

Sulgrave News



February 2008

Spring is in the air!

For spring read a double dose of romance and quadrennial birthday celebrations! So if you are involved in any, or all, of these three events I hope you have a lovely time. If your not, you might want to work out what you can do with the extra day! As the days are already noticeably longer maybe you can get to work in the garden, or undertake one of the Sulgrave walks that are published on the village website.

I'm very sorry to hear about Shrimp's double tragedy. All I can say is that I have got, unscathed, somehow, to an age when you realise what dangerous machines we all jump into every day, and speeding in quiet county villages is so reckless (no footpaths, animals, horses, etc.). Unfortunately parts of Sulgrave lie on a through route with all that this brings. Watch out for the radar gun coming shortly, maybe this will have some effect, or perhaps humps, or bottle necks of some sort might do the trick.

I have achieved gainful employment once again, doing a mundane office job, but in an interesting environment, surrounded by Aston Martins in various stages of construction! Perhaps the contrast of this with the paragraph above is a fitting expression for the state of mankind in the 21st century; 'seduced by drugs of all kinds without regard for the consequences'.

As usual a reminder about the email address for the Sulgrave Newsletter.

newsletter@84f.com

Deadline for the March newsletter - 22nd. February.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER CAN BE LEFT AT THE VILLAGE SHOP.

Could I remind all contributors to provide a name and contact number with their articles- Thanks



Tom Cockeram, editor

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This Newsletter is an independent publication, edited and compiled by Tom Cockeram. It is delivered free of charge to all houses in Sulgrave and Stutchbury by Ann & Peter Mackness, George Metcalfe and Vera Smith. Costs are met by Sulgrave Parish Council. It is provided as a service to the community and those involved in its production cannot accept responsibility for omissions and errors, or necessarily agree with its contents.

Regular Events

Mums & Tots	Every Friday in the Church Hall, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
BB&C Service	2nd Sunday of the month at Culworth Church, 11:00 am
Book Club	4th Monday of each month at the Star Inn, 8:00 pm
Circle Dancing	3rd Thursday of the month at Culworth, 7:30 pm
W.I.	2nd Wednesday of each month at the Church Hall, 7:30 pm

Toddler Spring Bazaar

Sulgrave Church Hall

Saturday 1st March

10.30am -12.30pm

Cakes, Bric aBrac, Toys, Books, Cards, Children's lucky dip, Tombola, Raffle, teas and coffee and lots more

Please don't throw out those unwanted Christmas presents!

All donations to Lis Stuart, Claire Purves, Caron Mumford and Sue Waite.

Church

Christmas seems t be a distant memory now, but I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who took part in our Carol Service on 23rd December. There is something intrinsically comforting about a traditional carol service, the familiar words of the carols and the readings, and the sight of the figures in the Nativity scene. It's an oasis of calm amid all the commercialism that has pervaded our lives. Thank you to all those who took part, particularly our readers, so clear and confident, those who arranged the figures by the crib, and the collectors.

Shrimp

Carol Service

Our Carol Service just before Christmas Eve was as well attended as ever, with the young children, to whom considerable credit is due, providing the service supported by 'children' of all ages, viz., Mums, Dads, Aunts, Uncles and Grand Parents! Shrimp and Chris would like to thank all who took part and to let you know that the collection in support of the Burma Children's Fund amounted to £235.70 – a most generous response, and one which will give splendid support to Burmese children of all races and religions who are suffering so much at the present time.

Chis Beck

Women's Institute

Last month Marion Money gave us a talk about the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. We were pleased to welcome visitors to hear her outline the work of this vital Service, funded by charity donations, and manned in the most part by medical and paramedical volunteers.

The subject for our February meeting is "Waddesdon Manor". The speaker is Diana Stone, one time resident of Sulgrave, and the wife of Tom, Sulgrave's newsletter editor. Diana works at Waddesdon Manor so I'm sure she'll have a lot of interesting things to tell us. Do come - you'll be very welcome.

Ann Mackness

A Big Thank You

A thank you to Christopher Whiteman, good neighbours, kind friends and not to be forgotten caring ladies of the shop,, for all their good wishes for my recovery to good health following my rather sudden visit to hospital over the New Year.

I now feel much better and hope to be in circulation on the near future. *Joan Gascoigne*

Speed Kills

For those who live on the Helmdon Road, we have always been aware of the amount of traffic that rushes past. Too often the speed limit is not adhered to. Just stepping out of the front door can be hazardous, as buses, trucks and cars whiz past. At the beginning of January, we lost two cats within three days, both hit by speeding cars. For us it was devastating and very upsetting. For some – it's only a cat – but a cat today could be a child tomorrow. Please, please, adhere to the speed limit. It's there for a purpose. *Shrimp*

Grand Open Day

This year we are planning to hold a Grand Open Day in the village towards the end of June. If there is anyone who would be willing to help, or bring suggestions we hope to hold a meeting on 27th February (Wed.) to discuss arrangements. Hopefully it will be as much fun and as successful as the last one we held in 2005.

Please ring Anne on 760634, or Shrimp on 760214 if you can make a contribution towards the arrangements.

Wanted a loving home for a lovely old floor standing, high quality beech embroidery frame. Suitable for canvas work or cross stitch etc. Banish those funny shaped squares that never seem to regain their right angles and invest in this heirloom!

Overall dimensions of frame: height 92 cm, width 72 cm, depth 70 cm.

Canvas frame - working space dimensions: width 60 cm x 56cm (NB the canvas will of course be rolled around the top and bottom bars so the canvas size can be bigger than this)

For further details contact Ingram Lloyd: 01295 760520. Donations to St James the Less.

Sulgrave Parish Council

Chairman: Mr G Robert, Westfield, Park Lane, Sulgrave, Oxon, OX17 2RX

Parish Clerk: Mrs C Coles, 55 Gillett Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 0DR,
Tel No 01295 276229, Fax No 01295 276658,
Email colesnccj@btinternet.com

In addition to the above, the Parish Council is made up of the following members:

Vice-Chairman – Cllr David Kellett (07747 808574) Cllr Clare Pollak (01295 768224)

Cllr Jane Osborne (07879 624375) Cllr Jo Powell (01295 768243)

Cllr Andrew Waite (07787 502260)

Notes from Parish Council Meeting held 10th January 2008

Introduction

The Chairman asked everyone to stand for a minutes silence to remember Emma Cave. He then wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed those present to the first meeting of 2008.

Confirmation of minutes of last meeting held on 15th November 2007

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record. These were proposed by Cllr Powell and seconded by Cllr Waite.

Sulgrave Parish Council (Continued)

Councillors Reports

Community Speed Update

Cllr Powell has met with PC John McQuade. He has suggested three places in the village for using the speed gun. In Cllr Powell's driveway facing up the village, at the Stocks facing both ways and outside Eagles House facing both ways. 10 volunteers are needed and the village will share the gun for 3-6 weeks with another village. 3 people are needed at each place and training will be in house at Northampton for 2 and a half hours just before the gun is available so that the information is not forgotten too quickly. A notice will be put in the newsletter and on telegraph poles. Jane Lockwood has volunteered herself to help.

Setting of budget for 2008/9

The budget for 2008/9 was then presented as follows:

Cost Centre	Budget
Public Lighting	£875.00
Village Mowing	£2000.00
Pocket Park Inspection	£65.00
Pocket Park Maintenance	£500.00
Communication (Broadband costs)	£60.00
Village Maintenance	
Allotments	£200.00
Castle Green	£100.00
Stocks/Trees	£100.00
Church Hall Hire	£250.00
Church Clock Maintenance	£100.00
Section 137 - Subscriptions	£170.00
Audit	£480.00
Employee Costs (Salary/Travel)	£1980.00
General Admin (Postage/Copying/Fax)	£400.00
Insurance	£750.00
Sub Total	£8030.00
+ 50% of the total annuity payment of Public Works Loan for Community Shop and Post Office	£1358.00
Level of Spend	£9388.00
Contingency	£200.00
Total	£9588.00

It was agreed that £3K from the Community Fund be moved into the Bank of Ireland reserves to gain interest. The Clerk would review the balance in the community account again in April once the first precept payment has been paid in.

Update on Underground Cabling

Cllr Roberts had tried to get an update for this meeting but was unsuccessful. He agreed to send a letter to Central Networks asking them to address the following points:

1. Extra demand on the system.
2. To clarify the exact age of the system, is it far older than what is being said.
3. Why are the cables being placed underground in certain parts and not throughout the village.
4. The level of consistency in appearance of Conservation Area.

From the floor Mrs Barrett suggested that a petition is sent from the residents as they pay the bills and have to suffer the power cuts when they happen.

Sulgrave Parish Council (Continued)

Update on work on Castle Green Restoration Project

Cllr Pollak gave a progress report on the Castle Green Restoration Project.

Benches

An advert has been placed in the January newsletter and it is hoped there will be a response.

Geophysical Survey and Watching Brief Reports

A report has been received from Northants Archaeology. It did not arrive in time for the Archaeologist Richard Ivens to include in his Watching Brief report on the wall and access path. It is hoped that both reports will be available to download from the website fairly soon. Copies can be loaned to anyone who does not have access to the internet.

The Wall Restoration Project

The Wall

- The snag list mentioned in the last report was passed to Rhodes Partnership. Some of the items have been carried out but many have not. The mortar used in the hen and chick capping to the wall has started to flake off possibly due to frost damage. A meeting was held with Cecil Rhodes and they were in agreement about the snags that were not completed. He also agreed that the hen & chick was unsatisfactory but he recommended that it should be left until the Spring when the danger of frost is over.
- The Steps which were built to a different design to the drawings were inspected. Cllr's Waite and Roberts and members of the Castle Green Committee agreed that the design was satisfactory but defects in workmanship were identified.
- On 27th November Cllr Pollak was informed that the Director of Underwood and Weston had sacked most of the workmen when he saw the defects on the steps. These have been put right and the handrails were ready for inspection by Rhodes on 18th December. Cecil agreed that the projecting ends at the bottom of the steps could be hit by passing cars.
- On 21st December, Cllrs Roberts, Waite and Pollak carried out an inspection of the steps and handrails. Cllrs Waite and Roberts identified some safety concerns which will be raised with Cecil Rhodes.

Finances

The second tranche of funding has been received from HLF. Invoices for £6500 from Underwood and Weston and £2250 from Rhodes Partners were received before Christmas. This week one was received from Northants Archaeology for £900. These have not been paid.

Permissive Path

A draft agreement has been drawn up by Lewis Thomas and has been emailed to the Pollak solicitor for his opinion. It has been suggested that half the cost should be borne by the Parish Council and half by HLF. It is likely to be no more than £100 to £200. The Parish Council agreed to share the costs as there would be benefits to them such as use of the permissive path and completion of the project.

From the floor Mr Cave felt that all this work was a remarkable achievement and had made a huge difference to the area. Cllr Pollak thanked him and replied that although Emma was not able to see the wall completed, she had seen some of the work that had been taking place to build it.

Sulgrave Parish Council (Continued)

Update on Pocket Park

Cllr Kellett noted that a small working party did some work in the Pocket Park before Christmas. The hedge at the front has been cut down. Cllr Waite noted that this work had made a big difference to the area.

More work would be done in February when the weather starts to improve.

Correspondence

- The Chair had received a letter from Mr and Mrs Mackness of Magpie Road as they are unable to continue delivering the newsletter from March. They have been doing this work for over five years and a huge vote of thanks was given to them. The newsletter is a valuable communication tool that villagers like to read. A couple of other villagers have put themselves forward as replacements, Janet Smith, Jill and Anthony Barrett and Jane Lockwood.

Finance Report

a) Cheques

The following payments were approved:-

£27.00	Parish Clerk (in lieu of payment for remembrance flowers)
£528.75	R & D Landscapes (grass cutting)
£77.62	ABB Lighting
£151.48	EON (electric)
£50.00	Parish Clerk (float)
£205.65	Parish Clerk (hours)
£21.08	Parish Clerk (mileage)
£43.66	BT (fax)

Open Forum

- Mrs Barrett noted that Emma Cave would have liked a bench to be put on Castle Green with a plaque, currently stored in her garage that she saved from another old bench. Mr Cave asked the cost of the bench and replied he would consider contributing towards it.
- Mr A Cave asked the councillors if they had any objections to wind farms in the area. It would provide cheaper electricity for the village but would have a visual impact. In the discussion that followed it was noted that it was a matter that clearly would need planning consent and would require serious consideration by any parties affected. There was some agreement that this method of generating electricity was encouraged by government and the meeting was made aware of a project in Oxfordshire where a local community had undertaken such a project. The councillors asked if more information could be made available. They would be in favour of investigating further as long as it was approached in the right way and a proper consultation was undertaken.

Date and Time of next meeting

Thursday 7th February 2008 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

january 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 Mums & Tots 1:30 pm Church Hall	2	3 Benefice Holy Communion 10:00 am Sulgrave
4	5	6	7 Parish Council 7:30 pm Church Hall	8 Mums & Tots 1:30 pm Church Hall	9	10 Holy Communion 8:15 am Sulgrave
11	12	13 W.I. Meeting 7:30pm Church Hall	14 Valentines Day Circle Dancing 7:30 pm Culworth	15 Mums & Tots 1:30 pm Church Hall	16	17 Evensong 6:00 pm Sulgrave
18	19	20	21	22 Mums & Tots 1:30pm Church Hall	23	24 Mattins 10:00 am Sulgrave
25 Book Club 8:00 pm The Star	26	27	28	29 Mums & Tots 1:30pm Church Hall		

Do something.
Marry Me!



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