



FREE to the residents  
of Snitterfield

ISSUE 31  
WINTER 2012



## Howzat for a new sports pavilion

The Snipes Cricket Club is leading an ambitious initiative by Snitterfield Sports Club to build a new pavilion on the sports field to replace the existing youth hut. Snipes' President Lee Hillier explains: 'The club is now in its tenth year and attracts a good membership and a very active junior section. Teams love playing at Snitterfield and we feel the setting deserves an appropriately designed building that complements it.'

The pavilion is planned to also provide the other adult and junior sections of the Sports Club and the village generally with a facility which would include: secure changing rooms and showers; lounge area for teas; indoor seating and meetings;

kitchen and servery; officials changing area; outside terrace for players and spectators and parents watching over children in the play area.

The project is consistent with the Snipes gaining 'Club Mark' status and will help attract new members to the Sports Club, but inevitably requires an ambitious fundraising exercise. Any help that can be offered will be gratefully received whether financial, professional or trade skills. We are especially keen to involve anyone or groups in the



village who can and would like to help, or even would just like to know more!

For further details please contact:  
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## Nourishing the soul with milk flowers

*'These frail snowdrops that  
together cling  
And nod their helmets, smitten by  
the wind'* William Wordsworth.

Winter is the season of joy and anticipation. From the moment the first steely grey shoots of snowdrops (latin name *Galanthus*, meaning milk flower) pierce the frozen woodland ground, hubby and I whizz out visiting open snowdrop gardens. These delicate flowers, looking like three drops of milk hanging from a stem, have wooed us along with thousands of other Galanthophiles. These are simple days: wrapping up warm and enjoying bowls of welcome homemade soup – the sight of the swathes of snowdrops is uplifting and good for the soul.

One of the earliest references to this little flower is a mention by Homer who had Hermes, the winged

messenger, flying across the skies clasping a snowdrop as an antidote for Odysseus who had been poisoned by Circe. Today some species of *Galanthus* have medicinal properties, containing galanthamine used in the management of Alzheimers.

Snowdrops are native to a large part of Europe but not recorded growing wild in Britain until about 1770, although they were probably growing around

*Continued on page two*

### RICHARD HOBBS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

As Snipe was going to press we heard the news that our County Councillor is not standing for re-election in May 2013. Richard moved to Bearley in 1956, where he lives with his wife Valerie, and was elected to the Council in 1997. He told *Snipe*: 'At the age of 68 I am retiring so I can spend more time with my family and pursue interests such as sailing, while still enjoying good health. I will also continue to run our storage business at Airfield Farm.' We wish him a long and happy retirement.



*Nourishing the soul, continued from page one*  
churches and monastic sites in earlier times as they were associated with the Festival of Purification, or Candlemas, on February 2nd. On this day in Lady Chapels the picture of the Virgin Mary was taken down and snowdrops were strewn on the altar in its place.

As there was a growing interest in snowdrops, in 1891 the RHS had a snowdrop conference. There were only seven or eight species and 50 cultivars. There are now more than 500 hybrids and cultivars as well as the species, with great names such as Mighty Atom and Tubby Merlin.

They grow well in Snitterfield, thriving under deciduous trees. Transplant clumps after flowering; digging up a clump, teasing out the bulbs and transplanting them in another area to bulk up. Give the area a feed of bone meal just after flowering.

The most widely grown snowdrop is *Galanthus nivalis*, but good starters are 'James Backhouse' or 'Sam Arnott', which are reasonably priced. But to buy a more

special variety, expect to pay £10 or more (a bulb). Don't faint, last February a special *Galanthus woronowii* 'Elizabeth Harrison' went for £725.10! I would like to buy Diggory, but at £60 a bulb, it is on the wish list!

**Margaret Tweed**



Photos: Margaret Tweed



We have just learnt that Richard Hobbs will be retiring from the County Council in the spring and I want to thank him very much for all his hard work over the years for our community. Richard's considerable wealth of knowledge and experience in all aspects of local government is amazing: I wish him a very happy retirement.

The local press is covering the news of the recent 'Shottery Appeal' and subsequent deliberations about housing numbers. This all ties in with the new Core Strategy running from 2008 until 2028 and will be for the whole district of Stratford-on-Avon of 378 square miles. It has over 115,000 people living in it, with Stratford being its largest town with 23,000 residents. I believe it is one of the biggest districts in the country by area, mainly rural with about 30% being covered by Green Belt restrictions in development. I think that it is important that any future development should be appropriate, sustainable and will not alter the character of the area. The consultations continue.

**Helen Hayter, District Councillor**  
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It was with great sorrow that I was informed of the resignation of Gerry Stammers from the Parish Council a few weeks ago. He has been a prominent member of the Parish Council for about 15 years and during this time he has gained enormous experience of the running of

local government and, in particular, of planning matters. His knowledge of this is encyclopaedic. He has always been willing to give his time and expertise to village matters – he will be greatly missed. However, he will continue to mastermind the update of the Parish Plan and to be a source of knowledge and good advice. Thank you for your contribution to the wellbeing of the village.

**R J Fitchford**

## Progress on flood risk



Richard inspecting the culvert

The recent wet weather has once again focused residents' minds on the threat of flooding in the village.

At long last some progress has been made. The Parish Council, led by Sylvia Morlidge, has worked hard to push the various agencies to find a realistic way of minimising the flooding risk.

Since April 2012 the County Council is now the strategic flood authority, which means that it has the

responsibility to co-ordinate the various agencies such as Environment Agency and District Council to reduce flooding. Government has also allocated funding. Some work has now started; the culvert under The Green has been temporarily cleared and various repairs to the road drains will shortly be completed. An up-to-date survey has shown that the three bridges near School Lane are restricting the water flow and the culverts under the field opposite The Saucy Six need clearing.

If this work is done, along with a holding pond on Bearley Brook, the risk of flooding will be greatly reduced. We will also have to look at a holding pond towards the top of The Green. The County Council has some funding to start this work and it is also looking to obtain more in the future. I feel confident that a long-term solution is now possible.

**Richard Hobbs, County Councillor**  
**richardhobbs@warwickshire.gov.uk**  
**Tel: 01789 730331**

# In the footsteps of Falklands heroes

Summer in the South Atlantic. It probably isn't everyone's idea of a summer holiday. While many Britons were heading off to sunnier climes to escape the damp and dreary summer of 2012, Snitterfield resident Jon Cooksey flew 8,000 miles to the Falkland Islands in July, straight into the teeth of a South Atlantic winter and increased diplomatic tension. He was there at the invitation of the Officer Commanding B Coy of the 3rd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment (3 Para) which was then in the middle of its tour of duty as the resident infantry company of the Falkland Islands garrison. To have a company from such a high profile and elite unit – indeed, one of the very battalions which had fought in the war – back on the Islands during the thirtieth anniversary, had not been welcomed by the Argentine government in Buenos Aires.

Jon's biography of Sergeant Ian McKay, also of B Company, 3 Para, who won a posthumous Victoria Cross on Mount Longdon in June 1982 while charging



*Jon Cooksey tells the story of the Battle for Mount Longdon to members of the present day B Company of 3 Para at the summit before handing over to Graham Heaton (left). Graham led a section of 5 Platoon of B Company in June 1982 and lost a leg during the battle*

an Argentine machine-gun position, was published last March and the present Officer Commanding B Company was keen to use Jon's original research into the battle to ensure that all his soldiers – many of them already veterans of their own war in Afghanistan – learned a vital part of their regimental history.

As an experienced battlefield guide, Jon was kept busy taking various groups of 3 Para soldiers on several tours of both the Mount Longdon and Darwin/Goose Green battlefields, where 3 Para's sister battalion – 2 Para – fought with such tenacity in late May 1982 and where their commanding officer, Lt Col 'H' Jones, also won a posthumous VC. A trip planned by Jon to take a smaller group to recreate the four-mile march of the men of the Special Air Service, when they carried out their spectacular and successful raid on the Argentine airstrip on Pebble Island, had to be abandoned when

bad weather grounded the helicopter due to drop them at the landing zone.

A particular highlight of the tour was the sight of some 50 paratroopers, many wearing their distinctive maroon berets, walking across the snow-covered landscape and ascending the frost shattered slopes of Mount Longdon with Jon to hear of the battle fought by their predecessors almost exactly thirty years earlier. Waiting for them at the summit, where a stainless steel cross commemorates the 23 men killed in action, was Falklands veteran Graham Heaton, who fought in the battle as a corporal in 1982. Here Jon handed over to Graham who then went on to tell the story of his part in the battle, a battle in which he lost a leg. Graham was one of 47 men who were wounded. Argentine losses were put at around thirty dead with over a hundred wounded and fifty taken prisoner. Mount Longdon has thus gone down in history as the bloodiest land battle of the Falklands campaign.

*Jon Cooksey's biography of Sergeant Ian McKay, Falklands Hero, Ian McKay – the Last VC of the Twentieth Century, with a foreword by eminent historian Andrew Roberts, is published by Pen and Sword Books. ISBN: 978 1 84415 493 7.*



## Snitterfield Heroes: A tour of the Western Front

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War in 2014, now may be a good time to visit the battlefields of France and Belgium to walk the ground where some of our Snitterfield Heroes – the men whose names appear on the War Memorial – fought and fell. Would you be interested in joining military historian and battlefield tour guide Jon Cooksey and Bob Foster, author of the book *Snitterfield Heroes*, on a three day, two night tour to trace the actions of selected Snitterfield Heroes? The trip will also visit some of the evocative sites on the Western Front around Ypres and on the Somme. Travel will be in a comfortable coach and accommodation will be in comfortable hotels. The total cost will, of course, depend on final numbers but if sufficient interest is shown outline planning and rough costs could be established and a meeting arranged. Please send expressions of interest to [jon.cooksey\\_hojo2jac@btinternet.com](mailto:jon.cooksey_hojo2jac@btinternet.com) by 7 January.



# The life of Brian

**Brian Pryce was born in School House in 1930 and grew up in Snitterfield. He is a treasure trove of wonderful stories about our village and has written a fascinating account of his memories of living here between 1936 and 1946. Over the next few issues *Snipe* will be serialising them.**

How times have changed – my father was headmaster of the village school for 30 years. In those days the village and parish had quite a small population, hence a small number of pupils in the school: only about



*Brian in more recent times!*

100. Entry was at 5-years-old and pupils left aged 14. No higher education then, straight out to work. In addition to classwork, the boys were also taught carpentry and gardening. This was important as the school

leavers mainly went to work on farms or as trainee gardeners in the big houses. The school garden was about 1½ acres in the field at the back of the school.

There were three other teachers: Mrs Jones who lived up The Green; Ben Woodward, who arrived in an open top Austin 7 which we called 'the flying bedstead'; and the infant teacher, Mrs Clarke from Hampton Lucy,

whose husband was the blacksmith. The school was blessed with excellent governors. The Chairperson was Miss Chadwick from Ingon Grange, in those days a beautiful house with a clay tennis court. Miss Chadwick provided two treats for the children – a summer outing by coach with some article of clothing, and a paper carrier bag at Christmas full of treats and goodies.

The main landowner in those days was Mr Clyde Higgs. He owned a number of farms in the area totalling about 3,000 acres. He was the largest milk producer in the area and had an advertising slogan: 'For skin like silk Drink Clyde Higgs Milk'. The village milkman was Mr Evetts (*see below*), from Oak Farm, Bearley Road. He would bring his pony and trap along with two or three large churns. The routine was to transfer milk from churn to bucket, arrive at the house where a jug would be in the usual place, together with a note giving the order for the day. Alongside was a muslin cloth edged with beads to weigh it down and keep off the flies. No supermarkets, no bottles, no plastic containers, no half fat, no skimmed, just pure unadulterated milk. There was the possibility that a dozen fresh eggs would be left. Mother would pay once a month.

Once a year the gypsies would arrive in their horse drawn caravans. There would be quite a few families camping in one of Mr Evetts' fields. My father always anticipated their arrival and went straight away to enrol all the children for school. That operation was fraught with difficulties because most of the children played truant. When they had left, the 'Nit Nurse' would pay her annual visit for a head inspection. I don't imagine that happens today! *To be continued ...*

**Brian Pryce**

## Last round is end of an era

Sunday 16 October 2012 must have passed like any other Sunday for many residents of Snitterfield, but for local milkman Mick Evetts and his customers it marked the end of an era. For that was the day he retired from his milk round – at the age of 84! So ended a tradition of the Evetts family delivering milk to Snitterfield and surrounding communities which had lasted for almost 90 years.

Mick's father William had been the local milkman before him. Interviewed recently for *Snipe* Mick recalled that 'Dad was known as "the midnight milkman". He milked fifty cows by hand at Oak Farm off the Bearley Road then delivered the milk in buckets on his milk float pulled by Welsh Cob horses. He had a thing for cleanliness; his equipment was always spotless'.

Mick helped his father on the farm after school and during the school holidays and when his father retired from his round his brother took over. But Mick started his own milk business in 1951 at the age of 23, operating out of premises in Black Hill. With hard work and a sense of service he built it up

into a formidable business. 'In our heyday we had six rounds on the go and employed six milkmen serving a wide area from Stratford itself and out to Snitterfield, Hampton Lucy, Wellesbourne, Barford, Claverdon, Norton Lindsey and even Warwick and Leamington.'

Mick is proud that they served their customers through all weathers: 'We delivered seven days a week – and we had some very bad winters I can tell you – but we never missed a delivery. In those days people had four or five pints a day of full cream milk in bottles and used them all so we had to get it out – there was only one kind of milk then!'

Mick's daily routine, even in his 80s, was enough to make lesser souls wince. In bed by 9.00pm in the evening he was up again at 1.00am every morning to load his float and was always out on the road by 2.00am to get customers' milk on the breakfast table. If you were ever up early and caught him on the doorstep, his cheerful conversation and keen eye for the weather, delivered in that unmistakable Warwickshire lilt, always provided a good start to the day.



*Delivery as to be*



Rain and colder weather: why not make a cup of coffee and sit down at a window with a good view of the garden. As usual there is a lot going on. The Nuthatch is there again and I'm waiting for the first Redpolls to

return. We had a hedgehog visiting in late October. It looked small so I wonder if it will fatten up enough to make it through the winter.

While I have seen a lot of wildlife in my garden, it is not a unique wildlife oasis. Still, I have taken a few steps to make the garden more attractive to wildlife, and maybe you could too. First, I feed the birds all year round. Not every day since I work abroad during the week, but I'm sure it is enough that fat balls, sunflower and nyjer seeds are on offer most of the days of the week. The birds are then forced to forage in the rest of my garden and in neighbouring gardens as well. The feeders are positioned close to a hedge so the birds can hide whenever the sparrowhawk pays a visit. Clean water is also good, but I depend on the neighbour's pond until I build my own one day.

Every rich eco system starts with plants and variety. You should plan different plant areas around the garden and choose bushes and trees that produce fruit and berries. We have many nectar rich plants that attract insects, and insects attract birds and mammals. You may have seen in the garden centre plants that are RHS Perfect for Pollinators. If you have flowers in bloom from early spring until late autumn, your garden will

always be full of life. Put up nest boxes, bat roost boxes and bug houses. And, last but not least, you should be lazy with the gardening! Leave an area that you don't mow more than once a year. Build a log pile where animals can hide and stay over the winter.



Leave some weeds, don't tidy up the borders too neatly and don't dead head all the flowers but leave some to produce fruits and seeds. Don't use weed killers, slug pellets or rat poison.

So, take a break and just enjoy your coffee and the lively wildlife show. Be proud of being lazy in the garden!

*If you want more information on wildlife friendly gardening, there is a lot on the internet. I like the site [www.rspb.org.uk/hfw](http://www.rspb.org.uk/hfw) that is full of tips and where you can enter your garden in the Homes for Wildlife scheme to help create the 'UK's largest nature reserve'. Fill in a survey and get specific feedback on what is good and what you can do to attract more wildlife.*

**Claes Martenson**  
[claes.martenson@solvay.com](mailto:claes.martenson@solvay.com)

## Wedding belles

Anna Smith married Peter Turner on the 15th September 2012 at St James the Great Parish Church, Snitterfield. Daisy Mai (the donkey who many of you will have met dressed up at the village fete) escorted her to the church. Daisy Mai was born in 1996 to Rosie and Humphrey. Anna still has Humphrey but unfortunately Rosie died last Christmas. Anna, Peter and their menagerie of animals live at The Grove in King's Lane, where Anna also runs her business Gardenia Soft Furnishings.

**Caroline Noble**



Even at the age of 84, Mick insists that he was keen to carry on – his three sons had decided that the milk business was not for them – but his close family felt that he had served for long enough, and there was an omen: 'On my very last day a woman backed into my van and it was written off. It was probably a signal that it was time to go.'



Although we will never see Mick's old blue and white van rumbling around the village again and although the name of Evetts is no longer associated with milk deliveries in Snitterfield, do not get the impression that Mick is relaxing with his feet up. 'We still have 50 head of beef cattle and a flock of sheep to care for so that keeps me busy.'

There's no doubt that he will put as much into keeping his livestock as he did into bringing us our daily 'pinta' and all at *Snipe*, along with his many grateful customers over

the years, take this opportunity to wish Mick Evetts a very long and fulfilling retirement.

**Jon Cooksey**



*it used*



Snitterfield Colts Under 8s football team kicked off the season wearing a brand new kit courtesy of Stratford-based insurer, NFU Mutual, which gave the donation from its Community Giving Fund. Snitterfield Football Club Chairman Sean Reaper said: "Our Under 8s are very excited about starting to play in matches, and it prepares them for future years as they progress through the age groups." He added: "Donations of this kind are very important to a small but thriving club like ours: the boys certainly look the part in their new kit."

## SNITTERFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Most of us in the village have attended events at the Village Hall from time to time and we all appreciate the facility which serves so many organisations. The day-to-day management of the Hall is carried out by a small committee, which consists of villagers, users and a representative from the parish council. Several committee members have served for many years and would like a break from the responsibilities, albeit not very onerous. New ideas and enthusiasm always help any organisation and so we are asking if YOU would like to help. Perhaps you are recently retired or a newcomer to Snitterfield and are looking for a way to get involved in village life. There are five to six meetings a year. If you are interested please ring Ann Farr on 730575, Hilary Schmidt-Hansen on 731246 or Bob Foster on 731118.



Snitterfield Village Hall, Snitterfield Sports Club and Snitterfield Primary School (see photo below) have all had large solar systems installed, courtesy of SACC, who gifted solar panels to them for free. This means lower energy bills as energy used in daylight

hours is offset against that generated. Any excess electricity is sold back to the grid. An additional financial benefit comes from the FIT tariff: a government subsidy. Money received from the FIT tariff for all three community buildings is ploughed back into projects to improve energy efficiency ongoing, thus reducing bills (and Snitterfield's carbon footprint) even further.

So far, proposed projects include the purchase of an energy monitor for the school and energy efficient



lighting, replacement windows and insulation for the sports club. If you are planning a project to reduce energy usage in our community you can apply for grant funds from SACC. Its grant pot for distribution this year, earned from FIT tariffs from community solar generation, was £1,200 and we received only one application. In future years the pot will be significantly larger. For further details

visit SACC's website at [www.snitterfieldacc.org](http://www.snitterfieldacc.org) and come and talk to SACC at its stand at the Xmas bazaar on 8th December.

**Jenny Swift**

*SACC has asked Snipe to make clear that the photograph of solar panels shown in Issue 30 was not of properties in Snitterfield but a generic illustration.*

## Recipe of the season

### Pork Loin with Dried-Fruit and Chestnut Stuffing Serves 8

A stuffed pork loin fillet roast is a succulent addition to the holiday menu. The meat is lean, full of flavour and easy to prepare. Be creative with choice of stuffing: try cranberries and apricots or pine nuts, almonds and apples.

#### Ingredients

- 1 large boneless pork loin fillet approx. 1.5 kilo
- 125g cooked chestnuts, crumbled
- 125g mixed dried fruit, coarsely chopped (eg apricots/prunes)
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon black peppercorns, cracked. Salt
- 1 tablespoon whole coriander seeds, cracked
- 190 ml dry white wine
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 250ml chicken stock
- 3 tablespoons cold butter, cut up
- String for fillet



Preheat oven to 230°C. Using a sharp knife, cut the pork almost in half lengthways, stopping 1 inch short of cutting through it; open like a book. On work surface, arrange six 14-inch lengths of kitchen string, 1 inch apart. Place pork, opened up, across string. Sprinkle with chestnuts and dried fruit, leaving a 1-inch border all around; season stuffing with salt. Fold one long side over the other, overlapping slightly to form a cylinder; tie with string. Rub with oil; sprinkle with cracked pepper and coriander, pressing to adhere. Season with salt (can refrigerate up to one day). Place pork in a roasting tin; roast approximately 35–40 mins or until a thermometer registers 68°C (inserted in meat not stuffing). Transfer to a cutting board, cover with foil and rest. Place juices left in roasting tin on hob. Add wine; simmer, stirring constantly, until syrupy (4–5 mins). Add Dijon mustard and stock; cook, stirring occasionally, until reduced by half (6–8 mins). Remove from heat; whisk in butter. Slice pork and serve with sauce. Any whole chestnuts left can be scattered over the pork fillet.

**Abbe Sturman**

# Garden Club defies weather with bumper harvest

Rain, rain and more rain! Despite the challenging weather during late spring and summer, members of Garden Club managed to exhibit vegetables and flowers of excellent quality at the Annual Produce Show held in September. Well done to the children who entered some delightful creative art work inspired by butterflies.

Overall Challenge cups were as follows:

The Vic Rawlings Rose Cup awarded to Margaret Watkins; The Gilmore Dahlia Cup awarded to Margaret Watkins; The Richard Bloxham Cup for Collection of Five Vegetables awarded to Ken Chatland; The Gilmour Cup for Best Entry in Produce Show awarded to Ken Chatland; The Snitterfield Challenge Cup awarded to Agnes Prentice; The Photography Cup awarded to Chris Chatland; The Chairman's Trowel awarded to Francesca Birbeck-Sanders. Well done to everyone!



*Ken knows his onions*

The event was a happy, lively village affair which sparked off discussion "Should the

Show be held separately to the AGM?" All points were discussed and on reflection it was unanimously voted the AGM and Produce Show should stay as it is, which

will be September 3rd at 7.30pm. Meanwhile, a super package of events to look forward to has been planned (see *What's On back page*).

As they include seasonal subjects here is an early reminder of titles for the photography classes in the 2013 Produce Show (max size 6x4 or 7x5 unmounted/unframed): 'Past Times' – history in the garden; 'Winged Garden Visitors'; 'Focus on Weather'; 'Which Season am I?'



**Margaret Tweed**  
**Chairman 01789 731636**  
**Secretary 01527 529078**



*Agnes Prentice, Ken Chatland, Margaret Watkins, Chris Chatland*

## Terrific tractors



by Bexie Thruston-Nend and Lara Chester

On 24th October the children at Snitterfield Primary School were lucky enough to be visited by David with two terrific tractors. One of the tractors was built in the 1960s and the other was much more modern. The vintage tractor was shipped from America and is in excellent condition. It has no special features like a roof or air conditioning and the front tyres were smoother than the ones on the newer tractor.

We liked the fact that the older tractor looked like it had a face because of the way the lights were set out. We got to see the tractors at the end of the Harvest Festival Service. As a school we collected up lots of food for harvest that we gave to the Leamington Christian Mission so that they could share it out between people who really need it.

During the harvest service we enjoyed singing harvest songs, playing our recorders and listening to Jamie Bransby talk about life on a farm.



Children from Class 4 performed a harvest play and their junk band performance was amazing. Thank you to David, Steph and Geoff, Mr Warren and Mrs Trew for helping us to celebrate harvest.

## Amelia wins national road safety prize

The children in Class 3 have taken part in a 'Design a Road Safety Banner Competition' to promote Road Safety Week 2012. Amelia Cook's entry was picked



*Amelia and banner with teachers Mrs Davies and Mr Watson and Paul McCarthy*

as one of the 12 winners from the whole of the UK. Thousands of excellent entries were received from schools and Amelia's was chosen because it was 'bright, colourful and had a strong message to convey to drivers.'

Amelia has won 300 high visibility drawstring bags and an outdoor banner showing her design to display outside the school. Paul McCarthy from Recognition Express visited the school during Road Safety Week in November to present her with the prizes. Make sure that you look out for the banner outside the school. Well done Amelia and all of Class 3 for their fantastic entries.

# What's On

## Snitterfield WI

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

## Snitterfield Garden Club

Garden Club meets first Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall.

December 4th: 7 for 7.30pm "An evening with Chris Beardshaw" talking about "Painting with Flowers", members free, limited tickets £10 tel 01789 731636 inc. mulled wine, seasonal nibbles.

January 8th: 8pm, "Overseas Garden Tours and Holidays" with Tony Russell.

February 5th 8pm, "Growing Vegetables in a Confined Space" by Graham Wagstaffe, Fellow of National Vegetable Society.

March 5th, 8pm "What have plants done for us" by Timothy Walker, Director of Oxford Botanical Garden.

## Parish Council Meetings

Meetings on the second Monday in the month, unless changed by the Council.

## Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change (SACC)

Meetings first Thursday each month in Village Hall at 8.00pm. Check website for date changes. [www.snitterfieldacc.org](http://www.snitterfieldacc.org)

## Macmillan coffee morning

Thank you everyone who supported us in September. We had a wonderful attendance and will be able to send £675 to the Macmillan nurses. They will I am sure be delighted. Gill, June and Gwen.

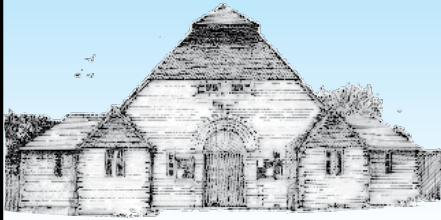
**The Bowls Section of Snitterfield Sports Club is holding a Christmas Prize Bingo evening on Saturday 15th December at 7.30 pm at the Sports Club. The entrance fee will be £2.00. Prizes include hampers, meat vouchers and many others. Come along and try to win!**

## 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](mailto:smcoombes@btinternet.com)



## Moving Pictures

### Cinema in the Village Hall

The rural cinema is a Stratford District Council initiative and is run by volunteers. In Snitterfield any funds generated each month are given to the village hall. Our audiences vary in size from up to 30 adults and children in the afternoon to sometimes only ten in the evening for the adult themed film. This makes it only just viable and could put the cinema in jeopardy for our village. So please come along and support it – the tickets are a reasonable price at £3 for children under 12; £4 for adults and £10 for a family of four: we also have refreshments on sale. If you would like to join our email circulation list to suggest films you would like to see, please contact Hilary & Ole Schmidt-Hansen, Tel: 731246 email: [hilary@thegables.com](mailto:hilary@thegables.com) [spacomputers.com](http://spacomputers.com)  
Next cinema dates: December 16th; January 20th; February 10th; March 17th; April 21st.

I am sure we have all enjoyed looking across the Avon Valley from the top of White Horse Hill over the years. The stone seat provided by Sir George Trevelyan in 1929 bears his inscription eloquently describing the view: 'The noble expanse visible from this spot was Shakespeare's favourite countryside. The men whose names are inscribed on the neighbouring monument gave their lives for that England.' Since the building of the bypass, the foliage has grown to the extent that it spoils this famous view. Some time ago this matter was raised at a Parish Council meeting and Councillor Richard Hobbs undertook to ask the Highways Agency to attend to it. He has regularly chased them up but no action has been taken.

Let us hope that the view will be restored before too long. Here is a picture reminding us of what we are presently missing.

**Bob Foster**



As part of our Eco Schools programme and to raise funds, Snitterfield School now has a clothes recycling bin. It will take clean, wearable clothing and shoes (attached in pairs), handbags and belts, sheets, curtains and towels. Please place items in supermarket type bags with the handles tied in the bin at school. The school also has a scheme to recycle printer cartridges, DVDs and computer games in original boxes.

## 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 Christmas Bazaar

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December at Snitterfield School**  
**With special guest, Father Christmas !**  
**Family fun from 2-4 pm**



- Our Christmas Market – a great place to buy presents.
- Activities galore in the Pocket Money Funfair
- Mulled wine and mince pies
- Home made cakes