



The Friends of  
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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We are also on facebook/twitter. Twitter address @Thringstone2

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 OCTOBER 2015 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Ann Petty, Janet Stevenson, Bernard Lee, Geoff Walker, Jackie Spalding, Dave and Julie Everitt

**Apologies:** Roy Hill, Pam Porter, Jane and Geoff Wilson, Bill Enser, Pat Darby, Gillian Bates, Marlene Pearson, Ron Hill, Ray Woodward, Cllr. Leon Spence, Pat Hubbard, Tracy Foulds

### **Discussions/Decisions**

**Century of Stories –The art project** associated with this scheme started at the centre on 7<sup>th</sup> September, with young people working together under tutelage of Jen Johnson. The initial idea was a 4 week project running on 7 14, 21 and 28 September from 3.45pm-5.30pm. At the first meeting, it was agreed to run the project for 8 weeks rather than 4, and the theme was agreed as time travel. The young people are completing an art project, working on a comic strip type format which will also include photo shopping pictures in of themselves. They will travel back in time, as Dr Who and his assistants, to meet people from WW1 (Annie Freeman and Henry Robinson), and create art work from this. There is a possibility that, from this work, banners will be created which will go on the lampposts on The Green near to the old Queen's Head crossing (subject to County Council agreement) and all artwork is being submitted in individual portfolios for an arts award to be modulated by someone from Trinity College, London. There will also be a presentation at the end of this, and the whole project is exceptionally exciting. We put the initial information about this on facebook and our twitter page, and the twitter post was favoured and retweeted by Ant and Dec!

**2000 spring bulbs from NWLDC's Green Shoots Grants –** We have heard that our application for 2000 bulbs has been successful. We have to fund £100 and the council will fund the other £100. There has been such a demand for these bulbs that 30,000 bulbs have been ordered. It is hoped that these will be available to plant before half term in October, but we are now waiting to hear when we can collect ours, and then we will need to arrange for a lot of volunteers to help us put these in pretty quickly. If you think you will be able to help, please let us know. The areas we will be planting are down Millhouse Estate (narcissus), corner of Booth Road



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to add to the crocuses there, next to the hedge to the cricket pitch on Lbro Rd to add to the daffodils there, at the end of the hedgerow on Loughborough Road to the Badgerscroft properties to put crocuses there, down the church jitty (tulips, daffodils and narcissus), in the flowerbeds on The Green (same mix), same down Brook Lane and Drury Lane, bluebells at Thringstone House, daffodils underneath the Thringstone signage by Whitwick Moor where David Taylor originally planted some daffodils with us, and daffodils on the corner of Whitwick Moor where the hedge used to be and there is existing planting.

**Wanted** – former miners to talk to Nottingham University. This came to us from someone connected with Ashby Museum. Someone may be interested in taking part. 'My name is Suzy Harrison and I am a Research Assistant at Nottingham Trent University, working on a project called Pit Talk East Midlands. We are interviewing ex coal miners and talking about their lives down the mine, and also asking about different words they used so we can build up a picture of the dialects used by miners in the counties of Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

We are looking for willing participants to take part in this fascinating study. We are able to meet miners at their homes, at a local venue, or if they fancy a day out to the university they are more than welcome! The interviews are informal and usually last about an hour. So far we really need more folks from Leicestershire so please spread the word!

We have an email - [pittalkeastmidlands@gmail.com](mailto:pittalkeastmidlands@gmail.com), or people can contact Natalie (the project leader) on 0115 848 3011.' We will leave this with people to take part or not as they wish.

**St Andrew's Church** – We believe that the outgoing vicar, Alan Burgess, leaves with effect from the end of this month.

**NWLDC's Free Tree Scheme** – we usually apply for free trees every year from this scheme, and last year also got a further 50+ trees which were left over from the scheme at the end. The new scheme starts today (1 October) and trees will be available to pick up on 22 November. The trees are hazel, bird cherry, rowan and crab apple. *The meeting agreed that we should put in for trees again. Nita will deal with this.*

**NWLDC introduce energy saving scheme** - North West Leicestershire District Council is helping residents to buy electricity and gas together, to bring the price down. The more people who join the scheme, the bigger the savings. You can register online at Switch or call 454545 to sign up with a council advisor before Tuesday 13 October. **Make sure you have an energy bill to hand as you need to state your annual energy usage.** Your details will go into a collective auction on Wednesday 14 October, where energy suppliers bid for the registrations. The cheapest supplier wins the auction and will send each registered household their energy offer. You are under no obligation to take the offer, but if you do take it, the switch is done automatically by the scheme. You can even sign up if you're on a pre-payment meter. Residents in Hinckley and Bosworth are said to have saved an average £291 a year on their energy bills by switching with a similar scheme.

**Bus Route 16** – The 126 stopped running through the village on 21 September, and was combined with the 16. This service, however, no longer goes down Main Street, The Glebe or Henson's Lane, and is made up of double decker buses which now go both ways down Melrose Road, and along Loughborough Road to Coalville and into Shepshed and Loughborough. There have been lots of complaints about lack of consultation, lack of bus stops on the other side of Melrose Road, and emails and facebook messages coming our way regarding the situation. Concern has been expressed to us about the amount of traffic parking both sides of the



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road on Melrose Road which makes the passage of the buses difficult, and about lack of consultation with residents there. That said, the buses stop going down there in an evening, to merely use Loughborough Road. People are also continuing to say that this splits the village in half and is unfair since it now means no buses go down Main Street, and elderly people can't walk to Loughborough Road from the Glebe Farm estate.

Others have said that there now need to be benches (again) so that people can stop and sit on their way to the bus stops for example at the Main Street/Henson's Lane corner.

*Dave Everitt said he intended to talk to NWLDC about money for benches to help older people with the long walk to the bus stops.*

One gentleman and his wife living on Clover Place, very upset about the rerouting of this bus, and who wrote to Andrew Bridgen about the matter, asked us to consider starting a petition, since they would now be unable to get into town to shop and we know other elderly and infirm people who are similarly affected. We have ourselves put things facebook and twitter, and received some responses, but not enough to start a petition, although someone else in the village may now be doing this.

In his reply to the query, Andrew Bridgen suggested that the community centre might be working with Marlene Reid centre on their dial a ride scheme, but Lorraine has told us that she knows nothing about it, and has not heard anything about joining the scheme.

This situation made the front page of the last week's Coalville Times and the gent who has been in touch with us wrote to the letter's page of this week's edition.

We also understand that the new bus service doesn't go to the same areas in Shepshed, and people have to walk from one end of Shepshed to the Bull Ring in order to get back home.

Cllr. Leon Spence investigated the changes in service with Arriva and was told that the decisions to alter the service were made because of the very small number of people who used the service from Main Street/Glebe Road/Henson's Lane, and that consultation was done via the Sustainable Travel Group at County Hall. It is sad, however, that they failed to consult with people affected by the new bus route!

*Dave said he understood that Cllr. Leon Spence was trying to arrange a meeting with Arriva to see if they could put on some limited bus service to cover Main Street, Glebe Road and Henson's Lane, even if it was only one bus a day*

We went to see the community transport lady at Marlene Reid Centre, and understand that there is a mini bus that comes to Thringstone and will take people to Morrisons on Tuesday and Friday mornings. For further information on that, please contact Marlene Reid centre, but bear in mind that the cost is £4.60 per person since the subsidy from Leics. County Council was removed.

**The Trentbarton Skylink bus service** has now however started, which goes from Coalville and Whitwick through Thringstone to Diseworth and Long Whatton and on to EM Airport, Long Eaton and Nottingham. It runs every hour from 5.15am in Thringstone on the Loughborough Road, until late 7 days a week. To see the full timetable for the Skylink service, go to

<https://www.trentbarton.co.uk/services/skylinknottingham>

**New Bench for Drury Lane** – This was put in place on 8 September. We put a small item on our facebook page about this, and got a lot of exceptionally positive comments about the work we do. Thanks go to Bernard for his work on this, and to Ray Gee for helping to get it in place.

**Whitwick Party in the Park 5th September** - We had a steady stream of people throughout the day, and attracted new members and sold publications (see later



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sections). We were also able to get people to put names to faces from the 1977 Thringstone Primary School photographs. We had a lot of very positive comments about the group from people and were told by the Whitwick Parish Council that they consider The Bauble an example of good practice. Despite people telling us this was the last Party in the Park because of lack of volunteers to work on it, Whitwick Community Enterprises has announced on facebook that there will be one next year, and the date for this will be 3 September 2016. Thanks go to Janet, Ann, David, Dave and Julie for their help with the stall on the day.

**New Businesses Publication** – We took possession of 97 of these books rather than the 100 we ordered because insufficient front covers were printed and sent with the text to the binding company in Nottingham. We gave 15 copies away to people who contributed to this publication and one each to the school and Coalville Library. The committee proposed that we offer the pubs book and the businesses book as a package with both coming for £10, a saving of £2 on buying them independently. We already have a bulk buy agreement for people buying all the Born and Bred booklets, all the Memories booklets, the Durham Miners and Scottish booklets and the Village Trail booklets, so it would seem sensible to have another bulk offer agreement.

*The meeting agreed to the discount bulk purchase suggestion*

We also now discover that we have no stock other than what is out there of Scottish in Thringstone and would like to have some in reserve should we continue to sell these. We know that the U3A are having a talk by a couple of people who came from Scotland in the 1960s later in November, and are hopeful we might be able to get some publications sold at that event. We would therefore like to get another 10 printed and have asked Teamprint if they have any of these to just print them, or whether we need to go over with one for them to photocopy. *The meeting agreed we should get another 10 printed. Nita will sort this with Teamprint.*

**Clean For The Queen** – part of a litter picking campaign, this group is advertising a national litter pick on 4, 5 and 6 March 2016 for community groups to take part. Since Elizabeth 2 came to the throne, the amount of litter in the streets has escalated beyond all expectations. Did you know that the RSPCA have around 7,000 calls a year from people reporting an animal having been injured by litter? We have registered our interest, and will see if we can join in next year and also mentioned to Whitwick Parish Council that it might be an idea to do a joint litter pick with the cross over areas being covered to gain more media attention.

**Charging for carrier bags** – Please be aware that supermarkets will be charging for carrier bags from 5<sup>th</sup> October as part of a government directive to try to reduce waste and litter. It is estimated that it takes most carrier bags about 1,000 years to biodegrade, and the new initiative will see up to 80% less carrier bags being used.

**Monthly litter pick total** – 149 bags picked up and removed this month against 170 for September 2014.

**New Members** – Welcome to Perry and Christina Rowthorn, Darren Shirkie, John Reddington, and Ruth Robinson who joined our group at Whitwick Party in the Park.

### Chairs Report

#### **Letters received:**

None

#### **Emails Received:**

- Various from members and agencies with which we regularly deal



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- From one of our members saying how much she enjoys **the history report**, and the work we do within this to tell family stories. It is really nice to get some positive feedback from members who aren't able to attend meetings, as is the case with this lady, since she lives in Oxfordshire! We also got a very nice letter from a lady whose parents are featured in our Businesses book. Both parents have passed away, and she said having our book helps keep them alive in print.
- From **Voluntary Action Leicestershire** offering us a volunteer to help us in our work. An email was sent to them but nothing ever received back.

### Emails Sent:

- Various to agencies with which we deal. Also reported several examples of fly tipping and also the broken garage door on the Melrose Road Sports Pavilion car park. This was removed by the parks department.

### Promotion:

- We have 335 **twitter followers**, an increase of 2 this month, and 181 **facebook followers**, an increase of 8 this month. We continue to post information to both sites on a regular basis. We also continue to put our litter pick collection totals on our Litter Action UK page as well as copies of photographs and our Bauble newsletters.

### Other:

- Spare copies of **The Bauble** were taken, as usual, to Shepshed Volunteer Centre, Marlene Reid Centre, Springboard Centre, Hermitage FM and the library, and also some left at Thringstone House Community Centre.
- **The Job Centre** asked us to take on another volunteer from Whitwick. On talking to him, he said he would be unable to get to Thringstone because he has no transport and suffers with breathing issues and can't walk more than about half a mile. We have suggested to Whitwick Parish Council that they consider taking him on to litter pick his immediate area.
- Somebody set fire to a dumped settee in the **woodland**. The de Lisle estate was informed.
- We were given a **Hewlett Packard 140 printer/scanner** with ink. This has been given to Dave and Sharon who help us with our litter picking 3 times a week and who are honorary members.
- **Fortnam Close** was officially opened by the High Sheriff of Leicestershire, together with Cllr. Pendleton and Andrew Bridgen just over a week ago and an article with photograph appeared in this week's Coalville Times. It is disappointing that neither Cllr. Everitt nor Cllr. Spence were invited to the opening, and we were not told so that we could ask the EMH group to invite members of John Thomas Fortnam's family. We have written to them to express our concern at this lack of consideration.

### Finance Report

|                                                               |                  |                    |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------|
| <b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float) | <b>£3,508.75</b> |                    |         |
| <b>Income</b>                                                 |                  | <b>Expenditure</b> |         |
| Memberships                                                   | £17.50           | Printer Ink        | £34..99 |
|                                                               |                  | Stationery         | 0.89    |



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|                                     |        |                                              |                  |
|-------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Donation                            | £9.50  | Broadband etc.                               | £20.06           |
| Raffle                              | £4.00  | Carparking                                   | £1.00            |
|                                     |        | <b>Teamprint</b> – printing of Summer Bauble | £34.95           |
| Publications                        | £46.50 | Printing of Pubs book                        | £319.50          |
|                                     |        | Photocopying BB1 and Mem 3                   | £37.30           |
| <b>total income to general fund</b> | £77.50 | Total expenditure                            | £448.69          |
|                                     |        | <b>Total general fund at month end</b>       | <b>£3,137.56</b> |

### Publications Report

At Whitwick Party in the park, we sold:

- 1 graveyard booklet (£1.50 with an extra 50p donation)
- A set of village trails booklets at the discounted price of £5.

Ann has sold:

- A pubs booklet outside this event at £6
- A bulk buy offer on a pubs book and a businesses book @ £10
- 2 other businesses books at £6 each.

Nita has sold

- 2 businesses books at £6 each.

A total of £46.50 was passed to David.

David has sold a Scottish in Thringstone book to the grandson of one of the people we interviewed but the money for this has yet to be received.

A new poster has been designed and put up with all the new publications listed at both The Community Centre and Thringstone Members Club.

The sale of publications from non-Friends of Thringstone outlets have been minimal in recent months. David intends to try to find some new outlets over the winter months, but would welcome any suggestions members might have on this matter.

*The meeting suggested David might like to try Thringstone Miners Welfare and also Redhill Garage, as the latter outlet stock supplies of the Grace Dieu booklets.*

### Web Report

John is aware that there are quite a lot of photographs to put on the site, including several from the last couple of months. Some of these emails sent to him with photos bounced, so we are waiting for John to tell us what he actually received before resending these to him. The minutes are up to date to August.

### Police Report – PCSO Mark Ball

- Attempted break in at Bull's Head – persons got disturbed and did a runner
- Attempted garage break in – persons disturbed, did a runner and in the process bundled the home owner over. Home owner suffered some bruising to ribs and wrist – nothing taken
- 1 theft of meat from the Co-op.



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### Community Report and What's On

**Thringstone Members Club** has done a lot of charity work recently, and has told us that £900 was raised for Olivia's Journey over the August bank holiday weekend, and a further £70 has been sent to Air Ambulance and £70 to Cancer Research which is an excellent result. Well done to Margaret and her team.

Thringstone House Community Centre is hosting, from 3rd October, a group called **Fairy Friends**. This group is aimed at little girls aged between 5 and 9 years who want to be fairies. The sessions run from 10am-1pm and will include movement to music, fairy story time, fairy arts and crafts and face painting. Each fairy receives a certificate and gift and a light lunch is provided. According to their website, the session costs £12 per child, with siblings discounts being available. Workshop sessions which include a disco are also to be available at a cost of £6 between 10am and 11.30am. For more information contact 07932 537706.

**George and Dragon** - From 26 September, the pub started offering breakfasts on Fridays from 7am-11am and Saturdays and Sundays from 8am-11am.

**Queen's Head, Belton** - Rebecca and Nick Lakin from Shepshed have taken over this pub from 23 September and will be running their **Olive Grove Cookery School** from the premises. Offering day courses, longer courses and apprenticeships, the pub will still run as it used to do, plus there will be a tearoom open from Tuesday-Saturday and Sunday breakfasts on offer. In addition, the pub will offer meals Tuesday to Saturday evening and Sunday lunchtime.

- 2 Oct – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – Elvis Tribute night from 9pm.
- 2 Oct - **U3A fun choir in concert** at Thringstone Methodist Church Hall. 7pm. Refreshments provided.
- 3 Oct – **Tudor Craft Day** at Donington le Heath Manor House. 11am-4pm. Free
- 4 Oct – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – Mick D from 9pm
- 8 Oct – **Bohemian set meeting** at Thringstone House Community Centre. 7.30pm start. New members welcome. Next meeting is 22 Oct.
- 9 Oct – Church Hall, North Street, Whitwick – **auction**. 6pm. Viewing 4-6pm. Followed by fish and chip supper at 7.30pm which must be pre-booked. Tickets £5. Further information from Roy on 456856. All proceeds go to St John's church building fund.
- 9 and 10 Oct – **Murder Mystery** at Thringstone House Community Centre presented by Thringstone Panto and Drama Society – **Over My Dead Body**. 7.30pm start. Tickets £8 to include light 2 course supper, available from the centre on 222337. Not suitable for children under the age of 12 years.
- 10 Oct – Shepshed High School **Craft Fayre**. Forest Street, Shepshed. Open 10-3pm.
- 10 Oct – **Workshop in acrylics** at Thringstone House Community Centre from 10am-4pm. Cost is £25 to include salad lunch. All materials will be provided. To book contact Fred on 07957 306226
- 10 Oct – **East Midlands Industrial Archeology Conference** at Swannington Village Hall. All welcome. Starts at 9.15 and goes on until 4pm. Speakers include local historians Denis Baker and Roger Bisgrove.
- 15 Oct – **Adult Bingo** at Thringstone House Community Centre – 7pm for 7.30pm start
- 16 Oct – **Black Horse, Whitwick** – Band night - The Cheeze from 9pm



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- 17 Oct – **Hare and Hounds** – John Hough guest artist
- 23 Oct – **Open Mike night** at Thringstone House Community Centre. 8pm start.
- 30 Oct – **Family Film Night** showing Frozen at Thringstone House Community Centre. Princess dress optional. Free entry. Starts at 6pm
- 31 Oct - **Annie Duggan in concert** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Bar open 7pm, performance starts at 8pm. Tickets £8 from centre office or 07989 677225.
- 31 Oct – Hare and Hounds – **Children's Halloween disco** between 6 and 8pm. Adult disco starts at 9pm and goes on til late.
- 8 Nov – **Remembrance Day** parade etc. in Coalville. For Whitwick, the parade leaves the Leisure Centre at 2pm with the church service at St John's at 2.30pm.
- 13 Nov – Ultimately Eva – **Tribute to Eva Cassidy** at Thringstone House Community Centre with Lesley Curtis. Tickets £8 from the centre. Starts at 7.30pm.
- 19 Nov – **Adult Bingo** at Thringstone House Community Centre – 7pm for 7.30pm start
- 20 Nov – **Charity quiz night at North Street Club**. 8pm start. Teams of 4 @ £5 per person. Money goes to LRI Children's Cancer Unit. Cash prize for winner.
- 20 Nov – **Annual Village Quiz Night** at Thringstone House Community Centre. FoT have a team entered.
- 27 Nov – **Open Mike night** at Thringstone House Community Centre. 8pm start.
- 5 Dec – **Thringstone Scouts Christmas Fair** in the scout hut. No times known.
- 11 Dec – **Carols Round The Tree** at Thringstone House Community Centre. Will start at 8pm.
- 17 Dec – **Adult Bingo** at Thringstone House Community Centre – 7pm for 7.30pm start
- 31 Dec – **Village New Year's Eve Party** at Thringstone House Community Centre. More details to follow on cost etc.
- January 2016 – The panto at the Community Centre will be Little Red Riding Hood

### History report

- We are now aware that the **Coalville Marathon in 1982** came through Thringstone thanks to a photo posted on facebook by Geoff Walker.
- Jimmy Francis has given us a copy of his latest CD which is **The Joe Bradford Years**, 1921-1938 relating to local football. John Dickinson has also given Ann a lot of things, some of which we already had, and some which are new. We will have a look through these in due course. Ann has also been given some information about the **Swannington Isolation Hospital** from Biz of the Swannington Heritage Group, which is very interesting.
- Thank you to Ron Hill for letting us have the opportunity to scan copies of the old **Thringstone Bawble** from the 1990s, one of which we hadn't already got. If anybody else has any copies of these, please let us know, and we will see if we have them already, and if not will scan them and return the originals to you.
- We were given 2 photos relating to a parade including members of Thringstone Primary in the **summer of 1983**. These have been scanned and returned.
- Pam Spence has given us a copy of **St Andrew's church magazine** from March 1941 and another page from the magazine of March 1914. The 1914 page tells of the death of Jabez Henson, and there is an obituary as well which states that his sons Jabez Jnr. and George were sidesmen at the church and another son, Joseph, was churchwarden at Whitwick Church. When St Andrew's church was built, it tells that Mr Henson made all the ironwork



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in connection with the churchyard, and that before there were policemen in Thringstone, he acted for many years as parish constable, which we knew. It also mentions the funerals of Evelyn Robinson of Ashby Road who died aged 5 and Eliza Bradley of Loughborough Road who died aged 65.

The 1941 magazine tells of the deaths of various people including Mrs Bessie (Elizabeth) Merriman (formerly of the Bull's Head and now of Victoria Cottage) and Arthur Domoney of Sylvan Croft who died aged 22. It also talks about Mr Frederick Edward Tlvey of Main Street, who met his death as a result of an accident and died aged 78. There are several pages devoted to the war and ships, none of which seem to have any local relevance, and a list of what it was expected women would do each day of the week - Monday is washing, Tuesday is sewing, Wednesday is nursing, Thursday is cooking, Friday is household, Saturday is children and it doesn't mention Sunday as presumably it was a rest day. It also gives the balance sheet for St Andrew's for 1940. Thank you to Pam for letting us have these for our archives.

- We now also have a name for **A Mitchell** who appears on the Coronation Leaflet from 1937 as boot and shoe repairer. This was Arthur Mitchell, who married Hilda Twigger in 1932 and had two children, Patrick and Yvonne.
- Thringstone WW2 casualties - We discovered on a family history site that there was a Japanese Prisoner of War record from 1942 relating to **Douglas Arthur Richards**, an airman in the 211 Squadron of the RAF. He lived in Main Street, Thringstone and it would appear that his squadron served in Sumatra and Java on bombing raids to Japan in 1942. The squadron had heavy losses, and they surrendered on 8 March 1942 to the Japanese. 340 personnel from the squadron were immediately taken prisoner of whom 179 died in captivity. Douglas's mother was Emma nee Hopkinson and his father was George Hallam Richards, one of 17 children of Samuel and Alice Richards. George was a coalminer originally from Osgathorpe, who married Emma in 1899 and who died in 1970. They lived 'near The Green' at the time of the 1911 census, which was before Douglas was born in 1915, and we know from that census record that Douglas had a sister called Elsie May, born in Thringstone in 1900, who appears to have married a Bertie Hudson in 1922. Douglas died, presumably in the prisoner of war camp, whilst on active service, on 1 November 1944. His home address at that time was 48 Main Street. He had married Gertrude May Kilby in 1939, presumably just before he went off to war. When he died, he left £213 8s. 2d to his wife. Whilst the records give full details of his time in the camp, they are written in Japanese, so we are unable to give further information. However, we know that during World War 2, the Japanese Armed Forces captured nearly 140,000 Allied military personnel in the Southeast Asia and Pacific areas. They were forced to engage in the hard labour of constructing railways, roads, airfields, etc. to be used by the Japanese Armed Forces in the occupied areas. About 36,000 were transported to the Japanese mainland to supplement the shortage of the work force, and compelled to work at the coal mines, mines, shipyards, munitions factories, etc. By the time the war was over, a total of more than 30,000 POWs had died from starvation, diseases, and mistreatment. Douglas is one of 4 names on the WW2 war memorial in St Andrew's church.



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**Winner of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2011**  
**Winner of Gold and Silver RCC Village achievement awards 2010**  
**Awarded Outstanding Achievement Certificate in the RHS Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards 2009**  
**Winner of the NWLDC's Footprint Awards under Partnerships and Community Groups 2009 and finalists 2011 and 2013**





## The Friends of Thringstone

- Another casualty of WW2, recorded on the war memorial at St Andrew's was **Ronald Charles Concannon**, who was born in 1917 and married in 1940 to Gerty Matchet. They lived in Thringstone. He was killed in the Brussels area of Belgium on 10 September 1944, and was a sarjeant in the Green Howards' He was buried in Brussels town cemetery and was part of a very large family, who in 1911 were living at Violet Cottage, Church Lane, Whitwick. His parents were Bernard Concannon (a bricklayer from Whitwick) and Bridget nee Welch from Birmingham. It is believed that his wife, Gerty, went over to Brussels to see Ron's grave, met a cemetery worker there, married him and stayed in Belgium.
- **Norman Mason** was another casualty of WW2 and is mentioned on the St Andrew's war memorial plaque. Norman died onboard the Brontosaurus on 25 May 1945 after an illness. We have been unable to find any other records relating to this man.
- The final casualty of WW2 recorded in St Andrew's is **Pt. F Grice** of the Leicestershire Regiment. We have found military records, and a photograph, of private then unpaid acting lance corporal Frederick Grice from the Leics. Regiment who died 10 July 1944 in Calvados, France aged 29. Frederick was born in October 1914, and was a career soldier who joined the Leics. Regiment on 4 October 1933 and served in Malaya and India as well as France.

We know from the military records of the Leicestershire Regiment that he was born in Leicestershire to John and Hilda Grice and marriage records show a John Grice marrying a Hilda Jarvis in this area in 1912. Further research has shown that Hilda Jarvis was the child of Mary Jane nee Richards and Charles Jarvis (who kept the George and Dragon in 1883/4) and the 1911 census shows Hilda with her stepfather Joseph Waldrum (who also kept the George and Dragon from 1916-1923 and was brother to John who started Ruby's Fish and Chip Shop) and siblings, plus John Grice, at Jeffcoats Lane, Swannington. Since the birth record for Frederick Grice in 1914 shows his mother to have been a Jarvis, we therefore feel sure that this is the right Frederick Grice. We believe he also had brothers called Ernest and Albert.

All information on these four gentlemen has been shared with **Thringstone Primary School** since years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are studying WW2 at this moment in time.

### Councillors' report – Dave Everitt

- Dave said that we have previously discussed the proposal to build 85 properties near the Bull's Head traffic calming. The planning application from Bellway Homes was posted on the internet on 14 September. Go to [www.nwleicestershire.gov.uk](http://www.nwleicestershire.gov.uk), then to planning applications and look at 15/00895/REMM or just type in Thringstone in the search box and you will see the relevant pages.  
It will tell you that Bellway Homes are going to build a mixture of 10 types of design of property, some detached, a bungalow, some semi detached, with a mixture of 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms. The only thing we noticed is that the pond to help with the drainage issue has now moved from the middle of the design to the front against the Leicestershire Machine Movers boundary.  
If you have any comments on the proposals, like concerns over access, drainage, flooding etc., contact the council direct. Dave said that people have 3 weeks in which to contact the council with their concerns, or to contact him if they have a justified reason why the planning should not go ahead. They should also consider putting in a letter with their



RCC

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Stepping out for a greener district



concerns to all councillors so that everybody who might be involved in the planning application knew of people's concerns. It was wondered what Leicestershire Machine Movers felt about the pond being adjacent to their business..

- The county council has asked for people to give their views on the local plan for the county, which will include housing, jobs and other infrastructure. To comment, please go to [www.leics.gov.uk/localplanmysay](http://www.leics.gov.uk/localplanmysay)

### **Gardening and environment**

- Bernard has been working on tidying up our flowerbed on The Green, planted new shrubs, tidied the shrubs down by the church wall, planted a load of forget-me-nots on Millbank and also worked on trying to clear weeds there. The problem there is that the banking is really steep, and when removing the weeds, the soil often then just slips down the banking. Janet has put in more plants in the rockery down Drury Lane.

### **Any Other Business**

Geoff Walker has written a 70 page book, which is currently at the printers, regarding his period of National Service. This book will be about his personal memories, rather than warfare tales. He intends to sell this book, probably for £4, with all profits going to Rainbows Hospice. If anybody is interested in a copy, please contact Geoff direct, or contact us and we will forward a message on to him.

**Next meeting: 5 November at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.**



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