

Sulgrave News

Sulgrave Gardens - A big "Thank you"

On a dry and sunny Sunday afternoon in June, six Sulgrave gardens opened for the National Garden Scheme. Nearly 400 paying visitors came to visit on the 14th. There were two other private group visits raising a further £274 and a total of £2488.70 was raised for the scheme.

I have enquired from the county treasurer how we stand in the league of amounts raised to date. Sulgrave gardens raised more than all previous years and that we are in about 4th or 5th position of the county's 2009 takings. Thank you for all those who visited.

Of course no successful event can run without tea and cake, especially the famous lemon sponge! We give Jean Garton a very special "thank you" for doing such a wonderful job with teas. In case any of you are in any doubt as to what she has done so successfully for eight opening, the first in 1995, this is how it goes: She bakes cakes and organizes her rota of washer ups, tea pourers, money takers, as well as liaising with Roger for the use of Church Hall tables and chairs. She also organizes the borrowing of cups and saucers from the Church. More asking, this time from the Manor who have always been very generous and donate cakes for the teas. All these things need delivering to the Cottage which she also organizes. On the day there is another army of gazebo assemblers and furniture collectors and placers. Then of course it all needs to be put back and only then can her own home be restored to normal. Sadly for us, Jean thinks that this may have been the last time that she will undertake this mammoth task, so if any one feels brave enough to take on this role for 2111 do contact me.

During the run up, I was trying to find helpers for other jobs and kept being told, "Oh so sorry but we are helping Jean". So of course another thank you to all who helped with teas and other tasks.

Many thanks to all the garden openers: Jean and Bob Bates at Sunnymead, Gillie Clegg at Eagle House, The Herb Society garden, Alison and Digby Lewis at Threeways, Hywel and Ingram Lloyd at Church Cottage, David and Judith Thompson at Mill Hollow Barn, Anthony and Jacqueline Todd at The Water Mill.

These other people were also vital to the opening and a thank you to them: car parkers, Castle Green committee, Roger Cherry, the Manor and sign erectors.

The Village Shop was open for duration the visit, manned by Ken and Shrimp Christy. I think that they took a further £100 so it seems to have been a successful venture all round.

If you would like your garden to be part of the 2111 opening please contact me, we are very interested in ringing the changes and you don't need to worry about the odd weed! Ingram Lloyd

Charities supported by the NGS; Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Help the Hospices, Crossroads Caring for Carers. Also: The Queen's Nursing Institute, The National Trust, Perennial – Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society and The Royal Fund for Gardeners' Children.

August 2009

The NGS has given £25 million for charity in the last 10 years. Thank you for helping us.

Chicken Pox Strikes Back!

Well, I got to the Parish Council meeting last month, but unfortunately I came down with a bad roofing problem before the main public meeting. I would therefore like to thank Colin Wooton for his report of the meeting, which, I understand was very well attended.

There was much demand on space this month, so I hope you will excuse the text on the front page.

As usual a reminder about the email address for the Sulgrave Newsletter. It is:-

newsletter@84f.com

Deadline for the September newsletter - 21st. August.

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 Jill & Anthony Barrett, 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

- BB&C Service 2nd Sunday of the month at Culworth Church, 11:00 am
Book Club 4th Tuesday of each month at the Star Inn, 8:00 pm (not August)
Circle Dancing 3rd Thursday of the month at Culworth, 7:30 pm
Pilates Most Wednesdays Culworth 7:30 pm
Most Fridays Sulgrave Church Hall. 9:30 am & 10:30 am
W.I. 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Church Hall, 7:30 pm



A bad case of Shingles

Wind Turbines - Report on Public Meeting

On Wednesday 15th July a public meeting took place at Sulgrave Manor, to discuss the proposal to construct a wind farm in the countryside between Sulgrave and Weston. Approximately 180 people attended.

Enertrag UK, the British subsidiary of a German company, is proposing to build a wind farm comprising nine turbines in the open countryside between the villages of Sulgrave and Weston. The height of these turbines, from ground level to the tip of the rotor in an upright position would be approximately 130 metres (426 feet), some two and a half times higher than Nelson's Column. Three of these turbines would be less than 1000 metres from houses in the village and one of them would be 850 metres from Sulgrave Manor.

Enertrag UK declined to attend the meeting and Chairman of the Parish Council Graham Roberts read out a letter from them stating that the project was at an early stage. They would be carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment, the results of which would accompany their planning application to the South Northants Council.

A local member of the Northamptonshire Branch of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England then explained the views of that organisation in respect of wind turbines in the county. He worked through a number of illustrations prepared by the CPRE's wind farm adviser, which concluded that in this part of the country wind farms simply did not deliver the carbon saving generation of electricity which was claimed for them.

Projected images detailing the probable visual impact of the nine turbines on the landscape around the village were then shown, with an explanation of the methodology employed in their preparation with particular regard to the need to avoid exaggeration.

The planning officer who is dealing with the project for South Northamptonshire District Council, then set out the current status of the project from the Council's point of view and outlined the planning process which would be followed. He expected that the Environmental Assessment work to be undertaken by Enertrag would take about a year. When the application is received by the Council, consultations will take place with all affected parties and interested organisations. These will include Sulgrave Parish Council and at that stage the parish councillors will collectively decide on a view to be submitted to the South Northants Council. This process would probably take some months and when all the necessary information was to hand the planning officers would report to the South Northamptonshire Council Planning Committee who would decide whether to approve it (with or without conditions) or refuse it. In the event of a refusal it was likely that Enertrag would lodge an appeal and it was almost certain that this appeal would be determined by an inquiry heard by a government Inspector. He would weigh the evidence and make recommendations to the Secretary of State (for Communities and Local Government) who would make the final decision.

The chairman then invited those present to ask questions or to give their views on the project.

A member of the Sulgrave Manor Board, said that he was appalled at the visual impact of the proposed turbines on the landscape setting of the Manor, with nine 130 metres turbines, the nearest of which would be only 850 metres from the Manor. The Manor Board would most certainly object to the proposal.

A good deal of concern was expressed by a number of speakers as to the effect of the turbines on horses and their riders. It was estimated that there are at least fifty horses in the village and a resident who runs a stables in Sulgrave said that it would be impossible to ride safely anywhere near the turbines and the proposal would affect his business very badly indeed.

Other speakers emphasised their concern as to the proximity of the turbines to the village itself, and to the local minor roads, bridleways and footpaths. One individual said that the turbines he had seen were largely on moorland and other areas remote from habitations and he asked if there was a precedent for nine turbines being located so close to two small villages. The chairman said that he would look into this matter and try to provide an answer in due course.

There was a good deal of puzzlement as to why the Sulgrave/Weston area had been chosen as a wind farm site in an area not apparently particularly windy and certainly lacking in any infrastructure to support such a large enterprise. The best answer which could be given was that the developers seemed to have no special locational criteria and were content to plan wind farms wherever they could reach a financial agreement with the land owner.

A lifetime resident of the village then gave his views, saying that the proposal should be resisted as vigorously as possible since it would be a completely out of scale intrusion into the local unspoilt landscape, with no tangible benefits to the community and a negligible contribution to the cause of carbon saving electricity generation.

The chairman then called for a show of hands. All those opposed to the construction of the Sulgrave/Weston wind farm were asked to raise their hands and a significant majority of those present did so. He then asked for those supporting the project to raise their hands and two persons did so.

In concluding the meeting, the Chairman said that the Parish Council had now done everything it could to present the facts to the parishioners in as unbiased a way as possible. The next formal action by the Parish Council would be in commenting on the planning application as and when it is made to the South Northamptonshire Council. Since the mood of the meeting was clearly to oppose the project, it would be up to the community to form an action group which could take all the necessary steps to structure that opposition throughout the various stages from the scoping report, to the planning application and to the public inquiry which was likely to follow.

Colin Wooton

From the management committee of
SULGRAVE VILLAGE SHOP ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Thank you for the excellent attendance at the Annual General Meeting held in the Church Hall on 16th July at which the following were elected to serve on the management committee:

Neil Johnston
Kirstie Lawrence
Alison Lewis
Kevin Moore
Jan Prior
Robin Prior
Joanna Smyth-Osbourne

Ken Christy, who was unable to attend, resigned from the committee after five years of dedicated service. As Chairman of the Parish Council, it was Ken who provided the inspiration and leadership that put a shop back into our village. We all extend heartfelt thanks and best wishes to him.

We look forward to the future of the shop with renewed confidence gained from the tremendous support that it receives from its many volunteers and friends.

**SULGRAVE VILLAGE SHOP
QUALITY, VALUE AND SERVICE**

Sulgrave Women's Institute

In August we have two meetings our normal monthly meeting on 12th August when Mrs Carol Tomes will be speaking about 'Lingerie through the ages'.

On 19th August we have a social evening enjoying Pate, Poetry and Punch.

Our July meeting was our annual picnic which was held at Sulgrave Manor, after we had eaten our picnic in the buttery; Jenny Overson gave a very interesting talk on the Embroideries in the Manor. We then were taken into the Manor to see the work she had spoken about.

One member and husband recently enjoyed the Northamptonshire County Federation trip to Sandringham viewing the gardens and visiting the museum.

Two members and their husbands also attended the County Art Exhibition, where fellow Northamptonshire members work was on display.

Next year we will be celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the WI. in Sulgrave and throughout this has been a very important organisation within the village. Currently we have eighteen members and would like to welcome some new members so come along and join us. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday in the month at 7 30p.m. in Sulgrave Church Hall.

Margaret Watts

TEA AT 3



On Sunday 16th August Ronnie & Roly Langdon of Stone Court, Helmdon Road will be having a private family lunch but with the intention of rolling this into a fund raising event for Helen & Douglas House Hospice, under their 'Tea at 3' theme.

So, if the weather is kind and you have the inclination to join us for a cup of tea and cake between 15.00hrs and 16.00hrs we will be very pleased to welcome you to Stone Court, where we are sure you will enjoy the company of many friends.

SULGRAVE VILLAGE SHOP

**THE POST OFFICE SECTION WILL BE CLOSED
FOR ANNUAL STAFF HOLIDAY**

From FRIDAY, 28th AUGUST

To FRIDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER

(inclusive)

**We apologies for being unable to provide a Post Office service
during this period**

Normal weekly Post Office Hours will recommence from

8th SEPTEMBER 2009, as follows:

| | | | |
|--|--------|----|--------|
| Tuesdays | 9.00am | to | 3.00pm |
| Wednesdays | 9.00am | to | 1.00pm |
| Thursdays | 9.00am | to | 1.00pm |
| (and when David Bolton is on the premises) | | | |
| Fridays | 9.00am | to | 1.00pm |

The shop remains "open all hours"
QUALITY, VALUE AND SERVICE

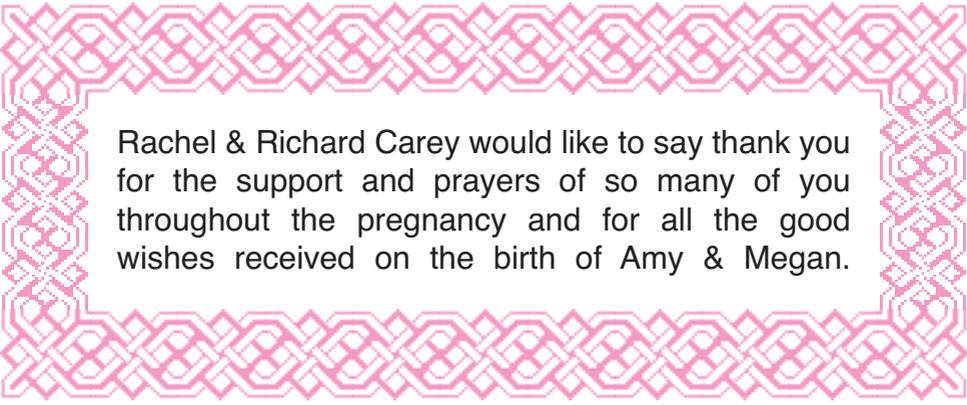
Sulgrave Charities

If you are seeking funding for a particular project have you considered approaching Sulgrave Charities?

Small grants available to students and children for educational purposes.

All written applications reasonably considered.

Apply to:- James Garnett (Sulgrave Charities),
Dove Cottage, Sulgrave, OX17 2RP



Rachel & Richard Carey would like to say thank you for the support and prayers of so many of you throughout the pregnancy and for all the good wishes received on the birth of Amy & Megan.

Sulgrave Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr Graham Robert, Westfield, Park Lane, Sulgrave, OX17 @RX (07778 584108)
Vice Chairman: Vice-Chairman – Cllr David Kellett (07747 808574)
Parish Clerk: Mrs Christine Coles, 55 Gillett Road, Banbury, OX16 0DR (tel. 01295 276229; fax. 01295 276658; email colesnccj@btinternet.com)
Cllr Clare Pollak (01295 768224)
Cllr Jane Osborne (07879 624375)
Cllr Jo Powell (01295 768243)
Cllr Andrew Waite (07787 502260)

Draft Notes from Parish Council Meeting held 9th July 2009

Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Confirmation of minutes of last meeting held on 11th June 2009

Two minor amendments were made to the minutes. They were then agreed and signed as a true record. These were proposed by Cllr Waite and seconded by Cllr Powell.

Update on application by Enertrag for Wind Farm

There has been some activity since the last council meeting. Cllr Roberts visited the wind farm in Norfolk several weeks ago with Colin Wootton and Janet Smith. They were met by the Project Manager and showed around the site.

The wind farm is situated on a brownfield site, a disused airfield and turkey farm, which is quite different from the proposed site near Sulgrave, and there was limited visual impact from the local village of North Pickenham. The Enertrag representatives explained issues that arose with construction and building and the parish representatives listened to the turbines which were generating electricity from wind at the time of their visit. Since then Colin Wootton has been able to generate photos to scale to help the village understand the impact of the issue which are on the village website for information.

An informal meeting was held on 30.06.09 with local villages, Moreton Pinkney, Weston,

Helmdon, Culworth and Wappenham to understand the issues that will impact the community of those closest to it and discussions have also taken place with the Planning Officer at SNC, CPRE, English Nature and English Heritage.

An open meeting has been planned for Wednesday 15th July at Sulgrave Manor at 7.30pm. This will be an opportunity to make public the information that has been collected. The current attendees are Cllr Ben Smith, Planning Officer from NCC, Richard Amor, SNC Planning Officer, Enertrag (although they have declined) and CPRE (unfortunately the rep is very ill).

Cllr Waite asked when would the SNC Planning Officer be writing to Enertrag with the Scoping Opinion? The Chair replied they have had to consult a lot of people and are currently waiting for replies from NCC Highways and English Nature. Cllr Waite felt that the Parish Council could influence the Scoping Opinion as they are able to assess the visual impact. The Chair agreed that the Parish Council would be entitled to draw attention to these issues. The Parish Council have not prepared any letters yet but could do so after the Open Meeting. Cllr Pollak noted that this was a recommendation from English Heritage.

Mr Prior asked what the objectives and outcome of the Open Meeting would be? The Chair replied that the objective is to impart all the information gained to date to the community and other parties. It allows a forum for a sensible discussion. The Parish Council have a duty to the village to inform them of circumstances which could impact their village at a later date. Cllr Roberts has agreed to act as Chair for the evening as he has to remain impartial due to his position on the Parish Council.

A villager asked about the timescale of the application. The Environmental Impact Assessment could take between 12-15 months to complete as it has to cover the four seasons of the year. The impact on vision/noise/nature and wildlife would be looked at during this time. An application is then submitted to SNC who would have eight weeks to respond. The Parish Council will have three weeks to look at the application and give their response. An application will also be submitted to put up a meteorological mast which will look at wind speed.

Mr Cockeram reported on a planning meeting that he was involved in some time ago in Redditch. The Planning Officer has to be impartial but also reports on the legal part of the application. This particular application went to a council meeting and community members were called upon to make presentations.

The Chair noted that the Planning Officer will be conscious of his responsibilities in relation to environment/government requirements and targets. Enertrag have already said that they expect their applications to be refused by District Council's. If rejected the application could go to appeal. The Parish Council may not be involved unless they are called to give evidence.

This concluded the discussion on the wind farm and the next step would be to hold the Open Meeting.

Councillors Reports

Pocket Park

Cllr Osborne reported that the Pocket Park Committee have met and decided to focus on three main areas, pond and wildlife, play equipment for the under 7's and play area for the over 7's. Someone is coming to see them from Greens Norton as they have been

able to obtain funding of £20K. In their experience Parish Councils are not very successful in securing funding. The Pocket Park Committee would like to set up a Pocket Park Trust and elect a Chair and Treasurer. They will be writing to the Parish Council for permission to do this. Once the trust is set up money raised from the fete will be transferred to the Pocket Park Trust. Accounts will be reported separately at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Mrs Coverley had met George Metcalfe who has given good advice about the pond. He has made a path and cut some trees. He would like to be involved in the work. Mr Coverley also saw George who cleared the signs by the gate and pond which were obscured with bushes. George has suggested that the hedge by the gate is cut to chest height so that people can see over the gate. Mrs Barrett of Towrise was not able to attend the meeting but has agreed to provide a power point. George has also suggested that the path is widened towards the pond and is made accessible in two places. Cllr Kellett felt the hedge by the gate should be cut and access to the pond should be made.

However the water levels are high and banks are soft. George has offered to give more advice and in the Autumn, a working party could be formed to clear the pond and see where the edges are. Mrs Coverley spoke of the litter bin as it is currently used to store dog mess.

The Clerk to pass the recent inspection report of Pocket Park to Cllr Osborne.

Community Speedwatch

Cllr Powell has received the 'Watch Your Speed' Signs from Northants Police which can be put up between 29th June and 10th August. They can be placed on either lamp columns or trees and must be placed high enough not to cause injury to anyone. Cllr Powell has walked around the village but cannot find anywhere suitable to place them. The Chair agreed to walk around with her as he has thought of a few places.

Castle Green

Wall Rebuilding

Cllr Pollak was pleased to report that Underwood and Weston have been working on the wall since 17.06.09. There have been some concerns about the quality of workmanship but they are making a much better job this time. Some of the new mortar was not protected with layers of hessian and this was noted and raised with Rhodes Partners. Cecil Rhodes visited the site on 9th July and reports that they hope to finish in a weeks time. A site inspection is to be arranged to draw up a final snagging list.

Risk Assessment

John Hicks conducted a risk assessment on the Green on 21st June and has sent in his report. This will be discussed at the next Castle Green meeting.

Wildlife Survey

Officers from the Wildlife Trust conducted a survey of the flora and some fauna on the Castle Green, Castle Mound and the churchyard and they are awaiting the report. It may be possible for them to carry out a survey of the bats as well. They will make recommendations for managing the various habitats.

Field Use Survey

A representative of the Northants Volunteer Service Support Unit will be inspecting the

site soon. There have been 12 responses to the Field Use Survey so far, the deadline is the end of July. NVSS provided funding for the project and they have to report back on the survey results to the Government.

Finance Report

Cheques for approval - The following payments were approved and cheques raised accordingly. They were proposed by Cllr Osborne and seconded by Cllr Pollak:-

| | |
|---------|--|
| £484.00 | Shires Gardening Services |
| £937.25 | RD Landscapes Ltd |
| £79.84 | EON (street lighting) |
| £46.11 | BT (fax line) |
| £107.64 | John Hicks (Pocket Park inspection & risk assessment Castle Green) |
| £124.67 | Bob Woolmer Sales Ltd (repair of goal posts) |

The council discussed the invoice for Shires Gardening Services which had been submitted last month for payment. Shires had originally charged £544 but it was felt this was too much to pay as there had been a lot of problems with the contractor. It was agreed that £60.00 would be taken off the invoice as this is the additional charge that Philip Daynes has added to his invoice when he took over the contract in May. A new cheque for £484.00 would be paid to Shires Gardening Services.

Correspondence

A letter was received from Jill Barrett who had been able to get a quotation for damage that had been done to the 5 a side goal posts in Pocket Park. The anchors were torn out and nets damaged. The quotation from Bob Woolmer Sales Ltd is for £124.67. Cllr Osborne proposed that this money be spent and this was seconded by Cllr Pollak. All the councillors voted in favour. The Clerk to write to Bob Woolmer Sales and send payment.

Open Forum

Mrs Wootton asked if the Beech Trees on the Green could be pruned as they are very big. Gardens situated close to the trees are dark and full of leaves. The Parish Council would write to Ian Lorman, Tree Officer of SNC first for advice.

Mrs Prior asked if the verge outside of Cllr Pollaks house could be cut back as it was covering the path. Cllr Pollak noted that she would be cutting it.

Mrs Coverley reported the hedge down Madams Close via the Manor Road entrance which is very overgrown. The Chair had noticed it too. Mr Prior suggested that the Footpath Warden, Digby Lewis may be able to help. The Chair/Cllr Pollak to make contact with him.

Cllr Powell spoke about the grass reseeding that Central Networks had done after carrying out the underground cabling recently. There are still odd patches which have not taken so well. The Chair to chase Central Networks and he and Cllr Powell to look at the areas together.

Date and Time of next meeting

No meeting will be held in August due to holiday time. Next meeting is 10th September 2009 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

August 2009

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---------|--|---|--------|----------|--|
| 31 | | | | | 1 | 2 Benefice Holy Communion 10:00 am |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Holy Communion 8:15 am Sulgrave |
| 10 | 11 | 12 W.I. Meeting 7:30 pm Church Hall | 13 Circle Dancing 7:30 pm Culworth | 14 | 15 | 16 TEA at 3 Evensong 6:00 pm Sulgrave |
| 17 | 18 | 19 W.I. Social 7:30 pm Church Hall | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Mattins 10:00 am Sulgrave |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |