

# Talk@Sileby

Village newsletter



35

Summer 2013

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# Foreword

**W**ELCOME TO THE summer 2013 edition. This edition is printed in full colour and we have to thank the continuing support of our advertisers for allowing us to be able to afford this. Please continue to support them by using their services and mentioning Talk@Sileby when you do.

We are still looking for additional help in our delivery team and to introduce some new ideas on the committee.

For delivery we ask for about 1 hour of your time 3 times a year to deliver a small amount of the 3500 copies we print, the more hands the lighter the work for all.

The committee meets once a month for an hour of good chat about the articles to be published.

If you can help with either (or both) of these please get in touch with the editor, Dave Palmer. See page 4 for contact details.

The next edition will be for Christmas with a delivery in November. Deadline for items will be Friday 18th October.



Talk@Sileby, **by Sileby people. For Sileby people.**

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## Copies of Talk@Sileby

Copies can be obtained by post at a cost of 50p per issue which includes P&P.

Please make cheques payable to: Sileby Village Newsletter.

Back issues of Talk@Sileby can be viewed on the internet at [www.sileby-village.co.uk](http://www.sileby-village.co.uk)

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If you would like to give your feedback, articles or letters these can be sent to the Editor or you can now use the internet forum at [www.sileby-village.co.uk](http://www.sileby-village.co.uk)

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## The advertising rates for Talk@Sileby are listed below

Quarter Page £30

Half Page £50

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Inside front/inside back cover £105.00

Back cover £135.00

**These prices are per issue.** 10% discount for booking and paying for three insertions in advance.

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

## Talk Sileby

**Magazine Co-Ordinator:** Ken Jones

**Editor:** Dave Palmer

**Secretary:** Pat Haswell

**Treasurer:** Lionel Blower

**Societies Co-ordinator:** Lionel Blower

**Auditor:** Richard Kinton

**Design/Layout:** Mathew Hobson

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.

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.

# Sileby Photographic Society



**T**HE SUCCESSFUL 2012-13 Season has now drawn to a close during which a number of new members joined and one member became a Fellow of The Royal Photographic Society. The Exhibition in October was well received and preparations are well under way for the next Exhibition at the end of October. During July and August members regularly meet for walks on Monday evenings in the local area.

The new Season starts at the beginning of September and some details are given below.

Sept. 2	Royal Photographic Society Nature Slides
Sept. 9	Lecture by Derek Doar CPAGB – ‘A Passion for Printing’
Sept. 16	Panel Competition, Judge – Terry Bickley AFIAP, DPAGB
Sept. 23	Lecture by Colin Brenchley – ‘3Cities and a Village’
Sept. 30	An evening with Richard Storer
Oct. 7	Lecture by Stuart Crump ARPS, CPAGB – ‘Cuba’
Oct. 14	Members judging of the 12-Shot Challenge Competition and General Meeting
Oct 21-6	Annual Exhibition
Oct. 28	Midland Counties Photographic Federation Portfolio
Nov. 11	Lecture by Ashley Franklin ARPS, APAGB – ‘The Wilder World of Photography’
Nov. 18	Quarterly Competition, Judge – Hazel Manning LRPS, BPE2
Nov. 25	Lecture by David & Sandra Johnson – ‘Welcome to Our Digital World’
Dec. 2	Lecture by Malcolm Cook EFIAP – ‘Pleasing Myself’
Dec. 9	Lecture by Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS, ABPE, DPAGB – ‘Utah-Life Elevated’
Dec. 16	Picture and Pies

# The Betts family in Sileby

**A** FRIEND RECENTLY GAVE me a copy of talk@Sileby Summer 2012 edition which I have not seen before but I found it very interesting. I was very pleased to see an article on page 27 entitled “Have your Sileby ancestors made the 1891 census top 20?” written by Phil Gilbert.

Phil had spent a week-end analysing the most popular surnames in Sileby in 1891 based upon the census return of that year. Top of the list, unsurprisingly, was the surname SMITH. The second most popular surname in Sileby in 1891 was BETTS with which I am completely delighted but which surprised the author whose DAKIN ancestors had been beaten into third place.

Phil wrote that he could not remember any Betts family members in any great numbers and went on to say that there are five Betts' named on the war memorial in the park which he thought may account for the absence of the Betts surname nowadays in Sileby. So I thought this an opportunity to try to answer some of Phil's questions as, since the early 1980's, I have been researching the Betts family history in Sileby.

The earliest recorded Betts in Sileby is a Hannah Bets (yes, BETS not BETTS) baptised around 1623 according to the Mormon IGI. A permanent Betts presence in Sileby does not begin until February 1754 when Edward Betts married Elizabeth King at St Mary's church. Edward and Elizabeth had several children and it is from these children that most of the main branches of the Betts family descend. From the early 1820's to around the 1940's there are six main branches of Betts family in Sileby.

When I started researching the Betts family history one of the first things that I did, after getting much information from my Grandma (Marjorie Croiselles Mars, formerly Betts nee Walker) was to walk around Sileby cemetery and churchyard and record the name of every Betts buried there. In those days there was no internet to enable family history research. After this I went to Leicestershire county records office then based in New Walk, Leicester (now at Wigston). I looked through all the Parish Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials for Sileby and jotted down everyone with a Betts surname that was written in these volumes. I now had a complete listing of every Betts baptised, married or buried in Sileby 1700-1948 and concluded that there were 6 main branches of the Betts family during the 1800's, although there were always a few strays who would not fit neatly into the picture.

From analysing the data I could see that the Betts family history is intertwined with Sileby and its development from small-scale agriculture to a larger industrial village. My particular Betts branch illustrates this – Edward Betts (who married Elisabeth King), his son George Betts (1768-1839) and George's son William Betts (1818-91) were all agricultural labourers. Unfortunately no Betts is mentioned in the Enclosure of Sileby in 1760. These were a highly mobile lot and I've seen them in Thurnby and Swithland working on farms there in 1806 and 1841 respectively but always returning to Sileby. They seem to be quite healthy and each lived to be 72 years old, quite a feat in those days. The

1851 census shows that one of William's children (Mary Ann Betts) is a Seamer aged 6. By the 1870's William's son Edward Betts (1851-1917) is a Framework-Knitter, a popular occupation in Sileby in Victorian times. Towards the end of the 19th century Edward Betts has moved from working the frame at home to working in Sileby's growing hosiery factories. By the 1890's the Boot and Shoe industry had come to Sileby and Edward's son Fred Betts (1890-1943) spent his working life in the Boot and Shoe industry in Sileby. During the First World War Fred Betts was not conscripted to fight in the trenches as he was an "engine-driver" at a Sileby Boot factory making footwear for the troops and so exempted by military tribunal held at Loughborough Town Hall. Twenty years later Fred's son Frederick Walter William Betts (1917-44) also worked at Newbold and Burton's shoe factory on Brook Street until the outbreak of World War 2 when

he was called up into the Royal Navy. He sadly lost his life aged 26 after his convoy was attacked by E-Boats off Penzance in 1944. His is one of the names on the Sileby War Memorial.

The Betts family has also been subject to Public Health issues in Sileby over the years. In 1849 a cholera epidemic that was sweeping England severely affected Sileby. Many Sileby residents died including the family of William Betts. He lost his wife Mary and two of his four children, aged 3 and 6. Seventy years later the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic struck Sileby and two of three children of Fred and Ann Betts died of flu and are buried in the village cemetery. Only my grandfather, Frederick Walter William Betts, then a new-born, survived.

Like many in Sileby my Victorian Betts family were Methodists and attended the Methodist church on King Street. There appears to have

*cont'd on page 8*

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*cont'd from page 7*

been a split between the "Primitive Methodists" on High Street and the Methodists worshipping at King Street, although they were all part of the same "circuit". By the 1890's my Betts ancestors also attended "high church" at Sileby St Mary's. Politically, they were Liberal Party voters (when ordinary Sileby working people got the vote) and members of the Liberal Club on King Street.

Although still a strong presence in Sileby by the 1950's the numbers bearing the Betts surname seem to be in decline. Perhaps the younger generation were moving elsewhere for employment. Conscriptation was still in force in the 1950's so may have encouraged "emigration" elsewhere. Although my father, aunt and uncle attended Sileby schools by the 1960's and entering adult life they were moving elsewhere.

Our branch of the Betts family left Sileby for Thurmaston in 1968 (we had lived at one of the new houses on Peashill Close) thereby ending 215 years of association with the village which was now growing. I still have a strong affinity with Sileby as I attended Sileby infants school on Barrow Road and the Junior School (now Redlands) on King Street. Our family moved to

Thurmaston and although the younger generation of our branch of the Betts family are aware of our past connection to Sileby their ties are to Thurmaston village. I believe there are still some Betts' in Sileby - probable descendants of one of the 6 branches.

Researching the Betts family in Sileby led me to a career in Archives, dealing with traditional historical documents, before my career evolved into managing modern business records for a pharmaceutical company (AstraZeneca in Loughborough) where I was Archives and Records Manager. I'm now beginning to write historical books and articles including an historical investigation into the attack on my grandfather's convoy published via [www.bettsbooks.co.uk](http://www.bettsbooks.co.uk). I was most impressed with the excellent article by Phil Gilbert in the talk@sileby Summer 2012 edition and it would be interesting to see if he or someone will research the most popular surnames in the other censuses covering 1841-1881 where I am sure the BETTS, DAKIN and other Sileby family surnames popular in 1891 will still predominate in Sileby. ❧

David F Betts MA

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# Sileby gardening gnomes

**S**ILEBY GARDENING GNOMES meet on the second Wednesday in the month in the Methodist Chapel Rooms in King Street at 7.30pm.

But July and August see a change of time and venue. On Wednesday 10th July they will be meeting at the Green Place on Cossington Road at 6.30pm for a "Free Social Get-together".

Then on Wednesday 14th August also at 6.30pm–8.30pm there will be an "OPEN GARDEN" at 119, Heathcote Drive, Sileby. The admission is £2 to include a glass of Summer Punch and Cake. Everyone is welcome to come to both of these events whether a member or not.

The meetings in the Chapel begin on Wednesday 11th September with a "Surprise Speaker". Wednesday 9th October is a talk on Geraniums, Wednesday 13th November is a demonstration of Christmas Flower Arranging and to end the year a talk on Orchids.

New members are always welcome and at £18 for the year or £3 a meeting it is always a "Good Night Out".



## “Bin the Gym and Grab your Racket”

THIS IS THE new slogan for Sileby Tennis Club. For only £3 a session (on Wednesday Evening at 6.30pm and Sunday Afternoon at 2pm) from now until October you can "Get Fit" the enjoyable way. If you can't play, tennis coaching can be arranged, or you can join in with other members.

Just come down to the Four All-Weather newly cleaned courts on Springfield Road at the Special Times.

See you there!



# Sileby Redlands really is a community primary school

**F**RIENDS OF REDLANDS, the Parent Teachers Association for the school, continue to plan events to benefit the whole community in Sileby during 2013.

During 2012, with the support of parents and the local community attending fundraising events, the PTA raised enough to buy a new activity climbing wall for the playground. The bright new addition was chosen by the students who were asked what new equipment they most wanted.

This year the PTA is raising funds to replace the old and tired gym equipment at school. The new equipment costs around £5000.00 to purchase, and the plans include the launch of a new children's gym club which will be open to all children in Sileby, ensuring that children who attend other local schools can also benefit from the new resources and equipment at Redlands. Friends of Redlands will be submitting a bid for grant funding in June to help get the project completed more quickly and get the club up and running as soon as possible.



To raise additional funds towards the cost of the gym equipment and new book stocks for the school there are several events planned for the summer and autumn.

The first Redlands car boot was held on Saturday 18th May on the front car park of the school. Over £150 was raised for the school by selling bacon and sausage cobs to visitors. Watch out for another date later in the year.

On the 29th June 2013 the school will hold its annual Summer Fayre starting at 12.00 pm. They are looking for local groups to showcase their clubs with demonstrations, so if you are looking for new members it is a great opportunity to raise awareness of your group or club. This is a popular event for all families with music, dancing, demonstrations, bouncy castle, children's rides, stalls, games, tombola, raffle, BBQ, beer tent, cake competition and refreshments. External stall holders are also welcome so if you would like to book a stall or book a demonstration showcase for your group or club please get in touch on the email address below.

Friends of Redlands are pleased to announce the third fireworks display and bonfire event at the school to be held on Friday 1st November 2013. The display will again be produced by Phenomenal Fireworks, a professional pyrotechnic company and one of the UK's leading creators of beautiful and spectacular firework displays. Matthew Peet, Head Teacher at Redlands, said "The fireworks

event last November was a great success and we are very grateful for all the hard work that Friends of Redlands put in to making the event happen, as well as the large number of visitors who supported us by attending the event.

Unfortunately, there was a mistake in that the 15 minute fireworks display which had been booked ended after just 10 minutes. Phenomenal Fireworks have accepted full responsibility for the error and this year they will ensure that the fireworks will last for 20 minutes at no extra cost to the school. I am delighted to confirm that ticket prices will also remain the same as last year. We are really looking forward to sharing an enjoyable evening with the community again this year."

Details for all events will be posted on the school website [www.redlands.leics.sch.uk](http://www.redlands.leics.sch.uk). For further information about supporting the schools fundraising events please email [FORS@redlands.leics.sch.uk](mailto:FORS@redlands.leics.sch.uk)

Friends of Redlands School are the school PTA (Parent Teachers Association) and are a registered charity. We raise money for the school to assist in the purchase of equipment and to fund activities which helps all of our children with their education during their time at Redlands.

# Sileby people

## Richard James



**S**ILEBY WAS BUZZING in the sixties and seventies – it was said to be “the most industrious village in the country” – the opportunities seemed endless.

Richard had served his apprenticeship as a Blockcutter at the Melody wallpaper mills. Before learning to cut the blocks for printing wallpaper patterns apprentices were required to make their own tools – basic woodworking and metalworking skills had to be learnt in order to manufacture the hammers, chisels and other tools of the trade. He still uses those skills and tools, but in a very different business.

Aged twenty one, self-employment beckoned

– he had been introduced to art by Roy Turlington but could he make a living as an artist? A partnership was formed – Richard, Roy and Ken Middleton opened the Ammonite Gallery in premises through the archway on the east side of High Street. Ken was to become a much loved friend, and a massive influence in Richard’s life, he told me how fortunate he felt to have met been mentored by him – and how much he missed him now. Disappointingly, Richard couldn’t quite make it as an artist – but meanwhile he had developed an interest in antiques, learning from Ken’s brother Les.

With Les as partner the Ammonite Gallery became an Antique shop and workshop, the wood and metalworking skills translated into the repair and restoration of antiques for sale; two more shops were opened, and self-employment became a reality.

By the time Les retired, another interest was taking over Richard’s life. He closed down the retail part of the business, but still uses the workshop belonging to Ken (adjacent to the Ammonite Gallery) to repair and restore furniture for clients.. He has added “Dip and strip” for doors and furniture to the services available.

(Having been in existence for over 40 years, Richard thinks the Ammonite Gallery in its various incarnations may now be one of the oldest businesses in Sileby.)

Judy, Richard’s long term-partner, had always known that he was interested in cricket – he’d never played, but loved watching it on TV and regularly stopped to watch matches on their walks down Mill Lane. She tried to encourage him to

go through the gate and get involved – but he thought that at 35 he was too old to learn. Judy knew better!

The next thing he knew was an instruction to present himself at Western park where she had “Volunteered” him as eleventh man for the Elim Pentecostal Church cricket team. “You’ve got to go – they’re relying on you” he was told. Persuaded that, as No 11, he would probably not be required to bat, and almost certainly that he would be put in a dead corner of the pitch where catches would not be likely to come his way, at the appointed hour he made his way to the game.

Needless to say, he enjoyed himself enormously and was among the spectators at the next match on Sileby Town Cricket Ground ! He’d at last gone through the gate – and there was to be no turning back.

As with most organisations, the Club is always on the look out for new talent, and this new and obviously keen spectator was soon spotted. Bribed with the promise of receiving cricket coaching (Like Judy, they didn’t think he was too old !), Richard was soon recruited to manage the newly formed Sileby Under 15 Junior Team.

In Richard James the club had struck gold – an enthusiastic new player who was also prepared to get stuck in and help with the numerous tasks associated with running the teams and maintaining the ground.

Eventually he was picked for the second team; regrettably his career as a player was to be short-lived but this did not dampen his enthusiasm for the sport! Cricket began to take over his life, the “day job” of antique restoration relegated to a day or two a week.

In time he became a Level 2 cricket coach which enabled him to run courses for 6 – 10 year olds in the indoor cricket school at Ratcliffe College and winter indoor courses for adults in the facility at Loughborough University.

Add to this organising winter nets practises at Loughborough on two nights a week and managing the Junior Section – cricket has taken over his life!

That perfect pitch with the wonderful green outfield and crisp white lines doesn’t just happen – Richard is part of a dedicated team which includes Nigel Kinch, Paul Tompkins, John Scullion and Lester Singer who find time to manicure it to perfection – and I have it on very good authority that he has a particular talent for the repair and maintenance of the equipment. (Perhaps inherited from his father who had been an engineer at Kenny Saunder’s Precision Engineers?)

Richard told me that becoming involved in Sileby Town Cricket Club has given him so much – particularly the opportunity to get to know some wonderful people. Wherever he goes he can find a friend, or someone with whom he can talk cricket. He has a new focus in his life, and the chance to get “up close and personal” with a sport which he has always enjoyed.

(They tell me that everything the club has given Richard, he has returned many times over in his dedication to the Sileby Town teams and the sport)

The last words from Richard himself are “ I shall forever be grateful to Judy for giving me the push which forced me to get involved with Cricket”

PH

PH

If football is the  
beautiful game,  
horseracing  
the sport of kings  
—what is cricket ?

# Your letters

Dear Editor,

My name is Leeann from Grace-marries Cake shop High Street Sileby. I just wanted to drop you line to say a big thank you for the lovely write up you gave me in the last Talk @ Sileby.

I would also like to say how lovely Pat Haswell was when she came to see me and that the write up she did was amazing and I was very proud so please could you pass this on to her for me.

Since the write I have had a few people come in to see me and what I am about, a couple of people book on Workshops and also joining my GI Group.

I would like to say once again thank you to Pat and hopefully can give you more items in the future to add to your lovely magazine.

Many thanks  
Leeann Timson  
Grace-marie's

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Thank you

I am delighted to have been re-elected in May to Leicestershire County Council and I should like to thank all those who supported me.

I am on hand to represent everyone in the Division of Sileby and The Wolds and to try to deal with any concerns you may have about the County Council's services.

The election seems a long time ago now and the Council is busy continuing its policy of sound and prudent financial management. We are facing up to difficult decisions, arising from the condition of the national finances.

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

Dear Editor,

Thank you to everyone who has seen the advertising regarding our missing pussycat Lionel and for their time and efforts spent in trying to help us find him.

Unfortunately we still have not located him, but we remain optimistic as Lionel is micro chipped and we hope one day to have him safely back at home.

If anyone does happen to spot him, please call 07963 705057 or 07941 360336. Thank you so much, we have been truly touched by the caring community spirit in Sileby.

Julia Meredith



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## Send your letters to the editor.

Dave Palmer, 60 Heathcote Drive, Sileby.

Or email to [d.r.palmer@talk21.com](mailto:d.r.palmer@talk21.com).

Please include your name and address  
(not for publication if you wish).



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The St. Mary's tower as featured in issue 34 is now complete and our photographer, Lionel Blower, attended the recent open day and took some shots from the top.

The front cover and those here are just some of his views of the modern Sibley.



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# Sileby Town Football Club

**A**NOTHER FOOTBALL SEASON disappears into history. We enjoyed reasonable positions in our respective leagues in the 2012/13 season. Our first team completed the season in sixth position in the Premier Division of the Leicestershire Senior League, and our reserve team finished third in The Leicestershire Combination Division One.

As you are probably aware, we will be leaving our present home on the Memorial Park within the next couple of years. The park has been our ground since Sileby Town was formed in 1952, and we thank our Parish Council for all their assistance over the years. We will be moving within the new Brookfield housing estate at the top of Seagrave Road. There are two pitches, with the draining of these already completed.

The football club hope to have an under eighteen team, which we hope will give some of the youngsters in the village an opportunity to play under floodlights, providing of course we get planning permission for these. The football club are always on the lookout for players so if you wish to come and join us please give David Hoyes ( Charlie ) a call on 01509 813541. We will of course still remain on the Memorial Park until our new ground is available to us.

Thank you to all of our loyal supporters who watch both our home and away fixtures in all weathers. Our committee hope the readers of this excellent magazine enjoy the summer and hopefully the sunshine. ☀️

Graham Clarke. Sileby Town Football Club.  
graham132@fiscali.co.uk

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# Sileby Town RFC

**W**ITH THE SEASON over Sileby Town RFC can reflect on what has been a very successful season. Following a poor start to the league season, they remained unbeaten in the league from November and won the League title in the final game of the season at home to 3rd place Burbage.

The final score of 78-5 justifies all the training and hard work put in by the team over the season. Leicestershire League – Division 3

	Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	Sileby Town	14	11	0	3	488	153	335	36
2	Lstr Forest 3rds	14	10	1	3	504	289	215	35
3	Coalville 3rd	14	7	1	6	280	308	-28	29
4	Burbage 14	14	7	1	6	343	405	-62	29

In the President's cup we lost in the semi-final against local rivals Birstall 13-8, in what was probably the game of the season.

As a club we have now entered the National Leagues starting in Midlands 5 (North). This will mean a big jump in the standard of opposition that we play, and will give a very talented side its chance to pit its wits, and ability, against a higher level of opposition.

As part of the club progression we are also looking to run a social/development side on a regular basis from September. We are always looking for new players, so whether you are an established player who maybe isn't getting the opportunities at your current club, or you wish to return to Rugby, Sileby Town RFC could be the club for you.

For further details of training nights etc please call club coach Brian Taylor on 07970 682337 or email [brian@taylorps.co.uk](mailto:brian@taylorps.co.uk).



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## Size matters—Nathan loses 9 stone

As new data reveals that men are better slimmers than women one Sileby man is certainly doing it for the boys after losing 9 st.



**S**ILEBY'S SUPER(MAN) SLIMMER Nathan Spong spent years feeling unhappy with his weight and desperate to drop the pounds. But now, thanks to Slimming World, it's a different story. He's dropped a fantastic 9 stone since joining his local group in August 2011, and been crowned Sileby's Slimming World Man of the Year 2013.

**“THE GREAT THING IS YOU DON'T GO HUNGRY. IT'S ABOUT HEALTHY EATING...”**

Nathan says: “I hated being overweight but I was told the only way to lose the pounds was to have weight loss surgery, I really didn't want to end up eating pureed food for the foreseeable future so i had to find a different method to lose weight and i wanted to prove them wrong. I'd always thought that slimming groups were just for women, so when a friend told me that she had lost weight on Slimming World and that there were men in the groups too, i looked on the internet and found my local Slimming World Group and I decided to give it a go. I was extremely nervous walking into the group for the first time but everyone was so friendly and I realised it was daft to feel like the odd one out just because I'm a bloke because we're all there for the same reason. I haven't looked back since and at 9 st lighter I definitely don't have any

*cont'd on page 22*

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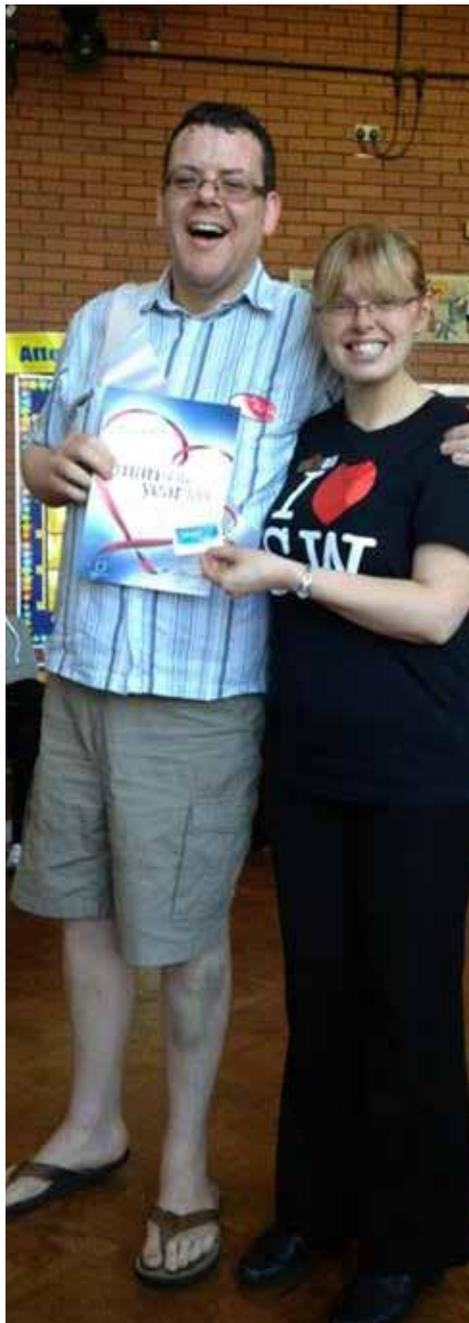
regrets about joining the group. I recommend it to everyone now!"

On joining the group Nathan began following Slimming World's Food Optimising eating plan, which is a big hit with men because slimmers can eat hearty meals without worrying about portion sizes and still lose weight. He says: "The great thing is you don't go hungry. It's about healthy eating – and man-sized helpings of healthy food too – not fads and gimmicks. I get to eat my favourite meals in a low-fat way, so I can still have curries and Chinese dishes, steak and chips and roast dinners."

As the pounds started to drop off, Nathan had more energy and began to find being active much easier. He says: "Slimming World encourages you to boost your weight loss and get fitter by becoming more active, but you start as big or as small as you like. I can honestly say I feel like a different man since losing weight. Now I feel much healthier and haven't had to resort to weight loss surgery to achieve it."

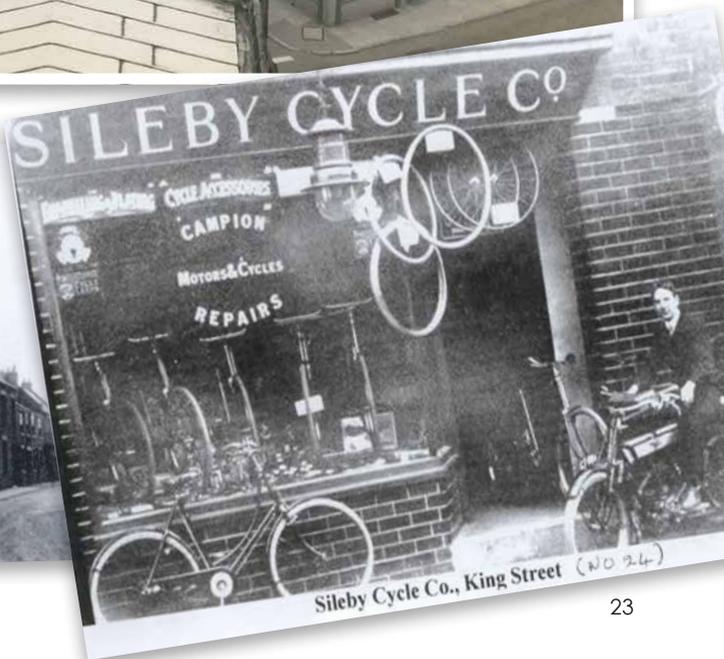
Helen Maddams, who runs the Sileby Slimming World group that Nathan attends, says she's incredibly proud of him: "Nathan is proof that men can benefit from getting support to eat more healthily and become more active as much as women. He's a real inspiration. Lots of local men have joined the group after hearing about his success and I just hope that when other men read his story they'll come along to Slimming World too, especially now they know they won't be the only man and that the research shows they're likely to do really well! It's extremely important because the obesity crisis doesn't just affect women – in fact, there are more overweight men than women in the UK."

If you are interested in coming along to see what it's all about then please come to Highgate Primary School, Heathcote Drive, Sileby on Wednesday evenings at 5.30 or 7.30 or contact Helen on 07949 123898 for more details. ❧



# Sileby of Old

Some archive pictures from the collection that can be seen in full on the web site [www.sileby-village.co.uk](http://www.sileby-village.co.uk)



Summer 2013



# Over 25 years of fighting crime

**A**N INTRODUCTION TO the charity Crimestoppers The Independent charity Crimestoppers has been fighting crime since the organisation was launched in 1988.

Lord Ashcroft, KCMG, formed the charity following the murder of Metropolitan Police Officer, Keith Blakelock, during the Tottenham riots in October 1985. The purpose of launching the charity was to encourage members of the public with information on criminal activity to come forward anonymously, without the fear of their identity being revealed, without having to give a statement to police and without having to go to court.

Since its launch, Crimestoppers UK has gone from strength-to-strength, taking over 1.3 million phone calls, which has led to over 120,000 arrests, £125 million of goods being recovered and £292 million of drugs being seized.

Crimestoppers works closely with police forces across the UK and law enforcement organisations including the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). Our independence from the police and law enforcement is what makes us unique, which is why so many people contact us with information anonymously.

It is our work within local communities that really makes Crimestoppers successful. Crimestoppers has employees spread throughout the UK who engage with local people to find out about the crimes and issues affecting their community. This way, we can focus our efforts on those crimes and attempt to create a safer environment for the local community to live in.

Our staff are supported by a network of volunteers throughout the UK. These volunteers come from varying backgrounds such as media, businesses or local government, bringing relevant skills to the table that aids Crimestoppers' work in their area.

Passing on information about crime became easier in March 2012 when Crimestoppers launched a mini mobile version of its website and its youth service website, Fearless.org.

Fearless is aimed at 11-16 year olds and aims to educate and inform youngsters about crime and encourage them to pass on information anonymously.

In addition to educating youngsters on crime and working with local communities, locating UK fugitives through campaigns alongside other crime agencies is also something Crimestoppers has been at the forefront of over the last seven years.

Operation Captura was launched in Spain in 2006 to locate wanted individuals believed to be hiding in the Costas for serious crimes committed in the UK. The campaign, in which Crimestoppers works closely with SOCA and the Spanish authorities, has seen tremendous results, with 49 out of 65 wanted individuals located and arrested<sup>\*\*\*</sup>. A similar campaign run in Amsterdam has seen 12 wanted criminals appealed for - with five of them arrested<sup>1\*\*</sup>.

Crimestoppers expanded its fugitive campaigns in September 2012 after launching a third campaign, this time in Cyprus.

The campaign appealed for information from local residents and the ex-patriot community to help locate nine individuals wanted for crimes including sexual offences, fraud and drug offences.

Within 48 hours of the launch, Paul Lockwood, 41, from Oldham, was located and arrested, while a few weeks later, couple Wayne Smith and Julie Skelding were also brought back to the UK.

If you would like to pass on information about crime anonymously you can contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or through the charity's secure online form at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org). If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please fill out a volunteer enquiry form.

<http://www.crimestoppersuk.org/support-us/volunteering/become-a-volunteer>.



<sup>\*\*\*</sup>As of March 2013.

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**Sunday**  
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**"Come and join the party"**

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Nicole: 0788 245 8629  
[nicoleherbert@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicoleherbert@hotmail.co.uk)**



**ZUMBA**  
fitness

## Changes to the way that 7.5t weight restrictions are enforced

Leicestershire has a designated 'lorry network' of routes suitable for HGVs. In general terms this is the 'A' and 'B' road network, but it also includes a few roads of lower status. Most of the areas between these roads are designated as 7.5t weight restriction zones, where HGVs above 7.5t are not allowed to enter unless they are dropping off or picking up goods within the area. Enforcement of 7.5t weight restrictions is the responsibility of the police and in 2011/12 120 complaints were received across the whole of the county, all of which were followed up; this was made possible by funding from the County Council to subsidise their operations. This is no longer financially viable so new procedures are to be introduced. We are being asked to collate reports of HGV contraventions from our area.

All reports should, where possible, include the following details:-

- Date
- Time
- Location (village/town/road)
- Direction of travel
- Identification of vehicle (eg registration number or company name/location)

Individual reports of suspected contraventions may still be passed to the police at any time emailing [weight.restricted@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:weight.restricted@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk) or by 'phoning 101 alternatively you can report them to the Parish Council Office clerk@[sileby-parishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:sileby-parishcouncil.org.uk) or 'phoning 01509 813075.

Exemptions: deliveries to/from premises within the weight restricted area and vehicles whose operating centre is within the zone. 

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# Chris Meynell & Family – Funeral Directors

**M**ANY OF US will at some time be required to arrange a funeral; we may well feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the task. Deeply saddened by the loss of a loved one, we shall nevertheless be expected to think clearly and arrange an event of which we have little or no experience.

There are so many things to be thought of – a death certificate to be obtained, a date and venue for the funeral service to be chosen; friends and relatives to be informed – announcement in the press – music and readings to be chosen, order of service to be printed – cemetery chapel or church for the ceremony, and who will officiate? There are cars to be booked – and do we want flowers or contributions to a charity?

Will there be a cremation, or had the deceased expressed a wish to be buried in his or her own local Churchyard or cemetery? Maybe they had chosen a natural burial ground – in this area there are three – in South Croxton, Scraftoft and Prestwold. The tasks seem endless. After the ceremonies it is customary for the mourners to gather somewhere for refreshments and reminiscing – where should that be?

So many decisions to be made...

Choosing the right Funeral Director to help us with these seemingly daunting tasks will be of paramount importance – who better for the job than a local family firm? Chris Meynell may be just the person; Chris has worked in the funeral profession for many years before opening his own

business in Wellington Street, Syston. It is truly a “Family” firm – he is justifiably proud of the fact that when a client calls Chris Meynell & Family Funeral Directors he gets exactly that – Chris, or a member of his family. He and his wife, their four children and their grandchildren have lived, gone to school and worked in this area for over forty years and are actively involved in the local churches, sports clubs and social organisations.

Having met Chris and some members of his family I felt that they would not simply guide one through the arrangements for a funeral but that they would also be like comforting friends at a very difficult time. It is their policy not to overwhelm the bereaved by asking for all the plans to be made immediately, but to take things one at a time (as far as possible) and only ask for decisions when they become necessary.

The Meynells are in a position to provide the full range of different types of funeral – if your own vicar is not able to officiate, they can provide ministers of all denominations.

Maybe there is a friend or family member who you would like to lead a celebration of the person's life – is this possible? Yes it is.

On a lighter note, I hadn't realised just what a range of coffin styles there is – there are coffins made of willow, cardboard or wool besides the traditional wood models; embellishments can be in various styles – Chris showed me a picture of a “Jewel” encrusted design called simply “Bling”!

Which brings me on to the ashes; I knew that at huge expense one could have a loved one's ashes sent to America and turned into a real diamond, but I hadn't realised that there is an alternative (but less expensive) way of creating an item of gold or silver jewellery from cherished remains. Here in the UK there is a process which turns ashes into sparkling stones in a range of sizes and colours, all of which can be set into bracelets,

*cont'd on page 30*

# CHRIS MEYNELL & FAMILY

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email: [info@meynellfunerals.co.uk](mailto:info@meynellfunerals.co.uk)

**28 Wellington Street, Syston, Leicestershire LE7 2LG**

*cont'd from page 28*

cufflinks, rings and various other decorative items, including a paperweight. Now that would be a talking point!

In short, the Meynell's family firm offers the complete service, with the added bonus that they are local people acting independently and are not governed by rules from a head office miles away; they know and understand their community – and their expressed aim is to serve the community in which they live. PH



If you are need of their services or simply have a query about any aspect of funerals and the associated ceremonies, Meynells can be contacted by phone (0116 2607954), email ([info@meynellfunerals.co.uk](mailto:info@meynellfunerals.co.uk)) or via the “contact us” link in their website [www.meynell-funerals.co.uk](http://www.meynell-funerals.co.uk). Alternatively you can visit them at 28 Wellington Street, Syston, LE7 2LG. 

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# Volunteers wanted

**T**HIS TIME LAST year Sileby had a gala to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, which was unfortunately spoiled by atrocious weather, but still enjoyed by those who braved the elements on the day.

The Gala was organized and run by a small committee of volunteers and it was hoped it could once again become an annual event in the village. Unfortunately 4 of the 7 strong committee no longer live in the village, which of course meant we did not have enough members to commit to the responsibility of running the gala again this year.

However, all is not lost for the future if we can get enough volunteers to form a new committee. It is very satisfying to be part of something good in the village; if you feel you can help in any way, it would be very much appreciated.

If you can help please contact.

Ken Jones  
01509812982

Or

[Clr.Ken.Jones@Charnwood.Gov.UK](mailto:Clr.Ken.Jones@Charnwood.Gov.UK)

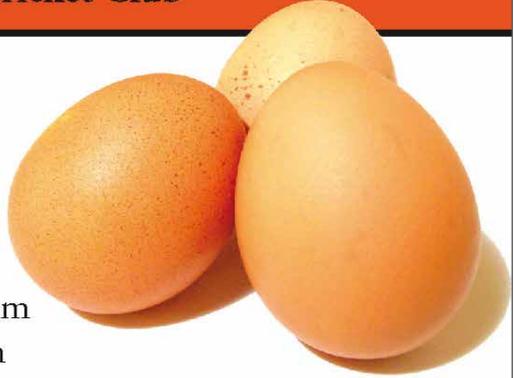




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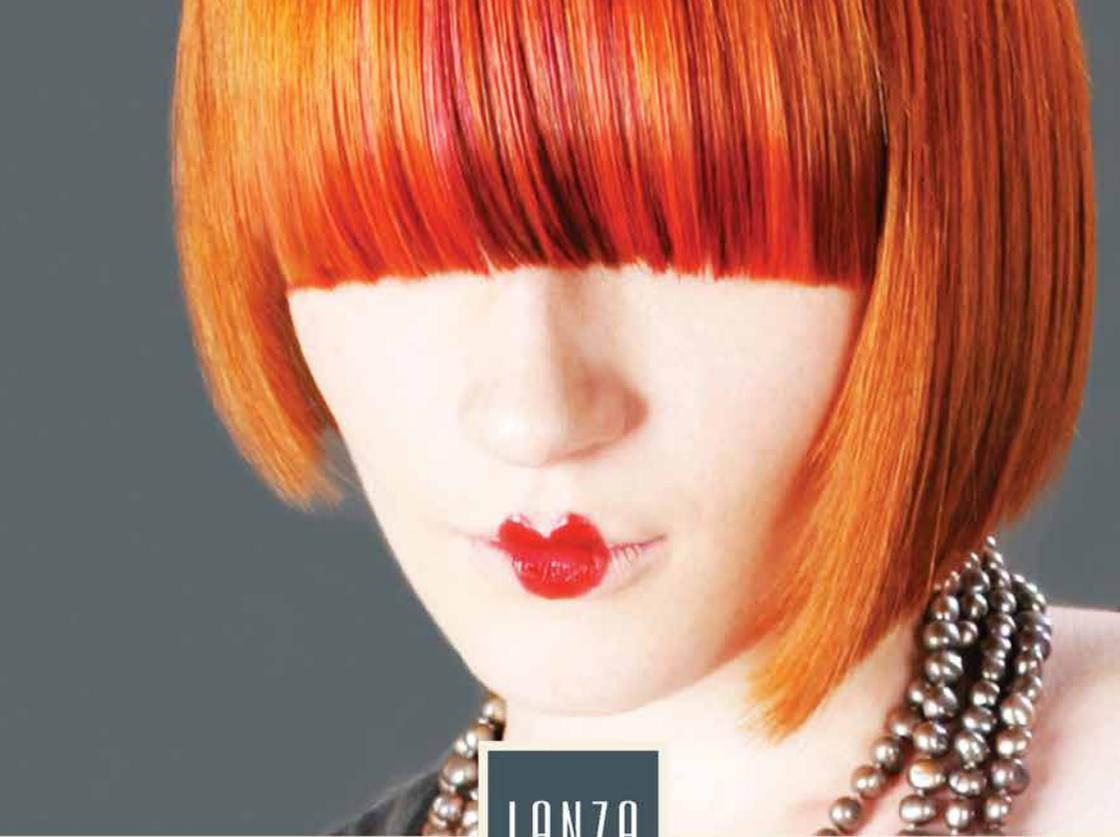
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