

Talk@Sileby

Village Newsletter



41

Summer 2015

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Talk @ Sileby, By Sileby people. For Sileby people

Next Issue will be Winter 2015. Copy and advert deadline is 30th October 2015.

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

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If you would like to give your feedback, articles or letters these can be sent to the Editor

The advertising rates for Talk@Sileby are listed below

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

Talk@Sileby

Magazine Co-Ordinator:	Ken Jones
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Treasurer:	Lionel Blower
Societies Co-Ordinator:	Robert Butler
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Contributor:	Lynne Root

Your community magazine is delivered to every home and business in Sileby, that's about 3800 addresses!

It is published 3 times a year: Spring around Easter time, in the summer and in November just prior to the Christmas lights "Switch on".

We have no political or commercial or religious allegiances and aim to be impartial and independent. We are entirely self funding through advertising revenue. We are here solely to promote Sileby, its businesses, residents, clubs, societies, associations, schools and churches. All items and pictures are copyright Talk@Sileby unless otherwise stated.

Front Cover Picture: Sileby Town Football club win Leicestershire Senior League Premier Division becoming champions for the 2014-15 season

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THE FLAGS ARE FLYING ON BARROW ROAD

for the brand new Physfit Gym!

I admit I was nervous the first time I walked up the steps to Physfit, but the friendly team soon put me at ease - Donna, Will and Vicky proudly showed me round the spacious new premises. Light, bright and airy, with modern changing/shower rooms, the ambience is businesslike and positive.

Will had been running the gym in the old premises on Brook Street, initially on a part time basis, while also working at a gym in Coalville, but for the last three years it has been his fulltime job. Always interested in sport, as a pupil at Ratcliffe College he had been in the rugby team; he later achieved a Black Belt in kick boxing. While working at various gyms he qualified as a Level 3 advanced Gym Instructor, doing the modules one by one as time allowed. In 2014 he became Midlands Power Lifting Champion.

Donna, Will's wife, has always been sporty, training regularly, even while expecting their son Harry; she explained that for a woman in good health accustomed to exercising there is no reason to cease training while pregnant. She works at Leicester University in the Genetics Department - she is responsible for buildings safety & maintenance. Naturally, she ensures that Physfit is compliant with all the relevant regulations.

Most of the work to transform the old office premises into a gym was done by Will and Donna, with help from family and friends - building, painting, laying floor coverings - just about everything except electrical installation, tiling and plumbing. All the equipment was moved from the old gym, manhandled up to the first floor, and set up - no mean feat - and all done while Donna was expecting Harry, who now pays occasional visits to watch the action - firmly strapped into his chair.

Donna's ambition is to develop Physfit as a place where the whole body can be cared for - while work in the Cardiovascular Suite improves the health and fitness of the heart and circulatory system, and the Weights Room is for body-toning and improvement of muscular strength, she feels strongly that "pampering" contributes greatly to our well-being. With this in mind there will eventually be a sauna, & two therapy suites offering sports and relaxation massage, as well as a beautician and nail technician.

Vicky came to Sileby from Bolton - she and her husband trained regularly at Brook Street, Vicky going on to qualify at Loughborough as Gym Instructor level 2. She is responsible for Inductions, checking the health of new clients, and planning an exercise programme before teaching the safe use of the equipment. One of the team is always

available to advise or check technique, or conduct a complete review of progress.

For clients who have a specific goal, be it to lose a few pounds before Christmas or to get fit for a sporting event, Will or Sam (who has recently joined the team from a Syston gym) will devise a training programme, personally supervising exercise sessions, giving the encouragement needed to keep that goal in mind. The motto on the wall – **“DO IT – because they said you couldn’t”**

We are constantly hearing that just a few hours exercise each week has enormous health benefits, particularly for older people – we now have our own modern gym in Sileby, with instructors and Personal Trainers – during the day there’s plenty of space in the Cardio Suite – do we have any excuses left? As an added incentive, some of the equipment displays the number of calories being burned – this does rather focus the mind – and makes you view a biscuit in a different way!

Why was I nervous when I first visited the gym? Because I had decided to become a “gym bunny” - I’m a silvertop, no longer sylph-like (was I ever?) – I was worried that I would be out of place among a crowd of super-fit young people. How wrong I was – during the day there are other “seniors” working out, and I’m certainly not the only one with a little extra padding! Vicky asked about my general health before showing me how to use the equipment and giving me a printed exercise programme which was comfortably within my capabilities. She showed me gentle stretching exercises to finish each session, explaining they are to cool down and relax the muscles. I have been surprised to find that though I am pleasantly tired after a session, I have not suffered from any muscular aches or pains; on the contrary, I seem to be *less* creaky!

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I would like to say a massive thank you for re-electing me as the Member of Parliament for Sileby. It is a huge honour to represent you, and I will continue to work hard for all constituents and be your voice in Westminster.

I have been overwhelmed by the hundreds of messages of support from local residents. Please do contact me or my team if you are in need of assistance – my contact details are on this page.

We have now returned to Westminster and as a Government we are clear that our task is to spend the next five years fulfilling the commitments set out in our manifesto.

We have three main principles to follow over the course of this Parliament. Firstly, we are putting working people front and centre of the new Government's mission. This means introducing legislation within weeks to reform welfare, offer more apprenticeships, create two million jobs and help working parents with childcare costs. And for those who can't work we will ensure they have the support they need at every stage of their lives.

Secondly we will be very clear that in areas such as education we will govern with compassion and with a focus on social justice. I am delighted to have been re-appointed as Secretary of State for Education as well as Minister for Women and Equalities by the Prime Minister.

Every child is entitled to a place at a good local school which will give them the best start in life. I want to see this become even more of a reality by the end of this Parliament. Since 2010 we have a million more pupils in schools rated good or outstanding but we need to go further and ensure that we have excellent schools and excellent teachers in all parts of our country. We have already announced plans to tackle failing schools and those where pupils are not making the progress they should based on previous attainment.

I am aware of the significant pressure on school places in Sileby and I am working on some local cases and will continue to pursue these with both my MP and Secretary of State hats on, as well as working on the funding and creation of new places.

Finally we will be a "One Nation" Government that will act in the interests of the whole country. This means ensuring the economic recovery reaches all part of our country, from north to south, from east to west and it means continuing to rebalance our economy.

I was sorry not to be able to take part in the clearing out of the brook in the village recently. Congratulations and thank you to those who did take part and did a great job.

Finally, the increase in the number of houses and village residents and ever-present threat of flooding on Slash Lane put huge pressure on Sileby's roads. So, as mentioned in our councillors' newsletters I have been in discussion with the Chief Executive and Leader of Leicestershire County Council about the need for a comprehensive traffic survey for Sileby. I will continue to work on this.

You can e-mail me at nicky.morgan.mp@parliament.uk or call 01509 262723

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The Story so far

there was a library

Sileby Community Library

The small but enthusiastic group of volunteers have been working away and submitted the business plan to run Sileby Library and, guess what, the group have been successful! The County Council have approved our business plan and the group are now working towards the transfer of the Library to the community around December 2015.

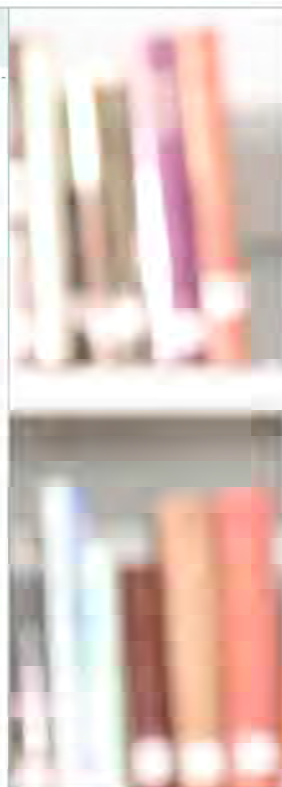
Join us and help keep your local library running. We are looking for more volunteers to make sure Sileby Library stays open and available for the community. There are various roles in which volunteers can be involved:

- ♦ Lead Library Volunteer
- ♦ Volunteer Co-ordinator
- ♦ Display Co-ordinator/s
- ♦ Support Library Volunteer
- ♦ Events and Activity Volunteer/s
- ♦ Grounds Maintenance/Cleaning
- ♦ Fundraising

Any help or support is welcome. There's something for everyone, whatever your interests, experience and the time you have available.

For more information contact **Sarah** on patrick42sarah@aol.com and look out for the next Volunteer Event:

- ♦ **Coffee Morning with Book and Cake Sale on Saturday, 26th September 2015 between 10.30 am and 12 noon** at Sileby Community Centre.



Find us on
Facebook Sileby
Community
Library

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A New Hig

Highbridge, Sileby – A brief history of the footbridge

This summer one of Sileby's iconic structures is due to be dismantled. Highbridge, or Underhill Footbridge to give its correct title, is too low to accommodate the new power lines that are due to be installed as part of the electrification of the Midland main line. Plans show that a new bridge will be built further to the north of the current bridge bringing to an end the long association that Sileby's inhabitants have had with the bridge, whether through sheer excitement or trepidation when an express train whizzes a few feet beneath their feet when crossing over the tracks.

The original reason for the construction of Highbridge is a sad but practical tale. In May 1840 the Midland Counties Railway opened its service with a station in Sileby. The route of the railway pushed a cutting through Underhill, an area of small cottages to the east of Barrow Road, on its way toward Barrow upon Soar. The railway had cut off a footpath from Barrow Road to King Street which had served the village for centuries before. To remedy this, the railway company installed a board walk over the tracks.

Even though locomotives were slower in that era it is hard to perceive in this age of Health and Safety that people were allowed to walk across a main line railway track without incident!! And so it turned out to be the case. On the 10th January 1852 around 4.35pm Alice Lacey a 32 year old woman from Sileby was waiting to cross the tracks from the 'Highbridge'/King Street side to get to her house on Barrow Road. At that moment a coal train was travelling down the line from Barrow and she waited until it passed. Once it had passed she immediately walked across the board walk but she had not heard another train coming north as she was concentrating on the coal train. Although it was only travelling at 10-12mph the second train hit her and she was killed instantly. An inquest was held two days later and the jury recommended that the railway company erected a footbridge over the track. In March 1852 the Midland



her Bridge

Railway duly agreed and construction took place.

Sadly, the early days of the bridge did not go without incident. On 8th August 1854 Joseph Bowler was killed on the railway at nearly the same spot as Alice Lacey. He had avoided the new footbridge and had tried to take a short cut across the railway track toward the coal wharf where he worked. A few years later on the 17th October 1857 William Wilcockson a railway guard travelling on a fast train from Leicester to Derby was killed when he hit the footbridge when standing on top of a moving carriage whilst trying to strap down luggage.

The Railway was widened in 1872 and it is likely that the bridge was rebuilt so that it spanned the tracks, goods yard and coal wharves to the east of the line. It is not known when the term 'Highbridge' was first coined, but the name stuck and a new development of houses, flats and bungalows off King Street in the vicinity of the bridge was called Highbridge in the early 1990s.



The Underhill footbridge has served the village for over 160 years in one form or another. It is an icon of the early industrial age in Sileby, an example of Victorian engineering and ingenuity. The footbridge has become a victim of progress and the need for speed. However, it will always have a special place in the hearts and memories of Sileby people both near and far.

Eric Wheeler. Silebyhistory@aol.com

Devolved Council Powers

“Devolution” and “Combined Authorities” have been in the news in recent times and it will be interesting to see what progress can be made with proposals for our area. If they succeed, they ought to bring benefits to local people.

So far it has been big cities making the headlines. Greater Manchester’s Combined Authority was the first, being established in April 2011. However, the Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government, Greg Clark, has indicated that he will have “more to say about non-urban areas”, calling for “creativity and radical thinking” on devolution from councils, as he prepares for a “big push” to decentralise power, including to non-urban areas, recognising that counties and towns across the country are also important motors of growth.

Leicestershire County Council and Charnwood Borough Council have teamed up with Leicester City and the other Borough and District Councils in the County and agreed in principle proposals for a joint body dealing with major decisions affecting the entire City and County.

The new combined body would not replace any local councils or services but would ensure more joined-up thinking and long-term strategic planning in four key areas – land use and planning, transport, skills, funding and finance. It is important to note that all local councils making up the proposed Combined Authority would continue to exist in their own right. The aim is to achieve better collaboration on the subjects mentioned.

At the time of writing, it is still early days. The Government now has to consider the proposals. If the idea does come to fruition more local decision-making, with extra powers taken on from central Government, should enable decisions to be quicker and arguably better for local people.

Sileby Library

The group working to take responsibility for Sileby Library are continuing their progress, as reported elsewhere in the magazine, and we offer them our thanks and congratulations on all they have already achieved. [More volunteers are still needed, so if you think you might be able to help please get in touch with the group to find out more. Full details are in their article elsewhere in the magazine.](#)

Contact Details

Please do contact us if you would like any information or assistance concerning County or Borough Council matters. Our details are below.

Councillors for Sileby Ward:

Richard Shepherd, County Councillor
Telephone: 01509 413903
Email: richard.shepherd@leics.gov.uk

Paul Murphy, Borough Councillor
Telephone: 07977 409279
Email: cllr.paul.murphy@charnwood.gov.uk

Andy Paling, Borough Councillor
Telephone: 07576 666323

Councillors for Sileby West Ward:

Tony Kershaw, County Councillor
Telephone: 07703 460358
Email: tony.kershaw@leics.gov.uk

Hilary Fryer, Borough Councillor
Telephone: 01509 620938
Email: clr.hilary.fryer@charnwood.gov.uk

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Your Letters

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

Dear Editor,

I would just like to thank the two lovely ladies that came to my aid on Monday June 1st. I was walking my dog Milly to the park when I tripped and fell on the path at the top of Heathcote Drive as I crossed the road; as well as the injuries to my face I had a nose bleed so as you can imagine I was in a mess! A passing motorist, Beth, stopped and a lady from one of the houses on Seagrave Road, Sarah, came out to help. Sarah's paper towel was invaluable as the 2 tissues I'd got in my pocket clearly weren't going to be enough to stem the flow and once I was able Beth very kindly drove me home. I went to the walk-in centre and got cleaned up and I'm pleased to say nothing was broken and my cuts and grazes are healing well.

Later that week I was able to call on Sarah and say "thank you" properly and I would **really** like to thank Beth as well, I think she said she was a Police Officer or worked for the Police and I think she might live in Sileby? The day after my accident she posted me a card and left me some flowers which was lovely of her so Beth, if you're reading this or someone who knows you is then you know where I live, **please** knock the next time you are passing so I can say "thank you" properly. It's good to know there are still some Good Samaritans in the world.

Name and address supplied.

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Beadsmore.

Husband of Edith Florence Beadsmore
(Yates).

1910 Born

1918 Parents living at 67 **King St.**

1928 Parents living 44 **Cemetery Rd.**

1932 Married Edith F Yates.

Left two sons and one daughter.

By Historian Mr Brian Lunn:-

1943 3rd Feb On a training flight in Halifax
R9455 Force Landing near Selby.

(9 men on board 3 injured including Ser-
gent Beadsmore)

1943 27th April on Ops in Halifax JB783,
which was damaged by flak. His pilot F/Sgt
O'Grady was able to bring the aircraft safe-
ly back to base.

1943 28th May He was flying in Halifax
JD152 (again with F/Sgt O'Grady) when
the aircraft was shot down over Germany.
He was 33 years old buried Reichwald For-
est cemetery Germany.

H Hall on 1938 Football photo



Not certain this is him?

PRIVATE HENRY HALL

4861121 1st Bn Leics Regiment.

Died 10th May 1945 age 28

Son of Henry Wilmot and Ethel Hall.

Husband of Ethel Needham Hall (Nelson).

An extract from the Leicestershire Tiger Reg-
iment website (have a look!) :-

Arrived Hilversum May 9th.

May 10th Disarming troops.

Tragedy now overtook the battalion when
unloading a lorry of mines and shells. A Ger-
man off loading from the back was seen to
throw a Teller mine. This mine or the one it
hit must have had a fuse. There was a terrific
bang. I got up, unhurt. I found a crater about
6ft deep and 4yds wide. After a roll call 11
men of the Mortar Platoon and 2 men from
the Anti-tank Platoon were missing, believed
killed. The Mortar Platoon had travelled all
the way from the beaches of Normandy with-
out a scratch, then 2 days after war was over
lost their lives so tragically.

Later a body was found in a field at least
100yds away.

This was the body of Pte H Hall. A signaller
to the Mortar Platoon.

(From the memory of John Dixie Dean).

CORRECTION: Talk@Sileby No.40 Pg 26/27 x2 Herbert Whittingtons! **NOT** the same
man, sorry.
Geoff Rose

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT

FOR SILEBY PEOPLE AT LEAST

**Between the 15th May and 24th Sep no Sileby lads were killed.
With the possible exception of these men named on Sileby War Memorial:-**

B. LAWTON (on both memorials) Not found a Sileby Connection.

B. REEVES (on both memorials) 1911 census **The Banks, BERT REEVES** Age 19
Not found a Military Connection.

G. SHAW (on both memorials) 1901 census **Brook ST, GEORGE SHAW** Age 12
Not found a Military Connection.

A. BEARDMAN 27282 7th Bn Leics Regt (not on park memorial)
Beadman on census etc Died 29/04/1917
Service Records: **Albert William Beadman** – Age 25 at 46 **The Banks, B,W,M Victory.**

JOHN NUNNLEY 8350 1st Bn Leics Regt (not on either memorials)

Died 21/04/1918

Tiger Site: Home address Sileby, Could have enlisted Pre 1911 census.

As awarded, 14 Star. Entered War 12/10/1914.

REUBEN BROWN 2559 Leics Regt Born **Sileby** (not on either memorials)

Died 09/08/1917 or 09/08/1916 (on medal card)

15 Star, B,W,M Victory.

CLARENCE STUCHBURY 1216 Leics Yeomanry (not on either memorials)

Died 13/05/1915

**Seagrave lad, well known in Sileby Church Mag: 07/1915 reported missing, we feel deeply for parents and his many friends in their suspense (butchers?)
1914 Star B,W,M Victory (date on entry 02/11/14)**

JOSEPH TAILBY WARD 46214 Lincolnshire Regt (not on either memorials)

Died 18/08/1917 aged 38

He and his parents were born Sileby. The family moved to Leics when he was 4 (1884 ish)

CWGC Certificate: Son of Arthur and Mary Ward of Sileby.

JAMES ARTHUR WORTLEY 41306 King Own Scottish Borders

Died 26/10/1917

Enlisted Sileby – Not found any connection

B,W,M Victory.

St Mary's Magazine June 1915

Between May 1st and May 16th 1,956 wounded arrived in Leicestershire and were conveyed to the hospitals, we do not realise the amount of work entailed and what great work the V.A.D (Voluntary Aid Detachment Transport) will be called upon to perform. This transport service is purely voluntary.

Geoff Rose



1. EDGAR 2. H. ROUSE 3. GEORGE 4. REG 5. HAROLD 6. RALPH 7. JOSH 8. S 9. JOE 10. ARTHUR
1. HALL 2. MARTIN 3. GRHOUSE 4. GRHOUSE 5. HARRIMAN 6. DAKIN 7. WOOD 8. ALLEN 9. LATHAM

11. ROY 12. COLIN 13. JACKIE 14. LEN 15. FRED
11. BOWMAN 12. DOODGE 13. LEE 14. HARRISON 15. DAKIN

SILEBY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Following a series of local walks during the summer the new season kicks off with a Social Evening at The Free Trade Inn on Monday 24th August. Meetings proper commence on September 7th in the Primary Room at the Community Centre with an 8pm start. Visitors and prospective new members are always welcome.

September

- | | | |
|----|---|------------------------|
| 7 | Captivating Nature – Wildlife of Britain and Beyond | Des Ong |
| 14 | Royal Photographic Society Nature Show | |
| 21 | Aspects of Contemporary Photography | Geoff Hicks LRPS |
| 28 | Sri Lanka – Wildlife Paradise | Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS |

October

- 5 Wildlife around Ashby Martin Vaughan
12 Members' judging the 12-shot Challenge Competition
19-24 Annual Exhibition Judge: Peter Yeo FRPS

November

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------|
| 2 | Presentation by Melton Mowbray Photographic Society | |
| 9 | Crossing Latitudes, Part 3 | Peter & Eileen Crichton |
| 16 | 4 th Quarterly Competition | Judge: Ian Pinn |
| 23 | Recent Ramblings | John Tinning |
| 30 | An Evening with | Malcolm Coulton |

December

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|-------------|
| 7 | Amazing Thailand | Chris Upton |
| 14 | Pictures and Pies | |



This photograph of Finsbury Avenue was taken during the early 1960's. At the time the road was unadopted. It wasn't made up and more like a farm track. The Highgate Road estate was under construction, and there was no way through. The men folk of those who lived on Finsbury and some who lived on Ratcliffe Road with access, pulled together to repair and improve the Avenue. Possibly most of the materials were purchased from what was then John Ellis & Sons, at Barrow Upon Soar. As you can see they had a concrete mixer and they put lintels across and then filled between with the concrete from Ratcliffe Road for quite a way up. No doubt they were well supplied with tea and biscuits to keep them going.

Hopefully I can name all of the men, on the photograph. My Grandpa and Dad, Jesse Breward Snr, Jesse Breward Jnr. Reg and Robin Grouse, Bill Coulson, Bill Bradley, Ken Carr, Reg Yates, Ernie Yates, Wilf Beadsmore, Joe Needham, Sid Willcocks, Bill Newcombe, Joe Calladine, Tommy Sanders, Tommy Gelder, Michael Warren and John Powderly. I don't know how long it took to do the repair, but it would have been done at weekends as most of the men were working. Community really did exist then.

The photograph and an article appeared in the Leicester Mercury at the time.

Maybe this will bring back some memories for some readers, of days gone by when you really did know everyone who lived close by. There were some characters, and one of them was nurse Barbara Sanders the local midwife. She was always there help, humans and animals alike. There are two families who still live on the avenue. Sadly many have now passed away, and some moved away from the village.

Lynne Root

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- Step ladders & light bulbs, teapots, cake tins & stuff to fix a tap.
- Collars leads & poo bags! Rubber gloves & carpet cleaner.
- Dog food, cat food, bird food & mouse traps. Kindling & coal.
- Logs & Calor gas, ; hammers & spanners, saws & secateurs.
- Pepper pots & plant pots, spades wire netting & bug killers.
- Plastic bags, bin bags & greaseproof paper. Hooks knobs & knives.
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SILEBY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Sileby Town enjoyed an excellent campaign in the Leicestershire Senior League Premier Division becoming champions for the 2014-15 season with a record points tally.

The season opened with a hard fought point against many people's favourites for the title, Saffron Dynamo FC. Town then rattled off eleven straight wins before the return fixture with Saffron produced another stalemate but they maintained their unbeaten start to the season.

Sileby's good form continued and it was not until the 24th game that they tasted defeat. A 2-1 defeat at local rivals Rothley was followed with a second loss at home to Caterpillar FC and a few people were starting to doubt their title credentials.

With Saffron Dynamo and Melton Mowbray FC both keeping up the pressure it was to their credit that Sileby responded in style and reeled off a nine match winning streak to clinch the title for the first time in their history.

Manager Steve Hendey and assistant Pete Humphreys were indebted to the large squad—strength in depth is a great advantage.

We had two excellent keepers and the defence was rock solid which enabled our creative players to play with confidence. We learnt a lot in the previous season when we drew too many games. We were more positive this season and seemed to know how to see out games once we had a lead.

Sileby are back training on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the new ground at the top of Seagrave Road.

Steve Hendey

SILEBY PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

YEAR ENDING 30 APRIL 2015

I was delighted to have been re-appointed Chairman last year for a third term and it has been a privilege and a pleasure to have chaired the meetings of the Parish Council this past year and I wish to thank Mr Paul Murphy for his support as Deputy Chairman.

In September we received the very sad news that Councillor Mr Bernard Singleton had passed away; Bernard had been a member of Sileby Parish Council since the beginning of 2009 and was on the Staffing and Finance Committee.

Emma Compson was co-opted on to the Council last May; Emma’s expertise and experience was invaluable as regards all aspects regarding the extension to the skate park.

A few weeks ago we received the resignation of Mrs Kay Machin; sadly Mrs Machin has suffered ill health recently and felt that she could not fulfil her Councillor duties and so made the very difficult decision to stand down. Kay had been on the Council for 22 years – popular with both residents and members she will be very much missed. Prior to becoming a Councillor, Kay looked after the Community Centre until the Parish Council took it over in 1994.

The Sileby Gala was a great success – the weather was great and a lot of people turned out to support this event – well done to all who gave their time freely to help make this a great success.

I had the privilege of again opening the fete at Highgate School and on 16 June I presented a bouquet, on behalf of Sileby Parish Council, to Mrs Hilda Harriman of Dudley Court who had reached the grand old age of 100.

We were successful in our bid for two grants, one from Leicestershire County Council and the other from The English Heritage & Wolfson Foundation, for refurbishment of the War Memorial; the work was done by Midland Stone Masonry and this was completed in October last year.

We were also successful in getting an ‘Awards For All’ grant for Outdoor Fitness Equipment which has been sited in the Memorial Park.

The extension to the skate park was finished on 26 September and the launch took place on Saturday, 11 October which was a great success. Nicky Morgan MP opened the event, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Charnwood also attended. Demos from Keelan Phillips and Cam Peake impressed us all and thanks to Charnwood Borough Council for supporting this event too. We are most grateful to Sport England for funding, which made this project possible and also to CF Construction who worked extremely hard on this project, and did an excellent job.

On 15 September I attended the Mayor's Civic Service with Councillors Mrs Machin and Mr Jones.

On 1 October Paul Murphy and I attended the Annual Leicestershire Police Intercultural Social Evening at HQ in Enderby; the refreshments reflected the diverse cultures – delicious!

On 30 October a public meeting was held here in the Community Centre with representatives from more than a dozen agencies attending. This meeting was arranged so residents of Sileby could speak to a range of public bodies about their concerns regarding future developments within the village. It was well attended and the Parish Council welcomed the turnout; a follow-up leaflet was distributed to residents outlining the issues raised and the Parish Council's suggestions for dealing with them.

We have purchased two more defibrillators – one has been sited outside the Sports Pavilion on the Memorial Park and the other outside Busy Bees. We will be offering residents a Defibrillator Awareness Session, which will be advertised in Talk@Sileby and will be held in the summer.

The Remembrance Service was held on Sunday, 10 November at the War Memorial in the Park. As last year, the pavilion was opened to serve refreshments after the service for all who attended. A PA system was hired this year and this helped make the occasion more audible.

Sileby Boxing Academy was successful in applying for a grant from the Parish Council towards equipment; I believe they do a great job in promoting health and leisure through sporting activities.

In December a lot of people turned out for the annual switching on of the Christmas Lights. The choir from Highgate School sang carols on Martin's Walk, and a children's entertainer, Lisa Lolly, proved very popular with the little ones! The guides once again arranged games in the Community Centre and children really enjoyed taking part. We replaced the festoon lights in the High Street and King Street with more modern icicle lights and we received a lot of positive feedback from residents; they did look amazing and our thanks to The Voltage Company for all their hard work in erecting the lights and the Christmas Tree in the Church Yard.

The Parish Council organised a trip for the residents of Sileby to the Houses of Parliament on Monday, 15 December 2014 and this was well received as the 54-seater coach was full! A tour was given and Nicky Morgan MP was there to greet everyone. Everyone had a most enjoyable day!

We had asked the local primary schools and Sileby Junior Football Club to design an anti-dog fouling poster – the best three designs have been made into signs which have been sited on lampposts throughout the park.

The Parish Council's External Auditor once again provided an unqualified audit report for last year, reassuring the general public of our professional

and financial competence.

In closing my Annual Report I would like to place on record my thanks and appreciation to all those Parish Councillors who give so much of their time freely to undertake their duties as Parish Councillors during the course of the year.

Thanks to Sports Ground Maintenance for all their hard work in keeping the village looking so nice, especially the Memorial Park.

I would like to extend thanks to the Clerk and staff of Sileby Parish Council for their continuing efforts to provide top quality service and facilities for the residents of the village. I would also like to thank the Clerk and Deputy Clerk for their support during my time as Chairman.

Fiona Hughes
Chairman Sileby Parish Council 23.04.15



Parish Council News

Mrs Kay Machin has stepped down from Sileby Parish Council after serving the community for 22 years. On behalf of Sileby Parish Council the Chairman thanked her for her support and commitment over the years and said that she will be missed by all. The Chairman, Mrs Fiona Hughes presented her with a bouquet accompanied by the Deputy Chairman, Mr Paul Murphy and the Clerk, Mrs Rosemary Richardson.

Many congratulations to Councillor Mrs Fiona Hughes who has been appointed Chairman of Sileby Parish Council, for the fourth consecutive year and Councillor Mrs Betty Crick has been appointed Deputy Chairman. Councillors responsible for specific areas are as follows:

Community Centre - Mrs Betty Crick

General Purpose - Mr Paul Murphy

Parks - Miss Emma Compson

Planning - Mr Andy Shepherdson

COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Following an uncontested election there are currently four vacancies to be filled by co-option. Applications are invited and should be addressed to the Clerk - THE CLOSING DATE IS 12 NOON FRIDAY, 31 JULY 2015

As I am sure you are aware this is an unpaid position but by becoming a Parish Councillor you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support — a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve. Seeing your community change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped make, is something that can give you a sense of achievement and pride.

MEMORIAL PARK - CCTV CAMERAS

We have installed a new redvision infrared fully functional dome camera, with 360 degree rotation, zoom lens and white light spotlight and also replaced one of the existing CCTV cameras to redvision.

SILEBY BROOK

Many thanks to Councillor Robert Butler who arranged to have the brook cleaned from Dudley's Bridge to Back Lane. Councillor Butler thought he had secured help from 15+ residents but sadly none turned up on the day. Thankfully, Leicester Conservation volunteers 'saved the day' - a big thank you to them for all their hard work: they have done a wonderful job!

DEFIBRILLATOR AWARENESS -

Sileby Parish Council has purchased two more Defibrillators, one has been sited outside Busy Bees on Heathcote Drive and the other on the wall at the Sports Pavilion in the Memorial Park. Community Heartbeat Trust works with the ambulance service to provide community awareness sessions. CHT community awareness 'Heartbeat' programme has been recognised as being ideal for a rural community to create awareness of the issues surrounding treating a patient in the community. It is not a formal training course, but designed to answer questions, give basic instruction, and create confidence. WE ARE HOLDING AN 'AWARENESS SESSION' AT 7.00 PM ON THURSDAY, 13 AUGUST IN THE MAIN HALL, AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE - EVERYONE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

COMMEMORATING THE END OF WORLD WAR I

Sileby Parish Council would like to commemorate the end of World War I (November 2018) and we are asking residents for any ideas, please.

Rosemary Richardson (Mrs), Clerk to Sileby Parish Council
41 High Street, Sileby, Leics, LE12 7RX Tel: 01509 813075
clerk@silebyparishcouncil.org.uk



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Sileby town cricket club.

Some of the biggest headlines for us this year have come from our youngsters – our girls' team won their first ever match as they progressed to the second round of the National Under 15 Girls knock out competition. The girls did lose in the second round, succumbing to a strong and experienced Narborough & Littlethorpe side. Girls' cricket is really taking off across the country – if you, or your daughter, are interested in giving cricket a try please contact us at girlscricket@silebytown.co.uk – we'd love to hear from you.

We also had a league record set by one of our youngsters as Sileby born and bred Chris Yates became the youngest ever player to score a century in senior cricket in Leicestershire at the tender age of just 12! His 102 came in the Division 10 West game against Loughborough Carillon's Third XI for our Fourths to set up a resounding victory. We are already planning our winter coaching programme for all age groups. If your son is interested in following in Chris' footsteps why not come along to our winter sessions. Please contact us at academy@silebytown.co.uk for further details.

The Second XI went through the first half of the season unbeaten, having won seven, drawn three and had one lost to the rain from their first 11 games. They sit 55 points clear of third placed Uppingham and 28 points clear of Ibstock Town, second in the race to be promoted to Division One for next season.

Our Thirds are consolidating their position in Division Four Central, having been promoted last season, while the Fourths are bringing through a number of our youngsters and giving them experience of senior cricket to help their cricketing progression.

Our Ladies are still in the mix in Division Three of the Women's Midlands League. The future looks bright for the Ladies with the talent that will come through from the Girls' section in the coming seasons, but they are also on the lookout for new senior playing members. If you're interested in joining us, please contact our captain Jo Welford at ladies@silebytown.co.uk

We've also had another first with the Sileby Vikings, which is our Under 19 side, entering the newly formed Under 19s competition. Junior cricket used to finish at under 17s age group and with ever increasing numbers of teenagers lost to the game the ECB introduced this competition to help retain interest in the sport. If there are any players, between the ages of 17 and 19, who still fancy playing the game but don't want to play the lengthy 40-50 over cricket at a weekend, then maybe the Under 19s competition is for you. Please let us know at under19s@silebytown.co.uk.

It seems somewhat strange to talk about our big community event at this time of year, but it won't be long before the dark, colder nights take hold and our annual fireworks display is upon us. Celestial Fireworks will be back with us again this year when we open our gates on **Friday 6 November** for the 2015 display. We'll be announcing more details around ticket sales, gate opening times and other attractions on our website soon – so keep an eye out at silebytown.co.uk/fireworks or our social media pages for more details. Each year we commit to raising funds for a good cause from within the village. We're still on the lookout for a cause to support this year and if you know of a cause that you think would benefit from our support then why not drop us a line at fireworks@silebytown.co.uk

All of our sides are playing good, competitive cricket at the moment and they'd all be grateful of your support. The bar is open on match days and the teams always welcome support.

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