Snitterfield’s historic war memorial is set to receive a facelift. The parish council is working with the fete committee towards a major restoration programme which will improve the appearance and prevent any further deterioration of the crumbling stone and worn memorial plaques.

Nicola Matthews, fete committee joint-chair, said: ‘The success of this year’s village fete commemorating the anniversary of the start of the Great War and marking 70 years since the D-Day landings, means we are able to make a substantial, highly appropriate contribution to the restoration of the memorial, which is, sadly, in a state of some disrepair.’

Conservation architect and villager, Steven Matthews, and Parish Councillor Paul Blanchard are awaiting the return of tenders from stonemasons who specialise in restoration.

- The war memorial was originally unveiled on Sunday 15 August 1920 following public subscription.
- In 1946 it was severely damaged by winter storms. A new memorial was rededicated on Sunday 6 June 1948 when a plaque was added commemorating those who fell in the Second World War.
- In April 1978 the Memorial again blew down and villagers collected the funds to repair it, shortening and strengthening it at the same time.
- The current proposed repairs include removing loose stone and moss growth; repointing and replacing damaged stone and reinscribing the letters on the metal plaques.
- It is also hoped that the view over the Avon Valley can be restored by cutting back overgrown trees. The Highways Agency, who are responsible for this, have been lobbied several times. Our county councillor John Horner recently reported to the Parish Council that it is in the Agency’s schedule of works, but we should not necessarily expect it to happen quickly.
It is with great pleasure that I am able to write to you all through the Snipe newsletter, having recently been elected as your new Councillor in May.

This year’s elections were enormously successful for the Conservative Party, winning 15 of the 18 seats available, a net gain of six seats overall. Our achievements have been recognised as the most successful local election for the party nationally. I am also pleased to say that Snitterfield had the highest turnout in the district with 49.7 per cent of voters making their way to the ballot boxes.

The council has already put me through my paces with an intensive training programme to bring me fully up to speed with my responsibilities and I have been very active in meeting various residents to help work through any problems they have encountered.

**Core Strategy and Neighbourhood Plan**

The final public consultation exercise for the Core Strategy has recently finished. This was an opportunity for local residents, business and interested parties to make final comments on the plan that, once adopted, will manage development across the District up to 2031. The final round of public consultation ended on 17th July and enabled interested parties to submit representations for consideration via the public examination process.

Snitterfield Parish Council has already begun work on a Neighbourhood Plan which is a vital piece of documentation that gives powers to the local community to shape new development in accordance with the Core Strategy. I would encourage residents to get involved and have their say about how the parish is developed over the coming years.

**Foxhunter Pub**

Since the elections I have had a large number of letters about the hoarding outside the old Foxhunter Pub. It is a site at the heart of the village and an area that we all want to see looking fantastic. The owners of the land have a current planning application under consultation, which they are entitled to. However, the hoarding is in a bad state of repair and through action taken by myself and our County Councillor, Stratford District Council have issued a letter requesting that repairs and improvements are made ASAP. If these are not undertaken, enforcement action will follow.

**Stratford Armouries**

As most of you will know Stratford Armouries submitted a planning application earlier this year to put 100 static homes on its surrounding land. The purpose of the application is to provide much needed financial support to the Armouries, an important educational museum and heritage asset to Stratford and Warwickshire.

The application was met with objection from Snitterfield Parish Council, two surrounding Parish Councils and members of the village. The case officer recommended refusal and the application was heard at the East Planning Committee on 23rd July. After representation from parties on both sides the committee concluded that the proposal was inappropriate development for the Green Belt and the application was refused.

**UBUS**

Stratford District Council launched its new community transport operation on 11th July called the UBUS. It will be operating in and around Snitterfield on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays with bookings being taken daily, up to seven days in advance, via the booking centre (01789 260108 or 01789 264491).

Bookings can now also be made within 24 hours of the required time, making it a more responsive service than was previously on offer. For more information about the UBUS please visit the Stratford District Council website: www.stratford.gov.uk/news/news.cfm/current/1/item/135435

Finally, I very much look forward to continuing the fantastic work of your out-going councillor, Helen Hayter, and I welcome the opportunity to meet with and hear from you all in due course.

Peter Richards
Peter.Richards@stratford-dc.gov.uk
Mobile: 07912 410375

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**Here’s a geeky data update!**

A check of public data from the Office for National Statistics shows that crime over the past several years is generally falling. Drilling into the latest police data for 14 May, there’s been one burglary and two antisocial behaviour incidents in Snitterfield. Now around that month last year, we’d had eight vehicle crimes (usually theft from vehicles) and two burglaries.

Is this a real improvement, or was last spring a blip? It’s hard to say, certainly most of our flyers and notices have been to remind people to lock their car doors and keep valuables out of sight. Maybe this is helping a bit. But it’s also not easy to translate these figures into precise evidence, as the police have changed the way they count crime about four times over the last 30 years.

There’s some very interesting (I think it is) data from UKCrimeStats which rebases incidents against population. To summarise, this confirms that our crime problems over the last two years have been mostly vehicle-based, with burglaries coming second and criminal damage third.

Anyway, the point is - whilst it’s worth closing those upstairs windows (or fitting preventers), moving wheelee bins away from low flat roofs, spreading caltrops and fitting tripwires etc (not officially sanctioned by Snipe - Ed!) - we shouldn’t be obsessed or fearful about crime. A precautionary approach is needed, but let’s be happy also to live in a lovely village with a great community spirit (I present the awesome village fete as evidence of this).

As always, I’m looking for you to join the ourwatch.org.uk scheme and then select Snitterfield as your area. We still have only 25 households signed up, so clearly I need to try harder. I plan to organise some kind of campaign door-to-door to encourage sign ups and extract cash donations, so if you wish to avoid me (or my rough-looking ‘deputies’) pestering you, the solution is but a few web clicks away.

Greg Bull
greg.bull@oceansblue.co.uk
How well do you know your village? This sign reading ‘Stick No Bills’ is visible from the road for those with keen eyes. No prizes – it’s just for fun. We will be featuring another item next issue. Answer at the bottom of page 8.

Jon Cooksey
101 birds in Snitterfield

We live in a fantastic village with very good biodiversity.

I took part in the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Atlas survey and helped map all the birds in the British Isles during 2007-2011 and would like to share with you the exciting results for Snitterfield.

I bet your garden has some surprising birds. Why not take a cup of tea (or coffee) and sit down to see what you are able to see and hear. I keep stressing that my garden is not unique for the village and I think there are as many as 18 species breeding here, including Goldcrest and Coal Tit. Please contact me if you would like help with identifying birds. Read about the Atlas results on the bto.org website.

Claes Martenson
martenson.claes@gmail.com

Some headline numbers for Snitterfield:

- 101 bird species seen – Britain has about 250 species excluding rare visitors.
- 61 breeding species – this is a lot! Brandon Marsh in Coventry, a managed nature reserve, has 66.
- Nine species only seen during winter or migration – Golden Plover, Snipe, Green Sandpiper, Wryneck (see photo right), Fieldfare, Redwing, Brambling, Twite and Lesser Redpoll.
- I assess that there are 22 very common and numerous species, including Stock Dove, Greylag Goose, Long-tailed Tit and Linnet.
- There are 15 bird species that are very rare in Snitterfield.
  - Eight of these I haven’t seen here (yet):
    - Red Kite
    - Peregrine Falcon
    - Wryneck (maybe the rarest of them all!)
    - Yellow Wagtail
    - Stonechat
    - Wheatear
    - Spotted Flycatcher
  - And, seven species I have only seen once:
    - Shoveler
    - Goosander
    - Woodcock
    - Snipe
    - Common Tern
    - Marsh Tit
    - Brambling
- Another 18 species I consider rare:
  - Hybrid Canada Greylag Goose
  - Teal
  - Red-legged Partridge
  - Grey Partridge
  - Cormanant
  - Green Sandpiper
  - Cuckoo
  - Barn Owl
  - Tawny Owl
  - Kingfisher
  - Meadow Pipit
  - Grey Wagtail
  - Redstart
  - Reed Warbler
  - Willow Warbler
  - Raven
  - Twite
  - Reed Bunting

Snitterfield Wartime Memories Village

The mouth-watering tea tent, above, run by the nursery and primary schools; Jenny Jones and Carol Pryor from Snitterfield garden club, right, and happy customers Kitten and Richard von Mew, far right, who entertained the crowds throughout the day; Biggles, otherwise known as Adrian Newell from Warneford Radio, top right, with fellow fighter pilot; Captain Mainwaring, aka Andy Hopkinson, bottom right, with his latest flame.
Well, it’s been a busy old year at Snitterfield Nursery. We have had some changes of staff: we’ve said goodbye to Alison Stoddart, our manager, who has taken a position in a school, and also to Sylvia Patrick, after many years of service. They will be missed by so many, whose little lives have had the benefit of their care - and by their families too. We wish them both well in their future work plans.

We are, however, delighted to announce that we have a new manager, Georgia Skinner, who has brought not only young blood but lots of energy and some fabulous changes to the nursery. We are also extremely pleased to welcome Kathryn Cook (of Snitterfield) to the team. Both are highly experienced, qualified and brimming with ideas and lots of fun.

You may have noticed that the front of the nursery has been undergoing a bit of a makeover. With the generosity and help of friends and parents the front garden is now looking lovely. A big thank you to all those who gave their support. Thank you also to the Snitterfield Fete Committee for our brand new play kitchen that we were able to purchase with their grant (see photo right). It’s beautiful!! The children are busy improving their communication skills, role play, confidence and generally having a great time cooking and serving in their café and restaurant. Thank you!!

Finally, we say goodbye to two of our board members on the Social Enterprise side of the company. Helen Hayter and Amanda Reilly have now stepped down after four and five years’ involvement, making way for new bodies on the board. Should anyone wish to join the board and become involved in the running of this small but vital community resource, please don’t hesitate to call Georgia Skinner or Helen Highlands, the chair, for an informal chat about what’s involved.

Amanda Reilly
Snitterfield Nursery Tel: 01789 731974
email: ceb@snitterfieldnursery.co.uk

Makeovers and budding Masterchefs at the Nursery

The Fete in pictures ...
A van with a view

In the early 1960s a group of village motor racing enthusiasts went to watch the racing at Silverstone. The difference with this trip is that they took their own grandstand!

It was an old Post Office van ‘converted’ by Ken Ledbrook. The intrepid spectators in photo right are Ken Ledbrook, Bill Pardo, Frank Green, Ron Rogers, Bill Jeffs, Ray Neal, ? Blaney, John Harris and Bill Pardo Snr. Note the carefully laid out refreshments (see below). Has anyone got any memories of the trip?

Bob Foster

Bob is putting on a fourth exhibition of old village photos from his collection in the village hall on Saturday 27 September.

How Snitterfield almost won the Grand Prix

For those who didn’t see the display in the village fete’s memorabilia marquee, Snitterfield came close to hosting the British Grand Prix.

In 1947, race organiser the Royal Automobile Club was scouring the nation for a venue. None of Britain’s pre-war facilities was suitable: great slices had been cut from the banking at Brooklands to accommodate the aviation industry, Donington Park remained under the War Office’s jurisdiction and Crystal Palace was a little frayed around the edges.

The most suitable candidate was thought to be a decommissioned airfield, of which there were many throughout the country after the war. Eventually the choice came down to two: Snitterfield and Silverstone. Silverstone was finally selected - somewhat of a blessing to villagers who like a quiet life!

Ed

Laterlife Challenge

Have you done something new since you retired? Started a new hobby or interest, joined a club or planned an event or trip? The Laterlife Challenge is looking for entries from the over 60s to demonstrate how people are making the most of their retirement years. There are some great prizes and also the knowledge that your story may help inspire others who are finding their senior years lonely or difficult. Chief judge is Blue Peter’s Valerie Singleton. Find out more by visiting: www.laterlife.com/challenge

Primary head retires

On 18 July Snitterfield School said goodbye not only to the current Year 6 children who are moving onto senior school in September, but also to Mrs Ogden who has retired from the school after 11 years as the Headteacher. A fitting tribute was expressed by the children in a special assembly where each class entertained her for the last time - the highlight brought tears to her eyes as Class 2 sang ‘You’ll never walk alone’ as she is a keen Liverpool Football Club fan. Good Luck Mrs Ogden - we shall miss you.

Speeding in the village

At last YOU have the opportunity to do something about this. We need six volunteers from Snitterfield to be trained by the police in the use of speed guns. We can then face head-on this perpetual problem, particularly in Smith’s Lane and School Road/Wolverton Road. Contact Ian Wilkins, Clerk to the Parish Council, Tel: 01789 266665.

Snitters Snippets

New faces at Sports and Social Club

We have a new Steward and Stewardess at Snitterfield Sports and Social club, Darren and Rhi Hutchings. They have lived in the village for two years. Rhi was born and bred in Wootton Wawen, Darren hails from Devizes, Wiltshire. They have three children, Andrew 10, Kristen 6 and Caitlin 18 months. Prior to starting their family they had many years of experience in the hotel and catering trade. The Snipe Bar’s opening hours are Monday to Friday 7pm - 11pm, Saturday 12 noon - 11 pm and Sunday 12 noon- 10.30pm. Darren and Rhi look forward to meeting and welcoming you all.

Katie’s Cycle Challenge

Snitterfield Arms landlady Katie Ginder is undertaking the challenge of a lifetime in October, when she sets off to cycle 387 kilometres through Malawi to raise funds for Myton Hospice. Katie will be in the saddle for six days as she explores African villages, meets local school children and experiences a wildlife safari - all by bike. She has already raised £5,600, thanks to the generous support of people in the village and the success of fundraising initiatives at the pub, including an auction, coffee morning and quiz night. Over the next few months the pub is holding further events for Myton, aiming to increase the total even further. Visit www.mytonhospice.org/KatieGinder

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A ‘Jolly Jaunt to Norfolk’ with more tea and cake...

Garden Club have just returned from a ‘Jolly Jaunt to Norfolk,’ a county with rolling landscapes, steeped in history with castles and manors, country estates and small market towns and home to some of the most beautiful gardens in the country.

Beginning a jam-packed itinerary, we were given a very warm welcome with coffee and homemade cakes at Lexham Hall, a private estate set in beautiful parkland. The all-season garden is beautifully planted with herbaceous borders in a walled garden which had a rare ‘crinkle crinkle’ wall. Moving onwards through narrow lanes to the delightful romantic moated Mannington Hall built in the 1460s with a Heritage Rose Garden owned by Lord and Lady Walpole, descendants of the first Prime Minister. We enjoyed more tea and cakes on this perfect sunny afternoon which set the scene for the days ahead.

Blickling Hall, known as the jewel of Norfolk, is a magnificent Jacobean hall with connections to Anne Boleyn. The parterre garden is particularly spectacular set in a walled garden within a vast parkland with avenues of fine trees. East Ruston Old Vicarage Garden is high on the list as one of the top ten gardens to visit and popular with Garden Club members. Bought in the 1970s, derelict farmland has been transformed into a series of garden rooms, sunken rose garden, Diamond Jubilee walled garden, exotic Californian desert garden... and more tea and cake.

Another favourite garden is Houghton Hall, one of the finest Palladian Houses in the country set in gracious parkland. It has a stunning award-winning walled garden which was at its blooming best.

This was followed by visiting the most charming moated 13th century Hindringham Hall with a delightful garden planned for a sunny Sunday afternoon to have... tea and cakes. Freedom choices included a trip on the board at 4-star Sprotston Manor, Norwich and schemed and booked our own itinerary. Next year, if there is enough response, we will have ‘A Cornish Cracker’, staying at Carlyon Bay Hotel half board, Sunday 17-21 May (£499 based on two people sharing).

Margaret Tweed Tel: 731636

Winter warmers

Welcome to the first of our regular columns, where among other things we will offer tips and information on reducing your carbon footprint and often saving cash at the same time.

1. **Insulation, insulation, insulation**: Insulation doesn’t just keep cold air out during winter, it also keeps hot air at bay during summer. There are a lot of different types of insulation which you can consider and costs vary greatly. For a quick guide to costs and savings check out www.energysavinghomes.org.uk

2. **Draught excluding**: Unless your home is very new, you’re likely to be losing some heat through draughts around doors and windows, gaps around the floor, maybe up a chimney or two, and a whole host of other areas around the house. Why not buy some proper draught-proofing products for the doors and windows, seal your skirting boards with silicone sealant, and fit a chimney draught excluder or sealed fire guards? DIY draught proofing of windows, doors and blocking cracks in floors and skirting boards could cost up to £200, but could save £20 to £30 a year in a draughty home.

3. **Switch to LED light bulbs**: A recent study carried out by the Department of Energy and Climate Change found that the average household could shave 80% off its lighting costs by switching from traditional bulbs to LED (Light Emitting Diode) bulbs. The figure takes into account the cost of using an LED bulb over its five and a half year life cycle (£9.30), over that of using a traditional bulb (£135).

4. **Change your shower head**: It is estimated that a household made up of four people will save £75 per year by fitting an eco-showerhead. The latter will reduce the amount of water you use every time you take a shower, without a noticeable reduction in power. Saving hot water reduces your gas or electricity bill.

5. **Take advantage of the winter sun when it’s available**: Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

Vikki Parker
SACC is on hand to give advice and can be contacted via our website www.snitterfieldacc.org or telephone 731348.
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

Watch this space!

Following the success of the Variety Show in March the Village Hall Management Committee is going to put on a fundraising Christmas Concert on 13th December. Pop the date on your calendar. We will be looking for willing performers again so all local talent: start practising!

The Village Hall Management committee warmly welcomes anyone who would like to join the committee to our next meeting on Wednesday 17th September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. For more information please call Hilary Schmidt-Hansen Tel: 731246.

SNITTERFIELD METHODIST CHURCH
OPEN AFTERNOON
Saturday 16th August
2.00 - 4.30pm
EVERYONE WELCOME!
Please come and share refreshments: teas/coffees/cakes/scones on our VINTAGE BUS and in the church grounds. Look around our beautiful church and listen to an organ recital throughout the afternoon.

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

Eye Spy: The sign reading ‘STICK NO BILLS’ is on end wall of the recently converted barn overlooking the sharp bend on Wolverton Road.

St James the Great P.C.C. present an evening with
Malcolm Stent
Comedian, Folk Singer, Playwright & Author.

Snitterfield Village Hall
Saturday, 13th September 2014
7.30pm (Doors open at 7pm)

Tickets £10.50 each including Fish & Chips Supper (vegetarian options are available)
Please bring your own drinks & glasses

All proceeds to the Parish Church roof repair fund.
Tickets from John Foster.
Tel: 01789 731454.
Email: jandpf48@btinternet.com

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

Snitterfield Garden Club
Tuesday 2 September:
Snitterfield Garden Club, AGM at 7.30pm followed by Produce Show at approx. 8pm. Entries to be staged between 6.30pm-7.30pm

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, 8.00pm. Check www.snitterfieldacc.org for changes.

Village fireworks and bonfire
On Saturday 8 November, at the Sports Club.

Bygone 4: Bob Foster is putting on a fourth exhibition of his collection of village photographs in the village hall on Saturday 27 September.

Eye Spy: The sign reading ‘STICK NO BILLS’ is on end wall of the recently converted barn overlooking the sharp bend on Wolverton Road.

Moving Pictures

Cinema in the Village Hall
If you would like more information or 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 cinema dates: The cinema is taking a summer break and will be back on Sunday 21 September.

SNIPe is produced and distributed by volunteers with the help of additional funding from Snitterfield Parish Council and the Fete Committee. Editors Sally and Andy Hopkinson, tel 01789 731852, email: info@sallyhopkinson.co.uk. The views expressed in these pages do not necessarily reflect those of the editors or other members of the SNIPe editorial committee. Current and back issues are available to download from www.snitterfield.com. Printed by Spectrum Colour Printers, tel 0116 246 1717.