

# talk @ Sileby

## Village Newsletter

Issue 20 Winter 2007



[www.sileby-village.co.uk](http://www.sileby-village.co.uk)

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# Forward

Issue 20 and six years on I am pleased to write this forward. There is a new exciting addition to talk@sileby, our village heritage wardens have agreed to include articles for this and future issues on Sileby in the past.

There is also an interesting article about big cats!! my wife and I thought we were seeing things a while age when looking out of our kitchen window, in the fields we saw what looked like a black Labrador in the distance but with cat like features and movement, so perhaps we too have seen it.

I am sorry but now its gripe time, I still hear as said in issue 2, 'there's nowt to do', please look at the village notice boards and see just what events there are happening and group• leaders please let us at talk@sileby know of your events, if people know they can then support you.

Traffic problems: during the recent speed checks in the village it was found most of the culprits speeding did live in the village and the same with the illegal parking, they too are village residents.

As we enter into the festive season may I remind you to please turn out for the annual switch on of the festive lights on Friday 7th December this is an excellent event. I wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Roy Brown — co-ordinator

Next Issue will be Spring 2008. Copy and advert deadline is 8th February 2008.

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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)

## **Big Cat Sighting**

Sileby – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2007

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July at 8.00am, a big cat was 'sighted' in the railway sidings on the Barrow side of Highbridge.

At first the Barrow Road resident, thought it was a very large dog, because of its size. Upon looking more closely it was soon established that it was in fact a 'big cat'. Its coat was black with brown circular markings.

It must have realised that it was being watched, as it turned around and looked up to Highbridge. The 'big cat' then just sauntered off in the direction on Barrow upon Soar, walking alongside the railway track. As it went, the long tail, curved at the end, was further confirmation that a 'big cat' was passing through the village.

Pictured is a mock-up of what the big cat might have looked like if we had captured it on camera.



Front Cover Picture: Sileby Mill Boat Yard. L. Blower

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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 £25

Half Page £45

Full Page £70

**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*



## **BE LIKE 15,000 OTHERS AND GET ACTIVE**

A SCHEME which has helped more than 15,000 people with health problems get more active is after new members.

Charnwood Borough Council's Exercise Referral Scheme was set up in 1996 and is looking to expand the number of classes it currently stages.

Set up in partnership between the Council, the Primary Care Trust, doctors' surgeries and other local health care professionals, it has helped around 1,500 people a year since its launch.

Classes are available at Loughborough Leisure Centre and Soar Valley Leisure Centre plus Syston, Queniborough, Sileby and Birstall and are aimed at people who are inactive or who have a condition that could benefit from physical activity.

The classes are run under the guidance of qualified professionals and involve gentle exercise to music, aqua aerobics, gym-based sessions and circuits, while members are encouraged to be active outside the sessions and, for example, take up walking.

Mavis Blackwell, who visits the Birstall class once a week, is a big fan of the Exercise Referral Scheme and praised the work of Charnwood Borough Council's Active Lifestyle Development Officer Nita Pearson.

The 73-year-old, who suffers with back problems and was referred by her GP, said: "Nita is a great character. Her tuition is top class and she has us laughing all the time. "She is such a bubbly person and I really enjoy it – it's been very beneficial and has helped me with my back problems.

"Not only is the exercise good for me but the classes are fun as well. Some times you think I'd much rather stay at home and read a book but I get up and go and when I'm there I'm rejuvenated.

"Now I look forward to going – I'm disappointed if I can't make it."

Mrs Pearson hopes more people will follow Mrs Blackwell's example and think about joining the scheme.

She added: "Years of research has proven the enormous health benefits of physical activity and that taking part in regular exercise can reduce and even delay the onset of disease and disability.

"The Exercise Referral Scheme could be the perfect way of making sure people get more active to improve their lifestyle."

If you would like to join the scheme, or simply find out more information, go along to your local health care professional and ask whether you can be referred to the sessions or call Charnwood Borough Council on (01509) 634594.

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# Highways and Byways in Sileby

Eric Wheeler—Heritage Warden

This short piece examines some of the roads, and the meanings of the names behind them. Before the 19<sup>th</sup> century, settlement in Sileby was concentrated around a core of streets : High street, King street, Barrow Road, parts of Brook Street and a short stretch of Cossington Road. It was here that the various farmers, shopkeepers, and cottagers lived together ‘side by side’. Not all roads will be mentioned here, but I hope I give a wide and varied selection for the reader to enjoy.

**Barrow Road.** In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, this was the road on which two great mansions stood, one owned by the Pochin family (on the site of the Natwest and the old school), and the other by the Sherrard family. The latter property stood where Charnwood House, the Willows and the entrance to Herrick Close is situated, Herrick being the owner of the land in the 1860’s. A section of Barrow Road from the old school to Underhill opens up into a wide area unseen in any other part of the village. Part of it goes by the quaint name of Monkey Square. It is unknown what this unusual feature served as, although it could have been the remnant of a village green or a marketing/communal place. The far side of this open ground around Herrick Close towards what is now Costcutters was known as Latmore End in the mid eighteenth century.

Going further out of the village one passes other interesting features :

**the Pinfold** – the enclosure where stray animals from the fields where impounded whilst awaiting collection by their owner and a fine!

**the Blue Bridge and Clock Piece** – The railway bridge opens up to the allotments, the rents of which were made over to the Parish clerk for winding and looking after the church clock.

**King Street** - It is not known when the name came into existence although it was written in documents from the 1730’s onwards. Some have suggested that the name derives from the King family who owned property along the street. It is more likely that the name is a reference to the monarch. Many places have their own King Street for this reason. The enclosure award of 1760 calls this street ‘East Lane’.

The building of the railway in the late 1830’s effectively split the road down the middle. However, before post war redevelopment, the street was characterized by its many shops, some of them having courtyards of houses

behind them, most of which have now gone. Only one of the original King Street village farmhouses has survived into the present century, that of 7 King Street, dating from c.1720.

**High Street** – also known as the High Causeway or ‘Causey’, the main street of the village. In the late 19th century the High Street was a mixture of farm houses, a brewery, a gas works, chapels, public houses, post office, houses and shops. The character changed with the growth of the local hosiery and footwear industries, and shops began to dominate the street. The street was often the focal point of weekly ‘markets’ as well as the wakes, infirmary parades and other festive occasions.

**Brook Street** – As the name suggests, the lane followed the line of the brook from the Banks to Dudley’s bridge on High Street. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the area was on the periphery of the old village and was known as Brooke Town End, people living here known as being ‘in the brook’. At the east end of Brook Street is Hobbs Wick. This is a corruption of the 17<sup>th</sup> century place-name ‘ob’s sic’ or Hobbs sic, and if a literal meaning of this is to be believed, then obs sic is the devil’s or hobgoblin’s stream.

**Cossington Road** – a straightforward road name. The road is now a largely developed residential area, but up to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century only the area from Dudley’s Bridge to just past the Conservative club had any building. This area south of the brook was first documented around 1350 when it is called Newbold, literally the ‘new building(s)’. The name refers to a possible extension to Sileby built around that time. Newbold had corrupted to Nuball End by the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, and the name Cossington End came into being by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. In some documents, the road has been referred to as Southfield way, due to its proximity to the Southfield, one of Sileby’s five open fields. Manor Drive is mostly a modern construction, only the part next to the Free Trade pub being of any age. Its original purpose was as an access to one of the gated entrances of the former Southfield.

In the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century a small hamlet grew up at the southern end of the Cossington Road, near to where the Chalfont Road junction is now situated. This hamlet failed to survive, one by one the houses disappeared until the last one, ‘Hooky Burton’s house’, was demolished in the late 1970’s.

**Seagrave Road** – This road didn’t exist until its creation under the Enclosure award of 1760. The road was created 40 feet in breadth between the ditches. As there were no hedges lining the new road, and with field formation taking the priority, fields were totally enclosed first, even over the route of the new road, but with gates to facilitate traffic. In effect, a person travelling the road went from field to field, opening and closing gates as they

went, until they reached Seagrave. In all, they would have had ten or more gates to open and close along the way. This was to allow hedges to grow along the boundaries of the newly created road. Once the hedges had grown, the gates were dispensed with and the Seagrave Road as we now know it was born.

**Mountsorrel Lane** – Largely a new creation under the Enclosure award, this road shows the Enclosure commissioners influence more than any other, with straight lines across the landscape, and 40 feet wide between the ditches.

At the village end, the stretch between the Parish church and Highbury House was known as Church Lane North. At the other end of the road near to Slash Lane is Essex Bridge, an ancient bridge site. Essex is an odd name for this end of the country. However, it is a corruption of Hitherside or Hithersic bridge.

**Swan Street** – named after the Old Swan public house. Originally the street was called Gate Lane, the gate being that to Highgate Field. From the 1870's properties began to be built piecemeal, when small building plots started to come onto the market. With this in mind, it is interesting to notice the difference in finishing details from one set of buildings to another, and from one decade to another. Where the brook crosses Swan Street is the **Wash Pit**, a reference to the former Sheep wash.

**Back Lane** – nothing extraordinary about the street name, although it was the site of a former bakehouse, and also the village's Quaker meeting house. Both were demolished some while ago. However, the 'Quaker' name has endured in the modern house on the former meeting house site.

**Ratcliffe Road** – An early road bisecting the Southfield and Howgate fields. At the bottom end of the road near the Cossington parish border was a brickworks, the large crater of the clay pit being the only physical evidence of its former use.

**The Banks** – The Banks were one of two pieces of open common land in the parish. It became the haven for squatters, with various small cottages being built on tiny plots. These cottagers paid a nominal rent to the Lord of the manor and became official 'tenants of the Lords waste (land)' from the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. As time went on more squatters put up buildings on any available space. This is the reason why we have so many small and different structures on the Banks today. The buildings became effectively freehold when the Lord of the Manor stopped collecting rents in the 1850's. Although not many of today's properties date from the early squatter occupation, the plots themselves give an historical footprint of the former dwellings.

The Banks is on the banks of the Sileby Brook. Likewise, Duck Paddle remembers the watery, marshy nature of that vicinity.

**Underhill** - These cottages between the Barrow Road and the railway footbridge were the other area of common or waste land in the village, and have the same squatter status for their existence as those on the Banks. The shortage of space is perhaps not so acute today as it was in previous centuries. It may be hard to imagine, but property deeds indicate that other cottages were built in the back yards of these miniscule properties to house even more of the village's burgeoning population. Underhill lies in the shadow of a small hill to the east, much of which was taken away as a cutting for the railway. Various sources show the name as Undy Hill and Hundy Hill.

**Highbridge** – This small development built in the early 1990's takes its name from the railway footbridge to the north of it. The path from King Street to Underhill and Barrow Road originally crossed the railway line by a foot crossing. However, on the 13th March 1852, the Leicester Mercury reports "the Midland Railway have commenced the erection of a wooden bridge over the crossing [in Sileby], where a woman was killed by a train several weeks ago".

**The Estates** With the growth of estate living in the inter war and post war years, new names for roads were to be found and it was to the Enclosure Award that the planners mainly turned to for inspiration. The planners also turned to names of local worthies, old field names, names recalling former industries and events, and also local charities.

### **Enclosure Award**

The Enclosure Award was a goldmine of names and topographical information for the planners to use. Here's a list of a few of the personal names used:

Rev Ralph Heathcote – Heathcote Drive

Elizabeth Sherrard – Sherrard Drive

Thomas Wallis – Wallace Drive

Margaret Molyneux – Molyneux Drive

John Kendal – Kendal Road

George Collingwood – Collingwood Drive

John Pryor – Pryor Road

Thomas Barradale – Barradale Avenue

Thomas Marshall – Marshall Avenue



William Gibson - Gibson Road  
William Dickens – Dickens Close  
Robert Weldon – Weldon Avenue  
Oswin Ainsworth – Ainsworth Drive  
Robert/Francis Stanage – Stanage Road  
William Pochin – Pochin Way  
Thomas Kilbourne – Kilbourne Close  
William Milner – Milner Close  
Thomas/Nicholas Parsons - Parsons Drive  
Bartholomew Hickling – Hickling Close  
Mary Brushfield – Brushfield Avenue

### **Field Names and Physical Features**

**Greedon Rise** – On the site of a furlong of the same name in the former Highgate field, possibly a corruption of Green-don, ‘green hill’

**Homefield** – Field name

**Park Road** – Opposite the Park

**Forest Drive** – Views of Charnwood Forest

**Springfield Road** – situated near a spring. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century this was the site of the Candle spring.

**Highgate Road** – Also known as Mucky Lane due to the boggyess of the ground. Highgate comes from the former open field name, although the road is in the former Howgate field!

**Peasehill Road** – On the site of a furlong of the same name in the former Southfield

**Flaxland Crescent** - On the site of a furlong of the same name in the former Southfield

**Haybrooke Road** – Another name for Sileby brook. Early documents reveal that the Hay was a swathe of meadowland that extended from the Banks in the west, following the line of the brook eastwards to the parish boundary at Seagrave.

**Wellbrook Avenue** – another name for Sileby Brook

**Cauby Close** – This should be Canby Close, named after two of the former open fields in Sileby. However, the person who transcribed the Enclosure Award (from which the name was extracted) used by the planners and parish council, thought the ‘n’ was a ‘u’. No-one thought to check with the original document, trusting the transcription, so today we have Cauby instead of Canby!

## Industries

### Footwear and hosiery industry :

**Bradgate Close, Moir Close, Simons Drive, Burton Road, Chaplin Close** – commemorating the names of Sileby's former factories and factory owners.

### Brickmaking :

**Phoenix Drive, Albion Road** – the names of Wright's Brickworks, both roads being in the vicinity of the former workings.

### Wallpaper Manufacture

**Melody Drive and Harlequin Road** – recalling 'Melody Mills' and Harlequin. These are the names of the companies who made wallpaper products on the site of the new housing estate.

## Local worthies

**Caloe Close** - Thomas Caloe, gave money to many causes including the founding of King Street School, the Wesleyan chapel on High Street and a loan for the purchase of land for the cemetery

**Newbold Close** -

**Hudson Close** – Charles Hudson, a local blacksmith, farrier and wheelwright, a former chairman of the Parish council

**Preston Close** – Wilf Preston, a local builder and former chairman of the Parish council

**Gray Lane & Butler Way** – Named after two former GP's in the village

## Charities

**Barnnards Drive** – Robert Barnard, a Sileby gentleman, left monies under his will of 1679 : 10 shillings to go to the vicar and another 10 shillings each to five poor people.

**Lanes Close** - In 1639, William Lane left monies to be laid out in land to realise £6 a year. From this, £1 was to be paid to the vicar to preach two sermons yearly on 16<sup>th</sup> January and 16<sup>th</sup> July, and the residue to be distributed to five poor men of Sileby.

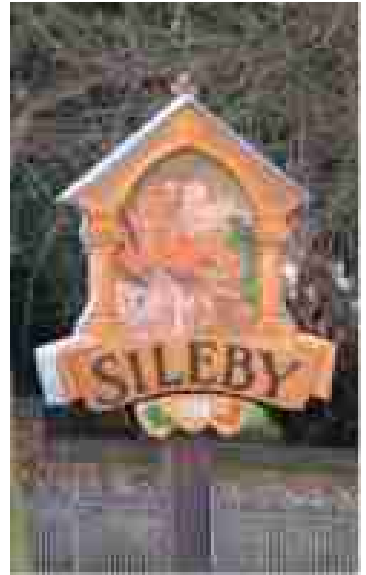
**Newbold Close** – John Arthur Newbold , died in 1931 and left £500 to be invested, the income of which was to be paid in equal portions to twenty of Sileby's poorest and most deserving inhabitants.

**Staveley Close** – The Staveley charity, instituted around 1704, again involved the laying out of profits from land rental to be put toward the education of poor boys at the church school in Sileby. Any excess in charity funds after payments to the school were made over to the vicar and varied from year to year.

# **SILEBY PARISH PLAN**

F

ollowing the success of the Sileby Walkabout on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September many photographs of various interesting buildings and areas in Sileby were taken, on cameras supplied free by Charnwood Borough Council. Some of these photographs have been entered in the Charnwood Competition and some will be displayed at the Victorian Market in December.



A painting / drawing competition for the pupils of Redland and Highgate Schools has been organised and the winners pictures will also be displayed in December.

As the committee have now obtained funding, from various sources, the printing and distribution of the Sileby 2007 Questionnaire can now go ahead and will be distributed to every household in November.

Please take a little time to fill in this important questionnaire, as it will help the Parish Plan committee to understand the villagers views on matters concerning the future of Sileby when they progress to the Village Design Statement.

# **SILEBY PARISH PLAN GROUP**

Present

## **The 2007 Sileby Questionnaire**

Coming through your letterbox soon

A questionnaire on what YOU think about Sileby

All returned questionnaires will be entered into a prize draw

Prizes donated by

"Complete Wasters, Cossington Road - Computer System"

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"Vivienne Seymour, Artist - Pencil portrait"

"Mobile Reflexology, Dickens Close - One Treatment"

"Organica, Cossington Road - Organic fruit & veg box"

"Heaps Hardware, King Street - ""In cuisine"" jug kettle"

"Lanza Hair Design, The Banks - Voucher"

"The Old Corner Shop, King Street - Bottle of Claret"

"Glen Lewin Butcher, Ratcliffe Road - Voucher"

"Dave Hall Driving, One Hour Driving Lesson"

Return boxes for completed questionnaires at :-

"Tesco, High Street"

"The Green Place, Cossington Road"

"Moss Pharmacy, Swan Street"

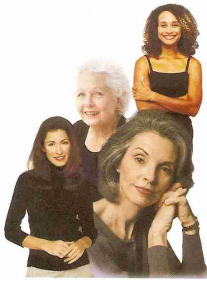
"Busy Bee, Heathcote Drive"

"Costcutter, Barrow Road"

"Sileby Mini Supermarket, Greedon Rise"

"D & G Stores, Cossington Road"

"Ratcliffe Road Off Licence, Ratcliffe Road"



The **TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD** is one of the U K's leading women's organisations, providing fun, friendship, and a forum for social change since 1929.

It was 1928 when at last women had won the right to vote, groups were formed to bring women together to learn about citizenship and how to use the vote they had fought so hard for.

In 1929 there were 29 groups, today over 1,000 with 39,000 members, still enjoying the friendship, organised leisure

activities and doing their utmost to influence positive change in our world.

In recent years Townswomen have used their voices to campaign on issues such as : Care in long term; Public transport; Human Trafficking; Domestic Violence

**Sileby Townswomen's Guild** was formed in 1955, Our Co-presidents Popsy Gilbert and Barbara Knowles were at the very first meeting ! we have 50 members and meet in the Village Institute , Cossington Road, ( behind the Free Trade Inn ! ) on the second Friday of each month ( except July ) at 7.30 p m

The Annual subscription is £24 which includes a quarterly magazine. Visitors are made very welcome at a charge of £3. We usually have a speaker, a social time, and of course refreshments !

#### Meetings / speakers

##### **2007**

December	14 <sup>th</sup>	Accordion Orchestra	Lots of them !
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##### **2008**

January	11 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Flowers	Rosemary Mason
February	8 <sup>th</sup>	The Red Cross	
March	14 <sup>th</sup>	Fire Prevention	Leics. Fire Service
April	11 <sup>th</sup>	Dogs for the Disabled	
May	9 <sup>th</sup>	'A walk in our garden'	Ailsa Jackson

Outings include: Meals out, skittles night, a local ramble (meeting at a pub!) theatre, and a coach trip to the Potteries ,

Members have the opportunity to attend many National events, including the National Carol Service in December which this year is at Ripon Cathedral.

Once a fortnight a Hobbies Group meet in members homes to share their craft or interest. Some of their work will be on sale at the Victorian Market at the Community Centre on December 7<sup>th</sup> ( following the switching on of the Christmas lights ) The group has spent many months making a beautiful Patchwork Quilt which you could win! Raffle Tickets on sale soon or on the night .

All proceeds from the raffle and sales on the night will go to Rainbows Children's Hospice

We look forward to seeing you .

For further information please contact : Sileby Townswomen's Guild ,

Secretary : Mrs Margaret Dunkley Tel : 01509 814989 or

visit . [www.townswomen.org.uk](http://www.townswomen.org.uk)



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# Church



# News

## **Sileby Methodist Church**

Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30pm	Ladies Circle Carol Service
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	10:45am	Morning worship
	4pm	Carol Service
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	4pm	Christingle Service
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am	United Service at Wymeswold Methodist

## **St Gregory's RC Church**

Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	6.30pm	Mass Syston
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	9am	Mass Sileby
	11am	Mass Syston
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	9pm	Mass Syston
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	9am	Mass Sileby
	11am	Mass Syston

## **St Mary's Sileby, All Saints Cossington & All Saints Seagrave**

16 Dec.	5:00 p.m.	All Saints', Cossington	Carol Service
	7:00 p.m.	All Saints', Seagrave	Carol Service
24 Dec.	4:00 p.m.	St. Mary's, Sileby	Family Carols
	6:30 p.m.	St. Mary's, Sileby	Carol Service
	11:30 p.m.	St. Mary's, Sileby	Holy Communion
25 Dec.	9:00 a.m.	All Saints', Cossington	Holy Communion
	9:00 a.m.	All Saints', Seagrave	Morning Worship
	10:00 a.m.	St. Mary's, Sileby	All-Age Worship

:



## *Sileby Baptist Church latest news*

You will see as you pass the church, it is now pretty much finished and looking very nice! We have the keys and have had a good look around at the nearly finished product, it's looking great inside and certainly looks like it will serve our purpose better than the old building did in recent years. The only thing we are now waiting for is some work to be carried out to enable us to connect our waste pipes to the relevant mains. This is thought to take another 6-8 weeks, with this in mind we hope to be in occupancy by the end of November.

We have lots of fundraisers coming up both to pay bills coming up and to furnish, carpet and decorate the building once we're in. Again, we would like to give our heartfelt thanks to all those who support us in any way they can on this project. We look forward to being able to share the finished product with you all very soon. Watch our for news of our Open Day, when you will be very welcome to come in and have a look around, ask any questions and generally be a part of this new start we are looking forward to so much!



**Y**  
**IMPACT**

The United Benefice of Sileby, Cossington and Seagrave Anglican Churches are pleased to announce details of two new Youth Groups.

Since September, Tuesday nights have never been the same, the Pochin Hall on Mountsorrel Lane, has become the place to be...

**IMPACT** is for all those aged 11-14 (school years 7 – 9).

Meeting on Tuesday evenings from 6.15 – 7.45p.m. at the Pochin Hall. There are games and activities, friendship and fun and a chance to see what God says in the Bible. Each term there'll also be trips out and special social events. We have already done a treasure hunt around Seagrave (in the dark!!).

**Y** is for 14 – 18 year olds (school years 10-13 or equivalent).

Meeting on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 – 9.00p.m. at the Pochin Hall.

**Y** could best be described as "coffee, cake, games & Bible stuff". A chance to chill out after a tough day, some games to unwind with and a look at the Bible, working out what it says and how it applies to our lives. For more details about available places contact Charlotte on 01509 813907 or Peter on 01509 813090 about **IMPACT** or for **Y** contact Jenny on 01509 812163.

## **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.

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

The Annual Switching on of the Sileby Christmas Lights will take place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007. This year the entertainment and the switching on ceremony will be performed in front of Sileby Community Centre on High Street.

A short carol service will commence at **6.00p.m.** and the lights will then be switched on by a local celebrity. The Mayor & Mayoress of Charnwood will also attend the event.

There will be entertainment by a local artist from 5.30 p.m. Syston Town Band will play seasonal music from 6.00pm.to 7.30p.m. The usual children's rides will be on Back Lane from 5.00p.m. Rudolph and Father Christmas will also be in attendance.

The Victorian Market will be held in the Sports Hall and will open following the lighting ceremony, the stalls having been judged by the Mayor and Mayoress of Charnwood.

Coffee and mince pies will be served in the Community Centre.

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US**

### **PROPOSED SPORTS PAVILION – SILEBY MEMORIAL PARK**

The Plans for the proposed sports pavilion can be viewed at [www.charnwood.gov.uk](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk) Environment & Planning – Planning Applications then to Charnwood Planning Explorer – Quick Search – Specific Application P06/3609/2

### **SILEBY CEMETERY RECORDS**

Sileby Cemetery Records can now be viewed on line through the Parish Council website [www.silebyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.silebyparishcouncil.org.uk). Many thanks to Mr. Lionel Blower for his time and commitment updating the cemetery records.

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

Damage to safety surface under play equipment	£500.00
Vandalism and Anti Social Behaviour Costs	£624.00
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b>£1,124.00</b>

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Councillor Mrs S Butler	01509 813145
Councillor Mr P Collingswood	01509 816501
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Councillor Mr W King	01509 812597
Councillor Mr K Jones	01509 812982
Councillor Mr R Kinton	01509 812759
Councillor Mrs K Machin	01509 814215
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Councillor Mrs P Staples	01509 813579
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# Your Letters

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

I just wanted to say a huge **thank you** to the two very kind people who helped me outside Sileby Post Office in July.

I had collected a parcel, which turned out to be incredibly heavy and very bulky, and was impossible to lift single-handed. Firstly one lady helped me carry it across the road to my car, then, when it was obvious that it was not going to fit in my car, an elderly gentleman offered to take the parcel home for me in the boot of his car. He then assisted me in getting it out of his boot, and then dropped me back off at my car. I seriously do not know what I would have done without their help. In this day and age I more than understand the risks of accepting help from strangers, but in this instance I trusted my instincts and they were proved right.

Both people went above and beyond what I expected and my faith in human nature has been restored. I think this incident goes to prove that community spirit is alive and well in Sileby.

Many thanks  
The lady with the big box!

Annette Bowdrey, Registered Childminder. I have a vacancy for full or part time, pick up from Redlands School/ Sileby Nursery Playgroup. 01509 814078 or 07986 656566

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## **Parachute Regiment – Arnhem.**

Tina Tandy

I wanted to share with you a wonderful experience I had in September. As I celebrated a special birthday this year my friend and my dear Mum gave me a surprise gift of a weekend at Arnhem. This was something I had wanted to do for quite a while as my dad Mr Clifford William Tandy was in the Parachute Regiment and jumped into Arnhem on September 1944. Dad used to say that he never reached the bridge so I wanted to stand on the bridge for him.

We arrived at the hotel very late at night after a full days travel. On Saturday morning we were taken to see a Parachute jump and to visit to the 1st Airborne Museum in Oosterbeek.

On Sunday we went to the Memorial service at the Airborne Cemetery in Oosterbeek. I felt so honoured to be a part of history, in that I could truly be there and pay my respects to those brave soldiers. Every year for 63 years the Dutch in Arnhem have a memorial service for all those who lost their lives there and for those who fought and still return each year to visit the graves of their comrades. Hundreds of children from local schools turn out to put flowers on each and every grave at the Airborne Cemetery in Oosterbeek. I have to tell you it was an experience that I shall always remember till the day I die. I must have cried a million tears while I was there. To look at a sea of red berets, some worn by old comrades and some with young fresh faces, was a sight that was unbelievable

After a break for lunch and to dry our eyes we carried on into Arnhem and the bridge. After climbing about 60 steps I was on the bridge at last, I threw my red rose petals into the river below and wished with all my heart that my lovely, brave and caring dad was standing by my side. I said a little prayer to thank God for sending my dad back alive and well, for a

wonderful friend and for giving me two wonderful parents.

I also whispered up to heaven and said “I made it Dad, after 63 years a Tandy actually got to Arnhem Bridge. God Bless”.

Pictured is the ‘Bridge Too Far’ at Arnhem



## Sileby Brickworks

Bricks were in use as a building material well before the Victorian Age, but it probably wasn't until that time that bricks were manufactured locally in large quantities.

In 1846 William Knight was listed as a Brick & Tile maker, still producing in 1864. In 1861 William Adcock was listed as a Brickmaker, he was still manufacturing in 1881 in Ratcliffe Lane (now Ratcliffe Road). The workings were on the left hand side of the road approaching the Parish boundary. The ground can still be seen today to be below road level. By 1884 Pendleton and Bambury had taken over the ownership of these works, remaining there until 1890. (See Horace Smiths diary in this issue) In 1876 a gentleman by the name of Thomas Russell, living on Brook Street, was working as a Brick & Tile maker at the top of Albion Road. He was still producing at that address in 1881.

There is every possibility that these bricks were being used in Sileby. A

Horse and Cart could carry 350 bricks making a relatively expensive and slow exercise to move them further a field.

The coming of the Boot & Shoe and Hosiery industries to Sileby, created a demand for Housing etc. The Midland Railways opening in Sileby in 1840 had brought with it the means of transporting coal to the works and bricks to the customer, a must for the budding brick manufacturers. Before 1840 coal was delivered slowly by road or barge on the Grand Union Canal, thence by horse and cart from Sileby Wharf (Cricket Field corner). The man with the vision to see the potential and demand for bricks stepped in.

Who was this entrepreneur? Find out in the next issue of Talk Sileby.

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# NOT JUST ANY DEAD-END JOB

Some time ago, on behalf of the Sileby Photographic Society, and for the Paris Council, I embarked on the task of recording the condition of the graves in Sileby Cemetery.

Before taking any photographs it soon became apparent that the various records used by the Parish Council needed to be combined and then they too had to be merged with details recorded from the gravestones. Many hours have subsequently been spent trying to read these inscriptions. Some of the gravestones were unreadable as they had been damaged, eroded through time or fallen face down. A large number of the graves are completely unmarked being grass plots.

When originally laid out in the 19<sup>th</sup> century each plot had its own identifying marker but over time many of these have disappeared and those remaining are not necessarily in the correct location.

The original cemetery was laid out either side and in front of the two cemetery chapels. The left side half is for non-consecrated burials, the right side for consecrated. Both sections are then categorised in Sections A, B and C.

In the original cemetery there are some 1200 plots containing in excess of 3000 burials. Eventually the cemetery approached capacity and additional land was obtained to the left of the non-consecrated area. These plots have subsequently been designated Sections B and C (additional numbers) and D and E (new). These new plots bring the present total to 1740, and rising, with over 5000 burials having already taken place. There is now sufficient land for the foreseeable future and a section of the additional land contains the Garden of Remembrance together with a over 200 markers denoting where ashes have been laid.

With a master plan and a complete record, as far as is possible, it was then possible to photograph the graves in groups and, most importantly, to identify the graves on the individual photographs.

The results of this research have now been passed to the Parish Council who now have the Master Plan, a record of the individual plots, a photographic record of the graves in the original cemetery and an alphabetical list by surnames. In due course a copy of the records will be passed to the village Heritage Wardens.

From a personal point of view it became an interesting social study of Sileby. With the names displayed in alphabetical order it highlighted the predominance of a number of surnames of Sileby families and it also became apparent how Christian names that once were popular were later superseded.



## **MR SMITH GOES WALKING**

Due to tremendous demand (thanks Alan) I am continuing Mr Smiths Diaries. Horace Smith was born in 1897, living on Cemetery Road in his later years.

Anyone who knew Horace, please contact me on 01509 814618.

### **SUNDAY AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup> 1980**

Today might be said to be the finest day of the year so far, a cloudless (almost) sky, a hot sun and a gentle breeze to keep cool.

Into the fields once more with not a steer, heifer or sheep in sight. I spy a couple of slow moving farmers in a distant field, examining the cattle. They probably saw me leaning on the fence and would also probably know who I was. They would be seeing the last slow movements of a man who once walked “all round” of a Sunday morning. I note outstanding flowers are now the greater columbine, which will climb anything handy to a great height showing off its lovely bell like white (also pink) flowers. The thistle with its light to dark red global flowers beloved by the bees, also the rose bay willow herb now very conspicuous. Then of course the common mallow which is making a fine show, especially along the dyke by Barnets Brook.

I was taking to Mrs Bredler? on my way home. She seemed very interested in times past. I told her I remembered there was a brickyard across the road with a kiln and chimney, and that a boy I played with amongst the machinery in what was called the “gantry”. I still recall the smell of the clay banks, which were for making the bricks. There a very few around today who remember Sileby as it was in the old days.

I was talking to a man the other day who has not lived in Sileby for long. I pointed to some old houses, recently repaired, and told him that my Mother? was born in one of them 125 years ago. I recall that next door to my Grandmothers was a lodging house occupied by Mrs Taylor, a widow. It was known as the “Model”. Single men lodged there, and here are a few of the names I remember!

Harry Flatface (his real name was never known). He was a Carter, and I see him plainly today in my minds eye. Unlike men of that time he could read, and if anyone who could not read got too talkative, and annoyed him, he would say angrily “You know a bloody lot when you’re told!” Poor Harry never went to bed but slept sitting in an armchair. When the inevitable came – the workhouse – he died when put to bed. “Giggy” Widdowson was another, also a Carter. I do not remember much of him. Next George Glover (Fag), and Mrs Taylors “bodyguard”. He was a Stockinger, like my Dad, and worked on a hand frame in Leicester well into his eighties.

Then there was Tom Moore, also a Stockinger, who worked I believe for my Uncle Henry Preston who employed about half a dozen men who worked in his shop which was begun by my Grandfather, Thomas Preston. Thomas Preston was a steady man but my Uncle Henry drank, and would sometimes send a man for beer on a Monday morning.

There were no factories or rules of work at that time and Stockingers would sometimes go “on the blob” for a week, and pubs were open all day. Men would work all night on a Friday to get the work in.

Now as Charles Lamb says, “all, all are gone, the old familiar faces”.

I must recall some other Sileby characters another time.



# Sileby Gardening Gnomes

We meet at the village Institute on Manor Road (Behind the Free Trade Inn). We welcome new members and visitors. For details please contact Roy Brown on 816545.

## Meetings for 2007/8

**Wednesday 12th December**

Ken Muir

**Wednesday 9th January**

David Mountford—My small garden from scratch

**Wednesday 13th February**

Malcolm Beerman—All about Fushias

**Wednesday 12th March**

Mr Darch—A talk on Geraniums with slides

**Wednesday 9th April**

Rosemary Mason—Maundy Flowers

**Wednesday 14th May**

Annual General Meeting

## News report for Cossington Primary School ~ Autumn 2007

A new school year saw Cossington return with a new head at the helm. Miss Heather Sewell was warmly welcomed to the school bringing with her experience of working in a variety of different school settings.

As well as a new head teacher, the school welcomed 15 new starters into the Foundation Stage. These 4 year olds quickly settled into Cossington school life and seem happy and confident in their new setting.

One sad note at the beginning of term was the retirement of Mrs Anstee who had worked at the school for over 20 years. Throughout that time she has always shown great care for all of the children and she will be sadly missed.

With half a term gone, the school has quickly settled back into its routine of activity. Clubs ranging from gardening to cross-country to ICT skills have all started with many children participating. The football team have played in 3 mini football tournaments against local schools, with one of the highlights being a thriller against Highgate! The cross country team ran in their first race and showed great spirit and determination. At school, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October was the school's harvest festival, with kind donations of fruit, vegetables and other produce being distributed amongst residents of Dudley Court. Earlier in the week, a small choir had visited Dudley Court to sing a medley of harvest songs.



## **Leonard Cheshire Disability**

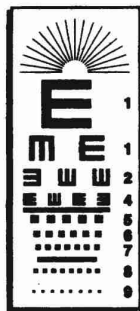
I guess that most local people will be aware of Leonard Cheshire Disability residential home situated in King Street, Sileby. The home supports 17 people with varying disabilities. Our emphasis is very much on 'Ability' and promoting equal opportunities and

independence to all service users.

Many of us living at King Street are very keen, like most communities to access the local facilities and integrate within our locality, however it is the word 'access' that can often prove difficult especially if you are a wheelchair user.

For some time now, there has been a desire amongst service users at King Street to reach out to other community members, whom may also have a disability to share and discuss views on local issues or problems affecting disability (for example- transport, access for wheelchair users to shops and public buildings etc...)

We would love to hear from you and, if enough interest is generated we will arrange informal meetings at our home at the nearest date of convenience. Please contact our service manager, Mr Robert Edwards on 07984 550427 or e-mail at [robert.edwards@lcdisability.org](mailto:robert.edwards@lcdisability.org) for additional details.



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

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## Bulgarian Mission Trip 2007

Lucy Ellis—Reporter

This summer I and three teenagers from Sibley went out on a mission trip to Sliven a town in Bulgaria. We went as part of a Christian group of seventeen people from around Leicestershire. Our group were just one of many that go out to Sliven with a charity called Saltmine. The aims of the trips are to increase the bond between churches in Britain and churches in Bulgaria and to work with Kerman Children's home, for special needs children. Teams that visit Kerman assist with renovations, food supplements and other aids. Plans have included providing a modern minibus for the home and decorating bedrooms. Kerman is a home for children of many ages with many different disabilities.

The project we assisted in was the idea of a market garden system. In Britain before our trip we raised a lot of money as a team for our horticultural project. The aim of the project was to buy a greenhouse for the home and renovate a garden. This would provide a space for the children of Kerman to learn skills, which may allow them to get jobs when they are old enough to leave. There is now the first greenhouse in place and a safe environment around it. We all enjoyed being able to help the children in a way that they can enjoy and learn skills for life.

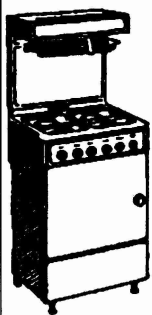
Whilst on our trip we struggled with working through a heat wave in Bulgaria. We



changed our daily plans so we could start work much earlier to avoid the mid-day heat. To add to our exhausting days the group was hit with stomach bug which affected most of the team. However we managed to still complete everything we set out to do.

My lasting memories of the trip are seeing the smiles on the faces of all the children. The simple things we did made so many people happy. The favourite part for the children being the face painting we did one day at the home, they just loved it. Seeing the poverty in Bulgaria really opened my eyes to what it is like in some countries. I look forward to going back next year to carry on with the work we have started and to see the children whose lives have changed because of our project. I would like to thank every one who helped us achieve what we did in Bulgaria, with out their support it would not have been possible.

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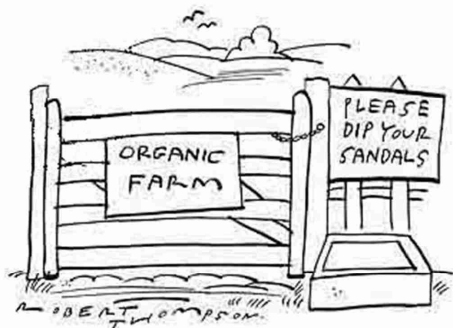
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# **LEICESTER MODEL RAILWAY SHOW**

Once again, for the 12<sup>th</sup> year, Syston Model Railway Club are organising a MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION at Sileby Community Centre, High Street, Sileby on 16/17 February 2008. Open from 10am to 4.30pm both days.

This has become an annual event enjoyed by everyone in the East Midlands, and beyond, with an interest in railways. It is a family event where accompanied children come in for FREE with something for everyone.

This year we have excelled in attracting 15 different layouts in all gauges including:- in 'N' gauge, Milk River, Magna Park, Rorgoyle, Beamends Colliery, Birdingbury and Medenthal. In 'OO' gauge Brush Traction, Barden Road, Wharf Loco and a large 1960's Triang/Hornby collection. Not forgetting in 'O' gauge Seabury Town, Swansea Riverside and If Only. Also in '3mm' Papplewick (newly extended) and in 'On30' Falls Junction.

"This year we have a real mix of layouts which should appeal to everyone from Seabury - a 24' long 'O' gauge layout, making its debut in the East Midlands, where children need to look out for surprises to Rorgoyle which recently appeared in the Railway Modeller and shows what can be achieved in a small space. Also watch out for the appearance of Thomas the Tank engine on 'If only'. Highlights also include Brush Traction which provides local interest as it is based on the Brush factory at Loughborough" said Chairman, Rob Kay.

Past Exhibitions have been sponsored by Hornby, Dapol, Peco, Signal Box of Anstey, Acme Models of Sileby, and the Great Central Railway. Please contact us if you are willing to support the exhibition through sponsorship, however, large or small.

The exhibition includes extensive trade support including both new and second-hand model railways, scenic's, bargain books and plenty for kit bashers or those contemplating a layout for the first time.

Admission is £3 for adults, £2.50 for senior citizens. A family ticket (2+2) is £6 and accompanied children are free. There is ample parking nearby and food and refreshments are available. There is a large tombola stall.

The exhibition is situated only 2 minutes from Sileby Station and only 5 minutes from the A6 and A46 Leicester Western by-pass.

Syston Model Railway Society has been in existence for the past 26 years and meets weekly in Thurmaston. We are a small but very friendly club and have permanent large N gauge and OO gauge layouts. New layouts currently under construction include a 22' long modern image DC/DCC layout and a 16' N gauge station layout with a branch line. Our exhibition layout "Horse Cove," featuring the Great Western railway line running along the coast between Dawlish and Teignmouth, has been seen at exhibitions all over the country.

Come and join us. Any enquiries please ring Chris on 0116 2605760. Also see our website at [www.systonmrs.org.uk](http://www.systonmrs.org.uk)

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