

# talk @ Sileby

## Village Newsletter

Issue 19 Summer 2007



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# Forward

Welcome to the summer edition of Talk@Sileby. As usual I would like to thank all the contributors to the magazine and the advertisers, without them we would not be able to produce the magazine.

Sileby has once again been suffering in the early summer with flooding of Mountsorrel Road as can be seen from our cover photograph and also on page 4. The flood conditions may have come as a bit of a shock to those of you new to the village—but you will get used to it as we all have over the years.

The village Forum on the web site has started a topic where anybody registered with us can give updates to the flooding conditions for future occurrences. Why not come and join us, not only do we discuss flooding but also many lively debates about many subjects.

Talk@Sileby was founded after the Village appraisal questionnaire indicated that the population would like a community newsletter, now there will be another chance to help shape the future of our village by participating in the Village Plan. See page 18 for more details.

Enjoy what remains of the summer.

Next Issue will be Winter 2007. Copy and advert deadline is 10th October 2007.

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## Copies of Talk@Sileby

Copies of Talk@Sileby can be obtained by post at a cost of 50p per issue which includes p&p..

Please make cheques payable to: Sileby Village Newsletter

Back issues of Talk@Sileby can be viewed on the internet at [www.sileby-village.co.uk](http://www.sileby-village.co.uk)



Front Cover Picture and above: Mountsorrel Lane was flooded during the June/July summer wet weather. The village website forum is keeping up to date information on the flooding conditions so why not join before the next heavy rainfall.

# Contacts

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If you would like to give your feedback, articles or letters these can be sent to the Editor or you can now use the internet forum at [www.sileby-village.co.uk](http://www.sileby-village.co.uk)

The advertising rates for Talk@Sileby are listed below

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***



The Seagrave WI meets at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of every month (except July) in the Seagrave Memorial Hall on Green Lane. We usually have a speaker and I have set out what is happening for the following dates :-

- August 2nd - County Air Ambulance with Barbara Parish
- September 6th - Wet on Wet Painting Demonstration with Jayne Goode
- October 4th - Fun with Wood
- November 1st - Chocolate Craft Demonstration by Hannahs of Quorn
- December 6th - Annual Meeting

The annual subscription is £26, which includes quarterly copies of the new magazine WI Life. If you would like to join us as a visitor the £2.50 charge would be reimbursed if you would like to become a member.

"The Seagrave WI is a ladies group which meets every first Thursday in the month (excluding July) from 7.30pm - 9.30pm approx in the Memorial Hall, Green Lane. Please feel welcome to join us. Look in the events pages of the Sileby village website or in the 'local events' section of the [leicestershirevillages.co.uk/Seagrave](http://leicestershirevillages.co.uk/Seagrave) or Sileby webpage for details of the meetings for the year ahead. We usually have a speaker at our meetings and in 2007 we will have talks about the County Air Ambulance, a Wet on Wet Painting Demonstration, a chocolate craft demonstration and Fun with Wood.

The Women's Institute offers fun and friendship and a chance to learn new skills. There is usually a speaker at the monthly meetings and time to socialise with fellow members. Other activities such as outings or crafts feature on the WI calendar depending on the interests of the members. If you are new to an area it is a wonderful way to make friends. The Seagrave Institute is part of the Soar Valley Group made up of several other village Institutes in the area. There is also a County Federation of all the Institutes in Leicestershire. Events



organised by the Group and County Federation include skittles, scrabble and bridge matches; walks; art, craft leisure & cookery activities; matters associated with health, science & public affairs; bi-annual meetings with speakers and outings. There are opportunities for members to take residential courses at Denman College on a wide range of subjects including crafts, arts, music, sports, cookery etc..

We are a friendly bunch of some 30 ladies, visitors are welcome at our meetings and it is hoped that more women will consider joining us. The annual subscription is £26 which includes quarterly copies of the new magazine WI Life. If you would like to join us as a visitor the £2.50 charge would be reimbursed if you decide to become a member.

Please contact us at [secretary.seagravewi@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.seagravewi@gmail.com) for further information and details.

Seagrave Women's Institute was founded in 1929 by members who included Mrs Marjorie Barker and Mrs Tyrell. The Institute has met in the Memorial Hall since it opened and will celebrate its 80th Birthday in April 2008.

The WI as an organisation exists to educate women to enable them to provide an effective role in the community, to expand their horizons and to develop and pass on important skills. To learn, more about the WI organisation as a whole and what various other groups are up to around the country, visit the WI National website at [www.thewi.org.uk](http://www.thewi.org.uk). There are lots of interesting pages and sections with links to other WI member groups' websites around the country.

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## Sileby Scout Group



Sileby Scouts have begun their celebration of 100 years of scouting by attending the Charnwood & Loughborough District Scout camp at the Oaks. This was over the Spring Bank Holiday and although it was very wet for a lot of the time a great time was had by the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

I chatted to a Beaver, who meet on Friday evenings, and she told me some of her favourite games were non-stop cricket and "fish, chips & peas". She also enjoyed making a fathers day present and making a model of St Georges Dragon as well as decorating cakes.

Her older brothers, who are both Scouts and meet on a Monday Evening, thought that backward cooking, dry skiing and a treasure hunt around the village were "cool". They were also looking forward to going sailing at Watermead Park.

It was lovely to see children enjoying these activities. Well done Leaders.

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## **What is there in Sileby?** - Lucie Ellis

In Sileby it has been said that there is not a lot for teenagers of the village. Is this true? What is there in our village? With summer on its way and restless teens being released from school, now is the time to open the gates to sports and activities.

The local park provides a spacious area for a variety of sports to be played. An all weather pitch is the perfect area for shooting hoops or scoring goals. The large grass pitch used by the village football team is often empty in the day and available for use. And when it is in use you can kick back and watch the game or move to any other space to have a kick about. And there is usually plenty of choice as our park is large and fairly flat.

July is a beautiful time of year to join up to a club or group. With no school stress or exam revision it is a fantastic pass time. And with so much free time everyone needs a hobby. In Sileby there are clubs around for people of all ages. There are dance schools, football teams, cricket clubs and many more. We are lucky with where we live that there are so many resources. The community centre for example hosts many schemes and classes through out the year.

A few teenagers had this comment. "I think the park is a great place for the summer. Its a lot cleaner and tidier than it used to be." Others thought that the skating area was also an asset and one that is used frequently.

In the near by village of Mountsorrel there has recently been a leisure centre built. This also hosts a lot of classes and sports activities. The swimming pool however is a huge attraction to the teenagers of Sileby. But at age where most can not drive it can be difficult to get to. Especially in the summer weeks, as most parents are at work. Many villagers suggested the idea of a bus service from Sileby to Mountsorrel. When asked Roy Brown from the borough council had this comment. "When the Rothley Lodge Industrial Estate next to Wyvale Garden Centre at Mountsorrel was built a quite substantial amount of money was requested from the developers to introduce a cross soar valley bus service and this is what both Ken Jones and myself as ward councillors are trying along with the county council to get started." I personally



think this is a very good idea that would benefit all of the community.

In conclusion I believe that there is a lot for people of our village. There is something for everyone to enjoy. I think in the future the best thing for the village would be the introduction of a new bus service. It would be very useful and practical and an addition to the idea of using public transport instead of personal transport; proving more environmentally friendly.



The skateboard area of the Memorial Park seen on its official opening, enjoyed by many of the youngsters of Sibley.

## **Special Events at The Green Place**

The Green Place is located at 6 Cossington Road (next to Chine House Vets). They have some special events organised over the next few months on the 1st Saturday of each month.

4th August—Book Swap

1st September—Food and Drink Festival

6th October—Halloween Event

3rd November—Pre Christmas Event.

If you can't make any of these events then why not visit for a fair-trade coffee and browse their other Green product items.

## THE FUTURE OF CHARNWOOD FOREST

Should Charnwood Forest become a 'Regional Park', as proposed in the Draft East Midlands Regional Plan, or are there other options for the protection of its special character and beauty?

This was the question posed by a half-day conference organised by Leicestershire County Council on 'The Future of Charnwood Forest'. The conference brought together seventy people from a wide range of organisations to consider the issues affecting the Charnwood Forest area and discuss possible options for its future. Included among the delegates were representatives of the Friends of Charnwood Forest, the CPRE, Natural England, the Woodland Trust, the aggregates industry, the British Geological Survey, and parish and district councils.

Delegates heard from Tony Squires, a local landscape historian, about the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Charnwood Forest area. In terms of wildlife alone, the area supports at least eighty-five species of breeding birds, all of the county's nine species of amphibians and reptiles and an impressive list of insects. Twenty-one of the spider species found in Leicestershire are found only within the Forest.

Heather Broughton, Head of Environment and Heritage Services at Leicestershire County Council, covered the planning history of the Forest, which was at one time considered for designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Other speakers explained the pressures that Charnwood Forest is likely to face over the next twenty years, particularly for mineral working and housing, and the agricultural changes that have taken or are taking place. The Regional Director of Natural England, Geoff Sansome explored the possible options for maintaining Charnwood Forest's special value in the future.

Workshop groups sparked some lively debate and the conclusion that action needs to be taken immediately to develop planning policies and other initiatives to protect and enhance the Forest. The proceedings of the conference will be made available on the County Council's website, but this will be only the first step in a wider process which will involve consultation with interested organisations and the public.

Councillor Ernie White, Community Services Cabinet Member at the County Council, chaired the event and commented, "I was most impressed by the knowledge and enthusiasm for Charnwood Forest among the conference delegates. There was strong agreement that the Forest is a special place worthy of special treatment to enhance and protect its character, but that this must be done in a way that is sympathetic not only for visitors but also for its residents and farmers. I felt that there would be goodwill towards an initiative that aimed to deliver such benefits. I hope that goodwill can now be converted into a practical project and that the process of consultation continues in the same positive vein."

## Local Doctor Honoured by Queen.

We all congratulate SILEBY GP Prof Mayur Lakhani as he has been awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for his services to medicine.

Prof Lakhani, 47, practises at the Highgate Medical Centre in Sileby and lives in Rothley with his wife and three children. He has been chairman of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) since 2004 and is Visiting Professor in the Department of Health Sciences at Leicester University's School of Medicine.

Prof Lakhani was the youngest doctor to be appointed as chairman of council of the RCGP and combines that role with his practice commitments in Leicestershire.

Prof Lakhani said: "I want to thank the fantastic people of Sileby for allowing me the privilege of being their family doctor."

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## **SILEBY PARISH COUNCIL**

41 High Street, Sileby – 01509 813075

Email address [clerk@silebyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@silebyparishcouncil.org.uk)

### **SILEBY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Community Centre has a large main hall with stage, a sports hall, bar and other rooms available for hire at competitive rates. Please contact the Parish Office on 01509 813075 or visit our website [www.silebyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.silebyparishcouncil.org.uk) to make a booking.

### **EVENTS HELD AT SILEBY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**History Exhibition** – Mr Wheeler and Mr Campbell, Heritage Wardens for Sileby held their second History of Sileby Exhibition in April. This was again very popular and excellent feedback has been received.

Whispering Dragon – A production of Whispering Dragon by the Spark Children's Theatre was held in June. Although not well attended it was an enjoyable afternoon.

### **ANNUAL SWITCHING ON OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

There will be a new format and times for this year's event. Please see posters later in the year for more details.

### **BEST GARDEN COMPETITION 2007**

The Annual event was this year held in June and final judging took place on 19<sup>th</sup> June. The winners were announce at the presentation evening on 12<sup>th</sup> July and prizes and certificates awarded.

Best Front and Rear Garden Winner – Mrs Allen, Quaker Road

Best Feature Garden Winner – Mr Ralphs, Barrow Road

Allotment Garden Winners – Mr Keen (Church Allotments)

Mr Cartwright (Parish Council

Allotments)

Non-Residential Garden 2007 Winner – Lovett Court

### **DOG FOULING – SILEBY MEMORIAL PARK**

Sileby Parish Council continues to receive many complaints about the problem of dog fouling on the Memorial Park and around the village.

The vast majority of dog owners are responsible and 'pick up' but there are the minority of villagers who feel that they are 'above the law'. It is an offence not to 'pick up' after your dog has fouled and fixed penalty tickets of £50 can be issued. If taken to court there is a maximum fine of £1000. Sileby Memorial Park is a recreation area for all to enjoy. Everyone should be able to use the facilities without having to check for dog mess everywhere. THIS IS A HEALTH HAZARD and has caused the death of children in the UK who have been in contact with dog faeces.

***Please support Sileby Parish Council by advising the Parish Office***

***01509 813075, the name of anyone who is seen not 'picking up' after their dog has fouled. This information will be acted upon. The consequences of persons ignoring their responsibilities may result in 1. All dogs must be on lead or 2. NO dogs allowed on the Memorial Park at any time.***

**COST OF VANDALISM/ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ON AREAS UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SILEBY PARISH COUNCIL MARCH 07 TO JUNE 07**

**TOTAL VANDALISM/ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR COSTS**

**£683.00**

Police action has been taken against two 'graffiti artists'. The parish council policy will be to continue to pursue such vandals

**LOCAL ELECTIONS – 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2007**

Twelve Parish Councillors were re-elected and three have been co-opted. A list of elected Parish Councillors and their contact details can be found in the Annual Report and the new co-opted Councillors are Mr F Mear – 01509 815701, Mr W & Mrs S King – 01509 812597.

**SILEBY PARISH COUNCIL POLICY**

It is the Policy of Sileby Parish Council that no action is taken when correspondence or information is received anonymously.

**ANNUAL REPORT - ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

The Accounts of the Parish Council are audited once a year by its own internal auditor and the External Auditor is Hacker Young of Nottingham.

	<b>2003/04</b>	<b>2004/05</b>	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>
Balances brought forward	88,615	106,444	134,752	145,981
Annual Precept	105,703	115,583	127,425	127,425
Other Receipts	33,248	24,591	35,548	60,864
Staff Costs	33,696	37,871	41,750	49,974
Loan Interest/capital repayments	2,781	2,781	1,390	-
Other Payments	84,645	71,214	108,604	98,629
Balances carried forward	106,444	134,752	145,981	185,667
Total Cash and Investments	107,127	135,336	148,215	189,034

Total Fixed Assets & Long Term Assets	91,606	94,503	146,497	158,618
Total Borrowings	4,900	1,320	-	-

The Accounts for 2005/06 have been audited and any local government elector for the Parish can inspect the accounts of the Council on application to the Clerk at the Parish Office between the hours of 10.0am and 12 noon Monday to Friday.

Copies of the Statement of Accounts will be provided at a cost of £1.00

### **Annual Precept**

Precept	2007/2008	£129,940	An increase of 3% from 06/07
	2006/2007	£127,425	
	2005/2006	£127,425	

The Precept for 2007/2008 was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

**Finances for 2005/06 - Precept for 2005/06** **£127,425**

### **Main Costs were as follows:-**

#### **General Purposes Committee**

Insurance

Salaries and wages

Christmas Decorations

#### **Parks Committee**

Grounds Maintenance Contract

Security for Memorial Park

Overall Plan for Refurbishment of the Memorial Park

#### **Community Centre Committee**

New heating system

Refurbishment of Kitchen

#### **Receipts**

There was an increase in receipts due to burial fees, Community Centre booking fees and rent of office.

### **CHAIRMANS REPORT - 12 APRIL 2007**

It was exciting and yet daunting to be elected but it fitted in very well with my retirement and I felt I could give the post the time and commitment it required.

Caroline Marshall was appointed our Partnership Manager at Charnwood Borough Council and she visited us to speak about her role and duties if needed. The clerks have contacted her on a couple of occasions and the liaison with C.B.C. appears to have improved.

Jon Timpson was appointed our new handyman/litter picker when Matt Richardson had to resign due to new time schedules in his main employment. We were sad to have to change again but Jon is proving to be a competent and likeable replacement who tells me he is very happy with his job and his colleagues.



Glynis Smith, our deputy clerk has achieved CILCA Qualification during the year. Congratulations on her hard work leading to some of her papers now being used in a training module. Beverly and Glynis work well together and I hope they enjoy the planned shared office facility once the alterations have been completed.

The lengthy toilet closure on the car park was a disgrace and is now having to be dealt with again. This is an area where we were completely dissatisfied with Charnwood Borough Council. Neither were we happy with the lack of police presence in the village. Betty Crick and I visited Inspector Yallop at Quorn Police Station to discuss the problems and stated a Police Community Support Officer was not adequate for a village our size with its parking and vandalism problems. The dedicated officer was often absented. We were assured reorganisation was already being discussed. This has led to a move and change of duties for Brian Geeson, whom we wish well. Our new P.C.S.O. is training in Barrow and will join us soon.

Parking will no longer be the remit of the police but the Street Wardens whose managers visited us to outline their perceived new duties. Another of their duties will be to deal with dog fouling and this was partly the reason we discontinued our contract with the lady we previously employed to deal with this constant problem. Read parish minutes from anywhere in the land and this problem always features! Let's hope the Street Wardens prove effective before long as at the moment they are only proving elusive.

Our wonderful children's play equipment was destroyed by arsonists who also burnt half a dozen litter bins. Sheer vandalism again blighted our park and it is little consolation that our insurance covered it. Ultimately we still pay through rocketing insurance costs. Talks have taken place about a proposed new Health Centre. The Parish Council supports the plan in principle but the Youth Club site, despite some advantages, remains a contentious issue.

The planning of a pavilion on the park has been a major project during the past year. Sileby Town Football Club did an excellent job erecting their temporary changing facility, a much better option than the proposed mobile showers. We now have planning consent and can press on with tenders, builders and hopefully some community involvement in the project. The park enhancement has proved slow in developing and will have to proceed in tandem with the pavilion and car park construction.

The work done by the Sileby Cricket Club a couple of weeks ago should be used as encouragement for others. The visible difference to their ground is wonderful. It highlights the attitude in the club and their achievements last year. It was one of my proudest moments to present the plaque from the Parish Council in recognition of "their best season ever". This was just one of many 'Civic Duties' I have enjoyed during the past year. I first wore the chain to welcome Richard Hopkins as Rector on a hot July evening in a packed St. Mary's Church. I was very impressed mingling with so many dignitaries at the Mayor's Civic Service at Syston.

I was proud to represent Sileby at both Barrow and Sileby Armistice Parades and at Barrow Civic Service of which Ted Rogers should be very proud. I welcomed the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress to the Victorian Market and Christmas Lights and have tried to visit many things in the village both officially and because I thought I ought to, and I must say I have enjoyed them all, not forgetting Easter's Heritage Exhibition.

For me the highlight of the year was the visit of the Mayor and Mayoress of Charnwood to Sileby. They were genuinely pleased with their tour and delighted with their reception and welcome everywhere they went. They were interested and surprised by some things in Sileby

as they have mentioned when I have met them since. They too have made me feel welcome at their functions and I have valued their friendship and warm interest this past year. I thoroughly enjoyed last year. I was amazed at the time I could easily spend on council business and how many mornings I have been in the office. I've learnt a lot, not only about council business but councillors as well.

Your input and involvement vary but we all have lives to lead and work and home commitments to balance. I was sad when Robert Cross resigned as he was the young blood we needed but I think we all appreciated his problems and wish him well.

All your contributions are valued, not only Parish Councillors but also Borough and County Councillors.

Thank you all for your involvement, encouragement and constructive criticism. Thanks to Betty for her friendship, her advice, her company and her able substitution in my absences. Patricia Staples.

## **ANNUAL REPORT – LIST OF COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS**

Councillor Mr P J Astill	01509 812263
Councillor Mrs S Butler	01509 813145
Councillor Mr D Breen	
Councillor Mr P Collingswood	01509 816501
Councillor Mrs B A Crick	01509 813335
Councillor Mr R Cross	
Councillor Mrs J Harris	01509 813611
Councillor Mrs F Hughes	01509 815173
Councillor Mr K Jones	01509 812982
Councillor Mr R Kinton	01509 812759
Councillor Mrs K Machin	01509 814215
Councillor Mr A Shepherdson	01509 813451
Councillor Mrs P Staples	01509 813579
Councillor Mr B Stevens	01509 813986
Councillor Mr R Woodhall	

Parish Elections were held in May 2007. Councillors Mr D Breen, Mr Cross and Mr R Woodhall were replaced by Councillors Mrs S King, Mr W King and Mr F Mear

### **Officers**

Mrs B Burton	Clerk	01509 813075	Office Hours 10.00am – 12 noon
Monday – Friday			
Mrs G Smith	Deputy Clerk	01509 813075	



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## **Sileby Village Plan.**

The Village Plan committee are working very hard to produce a questionnaire to be circulated to all villagers in the very near future. This will enable the committee to understand what the people of Sileby need to make the village a better place to live in and make sure we are not over looked in the future by Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council.

Some of the ideas that have been suggested are more trees and green areas, a leaflet on walks in the Parish of Sileby and easier access to what goes on in the village, whether it be sports and leisure groups or educational activities.

The committee are also concerned that too many homes are being built without villagers consultation and many are completely out of character for this village.

So when the questionnaire comes through your letter box PLEASE COMPLETE IT. IT IS FOR YOUR BENEFIT.

### **How Well Do You Know Your Village?**

During the Summer the committee of Sileby Village Plan will be organising a "walkabout" and invite ALL villagers to join them. Look on the notice boards or in the Loughborough Echo for when this will take place.

Please join in to help save the good areas and improve the bad areas in Sileby.

## **Sileby Tennis Club**

Sileby Tennis club is celebrating its 80th year by holding a strawberry and cream Tea and "Wooden Racket" Tournament.

The club not only plays very enjoyable tennis at all levels, but has teams in the summer Leicestershire League. The men being in division two & division five. The Ladies in division five are struggling to play their matches due to a lack of ladies.

There are also summer mixed teams and Ladies & Men's winter teams. Monday evenings from 6.30pm are for Ladies and Beginners. Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm and Sunday afternoons from 2pm are for all members.

Juniors are being coached by G.S.M Leisure and details are either on the village notice boards or on their website.

For more information on joining go to the website on [silebytotaltennis.net](http://silebytotaltennis.net) or just come down to the tennis courts off Springfield Road on a club activity day.

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# Your Letters

Send you letters to the editor. Please include your name and address (not for publication if you wish).

The Sileby Swimming Pool Fund is registered with the Charity Commission who controls how the money can be allocated.

"Clause 4 – object of the Charity. The object of the charity is the promotion of community participation in swimming related activities by the provision of financial assistance to those who need it for them to take part in the sport of swimming."

For this reason the Trustees donated a sum to each Sileby School.

The lack of funding for school swimming is the reason the 2006/2007 Parish Council Chairman's Charity is to be split between the two Sileby Schools. Thank you for your contribution and support.

Mrs Patricia Staples  
Chairman – Sileby Parish Council.

I have lived in Sileby for 40 years now, and my children and grand children were born here (well nearly).

I have seen many changes in that time, some for the better, and some not so good. There is however one thing that makes Sileby unique and that is everyone is so friendly. It is hard, even now with all the new houses, to go down

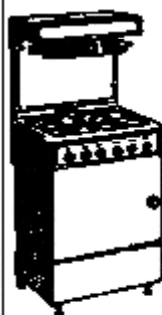
to the village without meeting some one to have a chat with. There is good community spirit and hopefully this will only get better as new improvements for the village are being sought after.

However, on the bad side many of the factories have had to close and some of the leisure activities are struggling for members.

I hope I live in Sileby for many years to come and it continues to keep its village friendliness.

A resident of Sileby  
(name and address supplied).

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# hurch ews

## **What sort of church are we?**

Hello, my name is Richard Hopkins and I've been Rector of Sileby, Cossington and Seagrave for nearly a year. A question I'm often asked is "what is your church like?" Well here are some of the things we seek to be:

**A friendly church:** we hope that everyone who comes to one of our services feels welcomed and that others are genuinely interested in you and your life. We won't jump on you if you come but we will do everything we can to make you feel at home.

**A relevant church:** we believe that Jesus Christ, his life and death and what he said are still massively relevant to 21<sup>st</sup> century life. We focus on Jesus and what the Bible tells us about him.

**An all age church:** our youngest church member is a few months, our eldest is in their 96<sup>th</sup> year and we have lots of people in between. Especially at our 10.30 services there are lots of children and we have a manned crèche and groups for children aged 3-16 during the 10.30 services.

**An accessible church:** some people say to me "I'd like to come to church, but I'm not really sure what I believe." Well let me say do come. Many people come not sure of what they believe but wanting to find out more. We try to make sure that what goes on is as accessible for the person coming for the first time as it is for the person coming for the 1000<sup>th</sup>. Why not give it a try?

To find out more, see our website:  
[www.scsparishchurches.org.uk](http://www.scsparishchurches.org.uk)



## **FRIENDS of ST. MARY'S CHURCH, SILEBY - AGM** **REPORT**

A warm welcome was extended by Iris Stevens to members who attended the recently held Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St Mary's Church, Sileby. They heard from Treasurer, John Burton that in the last 7 years £86000 had been received and raised by the Friends' work, and major repairs and refurbishment to the church, costing £72000, has been completed.

The electrics and lighting refurbishment was fully completed at the beginning of this year. This has completely changed the ambience of the church when the lighting is used, and provided a long term legacy for future generations within the church and village communities.

Current membership stands at 86 individuals and family members, providing a solid base for our fund raising activities. However, in a growing village, it was hoped that these numbers would soon be increased further.

Secretary, Eric Faulconbridge, outlined the events undertaken through the committee over the last year, and expressed the committee's thanks to everyone who had organised, helped or attended the events. Overall the Friends had had an excellent year, but new members, with new ideas was an ongoing forward requirement.

The meeting was told by Chairperson, Iris Stevens, that now the electrical work had been completed, the installation of toilets and a new kitchen area in church was the focus for this years' fund raising. Following this, a strategy for undertaking repairs to the church tower would be instigated.

St. Mary's church is a Grade II\* listed building dating back to its origins in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. All information about the Friends' aims, successes, membership, pictures, events etc., continue to be available on the World Wide Web through our own website, set up with help from the Beehive Project in Leicestershire. Find out more about us from the site address – <http://beehive.thisisleicestershire.co.uk/fosm> (note that 'beehive' replaces 'www' in a normal address).

If you require further information, visit our website, as above, or telephone one of the committee officers on 01509 815525, 01509 813986, or 01509 813061.

# **UPDATE ON SILEBY BAPTIST CHURCH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT.**

Well it looks like we're approaching completion of our redevelopment, well the hard part anyway! The building is coming along nicely and looking fantastic!

Electric and plumbing have been installed and the plasterers are hard at work. There is a lot of interior finishing to do, but we are hoping to be able to occupy the building by the end of August this year.

## **FUND RAISING EFFORTS:**

Here are some of the fundraisers we've been busy with these last few weeks, in which many of you have been a vital part.

\*Car boot stand at Melton on Sun 1st July - £105.41

\*Car wash at the back of Busy Bees on Heathcote Drive, Sat 23rd June - £122.50 (A big thank you to the owner of the shop who let us use his water and car parking spaces for this event!)

\*A sale of goods in the house of a friend on Albion Road, Fri 22nd June - £100.10 (Again, a great big thank you for that! You know who you are!)

\*Photographs of the people of the Baptist Church in the old building; the sale of these raised £130.08

\*Ladies night in Pochin Hall, Fri 29th June - £222.43

\*Savings made on our own weekly shop - £165

\*Toy sale on Greedon Rise and in the Tuesday morning toddler group at St Gregory's, 2nd and 3rd July—£92.40

A really big thank you to all of you who came along to support us in our recent fundraising efforts, we really do appreciate it and look forward to being able to show you what your contributions have helped us achieve.

So please look out for our open day and come and have a look around, we'd love to share all this with you!



## **Retirement Beckons**

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> July, was a special evening for the parents, friends children and staff of Cossington Primary School. The hall was packed as the whole school community gathered together to wish Mrs Viv Hawes (Head teacher for the past 12 ½ years) a fond farewell as she prepares to begin her well earned retirement. Everyone of the school's children aged from 4 to 11 were involved in the evening of music and song. They sang and performed as individuals, groups, class and key stage groups to produce a genuinely magical and moving tribute to Mrs Hawes. The quality of their singing and playing showed real depth of affection and appreciation of what she has done for the school in her time there. Despite the hot conditions, the audience stayed happy and cheerful to the end with hardly a dry eye left by the close of the evening. The school staff had already held a special celebration for Mrs Hawes over the weekend and so the night was a chance for parents and groups associated with the school to make their presentations. Parents had contributed towards a slate sundial expertly made by a local artist and grand parent whilst Cossington All Saints Church gave a wonderful collection of specially chosen plants. The evening was a huge success and as Mrs Hawes commented, it represented everything that is special about the 'family atmosphere' that exists in the school and within its community. The whole school would like to wish Mrs Hawes well and thank her for the commitment, effort and care that she has shown over her time as head of the school.





**SILEBY TOWN**

**R. F. C**

It all started in February 2006 when a group of friends, after spending a couple of hours in The Free Trade Inn, decided it was high time that Sileby had its own Rugby Union team. It began as little more than a half-serious idea, but before long Sileby Town RFC was born.

A couple of weeks later we held our first training session on Sileby Memorial Park, but we soon realised that we needed more space –and some goalposts! So, commandeering the nearest unused set of rugby posts that we could find (which just happened to be in Barrow-Upon-Soar) on a Sunday morning, we continued our

training sessions over the following weeks and steadily grew our numbers. However, one Sunday we arrived at our usual training spot to discover that the posts had disappeared (the Rugby season was over and so the posts had given way to an athletics track!) and we feared that our hopes of forming a team had disappeared along with them. Conversely, this is when the story gets interesting and the club really starts to take shape...

Instead of giving up on our idea of forming a team, with the help of our new club sponsor, local businessman Steve Hillyer of Hillyer Transport, we networked with our friends and contacts in an effort to seek other suitable places to train. It wasn't long before we received a generous offer of support from Aylestone Saint James RFC (better known as "Jimmies") in Scraptoft. They allowed us to use their clubhouse and training facilities in return for a proportion of the revenue generated by us playing our Home matches at their ground. This relationship has proved to be very effective and Sileby still train and play at Jimmies to this day – but everyone is aware that our ultimate wish is to find our own ground somewhere in Sileby (if you can help us to make this a reality then please get in touch!). Since those early days STRFC has gone from strength to strength and we have played many matches both within Leicestershire and further afield – we've even won a few of them! Our first out-of-county match took place in Bridgnorth – a trip which was thoroughly enjoyed by players and supporters alike. More recently, during the Easter bank holiday, we embarked on our first official overseas tour to Charleville-Mézières in the Champagne-Ardenne region of France. The tour was an excellent opportunity for the club to further consolidate our membership and extend our reaches into the World of Rugby, and was again a thoroughly enjoyable experience for everyone who went along.

We are always on the lookout for new players (novices welcome) and keen supporters willing to lend a hand on match days, so if you are interested in getting involved at any level then please give us a call. We are also planning a tour to Cyprus in 2008 to take part in the World 10's tournament in Akrotiri, so watch this space!

For more information on the club or if you wish to join us, please contact Steve Hillyer or Phil Lewin on 07860 608550

**EX-SERVICEMAN Roy Brown** beamed with pride when the Royal Anglian Regiment marched through Loughborough in June – but it’s a day he never imagined would happen. The Sileby Borough Councillor had only been serving in the Royal Leicestershire Regiment for a few months when it was re-branded as the Royal Anglian Regiment in 1964. It proved to be a controversial decision among veterans and those serving in the ranks at the time – although that was a distant memory on Tuesday, 19th June. For that’s when the Regiment’s 2nd Battalion exercised its right to march through Loughborough having been granted Freedom of Entry to the Borough by Charnwood Borough Council last September.

Cllr Brown, who joined the Army the day after his 18th birthday in May 1964, recalls the storm that blew up when the decision to merge the Royal Leicestershire Regiment with three other regional regiments was announced. He said: “The re-badging of the regiment was a very controversial thing – a lot of members felt strongly about losing Leicestershire from the regiment’s name and were very upset. “We were lucky in some respects that they kept Leicestershire in the name for a while as other regiments lost their county name straight away. “It was a difficult decision at the time and was very sad. But it’s a fantastic honour for them now. “Having been in the regiment when it was formed, it will be a proud moment for me now being a councillor of the Borough that has given them freedom of entry.”

Cllr Brown has nothing but admiration for the Royal Anglians’ current batch of troops, who have served in Bosnia, Sierra Leone, Northern Ireland, Afghanistan and Iraq in the last 15 years. “Times have changed and active service is very different now,” added Cllr Brown, who served in Aden, Malta and Bahrain during his nine years service. “It’s very difficult for young people but you’ve got to be proud of the lads they do a fantastic job. “When you look back on your army days, you realise what a big part of your life it was. It was an interesting time of my life and I had good times and bad times. “But when I look back at the old photos, there are a lot of laughs there.

Also in the march was SILEBY Sergeant Tom Crabbe, who announced his pride in getting the Freedom of Entry to his own Borough. Tom (28) from the 2nd Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment, was among the 220 soldiers that exercised their right of Freedom of Entry to the Borough.

Sgt Crabbe, said: “All the lads seem to be taking the honour of the Freedom of the Borough in their strides but it is a proud moment. I’m sure our family and friends are even prouder though, I know my grandparents, parents and wife will be there to see the march and they’re really looking forward to it.

Sgt Crabbe, who now lives in Sileby, has lived in Charnwood all his life, including in Loughborough and Shepshed.



Sgt Crabbe, added: "I've been in Royal Anglian Regiment or 'The Poachers' as we're known, since I left school; I'd had enough of education and wanted to travel and this offered me the perfect opportunity.

"I live with my wife, Alison, and Charnwood has always been 'home' to both of us and now we're based in the UK, I get to come back at the weekends, which is great but it was different when we were based in Iraq, last year."

When asked about what it's like to be in 'The Poachers', Sgt Crabbe spoke from the heart: "We're all a big family – it sounds cliché but it's true. We've all grown up together, we spend so much time together you're friends, more than colleagues and I think once you've been a 'Poacher', you'll always be one!"

### **GRADUATION DAY at Sileby day Nursery.**

That time of year again when our 'little ones' leave to go to 'big school'. We will miss the children who are moving on – as we have seen them grow and flourish in the nursery.

This year the children had their 'graduation' ceremony in Meadow View Farm where a party was laid on and parents were invited to come and see the presentation of certificates to each 'graduating' child.

We wish them all the best for their next stage in life!



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