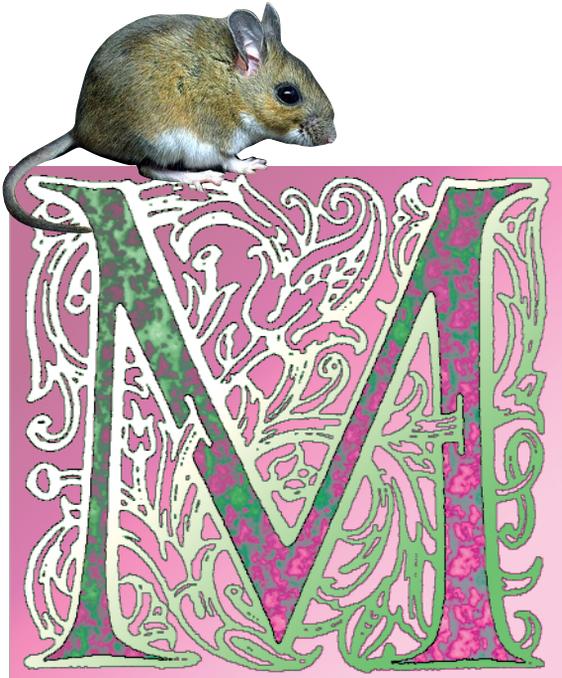


Sulgrave News



March 2007

A Plea for Information

I would like to thank George Metcalfe for his interesting article about the birds of Sulgrave, without it this issue would have been thin indeed. If I don't receive information from you the residents of Sulgrave it is likely the newsletter will just become an instrument for publishing the Parish Council Minutes.

I have had a request for the newsletter to contain commercial advertising, and although I have published the occasional advert for small village enterprises, I would value any opinions about this matter. I have also referred this to the Parish Council for their consideration as they fund the newsletter. Please use the email address below for your comments, or speak to any of the councillors.

Thank you all for your contributions, keep them coming.

Once again a reminder about the email address for the Sulgrave Newsletter. It is

newsletter@84f.com

Deadline for the APRIL newsletter - 23rd March.

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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Telephone 01295 711326, or email newsletter@84f.com

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

Sulgrave Parish Council

As February's council meeting was late in the month the minutes did not make the newsletter deadline. They will be published in April's issue.

Date and Time of the last meeting of this elected council.

22nd March 2007 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall, Magpie Road.

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr K Christy
Wisteria Cottage
Helmdon Road
Sulgrave
Oxon
OX17 2SQ

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

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS (NEW) COUNCILLORS REQUIRED

May this year, will see the election of a new Parish Council for this village.

We are looking for nominations from interested villagers who would welcome the opportunity to be really involved.

As a Parish Councillor you would find the work very rewarding, particularly as we move towards gaining Quality Council Status. The efforts of previous councillor's, have given us this lovely village we are now privileged to live in. Take up the challenge, and make your mark on it's future.

Please apply directly to Christine Coles, the Parish Clerk at

colesnccj@btinternet.com



Sulgrave Bird Notes

I wonder how many of you gave up a little time a couple of weeks ago, to take part in the RSPB's annual Great Bird Watch? For anyone who doesn't already know, it simply entails making a note of the species of birds visiting your garden in an hour, and the maximum number of each species seen at any one time. The results, from many thousands of such simple observations, provide data that is invaluable help in tracing the rise or fall of bird populations from year to year. While it's always exciting to see an unusual bird visitor, it's more important in indicating long-term trends that might otherwise go unnoticed. For instance, the numbers of starlings are much lower than, say twenty years ago; the vast winter flocks are now a rare sight. Global warming perhaps having an effect?

The fact that, round the feeders in our garden, the greenfinches are much fewer this year may be merely a local or temporary phenomenon, but it may be equally well a countrywide one. Happily for each decline there may be an increase. Daily bird visitors not only include the three commonest tit species (great, blue and coal) but also the marsh tit and, this year, regular groups of long-tailed tits. These delightful little birds seldom travel alone, more often in parties of up to eight; on one occasion, six of them were clinging to a single fat-ball. Last year I wrote about the aggressive behaviour of some birds higher up the pecking order, but I didn't mention the male pied



Pied Wagtail

wagtail which patrols the ground underneath the feeders and drives off any smaller birds (except the house sparrows, which ignore him completely).

The mild autumn of 2006 meant that the berries on the rowan in our garden (more numerous than ever before) remained untouched for much longer than usual. Obviously the various members of the thrush family could find plenty of alternative food. I was beginning to think that the berries would fall and rot, but at last, on 22nd January, blackbirds arrived in force and, despite the vigorous efforts of a mistle thrush to keep them away from 'his' larder, the tree was completely stripped within a week.

On the subject of changing weather patterns, in warm sunshine on 17th December, a red admiral butterfly was taking its last flight of the year round the garden. Earlier that same morning, a song thrush was in full song. Spring beginning before autumn ends – what's happening to winter? Another sign of a gradually milder climate was the sighting of two male blackcaps at the feeders. The blackcap is a warbler which one would expect to migrate to Africa like most other warblers, but for some years there have been reports of its over-wintering in southern Britain. A first winter sighting for me.

An example of odd bird behaviour. I was intrigued to see a male blackbird repeatedly pecking at an object on the ground which binoculars revealed to be another, but dead, blackbird, presumably road-kill. The attack, always directed at the head of the dead bird, continued on and off over some hours. Certainly it was a case of the living bird defending its territory from an imagined interloper.

Finally, 2006 nest-box report: 11 out of 15 tit-boxes occupied, 1 out of 4 robin-boxes.

George Metcalfe

top to bottom
Blackcap, Blue Tit, Longtailed Tit.



Here are some birds for
Why not draw your own
published in the
(Come on Tots of all

you to colour in.
bird and have it
newsletter.
ages)



Sulgrave Tots & Tea Spring Bazaar

Saturday 24th March 2007

10.00am – 12noon

Sulgrave Church Hall

Tombola, Raffle, Bric-a-brac, Phoenix Cards,
Jewellery, Cakes and much more!

Please come along to support this valuable
community group and help us to raise much-
needed funds.

Donations for any of the above stalls will be gratefully
received by :-

Lis Stuart (768840)
Claire Purves (760640)
Caron Mumford (760001)
Tracey Mullavey (760005)



Shop goes from strength to strength.

At the end of its second full year's trading the shop has seen a growth in sales of 2.2% and sales in the first few weeks of 2007 are also showing a healthy increase on the previous year. This is a great achievement and is a reflection of the growing importance of the shop's presence in the life of the village.

In 2007 this improving sales trend is expected to continue as awareness of climate change issues, shopping locally and local food will begin to figure more in people's thinking. The shop already has a "buy local" policy and will purchase more and more of its goods from local producers and suppliers. The existing pre-ordering service for bread and fruit and vegetables is being expanded and will improve customer choice and access to the freshness and quality advantages of buying from local sources.

The shop, in its own small way, is playing a responsible role in meeting the challenge of climate change and improving the quality of life in our community and supporting the local economy.

Women's Institute

W.I. Feast With Foodsmiths

Our February meeting surpassed all expectations. Maureen Jeffery and Janet Smith gave us a most enjoyable cookery demonstration delivered with skill and humour. As dishes were prepared and we feasted on mouth watering samples - yummy!

Jeremy Sacha is the speaker this month. His subject is "Art and Sculpture in the Landscape". The W.I. is where you hear speakers on all manner of subjects! As always, visitors are very welcome at any of our monthly meetings.

And A Date For Your Diary

We are arranging a Coffee Morning for Saturday April 21st from 10.30 am to 12.30 PM in the Church Hall. The place to meet up with friends and buy something that takes your fancy. Maybe a home baked cake? See you there.

Ann Mackness.

March 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2 Mums & Tots 1:30pm Church Hall	3	4 Benefice Holy Communion 10:00 am Culworth
5	6	7	8	9 Mums & Tots 1:30pm Church Hall	10	11 * Holy Communion 8:15 am Sulgrave Village Walk 2:30 pm from Shop
12	13	14 W.I. Meeting 7:30pm Church Hall	15 Circle Dancing 7:30 pm Culworth	16 Mums & Tots 1:30pm Church Hall	17	18 * Evensong 6:00 pm Sulgrave
19	20	21	22 Parish Council 7:30pm Church Hall	23 Mums & Tots 1:30pm Church Hall DEADLINE March Newsletter	24 Tots & Tea Spring Bazaar 10:00am Church Hall	25 * Mattins 10:00 am Sulgrave
26 Book Club 8:00pm Star Inn <i>Past Mortem</i> - Ben Elton	27	28	29	30	31	* Note church is still closed & services are held at warden's houses.

