

# talk @ Sileby

## Village Newsletter

Issue 23 Winter 2008



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

Dear friends,

Why do we celebrate Christmas year by year? Is it just an excuse to spend money, buy presents, enjoy being together with family and friends or is there more to it than that? Behind it all lie the extraordinary events of the first Christmas.

For many of us the details of the Christmas story are so well known that we can be in danger of missing out on their significance. We know so well that Jesus was born to Mary, a virgin. It has become so part of what we know that we lose sight of how truly remarkable this is. It wasn't simply that Mary was being coy, claiming that she was a virgin whilst all along harbouring a guilty secret. The claim of the Bible is that she really was a virgin, in fulfilment of a prophecy that came some 700 years before the birth of Jesus in the book of Isaiah: "the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). Immanuel means "God is with us" and the extraordinary arrival of Jesus into this world is meant to speak to us that this was an extraordinary child that was born. It should cause us to question "why? If the queen came to Sileby, we would rightly want to know why. How much more does the first Christmas beg the question "why did God come into this world to be born as a baby?"

I do hope that you'll have the opportunity this Christmas time to come to one or more of the Christmas services in the various churches in the village. From family friendly Christingle services and family carol service to traditional candlelit ones, there should be something for everyone. I hope that they will help answer the question of why God should come into the world.

With best wishes

Richard Hopkins. Rector of the United Benefice of Sileby,  
Cossington and Seagrave

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

# **SILEBY VILLAGE INSTITUTE**

The Sileby Village Institute (as illustrated in the cover picture) was brought to the village in 1922 after use in the First World War as an Army Canteen. It was placed under the custody of Trustees, a situation that has been perpetuated to the present day. Of the present four Trustees, only one appears to be involved in the day-to-day administration of the building.

Throughout its life, it has seen Band Concerts, Pantomimes, Dances, Drama performances, The Adult School, Snooker and Billiards, Polling Station at election times and, after the Second World War, it has been the home of the Sileby Evergreen Club who currently hold the lease and are authorised to sublet to other groups. The Sileby Photographic Society, founded in 1954, has used the building for its weekly meetings for over 50 years and holds a week-long Exhibition in October of each year which is attended by approximately 400 local people. Other groups use the premises on an occasional basis.

The Sileby Photographic Society is one of the largest in the Midlands, is well respected and has been successful over the years in winning competitions, recently pushing the Birmingham Photographic Society into second place, in the Inter-Cities Print Competition. (Who didn't know that Sileby was a City?).

Maintenance of the Institute and its surrounds is believed to be the responsibility of the leaseholder, but this has sadly fallen to the few who have recently found it more difficult to undertake these duties due to illness and advancing years. In an attempt to ease the burden, some of the members of the Photographic Society have embarked on a clean-up operation which has brought about a significant improvement in its appearance. However, there is still work to be done to make the premises more user-friendly.

In the absence of a custom-built Community Centre, the village has limited accommodation offering suitable meeting rooms for the various groups. It is vital therefore that the Village Institute is maintained and available for continued use.

## **Sileby Redlands Community Primary School**

**A**t Redlands we are continually striving to improve and as our motto states we are “Working together and aiming for Excellence”. All the staff work extremely hard to provide a friendly environment where our children feel both safe and secure and are able to discover experiences which will enrich their lives and provide opportunities for future well-being.

Back in November 2007 we received our visit from Her Majesty’s Inspectors – OfSTED. I am sure you can imagine, we were all nervous and with this being my first inspection as Headteacher, I felt equally nervous. The whole team worked extremely hard and demonstrated to the Inspectors what a great team we are at Redlands. The final report was very pleasing with praise given to all those involved as well as the children, who were ‘stars’ during the two day inspection. Obviously, we were left with development points and it was gratifying to know that these points were the ones that we had already highlighted in our development plans. Since the inspection there have been improvements in all of these areas which we are all very proud of.

For the academic year 2008 – 2009, our class structure has changed. For the first time in many years we have children in a class per year rather than mixed ages. This ensures that teaching staff can deliver lessons specifically for one age group, rather than having to teach across two age phases. This will ensure that teaching will continue to be of a high standard. Mr Dunn – Year 6 teacher and Assistant Headteacher, joined us in September 2007 and has proved to be an excellent addition to our team. He is well liked and respected by the children and has contributed significantly to the school’s Senior Management Team. As well as his commitment to teaching year six he also showed his enthusiasm for the theatre in his epic production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. All of key stage 2 had great fun putting this together and this was enjoyed by all parents and friends of the school.

Thanks need to go to all of those parents and staff that supported Mr Dunn and the Key stage team in making this a great success. Mrs Elizabeth Turner has also joined the Senior Management Team after several years as working as the school’s Special Educational Needs teacher. Her involvement has also been greatly appreciated. Our links with the community remain strong, and we have continued links with Sileby Junior Football Club, who regularly use our field for matches and training sessions. Our good relationship with Leonard Cheshire Homes has continued with residents being invited into school for performances and sports events. Our children continue to visit the local churches and we have been fortunate to have Rev Jane Carter and the Vicar from St. Mary’s – Richard Hopkins to take assemblies in school. Part of our requirement is to provide children with a wealth of experiences out side of the school day in what is termed as Extended Schools provision. We are very lucky at Redlands in that our staff are willing to give up their own time after school to provide a wide and diverse variety of clubs and activities, such as Cheerleading, Football, Tag Rugby, Nature, Craft to name but a few. We also use our funding to ensure that

vulnerable groups in school, such as those who suffer from low self esteem, have the opportunity to take part in activities in which they would not normally do. We are also able to invite coaches for sports and dance into school to support our children. Planning is being sort at present to improve our outside provision for the youngest children. The play area is being extended to include a grassed area and a transition area between the play area and the classroom. These developments will increase the opportunities for free flow play and help to maximise the learning experience for our four and five year olds.

The field area is also being developed to include an allotment themed area for children in all classes to have the opportunity to grow and produce their own vegetables and plants. When this project is underway we will be asking for help from friends in our community to support the children with their growing and planting skills.

We made the controversial decision to ban crisps, sweets and chocolate as snacks at playtime because it is our aim to encourage a healthy lifestyle. We also promote our Healthy School by continuing to run our “Fruity Fridays”. The children are encouraged to bring to school 50p which they could swap for portions of fruit or a homemade fruit smoothie. The children love these and the fruit bar is enthusiastically run by year six children. We are continuing to work on our Travel Plan which encourages children to walk, or cycle to school rather than travelling in the car. All of these initiatives and the collection of school policies and procedures resulted in the school achieving an outstanding accreditation by the Healthy School Committee at County Hall.

We continue to go from strength to strength at Redlands and this is achieved by the continued efforts made by all adults in school. Every class and teacher is supported by a Classroom Support Assistant who works very closely with the teacher to support the learning needs of the children. This group of people work effortlessly, giving a lot of their free time to make the learning environment a great place to be. The school Governing body continues to support all aspects of school life and it is very common not to see governors in school.

Our aim at Redlands is to ensure that children learn in a fun and creative way. Throughout the school year children visit many places, both locally and nationally, to gather different experiences which will help develop their understanding of themselves and where they come from. Whether it be visiting the Gorillas at Twycross Zoo or watching a production of “Wicked” on the London stage we know that our children are enjoying their time at Redlands and will always remember their school days with great fondness.

**Mr Matthew Peet**

**Headteacher – Sileby Redlands Community Primary School**

## **Pleasant Memories of Sileby Life. - Ian Waters resident of Thurmaston.**

I was born a war baby in 1941 into a working class environment. My very first introduction to Sileby was in the mid 1940'S. In those days of food shortages and ration books only business people and doctors had cars. The working class were lucky if they could afford a second-hand bicycle, and so my trip to Sileby was a treat in itself. A very excited four-year-old was travelling from Syston to Sileby by single decker bus.

I cannot remember the exact reason for the visit but I assume it must have been family business or a celebration. I do remember though quite distinct details of the bus. The driver sat in a separate compartment isolated from the main seating area. There was a series of short tubes with gaps. Threaded through the tubes was a length of leather strap which ran the length of the bus and connected to a bell at the front end. The conductor would ring the bell by pulling the strap to inform the driver. Once for stop, twice for go. I recall wishing I was tall enough to reach the strap. At that moment in time I had no idea that I would be living the majority of my life in the village of Sileby.

I developed an interest in music at an early age and visited the village as a teenager to rehearse at the Plough public house in High Street. We paid the landlord for the use of an upstairs function room. The building is still there and until fairly recently so was the large wooden bracket that held the Plough sign. My wife and I moved to Sileby with our first born in the early sixties when Sileby was a thriving industrial community. People travelled by bus, by train and many even cycled for employment in this busy industrial village. Lots of commuters from many surrounding areas including Leicester City and Loughborough paid their bills with monies earned in Sileby. Many of the (more-senior) residents will remember, as I do, the many businesses

who were the employers of the that time, Lawson Ward and Willets both on Seagrave Road, Moir Ltd on Ratcliffe Road, Newbold & Burton, Simons, Taylors, Charles Purl, Melody Mills, William Whiteheads, the Brick yard, Telray Knitwear, Colin Cooks, The brewery, Jenham Jersey & Bradgate Textiles and Kenny Saunders Engineering. There were others whose names escape me but probably other residents will remember. Sileby has an industrial history to be proud of. Around that time it was also possible to purchase petrol at three locations in the village. Although the population of the village was far less than today, the public houses flourished with so many residents socializing with a drink (or two) at their local. Darts and skittles attracted many and with the introduction of local leagues the games became very competitive. Piano and drums often accompanied a pub sing-a-long at the week ends and if you weren't there for seven o'clock you didn't get a seat. I remember Alan and June Faulkenbridge being host's at the Railway Inn and later



for many years Derek and Mary Austin.

Opposite the Railway Inn on King Street was a large timber building that served petrol from a very old, tall slim pump with an extra long flexible pipe. I remember being served by a gent who always wore a brown smock. He would lift the flexible hose high in the air to ensure it was drained and you got your monies worth. If you asked him for something he didn't stock his reply would always be, "Oh I'm sorry Lad! I've just sold the last one!"

A little further along King Street, towards Seagrave, was a very high brick wall which concealed the coal wharf. Before the days of gas central heating, the majority of households relied on coal as fuel for their open fires. White's were the coal merchants of the day. Most houses of that time had either coal sheds or bunkers and it was common place to scrape the ice from the inside of bedroom windows on a winter's morning. In those days people were more amicable and less aggressive. The comradeship and unity that came with the war was still apparent some twenty years on. People were more friendly and willing to help others in their hour of need. I remember the early days of television. Those lucky enough to be able to buy or rent, would have a very large H or X aerial strapped to their chimney. Programs transmitted from the studio would normally be okay, but outside broadcasts would be plagued with problems of picture loss and distortion. Remember the test card? The epilogue would conclude the evening's programs. You may have dozed off and be woken by the whistling of a blank screen or a voice telling you that today's programs are over" Don't forget to turn off your TV set".

In those days our children were educated in our local schools by well respected teachers. Discipline installed respect, both in school and at home.

Local shop-keepers made a good living in the day's before supermarkets, and discount warehouses. Residents dealt with there own favourite local butcher and corner shops for their own convenience. The shop- keepers living was also greatly boosted by our village industry. Employees of the factories would often shop during their break in preference to interrupting their journey home. I recall shopkeepers such as George Ball & Roy Hastledine serving the thriving community. Graham Jackson also ran a popular general grocery, green grocery and off-licence at the bottom of Greedon Rise.

The Sileby Gala and Parade was always a popular event. Numerous lorries would be decorated and form a procession around the village. The floats would be judged by Bob Scarborough and his fellow judges. As many will remember, Bob ran the news agents business on the corner of Swan Street. The prize for the best float normally went to the one with a topical theme and highest degree of detail.

A most popular and enjoyable day each year.

So what has happened to what I still refer to as our village? Cherishing all these pleasant memories, it makes me feel a little sad to see how time has changed Sileby.

## Changes to Library PIN

Do you know your library PIN (Personal Identification Number)?

To safeguard library customers' identity online, Leicestershire County Council's library service is running a campaign to get its users to remember their PIN (Personal Identification Number) when using the public computers. Current practice allows customers who have forgotten or lost their PIN to obtain a temporary one to use the public computers at libraries. However, as of 2nd January 2009 customers will not be able to do this and will have to apply for a new one.

This new policy is for your own safety to prevent other users from stealing your identity online.

If you don't either have a PIN or have forgotten it, just ask a member of your library staff to apply for a new one which you will receive after a few days.

Keep your PIN safe and don't let anyone else use it as you will not be allowed access to the computers without a PIN number.

You can also change your PIN to something you will remember by logging onto [www.leics.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.leics.gov.uk/libraries) and clicking on My Account.

You can also use your PIN:

- to renew items online
- to renew items using our 24/7 renewal number **0845 602 2815**
- to reserve books online
- to book the use of library computers for free.



Cossington Road date unknown

## **SILEBY PARISH COUNCIL**

41 High Street, Sileby – 01509 813075

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

### **ANNUAL SWITCHING ON OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2008**

The Annual Switching on of the Sileby Christmas Lights will take place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2008 with Bill Brookman hosting the proceedings and the local clergy taking the service. This year a fancy dress competition will be held for any child wishing to take part and prizes will be awarded in the Community Centre after the switch on.

The Victorian Market will still be taking place in the Sports Hall and coffee and mince pies in the Main Hall and Primary room..

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US**

### **Memorial Park**

On the Memorial Park work started on the Pavilion on September 29th and is scheduled to finish in June 2009. We ask for forbearance as this work progresses.

The Council are considering putting a Dogs On Lead order the Manorial Park and consultations will be taking place.

### **Council Election**

The Parish Council normally adopt the co-option process to fill any Mid Term vacancies at no cost to the Parishioners. On this occasion an election has been requested by 10 Parishioners in the St. Mary's Ward where a vacancy has arisen. We have been advised that the cost to the village could be up to £4000. Although it is a democratic right for an election to be called for, did the people who called for this election realise the financial implication of their actions.

Your understanding would be appreciated during the clerks long term sick leave.

Betty A Crick

Chairman Sileby Parish Council

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH

**W**hat is so special about St. Mary's Church?

Its origins date from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, which makes it over 850 years old.

It is a Grade II\* listed building; only 4% of listed buildings in this country are Grade II status; this means that it is of very significant interest. The church roof dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century – look up to see the carved angels and roof bosses.

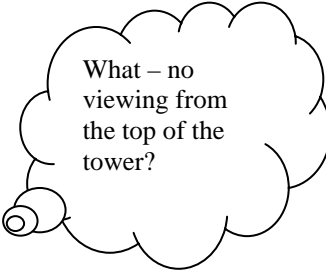
St. Mary's has a fine pinnacled tower, and is a very good example of medieval art.

**Church bells** - there is a ring of 10 bells, with the oldest being at least 380 years old; the newest bells of the ring were installed in 1981; although not cast as a complete ring, and they vary greatly in age, they are of excellent tone.


### **The modern church:**

In recent years, through the fund-raising efforts of the Friends of St. Mary's, two major projects have been successfully completed; firstly the refurbishment of the roof, and secondly the installation of a new electrical system.


The latest modernisation of the church has only recently been completed with the installation of the new toilet and kitchen facilities, along with an open meeting area.




What – no viewing from the top of the tower?




Is there anything I can do to make it safe?




How can I help to do that?



Sorry – but the tower is not safe!



We need to raise money for the repairs



You can join the Friends of St. Mary's (see page 13); and support our events

## **Friends of St Mary's:**

Set up in 1999 to raise much needed funds for the refurbishment of the fabric of the church, it has raised in excess of £90000 from numerous sources. Currently there are only 78 members from Sileby village and around. If you would like to join the Friends, and help in the maintenance of the church for our future generations, then view our website, <http://beehive.thisisleicestershire/fosm>, for contact and membership details along with a host of other information.

## **New Project - Church Tower:**

Following recent inspections of the church tower, it is clear that it is in varying states of disrepair.

## **Concert:**

The next event to raise funds for the Church Tower repairs is to be held on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, in St Mary's church. The Shepshed Singers are performing seasonal, secular and sacred songs for us. The cost for the concert is £6, which includes a glass of mulled wine and warm mincepie. Tickets can be obtained from Beverly, 01509 815525, or Joan, 01509 813119



This is a view from the top of the Church Tower.

# hurch ews

## Christmas services

### United Benefice of Sileby, Cossington and Seagrave

Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	4.00 p.m.	Christingle at Sileby
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	5.00 p.m.	Carol service at Seagrave
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	7.00 p.m.	Carol service at Cossington
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	4.00 p.m.	Family Carols at Sileby
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30 p.m.	Carol Service at Sileby
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	11.30 p.m.	Holy Communion at Sileby
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at Seagrave
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00 a.m.	Morning Worship at Cossington
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship

### Sileby Methodist Church

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	4pm	Carol Service at St Gregory's
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## **St Gregory's RC Church**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December

9am Mass Syston

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December

9am Mass Sileby

10:30am Mass Syston

## **Sileby Baptist Church**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec

6.00pm Family Carol Service

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec

10.30am Christmas Day Family Service



**"If you're shopping in the village on a Saturday morning or looking for something to do.....**

**Please join us at our Coffee Mornings at Sileby Baptist Church.**

**Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 10.30 to 12.00 noon.**

**A warm welcome will await you".**



**M**y name is PC 1993 Gordon Doudie and as from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 I became the new Beat Bobby for Sileby Seagrave & Cossington having taken over from Pc 2041 Glenn Spiiby who has moved to pastures new.

I have been in the Police for nearly 10 years serving in Loughborough, Quorn I then transferred to my home town of Barnsley in South Yorkshire before returning in 2003. There I was appointed the Beat Bobby for Castle Donington staying there for 5 years during that time I organised several initiatives to target Anti Social Behaviour as well as the level of crime with credible results. Prior to the Police I spent over 10 years in the Army serving predominantly in Northern Ireland which I feel has helped me in my role as a Police Officer. After Castle Donington I returned to Syston before becoming the beat bobby for Birstall where again I was having an immediate impact. But during this time Sileby came up and I just had to apply as I live in the village and it is hoped that I can continue doing the good work especially with PCSO 6031 Sian MAPP still remaining on the beat with her local knowledge of those who cause problems in your respective villages we can work towards making the places we live a place of safety and a return to how it was not so long ago. I would describe myself as being an old style Bobby who seeks to learn respect within our society and to actively encourage people to take pride in where they live. The task will be hard but through working with your respective Parish Councils as well the Borough and County Councils I am sure between us we can achieve those goals.

If any of you are experiencing any problems whether it be from trouble with youths or neighbour issues or anything that you feel is affecting the way you lead your daily lives then let me and Sian know about it .I joined the Police to make a difference and in my time at Donington I believed I did do to some residents I hope I can do the same here. Please call us on Tel No. 0116 222 2222 ext 5675 then type either of ID numbers mine is 1993 ,Sian is 6031 leave a short message with your details address and contact number with a short summary as to what your problem is and we will endeavour to address the problems you raise.

Look forward to hearing from you all.

*Pc 1993 Gordon Doudie*

*Pcso 6031 Sian Mapp*



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# SILEBY HERITAGE

Pete Campbell and Eric Wheeler —Heritage Wardens

## **Heritage/History Group**

There is now a small but keen group of people meeting on a regular basis at the Community Centre. If you would like details call me on 07762 299774.

Or :-

Info is available on [www.leicestershirevillages.com](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com) under Sileby Village History

### ***Denom and Non-denom***

Before 1870 the majority of children in Sileby received no education. Those that did were either taught privately or by the church (National School). The National School (denom) on Barrow Road had been opened in 1860, but solely for the education of the Church of England Faith. At a cost of £1300 it could accommodate 245 with an average attendance of 157 (72 boys and 85 girls). The Headmaster was Mr Evan Williams.

The 1870 Education Act brought a new dawn to learning, with Sileby no exception. The Act set up School Districts. Local ratepayers were asked to build Primary Schools in areas where one did not already exist. Sileby took on the challenge, and with the help of local benefactor William Caloe the Primary School (Non-denom) on King Street (now Redlands) was opened in 1880. It cost £2300 and could accommodate 300 children.

The School provided education mainly in reading, writing and “rithmetic”. The Teachers supervised large classes with help from older pupils (monitors). Sileby School did not enforce the teaching of the Church of England. Parents had the right to withdraw their children from such classes, and teachers had the right not to teach the same. There was a charge for education, although some financial help was available to the poorer families. The local School Board was given the right to compel children to attend. The work of enforcing attendance was given to “boardmen” (later Attendance Officers); these were the scourge of Sileby families. Many families would rather their children be working and bringing in much needed money to the household. Before 1870 children were employed locally in Factories and on the land.

The Church during the early days of the 1870 Act took advantage of the Governments generous funds for the expansion of the National Schools and in 1874 an extension for Infants at Sileby National School was built. The following article shows that the National Schools expanded fairly rapidly.

**January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1889**

### **Opening of New Classroom**

The new classroom adjoining the infant department of the National School, which has been recently erected at a cost of £130, was formerly opened by the Vicar, Rev A. Shears. The whole of the children attending the school were presented with a large bun and an orange each and the parents of the children numbering over 300 sat down to a free tea in the large room provided by the Vicar, after which a selection of vocal and instrumental music was rendered by the children.

A very cordial welcome was given to Charlotte Ann Postell, the new Mistress of the Infant Department who was present.

*The new Primary School on King Street also went from strength to strength, as the following article appears to show.*

**April 18<sup>th</sup> 1889**

### **Sileby Undenominational School**

The report of the H.M. Inspector on the above school has been received and is very gratifying. The percentage passed was 90%. The handwriting and spelling of the school was marked “very good” and the arithmetic of the lower standards “good”. Music was taken for the first time and the children were successful in it. In Geography and Grammar also they did “very well”. The “Good Merit” Grant was again awarded and the Government Grant, which is the highest ever, was received. It was £28 in advance of last year. The Infants also were in good condition and did better than ever before.

***Footnote:-***

***If any readers have information on the history of either the Non or denom Schools I would be be only too pleased to hear from them.***

**March 7<sup>th</sup> 1889**

**Liberal Association**

The society recently started is progressing favourably, now numbering over 120 members. Mr T. Caloe has provided them with a large upper room in High Street free of charge for their meetings, and shortly intends to make increased accommodation and erect a new lecture room. The site already being purchased in a central position at the corner of King Street leading to the Railway Station.

**Was this the start of Sileby Liberal Working Men's Club?**

**Town Criers Bell**

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Mountsorrel Town Criers Bell? Rumour has it that this Bell crossed the river at some time to finish in Sileby hands.

Any comments, views or answers would be very welcome.

**Yesterday/Today 2009**

The Heritage/History Group are planning another exhibition next year.

Early indications are Easter at the Community Centre.

We will keep you updated in the next Talk Sileby.

We are still after your support in old photographs, memorabilia etc

Pete Campbell & Eric Wheeler



# Your Letters

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

Dear Sirs,

I would like the opportunity to respond to the Chairman's report in Issue 22 Summer 2008 of your village newsletter.

Can I please reassure your readers that the local police are not routinely deployed to Loughborough on Friday and Saturday nights but stay within the Charnwood LPU. Sileby receives the same level of policing as all the other nine Neighbourhood beats within Charnwood LPU. In addition to its own beat officer and PCSO a team of officers are out on patrol every night of the week to respond to calls across the LPU including Sileby. When the response officers are not attending calls they each have particular crime or anti-social behaviour hotspots to police, including several in Sileby. Sileby is included in our Joint Action Group meetings with representatives from the Council, ASS team, Community Safety,

Housing, Liquor Licensing and Youth Services to discuss in detail incidents that have been reported, ensuring action has been taken identifying those individuals involved in or at risk of offending and looking at problem solving initiatives in the village.

The new beat officer for Sileby PC Gordon Doudie is a very experienced beat officer and he will work closely with Sian Mapp the PCSO to tackle youth and identified beat priorities and maximise their visibility on the beat.

Yours sincerely

Inspector C Yallop Charnwood  
LPU Commander

In partnership with Charnwood Arts, 'Extract' is the first art exhibition to be hosted by Vanilla Galleries, showcasing exciting contemporary art from recent Loughborough University graduates. 'Extract' will be a diverse exhibition including painting, textile art, photography and video art. Work will be for sale and artists available for commissions.

Opening Times: Tuesday – Saturday 10:30 – 6, Sunday 10:30 – 4

Where: 24-26 Church Gate, Loughborough, LE11 1UD (formerly The Left Legged Pineapple)

Vanilla Galleries is a collective of around 30 emerging artists, recently graduated from Loughborough University.

Our main objective is to foster emerging artists from Loughborough University and provide them with a professional gallery environment. We strive to enrich the community with creative projects and give residents the chance to experience unique and diverse artwork.

Loughborough's need for regeneration and change has been well publicised and we are directly responding to this. Our exhibitions and community projects will attract new people to Loughborough and the surrounding areas as well as retaining current residents.

Contact: Helen Briggs, 07841669440, [helen@vanillagalleries.com](mailto:helen@vanillagalleries.com)  
[www.vanillagalleries.com](http://www.vanillagalleries.com)

## **WIN £10,000 FOR THE NEW YEAR**

This year's LOROS Lottery Bumper Prize Draw will take place on Friday 2nd January and will again offer a total of £14,000 in prizes. The top prize will be a whopping £10,000 and one lucky winner will enjoy a fantastic start to the New Year.

By joining the lottery now you could be one of 351 lucky members and could be treating yourself to that special holiday, a new kitchen, or even a new car.

Everyone over the age of 16 is invited to become a member and enjoy a 1 in 60 chance of winning along with the satisfaction of knowing you are supporting a very worthwhile local charity. At just £1 per entry per week there couldn't be a better way of giving LOROS your continued support.

Winners' cheques are posted out to the lucky members automatically, there is no need to claim and with four different methods of payment there is bound to be one that suits you. Why not ring the Lottery helpline on 0116 2318430 today and find out more. You could be in the draw as early as next Friday.

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# Sileby Parish Walks Leaflet



The new **Sileby Parish Walks Leaflet** proposed by the Sileby Parish Plan Group has now been printed by Leicestershire County Council.

The launch for the walks leaflet will be New Years Day 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 10.00am at the Sileby Community Centre, all welcome.

This will be followed by the 3 circular walks being led by volunteer leaders. Stout shoes or walking boots are recommended for all walks.

**Walk 1:** 3km (2 miles), is an easy walk around the village centre and nearby countryside and takes about 1 hour.

**Walk 2:** 6km (4 miles), this 2 hour walk through meadows, fields and riverside paths includes Cossington Meadows Nature Reserve.

**(Short cut to Walk 2:** 4km (2½ miles) allow 1¼ hours).

**Walk 3:** 9km (5½ miles), goes through open countryside with interesting views via Ratcliffe College and Seagrave and needs about 3 hours to complete.

Pre-launch copies of the Sileby Walks Leaflet can be obtained at the Sileby Victorian Market/Christmas Lights Switch-on, Sileby Scouts Christmas Fayre or your Local Library.

Dave Thompson  
Sileby Parish Plan Group





# **The Homefield Fascia Company**

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or – 0787 4021226**

# *Welcome to Giftbox*

We are a Mother & Daughter business with years of experience, and established Giftbox on-line early this year...its success has allowed us to bring Giftbox to the High Street in the village of Sileby.

The shop which was formerly Hetterley's has now been transformed whilst keeping all of the buildings original cottage charm and quirky features! We have created a lovely and cosy atmosphere that you will find very warm and welcoming.

The shop has allowed us to extend our range of products to include gorgeous greeting cards, luxury wrapping paper, ribbons and bows, and an extensive range of jewellery including Swarovski crystal through to fun and funky fashion jewellery for the ladies!

Finding gifts for men is notoriously difficult, so to help you with the search our great collection of cufflinks, pens, wine accessories and grooming sets will help!

For the gardener we have trug sets, fun gardening gloves and beautiful china mug sets for that well deserved tea-break!

Our baby and nursery range is just adorable...from the little keepsakes to the Peter Rabbit pull-along, Winnie the Pooh framed pictures, and colourful wooden toys. The problem you will have is which to choose!

If you know of someone getting married, then we can help with our stunning selection of gifts for the special couple, good luck keepsakes, groovy gifts for the Best Man and the perfect thank you gifts for the Bridesmaids.

We have a great range of gifts for all occasions, all year round!

Can't wait to see you. . .

*Louisa & Heather*

# giftbox

## New to the village...

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