

FREE
to the residents
of Snitterfield



ISSUE THREE

SPRING 2003

Well, here we are with issue No.3 and no earth shattering news to hit the headlines with!

Despite this, we are delighted with the response from you the villagers, you have produced some excellent articles for Snipe, this is exactly how we had hoped you would use the newsletter.

We think Snipe has a real 'people of the village' feel about it this time, with a delightful profile on Smiths Lane, a lovely story of what goes on 'in the bushes', and an interesting insight into the school governors role. The real 'farming memories' are something to hang on to in this ever changing industry that surrounds us, and can anyone help with the Snitterfield Heroes research?

So, *well done you*, please keep up the good work and keep the stories coming!

HOW IS SNIPE FUNDED?

The most frequently asked question by you, the residents is – *How is Snipe funded?*

You will recall at the outset, the team's 'vision statement' for this new publication was (and still is) to '**create an awareness within the village**', covering important issues affecting you the residents of Snitterfield, while also presenting a forum for your ideas and opinions.

It was decided there should be one free copy delivered quarterly to every household in the parish, approximately 465. We also felt very strongly, it should be a quality publication that the residents would find difficult to file in the bin the minute it dropped through the letterbox.

Having set this criterion we then had to fund it! One issue costs just over £600 to produce, plus, a large amount of voluntary time from a team of eight people.

We applied for, and gained, grants from The Countryside Agency, Stratford District Council, and our own Parish Council, but with funding, there is always a requirement to meet the grant with a percentage of your own fund raising!



Our aim was to put on a big event that would (a) hopefully produce the top-up funds we currently needed, and (b) involve as much of the village as possible in a fun social event.

So, as most of you will know, we had our hugely successful Fun Auction on Saturday

1 February. We hired the room at the Bowls & Tennis Club, which we were most impressed with, (what an excellent venue right here in the village), and Structured Training, the company from Prospero Barn, in The Green, generously sponsored the cost of the room.



Your response to our plea for promises and goods was amazing, you really

put your thinking caps on and came up with a very creative range of lots. Jim Crow, was our very entertaining auctioneer, ably assisted by Marilyn Follis, Ron Hoe took on the role of porter, Cathy Kimberley and Sylvia Birbeck did a sterling job on the cashdesk, while Ginny Crow and Lesley Fall collected a very healthy £90 with the somewhat alcoholic raffle!

It was a great evening, and your support and generosity was overwhelming, the auction raised just over £1500 and has assured the production of the next two issues of Snipe. We would like to say a big thank you, and *well done you!*

We have received several donations from residents, some who were unable to attend the auction, and some, just wishing to support Snipe. Your generosity is much appreciated; in fact it has occurred to us that a donation is an excellent way of helping with the funding issue, should you feel at all inspired! We are also charging £1 per copy for any additional copies.

Having had this early success, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels; the next two issues will soon be here and gone! So, (as they say), for our next event, we would like to hear from all the creative people in this village, creative in whatever form, to exhibit, perform or take part in the 'Snitterfield Arts Festival'. Time is of the essence, so please contact one of us **ASAP!**

TEMPTED! – then ring Marilyn Follis on 731407, or Diane Hoe on 730223

Diane Hoe, Editor

Councillor Peggy Joslin Retires from Snitterfield

After many years of loyal service to our Parish we have had to say goodbye to one of the most knowledgeable and hard working members of the Parish Council.

Peggy retired from public life early in January and with Hedley her husband, moved away to Lincolnshire to be nearer to their children. They will be greatly missed by many people and organisations in the village and in the South Warwickshire area. Peggy has in the past held many public offices, being a District Councillor and past leader of Stratford District Council, a Warwickshire County Councillor and Vice Chairman of the County Council.

She has been a member of our Parish Council for many years. As a token of our respect and to say thank you to Peggy and Hedley a painting of the village was presented to them by the artist Mr David Rowbotham and myself on behalf of the members of the Parish Council (pictured above).



The scene records two of Peggy's loves in the village: The Methodist Church, where she was a steward for many years and the Village primary School where she was a Governor.

We hope that this will remind Peggy and Hedley of all those happy years living in Snitterfield, because the painting depicts the view from Peggy and Hedley's first house in the village, Stable Cottage, on The Green.

The Parish Council is faced with the task of replacing Peggy on the Parish Council and she will be a hard act to

follow, her experience and knowledge of local affairs was second to none. She has guided us through many procedural issues and advised us on many occasions how to proceed or who to approach to resolve a Parish problem. It was once said, 'Its not what you know, its who you know' this was certainly true of our Peggy...

Gerry Stammers

What's happening in the Parish?

Currently the Parish is preparing to start the Parish Plan, the much talked and written about document that will set out the development of our Parish over the next 8 years. This plan is going to take about two years to reach its conclusion and we need a core of parishioners who are prepared to form the steering committee to see it through. This group will seek funding from various sources and guidance from specialists such as planning experts, public transport suppliers, local traders, local health councils and computer specialist etc, to put together a document which will be acceptable to both the District and County Councils

We have attended a networking day on the way forward and much to our surprise we in Snitterfield already have a substantial amount of community data which will be used to produce the initial draft plan. We will be looking at the infrastructure of the village and Parish, services provided and needed, schooling and young peoples facilities, leisure activities for

all and the requirements of the elderly, the local environment and the improvement in our rural character. Most people think the local plan is all about building houses, not so, this plan will be based on our needs as a community which were defined in the Village Appraisal and will be controlled by the planning guidelines set out in the Village Design Statement.

The Parish Council will head up this project and councillors will be members of the steering committee, but not chairing the committee, this responsibility will be determined by the committee at its first meeting. If you feel like putting something back into the Parish and helping to plan our future then contact any member of the Parish Council. They will take your name and telephone number so that we can inform you of dates and times for the initial meeting and possible open day in the village hall.

Gerry Stammers
Chairman of the Parish Council

News from your District Councillor

The Stratford District Council have recently adopted the Snitterfield Village Appraisal at a meeting, in which members praised the action plan contained within the document. One proposal was 'to provide a newsletter to be delivered to all residents containing current information' and later in the agenda an application was received for grant aid towards the production of the 'Snipe' magazine. The committee were impressed by the first two editions and were able to award the village four hundred pounds toward the costs.

The appraisal will bring many benefits to Snitterfield including the likelihood of sporting facilities on the playing field.

The PC are now looking at the next step of producing a village plan to ensure that the planning priorities of the residents are met by the District Council.

The village is certainly a leading community in South Warwickshire – well done Snitterfield.

Richard Hobbs
District and County Councillor

IN THE BUSHES...

When I moved to Snitterfield in 1997 it was as a result of my involvement in the work at Snitterfield Bushes. I had gone along to a Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WARNACT) talk about trees, hoping that I might finally learn how to tell one type of tree from another. As it turned out, the talk was much more about woodland and landscape, and, to be honest, I still can't recognise many types of tree.

However, at that meeting I said to the friendly secretary of the Stratford branch: 'So, is this what you do: talks?' I still wonder if he misheard me and thought I said 'Is this all you do - talk?' because he seemed to take it as a challenge! He led me to Snitterfield Bushes' volunteer warden and introduced me as someone who was keen to do more than just talking. So the next Saturday I found myself following another friendly person who had volunteered to show me where the Reserve was.

At the time I was renting a house in Shipston while waiting to sell my house 'up North' and had never been to Snitterfield. For the rest of that winter I passed through Snitterfield most Saturdays and so decided to have a look off the main road through it. It didn't take me long to realise that this was just the type of village I had been hoping to find and I was lucky enough to see a property come up for sale the following Spring.

Meanwhile, 'up the Bushes': what do we do? The thing that surprised me most when I started helping there was that conservation seemed to involve a lot of destruction: we seemed to be chopping down lots of trees, cutting down honeysuckle and roses as well as bramble and privet. During the first season I was there we largely cleared an area of about an acre. And when you're chopping and dragging large trees in winter, the ground gets pretty churned up. By the time we'd finished, the place to

me looked like a bomb had hit it: it seemed all wrong. But if you go there now you will see the truth I have learnt: you don't kill a tree by cutting it down. Nature has such wonderful powers of recovery and that same area is full of life now. And whereas the trees that we took out were generally poor, weak specimens, that had "bolted" through all growing up simultaneously and competing for the canopy-space, by leaving a few, stronger, larger 'standards' we have improved the structure of the woodland. Also, what we do by this process is stimulate a process that ecologists call succession. This process is one whereby one habitat succeeds another: from herbage through to mature trees. Each of these habitats favours different ecosystems, so at the 'herbage' stage certain flowers will thrive, whereas as the trees begin to re-establish and the ground receives only dappled sunlight, those plants disappear and others take their place.

We coppice a different area every other year, although there are some areas of the wood that we will never manage actively. In the years in between (and to a lesser extent in the coppicing years) we manage the non-woodland: keeping the broader paths clear and wide, and scalloping the edges, so that they make good habitat for butterflies; maintaining the ditches,

hedges, ponds and boundaries.

Although we do burn quite a lot of the 'brash' - the smaller branches and twigs from the felled trees - we also use the material we cut (including grasses, brambles, saplings) to create 'habitat piles'.

If you're walking around the Reserve you may notice heaps of strimmings or neat stacks of wood, lain criss-cross: they are likely to be providing food and/or shelter for a whole range of creatures. On the other hand, when you're working on a bitterly cold day, or when the rain hasn't stopped since you started, a roaring fire is wonderfully heartening! Often, as the light goes at the end of a Saturday, you will find us standing around the end of the fire, mesmerised by the flickering, glowing pile of embers. And one of my enduring memories is of a crisp, bright Winter's day, with snow underfoot: seeing a robin land on one of the longer branches sticking out of our fire - obviously he was in need of a little warmth, too!

You may be wondering why I do it. Originally it just seemed like a good way of getting out into the fresh air and doing something active after a week's work sat in an office staring at a computer screen - and that's still a pretty motivating factor. But much more, now, it's because I feel I am

investing in the future: I can walk around the reserve any day and see something that I have contributed to, which will last much longer than I.

Tricia Scott

P.S. We're always looking for new volunteers, so get in touch if you'd like to join us. If you're not in a position to help, but would like to know more about the Reserve, the volunteer warden would be happy to organise guided tours for small groups in the Summer.



Left to right:
John Matthews (Warden),
Roger Jukes, Denis Harris,
Tricia Scott and Bill Hicks

SNITTERFIELD MILLENNIUM WALLHANGING UPDATE

Since the 'launch' of the wall hanging in November 2002 it has been seen by a great number of people. Its reception by the village has been very gratifying and a just reward for the hard work put in to it.

Now that it hangs in the church it is able to be seen by anyone at anytime and everybody agrees that it is in a good position. We are not too happy about the lighting but that will be dealt with in the near future. We are also looking for a table for the visitor's book and the book, which will be a record of the work and the people involved in it.

This latter book will be a work of art in its own right. Chris Chatland is in charge of collating all the information



I am also in the process of filling out data for a national register of millennium projects being compiled by Stitch Magazine. Ron Hoe has agreed to take some more photographs for this. Last, but not least, the wall hanging is being incorporated into the Snitterfield website (snitterfield.com) Ken Chatland is the enthusiastic organizer of this project making sure that our efforts will be appreciated, not only within the confines of our own small village but worldwide.

The photograph used on the website is the one that Ron Hoe took for the last issue of SNIPE.

Jean Dronsfield

for this. Sandra George has produced a beautiful snipe for the cover on her very clever sewing machine. We have found a bookbinder who is going to make us leather bound book with a box to keep it in.

SNITTERFIELD W.I. NEWS

In May 2003 Snitterfield W.I. will celebrate its 70th birthday.

The origin of the Women's Institute was as a meeting place for women living in rural areas, tied to the home and family, where they could meet for relaxation and education.

70 years on Snitterfield is still a rural area but most families have chosen to come and live here for that very reason. Members of W.I. today are very different from our mothers and grandmothers. Most of us are, or have been, working women. We are no longer tied to our homes, of course, because we have all kinds of aids to help us with the running of them. Many of us also have transport, which gets us out and about. That is not to forget that there are still some of us who are not so fortunate.

Whatever your age or status why not come along and join us. We are still a women's organization I'm afraid we haven't enrolled men as yet! We meet on the second Wednesday evening of the month at 7.45pm in the Village Hall. We always have an interesting speaker which is the 'education' bit and afterwards we have the 'relaxation' with coffee and cakes. The cakes are not always homemade because we are not all fond of, or have the time for, cooking. We are not all jam and Jerusalem these days.

If you are not too sure that the W.I. is for you then why not come as a visitor for one meeting. You will be under no obligation to join - we are a friendly crowd and you'd be sure of a warm welcome!

FRIENDS OF SNITTERFIELD VILLAGE HALL

As many of you will know the Friends of the Village Hall has been run for the last 6 years by Ken Worden and Jean Dronsfield. During that time, and since its beginnings in 1992 by Lesley Fall, many of the friends have been recipients of the monthly first or second prizes. The money raised by your annual subs of £12 has also helped to update the chairs, put in mood lighting and helped to refurbish the toilets.

Ken now feels that he is no longer able to be involved, due to other commitments. Jean is willing to carry on for the foreseeable future. I am sure that we would

all wish to thank Ken for all his hard work in organizing and controlling the finances and also for the great deal of his physical labour and expertise in reorganizing the lighting and heating in the hall.

Fortunately Don and Lindsay Rushton have volunteered to take over Ken's side of things whilst Tim has agreed to carry on helping Jean. This means that business will be as usual.

STRATFORD L.E.T.S GROUP

L.E.T.S stands for Local Exchange Trading System. This system is where members exchange goods and services with other members on a time-for-time basis, without the need for cash. As members we have done various jobs for local people including DIY, gardening, housework and cookery. In return we have had help decorating a doll's house, sewing and regular piano lessons. Members can also loan and borrow equipment - from a van and driver to a garden shredder. Why not join us - it doesn't need to be a big commitment, and can take as little or as much time as you wish.

For more information about the scheme call me, Vikki Parker, on 01789 731348



The Job of School Governor...

Back: John Fitchford, Richard Hobbs, Andrea Fuller, Denise Thompson (Head Teacher)
Front: Abbe Sturman, Judith Hollowell, Frank Anderson, Nic Beishon (Chair of Governors), Angria Vaughan
Absent: Peter Morlidge, Sue Adcock

Every school in England is required by law to have a Board of Governors. The composition of the Board depends on the type and size of school and at Snitterfield we have eleven Governors at present. Two are teachers at the school, three are parents of children at the school and three are appointed by the local authorities. In addition there are two who have been co-opted because of the particular skills they have. All are unpaid volunteers, but the one aim they all have in common is the well being of the pupils and the school. Recently the rise in numbers has required us to find two more Governors, so, if you are interested please do contact the school.



The role of the Board of Governors is mainly strategic and to act as a 'critical friend' to the Head Teacher providing advice and support.

The management of a school these days is very similar to a business with aims, objectives, action plans, progress monitoring, performance management etc.

and monitoring their performance.

The Governors must meet at least once a term and annually they prepare a report for parents which is discussed at an annual meeting.

It is a demanding role for people who probably have full time careers as well as family responsibilities. However only good can come out of the arrangement which involves local people in how our children spend their formative years at school.

Bob Foster
Clerk to the Governors

Outside inspections from OFSTED will report on the school regularly and the recent reports at Snitterfield have been excellent. The inspectors give advice on how things can be further improved. To this end the Governors will be involved in preparing and maintaining financial budgets, observing teaching and monitoring the curriculum.

They also keep an eye on Health and Safety and will be involved in appointing teachers

Snitterfield Garden Club

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the founding of our club. It was started by a small group of enthusiasts, but has grown until in the last few years the membership has steadied at around fifty, but we are always ready to welcome new members. (If anyone wants to sample our meetings they may do so at a nominal visitors fee of £1)

The club is specifically called a 'Garden Club' and not a 'Gardening Club' because no member needs to be a practical gardener, but only to enjoy gardens. To this end, the talks and illustrated lectures cover all aspects of gardens - visiting and enjoying as well as cultivation. We have nine indoor meetings each year so that there is ample scope to cover a wide spectrum, with something to appeal to everyone. The remaining two meetings are outdoors, one of which is usually a visit to a well-known garden in the area, and the last one is usually a social meeting in a member's garden when we sign off with wine and nibbles. We are a very sociable group, and one particular

achievement is that many of our members are from Bearley so we have created a contact between the two villages, which hardly existed previously.

The outdoor visit this past year was a tremendous event, since we were fortunate enough to get an invitation to Highgrove where the Prince of Wales has created a wonderful garden, not only very beautiful, but full of variety and interest. The present writer was not one of the lucky ones in the ballot for places (strictly limited for security reasons) but all reports were most enthusiastic.

The anniversary year has got off to a good start, as we hosted a broad cast of Gardeners Question Time for the BBC. We are planning further celebrations culminating in the opening, to anyone in either village, of entry to our annual produce show in September, which is usually confined to members.

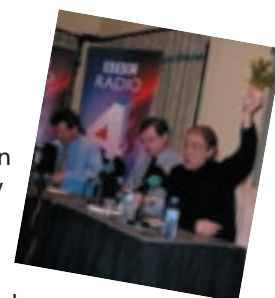
Do come and join us, even if you don't have a garden of your own.

Our questions answered

Snitterfield Garden Club hosted a very entertaining BBC Radio Gardeners' Question Time on 18 February. Staged at Stratford Oaks Golf Club, there was an audience of over 200 people from the area.

We were questioned and informed by the team of experts, Bob Flowerdew, John Cushnie and Matthew Biggs (shown above), who dealt with a number of topical questions from a selection asked by some of our local residents.

Everyone enjoyed the discussions and especially the insight into the making and recording of a radio programme, and the professional way the Chairman, panel and producers put everyone at their ease. We look forward to listening to the finished programmes on Sunday 16 March and Sunday 4 May 2003.





SNITTERFIELD HEROES

I am currently researching all the names that appear on our War Memorial. If I can gather enough material I hope to produce a booklet in due course. There are thirty five names from the Great War and seven from World War II. Already several people in the village have provided me with invaluable assistance. I am hoping however that there is more out there.

If you know anything about any of the names or if you have any memories memorabilia, photos etc I would be very interested to hear from you. Any material will be returned as soon as I can copy it for my files.

Bob Foster

Barn House, Church Road, Snitterfield CV37 0LE
Telephone: 01789 731118
E-mail: bobfos@globalnet.co.uk

The names are as follows:

WORLD WAR 1

Harry Aldridge
Charles Bagshaw
Charles Brookes
Ernest Burton
Oscar Chatterley
Robert Flint
Charles Hands
Harry Hoskins
John Jervis
Pat Flowerdew Lowson
Joseph Morgan
Herbert Owen
James Padbury
Frank Robinson
John Rollins
Rudolf Valentine
Arthur White
Sidney Wimbush

Edgar Badger
Hubert Brain
Alfred Burton
Montagu Campbell
Percy Chatterley
Ralph Hammond
Frank Hope
Arthur Jervis
Arnold Jones
John Henry Morgan
Victor Neale
Thomas Padbury
Roland Richardson
Harry Rollins
William Timms
Thomas Webster
Thomas Williams

WORLD WAR 2

David Bloxham
Thomas Frank Chamberlain
T. Leslie Smith
Cyril Williams

James Burton
Arthur Ledbrook
Frank Thornett

MEMORIES OF FARMING AND A LONG LIFE IN SNITTERFIELD

Richard Bloxham is amongst the oldest residents in the village and by far the longest continuous inhabitant.

He was born in 1911 at Upper Goldicote, but Richard was only three years old when the family moved to Snitterfield, first to a farm in the Redhill area then to Spring Farm, Marraway.

Richard worked for his father when he left school and soon learned the many tasks involved in mixed farming. Between the wars farming was very different from what it is now. There was very little mechanization (it was only in 1940 that the farm acquired a tractor). Ploughing and harrowing were done with the aid of horses, as was the hay-making. Richard happily remembers how good an understanding existed between man and horses.

Another job done by hand was sheep shearing. Richard became something of an expert in this, and in addition to shearing his father's flock he sheared most of the sheep of the neighbouring farms. For this laborious task he was paid the magnificent sum of 6d per animal (just 2 1/2p). The fleeces then had to be washed before being bundled and sold to the wool merchants.



As a perk they kept the 'dirty bits' which when soaked in water, made excellent fertilizer for land and gardens.

It was a hard life but a fulfilling one. At the end of a day of haymaking or harvesting the farmer's wives brought huge baskets of food and quantities of tea for the tired workers. And so it went on until in 1958 Mr. Bloxham senior died and Spring Farm had to be given up. At that time Richard went to work for the Clyde Higgs Organisation, where he remained for the rest of his working life. It was a great change, because the farms were highly mechanized, electric milking parlours came in for the large herds of cows. Richard adapted to life at Lower Welcombe Farm, but I think always regretted the old ways, with their closer communion with the animals.

Since a boy Richard has always been closely involved with the church, as a choirboy, altar server, sides man and finally a verger, a post he held until he was 90 years old! He also captained the bell-ringing team for many years and founded the hand-bell ringers. He also, over many years, has raised a lot of money by the monthly whist drives, which he organizes to this day. The church is deeply indebted to Richard, both financially and by his unstinting services.

In all this he has been ably assisted by his wife of over 50 years, Margery. She was born in the parish so is really more of a 'native' than Richard. They set up home in Park Lane where they live to this day. They both remember when all the social life of the village was very lively. Before the days of TV and almost before the days of radio, social life consisted of whist drives and dances in the winter, and fairs and produce shows in the summer.

Richard has always been a very good and productive gardener. In addition to maintaining his own large garden, he has helped many other residents with their plots and where Richard put his boots there the gardens flourished, as his own still does in his 9th decade, and hopefully will for many years.



MEMORIES OF SMITHS LANE

It was on Shakespeare's Birthday, 1958, when Harry and I first came upon Snitterfield, Smiths Lane and Avebury - our house. Up for the day from Bedfordshire, to look around prior to moving here, we turned off the old Kings Lane, to explore this strangely-named village of Snitterfield. Then - down Park Lane, left into Church Road, ahead, then right into Smiths Lane.

We passed Ken Ledbrook's shop, The Mullions, old timbered cottages on the left, the newly built houses on the right, and down to the Square - so full of interest and with the pub - then known as the New Inn. Walking back up on the other side, past Horseshoe Cottage, we came to Avebury, with a 'FOR SALE' notice in the garden. Built in 1840, it was just our kind of house, and we happily moved in August of that year when our first child was born.

We loved the quietness of the lane then, the peaceful kitchen garden opposite, part of the land belonging to the large Manor House, now four separate dwellings. Avebury and our semi-detached neighbour, Taxus, were originally built to house servants from the Manor. The garden of Cedarwood is bordered by a part of the original brick kitchen-garden wall - where the telephone box and the post box are, and we still remember the blazing sunsets which we would watch over the fruit trees there.



When the land was sold, our children would sit on top of the old oak gates to watch the creating of Frogmore Road in 1963 - with the fascinating paraphernalia of building going on across the road - diggers, lorries, noise and everything happening!

Three of our four children were born in the house - something unlikely today, and they have all loved growing up in a road so full of interest, memories of working in the shop, or riding a horse down the Lane (something not to be undertaken lightly now!) It was a gentler time when they were small - with the village policeman, then resident in the Police House, always daily on guard by the phone box at 12 noon sharp! And the bells of St James have always sounded wonderful in our Lane on a quiet Sunday.

Some of us will remember the Pottery behind the Shop, which made attractive earthy beakers and vases - and the difficult time when the Post Office was manned valiantly for us all, in a sea of polythene, as the shop itself was closed for several years. Driving down Smiths Lane now from White Horse Hill, we remark how little the Lane has changed in appearance since the fifties.

I am sure most people here would agree that the worst aspect of change for us, as for other roads in Snitterfield, has been the increase in traffic over these last few years. Dangerous speeds, often more like 60 than 30, with heavy lorries, transporters and the like, all making it difficult for walkers to safely use the pavements - especially for the young mothers with prams and toddlers. This is a far cry from 200 years ago when, according to our much respected local historian, the late John Shelby, Smiths Lane was known as Fars Lane, and there would only have been horses and carts rumbling along on it.



Above: On the site of the old village stocks - the previous Stocks Tree and seating before it was lost in a storm and replaced by the existing tree, another Horse Chestnut - photo taken from an old postcard (originator unknown).

We are proud of Smiths Lane - a significant lane - with its buildings such as the Gables - formerly the Village Institute - having played such an important part in the lives of Snitterfield people. We enjoy it in 2003, with our wonderful shop, 'new' houses now having matured, thereby affording us new friends and great neighbours. Changes CAN be good!

Valerie Marlow

A June Dawn in Snitterfield

A Hallowed place
This bracken hole
Where staccato-tongued blackbirds
Ditch-hang in Timothy
And sticky Goosegrass
And Columbine, guarding tunefully
This sad frame
Of an old tricycle
And galvanized cans
Piled secretly
For Posterity's child to find.
Old badger knows.
His liquorice streak
Torpedoing away
Just surface deep
Into a glistening
Grass-sea of green,
Rudely despatched
By my somnolent interloping.
My delight is in
The dairy's distant humming,
And in the friendly Herefords'
Dung-fresh odours
Near where khaki gadflies
Gyrate dizzily
About dried cow-pats
And dew-fresh thistledown.
Now the sweet Elder
And Honeysuckle's stunning intoxications
Overwhelm my senses
As, singing, I make for home,
Waving at the cheery red mail van
Buzzing its way
Up to an unsuspecting village.

Harry Marlow

These lines were inspired by the quiet in the copse at the top of Ingon Lane before the by-pass was built.



Letters to the Editor

This letter was received from by **Jean Herbert** of Smiths Lane who wanted to tell us about the good neighbours we have in Snitterfield...

'On Sunday 3 November 2002, a neighbour, Robin Southall, met me in his car on my return from a holiday in Italy. Not until we reached home did he tell me of the storm and high winds that Snitterfield had experienced the weekend before.

The damage it caused to my small extension roof then became apparent. The missing slates had left holes! Robin had seen this when walking his dog and rallied my next-door neighbours, Val and Harry Marlow, who held my keys.

Then David George of The Green offered his help. All of them pitted their wits, tools and apparatus to cover the holes in the roof before the next downpour of rain. They used ropes, tarpaulin and plastic sheets - very effectively.

I was extremely grateful to my neighbours and as soon as possible contacted my builder/carpenter who came a few days later to inspect the damage. He was very impressed with the work done to prevent the rain penetrating into the roof space and ceiling below and congratulated 'the workers'. The builder then replaced the slates and made the roof watertight. Praise is due to all Good Neighbours - only a few selfish people spoil our village with litter and dog excrement. Enough has been said on that subject!'

Dear Editor

I thought some of your readers might be interested in the two enclosed photographs. they are both of the same tree, a Malus or Ornamental Crab, which grows in my front garden. At the end of last year it produced and exceptional crop of fruit, and when I took the first photo (below) on 17 December, I called it Natures Baubles!



Following the frosts in early January these 'baubles' became a post Christmas Dinner for the blackbirds, with much frantic activity and as many as twelve birds feasting on the tree at one time. The second photo (above) was taken on 23 January and illustrates the extent of the 'blackbird feast'! As I write on 29 January the blackbirds are still devouring the fruit but at a much less frantic pace. The fruit has obviously proved to be a real delicacy for them this winter.

May I take this opportunity to wish a Happy New Year to you and all your readers - carry on Sniping!

Harry Sawden of Woodward Court

This Snipe magazine is produced with the help of additional funding from:



Sniper's Corner

Dear Snipe,

I was flabbergasted recently to learn the asking price of the new houses known as 'The Paddocks', Duffins Piece, The Green, is almost a cool million pounds each!

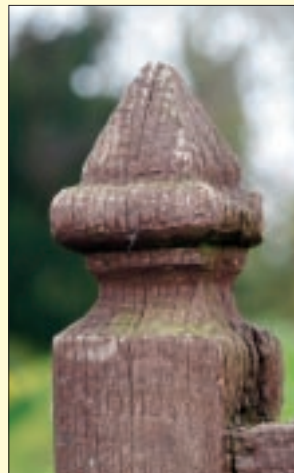
I'm sure there are people who can afford such homes, but is this really the answer to the Blair Government's cry for more houses on more land in the Warwickshire countryside? I personally find the whole thing sickening. It is surely an example of rampant property speculation or profiteering. If we have to have more houses built, then for heaven's sake, let them be affordable!

Yours sincerely
Marjorie Yates

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW SNITTERFIELD?

Use your powers of observation to identify this object situated somewhere within the parish and...

...win a meal for two!
at ????????????



WHAT IS THIS?

WHERE IS IT LOCATED?

NAME:

TEL NO:

All correct answers will be entered into a draw. The winner will receive a voucher for a meal for two. Send your entry in before 01 June 2003 to: SNIPE, 14 The Green, Snitterfield, CV37 0JG

ISSUE 2 WINNER -

The 'How well' was correctly identified by Bob Foster of Church Lane.

The correct answer was:

What is it - Detail on the road sign.

Where is it - Junction of Church Lane and Smiths Lane