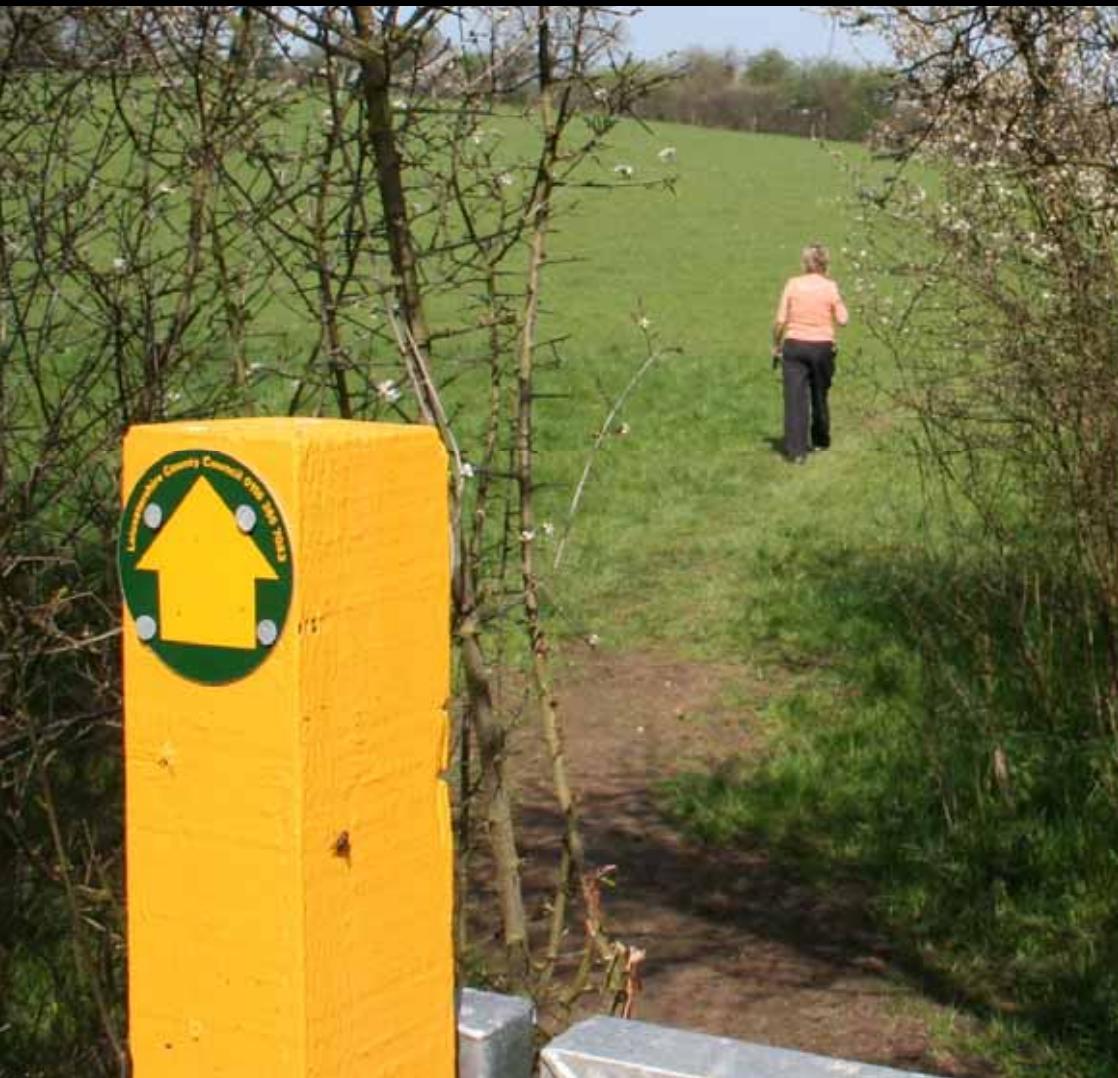


talk @ Sileby

Village Newsletter

Issue 28 Spring 2011



www.sileby-village.co.uk

Taylors

Property Services



14 High Street
Sileby
01509 814258
www.taylorpsps.co.uk



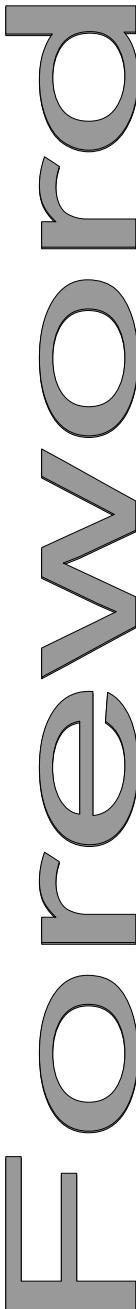
Due to
outstanding
success since
opening our
Sileby office we
urgently require
more properties.



For your free valuation call Pam on
01509 814258

...or call in at 14 High Street Sileby.

Vested Interests?



Welcome to the Spring edition of talk@Sileby.

As a community magazine it's important that we remain impartial and independent. Just prior to going to press on the last issue (Issue 27, Christmas 2010) we had to decide on a letter that promoted a local business and yet purported to be impartial and non-commercial. The difficulty we faced was that we could be accused of showing favour to one and not another. When we have paying advertisers it might be considered by some as unfair to promote a commercial concern for free. So we decided not to print the letter.

But nothing is ever that simple.

We only exist because local businesses pay for advertising space. A business will only pay for space if it is worth their while and they get a return on the money they spend. Times are very tough right now, for everyone, and every pound spent has to count and every penny accounted for. Without advertising we die; just look what's happened to *Charnwood News*. This spring's issue is the last we'll see. Apparently, after consulting with the residents and taking into account their comments, and in light of the cuts in public spending, *Charnwood News* is history. It relied solely on government funding for its existence. I wonder what you would say if you were asked about talk@Sileby; Actually, in a way you do say. We're now on our 28th issue; in October of this year we celebrate our 10th anniversary and, apart from the first couple of issues which were funded by a grant from the National Lottery, your community magazine has paid its way. About six weeks before publication we ask the businesses in Sileby if they'd like to appear again. We can suppose that businesses in general find it worthwhile to spend their money on placing an advert. Because you read it and respond by doing business with local traders, their businesses survive and, in some cases, thrive. So, for ten years the community of Sileby and its businesses have had their say and here we stay. In advertising parlance, and so as not to put ourselves upon too high a pedestal, it's a case of *every little helps!* (and yes even the mighty have advertised with us, on occasion, although, I've been told, they took an age to pay; but shhhh, we won't mention any names here)

Paid for advertising allows us to promote Sileby and be a voice for our community. We make public items of interest and matters of concern at a very local level. We're not an 'Ad mag' nor are we a high-brow broadsheet. So, starting with this edition, we are beginning the process of producing directory pages into which all businesses, clubs, associations, groups, schools and churches whose main operation takes place within our catchment area, will be eligible to be listed. We'll also be including features submitted by local enterprises, where space allows, on a first-come, first serve basis. We would also ask that you continue to support us by placing your advert in talk@Sileby, and there will of course be the normal editorial control. But those of you in business who'd like to be featured all we ask is that you keep it of interest to the whole community.

Because after all is said and done, we all have a vested interest in Sileby, don't we?

Front cover photo:
Way-marker on the
Sileby to Seagrave
walk;
Steve Johns

Contacts

Editor:

Dave Palmer, (01509) 816610.

60 Heathcote Drive, Sileby

Email d.r.palmer@talk21.com

Deputy Editor

Steve Johns

01509 813125 Stevenjohns@btinternet.com

Printed by Norwood Press. Ellistown 01530
262020

Advertising:

Steve Johns

01509 813125 Stevenjohns@btinternet.com

If you would like to give your feedback,
articles or letters these can be sent to the
Editor or you can now use the internet forum
at

www.sileby-village.co.uk

The advertising rates for talk@Sileby are:

Quarter Page £30 Half Page £50 Full Page £80

Inside front/inside back cover £105.00 Back cover £135.00

10% discount for booking and paying for three insertions in advance

These prices are per issue

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

The talk@Sileby Team

Magazine Co-Ordinator	Roy Brown
Editor	Dave Palmer
Deputy Editor	Steve Johns
Secretary	Pat Haswell
Treasurer	Lionel Blower
Advertising & Business Co-ordinators	Steve Johns & Caitlin Coady Pete Campbell, Robert Butler , Ken Jones Plus 28 local volunteers
Distribution	Lionel Blower & Roy Brown Richard Kinton (to be confirmed)
Societies Co-ordinators	
Auditor	

talk@Sileby

Your community magazine is delivered to every home and business in Sileby; that's about 3,500 addresses.

It is published three times a year: in November just prior to the Christmas lights 'switch on', in Spring around about Easter and in the summer prior to the school summer holidays.

We have no political, commercial or religious allegiance 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.

We thank our advertisers who in this issue are:

Sileby Pet Supplies *Page 23*
Andrew Bradley *Page 23*
Smartly Stitch *Inside back cover*
Central Business Services *Inside back cover*
Lanza *Back Cover*
Glen Lewin *Page 18*

Taylors Estate Agents *Inside front cover*
A 4 Double Executive Private Hire
Page 9
Sileby Mill *Page 9*
Charnwood Hearing aids *Inside back cover*
The Writers Coach *page 5*
A1 Plastering *Page 19*

A letter from Nicky Morgan, MP for Loughborough, to talk@Sileby

It is a pleasure to be writing in talk@Sileby and I wish all Sileby residents a very Happy Easter after what has seemed like a very long winter.

I wanted to congratulate those residents who mounted such an effective campaign against the proposed development off Stannage Road. Government plans under the Localism Bill, which is currently progressing through Parliament, will devolve greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods, whilst giving communities more control over housing and planning decisions. Communities will have a much greater say and impact on issues such as local development. Neighbourhood plans will be provided for and approved if over half of the local community votes for them in a referendum.

Secondly, just to let you know that the Government awarded, in February, £11m to Charnwood Neighbourhood Housing as part of its Decent Homes Funding scheme. Although less than CNH bid for this is good news for residents living in CNH-owned properties who have waited a long time to see improvements in their homes.

I hold regular surgery days at my Loughborough office and throughout the constituency. I held a recent surgery at the Sileby Community Hall in mid-March, and will be back again soon. To enquire or book an appointment please do get in touch with my office on 01509 262 723, or visit my website, www.nickymorgan.com

Steven Johns MA

Writer & Coach

...from a leaflet

The Writers' Coach

www.fantasticstate.co.uk

Master of Arts in Creative Writing
Master Practitioner & Coach -
Neuro-Linguistic Programming

T: 01509 813125

M: 0791 868 4895

Skype: stevenpjohns

E-mail: stevenjohns@btinternet.com

...to your life story

*As much help as you need to
achieve your writing dream.*

*Just a chat, 1 to 1 or join the course
at Leicester University's Embrace
Arts programme, starting summer
2011.*

www.embracearts.co.uk

Then, Then and Now.

A few months ago I was given an old copy of a Sileby community produced magazine called *THE STOCKADE*. It was Issue 12 from Spring 1994. I didn't take much notice of the front cover at first; I was more interested in the content. It was produced before computers, word processing software, digital photography and all the other amazing technology that has come our way since. The lack of sophisticated graphic design does make it look old, and it says to me, that our world appears to have come a long way in a relatively short time. I then realised that whoever drew the line drawing on the front of the magazine was standing outside the front of my house, a long time before my house was built. I was talking to Pete Campbell (of Sileby Heritage fame) who told me he had a photograph he'd taken as the demolition men moved in at Newbold & Burton's office block which stood on Brook Street; again almost in front of my house.

So I thought it might be interesting to share



I have no idea of the date of the line drawing other than it must have been after 1st July 1840 because that's when the railway opened for traffic. (Anyone out there have any ideas?)

I am thankful to Dave Fleet for lending to me the 1994 copy he has and also for tracking down a complete set of *THE STOCKADE* from a local resident called Liz. So thank you Liz; I can assure you they are in safe hands and I'd like to hang on to them for a little longer whilst I scan them in.

I aim to include a feature from them each issue and compare what was there then to what's there now. SJ

THE STOCKADE

Spring 1994

ISSUE : 12 Sileby Community Magazine

these two images with you together with one I took just last week (22nd March 2011). Only one of the features remains the same. The viaduct carrying the midland main line appears on all three. The brook has been made into an easement and now follows a straighter course and all the buildings have gone and been replaced.



Quorn, Barrow, Sileby and the Wolds Area Forum

The last meeting of the Quorn, Barrow, Sileby and the Wolds Area Forum was held at Redlands Community Primary school in Sileby on 7th February 2011 and was attended by 40 residents, councillors and officers. In response to requests for greater opportunity for networking and sharing information, there was beforehand a thirty minute period during which local residents could meet each other or talk informally, on a one to one basis, with the local Police, officers from Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council, and local councillors.

Green Spaces in Leicestershire

The main item on the agenda was an inter-active discussion on Green Spaces in Leicestershire. Local residents were asked to identify on large scale maps provided, and mark using different coloured flags, the local Green Spaces of importance to them. They were asked to explain why they valued them, for Landscape value, for Natural value, for recreational value or for Community value. The results will be collated together with the feedback at the other 26 Community Forums across Leicestershire over the next couple of months. All of this will help to inform local policy and planning processes as well as the County Council's response to emerging national policies.

There is still time for your input into this important consultation using the website which is www.lsr-online.org/greenspaces The closing date for responses is 15th April 2011.

Local Policing issues

Inspector Duncan Southall, from Charnwood Local Policing Unit, reported that crime and anti-social behaviour were both down on the comparable period last year. The Police faced challenges due to budget constraints and across Charnwood 10 locally based offices will reduce to 6 but he remained confident that, with support from the public, the overall level of front line policing would not reduce and recent improvements would be maintained. Referring to the need to close Quorn police station, and co-locate elsewhere, he said that this would be done when suitably affordable, and local, premises could be found.

Questions raised

Local residents present at the meeting, from across the whole Forum area, asked questions. These included the NHS response to local concerns regarding Barrow Health Centre, noise pollution at Wymeswold airfield, time limits of planning permissions given, the accuracy of information submitted in planning applications and the position regarding VAT liability when developing greenfield/brownfield sites. Answers will be obtained within three weeks of the Forum meeting.

Next meeting

The chair of the Forum, Cllr David Slater checked the feelings of those who had attended the meeting, for many of whom this had been their first meeting. They had enjoyed meeting other people from the area and also the more informal, and inter-active, element of the meeting. "The meeting centred on a consultation on Green Wedges and Open Spaces of local importance," said Cllr Slater "It was a wonderful opportunity for residents to tell planners about the open spaces that are important to them. It is also essential for planners to know the views of residents when preparing future plans."

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th June 2011 at St Bartholomews school in Quorn, official meeting starting from 7.00pm. However, do please come, if possible, from 6.30pm when you will be able to talk to other members of your community and local councillors, officers and the police about matters of importance to you.

The History

St. Mary's church in Sileby is a beautiful Grade II* listed building which has been around for over 850 years. Only 4% of listed buildings have this status, so our village church is considered to be of major significance. The gothic style tower has a 10 bell ring which attracts people from far and wide, as does the Green Man tucked away up in the wooden roof!

It is Sileby's most recognisable landmark and dominates the skyline of the Soar Valley. In fact, due to its size it has been referred to as the, "Cathedral of the Soar valley." And it's easy to see why!



The Problem

Unfortunately the 84 feet high tower is in desperate need of urgent repairs. The situation is so severe that part of the tower battlements have already been dismantled to avoid stone work falling through either the church roof or worse on to a passer by. The drainage system is also badly corroded, causing damp and further erosion to the base of the tower.

Friends of St Mary's
Keeping St Mary's Church
at the heart of Sileby

So what has this got to do with me?

You may well be wondering what this has to do with you! Well, St. Mary's is not just for "church goers." It is at the centre of, and belongs to, the whole community. So as part of the community yourself, it has everything to do with you!

At some point, St. Mary's will have played (or will do) a vital and memorable role in your life. Perhaps you got baptised there, or your children have, or you got married there, or sadly someone close to you had their funeral there. Maybe you just admire it for being a beautiful building, or you come at Christmas to one of the carol services or you just use it to give directions to people. St. Mary's has served our community for hundreds of years and has been an integral part of village life. There can be few people who do not have some sort of connection to it. And now it's our time to repay some of that service. A substantial amount of money needs to be raised to make the tower safe and to ensure that the St. Mary's we know and love continues as it is.



What can I do?

You can help by supporting some or all of the exciting fund raising events that are planned by The Friends of St.

Mary's for this year. A fashion show on 3rd June, an auction of promises and gifts on 17th June, HeART of Sileby arts festival on 10th & 11th September and a 3 course dinner on 25th November. Look out for more details nearer the time or please contact Joy Wood T: 01509 812493 E: rector_secretary@btinternet.com. Details can also be found on the Friends website <http://beehive.thisisleicestershire.co.uk/fosm>

A view of the church with dismantled merlom.

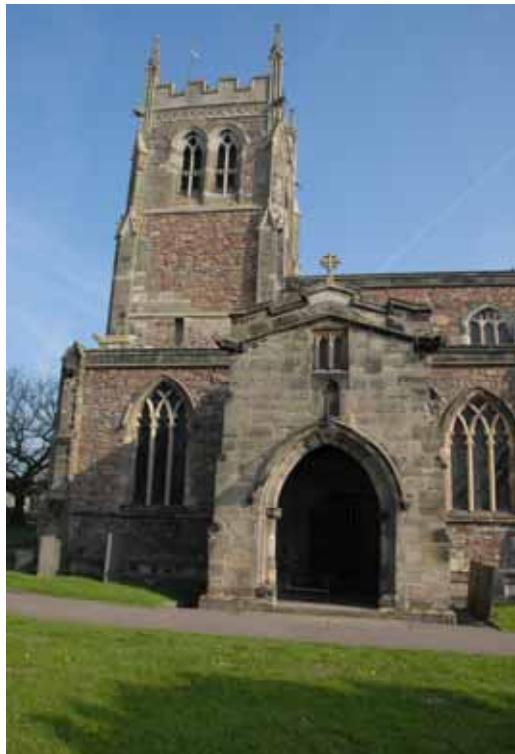
If you would like to give to Friends of St. Mary's cheques payable to "Friends of St. Mary's" can be sent to John Burton at 79 Homefield Road, Sileby, LE12 7TG. Or join the Friends of St. Mary's for £10 per year single membership or £15 for a family.

Spot the Church – A competition for children

There are 12 photographs of St. Mary's Church, Sileby, in shops around the village. Find them all and send a list to 10 Parsons Drive, Sileby by 19th May.

There will be prizes for the first 5 correct entries drawn out of the hat.

Each photo will say "I've spotted the Church" on it.



Day Boat Hire & Waterway Holidays

Book a boat (for up to 12 people) for a great day out on the river, bring a picnic or head for a riverside pub

Or just pop down for an icecream or cold drink and a stroll along the river. We have a shop full of unusual gifts and all things boaty!

Sileby Mill Boatyard Ltd

Mill Lane, off Mountsorrel Lane LE12 7UX
www.silebymill.co.uk
silebymill@fiscall.co.uk
01509 813583



A4 DOUBLE

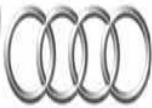
Executive & Corporate
Private Hire



**Charnwood's
No. 1 Executive
Private Hire**

07702 027 270

**A8 SALOON
&
A6 EXECUTIVE
CARS**



Audi

www.a4doubleprivatehire.co.uk

SILEBY PARISH WALKS 2011

Do you enjoy exploring the local parish footpaths and countryside?

Then come and join us! A chance to meet with new people and healthy exercise, everyone welcome. All walks start from Sileby

Community Centre at 7.00 pm and are led by John and Beverly Burton and Dave Thompson.

- Tuesday 19th April Barrow Road, Mountsorrel Lane, Old Slash, Mountsorrel Lock, River Soar, Sileby Mill, 3 1/2 miles.
- Tuesday 17th May Cossington Road, Polly Peggs, River Wreake, Old Junction Lock, Cossington Mill, Sileby Mill, 5 miles
- Tuesday 21st June Barrow Road, British Gypsum, Old Quorn Hunt Kennels, Big Lane, Seagrave, Memorial Park, 5 1/2 miles.
- Tuesday 19th July Cossington Road, Cossington Church, Humble Lane, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, Ratcliffe College, Ratcliffe Road, 5 miles
- Tuesday 16th August Sileby Mill, River Soar, Cossington Mill, Old Gravel Pits, Platts Lane, Cossington Church, Cossington Road, 4 1/2 miles.

If you enjoy walking and would like to walk more often, the Loughborough & District CHA Rambling Club have a weekly programme of local walks and occasional bus rambles. If you would like more information please ask John or Beverly for a current programme of walks.

The Old Mill on the Soar

How often does the first day of a new season live up to its name? The first day of spring 2011 certainly did. The daffodils were blooming, mother duck was sitting on her eggs, the sun was shining and Sileby Mill was bustling with activity, preparing for the coming year.

Sandra met me with a smile and an excuse “Can I just put this with the rubbish?” She was carrying a small broken pump by its severed leads and hose, fresh with gunge, to the recycling skip.

There's mention of two mills on this site in the 1086 Domesday survey and throughout the centuries corn was milled here. But by the end of the 19th century the mill produced materials for insoles for shoes until new processes found cheaper ways of manufacturing. From the 1960s the buildings were used as workshops and the waterwheel and the main mill building fell into disrepair.



Sileby Mill circa 1900. It was a leather-board mill back then



Sileby Mill 2011

Now minus chimney stack and water wheel, but home to the boat yard and exclusive waterside apartments.

Rescued from dereliction in 1986 by Mr and Mrs Evans the mill became the home and base for an extensive boatyard. The present owners, Alex and Kate took the helm about 10 years ago.

“How long has there been a marina here then?” I ask.

“It's a boatyard, not a marina!” Peter (Alex's dad) corrects me.

“And the difference is?” I ask, eager to be corrected.

“A marina is a very, very tidy place and there's only boats kept there; there's no work done to the boats on site. A boatyard is where boats can be taken out of the water and repaired, re-painted. Normally you can't hire boats from a marina, only from a boat yard. Here at Sileby we have all repair facilities and boaters come from many miles away to us to get their boats sorted.”



Always a friendly welcome from Sandra, who does all the day to day stuff and runs the shop, takes the bookings, keeps the books, and answers the phone - "and that's just in my spare time!" she adds.

There are two 2nd world-war veterans staying at the boat-yard today: a visitor *Lazy Days* who over-winters at Sileby and will be off to Boston for the summer season soon, and *Nyula* who is owned by Alex and Kate. Both boats took part in the evacuation of allied troops from Dunkirk in Normandy. More than a third of a million troops were rescued in nine days from the 26th May to 3rd June 1940. Alex takes *Nyula* to the Thames in May for the ADLS rally, the annual little ships of Dunkirk rally



Lazy Days, moored at Sileby Mill for the winter took part in The Dunkirk evacuation In May/June 1940

We have 3 day boats, *Rumble, Jumble and Fumble* that hold up to 12 people each and you can go north to Loughborough or south to Birstall, both about a six hour round trip. We also have two holiday boats, *Millstream and Millpond* for longer trips," Sandra informed me. She and her husband have worked at Sileby Mill for about nine years. They're open seven days a week through the year except in the winter months when they close on Fridays.

The Leicester Navigation, completed in 1794 passes close to the Mill and leads north from Sileby Lock.

Footpaths run alongside the river all the way to Barrow going north and to Lewin Bridge, north of Syston, going south-east. The footpath crosses the river over the "Roving Bridge" pictured below. When this was a working mill water would cascade down the mill race, driving the wheel, and then on into the flood pit before rejoining the flow at the weir. The mill-race has now gone but the floodpit now forms the basin where many boats are moored.



The 'Roving Bridge'. The tow path crosses the river here

annual little ships of Dunkirk rally

Sandra told me that they have modest plans to open a tea room at the boatyard. "Nothing fancy, not hot meals or anything like that, just tea and a scone on a nice sunny day."

Well a day like this is definitely a day to be making such plans. Until then why not bring your own... SJ

Music to her ears...

House Music Competition

In January, my school held a House Music competition. Before I go any further, I had better explain what my school's House system is. Each student, when they join the school in Year 7, is placed in one of four Houses. The point of this is to help pupils to settle, and the House almost acts like a family. The House system encourages friendly rivalry between pupils to earn House points through participation in competitions, which include House Netball, House Drama and, of course, House Music. which then boost their House closer to being the winner at the end of the school year. So far, so Harry Potter!

The aim behind the House Music competition is to encourage musicians of all standards to have a go at performing, with the incentive of helping your House. This year, I was lucky enough to qualify for the final of the House Music competition.

My qualifying concert was the Year 10-11 Woodwind class (ages 14 to 16). Two weeks previously my flute teacher had come into the room and said 'I hope that you like this piece, Caitlin, because you are doing it in the competition in two weeks!' while dumping it unceremoniously on the music stand in front of me. That lesson all we did was play it through with the piano so that I had a vague idea of how it would sound in concert, and only two weeks later, on a Tuesday afternoon, I was playing it in the qualifier in front of an adjudicator. Playing in performance is extremely challenging, no matter what the instrument is. Walking onto the stage, I could feel my legs trembling, and one of the other competitors later said that he could see my flute quivering the entire time! I was quite disappointed with my performance, so when the adjudicator said that I was the winner, I couldn't believe it.

However, in the final I realised that all I could do was try to enjoy performing, as most of the other people who had qualified were in Sixth Form, or people who were serious about doing music as a career. I knew that I didn't have much chance of winning, but my performance went really well. So although I didn't come home with a prize, I did come home knowing that I had played to the best of my abilities. And next year, I am going to be out to win it!

Caitlin Coady is part of the talk@Sileby team and is a student at Loughborough Girls Grammar School

Attention Clubs & Societies!

Starting next issue we will include a directory of Clubs & societies; make sure you don't miss out!

Email Roy Brown: roy-b@btconnect.com

or

Lionel Blower: ltbrib@btinternet.com

PUBLIC TOILETS

It was resolved at Sileby Parish Council's meeting, held on Thursday, 20 January 2011 to take responsibility of the public toilets located on Tesco Car Park.

We wish to thank those of you who responded to the leaflet, distributed to each household, there was an overwhelming majority who voted positively to 'keep' the toilets.

Refurbishment should be completed by the end of March 2011.

The County Council is keen to hear the views of local people about Leicestershire's green spaces
<http://www.leics.gov.uk/greenspaces>"

LOCAL ELECTION

DON'T MISS OUT – IT MATTERS!

Want to be a local Councillor?

Do **you** want to serve your community?

Could **you** make a difference?

Would **you** like to see your Parish grow?

STAND FOR LOCAL ELECTION 5 MAY 2011

On **5 May 2011** local elections will be taking place to elect Councillors to your Parish Council. This is the chance to have your say by voting for the people you want to be Councillors to help look after your community or possibly becoming a Councillor yourself and help shape it.

Whether or not you decide to become a Councillor, your vote in the elections is still important. It is your opportunity to help decide who runs your Parish Council.

Remember, every vote counts and your vote could tip the balance!

For more information contact your local Parish Clerk on

Tel: 01509 813075 / email: clerk@silebyparishcouncil.org.uk

or the Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Councils

Tel: 0116 235 3800

Did you know...

according to the 2001 Census 6331 people lived in Sileby?

I wonder how many there are now...

...and that Talk@Sileby is mentioned on Wikipedia

...and that the origins of the village date back to around 840 AD

Sileby Parish Plan Group

In September 2009 I went to an Area Forum Meeting at Walton on the Wolds. At this meeting the Area Forum were offering £20,000 to share between Sileby, Barrow, Quorn and the Wolds Villages. This was from Leicestershire County Council's Participatory Budget. A bid was put in from the Sileby Parish Plan Group for new street maps of Sileby and flower boxes at the entrances to the Village.

In September 2010, after attending many, many more Area Forum meetings, we were lucky enough to be awarded £2,500.

Two of the Parish Plan Group, myself and my husband, agreed to take on this project and eventually, after many hours of hard work finding out the cost of the project

and getting the relevant permission from Leicestershire County Council's Highways Department and the Parish Council, finally achieved their goal. We think the flower boxes and the new street

maps and holders look GREAT and hope you do too.

The Group intends to look after the flower boxes in the future but will need help. So far we have had a great evening with Sileby Cub Scouts who filled the flower box up Seagrave Road. This was part of their Community Challenge Badge. Thanks Lads and Lassies!!

From Christine Thompson- Parish Plan Group





Your Letters

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

Dear Sirs,

Mr. Kinton writes again in the last village newsletter about events of over two years ago and at risk of boring readers I will attempt to deal fully with all the issues raised. In October 2008 I was encouraged by residents to apply for the vacant seat on Sileby Parish Council. When a second candidate applied I had a choice of either waiting for a small group of Parish Councillors meeting privately to recommend to full Council who should be appointed or seek to be elected by residents. I chose the latter which cost each household in Sileby about 80 pence. My opponent was elected. About a month later another vacancy was declared to fill the vacancy resulting from Mr Kinton's resignation. I was nominated by ten residents to stand for this seat and was elected (unopposed) and not co-opted as stated by Mr. Kinton. As far as politics are concerned I know of many Parish Councillors who are members/ supporters of a political Party including a -number of Sileby Parish Councillors. Perhaps his complaint is more to do with Party than to politics. He tries to infer a desire for financial gain in my wish to serve residents. As he well knows Parish Councillors do not receive a penny for their work (apart from the Chairman who receives an allowance for out of pocket expenses.) With regard to Council contracts for services (including utilities) I can assure readers that Rosemary Richardson (our recently appointed Parish Clerk) is working hard to limit increases in charges by negotiating with alternative providers wherever possible and is already achieving savings on some contracts.

Mr Kinton is critical about the proportion of the Parish Precept spent by our Council on wages. He will know that this varies between Parishes often depending on the range of facilities administered. In Sileby we have a large Community Centre, Memorial Park with Sports Pavilion, and Cemetery with Chapel. We have recently seen six CCTV cameras installed in the Memorial Park and centre of the village. In the 2010/2011 council tax leaflet I note that Barrow-On-Soar Parish Council allocated 50% of their precept for administration/staff costs. I trust that this now covers all the points raised.

Councillor Bernard Singleton
Sileby Parish Councillor

Dear Sirs,

WILL'S GYM

Let me tell you about Will's gym. This relatively new and little known place, more formally known as Physfit Gym, lives on Brook Street on the 1st floor of the Creoseal building in our village. This emporium has changed our lives forever, my husband and I. When told about Christmas time that I had Type 2 diabetes I was shocked, I'll admit to being overweight but when you are in your 60's, eat healthily, work full time and have a large garden you tend to believe that you are leading a fairly healthy lifestyle. I certainly felt I had little or no energy or time left at the end of the day to incorporate anything else I was told the news of my latest illness at Dr Lakhani's surgery and given an outline as to what would now happen. I really didn't want to have more medication as I already take other medicines, one for an under active

thyroid, so a couple of weeks later when the shock had worn off a little I went to be assessed at my first diabetic clinic.. Good news! It would seem that I had a chance to avoid medication altogether or my condition getting any worse if I lost weight and took more exercise. **More exercise**, wasn't my busy lifestyle enough? If I could have lost weight didn't they think I would have done by now? I admit to feeling quite cross that what I was already doing wasn't enough to keep me healthy.

It was about this time we heard of Will's gym, and after a lot of discussions I decided this was my last chance to be fit and healthy enough to lead an active life as I got older and avoid the problems that go with diabetes. My husband decided, never having been to a gym that he would also join, just to support me you understand, not because he needed to!

We made an appointment to see Will who talked us through why we were there and what we wanted to accomplish and then set about giving us an induction on how to use the equipment and exercises to do. We were very nervous belonging to the older generation but the people that were there didn't seem at all surprised and made us feel quite welcome.

I won't pretend it wasn't hard going, especially after a long day at work but we got into the routine of going two weeknights and Saturday mornings rounding this session off with a cup of coffee and a chat in the gym. 3 months on we have both lost a stone in weight, have been able to go walking in Wales again and enjoy it, walk up a flight of stairs without getting out of breath and generally feel we have been given a new lease of life. We now have a joint personal training session every 3 weeks where we are

reassessed and a new programme is given to us to help us continue to improve.

I am surprised that the doctor's surgeries, other medical outlets, slimming clubs and our parish council have not been shouting about this local benefit from the rooftops in the present climate of obesity and its related health problems. It is on our doorstep, cheap and the benefits are endless, it has certainly made a huge difference to our lives. I feel better, have more energy generally and best of all I am still medication free!

Name and address withheld by request

Dear Sirs

Having a rant..

Thank goodness we don't have speed bumps in Sileby – those nasty rectangular lumps which blight Barrow, Rothley and Syston, discriminating against the owners of small, eco-friendly cars.

Gas-guzzlers, busses and lorries, white van man and Chelsea tractors all sail over them as though they don't exist – but did the planners ever spare a thought for the tiny Smart Car ?

Speed bumps probably cause accidents as drivers concentrate on manoeuvring their vehicles to minimise the impact instead of looking out for pedestrians – the very people they are intended to protect.
but maybe I'm really raving ?

Pat

(after Pat sent this in we had our March meeting of the talk@Sileby team which was held at Dave Palmer's house on Heathcote Drive. Heathcote Drive is now similarly blighted with speed bumps. Sorry Pat... SJ)

Please keep sending in your letters.

In days gone by, before the age of the internet, YouTube and facebook writing to your local magazine, it was the best way to get you views aired.

Email — d.r.palmer@talk21.com

Or talk@Sileby, 1 Burton Road, Sileby, LE12 7RU

The talk@Sileby Business Directory

This is work in progress and we need the businesses in Sileby to tell us about themselves...

This information is from our advertising database, but all businesses in the area are eligible.

Business Directory

A 4 Double - Executive & Corporate Private Hire. Tel: 07702 027 270
www.a4doubleprivatehire.co.uk

AG and D Richards - opticians.
22 King Street, Sileby LE12 7NA
Tel: 01509 812088

A1 Plastering— Plastering services, 74 Barrow Rd. Sileby LE12 7LP Tel:01509 814711

Andrew Bradley - electrician.
25 Peashill Close, Sileby LE12 7PT
Tel: 07790 412333

Brian Yates- plumber.
98 Barrow Road, Sileby LE12 7LP

Central Business Services- accountants and bookkeepers.
Oak Business Centre 79-93 Ratcliffe Road,
Sileby LE12 7PU
Tel: 01509 816150

Cliff Photography?

Charnwood Hearing Aid Centre
5 Station Rd, Anstey,LE7 7AY
Tel: 0116 236 6633

Derry's- plant nursery.
Main Street, Leicester, UK LE7 4UU
telephone 01509 812815

Gift Box- gifts and cards for every occasion.
6 and 12a, High Street, Sileby LE12 7RX

Glenn Lewin- butchers.
1 Ratcliffe Road, Sileby LE12 7PU
telephone 01509 812246

Homefield Fascia Co.-. fascias and soffits.
127 Homefield Road, Sileby LE12 7TG
telephone- 01509 814182

Indigo Hair Design- all hair related services,
bridal hair and professional make-up.
28 King Street, Sileby LE12 7NA OR 68 High
Street Barrow upon Soar LE12 8PY
telephone 01509 813443 (Sileby) 01509
415729 (Barrow)

Julie Tolton- chiropodist and podiatrist
115 Barrow Road, Sileby LE12 7LW
telephone 01509 815390

Lanza Hair- services include cutting, colouring,
styling, perming and bridal hair.
57 The Banks, Sileby LE12 7RD

Nicky Morgan- local MP
3/3a Nottingham Road ,Loughborough LE11
1ER
telephone- 01509 262723
email- nicky.morgan.mp@parliament.uk

Oasis Hair and Beauty- hairdressers and
beauty salon.
5 High Street, Sileby LE12 7RX
telephone- 01509 814555

Richard Watson- professional painter and decorator. Specialising in Paperhanging, Tiling, Coving, Airless Spraying, Window Glazing.
5 Ainsworth Drive, Sileby LE12 7QN
telephone- 01509 815753
email- ricardwatsondecor@hotmail.com

Rock 'n' Rolls-?

Sileby Mill- boatyard offering private mooring and boat hire for days or holidays.
Mill Lane, Sileby LE12 7UX
telephone- 44(0) 1509 812834
text- 44(0) 7977 567327

Sileby Day Nursery- nursery for children aged 6 weeks to 5 years
231 Cossington Road, Sileby LE12 7RR
telephone- 01509 812300

Sileby Pet Supplies- offers a range of pet related services, selling pet food and other pet supplies. 71 King Street, Sileby LE12 7LZ
01509 812908

Sinclair Estate Agents- estate agents, mortgages, surveys and lettings.
15 High Street, Sileby LE12 7RX
telephone- 01509 812777
email- sileby@sinclairestateagents.co.uk

Smartly Stitch- tailor providing clothing alterations and repairs.
1a Little Church Lane, High Street, Sileby LE12 7NE
telephone- 01509 815658
email- info@smartlystitch.co.uk

Soar Valley Brides- wedding dresses, prom dresses and bridesmaid's dresses as well as tiaras, jewellery and shoes.
7 High Street, Sileby LE12 7RX
telephone- 01509 814306

Taylors Estate Agents- properties for sale and let, mortgages
14 High Street, Sileby LE12 7RX
telephone- 01509 814258

Vanilla Bunny- gift shop with a wide range of child-related gifts.
6 High Street, Sileby LE12 7RX
telephone- 01509 815987

The Writers Coach Writing services—from a leaflet to your life story
Tel: 01509 813125 mobile: 0791 868 4895
www.fantasticstate.co.uk

Business/Organisation/School/ Club/Association Directory

We are making provision for every

Business/Organisation/School/ Club/Association

located in the village or who have advertised with us

to have a free entry in Talk@Sileby magazine's directory pages.

Please submit your details below in no more than thirty words (two lines as printed in the magazine) outlining:

WHO YOU ARE WHAT YOU DO WHERE YOU ARE
& HOW TO GET IN TOUCH:

For example:

Bodgit & Scarper - Builders and House repairers - 1 Main Street, Sileby, LE12 7OU Tel: 01509 123456 - www.BandS.co.uk

Highgate School

everything about
living, learning & laughing together

Heathcote Drive
Sileby
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE12 7ND

01509 813968

www.highgate.leics.sch.uk

BEST International Voice Choir Concert

Tuesday February 1st the year 6 children from Highgate School enjoyed the culmination of weeks of work when they took part in the BEST International Voice Choir Concert at the De Montfort Hall in Leicester.

The concert was organised by the Barrow Extended Services Team to celebrate music in all its forms and to give singing an international focus. They joined almost 300 other children from the local area to sing a selection of songs celebrating their international link with schools in Bulgaria and India. One of the songs was specially commissioned just for the concert.

Half way through the concert there was a video link to our partner schools in Bulgaria and India, who performed songs and music as a contribution to this international concert. The whole evening was a fantastic experience and one that the children and parents will remember for ever.

GLENN LEWIN
BUTCHERS
SUPPLYING QUALITY
LOCAL MEATS
TO THE RETAIL &
CATERING TRADE



1 RATCLIFFE ROAD, SILEBY
LEICESTERSHIRE, LE12 7PU
TELEPHONE 01509 812246

All our fresh meats are sourced from local farm assured farms within 10 miles

No GM products are used in animal feeds

All produce is slaughtered locally

All produce is prepared by ourselves on our HACCP approved shop premises

Beef is hung for 28 days to obtain it's finest eating qualities

Traceable from the farm to the plate

Committed to customer satisfaction

Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 20th May 2011

"Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives."



Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 20th May 2011 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 xtn 229 or email fishandchips@spinal.co.uk or **Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 20th May 2011**

or visit www.spinal.co.uk/fish&chips

A1 PLASTERING

74 BARROW ROAD, SILEBY
LOUGHBOROUGH LE12 7LP

For plastering/ceramic tiling.

Fibrous plaster moulding supplied and fitted.



Exterior rendering and Tyrolean finishes.
Fully insured/Free estimates
30 years experience

Tel: (01509) 814711



Talk@Sileby caught up with local speedway rider, David Howe, in his workshop.



six we went to Long Eaton speedway and I said then I wanted to be a speedway rider. I kept pestering my dad and he bought me a Honda 125cc to ride after the grass and speedway meetings, luckily he knew a lot of people which opened doors for me. I kept getting bigger bikes until at 12 I was on a 500cc. When I was 15, the Peterborough manager asked me to join their academy team and I turned professional when I was 16. I've since rode for Peterborough, Wolverhampton, Oxford and now Scunthorpe.

Q. As well as earning a living, what have you got out of speedway?

A. It's been great. The travelling is a pain but I've been all over Europe, been twice to Australia, made loads of good friends and met all my heroes.

Q. Talking of heroes, who are yours?

A. Ivan Mauger has to be there, he was a great physiologist as well as a great rider, he had the others beaten on the line before the tapes went up; Hans Nielsen of course but my ultimate hero has to be Tony Rickardsson. His natural riding skill and professionalism was second to none and he is a really, really nice guy.

Q. You have shelves full of trophies, which are your favourites?

A. I like the one I won the grass track British pairs with Tony Aitkin and of course the British under twenty one trophy I won in Edinburgh when I was 18 but my favourite is the bronze medal I won for coming third in the world under twenty one. It was a FIM meeting and FIM medals of any colour are hard to come by.

Q. What are your plans for the future?

A. I still love speedway and am still as keen but I feel I have gone as far up the ladder as I can now. With the selection system for the Grand Prix as it is, you have to be really on top of your game to be included, so I am going back to combining grass track and long track with my speedway. I don't ride in Poland and Sweden anymore so that's given me Sundays free. I have been selected to ride in Artigues de Lussac in France for my world long track qualifier and Muldorff in Germany for my European and with the euro final in England, I feel if I can get to the final I might have a chance of doing well.

Q. Leicester speedway is running again this year, any chance of you riding for them?

Q. It's a couple of years since you were asked to switch on Sileby's Christmas lights, how did you feel about that?
A. I was honoured and I had a really good time. It's strange to be thought of as some sort of celebrity in your own village. I'm just a Sileby kid born and bred!

Q. How did you get into speedway?

A. My dad used to ride on the Grasstrack and I went with him right from an early age. When I was about

A. I'm not going to say, no never, but at the moment I am really happy at Scunthorpe. I give great credit to all the Leicester fans who have kept the dream alive for nearly 30 years and I'm looking forward to riding at their new stadium at Beaumont Leys. There's no reason why Leicester can't have a great speedway team as well as great football and rugby teams, so I hope everyone turns out on Saturday nights to support them. Who knows, I might end my days riding there!

Q. I hear there's something else to celebrate this year?

A. Yes, my wife, Joanne is having a baby in June and we are really looking forward to it, 'though if it's a boy, I don't know whether I will encourage him to be a rider!



Andrew Bradley

**Electrician
Part P Registered
Installer**



**Domestic,
commercial and
industrial**



Tel: 07790 412333

Sileby Pet Supplies

71 King Street, Sileby, Leicestershire

Tel: 01509 812908

Large selection of pet food, treats and accessories

Fishing Bait and Tackle
Agents for Burns dog and cat food



*FREE Local
delivery on
orders over £5*

SILEBY HERITAGE

Pete Campbell and Eric Wheeler —Heritage Wardens

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The British Legion was formed on the 15th May 1921. It was the amalgamation of Four organisations of Ex-Servicemen (established after the Great War).

The man behind the formation?

Lance Bombardier Tom Lister, a Lancastrian who decided that if the government of the time would not help financially or socially those servicemen and their families who were killed or injured during the war, then he would do something about it!

It was a gigantic task, but the Legion was formed, and the first Poppy appeal took place on the 11th November 1921.

The Legion was granted “Royal” status in 1971, and the membership extended to serving Members of Her Majesty’s Force’s as well as Ex-Servicemen in 1981.

Both men and women are now welcome whether or not they have served in the Armed Force’s.

The Sileby branch of the Legion was formed in 1922. It is now possibly the longest running organisation in the village. During the Second World War the ladies section was formed (24th November 1943). The ladies were kept busy during this time as most of the men were away fighting. Sileby ladies still take an active part in Legion work.

After the 39/45 War the Legion ran a Football Team in the senior league. The pitch was behind Les Norton’s house (Chalfont Lodge?) now No 48 Cossington Road.

Saturday mornings were reserved by local youngsters to run errands and help mark out the pitch. On one particularly snowy morning in 1947 they were persuaded by the promise of extra sweet rations to clear the pitch with the lad making the largest snowball receiving the extra rations. The winning youngster is still waiting for his sweets, but at least the match took place that afternoon.

There was tremendous support at that time for Legion football. 200 supporters around the ground was the norm. A game was arranged against the German POW's from Quorn. The Germans won.

The Legion also organised a 6 a-side football competition on the (Recky) with the final played on the evening of Whit Monday.

Sileby branch of the Royal British Legion still plays an active part in Village life, but as all organisations, still need new members. They meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 8pm. Venue Dudley Court.

Give them some of your time! Ask what **YOU** can do to support them?

Contact the Secretary as below :-

Email : liz.jones59@gmail.com

Tel : 01509 816077



JAMES KEMPSEY WILKINSON

Anyone who “takes” the Mercury will have seen the letters on Mr Leicester’s page regarding the above gentleman.



James's headstone and indeed his wife's are in Sileby Cemetery. James was the founder of the "Wilkinsons" chain of stores. Plenty of information is available on the history of "Wilkinsons" so I will not repeat those facts.

Why does his headstone lie in Sileby Cemetery? A few years ago I asked that question of "Wilkinsons" but with no reply. I suspect it was a logistical decision-possibly closer and more convenient

for relatives to visit. I know that James lived on Syston Road, Cossington and later at Gaddesby.

Sileby resident Alan Dawson tells me that his Father Ron worked at the "Wilkinsons" store in Syston. When Ron reached retiring age in 1984 he was asked by James to become his Chauffeur. For the next few years until James's death in 1999 he drove him across the Country visiting his stores.

On James's death his Son Tony gave the car (BMW) to Ron. Ron used the car on his visits to James's grave. Ron treasured that car until he passed away in 2005.

Heaps Hardware

Back in 1950 Stanley Heaps left Wilkinson's Hardware Store to set up his own hardware shop in Sileby.

He bought an old house on King Street, where the roundabout is now, and slowly and surely, the business grew.

In those days brown smocks were worn, and shirt and a tie was a must.

The items that were sold are too many to mention, but it was like Open All Hours on television with Ronnie Barker and David Jason. The phrase was, if we haven't got it, we can get it. Most customers went in for one thing and came out with more.

Over the years most of Stanley's family worked in the shop.

In 1966 Stanley bought a row of cottages in the main shopping area of King Street, these were demolished and a new shop built by Fred Sleath. It was then the biggest shop in Sileby with a cellar for wood, glass etc, all cut to size, middle floor for the main shop and the top floor for wall paper and other large items.

Stanley retired at eighty years old and then the shop was run by Jeff and Keith Heaps. The shop is a lot smaller now but still sells a big variety of hardware

Stanage Road Development

Great News! (Say Sileby Heritage team): The Stanage Road development proposed by Jelsons has been rejected.

Common sense has prevailed. (Say Sileby Heritage)

The reasons for the rejection: (in part) "The site is located in countryside and is unduly visually prominent"

However (Say Sileby Heritage team) The larger Seagrave Road development was given planning consent so, presumably was neither.

Makes you think doesn't it?

Letters please!!!!

And finally... From Pete Campbell

MOVING

WE ARE MOVING TO LINCOLNSHIRE FOR AN EXTENDED HOLIDAY.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ME BY EMAIL.

**I LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING ANY LOCAL HISTORY AND IN FACT WILL BE
CONTINUING TO COLLECT MEMORABILLIA PHOTO'S ETC.**

EVEN WHEN IN THE WILDS OF THE FENS!

MANY THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT

PETE CAMPBELL

Email peterbcampbell@yahoo.co.uk

And from the talk@Sileby Team:

Pete has been with the talk@Sileby team for a number of years and has been a very valuable member of talk@Sileby. We'd have had a lot less pages and pictures in many of our issues were it not for Pete. And a lot of copies would not have been delivered if he hadn't tramped the streets and posted the copies on his 'beat'. He'll be missed, but we all wish him well in his new life and we hope he keeps in touch. Pete, perhaps you could be our 'Alistair Cooke' and send your letters that we can publish, not so much 'Letters from America' more 'Letters from Lincolnshire!'

Feature submission:

Please submit your feature/article for insertion in a future

Talk@Sileby magazine by email to:

stevenjohns@btinternet.com

or by post to:

The Deputy Editor

Steve Johns

1 Burton Road

Sileby LE12 7RU

Sileby Rugby Club News

Vikings fixtures suffer from bad winter but will end season in positive mood...

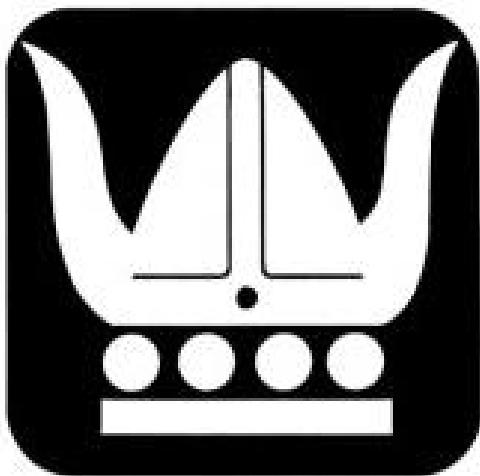
The Vikings are now coming to the end of the 2010/2011 rugby season and it's been a mixed bag of victories and defeats, but overall still a very positive year for the club. The awful weather over winter has meant that 2011 has been a busy year so far, with nearly every weekend taken up to honour matches that have had to be rearranged due to pitches being either frozen solid or turned into muddy ponds! Unfortunately this has meant that we were not able to enter the LRU President's Cup – a competition in which we had a very real chance of winning some silverware.

We've got a few fun events planned throughout the year; our annual awards evening in May will be a formal dinner with top cover band "Grounded" providing the entertainment – they're even re-forming in our honour by flying one of their members all the way over from Canada for the event. We also plan to hold our annual charity truck pull event at some point during the summer in order to raise vital funds for the Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland Air Ambulance. The truck pull is always a superb day out, where our members pull an 8-tonne truck all the way back from Loughborough to Sileby, visiting local villages (and their pubs!) along the route. Doubtless we will also be holding a number of other events throughout the summer, including family fun days and any other excuse to drag the barbecue out and share a few beverages to raise funds for the club.

Even though the season is drawing to a close we still remain a very active club and will continue to train throughout the summer on Thursday evenings down at our home ground on Platts Lane in Cossington. All are welcome, regardless of experience, and we look forward to starting the 2011/2012 season with a mixture of old and new faces on the squad. So, if you're at all interested and are over 18 (we don't have a junior squad just yet but it's in our plans for the future) then please contact either our Club Captain, Mark Walker on 07793536845 or Club Chairman, Steve Hillyer on 07860608550. Alternatively, please check out our website at www.silebyrfc.co.uk.

Finally, thanks to everyone in the village (and beyond) who has made a positive contribution to the club so far. We really are going from strength to strength and would love to invite more people to join us on the journey of becoming a truly established force in Leicestershire rugby.

Article by Phil Lewin, Hon. Secretary – Sileby Town RFC.



**SILEBY TOWN
R. F. C**

WE NEED YOU!

CREWS WANTED

Are you up for a challenge?

Do you want to have a GREAT day out with family and friends?

Do you want to learn a new skill?

Do you want free training sessions?

If you answered yes to the above then this is for you, you need to sign up for this day of fun and laughter.

Our charity is hosting its annual Dragon Boat Festival on Sunday 29th May 2011 at The Boat House, Bridge St Barrow upon Soar. This festival itself will take place on the River Soar, with fun and competitive racing starting once again at The Boat House. The day is filled with activities, fun and enjoyment for both crews and spectators.

To form a crew you need 8 -10 people over the age of 12yrs and able to swim a little with a life-jacket [no other restrictions apply]. You can have more crew members as you can ‘take turns’ in racing. We are offering FREE training sessions to all booked crews before the day itself and all safety equipment is provided.

If you can’t form a crew but still want to take this challenge, please contact me and I can ‘sign post’ you to a team who are looking for extra crew members.

Previous years have always proved popular, and are a HUGE success. There will be a trophy for the winning team, we will also have a trophy for the best ‘all female team’

There is also a prize for the crew who raises the most sponsorship for our charity and a prize for the best dressed crew.

To form a boat crew and enter the challenge, or for further information please contact Michele: 01509 550317 or email michele@lwa.org.uk

The festival is being held to raise money for local charity, Loughborough Womens Aid. This charity has been providing services for people and their children throughout Charnwood and North West Leicestershire who are experiencing Domestic Abuse.

YOUR MAGAZINE



DO YOU BELONG TO A CLUB, SOCIETY OR ASSOCIATION?

Please tell us your news.

talk@Sileby is here to promote your activities and do your bidding. Please email roy-b@btconnect.com or ltbrib@btinternet.com by June 25th 2011 for inclusion in the Summer edition

Sileby Town Cricket Club News

Firstly, on behalf of everyone at the club, a massive thank you to everyone that came down to support the fireworks display last November. Despite the terrible weather, you turned out in your droves and we hope that you weren't disappointed with the display.

We will be repeating the Fireworks again this year keep up to date via: www.silebytown.co.uk. For those that haven't seen our website before, there's match reports on all of the senior matches that take place, along with regular news and views from Mill Lane. If you can't get down to the club during the summer, log on to keep track of how we're doing.

If you're interested in assisting the club in any way, no matter how small, please contact Chairman Nigel Kinch, on **07889 904689**, or Richard James, on **07713 132650**, and they will be delighted to discuss any proposals you may have.

First XI retained their status as a Premier League club, thanks to some impressive performances built around players that have come through the club academy, newly installed skipper Liam Kinch will be looking forward to building on the eighth place finish from last season.

Liam, who came through the Sileby youth system from Kwik Cricket to Under 17s, has spent the off season playing grade cricket in Melbourne while wicketkeeper Charles Wootton, who joined the club from Hinckley Town at the start of the 2010 season, spent the season down under plying his trade in grade cricket in Sydney, where he lived with Sileby ex pat Rob Hands.

The club has also been allocated Leicestershire professional off-spinner Jigar Naik, who had a superb season for the club in 2010, and he will be supplemented by the capture of an overseas player before the start of the campaign.

The strength in depth of the First XI has seen the Second XI, under the captaincy of another Sileby academy graduate Jim Melody, achieve back to back championships, with them now competing in Division Two of the Everards League. The Second XI is again packed with local talent and the Seconds will be looking to make it a third straight promotion.

The Everards League introduced Division 8 in 2010, allowing sides to enter a Third XI. With the strength of the junior section, the club entered a Third XI, who surpassed all expectations by finishing runners up. They will now compete against a number of Second XIs as they face their debut season in Division 7.

The Third XI is in the capable hands of skipper Mark Barber, with the side regularly made up of two or three adults and the remainder being juniors from within the club system. Sam Gale had a fine season with the bat in 2010, scoring his maiden senior hundred, and his runs were supplemented by Ash Burnip, Robert Scullion, Andrew Preston, Dan Tompkins and Connor Simon.

Another Sileby junior, Ryan Dawson, topped the bowling with 28 wickets, with him being well supported by off spinner Jake Chawner, young seamer Jacob Smith and the more senior figures of Nick Stone and Mark Barber.

Sileby also fields a Ladies XI in the Women's Midlands League. The Ladies XI was born out of a challenge match a number of years ago between the players' wives and mums against a Ladies XI from the Free Trade Inn. As the years have gone by, the section has gone from strength to strength. Ladies and girls cricket is the fastest growing sport in the UK and if you want to become part of the growing numbers, please contact the Ladies captain Gill Loveridge, on **07966 979370**. Details are also on the club website.

The first games of the senior season are on Saturday 23 April, with the Firsts away at local rivals, Barrow Town, the 2s host Market Harborough 2s and the 3s travel to face Ratby Town 2s. All of the fixtures for the season can be found on the club website. Please come along and support your club during the season – the bar is always open!

SMARTLY STITCH

TAILORS

CLOTHING ALTERATIONS & REPAIRS

Professional Alterations and Repair Work

Trousers, Jackets, Coats, Skirts, Dresses and Many Other Garments. New Zips Fitted

Made to Measure Curtains

Alterations also undertaken

Leather Garments

Altered and Repairs

Bags Repaired

And zips fitted

PROFESSIONAL

DRY CLEANING AGENTS

Motorbike, Equestrian & Leather Clothing
Repaired and altered

SMARTLY STITCH
TAILORS

1a Little Church Lane (Next to St. Mary's Church)
High Street, Sileby
www.smartlystitch.co.uk

TEL: 01509 815658



Charnwood Hearing Aid Centre

Lynne Leeming, MSc RHAD BSHAA

Your local Widex specialist

Existing hearing aid users welcome

5 Stadon Road
Ansley
Leicester
LE7 7AY

Telephone: 0116 236 6633

Free parking in the Nook car park



Central Business Services

Accountancy

Bookkeeping

VAT

PAYE

CIS

Tax

Management

Business Advice

01509 816150



A local firm providing a helpful, friendly service to local businesses of all sizes. Call us for a **FREE** initial discussion about your needs.

www.centralbusiness.co.uk

Oak Business Centre

79-93 Ratcliffe Road, Sileby, Loughborough LE12 7PU



50% OFF

Your First Visit to Lanza Hair Design*

Book now by calling **01509 812 968** and simply quote "Talk@Sileby" then present this advert at your appointment to receive this fantastic offer.

Lanza Hair Design | 57 The Banks | Sileby | Leicestershire | LE12 7RD

For appointments call **01509 812 968**

*Offer valid until 30th June 2011. Appointments subject to availability with selected stylists. Not available in conjunction with any other offer or promotion. Only available if you have not visited Lanza Hair before. Discount on your first service only. Reference must be quoted on booking and advert presented at appointment.