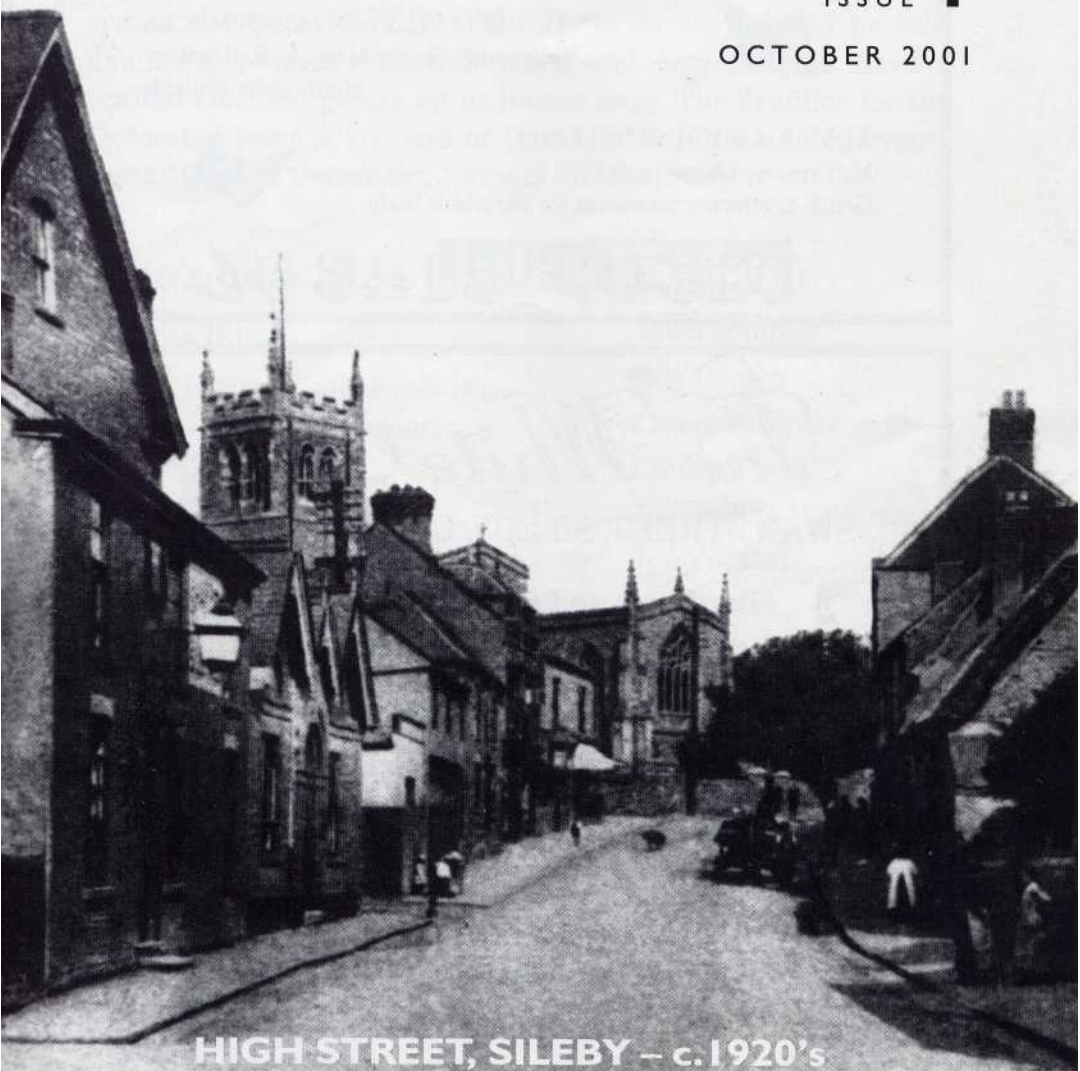


talk @ Sileby

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE I

OCTOBER 2001



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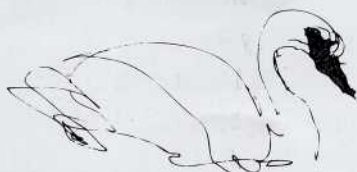
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Foreword

WHAT you are reading is the pilot copy of **talk@Sileby** the new village newsletter and quarterly magazine. The first full issue making it's debut in early December.

It is published as a direct consequence of villagers asking for news of events and what is happening at Council meetings, etc. when filling in their Village Appraisal questionnaire.

It is **YOUR** newsletter for your letters, your forthcoming events and your news. And hopefully, as we have to be self-financing, your advertisements. If any organisations have a printed calendar please let us have a copy. The deadline for the December issue is the end of October and forthcoming events should include December, January and February.

Who's who at – **talk@Sileby**

Editorial Team

Editor - Carol-Anne Freeman

Editor - Patrick Freeman

Popsy Gilbert

Mark Spence

Sheila Breed

Freda Walker

Produced by Ron Billings

Administration

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Lionel Blower

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Jacqueline Williams

11 Swan Street

Sileby LE12 7NN

01509 815946

Opinion

Do you remember the patchwork? Station slope? Mucky lane? Can you write in copperplate handwriting or are you more into RU OK? CU L8R?

Whichever one of these statements is the more familiar to you depends to an extent on your age and whether you are native to the village or have migrated from the city to a slower pace of life.

What we have in common though regardless of age or origin is that we are living in Sileby at a time when the village is on a slippery slope.

I have seen many changes in my lifetime. Born at the end of the Second World War, we were known as 'Peace babies'. What a laugh! There has been a war somewhere in the world every year since, but that's another story.

I went to Redlands when it was still called Sileby Senior School. 'Senior' because the generation before me had spent all their school life in the village. It's strange the things that linger in the back of your mind when you are a child. Like the fact the village had no metal railings. They had all been taken away during the war to be melted down and made into spitfires, ships and tanks. All that was left were the stumps where they had been hack-sawed off.

What we knew until recently as Melody Mills had been a 'munitions factory where my Mother, a young newlywed, wired the dashboards of Wellington Bombers.

I remember the Parades and Galas, cattle and sheep being driven through the village centre, and watching the Queens Coronation on a nine inch screen television with half the street crammed into our front room. We were a community then.

I asked a group of sixteen year olds the other day what they thought of the village they lived in. "Nothing to do, nowhere to go, too young to go in the pubs, too many houses being built, boring."

Compare this with the experiences of our oldest member of the editorial team Mrs. Popsy Gilbert. She was born here, went to school here, married here, worked here, shopped here. In a village which had dance halls and a cinema. Sileby has had a fascinating past. We have to fight for it's future.

We are lucky to have on the editorial team an age range from twenty to eighty years giving us a true perspective of Sileby old and new. If we think of Sileby as at a crossroads instead of that slippery slope it is us who have to turn in the right direction and not be shut down by faceless bureaucrats and made into a dormitory.

Carol-Anne Freeman, Editor

(These are the personal views of Carol-Anne and not an official comment by other members of the team.)

New source of energy discovered in Sileby

YOU could be forgiven for believing that the solution to global warming had been discovered in the village, judging by the number of officials mooching about with clip boards, cameras and dictaphones, the number of gatherings taking place in dimly lit rooms of an evening.

The Village Appraisal kicked it all off. Many of you took the trouble to fill in the impressive Sileby VA Questionnaire circulated last year and a good many will by now be muttering "There you are, I told you it would be a waste of time". Have patience – the Report and Action Plan are emerging as we speak. This was quickly followed by a Visioning Project initiated by Leicestershire County Council which peered through the mists into the Sileby of the future (X-Files music playing spookily in the background). Then there was the Village Centres Improvement Project which surveyed retail businesses within the village.

In addition to these, Charnwood Council for Voluntary Service (John Storer House to you and me) and my own humble project (Uriah Heap hand-ringing gestures) Action for a Better Charnwood (ABC) have also taken an interest in your village. So what's it all about? Well it has taken time to recognise that help was needed but, when the penny finally dropped, unsurprisingly, it dropped in more than one place.

All this attention can give rise to suspicion, scepticism and irritation but I would recommend that you put that to one side and make the best of the opportunities as they present themselves. Obviously, in the imperfect world in which we live, everything that comes out of these projects will not suit everybody. But there will be a net benefit to all and I would guess, a substantial one. Indeed the revival of the village newsletter is one small example of this.

A new form of energy has been discovered, or at least re-awakened in Sileby. It's people power and it's here for good, in both senses. If you want to talk about any of this, including Action for a Better Charnwood, you can contact me at Charnwood Borough Council on (01509) 634901. CBC Environmental Co-ordinator, David Cannon.

Adult Learning Opportunities in Sileby

NEW opportunities for adults interested in returning to learn and wanting to learn new skills have been set up in the village over the past year. Leicestershire County Council has provided funding to develop more courses in the village including some short taster courses. My role as Adult Learning Development worker is to meet groups and individuals, identify your interests and arrange short courses. In the last year there have been short, free introductory courses in computing at the Free Trade Inn, at the Village Institute, at Redlands Primary School and the Youth Club. Other free courses organised have been Chair Exercises and Aromatherapy at Dudley Court and a Family History course at the Community Centre.

I have visited local groups with resources on loan from the museum service to run reminiscence sessions. These were lively events with those attending enjoying reminiscing about old Sileby.

Three Family Fun events have taken place on Saturday mornings at the Youth Club. These are fun events for primary school children and pre-school children and their parents, grandparents or carers to enjoy learning together. National Family Learning weekend is planned for October 12th-14th so watch out for details of another Family Fun event on October 13th.

Computing classes have proved popular with adults wanting to catch up with the computer age! More classes are planned for weekday afternoons at the Youth Club with five-week "Computing for the Terrified" classes designed for complete beginners, ten-week courses for those who have attended a basic course and Internet courses. The Internet courses, designed to introduce students to surfing the net and e-mail, are organised by Loughborough College.

I need to know what people are interested in learning in order to organise more courses. I visit the Parish Office on Wednesday mornings and people are welcome to drop in to discuss their interests and learning needs. Also I can help people with information and advice about training and education. Alternatively, telephone me at Wreake Valley Community College on 0116 260 0071. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yvonne Casswell

Can you put the OUT back into SC- - -ING?

TO take Scouts camping and on other outdoor activities Sileby Scout Troop needs qualified Leaders.

Our Scout Group has a thriving Beaver Colony, a Cub Pack and no lack of scouts but without more adult Leaders the Scout Troop is limited in it's activities.

Group Scout Leader Mrs. Sylvia Wells has appealed for volunteers in any capacity. "We appreciate all help offered but people willing to undergo Leadership training and take out a Scout warrant would be most welcome."

Sylvia can be contacted on 01509 812761

Would you know what to do –

If there was an accident at home or whilst driving your car?

WOULD you like to get into Leicester City, Leicester Tigers, Donnington Park Races FREE?

If the answer to the first question is NO and to the second YES, why not join Sileby St John Ambulance Brigade.

Details from Jim Napthine on 01509 812226

Topical article

PRACTICAL uses of Aromatherapy include one use that may be of particular interest to residents in Sileby where a persistent problem involving the common housefly has recently been causing chaos.

Whilst many may be still be sceptical of the healing powers of the essential oils, their application as insect repellents is widely known. During the recent fly infestation I repeatedly washed over the kitchen work surfaces and window frames with a solution containing essential oil of Lemon. I noted that I had no need to spray copious amounts of fly spray containing harmful chemicals or use other means of keeping the flies at bay.

The Lemon oil can also be used alone in a burner, or mixed with other insect-repellent oils such as cedarwood, eucalyptus or tea tree. Any of these oils can be vaporised on light bulb rings or on Aromastones and providing you do not have sensitive skin, you can dab on the diluted oil to repel midges and mosquitoes.

Jacqueline Williams IHHT FICHT

Sileby Photographic Society

THE Society has now embarked on its 49th Season and would welcome anyone who is in any way interested in photography and would like to join a friendly and sociable group of likeminded people.

Whether you are a beginner, just take holiday pictures for the family or are already knowledgeable you will find lots to interest you. Meetings are held on most Mondays in The Sileby Village Institute on Cossington Road commencing at 7.45 p.m. for 8.00 p.m. start.

There are interesting lectures by many accomplished photographers, we have regular competitions where experienced judges pass on useful comments and, at the end of October each year, there is a weeklong Exhibition of the past year's work.

This year the Annual Exhibition is being held from Monday 22nd until Saturday 27th October and is also held in The Village Institute.

Why not come along and see for yourself?

New members are always welcome.

For further information ring 01509 816287

Letters page

THIS is your page, and we hope it will be full next time but as this is the first issue there are no letters!

We print though two questions which a lot of villagers have been asking.

1. What is going to happen to the centre of the village?
2. What has happened to the Swimming Pool Fund and who are the Trustees?

We hope to answer both of these for you in future issues.

Letters to this page must contain your full name and address, but if you wish to remain anonymous we will respect your wishes.

Your Guide at Sileby Post Office

YOUR GUIDE is a new service from the Post Office which is designed to make our lives easier. It is a new idea that brings together a wide range of useful information and services in a simple way, free of charge and all in one place. Our local Post Office.

This new service is a trial scheme in 268 Post Office branches in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. It focuses on subjects we all find important, including jobs, benefits, retirement, transport and local information.

Your Guide can be accessed at Sileby Post Office via the sub-postmaster and staff, leaflets, free phones and touch screens. Organisations, from Government to charities, are providing services for the Your Guide trial. These include the Department for work and pensions (formerly DSS), Inland Revenue, Citizens Advice Bureaux, City, County, District and Borough Councils plus charities such as Age Concern and the Elderly Accommodation Counsel.

So far at Sileby the touch screen has proved very popular for job searches, maps, local information and learning more about benefits and entitlements.

The Your Guide trial is sponsored by both the government and the Post Office. The Post Office hopes to provide the service nationally from August 2002 if the trial is successful.

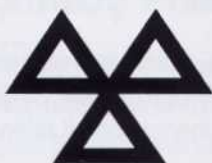
The Post Office is keen for everyone to try Your Guide, and to feed back what you think to help make the Post Office even easier for customers in the future. The trial will run until March 1st 2002, so do pop into Sileby branch and give it a try!

Friends of St Mary's Church

"Friends of St. Mary's" were formed in January 1999 and have been raising money for repair work to St. Mary's church.

In excess of £100,000 is needed for extensive repairs to roof, tower and electrics. The entire village has recently been leafleted inviting residents for support by becoming a Friend of St. Mary's and paying a yearly membership subscription. The Friends of St. Mary's have been encouraged by the villages response but would welcome anyone else who wishes to join.

For further information contact **John Burton (01509) 815525.**



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Dedicated Special "Parish" Constable for Sileby

FOLLOWING a request from Sileby Parish Council for a dedicated Special Constable for the village, Leicestershire Police are keen to hear from any Sileby residents interested in joining the Special Constables.

The Council wrote to the police after hearing of a similar scheme in operation in Wymeswold. Sergeant Andy Moscrop and Sileby beat officer Steve Rhodes attended the Parish Council meeting on Thursday 16th August 2001 to discuss the initiative.

Sergeant Moscrop had been involved in the setting up of the Wymeswold Parish Constable scheme. He gave a short talk at the meeting explaining how the scheme has worked to date.

Michael Roberts, a long-standing Special Constable based at Quorn, wanted to dedicate most of his patrol duties to his home village of Wymeswold. To maximise the time spent on his beat, arrangements were made to allow Michael to start and finish his duties from home rather than travelling to and from Quorn Station. In addition to his standard training as a Special Constable, Michael had to undergo further training so as to enable him to be properly equipped/prepared to patrol alone. On successful completion of his training Michael then began foot patrols of his village.

Michael aims to patrol about four hours a week normally in two hour shifts either in the morning or evenings. He still undertakes other duties in support of his regular police colleagues such as special events and parades but the vast majority of Michael's duty time is spent patrolling his village beat. Michael is highly valued by his village who greatly appreciate his dedication and commitment to his local community. In turn, Michael gets immense personal as well as job satisfaction out of his role and feels he is doing something positive for his community.

Both the Parish Council and the Police feel that such a scheme would be equally valuable in Sileby in helping to address minor local policing problems and heightening the police presence in the village. Local residents are therefore encouraged to apply.

Sergeant Moscrop provided Sileby Parish Council with an information package and an application form for joining the Special Constables. The Council will keep this at its office for general reference. Alternatively Sergeant Moscrop is contactable at Quorn Police Station on 0116 222 2222. He will be happy to hear from anyone wishing to apply or just seeking more information.

Sileby Parish Council

41 HIGH STREET, SILEBY

LOUGHBOROUGH

LEICESTERSHIRE, LE 12 7RX

Telephone: 01509 813075 *Fax:* 01509 815288

E-mail: Clerk@SilebyParishCouncil.freemove.co.uk

Office hours: Monday to Thursday 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

The Full Parish Council Meeting is held on the third Thursday of each month at Sileby Community Centre at 7.30 p.m. The Public is welcome to attend.

Prior to the Full Parish Council Meeting, from 7.00p.m. to 7.30 p.m. there is an informal public question time.

SILEBY PARISH COUNCILLORS – Contacts

Councillor Mr P J Astill

Tel: 01509 812263

Councillor D Breen

Tel: 01509 814514

Councillor R Brown

Tel: 01509 816545

Councillor Mrs B A Crick

Tel: 01509 813335

Councillor Mrs E Gilbert

Tel: 01509 814330

Councillor Mrs J Harris

Tel: 01509 813611

Councillor K Jones

Tel: 01509 812982

Councillor Mrs J Kent

Tel: 01509 813818

Councillor A Latham

Tel: 01509 813502

Councillor Mrs K Machin

Tel: 01509 814215

Councillor T Macken

Tel: 01509 814304

Councillor A Shepherdson

Tel: 01509 813451

Councillor Mrs P Staples

Tel: 01509 813579

Councillor B Stevens

Tel: 01509 813986

Councillor N Stork

Tel: 01509 814887

County Councillor R Mason

Tel: 01509 812539

Borough Councillor

Dr A French

Tel: 0116 2604595

Borough Councillor

Mrs R Trasler

Tel: 01509 813721

Mr Andrew Reed

House of Commons

London, SW1A 0A

Forthcoming Events

OCTOBER

Fri 26 Parish Council Disco for primary school children in the Community Centre - (4+ to 7 yrs. 6.30-7.30pm) - (7 to 11 yrs. 7.30-9 pm)

NOVEMBER

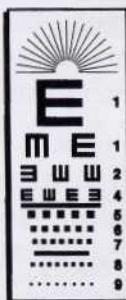
Sun 11 Remembrance Parade Service in St Mary's Church at 3.00 pm

Sat 17 Badger Rummage Sale in St. John H.Q., King Street from 9 am till noon

Sat 24 Scout Christmas Fair in Community Centre from 2 pm till 4.00 pm

DECEMBER

Fri 7 Switching on of the Christmas Lights in Martins Walk at 6.30 pm



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A. G. Richards, B.Sc., M.C.Optom. & D. Richards, B.Sc., M.C. Optom.

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Sileby Town Football Club fixtures

FIXTURES from October 2001

6	October	H	Stoney Stanton
13	October	A	Asfordby Amateurs
20	October	H	Ratby Sports
27	October	A	Anstey Town
10	November	A	North Kilworth
17	November	H	Loughborough Dynamo
24	November	A	Cottesmore Amateurs S&S
1	December	H	Earl Shilton Albion
8	December	A	Bardon Hill Sports
15	December	A	Loughborough Dynamo
22	December		No fixture
29	December	H	Saffron Dynamo

2002

5	January	A	Lutterworth Town
12	January	H	Bardon Hill Sports
19	January	A	Narborough & Littlethorpe
26	January	H	Huncote Sports & Social
2	February	A	Leicestershire Constabulary
9	February	H	Asfordby Amateurs
16	February	A	Stoney Stanton
23	February	H	Anstey Town
2	March		No fixture
9	March		No fixture
16	March	H	North Kilworth
23	March	H	Cottesmore Amateurs S&S
30	March	A	Earl Shilton Albion

Sileby Saints Football Club Fixtures

All matches kick-off at 2.30 pm

September 29 is reserved for County Cup Competitions

6	October	A	Loughborough Town Reserves
13	October	A	FC Bush (Cobin Trophy)
20	October	A	Astrazenca, Charnwood
27	October	A	FC Bush

Village Appraisal

I joined the Sileby Village Appraisal Group in April 2000. We spent nearly a year working on the Sileby Village Appraisal Questionnaire, debating which questions to ask and why and how to ask them most objectively. Sileby is a very complex village with many serious problems so the questionnaire had to be serious, thorough and detailed. After exhaustive efforts the Appraisal Questionnaire was designed and printed and then distributed by nearly 40 volunteers. As the returned questionnaires flew past 60% of the total village households, we know we had a significant and democratic body of information to analyse, although analysing over 1600 documents is a major undertaking and is taking longer than any of us anticipated. So please be patient with us, we are working as quickly as possible.

To give a brief insight into results to this stage, the following are just 2 of the 75 questions.

"Do you think that there are any major "danger spots" on the roads in and around the village?" 89.9% of all villagers, say yes, 1,322 villagers identify several road junctions adjacent to the church and High Street as blind spots, a further 555 villagers express concern about Swan Street.

"Do you think that traffic problems in the village are related to any of the following?" Again the response was overwhelming, 1,447 villagers recite "lack of residential parking, 1,435 villagers commented upon "parking on corners" and 1,292 villagers refer to "blind spots" once more.

The returned documents demonstrate deep concern at the state of the village centre, the scale of decline in village shopping facilities, the run down and neglected appearance of the village and facilities for the young and the elderly among many other issues. A full and detailed report will be published in the next few months. We then intend to move from analysis to action, with all agencies responsible for the welfare of Sileby involved.

Paul Atkinson. A member of the Village Appraisal Team

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