

# THE STOCKADE



ISSUE 1

M. Austin



COVER Sileby High Street by Mary Austin

We would like to thank Mary for her contribution to this magazine. She is well known for her artistic talents. More Sileby views can be seen and obtained from The Railway Inn, King Street.

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Thank you everyone who has helped put this first edition together. From those who have submitted articles, supported us through advertising and helped in the distribution.

If you would like to write an article or comment about anything you have read please submit work to either Wright's Butchers or Powderly's Chemist-Both in the High Street. The closing date for all contributions for the second edition is 31st JULY.

If you are organising any public event in Sileby why not enter the details in the "DIARY" at Sileby Library and we will include this information in the magazine.

#### ADVERTISING

The STOCKADE is distributed free of charge to every house in Sileby-if you have got something to advertise then this is a great opportunity to spread the word. Contact Janis on Sileby 4754 or Liz on Sileby 2871. You can leave any submissions at Wright's Butchers or Powderly's Chemist both in the High Street. Prices range from '7 to '100 per issue.

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## Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of "The Stockade", Sileby's own community newsletter.

The idea for "The Stockade" has been around for some time but the affair of the Sileby Relief Road showed that a simple means of spreading information throughout the parish was required. The Parish Council therefore felt that a newsletter or a Community Newsletter should be produced in order to try and remedy this. A committee was formed, independent of the Parish Council, to produce a newsletter with the Parish Council contributing towards the production costs.

It is not meant to be a substitute for attending Parish Council meetings.

This newsletter/community newsletter not only hopes to inform the village of what's happening but to try and keep the new found interest in the village alive.

There are many organisations who could do with assistance and/or new members. The youth organisations in the village such as The Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Badgers, etc have no difficulty in getting new members. What they need most is Adult assistance. So come on adults help out and keep the village going.

There were a large number of people who attended the public meeting on the Sileby Relief Road, both young and old, who expressed the desire to keep SILEBY a village. Now is your chance to help; take an interest in the village all the time not just when there is a major development.

As this is the 1st edition of the "STOCKADE" we would like your opinions and contributions. The closing date for contributions for the next edition of THE STOCKADE is JULY 31st.

Editorial committee:	Tom Mugridge	3142
	Janis Bishop	4754
	Eric Wright	4472
	Liz Robinson	2871



## The Parish Council

### Constitution of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council consists of 15 elected members. 8 from St. Mary's ward and 7 from St. Gregory's. The boundary between the wards is the village brook. St. Mary's to the north St. Gregory's to the south. If there are insufficient candidates for an election in either ward the councillors can after the election day co-opt people to fill the vacancies. Therefore as has happened before the whole of the council is not elected. There is however a procedure for an election to fill any vacancy on the council. Providing that enough people apply then if 10 electors want an election then there has to be one. The Parish Council has to hold an annual meeting and at least 3 others in the year.

### The Role of the Parish Council.

The role of the Parish Council may be divided into 3,  
1) Executive,

the Parish Council has statutory powers some of which have to be performed some are optional. An example of compulsory powers is the provision of cemeteries. An example of optional powers is providing street lighting for the footpaths in the Memorial Park.

### 2) Representation,

the Parish Council is expected to voice the views of the electorate on such matters as the Local Plan, planning applications etc. It should be noted that the parish council can only put forward objections to planning applications it can not prevent them being passed. It is also expected to nominate people to attend or sit on bodies to represent the views of the parish. One example is on the Board of School Governors of the local primary schools.

### 3) Promotional,

the Parish Council is expected to provide facilities in the parish which it feels would benefit the community. e.g. provision of and repair of play equipment on the memorial park.

This outlines the Role of the Parish Council. In the next edition of The Stockade the Role of the Parish Councillor will be outlined.

\* ERIC LEWIN \*

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## SILEBY JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Sileby Juniors currently have four teams in the Leicester League, all of which have had a good season.

The Under 13's managed by Alan Bettles have finished the season well placed in the top league. The Under 12's managed by Alan Ison are this seasons league runners up. The Under 11's managed by Steve Perry are this seasons league champions and were just beaten in the semi-finals of the County Cup. The match going into extra time.

The newest team to the club, the Under 10's managed by Alan Hetterly have also had a very good season.

The club also has a squad of 7-9 year olds who are learning football skills before joining a team. These boys are coached by Paul Measures.

If you have a son who would like to join us we would be pleased to see him. We train every Saturday at three venues. Redlands School, Highgate School and the Memorial Park. Matches are played on Sundays. During the winter months indoor training also takes place on weekday evenings. We are also looking for any help that you may also be able to give whether it be physically with training or with our fund raising efforts. If you are able to help or wish your son to join us contact: Stuart Robinson on Sileby 2871

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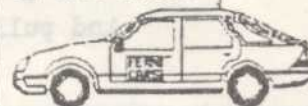
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## THE VILLAGE GRIPE

The idea of the "THE VILLAGE GRIPE" is to allow anybody to let off steam about the thing which they dislike in or about the village. Although these can be published anonymously or under a nom de plume the identity and address must be known to the editor and staff.

To start the ball rolling here is one of the more obvious things that can annoy people.

### INCONSIDERATE PARKING.

We have to ask ourselves have the people who own or drive cars vans etc. lost the use of their legs? Can they not walk from a safe or permitted parking place to the shop or place they wish to visit. For example The STARLIGHT Video shop on the corner of Swan Street and King's Street. How many people ignore the double yellow lines and park in a dangerous position. The fact that these cars sometime use the MAGIC double yellow line cancelling device (Hazard Warning Lights) does not alter the fact that it is both dangerous and illegal. Should an accident occur due to the cars parked obstructing other motorist's vision the owner of the parked vehicle can be prosecuted for contributing to the accident.

Another example of inconsiderate parking is the parking of vehicles half way on the pavement. This makes it difficult for people with pushchairs, prams, young children etc. to get past safely. In fact they often have to use the road to get past. A very dangerous pastime in view of the sometime high speeds of Sileby's traffic.

This is an example of the things that annoy people and apart from being inconsiderate is dangerous. So come on you drivers show a little consideration for others and one day you could perhaps save yourself some money.

### Ode To The Graffiti Writer

Darron loves Sharron  
Writ on a wall  
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## EARLY HISTORY OF SILEBY

We do not know who the first inhabitants of Sileby were, but in latter part of the 9th century England was devastated by the Danes, who swarmed up the Humber and Trent in their small and easily managed boats. These Pagan invaders, stern worshippers of Thor and Odin burned the churches and trampled upon the christian rites of the oppressed people all over the country.

Their presence in Leicestershire is still testified to by the frequent occurrence of the affix "by" in the names of so many villages denoting a Danish "Stockade or Farmstead".

It is said a Danish leader named Sighuld made a settlement in our village in the late 9th century. This is where the name SILEBY is derived from even though it has been spelt in many ways.

The Domesday Book 1086 AD. showed Sileby as occupying an area of 1480 acres.

There were two mills in Sileby still being in use in 1800 for grinding corn. Of the inhabitants of the village 143 were men of these

13 were tradesmen, craftsmen etc known as Burgesses.

4 were Freeman (paid no rent for the land) known as Sokemen.

18 paid rent to the lord of the manor but still classed as Freeman known as Villens.

4 worked land own by the Lord of the Manor known as Bordars.

4 these were slaves of the Lord of the manor known as Serfs.

To be continued.



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## GUIDING IN YOUR VILLAGE

Canoeing, Camping, Archery, Dri- Sking, these are only a few of the exciting outgoing activities that the Guides in your village are enjoying. The Guides aged between 10-15 also take part in local village activities and are at the moment, undergoing a conservation project on some land on the Greedon Rise estate. In July a number of girls are joining Guides and Scouts from all over the world at an international Guide and Scout Camp at Stanford Hall, Loughborough.

We have two flourishing Brownie Packs in Sileby. The Brownies are aged between 7 and 11 and enjoy evenings of games, craft, singing and much much more. Both packs have recently entertained the residents of Dudley Court and I know that these were most enjoyable evenings for both audience and performers alike.

The newest additions to the village are two Rainbow units which are for girls aged 5 and 6. They enjoy art and craftwork, games and songs and one unit had an imaginary "travel around the world".

All the units in Sileby are so popular and successful that unfortunately they have long waiting lists and many girls are disappointed because they cannot join in the fun with their friends. Perhaps this is where you can help??? by giving one evening a week you would become part of a team helping girls to develop their special talents while having fun. Not all volunteers are expected to come every week.

A UNIT HELPER is someone who comes to meetings occasionally to help with a particularly busy activity. Help may vary from putting the kettle on when refreshments are required to being an extra pair of eyes on an outdoor activity. Can you help?

A BADGE HELPER is someone who has a hobby or a skill that they can share with the girls. If you love reading could you help with "The Book Lovers" badge? Could you share your kitchen with an eager cook for an afternoon? Perhaps you are interested in Photography and could help a Guide with her snapshots. This doesn't take up a lot of time, can you help?

You are not expected to be "Superwoman". Energy, enthusiasm, a sense of humour and a little time to spare are all the requirements you need. Now you know all about Guiding in Sileby, how about giving it a try? Please don't think "I haven't enough time" or "I cannot do that" or be afraid to volunteer. Come on, let's give more girls in the village a chance to join in.....

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Andy Warhol wrote in an exhibition catalogue in 1968 that "In the future everyone will be world famous for 15 minutes. My 15 minutes of fame happened at 4.30pm on April 16th when I appeared as a contestant on channel 4's knockout quiz show 15 to 1.

I applied to go on the programme some 18 months ago and after an audition at Nottingham I was delighted earlier in the year to receive an invitation to go to Capital Group studio's in South London to record the show on March 19th.

I arrived at the appointed time and was shown into a small waiting room where I met my 14 fellow competitors. After coffee we were taken through to make up; I'd had my leg pulled in the pub about what shade of eye shadow would suit me best and was relieved to find that all that was required was a small amount of cream and a light dusting of powder.

After a roast lamb lunch I searched for a bar in order to calm those slight pre-show nerves but there wasn't one. However the dreaded hour of 1pm soon approached and we were ushered into studio B and took our places on the set. The studio was much smaller than I had imagined but the lights exceeded my expectations. The floor manager introduced himself and explained what would happen. The make up ladies then reappeared and gave us all another dusting of powder, the voiceover for the beginning of the show was then recorded in 4 takes. One of the cameras then moved in towards me, he wanted the closeup shots for the shows opening sequence. When we heard our names on the voiceover tape we had to smile and nod our heads, this I managed in 2 takes although some of the others took 6 or 7 goes to get it right. The shows' question master William G. Stewart then came into the studio, had a word with each of us and we were ready to go.

As I was number 1 I got the first question and was very relieved to get it right, at least I would be in the second part of the show. He asked the other 14 their questions and came back to me for the second question which I also got right. The chap standing next to me was not so fortunate and was eliminated. Soon the first round was over and there were 11 of us left in. He came to me for the third time and again I answered correctly, things were going too well! Various questions were asked and I soon got 1 wrong. He asked one lady a question and she gave him what he said was a wrong answer, however shortly the floor manager appeared and they went off to the control room and announced that the answer she had given was actually correct, so they reshot the whole sequence for editing into the show later. In fact when the show was broadcast it was impossible to tell.

As the show seemed to be running for a long while and there were still about 7 of us left standing they brought out a different set of questions, SPECIALS. These were indeed to sort us out. Very soon there were only 4 of us left standing, unfortunately I was immediately asked two difficult questions of which I had no idea of the answers and I was eliminated one step away from the final.

It took about 40 minutes to set up the set for the third part of the show which we of course watched being recorded from the other side of the cameras and the chap that had knocked me out eventually went on to win. Of course I was very disappointed but at the same time very satisfied with my performance as I had got a lot further than I thought I would, and am now looking out for another show to try and get on, only this time one with prizes.

Graham Smith.



QUIZ COMPETITION (For upto 16Years of age)

- 1 When is Sileby Wakes Day?
- 2 According to the Domesday Book of 1086 who was the Principal Landowner?
- 3 The name SILEBY is a derivative of the name given to a settlement set up here by the Danes in about 950 A.D. It was named after their leader. Who was he?
- 4 In what year was the present weathercock put on the tower of the Parish Church?
- 5 Which team won this years Village Quiz League?
- 6 Who is the licensee of the Community Centre?
- 7 Which Sileby road was once known as "mucky lane"?
- 8 Ratcliffe Road is actually a 'B class road. What is it's number?
- 9 Whose name is above The Maltingsoff High Street?
- 10 There are two wards which elect councillors to the Parish Council. What are they?

Answers please to either Wright's Butcher or Powderly's Chemist by JULY 31st. Prize for the winner.



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## The Soar Valley Plan.

A Public enquiry was held at the end of February in which all interested parties gave evidence to the inspector assigned by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Sileby featured prominently in the discussions due to the intense opposition to the large scale development and new road construction. Oral evidence opposing the plan was given by Charnwood Borough Council and Save our Sileby, C.P.R.E and many individuals at the village. The building Consortium comprising Jelson, Persimmon, and David Wilson gave statements in favour of the proposals.

The enquiry was attended by representatives of S.O.S., C.P.R.E., The Parish Council, our Borough Councillors and County Councillor.

The inspector has made site inspection and is now deliberating. We now expect the result of the enquiry some time Mid June.

The new Leicestershire Structure Policy Plan which sets out the broad frame work for development into the 21st century has been unveiled.

A Public meeting was held at Sileby Community Centre in March, in which it's contents were explained by representatives of the Leicestershire County Council. At this initial stage no individual sites for development are allocated but the plan specifies principle locations for employment and housing development in broad areas; Sileby being included in 'Settlements in the Soar and Wreake Valleys'. Further information is available from the Library.

If you have any comments on the proposals the County Council welcome your views. Please write to:-

Director of Planning and Transportation  
Policy Section  
Leicestershire County Council  
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Leicester  
LE3 6ZD

The implication of the Structure Plan Policies will affect all of us living in Leicestershire. From our recent experience we know our views and comments whether they agree or disagree are taken into consideration by the planning department of the County Council and Borough Council. The public outcry last year opposing the S.V.L.P. came at the eleventh hour-it is far easier to challenge plans for our village in the early consultation periods-

BE AWARE AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH DEVELOPMENTS.

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## A SHORT WALK OVER MEADOWS AND COUNTRY LANES.

Sileby Church-Cossington Road-Cossington-Blackberry Lane-Radcliffe Road-Sileby Church. 3 Miles  $1\frac{1}{2}$  -2 Hours.

From Sileby Church walk down High Street and proceed down Cossington Road over Dudley's Bridge as far as Charles Street where opposite a Public Footpath sign to Cossington Mill indicates the way. Walk down the drive and cross a stile, the path goes between a greenhouse and stables, crosses another stile before reaching a stile and open fields. This path is due to be diverted in the near future, left to the present path, due to further sand and gravel workings. Hopefully the diversion will be clearly marked. Back to the present, a well marked path bears right, crossing a large slate slab to a stile which can be muddy in wet weather. Continue in the same direction to another stile, cross this and now bear left to a stile in the hedge. This stile is marked with the Leicestershire Round Footpath symbol. This is the 100 mile circuitous footpath around Leicestershire founded by the Leicestershire Footpath Association. Our walk follows this footpath nearly to Ratcliffe College. Cross the field on a well walked path, bearing right to a gap in the hedge to the next stile. Cross this and continue with a stream on your left and a small plantation on the right. The fields to the right have now been restored after sand and gravel extraction. On reaching a track turn left, cross a narrow stile and walk along the track to a hand gate into the churchyard. A seat around a tree makes a stop here hard to resist. The walk continues to the road, turn right and in about 200 yards turn left into Homestead Close. Alternatively you can continue along the road and turn left at Bennets Lane. Walk up Homestead Close to the cul de sac bearing right to the jitty leading to the footpath known as "Polly's Peggs". Turn right to the fore mentioned Bennets Lane. On reaching Back Lane turn left and walk up the road on the right hand side facing the oncoming traffic. After crossing the railway turn left into Blackberry Lane, this is also known locally as Bottom Humbles (Top Humbles being the motor road). Walk along Blackberry Lane passing the farms for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile until Ratcliffe Road is reached. Take care crossing the busy road and continue up the road opposite to Ratcliffe College. On reaching the first field of pasture a stile on the left indicates the way. Cross this and continue down the fields with the hedge on the left crossing two more stiles before reaching the brook which is crossed by concrete slabs. At this point the right of way bears diagonally left to the top corner of the field but you may find this difficult to follow due to the footpath not being reinstated after ploughing \*. A path goes left from the bridge around the edge of the field, which you may prefer to use. On reaching Ratcliffe Road turn right and continue to just passed its junction with Cemetery Road. Cross over the road and walk down the "Duck Paddle" footpath to The Banks, turn left and continue along to Brook Street and Dudley's Bridge, then retrace your steps up High Street to the church.

John & Beverly Burton

\* Not re-instating footpaths after ploughing also happens on the walk to Seagrave. The footpath does not skirt any field between Heathcote Drive and Crawly's farm but goes straight across the field.

If you have any access problems when walking the footpaths in the area please contact us or Cathy Cooper at County Hall, Leicester. Cathy is responsible for North Leicestershire footpath accessibility and will welcome your call



## POLICE NEWS

Dear Resident,

to those who do not know me I am P.C. Rhodes, your local village bobby. I have served 10 years in the police force, the last 5 covering the villages of Quorn section and since 1989 have covered Sileby, Seagrave, and Cossington villages.

You are probably aware of the large increase in crime which is a problem nationwide. Initiatives and ideas are constantly being used to try to combat these problems.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEMES can be a great help in stemming the flow of these crimes. Seagrave and Cossington both have their villages completely covered by Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. Sileby also has several covering the following areas:- Collingwood Drive, Homefield Road, St. Mary's Road, Swan Street and a section of Cossington Road and Qaker Road.

Anyone wishing to start a scheme can contact me and I will explain it in more detail.

A new initiative to try and combat the major problem of auto theft i.e. Theft from vehicles and Theft of vehicles is "VEHICLE WATCH". In brief those joining Vehicle Watch display a small sticker on the front and rear windows of the vehicle, and after filling out a short form about the vehicle and driver. These are filed at Loughborough Police Station and the stickers are given to the applicant. This gives consent to the police to stop the vehicle between the hours of midnight and 5am.

The Vehicle Watch is aimed at persons not usually using the vehicle between midnight and 5am. Your local Police Station has the application forms and stickers.

Last year there were problems on Sileby Park of minor damage, graffiti and rowdy youths. If you know of any particular problems or incidents or persons involved, please let me know.

With the increase of vehicles problems become more apparent. The parking restrictions have been renewed in Sileby. Please do not contravene parking restrictions. Sileby has a large car park in the centre of the village for parking. The problems of parking and speeding along with Sileby Park are objectives of mine and will receive extra attention.

If you wish to contact me for any reason, I can be contacted on the following telephone number:-

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## JUNIOR CRICKET IN SILEBY

One of the strengths that any cricket club should have is a positive attitude towards JUNIOR cricket within it's ranks. Thankfully this has always been the case at SILEBY TOWN CRICKET CLUB. Unfortunately however, as with other types of club activities the organisation of Junior teams tends to go in cycles; when a combination of participants, organisers and opportunities all come together at one time. This has been the case through the 60's; then the late 70's; early 80's; and now into the 90's.

Past Junior sections within S.T.C.C. have concentrated on the organisation of the under 16 team, producing players of good local standard, and in one case County 2nd's standard. These players, if not continuing their cricket in Sileby, have moved around locally and nationally to continue playing through Senior ranks for many years.

During the winter of 1988/89 the club again recognised the requirement to re-introduce Junior cricket at the under 16 level. Lads of the right age group and organisers were available, so the opportunity was seized and a team was again entered into the Loughborough Cricket Association Competitions. Early teething troubles were experienced but the team continued through the 1989 season putting in some creditable performances.

A new management team of J. Shepherd and T. Percival evolved from this first year, and during the following months E. Faulconbridge was recruited to organise an under 13 team for the 1990 season. It was recognised that to be able to give correct coaching to young lads of 8 upwards coaching skills would have to be achieved. These were satisfactorily obtained when both Jeff and Terry gained their Cricket Coaching awards at the beginning of 1990. The under 13 section of the club was then formed in February 1990 with coaching sessions being held in the Methodist Church Hall for initially 10 boys ranging in age from 8 to 12 years old.

For the 1990 season teams were entered in the L.C.A. u16 Competitions; the N.C.A. Ken Barrington Cup for u13's; and the inaugural L.C.A. u13 league. A most successful season ensued, with the u16's being runners up in their league and over 20 boys representing the club at u13 level becoming the first champions of the L.C.A. league. Several of the u16 players represented Club Senior sides during the season and two boys from the u13's gained County representative honours.

Another major decision made during the winter of 1990/91 was to introduce a third age group. For the 1991 season boys will be playing at u13, u15, and u18 levels, with S. Page and R. James joining the Management team during the Autumn of 1990 to organise the u15 team. Weekly net practices have been held during the Winter and both players and organisers are now waiting in anticipation for the start of the new season.

The organisers recognise the efforts put in by both the boys and their parents during the past 2 years and we think that a good family spirit has been produced within the club. The senior club has also played a major part in supplying the facilities for our activities.

We would always welcome any boy or girl who has an interest or skill in cricket. Anyone interested in joining us should contact Jeff Shepherd on QUORN 413040.



## RECYCLING IN SILEBY

Sileby is well served for recycling purposes having three bottle banks in the King's street car park run by Charnwood Borough Council. There has been two and a half tons of glass collected from the bottle banks in the last year. It is collected on a regular basis by a Doncaster firm who make it into cullet (ground glass) of which 99% is made into jars, bottles or glasses. Don't forget it is not just bottles that can be put in the banks, but all types of glass that will fit into the banks. Larger items of glass—such as tarnished mirrors can still be taken to the Sileby tip. The tip, which has been in Sileby for several years is owned by the Leicestershire County Council and is leased out to a one man enterprise based in Derby who also runs another tip in Shepshed. Nearly everything can be taken to the tip and will be sorted and recycled. The incinerator is no longer in use as it was too expensive to run. Anything that cannot be recycled is taken to the landfill site in Mountsorrel.

The items which can be recycled at the tip are :-

GLASS

OIL (VARIOUS)

BATTERIES

RAGS

SCRAP METAL

PAPER/CARDBOARD

GARDEN REFUSE

BRIC-A-BRAC

ALUMINIUM CANS

CFC GASES

ELECTRICAL GOODS

The tip did collect plastic at one time but space and weight were a problem.

The glass is collected on a regular basis by a Nottingham firm and the paper by a Birmingham firm.

The rags are sorted and some used in the making of cardboard. The bric-a-brac is sorted and taken to flea markets and car boot sales. The oil is refined and the lead from the batteries recovered.

The Sileby Scouts and Guides collect paper and in the last 6 months collected over 60 tons. It is sold to a paper merchant who gives the going rate for the paper, the money going to group funds.

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## WHO IS QUACKERS?

As I strolled by the Sileby brook,  
I heard a duck a quacking,  
Quoth he it's got to stop,  
Rubbish and tins ain't lacking

I looked around and found him right,  
From Bustle bridge to Swan Street,  
A dumping place for various junk  
As well as lumps of concrete.

And so my friends just mend your ways  
Do stop your rubbish chucking,  
The wild life may attack you,  
And give you all a ducking.



## INDIA the chance of a lifetime

Since I was a young girl I have been fascinated with India. This fascination started when I moved to London. We moved to a small village called Cranford which is near Heathrow Airport. It has a strong Asian community and it was here I first learnt what India was really like. I was best friends with a girl called Sibika Pilwal and was accepted into her family like another daughter. I had always loved spicy food but restaurant and takeaway food did not compare with that of Rani's, Sibika's mother. At school and when we went out Sibika dressed in western clothes but at home she liked to wear saris and what she called suits. These were long silky tops and baggy silk trousers. I loved to try on Sibika's clothes and that experience has left me with a taste for the unusual. Since then I have loved to watch films such as Ghandi. A Passage to India and my favourite The Far Pavillions. I can now realise my ambition because of the Charnwood Community Link scheme. This is an organisation set up to provide cultural links between Loughborough and Bhavnagar, a town in the Gujarat province of India. The town was chosen because of it's similar size and industry to Loughborough. It also has a university. Some of the Asian community of Loughborough have relatives and ancestors in Bhavnagar.

David Paterson is leading the party to India and he aroused my interest when he brought an exhibition of a previous trip to my school, which is Rawlins Community College in Quorn. Three other students from the sixth form will be going on this trip. We all have different reasons for wanting to go on this trip but we all feel that it will help with our 'A' level studies. I am studying English Literature, Theatre Studies and Sociology. Visiting India will enable me to compare the difference of our cultures such as attitudes to caring for the sick, disabled and the old. I want to see the way that children are raised and the way people behave in a community such as Bhavnagar. This will help with my Sociology. Whilst in India I will see Indian dance and theatre. I hope this will help me to see the differences between our cultures.

Our proposed itinerary is to fly to Bombay from London, probably on the 26th or 27th of December. We will spend 4 or 5 days in Valod which is an area of tribal rural villages. We will spend 10 days in Bhavnagar, where we will stay in the guest house of Shisuvihar, which is a welfare and community centre. We then travel to Ahmedabad which is the largest city in Gujarat. We will stay mostly in guest houses belonging to organisations and charities. These are free of charge but we will donate to the host organisation or charity.

The cost of my three week trip is approximately £600. My air fare will be about £400 and I will need about £150 for internal travel and donations. I will want about £50 for presents. The Parish Council have kindly given me a grant of £55 towards my trip and I will be raising the rest myself by working part time in a nursing home. I have also been looking for sponsorship from local businesses.

I had pre-conceived ideas about India. I thought it was always hot and dry and dusty, but from seeing the exhibition I know that it does rain and is green and lush when the monsoon season is over. I hope my trip will give me a chance to see and experience things that I will remember forever.-----Sarah Bunn



## SILEBY SWIMMING POOL FUND

### "Treading Water"

Many of you will wonder what has happened to the Sileby Swimming Pool Fund, perhaps as many again will never have heard of it or even forgotten it's existence.

The fund was launched at an enthusiastic meeting held at the newly procured Community Centre back in 1978. A committee was formed to raise funds and promote the building of a Swimming Pool in Sileby. Only a few years earlier Quorn had completed the building of a pool which had originally been funded by the efforts of the parents and friends raising sufficient money to build an open air pool which as we all know was subsequently "adopted" and roofed over to make the excellent facility it now is.

During the years that followed the Sileby Committee worked hard raising substantial funds to try and emulate the success of Quorn with Marathon Swims, Sponsored Bike Rides, Fun Days, Raffles, Sales and Lotteries. Money came in from local events and stalls were taken further afield to Air Shows and functions outside the community in order that the villagers would not have to be too hard pressed to part with their hard earned cash.

The most enduring fund raiser is the originally entitled "200 Club" which unfortunately is now a "100 Club" but continues to raise cash for the fund's coffers; the many subscribers from inside and outside the village are to be thanked and congratulated on their support over the years.

The committee worked hard for a number of years giving up time to man stalls and canvas support but unfortunately momentum was lost as other commitments demanded time and when it seemed that no help would be forthcoming from the Local Council or Education Authority. Building costs continued to escalate at a time of high inflation and the committee took a back seat until economic times changed and a new initiative could be made. In May a committee meeting is to be held to reassess the situation and take stock of the funds reserves which have been invested in the intervening period. At that time it is hoped to call on a new generation of villagers who will take up the cause to lobby and raise funds for this worthwhile facility which would benefit both the children and the adults of Sileby many of whom are having to travel to pools outside the village to swim.

Lets make sure the village has a Pool by the end of the 1990's, we deserve one.....SUPPORT THE POOL FUND!

If you are interested in joining the swimming pool committee or require further information please contact John Laurance on SILEBY 3005

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# DIARY OF EVENTS

## JUNE

### FLOWER FESTIVAL

Methoist Church, King street.

Sat 8th -Mini Market, coffee From 10 o'clock

Sunday 9th

Mon 10th - Musical evening 7.30 Methodist School Room.

Church is open all the time for flowers

### SILEBY HALL CENTENARY WEEK

Mon 10th David Drain (singer)+ Florrie

and Ada 7.30 -tea and coffee interval (10p)

Tues 11th Towns Women Guild concert 7.30pm tea and coffee interval (10p)

Wed 12th Fun Night-Sack races, egg and spoon, 3 legged race, sprint, donkey rides bar-be-que STEAM ORGAN.

Crisps and pop on sale

Thurs 13th Bingo night eyes down 8.00pm prizes for line and house. tea and coffee break (10p)

Fri 14th Quorn Folk Dance Group doing 3 10minute spots. Cheese and wine bites 7.30pm

Sat 15th GARDEN FETE 2.00pm

### COSSINGTON FESTIVAL

Mon 17th Ratcliffe College concert and historical tour of school site PM

Tues 18th Cossington Primary School Concert

Wed 19th Jubilee Hal-Senior Citizens teas

Royal Oak -PUB games AND bar-be-que

Thurs 20th Cossington School open Day

Fri 21st Cossington Festival pm. Ratcliffe College Gala night-a light hearted night of fun and games(refreshments+bar)

Sat 22nd pm Platts Lane Recreation Group sports afternoon-fishing competition+walking race

Bar-be-que 20 Main Street, Cossington

Sun 23rd pm. Cossington open gardens +refreshments. Church flowers Cossington Church special evening service

Mid June Expected publication of inspectors report of S.V.L.P. Public enquiry.

## AUGUST

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> SILEBY PARADE and GALA

## SEPTEMBER

Sun 16th SILEBY St. JOHN FUN RUN DAY

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## SURPRISE, SURPRISE

She buried Harry on a cold Monday in November. The first icy snow flurry of the year powdered the heads of the large group gathered around the grave side, mainly his old army pals, some with medals pinned on shiny lapels, and his fellow competitors and judges in the flower show; the only thing he lived for, she thought bitterly, was trailing mud around the house winter and summer, forever potting or pricking out or weeding. How much time and money, she wondered, had he spent travelling up and down the country to those boring shows. The vicar murmured some words she couldn't hear and patted her black gloves. A line of feet shuffled past her. She shook hands with everyone, but kept her head down, so no one could read her eyes. Even Harry's brother, Joe, who'd disapproved of her marriage, and never visited, muttered "Take care, lass, He's a sad loss to all of us."

She'd pleaded exhausted grief and had no funeral ham tea for his cronies. She went home alone and savoured the unaccustomed peace and tidiness of the little terraced house. She brewed a large pot of tea, and made her plans, looking out from the kitchen windowsill, cluttered with cuttings and pots of peat. The snow fell more thickly now, large, soft flakes, but not enough to blanket the garden, with its messy patches of earth, compost heaps, greenhouses, scrubby trees, festooned with wooden bird-boxes and everywhere stone, geometric outlines filled with bulbs, for the next years labours. Strange, how everyone, except her, had admired Harry. Of course, they did not have to live with the insidious smell of his pipe, or clear up the clogs of earth he left everywhere or listen to his endless bragging about the cups he'd won for those nasty, spikey chrysanthus and vulgar, mutant marigolds-calendulas, he'd insisted-or hear him chuckling "Surprise, surprise" a dozen times a day.

"Some surprise," she sniffed. "more flowers than twenty beggars could tackle, and tomatoes by the ton, but he wouldn't let me pick a bunch of flowers for the house."

"If you want to look at flowers," he said, "come and sit outside with me and visit the little beauties in their own homes, I've made a heart shape with white pebbles for the pansies this year. How would you like to have your feet cut off and your wounded body stuffed in a vase? Well, your not having my sweet blooms to droop and die inside." He was always so smug about his opinions.

"Look after the garden and it'll look after you," he'd say, stamping in with armfuls of onions and kale and Kerr's Pink potatoes. The only veg she liked was tinned processed peas with a hint of mint, only a tin to dispose of, not bins full of scrapings and stalks and peelins to be trudged down to the compost heaps.

I can have a white carpet in the lounge, now he's gone, she thought, and next year, in the summer, I'll have a lawn, fresh, green turf to sit on. But first, I've got to clear out all that rubbish. She looked in the Yellow Pages under 'Garden Maintenance Contractors' and found a local firm's advert. 'Gardens tidied, turfing, tree felling, slabbing, rubbish cleared,' she read. 'No garden too big or too small. First class workmanship at reasonable rates.'

It rained all Monday night, and by Tuesday morning at nine o'clock, the snow was a grey slush. A gang of men, armed with axes, spades and assorted tools, arrived in a shabby pick-up truck. She gave her instructions to the foreman, standing on the back door-step. She'd no intention of allowing anymore men's boots to befoul her polished floors. To give them their due, the men worked hard for the next few days. By Thursday, most of the trees were chopped down, the greenhouse dismantled and stacked- she'd advertise them in the miscellaneous sales- the compost heaps and



border stones carted off in countless bags and the garden dug over, ready for turfing in the spring.

The bill for the work was more than she expected, nearly £400, so she caught the bus to the bank in town, and asked to see the manager. Harry had always kept a grip on the money- no modern joint account for him- but she knew everything he had would come to her.

No insurance as he hadn't beleived in 'invisible protection' but he must have saved a tidy sum over the years ( he'd certainly hadn't spent much on her or the house.)

"Patience, woman," he'd say whenever she tackled him about finances, "Everthing comes to those that wait. You'll get a surprise when I'm gone and you see how much I've left you. Money is man's work." He'd retreat then, with an infuriating smirk, behind clouds of tobacco smoke. End of discussion.

He looked far too young to be a bank manager. He was wearing a yellow shirt and his hair cutting. He said it to her three times, but she still didn't understand. Only £600 in the account. The balance, over £20,000, had been withdrawn nine months ago- about the time the doctor had told her the results of Harry's tests.

"But where is it now?" she asked this bland youngster. "It's my money, and I've plans for it."

"I beleive he invested it in gold, a very sound investment. The price has spiralled in the last year."

"Gold?" she interrupted. "well now, where is this gold?"

"In the event of his death, which I gather was not unexpected, he deposited with the bank written instructions, to be handed to you on production of the death certificate." He held out a thin envelope, sealed with red wax.

"You open it," she sais faintly. "I feel strange."

"Shall I read it to you?" he asked cheerfully. "It's qyite brief and to the point. It's good news. Don't worry." Surprise, surprise, the letter began 'The gold is in a safe place, going up in value all the time. It should reach it's peak about July or August and must not be sold till then. In July, stand at the back bedroom window and look down at the oval shape, near the quince bush, next to the cornflowers. The calendula in the oval spell out where I've put the gold. I've always told you. Take care of your garden and it will take care of you.' She screamed twice, very loudly, before she fainted.

By Mary Archer.

(This story contributed by Tony & Mary Archer- Sileby Furnishing)

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