



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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Bulletin December 2025

Monthly Litter Pick Total - 70 bags by 5 people against 112 bags by 5 people for the same month last year.

Meeting notes 6 present, 13 apologies

New committee appointment – Caroline Townsend has agreed to be co-opted onto our committee as Environmental Officer. Many thanks to Caroline.

Poppies – Thanks to the lady who wishes to remain anonymous for doing the 50 poppy posters and scattering them around the village on 8 November. We had lots of very nice comments about this, with several people saying it made their day to find these. The big installations survived and we thank everybody involved with this, including the help taking these down. We have been talking to people about storage for the poppy installations. Ruby's is being stored by them having had help pack it away, the centre is storing theirs, Janet is storing the nets from Thringstone Members Club, Mary is storing the installation from the Miners Social Centre, the church are storing their own, as is Lesley Mansfield and The Meadows are storing theirs. The scouts took down the plastic poppies for us on 25 November, and will store those for us for next year. We have had new ideas should we do this again next year which include having a dog shape and cover that in purple poppies for animals, and then link that with stories of canine work during the war. We have said this is something to discuss way in the future, not now and in any event, such an installation would need a prominent place in which to display it.

Thringstone Together – The 2nd meeting of the network group was held on 18 Nov. It was agreed to put on an event at Ingles FC ground/Thringstone Miners Social Centre on Saturday 20 June 2026 with all sorts of things for the family under the banner of Thringstone Family Festival. Various people within the group were given action points to deal with and report back on at a meeting in January. Deana Bamford from Coalville Can came to explain a recent funding bid she put in which, in addition to existing projects, proposes to work on providing boxing in the New Year at the centre. In addition she hopes to work on 'Gatherings' at 3 venues in the village where people can meet, with food, to chat and get things done. Venues suggested were school, church and Miners Social Centre. This has been left with Deana to deal with going forward. It was suggested that these gatherings take place in February, March and April. Nigel Roberts is chairing the next meeting at which will be discussed raffles, donating any excess funds to a charity etc.

Children's writing competition – Sitting outside the Thringstone Together event, Nita has contacted a group of local schools to see if she can put together a children and young people's writing competition. FoT members will judge the articles put forward, which should be no more than 500 words and could include pictures. The age ranges proposed are 5-10, 10-14, and 14-18 Community Voice have agreed to print the winning stories and provide a £20 voucher to each winner. Coalville Can could, potentially, take all the stories and put them together in a book to sell



on Amazon. Thringstone Primary have shown an interest, but thus far, nobody from any of the other 8 schools has responded despite phone calls to them.

Thringstone's Got Talent – Shannon Bradford has agreed to look to run this at the centre in 2026 and is now liaising with the centre over dates etc.

Flooding on Gracedieu Road – following recent heavy rain, our MP along with a Whitwick councillor have been trying to do something about blocked drains and reported sewage which has come up through manholes (as it did outside 132 Lbro Rd again). A street clean was organised and the county council agreed to look at blocked drains in that area but this seemed slow to materialise. Nita reported the manhole which lifted outside 132 Lbro Rd again, spewing sewerage onto the path and grass verge, to the relevant people and helped clear various drains of leaves.

Thringstone Primary – The school reported that the recycling bins on Hensons Lane were damaged on 16 Oct and these were made good by NWLDC. The school has also requested that the Yellow Zig-Zags be re-marked on Henson's Lane due to their poor state and there has been a response to say they are hoping to complete the work in the coming months. The school raised £115 for Children in Need and received the Music Mark for their teaching of music in the school.

Waste collection calendars - The 2026 waste collection calendars, which also include Christmas and New Year collection dates, became available to download and print from the council's website from Monday 1 December. Here are two ways you can find your recycling and waste collection information - Visit my.nwleics.gov.uk or search your postcode in the 'My Location' box on the website. Both refuse and recycling will be collected on 23 December if your collection is Tuesday. There will be no waste collection on 30 or 31 December. After Tuesday 9 Dec, the next Tuesday recycling collection will be 13 Jan.

Charity coffee morning – The charity coffee morning for the Royal British Legion on 14 November raised £202.70. Thanks go to all who came and supported the event.

Bushes on The Green – Following a meeting between Nita and the Leicestershire Conservation Volunteers, in filthy wet weather on 22 November, the 3 volunteers came from Sibleby and Syston to cut back all the bushes that FoT planted years back on The Green. Whilst there, they also chopped back two of the trees which are the council's responsibility to deal with, basically because of exceptionally low hanging branches. One was the red oak that Ray Woodward planted for David Taylor as a memorial, and the other one was the larger tree nearer to the pavement by the bush bed. All that was removed by the three volunteers was taken away. Whilst there, they also removed overhanging bushes and trees from the gardens to the houses which face onto The Green, known as Bauble Yard which were blocking the pavement down the side of The Green and causing issues for ladies with pushchairs because they were so low hanging. These cuttings, of which there were a lot, were repatriated to the gardens of the houses concerned. A full carrier bag of bottles and cans were also cleared from this bed. We thanked the volunteers and the fact that they agreed not to ask for a donation for their work was a bonus.

Drury Lane – Janet has planted an Italian fir tree down Drury Lane, which was grown from a cone and should reach a height of 30 feet if left to thrive. Thank you Janet.

Ingles FC – 13 December will see the premier league trophy coming to Homestead Road. This is thanks to development work undertaken and working closely with the premier league on projects. This is a chance to see the trophy and be photographed with it. It is expected to arrive around 12.30pm with photos from 1pm. All welcome.

St Andrews – the church is collecting for **Feed The Need for Christmas**, and would welcome donations of tinned items, rice, coffee, hot dogs, jam and UHT milk. These can be taken to the church on Thursdays between 10am and 12 noon or taken to the church on Sunday mornings.

Yoga class – A class has started at **Charles Booth Centre** on Wednesdays at 10am. This class is suitable to everyone and is £7 per lesson. To book or for further information, please contact Lucianne on 07731 580505

Ruby's - It was the anniversary of Sonia's death on 26 November, and the shop decided that all profits made on chips on that day would be given to the LRI for patients being treated for cancer.



£750 was raised made up of £550 from chips and £200 donated by customers. What a lovely thing to do in memory of Sonia.

Chair's report

Promotion – We have **732** twitter followers which is 2 less than last month and **2,577** facebook followers which is 45 more than last month.

Other – fly tipping reported on Melrose Road near the post box, at the bottom of Dalkeith Walk and on Warren Lane.

Cleaned **Gracedieu woods signage** of green covering at entrance from Springfield so the sign can be read.

Nita wrote and submitted an article on the **1953 Coronation celebrations** in the village to Community Voice for July 2026 and the **1937 Coronation celebrations** in the village for Aug 26 including some pages from the souvenir brochure produced at the time.

We are sorry to report the deaths of **Fran Skinner**, who had been a member of our group more or less since day one and of her neighbour **Lily Weighill**. Condolences to both families.

Good luck to **John and Karon Smith** who have moved up north. John was our webmaster for more than a decade.

What's On

- 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
- 12 Dec – **Charles Booth Centre Christmas Quiz**. Will be in the upstairs hall. Doors open at 7pm with quiz to start at 7.30pm. £5 per person to include turkey, stuffing and cranberry cobs (vegan option available) plus mince pie. Christmas hamper raffle. Please message centre to book. hello@charlesboothcentre.org.uk
- 13 Dec – **Breakfast with Santa at Canine Partners**, Osgathorpe Rd near Belton LE12 9SR. 10am – 12 noon. Prices start at £12. Book on www.caninepartners.org.uk/event/breakfast-with-santa
- 14 and 21 Dec – **Christmas meals at Thringstone Members Club**. 12 noon until 4pm. £25 per person. Please book at the club.
- 21 Dec – **St. Andrew's** – Holy Communion 10.30am. Carols 6pm.
- 24 Dec – **St. Andrew's** – Midnight mass 11.15pm
- 28 Dec – **St Andrew's** – All ages worship 10.30am.
- 28-31 Jan – **Wizard of Oz at Charles Booth Centre**. Tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads or ring 0333 666 3366.

Financial Report

.Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	2700.44		
Income		Expenditure	
Donation from Ruby's	£100	Broadband	£20.00
		Zurich Insurance	£7.89
		Plastic gloves	£7.94
total income received	£100		£35.83
		Total	£2764.61

Website



Nothing to report

Incident reports

There is a **beat surgery** at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre on **20 December** at 3pm if people would like to go to talk to local police about their concerns.

New PCSO –after a full analysis of the Bardon Beat they've decided that Connor Mitchell is now the Thringstone, Whitwick and Charley PCSO. Abigail Carter-Kyd, who was photographed on a patch walk in Thringstone and went to the primary school, and Connor are on opposite shift patterns so when he isn't in she will be around the Whitwick, Thringstone and Charley area in his place. Even though they've been tasked with micro-beats they believe it's best to all work together over all the beats so the community knows the team and can approach any of them. If you have any questions, please feel free to drop an email to abigail.carter-kyd@leics.police.uk

5 Nov – Car damaged on **Fortnam Close**. Lady posted photos on facebook saying it would cost £700 to put her car right.

- 6 Nov – 4 police cars at a flat on **Kelso Court** and seen taking stuff away.

History report

- Thanks to Jimmy Francis, we were able to supply a lady with football photos of her father, Pat Middleton from Booth Road.
- Following on from last month's mention of a photograph of **William Bancroft** of John Street, we have been able to access his WW1 records and find that he was 5 ft. 7.5", signed up on 23 Sept 1915, and was posted but discharged on 14 January 1916. It is not clear why.
- Nita posted on facebook the 1937 and 1953 Coronation souvenir programmes in which many names were mentioned. Following on from previous information about **Joe Hault** from Warren Farm, Georgie Peters sent this to us: Joe Hault lived up Warren Lane. He delivered our milk when we lived up at The Aviary, Gracedieu. He had hands like spades and brought us water in the awful winter of 1963. He brought it in a milk church, but it had a tiny leak and was put in the lean to and leaked all night. We got up to an ice rink the next day!
- **Dec 1904 – Joseph Henson** of 6 Hall Lane, Whitwick was advertising to let a cottage in **Talbot Lane, Thringstone** with gardens to both front and rear. This is new information. Joseph was born in Thringstone on 8 April 1858 and was a blacksmith and Shoemith. He was the 2nd son of Jabez Henson, married Elizabeth Kirby at St Andrew's, Thringstone on 7 March 1882 and he died on 1 March 1942. His parents had 5 sons and one daughter. He himself had 3 daughters and 2 sons, Leonard James who died on 23 March 1908 aged 10, and Albert Edward. An article in The Coalville Times tells that Joseph had been church warden at St Andrew's and his son's death came about after the child had been ill in bed for 7 weeks. Leonard had been a member of the church choir and members of the choir sang at the graveside. Albert emigrated to Canada in 1911 to become a rancher, and lived in Lethbridge, Alberta, returning to Hall Lane briefly in 1921. In 1885, Joseph was living at the Blacksmith's shop and tenement next to the Blacksmith's Arms in Hall Lane, Whitwick which was closed in 1908 and demolished in 1972 as part of a road widening programme and stood where the Methodist chapel now stands at the bottom of Hall Lane. This property was up for sale. Joseph's probate shows that he left £3162 19 shillings and 2 pence with his daughters Louisa Ann Henson, Amy now Mrs Baum and Gertrude Mary now Mrs Bayliss being executors. This equates to £177,000 in today's terms.
- **Feb 1921 - Joseph and Mary Jane Burton** (nee Knapp) of The Green were mourning the death of their baby, which was the 3rd child of theirs to die within a 6 month period. The funeral of their son Neville Archibald had only taken place that week – he died at the age of 1 month - when their



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baby Florence died after only 6 hours of life. Their daughter Emily died in August 1920 aged 2. They also had a daughter, Nora, who died at 13 months in 1915. The 1921 census shows them on The Green with children Gladys, Howard, Joseph and another Nora. Mary Jane died in October 1923 aged 36. By 1939, Joseph Snr. with his son Howard were living at 111 Main Street, Thringstone. He died in Loughborough in 1957. Gladys married Ted Wardle in 1930, and Howard married Ida Aulton.

- **April 1921** - Singular Omission at Whitwick Funeral. An unfortunate oversight led to a singular incident at a Whitwick funeral on Saturday. At three o'clock, the internment was to have taken place of the late **Harry/Henry Tolley**, a single man, aged 54 years of Thringstone. The first part of the service was held in the Holy Cross Church, conducted by Canon M. J. O'Reilly, and on arrival at the cemetery, it was found that no preparations had been made for the burial and no grave dug. The distressed relatives returned to the Holy Cross Church and it was arranged to leave the body in the church until Sunday, when at two o'clock in the afternoon, it was taken to the cemetery for the second time, and the internment then took place. Interviewed in reference to the incident, Canon O'Reilly said it was the first time that such a thing had occurred in all his 40 years' experience as a priest. When he commenced the service in the church, he was under the impression that everything was in order, but "as soon as we got to the cemetery I thought there was something wrong, because the gates were closed, and no one was about." A messenger was sent for the sexton, Mr George West, and it then transpired that no order had been given for a grave. "Neither the sexton nor the burial authorities," said Canon O'Reilly, "were in any way to blame. It was due to an unfortunate misunderstanding which resulted in no order for the grave being given." Mr George West, the sexton said that he had no knowledge of the funeral. He has held the position for many years, and it is the first time such an incident has occurred in his experience, though, he added, "I once dug a grave for the internment of a body which was never brought." This was many years ago, and referred to a funeral which took place in the Holy Cross Churchyard. Mr West had the grave all ready and was waiting for the arrival of the cortege. As this made no appearance, he enquired as to its whereabouts, and was informed that the funeral had taken place. Research has shown that Mr Tolley's full name was Ignatius Henry Tolley who was born in Wednesbury, Staffordshire and was brought up in Walsall until the death of his father when the family moved to Dewbury in Yorkshire. By 1901, along with his mother and sister Agnes, who was a widow, and a niece, he was living in Thringstone on Gracedieu Road, and his occupation was given as coal miner. The 1911 census shows him as a colliery mechanic working below ground and living with his sister and a nephew at Loughborough Road, Thringstone.
- **June 1921** - The death was recorded in the Coalville Times of **Dr Thomas Restarick Rolston** who died at Guy's hospital, London of a throat infection. Dr Rolston had covered for Dr Burkitt whilst he was away serving in WW1 and was a member of the local Coalville and Whitwick Conservative Clubs. He was well known and liked locally, and died, aged 60, leaving a widow, 3 sons and a daughter.
- **Dec 1922** – The inquest into the death of **Elizabeth Griffin** (nee White), widow of White Row, Main Street, Thringstone was held at the home of PC Topliss. She was 63 years of age, and was found dead on her sofa by her daughter in law Ethel May Griffin, wife to Walter. Elizabeth's sons Joseph White and Walter Griffin gave evidence as did Dr Prys Jones, and a verdict of cerebral haemorrhage was given. Elizabeth and her husband Thomas Griffin had 12 children. 9 of these had survived, and Joseph, Annie and John (known as Jack) were born prior to the 1888 marriage (1881, 1883 and Aug 1884) and in many records they carried the surname White, whilst Sarah,



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Elizabeth Mary, Walter, Thomas, Amos and Kate were all born within the marriage. In 1901 the family were living on Talbot Lane, by 1911 they had moved to Henson's Lane, and by 1921, Elizabeth was living with son Joseph White on Main Street. His occupation was given as collier and military pensioner. Elizabeth and Thomas's son, **Amos White**, is featured in our booklet on the dead soldiers of WW1. He died aged 19 in Flanders on 28 August 1918. Our booklet tells that Mrs Griffin had been very proud to have had 5 sons serving in the forces. Griffin Road in Thringstone is named after Amos. We have photos of all 5 of the sons of Elizabeth Griffin.

- **June 1924 – Fred Toyer** of Brooks Terrace, Thringstone met with a nasty accident whilst using an axe to chop wood. Momentarily distracted by some children, he chopped off the end of his thumb, the cut being so clean that a piece of his thumb was left on the block! He was attended to by Dr Jones at Dr Burkitt's surgery in Whitwick. Mr Toyer was a married man (his wife was Doris and they married in 1920) and employed at Stablefords in Coalville. Born in 1896, Mr Toyer had previously lived with his parents and siblings in Cambridge Street, Coalville. He died in 1961.
- **April 1925 –** Gracedieu Park cricketer **William George Annable** (also known as George) from Thringstone broke his leg in 2 places and dislocated his ankle just before the cricket season started in a game of football. He had just taken to the pitch when he collided with another player. Mr Annable is a popular member of the Gracedieu Park cricket team, is a top bowler and batsman and this is unfortunate for both himself and the team. He was sent to Loughborough Hospital. Mr Annable was born on 8 October 1892 in Codnor, Derbyshire, and in 1921 was living with Mr Ottey, the boot and shoe maker on The Green, along with his wife Elsie nee Ottey. By 1939 he had moved to City of Three Waters where he kept The Hare and Hounds. He died on 20 March 1973 at 45 Church Lane, Whitwick.
- **May 1945 – A VE Day dance**, with music from the Victory Band, was held in the hall at Thringstone House on 12 May.
- **May 1946 –** One afternoon whilst riding his bike from Lilybank up Main Street PC Leverett had a lucky escape. There was a flash, and he heard a loud bang and crack about 10 to 15 yards ahead of him. The chimney stack of a property in **Fox Terrace** owned by Mrs Knox had been struck by lightning, split in two and there was a hole in the roof of the property with bricks and slates scattered in all directions. PC Leverett said he was lucky to escape serious injury.
- **June 1946 –** The **Victory Day event** scheduled for Thringstone had to change at the last minute due to the weather. A fancy dress parade around the village with adults and children all in costumes had been planned, but due to rain, they had to meet inside the hall at Thringstone House and then take a short trip round The Green. On returning to the hall, rows and rows of youngsters were waiting to be fed but the judging of the fancy dress competition had to take place first with Cllr. S Gee and others on the committee. The noise in the hall was tremendous, and try as he might, PC Leverett could not bring the children under control. He beat a toy drum, whirled a rattle and yelled, but nobody took any notice. Eventually the food came out and was demolished, along with ice-cream. Thringstone had wanted this Victory Day to be a day to remember which was achieved, with the rain being only a minor tragedy.

Date of next meeting 8 Jan at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre. All welcome.