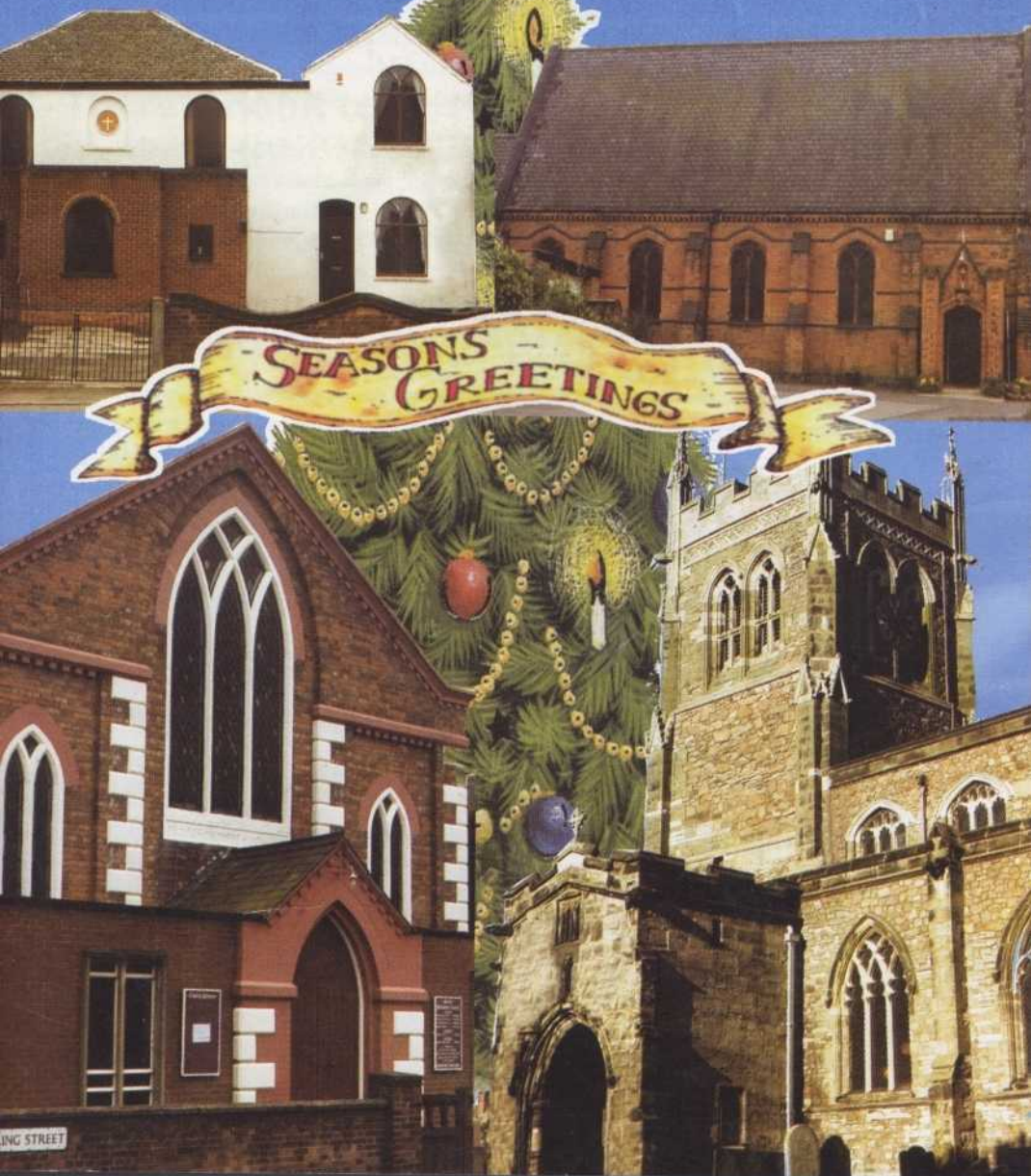


# talk @ Sileby

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2001





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## Foreword

This is the first full copy of *talk@Sileby*, twice the number of pages in fact that the little pilot had.

We hope that future issues will be this size. We will publish the magazine quarterly with issues in March, June, September and December.

Many thanks to all who sent contributions. Deadline for the March magazine is end of January and forthcoming events should include March, April, May and the first two weeks of June.

Merry Christmas everyone, and lets hope for a Peaceful New Year.

## There's nowt to do

That's what I hear villagers say, yet I know that there's something to do somewhere in the village every night, but what and where I ask.

Look at the Forthcoming Events page in this issue and that tells a different story, so please all you different organisations let us and the village know what you do and where.

The shop story is the same. Villagers, say there are no shops but unless we all use the ones that are left they will close. As the old saying goes USE IT OR LOSE IT.

There is something new happening:

'A Valentines Ball' on 9th February 2002, the tickets will be on sale soon, so watch out for the notices!

Another new venture hopefully to start will be a 'Gardeners Club' starting in the Spring. Anyone interested is asked to contact myself on 01509 816545 for further details.

I would like to thank everyone at *talk@Sileby* for their hard work in producing and distributing the magazine.

Finally I would like to send *Seasons Greeting to everyone,*

*Roy Brown.*

---

## 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

Roy Brown

Lionel Blower

Louise Peers

Jacqueline Williams

Joe Vögtlin

Ken Jones

Barry Stevens



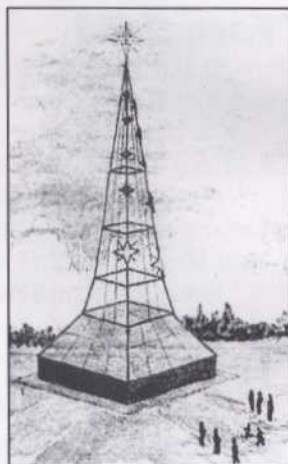
## Kenneth's Tower on the Shortlist

Mr. Kenneth Gilbert of Banks Close a 75 year old amateur architect beat off over 200 professional architects and artists with a design to create the East Midlands equivalent of the Angel of the North

Lee Stokes, competition organiser, said "I think he's shown the whizz-kids a thing or two. We had all these e-mails and J-peg images but I think his simple drawing impressed the judges more. He has done well to reach the finals and maybe it's a lesson to be learned for the younger generation."

Kenneth's tower has a series of doors at the base leading to rooms in which the different counties in the region would be represented by displays of their history and achievements.

The winner will be announced before *talk@Sileby* hits the streets but after the magazine has gone to print. But whether you win or not Kenneth, Well Done! Proud of you!



## Quickies

Those of you who visited St.Mary's flower and craft on September 8th could not have failed to be impressed by the wealth of talent on display. Art, embroidery, canvas work, decoupage, silk dyes, woodturning. The list is endless, which brings me to ask the question "Is there any chance of someone restarting the annual exhibition of Arts and Crafts which used to be held at the Village Institute?"

Publishing a poem in this issue led us to discuss Poetry readings etc. There are a number of poets in the village. If anyone is interested in starting a poetry group you can write to the Editor putting POETRY in the top left-hand corner of the envelope and Carol-Anne will see if there is enough interest to take it further.

For the bilingual amongst us who speak both English and Sileby: A man eager to get home for his Christmas dinner 'borrowed' a horse. Unfortunately on the way home he was stopped by the Constable who asked if he had the owners permission to ride without a saddle. "Well Constable, it wor loike this. Ah wor walkin across the fayld an this oss wor lyin on the pad. Ah wor too frit t'goo in front on it in case it bit mi, an ah wor too frit t'goo at the back on it in case it kicked mi. Ah worjus strymin uver it when it gorrup an run off wi mi."

## Sileby Evergreen Club



On October 6th 1951 Mr. Francis Burton, the clubs first president and benefactor opened Sileby Evergreen Club and on Saturday October 6th 2001 a Golden Anniversary party was held at the Village Institute.

Amongst the special guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of Charnwood, and Vice President Mrs. Joyce Tayler (Mr. Francis Burtons daughter) and her family. Mr. Les Yates opened the proceedings by welcoming all present, which included honorary life members, and spoke on how after fifty years the club was still vibrant and financially strong.

Each guest was given a golden rose and a lovely tea was enjoyed by all along with music on the organ by a talented chap called 'Graham'.

Two of the trustees have just resigned, Mrs. Bene Roberts and Mr. John Whittington. Successors are Mr. John Astill and Mr. Les Yates.

Besides a photograph of their recent Golden Anniversary, we have managed to uncover a photograph from way back in 1951. Mr. Francis Burton is fourth from the left.

The Evergreen Club meets on Wednesday and Fridays 2 pm - 4 pm. Entertainment includes Bingo, whist and on the second Monday of each month there is a Tea Dance. The dance is for mixed dancing, ranging from sequence to modern. So come on you lot, polish up your dancing shoes and get down there. Chairman, Mrs. Gwen Yates says that new members are always very welcome. Minimum age is 55 years.





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# Homefield College, House & Liquorice Shop

It may come as a surprise to some of you to know that Sileby is home to a national specialist college. Homefield College, at 42 St Mary's Road, provides residential further education and training to young people with learning difficulties. Established in 1986, the college attracts students from all over the country, sponsored through the Learning & Skills Council which funds all post 16 education and training in England. From its small beginnings in 1986, catering for less than 10 students, the college now operates 5 houses in Sileby, which provide accommodation for current and former students.

Students usually come for 2-3 years, and work on a programme designed to meet their individual needs. Many students with special needs can continue their education in mainstream colleges. Homefield College caters specifically for those students whose needs cannot be met in a mainstream environment, but for some, a major aim of their course will be to enable them to access larger environments and more mainstream services.

Homefield College is a specialist college and is a member of the Association of National Specialist Colleges (NATSPEC - [www.natspec.org.uk](http://www.natspec.org.uk)) whose college's provide for a range of students with a wide variety of learning difficulties and disabilities. The college is inspected in the same way as all colleges of Further Education, against national standards. In a recent inspection, the college was awarded a Grade 1, the highest award, for its "outstanding provision". Needless to say that staff and students alike were delighted to see the colleges being recognised nationally as a centre of excellence.

Homefield College students are complex and often have a number of additional needs associated with language, communication, sensory impairments or behavioural challenges. In recent years the college has increasingly provided for students who are on the autistic spectrum, and we have undertaken extensive staff training to enable us as an organisation to meet the individual needs of our students.

The college curriculum is focused on helping students to develop their independent living skills to enable them to become more self-reliant. In addition the college continues to develop students basic skills and where appropriate vocational options.

A major focus of our vocational work with the students has been through our retail venture, which we call "Liquorice", because it sells "all sorts!"

The Liquorice shop is an initiative whose overriding aim is to provide sheltered work experience opportunities for students at the college. It is a perfect environment in which to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of shop work, and to provide practical opportunities to use basic skills such as money, counting and time. Most importantly however, is a vehicle to allow students to develop their social skills and appropriate

behaviour. In the process it is hoped to offer a range of interesting gift ideas as well as providing students with relevant work based learning.

Homefield College is one of only 60 specialist residential colleges in the country and Sileby has provided an ideal location in which the students can live and learn.

We recognise and appreciate the support and understanding shown to our students by customers to our shop and by the community in general.

## Poem

I'm well past my three score years and ten  
My 'Summer Days' won't come again  
Grey of hair, and rather stout  
Doing my jobs and getting about  
Not important, I wouldn't be missed.  
The last election was when I was kissed.  
I fetch my pension, I must survive,  
It's just enough to keep me alive,  
But 'not important' that's where you're wrong  
I'm wooed and courted the whole week long  
They keep dropping in for a little chat,  
Promising me this and promising me that,  
They're after something it's plain to see,  
What have I got that's peculiar to me?  
I've suddenly guessed it, Tory and Labour, they're after my vote!

*Written by Popsy Gilbert*

---

## Contacts:

### Editor

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Sileby LE12 7RQ  
01509 812031

### Co-ordinator

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Sileby LE12 7TG  
01509 816545

### Advertising

Jacqueline Williams  
11 Swan Street  
Sileby LE12 7NN  
01509 815946

The advertising rates for *talk@Sileby* are listed below. The prices cover two issues of the magazine, each issue reaches 3,000 houses.

Back Page £140	-	Full Page £100
Half Page £60	-	Quarter Page £40

**Disclaimer:** The views expressed in this magazine are the views of the contributors and not necessarily the views of the *talk@sileby* team.



## Your Letters Page . . .

How wonderful to have a village magazine once again I'd like to express my thanks to the Editorial and Administration teams and to wish them well for the future.

I filled out the form for the village appraisal and I was beginning to think we would hear no more about it. It's so good to know that it has not been put to one side and that we will be getting some information on the outcome soon.

On the question of the swimming pool fund, I would be interested to know how much is in the fund and also where the location of the said pool will be situated. Would it be possible to get a grant from the lottery, or perhaps Charnwood Borough Council would be willing to help out. I have lived in the village for thirty six years and the pool was the talking point all those years ago. I'm sure that I as well as several others have just about given up hope the pool ever getting the go ahead.

It seems that all the spare land is being used to put up even more houses without a thought being given to the fact that we desperately need some decent shops, more parking places and some better leisure facilities.

When are people with dogs going to take responsibility for cleaning up after their animals. One has to keep looking down even when walking on the pavements to avoid treading in the mess. Folk seem to think it is their right to allow their pets to foul on every bit of green grass. It surely doesn't take a couple of seconds to pop a polybag into a pocket and then clean up and put it in a bin. So come on all you dog lovers, help to make Sileby a cleaner and better place to live.

*Jean Taylor*

## WANTED!

*Talk@Sileby* reaches 3,000 homes in the village making it a mammoth task for the distribution side.

If anyone is willing to help deliver the magazine, to part or all of your street we would be so glad of your help.

Volunteers can write to any of the Contacts (page 8). Thank you.

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We hold regular diabetic clinics, sessions for cryotherapy and Friday afternoon is Baby Clinic.

## **Sileby Heritage Warden**

Radio Leicester recently featured an interview with Dan Jacklin of Holly Hayes Environment Resources Centre, Birstall. Part of his work is to encourage parishes to set up a Heritage Warden scheme which seeks to protect our local environment and heritage. There are five "topic" areas which are:

1. Natural heritage
2. Geological heritage.
3. Archaeological heritage.
4. Built and industrial heritage.
5. Local and social history, folklore and customs.

My interest is in nature conservation and I'd like to share the ideas coming from Holly Hayes and to encourage and protect the wildlife in Sileby. You can contact me on Sileby 813090 Barbara Cotgreave, 10 Parsons Drive Sileby.



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## **Family Fun Morning**

A Family Fun morning was held on Saturday 13 October for local families. 15 families including parents, grandparents and their children joined in a range of activities including indoor sports, crafts, using computers and story telling.

Previous family fun events have been held at the Youth Club but this time Redlands School hosted the event and provided extra space for some sports. Will, Sports Development Officer from Charnwood Borough Council brought along games equipment suitable for indoor use. Two librarians attended providing one session on tracing your family tree through the library service and another on story telling. Children left happily with fishing rods and magnetic fish, colourful octopuses, computer printouts and red faces from hectic games.

Representatives from Sileby St. John's Ambulance Brigade were on hand to discuss basic first aid. A short first-aid course for local people and accompanied children was discussed and we hope to offer this in the New Year.

The activities were free and the morning organised by Leicestershire County Council's community education service. The event took place during national Family Learning Weekend, an initiative to encourage more parents to join in and enjoy learning activities with their children. It would be great to see more dads come along to these sessions.

Funding is available for one more similar event before the end of March. I would like to hear from anyone interested in helping promote the next event and from those with ideas about preferred dates and venues. I can be contacted at Sileby Parish Office on Wednesday mornings or on (0116) 260 0071.

*Yvonne Casswell*

## **Computing for the terrified**

This free five-week course is offered at Sileby Youth Club on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons. The tutor will assume no previous knowledge of computers and caters for adults of all ages. To find out when the next course starts telephone 0116 2600071 Yvonne Casswell.



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# **Sileby Photographic Society**

## **Programme – December 2001 to March 2002**

All meetings are held at The Village Institute, Cossington Road, Sileby on Mondays at 7.45 pm for 8.00 pm

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| December 10 | Slide competition between members with Peter Jones from Quorn as Judge.  |
| December 17 | Short displays by members.   |
| January 7   | Annual Competition for prints and slides. Rob Palmer from Eastwood, Notts is the judge and he will pass comments on the work submitted and determine the winners in each category. |
| January 14  | Slide presentation by one of our longest serving member, David Putt.   |
| January 21  | Annual Dinner and Presentation Evening at The Cedars Hotel, Loughborough, 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm.   |
| January 28  | A print lecture entitled "More Models" by Steve Myall  |
| February 4  | A slide show by Val Williams, one of our members from the village – Island Hopping".   |
| February 11 | A lecture by one of the most well-known photographers in the Midlands, Bob Moore, on Digital Prints  |
| February 25 | The first round in our Quarterly Competition for slides, black & white and colour prints – Judge: Phil Lawson.   |
| March 4     | General Meeting  |
| March 11    | "Lane in Spain" – a return visit to the Society by Mike Lane.  |

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Family services will be on the fourth Sunday morning of each month.

Childrens Sunday School begins at 10.45 am - 11.45am, come along and join the team.

MONDAY evening at 7.45 pm - 9.00 pm - The Ladies Circle.

TUESDAY afternoon at 2.45 pm-3.45 pm - Ladies Fellowship.

THURSDAY Coffee morning is held at 10.00 am - 11.15 am

There is a large church hall with stage, to let at reasonable rates per hour. All enquiries for this to Mr. C. Mead (01509) 813136

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# **We would love it if you could join us as we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace**

**Christmas and the New Year 2001/2002**

***Wishing Everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a  
Peaceful New Year, from the Christian Churches in  
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## **Baptist**

Sunday 23rd December

6.30 pm Christmas Family Service

Tuesday 25th December

10.30 am Christmas Day Service

## **St. Gregory's**

Monday 24th December

6.00 pm Childrens Christmas Mass

9.00 pm Christmas Night Mass

Tuesday 25th December

9.30 am Christmas Day Mass

## **Methodist**

Sunday 16th December

4.00 pm Carol Service and Nativity

Sunday 23rd December

10.45 am Family Christmas

Celebration with Baptism

4.00 pm Service

Tuesday 25th December

9.30 am United Service - Wysall.

Transport available.

Friday 10th January

7.00 pm Covenant and United  
Service. All welcome.

St. Gregory's Catholic Church,  
The Banks, Sileby.

Sileby Baptist Church,  
Cossington Road, Sileby.

Sileby Methodist Church,  
King Street, Sileby

St. Mary's Church,  
Mountsorrel Lane, Sileby

All Saint's Church,  
Main Street, Cossington

All Saint's Church,  
Church Street, Seagrave.

## **St. Mary's**

Monday 20th December

4.00 pm Family Carols

6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight

11.30 pm Midnight Communion

Tuesday 25th December

9.00 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Family Service

Sunday 30th December

10.30 am Benefice Communion  
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For details of these and all other  
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## Quiz time . . .

You have all enjoyed Mastermind, Millionaire and The Weakest Link and some of you will take part in the village quizzes. Here is another quiz for you to enter and keep you busy over Christmas. Write the answers on a separate piece of paper and return to either 4 Haybrooke Road or hand in to Jacqueline Williams at Therapies by Friday 4th January. The winner will be announced in the next issue.

- 1 Who was Vice-President of the USA to George Bush and what was his home state?
- 2 What is the highest peak in the Alps and what is its height?
- 3 What type of rock is the Giant's Causeway composed of?
- 4 Who was the author of the Canterbury Tales?
- 5 By what name is Norma Jean Baker better known?
- 6 At which racecourse is the St Ledger run?
- 7 Who was the first monarch of the House of Lancaster and who was his father?
- 8 Who was the composer of "Enigma Variations"?
- 9 Which President of USA proposed "Fourteen Points" and why?
- 10 What is the former name of the city of Harare?
- 11 Which country administers Clipperton Island and where is it located?
- 12 Which French monarch was known as the "Sun King"?
- 13 On what date was the Battle of Bosworth Field?
- 14 What is the family name of the Dukes of Devonshire?
- 15 What is the name of the lost city of the Incas discovered in 1911?
- 16 In folklore, who is the King of the Fairies?
- 17 Who was the author of "Paradise Lost" and in which year was it first published?
- 18 What does "11" represent on the Beaufort Scale?
- 19 What does the acronym BAFTA represent?
- 20 What river forms a large part of the northern border of Afghanistan?
- 21 What was the nationality of the navigator Abel Tasman?
- 22 What is the capital of Uzbekistan?
- 23 On which island did the Dodo live?
- 24 Which two Argentinian footballers joined Tottenham Hotspur after they had won the World Cup 1978?
- 25 Which three cities were destroyed by the volcano Vesuvius when it erupted in 79 BC?



# **A.G. & D. RICHARDS**

## **OPTOMETRISTS**

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- 26 What was Oscar Wilde's original name?
- 27 Who succeeded Joseph Smith as leader of the Mormons?
- 28 Which county won the Cricinfo County Championship in 2001?
- 29 Who scored the goal for North Korea that knocked Italy out of the 1966 World Cup?
- 30 Who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001?
- 31 Who is the Prime Minister of Italy? (October 2001 - they change often!)
- 32 What is the name of the canal that connects Lakes Erie and Ontario?
- 33 In which year did Lady Jane Grey become Queen for 9 days?
- 34 Who won the boxing Super-heavyweight Gold Medal at the Sydney Olympic Games?
- 35 How many railway stations are still open in Leicestershire?
- 36 Which motorways pass through Leicestershire?
- 37 What do the initials LMSR and LNER represent?
- 38 Who played the part of Chris in the film "The Magnificent Seven"?
- 39 In which year did Karol Wojtyla become Pope?
- 40 What are the two official languages of Belgium?

## Letters Page

I read with interest the pilot booklet *'talk@Sileby'* as one who attended all Village appraisal meetings, and subsequent follow ups. I am encouraged by the response from Sileby residents.

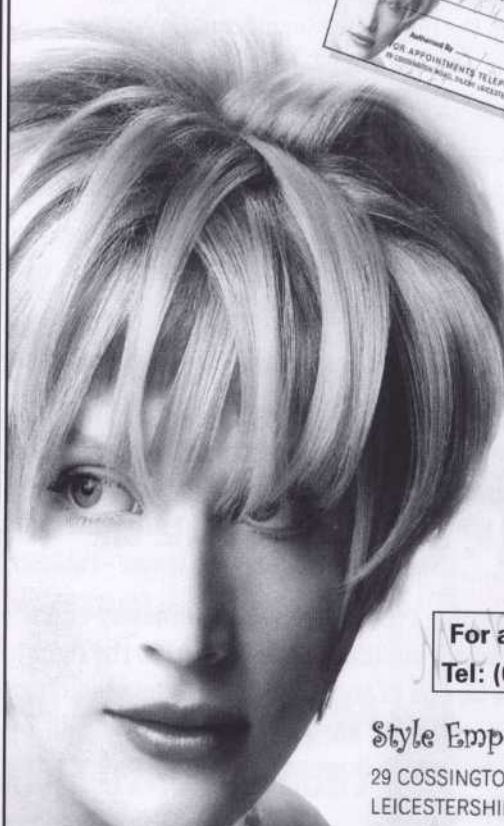
I have lived here for 36 years, and witnessed the dreadful decline of property, facilities, and places of work.

I am interested in our future as a community, especially as I have three young grandsons living here in the village. I belong to several organisations, committees, one of which is the Sileby Townwomen's Guild of which there is no mention in your brochure. Teresa (Terri) Warren (*There is now!* - Publisher)

Walking in the park the other day I looked up at the cemetery and the old chapel which is quite an attractive building. I then looked to the right to the old Tip building which must be one of the world's most ugly buildings. But why is it still there, its not used for anything and it never will be. Perhaps someone from the council can tell us why we need to keep this eyesore?

**Mick Fletcher**

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1. What was Westlifes first number one single?
2. Which girl band sang 'C'est la vie'?
3. Who hosts the Pepsi chart on the radio?
4. Who had a 2001 hit with '21 seconds'?
5. A member of which band recently married Gail Porter?
6. How many number 1's did Boyzone have?
7. Name the members of Atomic Kitten.
8. Who was the chauffeur in Madonnas 'Music' video?
9. Who in 2001 were building 'castles in the sky'?
10. Name Robbie Williams first 3 albums?
11. How old is Kylie Minogue?
12. Which band had albums 'Crush' and 'These days'?
13. Who is the voice of Bob the Builder?
14. Which Manchester band are celebrating 10 years in the business?
15. Who duetted with the stereophonics on 'Mama told you not to come'?
16. What was the highest chart position for 'hey baby' by D.J.Otzi?
17. Who are also known as the flopstars?
18. Which member of S club 7 is the youngest?
19. Which female singer sometimes wears an eyepatch?
20. On Christmas day 2001 what will be the combined age of Westlife?

## Answers:

As there were no letters in the pilot publication we printed two questions which a number of villages had asked us to find the answers to.

### What is going to happen in the centre of Sileby?

The answer to this is we just do not know yet, everything is still in the balance.

### What has happened to the Swimming Pool Fund and who are the Trustees?

The Swimming Pool Fund stands at present at approximately £53,000 and is in a Halifax Treasurers Account. There are four Trustees.

When the Village Appraisal document is published in the near future they will have more details.

A question which has come in to us this issue and we already know the answer to:

### What is the alleyway called between the Hobbs Wick and The Banks?

Bushel Bridge.



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## **Seasons Greetings from Sileby Neighbourhood Watch!**

Being a member of the scheme has many practical advantages. For example, you can feel secure knowing that your neighbours are always keeping an eye on your property. You can also get lower insurance premiums from some insurance companies. Many members agree the Neighbourhood Watch has brought back a community spirit in their area, with neighbours working together to organise social events. Neighbourhood Watch can be much more than an attempt to prevent burglaries. You and your neighbours can actually improve life in your community. You are not expected to patrol streets or be vigilantes. In fact the scheme aims to avoid this sort of 'busybodying', but Watch members are expected to be alert and respond to what is going on in their neighbourhood. For example, milk bottles left on a doorstep, or a newspaper left half-pushed through a letterbox can mean your neighbour has gone on holiday and forgotten to cancel a regular order, or it can mean someone living alone needs help or attention. These kind of signs attract criminals. But if you notice them and respond, you can save a lot of heartache and expense. And one day your neighbour might do the same for you. Over 25% of Sileby dwellings are in Neighbourhood Watch schemes. If you would like to join or would just like to know more about us you can contact our village bobby PC 554 Steve Rhodes at Quorn Police Station.

### **A few tips around the home:**

- Look as if you're in when you're out.
- Use time switches, to turn on lights, radios and other appliances.
- Don't tempt the thief. Keep valuables and Christmas presents out of sight.
- Don't advertise you are absent when away. Most burglars will only tackle empty houses.
- If you can, get a friend or neighbour to look after your home when you are away by collecting your post, drawing your curtains at night and generally making the place look lived in. And be prepared to do the same for them.

## So pleased!

I was so pleased to see that Sileby has its own village newsletter again. During the seven years I lived in the village I was disappointed to see the loss of 'The Stockade'. It is important to have a common forum for exchanging news and views. I hope to be able to contribute on specific issues and read news and views for a long time to come.

Over the coming months I hope to be able to contribute to the debate about "where now for Sileby". I am the first to recognise that the village is going through tremendous change, but if approached in the right way change can be a force for good.

As I still attend St. Mary's church every Sunday and my wife is involved in running the Crusaders youth group, I get to hear a wide range of local opinions - from the old to the young. Yet I know from the amount of things I get to do in the village that it is simply wrong to say there is nothing to do. Yes there could be more, but it requires a bit of energy and enthusiasm from us all to provide them.

In response to my own village survey and talks with so many Sileby residents there are genuinely differing views about what sort of place is wanted. Clearly the main issues remain centred around the development of the village centre. What happens here will determine the character of the place.

But on top of this there are concerns about flooding, shopping, housing development, industrial development or the changing employment pattern. Recreation, sporting facilities and schools as well as local transport all need attention and fresh ideas. But Sileby is not alone. Other local villages have faced similar problems and we must learn from them.

The main thing I would say is to be positive and fight united - a lot can be achieved. I have always believed that local solutions should come from local people and not from outside. Most of the things that need doing will come from the local community itself and then from outside agencies like the Borough Council, the County Council and the Environment Agency to name a few. But you should lead.

I will be working with the final outcome of the Village Appraisal to help deliver the sort of Sileby you want to see. I think Sileby has always had far more potential than it ever gives itself credit for. By working hard with people who want to help, that potential can be realised.

**Andy Reed. M.P.**

# Forthcoming Events

## DECEMBER

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

Wed 19 Social afternoon with refreshments Village Institute 2pm until 4pm

## JANUARY 2002

Tues 1 New Years Day walk - Community Centre Meet at 10.30am.

## FEBRUARY

Sat 9th Valentines Ball - Community Centre

## Family fun morning

### Why you should come to a day like this.

You should come to a Family learning fun day because everything is free. There are lap top computers, sports in the hall and lots of other things to do. I think you should come and have the time of your life at Redlands Community Primary School.

*Written by Stephanic Masding*

### Redlands Fun Day!!!

Saturday 13th I came to Redlands fun day with my sister, nanna and granddad.

While I was there I met Mrs. Clark. And I went on the computers with Paul and Chris.

My Nanna went to the first aid person and helped Fern my sister make a magnetic fish game. My granddad has been talking to Paul and other people and it was a really fun day

*By Luke Brown age 11*

### Family Learning Fun Day

On the 13th October 2001 I came to a family fun day at Redlands Community Primary School. There were laptop computers, a lady from the St.John Ambulance, and I had a great time.

*By Christopher Masding*



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## **St. Mary's Christmas 1998**

It was Christmas Eve and parishioners were beginning to arrive for the service of nine lessons and carols.

From babes in arms to those in later years they came pouring through the doors in search of a place.

A friend and I paused at the back of the Church and looked out onto a truly splendid and heart warming sight. The candles providing the only light for the Church seemed to reach out to every heart and whispered, come and see – what do you see?

We saw the lights and the star, welcoming us all, but most of all it was the peace – even with the noise of the people arriving and the congregation chatting the peace was drawing us in and encouraging a deeper awareness of what Christmas Eve promises.

I wanted to stay and hold the special sight and feeling for as long as possible. The service proved to be really beautiful and I have been heartened since by many, not just regulars, who expressed a similar appreciation of the evening.

The peace of Christmas Eve did stay with me for Christmas and beyond along with a couple of lines from one of the sweetest carols.

'Be near me Lord Jesus I ask you to stay,

Close by me forever and love me, I pray.'

*Name and address supplied*

## **Townswomen's Guild**

The Guild is in its 51st year in Sileby and we have a membership of 60 ladies, 45 or so attend each meeting. We have various speakers/demonstrators every month (excluding July) in addition outings are arranged for Theatre/Coach trips/Meals etc. We are a happy, lively group of varying ages, we support different charities throughout the year. We would welcome all ladies who are interested in joining us. We meet on the 2nd Friday of each month at Sileby Village Institute (off Cossington Road) at 7.30pm.

## **The New Years Day Walk – January 1st 2002**

Lead by John and Beverly Burton the walk this year will be approximately 3 to 4 miles. Everyone is welcome to join in, meeting at the Community Centre at 10.30am.

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