



Free to the residents
of Snitterfield

ISSUE 42
SUMMER 2016



Peter Morlidge, Sylvia Morlidge and Graham Barker in the trench taking the bypass culvert behind The Green as it heads towards Smith's Lane

Channeling efforts pay off

Peter Morlidge celebrates a remarkable success story which will dramatically reduce the village's risk of flooding

In 2007, after being flooded for the second time in nine years, a group of villagers from The Green and School Road approached the Parish Council to ask for help. This eventually led to the formation of a Flood Group which undertook to find a way of solving the problem and raising the necessary funding. The group consisted of Peter and Sylvia Morlidge, Graham Barker, David Robotham and, more recently, Claudine Pearson. Little did they realise when they began; the time, effort and commitment that would be required, nor that nine years later a scheme of this scale would be under construction.

Flooding has been a problem in the lower part of the village since it was built more than 200 years ago. Over the period to the early part of the 20th century a complex system of tunnels and sluices was constructed to drain the area. A culvert was built to contain Bell Brook and Bearley Brook which in places ran under houses and gardens.

Much of the complex was in poor condition and didn't work effectively. Responsibility for repair of the culvert was in the hands of over 50 landowners including those householders over whose land it passed.

After about three years work with Stratford District Council a solution was proposed using holding ponds to retain rainwater, at a cost of about £30,000. Legislation then changed and responsibility for flooding was transferred to Warwickshire County Council and

to the Environment Agency. The Stratford scheme was deemed inadequate and was dropped. A CCTV survey of the culvert now showed it was in danger of collapse. The Environment Agency stance was that it should be repaired by householders and it would then handle the anticipated flow of water. We did not agree!

Over the five years since this setback, the Flood Group has encouraged, persuaded, cajoled and harangued the various bodies involved to find a solution. A dozen or more reports have been written, between 50 and 60 meetings held (no one was keeping count), hundreds of emails and telephone calls have been written and made. Richard Hobbs and John Horner, our County Councillors, and Nadhim Zahawi, our MP, were brought on board to lobby on our behalf.

The outcome is a scheme to bypass the existing culvert with an enclosed channel 420 metres long. The majority will be in a pipe 1.8 metres in diameter (shown in the photograph) but some will be in concrete sections 3.5 metres wide and 1.5 metres deep. The final cost will be £2.7 million, with the Environment Agency et al bearing all the costs including those

for making the old culvert secure, saving each householder tens of thousands of pounds. To say we are 'gob smacked' by this success is a considerable underestimate.

There have been three main events which have been crucial to finding a way forward. Firstly, persuading the Environment Agency to adopt Bell Brook as a main river (which clearly it is not). This made them responsible for finding a solution to the flooding, though not for funding it. Secondly, a change in



The floods of 2007

Continued on page 2

Channeling Efforts: continued from page 1

personnel at the Environment Agency, which altered their approach from 'it cannot be done' to 'how can it be done'. Finally, the long anticipated collapse of part of the culvert opened up additional sources of funding from the Environment Agency and Warwickshire Highways when the safety risks to people and property, including from the possible cave-in of Smith's Lane, were fully recognised. Health and Safety has its uses.

The flexibility and imagination of both the Environment Agency and Warwickshire County Council during the final stages of the project has to be commended. We can only say 'Thank You'.

Will this cure the problem? – no. No affordable scheme can guarantee that flooding will never occur. The culvert bypass will, however, reduce the risk from about one in 15 years to an estimated one in 70 years. There will be a significant amount of disruption as the work goes on, but the outcome has to be worthwhile. A success indeed!

On behalf of the residents, the Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Peter and Sylvia Morlidge for their dogged pursuit of flood alleviation measures within Snitterfield. Their perseverance over the course of the last nine years has immeasurably decreased the flood risk to the village.

Claudine Pearson



Photo supplied by Peter Richards

From right: Paul Blanchard, Snitterfield Parish Councillor; Cllr Peter Richards, Stratford District Councillor for Snitterfield ward; Nadhim Zahawi, MP for Stratford upon Avon, with members of the Environment Agency and Warwickshire County Council

News from your District Councillor

Core Strategy

At long last we now have a fully adopted and legally compliant Core Strategy for the Stratford upon Avon District.



Our Planning Inspector, Pete Drew, gave the green light to the District Council at the end of June and at an extraordinary meeting of the Council on 11 July. The plan was adopted with a vote of 30 for and two against. The adopted plan is available to view online and shapes the way development will happen across the district until 2031.

For Snitterfield we now know for certain that the village will be required to take a maximum of 59 homes over the plan period, with all of those homes coming from limited infill within the Green Belt or by development with an identified need through the Neighbourhood Plan and Parish Council.

It is now up to members of the village to ensure we have a sound Neighbourhood Plan to help protect and shape the growth of the village in the years to come.

Business Support

In an effort to breathe life back into the towns, the District Council has launched a free business support mechanism. It includes free planning advice to potential occupants of empty shops, rate relief and reoccupation relief in the towns and a hardship relief fund.

In conjunction with the newly opened, state of the art Venture House, the Council is also working with the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership and offering access to free business support in the form of mentoring, coaching, business planning, access to finance, exporting and apprenticeships.

For more information please visit Venture House in Stratford or contact me.

Refugees

On 22 June the council was pleased to announce that it would be homing three to five Syrian refugee families in the

centre of Stratford. Through a combination of District Council work and work from the Home Office, it has been agreed that the families will be put into private rented accommodation, paid for by central government, in an area of the town that will allow the families to integrate and have full access to schools, jobs, health services and other facilities.

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

Bus route change for the village

At the meeting of the Parish Council on 13 June it was suggested that a change be made to the present bus route and I am pleased to report that the bus company, Diamond, has accepted the change. The new bus route will be in place from Monday 5 September 2016. New timetables will be available shortly.

At present the 229 bus travels along Ingon Lane, White Horse Hill, and Smith's Lane before going on to Bearley and takes the same route through the village when going in the opposite direction. It was considered that it would be more beneficial if the bus were to go from Ingon Lane, past the war memorial to Park Lane, and along Church Road before turning onto Smith's Lane.

This extra 'loop' around the village will enable those living at the Park Lane end of the village, who have difficulty walking, to embark and disembark the bus nearer to their homes.



Nicola Everall
Parish Clerk



The latest from SACC



Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change
www.snitterfieldacc.org
01789 731348

Snitterfield Community Cafe

The Community Cafe is going from strength to strength since the first event was held in January. It is held monthly on the first Sunday of the month from 2pm until 4pm in the Village Hall.

Teas and home-made cake are available, with local products from the Domestic Fowl Trust, Veg Box and Fair Trade.

There are also stalls



The Community Cafe



with home-made breads, honey, cards, artwork, pottery, crafts and jewellery. Coming soon: Annie's Antics Ice-Cream.

Technology recycling with zero landfill

The following items can be dropped off at the Community Cafe:

- PCs, Laptops & Monitors
- Data cables & Chargers
- X Box, Wii & gaming machines
- Printers & routers
- Mobile phones & chargers
- General electronics such as audio equipment

Community Grant Fund

Have you got ideas to reduce your energy consumption at home or in the community?

Would you like financial help to implement your ideas?

If so, SACC has £2,500 available for residents, community groups and businesses in the Parish of Snitterfield. Applications are welcomed and must be received by 1 October 2016.

Please visit www.snitterfieldacc.org to download the application form, or telephone 01789 731348.

How you can help with donations to the jungle

Louise Bennett talks about the fight for survival in the refugee camps at Calais and how Snitterfield residents can help

Near the busy port of Calais lies 'the jungle', a place so far removed from its surroundings that it is difficult to come to terms with its existence. Next to a bulldozed wasteland, there is a refugee camp containing a mass of makeshift shelters, shops and restaurants.

There are some 6,000 residents in 'the jungle' at the moment living amongst rats and rubbish, attempting to survive on handouts from the international community. It is a difficult existence.

However, amongst this there are positive signs of hope; children playing and learning, adults socialising and creating businesses, different communities joining together.

During my first visit I came across a group who specialise in providing

regular food aid to refugees in the camps in northern France. This group, Calais Refugee Aid, has created a network of volunteers throughout the UK who fundraise and then provide hot food distribution to the camps as well as giving out non perishable food items for refugees to prepare their own meals.

As a member of the team at Calais Refugee Aid I have been collecting locally and delivering food items to France personally. We have been lucky enough to receive cash donations from the village communities which have contributed to hot food distribution to over 4,000 refugees in a recent visit.

Other donations, such as children's clothing, toys and women's clothing, have been added to containers delivered to refugee camps in Greece and Syria.

I continue to visit the French camps on a monthly basis with Calais Refugee Aid and have kindly been given some space in the SACC community cafe to use as a drop off point for donations.



The donations most required are publicised on the SACC website: each month there will be a list of requested items that can be dropped off at the Community Cafe.

Should anyone wish to get involved or to find out more please contact me at louise65246@gmail.com

June was bustin' out all over!



Your Village Fete Needs You!

Planning and organising the Fete is an exciting, creative and rewarding task but this year three members of the committee are standing down from key positions, two of them, Gaye Hillier and Sally Hopkinson are leaving altogether, sadly, after some ten years because of an increase in other commitments. The Committee would like to thank them for all their enthusiasm, dedication and hard work, without which the Fete would not be the success it has become. This means that there are now vacancies on the Committee for anyone who is proactive and would be willing to help to take the Fete forward in the future. Meetings run monthly from January to June and are very jolly, lively affairs. Please contact Nicola Matthews on 01789 731891 if you would be interested.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Lee Hillier who is also standing down this year. Without his involvement and support over the last 16 years providing the Pig Roast and BBQ the Fete would have been very much the poorer, both financially (as Lee has donated all profits to the Fete Committee for distribution to village projects, which must amount to many thousands of pounds over the years), as well as being such an integral and essential part of the Fete. He will be very much missed and the Committee is very grateful for his support.

Nicola Matthews



An enormous thank you to Nicola for ten years as joint chair of the Fete Committee. She has worked tirelessly and given up a huge amount of time to bring the event together each year. While no longer chair, she is remaining on the Committee for the next year to support new members.

The Village Fete Brazilian Carnival on 19 June



Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday celebrations on 11 and 12 June



Snittfest on 25 June





Take a walk on the wild side

Snitterfield residents received the Snitterfield Neighbourhood

Development Plan recently. This important document has a lot of interesting content including a centrefold map showing public footpaths and the best wildlife spots in the parish. There are also appendices describing our three Sites of Special Scientific Interest and a list of the 114 recorded bird species.

While I like Snitterfield Ponds [behind Church Road] as a wildlife spot, I actually have another favourite — the footpath between Wolverton and Luscombe Farm, right along the Parish border. There is a rich biodiversity of mammals, birds and smaller animals, especially at the two ponds belonging to Luscombe Farm (Ecosite no.3 on the Neighbourhood Development map) and the meadows on the Wolverton side. I have managed to get very close there to Roe Deer, Brown Hare and Badger. I hope to spot Fallow Deer one day, but so far there have only been footprints. The reservoir is full of frogs in the spring.

Three-quarters of all the bird species recorded in Snitterfield Parish have been seen along this walk! Some bird species that are not doing well nationally, because of modern agricultural methods, are common and breeding: Grey Partridge, Yellowhammer, Linnet, Stock Dove and Skylark. In winter there are species like Redwing, Fieldfare,

Golden Plover, Snipe and Merlin. During migration you can spot Short-eared Owl, Wheatear, Whinchat, Stonechat and Yellow Wagtail. I heard and saw a Cuckoo this year.

All the warbler species of the Parish seem to breed along the footpath, with the Grasshopper Warbler being the rarest. The song of this warbler has been compared to a fishing reel or a sewing machine. Snitterfield resident Darran Rickards recorded the song of a confused Willow Warbler that mixed in Chiffchaff phrases in its song — a new phenomenon in the Midlands.

Last summer I witnessed very comical behaviour of Buzzards and Carrion Crows in a field along the walk. Four crows were foraging and next to them sat two juvenile Buzzards. As soon as a crow found a worm, a Buzzard would fly closer, scare the crow with open wings and rob the crow of its worm. After some time, one crow seemed to have had enough of the bullies and tried to sneak behind one Buzzard to pull its tail. The Buzzard looked like it didn't see anything until it quickly raised its tail and delivered a projectile that just missed the crow.

Have a go and try the walk for great wildlife experiences. You can start at either end point.

Claes Martenson
martenson.claes@gmail.com



Wren at Wolverton



Hare, Wolverton



Yellowhammer, Wolverton

Royal seal of approval

In June the Nursery School sent a birthday card to the Queen, designed by Evie Curson and Jacob Horne, and were thrilled to receive a royal seal of approval!



Carson East, Zed Skinner and Henry Clark open the letter from Buckingham Palace





Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness

'Summer' this year has happened, with little sunshine but gardens have performed well, with plants growing to phenomenal heights and roses blooming

profusely. By mid August the mixed borders will have reached a crescendo of colour. Nature certainly knows the most favourable moment to display her works.

Autumn is approaching rather like a grand finale in opera, everything blooming from the dazzling perennials, golden rudbeckia, orange crocosmia, penstemon, salvia spires, phlox and roses, prima donna dahlias flaunting their showy petals, fireworks of grasses and the quiver of fiery leaves taking on the stage before the curtain falls. The performance in the garden is over until the next show in the new year.

Not for the gardener though as there is much to do: gathering fruits and harvesting vegetables, lifting plants and potting up pelargoniums and other plants needing protection from frost. Dahlias last until the first frost, then lift them, shaking off the earth that holds the tubers and dry before storing, or cut them down, take a chance and cover them up. Gather, dry and store flower seed, clear flower beds and compost the ground, divide plants, shift plants, out with old plants and replant with new, trim deciduous hedges and give wildflower patches a final cut.

Autumn is also the best time to look closely at shapes and forms and a good time for plotting and planting new trees, shrubs and perennials as the soil is warm. Consider planting a new tree or shrub to give autumn colour as well as ones that perform well in spring such as Amelanchia, a flowering cornus, or deciduous azalea. Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora is a great eye catching showpiece as it performs

in the summer starting off white and gradually turns pink and then lime green for the autumn. Choose bulbs, plant daffodils and early flowering crocus, muscari and hyacinths. Plant tulips late November/early December. Plant surprise treasures like autumn crocus and cyclamen in little groups to delight as autumn fades.

Explore the hedgerows to pick blackberries for jam. Visit gardens to enjoy this wonderful season, to see the beauty, smell the air and kick the leaves, perhaps at Batsford Arboretum (near Moreton in the Marsh), or Westonbirt Arboretum. Visit the Michaelmas Daisy Gardens at Colwall



towards Malvern. Packwood House (National Trust) has stunning late summer borders. A truly memorable day out is to visit Stourhead in Wiltshire or Chatsworth, Derbyshire.

And what will I do? ... Walk over the Norfolk marshes to see the setting sun glinting on the creeks and listen to the geese calling as they fly in from the colder lands to graze. A magical moment.

Margaret Tweed
www.snitterfieldgardenclub.org.uk

Nursery Rebuild Project launches at Village Fete



Many thanks to all who visited the Nursery School's stand at the Village Fete. To those who brought their children to paint a wooden coaster for

their dad on Father's Day and in doing so added to the fundraising for the new building; to those who showed an interest in what we are planning to do; and to those who pledged their support with promises of donations, sponsorship or assistance with our fundraising.

At the Fete we outlined the ideas that Snitterfield Nursery School has for replacing its 'temporary' building which is over 50 years old, crumbling and beyond economical repair. We also showed examples of the sort of modular building we are looking at. We are now in the process of working up sponsorship packages, methods to donate and regular updates which we will give via *Snipe*, *The Link* and the Nursery School website.

The school is at the start of the process to achieve planning permissions and finalising the exact location of the new build. We are aiming for a small

expansion of the existing footprint, as the Government's promise of an increase of financed hours from 15 to 30

is expected to bring us more children for longer hours. We also need more space to meet new building regulations.

The Primary School wish to create better playground and sports facilities, to enable outside play all year round, so its Governors have asked us to move up the field. We need to remain alongside the road to allow access without going over Primary School land. This is for security and safety reasons. We are keen to consult widely within the village so if you have any comments or would like further explanation please do ask the staff at the Nursery or contact Volunteer Project Leader for the rebuild, Isabel Martinson.

The target sum we need to raise is £450,000. This sounds a lot but it covers the costs of the whole project, including removal of the existing building (by specialists to deal with the asbestos), design, project management, surveys, planning permission fees and ground works. Followed by replacement with a new modular building that can be built off site and dropped in during a Summer holiday period, to avoid closure of the Nursery School. Depending upon the time it takes to achieve planning permission, including approval from the

Secretary of State to expand on school playing fields, we are hoping to have a new building by Autumn 2017.

So if you would like to donate to or sponsor the project please contact the Nursery School or Isabel. We are very grateful to everyone who has already donated money towards the project. On Wednesday 14 September we are planning an Open Evening, for existing and prospective parents and anyone else interested in learning more about the work of the Nursery and the rebuild project. The event will run from 6.30pm to 8pm and there will be a presentation at 6.30, repeated at 7.30. Do please come along.

The Nursery School is a limited company with a charitable arm and we are always looking for new volunteers to act as Directors of the Company and Trustees of the Charity. On Wednesday 12 October at 1pm there will be a presentation on the responsibilities that come with being a Company Director. If you would like to find out more do join us then – don't worry, you are not committing to becoming involved but it's a good opportunity to learn about the benefits of getting involved.

Isabel Martinson
Email: Isabel.martinson@yahoo.co.uk
Tel: 01789 730234
Mob: 07767 888944

What's On

Snitterfield Garden Club

6 September: in Village Hall Snitterfield Garden Club AGM and Produce Show. Entries for Produce Show accepted from 6.30pm-7.30pm.

4 October: Rosy Hardy, Chelsea Gold Medallist, Village Hall 8pm.

1 November: Adrian James 'Starting from Scratch'.

6 December: Andy Vernon Memories of Mexico, Village Hall, 7.30pm for 8pm. Christmas Buffet/Mulled Wine.

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.

Sportsclub broadband

Free internet access is available at Snitterfield Sports Club (50p fee for temporary guest status for non members). Opening times for weekdays are 7pm to 11pm; Saturdays 12 noon to 11pm; Sundays 12.00 noon to 10.30pm.

Snitterfield Arms Charity Events

Katie Ginder and a group of Snitterfield friends are cycling 350kms from Vietnam to Cambodia in November to raise money for Guide Dogs, Alzheimer's Society, Myton Hospice and Warwickshire Air Ambulance. Dates for autumn fundraising events:

Carwash: 13 August, 17 September, 22 October. **Bingo:** 21 August, 18 September, 23 October, 20 November.

Pub Quiz: 14 August, 11 September, 27 November. **Auction:** 4 September.

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: saustr1@btinternet.com



COMMUNITY CAFE

Tea & Cake

2-4pm

Every First

Sunday Monthly

Snitterfield
Village Hall



ITEMS FOR SALE

Honey, Eggs, Bread, Veg-Boxes

Lots of Cake, Fair-Trade, Cards

Artwork, Pottery, Jewellery

Craftwork

SALES TABLE SPACE
AVAILABLE

only donate 50% of your sales

07818 447705

SACCGroup1@gmail.com

www.snitterfieldacc.org

ALL proceeds to Snitterfield

Carbon Footprint reduction



Snipe needs a helping hand!

As one of our kind volunteers who delivers copies of *Snipe* along The Green is moving house we are looking for somebody who would be willing to take over this part of the distribution of the newsletter. Copies will be brought to you and deliveries would be three times a year. *Snipe* is totally reliant on volunteers to ensure that all households receive their copies so please get in touch by phone or email if you can help with this: Sally Hopkinson, tel: 01789 731478, email: info@sallyhopkinson.co.uk



Fun creative learning

Fully qualified, experienced and caring staff
Excellent indoor and outside play facilities
Forest school
Government funded places
Open term time Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

For a visit, prospectus or more information please contact Georgia Skinner, Manager, 01789 731974, info@snitterfieldnursery.co.uk or online at www.snitterfieldnursery.com

We're a not-for-profit organisation! OFSTED Registration: EY450987 Company Number: 07672389

Rag-Tag Toddler Group

Monday morning in the Village Hall
10.00-11.45am during term time.
Open to parents and carers with

children 0-4 years. Wide range of toys and a friendly welcome. Do come along and meet us or contact Hilary Schmidt-Hansen. Tel: 731246



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: 21 August: Carol (15) 7pm.
18 September, 16 October.