

# THE STOCKADE



Spring 1994

ISSUE : 12 *Sibley Community Magazine*

Welcome to the 12th edition of the Stockade. Our cover for this edition which is of the railway bridge over Brook Street is by an unknown artist and was drawn many years ago. You will no doubt be aware that Sileby Station will be re-opened during May after many years and will become one of 16 new stations forming phase one of the Ivanhoe Line.

We would be pleased to hear from anyone wishing to supply a cover for any future Stockades - please contact one of the committee members if you feel you can contribute.

We are always pleased to receive written articles, adverts, drawings for the front cover or photographs (old and new) relating to events in and around Sileby - so please don't forget this is YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE, put pen to paper and let's hear from you! The closing date for the Summer edition of The Stockade is 30th April. You can leave any submissions at:-

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or you can send articles to:-

**THE STOCKADE  
c/o 16, SPRINGFIELD ROAD,  
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LEICESTERSHIRE.**

**Editorial Committee:-**

<b>Tom Mugridge</b>	<b>Sileby 813142</b>	<b>Liz Robinson</b>	<b>Sileby 812871</b>
<b>Eric Wright</b>	<b>Sileby 814472</b>	<b>Janis Bishop</b>	<b>Sileby 814754</b>

Views expressed in the articles printed in The Stockade are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Editorial Committee.

Many people, other than the committee spend a lot of their free time working for the Stockade. We would like to thank everyone involved for their voluntary help, it is very much appreciated.

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**Editorial**

It is nice to hear that The Stockade is well received throughout the village. It makes all the hard work worthwhile. However it would be nice if the younger generation contributed to the magazine instead of mainly the older folk. The articles of the older generation make very interesting reading but how about telling The Stockade what you think of the village, it's future and what you would like to see happen?

The Stockade is sent around the world keeping the ex-people of Sileby informed of what is happening in the village. We have had two requests from people overseas for help in tracing their family tree.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SILEBY DURING THE SPRING

If you would like anything included on the diary page for the next edition of the Stockade please let us know before 30th April (see page 1 for dropping off points). The Summer Edition will be delivered at the beginning of June.

**TUESDAY 8TH MARCH** Ros Barney from the Loughborough Volunteer Bureau will be available to give information about voluntary work in and around Sileby, at Sileby Community Centre House from 10am until 12noon.

**WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH** Friends of Redlands School are holding a meeting at the school at 7.30pm - all parents and grandparents etc are welcome.

**FRIDAY 11TH MARCH** Sileby Townswomen's Guild at the Community Centre, 7.30pm when Mr K. Butcher will take us on a tour from Capetown to Durban - in pictures only unfortunately.

**SATURDAY 12TH MARCH** Cossington Primary School P.F.A are holding an Easter Fayre at the school, from 10am until 12noon.

**WEDNESDAY 16TH MARCH** Sileby Phobic Self Help and Support Group have arranged an informal evening meeting at Sileby Community Centre House from 7pm until 9pm. Call (0509) 813129 or (0509) 413802 for further information.

**THURSDAY 17TH MARCH** Sileby Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm Sileby Community Centre (Primary Room). Members of the public are very welcome to sit and listen to the proceedings and time is reserved at the end for questions from the public.

**SATURDAY 19TH MARCH** Sileby Charities Whist Drive to be held at the Evergreen Club (the Village Institute), Cossington Road at 2.30pm. Everyone welcome.

**THURSDAY 24TH MARCH** Sileby Swimming Pool Fund will be holding a Fashion Show at the Community Centre. Tickets available from any of the committee.

**SATURDAY 26TH MARCH** Friends of Swan Street Surgery will be holding their Spring Fayre at Sileby Community Centre from 10am to 12noon.

**FRIDAY 8TH APRIL** Sileby Townswomen's Guild at the Community Centre, 7.30pm when Mrs Joan Gamble will give a talk on the Shuttlewood Foundation.

**MONDAY 11TH APRIL** Quiz League Finals Night will be held at the Working Men's Club from 8pm.

**TUESDAY 12TH APRIL** Ros Barney from the Loughborough Volunteer Bureau will be available to give information about voluntary work in and around Sileby, at Sileby Community Centre House from 10am until 12noon.

**WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL** Friends of Redlands School are holding a meeting at the Free Trade Inn at 7.30pm, all parents and grandparents etc are welcome.



**TUESDAY 19TH APRIL** The 1st Sileby Parish Walk for 1994. Meet at Sileby Community Centre, 7.30pm. Sileby Mill, Mountsorrel Hills, River Soar and Barrow Road (3½ miles).

**THURSDAY 21ST APRIL** Sileby Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm Sileby Community Centre (Primary Room). Members of the public are very welcome to sit and listen to the proceedings and time is reserved at the end for questions from the public.

**FRIDAY 22ND APRIL** Cossington Primary School P.F.A have arranged a quiz night at the school, starting at 8pm. Everyone is welcome, just turn up with your team of four people.

**TUESDAY 26TH APRIL** Leicester Outwork Campaign representative Pat, will be available at the regular 'Drop-in' at the Community Centre House (10am until 12noon) to give advice and information about working at home. For further details contact Pat on Leicester 470940 or Caroline on Sileby 815288.

**WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY** Friends of Swan Street Surgery are holding an 'Open Evening' at the Surgery from 7.30pm.

**THURSDAY 5TH MAY** Friends of Redlands School are holding their 3rd Quiz Evening. Contact Peter Turner (813861) for further details.

**TUESDAY 10TH MAY** Ros Barney from the Loughborough Volunteer Bureau will be available to give information about voluntary work in and around Sileby, at Sileby Community Centre House from 10am until 12noon.

**FRIDAY 13TH MAY** Sileby Townswomen's Guild at the Community Centre, 7.30pm. (speaker yet to be arranged).

**TUESDAY 17TH MAY** The 2nd Sileby Parish Walk. Meet at Sileby Community Centre, 7.30pm. Ratcliffe Road, Ratcliffe College, Seagrave Road (Thrussington), Padge Hall, Ratcliffe College and Ratcliffe Road (6½ miles).

**TUESDAY 24TH MAY** Leicester Outwork Campaign representative Pat, will be available at the regular 'Drop-in' at the Community Centre House (10am until 12noon) to give advice and information about working at home. For further details contact Pat on Leicester 470940 or Caroline on Sileby 815288.

**FRIDAY 27TH MAY** Sileby Station to be officially opened by the Minister for Public Transport, Mr Roger Freeman MP, in the morning. All the stations on the initial section of the Ivanhoe line from Leicester to Loughborough will be opened during the day. Publicity nearer the time will give exact details.

**SATURDAY 28TH MAY** The Ivanhoe Line 'Fun Day'. Ride on the new trains and join in the fun activities between Leicester and Loughborough. Publicity nearer the time will give exact details.

**MONDAY 30TH MAY** The official Ivanhoe Line timetable begins. Timetables and fares to be finalised soon.

**TUESDAY 14TH JUNE** Ros Barney from the Loughborough Volunteer Bureau will be available to give information about voluntary work in and around Sileby, at Sileby Community Centre House from 10am until 12noon.

The 3rd Sileby Parish Walk. Meet at Sileby Community Centre, 7.30pm. Cossington Road, Cossington Mill, River Soar and Sileby Mill (4 miles).

**SUNDAY 19TH JUNE** Friends of Redlands School in association with Sileby St. Johns Ambulance Brigade are organising the 'Village Fun Run' with 9 and 2 mile events. For further details contact Peter Turner (813861).

**TUESDAY 28TH JUNE** Leicester Outwork Campaign representative Pat, will be available at the regular 'Drop-in' at the Community Centre House (10am until 12noon) to give advice and information about working at home. For further details contact Pat on Leicester 470940 or Caroline on Sileby 815288.

**TUESDAY 12TH JULY** The 4th Sileby Parish Walk. Meet at Sileby Community Centre, 7.30pm. Seagrave, Big Lane, Old Quorn Hunt Kennels, British Gypsum, Barrow Road (5 miles).

**SATURDAY 6TH AUGUST** Sileby Parade followed by Gala in the grounds of Redlands School.

**TUESDAY 16TH AUGUST** The 5th Sileby Parish Walk. Meet at Sileby Community Centre, 7.30pm. Ratcliffe Road, Bottom Humbulls, Cossington Church, Cossington Road (3 miles).

**SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER** Friends of Swan Street Surgery will be holding their Autumn Fayre at Sileby Community Centre from 10am to 12noon.

**SATURDAY 19TH NOVEMBER** Friends of Redlands will be holding their Winter Fayre. Details from Peter Turner (813861).

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**THE GREAT ADVENTURES OF THE ERRAND BOY - A.M.Norton.**

When Mr Arnold, known as 'Arnold the Carrier' returned from Leicester with the horse and dray my brother Alfie would be there ready to help with the parcels which had to be delivered around the village. There were other lads who in their turn had done this job and all with their own tales to tell. When they were too 'frit ' on a dark night to deliver a parcel to the top of Cemetery Road and coming back ran for their lives.

Alfie once delivered a parcel to a Mrs Kilbourn who lived next to the school in King Street, when she asked him "could you get a bike and go to Willoughby to fetch a cheese?" So Alfie got a bike, most likely hired from 'Bert Baums' and was ready to set off when me dad said "Did yer know that when you get there it will be your aunt? (me dad's sister 1914) so tell her we could do with a chaize". Then sure enough when Alfie got there it WAS his aunt and she sent us a cheese.

The Arnold family lived just below the school in Barrow Road when one late afternoon during a freezing cold winter Mrs Arnold got a phone message to say the carrier's cart was stuck on Red Hill and the horse was down. So she looked for Alfie as he came out of school to ask him if he could get the horse from the stable in Back Lane and take it over to Red Hill. The ever ready Alfie ran to ask me dad and then with a sack on the horses back he rode through the snow to the rescue. They were all still there on Red Hill when Alfie was put on the last tram from the terminus to catch the last train from Leicester to Sileby. Me mother greeted him with "You'll never go again - you'll never go again" but he did.

\*\*\*\*\*

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**NATIONAL PARISH COUNCIL CENTENARY YEAR**

Your Parish Council is organising a special event during the year with a possible exhibition at the Community Centre with a display of council minutes of interest during the last 100 years along with photographs and possible press cuttings from the past. So if you have any useful information of years gone by please contact any of the following councillors: T.Machin (PC Chairman), G.Ward, A.Latham, Mrs K.Machin, Mrs J.Betts.

If you wish to loan any useful items we will arrange collection and return after the exhibition. Please watch out for posters around the village for further details.

It is also the 200th anniversary of the building of the canal and so we are considering including this with the above exhibition.

**FLOODS - ROADS CLOSED - INCONVENIENCE CAUSED**

What do you feel about the above problem as Sileby residents? Have you any views? Make them known. Why not pass them on to your Parish Council, Borough Council, County Council, or the Slash Lane Improvement Pressure Group. Contact the chairman of the group, Councillor Gordon Ward, 90 Cossington Road, Sileby (tel. 812548), in writing, by phone or via the Stockade. The group needs your help to help us get some action. Sileby has had enough of the inconvenience and extra cost, making detours due to road closures caused by flooding.

**CIVIC EMERGENCY**

The Parish Council is formulating a dossier of information which could be very useful in case of a civic emergency ie. Loss of power in bad weather, severe flooding or other major accidents. This is in line with the Leicestershire County Council who co-ordinate any services needed. Other Parish Councils are working on this matter so the Parish Council feels Sileby should also be prepared. If you are willing to supply details of any of the information required on the list below please fill in the slip at the end of this item and return to the Clerk, Sileby Parish Council, 41 High Street, Sileby, LE12 7RX

Resources: Many items can be found within the Parish and will be listed in the emergency information held by your representatives. If you think you can offer any resources that you may hold, please inform your Parish contact, the Clerk, Sileby Parish Council. Do you have: Blankets, Bedding, Communications Equipment (C.B, Public Address System, Radio Transmitter, Cellphone), Chainsaws, Cutting/Welding Gear, Electric Generators, First Aid Equipment, Fuel (Solid or Bottled Gas), Lifting Gear, Portable Heaters etc, 4 WD/ Lorries/ Tractors/ Trailers/ Vans, Water Pumps, Wells, Spring Water, any other relevant materials.

Volunteers: If you are willing to volunteer your own services in an emergency please enter your details below.

**G.Ward**

-----  
NAME & ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

SKILL/RESOURCE: \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WISH TO VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES? YES/NO

Note: All information will be kept in the strictest confidence by the Civic Emergency representatives and the Council Clerk.



## QUIZ PAGE

Thank-you to everyone who took the trouble to send their answers to the quiz in the last edition - the response was great, with over 40 entries. Marjorie Turner supplied the questions and marked all the answers and as we had quite a few correct entries we asked Horace Yates, who will be celebrating his 100th birthday during March, to pick three winners from the box. The following people have received £5 each from the Stockade:-

ANNE BILLINGTON, GREEN LANE CLOSE, SEAGRAVE  
LINDA HOYES, BARROW ROAD, SILEBY  
PAM LARKE, PEASHILL CLOSE, SILEBY

Sorry about the error on number 5 - blame the typist! - the answer was FISHGUARD and there's no N in that!

The answers to the quiz were:-

1. ELGIN
2. ILFRACOOMBE
3. EDINBURGH
4. CAMBLETOWN
5. FISHGUARD
6. BRISTOL
7. CARLISLE
8. LEICESTER
9. MOFFAT
10. BLACKPOOL
11. ABERYSTWYTH
12. FORT WILLIAM
13. SALISBURY
14. DOVER
15. NOTTINGHAM
16. HASTINGS
17. CAMBRIDGE
18. NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE
19. STAFFORD
20. SWINDON
21. MANCHESTER
22. GLOUCESTER
23. SKEGNESS
24. SHREWSBURY
25. LANCASTER
26. COLCHESTER
27. GLASGOW
28. EXETER
29. SOUTHEND
30. LUTON
31. PORTSMOUTH
32. KIDDERMINSTER
33. NORTHALLERTON
34. PITLOCHRY
35. LLANDUDNO
36. FRASERBURGH

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PETROL ATTENDANT SERVICE

If you thought the last quiz was easy have a go at this edition's brain teaser which Marjorie has supplied. Again we will be offering £5 prizes to the three highest scores, drawn out of the hat. Entries can be left at Wrights Butchers, High Street before 31st March.

1. NAGS TOOK PUNISHMENT
2. RECENT CRIES
3. STOKE FELON
4. BORING GORSE
5. PET ON CRAFT
6. ARREN COVEN
7. WON BY CLAY
8. RAP ORTHELLO
9. GRIT ON BLIND
10. DAMN FLIES
11. BORN TO EMMY LAW
12. PANTRY SET
13. GORY MOMENT
14. PROVEN MOTH LAW
15. NO VASE, THEN
16. GIANT MELON
17. BIRD THROG
18. LINEN FLAG
19. DON DRILLS END WALL
20. HEMP ORT
21. MONTH ON TRAP
22. MATCH HELEN
23. HIS DOG RUMBLED
24. A LOST HERD
25. SOLO WHELP
26. CARGO DEBIT
27. ADD NOTHING
28. RUB STY WEEK
29. BATS GREEDILY
30. SENT COOS TO KENT
31. SUPREMES ON WATER
32. FAITH LED
33. NUNS WALLED CEMETERY
34. TENOR NOT BURNT
35. FEVER HOT DRAWS
36. TAILED BIKERS
37. BAD RUM UNCLE
38. HI, BRING MAM
39. THEN I SCREW
40. THIS CRECHE

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JULIE \* SILEBY 814400

This selection was done by my father, Ted Proffitt, who lives in Glasgow. They are much harder than the ones in the last edition and he has done over 250 of them!

Jean Parker was right, I am Scottish but my father was evacuated to Wales - as this selection will show!

**MARJORIE TURNER**

## HORACE YATES - 100 YEARS OLD ON 22nd MARCH 1994

*We would like to thank Horace for spending time to write this article with his son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Sue Yates:-*

Photograph reproduced by kind permission of Loughborough Echo



I have spent all my life in Sileby, except for Army Service in the First World War. I was born on 22nd March 1894 in Angel Yard, off Church Lane and went to school on Barrow Road, where the Old School Restaurant is now. Mr Skelton was the headmaster at the time. Before going to school in the morning I used to take breakfast to the men working at the Brickyard on Albion Road.

I left school at thirteen and began to work for Mr Gamble, the local carrier, who lived behind the church where Mr Wilf Preston now lives. He had a crippled son and I used to take him to Leicester with me on Saturdays. His father gave me 4d for a mug of tea and a cake and to bring his son a tin of tea and a cake. He used to get more tea because it was in his own tin!

When I was fifteen I got a job at Sharpes' Brewery in the High Street, working in the bottle stores for three years and then I started doing the delivering round the county to public and private houses with horses and drays. One of my worst days at work was going to Earl Shilton on a very bad day - a lot of snow about and freezing I had my horse frost nailed and left at 6.30am. I had to go to a farm and get them to bring a horse to give me a pull up Shoulder of Mutton Hill in Shilton. We got back to Sileby about 10.30pm. The next morning when I was a quarter of an hour late the foreman asked me where I had been - He didn't ask me where I was the night before, so I thought it best to give him dummy as I didn't want to lose my job. The Brewery then had the first steam driven lorry in the village in 1912 and I went on to drive that.

When the First World War (1914-18) broke out I was put in the Royal Army Service Corps because I was a driver. I served in France as a Caterpillar driver, taking the guns up to the front.

In March 1918 I was married to Beatrice Lovett by the Reverend Burrows at St Marys Church. We had three sons Horace, Les and Brian and we went to live along Cossington Road in 1924, where I still reside. There was very little work about in the early 30's and my wife had an 8 acre field left to her by her father, Mr Israel Lovett, so we bought two milking cows at a farm sale at Barkby for £20 and £25 each and started selling milk around the village at 2d a pint from churns and buckets. Gradually we bought a few more fields, bred and bought a nice little milking herd and continued to deliver it round the village by pony and float until 1948 when we sold the round and continued to wholesale the milk to the dairy.

My hobbies were playing long alley skittles for the Constitutional Club, following Sileby Vics and Town Football Clubs - Derby County was always my favourite professional football club. I remember the Vics going to Castle Donnington where they had to win to top the Loughborough League. When the Castle Donnington team played at Sileby they would say 'Wait 'til we get you under the clock'. When we got there they had put the leather football



in a bath of water to make it heavy. They were a big, strong side but Sileby won! On my way home the tyre on my bike burst at Loughborough so I had to walk the rest of the way home - but with Sileby winning it didn't spoil the day.

How times have changed; when I was a young lad I used to take Mr Collington's cows from Quebec farm off Seagrave Road to graze the roadside verges all day for 6d - if you were lucky.

My friends used to be Bill Willars, Walter Hudson and Joe Walker, On Sunday evenings we would go to church, come out and walk over the slabs to the Bull and Mouth at Mountsorrel for a pint of best beer for 3d a pint and on winter nights it used to be down the Free Trade.

I have been very lucky to have a healthy life and live in Sileby where the people are so friendly and always ready to help. I have had a supportive family and would like to thank you all for your support and friendship throughout my life.

Best wishes to you all.

**Horace Yates**

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### **HILDA GIBBS - 100 YEARS OLD ON 4TH JANUARY 1994**

As some of the older readers are kind enough to enquire about my Mother's welfare, it may be of interest to them to know that Hilda Gibbs, as she is still referred to, is alive and well. In fact she has just reached her 100th birthday, on 4th January.

My mother was born at the Old Vicarage, Mountsorrel and was one year old when my grandparents, Mr and Mrs Fred Gibbs moved to the family home 'Highbury', in Mountsorrel Lane, now a residential home. Two of her earliest memories were hearing grown-ups talking about the Boar War and actually seeing a motor car!

Her first school was Miss Hemsleys on Cossington Road - can anyone identify this, or is the house long gone? She qualified as a Doctor of Medicine in 1920 and worked in Edinburgh, Liverpool and elsewhere, but spent much of her time at Highbury until my grandparents left in 1953.

She and Elsie Martin ran the Sileby Girl Guides for a while, as I have later been reminded by members of the troop.

It is hard to imagine that any future group of old people will live through so many changes both worldwide and locally, as today's centenarians have.

It is interesting, as one goes about, to look at the houses in the village and realise how many - or rather how few - existed in 1894. Certainly they were rather cheaper:- The highest rent for a cottage in Mountsorrel Lane at this time was 12 shillings per month (or 60p for the benefit of the younger readers).

To those of you who can remember her, my mother sends you all her very best wishes.

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## DOOR CHAINS - SAFETY FOR THE ELDERLY

For several years door safety chains have been available FREE from the Parish Council. They are easily fixed by any person with a small screwdriver - screws are supplied with the kit.

The only qualification to receive door chains is that you should be: (a) an old age pensioner, and/or (b) disabled or elderly and living alone. (For further information please contact Beverley Burton, Clerk to the Parish Council, tel. 813075).

The chain should only be used when answering the door, slip the chain on, open the door to the extent of the chain, ask the visitor to identify himself/herself. If satisfied, you can then close the door, release the chain and let your visitor in.

On no account should you keep the door chain on all the time. This could lead to a difficult situation in case of accident or other emergency.

W.Preston

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## SILEBY SCOUT GROUP

### 1) GIRLS IN SCOUTING

The Scout Group would like to announce that as from Thursday 24th March 1994 Sileby Hart Troop will be open to girls.

Hart group meet at our Brook Street Headquarters on Thursday evenings between 7.45pm and 9.30pm. Age range for scouts is ten and a half to fifteen and a half years and the uniform for girl scouts will be the same as for the boys (trousers and shirts).

Because of the existing number of Scouts already with Hart troop only six places are initially available. Boys and girls will be treated equally on our waiting list.

Girls wishing to join should please contact Carol Freeman, Scout Leader, on Sileby 812031.

### 2) WANTED

Assistant Cub Leader for Quebec Pack - Wednesday evenings, 6.30pm to 8.00pm.

Assistant Scout Leader for Rogers Troop - Friday Evenings, 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Any interested adults, please contact Mrs Sylvia Wells, Group Scout Leader, on Sileby 812761.

**Please can you help?** Fund raising is an ongoing thing for the maintenance of our headquarters and camping equipment etc. If anyone has anything we could sell, rummage etc. please bear us in mind.

## SILEBY STATION



Sileby station - its wooden waiting room would be the only part readily visible to passengers passing through but this belied the intense activity which it embraced. An article in the Leicester Mercury in the mid 1930's described our village as "the industrial pivot of North

Leicestershire" as it indeed was.

There were ten shoe factories reputed to produce between them in excess of 40,000 pairs per week, a sizable hosiery industry, wallpaper factory and the malthouse in High Street from which emanated the distinct aroma, delicious from a distance but not so described by residents in the village centre.



The Sherrat family of hauliers collected the factory output every day. Cartons were piled high on barrows of both platforms awaiting trains about 5.00pm. One of the duties of the Station Master was to visit each factory once a month to collect the freight charges. Times have changed.... A special football train was a feature of Saturday and was filled to capacity whenever Leicester City had a home match. This was followed by a shopping train. We all worked a 5½ day week in those days and Saturday afternoon was the only opportunity to make our purchases in Leicester.

Then came the war years; and nationalisation in the post war period, but the steam locomotives were still retained for some time. I was working in Leicester then and our train was famous (or infamous) for the knitting activity of it's female passengers. Many a jumper or cardigan owed most of it's creation to the journey between Sileby and Leicester. We cannot have been the only ones to employ so diligently, for a letter appeared in a national newspaper, written by some disgruntled male from another area, who recommended that girls who knitted in trains should be consigned to a separate compartment marked PESTS.

Did this deter us? Certainly not! Profitable activity was not confined to the female sex, two gentlemen who probably boarded the train in Nottingham did the Daily Telegraph crossword each day and apparently completed it shortly before the train reached Leicester.

Eventually the steam trains gave way to diesel 3-car sets and the journey time reduced to 11 minutes. The return journey in the evening though could only adhere to this time by courtesy of the all important express train to Manchester for which our train was the local connection. The lateness of the Manchester train was all too frequent and at times it was decided to let our train go first, and hopefully get it out of the way. Sometimes this worked, but usually didn't; once through Syston we were deposited somewhere on the Peterborough line until the Manchester train had passed. Worse still, we were then often caught out by a southbound train from Leeds, also exercising it's priority. Eventually we would get back on our proper line and at some time reach Sileby.



Disaster loomed in the early 1960's, some stations were down for closure, but surely not Sileby, situated as it was on a main line and serving a large village. Matters came to a head at the Rail Tribunal in May 1965. Aably supported by the Barrow-upon-Soar R.D.C. we

made our protests both at village level and as individuals. A survey on the 8.05am to Leicester over a period of four weeks produced the figures of not less than 56 nor more than 69 persons boarding that particular train at Sileby.

To our delight the inspector ruled in our favour and the station remained open, but alas, officialdom won eventually and this second time there was no reprieve. Letters and comments still in my possession read like a prophecy. Ordinary people could envisage the ultimate outcome but closure was apparently a foregone conclusion and those who made the decision refused to listen; the station closed in March 1968. It was claimed at the time that British Rail would save £114,000 from this action which took in most of the local stations between Birmingham and Nottingham. One wonders if this saving was ever realised? A remark constantly aired at the time was that if Mr Beeching and "they" in the government had to cope with the 'bus journey' the station would have remained open. We had our own ideas on where we would have yielded the axe. The first 'bus' on which I travelled to work had obviously been put into service hurriedly from the Worcester area, for it bore a notice from the local Samaritans "If you are in despair and have come to the end of the road then ring this number". This seemed to sum up the feelings of most passengers that day and this exercise in technical advancement increased fares by nearly 70% and travelling time by 500% in my particular case.

Revisions over the years have certainly reduced 'bus travelling time' to a more acceptable level.

I still have my last train ticket, dated 1st March 1968, Sileby to Leicester Return, cost 3s 6d (17½p). The station closed two days later.

Something more than the train service was lost from our village on that fateful day.

**Miss. V.M. Chamberlain**  
**163 Highgate Road, Sileby**

\*\*\*\*\*

For the benefit of people not familiar with it, the station booking office was a brick building situated just off the pathway between the cast iron railway bridge and the main entrance to the present-day car park.





The station yard formed a square, cobbled in parts, with a 'jitty' going down to Brook Street. The rail level is some height above it - so in order to gain the 'up' platform for trains to Leicester, one had to climb up some stone steps situated under the bridge. From here you had a splendid view of the village. The waiting room was a long wooden building consisting of an ordinary waiting room and next to this was a ladies room. The windows of the building were always brown and remained so no matter how hard you rubbed at them. This was due to fumes coming from Plunketts Brewery in the High Street. This building is now known as The Maltings. I close my eyes, and, sure enough, I get the aroma of roasting malt - not unpleasant - oh happy days! The 'down' platform to Loughborough was gained by a long steep slope. In the fifties, Rolls Royce aero engines were brought to the station in big wooden crates by road. These had to be unloaded on to the station barrows and pushed up the slope by a porter and two junior porters, me being one of them. Sometimes we even had to call on the assistance of the booking clerks. The building on this platform was a more grand affair - with the ladies room equipped with plush seating, ordinary waiting room and Station Masters office. Mister Flint, the Station Master, never used this office, preferring to base himself in the booking office, where he could keep an eye on 'them young lads' as he used to call us.

Attached to the station was the goods yard (now the Highbridge estate) which consisted of several coal yards, a weighbridge and other lines, not forgetting the goods shed. Two slow freight trains called daily, which gives you some idea of how busy it was. The trains brought empty wagons for Plunkett's malt, loaded coal wagons and 'sack' wagons. These carried large agricultural sacks from where else - but SAXBY!

Can you people out there remember the horse and cart stopping at your door at holiday times to pick up your luggage, convey it by train to your holiday destination and then deliver it to your digs? Not like today - having to lug it about or find a trolley, if you are lucky. Who remembers the big, green enamelled sign of a man riding a Raleigh Cycle attached to a massive wooden hoarding. This was on the opposite side of the road and nicely hid the porters room from view. The booking office was a very cosy place - large turtle stove in the centre, surrounded by desks, ticket racks and, the most important feature - mashing equipment! Many's a tale I could tell but I won't bore you good people any longer.

G Derry.

(together with photographs provided by J Whittington)

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# SILEBY LAWN TENNIS CLUB

OFF SEAGRAVE ROAD, SILEBY

## CALLING ALL TENNIS PLAYERS

Now is the time to think about joining your local club, Sileby Tennis Club to enjoy the benefit of a full season for your membership fee. The season runs from April until November each year, during which time the club organise a variety of competitions and social events for those who wish to take part.

Social events in the last year included:-

- A.G.M. / Wine and cheese evening at the Bowls Club Pavilion.
- Skittles evening at Sileby Constitutional Club.
- French Evening at the Three Crowns, Barrow-upon-Soar.
- Sunday Tournament Barbecue at the Ground.
- Barn Dance at Seagrave Village Hall.
- Annual Dinner and Presentation Evening at the Cottage in the Wood, Woodhouse Eaves.

Our 1993 Club Champions in the K.O. Championships were :-

- MENS SINGLES - Andrew Waterfield
- MENS DOUBLES - Chris Mayes & Chris Woodward
- LADIES SINGLES - Jean Gratton
- LADIES DOUBLES - Lorraine Neale & Colin Thompson
- MIXED DOUBLES - Susan Cottam & Colin Thompson
- HANDICAP COMP - Andrew Preston
- BOYS SINGLES - Paul Williams
- GIRLS SINGLES - No Competition
- JUNIOR DOUBLES - David Hall & Ian Lord

Winners in other events were:-

- FAMILY TOURNAMENT MIXED DOUBLES - Christine & Colin Thompson
- SUNDAY TOURNAMENT SHIELDS - Joyce Williams & Andrew Geary

1993 was also the first time in our long history the Sileby Tennis Club entered three Mens teams in the Slazenger Leicestershire League as well as a Ladies and Mixed team. This year we shall continue entering the same number of teams providing we have the membership to support them.

Members joining early in March, as members of an affiliated club, have the added advantage of an opportunity to apply for Wimbledon tickets in the ballot.

**So don't leave it until Wimbledon starts on telly, JOIN NOW!**

Ring Sileby 812993 for membership details or pick up a membership application form from the library.

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As I walked down the High Street  
 With traffic speeding past  
 The fact just made me wonder  
 Why do they drive so fast?

It's not as though they've got to speed  
 When they're not going home  
 But rather like a naughty dog  
 Who's pinched a tasty bone

So please slow up you drivers  
 Don't give all walkers worry  
 Just let the old ones cross the road  
 Far better safe than sorry

WP

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**CRUCIFIXION IN KING STREET**

*Golgotha has become a little mound  
 of small round buns in their glass case.  
 Examine one, but first remove  
 the placard bearing its red crucifix  
 in the inscription: even this  
 is softened to a democratic 'X'  
 Take one up, inspect its new brown face  
 dimpled in distortion of a knife's  
 incision in the softness.*

*Go on, take a bite, savour the sweetness  
 as you enjoy this ritual delicacy;  
 but spare a thought, if you have the time  
 in your making merry, for a harsh mound,  
 a savage crossing of two timber strokes  
 and the tearing of rough spikes.  
 All are lessened in this little symbol;  
 you hold God's agony made palatable.*

Ken Middleton

## SHORTAGE OF BEER IN SILEBY - 1945

Tom and I were waiting for the Duke of York to open because someone had said that Jack and Gert had some beer. Jack opened the door at 10 o'clock, Tom and I went in and I said "Two pints please", "Can't let you have much", says Jack, turning round for a sly nip so Gert wouldn't see him. We had a couple of pints, "That's it" says Jack.

Someone came into the Duke and we got talking "There's beer at the 'Navie' at Barrow", "Should we go?", says Tom "Yes", says I. "How are we going to get there?", says Tom. "I know, I'll go and take my Dad's bike, he wont mind" said I.

We all lived up Bunks Yard in the High Street, across the road from Fred Wright's butchers shop, so it wasn't far to fetch Dad's bike. Tom was in the Irish Guards and was six foot tall and I was in the Leicestershire Regiment and was five foot eight tall. Tom got on the cross bar of the bike and I got on the seat. Tom's feet were on the ground with my knees hitting up at Tom's behind as we peddled along to Barrow!

One hour later we got to the 'Navie' to find the beer was flowing like water. We came out of the pub at 3 o'clock singing and acting the fool. "Should we take a short cut home?" says Tom "Along the Block path?" I said yes. This time Tom was in the saddle on Dad's bike and I was on the cross bar. We both came off the bike a dozen times on the trip back to good old Sileby.

Going up Bunk's Yard, Tom's wife was standing with the yard brush in hand waiting for us - Tom ran in home and me?, up the yard with the door locked after me! Dad came home... "Who's had my bloody bike, our Lennie?"

Lennie Buxton

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## SILEBY COMMUNITY CENTRE



Last December, I was invited by Leicestershire Rural Community Council to attend the presentation of prizes for 'The Best Village Hall' competition. Expecting the usual "Good try, better luck next time", runners-up prize, I was extremely pleased to receive on behalf of the committee the first prize of £100 for winners of 'The Best Large Village Hall in Leicestershire'.

Since the formation of a new committee twelve months ago, dedication by the members and supporting staff turned a three figure deficit in our accounts to a three figure credit, and this first prize award was the feather in our cap.

As you may be aware, since the agreement by the Parish Council to purchase the Community centre for £90,000, tedious negotiations have continued with Charnwood Parish Council to secure the ownership of the Hall as an asset to the village.

And yet I still hear subversive comments like "It wants knocking down", "Build a new one", "It's a white elephant", "A millstone the village doesn't want". But are these comments fair or simply unrealistic?

"Knock it down", is simple enough but it would cost around £40,000 to demolish the hall and the house, clear and secure the site. And what would you have to show for it? Nothing.

"Build a new one", good idea, but where? Show me another site of equal size, centrally placed to other village amenities, and what would the cost be? To buy the land and build a hall of equal size.....£500,000 - a figure far beyond our hard pressed pockets.

"White elephant", "A millstone, this village doesn't want".

A mandate from a public meeting gave the go ahead for the purchase of the Hall to secure it for the regular use of over 250 people each week together with numerous special occasions such as wedding receptions, parties, theatre productions, craft and jumble sales at reasonable hire rates. Comments like these only go to prove that not all dinosaurs became extinct from the Jurassic period.

It might be worthwhile reflecting on the inscription on the plaque from when the Community Centre was officially opened on 14th January 1978, "For the use and pleasure of the residents of Sileby". It is there for you to use, whenever you wish, tomorrow or anytime in the future. Remember, Sileby Community Centre is no ordinary hall. A first prize award proves that it is THE BEST LARGE VILLAGE HALL IN LEICESTERSHIRE.

**Stuart Thompson, Chairman of Sileby Community Centre.**

### Charges for hiring Sileby Community Centre

	(9.00am - 6.00pm)	(6.00pm - Midnight)
<b>Monday - Friday</b>		
Main Hall	£3.75 per hour	£4.25 per hour
	Business & Profit Making £10.00 per hour	
Sports Hall	£3.75 per hour	£4.25 per hour
Primary Room	£2.00 per hour	£2.50 per hour
Lounge	£1.00 per hour	£1.50 per hour
Centre*	Discos, parties etc £65	

### **Saturday & Sunday**

<b>Main Hall</b>	£30.00 per session (9.00am - 1.00pm) on Saturday
	£30.00 per session (2.00pm - 6.00pm) on Saturday
	£5.50 per hour on Sunday
	Local Charities £5.00 per hour on Saturday/Sunday
	Business & Profit Making £10.00 per hour
<b>Sports Hall Centre*</b>	£5.50 per hour on Saturday/Sunday
	Weddings, parties etc
	£60.00 (9.00am - 6.00pm)
	£35.00 (2.00pm - 6.00pm)
	£155.00 (9.00am - Midnight)
	£125.00 (2.00pm - Midnight)
	£95.00 (6.00pm - Midnight)

\* (Main Hall, Kitchen, Primary Room, Lounge -bar available)

Hire of best crockery £5.00. Advance bookings require one third deposit (non returnable) balance to be paid one month prior to function.

For all bookings or further information please contact Mrs Kay Machin, Sileby 814215.

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# SILEBY SWIMMING POOL FUND

SECRETARY: MRS ROSE TRASLER 19 WARDS CRESCENT SILEBY LOUGHBOROUGH LEICS. LE12 7QF TEL: 0509 813733.

Sileby Swimming Pool Fund is still going despite a few years of dormancy. In the last 2-3 years it has been reawakening. At a recent meeting, Sileby Parish Council agreed that, whilst they could not provide financial support, they would support us on matters such as land/borough council requests etc .

The Santa sleigh this Christmas did not get around the village as much as we would have wished due to bad weather and ill health. Santa says sorry to the children he missed.

This year we will be investigating registered charity status. We were stopped in the past by regulations but many of these have now changed.

A fashion show is due to be held on Thursday 24th March to help raise further funds and tickets can be obtained nearer the time from committee members.

Remember:- SSPF wants a pool for Sileby's people young and old. Why should children who can't drive have to bus into Quorn or Barrow to swim, when Sileby could have it's own pool?  
Rose Trasler (Secretary)

\*\*\*\*\*

## SILEBY PHOBIC SELF HELP AND SUPPORT GROUP

Panic attacks - Anxiety - Agoraphobia -  
Depression - Phobias

Meetings for sufferers are held every two weeks on a Monday afternoon from 2 until 3pm at Sileby Community Centre House. Perhaps this is not convenient for you, although you feel you would welcome the opportunity to join others who experience or have experienced the problems you are having and need support for self help recovery, so we have arranged an EVENING MEETING on WEDNESDAY 16TH MARCH, from 7pm until 9pm at the COMMUNITY CENTRE HOUSE. We look forward to meeting fellow sufferers at our informal evening meeting, but if you prefer to telephone (0509) 813129 or (0509) 413802 further information can be obtained. These numbers are also available if you need to chat or need support especially if you are unable to go out because of your problem. DON'T HOLD BACK - MAKE A POSITIVE APPROACH TO SELF HELP RECOVERY - NOW.

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## FAMILY THANKS LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY

A Sileby family has raised £1,300 as a special way of thanking the staff at the Leicester Royal Infirmary for the Radiotherapy department.

Mrs Jessie Speak, who lives at Seagrave had to go and visit the Radiotherapy department every day for four weeks for treatment. Mrs Margaret Upton organised the events with her two sisters, Iris and Lily and with Mrs Speaks' daughters Ann, Susan and Nancy. One daughter, Dorothy, who lives at Ilkeston raised £421 with her darts team. Sileby had a disco, raffles and a charity fair which raised £879.

All the family would like to thank everyone who has supported us from Sileby Newbolds, the Wireworks and Sileby Working Mens Club.

On 10th January a cheque for £1,300 was handed over to Dr Peat at the Duke of York, High Street, Sileby. Dr Peat said that some of the money will go to the department for special equipment for the radiotherapy department.

\*\*\*\*\*

Since August this year my family and friends have been very active in producing a successful range of preserves etc. which have been sold in aid of The Leicester Royal Infirmary Blood Count, which in turn supports the BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT UNIT and the Haematology Leukaemia Ward. With the sterling support and generosity of very many Sileby people, I am pleased to be able to tell you that we have so far raised £720, with more sales still available. The CHRISTMAS CAROL EVENING was a bit of a rush but proved to be an enjoyable and rewarding evening, with £250 raised from the raffle, table sale and collection.

A big Thank You to businesses in the village who kindly donated raffle prizes, and of course, to the people of Sileby a special thank you for supporting BLOOD COUNT.

**Jim Bignell**

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Full Evening A la Carte menu also available.



## SILEBY NURSERY PLAYGROUP, SILEBY YOUTH CENTRE

Is your child bored? Does he/she need stimulation? We hold afternoon sessions from 1.30 to 3pm for the rising five year olds at Sileby Youth Centre (situated in the King Street car park) doing educational play including shapes, colours, numbers and letters etc take place. If you are interested please ring Pat Smart on (0530) 243604 during the evenings or call in at the playgroup any morning between 9.30am and 11.30am.

## THANKS FROM SILEBY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Sileby Townswomen's Guild would like to express their thanks for the generosity of the residents of the Heathcote Drive Estate when the Guild went Carol Singing in December. The magnificent sum of £71 was raised in a very short time and this has been given to the N.S.P.C.C.

## SILEBY METHODIST JUNIOR CHURCH

S.M.J.C. meets every Sunday morning from 10.45am to 11.45am. At the moment we have around thirty members with an average weekly attendance of twenty five. New members are always most welcome and there are six groups of classes. These are:-

- A creche for under three's
- 3+4 year olds
- 5+6 year olds
- 7+8 year olds
- 9+10 year olds
- 11+ and older - Bible class

The Superintendent is Mrs Marilyn Nelson, The Creche leader is Mrs Julie Carroll, The Secretary is Mrs Karen Ette and the other teachers are Mrs Jan Christie, Mrs Marie Gray and Mrs Christine Sheen.

Every week there is lively fun and learning for all ages. Anyone who would like to join us would be more than welcome, young or old (or in-between). We would once again like to start up the Friday evening Club and would welcome volunteers to help out now and again.



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## THE BELLS OF SAINT MARY'S

Our local church has for centuries been famous for its bells and hence its enthusiastic bell-ringers (campanologists). The bells themselves comprise a peal of 10, which is large compared with other peals of bells in this county.

As may be expected they are of different weights and dates. These are as follows:-

Bell	Note	Date Cast or Hung	Diameter	Weight
Treble	G	Taylor of Loughborough 1978	25"	3-2-19
2nd	F	Taylor of Loughborough 1978	26½"	4-0-22
3rd	E <sup>b</sup>	The two Treble Bells by public subscription 1945	28½"	4-3-9
4th	D		29⅞"	5-1-5
5th	C	Taylor of Loughborough 1934 by public subscription inscribed "O Prosper Thou our handywork".	33 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>16</sub> "	7-2-2
6th	B <sup>b</sup>	In honour of Victory over Scots rebellion.	37½"	9-2-7
7th	A <sup>b</sup>	Cast by Henry Oldfield 1590 inscribed - "Jesus be our Spede".	38¼"	9-0-27
8th	G	Hugh Watts 1622	41¾"	13-1-0
9th	F	"Henry Penn made mee 1707-8".	45 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>16</sub> "	15-3-10
Tenor	E <sup>b</sup>	Hugh Watts 1622	49½"	22-0-12

Most of the bells have further inscriptions.

The old peal of five bells were rehung on a steel frame in 1934, the old oak frame being decayed and unsafe. The two bells were added in 1945. During World War II by Government decree there was no ringing, but ever since that time they have been rung regularly.

They are visited and rung frequently by ringing teams from all over the country who are happy to find such a fine peal of bells in such a small town.

The last major alteration was in the period 1978/83 when the peal was increased from eight to ten. The effort to pay for this gigantic task was made almost entirely by the enthusiastic ringers who made great efforts in collecting waste paper, scrap iron etc to raise money.

Thankfully much of the expensive bell metal was supplied by the gift of a redundant bell from Saint Gregory's Roman Catholic Church and also a bell from the unsafe and now demolished Bell tower at Sibley Cemetery, by courtesy of the Parish Council.

The team of ringers consists of ladies and men who meet regularly to practice and for Sunday services and weddings when requested.

### Sibley Conservative Club

Room for hire incl. bar for all functions.  
Also Skittle Alley. Good facilities.  
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Apply Secretary - phone 814215

## Researching My Family Tree

This new hobby of mine started off as a birthday present from my father in the shape of a book with blank pages. Now the pages are starting to fill up. I started my research by questioning relatives, elderly aunts and uncles. After obtaining information on their date of birth and their children I started working backwards from the information supplied on their birth certificates to both sets of grandparents. So far I have been lucky enough to go back as far as 1756.

Having obtained as much information as possible from my family my next step was to search through the public records office which hold the records of all births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales since 1st July 1837.

Another way of obtaining the information I needed was to search through the telephone books. I came up with over 40 Easingwood families, from Scotland down to the south coast. I sat down and wrote to everyone of them asking for information on their families going as far back as they could remember. I have now received over a dozen letters and family trees from distant relatives that I had never heard of before and believe me I am getting so much enjoyment in researching the history of my family, and having an unusual surname made it much easier to trace. My family tree started off as a small sapling, it has now grown into a very big oak tree.

If anyone is interested in my family tree or would even like some information on how to research their own I would be willing to help. They can get my address from any member of The Stockade.

Ivan Easingwood

*Coincidentally we have received a request for assistance from a Mr Jonathan F. Gentry, of Canada in tracing his family tree. He writes:*

"I wish to contact other descendants or relatives of my grandfather Charles Martin. The family were members of the Sibley Baptist Church and all the family listed in the 1891 Census were born in the village. Charles is listed as the owner of a hosiery manufacturing business on Swan Street in Sibley.

The 1891 census shows Charles Martin was 58 years of age and living with his second wife Esther who was 38 years old. According to my mother there were 8 children from each marriage. The children living at home in 1891 were Emma (18), my grandfather Wilfred Ward (16), Charles Henry (14), Percy G. (9), Clara M. (6) and Ada (3)."

Mr Gentry gives his address for any information as: 116 Langden Avenue, City-of-York, Ontario, M6N 2L5, Canada.



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## FRIENDS OF REDLANDS

Since the Autumn 1992 issue of the Stockade the group has continued to meet regularly and I thought it would be useful to list events we have organised, some of which we hope will become regular features.

November 1992 - A very busy month with 3 events held; a Fashion Evening, a coach trip to London and our first Winter Fayre.

January 1993 - Following a busy Christmas a skittles match against our friends from Cossington school. Any other groups interested in a match?

February 1993 - A Millionaires Evening which attracted some interesting 'Millionaires'.

May 1993 - This saw our 2nd Team Quiz Evening, with 13 teams taking part. The eventual winners were 'Winston's Wonders' from Cossington.

July 1993 - During the summer holidays a stall was taken at the Sileby Gala, which was held on the school field for the first time.

August 1993 - Another coach trip, this time to York.

September 1993 - The Friends of Redlands in association with the Sileby St. John Ambulance Brigade organised our biggest event so far, the village 'Fun Run'. An event from the past which we hope to repeat. First place in the 6km race was taken by Nick Bott and in the Fun Run, Ryan Baldacchino was the first to complete the 10 laps.

November 1993 - Our Winter Fayre was held on the 20th with the 1993/94 school tea towel being sold through the school.

The monies raised from these events has gone to help the education provision of the children at the school and has helped provide, line marking equipment and stencils, CDs for music appreciation, reading/writing leaflets for new entrant families, equipment for the school kitchen and a Notice Board at the front of the school. During the next month new lightweight PE equipment will be installed in the school hall to replace the current old heavy type.

Events already arranged for this year include:

- Saturday 19 February 1994 our 2nd Millionaires Evening
- Thursday 5 May 1994 our 3rd Quiz Evening
- Sunday 19 June 1994 in association with the Sileby St. John Ambulance Brigade our 2nd village Fun Run with 9 and 2 mile events
- 19 November 1994 our 3rd Winter Fayre
- New ventures we hope to hold include, a Jumble Sale (not very new), a 50/60/70s Disco (an excuse for the parents to let their hair down) and a Barn Dance.

As well as getting involved locally we are also members of the National Confederation of Parent Teachers Associations and are actively involved with the Leicestershire group. In December 1993 we completed the registration process to become a charity.

If you would like to help us, help the children at the school, or would like to receive further details of the events listed above then please contact me on Sileby 813861.

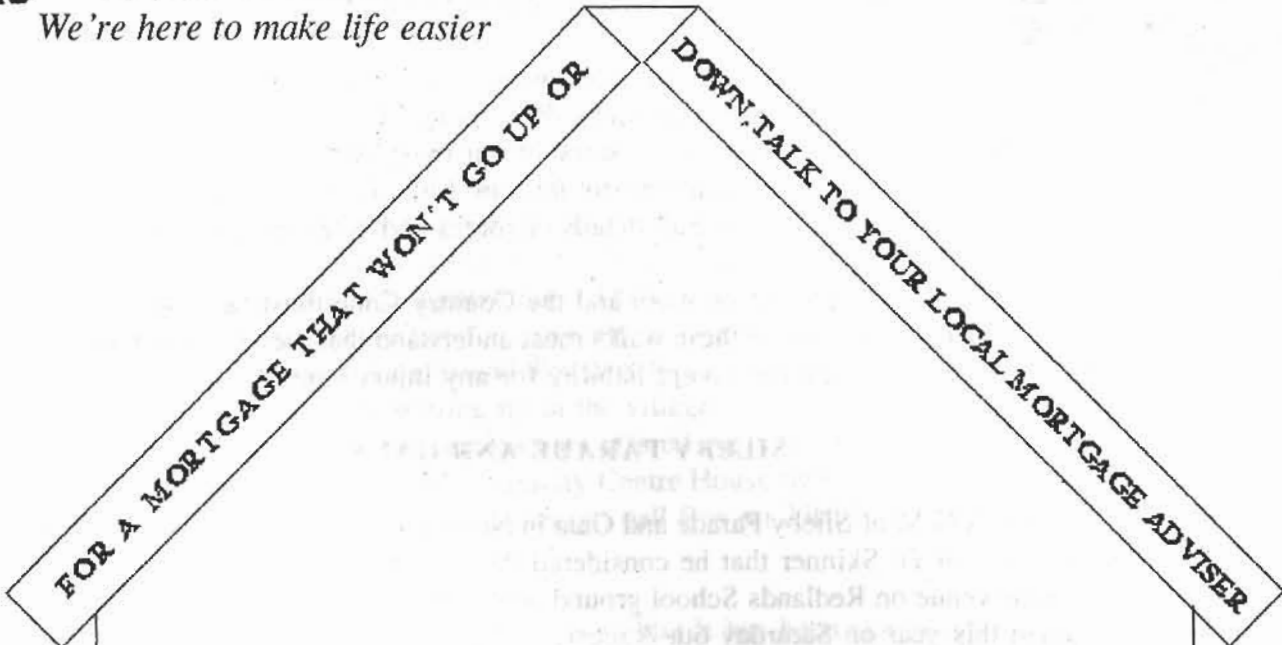
**Peter Turner**





**National Westminster Bank**

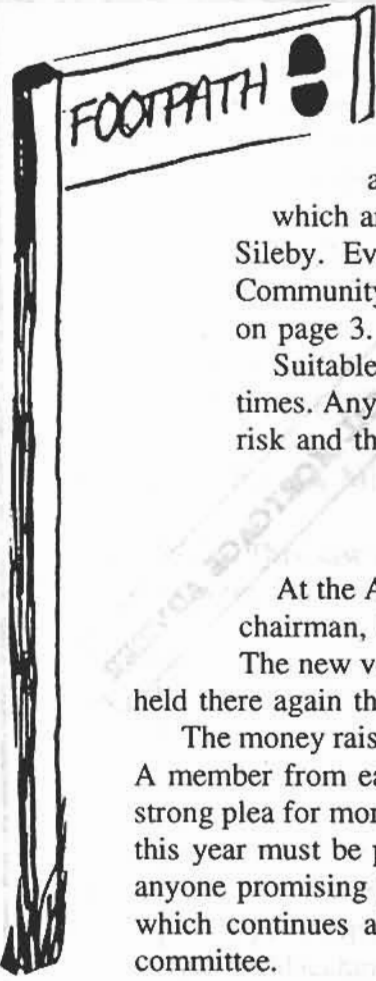
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## 6TH YEAR OF THE PARISH WALKS

For those of you not aware, each year Sileby Parish Council arrange a series of parish walks. Beverly and John Burton lead these walks which are of varying lengths over some of our most interesting footpaths around Sileby. Everyone is most welcome to join in and all walks start from Sileby Community Centre at 7.30pm. Full details of routes and dates are given in the diary on page 3.

Suitable footwear should be worn and the Country Code must be observed at all times. Anyone taking part in these walks must understand that they do so at their own risk and the Council cannot accept liability for any injury caused.

## SILEBY PARADE AND GALA

At the A.G.M of Sileby Parade and Gala in November last year, it was said by the chairman, Mr D. Skinner that he considered the Gala Day last year was a success. The new venue on Redlands School ground was very popular and the Gala would be held there again this year on Saturday 6th August.

The money raised was a little down on last year but £895 was donated to 24 organisations. A member from each organisation was present to receive the cheques. Mr Skinner made a strong plea for more help for this year's Gala. He stressed that anyone applying for a donation this year must be prepared to sell raffle tickets and provide two helpers on Gala Day; also, anyone promising help must please adhere to this. He thanked the committee for their help which continues almost all the year round and would welcome any new members to the committee.

**Popsie Gilbert**

## SILEBY COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT

There are lots of groups and activities happening or being planned. There is also room for more ideas. If you would like to know more about the Project and what is going on please 'drop-in' on Caroline at the Community Centre House, on Tuesday or Friday morning between 10am and 12noon.

The following gives you an idea of the kinds of things that are going on:-

### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

#### Agoraphobia and Panic Attack Support Group

Meets alternate Mondays, 2pm to 3pm. Details from June (813129) or Pam (413802).

#### Lone Parents' Support Group

This small, informal group meets on Thursdays between 1pm and 3pm at Sileby Community Centre House, to chat and share some thoughts. Looking after children on your own can be difficult and talking through some of these situations can give us new ideas and can sometimes help us to feel more able to cope. There is a creche available for those with children under five years. For details please phone Georgina on 815237 or just pop in one Thursday.

#### Childminders' Support Group

Occasional evening meetings. For details contact Karen Morley (814850).

### Drop-in

For information, help, someone to talk to or just a cup of tea. The centre is open on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 10am until 12noon.

### Volunteer Bureau

The volunteer Bureau continues to hold 'surgeries' where people can find out about opportunities of doing voluntary work. The idea of having this session in Sileby is so that people can find out what is going on in Sileby and in the whole of the Loughborough area without having to go into Loughborough. The kinds of things that have been arranged so far are individual work like befriending, one-off occasions, regular help at an established group (such as the Home-Start Parents and Toddlers Group), or project work such as helping to set up and run new activities starting up in the village.

Information, advice and interviews are offered every second Tuesday of each month from 10.30am until 12.30pm at the Community Centre House by Ros Barney. If you are interested but these times are not convenient you can call Ros on 230131.

### Young People's drop-in

This new drop in is for 13 to 17 year olds. It has been started recently by a group of young people from Sileby and some students from De Montford University who wanted to offer young people a place to go to meet and make friends, be able to get information and talk to others of their own age or an older person, to share a cup of coffee, listen to some music and generally relax. If you would like to try this new 'Drop-in' it will be open from 6pm to 8pm on Wednesdays during March.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES

### Food Club

Regular meetings on a variety of aspects of food, nutrition and diet and supported by a Community Dietitian.

### Art and Craft Exhibition

A group of people in Sileby, Cossington and Seagrave are getting together to plan an exhibition of art and craft which has been produced by anyone who lives or works in these villages. We would welcome others who would like the opportunity to display their work.

Many of those already interested will be showing their work for the first time. As well as showing completed work we hope that several people will also be demonstrating how they go about their craft or art work. The date for the exhibition is not yet finalised but it is likely to take place in May. It is hoped that this event will get people working together and the knock-on effect to be the start of a number of art/craft workshops. If you or anyone you know might be interested in finding out more about the exhibition please phone Caroline Harding on Sileby 815288.

### Lunch Club and Cosy Afternoon

Do you spend too much time on your own? In conjunction with Age Concern a Lunch Club is going to be started. If you would like to come to the Community Centre House to share some lunch and spend a cosy afternoon with others you will be most welcome. You might like to bring some knitting, sewing or similar small craftwork with you but you are very welcome to come just for the conversation and the company, on **Tuesday afternoons from 12pm until 3pm starting on Tuesday 8th March**. There is a ramp available for wheelchair access. For more information please phone Caroline Harding on Sileby 815288.

### Menopause Self-Help Group

To offer a venue and support to run a self-help group around this topic.

### Carers Support Group

For carers of disabled children or adults, or of elderly people. To offer information and contacts as well as support to anyone caring for others.

### Art Therapy

Provide space for individuals to work with an art therapist.

### Asthma Support Group

To ascertain if there is an interest in starting a support group for those who suffer from or those who care for a sufferer of asthma. To provide information, access to the National Asthma Campaign and a network for others who understand the problems involved.

### Exercise Group

To offer suitable exercise for those who have requested it, eg over 50's or younger people who have done little exercise and would need gentle introduction.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **FRIENDS OF SWAN STREET**

The inaugural meeting of the above group was held during November 1992 and a committee was formed. It was decided that it would not just be a fund raising committee, although this would be part of its function, but it would also be a method of communication between the Practice and its patients and vice versa.

The group is now a member of the National Association for Patient Participation Groups. At a recent meeting we discussed that we should be advertising our diary of fund raising events for 1994, which are as follows:-

SPRING FAYRE.....26TH MARCH 1994  
OPEN EVENING AT SURGERY.....4TH MAY 1994  
CAKE STALL AT VILLAGE GALA....6TH AUGUST 1994  
AUTUMN FAYRE.....29TH OCTOBER 1994

The Spring and Autumn Fayres will be held in the Community Centre, 10am - 12noon and everyone is welcome.

The "Open Evening" at the Surgery commences at 7.30pm and Dr Lakhani and the group would be pleased to see as many people as possible come and enjoy a glass of wine and discuss with us what they would like from the group and to put forward any suggestions they may have.

In the past the profits from the fund raising have been used to purchase important equipment for the benefit of all patients at the Surgery.

We now look forward to the building of a new Surgery in Highgate Road as the planning permission has recently been passed.

**Hazel M. Trasler and Barbara Wickstead (Joint Secretaries)**



## ALONG THE LANE

From the thickest, tallest grasses weaving, winding through windrows and haycocks, the harsh, monotonous call of a corncrake could be heard calling from across the fields all day long.

The prickly gorse had lit its yellow lamps long before the schoolboy, whose name was Derrycott had turned out his cattle to forage the wide grass verges for the first time in the year. His mother and he lived in a cottage at Pawdy Cross Roads. Her young husband, George had perished from exposure in blizzard conditions. To dig the grave in the quiet country churchyard it was first necessary to move five feet of snow.

Wondering, wandering along the wide grass verges that run parallel with the ruts made deep in the road by farm wagons and carts, to earn a few pence for his widowed mother, tented the kine. His only companions were the red and roan shorthorn milch cows that supplied milk to the local dairy to produce local cheese. He had no need for calendar or clock. Sweet fragrance of new-mown hay marked the season of summer. Metallic rattle of a mechanical sheaf binder and stooks in rows straight and curved suggested longer, cooler nights. Cows with an in-built clock came home in time for his tea.

His music was the grasshopper singing in the grass, the buzz of the bumblebee speeding along gathering a golden harvest. His riches were drops of dew, more precious than any diamonds and pearls, the wild woodbine twining through leafy branches, drooping over the hedge, scenting the cool evening air and bright red berries and leaves glossy and green of the black bryony trailing over the hawthorn hedges. No garden cultivated plant can be more exotic. Dereasing light, the advancing year, turn summer into autumn. Slowly sauntering along, he would stop to pick and eat black, ripe fruit of the bramble.

Pausing with unquenchable desire for search and discovery, he peered among the trembling leaves on the poles at Craddock's Ashes. He knew well the ways of Hym. The natural instincts of she that tripped along the road so daintily, told her no harm will come to her. He is not a threat. From almost at his feet rabbits would scamper away. Butterflies fluttered from flower to flower. Blue skies; shining suns; drowsy odours of summer. "A very little bit of bread and no cheese".

In his heaven on the hill, through narrow lanes and drives, together with other boys who tended cows, he turned towards the village and home. He knew the hills and knew them well. Never did his feelings dwindle or fade for the days when he tented the cows.

"They call it tenting, not tending", said his son, another George, who has seen part of his family history written on calf skin. Gesticulating with extended arm above his head to indicate the hills. He said "And that is where the cowslips grew. Vast drifts of yellow blooms that dazzle the eye covered the slopes. And where have they all gone? That's what I would like to know".

Alan Dewey

I dedicate this to the late Mary Mason and her husband Dick (Hare's Ears). Dick was Head Clerk at the Westminster Bank, Sibleby, in the early 1960's.

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## T.S.B, SILEBY ABOUT TO CLOSE?

You are probably aware that nationally the T.S.B has decided to reduce the number of its smaller banks. It has come to the notice of Sileby Parish Council that it is very likely that our own branch on Barrow Road will be amongst the casualties. After discussing this possibility the Council decided to write to the T.S.B asking them to reconsider their decision which is likely to take place towards the autumn this year. Many people in the village use this branch, including many who transferred their accounts from Barclays Bank and the Midland Bank when they moved out of Sileby. It does seem pretty unfair for this bank to move out now it has got so many extra accounts.

The bank is very well used, as those regularly queuing will verify. By closing this branch the T.S.B will be doing a great disservice to its many Sileby customers as well as adding another nail in the coffin for the High Street.

The Parish Council urge you to send a letter to the T.S.B, regarding these changes as soon as possible. The address to write to is:

Mr P.A Hubbert,  
Customer Services Manager,  
T.S.B Bank Plc,  
13 Devonshire Square,  
Loughborough,  
Leicestershire,  
LE11 3DD

\*\*\*\*\*

## ARE YOU READY TO LET THE TRAIN TAKE THE STRAIN?



The date for the official opening of Sileby Station and the Ivanhoe line has just been released. The County Council and British Rail are on schedule for the official opening on **FRIDAY 27th MAY**.

Mr Peter Garrod (Ivanhoe Line Project Manager, Leicestershire County Council) initially informed Sileby Parish Council last March that May 1994 would see Sileby back on the tracks - let's hope the trains run to such a good timetable!

It is hoped that as many people as possible will join in the celebrations of the opening of this initial stretch of Ivanhoe line between Leicester and Loughborough.

**FRIDAY 27TH MAY** - The stations along this length will be officially opened by the Minister for Public Transport Mr Roger Freeman, MP. Sileby Station will be opened during the morning.

**SATURDAY 28TH MAY** - Will be a fun day with the whole of the opened line opened to the public. Arrangements are yet to be finalised but the organisers hope that people will want to ride up and down the new line and join in the fun activities at the various stations.

**MONDAY 30TH MAY** - The timetable service of the Ivanhoe line begins.

Further details of all the events will be available nearer the time, we are all due to get letters from the County Council and posters will be placed in the usual places around the village.

## RECIPE PAGE

Thanks to Kay Machin for sharing these two recipes with us. Please feel free to send in any of your own original recipes for the next edition of the Stockade.

### Coffee Fudge

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pint fresh milk
- 10oz sugar
- 4oz butter
- 2 tablespoons of coffee essence

#### METHOD:

1. Pour the milk into a heavy based saucepan and bring slowly to the boil. Add the sugar and butter. Heat slowly, stirring all the time until the sugar dissolves and the butter melts. Bring to the boil and simmer gently for 25 to 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.
2. Remove from the heat and stir in the coffee flavouring. Leave to cool for 5 minutes.
3. Transfer to a buttered 5 inch square tin. Mark into rectangles and cut up with a sharp knife when firm and set. Store in an airtight container.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Flapjacks

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 5oz margarine
- 4oz sugar
- 2 fluid oz golden syrup
- 9oz rolled oats

#### METHOD:

1. Warm the margarine and syrup together.
2. Put the oats and sugar in a bowl and mix together. Add the warmed margarine mixture and mix well.
3. Press the mixture into a greased tin (Toffee type tin will do) about half an inch thick and bake in a moderate to hot oven gas 5 (190°C, 375°F) for 15 to 20 minutes or until slightly brown on top.
4. Leave to cool for about 5 minutes then portion whilst still warm.

## **SPORTS INJURY** **& PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC**

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## SILEBY HALL

Most people in Sileby must by now be aware that Chine House Veterinary Group will be moving in the near future to Sileby Hall. I would like therefore to tell you a little about the history of our practice.

Mr Craven began his career as a Veterinary Surgeon when he qualified in 1952 and put up his plate in Syston. As the practice grew Mr Craven needed larger premises and so in the early 60's he moved to Chine House, Main Street, Cossington, where we have remained until now.

Over the years partners have joined the practice; first of all Michael Minns in 1970 who is well known by all our farming clients, followed by John Coope and most recently by Robin Kernohan in 1991, both experienced equine vets.

Apart from the Partners, our staff consists of five assistant vets, five nurses, five receptionists and four office staff and myself the Practice Manager. Our team are able to provide a comprehensive service covering all aspects of veterinary care for all animals including farm animals, horses and domestic pets.

Moving to Sileby Hall will enable us to expand the service we provide. Building a block of stables to the rear of the main building and providing operating facilities for horses within the same complex will enable us to provide greater care for the patients.

Sileby Hall will also provide our pet owners with a much larger waiting area in pleasant surroundings and the large car park will be useful to all our clients. I am sure that being in the centre of Sileby will be an advantage to everyone. I know that all our staff are looking forward to the move. During the summer we hope to arrange an open day so that we will be able to welcome all our clients and let them see the improvements we have made to the services that we offer.

Being a beautiful old building it would be interesting to obtain as much information about it's past as possible. I know that it's most recent use was as a hostel and that it was used to house evacuees during the war. Please write to me with any other information that would be of interest.

Pauline Sealy, Practice Manager  
Chine House Veterinary Group  
Main Street  
Cossington  
LE7 4UX  
Cossington

\*\*\*\*\*

### ANYONE FOR CRIB?

Mick Phillips is interested in forming a local crib league within Sileby. If anyone is interested in joining in please could you contact Mick on Sileby 813994.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## ACTIVITIES IN SILEBY

We hope the following information is helpful to you. If your group or club isn't included it's because we've not heard from you so spend a few minutes filling in the form on page 37!

**ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH 'CHURCHMEN IN THE MIDLANDS'.** CONTACT:- Mr F. BALDWIN (816213). Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month in the Pochin Hall at 7.30pm. A variety of interesting speakers come to the meetings, so why not come along and enjoy the company and fellowship of these meetings, whether you attend church or otherwise.

**SILEBY EVERGREEN CLUB.** CONTACT:- Mrs Vera Walters (Sileby 812195). For retired residents of the village. Meetings are on Wednesday and Friday afternoons at the Village Institute.

**HOMESTART.** CONTACT:- Sue Carruthers on 842282. For families with children under 5 years. Meetings are held at Sileby Community Centre from 1pm to 3pm every Tuesday. There is a charge of 40p per family.

**SQUEELS ON WHEELS.** CONTACT:- Jayne Beck (814339) For mums with pre-playschool children. Meetings are on Thursdays from 9.30am to 11.30am at the Pochin Hall, Mountsorrel Lane. There is a charge of 50p per family, which includes refreshments.

**SILEBY COMMUNITY PROJECT.** CONTACT:- Caroline Harding (816403) based at the Community Centre House. For the benefit of anyone who lives and works in Sileby. Drop in facilities, information, support networks, self help groups, volunteers. If you need help or can give help, call Caroline.

**SILEBY VIKINGS BASEBALL TEAM.** CONTACT:- Tony Green (816198) For anyone from 11 years of age for the junior team and any age for the senior teams. Matches take place during the summer months.

**1st SILEBY BROWNIES.** CONTACT:- Elaine Taylor (814874). For girls aged from 7 years. There is a waiting list to join.

**THE WHITTINGTON BADGER SETT.** CONTACT:- Rita Wain (812344) For children from 6 to 10 years. This is the junior section of the St John's Ambulance. There is a waiting list.

**SILEBY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.** CONTACT:- Lionel Blower (816287) Everyone is welcome to come along to the meetings at the Village Institute, Manor Drive held most Monday evenings (7.30 for 8pm).

**SILEBY GOSHIN JUI JITSU CLUB.** CONTACT:- Alec Preston Everyone is welcome to join this club which meets at Sileby Community Centre every Tuesday night. Children's classes are from 6.45pm to 7.45pm with adults meeting afterwards until 9pm. Just turn up for further information.

**SILEBY METHODIST JUNIOR CHURCH.** CONTACT:- Marilyn Nelson, superintendent (813726) or Karen Ette, secretary (812805). For young people from 0-18 (or older). Fun, activities and learning about Jesus love and bible study. Every Sunday 10.45am - 11.45am. Creche also available.

**SILEBY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD.** CONTACT:- Mrs J. Morris (812461) or Mrs S. Dexter (812973). Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month at Sileby Community Centre at 7.30pm. Speakers come to talk on all subjects, outings are arranged to the theatre, rambles, skittles, factory visits etc and all ladies between 16 and 99 are most welcome.

**2nd SILEBY RAINBOW GUIDES.** CONTACT:- Julie Caddock or Linda Jones (Sileby 812385).

For 5 to 7 year old girls before they go to brownies. There is a waiting list.

**SILEBY SCOUT GROUP.** CONTACT:- Mrs S.J. Wells (812761) is the Group Scout Leader. All meetings take place at the Scout Headquarters on King Street.

**Beaver Scouts.** CONTACT:- Mrs J. Holloway (813604) or Mrs S. Healy (814446). This group for 6 to 8 year olds meets on Fridays from 6.15pm to 7.15pm.

**Cub Scouts.** For 8 to 10½ year olds.

**Quebec Pack** CONTACT:- Mrs C. Boyles (412019). This group meets on Wednesdays from 6.30pm to 8pm.

**Brookside Pack** CONTACT:- Mr M. Kitchen (812699). This group meets on Thursdays from 6.30pm to 8pm.

**Scouts.** For 10½ to 15½ year olds (16 years)

**Hart Troop** CONTACT:- Mrs C. Freeman (812031). This group meets on Thursdays from 7.45pm to 9.45pm.

**Rogers Troop** CONTACT:- Mr W. Travers (813883). This group meets on Tuesdays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

**Venture Scouts.** CONTACT:- Mr D. Philips (Leics 374549). This group for those over 15½ meet on Tuesdays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

**SILEBY TENNIS CLUB.** CONTACT:- Dave Thompson (812993). The club welcomes members for summer tennis. You can play social tennis, team tennis and join in social events. The club is open to members, aged 11 upwards from Sileby and surrounding villages (mainly).

**SILEBY BOWLING CLUB.** CONTACT:- Stan Thompson (816456). The club welcomes new members, male and female, for indoor and outdoor bowls. Coaching given to new members. Competitions and social evenings.

**SILEBY YOUTH CENTRE.** CONTACT:- Linda Plume (814020). Members meet at the centre situated at the back of the King Street car park, and is open to all young people of Sileby. Activities include pool, darts, table tennis, video games, music, art and craft work etc. A variety of trips and competitions are organised throughout the year.

**SILEBY JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB.** CONTACT:- Ann Bettles (813864)

Under 10's - Mr I. Summerfield (813235)

Under 11's - Mr D. Butler (814924)

Under 12's - Mr P. Glover (814570)

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**FRIENDS OF REDLANDS SCHOOL. CONTACTS:-** Peter Turner (813871) or Lorraine Muggleton (812946). This group holds regular fund raising and social events in order to raise funds for the school. All parents, grandparents etc are welcome at meetings and events.

**SILEBY CHARITIES WHIST DRIVES. CONTACT:-** Mrs Hunt or Mrs Knowles. Whist Drives are held in the Pochin Hall, Mountsorrel Lane every alternate Thursday at 2.30pm (New Year started 13th January). Everyone is welcome. Our 1993 efforts enabled us to give a donation to both of Sileby's surgeries.

**SILEBY NURSERY PLAYGROUP. CONTACT:-** Mrs Pat Smart (0530 243604) or Mrs Marie Ward (813448). The playgroups are held at Sileby Youth Centre, King Street car park. The morning sessions (9.15am to 11.45am) are for 2½ - 5 year olds. The afternoon sessions are educational play for children of 4 years and above. Come along and see us work and play.

**SILEBY BADMINTON CLUB. CONTACTS:-** Pat and Don Spencer (812112). This group meets on Wednesday evenings from 8pm to 11pm in the sports hall at Sileby Community Centre. New members and visitors welcome.

**I-ETS HEAR FROM A FEW GROUPS WHO WOULD LIKE MORE MEMBERS - PLEASE JUST FILL IN THE FROM BELOW and return it to one of the committee or any of the dropping off points given at the front of the Stockade:**

NAME OF ORGANISATION: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES OF ORGANISATION (incl. who it is aimed at):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SILEBY812451

HEAPS



WOOD  
HARDBOARD  
PLYWOOD  
CONTI BOARD

COPPER TUBE  
PLASTIC PIPE  
WARDROBE RAIL  
CHROME ROD  
BRASS TUBE

MOULDING. PERSPEX  
PICTURE FRAME. GLASS

CURTAIN RAIL

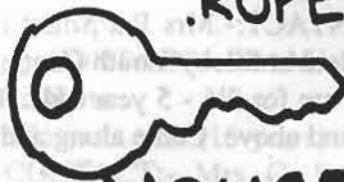
FABLON  
CARPET TAPE  
ROPE  
NYLON CORD  
CHAIR RUBBER  
CARPET COVER  
WEBBING  
FELT



CUT  
to  
size

CHAIN  
WIRE NETTING  
PERFORATED  
ZINC  
GALV SHEET.

PADLOCKS  
MORTICE  
PETROL CAPS  
CARAVANS.



ROPE.  
HOUSE  
CAR KEYS

ROOFING FELT  
POLYTHENE  
PLASTIC NETTING  
COCO MATTING  
ELECTRIC CABLE  
PICTURE GLASS  
CURTAIN WIRE

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