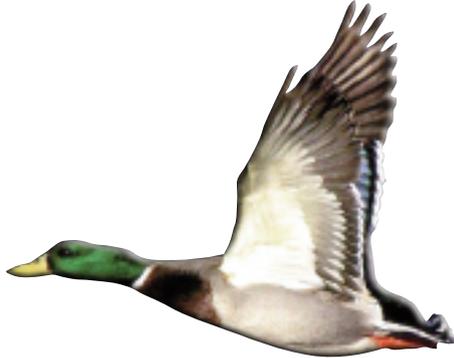


# Sulgrave News



March 2008

## Swings and Roundabouts!

I probably spoke too soon last month, as we have had some rapid changes in the weather, from mild and sunny, cold and blustery, to down right stormy rain, but even though we are in a cold snap as I write this, one can see the green creeping into the hedges and admire the daffodils and primroses.

Another thing that is a little unsettled at the moment is my employment status, and once again I am seeking gainful employment. The job that I was assured was on an almost permanent basis was a terminated with less than 24 hours notice. C'est la vie.

Also in the era of change it is sad to see some of those constants of Sulgrave life also change. I refer, of course, to the passing of Emma Cave. As a relative newcomer I did not know her as closely as many of you, but from the memories featured in the centre of this newsletter she had such a large impact on village life and will be sorely missed. I have purposely placed these on the central sheet, which can be removed and kept if you wish. My apologies for the lateness of this issue.

The usual a reminder about the email address for the Sulgrave Newsletter.

**newsletter@84f.com**

### Deadline for the April newsletter - 21st. 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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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 History Society

# Oral History Project Presentation and Open Evening

Tuesday 27th March 2008  
7:30 pm., Sulgrave Church Hall

To mark the completion of this extensive project that began in 2002, we will be holding a special Presentation Evening open to all. We will be presenting to all those who volunteered to be interviewed a Commemorative Folder, containing an audio CD of their interview and a full transcript. These have been designed to be a permanent record of the memories and character of Sulgrave as seen through the eyes of some of our longer residents. They tell of a life style now very much of the past; reminding us of characters and personalities now gone by, and of events that effected the lives of each and everyone within the village.

This project has ensured that none of this will be forgotten and our thanks are due to all those who volunteered to give us their memories and to the team responsible for recording and transcribing all 52 interviews.

Light refreshments with wine, fruit juice or coffee will be served. We will play a section of various villagers memories to give you all a taste of what has been preserved. It is our intention to produce a book "Characters of Sulgrave" from edited versions of the interviews.

Do come along to what should be a very joyous occasion.

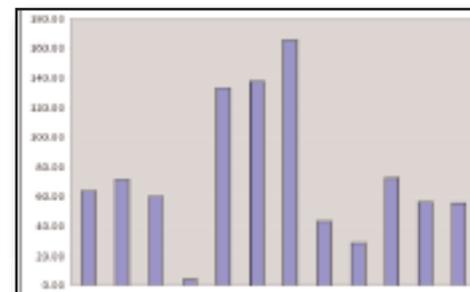
Martin Sirot-Smith, Chairman History Society & Project Co-ordinator

## Rainfall at Dial House Farm for 2007

January	63.5	July	165.4
February	71.3	August	42.8
March	59.6	September	28.2
April	3.2	October	72.2
May	133.0	November	56.0
June	137.0	December	55.6

**887.8**

Approximately 35.5" in English



## Women's Institute

This month all are welcome to hear Diana Birch, the previous Chairman of our County Federation, talk about Denman College - the W.I.'s own residential lifelong learning centre, which will soon be celebrating its 60th anniversary. Denman is an elegant Georgian country house set in 17 acres of landscaped gardens, some eight miles south of Oxford at Marcham. The College provides a friendly, comfortable, learning environment in which to enjoy any of the 500 plus courses on offer. Over 5,500 students attend annually with most courses open to members, non-members, their families and friends; and the food's good too!

In February Diana Stone came and informed us of many interesting historical facts about Waddesdon Manor. We saw slides of events past and present, exhibits, and items restored and conserved - her enthusiasm made us all want to pay Waddesdon a visit very soon.

The County hold an annual Challenge Trophy Competition. This year the Challenge is to design the garden for our new County headquarters, an eco friendly bungalow at Moulton; and four of our members: Jean Bates, Pauline Flynn, Julie Metcalfe and Eileen Roberts have volunteered to work from a blank canvas. So "watch this garden."

*Ann Mackness*

## Church Meeting of General Interest

On Monday 10 March we are holding our combined PPC & Vestry Meeting (AGM) at 7:30 pm., in the Church Hall. Anyone on the Sulgrave Electoral Roll is entitled to speak and vote at the AGM. We will be discussing future plans, including that of the Church Organ, of general interest to the village. All will be very welcome.

*Chris Beck and Shrimp Christy, Churchwardens*

## Many thanks

We wish to thank all our friends and neighbours in the village for all their cards and letters of sympathy and support, in the loss of our dear daughter Kim, who died along with two friends in a road accident last week, when returning from a Ski Holiday in France.

The love and affection shown has been of great comfort.

Des & Joyce White



## Sulgrave Parish Council

**Chairman:** Mr G Robert, Westfield, Park Lane, Sulgrave, Oxon, OX17 2RX

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

In addition to the above, the Parish Council is made up of the following members:

Vice-Chairman – Cllr David Kellett (07747 808574) Cllr Clare Pollak (01295 768224)

Cllr Jane Osborne (07879 624375)

Cllr Jo Powell (01295 768243)

Cllr Andrew Waite (07787 502260)

### Notes from Parish Council Meeting held 6th February 2008

#### Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted it was encouraging to see many different faces.

#### Confirmation of minutes of last meeting held on 10th January 2008

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record. These were proposed by Cllr Powell and seconded by Cllr Waite.

#### Councillors Reports

#### Community Speed Update

Cllr Powell has received confirmation that PC McQuaid will visit the village on 10th August with the speed gun. Sulgrave will share the gun with Halse and will have to liaise with them about using it. It will take 30 mins to explain the swapping of the equipment and give contact details. A minimum of ten volunteers are needed and this will be advertised.

#### Dog Mess

There seems to be a problem with dog mess in the village again. The bin by the pub is full of dog bags. Cherwell District Council provide a dog warden service which has to be paid for. The Clerk would ask Helen Hunt of SNC if they provide the same sort of service.

#### Update on work on Castle Green Restoration Project

Cllr Pollak gave an update on the Castle Green restoration project.

#### Benches

Cllr Pollak has spoken to Frank Morris about updating his quote for installation of the benches.

## Sulgrave Parish Council (Continued)

### The Wall Restoration Project

#### The Wall

- Following the receipt of invoices from Underwood and Weston over the Christmas period, the Castle Green Treasurer and committee reviewed the state of the wall and steps, and decided to refuse to pay their invoice for £6,500.
- The main concerns were that if it had been paid there would not have been sufficient retention to pay for a complete rebuild of the capping if that became necessary in the Spring.
- There were also concerns that the resignation of their main Partner might mean that Underwood & Weston would not be in a position to carry out further work to a high enough standard. The Castle Green Committee might need to have enough funds in hand to pay a new contractor to do the work.

#### On January 18th there was a series of meetings.

- The Access Auditor came to inspect the steps and handrails, and found that they did not comply with various health and safety requirements for disabled access.
- Cecil Rhodes had a meeting with the County Surveyor, who advised on bollards to protect the wall round the Wemyss Farm bend, and also pointed out that the handrails on the steps did not comply with Highways regulations.
- Cecil Rhodes also carried out a site inspection, and then joined GR, CP and Martin Sirot-Smith, the Castle Green chairman, for a further meeting. He agreed that the wall was in worse condition than he had thought, and agreed to withdraw the Certificate for Payment from Underwood and Weston.
- He also agreed to make a drawing of modifications to the handrails on the steps so that they would comply with the Highways and Disabled Access regulations.
- On 31st January Rhodes had a site meeting with Underwood and Weston, and agreed that they could brush off the flaked mortar along the wall. Underwoods claim that there was a problem with the sand, and that the mortar was fundamentally ok. Neither Rhodes nor the Committee believe this to be the case, and it has been agreed that there will be a site inspection when the weather is better, and the situation will then be reviewed.
- Castle Green Committee asked that Underwoods put hazard tape along the wall to warn that the stones might be loose, and to protect the site. Underwoods were not happy about doing this, claiming that it could be a danger to vehicles and that they would not be prepared to accept responsibility for this.
- It has been agreed that a joint site inspection will be carried out, and that a definitive list of all the defects on the wall will be drawn up. If the capping to the wall needs to be replaced, then Underwoods will have to do the work.
- On February 5th CP sent a document to Rhodes partners outlining their concerns about the current situation, and clearly stating their position regarding outstanding health and safety issues, and Insurance for the site, as well as their concerns about the quality of the workmanship on the wall. GR and Martin both helped to draft this document. CP has received a noncommittal email from Rhodes in reply. They hope that the relevant parts of this message will be passed on to Underwood and Weston.

## Sulgrave Parish Council (Continued)

### Finances

- An invoice for £2,250 from Rhodes Partners has been paid, with a 10% retention of £250 which will be paid when the project has been completed.
- The Invoice for £6,500 from Underwood and Weston will not be paid.
- The Invoice for £916.50 from Northants Archaeology has not yet been paid.

### Permissive Path

- The Draft Agreement has been seen by the Pollak solicitor, and he has indicated that his company's charge for the work would be no more than £300.
- This is a maximum figure, and they believe the final will be considerably less; however they have not discussed any detail with him as yet.
- CP has written to HLF and they have agreed to pay 54% of the total figure. They have also agreed to pay for small signs that will have to be put up at either end of the permissive path.

### Grass Cutting Schedule for 2008

The Chair and Cllr Waite had walked around the village together and drawn up a schedule of works and drawing. This will enable the Parish Council to tender the work out in future years and there would be a clear understanding by everyone of what work is to be done around the village. The grass in the wooded area of Pocket Park is being cut on Saturday 8th February.

Update on Planning Applications

### Two new applications had been received since the last meeting.

S/2007/1675/P, 1.8 metre high stone wall at the rear of barn one at 1 Dial House Farm, Magpie Road

S/2007/1685/P, Single storey extension to the rear at Southlands Cottage, Helmdon Road. The council advised they had no objections.

### Correspondence

- Details regarding Calor Village of the Year 2008. It would depend on the size of the village, the amenities it has to offer and projects undertaken. Details would be circulated to all councillors.
- A letter from Mr Taylor of Towrise who had an accident slipping on the ice in Stockwell Lane. The Clerk would reply to the letter and chase Anglian Water for their response.
- A letter was received from Mr Langdon as he has resigned from Sulgrave Charities. It is the responsibility of the Parish Council to appoint another trustee. The Parish Council recognised his support and service of 3 years and 8 months as a trustee. They will look to replace him.

### Deliveries of "Sulgrave News"

This month, and after seven and a half years, Peter and Ann Mackness will be delivering the "News" for Stockwell Lane, Manor Road and Tow Rise for the last time. Starting with the April issue this important, voluntary, task will continue in the hands of Jill and Anthony Barrett.

### Date and Time of next meeting

Thursday 13th March 2008 at 7.30pm in the Church hall.



## **Emma Cave:** An Appreciation

“I’m just a Sulgrave girl...” is how I remember starting our first conversation in the autumn of 1991. In fact with the tilt of her head and a knowing smile, beneath the jaunty Balmoral bonnet and tweed suit she loved to wear, she looked every inch the Scottish lassie she was; and she never lost affection for the country of her birth.

The Battle of Passchendaele was still raging in Flanders when Emma was born on the 11th of October 1917 at Wemyss, Fifeshire. She was christened at Wemyss Castle. Her father had left the family home in Sulgrave some years before, married, and tenanted a farm in Scotland.

Meanwhile, at Sulgrave, grandfather Cave was writing to persuade his son to return to farm in the village. In those days it was not uncommon for railway companies to be asked to transport farming families, their implements, livestock, and household contents, to another location. And so, it was, in 1919, that a special train was arranged to transport two year old Emma, her family, and their possessions to Helmdon station. She recalled that the consignment included three shire horses, Beauty, Bonney and Scot, which gave many years service at what was to become Wemyss Farm on Dark (now Park) Lane. Her earliest memory of Sulgrave was when, at about the age of 3, taken to buy provisions at the shop on Church Street – now Church Cottage – looking in wonder at the sights and smells inside.

In 1922 Emma started at the village school and recalled memories of Mrs Webb, the “motherly” head teacher from Paulerspury and her staff of “pupil teachers” (today’s classroom assistants), and later, a Mrs Carter. The ringing of the school bell “a job the boys did”; and playtimes, when girls and boys had separate play areas. “Morning assembly when I dropped the apple my mother gave

me. It rolled past the vicar’s feet and I never owned up. It stayed on the window ledge until it went rotten!” Regular visits were eagerly anticipated from the “dear old vicar”, Pakenham-Walsh, who used to warm himself by the winter fire while testing pupils’ knowledge of the scriptures. “One winter the children each took turns at knitting him a very long scarf for Christmas.”

Emma gave her time and energy to everything she could in Sulgrave. She did that, she said, because, she never went anywhere much beyond the village, such were her duties at home. She became a governor at the school, giving support to her sister Victoria who had become head teacher there; and for a while even lived at the school house while continuing to work at Wemyss Farm. She loved her church; and playing the Sunday School harmonium in her late teens led to the vicar almost insisting she should take over as organist, on her sister Eva’s marriage. Emma complied and performed dutifully until she was in her late 80s - her long service being commemorated on a plaque in the church. She played for countless weddings, wistfully commenting, “but not for my own.”

Singing at village concert parties, helping with the youth club, a staunch member of Mothers’ Union; and since 1937, a continuous member of the Women’s Institute. Many in the village still remember her annual appearance perched atop a tractor trailer accompanying carollers on the piano at Christmastime.

Following her sister Victoria’s retirement to Scotland, Emma was, at last, able to enjoy many visits to the country of her birth. Last year Emma celebrated her 90th, and final, birthday, surrounded by family and friends at Sulgrave Manor. It was as a parish councillor she will be fondly remembered for prefacing her views with “Well, of course, I’m just a Sulgrave girl, but....” This was Emma’s way of persuading anyone with an ounce of common sense that they should share her viewpoint on some village matter or other! She even used the same ploy when, several years ago, she asked the parish council if they might arrange for some steps to be built to link Manor Field (now Castle Green) with Church Street. She would be delighted to know that her persuasive ploy still works!

*Peter Mackness*

## Miss Emma Cave

Emma lived to celebrate her ninetieth birthday in the autumn of 2007. She had arrived in Sulgrave as a five year old, from a Scottish farm to an English one. She attended the village school, and would soon have been helping in the house and on the farm. Thus began a busy life which continued for nearly all her days. “She rode a little grey pony, and went shepherding up the gated road”. She also helped with



the Sunday School, run by her sister Victoria. Having learned to play the piano, she became church organist – a position which she occupied for more than sixty years. In 2003, a plaque to commemorate this was put on the front of the organ. Among the many occasions, she played for Kathleen and Sandy Munro’s wedding in 1945. Emma loved harking back to the old times (don’t we all?). There was no one quite like the Revd. Pakenham-Walsh — and seems the whole village thought likewise. She loved the Mothering Sunday hymn, composed by him when a missionary in China. It gave her so much pleasure to play it again in the 1990s. In more recent times, when Kenneth Tattersall (ex-RAF) took a service, she played the Dam Busters March as the congregation left the church!

Emma’s music extended beyond church. She regularly played “Jerusalem” at the beginning of the Woman’s Institute

meetings in the Church Hall, where she also accompanied hymns for the Mother’s Union. Her most colourful appearance was at the annual village carol singing: dressed appropriately, she sat at the harmonium on a decorated trailer towed by a tractor, which went around the streets. Woe betide any stragglers, who were in danger of being a verse behind. Whatever the weather, Emma would be there, wrapped up and thoroughly enjoying it all.

Thus, music and her faith went hand-in-hand and were the mainstay of her life and her great joy. Added to that was her love and devotion to her family: their success or problems became hers too. Emma was a great worker. For some years she served at the village postwoman; in navy-blue-piped-with-red uniform, she rode a bike with a flat basket in front for the postbag. It was she who saw to it that the church was clean, the altar linen was washed (the white altar frontal, still used today, was years ago painstakingly repaired with a fine net overlay – a work of months, not days). Restoration, repairs and changes meant anxiety: “What’s that boy done now?”, she had said, when Robbie Oakley had had one of his inspired moments! It took gentle persuasion from many friends that all would be well, to allay her fears.

As well as caring for her family, over many years, she cared for the village. As a member of the Parish Council, she kept an eye on footpaths, made sure that notices warning of planted bulbs were put up in good time, and later took a great interest in the Castle Green project – she would have appreciated the new steps, saving her scrambling up the bank! For a long time she was Secretary to the Parochial Church Council, and she also served on the W.I. Committee.

Emma’s travels included a memorable visit to Oberammergau, and many a train ride to north-east Scotland to a much beloved cottage, once owned by her sister. She loved all things Scottish, and would wear a long plaid skirt to any Manor concerts or parties. In 1986, Emma won first prize in a Sulgrave “Open Day” raffle: it was for a days sailing on Dick and Janet Marks’ yacht. A date was fixed, but with windy weather forecast she was consulted as to whether this worried her. “Oh, no”, she replied “my grandfather was a sea-captain!” She had a wonderful day on the Solent, as our photo shows – at the helm, with Dick and an old Sulgrave friend Kay Seymour-Walker.

By today’s expectations, Emma’s life might be thought of a small, entirely rural and comparatively uneventful, but indeed no; it had depth, commitment and stamina. It also had its inventiveness: there were moles burrowing in the Garden of Remembrance, so Emma organised a detour of some kind and the moles went elsewhere – we think she planted something, but what? One of her other successes was the flying of an owl-shaped kite in the south porch of the church to deter swallows. The idea was rather scorned, but Emma stood her ground and won the argument. The swallows no longer nested there, nor did they get trapped in the church – problem solved!

We miss the little lady, walking round the village with her stick. Her steadfastness has a lot to teach us.

*Memories from Joan Gascoigne, Valerie Henn, Janet & Dick Marks, Julie Metcalfe, Eileen Roberts and Janet & Kenneth Tattersall.*



**March 2008**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
31					1	2 <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> 10:00 am C.Warden
3	4	5	6	7 <b>Mums &amp; Tots</b> 1:30 pm Church Hall	8	9 <b>Holy Communion</b> 8:15 am Sulgrave
10 <b>PPC Meeting</b> 7:30pm Church Vestry	11	12 <b>W.I. Meeting</b> 7:30pm Church Hall	13 <b>Parish Council</b> 7:30 pm Church Hall	14 <b>Mums &amp; Tots</b> 1:30 pm Church Hall	15	16 <b>Palm Sunday Evensong</b> 6:00 pm Sulgrave
17	18	19	20 <b>Maundy Thurs.HC</b> 6:30 pm Sulgrave <b>Circle Dancing</b> 7:30 pm Culworth	21 <b>Good Friday</b> <b>Mums &amp; Tots</b> 1:30pm Church Hall	22	23 <b>Easter Day H.C.</b> 10:00 am Sulgrave
24 Book Club 8:00 pm The Star	25	26	27 <b>History Society</b> Open Evening 7:30 pm Church Hall	28 <b>Mums &amp; Tots</b> 1:30pm Church Hall	29	30 <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> 10:00 am T. Mand.



*Tom Cockeram, Appletree Cottage, The Close, Greatworth, Banbury, Oxon, OX17 2EB*

