

Chairman's Annual Report, Castle Green Management Committee, April 2011. (Delivered by Clare Pollak in his absence.)

I hope you will agree with me that the Autumn Fair held on the Green on Sunday 5th September 2010 was a wonderful way to celebrate the completion of the Restoration and Enhancement Project. The range and variety of events encouraged participation from all ages of Sulgrave's population. The balance of fun, entertainment, and information with history and archaeology gave everyone a real sense of the value of the whole site to the Community. The project is almost complete. The final cheque has been received from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and all invoices paid, apart from a 5% retention against final Wall repairs that will be necessary following the hard winter.

A lot happened during 2010.

The year began with us still in dispute with the wall contractors, Underwood and Weston. Eventually they chose to 'walk away' from the project, thus forfeiting substantial sums of money we were withholding against their poor workmanship. Fortunately with the help of the Rhodes Partnership a new contractor F. King & Sons was engaged to complete the outstanding work. There will be a final site inspection in early May, and all frost damaged mortar will be replaced during June.

Final designs for the Information boards were agreed and commissioned, and the boards were erected in time for the Autumn Fair. The boards give a brief history of the Ancient Monument, ownership and information about use of the site.

At the Autumn Fair George Metcalfe helped children to assemble bird and bat boxes, and he has installed many of them in suitable positions around the Green, Castle Mound and Churchyard.

A leaflet was recently designed and produced, giving brief description of the acquisition of the Green, its management by the Parish Council, the Restoration Project and grateful acknowledgements to the funding bodies and their representatives who supported the whole scheme from its inception. The leaflets have been distributed to all households in the village, and will be available from the village shop and local tourist information centres.

The whole project won an accolade from the Heritage Lottery Fund, who judged our achievement as a model project of its kind.

Such praise has been well earned. Every member of the Committee deserves all our thanks for the energy, effort and skill that they have put into seeing through such a wide reaching project. Treasurer Paul Crowley [has ensured we kept to budget], Jo Powell [obtained Village Green status], Christina Shillito, [environmental aspects] Colin Wootton, [photographer, website & publicity material], Secretary Peter Pollak [organising our meetings & minutes], and major thanks to Clare Pollak, the Project co-ordinator, who kept us all on our toes, making sure we followed through our commitments to the letter, and liaising with funding bodies, contractors and Project Managers.

The Project has taken 5 years, but they have been well spent. The village now has a lovely amenity, superbly situated in a unique historical setting. Lets all enjoy it, use it and ensure that it continues to be looked after so that future generations may do the same.

Martin Sirot-Smith, Chairman, C.G.M.C.

12th April 2011

(Further comments from C. Pollak:)

'In addition I would particularly like to thank Graham for his unfailing support and leadership during the initial purchase of the Green, and especially during the protracted site meetings and negotiations with the wall contractors and the Management company, and Andrew Waite for his architectural advice, and final designs of the information boards.'