

Sulgrave News



May 2010

Transport and other Troubles!

By now we all know about the proposed HS2 route and the impact this will have on the area. Support the groups who are fighting the Sulgrave Battle, and trying to ensure that one of the more sensible route options is adopted. When the outcome of the General Election is known write to your new MP protesting about this short-sighted proposal, brought about by the 'Bean Counters'.

However I feel that potentially there is another more devastating transport issue on the horizon. That is a proposal to reduce the frequency of the bus service through Sulgrave, Helmdon, Greatworth, etc. I know the service is often under used, but for those who do use it, it is a lifeline. This is purely a cost cutting exercise by Northamptonshire County Council in response to government directives. The first sign of what is to come in public service cuts.

I believe that NCC policy is for villages of 2000 plus residents to have a one hourly service; we certainly do not get this. I am sure that NNC will use the argument that each of these villages has a population of only a few hundred residents and does not warrant the service they have at the moment; when in fact the total population of all the villages aggregated together would far exceed this 2000 target, and should in theory give a better service rather than a worse one.

Public transport is a chicken and egg situation. Provide an infrequent, meandering and expensive service, and few will use it; provide a frequent service linking into other sensible direct routes, at a reasonable price, and many more people will minimise their car use in favour of buses and trains. Northampton, my county town, might as well be on another continent, when it comes to public transport. A search on the TransportDirect website, revealed that to get to Northampton, would, at best, send me via Banbury, Woodford Halse and Daventry; or at worse via Brackley, Bicester and Milton Keynes, or even Banbury and Coventry!

Where is the extension to the 500 Banbury/Brackley service that would reach Northampton via Silverstone and Towcester every hour, linking the major population centres in the south of the county with each other, and exterior transport hubs! Perhaps the NCC better give up South Northants to Oxfordshire, as it is certainly easier to get to Oxford than Northampton!

Contact your local and county councillors and MP, and sign the petition lodged in the village shop. Furthermore contact John Ellerby, the county 'Bus & Rail Development Officer', at the Northamptonshire County Council.

Once again I am beset by computer problems; this time my monitor has failed, just after the deadline. I am therefore having, to fall back on MS Word, on my old laptop. Apologies for a more rustic look to this newsletter.

As usual a reminder about the email address for the Sulgrave Newsletter. It is:-
newsletter@84f.com

Deadline for the March newsletter – 21st May

PLEASE NOTE THAT ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER CAN BE LEFT AT THE VILLAGE SHOP

Little Brown Jobs, or When is a House Sparrow not a House Sparrow?

Serious bird-watchers (they may prefer to be called Birders) get their thrill from the sighting of a rare or unusual bird, especially if it's a new one to be added to their personal – Species-seen list. It doesn't have to be an exotically coloured one from abroad, like the hoopoe, or the waxwing, or the bee-eater, all of which turn up in Britain from time to time. Just as much excitement can be aroused by the appearance of a bird of relatively drab plumage which, happens, say, to have been blown all the way across the Atlantic by a westerly gale.

Those of us, including myself, who are not such experts in bird identification can still find pleasure just in watching the antics of our local birds in our gardens. Even here, occasionally we can see something of special interest. One of the most familiar of these regular feasters at the table is the house sparrow which, along with many other species, is sometimes, rather dismissively categorised by birders as on of those 'little brown jobs',

However, recently we have had a daily visits from a couple of 'little brown jobs' which at first sight could have been taken for cock house sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) but which were in fact tree sparrows (*Passer montanus*); the differences are that, whereas the male house sparrow has a grey crown and greyish cheeks, the tree sparrow (both sexes look the same) has a nice reddish-brown crown and white cheeks with a black patch on each cheek. The tree sparrow is more restricted to rural life than its cousin; it is slightly smaller and more timid. The two birds in my garden kept well apart from the other sparrows.

Why such interest, you ask? Well, the tree sparrow – never as common as the house sparrow – is one of those farmland birds which have declined drastically in numbers over recent years, reportedly by as much as 95%. Hitherto I have never seen one in Sulgrave during the time I have lived here. Have a closer look at the sparrows in your garden. I shall be pleased to hear of other sightings of *Passer montanus*.

George Metcalfe.

Sulgrave with Culworth Women's Institute

We had our April meeting at the Church Hall. Our speaker was Carrie O'Regan. She is a demonstrator at Denman College with her most recent recipe published in the April edition of WI Life. She cooked 5 dishes for us to sample. They varied from fish cooked with a delicious mango sauce to Feta Scone Bread. We enjoyed everything. Our next meeting is the Resolution Meeting and Social on Wednesday May 12th at 7.30pm. Members will bring a plate of food to share and the competition is 'Bloom of the Month'. If you would like to speak to someone about the WI in our village please ring Jane Lockwood 760865 or Jo Coverley 768369

Church News

Church clock restoration and repair latest

A t l o n g l a s t w e h a v e r e c e i v e d
t h e F a c u l t y (p l a n n i n g
p e r m i s s i o n) f r o m t h e c h u r c h
a u t h o r i t i e s t o g o a h e a d w i t h
t h e w o r k o f r e p a i r i n g a n d
r e n o v a t i n g t h e c h u r c h c l o c k .

or translated

At long last we have received the Faculty (planning permission) from the church authorities to go ahead with the work of repairing and renovating the church clock. The builders and clockmaker hope to start work on the 7th May when the scaffolding will be erected. At the same time as the work on the clock is done we will also make checks on the rainwater goods on the tower and remove some plant growth that is damaging the stonework.

Bottle Stall on the 2nd May on Castle Green

We are hoping to have a bottle stall on the green as part of the celebrations for the completion of the Castle Green Project.

Any money raised will go towards the clock repair and restoration project. If you feel you can donate any bottles to this cause would you please give them to either Bob Bates (Sunnymead), or Shrimp Christie (Wisteria Cottage)

In view of my recent request for email documents in .txt or .doc format I have decided to leave the section above for your amusement. This document was in .wps format. MS Word would not open this format (even though it was from another MS product) and gave the warning that it was considered insecure! I got round this by changing the file extension to .doc manually. This conned 'Word' into thinking it was safe to open. However when I viewed the document, I had to search for the content amongst much cyber garbage; and then copy it into the newsletter. Even so its appearance was unusual (although readable), and I changed the font to that normally used in the newsletter, which produced the strange result above. What appeared to be simple task, importing text from MS Works to MS Word, in fact proved to be not quite so simple. The only solution was to leave it as it was (not acceptable to me), or retype it. If it is not possible to provide either .txt or .doc documents please place the text in the body of the email document. I can then copy it directly into the newsletter from there. Thanks for your cooperation – ed.

ngs gardens open
for charity

Sulgrave gardens open day. Summer 2011

Yes it's that time of year again when I wonder who would like to be included in opening their garden for the National Garden Scheme. In 2009 we raised £2488.70 for the charities supported by the NGS

If you think that you would like to join the group of villagers who do open, please contact me. I'm afraid that there is work involved but if you feel that your garden has to be weed free this is not the case. It needs to be of interest and to have been loved! Because we open as a group, visitors rarely spend very long in each garden and I gather that the tea is always a great favourite, it is the variety we offer which is appreciated by visitors.

If you would like to be involved but can't face the garden we always need helpers to park cars, help with teas and possibly help with gate takings.

Do contact me if you would like more information, as I will be organising next year's opening soon.

Ingram Lloyd. Home tel: 01295 760 520. Email: ingram@ingramlloyd.org.uk

Tools for Self Reliance

Tools for Self Reliance (Northampton) provides supervised work experience for disadvantaged adults and young people. The workshops are supported by the services of a number of able-bodied volunteers.

Donated hand tools and sewing machines are refurbished in the workshops, creating a variety of kits for those in need in developing countries (principally Africa), and for use by local communities in Northamptonshire.

If anyone has any gardening, carpentry, mechanics tools, or sewing machines, etc., they would like to contribute to this project please let me know and I will take them to Towcester.
Valeries Henn 760270

Sorry about this short edition, but I cannot print what I do not have – ed.

May 2010						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
31					1	2 Benefice H. C. Chipping Warden Castle Green Day
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Holy Comm. 8:15 a.m. Sulgrave
10	11	12 W.I. 7:30 pm Church Hall	13 Parish Council 7:30 pm Church Hall Circle Dancing 7:30 pm Culworth	14	15	16 Evensong 6:00 p.m. Sulgrave
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Book Club 8:00 pm The Star Things Fall Apart Chinua Achebe	26	27	28	29	30 Benefice H. C. 10:00 a.m. Culworth
<i>Editor –Tom Cockeram, 01295 711326, newsletter@84f.com</i>						