

FREE
to the residents
of Snitterfield



SUMMER 2004

At noon on Sunday 12 September, a new era in sport for Snitterfield will begin, with the formation of Snitterfield Sports Club. The ribbon will be cut by Neil Smith, former England and Warwickshire cricketer, and Mrs Heather Pearson, daughter-in-law of Randolph Pearson, founder of the Pearson Trust. There will be a barbecue, drinks, music and an opportunity to bowl a few balls at Neil Smith.

SNITTERFIELD SPORTS TAKE NEW STRIDE FORWARD

The history of the newly formed Sports Club, consisting of Bowls, Tennis, Cricket and Junior Soccer sections, demonstrates that an enthusiasm for sport can sometimes lead, not just to the individual's pleasure, but to the benefit of whole generations. Here in Snitterfield we have the potential to enjoy sporting activities in the heart of the village as a result of one man's passion for cricket and his truly generous spirit. In 1910, Randolph Pearson built Wolverton Grange and was soon encouraging the development of Snitterfield cricket team. Seeking to ensure the continuing play of his beloved game, he bestowed land to the village in the 1930's which has since then been administered by the Pearson Trust.



Through to the early 70's cricket flourished, one of the significant events being a match in 1970 organised by Robin Ogg, who persuaded the Master of Corpus Christi College to permit the Cambridge University team to play Snitterfield. (Look out for an article on this in Snipe at a later date to find out who won! Ed.). Although cricket began to be played once again around ten years ago, it is only recently that a new pitch was seeded and a regular team began to play with some success. This season for example some seven games have been played and of these Snitterfield won three. The next season is looked forward to as being the beginning of home matches and the thirty players who participated this year (most of whom are from the village) will get the chance to play on the new pitch.

As the interest in cricket declined, so a new activity began to take place on the Pearson Trust land – bowls. In 1973 the old cricket field became available, with the use of the old cricket pavilion as a club house. It took six months to build up the slope before the green could be laid and all became ready for the 1974 season. Since that time, numerous improvements have been made to the club house and green, making a fine facility. Many county matches have been played, both mens and ladies, and the club is recognised within the E.B.A. as a bowling club comprising bowlers ranging from beginners under instruction to those competing in national finals.

Tennis began as a Millenium Project, very much the inspiration of John Parnham, ably assisted by his father Bill. Although membership has always been buoyant, the Club initially struggled to meet the challenging financial commitments of the construction of the

two courts. Thankfully, with the support of local people, businesses and the government scheme, Sportsmatch, tennis is now a firmly established sport in our community. Being awarded charitable status has also greatly contributed to the club's success. In early October we look forward to switching on the new floodlights.

Snitterfield Sports Junior Football Club are delighted with the news that they will be joining forces with the new Sports Club and are hopeful that existing members may wish to take advantage of this merger and join in with more sporting activities.

Formed 2 years ago as a result of being parents of children who were interested in playing in a football team, they entered a team in the Warwickshire League following a few friendly matches and tournaments and the Snitterfield Under 10's began.

After not being able to play on the home pitch last season following the reseeded and levelling in conjunction with the Cricket Team, the division is very much looking forward to returning to Snitterfield and would welcome any supporters who would like to cheer on the team on Sunday afternoons.

The new Snitterfield Sports Club will bring all these sports, established and fledging, under one 'umbrella organisation' and it is hoped that the charitable status enjoyed by the Tennis section will benefit the whole club.

CHRIS GALLIMORE, *Snitterfield Sports Club*

To join the Club and participate in one or more of the sports contact:

Junior Football: STEVE LEWIS - 07771 667650
Cricket: LEE HILLIER - 01789 730372
Bowls: JOAN CARRINGTON - 01926 851739
Tennis: SUE HAWKESFORD - 01789 731847



A warm welcome to you all with this our seventh issue, and the first for me as editor.

Our thanks and best wishes go to Ron and Di Hoe who moved out of the village last month to live in Preston-on-Stour.

The front page news about the combined sports facilities is very exciting. We must all be grateful to those who give their time freely for the benefit of others and we wish them every success.

We are very grateful to our own band of contributors and distributors who help with the production and delivery of SNIPE. The editorial team of four really do need help to continue, if you would like to join us we meet about every two months, please contact me, the number is below, for the next meeting date.

Funding is, as always, our biggest problem and we have enclosed a slip in the hope you will be generous enough to help. Lee has kindly offered to let us have a post box at the stores for you to drop in your donation slips. We are now able to offer an electronic version of the newsletter, you can receive a pdf by email or have one sent to someone else, perhaps a family member, who would be interested in our village news. A small subscription charge will be made to cover costs. We are planning to hold a fundraising event before Christmas - keep a look-out for our posters and we hope you'll come along.

SNIPE is a fantastic vehicle to highlight your club or organisation's news, so please keep sending in your articles and photos. In this issue we have several articles from residents. I hope it inspires you to put pen to paper - or finger to keyboard - email your copy for the November/December issue to studio@smart-works.co.uk. The growing volume of traffic in the village and the frustration it causes has been highlighted by the several articles included in this issue.

If you always wanted to visit the SBT's Shakespeare Houses and never got round to it then here's your chance. Take advantage of the special offer especially for SNIPE readers for a five-house ticket for £10. Cut out and save the voucher on the back page.

GINNY CROW, *Editor* 01789 731367

News from your District Councillor

Traffic noise from the A46 is still an ongoing problem.

I should, however, like to thank all those who, following my article of last July on traffic issues, wrote to the Highways Agency complaining of the noisy surface. As a result the Agency have now decided to reconsider their position and I have been given assurances that a quiet surfacing material will be used when the road is due for resurfacing. I will, however, keep the pressure on them to ensure that they fulfil their promises.

Several people have complained about the volume of traffic passing through Snitterfield. Traffic flows have undoubtedly increased but in order to monitor the true position we shall have to wait till the road works at Longbridge are complete, as this will no doubt have a bearing on the number of cars passing through the village. At the same time I will also ask the County Council to monitor the speed of traffic in Snitterfield.

The impact of traffic in Snitterfield affects pedestrians because of the very narrow footways, or in the case of The Green and Bell Lane, lack of them. It is, therefore, up to residents with overhanging hedges to please remember to trim them back regularly, thus enabling parents with push chairs and the elderly to stay on the footway.

I would be very interested to know if residents in Snitterfield would be willing to support a voluntary Post Office in Bearley. A local action group has been formed to consider the viability of setting up a volunteer post office and are at present assessing the level of support locally for such an enterprise. Please contact me with your comments and views on this matter.

RICHARD HOBBS

District and County Councillor

Telephone: 01789 730331

PARISH MATTERS

Now you don't often get the chance of 'something for nothing'. Well, I'd like to tell you of a service from the County Council which is exactly that (ignoring your Council Tax). The Council now provides a HOME CHIPPING SERVICE. So if you have been doing a lot of pruning lately, why not give them a ring and they will come along and shred your cuttings. Not only that, they will put them into bags ready to use as a mulch or to compost, and the service is free.

So no more smelly bonfires, and no more irate neighbours!

The contact telephone number for this service is 01926 738827

It will come as no surprise that a constant complaint from villagers to the Parish Council is about litter. It's a subject which raises strong feelings in even the mildest of people.

The Parish Council already provides litter bins and have just agreed to install more. Much as we would like to solve the problem we cannot do it by ourselves and we need your help. Even small amounts of litter if left lying about encourages an attitude of 'well it doesn't really matter'. I would therefore ask that you try to keep the area around your house tidy and litter-free, and that you teach children by example and not drop it yourself.

We are lucky enough to live in a beautiful part of the country, in a very attractive village. Let's try to keep it that way.

SYLVIA MORLIDGE

Chairman, Parish Council

WARNING! GIANT HOGWEED FOUND IN THE BROOK



Giant Hogweed has been introduced to Europe, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States as a garden curiosity.

Because of its tenacious and invasive nature it soon becomes a pest, readily escapes and has naturalized in many of the places where it was first introduced.

Giant Hogweed is a member of the parsley or carrot family, it is characterized by its size and may grow 15 to 20 feet tall. The leaves of giant hogweed may expand to five feet in breadth.

IT SHOULD BE AVOIDED - IF TOUCHED YOU MAY HAVE A MARKED ALLERGIC RESPONSE RESULTING IN POSSIBLE COLLAPSE.

THE PLANT EXUDES A CLEAR WATERY SAP WHICH SENSITIZES THE SKIN TO ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION. THIS CAN RESULT IN SEVERE BURNS TO THE AFFECTED AREAS RESULTING IN SEVERE BLISTERING AND PAINFUL DERMATITIS. THESE BLISTERS CAN DEVELOP INTO PURPLISH OR BLACKENED SCARS.

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

MARGARET TWEED writes about one of Snitterfield's most prolific gardens 'Oats and beans and barley grow'

A peep over one particular garden wall in Church Lane is an around-the-year gardening clock constantly reminding gardening residents to prepare, sow and reap their ground. The crop progress is observed with interest with first shoots of the broad beans in early spring, followed by runner beans entwining up the canes and the enviable harvest of onions swollen by the fullness of sunshine drying prostrate on the sun-baked earth.

Nothing beats the taste of home grown vegetables. The varied clay and marl soils of Snitterfield are generally favourable for growing vegetables and we are fortunate as local smallholdings supply fresh produce to the shop. In earliest days, the growing of vegetables outside the front door was essential to supplement the diet for the family.

As the village settlements developed, cottages had their front gardens planted with neat rows of cabbages, onions and beans divided by a path, connecting the cottage to the lane.

It is therefore a delight to see such a traditional garden as the one owned by Marjorie and Richard Bloxham in Park Lane. Perfect rows of carrots, leeks, beetroot, cabbages, beans and lettuces rank in military precision, not a weed to be seen and each comfortably spaced. The answer does not 'lie in the soil' but is down to sheer hard work and expertise. Richard has spent his working life farming locally and now at 93 years old, regularly works from early morning to late evening 'putting his heart and soul' into tending his crops. Broad beans sown in the Autumn, potatoes on Good Friday, (traditionally the workers were allowed to have the day off once this was done), followed by a succession of seeds producing bountiful crops, tomatoes being his pride and joy. The secret is to talk to them encouraging them to grow and to keep the hoe going in between each plant.

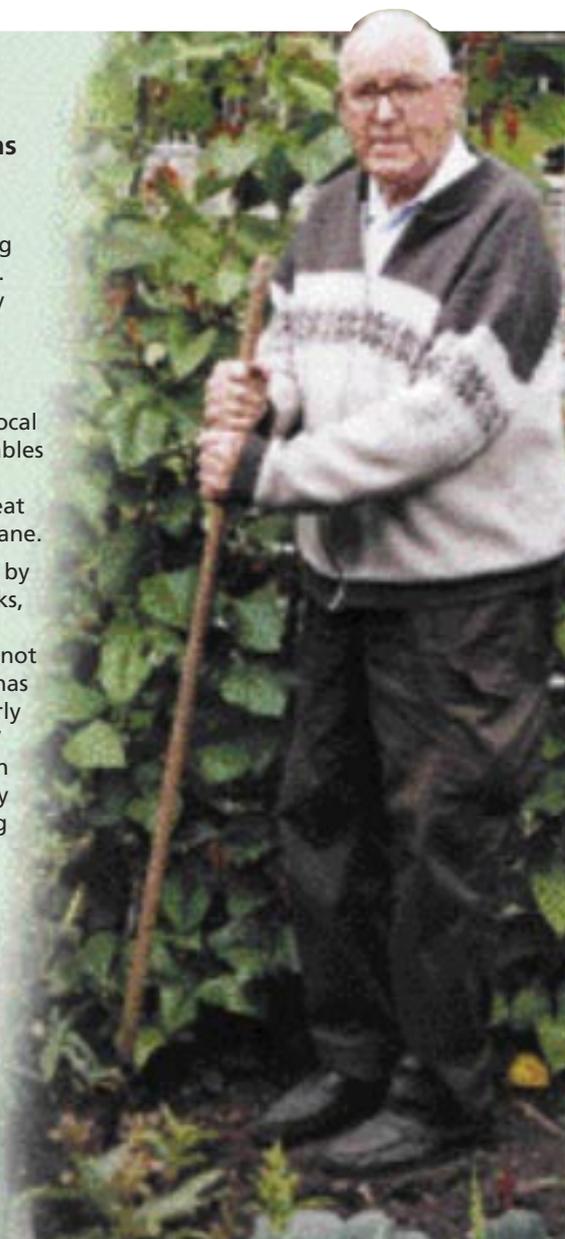


Richard presented Snitterfield Garden Club with a challenge cup to be awarded to the best collection of five vegetables at the annual produce show to be held on

Tuesday 7 September.

Entries are welcome from residents of Snitterfield and Bearley.

(details are on the Village notice boards)



FROM A TV STUDIO TO TOMATO PLANTS...

MARJORIE YATES may be known by many for her tv and theatre appearances, but she rushes back from the bright lights to her home in the village - it's on with her wellies and round to her favourite place, her allotment, where she enjoys spending her spare time growing fruit and vegetables. Marjorie writes about 'a day in the life of an actress'...

'A day in the life of an actress' may sound rather grand, but in fact it's pretty much the same as any-one who is out working, except maybe for the longer hours and distance to travel. Of course in this profession it's great to have a job at all, and when I'm 'resting' I am even more aware of how lucky I am to live in heavenly

Snitterfield. Born in Brum, I have always lived in Warwickshire.

Life is pretty hectic at the moment as I'm working on a ten-episode tv series of *Shameless* in Manchester. I play an outrageous character called Carol - very mutton-dressed-as-lamb, but funny (we hope) - and I'm earning a few bob for a change! I may even get my kitchen extension built which has been on the cards for the last fifteen years. When in Manchester I stay in a very modern flat overlooking the city, it couldn't be more different to my home here.

I usually work twelve hours a day, starting before 7am in make-up and often do night shots (which most actors dread), much depending on the weather and quality of the caterers. Several scenes in the series involve 'pyro' effects, cars being blown up and houses set alight - all dangerous stuff. In the Xmas special I was required to walk the snow-filled (artificial) streets clad only in shortie nightie and flip-flops, and a sheet of fireman's thermal foil - oh yes, and soot coming out of my nostrils - very glam!

It's years since I've been involved in a long series. It has lots of plusses, you get to know all the crew and actors really well and feel great camaraderie at not having to dash off after only a couple of days working together, one of the reasons I love theatre the best I suppose.

But I musn't knock it... in fact the first series of *Shameless* has just won Best Series Award and a Best Actors award at the Monte Carlo TV and Film Festival. So after all these years I may be a 'hit', you never know!



BOB FOSTER has been researching the names on the war memorial and writes here about what happened to one local young man

A SNITTERFIELD HERO - PERCY CHATTERLEY

The Chatterleys were a well known family in Snitterfield in the 19th Century. They were involved in the business of hurdle and hoop making, using the copses in the Snitterfield bushes. Percival Norman Chatterley was born on 23 August 1888 and was the youngest son of William and Emily Chatterley. He was baptised at St James' and started at the village school in April 1892. Whilst there he won several of the annual prizes donated by Lady Trevelyan.

He left school in 1902 and joined his father in the business. In April 1914 he married Jessie Sidley and their only child Evelyn was baptised at our local church on 20 September 1916.

Conscription was introduced in 1916 and he was called up in June 1916, at the age of 28. However because he was indispensable to the family business his father twice successfully applied to have his army service postponed. In February 1917 a further postponement was refused, and he was enlisted into the Royal Warwickshires. At the time he was living on The Green but I am not sure which house they occupied.

He went to France in May 1917, where he was transferred to the Cheshire Regiment. He was just in time to take part in the Battle of Messine Ridge in Flanders, which commenced on 7 June with the explosion of a number of huge mines...

By 17 July they had advanced about a mile from their original positions to an area called Onraet Wood (right), which is just north of the village of Wytschaete. Percy was killed there when the Germans launched a counter-attack, only two months after his arrival at the front.

He is buried at Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery, a short distance to the east of where he fell. Percy Chatterley was the fifteenth of the thirty five Snitterfield men to give their lives in the Great War. Over 160 Snitterfield men served in the armed forces.



If you would like to know more about the names so proudly shown on our war memorial, I intend to give a talk on this subject in the Village Hall on 4 November, a week before Remembrance Day.

SNITTERFIELD THEN AND NOW



These interesting photographs are just two scanned from an assortment of fascinating postcards of Snitterfield and Warwickshire collected by Pauline Corish and kindly loaned to us for reproduction.

Picturing an insight into the village as it must have been before the days of motors and traffic problems, the stepping stones across the brook on Bell Lane, and the open view down School Lane create an idyllic village scene. Does any-one recognise the children portrayed as past family members?

We will continue to feature other snap shots from bygone days in Snitterfield, so please contact us if you have an interesting picture or information on your home or activities from the past.



My Friend Lew

A friend of mine called Lew,
digs graves,
Digging deep into clay and
bedrock
Cutting them cheese-clean,
Neat six-footers according
To current Home Office
Regulations,
Watched by the alert eyes
Of a country churchyard
Under the Vicar's mandatory
Supervision from the
Almighty.
Slicing through strata
And layers of sleeping
Victorian Gentlemen.

Precious is Lew; more
precious
Than Prime Ministers
Or distinguished members
Of the Athenaeum.
Indispensable Disposer
Supreme
In these parts
And wiser than wisdom
In our erudite community.
A good yarn Lew can tell,
Bar-leaning; often excelling
drolly

HARRY MARLOW reminds us of one of Snitterfield's most colourful characters. Lew Goode was Snitterfield's gravedigger during the 1950s, 60s and 70s, and I knew him very well in the years during which I was Organist at St James' Church. Lew accepted the original copy of this poem.

In a grave-tale on a
Couple of pints of Draught
Guinness
Drawn from the wood.
Affectionately he's tucked
away
Old Tom and Mrs. Smith.
And young Jack Small who
WAS too small,
And didn't deserve his end.
And Arthur Jinks fished from
a pond.
And Sam who didn't fit
And took too long to go.
Mere bread-and-butter of
life - or death
Is this in Lew's earthy-dry
Macabre terminology.

We prime him in the glow
Of gleaming copper ware
All on a stormy night
About the special jobs;
A pornographic peep
perhaps
Behind the twitching
tarpaulins.
Those skull-thirsty, arc-lit
rituals
Over a gravel-hole is what
We really need to see.

That relentless, jabbing
spade prodding
To its grim, traumatic
destination,
And the path.lab's
polythene-bagged
Interpolator shadowing in,
With pale midnight wraiths
From amongst moonlit
stones.

Guarded here is Lew -
cagey -
"Not even worth a shovelful
Of empty Double Diamond
bottles"

You might say in this elite
freemasonry.
Silence is silence with a drag
on a fag
And a gaze that is saying no
more
On this side of the grave.

I respect Lew:
Saw him go once on a
nocturnal
Jaunt over Wilmcote way
With tools and lamps and
coiled wire,
And an old car battery for

company,
And a big fat double-quart
Of Olde English Cyder to
See him through the small
hours
With owls and angels.
I watched him go into
The dismal, dreary night -
And then I went to bed.

JEAN HERBERT retells a story told to her by an elderly resident.

A snippet of village history

Some years ago, in the 1980's, I was talking to an elderly resident of Vine Cottage about the village in the past, Una Aust. She recalled this amusing incident of her youth.

Her life-long friend, Mary Jones, who was the daughter of the farrier's son, lived in Horseshoe Cottage next to the Foxhunter pub. They were both about twelve years old and they spent all their time together. This must have been in the early twentieth century at a time when children were expected to be seen and not heard.

One day there was a meeting of the Conservative Party at the cottage and they were barred from entering. They eventually ventured closer and sitting down on the seats at either side of the porch quietly awaited the end of the meeting.

The door opened and, much to their surprise, who should appear before them but the Prime Minister, Anthony Eden. He patted them on their heads as he passed and left without a word.

How times have changed!

Can you imagine members of the present Conservative Party holding a meeting in a humble cottage in the village... and nowadays how many children would sit mutely and ignored.



DO YOU RECOGNISE THIS HOUSE?

Mr and Mrs Pheasey of Southam are trying to identify this house in the village, where they believe their grandmother, Maud Mander once lived.

They would welcome any information, please call them on 01926 817033.

MOBILE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE

The Mobile Library visits Snitterfield on alternate Fridays throughout the year, stopping at the following locations:

LOCATION	ARRIVE	DEPART
VILLAGE HALL	13.35	14.05
CHURCH LANE	14.10	14.25
THE SPINNEY	14.30	14.40

The service also calls at HIGH CLOSE FARM on alternate Mondays between 15.50 and 16.10.

If you need any further information please call the service 01926 413488.



On behalf of all pedestrians HILARY SCHMIDT-HANSEN describes a growing problem in our village

TRAFFIC IN SNITTERFIELD

During May the children in years 5 and 6 (aged 9 - 11 years) at Snitterfield school performed a traffic survey. On two successive days they counted the number of cars that passed the school between 9.45 and 10.30am. Amazingly on 18 May 82 cars drove past the school corner in just quarter of an hour, with a similar number on the second day. This number does not include the tractors, vans or lorries which frequent our roads.

The traffic survey was not carried out at 'rush hour' when the quantity and speed of traffic can be quite incredible.

For those of us using the pavements, walking our children to school, to nursery and toddler group, exercising dogs, shopping at the village stores, visiting friends and generally making use of the village facilities, it can be very scary at times. We have narrow pavements to navigate, the inconvenience of vehicles parked on the pavement throughout the village and dog mess left by the owners. None of these are easy to negotiate with a small child/children in a single or double buggy and maybe a toddler alongside. The more mature members of the community with reduced mobility must find it equally as difficult, especially those with motorised chairs. Dog excrement is quite revolting to scrape off children's shoes and pushchair wheels - please think of others and pick up your dogs' excrement.

Our lovely village appears to be blessed with its fair share of speeding drivers. Whilst walking along Smiths Lane we often have to press ourselves as far into the hedges as possible to prevent being hit by the wing mirrors of vehicles driving close to the curb at speed. Walking along The Green is far worse as there are no pavements and plenty of blind bends around which vehicles appear, with drivers looking bewildered that anyone else could possibly be using the road at the same time as themselves!

It is very easy as a driver to be blinkered and not notice those around us - should a pedestrian walk out in front of a car moving at 30 mph they are likely to be killed. If that car was travelling at 20 mph there is a greater chance of the pedestrian only being injured. How often do we check our speedometers and see the speed we are travelling in a built up area? Car engines are so quiet these days that we can easily be travelling at 35 or 40 mph without realising it - how would a pedestrian survive an impact at that speed? Children do not have a sense of traffic speed and indeed have incomplete knowledge of traffic awareness until at least the age of 10 years - and probably older if they are always taken to their destination by car (all the children using the village school and nursery school are aged 11 and under!)

Recently the government brought out a new directive to improve the health of the nation by encouraging us all to walk as much as possible by taking 10,000 steps each day. I wonder how many of us already achieve this? I know that I don't get anywhere near this amount. Maybe we could be thinking about this when we get in the car each morning - Do we need to use our cars as much as we do? Could we walk or cycle to the shop rather than drive? Perhaps we could walk our children to school and back if we live in the village? It may mean that we have to leave the house 15 minutes earlier but it would be far better for us and our children - less exhaust fumes, exercise to stimulate our hearts, clearer minds for the day ahead and teaching road awareness at the same time.

When next in your car please be aware of those around you - keep your speed within the limit if not well below 30 mph; try to be patient with other road users and think of the future of our village - the children. Please do not park on the pavement - not only is it illegal but extremely dangerous for those having to walk into the road to negotiate parked cars.

DRIVING US CRAZY...

There are times when we could help decrease the element of risk as more traffic is passing through the village. Speeds must be reduced to allow for the narrow lanes, the blind bends and country life. The limit of 30 miles an hour is just too fast - some villagers risk life and limb just getting out of their drives and I, for one, am fed up of being 'tooted' at by cars suddenly appearing at speed as I carefully edge out of my drive at less than 5 miles an hour.

None of us want the village to become home to dozens of unattractive warning signs and more speed calming measures as other villages have. What we need most is for drivers to give more thought to how they use the roads. Please set an example, slow down, drive considerately and safer in our village. Featured recently in the tabloids, vigilante villagers in Cumbria have taken extreme measures by taking the initiative of

purchasing their own speed guns! The law permits ordinary citizens to use them, but only police officers can issue penalty notices. Road safety campaigners give their backing to this unusual self help, but we don't want to be driven to such desperate measures!

At peak times caution must be taken at the Church Road junction to avoid meeting the oncoming traffic head on. A resident comments on the problems created and the effect it has on other road users when we park our cars... "Please can everyone in the village THINK before they park! Emerging from Church Road, turning left to drive up White Horse Hill, I was almost in collision with another vehicle. The road is quite narrow and frequently down to an even narrower single lane when cars are parked along it. None of us can predict the speed at which some idiots drive through our village, and when we park near the road junctions and when visiting our wonderful shop, we should be aware of how we park. Walking those extra few

yards could save a nasty accident from happening one day."

And another comments on other driving problems. "Can I point out, off-road doesn't mean on-pavement, or driving everyone else off the road. And in the UK we drive on the left, not down the middle. During term time parents parking thoughtlessly on the road junction, particularly with The Green, make it impossible to negotiate the junction safely. The drivers of four wheel drive vehicles may be able to see over and round regular sized cars but the reverse does not apply. They are causing dangerous situations by parking close to the corners and drivers should be extra careful when they drop their children off. If you live in the village - try walking - it's good for you - and the kids!"

Mmm... isn't it surprising how many residents have experienced problems in the village with thoughtless, aggressive and speeding drivers, let's make sure we're not the guilty ones... GC

THE VILLAGE SURGERY - AN UPDATE

An article in the last Snipe newsletter explained the changes at the Surgery and the action being proposed by Councillors in response to concerns expressed by patients at a well attended village meeting. In particular the fact that a Doctor would not be attending the Surgery on a regular basis. Councillors agreed that they would liaise with the practice. You were asked to let Councillor Hobbs or Councillor

Stammers know about your experiences either good or bad. In the three months since that newsletter there has been only one response. On this basis it must be assumed that patients are satisfied with the current situation. Councillors therefore feel that they cannot take matters any further.

PETER MORLIDGE

www.snitterfield.com KEN CHATLAND is keeping us on-line

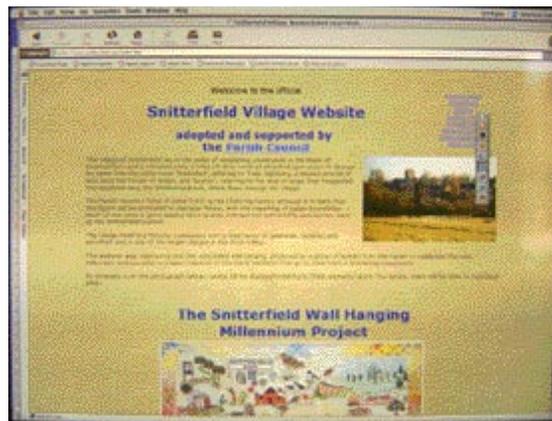
The Snitterfield website has come a long way since its launch two years ago. Indeed, if you search the word snitterfield in Google, the world's favourite search engine, you find this site comes in at the number one spot.

There is now a steady stream of daily visitors coming to view such pages as the forthcoming events diary and general village information. Other new features include free classifieds and a village discussion forum as well as links to other Snitterfield village websites such as the Tennis Club, Cricket Club, Parish Council, the Snitterfield Arms pub, Snitterfield General Stores and many more.

There are still many aspects of the site to develop and we are always on the look-out for new material to publish online. In order to keep the village diary up to date, we need event organisers to inform us of the dates of their events. We are able to link to publicity posters etc, so that villagers have as much information about the event as possible.

In the future, there will be opportunities for local businesses to obtain advertising space.

If you wish to find out more about snitterfield.com or wish any events to be listed contact Ken at findken@snitterfield.com or telephone him on 731380



Finally, why not make www.snitterfield.com/links.htm your homepage. With no pop ups to irritate or intimidate you, you have easy access to village information, while still being able to surf the web by using the link to Google, or buy at Amazon or Ebay. If you feel other links should be included in this page just contact us as above and we'll see what we can do.

NOTE: If any-one would like to receive a copy of SNIPE by email, or have one sent to someone else, please contact studio@smart-works.co.uk and we will forward an Acrobat pdf. A donation to SNIPE funds is requested for this service, which will help to cover our costs.

BOB GUEST reports on progress of the hedgerow survey

LOCAL HEDGEROWS

The Spring 2004 edition of SNIPE carried an article entitled **OUR LIVING FENCES**, in which attention was drawn to the fact that the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) and Warwickshire CPRE had begun a survey of the county's hedgerows.



The survey is being undertaken by volunteers with small groups and individuals focussing on their local areas. The Snitterfield Conservation Group is one such group, and the Conservation Manager from the WWT's Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve conducted a training session for the Group on 26 May 2004.

Attended by some twenty five people, the session began with an explanatory talk, and this was followed by a visit to local hedgerows in order to gain practical experience.

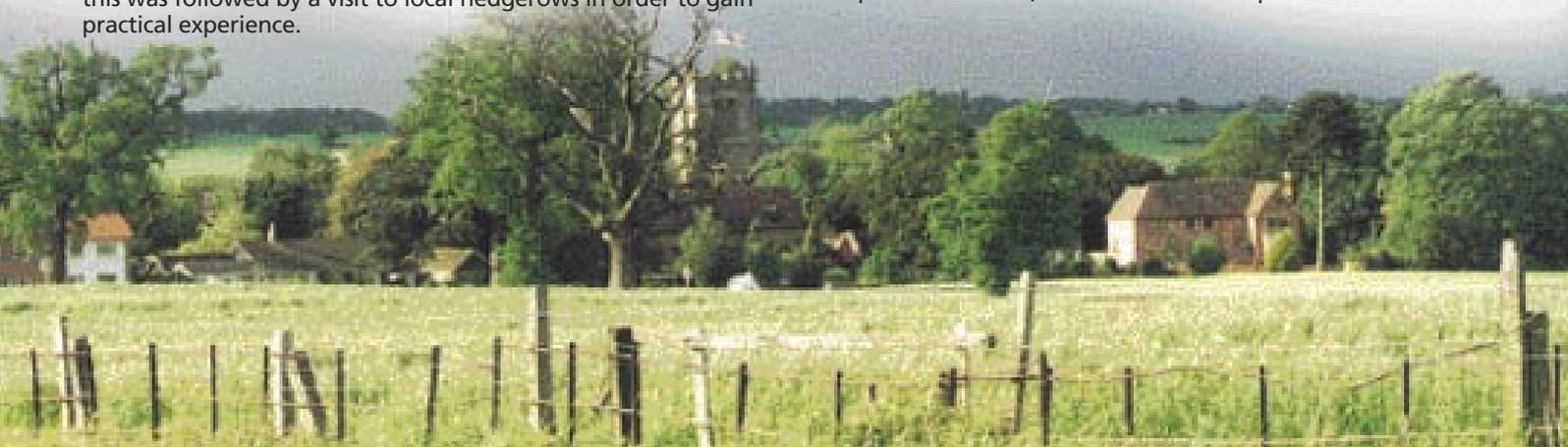
For the purpose of the survey factors to be taken into account include the following:

- Overall dimensions of hedges ie. length, height and width.
- Structure ie. whether hedges are maintained, sidecut, laid, outgrown, undergrazed, coppiced or linear (merely, a line of trees).
- Existence, or otherwise, of adjacent banks or ditches.
- Number of woody species present ie. shrubs and tree species, and whether they are dominant, common or rare.
- Woodland ground flora species to be found, ranging from bluebells to yellow pimpernels.

Emphasis was placed by the Conservation Manager on the importance of obtaining the permission of landowners before any survey can begin, and this will be one of the first priorities of the Conservation Group over the coming months.

The next meeting of the group will be on Saturday, 11 September 2004, when a workshop will be held at 1.30pm in the Graham Simons' room beside the Church of St James the Great in Church Road. Following a review of progress to date, plans for implementation of the survey will be discussed.

Anyone willing to help with the survey will be most welcome to attend. Further particulars may be obtained from the Group's co-ordinator, Ken Chatland - telephone 01789 731380.



DON'T MISS SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER APPLE DAY & HARVEST FAIR
 10AM-5PM AT MARY ARDEN'S HOUSE, WILMCOTE

The world famous Shakespeare Houses are on your doorstep, but have you signed our visitors' book yet?



www.shakespeare.org.uk



Buy a five house ticket VALID FOR AN UNLIMITED PERIOD for just

£10

per adult. A saving of MORE THAN £14 on single entrance prices

- To take advantage of this offer simply bring this voucher to Shakespeare's Birthplace, Henley St, Stratford-upon-Avon
- One voucher valid per household or party
- Valid for one visit to each house
- Offer expires 31 December 2004
- Tickets for this special offer can only be purchased at Shakespeare's Birthplace

SNIFE 08/04

A MODERN VOICE FOR WOMEN



The Women's Institute has had a place in the lives of so many women over the years, being a safe and friendly environment to enjoy ourselves whilst widening our knowledge and being involved with our community.

At present we have 35 members, quite a small number compared to the size of the village, and we would like more of you to come and join us.

You may think it is for 'older' people and indeed we do have some wonderful senior citizens among our members, but the actual age you can join is 14!

Every month we have either a speaker or an event. Talks are always interesting and informative and cover a huge range of subjects; the business is short and the refreshments delicious.

You may not know that our Warwickshire Federation arranges trips, sporting events and holidays. There is also a beautiful country house college where you can attend short courses from art to computing or photography to yoga.

So, where are all Snitterfield's young women, the working mums and the 40+ ladies?

Why not come to our open meeting in the Village Hall on 8 September, you will find a warm welcome and more to the W.I. than you realised. The more members we have the more we can offer and the more friends you will make.

**For more information contact
 Lindsay on 730276 or Jean on 731574**

Sniper's Corner

SMOKE SCREEN

Several times this year my garden and the road outside have been filled with thick smelly smoke. People seem to prefer warm sunny days to light bonfires and cause maximum annoyance. I am told that unsociable bonfires are lit on a daily basis in Bell Lane. There are official bonfire guidelines- which include: Only burn dry material; Avoid lighting a fire in unsuitable conditions - smoke hangs in the air on damp or still days and in the evening, if it is windy smoke is blown into neighbours gardens, houses and across roads; Avoid burning at weekends and bank holidays when people want to enjoy their gardens. There is an NSCA leaflet available for further information, phone 01273 878770.

Lighting a bonfire is not necessary these days. There are plenty of alternative methods which will not annoy neighbours. Using a composter has the added benefit of free compost for the garden. Value for money composters are available from Warwickshire County Council for just £11. Tel 0870 8494873. Garden waste can be taken to the landfill site at Bishopton. SB

