

THE STOCKADE



Summer 1994

ISSUE : 13 *Sibley Community Magazine*

We would like to thank John Laurance for contributing the cover for this 13th edition of the Stockade. His drawing depicts the Maltings, once the home of the Brewery. Now the building is used by a number of small businesses.

You can leave any contributions for the next Stockade at:-

**WRIGHTS BUTCHERS, HIGH STREET.
SILEBY LIBRARY, COSSINGTON ROAD.
GLEN LEWIN, BUTCHERS, RATCLIFFE RD/HIGHGATE RD CORNER.**

or you can send articles to:-

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

Editorial Committee:-

Tom Mugridge	Sileby 813142	Liz Robinson	Sileby 812871
Eric Wright	Sileby 814472	Janis Bishop	Sileby 814754

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

A SPECIAL PLEA FROM THE STOCKADE COMMITTEE!!

Please help us with the production of YOUR community magazine. We'll continue to do the grafting but please come to us with articles as early as possible - don't wait for us to cajole you! and please let us have your contribution well before the deadline so that we don't always have to rush the compilation. We don't mind working on the Stockade but not if it becomes a chore!

- * *Send us your articles for future STOCKADE issues.*
- * Original drawings of Sileby for the front cover.
- * Dates for the diary.
- * Photographs.
- * Your reports of village events.
- * News and views.
- * For advertising information phone Liz Robinson (812871) or Janis Bishop (814754).

Roecliffe Manor Cheshire Home (Woodhouse Eaves)

Summer Fete on Sunday 12th June
10.30am - 5.00pm
Admission 50p (Children & carpark free)
Stalls, entertainment & refreshments

EDITORIAL

Since the first edition of The Stockade the personal circumstances of the majority of the committee have changed to such an extent that we do not have enough spare time to produce The Stockade. We are therefore appealing for people to come forward and offer us some assistance in producing the magazine.

The type of assistance we need is the inputting of articles onto a computer so that at the end of the quarter the Stockade can be put together with the articles and adverts and the whole magazine laid out. So if you can offer any assistance and have a computer which has WordPerfect installed we would be delighted to here from you.

Enough of the begging, now for the more serious business.

The first being another request for articles. The majority of the articles come from our 'more senior folk' and a few regulars. Do we not have any of the 'younger generation' who have something to contribute?

The second is for subjects for the front cover. There must be some artist in Sileby who would like to have their work on the front of The Stockade.

The third and most important issue concerns CRITICISM. We would like constructive criticism in fact we would welcome it but what we do not need is DESTRUCTIVE criticism. This type often makes us wonder what the point is carrying on with our voluntary work for the magazine.

Finally a word of thanks to all our distributors and article writers for all their hard work, it really is appreciated.

WHO SPOTTED THE MISTAKES?

We would like to apologise for any errors found in the last Stockade and those that will no doubt get through the proof check of this edition!

Thanks to Sileby Lawn Tennis Club for informing us of the error which appeared in their article. The Ladies Doubles Championship was won by Lorraine Neale and Debra Kittle, we apologise for any embarrassment caused to the gentleman concerned.

Please note that the advert for Sileby Conservative Club had the incorrect telephone number for bookings. This should have read Sileby 812210 and can be used to book any facilities required at the Conservative Club.

The Annual Parish Walks which take place throughout the summer (please see diary dates) all start at 7pm at Sileby Community Centre. The incorrect time was published in the last edition of the Stockade and we are aware and apologise that this caused inconvenience to some of you.

We are sorry that the article written by Miss V. Chamberlain regarding her memories of Sileby Station was included in the magazine instead of being passed onto Mr Garrod at Leicestershire County Council and for the distress that was caused by the grammatical errors which she informed us were included. As noted in the editorial we do our utmost to produce a quality community paper with the minimum errors- please accept it in the spirit with which it is produced - as a voluntary magazine put together by just four committee members. Proof readers required!

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SILEBY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The following reports have been compiled by Councillor Gordon Ward, on behalf of Sileby Parish Council. Would readers kindly send any replies or comments to:-

**The Clerk of the Council,
Parish Council Offices,
41 High Street,
Sileby, LE12 7RX.**

Floods

At the moment they have gone away due to the drier weather but I ask that you do not let it go away from your minds as your support is required by the Slash Lane Improvement Pressure Group throughout the year, even during the dry period. As we all know in Sileby a quick downpour and Slash Lane and surrounding area is FLOODED.

I would like to thank everyone who took the trouble to send their views on the situation following my last report in the Stockade and local press. Some very interesting points were raised and these will be used in our 'battle' with the authorities, who do not seem to agree with our views.

Please keep writing in, the more comments we receive the better chance we have of getting the situation changed.

(editorial comment - in this issue Philip Gilbert has written a most interesting article with regard to the causes of the flooding of the Soar Valley.)

200th anniversary of navigation canal

20th August is the date set for a special celebration of the formation of the Navigation Canal to Leicester. Events will be taking place on the Canal and at the Castle Gardens in Leicester. Sileby Parish Council are hoping to take part in this event but details have not been finalised at the moment. Announcements will be made later around the village and in the local press.

(editorial comment - John Evans from Sileby Marina gives further details of this event in his article in this edition.)

100th anniversary of the start of Parish Councils

Your Parish Council will be celebrating this event on Saturday 19th November at the Community Centre. Final details will be advertised nearer the time. In the meantime, it is hoped to have on display, copies of the interesting items in the Minutes during the last 100 years along with slides and photographs (with the kind help of Sileby Photographic Society).

Anyone who could help with information, photographs, stories and artifacts of the period please let us know via the Parish Council Clerk.

Civic Emergency

In the spring edition of the Stockade an article was written about the Civic Emergency dossier which the Parish Council was intending to formulate, for use in case of emergency within the village. All the information will be kept in the strictest confidence and held at the Council Office.

I am sorry to say that the response was extremely poor with only ONE form being returned.

I would publicly like to thank the gentleman for making the effort.

I am sure that Sileby residents would not let a serious accident happen without giving assistance, so why not fill in the form, reprinted below, so the information is readily available to 'speed up' the response time if required.

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.

Sileby's Best Kept Front Garden Competition

Yes, it is nearly 12 months since we organised the first competition. The report in the Autumn issue of the Stockade mentioned the disappointment at the low response. Could I again appeal to all residents who have well kept front gardens and take pride in tending them to enter our competition. All it will cost you is a few minutes to fill in the form below then take it or post it to the Council Offices in High Street, Sileby. Your reward could well be the 1st, 2nd or 3rd prizes valued at £20, £15 and £10. The winner will also be presented with the Shield kindly donated last year by Councillor Tom Machin (Chairman of the Council).

For all those residents who are doubtful about entering, have a go. For those who feel their garden is not good enough, why not make an extra effort and help to improve the environment with a well kept front garden.

Your efforts will also help the Parish Council in their bid to do well in the 'Best Kept Village' competition. Judging for this competition will be during the first two weeks in June, so please try and keep Sileby in a neat and tidy condition; let us show the judges that we do care about our village.

Application forms for the 'Best Front Garden Competition' must be handed in no later than 30th June 1994 to the Council Offices, High Street, Sileby. Judging will take place during the first two weeks in August.

The Chairman of the General Purposes Committee (Councillor Gordon Ward) is in the process of negotiations with a regular member of the Radio Leicester 'Down to Earth' gardening programme, which is the longest running gardening programme on regional radio, to be the judge for the competition. The team member is Mr Jim McIntosh, who was a past chairman of Sileby Parish Council some twelve years ago and now lives at Melton Mowbray. Watch out for further press coverage in the local press as there is a possibility of extra awards being available.

SILEBY PARISH COUNCIL "BEST FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION"

Name: _____

Address:

The Ivanhoe Line, 30th May 1994 - a date to remember as the start of the 'Ivanhoe Line'.

At last Sileby has a railway station again and a regular train service. In 1968 Sileby lost it's station, in 1994 it is back, so please use it or we may lose it.

Remember, 13 minutes to Leicester and 10 minutes to Loughborough - compare this with the time taken on the bus. When Sileby is cut off by floods this will be the best route out of the village to Leicester and Loughborough.

Gordon Ward

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**LIFE IN SILEBY 1914-1918 AS SEEN THROUGH THE DIARIES OF DR JAMES GRAY
1880-1961**

My grandfather kept a daily diary from 1914 until his death in 1961. The following is a snapshot of his life in Sileby during the Great War.

The garden played a prominent part in the diaries, each day precise weather details were recorded including temperature and rainfall. On March 25th 1914 Grandpa recorded that it was exactly one year since he and John Freer had started work on the garden. Every detail of construction work and planting is recorded. In 1914, 190 yards of pathway were created and the summerhouse was built. Shamrock given by Mrs O'Shaughnessy of Cossington was planted by the front door. (My mother also recalls that when Grandpa appealed for empty bottles to mix medicines in, the same Mrs O'Shaughnessy donated copious quantities of empty whisky bottles which she consumed "for medicinal purposes").

The following year the tennis and croquet lawns were added and much time was spent mowing and rolling the lawns to perfection. John Freer spent many years working for Grandpa but in May 1916 the employment was nearly ended when John walked off 'in a huff' over a disagreement about money. However, grandpa relented and agreed to increase his wages from 20 to 23 shillings a week (£1.15p).

War was declared in August 1914 and Grandpa's records of the fighting were taken from the daily reports in the Times Newspaper. In August 1914 troop trains were seen passing through Sileby and by September, large numbers of local men were volunteering to join up. In October 1914 my grandmother's brother Cooper Moore, who was a veterinary surgeon, travelled to Canada to buy horses for the government. Grandpa gave ambulance and Citizen Training League Lectures and he and my grandmother were involved in the Belgian Refugee Fund which supported several refugee families who were taken in by local families.

In 1915, wounded soldiers were entertained by Charles Henry Martin and also by local factories. Grandpa became Chairman of a fund raising committee to raise money for Christmas parcels for local soldiers, a job that was to continue throughout the war.

Sileby and the surrounding areas did not escape entirely from the effects of the war. In November 1915 an aeroplane came down near the Gate Hangs Well Pub and on January 31st 1916 a Zeppelin passed over Sileby towards Loughborough. Explosions were heard, all trains were stopped and a blackout ordered. The following day a day trip to Loughborough revealed the full extent of

the damage. The Empress Works, nearby houses and Derby Square were badly damaged and several people killed. It transpired that six or seven Zeppelins had raided parts of the Midlands and East Coast causing extensive damage and killing a total of fifty four people. A Loughborough barmaid who was slightly hurt by flying glass apparently wore her blood stained bandage for many weeks thus dramatically boosting beer sales.

As the war raged on there are horrifying figures of casualties, prisoners taken and territory won or lost measured trench by trench.

By 1917 the war was beginning to swing towards the allies. In July there were food riots in Germany and in December, Allenby took Jerusalem and armistice papers were signed between the Germans and Russians.

In 1918 the call up age limit was raised to fifty and conscription was extended to Ireland. The Germans launched a massive final offensive early in the year gaining ground but sustaining massive losses. The allies rallied and by October had regained the initiative. On November 9th the Kaiser abdicated and on November 11th Grandpa heard the news of the end of the hostilities from PC Johnson whilst on his rounds in Barrow.

Despite the horrors of war, life in Sileby continued in its cycle of birth, life and death. With his brother, who was also a doctor, away at war, Grandpa worked seven days a week and was available twenty four hours a day, with many nights sleep disturbed by a confinement. In June 1915 he took delivery of his first car, a 12 horsepower Belsize costing £275. His previous transport had been a horse and trap or bicycle. The car was to prove a constant headache and Grandpa had to resort to his trusty bike on many an occasion. He had a wide area to cover - Walton, Wymeswold, Seagrave, Burton, Cossington, Barrow, Six Hills as well as Sileby, an area which included many remote farms. On a busy day he could make forty house calls as well as seeing surgery patients. On the weekend Oct 19th/20th 1918 he made 80 house calls and during the following five days made a further 270 house calls. He also had to make up all his own medicines and keep detailed accounts sending monthly bills to his patients.

He did, however, make time to work on his beloved garden and spend time with his family and friends. There were frequent visitors to the house to enjoy the delights of the tennis and croquet lawns and for evening bridge and whist parties. Holidays were taken at Grandpas family home in Stonehaven and with relatives in London.

By 1918 when the "war to end all wars" was over, Grandpa was 38 years old, had a thriving medical practice and three children and like many others must have looked forward to a bright and peaceful future.

Eleanor Johnson

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QUIZ RESULTS FROM THE LAST EDITION OF THE STOCKADE

Thank-you, everyone who entered the competition. There were quite a few entries with forty correct answers so members of the Stockade Committee drew out the following three winners, who each receive £5: **Mrs M.E. Wells, Avenue Road**

Mr H. Handley, Forest Drive

Mrs D.P. Pinkley, Homefield Road

Answers to Stockade Quiz Issue 12, Spring 1994

1	KINGSTON UPON THAMES	22	CHELTENHAM
2	CIRENCESTER	23	MIDDLESBOROUGH
3	FOLKESTONE	24	ALDERSHOT
4	BOGNOR REGIS	25	WELSHPOOL
5	PONTEFRACT	26	COATBRIDGE
6	CAERNARVON	27	HADDINGTON
7	COLWYN BAY	28	TEWKESBURY
8	HARTLEPOOL	29	STALEYBRIDGE
9	BRIDLINGTON	30	STOCKTON ON TEES
10	MANSFIELD	31	WESTON SUPER MARE
11	MELTON MOWBRAY	32	HATFIELD
12	PRESTATYN	33	NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME
13	MONTGOMERY	34	BURTON ON TRENT
14	WOLVERHAMPTON	35	HAVERFORD WEST
15	STONEHAVEN	36	EAST KILBRIDE
16	LEAMINGTON	37	CUMBERNAULD
17	BRIDGNORTH	38	BIRMINGHAM
18	LLANGFNI	39	WINCHESTER
19	LLANDRINDOD WELLS	40	CHICHESTER
20	MORPETH		
21	NORTHAMPTON		

Here is this edition's prize quiz. As usual, please hand your answers into Wright's Butchers in the High Street by 30th June. We will be giving three prizes of £5 to the winners:-

LINK-UP

Listed below are groups of 3 words. Each group of words have a word that connects them e.g. BOARD JET JACK are connected by the word BLACK i.e. BLACKboard, jet BLACK, and BLACK jack.

Find the missing word.....

1	DENOMINATOR	KNOWLEDGE	ROOM
2	EXODUS	HIGH	PRODUCTION
3	CHEESE	INDUSTRY	PIE
4	CORD	ROARING	TIDE
5	COFFEE	KNIFE	ORGAN
6	CANDLE	PAPER	PARAFFIN
7	CENTRE	HALL	ROCK
8	BREAKFAST	QUILT	SHELF
9	COPY	DIOXIDE	PAPER
10	SPLIT	CLASH	TELEVISION
11	MINE	CARPET	ROAD
12	BOARD	CLOTH	PAPER
13	RENT	STAMP	TAX
14	BEAUTY	MEDICAL	ROUGH
15	DRESSING	ENVIRONMENT	NEEDLE
16	BED	FIRE	HOLIDAY
17	ASSEMBLY	DRAWING	PARTY
18	FOUNTAIN	KNIFE	PAL
19	BILL	BLADE	SAFETY
20	EXCHANGE	FLOUR	SWEET
21	ABSOLUTE	BELOW	HOUR
22	BOARD	SCRUM	WAY
23	GAME	ROOM	SURF
24	GAMMON	HALF	HUNCH
25	TRAILER	PEG	DOME
26	FENCE	SAW	LINK
27	BOOK	LINE	TRAVEL
28	RELIEF	OPERA	STRIP
29	RHYME	SCHOOL	SLOPE
30	BUREAU	GUIDANCE	LICENCE
31	OCCASION	PERFORMANCE	SWIMMING
32	COINAGE	FRACTION	POINT
33	KINGDOM	MAGNETISM	WILD
34	CAR	DOMESTIC	PRONE
35	BABY	CLOCK	WAY
36	ADDICT	STORE	WONDER
37	ICE	ROT	SHERRY
38	CAMEL	DESERT	NIGHTS
39	FREE	NEAREST	SHARE
40	BISCUIT	NIGHT	STORAGE

MOUNTSORREL LANE & SLASH LANE FLOODING - AN ALTERNATIVE THEORY

There has been much comment and opinion expressed over the last 15 months over the increased incidence of flooding on Mountsorrel Lane, Slash Lane and more recently the road between Cossington and Cossington Mill.

Many people point the cause at the A6 bypass which was opened on 28th October 1991. Whilst it may possibly hinder floodwater dispersing from some fields near the bypass and the flooding is certainly deeper under the bypass bridge itself on Mountsorrel Lane due to the road there being lowered slightly, this cannot be held to be the cause of the flooding in the first place. I believe the cause of more regular flooding lies several miles upstream.

The River Wreake joins the Soar at Cossington Mill, the two rivers here are of approximately equal size, thus doubling the flow potential of the river at a single point. In early 1989 an extensive dredging programme of the River Wreake was completed by the N.R.A. This had taken approximately 2 years, starting at the Gate Hangs Well, Syston, and finishing just below Frisby-on-the-Wreake. The river had over a long period of time become very overgrown with dense beds of lily pads and reeds (it was actually merely reverting to its natural state before an attempt many years ago to canalise the river). This was causing very regular and severe flooding at Broome Lane, Ratcliffe and Thrussington. The dredging became more and more environmentally unfriendly as it moved further upstream, ripping out virtually all plant life and leaving no obstructions for sudden increases in flow.

I am now 46 and as an angler have fished the River Wreake since I was 8. I feel I am therefore qualified to comment on apparent changes in flow patterns. Since the completion of the dredging the Wreake rises and falls after heavy rain far quicker than before. The run-off time of excess water on the Wreake before the dredging was four to five days. It can now run-off in as little as 2 days, or even less. This 'improved drainage' has to end up somewhere - the Soar at Cossington Mill.

I believe that the Soar when flooding used to reach 'peak flow' at Cossington Mill well before the Wreake did. The Soar's catchment area being of a largely concrete and urban nature whilst the River Wreake was held back by a tortuous, winding 15 mile route through countryside from Melton Mowbray. Since the completion of the Wreake's dredging I suspect **that the Wreake and the Soar are now reaching peak flows at Cossington Mill almost simultaneously**, causing in the first instance the flooding between Cossington Mill and Cossington, but even more problems result further downstream. The River Soar from Cossington Mill to above Sibley Mill is very wide and deep and can take a lot of excess water, but just above Sibley Mill it splits into three smaller water courses, the old river, backwater and canal. These all join up again about half a mile below the Mill and then after only about another half a mile split into three again above the Waterside Pub, Mountsorrel, the backwater going parallel to Slash Lane.

I consider that the nature of the river system between Sibley Mill and below Mountsorrel as described above is unable to cope with the extra demands put on it since the Wreake's dredging. I feel that people have failed to put forward this theory because for approximately 3 years after the Wreake's dredging there was considerably lower than average rainfall - the dry years of 1989, 1990 and 1991, indeed the sudden snow melt after the heavy snowfall of December 1990, which caused power cuts, hardly caused any flooding at all, the ground absorbed it all, but it has been a different story since the first heavy rains arrived in September 1992 (and have continued since). The regular flooding commenced only 11 months after the A6 by-pass opening, causing people to look at that as the cause, rather than events which happened over three years prior to this.

In support of my theory I note that friends and acquaintances of mine who live at Thrussington, Ratcliffe and East Goscote have expressed surprise at the lesser incidences of flooding in their area considering the constant deluges since September 1992. Indeed I am sure that most of you remember how the Wreake used to flood across the road at the Gate Hangs Well, it doesn't any

more - we get it at Sileby.

Finally on the subject of the flooding of the houses on Brookside, Syston, by the Syston Brook. This has occurred on several occasions since September 1992, with nobody able to agree on why it never happened before. It is only a suggestion, but could this problem also be related to the Wreake being dredged. The Syston Brook enters the Wreake below Syston Mill, shortly before the Wreake joins the Soar. Is it now that the Syston Brook is 'Backing-up' from the Wreake when it is rising rapidly, whilst before the Wreake's dredging the Brook's 'peak' flow was hitting the Wreake well before the Wreake reached maximum height.

PHILLIP GILBERT

**Edward
H a n d s
& Lewis**
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ANGIE ROBINSON (GRAD. DIP. PHYS., MCSP, SRP.)

CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPIST

SILEBY 0509 816673

Dear Editor,

In case it is of any interest I am enclosing a photograph which has my mother on it, (in the middle at the back), MAUD SWAN. It was obviously taken on a works outing and as the photographer's address on the back is Cleethorpes, perhaps some of the ladies in the photograph will remember it. Many thanks,

Hazel M. Trasler



GISMO'S

On the 4th March Gismo's Club opened for the over 9's. We meet every Friday from 6.30 to 8.00 p.m. at the Methodist Church Hall, Swan Street, Sileby. Subscription to the Club is only 35p each week.

There are lots of activities going on: Table Tennis, Snooker/Pool, Crafts, Cooking, Sport (Football, Netball, Cricket, etc) Drama, Music, Competitions, games, and, of course, -
THE TUCK SHOP.

We will also hold disco's, parties, fun-nights, talent shows, Karioke nights, etc. Why not come along to find out more and become a regular Gismo.

GISMOS is affiliated to SMJC (Sileby Methodist Junior Church) which also meets every week on Sundays, 10.45 - 11.45 p.m.

Want to know more? - then *Come on down*, or telephone the numbers in the Stockade Directory.

GISMOS

COME ON DOWN!

*Sport / Craft / Cooking /
Games / and much, much more!*

**THE Club
for the over 9's**

IT OUT!!

FRIENDS OF SWAN STREET SURGERY

New Surgery

Building work has started on the new surgery on Storer Close, opposite the park and just down from Wellbrook Avenue. The surgery will have a large waiting room, reception area, two consulting rooms, a treatment room, a room for associated staff (midwife, health visitor, district nurse, chiropodist and community psychiatric nurse), a common room and ample car parking spaces. Completion is due August 1994. Further information will be issued about the move nearer the time.

This is a major development costing £200,000, with the capital being raised by Dr M.K. Lakhani, supported by a cost grant from the Family Health Services Authority. First class purpose built premises will be provided with flexibility for extension to take the practice into the next century. The new surgery is confirmation of Dr. Lakhani's long term commitment to the village of Sileby.

Extended Surgery Hours:-

	A.M.	P.M.
Monday	8.30 - 10.30	3.30 - 5.45
Tuesday	8.30 - 10.30	3.30 - 5.45
Wednesday	8.30 - 10.30	3.30 - 5.45
Thursday	8.30 - 10.30	Closed
Friday	8.30 - 10.30	3.30 - 5.45
Saturday	9.00 - 10.00 (for Emergencies)	

Competition - Patients are invited to suggest a name for the new surgery. Have you any ideas or suggestions for the name of the new Surgery?

Please send your entry to Mrs. J.Devlin, c/o 97 Swan Street, Sileby by 30th of June 1994

Suggestions already received:-

Highgate Surgery
'Mucky' Lane Surgery
Parkside Surgery
The Surgery

a special prize will be awarded to the winning entry.

Our thanks to all who helped and contributed to the Spring Fayre held on the 26th of March. This event proved to be most successful and raised £428.99. This amount was enhanced by £75.60 donated by Margaret Upton and Beverly Broughton after an organised 'Pub Crawl' the previous evening.

A recent skittles evening was also organised and enjoyed by the committee and friends at the Conservative Club and £60 was added to our funds from this event. All monies raised will help towards any special equipment required for the new surgery, so please continue with your support.

The opening of your new surgery will be the next event to look forward to.

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

QUORN OPEN GARDENS

Sat. 25th & Sun. 26th June
2 - 6pm

Twenty gardens signed from centre of village.
Teas, plant sales, meccano exhibition.
No dogs please.

Sileby Conservative Club

Room for hire incl. bar for all functions.
Also Skittle Alley. Good facilities.
Catering available on request.
Apply Secretary - phone 812210

We were very pleased to receive an original cutting from the Leicester Mercury dated Thursday 22nd April 1971. The Editor has kindly given us permission to reprint the article:-

THE GREGS ARE BACK IN BUSINESS

A FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE is a common enough happening in any village hall - but the dance that's to be held at the Sileby Village Institute tomorrow night will be a hop with a difference. For a start, all 150 tickets were sold long ago: for another, various local VIPs will be in attendance. But what makes it really different is the music will be provided by The Gregorians.....

Back in the 1930's seven local boys decided to form a band. Their first few dance sessions were held at Saint Gregory's Church Hall and they were such a hit that they called themselves the Gregorians, after the hall where it all started.

They moved on to play at The Institute and no dance in any of the surrounding villages was ever complete unless the Gregorians were playing there. The names of Stanley Whittington (organist), Arthur Lee (drums), Lesley Walters (bass), Arthur Smith, Donald Ward, Horace Oswin (Saxophone) and Fig Smith (trumpet) became synonymous with Dixieland music.

The Gregs became the "in" sound and throughout the thirties and into the forties the band played on. Then suddenly, because of the war, the band stopped playing and the Gregs drifted apart.

Fig Smith, the trumpeter is now organist at St. Mary's Church and along with fellow organist, Lesley Lovett, he had the task of organising Fridays dance.

Everyone thought it was just another dance till the tickets were printed. Then, there it was in black and white, "The Gregorians".

How has a band which split up 10 years ago been brought together again for just one night? "It just snowballed", Mr. Smith said, "we asked one, and then another two offered and so on. Suddenly the whole band was back. It's wonderful."

To the kids of Sileby, weaned on Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan, The Gregs were just a band their mothers used to swoon over, a band they never dreamed they'd ever hear but tomorrow night the swingers of the thirties will once more dance to Dixieland - for the Gregs are back in business.

Thanks to Mrs Ida Oswin of Swan Street for providing us with this article. Her late husband was a member of the band.

WILLIAM BROWN

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POLICE NEWS

Crime is a National problem that affects people in different ways either directly by being a victim of a crime such as burglary or car theft or indirectly by paying out extra insurance premiums or by paying out for extra security measures.

To control crime and hopefully stem the tide of crime everyone needs to do their bit.


It is easy to take a negative attitude and to say we have lost the battle against crime, but surely it is better to be positive and to do certain things to prevent yourselves being a victim of crime.

If you have had your house broken into or car stolen you know the upset it causes you along with the inconvenience and other side effects.

People can't rely on the police alone to tackle crime. Crime is a community problem and by taking certain actions even by just being observant we can tackle crime together.

Most people have probably heard of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, these are groups of residents that assist the police and themselves to fight crime by basically extending the neighbourly things that many people do now and making it more organised and secure against crime. There are already Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the following areas:

Seagrave Road - Top part
Heathcote Drive - Top and lower part
Collingwood Drive and Cul-de-sacs
Prior Road
Ratcliffe Road - part
Holmefield Road
St. Mary's Road
Park Road
Swan Street
Peashill Close
Wards Crescent
Sherrard Drive
Chalfont Drive
Cossington Road - part



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A further scheme in the lower part of Seagrave Road is to be started soon. An example of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme would be as follows:-

A street with 40 households which would have a Scheme Coordinator who would be one of the residents with a bit of time on their hands to run the scheme and to be the point of contact for myself. There would then be about six contact persons, again residents that are a link between the co-ordinator and the individual households. Any information from the police goes to the coordinator, *to the contacts and to the households and vice versa back to the police.*

A scheme does not take up a lot of time to run and an effective scheme can work. If you are not sure whether you are in a scheme or think you can do more to make your scheme more effective, find out who your contact person and coordinator are and try and do your small bit to fight crime.

If you are willing to be a coordinator and start a scheme contact me at Quorn Police Station. I will help arrange a meeting and complete a presentation to start the scheme and feed you with all the relevant leaflets and information.

P.C. Steve Rhodes

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SILEBY TOWN SILVER BAND

We'd like to thank Ida Oswin for loaning us this photograph of Sileby Town Silver Band. Perhaps this will stir a few memories and you'll be able to put a few names to the faces.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SILEBY DURING THE SUMMER

If you would like anything included on the diary page for the next edition of the Stockade please let us know (see page 1 for dropping off points). The Autumn edition will be delivered at the beginning of September.

MONDAY 30TH MAY The official Ivanhoe Line timetable begins.

FRIDAY 10TH JUNE Sileby Townswomen's Guild meet at the Community Centre at 7.30pm when Mr B. Davie will be giving a talk on Natural Healing for Women.

SATURDAY 11TH JUNE Find out more about asthma at Sileby Community Centre between 10am and 12noon.

SATURDAY 11TH JUNE, SUNDAY 12TH JUNE AND MONDAY 13TH JUNE Sileby Methodist Ladies Circle will be holding their Annual Flower Festival. The theme this year is Sileby in Bloom.

SUNDAY 12TH JUNE Roecliffe Manor Cheshire Home (Woodhouse Eaves) annual summer fete at 10.30am - 5pm. Stalls, entertainment and refreshment.

TUESDAY 14TH JUNE One session per month is held at Sileby Community Centre House for people wanting to find voluntary work. The Loughborough Volunteer Bureau aims to match the volunteer to the kind of situation that would suit and there are many different kinds of voluntary work to choose from. Ros Barney will be available to give information about voluntary work in and around Sileby, at Sileby Community Centre House from 10am until 12noon.

TUESDAY 14TH JUNE The 3rd Sileby Parish Walk. Meet at Sileby Community Centre, 7.00pm. Cossington Road, Cossington Mill, River Soar and Sileby Mill (4 miles).

SUNDAY 19TH JUNE FRIENDS OF HIGHGATE SCHOOL are holding a Fun Day along side a car boot sale starting at 10am until 2pm. During the day there will be a cricket match and netball tournament. Also there will be a bouncy castle and side stalls. Refreshments will be served throughout the day. Anyone wishing to help with this event or any future events, please contact Bev Powell at 7 Heathcote Drive.

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).

SATURDAY 25TH and SUNDAY 26TH JUNE The Abbeyfield Quorn Society have organised an open garden day in Quorn. There will be twenty gardens signed from the centre of the village. Teas, plant sales and a meccano exhibition. No dogs please.

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, 7.00pm. Seagrave, Big Lane, Old Quorn Hunt Kennels, British Gypsum, Barrow Road (5 miles).

TUESDAY 19TH JULY 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.

SUNDAY 24TH JULY Sileby Open Darts Competition at Sileby Liberal W.M.C, King Street. See article in this edition or contact Mr P. Phillips, 7 North Hill Close (Sileby 813376)

SATURDAY 6TH AUGUST Sileby Parade followed by Gala in the grounds of Redlands School. For further information, to book a stall or enter a float please contact Dave Skinner (812781).

TUESDAY 9TH AUGUST 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 12TH AUGUST Sileby Townswomen's Guild meet at the Community Centre at 7.30pm when Mrs M. McIntosh will tell members about the workings of Tear Fund.

TUESDAY 16TH AUGUST The 5th Sileby Parish Walk. Meet at Sileby Community Centre, 7.00pm. Ratcliffe Road, Bottom Humbulls, Cossington Church, Cossington Road (3 miles).

SATURDAY 20TH AUGUST Celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Navigation Canal. Further information in the Parish Council report and Mr John Evans article. Details will appear in the local press nearer the time.

FRIDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER Sileby Townswomen's Guild meet at the Community Centre at 7.30pm. Colour Combination in the Home will be explained by Mrs S. Hardy.

TUESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 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.

TUESDAY 11TH OCTOBER 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 14TH OCTOBER Sileby Townswomen's Guild meet at the Community Centre at 7.30pm. Mr M. Millington will give with slides, his impressions of Japan.

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

FRIDAY 11TH NOVEMBER Sileby Townswomen's Guild meet at the Community Centre at 7.30pm. Chemicals in the home is the subject for this month.

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

SATURDAY 19TH NOVEMBER Sileby Parish Council are holding their celebrations of 100 years of Parish Councils. Events will take place at the Community Centre. Further details nearer the time in the local press and around the village.

FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER Sileby Townswomen's Guild meet at the Community Centre at 7.30pm, when they will be starting their Christmas with a party. All ladies welcome.

SILEBY EXHIBITION OF ARTS & CRAFTS

On 14th & 15th May over 400 people were estimated to have visited the Village Institute to view the collection of arts and crafts produced and displayed by Sileby folk. The astonishing amount of talent that is hidden away in this village was brought very much to the fore. The exhibition was rated an overwhelming success by the organisers and it is hoped that workshops will start up as a result of the interest shown. For further information phone Caroline Harding on Sileby 815288.



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SILEBY COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT

The project has now reached its half way point and so I would like to take this opportunity to let you know how the various activities and groups are getting on.

The Drop-in, on Tuesday and Friday mornings has had 540 visitors and their suggestions have resulted in the setting up of a very wide range of activities and groups.

The Art and Craft Exhibition encouraged 28 local people to put their work on display, many for the first time. It is hoped that the Exhibition will encourage others to 'have a go' and join a workshop as a result of seeing the range of different arts and crafts.

The Lunch Club and Cosy Afternoon, which meets on Tuesdays, now has eighteen on the books and has moved into larger rooms in the Community Centre. Lunch is served at about 12.15pm and consists of a light main course and a hot drink for £1.50. Most people then stay for a sociable chat. If you think you would like to come, please give me a call on Sileby 815288.

The Agoraphobia and Panic Attack Group has been very active in the last six months and is now offering an evening meeting as well as its regular Monday afternoon sessions. The group has put in a separate article in the Stockade with contact names and phone numbers.

There must be many lone parents who are having to cope on their own. A few have come to the Lone Parents Support Group and have benefited from the opportunity of talking over some of the difficulties that they face with others in similar circumstances. The group would welcome more members, so please contact me if you would like to know more.

There are many asthma sufferers in Sileby and there will be an opportunity to find out more about asthma at a Coffee Morning, 10am until 12pm on Saturday 11th June, at the Community Centre. Please come along.

A Young People's Drop-in, which was started by a small group of young, local people, offers a place to call and meet friends and have a chat. It is open during term-time on Wednesday evenings from 6pm until 8pm.

Once a month on Tuesday mornings, 10am until 12 noon, Loughborough Volunteer Bureau and Leicester Outwork Campaign hold sessions so that people wanting to do voluntary work or work from home can find out more or talk to someone with experience in these areas.

Other activities which are likely to be starting soon include a Menopause Group, a Food Club and a Tea Dance. If you are interested in any of the above or are wanting some other kind of activity or group to be set up in Sileby, please give me a call on Sileby 815288.

Caroline Harding

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MISSION TO BELARUS

Last summer I wrote to tell the Stockade readers how privileged I was to have four Russian boys who had been harmed by the Chernobyl disaster here to stay with me. All thirty-two of the party went home a lot better and healthier than when they arrived, leaving me glad for the honour of having them though very sad to say goodbye, thinking I might never see them again. My sadness lasted all summer until I was chosen by my church leaders (the Elim Pentecostal Church, Narborough Road, Leicester) to be a member of a mission team to Minsk, taking with us good clothing, medical supplies kindly donated and for our Leader to plan for another thirty-two children to come to Leicestershire in July.

I was overjoyed to meet all the children again, particularly the four who stayed with me. We talked constantly of their visit to England and the happy days spent together. Believe me, life there is very, very hard and I was stunned by the contrast of empty shops and cold sad people queuing for four hours or more for bread every day. Commodities such as toothpaste and soap were non-existent; we, fortunate people can just walk into the Corner Shop and buy anything at random.

In England, before we set out we had planned to stay in the Mansk Hotel used by Western visitors but on arrival the parents of one of the boys who had stayed with me insisted I stay with them in their apartment which was in a block of apartments which looked identical to the dozens and dozens or so of blocks around us.

On the second weekend of my stay we drove for about five hours from Minsk to a town called Gommel, which is only 40km from the Chernobyl Power Plant and the nearest point anyone is permitted to live to the disaster area. I must say I was a little afraid, but I put my trust in the Lord and the welcome and hospitality during our weekend stay there was overwhelming. These people are seriously ill and it was an honour to stay with a man who was the first fireman on the scene on that fateful day. He is now a Pastor in an Evangelical Church and works very hard even though he knows his days are numbered here on earth. His wife and six children all made us so welcome.

I could fill the Stockade with my experiences there and of the six day drive over Europe. If anyone would like to know more, my name is Judy Kent of 36 Barrow Road, Sileby. I am always willing to talk about my many, many friends in Belarus. They are my family now. Thank you Lord for making everything possible.

Judy Kent

Judy and other members from her church will be taking care of another group of sick children from Russia this Summer. The group will be staying at Beaumanor Hall during the week and in peoples homes over the weekends. Judy and friends will be taking care of the children and providing food and care during their stay. As you can imagine the cost of this exercise is very great and they are looking for £9,000 to cover the expenses. They are also looking for any good items of clothing and any household items that are not wanted any more. It is hoped that a lorry will be filled which will return to Russia when the children go back to their homes. If you feel you can help Judy and her friends please let her know or drop the items straight around to her house.

MICK BALL

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DARTS NEWS

The Sibley Charity Darts League send a big thank you to all sponsors for the season just ended. Trophy winners and sponsor are as follows:-

	Winners	Runners up
WMC Division	WMC 'PP'	Fountain 'D'
Fountain Division	WMC 'C'	Trade 'D'
Harlequin Wallcovering Div	Railway 'A'	Trade 'A'
Free Trade K.O.Cup	Fountain 'D'	Railway 'C'
White Swan Mens Pairs	Chris Preston Gordon Rafferty	Colin Baker Rae Porter
Cons Ladies Pairs	Joyce Sansom Sonja Bosch	Louise Williscroft Lorraine Williscroft
Link Training Mixed Pairs	Gaz Bentely Pete Phillips	Jane Ratcliffe Eric Barefoot
Free Trade Mixed 3's	Bedge Batey Dave Batey Phil Stevens	Michelle Lowe Steve Taylor Pete Ratcliffe
Duke of York Ladies Singles	Sonja Bosch	Michelle Lowe
Contex Leisurewear Mens Singles	Gordon Rafferty	Chris Preston
'180' Trophy (E.Barefoot)	Ian Waters	
Ken Baker's Ladies '140's	Michelle Lowe	
Cons Tote Mens Tons	Andy Burton - 62	
Andrews Florists Ladies Tons	Sonja Bosch - 31	
Horse and Trumpet Mens High Finish	Paul Ward - 154	
Helen Claire Ladies High Finish	Sonja Bosch - 93	

A total of £570 was donated to village groups etc all of whom send their appreciation to the league. A darts evening played at the end of the season raised £125 for L.O.R.O.S. A good entry plus a raffle again sold by Bob and Margaret Gamble ensured a very enjoyable night. Winners of the pairs event were Martin Gamble and Adey Stasior with runners-up Joyce Sansom and Chris Preston.

The Fountain ladies team playing in the Loughborough Ladies Monday Night League won their division easily, losing only one game all season. Well done ladies and all the best in the Hospital Cup.

Leicestershire Super League

An excellent first year in this league was made by Sileby playing from the WMC. Sponsorship for shirts from John Winterton also helped the team to look the part, Thank You 'Tower Products'.

Three players were called up to represent Leicestershire during the year which is an achievement, Neil Rankin, Steve Cousins and Dean Watson. With a couple of new signings for next season Sileby should challenge for the top spot.

Paul Gibson Fund

In three nights of darts during the last few months over £600 has been raised for Paul. This just goes to show how respected Paul is and how his accident affected all darts players in Sileby. Keep on battling Paul we are all behind you.

SILEBY OPEN DARTS COMPETITIONS

Sponsored by Towers Products Ltd.

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This takes place on Sunday 24th July at Sileby Liberal WMC, Kings Street, Sileby with £200 guaranteed prize money down to the last eight.

Limited entry of 128 male/female players to play the best of 3-501 straight start from a 7-0" oche up until the semi-finals, which will be the best of five legs. Bust rules to apply.

To enter send your £2.00 entry fee with your name and address on this form or plain paper by **FRIDAY 22ND JULY 1994** to:-

**P. Phillips,
7 North Hill Close,
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Enquiries tel: 0509 813376

You must register by 12.00 noon and games to start at 12.30 prompt. Proceeds go to Highgate and Redlands School Funds.

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There will also be a ladies only competition. The same rules to apply with games starting at approximately 2.30pm. **Enter on the day by 2.00pm**. There is a £2.00 entry fee - Cash prizes according to entry.

Another competition to take place on the day will be Mens Pairs with 701 straight start and Bust Rule, if circumstances allow. Entry will be £3.00 per pair - cash prizes according to entry.

OUR RAILWAYS

The Early Days

At last, it's happened, the trains are coming back to Sileby, something I thought I would never see again. What memories it will re-awaken.

When quite small, Patsy, my sister and I were taken by mother to Leicester to buy our summer outfits, even now I can remember the "fabricy" smell of Wendy House, the dark polished wood of the gigantic counter and the wooden floor worn uneven by countless feet.

In the waiting room the air was charged with excitement as we tried hard to "do as we were told" and "sit still". Suddenly the silence was broken, hissing steam, clanking metal, doors slamming, the shadow of the engine and coaches making everywhere dark.

"Hurry up" mother cried, as we struggled up the high step into the train. Would we get a seat by the window? Would it have a corridor? and, how the upholstery pricked the backs of our legs! Strange giants watched our every move, new places constantly passed by the window, everyone was very quiet, only the clickerty clack of the rails broke the silence. Nothing could be more exciting than this, but I had forgotten about the ride down to the 'Tower' on the tram.

School Days

Now we are 'grown up' it's our first trip to Leicester without mother, would we get lost? How would we know which train to catch home? But by day three we were seasoned travellers, trying to keep a dignified silence in the compartment, only new kids chattered a lot.

Catching the 8.55 soon became an art, mother would watch the signal gantry through the bathroom window, "come on girls the signal's at green" this was the very last warning, even then, without running like mad and taking the steps two at a time, satchels and coats flying we wouldn't make it, carriage doors held open by our friends we would tumble, breathless aboard.

I can see them all now, Jean and Kathy Bollard, Shirley and Rex Preston, Margaret Norton, Pat Higgins, Eileen Ward and our special friends Eileen and Maureen Lakin. Eileen in later years, was to be my sister's bridesmaid, and make our dresses. What happy travelling companions we all were.

On a cold winters morning, when the train was late, how we all enjoyed the blazing fire and shared secrets in the cosy waiting room. Ours was a community created by the railway, quite impossible when travelling in our individual 'metal boxes' on our over-crowded roads.

And So To Work

Now it was the 7.55 we only just managed to catch. Our new travelling companions were Mary Chaplin and Mary Willet, what lovely times we had planning our futures while the train hurried us to Leicester.

Christmas time was always special on the train, very crowded, lots of mysterious parcels, and, strangely, a lot more conversation and laughter amongst the passengers.

I do hope the communities return with our railway.

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200 YEARS OLD AND STILL GOING STRONG

On February 22nd 1794 the first boats passed through Sileby lock on their way to Leicester with a load of wool from Gainsborough on the River Trent. This event marked the end of years of planning and Parliamentary wrangling not to mention sheer sweated toil, and the start of an era of new prosperity for Leicestershire as heavy goods could be carried into and out of the area in large loads for the first time.

Later in the year the first water borne coal arrived from the Nottinghamshire coalfields, cutting the retail price of this commodity by half.

Other cargoes carried by boat to Leicester included not only iron, lead, lime from Barrow, stone and Swithland slate but goods from farther afield. There are records of timber, mill stones, indigo, merchandise from London via the Thames, coast and Trent, ale from Nottingham and Burton and cloth from Manchester.

The opening of the Navigation did indeed touch many peoples lives. Even more so when 20 years later it was extended to link up with the Grand Union canal between London and Birmingham and subsequently became part of 'The Grand Union'. There were other branches too; The Melton Mowbray Canal for instance and many readers will remember the Sileby Arm, terminating with a wharf where the cricket club is today.

The Mountsorrel Granite Company soon became a major carrier. It is recorded that between 1796 and 1809, granite accounted for 40% of all tonnage passing through Mountsorrel Lock. Large areas of London were paved with sets carried from here to London by water, many can still be seen notably in Covent Garden area. The remains of a loading shoot are still visible adjacent to the 1860 bridge. It has been suggested that this should be preserved as a reminder of the original purpose of the Navigation.

Then came the railways, which systematically bought up the canals and starved them of the traffic and cash and saw their inevitable downfall. Many canals fell into disrepair and were eventually abandoned. We are fortunate in that ours is a river navigation and therefore had to be maintained. It was thus still navigable when in the latter part of the 20th century a new and previously unthought of use of the waterways gained popularity:.....Leisure! Now thanks to a secession of ill conceived government policies more and more goods are being carried by road. One day in more enlightened times, the economic and environmental sense of water transport will be re-discovered and the cycle will start all over again. but I digress.....

Back to the 200th anniversary of the Leicester Navigation. The original 'Grand Opening' was not held until 24th of October so it is not felt important to adhere to a particular date. The main celebratory event that is being planned will take place on Saturday August 20th. On this day a cavalcade of boats will make their way from Loughborough to Leicester hopefully with bands playing and much merriment as in 1794 (*has anyone got a brass band we can borrow?*)

A VIP boat will carry VIP's. A civic greeting will be carried from the Mayor of Charnwood and personally accepted by the Lord Mayor of Leicester and most importantly, YOU are invited to join a ramble along the tow path, add to the festivities, help work the locks, maybe hitch a short ride on a boat or just watch them pass by.

The boats will gather near West Bridge in Leicester as part of the Castle Park Festival (always worth a visit) and it is hoped that there will be an illuminated procession of boats as dusk falls. See you there!

P.S. The 'VIP boat' will be making the trip from Leicester to Loughborough on Friday 19th August so as to be in place the following day. To help raise funds for the event tickets will be available for the northbound trip when a local historian will give a commentary on the passing scene and refreshments will be available. The journey will take about 6 hours and cost £15 per head. A most interesting and enjoyable day can be assured. Should anyone be interested in obtaining tickets or need more information ask at the boatyard (813583) or phone the Waterside Centre on Leicester 512334.

FURTHER NEWS ABOUT LEANNE

You may remember in previous Stockades we heard how well Leanne Edmans was doing in major swimming competitions. We were pleased to get this update from her Grandmother:-

Once again Leanne Edmans from Humphrey Perkins School has done us proud by winning nine Gold Medals and breaking two British Records plus three World records at Fulwell Cross, Barkingside in London on 26th and 27th March for the British Blind Sport, swimming against Germany, Spain, Sweden, Finland, Belgium and Australia.

Last year she was in the Great Britain team which did so well in winning the European Cup competition. This was held in Rome and during her stay she had the honour to meet the Pope.

Mrs E.R. Edmans

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THE SAYING IS 'RAGS TO RICHES'

...But in my case it was measuring lace to chopping up meat! WHAT A CONTRAST. It was in 1942, the war was on and Fred was called up with the other Sileby lads and so it was a case of getting on with the ration books. The ration at one time was 10d fresh meat and 4d corned beef - the sheep's heads were very much in demand, being off the ration so it was a case of keeping a check from week to week to see who's turn it was next.

The village people were very patient; I do not recall ever having a cross word. Every Saturday, when I had finished I always left Mrs Marlow's meat to deliver last because I knew there was a lovely Simkin and James cream bun and a hot cup of tea waiting for me, which was a real treat.

Our business then was at N^o. 6 King Street and so was opposite 'the Red Lion' pub. The landlord at that time was Bill York and when the beer was short the lads on leave would be queuing, waiting for opening time.

Now a days things are very different in comparison, the streets are quite empty. We want to see the empty shops doing business again and the Sileby streets once again full of shoppers.

I can assure everyone that my business days in Sileby have been very happy ones - My thanks to all my customers.

Mary Wright

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SILEBY 100 YEARS AGO

In 1894 Sileby, along with other parishes with over 300 inhabitants, by law set up it's first Parish Council, taking over the responsibility for the administration of the local law making and keeping, which had previously been the province of the Church through the annual vestry meeting. This had appointed as well as the church wardens, such local officers as the Village Constable, Overseers of the Poor, Surveyors of the Highway, Assessors and Collectors of property and taxes. This tax was used to discharge the liability of the Parish for poor relief in necessitous cases in the village.

The Surveyors of the Highways also raised revenue by an annual letting of the grass verges for use as grazing, but this revenue was used for a different purpose.

The farmers sowed seed by hand, broadcasting it over their fields, this attracted sparrows to the feast readily available, so the farmers were encouraged to kill as many as possible and were rewarded with a payment of one old half-penny for each sparrow's head from this fund.

The Charities formerly administered by the vicar and church wardens (except the Staverly, which was purely a church charity) were also handed over to the new Parish Council for them to administer.

The population of Sileby in the 1891 census was 2,380 with 9 men as Parish Officers.

J. Whittington

THE SILEBY BRANCH

*The T.S.B. (we can only guess),
Finally grew tired of saying - "Yes",
When it came to the likes of us.
For in Loughborough now our accounts we'll find,
In a palatial bank, if we don't mind
Journeying there by car or bus.*

*Gone are those days of Barrow Road,
Where sometimes the queue just overflowed,
At peak times, through the door.
Of course we would have a good old moan,
But at least the branch was our own,
until it closed for evermore.*

*"We're moving and improving", is what they said,
Had Sileby suddenly become an overhead,
An impediment to the profits' flow,
Anyway in March we came to see,
how that - "Say Yes Bank" - the T.S.B.
Had to Sileby said a great big "NO"!*



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SILEBY EVERGREEN CLUB

The committee and members would like to express their thanks to all the people who attended the Spring Fayre on Saturday April 16th. Also our grateful thanks to anyone who contributed cakes, bric a brac, clothes or prizes. We received quite a number of items from non members of the club and rest assured that everything was appreciated. In spite of the weather not being too good on the day we had a record number of people who made this effort a huge success.

We would still welcome new members to our regular meetings on Wednesday and Friday afternoons 2pm till 4pm. Also our Saturday afternoon Whist/Bingo at 2.30 pm on the first Saturday of the month are still very popular. Anyone of any age can attend and for £1 including tea, cakes and raffle is good value for money. The Village Institute, off Cossington Road, is the venue.

Mrs Vera Walters (Secretary)

LETTER FROM SKEGNESS

I was very interested to read in the Stockade about Horace Yates celebrating his 100th birthday. I have known Horace all my life and for many years was a neighbour of his on Cossington Road until I came here to live in Skegness eight years ago. We often talked about old times when we met, either in the street or down the Cossington Road meadows. I knew his birthday was coming so I sent him a card. I also read the letter from Mr Jim Wallace about his mother, Hilda Gibbs, as she was known before her marriage. She also celebrated her 100th birthday. I well remember her when she lived at Highbury in Mountsorrel Lane. I often used to see her going by our house on Cossington Road to visit her grandmother, Mrs Calow, who lived in the last big house before Chalfont Drive, of course Chalfont Drive was not built then. I worked with Hilda's son, Jim Wallace at Newbold and Burtons until I retired nearly 25 years ago. He would remember me. Hilda's grandfather, Mr Calow had the Liberal Club, the King Street School and the Wesleyan Chapel Built (which is now the Community Centre). I cannot remember Mr Calow but I remember Mrs Calow. I often think back and think how times have changed.

Bert Underwood

DEAR EDITOR,

It was stated in the editorial of the last edition of the Stockade that the artist who drew the front cover of the 12th issue was unknown, this is not the case.

In 1952 an exhibition of paintings and drawings of the Midland Railway Co, (which if I remember rightly also included timetables etc.,) was staged at the New Walk Museum in Leicester. This exhibition included many pencil drawings by a Mr Palmer, (I do not remember his initials). These drawings were mainly of the bridges carrying the railway through Leicestershire, and in the catalogue published at the time the drawing on the front cover was listed as "Bridge at Sileby" 336' 1952. These drawings were done between 1840 and 1870.

In 1981 all of Mr Palmer's drawings were housed at the Newarke Houses Museum in Leicester and to the best of my knowledge they are still there.

The photograph on page 13 of the previous edition of the Stockade shows stationmaster Dring and his staff in Midland Railway uniform.

John Whittington

SILEBY PHOBIC SELF HELP AND SUPPORT GROUP

Hi there fellow sufferers of Panic Attacks, Anxiety, Agoraphobia, Depression, Phobias and Fears. Our evening meetings on 16th March and 13th April were not a success - the kettle was on, the biscuits were out - but WHERE WERE YOU? Maybe you still feel a bit apprehensive. We do understand what you are feeling.

You know, Summer is just around the corner, the gardens are beginning to show positive signs of growth, so why not begin sowing the seed of recovery? Beginning to grow stronger as do the plants and trees and when the garden comes into full bloom you too could be taking that road to self help recovery.

Phone one of the contact numbers now for a chat, we may be able to help and offer information or if you prefer, write to us c/o Caroline Harding at the Community Centre House.

Our Contact numbers are:- 0509 813129 (June)
0509 413802 (Pam)
0509 814467 (Carol)

We hope to see you at our evening meetings or Monday afternoon meetings. Please telephone the contact numbers for details and dates or contact Caroline Harding at the Community Centre House. Local papers will also advertise the dates.

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ACTIVITIES IN SILEBY

We would like to thank all of you who have let us know about your groups which are active in Sileby. Space does not permit us to include the whole directory, so in this edition we have just printed the following groups who are new to the listing. We hope the following information is helpful to you. For further information look in the 12th edition of the Stockade or contact us. If your group or club has not submitted any information please fill in the form below.

FRIENDS OF HIGHGATE SCHOOL. CONTACT:- Bev Powell, 7 Heathcote Drive. A few parents and staff members regularly meet informally to discuss and put forward ideas for fund raising events. These meetings are open to anyone wishing to become involved with fund raising or have any good ideas to share with us. New and old faces always welcome SO PLEASE COME ALONG TO THE NEXT MEETING (date to be arranged)

GISMOS. CONTACT:- Mrs M. Nelson (813726) or Mrs K. Ette (812805). The group meets every Friday from 6.30 to 8pm and is for young people aged 9 and above. It costs 35p per week. Activities include crafts, sports, cooking, snooker, table tennis and competitions etc. It is held at Sileby Methodist Church, Swan Street. There is a tuck shop.

NCH ACTION FOR CHILDREN. CONTACT:- Mr D. Ette, Chairman (Sileby 812805). Previously known as the National Children's Home. This is a local support group organising many and varied fund raising events. Everyone welcome.


ROYAL BRITISH LEGION. CONTACT:- Mr T.F. Machin, Secretary (Sileby 814215). Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 8pm for the men's section and the women's section meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 2.30pm. Both meetings are held at the Pochin Hall, Mountsorrel Lane. New members welcome.


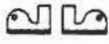
NAME OF ORGANISATION: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

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




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A YEAR AT HIGHGATE SCHOOL

As we approach the end of another year for the children of Highgate School, it seems right to look back at just how busy and refreshing that year has been.

September 1993: After the long, or for many, very short summer break, many of the Year 5 & 6 children spent a week climbing, abseiling, canoeing and riding in Wales.

October: Each year the school nominates a charity to which we donate 10% of all our fund-raising. This year we chose the R.N.I.B. and began with a 'Rainbow Day' to find out more about this organisation.

November: The highlight of our Book Week was the visit of the children's author Julia Jarman, who fascinated the children with her stories and background on how a book is made. The Friends of Highgate organised a day out in London and all the Juniors learnt about the stories of Charles Dickens with the Children's Theatre Company.

Years 5 & 6 gained a great insight into their topic work on life in Tudor Britain with the visit of Queen Elizabeth I herself, who told them about life at Court, how to dance in Tudor style and about the writings of one William Shakespeare, a 'new' playwright.

Years 3 & 4, who had been studying Ancient Greece, saw how important the Temple, with all the Gods, was to the people when they spent a whole day dressed as Ancient Greeks and even produced a Greek play.

December: With the dark nights and the bright lights of the run up to Christmas, the children bought some early presents at the Friends of Highgate Grand Auction and created some fabulous costumes for the Christmas Disco.

The Annual Infant Production proved to be a great delight: it is always a pleasure to see just how talented these young children are.

Christmas being a time to do things together at Highgate, we all joined in for a special Christmas Carol Service at St. Mary's Church and then after the usual Christmas parties, we all spent the afternoon at Derby Playhouse for the traditional pantomime.

January 1994: The School Term began early for all the staff at Highgate, who took part in a training day with St. John Ambulance.

Later in the month, the children enjoyed a fun afternoon, thanks to the visit of a real Russian Clown, who had the whole school captivated.

February: Year 6 had a special treat at the end of the month, with the visit of a famous Leicestershire artist, Peter Welton, who taught the children how to paint in water-colours. He was extremely impressed by the standard of work produced by many of the children and hopes to come back next year to work with another year group.

March: Friends of Highgate Annual Barn Dance was well attended again. All the children enjoyed the Easter competitions of designing Easter Hats, drawing and colouring an egg picture and using a real egg to create an image. How do children come up with such clever and intricate designs?

The end of term saw the retirement of Mrs. Todd from the position of cook at school. She had been at Highgate for over 13 years and we will all miss her very much.

April: The Norwich Puppet Theatre came back with their production of James and the Giant Peach and Nick Roberts' Animal Experience gave the children the rare chance to hold a snake, learn at first

hand about the animals of the rain forests and even stroke a tarantula's abdomen!

May and June: The plans for the future - The Infants are going Pond Dipping at Brooksby and are having a Music Afternoon, during which they will try out some unusual instruments and make their own music.

A group of children from Years 5 & 6 will be spending a week in Derbyshire caving, cycling, climbing and canoeing.

Year 6 will get their vital training in how to cycle safely and then entertain the whole school and parents with their end of term production of the play "All at Sea".


After the leavers disco and parents versus children Netball and Football matches, we will wave farewell to all our Year 6 children and wish them well for the future. We hope their memories of their years at Highgate will be happy ones.

THE LONE PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

Hi, all you Lone Parents out there! My name is Georgina and I am a lone parent with two children aged 13 and 5 years. I have been trying to get this Support group going for six months now and would really like it to be a successful part of our village life. To do this we need YOUR support. Please don't be shy, bring your children along if they're under five, and tell us how we can help, what you need from such a group, or just chat over coffee, but please do come, whatever the age of your children, and talk to us. Without your help and support we cannot survive!

If you'd like to talk to me first, please phone me on Sileby 815237, or call in at the Community Centre House on Thursdays between 1 - 3pm Refreshments and Creche available.

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SILEBY METHODIST LADIES CIRCLE - ANNUAL FLOWER FESTIVAL

We invite you to our annual Flower Festival on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, 11th to 13th June. The theme this year will be SILEBY IN BLOOM.

Will you help to put Sileby on the map by supporting us in our effort to make a splash of brightness in our village?

SATURDAY 11TH JUNE The church in King Street will be open for visitors at 10am, along with our market in the School Hall, Swan Street. Coffees, lunches and teas will be served.

SUNDAY 12TH JUNE Services held at 10.45am and 6pm will be led by our Minister Rev Carole Holden and the Church will be open to visitors at 2pm. Our visiting organist will be Mr Derek Whittington.

MONDAY 13TH JUNE The Church will be open again to visitors from 10am and at 7.30pm our **GRAND FINALE** will take place with Anthony Howe at the organ, soloist Lyndy Smart, our old friends Florrie and Ada and the Ladies Circle Choir. At this meeting our Charity Cheques will be presented.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. COLLECTIONS AND ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE FOR OUR CHURCH.

*We dream of bygone Sileby,
But think of the future too;
Whatever the village will be,
Is all up to me and you.*

Dorothy Harrison

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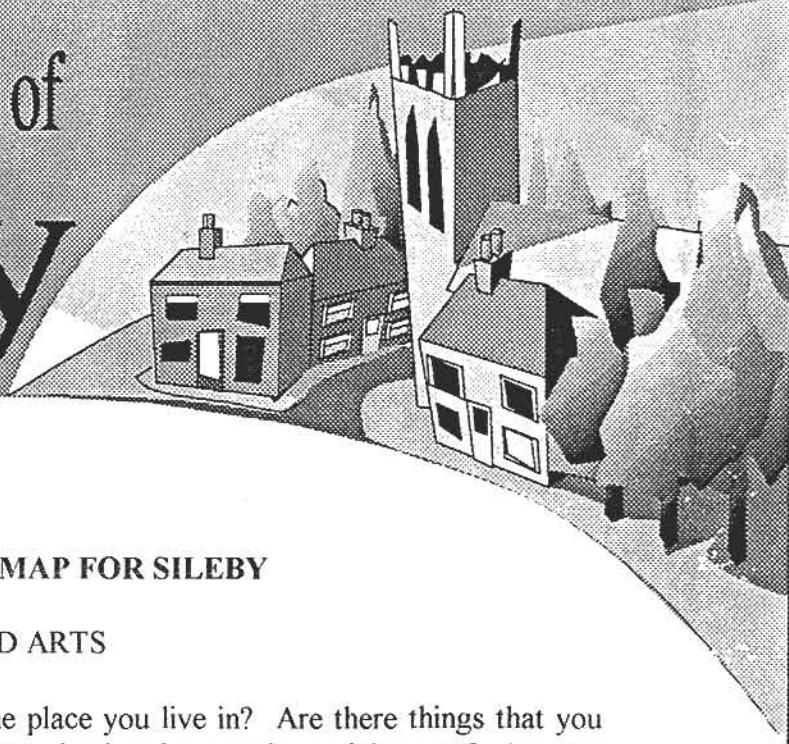
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The Changing Face of Sileby



A PARISH MAP FOR SILEBY

TRACEY ROBERTS - CHARNWOOD ARTS

Do you have strong opinions about the place you live in? Are there things that you miss that are no longer part of the village - landmarks, people, social events? Are you interested in helping to preserve what is special about Sileby by making others aware of what you value?

The Parish Maps Community Arts Project is about celebrating and looking after your place. It is part of Charnwood Arts' rural arts work and over the next six months I will be working with groups and individuals to help them to collect ideas, images, memories and opinions about Sileby. This could involve taking photographs, writing about local events, tape-recording people's memories, walking the parish boundary, finding the oldest tree or literally drawing maps of old and new Sileby. All these ideas together will form a Parish Map, to be displayed where everyone can see it and maybe learn something new about their village.

The project is open to people of all ages and experience. It is your chance to learn new skills and share existing ones with others. Whatever your interest, your contribution will be valuable.

I don't know what the parish map will look like - it might be a wall-hanging, an exhibition of words and photographs, or maybe a video about Sileby - it's up to you to get involved and decide.

One idea is to collect "One hundred views of Sileby" - tape-recorded and written statements and visual images of places and people - to coincide with the centenary celebrations of the Parish Council.

If you've got any other ideas, get in touch!

Contact Tracey Roberts, Charnwood Arts, Fearon Hall, Rectory Road, Loughborough, LE11 1PL. Telephone 0509 269416.

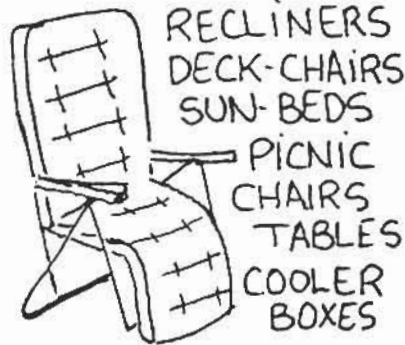


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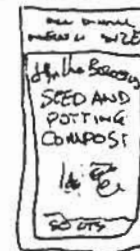


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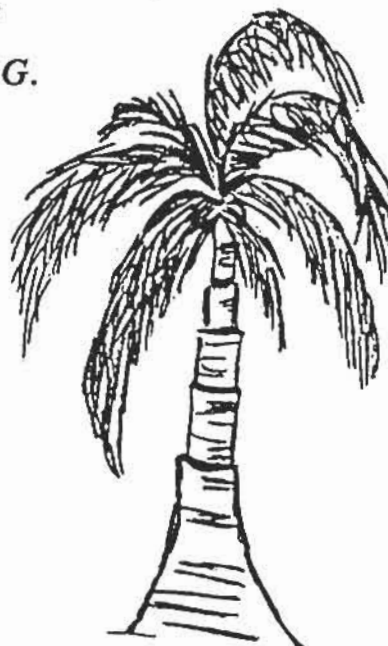
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