



Free to the residents
of Snitterfield

ISSUE 34
WINTER 2013



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Peace on Earth. You hear this a lot at this time of the year. The obvious interpretation is that, around the world, we hope soldiers put down their weapons and pause for breath, seeing each other in the wider context as brothers and sisters.

This may bring to mind the First World War trenches where a silence falls over no-mans land and, just as it begins to snow, the plucky Brits and stoic Germans meet up and bally well play football to illustrate how much they have in common. Of course, it is then but a short hop back into the trenches to renew attempts to shell each other.

Or it could just be that you think of that delicious quiet time, when demanding, irritating, but still much loved, guests return to their own homes after a frenzied Christmas lunch. Maybe you are worried about the expense of the year, have partner/kid/work trouble and just wish to be free from your cares for a little while.

Well this is the peace, a kind of spiritual peace, that I'm looking for. I can't control the world at large, but I can try to be a better husband and father and live in the moment.

If I want to enjoy those special seasonal chestnuts I need to learn to disconnect from my general cares, and make sure I don't miss the grin on my little daughter's face as she puts the hat on the snowman we have just made. Or how the family laughed together as the dog cheekily steals Grandma's sprouts as she leans over to top up her G&T. Or, amazingly, how, even as an adult, it is still possible to actually enjoy and be excited by Christmas, if you let its finer points wrap themselves around you.

Whichever peace you hope for I hope you hold fast to the moment, keep your eyes wide open, and don't miss all of the good things that are coming your way.

Rudolf, Mongolia and me

Rosemary Logan, who lives in one of the Saucy Six cottages on The Green, spent the summer in Mongolia. Over the next few issues *Snipe* will be serialising her fascinating blogs, which describe the huge differences between life in Snitterfield and that in a country where the majority of the rural population is nomadic.

Why did I choose to go to Mongolia? I was intrigued by a country that places so much importance on the horse and used them to build the largest empire the world has ever seen. There are roughly as many horses as people in the vastness that is Mongolia. I wanted to meet the horsemen, to see how they used their horses and most of all to ride with them. I chose to visit the taiga region in the north of Mongolia, a trip that allowed me to combine horses with reindeer. *Continued on page 3*

The Great Big Snitterfield Cookbook



The primary school has been a hive of activity putting together *The Great Big Snitterfield Cookbook*.

The children in class 4 wrote to village organisations asking for recipes and received fantastic replies from Bal at the shop, SACC, The WI and The Snitterfield Arms to name just a few. We also asked the children and got even more delicious offerings.

Fancy some Butternut Squash Lasagne or maybe Columba Palumbus? (you'll have to look in the book to find out what that is!). All these and many more are in the book providing, we think, a reflection of our community and the wonderful characters in it.

As this is a festive edition we've asked Eva Key (*see photo left*) to share her recipe with you.

The Great Big Snitterfield Cookbook would make an excellent Christmas

Alternative Christmas Pud

100g butter/margarine
200g milk chocolate
3 tbsps golden syrup
225g digestive/rich tea/
shortbread biscuits.
225g Maltesers

Melt butter, chocolate and syrup together in a saucepan. Add crushed biscuits and Maltesers. Mix quickly. Pour into small lined pudding moulds. Decorate with white chocolate and holly.

present. They are available from the school or from the pub, where Sara and Kate have kindly agreed to keep some behind the bar.

Sally Ward

Neighbourhood Plan update

Most of you will be aware that the Parish Council (PC) is creating a Neighbourhood Plan to cover the period up to 2028. A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is a new way of helping local communities to influence planning in the area in which they live and work.

Stratford District Council (SDC) is currently consulting on our NP area application which concludes at the end of November. You may well have seen posters around the village and surrounding areas as well as adverts in the local press and public libraries relating to this. It is also available on SDC's website.

Earlier this year a questionnaire was sent out to all households in the area to ask for views on a number of subjects. The response rate was around 35 per cent, which is regarded as good for this type of survey, and preliminary results were on display at the summer fete. Using this data and feedback, the NP group, working on behalf of the PC, is developing the draft proposal for the plan.

It is proposed to consult with you all in the new year by holding an open day at the village hall, to seek everyone's views on the draft plan.

After this consultation the NP will then be finalised and submitted to SDC for review and independent examination. If the examination is satisfactory then SDC will arrange for a referendum where anyone registered to vote in the NP area can vote to adopt the plan. Please look out for more information in the new year.

Ole Schmidt-Hansen
Chair, NP Group

News from your District Councillor



New homes

The new homes on Bearley Road are due to be completed before Christmas and ready for occupation. The allocations have been administered by Warwickshire Rural Housing Association.

Your District Council continues to look for ways to make life better for all of its residents.

Town car parking

For anyone using the Town's car parks the 'Stratford Card', which can be purchased for £2 at Elizabeth House, allows you to preload credit on to the card. This will then enable use of the Stratford Card in any of the Stratford District Council town centre pay and display car parks and give you a 25 per cent discount.

There are also 'over 65' parking permits available, allowing free parking in the Recreation Ground and Swans Nest Lane car parks. There is a £10 administration charge. Full details are available at stratford-dc.gov website or call 01789 267575.

Flood relief

I am pleased to report that there has been agreement to give an award of £12,000 to Snitterfield Parish Council to be spent before March 2014 in relation to flood relief projects in the village.

Please contact me for help with any matter relating to the work done by Stratford District Council.

Helen Hayter, District Councillor
email: Helen.Hayter@Stratford-dc.gov.uk
Tel: 01789 731388

Rudolf, Mongolia and me

Continued from page 1

Mongolian horses are small, almost pony like but definitely horses. Don't call them ponies in front of a Mongolian! They are tough, strong and have innate herding instincts. Those that are broken are not entirely tamed. The stallions are very much the dominant male with their long, flowing manes and sense of self importance. Riding horses are distinguished by their hogged manes. We were warned to be careful. Don't touch their heads as they are not used to



this. Only approach from the near side and wait for your horse guide before you mount or dismount. When mounted don't try to remove your coat or backpack or make rustling sounds. For my seven-day trek I was paired up with a sweet-natured, sure-footed little bay mare who was unphased by anything she faced, including me patting her, tickling her neck and giving her a good forehead scratch. In fact she liked it.

The Mongolian style of riding is distinctively different to the English style I am used to, as is the tack. You can kick to go faster but I discovered flapping my arms and legs accompanied by a good clear 'choe-choe!' were much more effective. Bridles are a mix-match of ropes and straps. Reins are more washing line than leather which brought back amusing memories of pony club instructors shouting 'Pick up your reins, they are not washing lines! Attached to the bits are multi-purpose lunge lines acting as tethers, hobbles, lead reins or, when gathered up, a whip. Saddles and accompanying straps can be a fascinating combination of wood, webbing, leather, cushions, sheep skin, cloth and stirrups.

So many people were told by me that the most exciting part of my trip would be the ride to the Tsaatan reindeer herders. To fly up north, drive to a drop off point, be met by guides and horses and ride to a reindeer camp. The trip was magical. We set off into woodland and rode to camp on a plateau above a flat valley with a lake.

Next day we set off in brilliant blue skies only to be rained on en route. Mongolian weather is as changeable as British. After several river crossings we rode through very marshy terrain then emerged into a wide valley where we were greeted by a chorus of dogs, children and horses. Welcoming sounds. Dismounting in the reindeer camp we were invited into a stove-warmed tepee and offered reindeer milk tea. The Tsaatan are a tiny community of people living in a collection of 15 tepees in their autumn camp. Their life is incredibly simple. As well as herders they are hunter gatherers. Although the reindeer are ridden and used to carry loads they are primarily milk providers. We mainly saw the milk being drunk as tea or preserved as cheese and other curd products. The Tsaatan hunt roe and red deer rather than eat their own reindeer.

Everywhere you turned there were reindeer. Grey reindeer, white reindeer. They were lying under trees, standing in the open, tethered waiting for their mothers to return, sticking noses into tepees looking for salt or wandering in from grazing.



Reindeer are gracious and dignified but on first impressions they also seem arthritic. Many looked stiff when standing up. A good stretch soon loosened them up. They also click as they walk, sounding like they have arthritic bones. Thankfully this is not the case. The clicking sound is made by a tendon to help them find each other in winter white-outs. It also means they have no chance of sneaking up on you! *To be continued ...*

Rosemary Logan



Comrades in arms

As we prepare to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War, Snitterfield author Jon Cooksey delves into the background of a local lad mentioned in a remarkable wartime diary which has been published for the first time.

It never ceases to amaze me what I learn when I'm out walking the dog. Working solidly for several weeks on the Great War diary of Harold Drinkwater, a Stratford man who had served in the First World War, I had reached the autumn of 1917 when Harold mentioned that he had been posted to the same battalion as another Stratford man whom he had known almost all his life.

Former King Edward VI schoolboy Harold had first served as a private with the 15th Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment – popularly known as the 2nd Birmingham City Battalion or the Birmingham Pals. Plucked from the ranks and commissioned as an officer in 1917 he had then been posted to a sister battalion, the 16th Royal Warwicks, the 3rd Birmingham Battalion. In early September 1917 he had arrived in Rouen and eventually found his battalion encamped behind the Ypres Salient while on the other side of that tortured town the British Army continued its long, slow slog up the charnel house which was the Passchendaele Ridge during the Third Battle of Ypres.

When Harold finally arrived at the transport lines of the 16th Royal Warwicks, he remarked that he was, *'introduced to the officers of the battalion, amongst whom I was surprised to meet Stanley Henson. I am impressed with the style of the officers here. As a collection they appear to be an extremely decent lot of fellows from the colonel downwards. Stanley Henson, from his experience with them, is of the same opinion. Stanley Henson and I had been known to each other from the time that we could first remember.'*

Intrigued, I wondered who Stanley Henson was and how Harold Drinkwater knew him. I did a little digging and, geographically speaking, didn't have far to look.

Stanley Rowel Henson was a year younger than Harold Drinkwater and like Harold he was a Stratford man. As a relative newcomer to the 16th Battalion, Stanley had been commissioned as a second lieutenant from an officer cadet battalion less than a month before Harold. He had reported for duty with the battalion as recently as 6 August 1917. Before the war Stanley and his twin brother Percy

had helped their father James run the family farm at Lower Clopton on Kings lane, off what is now the A46.

It must have been comforting for Harold Drinkwater to have come across a friendly face from the past in an entirely new battalion and both men would need every ounce of camaraderie they could muster during the following days as the battalion was ordered into battle. Their task was to capture a strongly-defended German position consisting of a series of concrete pill-boxes dominating the shell-blasted wasteland upon which had once stood the atomised Polderhoek Château.

The 16th Battalion left Ypres in early October 1917 and cut across the morass of the battlefield from Hellfire Corner towards the ironically named Sanctuary Wood and beyond. Harold wrote: *'It had taken us eight-and-a-half hours to reach the position we were making for, a distance of not more than five miles as the crow flies and probably not so far. By far the greater part of the time had been taken in getting from Sanctuary Wood. Meanwhile, shells were coming over. From these there was no rest and we had casualties in consequence. To stand motionless in a locality which is being heavily shelled soon tells on one's nerves.'*

'It was so in this case, as each pause occurred and shells still continued to come over, the men got restless, scattering in the dark to any cover as shells came whistling through the air, then to be collected again and pushed on. No officer was sure that he had all his men after each successive halt nor was he sure of his direction ... we started to dig ... Towards very early morning, [8 October 1917] about 3.00am, I went over to the officer commanding D Company and found my own company officer and two or three more, discussing things in general. They appeared to me to be sitting in a trench that was open to the direction from which the shells had been coming. After giving them my views on their position, I moved away to what seemed to me a safer position, some 12 yards away. I had barely got there when a shell lobbed into the middle of them. I hurried back on hearing their



Stanley Henson
as a new
second lie

Stretcher bearers struggle through the mud during the fighting at Passchendaele. 'To either side there was nothing but mud, mud for miles'



shouts and found them in an awful mess. My own officer ... and the D Company captain were both hit, also Stanley Henson. Stretcher bearers came along and we quickly bandaged them up and got them out of the way. There were three men besides, one badly hit. We were only able to find parts of the other two; they seemed to have stopped the full force of the shell.'

So Stanley Henson had been hit. I quickly found out he had not been killed but I wondered what happened to him. Taking a break and walking the dog I bumped into Michael Gray one morning near Snitterfield cemetery. Knowing his family had farmed land at Hampton Lucy for many years I asked if he knew the Hensons. Why of course he did; he had often stopped off for a break at the Henson's farm whilst herding sheep between Stratford station and his father's farm.



Stanley Henson photographed as a newly-commissioned lieutenant in 1917

Michael's father and Stanley Henson had been well acquainted; Stanley had served as Chairman of the National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society (NFU Mutual) and had persuaded Michael's father to do the same. What's more Michael knew Stanley's son Brian who was still living in Lower Clopton. Brian Henson's wife Margaret is buried in Snitterfield cemetery. Michael thought Brian was in the phone book. Indeed he was and I gave him a call. I asked Brian about his father's war service but, like many men who had served and survived he had returned and, although badly wounded, had said very little of his experiences. I was able to tell Brian where and under what circumstances his father was wounded and he in turn was able to tell me that as the family had been staunch Wesleyan Methodists the Hensons had always hosted the annual chapel summer fetes on their land. The

Drinkwaters, who lived on John Street in Stratford, had been committed Wesleyans too and so Harold and Stanley would have known each other since childhood.

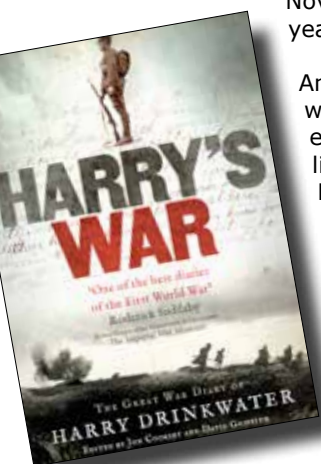
Brian told me that his father had followed in his grandfather's footsteps, becoming a successful butcher and owning two shops in Stratford, on Wood Street and Bridge Street, and another in Alcester. He confirmed that he had served as Chairman of the NFU Mutual, an organisation his grandfather James had helped to found, between 1952 and 1962. Stanley had died in 1972. His portrait still adorns the wall at the Tiddington headquarters of NFU Mutual.

Harold Drinkwater also survived, emerging unscathed from Passchendaele, service on the Italian Front and the desperate battles following the German spring offensives of 1918. He was wounded whilst winning the Military Cross for a daring raid on the German lines in June 1918 and was still recovering when the Armistice came into force on 11 November 1918. He died in 1978, six years after Stanley Henson.

And so it was that a chance meeting with Michael Gray while walking the dog early one morning helped to bring a little touch of personal colour to Harold Drinkwater's wonderful story.

Jon Cooksey

'Harry's War', the full story of Harold Drinkwater's diary 1914-1918, edited by Jon Cooksey, was published in hardback by Ebury Press in October'



Lest we forget



Once again it was a beautiful sunny Autumn morning for the Remembrance Service held on 10 November by the War Memorial in Snitterfield. The service, which was very well attended, was led by Alan Gardner and Norman Warren.

The 1st Bearley and Snitterfield Explorers, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers marched to the War Memorial and, as in previous years, played a central role in the service. Congratulations to Morten Schmidt-Hansen and Callum Brettell (both 16) for your excellent trumpet playing, see photo right, which was very much appreciated by the congregation.



The service was a moving reminder of the enormous debt owed by all of us to those in the armed services who have made sacrifices on our behalf and to the families of those fine men and women.

Guy Norris

Wartime Memories Village Fete 2014

Next year the theme for the village fete will be **Wartime Memories**, to tie in with the national centenary commemoration of the start of the First World War.

We have several ideas already but would welcome thoughts from anyone in the village who would like to be involved in the planning of projects which could be incorporated into the fete on 22 June next year.

Please contact Nicola Matthews 01789 731891 or Gaye Hillier 01789 730372

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. This is the last of four instalments.

Snitterfield had at least one famous resident during the Second World War – Fanny Cradock and her husband Johnnie, of TV cookery fame. He was a surviving army officer and, on being wounded, left the army. Sadly, their house in London was bombed. They came to Snitterfield and lived in three houses: Field House on Church Road; Bell Brook House by the ford (now a bridge, of course); and lastly Wayfield Cottage at the top of The Green and round the corner. I will not say much about them, as I know quite a lot has already been written in *Snipe*. I will say that apart from cookery, Mrs Cradock was a very talented lady and trained in drama. During one of the wartime fund raising weeks she booked the village hall for the last Saturday (much to the disgust of the WI) and produced an Old Time Music Hall Show, with all local talent including me aged about 14 doing ballet dancing in an ill-fitting leotard which my mother had to alter to keep me decent. It was Johnnie's first public appearance as Master of Ceremonies with a bell, and I was the boy filling up his tankard of beer.

We had a football and cricket team and the bowls green was next to the village hall. This was very small and not very level. There was also a Scout Group: the Scoutmaster being John Snow from Stratford. Guides and Cubs also met



by bus from London, Birmingham, Liverpool or Coventry. They were allocated to families all over the parish and registered at the school for lessons.

We had an 8 year old from Tile Hill, Coventry called June Bailey, and for a short time her sister Pam. June stayed with us for four years. June recalls that she was supposed to have been left in Bearley but descended the bus at the wrong location. The nice part is that we stayed in touch as good friends and my wife and I, together with June and her husband Gordon, holidayed together again this year, some 62 years later. Like me she is now a great grandparent.

Brian Pryce



OVER THE GARDEN WALL

*'Blow, blow, thou winter wind
Thou art not so unkind ...'* (William Shakespeare)

And indeed not: I really look forward to winter. It is a time to refresh and plan, to appreciate the space created by the loss of foliage, to realise the importance of structure and to enjoy the beauty of the few blossoms which reward us in this slumbering season.

I am passionate about hellebores, as they are excellent garden plants, with stunningly beautiful flowers, wonderful architectural foliage and are perfect for brightening up shady areas in winter and spring. Fortunately, they grow well in Snitterfield, enjoying a semi-shaded position on a rich moist soil with reasonable drainage. We use plenty of leaf mould and feed them with Vitax Q4 fertiliser. Just after

Christmas the leaves are trimmed to deter the mice from eating the buds. After blooming, the dead blooms are cut off (if the seed is not wanted) and damaged foliage is destroyed.

I love the pure white flower of the *Helleborus niger*, commonly known as the Christmas Rose, *see below*, which is the first to bloom. So named because of the legend telling how it sprouted up in the snow from the tears of a young shepherdess called Madelon. She had watched the shepherds and wise men pass to present their gifts to the Christ Child in Bethlehem and followed them to the stable, weeping as she had nothing to give. A watching angel took pity on her, turning her tears into the most beautiful white flower. Overjoyed, Madelon picked the flower and presented her gift of the Christmas Rose to baby Jesus.



The *Helleborus* hybrids (Lenten rose) are later and really exciting as the blooms push through the

earth, hanging their heads in a variety of subtle hues. But when upturned they are nature's works of art: speckled, blotched, edged and indescribably amazing. They are planted throughout the garden, in clumps around trees, amongst shrubs, scattered in the wood amid the snowdrops – but my special plants are just outside the window.

We were lucky to invite John Massey, one of the world's leading experts on hellebores to the November Garden Club meeting to give an inspirational illustrated presentation 'Winter and Spring Planting at Ashwood', his garden near Kingswinford. John is a plant collector, nurseryman and passionate gardener who breeds hellebores to die for.

We were shown images of the most gorgeous new strains with the warning: "Hellebores are poisonous plants and very contagious to the collector ... and purse!" He gave us so many stimulating images to make winter joyful: planting a new tree with interesting bark or winter blossom, wonderful *Hamamelis* (witch hazel), *Daphnes*, brightly coloured evergreens, and spring bulbs, narcissus, tulips. Do it!

Margaret Tweed



Talking owl

Owls are fascinating birds truly adapted to their night time hunting habits. They have excellent eyesight and hearing. The face is shaped like a satellite dish and the ears are positioned asymmetrically

allowing them to better locate prey. The feathers are softened at the edges so there is minimal noise from the owl when it is flying and hunting.

In Snitterfield we have the three owl species: Tawny Owl, Little Owl and Barn Owl (*see photo below*). None are common here but the numbers seem stable although at a low level. All three species are in decline in the UK with the Little Owl numbers down the most.

The Tawny Owl is the classic owl heard in horror movies. The male calls 'huit-houuu' and the female answers 'ke-wick'. The Tawny Owls had a very poor breeding season due to the terrible weather, and there were few owlets (chicks) in our area. The Little Owl is the owl often used as a symbol of wisdom. This was the owl that accompanied the goddess Athena in Greek mythology. It is quite small and no larger than a blackbird. The Barn Owl is the owl most likely to be seen hunting in daylight. They breed throughout the year and this



November local conservationists have found a nest with healthy chicks. These owls may have several broods in a year if food is plentiful.

I have had both Tawny Owl and Little Owl in my garden and I have put up a nest box for the Tawny Owl. It has been home to squirrels and jackdaws, but I hope an owl will evict them one day and come home to roost.

Claes Martenson
claber57@btinternet.com

WI showcase local talent



As part of its 80th Anniversary Snitterfield WI held an Arts and Crafts Exhibition in the Village Hall. The exhibition was opened by Tim Cox, the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire. The aim was to promote local artists and crafts people, such as Moira Osborne in the photo above. All exhibitors had a successful day and the event was thoroughly enjoyed by all visitors.

Judith Walker

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH™

Snitterfield's Neighbourhood Watch scheme is now active. I encourage all residents to join. You can visit www.ourwatch.org.uk and enter your postcode to find our pages. **After registration, if you then click on 'scheme admin' you can select our village to join.**

You'll benefit from police alerts, safety information and even a free window sticker as an extra incentive – I have 300 of these for distribution. I'll also be posting updates on the village noticeboards too, for those not so comfy with the internet. The effectiveness of the scheme depends on the village gaining a reputation for being 'on the ball' with regard to crime. This, in theory, shifts crime elsewhere (hard luck for them, of course).

We are lucky that there are only a few incidents in our territory per year (although it's truly horrid when you are affected). You can see these and their outcomes on the *ourwatch* website. However, we should encourage vigilance (for example, let's get all dog walkers keeping an eye out) and follow-through (please report and prosecute crimes).

Calling all 'Pub Club' Dads. Could you make a special effort to sign up and perhaps volunteer to pass on information for your street?

To think about: if you were a burglar, how would you burgle your house or car? What might attract you in the first place? If you're struggling to empathise, just focus on keeping valuables away from windows, locking doors and

perhaps repairing broken gates. More esoteric tips will be forthcoming.

If you have any questions or ideas or if you spot anything odd perhaps you can email me. I can then email alerts out to scheme members pronto. Meanwhile, be nice and stay safe.

Greg Bull
greg.bull@oceansblue.co.uk

WATCH THIS SPACE

- The planter by the bus stop has been vandalised again. Could people keep an eye on this – and report any naughtiness.
- You'll see posters going up that there have been 23 car crime incidents (that's theft from cars and damage etc, NOT car thefts). We think about 50% of these are opportunistic 'smash and grabs' for satnavs, phones and laptops. Remove these from sight and lock your car doors. This accounts for a large part of the crime in the village.
- We think there has been recent reconnaissance by small teams of would-be wrongdoers. Snitterfield is well connected to the A46 as an entry/escape route. Security weakpoints will be assessed by potential thieves and car doors tested ad hoc, so extra care is needed.
- Holidays are coming up and it's worth remembering that if you Facebook/Tweet your holiday dates and events, people can find out if you are away. From a burglar's perspective, this is golden intelligence.

What's On

Snitterfield Garden Club

3 December: 'Garden Birds in Autumn and Winter' by David Tidswell. Complimentary wine and seasonal buffet provided by members.

7 January: 'The Great Plant Hunters' by Howard Drury.

4 February: 'The Subtle Art and Exact Science of Pruning' by Timothy Walker, Director of Oxford Botanic Garden.

4 March: 'Lore and Legend' by Val Bourne.

1 April: 'Italian Gardens in the 12th Century' by James Bolton.

6 May: 'Gardening for Butterflies and Bees'. Visit and talk at Stratford Butterfly Farm.

Non members welcome £4.

Parish Council Meetings

On the second Monday in the month, unless changed by the Council. See noticeboard on Smith's Lane.

Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change

SACC meetings first Thursday each month in Village Hall, 8pm. Check www.snitterfieldacc.org for changes.

Snitterfield WI

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

Update on the village phone box

You may recall that back in the Spring we offered to help the Parish Council decide on a new purpose for the phone box. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, the painting and repair of the box has been delayed. The idea is to create an information point in the village and we are hoping that by Spring the work will be complete. If you have any suggestions or other ideas please let us know and thank you for your patience.

Ole & Hilary Schmidt-Hansen
Tel: 731246

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



Not just a great day out

Each year at the Village Fete, we hope that despite the recession (and the weather!) we will raise enough money to help projects that make a difference in our village. The event is not only a great day out for all the village but also an opportunity for all the village organisations and clubs to fundraise for their own purposes. The stalls are free to charities and small village groups and the profits for the committee to distribute come solely from the raffle, gate takings, pig-roast and advertising in the programme.

Every penny that is not needed for the running of the fete the following year is given to village projects. Previous fete donations have benefited the village as a whole with planting of spring bulbs and a new bench opposite the shop. Funds were also provided for new playmats for Rag-Tag Toddlers; SACC's electronic monitors and sensors and annual help with costs of printing; the primary school's Artistic Cultural Experience and new cookery equipment; a new cooker, smoke detector, fire alarm equipment and new chairs in the village hall; new goal posts for the football club and junior kit at the cricket club. A contribution was also given to the Church of St James the Great's restoration fund. Regular annual donations have been given for outings for the Thursday Club and to *Snipe* magazine for costs of printing one issue and biennial donations towards the village fireworks display. Over the last six years this has amounted to thousands of pounds and we thank you for your continued support.

Nicola Matthews 01789 731891; Gaye Hillier 01789 730372

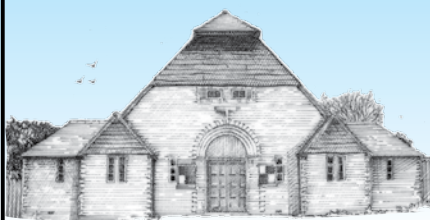
Available for hire

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 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.

Moving Pictures

Cinema in the Village Hall

If you would like to join our email circulation list to suggest films you would like to see, please contact Hilary and Ole Schmidt-Hansen, Tel: 731246.

email: hilary@thegables.spacomputers.com

Next screening. 22 December: *Epic* (PG) 3pm and *Hyde Park* (12A) 7pm. Following dates: 19 January 2014; 9 February; 16 March and 13 April.