



## Pirates of Snitterfield feted

**It may not have been wall-to-wall sunshine, but the rain stayed away for Snitterfield fete on Sunday 19 June, and it was high-summery enough for a large crowd to turn out and the Pimms tent to do a roaring trade. Many of those attending took the pirate theme to heart, and there was a wonderful display of pirate fancy dress.**

Among the highlights of the day was a breathtaking dressage display by Rhett Bird, riding his horse Renegade, who not only looked immaculate but behaved impeccably amidst the noise and hubbub going on outside the main arena. Rhett and his wife Jilly break and bring on dressage horses from their base in Snitterfield. As well as pursuing high-profile competitive dressage careers in their own right they are both key trainers for British dressage teams, and have clients who compete with great success, both nationally and internationally. Rhett is currently on the long list for the 2012 Olympics.

Dogs of all shapes and sizes (and degrees of obedience) with their handlers from Leamington Dog Training Club put on their usual entertaining and impressive display. What the Guide Dogs for the Blind on their nearby stall made of it is anybody's guess. They'd been demonstrating their own formidable skills, guiding blindfolded people around a specially set up course.

Still on the animal theme, adorable donkey Rosie paraded in fancy dress as a 'parrot ship' (get it? – see photo), and Spear animal rescue was a huge hit again this year. This local charity fulfils a unique gap for the welfare of elderly and/or neglected horses, ponies, donkeys and other large animals. Find out more at <http://www.spearcharity.org.uk>.

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## News from Helen Hayter, District Councillor

The Gliding Club application; ref 10/01059/VARY will be considered at the Stratford on Avon Planning Committee (West) on Wednesday 27 July, 6.15pm at Elizabeth House.

This is a change from the somewhat hastily arranged date of 6 July when we were given only 10 days notice of the meeting. However, on close inspection of the facts it was clear that although the Planning Officers have recommended 'GRANT', there was no written report in the Consultations section

from the Senior Environmental Health Officer! As I believe this consultation may form an important and material part of the assessment, I informed the Planning Department and as a result they have changed the date to 27 July.

I shall be opposing the application as this appears to be the overwhelming wish of the residents of Snitterfield and Bearley.

The 'SILENT GLIDERS OK' 'POWERED AIRCRAFT NO' posters are now on display in the village. There is also a petition to sign (as soon as possible) in the village shop, both kindly organised by the Snitterfield Parish Council. Your support by attending the committee meeting on the 27th at Elizabeth House would be more than welcome.

There are many people, both in Bearley and Snitterfield, working to oppose this application. They are endeavouring to ensure the continued tranquility of these neighbourhoods and of this rural location within the Green Belt for future generations.

**Please don't hesitate to contact me by email for further information or telephone if you do not have internet access.**

**Hayterbramley@aol.com**

**☎ 01789 731388    ☎ 07876442726**



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## News from Richard Hobbs, County Councillor

I am sure you are aware of the huge savings that the County Council has to make over the next three years; £60 million, and road safety, because of the withdrawal of a government grant, has to make a 50% saving, which is over £1million. The fixed and mobile road safety cameras will still operate at accident black spots but less frequently. The council felt it was very important to offer a proactive response at locations where speeding is a concern but do not have an accident record, as this helps to promote the localism agenda. The options are:

### 1 SpeedAware Package – £250 which includes:

- 4 complete days (x 2 days x 2 officers) of SpeedAware Officer visits with flashing anti-speed signs – multiple locations
- Covert before and after speed survey
- 2 week fixed flashing anti speed sign – dependant on fixing to existing street furniture
- Localised anti-speeding campaign using plastic signs
- Door to door delivery of SLOW DOWN wheelie bins stickers
- Full report on the campaign

This would have to be funded by an organisation in the village such as the Parish Council or the Neighbourhood Watch.

### 2 Community SpeedAware – FREE, requires local volunteers:

- Free loan for up to 2 weeks of a Smiley SID flashing sign to be staffed by local volunteers
- Full training given on site to a minimum of 2 volunteers
- Volunteers can be members of the local council/organisations and Neighbourhood Watch groups
- Signs can be used throughout the community subject to safety checks
- Full support of the County Council Road Safety Team

This can be taken up by any group of volunteers.

I am pleased to say that at a recent Parish Council meeting this was considered and they decided to follow up the SpeedAware option, so if there are villagers who are concerned about speeding please contact any member of the Parish Council or the clerk Ian Wilkins on 01789 266665

or [ianwilkins@talktalk.net](mailto:ianwilkins@talktalk.net)

☎ 01789 730331 e: [richardhobbs@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:richardhobbs@warwickshire.gov.uk)



As well as offering a bulk discount incentive Eco2solar will install a free 2.1kWp system at the village hall for every 10 domestic installations. SACC want to upgrade this to a 4kWp system. The income from this will be ploughed back into more energy saving measures for the hall and the village and will also greatly reduce the hall's electricity bill.

Do you offset your emissions if you fly?  
Is your carbon footprint bigger than you would like?

Are you concerned about climate change and don't know what to do?

Help us to raise the extra £3,750 we need. All donations gratefully received.

SACC has a longer term vision to help the school and the sports club in the same way.

More details on our website and in the Snipe as the programme develops.

### What is the Feed-in Tariff?

Under the Feed-in Tariff scheme the government GUARANTEES to pay you a premium amount for the electricity you generate – whether you use it or not! For a Solar PV system the Feed-in-Tariff makes a very attractive long-term investment. On an average 2.5kWp system that costs around £8,500 you can expect to get over £1,000 per annum – guaranteed for 25 years and index linked.



Solar electric or photovoltaic (PV) technology converts sunlight directly into electricity.



Eco2solar is delighted to be official installers on the Snitterfield community solar programme, which offers more affordable energy solutions to communities who wish to group together to maximise their buying power. We are accredited installers of solar PV, hot water and heat pump systems and conduct installations to domestic houses, universities, schools and community housing. We adopt a low pressure approach and have enjoyed great success and a good reputation by being known throughout Warwickshire and the surrounding areas through our existing customers and work with community action groups.

# The Community Solar Programme



SACC has been working with the Energy Saving Trust to offer a discounted group solar installation scheme. The EST invited several accredited solar installers to bid for the Snitterfield scheme. The installers were short listed based on price, length of warranty, etc. The top two installers then gave quotes to 14 households in the village who had joined the scheme. Finally, both installers came and made a presentation to those on the scheme and a vote was taken as to which company should 'win' the contract. Eco2solar of Kidderminster won by a vote of eleven to two and are now the Snitterfield Community Solar programmes official installers. Eighteen households have received quotes and installations have begun. It's not too late to join the second round of the scheme. For more information please contact a SACC member on 731348 or via our website at [www.snitterfieldacc.org](http://www.snitterfieldacc.org)



← Bearley resident **Peter Candy** was researching photovoltaic solar installations and had already had some companies out to quote when he read about the Snitterfield Community Solar Programme. He contacted SACC and we arranged for two competing companies to quote for Peter. This was when Peter discovered the enormous differences between the five quotations he had received. They were all for a 2.8kWp system and ranged in price from a massive £20,790 to £8,662. Eco2solar provided the lowest quote and with the knowledge that they had been voted the winners of the Snitterfield scheme, Peter felt confident that they were the company to go with. Peter had minor planning issues as he needed to top some trees. Eco2 has helped with this process, liaising with Stratford District Council and completing paperwork. Peter has been impressed with the attention to detail by Eco2solar and is looking forward to the installation which will take place shortly. Asked why he wanted to install solar panels Peter said **“it was an environmental and a financial decision”**. The Feed In tariff and the electricity savings combined offer a much better return than a savings account and as Peter says **“electricity isn't going to get any cheaper”**.



← **“Fitting Solar panels is a very exciting thing to do. I feel like I have saved about a third of the installation costs as a result of being part of the Snitterfield project. Also it's a good feeling to know that, apart from aiding the environment, I have made a really good guaranteed investment for the next 25yrs!” Ian Spiers**, Frogmore Road, Snitterfield. Eco2solar's first installation as part of the Snitterfield Community Solar Programme.

**“The world's natural resources are dwindling. By installing solar panels we use less oil, gas and coal and are extending the 'life of resources' on our planet not only for ourselves but our future generations – until further or new resources are found. In conjunction with dwindling resources, prices we pay are increasing (pure economics – supply and demand whatever the 'product' is). WITH guaranteed 'income' for 25 years for generating power the government is paying 43.3p per kWh which is index linked PLUS being tax free. It therefore makes sense, especially with interest rates so low to 'invest' in solar panels. In addition, any energy NOT used and sold back to the grid, will enjoy a 3p per kWh bonus. Eco2solar, our preferred installer, has (personally speaking) been very helpful in every way and answered honestly, as far as I can ascertain, all questions put to them. Last but not least, the substantial discount obtained through SACC's group purchasing makes it financially attractive and 'puts the icing on the cake'.” Lyn Jones**, Park Lane.



**“We already have a 2.6kWp system and are installing another 1.8kWp through the Snitterfield scheme because the return is so attractive.” Duncan and Vikki Parker**, The Green, Snitterfield.

**“We are very keen to reduce our reliance on the limited supply of fossil fuels. At some point in the near future we are all going to need to find alternative energy sources. For us it makes obvious financial sense to make this first step now, given the advantageous FIT tariffs offered by the government which will be less for those installing later on. The Snitterfield group scheme has provided fantastic value for money – we are delighted with the deal we have negotiated. Eco2solar have been really helpful all along the way making it a very easy decision to go ahead.” Jenny and Wally Swift**, Bearley Road, Snitterfield.

↑ **Mark Clarke** owns and runs two Taxis from within our village. He is happy to help the village by making a financial contribution of £250 towards the Village Hall solar panels. This will count towards offsetting the CO<sub>2</sub> production from his vehicles. He decided to make this donation as he is passionate about renewable energy, is conscious of his own carbon footprint, and wanted to give back something to the local community which has supported his business.

**“With rising energy prices and a large family we are always looking at ways we can reduce our electricity bills. We are opting for a 1.48kWp system on our shed roof. Although the initial outlay seems high, with the discount from the Snitterfield scheme the payback period will be just five years which is wonderful and much cheaper than if we had installed the panels independently (which we had been considering before SACC advertised the village scheme). We were really pleased with Ryan's (Eco2solar) professionalism, information and presentation of the facts and are looking forward to installing the solar panels as soon as possible to make the most of the Feed-in Tariff this year.” Hilary and Ole Schmidt Hansen**, Smith's Lane, Snitterfield.

**The deadline for installing to receive the maximum rate feed in tariff is April 2012, so if you are thinking of installing photovoltaic solar panels now is a great time to get a quote. Don't forget the income from your system is guaranteed for 25 years and index linked. Installations made after that date will not qualify for the top rate Feed-in Tariff, although it will still be a good investment.**

**“With regard to the solar programme, our reasons for installing solar panels are many. Obviously the financial gain from the indexed-linked feed-in tariff is considerable; this therefore will help offset the capital cost (which is greatly reduced due to the bulk purchase nature of the programme) over time. To date we could not fault the professionalism of Eco2solar, the procedure has been plain sailing; they are always available to answer any queries and offer any advice as we proceed with our installation (planning permitting). The added bonus of the village benefitting from the programme in the form of free solar panels for the Village Hall is fantastic. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us by providing lots of bright days over the lifetime of the panels.” Lucia and Mick Flanagan**, The Green, Snitterfield.

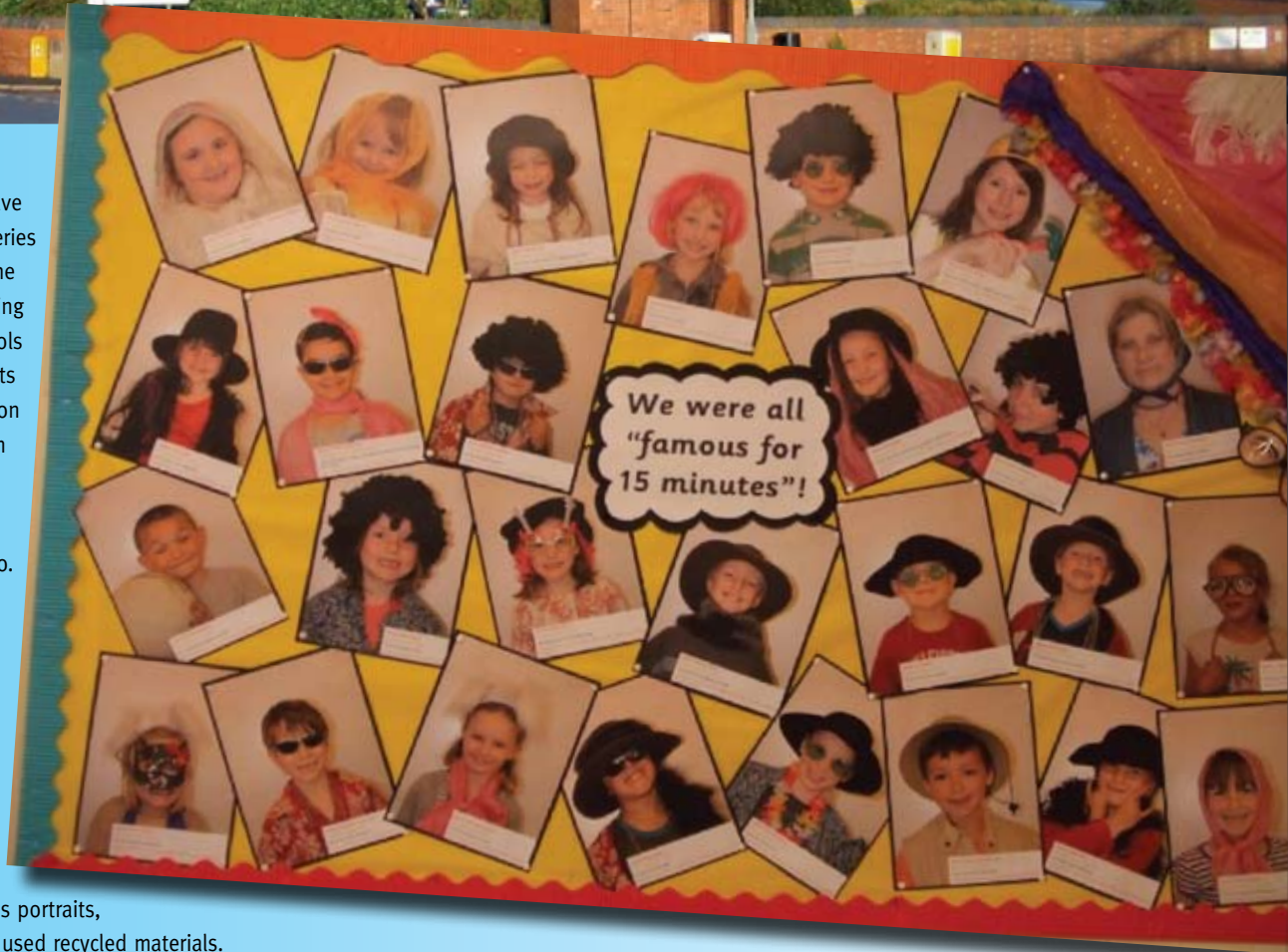


The children at Snitterfield School have been working on a series of art projects over the last few weeks, working with other local schools in the area. The results of their work will be on display at Dunnington Primary on 2 July.

Class 3 studied the cubist style of Picasso. The classroom was transformed into a Tardis so that the children could travel back in time. The children experimented with shape and colour, studied some of Picasso's most famous portraits, made sculptures and used recycled materials. The children can't wait for their next art project!

Class 2 Worked on the theme of colour, looking closely at Pop Art and the work of Andy Warhol, in particular his screen print of Marilyn Monroe. They created different zones in the classroom.

Their images were transferred onto canvas and will be showcased at the exhibition in July.



## Andy Warhol Project

### A report written by Molly, Class 2

Andy Warhol was 58 when he died. Andy Warhol loved cats.

In the Advertising Zone we advertised things and coloured them in. We also traced two different crisp packets; sensations and wotsits.

In the Image Zone we dressed up as famous people. There were some pictures to give us ideas as to who to dress up as.

In the Printing Zone we put stamps in paint and it got printed onto the paper.

In the outdoor area we could do dip and dye which is where we had a piece of kitchen roll and we had a pipette and we squirted paint from the pipette onto the kitchen roll. We also did spray painting using squirty bottles. We put our feet in purple and orange paint and put our feet onto the paper. We then walked over to the bench and the teacher washed our feet. On the second week, on Thursday, we did a fashion show and we sold cakes, postcards, posters, gift tags and cds. We finished with a yoga demonstration.





## Will and Chris cycle the Road to Burnley

At the beginning of September, **Will Procter**, a student from the village, together with his friend **Chris Walter**, will be cycling over 750 miles around all of the Premier League football grounds, before heading to Burnley F.C. The two boys came up with this idea following the unfortunate loss of Will's Mum, Hazel, after a long battle with breast cancer. Hazel was a passionate fan of Burnley F.C, and that is why they are ending the journey there. All the money raised will go directly to Cancer Research UK, in recognition of all the support they offered Hazel, Will and their family during her illness.

The route will take them from the far west of Wales at Swansea through the east side of London, passing through the capital before heading up to Norwich. From there they will begin a 168 mile trek to the Midlands and then upwards to the North West via Stoke City. After visiting the North West teams they will travel 125 miles North East to Newcastle United and Sunderland, before heading back down to Blackburn, before finishing up at Turf Moor, home of Burnley F.C. The boys aim to complete at least 100 miles a day, and so hope to have the ride completed in under nine days.

They are making the most of both social media (Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr) and more traditional types of media having featured on TouchFM and BBC Radio Merseyside as well as some local papers in the north of the country. They also have Alistair Campbell following them on Twitter! If you would like to find out more about the boys' adventure, simply search **RoadtoBurnley** in Google or search for them on Facebook and Twitter.

**If you would like to sponsor them then visit: [www.justgiving.com/roadtoburnley](http://www.justgiving.com/roadtoburnley).** They would also like to thank their shirt sponsor, Trotec Laser Ltd, who donated £250 to their cause. If you know of anyone who may be able to help the lads out in terms of company sponsorship, or anything else, then please contact them at [roadtoburnley@gmail.com](mailto:roadtoburnley@gmail.com). A fundraising day was held at Snitterfield Sports Club on 26 June.

[www.justgiving.com/roadtoburnley](http://www.justgiving.com/roadtoburnley)  
[www.twitter.com/RoadtoBurnley](http://www.twitter.com/RoadtoBurnley)

[http://roadtoburnley.tumblr.com](http://http://roadtoburnley.tumblr.com)  
[www.youtube.com/roadtoburnley2011](http://www.youtube.com/roadtoburnley2011)

## What a Royal Carry-on...

Just like those lining the street in London, Friday 29 April started early as preparations for serving breakfast to over 120 villagers began. At 7am members of the Village Hall Committee were interviewed by BBC Coventry and Warwickshire for their breakfast radio show. Then it was off to the Village Hall, which had been festooned in bunting, flags, Union Jack tablecloths, red, white and blue balloons and flowers on the tables.



We all had a very memorable morning and thanks go to all the members of the Village Hall Committee, the WI members who worked so hard in the kitchen and to everyone else who made the event possible, including those helping with the setting up of the TV broadcast, the re-roping of the Union Jack on the flagpole outside the hall and to everyone who came along and made it such a great event.

The children's fancy dress competition was won by Violet Parker and George Parry, with the adult Patriotic Pinny competition being won by Pat Field.

The WI worked wonders in the kitchen and by 9am were ready for the first breakfasters (the food was supplied by Hilliers Butchers & Snitterfield Stores; Bell Brook Farm free range eggs; with Fairtrade coffee, tea, and other produce). The atmosphere was terrific and the food was served by glamorous WI members sporting their patriotic pinnies.

The Royal Wedding was watched on the new cinema screen (kindly donated by the Friends of the Village Hall and installed just days beforehand). For the younger members there were wedding themed arts and crafts to create whilst William and Kate tied the knot!

### Hilary Schmidt-Hansen

We are extremely fortunate to have such a good village hall in Snitterfield and to also have the support of the Friends of the Village hall who run a monthly draw. For a subscription of just £12 per year each member is enrolled in the draw for which the first prize is £15 and second prize £10. Money from this fundraising has been used over the years to help with the provision of the lighting, chairs, a new electric piano and a baby changing table in the ladies toilets and we now have the screen for use not only at the monthly cinema but also by clubs and societies using the hall for talks etc.

If anyone is interested in joining the Friends of the Village Hall monthly draw please contact Don Rushton (Tel: 730276) or Jean Dronsfield (Tel: 731574).



Trooper George Timms prior to embarkation for South Africa.

# From Red Hill Farm to the Orange Free State – In Search of Trooper George Timms

**I have to admit it was Ruby, our dog, who led me to this story. The family had only been in the village a matter of days, having moved in to Church Road towards the end of February, and we were keen to find good walks. It was on one of my jaunts with the dog on a lovely spring day in March that I came across the subject of this piece. Cutting back through the cemetery from Park Lane to Church Road, Ruby's lead tightened suddenly as she lurched off to right and started to sniff around one particular monument. I was just about to admonish her when I glanced down at the inscription on the northern face of the squat plinth which carried a cross above:**

***In loving memory of/ Frederick Timms/ of Red Hill Farm Snitterfield/ who died/ August 16 1904/ age 56/ 'Forever with the Lord'/ Also of GEORGE son of the above/ who fell in the South African War/ March 6 1901 Aged 24/ 'In the Midst of Life we are in Death'.***

## The Last of Victoria's Wars

As a military historian primarily – but interested in history generally – I was intrigued. I had read a good deal about the village prior to our move and was keen to learn more and here was a local man who had been killed in what was known at the time as 'The South African War' – 'The Last of the Gentleman's Wars' as it has been dubbed, although it was anything but. That 'South African War' has become more widely known as 'The Boer War' – the last of 'Victoria's Wars' as the Empress Queen died before its conclusion and the fighting spilled over into the reign of her son, Edward VII. And yet, as George Timms had been killed in March 1901, just six weeks after the death of his 81-year-old Queen, he had died during what should be more specifically referred to as The Second Anglo-Boer War for there were two – 1880-1881 and 1899-1902 – both fought between the descendants of Afrikaans speaking Boer settlers intent on defending their independent states of the Transvaal and Orange



The grave marker of the Timms family in Snitterfield cemetery.

Finally the penny dropped. I had seen the name 'Timms' with others on the Snitterfield War Memorial and in Bob Foster's superb and painstaking work *Snitterfield Heroes* which tells their stories. William Timms, who had emigrated to Canada, had been killed serving with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the third attempt by British, Commonwealth and Dominions forces to seize the militarily 'vital ground' of the Aubers Ridge in French Flanders from the Germans in the first six months of 1915. William's father had not lived to mourn the death of his third eldest son in action and perhaps it was just as well, for Frederick and Eliza Timms had already had cause to grieve for a child lost to war. Here then was a Snitterfield family which had not only given one son to the cause of freedom in the 'Great War for Civilisation' of 1914-18 but had also lost one of its two elder boys 14 years earlier in the last Victorian War of Empire; a war fought at a very different tempo, in very different conditions and in a different hemisphere half-a-world away from Snitterfield.

Bob Foster has told us what happened to William Timms but what happened to his elder brother George?

## Imperial Yeomanry

George Timms, born in Wellesbourne in 1887, was the second son of Frederick and Eliza who had moved to Red Hill Farm sometime before the census of 1891. In that census Frederick's occupation had been listed as 'farmer' whilst 14-year-old George was listed as 'farmer's son'. Ten years earlier the family had lived at Hill Farm in Preston Bagot where George's father's occupation had been noted as 'shepherd.' An uncle, William Timms, who also worked on the land, had lodged with the family in Preston Bagot along with a young gamekeeper from Henley called John Alliban, so young George would have been no stranger to country pursuits and the rhythms, skills, codes and traditions of rural life. There can be little doubt that he could ride and shoot as soon as he was big enough and old enough to do so.

By the time the next official UK census was recorded on 31 March 1901, George Timms' name had disappeared from the record and for good reason; he had been serving in South Africa as a trooper in the 5th (Warwickshire) Company of the 2nd Battalion of the Imperial Yeomanry since the first quarter of 1900.

Within months of the outbreak of war in October 1899 it had become clear that The British Army was not going to achieve a quick and easy victory against its Boer adversaries. Widely acknowledged as expert marksmen and highly-skilled on horseback, something had to be done to counter the threat of the determined, fast-moving, hard-hitting Boer forces, particularly after the series of costly defeats in what became known as 'Black Week' for the British in December 1899. It became obvious to the British command that relatively slow-moving infantry and artillery alone were not up to the task and what Britain needed in large numbers was its own force of mounted infantry which could cover large distances fairly rapidly and carry out scouting and patrolling missions to counter the Boer threat. Thus the Imperial Yeomanry (IY) was instituted by Royal Warrant of 24 December 1899; with existing county Yeomanry regiments asked to provide a volunteer squadron – in effect a service company – of around 115 men each. Section 9 of the Royal Warrant stipulated that the qualifications for joining the IY were that candidates had to be 'between 20 to 35 years of age, and of



5th Squadron Warwickshire Imperial Yeomanry at De Aar Camp, 26 February 1901. Timms was absent on the day but Trooper Grimes, who was killed with Timms just a few days after this photograph was taken, is seated middle row, extreme left. Courtesy Philip Wilson and Trustees of the Warwickshire Yeomanry Museum.

Free State from the British who were equally intent on their annexation.

I was sure I had never heard of George Timms – a true 'Soldier of the Queen' before – but there was something familiar about the name. Timms? Why? I poked around a bit more as Ruby – a 3-year-old whippet and therefore clearly bored by the lack of any movement less than 40 mph – became restless. Moving round to the east side of the plinth I read: *William Timms/ son of Frederick and Eliza Timms/ Killed in action at Festubert France/ May 20 1915/ 'Thy Will be Done'.*



The memorial to George Timms and James Hadland in the nave.



Brass memorial in memory of the men of the Warwickshire Yeomanry.

good character' and that they had to satisfy the Colonel of the regiment through which they wished to enlist that they were 'good riders and marksmen, according to the Yeomanry standard'. In addition they also had to supply their own horses, clothing, saddlery and 'accoutrements'. Number 344 Trooper George Timms was just such a man.

George Timms became one of the 121-strong 5th (Warwickshire) Company of the 2nd Battalion of the 1Y which was part of the first contingent of 550 officers and 10,371 men to sail for South Africa. The Warwickshire men left British shores aboard the SS Lake Erie on 1 February 1900. George Timms would never see his home again.

### Guerrilla War

As the 1Y arrived in South Africa the period of 'conventional' fighting was drawing to a close to be replaced by the two-year 'guerrilla' phase of the war. Campaigning in South Africa for George Timms effectively involved constant patrolling, performing escort duties or hunting committed parties of Boers who were a constant thorn in the British side. From January 1901 Timms and his Warwickshire Yeomen comrades took part in the third great hunt for the brilliant Boer commander and tactician General Christian de Wet and by 4 March they had moved from the important rail junction of De Aar up to Edenburg, south of Bloemfontein in the Orange Free State. It was from here on 5 March that George Timms set out on his last mission; his squadron's task being to escort a section of Engineers to Jagersfontein 31 miles distant to repair the telegraph and thus re-establish communications with Generals Plumer and Bethune engaged in operations further west.

The outward journey was uneventful and the mission was accomplished with some success. Now they had to return to Edenburg, a journey which they commenced on 6 March, a day which, according to Lieutenant Meynell Hunt, one of Timms' officers and who kept a detailed journal of events, was to become 'one of the most regrettable I have had to speak about since our arrival in South Africa. Little did we think, as we left Jagersfontein at two o'clock, the terrible calamity which was to befall us later on?'

Retracing their steps the Warwickshire Yeomen reached Krom Ellenboog Spruit where they rested and watered their horses for two hours before setting off again in the moonlight at 8.15 pm – four men of the Warwicks on either flank led by Lieutenant Hunt and several men in the centre. All went well for over two hours until they approached an isolated farm at Groot Kalverfontein when a single word of command in Dutch split the silence. Then, according to Meynell Hunt, 'a line of fire from fifty rifles, like a flash of lightning, opened up on us from behind a wall on our right front, under twenty yards away. In a moment

everything was in confusion, men and horses falling all around, and those that could turning and galloping off'. The Boer ambush was complete. Horses whinnied and clattered off into the darkness as the unseated troopers scurried into gullies. Others who had had their horses shot from under them went to ground in the scrub as the Boers broke cover and hunted for the fugitives.

Long hours passed – no one dared to move but at last the sun came up at around 4.30 am on 7 March and, with no sight or sound of the Boers in the area, Meynell Hunt and those who had sought cover began to search the area for their comrades. Passing a number of dead or wounded horses, several badly wounded men were found but for two of the Yeomen it was already too late. Left out on the battlefield for more than six hours with no medical aid their very lifeblood had drained away into the veldt. 'On the side of the spruit was Timms, who died about five o'clock in no pain; he was shot through the back and shoulder... and a bit further on we found poor little Grimes, badly hit right through the stomach'. By now the alarm had been raised and an ambulance team had rushed out from Edenburg. The four wounded men were placed in the ambulance and the bodies of Grimes and George Timms were placed in a wagon and transported back to Edenburg where they were buried in the town cemetery at 6.00pm that evening. It was a solemn occasion.

### Remembered

George Timms of Red Hill Farm is remembered on at least four permanent memorials in addition to the gravestone in Snitterfield cemetery. The nearest is in the Church of St James the Great itself, on the left-hand side, halfway down the nave and erected by fellow parishioners. Two more memorials are in St Mary's Church, Warwick; the regimental church of both the Warwickshire Yeomanry and the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. The first – in memory of all officers and men of the Warwickshire regiments who fell in South Africa – can be seen almost as soon as one enters the church by the left hand door, high on a pillar off to the right. The second is on a brass plaque in the North Chancel of the church directly below the stained glass window dedicated to the men of the 5th Company of the Imperial Yeomanry. The beautifully worked window was unveiled on 1 June 1902, in the presence of the entire regiment, following which there was a parade down Church Street. The last memorial is rather more difficult to visit. It is a simple iron cross set within a circle, silently rusting away and marking the grave of George Timms in the same parched plot in Edenburg cemetery, where he and Corporal Grimes were laid to rest more than a century ago. A corner of some foreign field that is forever linked with Snitterfield.

### Jon Cooksey

## Sonnet for the saving of St James the Great

Harry Marlow

Harry Marlow and his wife, Valerie, have been associated with the church for many years. Harry was organist in the 1960s when the vicar was the Reverend John Woodward-Court.

Harry played the organ when their eldest son was married in the church and when their talented youngest daughter's funeral was held there.

*The work upon an ancient church is done.  
This fourteenth century gem of stone and glass  
Is saved for those of future faith and none  
In times uncertain as the long years pass.  
It's here within these mediaeval walls  
That plainsong chants were very softly sung.  
But when a sense of disapproval called  
The prayers and hymns were changed and bells were rung.  
St James survived the turbulent Reformation.  
The noble tower stood firm through stressful days  
When England was a very troubled nation  
'This is the truth' – a sadly common phrase!  
All thanks to those who have saved this precious place  
Of stone and coloured glass. Reflectiveness and Grace.*



Elsewhere in the arena a classic cars display was the perfect antidote for any fathers who felt their Father's Day had turned into a family day. Models ranging from an Austin 10 and MG PA dating from 1934 to an ultra modern Peraves Monotracer, which looked like a machine from the future, had them looking wistfully and planning on trading in the Ford Focus.

The competition for model pirate ships made from recycled material saw the Under 7 category jointly won by Archie Berry and Zoe Billiard and the Over 8 category won by James Lamb. Second prizes went to Claire Elliot and Freya Schmidt-Hansen.

Stalls included the WI (who also ran the Treasure Hunt), the Church, Snitterfield Garden Club, Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change (SACC) and, of course, the Friends of Snitterfield School and Nursery, who organised some great stalls and the immensely important Tea Tent, which is always beautifully presented with inviting goodies – mostly home cooked!

The Snitterfield Sports Club ran the bar as usual and the delicious Pig Roast and BBQ was organised by Lee Hillier from Hilliers Butchers with his team of helpers.

Huge thanks to everyone who came along and contributed to the day, and especially Radio Warneford, who yet again did a wonderful job of compering the event and providing the sound system, including a marvellous specially-prepared pirate playlist. Many thanks to the station's Lee, Sara, Andrew and Adrian for being a pirate radio station for the day and helping to make it really special.

**Special thanks too to the Village Fete Committee and their long suffering friends and family, who come to help erect and dismantle marquees in**

**all weathers, groundsman Nick Lamb, John Keen who stores all the equipment for the Fete and Deb Flowers from Set Square for organising the programme.**

Watch out for details of next year's Fete on the Snitterfield website.

For the fete to carry on and maintain its high standard we need new people to join the committee and step into the shoes of some long-standing stalwarts who are calling it a day after many years helping out. It's a lot of fun, as time-consuming as you want it to be and very rewarding. Give it a go! If you'd like an informal chat before you commit yourself phone Nicola on 731891 (email [ematthews1@toucansurf.com](mailto:ematthews1@toucansurf.com)) or Sally on 731852 (email [info@sallyhopkinson.co.uk](mailto:info@sallyhopkinson.co.uk)) or call into the village shop and have a chat with Gaye.

Every year, the Fete Committee allocates any profits (excluding proceeds from individual stalls) to village projects and good causes. In previous years Snitterfield School, the Village Hall, the Nursery, Thursday Club (over 70s) outings, a new village seat and spring bulb planting have all been supported.



As part of our Eco Schools programme and to raise funds, Snitterfield Primary School now has a clothes recycling bin. It will take clean, dry, wearable adult and children's clothing and shoes (attached in pairs); handbags and belts; sheets, curtains and towels. Please place items in supermarket type bags with the handles tied and place in the bin at school. Thank you for your support.

## Rag-Tag Toddler Group

Monday morning in the Village Hall  
10-11.45am. Health Visitor drop-in clinic once a month:  
19 September, 17 October, 21 November, 19 December,  
16 January 2012

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

## 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



Snitterfield Village Hall now has a wonderful new cinema screen, kindly donated by the Friends of the Village Hall, making the running of our monthly films far easier for the volunteers involved. Thank you.



Snitterfield Cinema is now on its Summer Vacation and will return to your village hall on 18 September.

Look out for the posters around the village, or check the website, to see what we shall be screening. If anyone would like to join the email group and be part of the voting system for choosing our films please either call or email Hilary Schmidt-Hansen: Tel: 731246 email: [hilary@thegables.spacomputers.com](mailto:hilary@thegables.spacomputers.com)  
Thank you for supporting this community facility.

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 Smith's Lane (make payable to Snitterfield Newsletter). Editorial items of interest to the village are welcomed.

