in Whitwick. Police informed.
- 25 Oct - During **late-night patrols** on The Green, officers from the Bardon Beat Team observed a vehicle emitting an excessively loud noise. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the vehicle had no road tax and insurance. Consequently, the vehicle was seized and recovered by Crouches.
- From Police newsletter – One of the results of recent patrols saw officers act on information and after an area search they located a male with numerous wraps of **Class A drugs**. He was arrested for possession with intent to supply class A drugs. Upon a further search of his property



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we seized an amount of cash suspected as being gained through the supply of drugs. This investigation is ongoing.

### History report

- We now have a photo of **William Bancroft**, of John Street, brother to James Bancroft who died in WW1. The photo we have shows William also in army uniform from WW1. He died in 1939.
- Nita and Ann met up with **Julian and Karalyn Richardson** who came from Derbyshire to collect the certificate of merit for Strained Relations from 29 March 1952 which was found at the centre. Julian's mother, Margaret nee Hoult, was one of the stars of that performance, and we felt that the family should have the certificate rather than it being kept in our archives to only be seen on high days and holidays. An article and photo relating to the certificate of merit went into the **Coalville Times** of 23 October.
- Nita has been doing some extra research into the **Hoult family and Warren Farm**. Having looked at marriage certificates, it is clear that John Joseph Clarke Hoult was farming at Warren Farm at his marriage on 20 December 1887 to Margaret Henson, and upon his death the farm passed to his son Joseph Stinson Hoult who married Mary Joyce on 12 April 1932 at St Andrew's. He died of a gunshot wound on 10 July 1965. (see below) The Hoult family seem to have been farmers for decades. John Joseph Clarke Hoult's father was William who married Hannah Clarke, and in 1861 was a farmer of 130 acres in Nottingham, then moving to Iveshead Lodge Farm by 1881 to farm 41 acres. His father was Joseph, born in Belton in 1796, who farmed 151 acres in Walton on the Wolds and Hoton. He had married Mary Sharpe in 1830 and died on 23 October 1875 at his daughter's farm, Oaks Farm in Newton Linford. Joseph is buried with his wife Mary at Hoton. Joseph's father was Robert and his mother Grace nee Steeples, also from Belton. Robert was born in 1735 and died in 1805. He paid land tax in 1798 and his death records and subsequent records say he was a farmer. He died intestate, and his wife had to go to court over his property. His wife, Grace, died in April 1841 aged 98 years which is amazing for those times. Robert's father appears to have been Thomas born in 1695 in Sheepy Magna who married Jane Slater in 1723 and died in 1766 in Belton. It is unclear what his occupation was, but his will and probate suggest he left less than £20 (which equates to around £3750 in today's terms) and that he left his eldest son 1 shilling (which equates to around £10 in today's terms). We are now also aware that in 1909, Mary Elizabeth Agnes Hoult, daughter of John Hoult of Warren Farm died from burning injuries. She had been playing draughts with her sister Mabel and another sister in the kitchen on 11 December when her pinafore caught fire. John Hoult tried to extinguish the flames, and a messenger was sent on horseback for Dr Burkitt in Whitwick, and the injuries were dressed with olive oil. The doctor came almost immediately in his car but the child was badly burnt about the head, arms and body and died of shock on 14 December. **Joseph Stinson Hoult** died of head injuries and was found in a barn with shotgun wounds and a hedge stake between his knees. The inquest said he had killed himself whilst the balance of his mind was disturbed. There was a lot of local speculation about the reason for his suicide, but Mary Hoult, his widow (nee Joyce) told his inquest a different story to that which 'did the rounds'. They had lived at the farm since 1936 and had been married in 1932. Mrs Hoult was the daughter of Mark Joyce who had kept the Hare and Hounds until 1933. Mr Hoult had hardly seen the doctor in years, but took indigestion tablets like sweets. She said that he had been bothered about the hay baler, but usually got over things like that. However there had been a change in him on the day before his death. They always took all the local papers and he read them, but this time he sat in the armchair most of the day with his head in his hands and the papers were unread. He said that nothing was wrong but refused to eat and only drank tea. The hay baler had been broken and an incorrect part sent which broke whilst they were dealing with the first field, and the rest of the hay was cut but not baled. Their son John Hoult went to do the milking as usual on the Saturday of Joseph's death, and Mrs Hoult was working in the dairy, but when John asked where his father was, understanding that he had gone out and left no instructions, he decided to continue his work. He then went to the barn to fetch a bag and discovered his father's body. Mary Hoult put out a notice in the local press to thank Squire Gerard de Lisle plus Denis Butler the 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Lanesborough for their moral support as well as thanks to the vicar, police and doctor for their kind



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and sympathetic treatment. We know that, from at least 1871, the farm has been owned by the Garendon and Gracedieu estates i.e. the de Lisle family. A month later, in August 1965, Joseph and Mary's daughter Joyce married Brian Antony Colin Simmons of Main Street, Thringstone, at St Andrew's church, with the intention of emigrating to Canada the following month. Both John and Peter Hoults played football for The Three Crowns in Whitwick. There is a photo of a team with them in it in Chris Matchett's Whitwick pubs book. John also played for Belton Villa, and later went on to keep the Blue Ball in Shepshed.

- Nita had a message from Ruby's saying a lady from Leicester had been into the shop to talk about James Smith, who was her great grandfather's eldest brother, having run the **Rose and Crown**, and gave Nita her number. After a lengthy phone call, Nita managed to get information to her from our archives, with which she was delighted, including a photo of James. After a further discussion, Nita sent more information including a picture of James's grave and his death certificate, all of which we had on file, plus a photo of his Buffaloes' certificate from 1915, and photos of the inside of the pub taken when we went in there, with permission of the brewery, around 2012 to rescue sports trophies before the pub was demolished..
- Following queries relating to **Bernard Dong**, mentioned in the October bulletin, and his strange name, Nita looked at his family tree. His grandfather was Fritz Heinrich Dung, a German cornet player who played in orchestras at theatres. He married Mary Jane Lewery in 1894, and died in 1912. During their marriage the couple had 4 children – Irene Edith born 9 June 1894, Fritz sometimes known as Fred, born 27 Feb 1896, Herman David born 1899, and Eugene Bernard born 30 June 1903. Bernard's dad was Eugene. When Fritz died in 1912, Mary Jane nee Lewery had to apply for British citizenship, as her marriage to a German had caused her to be classed as German. This, she did in 1916, and at the same time, she changed the family surname to **Dong from Dung**. Of her children, Irene Edith married Edmund Dawson but had no children, so her line died out. Fritz Jnr. became a dentist and married Amy Taylor. They had a son called Paul on 25 July 1935 who died on 17 March 2023. He didn't marry, so that line died out. Herman David was killed in France on 26 August 1918, which raises the thought as to how someone with a German father felt fighting his father's nation, and then we have Eugene, Bernard's dad. He married Ethel Doris Whitehall in April 1929 and Bernard was born later that year. Eugene went into the army but suffered with some form of mental illness, and by 1939 was in the Brighton Mental hospital, where he died in 1977. Ethel Doris, known as Doris, returned to her family, lived in Ashby for some time, and then came to Thringstone with Bernard. Bernard died in 2003, and didn't marry either, so the whole family line has now died out. Bernard liked painting, and we have photos of him in 1999 at an art class with Pauline Walker. We also know that he went to Coalville Tech to study A level art in the 1990s.
- **Sept 1912 Mr W G Wheatley**, owner of cottages in Barrack Yard, Thringstone and also 4 cottages in Bauble Yard, Thringstone was ordered to carry out sanitary improvements on his properties by order of Ashby Rural District Council. We believe this to have been William Gill Wheatley, born in Denby, Derby on 26 January 1874. He was a colliery clerk/secretary at Ibstock Colliery, whose address in 1911 and 1921 was Ingleside, Whitwick. He died on 12 June 1946 by which time he and his wife and daughter Pauline had moved to South Wigston where he worked as a builders' merchants' manager.
- **March 1918** - The widow of **James Bailey** of Thringstone who was killed by the fall of a roof whilst working at Coleorton Colliery succeeded in obtaining compensation for the loss of her husband. £300 was granted to be apportioned amongst the 5 dependents of Mr Bailey.

**Date of next meeting 4 December at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre. This will be our Christmas Party. Please consider bringing food to share. ALL WELCOME.**