



New lease of life for village pub

With an average of two pubs a week being closed in the West Midlands it's good to see new life being breathed into Snitterfield's remaining pub – the Snitterfield Arms.

New landlady Leah Keyworth opened the doors and pulled the first pints in mid March, despite the paint still being wet on the walls! The first customers even helped carry tables and chairs in from the car park and unpack boxes of glasses and other materials. "Everyone's been so delightful" Leah said. By the time this issue of *Snipe* drops onto your doormats the pub will be fully operational, with a new chef offering traditional home-cooked food from a completely refitted kitchen alongside the refurbished bar areas.

Leah brings a lifetime of experience to our village pub – she's worked in bars since she was 16, including



seven years working in America, and was most recently landlady of the Bowling Green in Warwick, which she ran for six years. Within a month of selling it she professed herself 'bored stupid'.

Running pubs was a way of life rather than just a job and she was on the lookout for a new project. Several people mentioned the Snitt Arms to her, and she came and had a look – a bit like a secret shopper, she confesses. "I felt I could do something with it" she said, "it felt in need of a bit of love."

Leah will take a few months building the pub up, and her plans for the future include a barbecue area and adding locals' favourite beers behind the bar. "I'm very open to people's ideas on their local pub" she told *Snipe*, "so please do let me know what you want."

A host of golden daffodils

A mass spring bulb planting took place in October, with 1,500 daffodils and 2,000 crocuses planted around the war memorial and around the Methodist Church. Crocuses were also planted around the Stocks Tree opposite the shop. This is all thanks to a contribution from the profits from last year's village fete. It is hoped that over the next few years other areas within the village can be added. If you would like to propose an area to be planted let us know and we will pass the information on to the Fete committee.



Snipe Quiz 28th April

Don't forget to get your team together for the *Snipe* Fundraising Quiz on Saturday 28th April in the Village Hall. Tickets are available at the shop or by contacting Sally on 731852. They are priced at £6 per person (£36 per team of 6) to include a fish and chip supper and a half-time competition to win a Spa Day for Two at the Welcombe Spa.

There will also be a licensed bar available for wine, beer and soft drinks. Doors open at 7.00pm, quiz starts at 7.30pm. *Snipe* needs your support so come along and have fun!



Snitterfield assessed as a Local Service Village

Snitterfield has been assessed by Stratford District Council as 'A Local Service

Village'. This is achieved when it is considered that there are facilities and infrastructure locally to support a possible small increase in housing numbers in the new local development framework, currently out for consultation with residents.

We are very fortunate to have many kind people in our village of Snitterfield who consider and care for their neighbours and friends. We also have a big array of social activity for all ages; the many events and clubs can be found on the village website: www.snitterfield.com.

The village nursery school has recently been set up as the first, not for profit, community enterprise. The dedicated staff continue to deliver the care and education to the children, and now have more help from volunteers in planning for the future of the nursery. Some exciting developments are currently being considered and a consultation questionnaire to all Snitterfield residents will help review the service to the local community in the future.

The Thursday Club has put out an invitation for residents to join them for 'a warm welcome, a delightful cup of tea and chat', on the first Thursday of each month in the Village Hall at 2.30pm. I

enjoy this time to meet up with friends and listen to some interesting speakers – often they are talented local people with a tale to tell, or a skill to teach us – as well as some day trips away. If anyone needs transport, please contact me.

Local Planning

These applications can be viewed at Stratford District Council website: www.stratford.gov.uk

The Foxhunter; 12/00134/FUL

Hawkswood Farm; 12/00062/FUL

The Parish Council has opposed both these applications, which are currently being considered by the planning officers.

The Gliding Club has now received planning permission to vary conditions and allow motorised gliders. Some local residents are in discussion with the District Council and have asked further questions about the 'noise level compliance targets' and the difficulties of policing and verifying compliance. I am hoping to facilitate mediation talks at Elizabeth House between concerned parties in the near future. If you wish to know more about this, please get in touch with me.

Helen Hayter, District Councillor

Helen.Hayter@Stratford-dc.gov.uk

Tel: 01789 731388/Mob: 0787642726

How you can help to make your village superfast



Your assistance could make all the difference to Snitterfield getting superfast broadband!

Warwickshire County Council, in partnership with Solihull and Coventry councils, has been allocated £4.07 million by central government for better broadband in the area. This grant needs to be

match-funded by the local councils with a considerably larger investment expected from the private sector to ensure that all properties achieve speeds of at least 2Mbps and that at least 90% of properties achieve at least 24Mbps by the end of 2015.

Warwickshire County Council has already approved £500,000 and Stratford District Council will access a similar amount from external grants towards the project. We now need to show the private investors the areas where there is the greatest demand and we need your help, to ensure that Snitterfield is one of those areas.

Complete our survey: If you have not already done so please complete the broadband survey that is

located at <http://www.cswbroadband.org.uk> – there is one survey for domestic use and one for business use, so if you run a business or work from home please do both. Encourage your neighbours to do it as well: the more people that respond from a given area the higher priority it will be given.

Spread the Word: Could you help to bring faster broadband services to your local area? We are looking for Community Champions to help us to get our message out to rural communities. The role will include: putting posters up on local noticeboards; delivering flyers to households; and providing hard copies of the surveys to those who are unable to access them online.

All material will be provided through the project website and a hard copy will be prepared. To express an interest in becoming a Champion, please email your name, address (with postcode) and telephone number to broadband@warwickshire.gov.uk

Richard Hobbs, County Councillor

richardhobbs@warwickshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01789 730331

If you go down to the woods today ...

An artisan company, based deep in the woodland between Bearley and Snitterfield, has picked up a top prize in the country's largest and most respected food awards.

The Woodland Kitchen saw off tough competition to take the coveted two-star Gold Great Taste Award for its hot smoked salmon. Chef and owner, Mark Hayden, says the Great Taste Award is national recognition for The Woodland Kitchen, which he has been running for five years now. He previously worked in some of the country's busiest and most exclusive kitchens, from the glamour and glitz of the Savoy Grill to Claridges' classical surroundings.

"Winning two gold stars for our smoked salmon is a fabulous achievement" he told *Snipe*.

"We've been producing this for a wide range of clients, including Silverstone Grand Prix, and everywhere we go the reaction is hugely encouraging. This award is a vote of confidence, not only for our hot smoked salmon but for the entire business."

Organised by the Guild of Fine Food, the Great Taste Awards attracted 7,481 entries from 1,600 companies.



It took 350 experts 34 days to blind taste everything and decide which entries would achieve the coveted star awards.

Bob Farrand, Chairman for The Great Taste Awards, said: "Winning gold in the country's largest and most respected independent food accreditation scheme is a massive pat on the back for any producer – it is independent proof that their products are of the highest quality."

As well as the award-winning hot smoked salmon The Woodland Kitchen can also supply Asian pork tenderloin cured with lemon grass, ginger, Szechwan pepper and soy, and many other products such as smoked Gressingham duck breast and dry-cured pancetta style bacon.

Mark also runs an outside catering service, specialising in events ranging from weddings to private dinner parties. He said: "We only managed a small celebration – we haven't had much time to pop the champagne corks. We're hoping though that this award will mean we'll be even busier as more people get to hear about

the good things we're producing."

Mark will deliver his produce to anyone in the village who orders it or food can be collected from the kitchens. For more information email mark@thewoodlandkitchen.co.uk or phone Stratford 730703 or 07841 197377. The full food range can be viewed on the website at www.thewoodlandkitchen.co.uk.

Murder most foul unmasked

Snitterfield Village Hall was the venue for Sir William Dykes Masked Dinner on 10th March. One hundred villagers and friends packed the hall to enjoy a meal prepared by John Wylie & Co and entertainment by Murder International.

As the evening unfolded it became apparent that Sir William was a nasty character in every way. A bully of the first order. Not surprisingly, he was murdered in the middle of the hall! But by whom? It could have been his wife, his mistress, his groundsman, cousin or the reporter who turned out to be his illegitimate son whose mother he deserted.

This was the setting for a most enjoyable and noisy evening which bought the village together. Organised jointly by the W.I. and Village Hall Management Committee any profits will be used to improve the hall and benefit the W.I.

Ann Farr

The Village Hall Management Committee would like to thank Vanessa Prestidge for her time as Booking Clerk and wish her well in her forthcoming marriage. Sharon Coombes has agreed to take over from Vanessa. For Village Hall booking details see back page.



Drawing a link with the past

A Derbyshire lady called Val Brassington got in touch with *Snipe* whilst researching an artist with strong links to Snitterfield. She was interested in previous articles in *Snipe* about the Philips family and has found some fascinating information which she has kindly shared with us

In the 1950s my late father, whilst living in Cheshire, bought a portfolio of amateur sketches and watercolours by Caroline Greg. Over the last few years I have sporadically tried to find out more about the pictures and the young woman who painted them.

Caroline Greg (pictured top right) was the niece of Robert Needham Philips, her mother's brother. She was unmarried and spent a lot of time travelling and painting. One of the sketches my father bought is entitled *Snitterfield Cottage* (bottom left), dated 19th September 1845.

The curator at the Records office in Stratford has identified Snitterfield Cottage as Park House. I also have a very interesting watercolour entitled *Bedroom at Snitterfield* (right), dated June 1861, depicting furniture of the period including a four poster bed. Caroline Greg was cousin to Caroline Philips (later Lady Caroline Trevelyan), daughter of Robert Needham Philips, so I presume she was visiting her family when she did the paintings.

There is a large National Trust property in Styal, Cheshire called Quarry Bank Mill, which was



owned by the Greg family. It was founded in 1784 by Samuel Greg and later run by his son, Robert Hyde Greg. Robert Hyde Greg married Mary Philips, sister to Robert Needham Philips and Mark Philips who lived in Snitterfield's Park House and then built Welcombe House. Caroline Greg, who painted the pictures, was Robert Hyde Greg's daughter. The curator at Quarry Bank Mill, Adam Daber, kindly provided me with some details about Caroline. Caroline's mother kept a birthday book, a common custom at that time, and two volumes still survive and cover the 1827 - 1870 period. Entries were written on her birthday each year, recounting family events in the preceding 12 months.



Caroline was born in 1828. It seems she did not enjoy good health: the account for 1864 states: 'Caroline the only child still unmarried and living at home. Suffered ill health for the past ten

years. Worsening in the past year. Medical consultations locally and in London had diagnosed an inflamed left kidney.'

The entry for 1865 goes on to say: 'Caroline travelled to Liverpool and North Wales in 1864, and then finally to Prussia to a health spa resort at Kreuznach for a few months in summer/autumn, before returning home in a weakened and fevered state, a consequence of the change in climate before leaving and the journey itself.

'Later in the year, she travelled to London and Snitterfield, but never recovered. Her mind kept active to the end and she was considerate of others' feelings. Mixed emotions of mother and family members over the death, sorrow but a release from suffering.'

If you live in Park House and recognise the room in the painting we would love to hear from you.

Remembering Snitterfield's wartime food heroes

Firstly, I should give you some of my background. My name is Brian Pryce, 81 years old, born in 1930 at School House, Snitterfield. My father, Morris, was headmaster of the village school from 1920 until his retirement in 1950 [see *column right*]. At that time, there had been only three headmasters in 100 years.

I thought that readers might be interested in some of my memories of January 1940. It was wartime, of course, with shortages of all foods: rationing of sugar, butter, margarine, meat, bacon and eggs. The village then had several shops including Mr Ledbrooke the butcher [on the current site of our village shop on Smith's Lane], which also had a petrol pump (but petrol rationed); Mrs White at the general store; the Co-op on The Green; and Mr Cook the baker at the top of Bell Lane.

It was the worst winter for 50 years and the village was completely cut off by road by tremendous snow drifts. After about a week of isolation all the shops were out of food and the situation was getting drastic. The school remained open for children who could get there and

my father sent letters out to their fathers requesting they come to a meeting to discuss the situation. He suggested that all able bodied men who could not get to work should take sledges to Stratford over the fields to buy supplies.

The route taken was via The Green, Kings Lane and across the fields to Welcombe (then a private house). The journey needed to be on high ground because snow had blown into deep drifts in the valleys. The operation went well and after many hours the convoy of 'dads' returned. The next day the food was distributed between the shops and Snitterfield could eat again.

Writing this in January 2012, whilst staying a few days with my daughter and son-in-law, John and Susan Keen, Glebe Farm, Wolverton Road, the weather is exceptionally mild. What a contrast!

Brian Pryce

Very many thanks to Brian for this fascinating tale. If you have any memories to share please do send them to Snipe – it is so important to keep village stories alive and available to new generations of readers.

A head of his time

Morris Pryce was keenly interested in gardening and agriculture and this was reflected in the curriculum for the senior scholars at Snitterfield school, which had a strong rural bias. There were regular visits to local farms to see manure trials, experiments with root crops and lessons in poultry keeping. From the early 1920s the school functioned as a Rural Central School where scholars from neighbouring districts could study Housewifery, Woodwork and Rural Science.

When war began in 1939 the peaceful, ordered life of the school was changed overnight. A large number of evacuees from Birmingham and Coventry were accommodated and a nursery department was opened in 1940 to help cope with the influx of young children. Holidays were modified, with the summer break taken in September so children could help with the harvest.

In 1943 a significant change took place when seniors were transferred to Secondary Modern Schools in Stratford and the school became Snitterfield Junior and Infant School.

Information courtesy of the WI History Scrap Book

Village Sports Club on winning streak

Not everyone in the village may be aware of the thriving sports club at the heart of village activity. The club has four active sections offering tennis, bowls, cricket and junior football. Additionally there's a senior football team, together with facilities for netball, table tennis, snooker and darts. Regular exercise classes are offered to members and non-members alike.

We are very conscious of our role as a village amenity and offer various activities to the school. The function room (*photograph right*) is available to hire and can be dressed to suit all manner of occasions from

children's parties to private birthday celebrations. Many local businesses and societies use the skittle alley for social events.

Every November we host the village bonfire night and have staged Stargazing Live events in conjunction with the local astronomical society and BBC coverage. Last year saw the first Snitterfield Beer Festival and such was the success that it is to be repeated this year on 5th and 6th May. As the clocks go back and we start to enjoy

lighter evenings activity levels will increase and on most evenings there will be something going on to come and watch or join in.

The club is in sound shape but is always in need of ongoing support, so feel free to pop in and have a look around.



Sun shines on village hall



To date there have been 36 solar Photovoltaic installations through the Snitterfield Community Solar Programme. As a result Snitterfield Village Hall and Snitterfield Sports Club (the latter subject to planning consent) now have a 3.6kWp solar panel installed. The Snitterfield dedicated installer, Eco2solar, offered a free 2kWp system on a community building for every ten domestic installations. With luck, in the coming months, Snitterfield Primary School will also have a 3.4kWp system which has been generously upgraded in size by Eco2solar.

The community buildings will benefit from reduced electricity bills and a small return through the export of electricity. The revenue generated through the Feed in Tariff from the Village Hall and the Sports Club will be available from SACC as grants for further energy efficiency projects in the village. More details on how to apply for funding will follow.

SACC has also been awarded funding for a Small Wind Turbine Assessment of the parish. This funding is from



Chris Vincent Photography

the Department of Energy and Climate Change and aims to help empower communities to play an active role in the development of the low carbon economy within England and Wales. The assessment will identify if Snitterfield has any potential sites for installing small wind turbines. The idea is to generate electricity locally for use locally. If suitable sites are found within the Parish, then SACC will approach land owners to discuss the possibility of installing small wind turbines in Snitterfield.

Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change
www.snitterfieldacc.org

Mob rule makes feathers fly



When someone is new in the village, are you nice to them or do you go out of your way to make them feel unwelcome? During the last few weeks a raven has been trying to settle in the village but the jackdaws don't like the idea, so they keep harassing the newcomer.

This behaviour of smaller birds towards a larger threatening bird is, however, more justified than any human unfriendliness. It is called 'mobbing' in ethology (the study of animal behaviour) and it is aimed at making life so uncomfortable for the predator that it goes somewhere else.

Mobbing is usually noisy and very lively so it is a good way for us bird watchers to spot interesting behaviour and rarer birds. A lot of noise in the garden turned out to be a sparrowhawk that had caught a blackbird for its young. I saw my first red kite in our area along the A46 because it was mobbed by two buzzards, just slightly smaller than the kite. In Edstone I saw a nuthatch mobbing a little owl, and over my house swallows were

mobbing a sparrowhawk. I once saw very impressive aerobatics when an avocet was chasing away a herring gull. Keep an eye out for the raven newcomer.

Snitterfield Spring watch! If you are interested in joining me for a bird walk in the village on the morning of Sunday 13th May then please send an email to me or call on 730232. We should see many birds and plenty of interesting behaviour.

Claes Martenson
claber57@btinternet.com

Pictured below the Common Raven (Corvus corax). Ravens typically live about 10 to 15 years in the wild, although lifespans of up to 40 years have been recorded. Young birds may travel in flocks, but later mate for life, with each mated pair defending a territory.

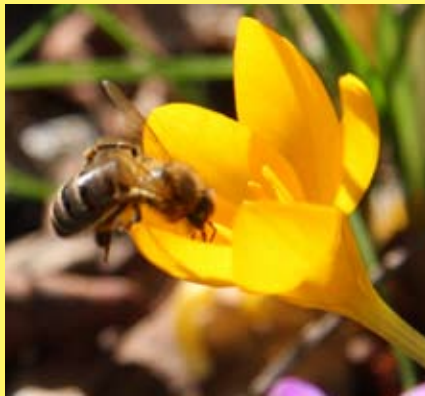




Get Snitterfield Buzzing!

Einstein predicted if bees were eliminated from our planet, mankind would soon perish.

This sounds quite dramatic but it has been obvious to scientists, farmers and gardeners that there has been a serious decline in honey bees and pollinating insects which are vital to the production of the vast amount of fruit, vegetables and arable crops. The recent television programme "Bees, Butterflies and Blooms" presented by Sarah Raven has highlighted this crisis, suggesting that central to the problem is a lack of food and habitat for the pollinators. Many of us will remember the wild flower-filled road verges and hedgerows, railway embankments, village greens and meadows now sadly destroyed to make way for "progress".



With the backing of the RHS, Sarah Raven is promoting a campaign for communities across the country, to embrace more wild flowers and insect friendly plants into their environment. We live in a beautiful village surrounded by countryside, orchards, woods and most of us have gardens which are potential habitats where insects could live and source their food. We can do more to encourage them, so consider how you could help to "Get Snitterfield Buzzing".

- Aim to have plants that are attractive to insects from early spring to late autumn.

- Never use pesticides on plants.
- Seek plants out at garden centres which have the RHS symbol "Perfect for Pollinators". Download RHS Perfect for Pollinators plant list www.rhs.org.uk/Plants for Pollinators
- Become more relaxed with border planting, choosing plants which attract insects. Insects prefer bright yellow centres and nectar rich flowers.
- Try to make a patch which could be left to grow a bit wild, attracting hoverflies, beetles, butterflies and moths.
- Do encourage children to observe and understand the importance of these wonderful creatures. Be a mini beast detective; draw them.
- Encourage children to make a "bug hotel" using an empty plastic drinks bottle with the top cut off and filled with plastic drinking straws or pieces of bamboo cane. Place it in your garden and see who uses it!



To promote awareness of the importance of wild flowers in our environment, RHS Britain in Bloom is providing packs of cornfield annuals to sow in community areas to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Our application to take part has been accepted and, hopefully, the school is going to participate by sowing a Wild Flower Area.

Here the children will be able to enjoy and observe the variety of visiting insects, stimulating a wonderful interest as well as attractive colour in the school garden.

So, come on Snitterfield, are you going to buzz too?

Margaret Tweed

For gardeners, it's the bees knees

What plant flowers for ten months of the year and is smothered in pollinating insects? It is evergreen, covered in bright mauve fragrant flowers set off by lovely blue-green foliage, forms a neat dome which works well in a variety of garden schemes and has been reasonably hardy in my Snitterfield garden through recent snowy winters (I lost one out of eight plants).

Sounds almost perfect doesn't it? And that is why Erysimum Bowles Mauve, also known as the perennial wallflower, is my favourite garden plant. It is a vigorous subshrub that reaches 60cm in height and spread. It must have plenty of sun but will survive in quite poor soil - enjoying similar conditions to lavender. It is

tolerant of drought and fairly low maintenance: dead heading will keep it tidy and flowering well. As a cut flower it lasts for ages and looks lovely at this time of the year with narcissi or tulips. Its only failing is that it flowers so much that it exhausts itself. After three to four years it looks tired and is best replaced. But as cuttings take very easily this is no big deal.

If you buy one plant to help bees this spring then this is the one I would choose. If you can stretch to three then add borage and lavender and you really will get Snitterfield buzzing.



SH

What's On

Snitterfield WI

Meetings on 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm Village Hall.

9th May: Resolution vote for national campaign for the year.

13th June: Eugene and Margaret Schellenberg talk about their experience setting up the Ifakara Bakery in Tanzania. All welcome. Contact: Jean 731574.

Snitterfield Garden Club

1st May: Willow Weaving Day, morning and afternoon practical sessions. £17.50 inc coffee/lunch or lunch/tea. Evening talk 7.30pm.

6th June: Garden Visit To Upton Wold, 6.30pm.

17th June: Plant stall, village fete.

3rd July: Garden visit to Abbotswold, Lower Swell, 6.30pm.

18th July: Day outing to Wollerton Hall and Trentham Gardens leaving Village Hall at 8.45am arriving back at approx 7pm. Coach and entrances cost £23.50.

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings on the second Monday in the month, unless changed by the Council: **14th May** Annual Meeting.

Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change (SACC)

Meetings first Thursday each month in Village Hall at 8.00pm. Check website for date changes. www.snitterfieldacc.org

Snitterfield Sports Club

5th and 6th May: Beer Festival

7th May: Bowls Gala (all welcome to watch)

Snitterfield Nursery/Primary School events

23rd May: Ladies pamper evening, village hall, see posters for details.

2nd June: Jubilee tea, in the village hall, 2.30-5.00pm. Red, white and blue theme, children's competitions.

Rag-Tag Toddler Group

Monday morning in the Village Hall 10.00-11.45am. Open to all parents and carers with children 0-4 years.

Wide range of toys and a friendly welcome.

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



SNITTERFIELD VILLAGE FETE OLYMPICS

 Sunday 17th June 
12pm - 4pm

Radio Warneford, tea tent, craft tent, pig roast, BBQ, bar, duck herding, plant stall, strawberries, tug of war, horse racing, scores of stalls and Olympic games!

Moving Pictures

Cinema in the Village Hall

Sunday 22nd April: Puss in Boots 3pm; Warhorse 7pm.

Sunday 20th May: Last cinema before summer break. Films TBA.

Look out for the posters around the village or check the website to see what we shall be screening. If you would like to join the email group and be part of the voting system for choosing films contact Hilary Schmidt-Hansen: Tel: 731246
email: hilary@thegables.com
spacomputers.com

Beware Bogus Bags

Warwickshire Trading Standards Services are asking Warwickshire residents for help in putting a stop to bogus charity clothing collections. They are concerned that some householders are being duped into donating clothing and bric-a-brac to private traders who are providing misleading bags. Householders are asked to post suspect bags or flyers to Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards Service, Old Budbrook Road, Warwick CV35 7BR. Or they can be scanned and emailed to tradingstandards@warwickshire.gov.uk

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 information, rates and booking please telephone 07501416221/ 01789 730514 email smcoombes@btinternet.com



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. The school also has a scheme to recycle printer cartridges, DVDs and computer games in their original boxes.