

# Sulgrave News



December 2007

# NEVER, NEVER, NEVER CHANGE COMPUTERS!

I'll never learn! Just bought a new computer. Much faster, more memory and incredibly small, but switching everything over is a nightmare, and much of the old software doesn't run! Some of the key software doesn't run!!! However we've done it in the end, and hopefully by the next newsletter things will have settled down.

Wishing everyone a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year, but if you have some good anecdotes and the odd photograph§ [something grey just hit the keyboard from 5ft (1.5 mtrs) away!] please send them in.

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

**newsletter@84f.com**

## Deadline for the January newsletter - 14th. December.

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*



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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



## THE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

For fifteen years the week before Christmas has seen the appearance of home made Christmas Decorations, variously known as "wreaths" or "garlands", tied to lamposts or telephone poles in twenty or so locations around the village.

They appear as if by magic but are, in fact, the result of a good deal of work by a dedicated band of volunteers.

Pauline Flynn describes the origins and history of these decorations as follows:

In the early 1990s a meeting was called at Joan Oakley's house (Ivy Cottage) of the Sulgrave W.I. and some church members. A big problem was foreseen at the forthcoming carol singing round the village – "How could we manage now that Emma Cave is no longer able to lead us round the roads on the back of an illuminated, decorated Wootton Builders' truck (driven by Albert Cleaver), playing an organ and looking like Santa himself?"

Well, we could certainly sing with the help of lanterns and torches and maybe the odd musical instrument, but how would we know where to stop in order to perform?

After much debate, I suggested that we might tie bunches of holly and mistletoe on certain lamp posts or buildings where appropriate. The idea was accepted and that was the beginning of what has become an annual tradition.

Our first meeting was in Dorothy Pett's kitchen (Sunnymead). Having seen the resulting debris on her floor we decided that other more suitable premises were needed! Roger and Maureen Jeffery offered the use of their barn in the garden of Harry's Cottage and this became the start of the "Barn Industry" every year until quite recently, when things moved to the Church Hall.

Our "wreaths" as we called them were now mounted on frames of chicken wire (yes, some came from old chicken sheds in the village) with local holly, conifer branches, ivy and whatever other greenery various villagers donated, along with ribbons and artificial flowers given from chocolate boxes. Roger Cherry (Dial House Farm) gave a huge bundle of binder twine for tying up the wreaths (still used today), so in fact they didn't really cost a bean!

For many years our willing workers turned out into the cold barn each December and we shared many sparkling bits of gossip along with the coffee and chocolate biscuits as we worked. The wreath makers were Ruth and Ray Fowler, Julie Metcalfe (along with a friend from Devon), Dorothy Pett, Eileen Roberts, Joyce White and myself. My husband Pat, who helped George Metcalfe to erect the wreaths round the village, sadly died in 2000 and Colin Wootton kindly stepped in.

By 2004 the years were starting to take their toll and several of the original team were no longer able to turn out. Luckily, George and Julie Metcalfe, along with Colin Wootton, were reluctant to see this lovely new custom die out so, with different villagers helping out each time but the original chicken wire frames and even the ribbons carrying on through the years, the Christmas wreaths will hopefully continue as an annual tradition in Sulgrave.



*Pauline Flynn*

## Women's Institute

Last month Sulgrave's Webmaster, Colin Wootton, treated us to a trip down Memory Lane. He displayed dozens of digitised photos that he has posted on the village website - well worth a look if you can. Images are continually added and you could well see yourself - and many familiar faces from the past and present. We enjoyed scenes from village events many years ago right up to the present day.

We plan to live up to the theme of our December meeting we have called "Tis the season to be jolly" when we sit around tables decked with festive food, enjoying lots of chatter and then maybe we'll exercise our brains with a quiz. Happy Christmas everyone! Why not come and join us in the New Year? If you do you'll be joining a very effective organisation!

Ann Mackness

## Musical Thanks

Emma, Alex and Janet Cave wish to thank all who sent us cards, flowers and good wishes for our recent celebrations.

Also a big Thank You for their generous donations of £350-00 towards the Organ Fund  
Janet Cave

## Children's Society

Many thanks to all of you that collect money in House boxes for the Children's Society. The two collections I have been responsible for have raised £419.99 for this worthy cause. Ann and Ron James have kindly agreed to help me count money from your boxes at the end of January so if you could let me have your boxes at the start of the New Year I would be most grateful (boxes may be left in the Village shop, or at my house (Garden House Manor Road) or I can collect them from you if you give me a call (760957).

Your generosity means the world to the Children's Society and the children they work with. Children like Jaime, Whose mum threw him out of home because his step-dad said he was in the way. Jaime turned to the Children's Society and has said "I wouldn't have made it through without the Children's Society. They were the only people who helped me when I was in a mess. At first I was a bit scared because everyone was so friendly - I couldn't cope with people smiling at me. But Children's Society helped turn things around for me. Now I can smile too"

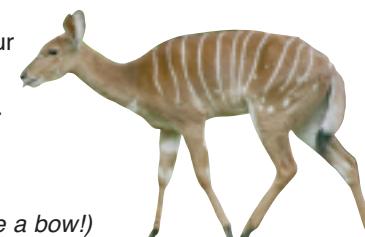
If anybody else in the village would like a box please give me a call.

Kate Miles

## A Nenigma

Last month's cover creature was perhaps beyond your Ken,  
and of course, just like November, it began with a 'N'.  
It could have been a Notter, a Nokapi, or a Nelk,  
but in fact it was a Nantelope – Nyala, of that ilk.

George Metcalfe (take a bow!)



# DECEMBER WALK

Weather permitting there will be a walk on the Sunday 9th December, when we will wander to the Crown, Weston for a Christmas Lunch and back to Sulgrave afterwards. Leaving from the Village Shop at 10.45 a.m.

There will be a notice in the village shop or on the website, if plans change.



Christina Shillito



*The Internet let me down, no picture of the Crown! - ed.*

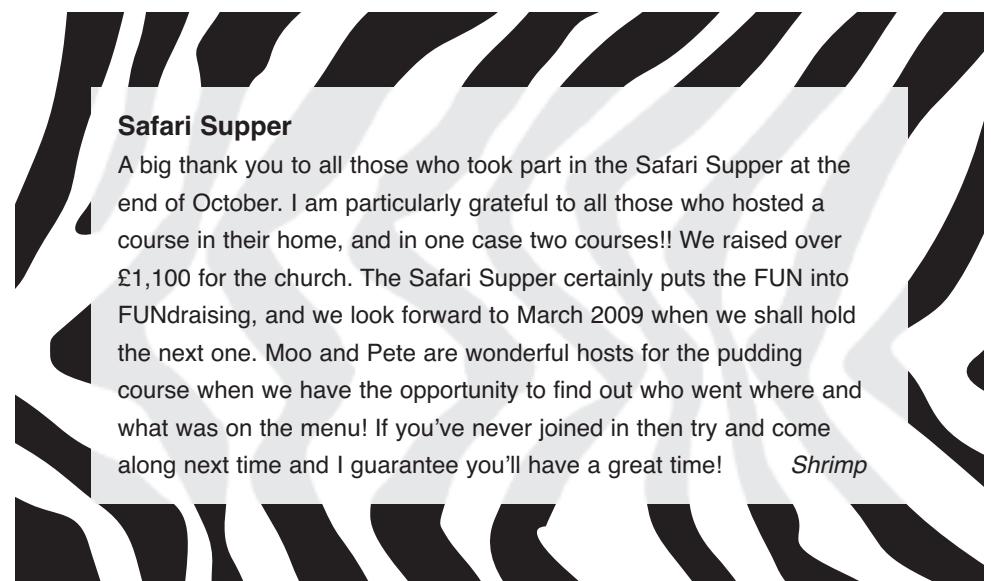
## A Recommendation

A few months ago my sister-in-law and I went to a class to make Greetings Cards. We met a group of people who were both novices and the more experienced, and enjoyed the friendly atmosphere, and with much in common learnt much from our new friends. It proved a lovely and enjoyable way to spend a few hours. Debbie who taught us is a very helpful lady and has begun running classes at outside venues. She brings along all that is needed and is open to suggestions about the type of card and scrap work to be done. All she needs is a group of people and a room.

It is much easier than you would think and great fun.

If you would be interested in such an activity in the village please call Pat Thomas (760432), or phone Debbie direct (07724064356)

Pat Thomas



## Safari Supper

A big thank you to all those who took part in the Safari Supper at the end of October. I am particularly grateful to all those who hosted a course in their home, and in one case two courses!! We raised over £1,100 for the church. The Safari Supper certainly puts the FUN into FUNdraising, and we look forward to March 2009 when we shall hold the next one. Moo and Pete are wonderful hosts for the pudding course when we have the opportunity to find out who went where and what was on the menu! If you've never joined in then try and come along next time and I guarantee you'll have a great time!

Shrimp



## Christingle Service

Our annual Christingle Service will be on Sunday, December 2nd, at 3 pm, in Sulgrave Church.

Do come and join us, as we celebrate and raise money for the Children's Society in its valuable work with young people at risk on the streets.

## The Church Christmas Bazaar

10:00 am., 8 December - Church Hall

Come along to the Church Hall on December 8th for our annual Christmas Bazaar. It's an opportunity to purchase last minute cards and presents. Cushions and Covered Coat-Hangers will abound as well as Cyclamens, bulbs, Christmas Decorations and Wreaths. There will also be a wonderful array of Christmas Comestibles – cakes, mince pies, chutneys, etc. Buy a raffle ticket or enjoy a cup of coffee with friends – it's a great morning, starting at 10:00 am through till noon.

If you can help in any way with providing homemade cakes, etc., please call Jan Prior on 760233, or if you can provide a raffle prize or any other help call Shrimp on 760214

## Study Days At Sulgrave Manor

We have just finished attending a series of three study days which were held on Saturdays in March, May and November. The subjects:

**Stone** - the care and repair of historic buildings;

**Wood** - its recognition and use; and

**Textiles** - conservation and restoration

The days were well structured and enjoyable; the speakers, all experts in their field, encouraged questions and comments from the participants. Each day began with coffee, the lunches were delicious and we rounded off with tea and cakes. Further study days are planned for next year, and we can recommend them to all.

Ann & Peter Mackness

## NOTHING STRANGER THAN FOLK!

**Longest Nails;** Indian Shrindhar Chillal has not cut the nails on his left hand since 1952; by the year 2000 they were over 6 metres long.

**Longest Beard;** Hans Langseth, who died in 1927, had a beard measuring 5.33 metres; it has been in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC since 1967.

**Longest Moustache;** Indian Kalyan Ramji Sain has a moustache measuring 3.29 metres from tip to tip.

**Longest Hair;** Indian Swami Pandarasannadhi lived in a monastery in Madras in 1949 when his hair was measured at 7.9 metres long.

**Longest Sneezing Bout;** Donna Griffiths from Pershore in Worcestershire started sneezing on 13th January 1981 and continued for 978 days.

**Longest hiccupping;** Charles Osborne of Anthon, Iowa, USA hiccupped from 1922 until 1990.

**Maths Genius;** when American Zerah Colburn was eight he worked out instantly how many seconds had elapsed since the birth of Christ. When asked if 4,294,967,297 was a prime number (one that cannot be divided evenly by another number) he instantly replied that it was not as it was devisable by 641 producing 6,700,417.

**Infant Prodigy;** Korean Kim Ung-Yong aged 4 in 1967 could speak fluent Korean, English, Japanese and German and could solve calculus problems.

**Memory;** Chinese Gon Yang-ling has memorised 15,000 telephone numbers.

DID YOU KNOW:  
PET E M  
O C C L O  
V E R P A  
T I E N C E

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

# DON'T FORGET THE Tots & Tea Christmas Party

A fancy dress Christmas party for Sulgrave village children up to 10 years of age on Sunday 16th December 2-4pm.

We will be having a visit from Father Christmas, please could you bring a named present for Father Christmas to give your child at the party.

Any queries please contact:

Lis Stuart 768840 or Caron Mumford 760001



## Carol Singing

All welcome to this annual event. We will meet outside the shop at 6.30pm on Friday 14th December or later en route.

### 2007 Poppy Appeal

The Royal British Legion's Wappenham and District Branch Annual Appeal raised £2,842.94 for the RBL's vital welfare work for service and ex-service men and women and their families.

Sulgrave's contribution was £405.56 comprising £188.86 for the Village Collection and £216.70 for the Remembrance Sunday Service, the latter being an increase from last year's £175.10, which was itself a record. Thanks are due to all those who helped with the Appeal and to all of you for your most generous response.

Chris Beck



### ACTION AGAINST METAL THEFTS

#### OPERATION PILFER

Northamptonshire Police is calling on the public to be their eyes and ears as they step up their operation to prevent metal thefts across the county.

Homes, churches, schools, business premises and public buildings are all being targeted by people cashing in on a crime trend brought about in recent months by scrap metals increasing in value several times over. As the owners of premises install a range of additional crime prevention measures and systems, the police say members of the public who live around or near vulnerable buildings such as churches and schools, should keep a special lookout for suspicious activity and report it immediately.

For example, this could involve checking adjacent buildings if you get up in the night, or as you walk your dog, or drive past, or noting and reporting suspicious vehicles which might be used as thieves survey potential targets, or in the course of crime.

People are urged to ring Northamptonshire Police on 08453 700700, quoting the name Operation Pilfer, or dial 999 if they spot a crime in progress.

Special priority is being given to responding to calls about metal thefts. Arrests are made on a frequent basis and an officer from the Force's Homicide and Major Crime Team, DCI John Jones, has been designated to manage the policing operation.

DCI Jones says that information from vigilant members of the public is vital if the police are to successfully target those responsible for metal thefts.

"These crimes are damaging our society and seriously affecting people's livelihoods. We want people to be alert to any suspicious activity and not hesitate to report it. We will do our best to respond", he added.

The police are also focusing actively on scrap yards where metal can be disposed of, and working with local authorities, churches, English Heritage and Local MPs to raise awareness of the problems.

For further advice and information log on to [www.northants.police.uk](http://www.northants.police.uk).



Christmas Crime Prevention

There's plenty to enjoy this Christmas

at

## Sulgrave Manor

Bring your family and friends in December



- 2nd    **The Christmas Market**  
Two Family Musical Events
- 8th    'Hey for Christmas' with the Oxford Waits.  
Join in with some singing! 7:30 pm.
- 15th    'Opera Anywhere' perform a double bill of two different tales:  
'Amahl and the Night Visitors' - 3:00 pm  
and  
'The Selfish Giant' - 7:30 pm.
- 16th    **Yuletide Celebrations**, 10:30 am. – 5:00 pm.;  
find out about Medieval Guilding and Kissing Comfits

- 29th    **The Winter Wassail** 10:30 am. – 5:00 pm.  
A traditional experience after Christmas.

Refreshments available at each event.  
Please telephone 01295 760205 for further details  
and tickets for the Musical Performances

And there's more in January

- 2nd    'Beyond the Tour'; Lunch Talk
- 16th    **Come to the Manor for Lunch!** – 12:30.  
£7:00 for 2 courses and coffee.  
Please book by the Friday before.

Merry  
Christmas  
to you all.



## NO DOGS ALLOWED!!

This could be the sign of the future, if dog owners do not pick up after their pets. The Parish and District Councils are not anti-dogs, but would like to remind dog owners of their legal responsibility to clean up after their pets if they foul ANY public areas. Dog faeces is not only unpleasant, it is also responsible for a number of potential health risks if ingested, the most serious of which is Toxocariasis resulting from dog roundworms. This disease is responsible for the loss of sight in around 10 British children every year. The District Council employs an Animal Welfare Officer who patrols the District. If an offence is witnessed the dog owner will be issued with a fixed penalty of £50. Some owners have taken the trouble to wrap the dog mess in a plastic bag, but then leave it at the side of the path. This is a littering offence and if the offender is found guilty in the Magistrates Courts the fine could increase to £2,500.00 plus costs and they will get a criminal record. Be a responsible dog owner and clean up after your dog.

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT  
IF DOGS CLEARED UP AFTER  
THEMSELVES?



But it's up to you  
Please clean up after your dog

## Rural Reach....supporting village groups

Did you know SNVB, in partnership with Daventry Volunteer Centre, now offers help and support to voluntary groups across South Northamptonshire and Daventry districts?

We advise new and existing voluntary groups. We help village groups to become established. We can offer funding advice and guidance. We help recruit new volunteers and offer training and advice. We can help with constitutional matters and volunteering management. We are able to provide IT information and expertise. We are able to put you in touch with other groups having the same interests. We can signpost you to countywide and national organisations which may help you. We can connect you to the Forum on our website, advertise your activities and volunteering needs in our newsletter and on our monthly poster.

If we do not know the answer to your enquiry, we are confident that we know someone who will. Our outreach workers, Mel Bignell, Mal Thompson and Barron Walton are out and about in villages across the two districts.

If you think we can help, phone or email to the addresses below.

Volunteer Centre  
5 Market House Courtyard  
Brackley, Northants  
NN13 7AB  
01280 841 250  
[info@snvb.org.uk](mailto:info@snvb.org.uk)  
[www.snvb.org.uk](http://www.snvb.org.uk)  
Registered charity 1104848

Volunteer Centre,  
The Library  
North Street, Daventry  
NN11 4GH  
01327 300614  
[info@daventryvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:info@daventryvolunteers.org.uk)  
[www.daventryvolunteers.org.uk](http://www.daventryvolunteers.org.uk)  
Registered charity 802079

Rural Reach is  
funded by



**December 2007**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
31	1 January 2008				1	2 <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> 10:00 am Culworth <b>Christingle</b> 3:00 pm Sulgrave
3	4	5	6	7 <b>Mums &amp; Tots</b> 1:30 pm Church Hall	8 <b>Christmas Bazaar</b> 10:30 pm Church Hall	9 <b>Holy Communion</b> 8:15 am Sulgrave
10	11	12 <b>W.I. Meeting</b> 7:30pm Church Hall	13 <b>Parish Council</b> 7:30 pm Church Hall <b>Circle Dancing</b> 7:30 pm Culworth	14 <b>Mums &amp; Tots</b> 1:30 pm Church Hall <b>Carol Singing</b> 6:30 Village Shop <b>D E A D L I N E</b> January Newsletter	15	16 <b>Evensong</b> 6:00 pm Sulgrave
17	18	19	20	21 <b>Mums &amp; Tots</b> 1:30pm Church Hall	22	23 <b>Carol Service</b> 3:00 pm Sulgrave
24 <b>Midnight Communion</b> 11:30 pm. Sulgrave	25 <b>Holy Communion</b> 11:00 am. Culworth	26	27	28 <b>Mums &amp; Tots</b> 1:30 pm Church Hall	29	30 <b>Benef Carol Ser.</b> 10:00 am Edgcote

*Dreaming of  
a White  
Christmas*

