

EARLY SPRING LAMBS !!!



Holly and Ivy from Meadow View Farm, Cossington Road, who made headlines in December for being the first 'Spring Lambs' to be born at Christmas. Another first for Sileby.

Not so much a freak of nature though but an impressive feat by dad Pepsi who if entered into the Ovine Olympics would surely get Gold in the high jump for clearing the dividing fence.

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Foreword

Welcome to issue three of talk@Sileby the newsletter the village asked for. We hope you have enjoyed it so far, and will continue to do so. A quarterly magazine with issues in March, June, September and December, the deadline for the next issue (June) is April 30th and forthcoming events should include June, July August and the first two weeks of September.

Opinion

Whilst we here in at Talk@Sileby are very grateful to those who have contributed so far to this newsletter there is so much more going on in the village that people aren't hearing about.

Have you been mentioned yet? If not, why not?

This is your newsletter, for your opinions, your views and your interests, whether young or old please help us to provide the best newsletter possible.

Speaking of the younger members of the village, what do you want to see in this magazine? The response we got to the Pop Quiz in the last issue was very disappointing with no-one entering even though there was a prize on offer!!

Being someone who isn't very old myself and working with young people through the Scouts I've lost count of the times I've stuck up for the younger members of the community when our elders have criticised us for being 'too loud, too lazy, having no respect, and so on . . . People say if it hasn't got a plug or flashing lights then young people just aren't interested. I for one know this isn't true, I want to hear from youth organisations and individuals, let me know what you have been doing recently and what you are going to do in the future. Let's shed this 'youth of today' image.

Patrick Freeman

Who's Who at – **talk@Sileby**

Editorial Team

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Editor - Patrick Freeman

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Joe Vögtlin

Ken Jones

Barry Stevens

Go on, force yourself

By the way, anyone interested in joining the team at talk@Sileby in any capacity will be more than welcome. We're getting lonely out here!

Flooding in Sileby

The sight of Christmas presents floating in cold muddy water in the living room of a local Sileby house will always remind me of the misery caused by flooding. This is an issue which has affected Sileby more than any other village in the Soar Valley in recent years and of course 1998 and 1999 were a terrible time for local residents and businesses in the heart of the village.

As soon as residents contacted me over Christmas 1998 it was time to get stuck into the local councils and Environment Agency on their behalf. As well as almost daily contact with flooding victims it was a time to put pressure on the various agencies involved. This is when the problems started - pinning down who is responsible for what and who was going to take some responsibility? I constantly tell these authorities that my constituents don't care who is responsible as long as something is done to reduce the risk!

Following pressure, public meetings, I and the Parish organised with representatives from the agencies work to be done and better warnings put in place. But without a proper scheme I was not satisfied.

However, last year saw the worst ever flooding in recent history. Right across the rest of Britain towns and villages found themselves under water and millions of pounds worth of damage was caused especially across the Midlands. It was the first big test of the basic remedial work carried out the year before by the Environment Agency. They spent thousands clearing the brook. Every day of rain I monitored the brook nervously and kept in touch with Brook Street residents as well as the Environment Agency. The fact that we came through last years weather was extremely welcome, but no reason to be complacent.

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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.

The problems are due to a number of factors – building on flood plains, poor maintenance over a couple of decades, increased flooding risk due to global warming and the lack of a proper managed flood alleviation scheme.

Some of the long term solutions to the flooding problem are local – a proper flood alleviation scheme and a better warning system. However, we must also realise that each and every one of us is contributing to global warming and future flooding problems. Some of the latest research shows that we won't have to wait for the next generation to suffer the worst consequences of our polluting actions, but the sort of flooding we saw last year could become common place right across Britain within a decade.

So we have seen a start, but like many locals and I was angered at the latest delays and told the Borough Council and the Environment Agency in no uncertain terms that they must put any differences behind them and get on with the Sileby element of the flood alleviation scheme. Our patience will not allow any further delays and the risk of further misery. I expect action soon.

Andy Reed, M.P.

Queen's Golden Jubilee

SILEBY Parish Council will support and help any organisation/group within the village who wish to provide an event to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Please contact the Clerk on

01509 813075 41, High Street, Sileby LE12 7RX

Sileby Evergreen Whist Club

A whist drive is held on the first Saturday in every month at 2pm in the Evergreen Club. We have a Good attendance from surrounding villages. Everyone is welcome.

Theatre Production - Sileby Community Centre

Sileby Parish Council have arranged a music/comedy show 'Pop Goes the Century' 100 songs from 100 years performed in 100 minutes for Saturday 23rd March, 2002 starting at 7.30 pm at Sileby Community Centre.

Watch out for posters for this event which will be on village notice boards giving details of ticket costs and where tickets can be purchased.

Enjoy a night out in Sileby and support the village!

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Wanted !!! Please

Help with distribution of Talk@Sileby, anywhere in the village but especially around Greedon and Heathcote. Thank you.

Nowt to do?

Roy Brown is quite right when he writes that there's something on in the village every night.

Throughout the summer, Sileby Bowling Club and Sileby Tennis Club are open 7 days per week to new and existing members.

There are two separate clubs operating within one fenced complex, with a car park at the end of Springfield Road and the entrance is on the footpath running from the park to Heathcote Drive.

The Sileby Bowling Club is a mixed club catering for both young and old, ladies and gents. From 7th May, every Tuesday evening at 6pm, the bowls club entertains newcomers who have probably never played the game, people who have just retired, who are looking for a new challenge, new friendships, married couples with children now off their hands. We provide them initially with bowls and the proper shoes, and they pay a small green fee for the evening. Anyone considering this offer should ring Alvin on 01509 812874 or Gordon on 01509 814274 just to ensure we have enough bowls and shoes for that particular Tuesday, or you can just turn up and see what happens, and while you are there why not have a look round our clubhouse and facilities which are available for private functions.

Both the Bowling and the Tennis clubs are eager for new members, and further information can be had by ringing Eric (bowls) 0 116 2234066 or Wendy (tennis) 01509 812692.

Submitted by Eric Lewin Hon. Sec. Sileby Bowling Club.

Adult Learning Opportunities

Leicestershire County Council's community education service aims to extend its adult learning provision in villages like Sileby. Funding is available to provide free, short courses for people to try some new learning or skill; a number of villagers have joined the computing courses at the Youth Club for their first taste of the computers. The "Fitness with Swing" class at Redlands School and the "Drawing and Painting" class at Seagrave School continue to run in the evenings. Other courses can be organised to meet local needs. If you need advice and information on courses available in the area or want help in sorting out those gremlins shown in the recent national advertising campaign do contact me. I can be contacted at Sileby Parish Office on Wednesday mornings or on 0116 260 0071.

Yvonne Casswell

Easter Poem

Golgotha has become a little mound
Of small, round buns in their glass case.
Examine one, but first remove
The placard bearing its red crucifix
In the inscription: even this
Is softened to a democratic 'X'.
Take one up, inspect its new brown face
Dimpled in distortion of a knives
Incision in the softness.

Go on, take a bite, savour the sweetness
As you enjoy this ritual delicacy;
But spare a thought, if you have the time
In your making merry, for a harsh mound,
A savage crossing of two timber strokes,
And the tearing of rough spikes.
All are lessened in this little symbol
You hold Gods' agony made palatable.

Ken Middleton

Help Needed for Childrens Visit

Help and host families are needed to make a real difference with the Loughborough based Chernobyl Children's Lifeline. The charitable organisation is looking to bring over a party of 10 youngsters aged between 9 and 12 on July 19th, who are affected by the nuclear disaster. To make this possible organisers need volunteers to help with fund raising events, donations of good quality second hand clothes, and boxes of chocolates for a fund raising event at the beginning of May. Anyone interested in being a host or support family for a child for 2 or 4 weeks (subject to police and social services checks). Please contact the groups chairman Julia Watts, 01509 558281 The visit can add 2 years to the life expectancy of the youngster as breathing the fresher air and eating better food helps to build up their immune systems.

Old Pictures of Sileby

Over the past few years the Sileby Photographic Society has been building up a collection of pictures of bygone Sileby.

It was given a great start with copies of many of the late Stanley Wholton's prints of old Sileby that had been accumulated over many years. Subsequent additions from various sources, but in particular John Whittington, have seen the collection reach well over 250 prints.

There must be many more old prints in albums or drawers in the village that could prove to be valuable additions.

If you are in possession of any old prints or slides that you are prepared to either donate or loan for copying then please contact Lionel Blower on 816287 or send to 4 Haybrooke Road.

It is hoped to display a large selection of the prints at the Society's Annual Exhibition in October 2002 at the Village Institute.

Letters' page

I would just like to share my feelings regarding the switching on of the Christmas lights. Every year I feel it loses a little more Christmas spirit. It was all done so quickly this year with barely any Christmas atmosphere. I feel it was so much better when the Brownies, Cubs, Badgers etc. used to be in their uniforms and singing the middle, after all it is very much a time for the children. It was also sad this year that we didn't have the hand bell ringers either. It would be nice if the various village groups could have a more prominent presence again.

The lights however were as lovely as always and the Christmas atmosphere inside the community centre having the Christmas Stalls with everyone dressed up was wonderful.

Do other villagers who were there, feel the same?

Mrs. J. Shenton

After hearing about talk@Sileby through Radio Leicester, I was reading it to my elderly Mother, born in Sileby, but living in Leicester now.

It's nice to keep in touch with what's going on in Sileby. Her comments to "There's nowt to do" were in the amusing young Sileby accent! That in her young days 1920's when the village was a small community there seemed to be no problem, using the natural surroundings people just gathered together and walked everywhere.

E. Bandy

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Sileby Tennis Club

SILEBY Tennis Club can be found off Springfield Road or just a short walk through the park along the footpath towards Seagrave. The four all-weather courts can be seen behind the Sileby Bowls Club. During the Summer season (April-October) club times are Monday Evenings for ladies. Wednesday evenings for all standards from beginners to County level. Sunday afternoons for American Tournaments. The Adults also have teams in the Leicestershire League (2 ladies, 2 mens and one mixed)

The Junior section has an excellent programme throughout the Summer season beginning with a Junior Open/Joining Day on Saturday 6th April 10 am-2 pm when Junior Secretary Liz will be available to answer any queries and sign on new and old members.

This year Liz will be putting a team in the Leicestershire League and be taking part in the Fallows Cup. Also throughout the Summer Holidays many activities are planned from age 5 years to 16 years. Coaching is also available, the first course begins on Monday 25th March for 5, one hour sessions and costs £10. The second course begins on Saturday 20th April 18th May (again, one hour sessions) and will cost £8. Both of these courses need to be booked by ringing Liz Copson on Sileby 814066.

Please come to visit the courts on any of the times given when you will be given a very warm welcome.

Christine Thompson

Photograph shows Junior Secretary Liz with the middle age group at the Summer Fun Session.



Easter Greetings

From the Christian Churches of Sileby, Cossington and Seagrave.

St.Mary's

Maundy Thursday 28th March

Communion	7.30 pm	Cossington
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Good Friday 29th March

Quiet Hour	2pm-3 pm	St.Marys
Service of Meditation and Prayers	7.30 pm	Seagrave

Easter Day 31st

Easter Communion	9.00 am	Cossington
Easter Communion	9.00 am	Seagrave
Benefice All Age Communion and Cornerstones Club	10.30 am	St.Marys
Council of Churches Easter Praise Church	6.30 pm	Baptist

Baptist

Palm Sunday March 24

Morning Worship	10.30 am
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Easter Sunday March 31st

Morning Worship	10.30 am
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St.Gregory's

Palm Sunday

Mass	9.30 am
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Good Friday

Stations of the Cross	3.00 pm
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Easter Eve

Easter Vigil Mass	7.30 pm
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Easter Sunday

Mass	9.30 am
------	---------

Methodist

Easter Sunday

Service	10.45 am
Holy Communion	4.00 pm

Good Friday March 29th 10.30am Council of Churches United Service at St.Marys followed by Walk of Witness at 11.30am followed by Hunger Lunch at Methodist church 12 noon onwards.

Forthcoming Events

MARCH

Sat. 9th - Rummage Sale, St. Gregory's Hall, 10 am-12 noon

Sat. 23d - Theatre production in the Community Centre at
7.30 pm

APRIL

Sat. 6th - Junior Tennis Open/Joining Day at the Tennis Club
10 am-2 pm

JUNE

Sun. 2nd - 'Picnic on the Park' in Memorial park at 1.00pm
(please bring own food and drink)

Sat 8th - Scout Groups Summer Fair on Redlands School Field
from 1-4 pm - Extra special this year because of the Scout
Groups 50th anniversary!

Copies of talk@Sileby

So many ex-Sileby residents have asked for a copy of Talk@Sileby that we have started a mailing list.

Price per issue is 50p which includes p.p. (Four issues per year)

Please make cheques payable to: **Sileby Village Newsletter**

Sileby Heritage Warden

Can anyone help? There are several projects to get involved with at the moment:

A Hedgehog survey, an ancient tree survey, and a survey to find the current and former names of our local pubs.

Also, does anyone know if the plant 'Dogs Mercury' is growing anywhere in Sileby? This plant is an indicator of former ancient woodland sites.

Contact: Barbara Cotgreave, 10 Parsons Drive. Sileby 813090.

Sileby Photographic Society

Programme – March to June 2002

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

March	4	General Meeting
March	11	A Lane in Spain – Lecture by Mike Lane
March	18	Skittles Night at Barrow Conservative Club
March	25	Three-way Battle with Melton Mowbray and Grantham Photographic Societies Judge - Brian Grafton
April	8	Slide Knockout Competition – Judge - Reg Brealey
April	15	Kulu and Ladakh – Lecture by Tim Hudson
April	22	Quarterly Competition – Judge - Peter Gibson
April	29	Slide Match with Shepshed and Earl Shilton Photographic Societies – Judge - Dennis Shipman
May	13	An evening with Colin Machin and Mandy Sherrington
May	20	Visit to Kodak Laboratory at Kirkby in Ashfield
May	27	Annual General Meeting
June	10	Mono Monologue 2; Potpourri Lecture by John Colmer
June	24	Quarterly Competition – Judge - Eric Moore

Quiz time

The winner of the quiz in the second issue was Clive Harrison. All of the entries were of a high standard with three points separating the first three. Here is the next quiz to keep your minds active and the encyclopedias well used. 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 3 May 2002. The winner will be announced in the next issue.

- 1 Which group of people were emancipated in 1829?
- 2 Who was the predecessor of Cecil Day-Lewis as Poet Laureate?
- 3 What mythological creature was half-man and half-horse?
- 4 Who was the world's first woman Prime Minister and of which country?

- 5 What are the Roman numerals for 400?
- 6 In history, who was 'Hotspur'?
- 7 Who was the first man to renounce his peerage?
- 8 Which chancellor introduced Premium Bonds?
- 9 What was the principal event that caused the American Civil War?
- 10 Which breed of dog is considered the tallest?
- 11 In which city and in which year was Martin Luther King assassinated?
- 12 Who made the first flight across the English Channel and in which year?
- 13 Whose fleet comprised the vessels Trinidad, San Antonia, Concepcion, Vittoria and Santiago?
- 14 What is the longest river in Scotland?
- 15 Who was the leader of the EOKA movement in Cyprus leading up to independence?
- 16 Where did Edward II die and how?
- 17 What is the minimum age that the President of America must be?
- 18 Who was the originator of the Penny Post?
- 19 What is the highest peak in Northern Ireland?
- 20 Who was the leader of the 'Lollards'?
- 21 What was the name of Hitler's wife and how long were they married?
- 22 Who set 'Rule Britannia' to music?
- 23 In which country is Timbuktu?
- 24 Who is the only Peruvian to have won a singles title at Wimbledon?
- 25 In which country is the ancient city of Troy?
- 26 What is the home ground of Torquay United Football Club?
- 27 By what name is 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington better known?
- 28 Who designed the Welsh town of Portmerion?
- 29 Who were the parents of John the Baptist?
- 30 Who was the Prime Minister at the time of the abdication of King Edward VIII?

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Sileby and District Christian Council of Churches

On the 31st May 1985, the Revd. Raymond Hunting retired as Vicar of Sileby St. Marys Church. At that time the wardens were Mr Jim Healy, who had served in this capacity in the teens of years, and myself John Whittington, newly appointed in my first year as warden. The Revd. Richard Jones the Methodist Minister had for some years the desire for the Christian Churches to share a united witness in Sileby.

With this in mind he approached we Anglican Church wardens with the question as to whether or not the time might be appropriate to get together in such a venture. We agreed 'nothing ventured nothing gained', and that we would have a go.

In 1986 the Diocese of Leicester decided to form a 'United Benefice of Sileby', Cossington and Seagrave' when a team rector and later a team vicar would be appointed to minister in the three parishes. By this time Mr. Jones had approached the Baptist and Roman Catholic churches to form a committee consisting of their minister and two lay members from each of the churches involved who agreed to form a Christian Council.

On Sept. 6th 1986 the Revd. Robert Readshaw became the new minister at the Methodist church and the Revd. Alan Turner was appointed Priest in charge at Sileby four days later. They were joined by Fr. Dennis Higgins, of St. Gregorys, and Pastor George Holt of the Baptist church.

There are now six churches involved making a membership of 17 people on the committee, who meet in each others churches four times a year. We discuss together in unity the best way in which we can serve the Lord in this village and surrounding areas. On many occasions we join together for Worship and Praise along with the members of all the churches. These include Week for Christian Unity, Lent House Groups, Good Friday March of Witness followed by a Hunger Lunch. A time of fellowship and enjoyment.

Every household receives an Easter and Christmas card with details of all the services and greetings from the S.D.C.C. of churches. Once a month a short service is taken at Highbury and Dudley Court for the residents. The ministers regularly meet together to pray for the needs of our community and we find no barriers or difficulties, denominational or otherwise. And the love of fellowship and friendship has greatly increased.

In the last decade the clergy have bonded further, arranging a visit to the Holy Land followed the next year by an ecumenical party of lay members there, led by Fr. Anthony Pateman. The churches together are planning to hold a 'Jubilee Picnic' in the Memorial Park on June 2nd this year. Every person who would like to come along will be very welcome. There will be a toast in honour of the Queen.

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On the buses

Just over a year and a half ago, my job changed from Recycling Officer to Environmental Co-ordinator. At the same time I stopped being an essential car-user, who really did have to have a car at work practically every day, and I became a casual car-user. My new job has quite a bit to do with transport and encouraging people to use cars less and I believe in "walking my talk" as they say in the States, so I thought I would try to use public transport. It was a farce. My route is the KinchBus 2 and I need to get from East Goscote to Loughborough (and back). This was about a week after they stopped running the "2" through Syston but we knew there was at least one bus each morning because we had seen it going the wrong way round the village - the side of Long Furrow with no bus stops on it!

I rang KinchBus. "No, we've just stopped that one". I rang Bus Line. "No, they've just stopped that one". I rang Leicestershire County Council. "We used to subsidise that one but we've just withdrawn it so they've stopped it". Most people would have given up before now, but not me. Oh, no, not me. I got a timetable, didn't I! There, in a microscopic font, designed to be missed by anyone over the age of five, was a tiny "a". Buried deep in the small print was a note which said "a - From Thurmaston, Syston and East Goscote on Mondays to Fridays". I rang them all again, told them the good news and asked where I should try to stop the bus. They all went into denial.

On the Monday morning set aside for my transition to public transport (I thought it safest to set aside a whole morning) I stood opposite the nearest bus stop to my house at 7:05 am and waited. Tension mounted as the seconds ticked by. Had I missed it? Had I dreamt it? At 7:10, out of the mist of a March morning (alliteration, as we writers call it) come the yellow leviathan proudly bearing the banner "2 LOUGHBOROUGH". I waved my arms frantically. He swept majestically by. I waved my arms like windmills and ran. He braked. I boarded, breathlessly. "Nobody ever gets on here, mate" said Lynton, as I came to know him. "I'm not surprised", I gasped, feeling my first cardiac arrest taking shape in my chest, shoulder, down my left arm, just like they said it would. I could have been sitting in my car, all warm and safe. I could have still been in bed for heaven's sake!

Over eighteen months later and I'm still a daily bus user. It's reliable, friendly, clean, relaxing, cheap and a great way to get to work. I don't have to scrape ice off it, warm it up, drive it, wash it, clean it or polish it. I can read, have a power nap or just drift. I know public transport isn't perfect but a lot of the criticism is recycled by people who never go near a bus. I hope this has made you smile and if they let me write another article, I'll tell you more but my brief message is "give it a go". If you commute just once a week by something other than a car, you'll be achieving a 20% reduction in the fastest growing environmental impact of the lot - something politicians can only dream about.

David Cannon, Action for a Better Charnwood (01509) 634901.

Sileby Town CC First XI Fixtures - 2002

Date	Opponent	Venue	Competition
27/04/2002	Loughborough Greenfields	HOME	Division One
04/05/2002	Narborough & Littlethorpe	Away	Division One
11/05/2002	Broomleys	HOME	Division One
18/05/2002	Ibstock	Away	Division One
25/05/2002	Langtons	HOME	Division One
01/06/2002	Earl Shilton	Away	Division One
08/06/2002	Barrow Town	Away	Division One
15/06/2002	Kegworth	HOME	Division One
22/06/2002	Bardon Hill	Away	Division One
29/06/2002	Newtown Linford	HOME	Division One
06/07/2002	Bitteswell	Away	Division One
13/07/2002	Loughborough Greenfields	Away	Division One
20/07/2002	Narborough	HOME	Division One
27/07/2002	Broomleys,	Away	Division One
03/08/2002	Ibstock	HOME	Division One
04/08/2002	Langtons.	Away	Division One

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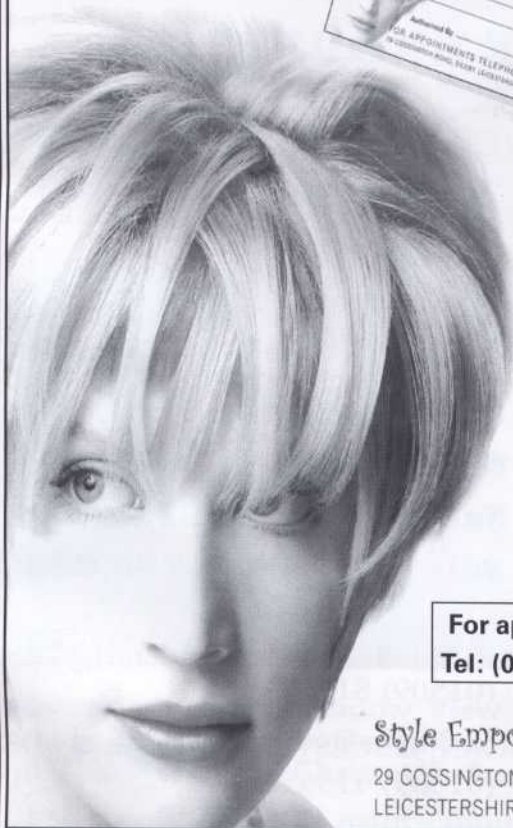
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