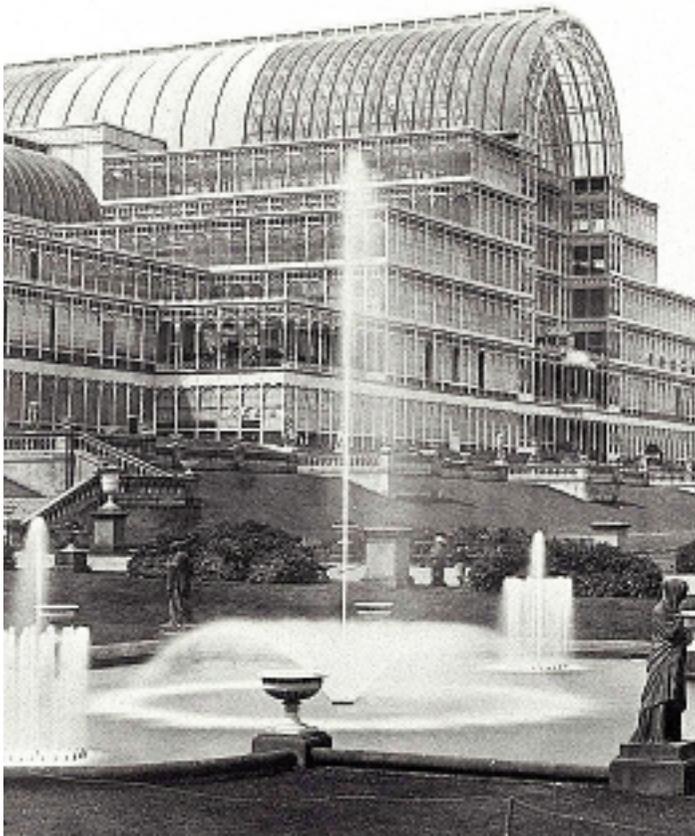


Sulgrave News



Impress your neighbours with the ultimate Summer House!

June 2009

Flowers and Shops!

Once again it is time for the Biennial Sulgrave Open Gardens. A time when we can all take inspiration from the tremendous work that our Sulgrave neighbours put into their gardens. Do take the time to view their labours, and enjoy the lovely tea and cakes available. After all, it is for charity.

There is a report of Parish Council business, and this includes a lengthy discussion regarding the Sulgrave Village Shop. I think it is important that all read this and bring your thoughts to future meetings.

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

newsletter@84f.com

Deadline for the July newsletter - 19th. June.

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
- 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

Cover - **The Crystal Palace, built in 1851 for the Great Exhibition; so large it enclosed full size trees, and flocks of sparrows!**

Children's Society Box Opening - June

Another Box opening session is planned for June as it is now almost a year since the last box opening, which raised to £316.86. Many thanks to all of you who contributed to this marvellous sum. House boxes are a vital source of income to the Children's Society and the £2 million raised annually to developing projects which work with this country's vulnerable children and young people.

Could box holders please drop their boxes off in the village shop during the first 2 weeks of June? I (Kate Miles!) will collect them from the shop, count monies and return to boxholders during July. If you are unable to get your box to the shop please give me a call on 760957 or e-mail me at simonkatemiles@yahoo.co.uk so that we can make alternative arrangements. It would be useful to have box-holders before it comes to me I would appreciate it.

If anybody would like to start collecting for the Children's Society please call me and I will be only too happy to provide you with your own box.

Many thanks. Kate Miles

Sulgrave with Culworth Women's Institute

Our next meeting is on Wednesday

10th June, at 7:30 pm in Sulgrave Church

Hall when Harriette Thomas is our speaker on the 'The Hypnotherapy Zeitgeist'.

For our May meeting our mystery location was a visit to the home of a members's family on the Oxon/Warks border. We were welcomed by our hosts and viewed their garden then relaxed in their beautiful home.

The resolution for the National Annual Meeting in June urging the government to increase funding for research into Bee Health was discussed and voted on. *Margaret Watts*

Sulgrave Gardens



Don't worry if you missed Chelsea, it's not too late to get inspiration for your garden, just visit the five Sulgrave gardens opening for the National Garden Scheme Sunday June 14th 2-6pm. Cost per adult £4, children free. And at some point have a delicious tea (as usual) at The Cottage organised by Jean Garton

The Open Gardens are:-

- Church Cottage, Hywel and Ingram Lloyd
- The Herb Society at Sulgrave Manor
- Mill Hollow Barn, David and Judith Thompson
- Sunnymead, Bob and Jean Bates
- Threeways, Digby and Alison Lewis
- The Watermill, Anthony Todd

We look forward to seeing you all.

NEW NON-EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER FOR NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE

Northamptonshire Police has launched a new non-emergency telephone number, which has been in use since Wednesday 6 May 2009.

The new number for all non-emergency calls to the Force will be **03000 111 222**.

This is the new single countywide telephone number to call Northamptonshire Police for all non-emergency matters.

People can call 03000 111 222 at any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The existing telephone numbers will be gradually phased out but will still connect to police until people get used to the new number.

Calls from any network will cost no more than those to 01 or 02 numbers and can be used as part of inclusive minutes packages, such as those in mobile phone contracts, and incorporated in 'friends and family' type discounts.

People can also call 03000 111 222 when they need to speak to their local Safer Community Team or to seek advice on any police matter.

The move is part of the drive to continually improve the service Northamptonshire Police provide to the public and respond to the needs of its customers.

The new number will not only be easier for people to remember, but it can also cost less for them to contact the police for assistance, wherever they are calling from.

By making the non-emergency contact number as easy as possible to remember, it will hopefully reduce the amount of inappropriate 999 calls.

People should only call 999 in an emergency, when a life is at risk or a crime is in progress. All other calls for police assistance or advice should be made to **03000 111 222**.

SULGRAVE VILLAGE SHOP ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Managing your shop

Management succession and continuity is vital to sustaining the viability of the shop. After five years it is time for at least two new members to be appointed to the management committee so that those that have carried the responsibility for the last five years may be allowed in due course to pass it on.

The management committee is elected at the Annual General Meeting which will be held in July this year. If you would like to offer your services or discuss what is involved please would you give your name by the end of June to:

**Alison Lewis, Secretary to the Association,
Threeways, Little Street, Sulgrave
Tel: 01295 760373**

The day to day shop management needs to be supported by volunteers with a range of skills including retailing, purchasing, accounting and administration. Please give your serious consideration to whether you are able to give your time and experience to this valuable village project.

SULGRAVE VILLAGE SHOP

for

CHOICE, QUALITY, VALUE AND SERVICE

A chance to carry on where Time Team left off!

Calling all those with an interest in Archaeology!

In the year 2000 Time Team excavated on the Mount at Alderton, just outside of Towcester, later be broadcast on Channel 4. The friends of Alderton Monuments are to fund further archaeology to be carried out by the Northampton Archaeology Unit for three weeks starting Monday, 20 July.

They are looking for volunteers to work under the supervision of the professional archaeologist. So here is the opportunity to get involved in a real 'dig', not very far away and in the middle of what we are assured is going to be a long hot summer!

If you are interested and can offer any time, mornings, afternoon. or all day then let me know and I can give you further details.

You can discover much more about the activities of the friends of Alderton Monuments on their website www.foamm.co.uk.

Martin Sirot-Smith - Chairman of Sulgrave Historical Society 01295 710340

SULGRAVE VILLAGE SHOP

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Each year, in the summer months and at holiday times, many gaps appear in the shop staffing rota. Over the next few weeks, please will you all look to fill in the vacancies published in the shop. Your continued help and cooperation is much appreciated.

If there are any villagers who would like to become a volunteer, please ring me. No previous experience is necessary and it takes just a short while to learn the ropes.

In nearly five years the volunteers have successfully staffed the shop. Congratulations and thank you for your support.

**Jan Prior - 01295 760233
Volunteer Coordinator**

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

**You are invited to a
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Thursday 11th June, 2009

Sulgrave Church Hall, Magpie Road

Topics for discussion:

RENEWAL OF SHOP LEASE

UPDATES ON WORK ON CASTLE GREEN

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS SECTIONS 1 & 2

We look forward to seeing you there.

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 14th May 2009

Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Confirmation of minutes of last meeting held on 12th March 2009 and Annual Assembly Minutes of 10th April 2008

Both sets of minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

To consider an application by Sulgrave Allotment Society for funding

Cllr Waite read out a letter that had been received from the Sulgrave Allotment Society. There has been a growing interest in the allotments over the last year and all plots are now taken. At a meeting of tenants at the end of March, it was agreed that a society should be formed and a Chair, Secretary and Treasurers were elected as Officers of the Society. The Society wishes to become a principle tenant and request the Parish Council to allow sub-lease of all the plots under the terms of a Charter. The Society propose to prepare a Charter which would protect the current interests of the Parish Council as landlords and define the obligations of each of the plot holders.

The Society wishes to pay a nominal rent of £1 to Sulgrave PC in return for which the Society will allocate plots for sub-letting (for which the Society will charge an annual rent). The Society intends to supplement income through grant aiding, donations and fund raising to improve the allotment area and meet utility service charges. The Society's financial affairs would be open to scrutiny and they would report annually to the Parish Council of their activities.

If Sulgrave PC agreed to this proposal the Society requested that consideration be given in making an initial grant of £100 to assist them with meeting the costs of formation which would include registration of the Society with the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners and premiums payable for liability insurance.

The discussion was then opened to the councillors.

Cllr Pollak felt the allotment holders would do a lot of the work themselves in place of a councillor doing it. Cllr Kellett noted that the title of land would stay with the Parish Council but the council need to understand liabilities and obligations in more detail. Mrs Barrett advised that the Society will take responsibility for providing a water supply and boundary fencing. Boundary fencing is urgent as there have been several occasions when animals have got into the allotment area. Insurance cover can be obtained to cover theft, damage and claims for accidents.

Cllr Waite then proposed that £100.00 be given to the Sulgrave Allotment Society to enable them to register with the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardens and obtain insurance. This was seconded by Cllr Powell. All the councillors voted in favour.

To discuss the renewal of the Shop Lease

Cllr Kellett gave his report.

Purpose and Background

He had attended an informal meeting with three members of the shop committee on 18th April to explore the issues surrounding the renewal of the lease and the position of the parties to that. The shop premises were purchased and converted using funds from a public works loan, grants from various bodies and PC funds. The premises are rented by the Shop Association for £1500.00 per year.

Parish Council

Cllr Kellett outlined the issues he believed needed to be addressed at the review:

The PC has no funds of its own, all monies are received from the villagers via their council tax. It is incumbent upon the PC to ensure this is spent wisely and in keeping with the wishes of the villagers and to ensure value for money is achieved.

The current lease includes internal repairing, this leaves the PC with responsibility for the fabric of the building. Currently there is no allowance within the PC's accounts to accommodate for this.

If the Shop Committee were to find alternative premises and withdraw from the site the PC would be liable for the whole of the loan repayment and will have to find another tenant.

Shop Committee

At the meeting the Shop Committee advised the financial performance shows losses in the first three years and a projected loss in 2009. The overall loss to date is £4218. The villagers support the shop in excess of 5500 hours voluntary work per annum covering

a range of functions. A nominal value of £53,896 has been placed on this contribution.

Key Points raised at the meeting were

The shop receives no financial support from the PC other than a low annual rent.

Opportunities may exist for inward investment from central government and the PC could offer more support in investigating and developing such opportunities.

The Shop Committee remain committed to the current premises and assured the PC that there were no plans or any likelihood of them pulling out.

The continued success faces several challenges e.g. Post Office closures, shortage of volunteers.

The Shop Committee believe a lower cost base is desirable and the reduction or elimination of rent would be a huge step in that direction.

SC Proposals

Two different proposals were put forward by the Shop Committee at the meeting

PC to set a 'peppercorn' rent in return for which the SC would take responsibility for the fabric of the building.

That the rent should reflect the financial position of the shop and should be set on a phased declining basis reaching zero over a number of years.

Cllr Kelletts observations

The Parish Council have three options:

- a. To increase the financial support for the shop by way of reducing the rent.
- b. To seek to reduce the cost of the shop to the community by increasing the rent.
- c. To maintain the status quo by renewing the shop lease along the current lines.

Argument to support the shop

- The shop is generally felt to be an asset to the village.
- The villagers in general supported the establishment of the shop.
- The current rent subsidy equates to roughly £10 per household per year or 20p per week.
- The loss of the shop would be unwelcome to the majority of the villagers.

Other Considerations

There are other ways villagers can choose to support the shop

- Become a member (shareholder)
- Volunteer
- Patronise

Only roughly 50% of the population show support in one or more of these ways.

The precept is drawn from all the population with no opt out therefore forcing villagers who choose not to support the shop to do so indirectly.

At its current level the PC's support for the shop is one of their largest costs.

Absorbing the SC contribution would make the shop the single largest cost and would equate to an increase of around 25% in the PC element of the council tax.

No allowance for a reduction in the rent has been made on the 09/10 budget, this would result in a budget deficit this year.

The Chair thanked Councillor Kellett for his report and then read out a letter received

from a villager, George Metcalfe, who wrote that he understood one of the topics of discussion was a proposal to increase the rent on the village shops premises. Mr Metcalfe went on to say the shop is not in a strong position financially and is a vital part of the heart of the village. The shop is an amenity to be treasured and he urged the Parish Council to give it their full support.

Before opening the full discussion the Chair stated there appears to be a view held by some that the PC was intent on raising the rent. The Chair clarified that the responsibility of the PC is to discuss the renewal of rent on a village owned premises, no decision will be made on the rent to be set until the matter has been fully discussed in open forum and all parties had the opportunity to present their views.

Cllr Osborne noted the impression given by some was that the Parish Council did not seem to recognise the value of the shop. She pointed out the previous Parish Council worked extremely hard to get the grant funding and were responsible for setting up the shop, the present Council do not want it to disappear.

Cllr Kellett felt it was a challenging venture, unlikely to be profit making so the shop needed full support.

The Chair then opened the discussion to the floor.

Mr Christy first declared an interest as he was on the last Parish Council who were responsible for setting the shop up and he is also currently on the Shop Management Committee. He advised the meeting that the shop costs the Parish Council £1216.00 each year. The Public Works Loan payments total £2716.00 and the shop pays £1500.00 in rent each year. As there are currently 425 electors on the electoral role the shop costs them 5 and a half p per week. He urged the Council not to put the rent up.

Mrs Blayney spoke of those who did not use the shop. She has taken advice from estate agents and is of the view houses are more valuable if a village has a shop and pub. The message is simple, 'Use it or lose it'.

Mrs Kellett stated she fully supports the shop but it is struggling to find volunteers. She felt that as a loan has to be repaid, to reduce the rent should not be discussed tonight.

Mrs Wootton noted that she paid £5 when the shop first opened. New villagers do not know about the scheme and they could be approached to increase membership.

Mr Lloyd asked for the figures to be clarified. 55% of the loan repayment is paid by the shop and 45% by the Parish Council. In his opinion the shop is the heart of the community and should be supported, perhaps a rent reduction could be made if the Shop Committee took on further liability for repairs.

The Chair asked that if the rent were to be reduced, would the shop committee be willing to take on external repairs if they were finding trading difficult. Mr Prior for the Shop Committee replied that whilst the shop is managing its own cash resources, anything that increases cost is a negative. An extra £1 in cost required an extra £5 in sales. Margins are small and the committee are working to the capacity of the size of the shop. Mr Prior challenged the statement that only 50% of the village, he believed it was far higher.

Mr Coverley asked about the legal position. He suggested the lease could continue on the same terms and conditions until the Parish Council serves a minimum of three months notice. The Chair replied that the Council have taken legal advice on this matter and has been advised the lease requires renewal. Mr Coverley asked if consent from the District Valuer was obtained previously. Mr Prior advised that the rent was set by

consent five years ago.

Mr West agreed with the comments made by Mr Christy. Everyone is in favour of the shop and it is a great asset. It enhances the value of houses and is seen in lots of magazine adverts. He felt the rent should not be increased but reduced and urged the council to make the decision now.

Mrs Tattersall asked if the next lease would be set for five years or longer? The Chair replied it was something to consider as five years could be too short but it may be impractical to make the lease for twenty years.

Cllr Osborne asked Mr Prior why the Parish Council do not see the Shop accounts? Mr Prior replied that the Shop Association publish a report to their members, of which there are 138. The report is on view in the shop after being published. Whilst the relationship with the Parish Council is landlord and tenant, the Parish Council could see them if they wished to.

To conclude the discussion, the Chair stated that the Parish Council are responsible ensuring that they have all the facts available before a final decision can be made about the Shop Rental. The PC recognises the shop as it is an important community venture and the right balance needs to be found between the shop and many other projects that the Village needs to undertake. The Chair noted that a decision needs to be made quickly and the PC will consider all the points put to them and report back at the next meeting.

Councillors Reports

Castle Green

Cllr Pollak gave the following report.

Wall Rebuilding

On May 1st, Martin and Cllr Pollak attended a site inspection by the Rhodes Partners. All the mortar on the wall is in a terrible state and many of the stones are loose, so Underwood & Weston were forced to agree that all the Hen and Chick capping would have to be removed, cleaned off and replaced. The dwarf walls on the steps will be removed and the return walls will be rebuilt. The pier at the Dark Lane end will also be repaired. They say they will start work in early June and will start at one end of the wall and continue until they reach the other end.

The CGC emphasised the importance of the protecting the mortar with layers of hessian and Cecil agreed that the right mix and protection from dehydration was crucial.

Extension of Project Completion Date

HLF have accepted the need for the CGC to extend the project completion date to April 2011.

Benches

Geoff Ratley has installed the three benches on the Green and Alec Cave and his family were able to celebrate his 88th birthday by placing a plaque in memory of Emma Cave on the bench nearest to her house.

Date and Time of next meeting

11th June 2009 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

June 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Benefice Holy Communion 10:00 am C.Warden
8	9	10 W.I. Meeting 7:30 pm Church Hall	11 Parish Council 7:30 pm Church Hall	12	13	14 Holy Communion 8:15 am Sulgrave Sulgrave Gardens 2:00 - 6:00 pm
15	16 Soup Kitchen 12:30 pm Church Hall	17	18 Circle Dancing 7:30 pm Culworth	19	20	21 Evensong 6:00 pm Sulgrave
22	23 Book Club 8:00 pm The Star The Rain Before It Falls - J. Coe	24	25	26	27	28 Mattins 10:00 am Sulgrave
29	30					