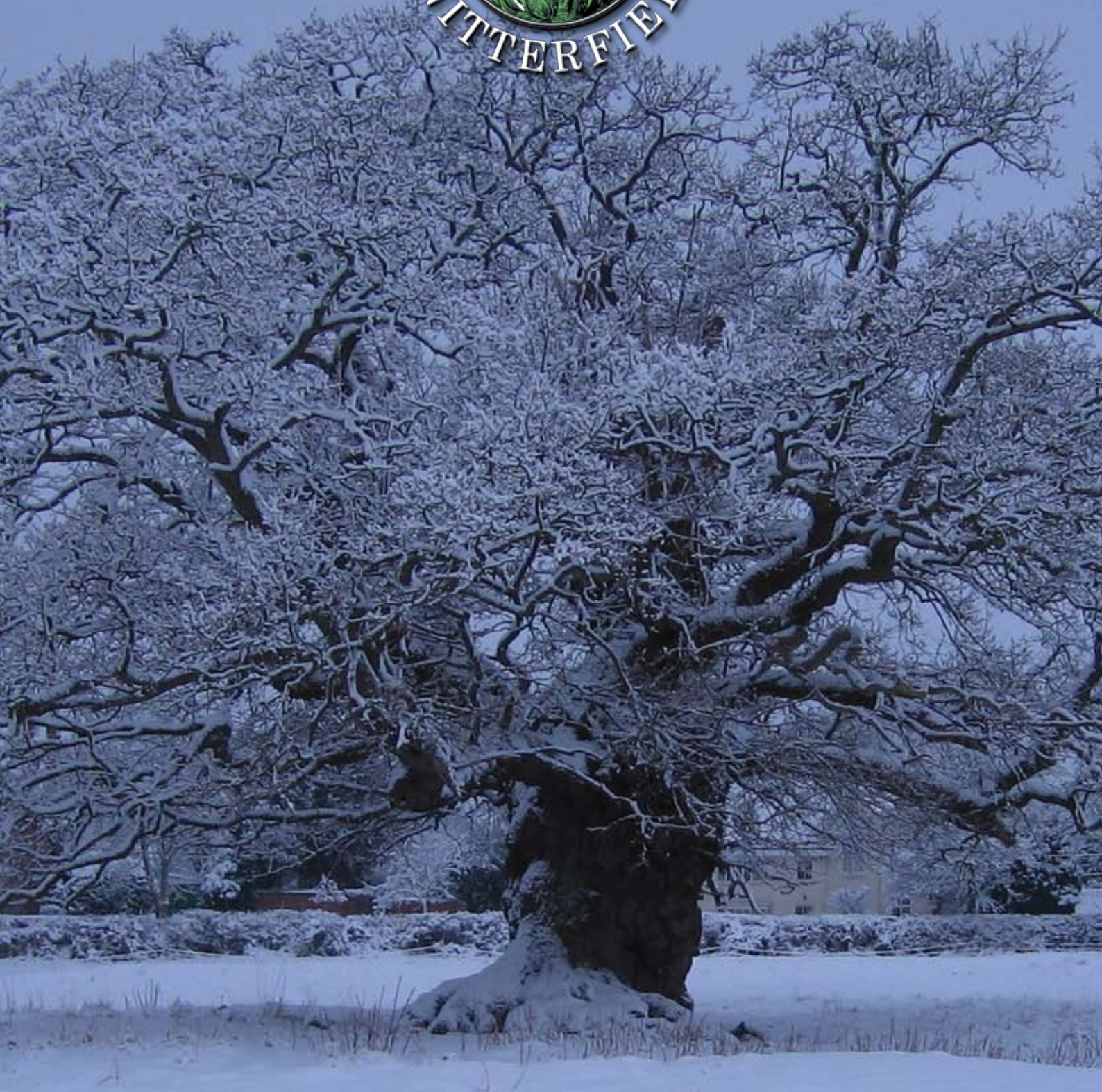


FREE  
to the residents of Snitterfield



ISSUE 26  
FEBRUARY 2011



Gliding Club planning • School links with Japan • Snitterfield's ancient oak trees • 1911 Census



## News from Helen Hayter, District Councillor

Snitterfield Nursery is just one of the many facilities that this village has to offer. The qualified Nursery Manager is Alison Stoddart, and with a great team of staff, she takes care of the childcare at this wonderful nursery. It has obtained the important 'good' Ofsted rating.

This nursery has charitable status and is overseen by a committee of young mums, skillfully led by Amanda Sheppard. All are volunteers and ably manage the business side of things.

- The Committee is looking for a couple more volunteers to join them and is particularly keen to have someone with knowledge in a business background to join the team.
- Alison would welcome volunteers to help in the nursery (CRB checking will be paid for by the Council).

This is a facility where the children are busy, happy and well-prepared for adjustment to school, which highly values this service.

It is so impressive to see the dedication and hard work put in to provide this Nursery, the only regular funding from the County Council is the statutory NEF (nursery education funding). The nursery has been self supporting and pays rent to the County Council for the building.

Future fund-raising events are planned to ensure its continued success. Both Richard Hobbs as County Councillor and I, as District Councillor, are delighted to support the Nursery and we urge you all to support these events too, thus ensuring that the young people in our village have the best facilities and opportunities.

A link to the nursery can be found at [www.snitterfield.com](http://www.snitterfield.com) along with all the other facilities and events that Snitterfield supports.

### The Foxhunter update:

The necessary work on the party wall and other legal obligations are almost completed. This should enable the complete demolition of the building to be commenced soon, hopefully during March 2011. New plans for the site are currently being prepared by the owners and will be submitted through the normal District Council planning consultative channels.

### The Gliding Club wants to operate powered airplanes:

Stratford-upon-Avon Gliding Club was granted planning permission in 1987 to use Snitterfield Airfield on strict conditions of tight limits on noise created on the site and a total ban on operating any powered aircraft.

The Club promised at the time that their operations provided a 'SILENT GLIDING FACILITY causing no noise disturbance to local residents'.

Since then, whilst many local residents have marvelled at the graceful manoeuvring of the gliders in the skies above Snitterfield, there has regrettably been a series of planning attempts by the Club to go back on their promise by seeking permission to operate powered aircraft from Snitterfield.

- In 1994 the Club applied to use powered tug aircraft and 'motor gliders'
- In 1998 the Club again applied to use 'motor gliders'

Fortunately, on both occasions the planning committee refused these applications on the grounds that the noise from such aircraft would be an unwelcome and unjustified intrusion into the peaceful countryside we are so fortunate to enjoy.

- Last year the Club submitted yet another application for 'powered aircraft' and this is due to be considered soon, possibly March 2011.

The reference number is 10/01059/VARY and if you wish to register your objection to the application you should write to Matthew Neal, Stratford on Avon District Council, Elizabeth House, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HX, or comment on the SDC planning website using the application number for reference.

### Do residents really want to allow these airplanes over Snitterfield?

I am certain that this is one of the most significant planning applications to be considered in the area and I want to make sure that the voice of the people who live in Snitterfield and around is clearly heard. There has been a lot of technical work done on the application but soon the views of residents will need to be understood.

Since being elected as your District Councillor, I have spent a lot of time helping residents in the Charlecote and Hampton Lucy part of our ward with the problems they experience with the noise of aircraft flying from Wellesbourne Airfield. Snitterfield will need to make its feelings known if it really wants to ensure that similar pollution of its countryside tranquillity is not allowed.

To date there have been 154 letters to the Council, overwhelmingly opposed to the application and passionately asking the Council to refuse it, but so far Bearley residents have been more vocal than Snitterfield's. You have the opportunity to register your views and I encourage you to do so – remember that once permission is granted for powered aircraft, it is there forever!

**Please don't hesitate to contact me by email for further information or telephone if you do not have internet access. [Hayterbramley@aol.com](mailto:Hayterbramley@aol.com) ☎ 01789 731388 or ☎ 07876442726**



**Snitterfield resident Tim Cox is to be the next High Sheriff of Warwickshire.** He takes over the prestigious role in April this year for one year. Tim has lived in Snitterfield for 25 years.

The office of High Sheriff has been in existence for more than 1,000 years and is the oldest secular office under the Crown. Holders act as the monarch's representative for all matters relating to the judiciary and the maintenance of law and order within the county. Since 1461 high sheriffs have been nominated annually on 12 November. The nominations are made in a ceremony held in the Royal Courts of Justice in London when the names are placed on a roll which is submitted to the Queen. Over the years many of the tasks of the high sheriff have been vested in the courts and local authorities, leaving the post with principally a symbolic and civic function.

Quoted in the *Stratford Herald*, Tim Cox said: "It is a voluntary office and the fact that the role continues today is a tradition to be proud of. In our world of so much change and uncertainty we need to preserve those things which represent stability, continuity and our history and I believe that this is a strong aspect of the role."



SACCs bring and buy sale, pictured right, was held in the village Hall on Saturday 23 January. Thank you to everyone who supported this event by donating goods for sale and attending on the day. Bargain hunters were refreshed by home made soup and a selection of home made cakes. The event was a great success with all proceeds going towards our 2011 project to improve energy efficiency and to install photovoltaic solar panels at the village hall.

Taking advantage of the generous government backed FIT (Feed in Tariff) scheme this year means that solar panels mounted on the hall will generate significant revenue, some of which can be re-invested in the village hall. The payment is guaranteed for 25 years helping to secure a long-term strategic plan for the hall. The FIT scheme also applies to domestic properties. For example, for a house fitted with 2.5kWp solar (PV) panels, the Feed



In Tariff would pay the homeowner around £900 a year tax-free (guaranteed for 25 years) and reduce their electricity bill by around £150 giving a total benefit of over £1,000 per year. The cost of installation of the panels varies depending on the property but could be as low as £8,000 under the SACC / Energy Savings Trust bulk purchase scheme, which is currently being finalised. Currently 11 households and one business have registered their interest in participating and there is still time to register your interest for the next phase of installations. Email [parkers@letia.co.uk](mailto:parkers@letia.co.uk) or telephone the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512 012.

For more information or to make an online donation to SACCs village hall fund visit [www.snitterfieldacc.org](http://www.snitterfieldacc.org)



# St James' Restoration Appeal



inspiring how the village united to achieve our objective. A wide variety of events brought everyone together and produced a great deal of pleasure.



The South Vestry roof has been refurbished.

**We have now raised the funds to obtain the English Heritage Grant and work started in October. The weather was unkind to the builders, Midland Stone Masons of Loughborough, but work is progressing well and should be completed during April.**

Thanks to everyone who contributed financially and by giving their time and effort. It was amazing that we managed to reach our goal in these difficult financial times in such a short time and it was wonderfully



The replacement Aedicule has been carved and partly replaced.



Many of you bought tiles and signed them. They have been included with the new Chancel roof.

The new Chancel Cross carved and installed.



New drainage all around the Church will reduce damp in the future.



Replacement stone work and lime mortar pointing.



**Pauline Brace is organising a Celebration Evening of music and drama and more, as our final fundraising event on Saturday 25 June. Please do come and enjoy this celebration of the restoration of St James' Church.**

**The fund is still open and further donations will be used for further work and to ensure essential annual maintenance can take place so preventing further degradation of the fabric of the Church.**

**John Fitchford**  
Chairman of Fund Raising Committee



Above: Goldfinch, Siskin and two Lesser Redpolls

Right: Tree Sparrow

## REAL TWITTER The more the better!

The 2010 Biodiversity Year has now ended and I would like to summarise what I have written about animal species in Snitterfield. I think we have a great variation of birds and a fair number of mammal species. I don't know enough about insects and invertebrates to know if they represent good biodiversity, but I guess it is good considering the many different bird species we have that feed on the small ones. The disappointing biodiversity in reptiles and amphibians is where we seem to have few species and very few individual animals!

Our variety of habitats explains the biodiversity but we have to help protect the little wetlands,

hedgerows and forest we still have, and consider recreating more of these threatened habitats. A book I have been recently reading on nature watching distinguishes between nine types of habitat in Britain ... and with no seashore or mountains in Warwickshire we probably only have the following six types close by:

- Heathland • Moorland • Farmland • Deciduous woodland
- Coniferous woodland • Freshwater habitats

I could add more detailed habitats like gardens, hedgerows and field margins.

The richness of bird species is very interesting. The mapping of birds in Great Britain and Ireland (Bird Atlas) has recorded more than 100 bird species within 10km of Snitterfield and surprisingly there are as many in winter as in spring! There are only about 210 breeding species in all of Great Britain so we actually have half of them right here. For example, here you can see three bird species on my bird feeder at the same time and a rare visitor – the Tree Sparrow.

Gardens are particularly biodiverse. They represent only 3% of the area of Great Britain but have more than a quarter of the 30,000 known plant and animal species. Doctor Jennifer Owen, a retired Biology Lecturer, started recording all species in her Leicester suburban garden and found 3,000 species during 25 years. She claimed that her garden was nothing extraordinary and that this biodiversity should be expected in most gardens.



So, what can you do to preserve and boost biodiversity? While we can fight together in Wildlife Trusts, the RSPB, etc, to protect the threatened habitats I have mentioned, you can always do your bit in your own garden. To promote biodiversity you could:

- Plant British flowers, trees and bushes
- Feed the birds
- Not use any pesticides (weed killers, slug pellets, rat poison)
- Consider building a pond
- Put up bird nest boxes and bat roost boxes
- Leave a wildlife area where you don't mow the grass
- Not be too tidy

Dr Owen claims that "Most people have an obsession with tidiness which ruins biodiversity". So now you have some very good excuses why not to work too hard in the garden – and promote wildlife!

**Claes Mårtenson clabers7@btinternet.com**



The Staff and pupils were very welcoming and friendly and showed their willingness to share information and work on projects together.

The children at Snitterfield were very surprised to learn that Fujinomori pupils clean their school every day and serve the meals at lunchtime.



The Eco-group is promoting healthier snacks in school and will be finding out what types of snacks the children eat in Japan. They will also be visiting Kingsway to find out how they promote healthy eating.

Food was also on the mind when Class 1 pupils celebrated the Chinese New Year by opening their own Chinese Restaurant!

Kung Hei Fat Choy! The classroom was decorated with Chinese lanterns, pictures, fruit and flowers. Children had the chance to make Chinese head pieces, listen to traditional Chinese music and play Chinese games with their parents before sitting down to a Chinese Banquet. On the menu were spring rolls, Chinese noodles and fried rice, followed by an assortment of biscuits that the children had made. The children also had to follow some Chinese customs such as making red money wallets and receiving Fortune Cookies. A fantastic day was had by all!

### Global Awareness at Snitterfield School

Snitterfield School has established links with Fujinomori Elementary School, in Kyoto Japan and Kingsway Primary School in Leamington Spa.

In October 2010, Headteacher Mrs Sue Ogden visited Fujinomori School to set up a partnership between the three schools.



### Kidz Club at Snitterfield School

November 2010 saw Snitterfield Kidz Club celebrate its first birthday and it continues to go from strength to strength. The club based at Snitterfield Primary school offers before and after school activities for children attending the school.

**The Breakfast Club** operates from 7.55am until 8.55am. Children are served a healthy breakfast and interact with other children before school begins. All activities are supervised by trained staff who also ensure that all children are in the playground ready to go into school by 8.55am.

**The After School Club** operates from 3.15pm until 6pm. The children participate in a wide range of activities. The children are encouraged to take part in the planning of activities with staff. Recent activities have included Burns Night, Australia Day, Halloween, Chinese New Year and Understanding



Space... plus... Group Games, Board Games, Arts and Crafts, Floor Games, Aerobics, Softball, Baseball, Cricket, Football, Basketball etc. A quiet corner is also available for children who are happier doing their homework or just want to chill out after school.

The club also operates a **Holiday Club** which runs throughout all half terms, Easter holidays and the majority of the school summer holiday, subject to demand. It is open from 8am until 6pm Monday to Friday. Full day sessions or half day sessions can be booked. Children who do not attend the school are more than welcome to come along to the club and join in the fun. A broad range of activities (both inside and out) for children aged from reception up to 12 years old are offered. Children are always free to choose what they would like to participate in.

For more information see the club's link at [www.snitterfield.com](http://www.snitterfield.com) or contact Beckie Reaper, 01789 731037 or 07979 837873.

# ANCIENT OAK TREE

*This solitary Tree! A living thing  
Produced too slowly to decay;  
Of form and aspect too magnificent  
To be destroyed*

## W Wordsworth, Yardley Oak

There are many old and beautiful trees in Snitterfield, but the oak tree shown through the seasons in these photographs must be one of the most admired. It stands alone in a field opposite Park View on Church Road.

The age of a tree can be calculated by measuring its girth. The girth of the Snitterfield oak tree is about 8 metres and therefore between 600-700 years old, ie at the latest it dates back to the reign of Henry IV in 1400.

The tree is known to Steven Falk, Senior Keeper of Natural History at Warwickshire Museum who describes it as 'one of the biggest/oldest oaks away from the Packington and Stoneleigh areas' where Warwickshire's two biggest collections of veteran oaks can be found.

The Snitterfield oak is currently the twelfth largest oak in the county based on girth, the largest at Stoneleigh Abbey is 9.2 metres.

(A tree protection order (TPO) was placed on the Snitterfield tree by Stratford DC in 1997).

Today, many ancient trees stand unprotected, often just from neglect or a lack of awareness of their great importance to our heritage and wildlife. Ancient trees provide an extremely valuable habitat, hosting rare fungi, lichens and insects, many of which are totally dependent on ancient trees for their survival.

In order to protect ancient trees The Woodland Trust set up The Ancient Tree Hunt so they could map all ancient trees across the UK.

In Warwickshire Steven Falk is the keeper of our ancient trees but is reliant on local knowledge to find some of the better hidden specimens in the county.

The National Trust is currently carrying out a three year survey of more than 40,000 ancient trees on Trust land, including Newton's apple tree and the yew tree which overlooked the signing of the Magna Carta.

Much has been written about trees and our love of them. Thomas Pakenham's book 'Meetings with Remarkable Trees' is a personal selection of 60 mostly very large and mainly ancient trees and all with a strong personality. He writes; 'To visit these trees. To step inside their domes and vaults is to pay homage at a mysterious shrine. But tread lightly. Even these giants have delicate roots.'

Walt Whitman in Songs of the Open Road writes; 'Why are there trees I never walk under but large and melodious thoughts descend upon me?'

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote; 'It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men's hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air that emanates from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit.'

One hopes that Snitterfield oak trees will continue to thrive and be enjoyed for many generations to come.

Yvonne Spillman



Yvonne photographed the oak tree throughout the seasons of 2010

## The 1911 Census

**On 2 April 1911 two enumerators collected the completed census forms from the villagers. For the first time each property completed its own form. More information was supplied than previously and the forms were completed in the householder's own handwriting. The number of rooms in each house was shown.**

When the forms were collated it showed that there were 685 people living in the parish and they occupied 186 properties. This compares with about 480 houses now and about 1,200 inhabitants. Although many houses had gas there was no electricity or mains water. Old maps show where all the water pumps were sited and it was common for properties on The Green to share washhouses.

As with every other town and village in the country major changes in society were imminent with the onset of the Great War. We know from the Roll of Honour in the Village Hall that 160 men served in the forces, so virtually every house was involved in this way. When the inevitable casualties occurred 37 of those men died.

Returning to 1911, an examination of the completed forms gives a detailed picture of life in the village.

There were 12 houses in the Parish with 12 or more rooms and it is interesting to look at what has happened to these in the last 100 years. Three of them have now been demolished, Wayfield Farm (to make way for the RAF station at Bearley), Ingon Grange (replaced by two houses about 25 years ago), and Elmdon on Church Road (replaced by three houses).

Frogmore and Park House have been subdivided and only the large farmhouses in the surrounding area have survived virtually as they were. To keep the larger houses running there were 51 servants employed, including nine each at Park House and Ingon Grange. Not surprisingly employment was almost exclusively provided on the Welcombe Estate or in smaller businesses within the village. As far as I can tell only a handful of people would have ventured further afield for employment.

You could hear the steam trains at Bearley from Kings Lane and, for most people, this was the only means of transport to reach other parts of the country. The better off owned horses and 15- 20 men of the village were employed as grooms or coachmen. Harnesses could be bought and repaired and there were several men who carried goods to the local towns. Over 70 men were employed on local farms and there were also 17 gardeners. There were seven bricklayers employed by the Welcombe estate and also ten general labourers. Women with employment were usually acting as domestics in the larger houses and as laundresses. They also helped in the farm dairies.

Looking at the Parish Records, there were 12 baptisms during 1911, four weddings and 14 burials.

Children remained at the school until 13 or 14 and the number of pupils was roughly the same as now, when they leave at 11. The Headmaster was Thomas Harper, who worked long and hard for the school. He lived in the house next door and was involved in several village organisations, including the choral society and fire brigade. He was a Liberal and made his views well known to the children. His own son, who had attended the local school when young earned a 1st Class Honours degree at Cambridge in June 1911.

A flavour of school life is given in the memoirs of Violet Bagshaw who started school aged eight this year. The family lived on Kings Lane and she was to lose a brother Charlie during the War.

She writes "I was afraid of the stern bewhiskered head, Tom Harper. Sometimes he took us for history. He would enter the room with a nasty cane in his hand. This was for beating a student's hand or backside if the child was deemed inefficient, slow or naughty. Woe betide anyone who could not remember the kings and queens of England with their dates.

"One midday there was a sudden commotion. Our Mrs Kays's thatched roof cottage a few hundred yards from the school was on fire. (Mrs Kay was one of the teachers and her house was on Smiths Lane – the fire was in 1912). We children were told to stay in the playground while the teachers went to the blaze."

The school records include reports from the School Inspectors which are very complimentary with the head and teaching staff being praised. Lady Trevelyan visited the school regularly and hosted parties there each year for the children and she also gave prizes for good work. At the King's Coronation in June 1911, a day's holiday was granted and she gave mugs to



all the pupils. The School Log shows that half day holidays were regularly granted if attendance exceeded 95% for a month.

The school also maintained a Punishment Book. 1911 was a quiet year on this front with only three boys given one stroke

of the cane each. The misdemeanours were stealing, lying and misbehaving. There were no further entries until 1916. If Violet's memories are accurate it seems probable that Mr Harper maintained discipline in a less formal way!

Several of the schoolchildren were involved in a 'potential tragedy' at the swimming pool in August, according to a report in the *Stratford Herald*. A factfinding meeting was subsequently held at the School room to ascertain the facts as there was a rumour suggesting that one boy, Harry Hands, may have been involved in some dangerous play.

To quote the newspaper report "*Harry Heritage, who gave his evidence with singular clearness, said he was paddling in the water at the shallow end and asked Percy Thornett if he would like a ride upon the raft. Harry Hands pushed it along but in the deep water it tipped up and Percy slipped into the water. He sank but rose three times to the surface, and then lay on the bottom. Hands got a length of wood and pushed him along the bottom to the side; they then got him onto the bank.*"

Adults including the local Doctor Burt from Park View were called and the boy eventually recovered consciousness. The meeting decided that the boys had all acted admirably in the circumstances of what was purely an accident. Adult supervision of the younger children was suggested.

**Bob Foster**

## Star trekkin' across the universe ...

All eyes were turned towards the sky at night when Stratford Astronomical Society staged Stargazing Live at Snitterfield Sports Club in January, as part of the wider BBC television series.

No sightings of stars Professor Brian Cox and Dara O'Briain, presenters of the three days of BBC2 television programmes of live stargazing from observatories around the globe, but six telescopes strategically placed on the tennis courts enabled hundreds of Snitterfield residents to get a close(r) up view of some familiar and less familiar sights in the night sky. Members of Stratford Astronomical Society were on hand to explain what was in focus and what else to look for, and fortunately the weather stayed clear throughout the night

The six telescopes touring the night sky took in the moon; the earth's place in the galaxy; the constellations; our neighbour: the Andromeda Galaxy; Orion the Hunter and Jupiter and its moons. This last one gave a clear view of two of the four so called Galilean moons discovered by Galileo Galilei and named after the lovers of Zeus – Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto. These are just the largest four of Jupiter's 63 confirmed moons.

Over the next month or so if you want to do your own spot of early evening stargazing from your garden in Snitterfield here's what you can look out for. Looking north you can spot the 'Plough'. This isn't a constellation itself but part of a constellation called Ursa Major – the Great Bear. The top two stars in the Plough point the way to Polaris, also known as the North Star. Polaris remains in the same place in the sky throughout the night, no matter what the season.

Looking south you can spot Orion and his well known belt. Follow the line of Orion's belt east and you'll find Sirius in the constellation Canis Major – the brightest star in the night sky. Following the line of Orion's belt west will bring you to Aldebaran. This is 40 times wider than the Sun (but four million times further away).

If Stargazing has whetted your appetite, Stratford Astronomical Society welcomes visitors to its regular meetings and members can borrow telescopes, equipment and library books. The club has a dark site location in Alderminster and a newly refurbished observatory in Bidford. Find out more at [www.astro.org.uk](http://www.astro.org.uk) or by contacting the chair, Mike Whitecross on Stratford 731784 or email: [mike.whitecross@astro.org.uk](mailto:mike.whitecross@astro.org.uk)



## Asparagus Tips!

**As the years go by my vegetable patch is evolving. Until recently, the usual suspects were lined up in (not so neat) rows and we had a glut of onions, potatoes and carrots alongside the usual salad crops. Now, it has finally hit home that in my very small space, it really is**

**rather daft to fill it up with vegetables that both taste fine and are fairly cheap when sourced from local shops. Now I concentrate on growing things that either are difficult to source locally, taste much better than shop-bought or, in these straitened times, would add a lot to the weekly shopping bill.**

One vegetable well worth trying is asparagus and now is the time to start planning your strategy. In days gone by it was always grown in a separate bed of its own, raised up on carefully formed ridges to aid drainage and heavily manured each winter. If you have the room this is all well and good but for the rest of us it is quite normal to see a row of asparagus along the edge of a mixed veg bed.

The Greeks gave asparagus its name, possibly taking it from the Persian 'sparag' meaning sprout or shoot. Asparagus is also known as 'sparrow grass'; locally to us in the asparagus fields of the Vale of Evesham it is known simply as 'grass' and young plants too small to cut are called 'pru'. It has been grown since early times as a vegetable and for medicine as a diuretic (as can be vouched for by those of us with a sense of smell). It also had symbolic significance as an aphrodisiac. Plutarch (50-125 AD) recorded: 'They dress up the bride with a chaplet of asparagus, for as the asparagus gives most excellent fruit from a thorny stalk, so the bride, by not being too reluctant and coy in the first approaches, will make the married state more agreeable and pleasant.'

Back in Snitterfield asparagus needs a sunny, sheltered spot and hates badly-drained soil and being in the shadow of taller plants

or surrounded with weeds. As it stays in the same place for its lifetime (asparagus can crop for 20 years) the ground does need to be well prepared with plenty of well rotted manure or rich organic matter. On heavier soils add some gritty horticultural sand to open up the structure. You can start the preparation as soon as the soil is workable: March is usually a good time.

By April you should be ready to plant. While asparagus can be raised from seed in February it is much easier to buy one-year-old crowns. The all-male, named varieties produce fatter spears and they don't produce seed which could contaminate your pedigree crop with a lot of scruffy mongrels. Dig a hole about 30cm deep and make a mound of soil in the middle with an empty moat around the edge. Sit the crown on the mound and spread the roots out into the moat. Cover the roots and crown with soil, leaving the bud tips just showing above the soil level. Crowns should be about 5-8cm (2-3 inches) below the surface. Water well and mulch with well rotted manure/compost. Space 45cm apart with a double row, with about 45cm between them.

In the first year be patient and don't cut your spears. Let them build up a strong root system. In the second year, give yourself a treat if you just can't wait by taking a spear per plant in the middle of the asparagus season (May). In the third year you can enjoy a light crop and from then on cut as much as you want from April when they start to poke through to mid June. Then add some fertiliser and let the ferny foliage develop (it's very pretty). When it turns yellow in autumn you can cut it off and tidy the beds.

Yes, you do need some patience to grow asparagus but, as I told my husband as he dug in manure last weekend, think of it like this: you have twenty years ahead of you enjoying a delicacy which works out much cheaper than a plate of oysters.

**Sally Hopkinson**



On 7 December, Snitterfield awoke to a truly magical white wonderland. The village glistened with an amazing hoar frost, trees stretching their sparkling branches in the brilliant blue sky and spiky grass twinkled in the sunlight, and I couldn't wait to capture the scene on camera. Despite the bitterly cold temperature of -8° centigrade, many folk were tempted to walk in the fields and lanes, enjoying this winter spectacle. This marked the beginning of one of the coldest winter spells in

years. However, for members of Garden Club, a lively talk *In Not Such a Bleak Mid Winter* by Timothy Walker, Director of Oxford Botanical Gardens, certainly jollied up the festive season. This was followed by another evening of stunning *Plant Photography* in January presented by Mr Peter Sheasby.

With snowdrops in bloom and green shoots spearing fast and furiously through the bare earth. Garden Club can look forward to a Spring and Summer season of visits, talks and events.

**Contact; Margaret Tweed, Chairman, 01789 731636  
Secretary, Joyce Bothwell 01527 529078**

### 2011 Calendar of Events

- 1 March – Gravel Gardening** Derry Watkins, Village Hall 8pm
- 5 April – Romans and Roses** James Bolton, Village Hall 8pm
- 3 May – Willow Weaving** 2 practical day workshops, (venue tbc) plus a talk in the evening by Richard and Suzanne Kerwood from Somerset, Village Hall
- 7 May – Saturday Visit to gardens of Thenfold House**, 2pm, home of Lord and Lady Heseltine, Banbury. £10 donation to charity
- 7 June – Visit to Ryton Organic Garden**, Coventry
- 14 June – Day trip by Coach to The Laskett Gardens** of Sir Roy Strong, Herefordshire
- 5 July – Visit to Meadow Farm Nursery**, Feckenham home of Rob and Diane Cole
- 5 September – AGM** Village Hall 7.30pm followed by **The Produce Show.**



## Snitterfield Fete 19 June 2011

This year the theme is

# PIRATES



The fete is held on Fathers' Day at the Playing Fields from 12noon-4pm.

Please come and join in the fun, there's lots of Stalls, Attractions, Bar, Pig Roast, Barbeque, Pirate Games and Races, The Best Dressed Pirate Competition, Treasure Trove Raffle – and plenty more. Please keep an eye out for more details nearer the time. If you like would a stall or an advert in the programme please contact Nicola Matthews: [ematthews1@toucansurf.com](mailto:ematthews1@toucansurf.com)

### Snitterfield Poppy Party

The Snitterfield Poppy Party committee would like to thank everyone who supported the event which was held at Snitterfield Village Hall on Saturday 13 November. The night was a total sell out with guests being served a 3-course meal which was all produced by the committee.

A big thank you goes to 'The Only Band in The Village' Steve Righton, Colin Booth, Jeff Kelly and Richard Norris who donated their time to entertain us all with their talented medley of music and songs, some of which were reminiscent of 'Our War Heroes' and later in the evening got everyone to their feet. The proceeds from the event raised £1,436 which has been forwarded to The Royal British Legion. The Committee has run this event for the last three years, which has been fun and rewarding, but now feel it is time for some new ideas.

Please would someone like to step forward to take up the mantle.

The team of the SNIPE newsletter would like to extend their grateful thanks to all those who continue to support us by financial donation. The newsletter is produced and delivered by volunteers who give their expertise and time freely and without charge. If you would like to make a contribution towards the cost please contact the treasurer, Cathy Kimberley: [cathykimberley@aol.com](mailto:cathykimberley@aol.com) or 01789 730350. Or you can just drop a cheque into the post box at Taxus on Smiths Lane (make payable to Snitterfield Newsletter and include a note with your name and address).



### Rag-Tag Toddler Group

Monday morning in the Village Hall 10-11.45am.

Health Visitor drop-in clinic once a month:

21 March, 11 April, 16 May, 20 June, 18 July.

Please come along and meet us, or for more information please contact Hilary Schmidt-Hansen. Tel: 731246.

### Snitterfield Bonfire Night

It was the biggest and best to date!

The annual Snitterfield Bonfire and Fireworks Display was held at the Sports Club on Saturday 6 November 2010. As usual the whole event was inspired by Lee Hillier who was supported by his trusty band. A big thank you goes to Nick Lamb who is becoming very proficient at building bonfires and organising fireworks (which from a safety aspect is essential). Also a big thank you to everyone who helped and attended the event to make it such a success.

Over £2,000 was raised towards the new multi-purpose sports facility which is now under construction at The Sports Club.

**CRICKET NETS** Anyone wishing to try their hand at cricket would be welcome to join us at Stratford High School for practise at the nets on Sunday afternoons 3.30pm - 5.00pm, all ages and all abilities welcome.



Margaret Lamb moved to live in The Green last year. She is a qualified nutritionist and works in partnership with Forever Living Products, a global Health and Nutrition Company and the world's largest grower of cultivated Aloe Vera. Aloe

Vera drinks account for 50% of business and taken internally these have many health benefits. Margaret works from home or in client's own homes if they're on the weight management programme.

**Choices – The Diet with a Difference**  
Following our successful weight loss plan your metabolism will quicken and you will lose an average of 4lbs a week without feeling hungry. A personal consultant will provide all the support you require. Once you have reached your goal we will help you to maintain your weight. For one-to-one consultations ensuring you reach your target weight, contact Margaret on 01789 730168 or 07833 390912 Email: [margaretlamb@soaringteam.com](mailto:margaretlamb@soaringteam.com)  
It is especially beneficial for sufferers of diabetes.



### Village Hall – Royal Wedding Day Breakfast – Friday 29 April 2011

If you have not been invited to William & Kate's wedding breakfast on 29 April do not be blue. In fact we want you to be red, white and blue and extend an invitation to all to have breakfast at the Village Hall. It is hoped that this will be a fun event to include all ages. Tickets will be modestly priced and on sale soon.



Have you got a Union Jack pinny? For examples see picture left taken in 1937.

Strictly speaking they are in black and white but use your imagination ... and get sewing. YOU could be in the 2011 version of this picture on the steps of the Village Hall. Do it for your grandchildren's picture archive!

### Available for hire SNITTERFIELD Village Hall

Situated in the heart of the village, the hall is the ideal place to hold meetings, events, parties and family gatherings.

The facilities include: main hall, meeting room, kitchen, toilets, electric piano, stage and microphone.

For more information, rates and booking please telephone  
07501 416221



### The Friends of Snitterfield Village Hall

Once again The Friends of Snitterfield Village Hall have been able to provide the funds for a significant improvement – this time to update the floor surface of the kitchen. We are also in discussion with the Village Hall Management Committee with a view to providing a new and improved Cinema Screen for the Hall. Every month, the draw pays out prizes of £15 and £10 to lucky winners. Members pay a single annual fee of £12 for the privilege of winning while helping to sustain the funds from which payments for improvements to the Hall can be made.

Please support your Village Hall by becoming a member of The Friends. All it needs is a telephone call to: Don Rushton (730276) or Jean Dronsfield (731574)

### A 'Thank You' to Renata Stephens

Renata has been the Booking Secretary for the Village Hall for almost 15 years but is now retiring. Together with her husband, David, they have made an enormous contribution over the years to the smooth running of the Village Hall – David for his practical help and Renata for being so helpful to everyone. We wish them both the very best in their retirement.

Although managing the booking in the short term the committee must find a replacement for Renata and need someone who has a bit of time to spare, friendly telephone manner, and an interest in village events. It takes up a little time ... there is just the diary to keep and the takings to add up at the end of each month.

If you can help please call 07501 416221.

**Update on Snitterfield Stores:** Lee and Gaye wish to inform their customers that over the next few weeks Snitterfield Stores will experience some changes to the meat/butchery section. The butchery counter is to be replaced by a self-service display cabinet. Meat will now be prepared at our shop in Stratford – Hilliers Butchers, Brookside Road. We wish to reassure our customers that we will be offering the same good quality meat products, and if you require a specific item, it is advisable to place an order and we can either deliver to Snitterfield Stores or you can visit Hilliers, Brookside Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9PH. To place an order contact: Lee Hillier on 01789 263668

