

# talk @ Sileby

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

## LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND VILLAGE VENTURES COMPETITION 2002/2003

organised by the  
Rural Community Council  
(Leicestershire & Rutland)

Community  
Ventures  
**HIGHLY  
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Talk@Sileby  
Village Newsletter

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ISSUE 8 JULY 2003

# LANZA

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**W**elcome to the summer addition of **talk@sileby**. The magazine is becoming an established part of the village life and this edition will be the 8th. However, it continues to be a struggle both from the point of view of articles to fill the pages and advertising revenue to keep us afloat.

We are always on the lookout for interesting and innovative ideas to fill the pages. It has been good over the past few issues to read about the exploits of our younger readers from the Scouts and Beavers in the last issue to the Guides in this issue. Sport plays an important role in village life and we try whenever possible to include some sporting articles but we would like more!

The village is changing with the increasing number of new properties that are being built in the centre and hopefully the magazine will be able to keep up with those changes. We want to be able to publish your views on the changes and the developments so would welcome any articles on this issue either for or against further development!

Letters play a special role in any publication – if nothing else they prove to the editorial team that at least some people are reading the publication – we would like more from you. If you request it we will withhold your name from publication but we will not print anonymous letters. Come on - we want to hear your views!

**talk@sileby** is your magazine and you should know that in a recent competition for the best Leicestershire and Rutland Village Ventures run by the Rural Community Council and sponsored by the Leicester Mercury **talk@sileby** won a highly commended certificate. It is a picture of that certificate that is our cover this time. We want the magazine to thrive but without those letters and articles we will not have a magazine. So use some of that time sitting in the sun in the back garden this summer to write something for the next issue.

Have a wonderful summer – the next issue will be in the autumn

*Ros Barber*  
Editorial Team

## Who's who at

**talk@sileby**

## Editorial Team

Popsy Gilbert	Lionel Blower	Barry Stevens
Mark Spence	Kate Skillet	Ros Barber
Sheila Breed	Louise Peers	Toria Skillet
Roy Brown	Ken Jones	

# NATURE RESERVE



**P**lans are well advanced for the transformation of the former gravel workings off Cossington Road into a nature reserve.

The 40 hectare (approx 90 acres) site which will include lakes and swamps will be a haven for wildlife and with its many footpaths will be huge attraction for visitors as well as being an education and training resource.

The proposed restoration will be subject to a detailed management plan to be agreed between Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust, Leicestershire County Council and English Nature.

**Ken Jones**

## CONTACTS

### Co-ordinator:

Roy Brown, 175 Homefield Road,  
Sileby, LE12 7TG. (01509) 816545

### Advertising:

Louise Peers, 7 Melody Drive, Sileby  
Tel: 01509 814606

The advertising rates for **talk@Sileby** are listed below:

To ensure the future viability of **talk@Sileby** the advertising prices have had to be revised and are as follows:-

Quarter Page £30    Half Page £50    Full Page £80

**These prices are per issue**

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

### 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.

# Join the *Evergreens*

We are the Sibley Evergreen Club. Our venue is at the back of the Free Trade Inn off Cossington Road.

We have Whist and Bingo at 2.15pm on Wednesdays and Fridays. On the first Saturday in each month we hold a big Whist Drive and all are welcome to attend.

We are looking for more members to join our Club. Ladies from 55 years and Gentlemen from 60 years can join. We have several outings a year and a Christmas Party. All are very enjoyable.

Please come and join us. You will be made very welcome.

**W Hunt (Secretary)**

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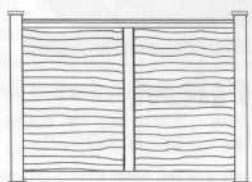
# STAYING SAFE IN THE SUN

Some excellent advice from Sally Lamb the Practice Nurse about staying safe in the sun.



- **Limit** sun exposure to less than 3 hours per day – avoiding peak times between 11am and 4pm.
- **Use** effective sunscreen SPF of at least 15 and it should be waterproof. Reapply your sunscreen every 2 hours.
- **Wear** sunglasses, protective clothing and stay in the shade whenever possible.
- **Protect** children - especially babies.

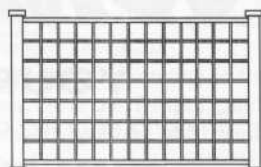
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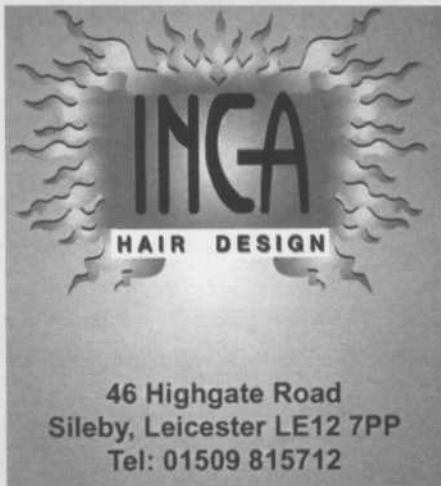
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# 1st SILEBY GUIDES

Recently there have been many exciting developments at 1st Sileby Guides, so far this year we have completed the Chocolate Go For IT, Agility Badge, cooked pancakes over tealights, played games, made crafts and been to Easter Camp!

One of the main things we would like to draw your attention to is the change in leadership at 1st Sileby Guides. After over 25 years of service, Guider in Charge, Norma Lovett decided to retire. She has had many rôles with Guides over the years and all her hard work and support has been greatly appreciated by many. We said goodbye to Norma on April 7th with a special presentation evening, where she was presented with gifts, a cake and a specially written poem to remind her how special she was to the Guiding Association.

Also taking a step down from the leadership is Chris, Norma's faithful Guiding Assistant. She is hoping to pursue a more active interest in driving Steam Trains at weekends and we wish her a tooting good time at it!

Both ladies have said they are still around to help out if we get stuck – and we want to say how much we appreciate all their hardwork and enthusiasm and I am sure that they have changed and influenced many girls' lives in their guiding journey. Well done Chris and Norma! Remember, visit often – cakes are always welcome!!

This brings us to the new leadership team headed by myself Emma Barker, an experienced Guider of 9 years with 68th Leicester Guides held on Friday nights, which I am still leading alongside Sileby Guides on Monday nights – you can interpret that as either dedication to enabling young girls to get

the most out of life or just pure madness. Both are probably true. The Assistant Guider post is filled by Sarah Freeman, again experienced in Guiding and is currently undertaking her warrant training and progressing in leaps and bounds.

We are currently running to full capacity with 24 girls and have recently had the privilege of being able to hold meetings at Redlands School. We would like to thank all at Redlands School for their support, kindness and lovely facilities.

We are always developing our programme to include activities the girls want to do, including outdoor pursuits, bowling, climbing and watersports alongside badge work, challenge work and Community Action Work.

We are currently full, but if you are aged between 11 and 15 and would like to have your name put on to the waiting list to join us, then please get in contact.

If you are aged over 18 and would like to become a Unit helper, which would include helping with games and crafts together with general involvement in the Unit, then I would love to hear from you, as we are seeking a person to help out on Monday evenings between 6.30pm and 8.15pm.

Experience is not necessary but a sense of humour and patience is essential.

Lastly may I take this opportunity to thank all our supporters, from our District Guiding Leadership Members, parents and families, Redlands School and their wonderful caretaker, to fundraisers like the Sileby Buffalos. All your help is greatly appreciated and enables us to provide a varied programme which Sileby Guides can enjoy in a safe environment whilst developing social skills and most importantly having fun!



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*For more information on anything mentioned or to offer your time as a Unit Helper please call Emma Barker on 01509 813410*

# **C**hurches in **S**ileby

## Methodist Church

### Sunday Services

09.15am	ARISE – All age worship with a difference
10.45am	Morning Worship
<i>Evening Services will be announced</i>	

### Forthcoming Events

September 14th	Harvest Festival
September 15th, 7.30pm	Harvest Supper and Sale
Ladies Circle	Monday nights 7.30pm
Ladies Fellowship	Tuesday afternoons 2.45pm
Coffee mornings	Thursdays 10.00am

## St Gregory's Roman Catholic Church

### Sunday Services

09.00am	Mass
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### Thursday

09.30am	Eucharistic Service
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### Friday

09.30am	Mass
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### Forthcoming Events

September 22nd	Friends of St Gregory's Fashion Show
November 1st	Autumn Fair



# PALE APPLEWHITE

**W**ith St Gregory's new Social Centre on The Banks nearing completion, the key question was going to be the colour scheme. I knew I couldn't do it myself and I knew the difficulties of bringing a matter of taste to a committee decision.

The solution seemed to be, consult an expert and pray that the expert will suggest something, which will be accepted by the committee. And so it was.

Clive (from Castle Donington) pronounced: 'Pale Applewhite, with the structural elements picked out in white.' And the committee accepted this bold suggestion without demurrals, contenting itself with haggling about gloss, matt, eggshell, satin and such details.

BUT – we soon discovered – what do you mean by 'pale applewhite'? Four or five contenders were found and painted in different places on the plaster. And none of them were right. The painters were visibly impatient. Until – another answer to prayer – Shirley went into Wilco's and found a pot of something called Faraway.

"By Jove, she's got it. I think she's got it!" Even Clive, fresh back from his Spanish water-colouring holiday, with the pot in his hand, thought she's got it. And the more square metres of wall and ceiling covered the more certain it was.

One thing was striking: the shade was so delicate and light falls so differently on different surfaces, some seemed to have had one coat and the others two. But the overall rightness is powerful, as well as the match with the large areas of carpet and the colour on the doors and skirting. General rejoicing.

And I find myself feeling, the whole thing is a parable of that other vital question: the schedule of charges for the hire of the centre. Here too the right things seem to be work in broad areas, or sessions – three sessions a day, morning, afternoon and evening 21 sessions a week – with a price per session. The equivalent of 'pale applewhite' seemed to be £25 a regular session, with concessions for special cases, and perhaps significant increases for merely occasional users.

Paint it on the wall and see what it looks like.

Thank God Jim has agreed to be the Booking Secretary. And now, are we going to find the right person (people) to be the cleaner(s)? Will three hours a week be the amount of time that is needed and will £6 an hour be the right wage?

I'm not sure this is what I was ordained for, but it's good fun if you don't weaken.

**Fr. Anthony Patemen**

# SILEBY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

A few years ago I returned to live in Sileby, after having spent my childhood in the village. I was invited to join the Townswomen's Guild and first reaction was "No I don't think so! However, I was persuaded to go to a meeting and here I am taking an active part in the Guild. I have discovered talents I didn't know I had, made new friends and found old ones. I now fill my spare time with worthwhile activities, which must be good!

Sileby Townswomen's Guild is in its 49th year. We have approximately 60 members. The Townswomen's Guild goes right back to the days of the Suffragettes. We have moved on a bit since chaining ourselves to railings, although a few of us might like to sometimes.

We are non-political, but we do get involved in local and national issues. The Townswomen's Guild is a national organisation and we at Sileby, being part of this, assist in raising money for various charities at home and abroad.

The main objective of the Guild is to educate and improve women's lives. There are opportunities to learn new crafts and re-kindle old ones. We look forward each month to our speaker. Coming soon is 'Life of poor Tudor women' followed by 'Love and Marriage' later in the year we try Line Dancing! In addition to our monthly speaker there is a social half hour, which may include a quiz, game or occasionally a supper prepared by us all.

Our annual outings include a trip to the Potteries in November. At a visit to London in December we join Guild members from all over the country in a Carol Service held at St Martins in the Field church. This is followed by sight seeing. Some of our outings are local. Last year we enjoyed a tour to The Leicester Mercury, and coming soon is a visit to the Costume Museum.

The Hobbies group meet to discuss their latest projects and exchange tips. The Painting and Drawing group, our budding artists, take the opportunity to be outside whenever possible.



You are welcome to come to our meetings either as a visitor, under no obligation, or to become a member.

Meetings are held at Sileby Village Institute, which is directly behind the Free Trade Inn, Cossington Road, Sileby, on the second Friday of each month at 7.30pm. Below are dates and details for the remainder of this year.

**Margaret Dunkley**  
**Guild Secretary 01509 814989**

June 13th	Prison Camps (N Bird)	Plant swap/Quiz
August 8th	Life of poor Tudor Women (Vanessa Parkinson)	Picture Quiz
Sept 12th	Musical Mystery Tour (Terry Locke)	Harvest Supper
Oct 10th	Slide Show (P Gamble)	Halloween Hat
Nov 14th	My Favourite Things (Rev. J Carter)	My Favourite Things
Dec 12th	Christmas in Manger Square (Elizabeth Riding)	Christmas Party

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# Seasons

The hedgehog wakens from its winter sleep  
Songbirds in the hedgerow sing  
Young lambs in frenzy leap  
Nature's heralding the Spring

A daffodil shows off its golden crown  
And hawthorn dons its cloak of green  
Violets lay scented carpets down  
A prelude to the summer scene

Sunlight filters through the early mist  
Sending cobwebs sparkling across the lawn  
A fox returns from its nightly tryst  
As birds announce another dawn

Wild flowers now in full bloom  
The magnificence of nature on display  
Banished are all thoughts of gloom  
On a glorious summers day

As summer sun weakens in the sky  
And farmer's thoughts turn to harvest time  
Migrant birds prepare to fly  
To some far far warmer clime

Squirrels forage on the woodland floor  
Busily collecting fallen seeds  
Hiding them in secret store  
To cater for their winter needs

Through winters biting winds and snow  
In those days of little cheer  
It's always comforting to know  
There will be daffodils again next year

Ken Jones

# Your Letters

*Dear Editor*

Having been a Sibley resident of several years moving around the village a few times I am wondering why the mostly disused car park to the rear of the High Street is not used to its full potential. Could we not perhaps have a village 1/2 day or daily market in this spot, so bringing in more trade to the centre of the village? Do we need a charter of some kind for this to happen?

Name and address supplied.

*Dear Editor*

The magazine **talk@sibley** is excellent, with plenty of topical and interesting articles.

I think it would be even better if it contained a quiz or competition of some kind. Paperback quiz books covering all topics and all grades of difficulty can be purchased quite cheaply from places such as W H Smith so vast amounts of time would not be taken up thinking of questions. Whilst it is not absolutely necessary to have a prize for the winning entry, I think you could ask local businesses for the donation of a small prize and in return print their name (a bit of free publicity would perhaps entice them to contribute) After all it would only be perhaps less than once a year and it is our local magazine.

Name and address supplied.

*We would remind readers that we are quite happy to print letters but they must have a name and address attached. We will protect identity if required but no anonymous letters will be printed.*

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## SIBLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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### Cost of vandalism on areas under the responsibility of Sibley Parish Council March 2003 – June 2003

The cost of vandalism is paid from the Parish Council budget which is part of the Council Tax Charges. Everyone in Sibley paying Council Tax pays for vandalism.

Memorial Park . . . . .	£877.00
Community Centre . . . . .	£216.50
Mosaic Damage . . . . .	£265.00

**Total Vandalism Cost March 2003 – June 2003 . . .£1358.00**

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# SPORTS NEWS

## SILEBY TENNIS CLUB

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and Sileby Tennis Club to old and hopefully new members.

My name is Jean Gratton and I am the Chairperson of Sileby Tennis Club. We are looking for new Senior Members, especially ladies. We have different nights when you can come and play, whether you want to play social or competitive tennis. We have Monday night for Ladies of all stages, Tuesday night is Men's night and Wednesday night is Club Night for both Ladies and Men. These nights start at 6.30pm onwards. There is also Sunday afternoon for both Ladies and Men. For those who want competitive Tennis we have Ladies, Men and a Mixed Team playing in the Tennis Leagues.

I would also like to mention that on Sunday 24th August 10.00am to 3.00pm we have "Play Tennis 2003" open for all old and New Members, Junior and Seniors.

So if anyone thinks they are a budding Tim Henman, Leyton Hewitt or even a Serena Williams or just want to play and keep fit – come and join us and have a go.

If anyone would like more information about the Tennis Club please contact me on 01509 814861

**Jean Gratton,**  
Chairperson, Sileby Tennis Club.

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# FOOTBALL REFEREES WANTED

The Loughborough Referees Association is looking to recruit new members both male and female.

James Trasler from Sileby on behalf of the Referees Recruitment and Retention Office has written to numerous amateur clubs and schools across Leicestershire inviting all young players approaching 14 years and above, their club officials or anyone associated with the club to apply to train to become a referee.



Basic training courses are held throughout the County and once an individual has successfully passed the course they can then referee games at their own clubs or even join the referees list and officiate more widely on a regular basis.

More referees are required especially with the rapid increase in Women's football resulting in a need for more women and girls to qualify as Referees.

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*Julie Tolton*

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**John Ward**

**on 0116 235 7217**

**or**

**James Trasler**

**Referees Recruitment and**

**Retention Office,**

**Loughborough Referees**

**Association**

**01509 812903**

# SILEBY SWIMMING POOL FUND

Public interest in the Fund has deteriorated over the years and despite advertising for help there are now only three members of the committee. People have moved on and away but no newcomers have joined either the fundraising or latterly the management of the fund. The balance is approximately £50,000.

Edward, Hands & Lewis Solicitors, gave us free advice to help us obtain charitable status, to protect the money and groups objectives.

Changes in the management and control of the schools over the past few years means the earmarked building land at Redlands School is not available. This is not the fault of the School or its Governors but the ruling of County Hall acting on Government regulations.

The charities Commission would only accept 'active associations'. With no realistic prospect of a swimming pool in Sileby and no current fundraising the Sileby Swimming Pool Fund was classed as dormant. Their only help would be to try to return any proven gifts to the donors. Any money left after this lengthy and costly process would be distributed to other organisations. Those groups would not have to have any connections either with Sileby or Swimming.

The committee decided not to opt for charitable status. The fund is held in an account at the Halifax. This account achieves the highest interest rate possible for an organisation as opposed to a private account. Grants from the interest are available for any official group in Sileby organising Swimming activities. The Youth Club has benefited once and both Sileby Schools have had grants for the last two years. Interest on all accounts is low at present so there is not a huge amount available.

*Sileby Swimming Pool Fund Committee*

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*talk@sileby will gladly pass on any queries or comments to the Committee who all live in the village and are involved in other aspects of village life.*

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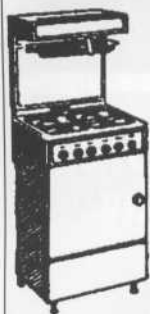
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