



# The Friends of Thringstone



**'Working together to improve our village'**

**Chairman: Nita Pearson**  
**20 Springfield, Thringstone, Leicestershire, LE67 8LT.**  
**Telephone: 01530 223434**  
**mail to: [nita.pearson@ntlworld.com](mailto:nita.pearson@ntlworld.com)**

**Visit our website at: [www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk](http://www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk)**  
**Twitter address: [@Thringstone2](https://twitter.com/Thringstone2)**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 APRIL 2018 AT CHARLES BOOTH CENTRE,  
FORMERLY KNOWN AS THRINGSTONE HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Anita Jones, Bill Enser, Mike Statham, Nigel and Mary Roberts, Pat Darby, Pam Porter, Tracy Foulds, Ann Petty, Janet Stevenson, Dave Everitt, Bernard Lee, Maureen Simm, Holly Kerley, Shirley Gordon, Pat Hubbard

**Apologies:** John Jackson, Ann Statham, Geoff Walker

## **Discussions/Decisions.**

**Meeting at Thringstone Co-op** – Nita, together with local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Paul Siddals, met with Marianne, the Central Co-op group's loss prevention manager and Jorj, the operations manager for the area, for nearly 2 hours to discuss concerns over thefts from the store, or what they describe as leakage, which also includes incorrect deliveries and damaged stock. This was a very frank and open discussion and the Co-op group now intend to work more closely with the community and the police. They said they will put signage in the window about working with the police, encourage the police to use the store more regularly for a comfort break, and to do more publicity in local press/free magazines, about what their stance is on crime, what they are working towards and what they have achieved. Their target is to get leakage to .03% but they were unable to say how far away from that target they are. They admitted that store layouts weren't ideal in the past, and newer stores are now designed with more of an eye towards being able to see people coming in and going out of the shop and, having moved certain items away from the door and from high risk areas, are intending to look at positioning of stock in both Thringstone and Whitwick shops. They are also committed to protecting their staff and customers from any violent instances resulting from crime committed.



**RCC**

**The Friends of Thringstone**  
**Winner of the Big Tidy Award at the Keep Britain Tidy Jubilee Awards 2015**  
**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, finalists 2011 and 2013**



**Stepping out for a greener district**



### **Meeting to discuss tenant and resident's association in**

**Thringstone** – Nita met with Justin O'Brien and Laura Smythe, Resident Involvement Officers from the NWLDC's housing department at the centre. They would like to form a tenant and residents' association for Thringstone's council housing stock. They were unaware of the meeting a few years back set up to do the same thing, before Polly Page came here as housing office, when the meeting descended into chaos and there was a lot of shouting. They were also unaware of the fun day that Polly put on about 3 years back, where Nita did a litter pick with kids to give them the 'right' to go onto the bouncy castle. The police were there, and people had a picnic, and it was nice. Nita explained that we at FoT are fully inclusive, willing to support the council with anything, and that we are also there to help them promote things through the bauble and our facebook and twitter pages. They decided the best way forward might be to have another family fun day in the summer, then do a follow up meeting at which a residents' association could be put forward, but not pushed, as it is up to the residents to say if they want to be on a committee or not, but there might still be an initial meeting. There is a District Tenant's Liaison Forum which has money for such family fun days, and Justin is going to put it to the next one to release funds for one in Thringstone. Nita reiterated that the council housing stock in Thringstone isn't just the Melrose Road area, but also Loughborough Road, Henson's Lane and part of Main Street, and the concentration shouldn't be on Melrose Road alone. Nita gave them copies of our bauble and took them on a tour round the centre. They are now very interested in the possibility of having residents meeting at the centre and also possibly their awards ceremonies in the upstairs hall and intend to contact the centre to arrange the initial meeting.

### **Melrose Road football pitch – the new Thringstone Park –**

Following a meeting from about 2 years ago, NWLDC has planted 4 mature trees and 200 mixed shrubs to include small holly bushes, dogwood, dog rose and others, around the outskirts of the pitch. There are bushes on the banking from the car park with 2 trees there too, which is where the children play with their bikes, using the banking as ramps with a gap having been left for access by the motor mower. Another tree, surrounded by a circle of bushes is between the goal post and the changing areas, and the other, also circled by bushes is close to the junction of all the jitties by the side of the bowling club. Concern has been expressed as to the siting of these trees and bushes, which people felt would be better sited away from the car park and changing areas, but were put where they are because of extra room. We understand there are plans in the Autumn to also plant daffodil bulbs round the trees and that there will be a seat to complement the bench currently behind 43 Springfield. Unfortunately, several bushes have been pulled up but where possible, Nita has replanted these, on one occasion with the help of a neighbouring resident. Others have been stolen. Photos have been taken of the area and the police informed about the new planting. NWLDC officers contacted Nita on 16 March to ask about siting a new litter bin near the pavilion. Nita replied that it would be better putting



**The Friends of Thringstone**  
Winner of the Big Tidy Award at the Keep Britain Tidy Jubilee Awards 2015  
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, finalists 2011 and 2013





this in a secure position where the existing dog foul bin sits, as putting it near to the pavilion is asking for trouble.

**Dog fouling** – as reported previously, the fines for dog fouling have increased to £100. It is now also a fineable offence not to have dog poo bags with you if you have a dog on a lead. For the first offence, it is suggested that a warning will be issued, but for the next offence, a fine. Dogs are banned from all marked sports pitches whether on a lead or not. You can walk round a pitch, with your dog on a lead, but not across it and always have your dog on a lead around sports pitches. Enforcement officers are now out and about to tell people this.

**Volunteers needed at the centre** – the centre would like some information delivered before our next Bauble goes out. Will all those people who do deliveries for us or others who might wish to help be able to accommodate an extra delivery please? Let Nita know. Maureen, Pat Hubbard and Tracy all said they would help.

The centre also wants to set up a **community drop in for tea/coffee** etc., in the bar lounge on Fridays between 10am and 12 noon. Nita, Mary and Pat Darby are willing to work with the centre on this to create a rota, but we need one other person, so that each volunteer only does one of these per month. If you are able to help with this, please contact Holly direct on 222337.

**Monthly litter pick total** – 133 bags against 160 for the same month last year. We have been taking part in Keep Britain Tidy's Spring Clean event which ran from 1-28 March and have uploaded details of all our weekly litter picking totals onto there, as well as on to the Litter Action UK site where we upload details and have since our inception in 2005.

**Marking the end of WW1** – We are still waiting to find out if our bid for funding from NWLDC was successful. Nita has had contact from the council asking if we can put something in writing about the cost of the band, which we had not done previously because it could then be construed as a final booking, but is only provisional dependent upon whether funding is successful or not. The Council is also concerned about the fact that the dance will be held upstairs where there is no disability access, and wanted to know how we would deal with this. We have replied accordingly.

### **Chairs Report**

**Letters received:** None.

**Emails received:** Various from people with whom we regularly share information.

**Emails sent:** Various to groups and individuals as usual.

**Promotion:** We have **506 twitter followers**, which is 5 more than last month, and **589 facebook followers**, which is 23 more than last month. We are continuing to post details of local events, public notices and also historical photos on both sites

Nita wrote a letter about litter picking to the Coalville Times, and it was printed in the edition of 31 March.



The Friends of Thringstone  
Winner of the Big Tidy Award at the Keep Britain  
Tidy Jubilee Awards 2015  
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, finalists 2011 and 2013



**Other:** Nita has been in touch with our councillors about problems with kids causing issues to houses which are sited near jitties.

Nita, Ann and Holly went along to **Donington le Heath Manor House** for an afternoon presentation organised by NWLDC on how to market groups effectively, and promote what is done locally. Some of the suggestions made will be worked upon in the coming months.

Nita and Ann went over to Leicester to the launch of the **oral history project** with whom we did some work at the end of last year.

### Finance Report

<b>Gen Fund held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>£2,268.81</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Memberships		Broadband	£10.50
Raffle	£3	Purchase of Tommie	32.99
publications		Car parking Holiday Inn	6.00
<b>total income to general fund</b>	<b>£3</b>		49.49
		<b>Total general fund at month end</b>	<b>£2,222.32</b>

**Publications Report** – nothing to report

**Web Report** – minutes are up to date, but there are still some photos to go on site.

### Police Report

- Officers were called just before 2.30pm on 12 March to **Main Street**, following a report of a man being attacked with what was believed to be a bladed article. Officers attended the scene and a man was taken to hospital with serious injuries. Keiran Allen, 27, of no fixed address was arrested at the scene of the incident and was also taken to hospital to be treated for injuries. Allen was charged with causing grievous bodily harm and was remanded in custody. We are told that the incident was domestic, in that a woman was connected to both male parties.
- **Grace Dieu Cricket Club** posted on their twitter account that they were dealing with an outbreak of moles on their pitch. They said that they were putting down traps. Within a week of posting this, the traps were dug up and taken away. They believe that it was someone who objected to them killing these animals.
- Someone on **Main Street** had both their vans broken into over night on 24/25 March. As the person concerned now takes all his tools out of his vans, nothing was taken. 2 people on Church Lane, Whitwick also had a similar experience, timed at 5am the same night.



The Friends of Thringstone  
 Winner of the Big Tidy Award at the Keep Britain Tidy Jubilee Awards 2015  
 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, finalists 2011 and 2013



footprints  
 Stepping out for a greener district



Bill said that 3 weeks ago, someone had broken into his transit using fobs and taken a drill and some alcohol. There is CCTV of this happening, and he informed the police of the crime, got an incident number, and they said they would come and get a copy of the footage but have failed to do so. As a result, he has written to the Chief Constable

### **Community Report and What's On**

**Children's ballroom and latin dancing lessons** coming to the centre shortly. Starting on 17 April, the classes are under 8 from 5pm to 6pm with over 8s from 5.45pm-7pm. During the half hour overlap, big and little groups can dance together. For more details ring Jo on 231824 or 07790 322486 or email [dance-tastic@sky.com](mailto:dance-tastic@sky.com)

**The Easter Egg Hunt** at the centre on 29 March was a great success with over 100 children coming along, and taking a map to walk, with their parents, round the village collecting clues. Thank you to everybody who came along.

**The Whitwick Ringers** rang a quarter peal on 25 March to commemorate Robert Underwood a Whitwick ringer who died in the First World War. They want to train a band of new ringers to ring for the anniversary of the Armistice in November. Would you like to learn? If so you need to start now. Contact Janet Stevenson on [whitwickbells@gmail.com](mailto:whitwickbells@gmail.com) or text 07815112475

**The Hare and Hounds** is shortly launching a Club 60 offering discounted meals on Fridays to people over the age of 60. More details as they appear.

Mike Statham was joint winner of the 2018 Set Designer award at the **Pantomime Alliance of Leicestershire awards**. The Panto Society's Andrew Billing won the unsung hero award for his hard work and dedication to the local group and Harvey Stretton for his work on sound and lighting.

**Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club** has secured an excellent 2 year sponsorship deal from The George and Dragon. New signage will shortly be in place, and there will be new netting and new team strips for both junior and senior sides.

The centre is planning a **plant sale** on 3 June, but needs plants to sell. If you have any plants you would like to give to the centre, please contact Ray Neal direct on 451204.

9-11 April – **book sale** at the centre from 10am-12 pm. Books on sale for 50p. All welcome.

10 April – **Film club** restarts at the centre. Kicks off at 7.30pm with La La Land. Raffle as usual to cover costs.

13 April – **Comedy Night at the centre** – Doors open 7.30pm for 8pm start. Great new comedy evening not to be missed with Carl Jones and Andy Watson plus support. Tickets £8 from [www.ncfcomedy.co.uk](http://www.ncfcomedy.co.uk) or from the centre on 222337

13 April – **Craig Campbell's Easy Tiger world tour** at Century Theatre – Tickets £14 available on line or from the theatre on 278444.

14 April – **Thringstone Soul night** at Thringstone Members Club– changed from 13<sup>th</sup>. Starts at 8pm with DJ Steve Grubb.

19 April – **Disco Divas** at the centre from 4.15pm - 5.15pm with Fairy Friends. For children aged 4 – 10 years. £4.50 per child per week booking in advance A block of 5 sessions is £20.

19 April – The Badapple Theatre Company at Century Theatre presents **Amy Johnson**. Tickets £10. 7.30pm start.

20 April – **Trextasy** at Century Theatre – tickets £22 on the door or £20 advance. Contact theatre on 278444.

20 April – **Karaoke night at the centre**. 7.30pm start. All welcome. Bar open.



RCC

The Friends of Thringstone  
Winner of the Big Tidy Award at the Keep Britain  
Tidy Jubilee Awards 2015  
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, finalists 2011 and 2013



Stepping out for a greener district



## The Friends of Thringstone

- 20 April – **Conny Club, Whitwick** – Jamie Flanagan as Michael Buble. Starts at 9pm. £5 entry, £3 members.
- 20 April - **Fashion show** at Miners Welfare, Homestead Road. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £5.
- 27-28 April – Roving Players perform **The Mystery of Talbot Manor** at St John The Baptist Church Hall, North Street, Whitwick from 7.30pm-10pm. This is a murder night and a fund raiser for the benefice. Your coach has broken down and you find yourself an unexpected guest at Talbot Manor, where the family members are gathering for a sombre occasion, the reading of a will. The servants at the hall will ensure you have an evening that you will remember for the rest of your life! Come and see if you can solve the mystery and find the murderer!! Tickets are £10 to include ploughman's supper, tea, coffee, cake. Bring your own beer and wine if you would like to do so. To book tickets via email go to [mandybaughurst@btinternet.com](mailto:mandybaughurst@btinternet.com) or telephone 07522 966400.
- 28 April – **The Swinging Bass Band** at the centre – 7.30pm start. Tickets £8 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone) or direct from the centre on 222337.
- 29 April – Hermitage Leisure Centre – **Antiques Fair**. 9am -3.30pm. £2.
- 5 May – **Pitt Lane, Coleorton Wood** – plant sale 10am-1pm. All welcome. Lots of plants available to purchase at decent prices.
- 11 May – **Talon Eagles Tribute** at Century Theatre – Tickets £18.50, advanced £16.50. Contact theatre on 278444.
- 18 May – **Conny Club, Whitwick** – Take That Tribute. Starts at 9pm. Tickets £5, members £3.
- 18 May – **Griffydam History Walk** – 1.5 miles. Starts at 7pm from Top Road, Griffydam. Learn all about this hamlet and its history. Booking essential on 222833.
- 19 May – Charles Booth Centre – to celebrate the **Royal Wedding**, come along from 12 noon and have Pimms on the lawn (weather permitting) and also then a cream tea after the wedding. Prices to come later.
- 19 May – **New Lount Nature Reserve** - plant sale 10am-1pm. All welcome. Lots of plants available to purchase at decent prices.
- 20 May – **Grace Dieu Priory history walk with Ann** – Meet at Bull's Head car park at 3pm. £3 per adult.
- 30 May – **Grace Dieu Priory History Walk with Ann** – starts at Bull's Head car park at 6pm. £3 per adult.
- 2 June – **Charles Booth Centre** – 1000 years of history with comedian and song writer, Anthony King. Starts at 8pm. Tickets £8
- 3 June – **plant sale** at the centre. More details to follow
- 8 June – **Evening of Mediumship** at Century Theatre with Nikki Kit. Tickets £12 from the theatre.
- 15 June – Conny Club - **Robert Taylor as George Michael**. Tickets £5 on the door – members £3. Starts at 9pm.
- 20-23 June – **Wizard of Oz** at Charles Booth Centre. Evening performance at 7.30pm, matinee at 2.15pm. Tickets Wed and Thurs £8 for adults, £7 for children, Fri and Sat £9 for adults, £8 for children. Booking through [www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads) or 0333 666 3366.
- 29 June – Andy Crosbie as Elton John at **Whitwick Constitutional Club** (Conny).
- 29 June – **Thringstone Panto and Drama Society's** beetle drive at Thringstone Members Club. Only £5 to include a ham or cheese salad cob and a cake. Bar open from 7.30pm until 11pm. Tickets from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tpads)
- 6 July – Conny Club, Whitwick – **Jamaican themed night**. Meal and entertainment for £14.95. 7pm start.



RCC

The Friends of Thringstone  
Winner of the Big Tidy Award at the Keep Britain Tidy Jubilee Awards 2015  
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, finalists 2011 and 2013

**footprints**  
Stepping out for a greener district



14 July – **Alfi day** – charity day to raise money for children's brain tumour charity.

21 and 22 July – **Grace Dieu Manor** –Antiques and vintage weekend. Adults £3, children free, dogs welcome. Saturday 9am-4pm, Sunday 9am – 3pm. Further details from Guildhall Fairs on 01766 831800.

4 August – **Thringstone Music Festival** at Charles Booth Centre. Starts at 1pm, gates open at 12 noon. Lots of music, inside and out, stalls, things for the children, food, drink and, hopefully this year, nice weather. This is a charity fund raiser for the centre.

17 Aug – **Freddie Mercury tribute** with Joey Linden at Conny Club, Whitwick

18 and 19 August – **Woodstock in Whitwick**

27-31 August – **Art exhibition** at the centre

8 Sept – **Charity fashion show** at the centre. More details nearer the time.

15 Sept – **Hello Heritage at the centre**. 12 noon until 5pm.

29 Sept – **Evening of Mediumship** at Century Theatre with Gareth Lewis and Craig Morris. Ticket prices yet to be advised.

19 Oct – Abba Tribute at **Whitwick Conny Club**. More details nearer the time.

9 Nov – **Quiz night** at the centre

11 Nov – **Exhibition to commemorate** the end of WW1 plus tea dance at the centre

11 Nov – **Antique and Collectors'** fair at Hermitage Leisure Centre 9am-3pm. £2.

16 Nov – Cher and Pink tribute at **Whitwick Conny Club** with Stacy Green. Starts at 9pm

### History report

- Thanks to Iris Watret for letting us have a photo of her great uncle **John Thomas Fortnam** who died, aged only 19, in WW1 on 25 August 1918 on the ship Hawke. She had said there was a photo, but thought it lost.
- **Typhoid hits Thringstone** – various publications from 1862 tell of the amount of people hit by typhus fever in Whitwick and Thringstone. By October 1862, many in Thringstone were affected, and records suggest that anything up to 8 people in one home would be affected at any one time. 32 people within a half hour period one Thursday evening in Thringstone had medication prescribed by Dr Arthur Sandford. The press noted that there were several places within Thringstone that needed to be visited by a sanitary officer.
- **Pedestrian races on the Ashby Road, Thringstone** – Walking races against the clock were very popular all over the country in the 1850s where people walked or sometimes ran for money. Some of these races happened in Thringstone. Several newspapers tell that there was a foot race of 100 yards on 18 March 1850 between **John Gilbert** of Thringstone and Samuel Hall of Sheepshed on the Ashby Turnpike for £2 a side which equates to about £200 in today's money. The race was won by Samuel Hall. In February 1852 another race took place on the same road between **Richard Manks** who lived in Sheffield and William Jackson, known as The American Deer whose real name was William Howitt. Richard Manks started running professionally in 1843 when he ran 3 miles in less than 18 minutes. He found himself in a position where nobody would run against him, so turned to walking races, and was the first person to walk 1000 miles in 500 hours in 1851. Howitt was the first person to run 11 miles in an hour in 1845. The 10 mile run started at the 4<sup>th</sup> milestone near Thringstone, and there were so many crowds that police and gentlemen on horseback were lining the route to control crowds. Manks, who did these races all over the country, set off quickly for several miles and was an easy winner in just short of 56 minutes. In



**The Friends of Thringstone**  
Winner of the Big Tidy Award at the Keep Britain Tidy Jubilee Awards 2015  
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, finalists 2011 and 2013





- March 1852, **John Ford of Thringstone** and John Holte of Woodhouse raced for £10 a side on the same road, with many spectators. Ford had apparently been training at **The Rose and Crown**, Thringstone. Holte won by about 50 yards and received his stakes. In January 1853, Richard Manks was back, also training at the **Rose and Crown** for a series of races anywhere within 60 miles of Birmingham against Tom Cook, 'the Greenwich Cowboy.' In August 1853, **Mr Mountjoy**, the pedestrian, decided to walk 60 miles a day for 6 days for the sum of £20 which equates to around £64,000 in today's money. Staying in Thringstone at the **Rose and Crown**, he walked from our village through Coleorton, Ashby and Woodville to Burton and back twice a day. Records suggest that the people actually taking part in the race didn't get much of the stake money, which was clawed back by the various backers who also offered wagers to people willing to part with money for a bet. Since it is recorded that during training, Richard Manks would eat up to 10 high meat content protein meals a day, plus drink copious amounts of beef tea, we can only assume that Thomas Kidger Ayre of the Rose and Crown did well from his visitors' training regimes.
- Every September for many decades it appears that there was an annual pony, donkey and horse race on Finney Hill in Shepshed which attracted anything up to 2000 people with other races for a straw hat, a bonnet and a cap. A brass band always played by the White Horse. In 1851, the clerk of the course was solicitor Mr David Ross Hume, who lived at the **Queen's Head** in Thringstone and had eloped with the landlord's daughter, Charlotte Hallam in 1846.
  - Using online sources from 1860 to 1930, Nita has been investigating the details of men who played in the past for **Grace Dieu Park Cricket Team**. She has run this off for the current club committee. From this research, we discovered an initial match between Grace Dieu Manor and Belton Cricket Club was held in August 1861, 2 years before the cricket club was founded. The committee also requested a copy of the booklet that was never printed on the cricket club covering the memories of John Wisehall. This has also been supplied to them, but Nita did point out that this latter information is on our FoT website.
  - **Death from burning at Thringstone School** – The Leicester Chronicle of 5 December 1846 tells of the inquest into the death of Selina Smith of Thringstone aged 6 years old. On 28 November, she had been asked to replace a piece of sheet iron before the bars of a stove at the Thringstone National School and her pinafore caught fire. The school mistress had taken the sheet iron away from the stove after morning attendance, and had told the girls to take their dinner in the school room and not to meddle with the stove. The child ran out into the playground with her pinafore on fire, and master Francis Barkby ran to her and put the flames out by wrapping her in his coat. She died the same night. The inquest gave a verdict of accidental death, but the school was urged to get a proper fire guard put around the stove, to be examined afterwards by the foreman of the court Mr Kidger and the constable Mr Knight who might then suggest further alterations that may be necessary.
  - **St Thomas's Friendly Society** was formed in Whitwick in 1838 and, according to the Leicestershire Mercury of 20 July 1839, in July 1839 celebrated their first anniversary by a procession 'with band of music and flag' through Whitwick, into Thringstone and to the Chapel at Grace Dieu. At the end of a mass delivered by Rev. L Woolfrey, the procession came back through Thringstone to the New Inn, Talbot Street, Whitwick where dinner was served at 2pm by Mr John Hawthorne, landlord. The event was presided over by Ambrose Phillipp from Grace Dieu Manor. The following day members of **St Mary's Female**



The Friends of Thringstone  
Winner of the Big Tidy Award at the Keep Britain  
Tidy Jubilee Awards 2015  
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, finalists 2011 and 2013







## The Friends of Thringstone

**Friendly Society** also held their first anniversary and went to the chapel at Grace Dieu for a service led by the Hon Rev G Spencer. The members, who all wore a green scarf, were congratulated 'on the neatness of their dress and the decorum of their conduct'. Dinner was provided to this group by Mrs Hall of The King's Arms in Whitwick and again Ambrose Phillipps presided over the event. It is interesting to see mention of the **King's Arms** in 1839, as local research had previously thought the pub opened in 1841.

- We have never been completely sure when The Fox in Main Street opened but have found a death notice in the Leicester Chronicle of 5 January 1822 stating that 'on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> December at Thringstone, near Sheepshed, aged 72, Mr Thomas Stinson of **The Fox public house** in that village'. We have no further details to establish either who Mr Stinson was or whether this was the Fox in our own village or not.
- Leicester Monitor, 10 March 1864 reported that 'on 6 April next, the old established licensed public house known by the sign of **The Bull's Head Inn**, at Cross Lanes, Thringstone is to let with gardens, outbuildings and a shop on the opposite side of the way.' Applications were to be made to Mr Severn, auctioneer of Ashby de la zouch or to Mrs Merriman, Thringstone. This mention of a shop is new information. The license had been transferred over in May 1862 from William Gough to Hannah Merriman.
- In May 1864, newspaper reports about **Everard's Tower**, now demolished, which stood on High Cademan rock and was built as a memorial to Lieutenant Everard Phillipps de Lisle by his parents tell us that the structure was designed by Pugin and built by fellow Catholic **Samuel William Hallam**, who was also the landlord of the Queen's Head. The article in the Leicester Monitor says it was built on 'High Cademan Rock not far from the beautiful temple so well known to all visitors of the forest, and can be seen for miles around in almost every direction. The inside of the tower is furnished with a spiral staircase, ascending to the roof, and from which one of the finest and most extensive views in England can now be obtained. It will be open to the public under certain restrictions.'
- Leicester Journal 19 August 1864 tells that **John Biddle**, grocer and baker of Thringstone took Mr S Elliott to court over £5 1s 5d. Elliott had been indebted to Mr Biddle in the sum of £25 for some time and got Mr Biddle to sign a blank bill in the sum of £10 which was increased to £25, unknown to Mr Biddle. £20 had been paid, and Mr Biddle was suing for the remaining monies plus interest. Mr Elliott objected to paying interest but was willing to pay what he owed and was ordered to pay 10s a month until the matter was cleared, but without any interest payments. John Biddle was born in 1816 in Stanton under Bardon and died in 1881. His son, also called John, continued to be the baker in the village for decades.
- Leicester Chronicle of 24 December 1864 and the Leicester Journal of 23 December 1864 tell that the congregation of **St Andrew's church** had, for some time, 'been annoyed by the conduct of disorderly persons', who were local colliers, both young boys and men, who congregated outside the church during the evening divine service and misbehaved themselves. Rev. Dr Smith who was taking the service and was based at St George's, said the clergy was intending on stopping this continuing. On 11 December, two youths, one of whom was the brother of J King, a collier of Thringstone, left the service, and after 'a race round the churchyard' rushed into the church, as if they were being pursued, and sat down laughing. Mr G A Beck of Swannington, was sitting in the next seat, and tried to speak to them to no avail and tried to get them to calm down until the vicar could speak to them. However, whilst the choir and congregation were singing the last hymn, and after Mr Beck



The Friends of Thringstone  
Winner of the Big Tidy Award at the Keep Britain  
Tidy Jubilee Awards 2015  
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, finalists 2011 and 2013

**footprints**  
Stepping out for a greener district

had moved from his seat to another pew, Mr King came across to Mr Beck, seized him by the collar, pulled him out of his seat, and asked him what all this had to do with him and said he would 'knock his bloody teeth down his throat' if he continued to interfere. The two boys then left. During the court case, Mr King said that he admitted to pulling Mr Beck out of his seat, but had not seen his brother do anything. The magistrate said that things like this needed to be stopped, and it was lucky that the vicar had not taken a case out in his own right because the service had been disrupted. He said that the prisoner must be severely dealt with and the church was not a place to play in. Should anybody else be brought to court for similar behaviour they would also be severely dealt with. Mr King was fined £2 or offered 1 month's hard labour, but the £2 was paid. We believe that G A Beck was George A Beck, son of the headmaster of the school in Church Town, Coleorton.

- **The Heroes project** in town is now looking to put on an exhibition in September relating to prominent women, who they suggested could be fictional or real. As a result, Nita has sent them details of all the prominent women who featured in our exhibition last year so that they can take a look at the wealth of real women of the district who could feature in any exhibition or display.
- A facebook post of various shop adverts from the 1920s and 1930s has proven interesting for us, since one of the shop adverts was for **A E Beer, grocer and confectioner** of 3 Silver Street, Whitwick, selling 'noted pork pies and sausages'. This is Arthur Edward Beer, born in 1874 in Thringstone at The Bull's Head, son of Edward Beer and Mary Ann nee Merriman. This is also, we think the same person as A Beer who played for Grace Dieu Park cricket team from 1895 until at least 1900 which is the last listing in newspaper archives we can find of his cricket playing. He was a coal miner and married Mary Ann Perry from Whitwick in 1894. They had 4 children of which one had died by 1911. Those listed on the 1911 census were Samuel Edward born 15 December 1899 in Thringstone, and Ethel Mary, and Constance Eugenia born in Whitwick. Ethel was very involved with the church in Whitwick and in 1915 is listed as a service attendant in a booklet on the Women's Service and Bible Class. We know from newspaper articles that Arthur and his wife, along with several other shopkeepers in Whitwick, were taken to court in 1915 for not having a notice in the window of their shop as required by the Shops Act 1912. Mr Beer did not appear at court, but his wife did. She said that they were not familiar with the business, and had obtained a notice the day after the matter had been brought to their attention. As a result, their case was withdrawn but they still had to pay costs of 6 shillings and 6 pence. Arthur is also listed at 3 Silver Street in the UK City and County Directories for 1916, 1925 and 1928 where the business is listed as 'refreshment rooms' It is possible that Arthur had moved his business from Charnwood Road in Shepshed, as Arthur Beer is also listed in directories there in 1912. Arthur died in 1938 and his wife, Mary Ann, carried on running the shop for at least a year as she is listed there, alone, on the 1939 register. Samuel went on to marry and live in Shepshed where his employment was one of crane slinger. He died in 1961.
- We were very pleased to be able to look at the deeds for **1 Loughborough Road**, which appears to have been built in 1862 where previous property had stood, since there is mention in the deeds of a cellar which is currently in the front garden of the property. We are now researching all the owners of the property which include previous landlords of both The Queen's Head and the Rose and Crown.



The Friends of Thringstone  
 Winner of the Big Tidy Award at the Keep Britain  
 Tidy Jubilee Awards 2015  
 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, finalists 2011 and 2013



Stepping out for a greener district



### **Council report**

Dave said that it is no longer possible for a councillor for a ward who is on the planning committee to vote on planning issues in his own ward.

### **Gardening and environment**

Bernard continues to weed, prune and maintain our existing planting

### **Centre matters**

Holly said that there is now a new management assistant at the centre called May Chadwick and she is working Tuesdays and Thursdays each week, and Holly is working Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. That now means the office is fully covered.

She said that the centre is taking a lot more bookings, and she would like to set up more community things, but needs to have more volunteers to be able to do this. All community things will be free to people who come along, so she is unable to employ staff to run these and it would be nice if the centre could work more with people like The Old School House and The Meadows Nursing Home. If anybody is interested in helping the centre, please let Holly know on 222337.

**Next meeting is on 3 May at 6.45pm at Thringstone House/Charles Booth Centre.**



RCC

The Friends of Thringstone  
Winner of the Big Tidy Award at the Keep Britain  
Tidy Jubilee Awards 2015  
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, finalists 2011 and 2013



Stepping out for a greener district