



Free to the residents of Snitterfield

ISSUE 51  
SUMMER 2019



# A peal for our church bells

The bells of St James the Great Snitterfield have been ringing out for hundreds of years. The oldest bell dates back to the 1700s. They have welcomed people to church services, for weddings, christenings and funerals and for national celebrations such as coronations, royal weddings, the Queen's 90th Birthday and the ending of wars. They were last rehung about 100 years ago. Meanwhile they have been tenderly cared for by the likes of the Bloxham family and more recently Michael Gray, who is sadly missed.

Now, however, they are due for a refurbishment. Taylors the Bell Foundry at Loughborough inspected them (see photo above) and estimated that it will require around £50,000 worth of work. The six bells will have to be taken down and rehung on new headstocks (the timber part from which the bell hangs) and retuned, together with no.3 bell (the oldest) being replaced with a more up-to-date bell which is more in tune with the other five. This new bell has been kindly donated by Sue Lambert who, incidentally, is one of our newest recruits to bell ringing.

The largest bell, the tenor, weighs around 16 hundredweight and the lightest, the treble, weighs approximately six hundredweight. So it will be no mean feat to bring them down from the belfry to floor level and then transport them to Loughborough ... and eventually back again. When they return they will be easier to ring and sound more joyous than ever.

They will also be safer. So we need the help of Snitterfield villagers to raise the money for all this work. Hopefully you will have seen our fundraising efforts at the Village Fete and a good many of you will have joined us for the open day at the church on 27 July and been able to view the bells and maybe had a go at chiming them.

The sooner we can raise the money the sooner the work can begin. Your donations will be gratefully received: anything



Ringing the changes: Jean Dronsfield, Sue Lambert and Kevin Hand

from £1 to £1,500. The latter will sponsor a headstock with your name imprinted on it for future generations to read.

Donations and any questions to: Ron Vizard (church treasurer) tel 730256, Sue Lambert tel 731389 or Jean Dronsfield tel 731574.

**Jean Dronsfield**

# Community accolade for Hilary

Snitterfield's Hilary Schmidt-Hansen has been presented with the South Warwickshire Community Impact Individual Award in recognition of her tireless volunteering in our village.

Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action and over 130 guests celebrated the individual and collective achievements of volunteers across South Warwickshire in the first ever Volunteer Awards evening which was held at Myton School. Hilary was nominated by Tony Moon, the chair of the Village Hall Management Committee, for all she does and the award was given jointly by Warwickshire County, Warwickshire District and Stratford District Councils.

Everybody who knows Hilary and has benefitted from her community service will agree that this is a well-deserved accolade. Hilary has volunteered for well over 20 years in the village, running the Rag Tag Toddler Group, the rural cinema and Traidcraft events as well as supporting the village fete and church, running the gardening club and eco group at the school and raising funds for the village hall.



## News from your County Councillor



### Community Grants

The new Community Grants closed in June and we received an application from Snitterfield Village Hall. Announcements on the awards will be made later this month, but I can advise that this application scored well against the set criteria. Surprisingly there was a shortfall in grant submissions and therefore there will be a second round of grant applications held in September.

### Delegated Members Road Safety Budget

A site meeting with the Road Safety Team was held in July to review vehicle speeding entering Kings Lane and the impact of pedestrians walking to The Farm and Monarch's Way. Following discussions with the officer he has come forward with a scheme which has been approved by the Parish Council and is being funded from my Delegated Members Road Safety Budget at a cost of around £8,000.



The new safety measures include a signing/white lining scheme including pedestrian warning signs (see left), Slow markings, edge of carriageway markings and cycle way signing.

### Road Closures

I have been contacted by some residents regarding their concerns in respect of the proposed road closure in School Lane from the end of July, which is also impacted by the closure of Bell Lane.

I have been working closely with WCC's Network Management Team together with a representative for Cadent Gas and they are liaising with the parish council to see how they can minimise the disruption to the residents. The closure of School Lane from 22 July has been requested by Cadent Gas to carry out essential gas works and the timing has been arranged to cause the least disruption during the school holidays.

**Anne Parry**  
[anneparry@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:anneparry@warwickshire.gov.uk)  
Mobile: 07917 117737

## News from your District Councillor



We are now comfortably into the new Council year and, following Annual Council in May, members of the various committees have now been confirmed. Personally I am thrilled to have been given the Chairmanship of our Overview and Scrutiny Function which, as the committee title suggests, considers and scrutinises the decisions and performance of Council.

At Council on Monday 15 July there were two items of particular interest to both the Scrutiny Function and residents of the District. Council has received a petition from the public which seeks to declare a Climate Emergency in Stratford on Avon. That item is immediately followed by a cross part Motion on Notice seeking Council to investigate what we can do to combat Climate Change.

Such an investigation would normally be conducted by a Task and Finish (T&F) Group of the Overview and Scrutiny function. In an effort to expedite that work, we have already set up a T&F Group specifically to consider the matter of Climate Change. Not only that but the Committee was unanimous in its decision to include all parties represented at Council. That group will start its work imminently, with a report due back to Council by January 2020.

The second item of interest is our SAP (Site Allocations Plan) which follows the approval of our SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) by Cabinet on 8 July. These documents form part of the suite of documents that support our Core Strategy and are vital in identifying reserve sites that could be used should the Council no longer be able to demonstrate a five-year land supply.

Provided the document is approved by Council, it will then be submitted to a planning inspector for examination and approval. Once approved the District will be in a stronger position in planning terms and should prevent successful appeals – particularly to larger development sites – on the basis of a lack of sufficient housing land supply.

**Peter Richards**  
[Peter.Richards@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Richards@stratford-dc.gov.uk)  
Mobile: 07912 410375



SACC worked with Snitterfield village fete and Snitt Life this summer to reduce the amount of waste at both events.

The use of plastic was minimised through providing compostable cups, straws and plates.

Full recycling facilities, including food waste, were available at both events and volunteers sorted through every bag of waste ensuring that most of it was recycled or composted.

Just one bin liner from the fete and two from Snitt Life went to landfill.

Thank you to Rubbish Friends Snitterfield without whom we would still be sorting the recycling from Snitt Life!

**Vikki Parker**



*Duncan Parker, Claudine Pearson, Eric Appleton and Vikki Parker sorting the waste at Snitt Life*



## Summer at Snitterfield School

One Saturday in May, parents, volunteers and members of staff joined Hilary Schmidt-Hansen and Mrs Plaskitt, Executive Head

Teacher at Snitterfield Primary School, for a 'Spruce up the School for Spring' day. Some of us weeded, some of us planted and a lot of time was spent tidying up the school's beautiful pond area ready for the children to enjoy over the months to come.

This summer we've been able to use the pond extensively and have enjoyed a wonderful Arts Week, with this year's topic focused on nature. The school has become a creative hub of activity and each class has not only been creating beautiful beasts and pretty lily pads in class but they've also been sketching, pond dipping and exploring the pond life that lives so close to our classrooms.

Two exemplary School Council members, Esme and Ed, were lucky enough to be invited to visit Stratford Food Bank. They, along with the rest of the School Council, have decided that this term our charity fundraising will be for this important and local cause. The doors were unlocked and Ed and Esme were allowed to go where very few have gone before ... the 'back cabin' full of all the kind donations that individuals, supermarkets and organisations donate.

Ed and Esme, along with a Food Bank representative, will be presenting their findings to the whole school during an assembly and the school will be running a dress down day and cake sale to raise money for the Food Bank. Don't forget that Snitterfield Store also has a collection box for any Food Bank donations.

**Anna Carless**



**Esme at Stratford Food Bank**



**Class 1 pond dipping**



### OVER THE GARDEN WALL

## Getting the garden ready for autumn

Gardens have performed well this summer 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 approaches rather like a grand finale in opera; everything blooming with the dazzling perennials, golden rudbeckia, orange crocosmia, penstemon, salvia spires, phlox and roses, dahlias flaunting their showy petals, fireworks of grasses and the quiver of fiery leaves before the curtain falls. The performance in the garden is over until the next show in the new year.

But for the gardener there is much to do:

- Lifting plants and potting up geraniums and others needing protection from frost;
- Gathering fruits and harvesting vegetables;
- Leave dahlias until the first frost. Then lift, 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;
- Store onions;
- Clear flower beds and compost the ground;
- Divide perennials;
- Out with old plants and replant with new;
- Cut deciduous hedges;
- Give wildflower patches the final cut.

Autumn is the best season to look closely at shapes and forms. It is also a good time for plotting and planting new trees, shrubs and perennials while the soil is still warm.

Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora is a great eye catching showpiece shrub as it performs in the late summer and lasts well into autumn. Consider planting a new tree or shrub to provide autumn colour. Amelanchier lamarckii, Acer palmatum 'Sango-kaku' and Cercis canadensis Forest Pansy give fantastic displays. Plant daffodils and early flowering crocus, muscari, hyacinths and surprise treasures like autumn crocus and cyclamen in little groups to delight as autumn fades. But wait to plant tulips until late November to early December to avoid fungal disease.

Visit gardens at their best in the autumn to see the beauty, smell the air and kick the leaves. Batsford Arboretum (near Moreton in the Marsh) or Westonbirt Arboretum have wonderful displays. Visit the michaelmas daisy gardens at Colwall towards Malvern or Packwood House with its stunning late summer borders.

**Margaret Tweed**



# A lovely day out at Snitterfield-on-Sea



This year's By the Seaside village fete offered all of the fun of the seaside: traditional stalls, games, entertainment, competitions, a very large deck chair and a great opportunity for the community to get together, share a fun day out and raise money for local causes. And my goodness, weren't we lucky with that window of dry sunny skies!



Snitterfield's answer to a light-hearted version of Crufts took centre stage along with Hook Norton brass band, Just Dance dancers and Snitterfield Primary School. There was also a new area for pre-schoolers, captivating Punch & Judy performances and lots of new stall holders which proved to be big hits. Next year, we hope to expand the pre-school area and will be looking into activities for other age groups such as 'tweens'. If you have ideas and, or, are willing to help, just drop us an email; more hands-on deck would help us to be able to offer more!

Profits made from the programme advertising, commercial stall and gate entrance fees and the raffle will be put back into the community towards local causes. So, if your organisation or club could do with a boost to its funds this year, email us at [snitterfieldfete@gmail.com](mailto:snitterfieldfete@gmail.com) for an application form. The deadline for submissions is 31 October 2019 and if you're interested to see where previous years' profits were allocated visit: <https://www.snitterfieldfete.com/about-us/>

A massive thank you to everyone who helped make the event happen and to the advertisers, stall holders, car park attendants, refreshment providers, Radio Warneford for compering ... and of course, last but certainly not least, all the visitors who came along on the day to join in the fun.

**Anna Carless, Fete Co Chair**



# and a festival to be proud of



Producing festivals and events both here in the UK and abroad is my full-time job, so it seemed a good idea to create one in my home village.

The concept for Snitt Life was to create a music festival of which the village could be proud and an opportunity for the community to come together against the backdrop of live music.

Ticket proceeds go directly to the newly formed Snitterfield Community Project Fund, a completely transparent fund set up to help finance key projects within the village. So far from just two events, the Boperator Boogie Band party night in April and Snitt Life, a total of over £5,000 has been raised which, in this instance, will cover the costs of installing a new centrally located AED (defibrillator machine) in the village.

Producing an event like Snitt Life to a certain production standard obviously has cost attachments, despite many elements such as stage, lighting and sound being hugely discounted by the suppliers. These production costs are very much eased by the financial support of the festival's Company Community partners who invest in the festival, which in turn allows us to produce a safe, impressive and enjoyable event.

We would like to thank everyone who bought tickets, came and partied and the Community Company Partners: Shred Pro, CASS, ICM, Callingham Architects, Molson Compact and Shebang Design & Marketing. We are also very grateful to the Sports and Social Club and the brilliant team of village volunteers who helped put the festival on and to SACC for managing the rubbish in a totally environmentally-friendly way.

**Pete Goulding**  
Organiser and producer of Snitt Life



Photos: Ed Tyler





The nursery has had a busy couple of weeks as the end of the school year approaches. We've had the village fete, sports day, graduation, our AGM and the annual prosecco evening. Thank you to all those parents and friends who came along



to support us – we also managed to raise some money for nursery in the process! We have also welcomed a new member of staff, Helen Berry, who has already settled in fantastically and become a valued member of the team.

Following a wonderful graduation (*see photo left*), it's time to say goodbye to some of our children. We've loved having them and wish them good luck at their new schools. We also look forward to welcoming our new beginners in September. If you are looking for a place for the next school year, contact Sarah on the number below. But be quick as spaces are limited.

Finally we'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported us with our Tesco Bags for Help campaign. We came second, which resulted in a massive £1,895 donation to go towards our new sensory garden! With the generous help of the village gardening club, we're hoping to develop it over the summer. Keep your eyes peeled!

If you would like more information on the nursery or how you can support us, call 01789 731974 or email [info@snitterfieldnursery.co.uk](mailto:info@snitterfieldnursery.co.uk).

**Marie Conroy**

## It's a dog's life

Snitterfield's pooches now have their very own daycare centre, where they can while away the hours safely and happily whilst their owners are out – probably working like a dog themselves!

Stanley and Arthur's Dog Grooming and Daycare at Green Gates on the junction of Kings Lane and Ingon Lane opened its doors recently with the simple aim of providing a safe and friendly environment that allows dogs to play and socialise. The new venture is the brainchild of Sara Casley-Ginder and Beckie Reaper who wanted to turn their passion for dogs into a career. Naturally, they named the business after their beloved dogs – Stanley, a border terrier who many of you will remember from the days when he patrolled the Snitterfield Arms where Sara was landlady, and three-year-old golden retriever Arthur.

Sara told *Snipe*: 'I love dogs. I've had dogs all my life and I suppose you could say I'm your typical dog-mad person. It's great to realise the dream that Beckie and I share and set up Stanley & Arthur's.'



Beckie added: 'I have been a guide dog puppy walker for the last five years and I've had a burning ambition for a number of years to open up a dog daycare centre. Long dog

walks with Sara helped turn the dream into a reality when I discovered she shared the same ambition.'



Dogs can play, exercise and socialise inside and out – there are plenty of toys and activities inside as well as chill-out areas – and a 2,500 square metre fenced outside area gives them space to safely explore. Alongside the daycare activities – the centre is open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday – there's also the dog grooming side of the business (*see photo left*).

Sara said: 'I had been looking for a way to turn my passion into a career and I decided dog grooming would allow me to do just that. I completed my training and have been involved in the industry for the last two years now.' Beckie added. 'When you pick your dog up they will have had a fun-packed and fulfilled day. As well as having peace of mind you'll also have a happy and relaxed dog.'

Contact: tel: 01789 731598, web: [stanleyandarthurs.com](http://stanleyandarthurs.com)

## News from the Village Hall

Many thanks to everyone who has donated towards the refurbishment project for the Village Hall, and to those we are not able to thank personally as we do not have your contact details. As you are aware from the letters that were delivered to every household in June, we are quite a way off our total target for the work we need to carry out. There is much to be done, so if you have not donated yet and would like to please contact Tony Moon (chairman of the village hall committee) tel: 01789 730098, email: [a.g.moon@btinternet.com](mailto:a.g.moon@btinternet.com) or drop your donation (cheques made out to Snitterfield Village Hall Management Committee) into Bramble Cottage,

Bearley Road, Snitterfield – the bungalow between the Snitterfield Arms and the Village Hall that needs your help!

Please look out for our next fundraising events which we hope will include: Quiz Night October/November; Remembrance Supper on Saturday 9 November; Talisman Theatre Play in mid November; Stratford Festival Orchestra and Choir in early December; Burns Night supper and Ceilidh on 25 January 2020. Keep an eye out on the village website and noticeboards for further information and if you would like to get involved with any of the events, or have an idea for a fundraising event, please do get in touch.

**Hilary Schmidt-Hansen: tel 01789 731246  
email [Hilary@thegables.spacomputers.com](mailto:Hilary@thegables.spacomputers.com)**

# Blooming memories of days gone by

Having recently visited Snitterfield and talked to some of the residents we thought *Snipe* may be interested in our time in the village in the 1970s. At that time we managed Snitterfield Garden Centre at The Wolds on The Green. We lived in the bungalow where our daughter Caroline was born in 1971.

The old farm buildings around the courtyard were the garden centre. The corner one was The Elizabethan Tea Rooms, which was very popular and frequented by the actors from the RSC, including Judy Dench and her husband Michael Williams and Elizabeth Croft (postmistress in *Crossroads*). In the garden centre our customers included actors Brenda Bruce and Eric Porter. In the late 1960s and early 1970s garden centres were still new to Britain and we were only the seventh in Britain to be awarded International Garden Centre status - not bad for little Snitterfield!

The walled garden behind the Wolds was the plant area and we converted the old tennis court into a pets' corner. The owner, Mrs Ladds (who lived in the Wolds), went on holiday to Majorca and came back with photographs of a wonderful crazy golf course - we were asked to build it using the photos - so we did! The ground dropped here and I was able to use this bank to make a waterfall which went under a bridge and meandered through the site. In those days we felt we could do anything and our time at Snitterfield was the happiest of our lives.

Sadly Mrs Ladds became very ill and this led to blindness and the demise of the garden centre. We had only been married a year on coming to Snitterfield and still quite fervent Scots (we are now fully Anglicised) so we named the bungalow Arden Vohr (Arden View) since we were in the old Forest of Arden. We were delighted to see that the name remains.



Is there anybody in Snitterfield who remembers the garden centre and may have worked in the tea rooms with Miss Easterbook?

We would be happy for anyone who remembers those days to contact us and perhaps we could meet up when next we visit Stratford.

**Bob & Isabelle Gault**  
email: [bellebob7@gmail.com](mailto:bellebob7@gmail.com)

*Below: Bob and Isabelle with Caroline in the 1970s*



## Summer events at The Farm

Our local artisan farm shop and cafe is going from strength to strength and has several events happening over the next couple of months. These include:

- Flourish Summer Holiday camps from 15 July to 30 August for children aged 7-14 years.
- A Food & Drink Festival celebrating all things local on Saturday 3 August from 9am to 6pm.
- On Saturday 31 August and Sunday 1 September there is a Food Writers' Weekend, from cookery book authors to food bloggers.
- Friday 30 August is The Farm's family 'Pizza Slice Night' (always the last Friday of every month).
- The Cookery School opens on 5 September.

For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/thefarmstratford/>



A big thank you to Johanna Comer who volunteered to take over the deadheading of the daffodils around the war memorial. It will help the plants to thrive and enable them to be enjoyed by all the village for years to come.

# Snippets

## What's On Where

### Snitterfield Garden Club

First Tuesday of the month, Village Hall 7.30pm.

### Parish Council Meetings

On the second Monday in the month, 7.30pm Village Hall. See noticeboard on Smith's Lane.

### Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change

SACC meetings first Thursday each month in Village Hall, 8pm. Check [www.snitterfieldacc.org](http://www.snitterfieldacc.org) for changes.

### SACC Community Cafe

First Sunday of the month, 2pm-4pm, Village Hall.

### Snitterfield Crafters' Club

Wednesdays 9.30-12.30 Graham Simons Room. £3 including refreshments. [www.snitterfieldcrafters.wordpress.com](http://www.snitterfieldcrafters.wordpress.com)

### Snitterfield WI

Meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm in the Village Hall.

### Sports Club 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.

### Whist Drive

Every Monday, Snitterfield Village Hall, 7.30pm. £1 including refreshments.

### Pilates

Snitterfield Sports Club, Tuesdays 9.30am, Wednesdays 11am. Seated class, Tuesdays 10.45-11.30. Contact Helen Tudge 01926 259293.

### Bellringing practice

Every Wednesday 5.30-6.30, St James the Great church

### Thursday Club

First Thursday each month, 2.30pm, Snitterfield Village Hall

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: [saut1@btinternet.com](mailto:saut1@btinternet.com)



### COMMUNITY CAFE

Tea & Cake  
2-4pm  
Every First  
Sunday Monthly

Snitterfield Village Hall

Local stallholders offering a variety of crafts & produce

SALES TABLE SPACE AVAILABLE  
only donate 10% of your sales  
07818 447705  
SACCGroup1@gmail.com  
[www.snitterfieldacc.org](http://www.snitterfieldacc.org)  
ALL proceeds to Snitterfield Carbon Footprint reduction





The village bonfire and fireworks, organised by the Sports Club, will take place at the Club on Saturday 2 November. Gates open 5.30pm.



## 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 Sarah Clark, Manager, 01789 731974, [info@snitterfieldnursery.co.uk](mailto:info@snitterfieldnursery.co.uk) or online at [www.snitterfieldnursery.com](http://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

### Village Hall Cinema

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.com](mailto:hilary@thegables.com)

### Next screenings:

18 August - Mary Queen of Scots  
22 September  
20 October  
17 November  
15 December