

# talk @ Sileby

## Village Newsletter

Issue 26 Winter 2009



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We live in a world these days where the things around us change regularly and at an ever-increasing pace. Take technology for example, televisions with 42" screens and surround sound like visiting a cinema and mobile phones you can do nearly anything on.....

Situations though can also change for the worst. Who would have thought at Christmas two years ago that we'd be in the economic mess we're in now – rising unemployment and the worst recession since the 1930's. For many people this year, with less money in their pockets to spend, Christmas will not be what it was last year. The only real certainty in life is uncertainty!

For the people in Jesus' time, life was just as uncertain. Living under Roman occupation, having to pay taxes to Rome and Caesar Augustus wanting to hold a census of all the people in the world which meant they would all have to travel back to their home town to be registered.

In contrast to this though, for the last 2000 years the Christian message has never changed. Some may say therefore it is now irrelevant, obsolete and out of date. But that is not the testimony of the ever growing number of Christians around the world. We may have to present the message in a different, up to date format – using large screens, clipart, video clips etc, but the actual message has always stayed the same.

At Christmas time we celebrate the fact that 2000 yrs ago God came into the world in the form of a human baby born of a virgin, laid in a manger, visited and worshipped by both shepherds and wise men. For 30 years then he lived an unnoticeable, ordinary life among us before spending 3 years travelling around Israel, preaching, performing miracles and declaring forgiveness of sins. Then at the age of just 33 He willingly submitted himself to the religious authorities to be crucified on a wooden cross before ( as we celebrate at Easter) rising from the dead 3 days later. This is the gospel (good news) that God initiated that first Christmas and is still his offer and gift to mankind today. As it says in the third verse of O Little Town of Bethlehem, "Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in".

On behalf of the churches of Sileby, I hope you may be able to join us at one of our Christmas services this year to celebrate the joy of Christmas. With various family or traditional services to choose from you'll receive a warm welcome which ever you choose.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Julian Bown, Leader, Sileby Baptist Church

## 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)

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Front Cover Picture: The Mayor of Charnwood, Councillor Roy Brown, arrives at the Sileby Remembrance Day parade on Sunday 8th November.

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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*



## Park Pavilion Opened by Mayor.

The new pavilion built in the Memorial Park was officially opened by Sileby Councillor and current mayor of Charnwood Roy Brown. In his address he stated that of all the official openings he has attended it gave him the most pleasure to officiate at an event in his own village.

After the ribbon cutting the mayoral party was given a tour of the facility before the gathered crowd where invited for the same view. Later that day the local Football team made use of the building for their match fixture.

Pictured: Roy cuts the ribbon to open the pavilion.



The official party included members of the Parish council as well as Andy Reed MP for Loughborough.

Photos: Kevin Barwise,  
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## Sileby & District Royal British Legion News

Here we are well into the autumn and the summer is long gone, today the clocks went back and we are preparing for the annual Poppy Appeal, but first let me tell you what we have been doing through the summer. Since June this year we have been running joint meetings with both the men's and women's section meeting together at Dudley Court on the second Tuesday every month to arrange joint fund raising events.

Over the last few months it has become very successful, we all get the same message at the same time, we can arrange events there and then and we sort out the arrangements much more quickly. We held a Barbeque at Dudley Court on 6<sup>th</sup> August and a mixture of Dudley Court residents and Legion members attending, there was plenty of food to go around, the chef's outside spent the time under umbrellas as it rained most of the time but the participants just ran out, got their food and enjoyed the warm and dry of the lounge. We raised £260 for the Poppy Appeal.

Then on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September we enjoyed a skittle night in the Conservative Club. Alison provided us with a fantastic meal, and everyone played skittles, just for fun. We also held a raffle and raised further money for our sections.

Now we are in the throws of the poppy appeal, my lounge was looking like a disaster area for a few days, but now the volunteers have taken the boxes out, Kay Machin stood in the rain on 24<sup>th</sup> October and sold poppies outside Costcutters. She met some really kind people who gave generously.

By the time you read this we will have held our annual Remembrance Day parade, which we are proud to say, has been done since 1921. We have tried really hard to continue this tradition, but due to legislation, and health & safety need to prepare fully for the event. One special requirement is marshals wearing high visibility vests. Especially to those people we thank you for your time. Without you we would not be allowed to march.

We will be counting the money soon for the Poppy Appeal and as soon as all the money is in will let you know how much you have donated. In advance of that I would like to thank you most sincerely for your generosity. ALL the money goes to the Legion and ALL of us are volunteers in the village and never claim expenses, so you can be assured that the money collected goes to a worthy cause. If you would like any information about joining please contact me on the number below.

Until the next report let me be the first to wish you Happy Christmas and a prosperous and safe New Year.

Liz Jones Sileby, Royal British Legion, Tel 01509 816077

## **Santa's on his way**

The Rotary Club of the Soar Valley will be touring the Soar Valley villages with Santa again this year.

Thanks to resident's generosity the Rotary Club of the Soar Valley has recently helped:

- Local charities large & small (including LOROS, Rainbows, Macmillan, Prostaide & other local groups.)
- Local young people (through Kids Out, Youth Leadership, Young Chef, etc as well as with individual grants)
- Our community (e.g. organizing a Stroke Awareness Day)
- Around the world, responding to major disasters (Disaster Boxes and cash via Rotary clubs "on the spot") and Rotary's campaign to .....END POLIO NOW.

We hope that residents of the Soar Valley will once again show their generosity and donate towards our work.

Santa's sleigh will be visiting Sileby on Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th December, so don't forget to look out for us.

If you're not at home when we call or we don't get to your road, you can make a donation and meet Santa at Budgens supermarket off the A6 between Mountsorrel and Quorn during the two weekends leading up to Christmas or you can donate online @ [www.justgiving.com/RotarySoar](http://www.justgiving.com/RotarySoar)

The full itinerary is:

Mountsorrel - Thursday 10th & Friday 11th December

Barrow upon Soar - Monday 14th & Tuesday 15th December

Sileby - Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th December

Birstall - Friday 18th & Tuesday 22nd December

Rothley - Wednesday 23rd December

Budgens Leicester Road - 12th, 13th, 19th and  
20th – all day



## Sileby Parish Plan Group

Hello, its Christine again up-dating you on the Parish Plan Group.

Well to start off with the Speed Watch in September. This has been an extremely interesting project to be involved in. Thanks go to David and all the volunteers for giving up their time to make it such a success.

The walks leaflet has also proved to be very popular with hundreds of leaflets being taken from various places in the village.

The Heritage Group is going from strength to strength. There are now many new Members who are all keen to add their knowledge to the group. There has been a visit to the Resource Centre at Barrow-on-Soar. Another visit to the Leicestershire Records Office at Wigston is also planned. New members are always welcome and dates for the meetings can be found on the Sileby Villages Website [www.leicestershirevillages.com/sileby/](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/sileby/)

I went to an Area Forum meeting to bid for part of £20,000 for our area and was pleased to get help with various projects.

Viv had a meeting with Brian Waters, an independent consultant, to discuss how the Brook might be made to look more natural. Maybe even have ducks!!!

Darren organised a meeting for the Sileby Green Group on 8<sup>th</sup> October at the Green Place. This was very well attended and many topics were discussed. The first being dog fouling. This is of great concern to all Sileby residents and many solutions were suggested.

A tree planting scheme was also suggested and a site is being looked for. Darren also asks the question “does any one know who the tree warden is?”

Renewable energy was also mentioned in the form of wind power.

What about a “Bag Free Day” in Sileby? Darren is going to run a day at the Green Place to make your own bag on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November, and also to check with County Hall about the “Free Bag scheme”.

Although I put in a bid for Flower Boxes at the Area Forum Meeting I was not successful, but would still like to do this project. Anyone care to join me?

If, as many villagers requested in the Questionnaire, Sileby Gala is to be revived then help will be needed. So far no-one has come forward to help. Gordon’s wife is keen to help organise, but she can’t do it on her own. There must be someone who has some time to spare!!

And last but not least Gordon, our Chairman, is busy co-ordinating all these things as well as meeting with Charnwood Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council and many more service providers. He also has a full time job and now has two delightful daughters and of course a very understanding wife.

So, as you can see things are going on even if it is slowly. If you would like to join us you will be made very welcome. We don’t have many meetings but when we do there is always another project to do.

For more information contact Gordon at [gord@organicafood.co.uk](mailto:gord@organicafood.co.uk)



## SPEED WATCH

Sileby volunteers have completed a month of checking the speed of motorists going through the village. This happened during September. As there were only about ten volunteers and one hand held speed radar “gun” to cover all the routes in and out of Sileby it was a mammoth venture co-ordinated also by a volunteer.

There were many “speeders” who were reported to the police and should by now have had reminder letters sent to them.

The latest figures show that nearly 800 motorists were driving at over 35m.p.h. 325 were driving at over 40m.p.h. and 29 were driving at over 50m.p.h. The worst road was Ratcliffe Road closely followed by Seagrave Road. Even though Ratcliffe Road has two flashing 30m.p.h. signs.

We hope that this exercise has made motorists more aware of how fast they are driving.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped during this time.

There are still results to come as the routes will be re-checked again soon by the Community Speed Watch team at County Hall.

## Area Forum Meeting

A volunteer from the Parish Plan Group (not to be confused with the Parish Council) attended the Area Forum meeting in September held at Walton-on-the-Wolds.

The idea of the meeting was to decide how to spend £20,000 in this area.

There was a good turn out at the meeting with several other people from Sileby eager to share their ideas with the group. The group was split up into several small groups with a representative from all the villages of Sileby, Barrow, Quorn, Seagrave, and Wymeswold.

Some of Silebys wishes included notice boards on the new estates, flower boxes at the entrances to the village, a mini-bus for the use of all Youth Groups in the village and a new map of the village.

After much discussion one person was chosen from each group to do a short presentation of that groups chosen wish.

Voting then took place from all the groups and the outcome was that Sileby, Barrow and Wymeswold should have new notice boards, Sileby should have a mini-bus for the Youth of the Village, and Barrow have a Graffiti Wall.

So by next year Sileby should have more notice boards and a mini-bus for all youth groups to use.

Although Sileby did not get all their wishes anyone who would like to form a group to obtain Flower Boxes or knows anyone able to produce an up to date map of Sileby please contact anyone on the Parish Plan Group, or come to a Parish Plan Group meeting. The dates of these meetings can be found on the Sileby Villages Website.

## **Sileby Parish Council – Autumn Winter Update 2009-11-02**

The most important change to the Parish Council in the last three months, is that we now have in place a Clerk, Mrs Rosemary Richardson, and an Assistant to the Clerk, to cover Mrs Leah Newby's maternity leave, who is Mrs Julie Lovatt. If you need to contact the office, one of these two ladies will be happy to deal with your enquiries. The office is open Monday to Friday from 10:00am to 12 noon. One of the other main changes in personnel is that our Beat Officer, PC Doudie, has moved on to a new unit set up in Loughborough, and our Beat Officer is now PC Patel. We are assured by the Inspector that PC Patel will be with us for at least two years. Of course we still have PCSO Sian Mapp, who I am sure most of you will know, and would have seen around the village.

We have a new Society using the Community Centre, which had a very successful weeks exhibition in October. The Sileby Photographic Society will be using the Centre each Monday evening for their club events. For further enquiries about this, please contact Lionel Blower.

As you will have seen, Mountsorrel Lane has been closed at night recently, so that a traffic improvement scheme can be put into place on Essex Bridge. This should make it safer for all users of this heavily used route.

Our long awaited Pavilion was finally opened by the Mayor, Councillor Roy Brown, on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2009, and the football clubs started using the facility that day. They are all delighted with the facilities and the security available. This will be available to other users who require a small meeting room which can accommodate up to thirty people. Bookings can be made for the Pavilion through the Parish Council office.

Part of the security on this building, and on the park, is CCTV cameras, which are also in various locations throughout the village. These are all monitored by Charnwood Borough Council, as are the ones in Loughborough. These have been funded by the Parish Council, and will of course have ongoing costs for the monitoring and maintenance. This should protect all residents, and make it much easier for the police to prosecute.

Christmas is approaching very fast, and arrangements are well in hand for the switching on of the Christmas lights on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009, at the usual time of 6:30pm. We will hopefully have a local steel band to entertain us, as well as Bill Brookman Productions who will give us a traditional feel to the evening. This will be helped by the Victorian Market to be held in the Sports Hall. As usual, you will be most welcome to join us in the Main Hall of the Community Centre, where we will be serving tea, coffee and mince pies for your enjoyment.

Father Christmas will also be in attendance for the younger residents. Finally, the Parish Council would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas, and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Betty A Crick  
Chairman – Sileby Parish Council

In the last village Newsletter, a resident (not named) complained about the 7.3% increase in Council Tax for Sileby residents and I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Parish Council.

To put the issue in perspective I should point out that about three quarters of the Council Tax goes to the County Council and only 3.2% to Sileby Parish Council. For the average Band D property owner the cost for 2009/10 is £62.01 or £1.19 a week. The 7.3% increase amounts to about 8 pence a week extra. With the help of a grant from the Football Foundation the Parish Council has paid for a new pavilion on the Memorial Park. This has cost about £420,000 with the Parish Council's share well over £100,000. This will be hired out to our local football clubs and other sports clubs. In the clubhouse there is a small function room and a kitchen with a bar planned. This will be available to residents to hire for functions and meetings.

There are to be six CCTV cameras installed at a cost of about £40,000 (3 in the Memorial Park and 3 around the centre of the village). It is hoped these will help to reduce crime (including vandalism) and improve residents' safety.

Due to the long term absence of our last Parish Clerk on sick leave, the duties have been carried out (unpaid) by our Parish Council Chairman – Mrs. Betty Crick. Her sterling efforts have not only kept the Parish services from getting into serious difficulties, but saved residents a considerable amount from hiring a temporary replacement.

For the past few months the Council has been 3 short of their allocation of 15 councillors. Are there any residents who care enough about the village, wish to see more improvements, and are prepared to give up a few hours of their leisure time to support the present volunteers? If so, please contact the Parish Offices and find out what is involved in becoming a Parish Councillor.

Bernard Singleton.  
Parish Councillor, Sileby Parish Council.

## Road Safety

Road safety matters and the speed of traffic are among the issues most frequently raised with me.

A report published by Leicestershire County Council, entitled “Road Safety in Leicestershire 2008”, has shown that the number of people seriously or slightly injured in road accidents in Leicestershire has been falling since a peak in 2000. Yet in 2008, which is of course the last complete year for which figures are available, there were still 197 (305) people seriously injured and 1986 (3104) slightly injured. (The figures in brackets are for the year 2000.)

Also of concern is that although the number of fatal accidents in 2008 was slightly down on 2007, the number of people killed increased. It was 56 in 2008, up from 49 in 2007. The figure in 2000 was 55.

The report contains a great deal of information, including schemes and campaigns to provide a safer road environment, manage speed, improve safety for vulnerable road users and encourage safer driving.

Whilst the overall number of people injured on our roads is continuing to fall we must be rigorous in our pursuit of further improvements. That means considering physical measures, such as traffic calming schemes, as well as ways of influencing people to behave differently.

One of the stark facts in the report is that people aged 16 to 25 are 13% of Leicestershire’s population but are 30% of the casualties.

The whole report is available on the County Council’s website at [www.leics.gov.uk/casualtyreport](http://www.leics.gov.uk/casualtyreport)

I am interested in helping to examine what is being done to make improvements and what more can be done. I am therefore pleased to have been appointed to a panel of County Councillors who will be scrutinising road safety measures and making recommendations.

Richard Shepherd  
County Councillor for Sileby and The Wolds

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## **Sileby Show achieves record haul!**

In its fourth show since its return to the calendar in September 2006 Sileby Flower and Vegetable show recorded a record haul of entries upwards of 340. 60 up on the 2008 show, itself a record. It was also a notable year for the fact that it was the first show where all classes had been filled.

On the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> of September at 9am staging began at Sileby Conservative Club with first time amateur growers joining the more experienced professional competitors in entering their wares. From giant onions and leeks right trough to Lego models and miniature gardens in the children's sections, the entries on display were both vast and varied. Entries continued to flood through the door until the cut off point of 1pm came and the judges arrived, now for the serious business of picking the winners. At 3pm the doors were opened to the public again and people had the chance to walk round and see which entries had won what, and who'd beaten whom. A presentation to the trophy winners followed at 7pm with all children who had entered on the day receiving a prize for their efforts. Finally in the evening the public had the chance to bid for and buy all the produce that had been entered throughout the day in the extremely entertaining and often hectic auction. Led by the shows auctioneer Mr Brian Hubbard.

In conjunction with the Norman Byatt Memorial Fund the show continues to raise much needed funds for local charities and we would like to thank the sponsors, entrants and all who took part on the day for helping raise this money and making the show the success it was. Also a special thanks to the organisers of the show Mr Neil Green, Mrs Stephanie Green, Mr Gus Green and Mr Melvyn Hoyes, without whose hard work and commitment this show would not take place.

Please look out for our next charity event "Sparkys Santa Sunday" on Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup> at Sileby Conservative Club.

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## **Sileby Methodist Church**

Sunday December 20th    10.45am Morning Worship  
6.00pm    Christmas Carol service

Christmas Eve                      4pm Christingle service

Christmas Day                      9.30 United Service at Wymeswold  
Methodist Church

December 27th                      10.45am    Holy Communion

## **Sileby Baptist Church**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 6.00pm Family Carol Service

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.30am Christmas Day Family Service

Please join us for our Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec from 10.00am to 12.00noon at Sileby Baptist Church.

There will be:

Childrens activities including face painting, biscuit decorating and lucky dip.

Drinks and assortment of cakes.

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Sileby Baptist Church will be running an Alpha Course in January 2010.

For more information please contact Julian Bown on 01509 812450



## United Benefice of Sileby, Cossington & Seagrave

Sunday 13 December	4.00 p.m.	St Mary's, Sileby	Christingle service (preceded by party for 4-11s at 2.30)
Sunday 20 December	5.00 p.m.	Seagrave parish church	Carol Service
Sunday 20 December	7.00 p.m.	Cossington parish church	Carol Service
Thursday 24 December	4.00 p.m.	St Mary's, Sileby	Family carol service
Thursday 24 December	6.30 p.m.	St Mary's, Sileby	Carol Service
Thursday 24 December	11.30 p.m.	St Mary's, Sileby	Midnight Communion
Friday 25 December	9.00 a.m.	Cossington parish church	Holy Communion
Friday 25 December	9.00 a.m.	All Saints, Seagrave	Christmas Worship
Friday 25 December	10.30 a.m.	St Mary's, Sileby	All Age Worship

### St Gregory's RC

Christmas Eve 9pm Mass Divine Infant of Prague, Syston

Christmas Day 9am Mass  
10:30 am Mass

St. Gregory's Sileby  
Divine Infant of Prague, Syston



## **All change at St Mary's church!**

From the beginning of 2010 the times of services at St Mary's church will be changing. We realise that having had services at different times each week has been confusing and put off some who would have liked to come to services. So from the beginning of 2010, services will be at **11.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. every week.** The 11.00 service will have a crèche and Cornerstones Club for children aged 3-16. These will be held in the new St Mary's Centre on Mountsorrel Lane, comprising the refurbished Pochin Hall and newly built Wallace Room behind. St Mary's Centre should be opening in mid-January.

Cossington and Seagrave will also have their weekly services at the same time each week. Cossington at 9.30 a.m. and Seagrave at 5.00 p.m. Of particular interest to those with children might be the 5.00 service at Seagrave on the first Sunday of each month (first@five) with children's tea from 4.30 p.m. – ideal if you have sports' commitments on a Sunday morning. First@five will start on 7 February. Or for the slightly earlier birds, on the second Sunday of the month at 9.30 a.m. is the Cossington family service, meeting in Cossington school hall. The first of these is on 10 January.

Please be assured of a very warm welcome at any of our services. Do find out more from the church website [www.scsparishchurches.org.uk](http://www.scsparishchurches.org.uk) Why not give one of our services a try as a New Year's resolution for 2010? We'd love to see you and are sure you'll enjoy it!

With all best wishes

Richard Hopkins (Rector)

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# SILEBY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The Sileby Photographic Society held its Annual Exhibition in October this year for the first time in the new venue of the Sileby Community Centre. The overall attendance during the week surpassed previous records and the comments made by the visitors were all favourable. The Exhibition was opened by the Mayor of Charnwood, Sileby's own Councillor, Roy Brown, accompanied by the Mayoress Jill Brown. After the opening, the judge for the Exhibition, Steve Roper CPAGB, commented on the high standard of the submitted entries which caused him great difficulty in determining the award winners in the various categories.

On display were over 300 colour and black & white prints together with two digital presentations. The show of competition images by members and invited Societies alternated with the show "Sileby – Then and Now" which compared Sileby years ago with views of the present day.

The show caused a lot of interest, particularly to those visitors with a Sileby connection, and, for the first time, copies of the show in DVD format were offered to the public. The response was encouraging and further copies can still be obtained at £6.00 each. Anyone interested in purchasing a DVD should ring 816287.

Our Meetings are held on most Monday evenings between 8.00pm and 10.00pm from September until June. The remaining programme for this season is listed below and features lectures by visiting speakers, supplementing those by our own members, competitions and some social evenings. Anyone interested in improving their photographic knowledge and technique will be most welcome at the meetings. Why not come along and see for yourself.

## PROGRAMME – 2009-10

### 2009

- |     |    |  |
|-----|----|--|
| Nov | 30 | Slide Show – "Iceland" by Val Williams                             |
| Dec | 7  | Slide Show "Arches to Zion" by Bill Hall DPAGB AFIAP BPE5* (Guest) |
| Dec | 14 | Pictures and Pies  |

### 2010

- |      |    |  |         |                                     |
|------|----|--|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Jan  | 4  | Annual Competition Critique  | Judge - | Malcolm Sales ARPS, ABIPP           |
| Jan  | 11 | Slide Show – "An Evening with David Putt                               |         |                                     |
| Jan  | 25 | Digital Show – "South Africa: Birds, beasts and walks with dragons"    |         |                                     |
|      |    |  |         | Paul Bingham (Guest)                |
| Feb  | 8  | Print and Slide Battle with Melton Mowbray Photographic Society        |         |                                     |
|      |    |  | Judge - | Ian Penn (Guest)                    |
| Feb  | 15 | Print lecture – "Two Together"   |         | Peter Cheetham APAGB (Guest)        |
| Feb  | 22 | 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarterly Competition                                  | Judge - | John Jones ARPS, BPE5* (Guest)      |
| Mar  | 1  | Slide Show - North & East Midlands Photographic Federation Slides 2010 |         |                                     |
| Mar  | 8  | General Meeting plus a Miscellany by Colin Machin & Mandy Sherrington  |         |                                     |
| Mar  | 15 | Slide Show – "The Farthest Isles"                                      |         | Stuart Bramwell (Guest)             |
| Mar  | 29 | Print Knockout Competition   | Judge - | Mike Frost (Guest)                  |
| Apr  | 12 | Digital Show – "Electric Dreams"                                       |         | Peter Siviter EFIAP                 |
| Apr  | 19 | Digital Show – "Israel"  |         | Richard Storer                      |
| Apr  | 26 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Competition                                  | Judge - | Chris Baldwin (Guest)               |
| May  | 10 | Print lecture – "Marvellous"   |         | Denis Morley (Guest)                |
| May  | 17 | Members Short Displays   |         |                                     |
| June | 7  | Digital Show – "Imaginations"  |         | Graham Heywood EFIAP, DPAGB (Guest) |
| June | 14 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Competition                                  | Judge - | Derick Mears LRPS (Guest)           |



Adele and Peter Smyth would like to thank their friends who supported their recent trip to Uganda in August 2009. We travelled to Uganda for two weeks with a charity called Abaana. Abaana which means 'children' in the local language is working to improve the quality of life for the children of Uganda through providing access to clean water, constructing medical centres, building schools, sponsoring children and working with the homeless street kids. We were part of a team of 22 people aged from 17-64 who had raised money to build a primary school and work with the street children in Kampala.

The first week everyone worked together to build classrooms for Lweeza Primary. Their previous school shelter that was made from wood could no longer hold the number of children that wanted to go to school. With no previous building experience we were all given instructions by the african builders and got to work building the walls. The children cannot wait to get into their new school and to continue with their studies.

Everyone must pay for an education in Uganda. If children are lucky enough to have their school fees paid through child sponsorship they can have a good chance of completing not only primary but also secondary school education. However for many children who aren't sponsored they don't get the chance to complete even their primary education because they have to work for the family caring for younger siblings or elderly grandparents, helping with daily chores by fetching water or digging in the fields to earn money for food for the family. Without their education the children can never get the chance to find better paid jobs and so the poverty cycle continues for the family.

The most rewarding experience of the trip was getting to work directly with the street kids in the slums of the capital city Kampala. There are as many as 2,000 children living on the streets at any one time. Many are forced to live a life on the streets due to losing parents through AIDS or they have travelled down from the northern region of Gulu to run from the war. To survive they live on whatever scraps of food they can find in the bins or receive from begging.

During the second week we also helped out with Abaana's Street Reach programme. This involved playing games, reading stories, providing a small meal with water and basic first aid care with the street kids. It was humbling to see what they have to go through just to survive life.

In the afternoon we visited Abaana's 'New Life Homes'. Abaana has built accommodation and provide a safe place for 50 former orphaned street kids. They are looked after and cared for by nanny's and learn how to live together in a safe environment. Education is provided close by through Abaana's 'New Foundations' School. We spent time with the kids teaching them songs and playing games. To see the change in the children from those still living a life on the street to those in the new life homes is something that we will never forget. They now have hope and love in their lives for the first time, something many street kids thought they would never experience if it were not for the work of Abaana.

The two short weeks was a life changing experience for us both. We gave so little of our time and energy but the difference it makes to the children's lives is huge. Abaana would like to help more street kids and give them hope for the future. If you would like to help or learn more about Abaana's work then please log onto Abaana's website for more information about the projects that need supporting. <http://www.abaana.org>



# Your Letters

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

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to a letter that was featured in your last issue relating to the admission of children into the Foundation Stage. As the Headteacher of Sileby Redlands I

fully appreciate how frustrating this year's admission process has been for parents with young children trying to gain a place in the school of their choice – it has been frustrating for us as well!

The whole application process can be quite daunting for new parents and one that I went through myself with my own daughter not too long ago.

At Redlands we try to make this process as smooth as possible, communicating with both

Leicestershire County Council and Parents. The problem that arose this year for us was that the amount of children who lived in the catchment area of the school exceeded the Government limit of thirty children in the Foundation stage. Due to this rise in catchment children I was informed by County that I had to make extra provision for the children by

employing a new member of staff. So, this is the plan we took and we were very excited about developing our new Foundation Unit – two classes which could cater up to sixty children.

My frustrations occurred when I was informed by County that I couldn't fill sixty places because on paper I had already exceeded the limit of thirty. I was furious, not only had I employed a full time member of staff but I had made very significant changes to the building. As well as the catchment children attending Redlands I also had a list of parents who were out of the catchment of the school and wanted to send their children to Redlands because of our positive reputation.

I began to get some very confused, and rightly so – annoyed parents, who were now being rejected a place at my school due to figures on a page, when I knew, that I did in fact have spaces for all children applying to start at Redlands. My advice to these parents was to follow the appeal procedure outlined in their letter. I

am pleased to say that all families that appealed did receive a place at Redlands and we now have a strong Foundation Stage of 45 children who are an absolute delight.

My advice to any parent who is preparing to go through this process in the future is as follows,

Visit all the schools in your area, Schools should promote visits and at Redlands we actively encourage this. Choosing a school is a major decision and one which isn't to be taken lightly. Get a feel for the school and decide whether the school has a friendly atmosphere and ask the question will your child be happy in this school?

Fill out the PINK form before the deadline which is normally in the middle of February. **DO NOT ASSUME THAT BECAUSE YOU LIVE CLOSE TO A SCHOOL OR YOUR OTHER CHILDREN ATTEND THE SCHOOL THAT YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE GIVEN A PLACE.**

If you want to apply to a school out of the catchment area then clearly express your reasons for this choice on the PINK form. Be prepared to appeal if

your choice is rejected, again outlining your reasons. There is no guarantee that your appeal will be successful.

At Redlands, most of our appeals were granted because we did have the room; however other schools simply do not have the capacity for out of catchment children. All catchment children should be given a place in their catchment school or a school within a mile of the given address.

We are very proud of our new Foundation Stage Unit and are excited that our numbers are growing. It has been along time since we had 2 classes in our Foundation stage and I know that Mrs Clark and Miss Bruntlett and the rest of the team have a very exciting year planned. I can only apologise to those parents who applied to Redlands for any worry caused and I hope that now that the dust has finally settled and our new children have started that they will settle quickly and enjoy their time with us.

## **CHRISTMAS STARTS WITH LOROS!**

As you plan for Christmas this year why not take a look at how LOROS can help your festivities go with a swing.

First to sort will be your Christmas present list. By giving the gift of a LOROS Lottery gift subscription to those special friends or relatives for whom you just never know what to buy, you could solve all your gift giving problems from the comfort of your own home. A LOROS Lottery gift subscription currently not only gives the recipient a 1 in 60 chance of winning any one of 350 weekly prizes up to £2,000 but also the satisfaction that their gift has also helped hospice staff to continue caring for patients and their families over the Christmas period and beyond.

Comprising a unique lottery number, gift card and certificate, gifts start from £10 for 10 weeks entry and with various methods of payment, purchasing a gift is so easy.

To help even further LOROS scratch cards are now available to buy for Christmas. Why not place one in each Christmas card or at each place setting at your Christmas dinner table? You can pick them up locally from any LOROS shop or by calling the LOROS Lottery helpline and paying by card. .

If you would like to place an order for gift subscriptions, scratch cards, or would like information on how to become a regular LOROS supporter by joining the LOROS Lottery, please contact the lottery helpline on 0116 2318430. We are waiting for your call!

And don't forget.....gifts and scratch cards can also be tailored to any occasion throughout the year.

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You can access your learning wherever you can access a computer with a broadband internet connection; in our comfortable learning centres, at home or at work.

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We understand that the first steps into something new are always the most difficult. Please contact us now and we'll give you friendly, confidential advice on how to get started.

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# SILEBY HERITAGE

Pete Campbell and Eric Wheeler —Heritage Wardens

*I TAKE NO CREDIT FOR THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE.*

*“MEMORIES OF WORKING AT PLUNKETTS (THE MALTINGS) WAS GIVEN TO THE HERITAGE WARDENS A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, BUT NEVER USED AT THE YESTERDAY/DAY EXHIBITIONS. MY THANK TO ANGELA – HERE IS THE ARTICLE:-*

The Maltings of High Street, Sileby when owned by Plunkett Bros of Ireland.

The Maltings ceased trading during the latter part of the 1960's. it was unique when compared with other Sileby industries.

The inside of the building, including the offices, was like stepping back into the 1920's. the premises were cleaned and looked after by Mrs Nora Adams. The workforce during the 1960's included George Staples, Chris Forran and Jack Hildred and of course the Maltings cat.

The barley was delivered approximately every 2 weeks by a company based at Cotgrave, Notts. It was stored until used for Guinness, and beer for Scottish and Newcastle breweries. Chris Forran, an Irishman, roasted the barley for Guinness. It was roasted until practically black, spread on the floor, and turned and forked until cool. During the process Chris would wear sacking over his shoes as protection. The aroma from the procedure gave rise to complaints from local people as the smell would linger for several hours depending on the weather conditions.

George, Chris and Jack worked in an environment, which today I feel, would be considered unhealthy.

To ensure that the barley delivered was of the highest quality a sample was placed on a bed of dampened cotton wool in a glass dish covered with a glass top, and left for approximately 1 week; at the end of that period it was analysed to make sure it was in the correct condition to be roasted for Guinness, mild and bitter beer. The barley

was then weighed and put into sacks awaiting collection by the various breweries.

The Malting buildings are very old; some of the staircases were so steep that you had to come down backwards. It was always alleged that Mr Plunkett the owner lost his wig one windy day when crossing the gantry between the buildings, there were also rumours of a ghost.

One of the main reasons for the closure of Plunketts was the need for modern plant to bring production into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The head office in Dublin decided to close down the Sileby operation.

*WITH THANKS TO ANGELA ANTILL.*

## **THE GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE**

*THIS WAS THE PUBLIC HOUSE, WHICH SAT AT THE JUNCTION OF HIGH STREET AND BROOK STREET (WHERE THE BETTING SHOP AND FISH SHOP NOW STAND).*

*KNOWN LOCALLY AS THE "JOHN MOORE" IT WAS AN "ALL SAINTS BREWERY" OUTLET.*

*THERE HAD BEEN VARIOUS LICENCEES OVER THE YEARS INCLUDING MR R. GAMBLE AND JOHN DAKIN. ITS MAIN CLAIM TO FAME APPEARS TO BE THE FACT THAT IT WAS THE MAIN DRINKING PLACE FOR THE TWO MURDERERS OF P.C. WILKINSON (1903).*

*THE PUBLIC HOUSE WAS NAMED AFTER A SOLDIER OF HIGH REPUTE. HE WAS BORN IN GLASGOW IN 1761. A SOLDIER FROM THE AGE OF SIXTEEN HE FOUGHT IN VARIOUS CAMPAIGNS, INCLUDING THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY WAR.*

*HE DIED LEADING HIS TROOPS DURING THE PENINSULA WAR AT CORUNNA, EXACTLY TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO IN 1809.*

## VILLAGE GUIDE

*I WAS RECENTLY BROWSING THROUGH A VERY EARLY 1950'S SILEBY GUIDE (6d) AND A COUPLE OF ITEMS STRUCK HOME.*

*IN THE DESCRIPTION OF SILEBY'S INDUSTRIES IT WAS*

*“NOTED THAT SOME 2000 PEOPLE WERE EMPLOYED”.*

*IMAGINE 2000 PEOPLE ENTERING AND LEAVING THEIR WORKPLACES. THE VAST MAJORITY WALKING OR CYCLING. THE VILLAGE SHOPS SURELY DOING A ROARING TRADE.*

*ANOTHER ITEM TO CATCH THE EYE.*

### SILEBY VILLAGE INSTITUTE

*LARGE EX ARMY HUTS ERECTED WITH IMPROVEMENTS IN 1920 THROUGH THE KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY OF A NUMBER OF INFLUENTIAL GENTLEMEN INCLUDING THE GIFT OF LAND BY MR C.H. MARTIN.*

*THE PREMISES ARE OPEN EACH WEEKDAY NIGHT FOR BILLARDS ETC, AND HAVE PROVED OF EXCEPTIONAL VALUE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. IT IS IN CONSTANT DEMAND FOR PLAYS, CONCERTS, MEETINGS AND WHIST DRIVES, AND IS ELECTRICALLY FITTED UP TO MODERN REQUIREMENTS. IT IS GOVERNED BY A BODY OF TRUSTEES.*

*I WALKED PAST A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO ON MY WAY TO THE THATCH. WHAT A SAD SIGHT IT LOOKS; TIRED, SHABBY AND THE GROUND BECOMING OVERGROWN.*

*WHAT IS THE FUTURE FOR THIS BUILDING? I WAS TOLD THERE IS A PLANNING APPLICATION FOR HOUSING? WHO OWNS THE LAND? POSSIBLY AN ARTICLE IN THE NEXT ISSUE FROM THOSE IN THE KNOW?*

# HERITAGE WARDENS

*WHO ARE WE AND WHAT ARE WE DOING?*

*THERE ARE TWO HERITAGE WARDENS IN THE VILLAGE, ERIC WHEELER AND PETE CAMPBELL.*

*WE ARE ACTIVELY WORKING ON COLLECTING MATERIAL AND MEMORIES OF VILLAGE LIFE.*

*ERIC IS WORKING ON A LONG TERM PROJECT RELATING TO BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES. I AM COLLECTING MEMORIES AND ARTIFACTS.*

*WE CAN BE CONTACTED AT 07762 299774 OR 01509 814618.*

*PETE CAMPBELL*

---

## Volunteer Drivers

Calling all drivers! Could you spare about four hours per month to drive people who are not very mobile, but may have to get to the doctor or a hospital appointment, etc.?

We are presently receiving requests from villages throughout the South Charnwood area, but unfortunately we do not have sufficient drivers to ensure that we can answer every request. We understand that volunteers are not always available, so we need to have a larger list to compensate when other drivers are on holiday / have family commitments, etc.

Mileage is paid and most insurance companies cover volunteer drivers at no extra cost – we provide the form to send to your own insurance company.

As well as providing a valuable service, it is very sociable taking out the clients. If you have taken early retirement, or have been made redundant or have a car available – we would love to have an informal discussion on the service that the Syston and District Volunteer Centre provide (with no commitment at this stage).

Telephone 0116 2607888 (9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday)



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