

FREE
to the residents
of Snitterfield



ISSUE FOUR

SUMMER 2003



LEE HILLIER— MAN OF ACTION!

Lee approached Joe Sumner the owner, who agreed to lease it to him, and so started our wonderful village shop. Over the past five years Lee has added such services as, freshly baked bread, freshly made batches, home made cakes, video hire, and the lottery to the extensive grocery and off licence range, plus of course, Lee's first love, the butchery counter, offering locally raised meat and barbecue specialities. The shop makes us the envy of many surrounding villages, confirmed by the amount of trade it pulls in from other villages.

Copious amounts of hard work, and a burning desire to meet the needs of the villagers, earned him great respect from the village, resulting in the shop's runner up position of Neighbourhood Shop of the Year' in 2000. In 2002 this was suitably recognised when the shop was awarded the winning trophy, in a lavish ceremony Lee and Gay attended, in Scotland.

Gay has always been there, supporting and working hard alongside Lee, as well as looking after daughter Catherine, now 7yrs old and attending the village school. As members of FOSS (Friends of Snitterfield School), Lee and Gay organise an 'Irish Night' at the local pub each year as a fund raising event, and this year, Lee also organised a football tournament and ran a pig roast for the school fete.

Two years ago, Lee discovered that the Snitterfield Cricket Team had folded 25yrs previous, so, true to form he set about resurrecting it. In 2001 he managed to gather a few players together, and in 2002 set up some fixtures. This year, he has focused on the cricket field applying for, and gaining grant money. He also ran in the Two Castles Run (6 miles) in a mean time of 49mins, raising more money, this together with organising the work on the field, and a busy season of team fixtures. Is there no end to this man's energies!

For someone raised in 'big city' Birmingham, Lee is a powerful member of our small community, his drive and commitment has made a big difference to this village.

Finally, maybe we should consider – how much poorer this village would be without him?

Around 6am on Thursday 26 June, a Londis lorry, closely followed by a car, trundled into Snitterfield to make a delivery to the village shop. Stopping outside the shop, the driver got out and opened the back of his lorry, climbing in to sort his delivery. The car drew up alongside the lorry; two masked men got out and followed the driver into the back of the lorry.

Ten minutes later, Lee Hillier pulled his van in behind the lorry. Seeing a man sat in a car parked beside the lorry at that time in the morning, Lee sensed there was something wrong, and held his hand on the horn in order to create a diversion. He was unaware of the two inside the lorry at this point. Reacting to the noise, the man got out of the car, brandishing a knife and approached Lee, who grabbed an iron bar he keeps in the van (for safety reasons) as he got out of his van, and walked towards the man. The man then panicked and ran to the front of the lorry banging on it's side. The driver appeared from inside the lorry followed by the two men, also with a knife. The driver ran into the shop, Lee decided to change tactics at this point, and followed him. Lee called the police who where there in 10 mins., by which time, the gang had got away with £5000 worth of cigarettes!

Lee first moved to Snitterfield in 1988. With his boundless energy and his strong desire to 'make things happen', Lee had a voice at the first Parish Council meeting he attended, with some practical solutions to matters under discussion.

A butcher by trade, he started the Shrewley Farm Shop in 1993 purely as a preparation site, and sold from his now famous 'mobile shop', building a reputation for fine butchery over the next five years.

The Snitterfield Village Shop, had been closed for six years, but had always been his 'ideal'. The opportunity arose in 1998,

With this issue of Snipe, we have completed our first year. We believe we have achieved a lot in this first year; four well-received issues, two successful fund raising events which also contributed to life in our village, several grants and donations from you our readers, in all we are happy to say it's been a pretty successful year for the newsletter.

We know from your feed back that you are happy with the format, but we are always open to new ideas and suggestions! We hope by creating regular features you would not only look for them each quarter, but consider contributing yourself; eg in this edition, the regular profiles we run feature 'have-a-go' Lee Hillier, a stalwart member of the community, and 40 happy years in Church Road, .

We have aimed to bring a younger interest to Snipe this time, with items about the school, the brownies and guides, football and cricket as well as young musicians in the village.

The Snitterfield Summer Celebrations make a lively centre spread. Let me take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the Snitterfield Arts Festival in whatever form, your time and effort was most appreciated. We would love this to become an annual event and take on an identity of its own - but what do you think? Please take a moment to let us know, it needs to be something you, the villagers, want!

You will recall us featuring the Village Appraisal in the first edition; it seemed appropriate 12 months later, to give you a fairly comprehensive update. I'm sure there must be something among the list of project groups now operating that would appeal to some of you. None of them are too regular or 'big commitment' operations, but extra bodies in the shape of skills, ideas and basic help are all needed, and besides, it can be interesting and fun!

Diane Hoe, Editor



RIP!

News from your District Councillor

TRAFFIC ISSUES

Since I was first elected as your County Councillor in 1997, traffic has always been one of my main concerns. The injury accident rate on Smiths Lane for the period up to December 1999 was unacceptable. Since the introduction of traffic calming, however, there has not been a single injury accident within the village boundary (except on the A46, which is a trunk road) and speeds on Bearley road and Smiths Lane have reduced by 25%. On the A46 the Casualty Reduction Partnership speed camera has greatly reduced the speed near the Snitterfield junction. This should cut the number of serious accidents.

I recently chaired a review body on Highway Safety, which recommended that the Council record all accidents, not just injury ones, so that in time we will get a clearer picture of the safety of our roads. On present data Snitterfield comes out as having a very low accident rate compared to similar villages.

I suspect that traffic volume has increased over the last few years but I have been working hard to keep this to a minimum, by persuading local businesses to use other routes and for improvement at Longbridge roundabout. Minor improvements are to take place next year and I am hopeful that some major investment in the form of a new flyover will follow in a few years time. It should be noted, however, that Central Government holds the purse strings for such a major investment.

Do you think the A46 is getting noisier?

Why not write to Graham Bowskill, Highways Agency, Broadway, Broad Street, Birmingham B15 1BL

And ask for a quieter road surface.

Richard Hobbs

District and County Councillor

COUNTY HIGHWAYS NOTICE:

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE –

GOSPEL OAK LANE, SNITTERFIELD

The above road will be closed to through traffic between its junction with A3400 Birmingham Road and junction of A46 Warwick Road for a period of approximately 14 days between 21 July and 27 September 2003 for carriageway resurfacing works.

PARISH COUNCIL START TO PLAN THE FUTURE FOR THE VILLAGE



The Parish Plan has been started and will bring together the Village Design Statement 2000 and the Village Appraisal 2002, into one document which, with help from the District and County Councils will set out the current situation, the needs and action plan to achieve those needs.

The Design Statement 2000 set out the requirements to be considered when planning applications are submitted. The object is to ensure developments are appropriate and in keeping with the character of the immediate location and the village overall. The District Council has adopted this document as 'a supplementary planning guidance note'.

WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP?

It's to build on these achievements to date, planning the growth of the Parish and Village over the next ten years. With new policies coming from The Government and District Council on Rural Housing centred on "Affordable housing" in villages similar to ours we need to ensure that housing needs are fully understood.

Affordable housing for young first time homeowners is important, but we must understand the wishes of the young families to move up the housing scale, to medium sized, wholly owned properties. Now comes the dilemma, what type of property and where in the community. This is where the results of findings in the appraisal and the groups set up in our community must be brought together into a central document, The Parish Plan.

To achieve the best and most accurate assessment, you need to bring together

experts from within our Parish, in order to produce the data on all the local issues needed to arrive at our Parish Plan.

If you feel you would like to be part of the team that helps shape the future of the village in creating this document, then take this opportunity and call me on 731364.

It's one-year on from our Appraisal and the groups that have been established are starting to have an impact upon our Parish. This Newsletter is a fine example of community co-operation and hard work to the benefit of the Parish.

The Village Appraisal recorded the needs that you have identified based on a questionnaire sent to every household in our Parish. The response was exceptional, the results have been published and resulted in the following action groups being set up.

- Crime and Policing Group to support our Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
- Snipe - the village newsletter
- The Footpaths Group
- The Conservation Group
- The Youth Football Team
- The Cricket team

Several other groups were identified, but unfortunately no volunteers came forward to set up the action groups and follow through the 'identified needs' they were.

- Road Safety Action Group including a Traffic and Transport Group.
- An Amenities Group.

Gerry Stammers

Chairman of the Parish Council.

Reports from several of these groups follow opposite and on page 6...

FREE ELECTRIC BLANKET TESTS FOR PENSIONERS

Warwickshire County Council's Trading Standards Service, are offering electric blanket tests FREE of charge to all Warwickshire pensioners.

These tests will be conducted in Stratford in October. To book an appointment: FREEPHONE 0800 413332 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday – an answer phone will operate at all other times. Tests will be conducted by appointment only, and bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis.

The number of appointments is limited so book early to avoid disappointment. In past years we have found faults on up to 75% of all the blankets we have checked. Unsafe electric blankets are the cause of many house fires each year, and can often lead to death or serious injury. Elderly people are particularly at risk, making up a large percentage of reported deaths. We are determined to rid Warwickshire of dangerous and unsafe electrical blankets and we urge pensioners to take up this opportunity.

Pat Whorton, *Information Officer, WCC Trading Standards Service*

NEWS FROM OUR VILLAGE ACTION GROUPS

SNITTERFIELD FOOTPATH GROUP

The group has now had several meetings and agreed that the objectives should be:-

- MAINTENANCE – to ensure paths are waymarked, clear of obstructions and with good bridges gates and stiles.
- PUBLICITY – to make sure that people are aware of the paths and to produce leaflets) to encourage people to use them; also to highlight the varied nature of the paths, wildlife, history etc.
- WALKS – to arrange walks for groups



The Parish Council have entered into an agreement with the WCC which, amongst other things, does give us limited funding towards our aims. A survey of all the paths has been completed and the necessary maintenance has recently been carried out.

The group is now considering publicity and if any villagers would like to help us with this it would be appreciated.

Do you have a favourite walk? If so perhaps you could let me have a brief route description. We do not mind if you wander outside the parish boundary!

Do you have skills to help us draw maps or illustrations?

If you can help please contact :

Bob Foster, Barn House, Church Road, Snitterfield

Telephone 01789 731118

Email bobfoster@telco4u.net

SNITTERFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

The Group's objectives are:

- To MAINTAIN and IMPROVE the environment of the Parish of Snitterfield and to CREATE AWARENESS among residents of conservation issues.

It plans to achieve these aims by recording and cataloguing those things that residents value within the Parish, and by acting as an environmental watchdog.

Since the Group's formation in May 2002, it has met on ten occasions and subjects covered have included:

- The compiling of records on such subjects as the Snitterfield Conservation Area; buildings of special architectural or historical interest within the village; trees subject to preservation orders in force within the Parish; and a guide for householders on planning matters. Where appropriate, photographs are being taken to supplement the records.
- Consideration to the creation of an 'ABC' poster of the village, along the lines devised by the organisation named Common Ground. This would aim to inspire, inform and involve people in learning about, enjoying and taking

more responsibility for their own locality.

- Another project under consideration is an up-date of an existing record of the hedgerows of the Parish and to add an account of the associated wildlife.

- Monitoring of planning matters relating to the village, and, in particular, those that affect the Conservation Area. The Group is mindful of the fact that many residents are concerned about the amount of development that has taken place in the recent past, and sometimes resulting in the loss of valued amenity. It is recognised that future development must be on a much more modest scale and should take account of the needs of first time buyers.



SNITTERFIELD COLTS FOOTBALL CLUB

Village football hit Snitterfield for the first time in over a decade, in the last year, with tremendous success on and off the pitch. Having been approached by a couple of parents from

Clifford Chambers, who had a team but nowhere to play we started by training at Stratford rec but soon decided to look elsewhere as there was limited space with two or three other sides also training there. As a Snitterfield lad myself the answer seemed obvious, all we had to do was convince the Parish Council it was a good idea, and thankfully they were very supportive from the start.

We held training sessions on Wednesday nights and opened it to anyone from 6 to 13 years, the response was excellent from both girls and boys, we regularly had 25 plus kids training.

We also received money from several local businesses as well as a few individuals, which enabled us to buy the equipment we needed.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all who helped us in our first year.

On the pitch we were just as successful, losing only one game from eighteen to clinch the title at the first attempt, the trophy is proudly on display at the Foxhunter, one of our main sponsors. It's great to see sport coming back to Snitterfield in a big way with the football, cricket and tennis clubs all proving a big success. As many of you know the cricket club and ourselves, with help from the Parish Council, have levelled the playing field and reseeded it, this should be ready for action around October.

Here's to more successes for our sporting teams!

For any information on the football team, or if you would like to help us out with any small sponsorship please contact: Ian Wylie on 01789 731120 work or 07968512986 mobile.

SUMMER CELEBRATIO

SNITTERFIELD ARTS FESTIVAL

Sunday 29 June dawned a fine, sunny day for the Snitterfield Arts Festival.

The front of the village hall, sported banners, balloons, barbecue, and the Union-Jack painted E-type Jaguar used in the recent Austin Powers film.

Inside the hall there was a positive feast of art in all its many forms, created mainly by the villagers. Displays included photography, ceramics, pottery, cookery books (with tasty samples of the contents), fine needlework, several different styles of paintings, poetry, sculpture, garden designs, garden ornaments and artefacts, pictures from Snitterfield School, the Brownies, and an intriguing 'how well do you know your village' competition.

The children's poetry entries on the subject of 'Snitterfield', were judged by Bob Mee of Ragged Raven Press (Snitterfield publishers). The standard was extremely high, and we would have loved to have printed many of the entries had we more space. However, the winning entry shown here, was by Alice Kinoulty, and movingly read at the festival by Marjorie Yates, our resident actress.

Continuing the arts theme on stage, a steady stream of performing arts complemented the surrounding exhibitors. We had music from Violocity, a talented group of young musicians playing Viols, the youngest member being 10 year-old Ella Sturman from the village, and several spells of folk music from the excellent Harvest Moon. The music was interspersed with a wonderful monologue from Harry Sowden, and readings by Rex Satchwell and Ann Wood from the Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth, which included poetry by Snitterfield's own poet, Harry Marlow,

The hall was packed to see a terrific performance from Snitterfield School, who together with their teacher, Ms Gillies and accompanied by Val Marlow, had worked so hard at putting together a variety of 'songs from the shows', during an extremely busy school period. This wonderful village celebration of creativity was concluded with more music from Siat Vincent and Duncan Watts.

The Arts Festival, as a fundraising event has topped up the funds for another



edition of our newsletter, but most of all, the Snipe team feel it has given a shop window for the creative talent within the village, and revealed an untapped source of enthusiasm for such a community event in Snitterfield.

Our thanks go to the many people who exhibited, performed and helped with the festival, and also

ABOVE: Violocity started the day, Rex Satchwell and Ann Wood reading 'rural' poetry. Children from the school perform songs from the shows and Marjorie Yates reads a selection of poetry including items from Harry and Hazel Marlow. BELOW: Harvest Moon entertain the crowds inside a bedecked village hall.



NS IN SNITTERFIELD

SNITTERFIELD SCHOOL SUMMER FETE Sunday 6 July

The 2003 School Summer Fete was organised by Friends of Snitterfield School (FOSS). This year the committee looked to involve the wider village community and hold a Village Fete. It is now the only fete held in the village, although we believe this was not always the case. This event has always been our biggest fundraiser and we have been wary of introducing any competition for the limited amount that families are prepared to spend on a day out. However, we also felt that the community spirit of events in our village is equally important and of huge benefit to our children. After all, if this were simply about money, it would be far far easier to get out our cheque books!

We made initial enquiries to see how some of our local groups could be involved, with a fairly positive response, despite some of the contact being made a little late; we hope to see them next year. As a result we were pleased to see some new faces at our first fete meeting.

Among many items that parents of the school provided, were the bottles for the tombola, these were 'payment' for some fun non-uniform days, where the children were allowed to dress up (disguise day) or wear their hair in wacky styles (crazy hair day). Local companies generously provided prizes for the various competitions and donated goods for sale. Many people gave us their valuable time, both for preparations and by helping on the day.

On the day, the sun shone on us, not too brightly, and Tim Henman failed to get through to the Wimbledon finals! The jungle theme seemed popular, with Ronaldo the Boa Constrictor proving a huge hit with the children if not quite so much with the adults! The Garden Club and Women's Institute provided judges for the miniature jungle, hat and mask competition respectively. Various groups had promotional displays, others had a stall for their own fundraising or donated their proceeds to FOSS.

An under 11's Football Tournament ran throughout the fete and was won by a team from Norton Lindsey Football Club. The pig roast was a first for the fete we believe, and extremely popular. The inflatable Gladiator Dual went down well with the older children and the more competitive fathers especially. Unfortunately the tug-of-war had to be cancelled due to lack of a suitable rope (has anyone got one for next year?). The Nursery School provided face painting and a Bouncy Castle, and the Toddler Group had 'Hook a Duck'. At the end of the day, FOSS raised just over £2,000 towards school funds, with other groups raising money towards their funds.

There are so many individuals that contributed in a variety of different ways we couldn't list them here for fear of missing someone out. If you contributed in any way at all, FOSS and the children of Snitterfield School would like to thank you. If there was one thing that really made the day, it was the tremendous community atmosphere that made the School Fete the Snitterfield Fete.

Should you wish to join FOSS, make a contribution or have some input into next year's fete please contact us via the school on 731301.

Julia Gavriel, Secretary, FOSS



ABOVE: Geordie Jackson, with Chris Vincent, holds the Boa Constrictor from Stratford Butterfly Farm
BELOW: Alice Kinoulty bravely handles the snake



RIGHT ABOVE: The winners with their coach
RIGHT BELOW: Lee Hillier presents the medals

SNITTERFIELD

Walking along the rich pastures
Absorbing the gurgle of the
wandering brook

Watching the trees talk in the
gentle wind.

Hearing a rabbit's first thoughts
as it starts its life.

Imagining the talk of the church
bells chiming.

Taking in the echoing sound
of the joy emerging from, the
villagers' feet

The wind in my hair telling me
that I am safe.

As I walk on my way to school.

Alice Kinoulty



SNITTERFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Early Years

A school was first established in Snitterfield before 1682. By 1830 this building had disappeared, and in 1837 the present building was put up. The site was given by Robert Philips, and the money raised by subscription and a grant from the National Society. It was built as one large room divided by partitions and no playground. One hundred pupils attended, but ventilation was inadequate as evidenced by a series of epidemics of such diseases as smallpox, scarlet fever, measles and diphtheria. From an educational point of view one of the main difficulties was the poor standard of children coming from the infant school, which was in a house known as 'Laburnum Cottage'.

In 1844 an extension was built with money given by Robert Philips MP. Originally the school drew pupils from surrounding villages, but in 1876 a

school was opened in Norton Lindsey followed by one in Bearley in 1878. Despite this, Snitterfield School still had 117 pupils in 1884.

In 1902 pencils replaces slates!

Closures on account of serious epidemics continued until around 1930. In 1939 the school opened mornings only admitting evacuees, and in November of that year, a nursery department was opened in order to cope with the large number evacuees. In 1943 the seniors were transferred to Secondary modern Schools in Stratford and the school became officially Snitterfield Junior & Infant School, known today as Snitterfield Primary School!

The Modern Years

In recent years Snitterfield Primary School has become very popular, and deservedly so! The numbers have risen from 63 on role in 2000 to the current 102. We get enquiries weekly from people looking to re-locate, and from those who have heard of us and wish to know more about what we do here.

Although we follow the National Curriculum like all state schools, we ensure that we start from the child, by making the curriculum work for children and not the other way round. We stress that learning is about individuals and not about prescribed

formulae for teaching.

Our school is vibrant, colourful and happy. We all work together as a team and ensure that learning is both meaningful and enjoyable for everyone. In December 2000, we had our OFSTED inspection. This was a great success and the teaching is described in the report as 'outstanding' and the school is heralded as providing very good education opportunities for all children.

We take part in village activities, such as the recent Arts Festival, and invite villagers to concerts and special occasions at the school. We maintain good relationships with both the Methodist Chapel and St James The Great in Church Road. We always make people welcome if they pop in for a visit – either formal or informal and we try to foster an open door policy where possible.

In the coming year, the school is due to undergo major building work, in the form of two additional permanent classrooms. This is a very exciting time for our small school; it will be lovely to have all children and adults working from the same site.

There has been a school in Snitterfield since the 1600's, long may this continue!

Denise Thompson, *Head Teacher*

CRICKET UPDATE - STATE OF PLAY

PLAY

Unfortunately the performance of the Snitterfield Cricket Club on the field of play has not kept pace with the improvements elsewhere! In the 5 fixtures played so far, we have won 1 and lost 4.

The first match against Offenham showed a very rusty side with young James Sword making the only innings worthy of ink.

The second game, against Mickleton, was an all-round much better performance, with best innings from Ben Smith, and making his debut for the club, Tim Hartwell.

The third game against Ashorne, at what is probably the most picturesque ground we are likely to visit, showed J Durnian and L Hillier being the pick of the Snitterfield's bowlers. It was particularly good to see father and son Mike and Graham Chamberlin batting on the same side on Fathers Day!

The fourth, was our winning game, against Kings Norton, Birmingham. It was good to see the three Hayter brothers win the bulk of our runs. We also produce some creditable bowling, with everyone contributing, well done the rest!

The fifth game against Welford was played in temperatures well into the 80's

and a weakened batting line up, but confidence was high after our recent win and we produced a very creditable bowling performances. L Hillier (Captain) recorded a personal best of 4 wickets for 18 runs off 6 overs, and we saw a good debut performance by the sprightly Phill Briggs as wicket keeper, with another good debut from Thierry Richards, playing his first full game for the club along side father Glen.

THE PITCH

So far we have managed to raise enough money to construct and equip a cricket practise net, located on the Wolverton Road playing field, and with the help of the Snitterfield Colts football club and the Parish Council we have levelled and re-seeded the playing field with the aim to locate a cricket square and football pitch on the site. The growth of the new grass has proved slow due to the very warm weather, but with a bit more rain the surface should be ready for the lads to play in Sept/Oct. The Cricket square is slightly more complex, the area needs to be dug out, replaced with 30 tons of loam and seeded before the end of September.



We have been lucky enough to have gained a grant from the Heart of England Community Foundation for South Warwickshire of £2000, which will almost cover the cost of construction the square, but we still need to raise another £700 to ensure we lay the wicket for use in July 2004.

There is a £10 fee for anyone wishing to become a member of this lively club, please contact Lee at the village shop for further details, and anyone wishing to play, just come along to net practice on a Thursday evening between 6.30 and 9.30pm, any age, any ability!

MANY HAPPY YEARS IN CHURCH ROAD

While on a visit to Norton Lindsey in 1955, David and I drove to Stratford via Church Road, Snitterfield, which, a few hundred years ago, was known as the Towne Street. We were curious about the old brick wall, which stretched from the beautiful Church to a pillared brick entrance and beyond. We decided to park the car and have a walk round Snitterfield. We fell in love with the village and its peace and quiet.

Two years later we returned for a further visit. The best part of the old wall was no longer there, and eight houses had been built in the garden belonging to Snitterfield House, often referred to as the Great House. According to the late John Shelby, our local historian, it was demolished 1830, but at that time, one could still see the beautiful avenue of Dutch Elms, which had led to the house.

David had just finished his National Service and we were looking for a property, so we bought one of the eight, and moved into the house now known as Winterfold, in the July of the same year. Our son, Nicholas was just four months old at the time, he is now a police officer and the Stratford Beadle, his brother Jamie was born in the house in 1958.

We had a beautiful view of the Park from the rear of our house, including Park Cottages, which originally contained the coach house, saddle room, dairy, laundry and brew house. Mrs. Jennings, who lived in the pretty white cottage across



the road, made us very welcome. Then named The Old Stores, the cottage (left) had previously been owned by a lady selling a variety of wares, including pots and pans, which she displayed in front of the cottage. When Aunt Jenny (as we were asked to call her) sadly died, a family bought the cottage, and turned it into a B&B, serving morning coffee and afternoon teas as well. The following owners changed its name to Mole End.

All the lovely older houses are still standing; Jasmine House was then The Old Bakery. There were no buildings between

Tudor House and the Doctor's surgery, which had been a telephone exchange. Two huge barns stood between Holly Cottage and the end of Church Road. Clyde Higgs owned the present Dower House, then Pool View, and three families lived there, it was eventually sold and completely restored to a one-family dwelling. The way to Barley Close was via a path behind the house. Church Lane was built a little later. In those days, G Lewis, and his family lived in Park House; he was the property developer who built our house. He allowed the village to use the grounds of Park House for our lovely garden fetes. The entrance was through a gate where Millwood House now stands, and Mr Lewis would erect a small marquee in case it should rain. I especially remember 1959, when the fete was opened by our then MP John Profumo, accompanied by his lovely wife, actress Valerie Hobson.

We have had 46 happy years, during which we have seen many changes, made many friends and still have great neighbours.

Renate Stephens

MUSIC IN THE VILLAGE

We have many young musicians in Snitterfield, optimistically working hard towards an exciting future, alongside the more experienced musicians in the village.

10 year-old Ella Sturman from Snitterfield is the youngest member of Violocity, a consort of 6 young Viol players of a very high standard. They have performed at Trinity College of Music in London this year, a music festival in Kenilworth, and our own Arts Festival.

18 year-old Richard Norris is hoping to study music at Goldsmiths College in London in October. We wish him luck! He plays piano, organ, clarinet, bass guitar, and also composes music. Richard has helped out considerably with the organ rota at both St James Parish Church, and the Methodist Chapel.

Harry Dixon has also played guitar in St James's, and Beth Nicholson has sung there as a soloist in several concerts arranged by Richard Norris and others.

King Edward's school student Michael Gunn, is to study music at Nottingham this autumn, he is a talented musician playing saxophone, clarinet, drums and piano.

Many of these young musicians have gained valuable experience within the music of St James Parish Church which thrives in several spheres:

- the Music Art and Drama Group meet in the Graham Simon's Room during the

11am service when the children often learn new songs.

- 3rd Sunday in the month is contemporary music for guitar and piano during the 11am service.
- Training is offered for anyone interested in joining the 'organ rota' to accompany the services.
- The choir needs more voices! If you enjoy singing, do come add your voice!
- A small choir of able musicians meet twice a month at 6pm to rehearse a varied repertoire of choral music and enliven the Evening Services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.
- The Wesley Singers meet each Wednesday at 10am directed by Val Marlow who has taught music for many years in local schools.

There have been many successful concerts in St James Parish Church since 1999. The next one, The Candlelit Christmas Concert is on 16 December, and promises an abundance of atmosphere and Christmas Music from St Mary's Scholars singing under the direction of Luke Bond. This is a 'not too be missed'!

The Carol Service each Christmas is a delight, and always well attended by the village people. I do hope all the new villagers will come and enjoy the Christmas season with us.

Elizabeth Fitchford

**Wednesday nights at 6 o'clock
One by one the brownies flock
For fun & games at the village hall
Run by Karen, Clare & Hayley Ball**

**We're there you see for an hour and a half
To get together for a real good laugh
From talent shows and water fights
To day trips to London to see the sights**

**Now after 3 years of running this pack
The 3rd generation of Guides is back
An hour and a half it seems wasn't enough
So it's doubled now to do more fun stuff**

**The meeting place is the Methodist Hall
Sorry there's nothing to rhyme here at all!
But if you want to come and join the fun
Just telephone 730131**

Brown Owl – Brownies Guider
1st Snitterfield Brownies
Homer Simpson – Guide Guider
3rd Snitterfield Guides
(Alias – Hayley Ball)

www.snitterfield.com

Did you know that Snitterfield village has its own website? Well it does and it needs the help of its residents in order to develop it further and increase its content.

Currently, and for the foreseeable future, the site features Snitterfield's millennium wallhanging and links to information about the village and its activities. At the moment you can access pages on the Parish Council, the award-winning Snitterfield Stores and the Snitterfield Arms with links to other websites, including the fruit farm, the gliding club, the 1st Bearley and Snitterfield Scouts and, of course, the much admired and original Rolf Howarth's virtual tour of the Green.

Visit the following sites on the Internet:

www.snitterfield.com	Snitterfield Village
www.snitterfield.com/parishcouncil	Parish Council
www.snitterfield.com/tennis	Snitterfield Tennis 2000 club
www.snitterfield.com/cricket	Snitterfield Cricket Club
www.snitterfield.com/snitarms	Snitterfield Arms pub
www.snitterfield.com/shop	Snitterfield Village Stores

While some of the sites are quite comprehensive, others require more development. Indeed, if you traverse the wallhanging image, you will find many items yet to be published on the net.

Other ideas for future content include a Parish Council 'Have your say' forum, where you can take part in discussions on the future of your village or air grievances on any aspect of village life. It is also intended to publish approved Parish Council meeting minutes, so that residents, who are unable to attend the second Monday in the month meetings, can look back on current issues and how they have been dealt with.

Why not make the village site your homepage, then you can keep an eye on what's happening in your village. For those of you who require assistance to carry out such a procedure, go into Internet Explorer, click on the Tools pull down, and then on Internet Options.

At the top of the page, change the home page Address to www.snitterfield.com and click on Apply on the bottom of the page.

The website will be continually further developed and updated by the people for the people, so get involved and be a part of this great project.

If you have ideas for further development or head a village organisation represented on the wallhanging, please contact: Ken Chatland Tel: 01789 731380 Email: ken@snitterfield.com

Finally, if you are on the Net and are getting fed up with the time it takes to open pages or download material, the trigger point for broadband in our village is 150 with a total of 95 having already expressed an interest.

So, if you can, jump on the bandwagon and join the broadband revolution by registering on www.bt.com/btbroadband.

SNIFE NEWS



We are so sorry to be losing one of our band of stalwart members from the Snipe team, Lesley Fall (right) is retiring because of recent ill health. However, we are very pleased Lesley has agreed to continue using her expert skills as our proof-reader.

We are approaching the end of our first year, and despite having an able treasurer, we are in need of professional help in dealing with our end of year accounts. Is there anybody in the village prepared to offer their expert skills voluntarily and do this for us please? If so, please ring Cathy Kimberley on 730350.

We are now in need of two new members of the team in order to 'spread the load' a little. Would anyone be interested in 'getting involved' and doing their bit for the village? If so, please ring Diane Hoe on 730223.

Sniper's Corner



Dear Sir

While taking my daughter for a walk I was more than a little irritated by the number of cars parked either half or wholly on the pavement! I spent most of the journey negotiating kerbs and roads instead of being able to use the footpath. People should remember that pavements equal pedestrians NOT parking!

Yours sincerely

Dear Sir

I love a good party. I love to hear people enjoying themselves, but not well into the night! One Sunday I was wakened at 2am by a raucous party and the following Saturday by a thunderous midnight firework display which must have terrified every young child, animal and nervous person for miles around. Please enjoy yourselves but with some consideration for other people PLEASE!

SNITTERFIELD GARDEN CLUB - 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The club celebrated the anniversary in considerable style on 8 July, with a party held in the garden of Lesley Fall the founder and first chairman.

Everything conspired to make a memorable evening. The weather was perfect, the food and wine were excellent, and the assembled company enjoyed it all very much in the colourful surroundings. Even the birthday cake was

appropriately decorated with flowers and vegetables. We look forward to another ten years as good as the first!

The new season begins with our annual show in the village hall on 2 September - And don't forget - this year (only) the show is open to entries from ANYONE IN THE VILLAGE!

