

# Sulgrave News



November 2008

### Autumn sadness.

I'm sorry for the delay in the production of this newsletter. I had set myself a resolution to try and be more prompt. Sadly my father became seriously ill the Friday before the week-end I had set to do it. Since then I have spent more time in Leeds than in Northamptonshire. He died in hospital a few days ago.

I hope you will forgive the delay and my little indulgence in the pages of the newsletter.

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

**newsletter@84f.com**

### Deadline for the December newsletter - 22nd. November.

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 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

Please note: I am informed that the **Mums & Tots** is no longer running.



## Joan Gascoigne 15/12/1925 - 22/09/2008

A very big thank you to all who support us through the difficult time of mums illness. Thank you also for the many cards and letters which we have received which have been such comfort. It was so lovely to see and speak to so many of you on Wednesday the first. It was a pleasure to share your personal memories of mum. Below is a copy of the letter we received from Katherine's House. Your generous donations have meant mum has been able to help others right to the end of her life, which was her wish.

*Joan's family*



### CHRISTINGLE SERVICE - SULGRAVE CHURCH

Sunday 7th December at 3pm

Please come and join us for this wonderful candlelit celebration in Sulgrave Church on Sunday 7th Dec starting at 3pm. All ages are welcome to this special service, introduced into the Church of England 40 years ago by the Children's Society, at which each child will receive a Christingle, bearing a candle, red ribbon, fruit and sweets. Refreshments will be provided at the end of the service.

Last year, across the country almost 600,000 children took part in Christingle services and over £1.2 million was raised for this worthy Charity which works with disadvantaged children across the UK. We raised £200 at our service which was tremendous. Collection Candles will be distributed shortly.

Please contact Kate Miles on 760957 for any further information.

## Church News

Thank you to all those who supported our Harvest Supper in September, and particular thanks to those who provided such delicious food. The Harvest Festival Service was held the following evening and the church was beautifully decorated.

As we head towards the season of Advent in the lead up to Christmas there are some dates to put in your diary. On Saturday, December 6th we shall be holding our annual Christmas Bazaar in the Church Hall. This is an opportunity to do some last minute Christmas shopping and a chance to purchase decorations and wreaths.

On the following Saturday, December 13th. There will be a Christmas Choral Concert in the church by well-known local choir 'Impromptu', more details later.

*Shrimp*



## Madams Close – A notice to all dog owners

It has become noticeable over recent years that dog owners who walk the line of the public footpath that crosses Madams Close (The grass field, in the middle of the village owned by Sulgrave Manor) are taking the opportunity to allow their dogs to have exercise, and do their daily business in the field. Following recent events, I must urge dog owners to please be in control of their dogs, and keep to the line of the public footpath, preferable by keeping their dogs on a lead. We have been advised that to stray off the line of the public footpath is to trespass, unless of course permission to do so has been sort from the occupier of the land. This also applies to any public footpath that crosses agricultural land, we are approaching the time of the year when due diligence should be taken, especially where sheep are in the field.

*Ian Cherry, Dial House Farm.*

## Women's Institute

This month Lana Weston is coming to our meeting and treating us to a flower arranging demonstration entitled "Christmas Flowers". She has been before so we know we're in for a good evening. All welcome to come along.

In October we held our annual meeting - a review of the year. Elections took place for the Committee. Shrimp Christy has resigned from the Committee after 20 years service: 16 as Secretary, and 2 as President. What a record! We are certainly fortunate to have benefited from her devoted service to the W.I. all these years. A new President was elected - Margaret Watts - who has much W.I. Committee experience in various roles. Two members volunteered to join the Committee: Jo Coverley and Jane Lockwood. We do welcome them. Marianne Harris continues as Treasurer, and I continue as Secretary.

Do think about joining the W.I. Come as a visitor to start, and then if you wish you could join. I'm sure you'll enjoy being a member of the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK.

*Ann Mackness*



*"Your chance to have your say and make your voice heard."*

Our next meeting will feature a presentation by Mike Oakley of Northamptonshire ACRE about the future for village shops and the Community Shop Handbook.

The FORUM has now built up a regular quorum of representatives drawn from village groups and parish councils from across the district who come along and share good practice and issues of concern.

Why not come along so that your community can benefit from this increasingly influential networking group?.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2 - 4pm  
at South Northants Council Offices,  
Springfields Towcester**

For further information and to register an interest contact: Barron Walton  
South Northants Volunteer Bureau ☎01280 841250 📧 [barron@snyvb.org.uk](mailto:barron@snyvb.org.uk)  
If you are active within a community or voluntary group in South Northamptonshire, **this forum is for you.**

## Book Club night is moving from Mondays to Tuesdays

The Star is not opening on Monday evenings anymore, so Book Club Night is moving to Tuesdays, usually the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in the month; dates and chosen reading follows.

<b>October 28th</b>	<b>The Time Travellers Wife by Audrey Niefenegger</b>
<b>November 25th</b>	<b>The Janissary Tree by Jason Goodwin</b>
<b>January 27th 2009</b>	<b>To Kill A Mocking Bird by Harper Lee</b>
<b>February 24th</b>	<b>The Island by Victoria Hislop</b>
<b>March 24th</b>	<b>Mister Pip by Lloyd Jones</b>
<b>April 28th</b>	<b>A Spot of Bother by Mark Haddon</b>
<b>May 26th</b>	<b>A Town called Alice by Neville Shute</b>
<b>June 23rd</b>	<b>The rain before it Falls by Jonathan Coe</b>
<b>July 28th</b>	<b>Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier</b>

The group meet at 8 o'clock, no meetings in August & December. The list of meetings and dates are also updated on the village website.

### DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR THIEVES – HIDE YOUR CAR KEYS!

Northamptonshire Police is urging people in the county to take extra care with their car keys when at home by making sure they are left in a safe place, especially overnight.

There has been a recent increase in offences across the county where thieves have targeted homes purely to steal the vehicles parked outside, by removing car keys that are left lying around on worktops or tables.

- Always park your car in a garage if you have one.
- If your car is in a garage, lock the garage – and lock the car.
- Consider installing a tracker device and an immobiliser if you value your car.
- Keep your house and car keys in a safe place. Make sure that they cannot be seen from the outside.
- Keep keys out of sight and reach from cat flaps, letterboxes and downstairs doors and windows, where they may serve as a temptation for opportunist thieves.
- Separate your house keys from your car keys so if you lose one set, you don't lose the other!
- Always keep keys to security devices such as steering locks separate from car keys.
- Make sure your doors and windows are locked – even when you are at home – they're not called locks for nothing!
- Make sure you can easily find your keys to escape in the event of a fire.



**DID YOU KNOW:**  
 PETEM  
 POCLO  
 OVERPA  
 TIENCE

### Travelling at the Speed of Light.

In Space, light travels at a speed of 299792 km per second, or 1,079,252,956 km per hour. When we look at even the nearest star, what we are seeing is light that left it more than 4 years ago. Many stars are so far away that, if someone could stand on one 65 million light years away, and look at Earth, they would see light that left at the time the dinosaurs became extinct. And from a distance of 4.7 billion light years they could watch the Earth and Sun being formed!

### Sulgrave Orchids

An interesting surprise was the arrival of a Common Orchid on the island in the lake - maybe the seed came from the orchids in the Manor Garden. Orchids produce thousands of seeds which are like dust and can be blown by the wind for miles particularly in dry weather when they are lifted up by thermals. However when they land and germinate they must be sustained by a fungus root "Mycorrhiza" to enable them to grow successfully, so most seeds are wasted.

We had two Southern Marsh orchids by our lake - this year.

Last year we had thirty Bee Orchids and a few Early Purple Orchids on Liddington Hill, but this year none have appeared.

Orchids mysterious flowers!

*J C F Magnay, Sulgrave Farm*



Common Orchid



Southern Marsh Orchid



Bee Orchid

Thanks again to Mr. Magnay for these three interesting articles - ed.

## Remembrance Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> November

The Wappenham and District branch of the Royal British Legion of which we, in Sulgrave, are a part, will be holding the Annual Parade and Remembrance Day Service here.

The Remembrance Service which will be taken by the Rev Peter Shaw, and will start at 10:45, and we would ask that members of the congregation should be seated before that time.

Sulgrave has always given great and generous support to the Royal British Legion and the Earl Haig Poppy Fund which is much appreciated. We hope that this year the support will be as high as ever in view of the increased involvement of our servicemen and women in Afghanistan and a continuing presence in Iraq and elsewhere.

*Christopher Beck*



**An Old Solder's Tale** - 1091047 RAF Sergeant Thomas Cockeram - 6/1/1922-30/10/2008  
Born in Tamworth, and moved to Doncaster, Yorkshire as a young child. Lived for some time in Middleham, in the Yorkshire Dales, where he entered the motor trade after leaving school. After returning to Doncaster, enlisted in the RAF in March 1941, at the age of 19. Replaced a Spitfire cylinder-head in a field, in the same year! Served in RAF 137 Maintenance Unit in North Africa, Italy and Malta. Discharged in August 1946 returning to the motor trade in Doncaster and Leeds, rising to senior management level. Enjoyed talking to everyone. Tom leaves his wife Betty, and six children.



Algiers, Nov 1942



Sulgrave Manor 2002



British Legion Event 2008  
© Wetherby News

## Sulgrave Parish Council

**Chairman:** Cllr **Graham 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)

### Draft Notes from Parish Council Meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008

#### Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone present to stand for two minutes and remember Joan Gascoigne.

#### Confirmation of minutes of last meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2008

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

#### Update on Quality Status application

The Chair advised that he and the Clerk had attended a meeting with the accreditation panel on 25<sup>th</sup> September. A portfolio of council activities and documents was put together by the Clerk which involved both this council and the previous council.

The Chair was pleased to announce that their application was approved and has now been submitted for final approval by the Local Communities Board. Thanks was given to the Clerk and all of the councillors. There will be a formal presentation made at the Annual General Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October which the Chair and Clerk hope to attend.

#### Castle Green Restoration Project

Cllr Pollak gave the following update.

#### The Wall and Steps

Following last months meeting, Rhodes asked the Management Committee to give Underwood and Weston some money as an acknowledgement of the work they had done since returning to site. They suggested £6.5K but the Committee would only agree to £4K leaving over £9K still to pay. This amount was duly paid in September.

Unfortunately from that time onwards, there was very little progress with the wall, which was disappointing so a site meeting was arranged with Rhodes and Underwood and Weston. The only possible date was 5<sup>th</sup> September and Cllr Pollak was on holiday, although Martin Siro-Smith and Colin Wootton were able to attend. Cllr Pollak circulated a comprehensive list of all matters of concern which was used as an agenda. Underwood and Weston did agree with most of the points raised. Martin made some notes from the meeting and so did Rhodes. The Director of Underwood and Weston agreed to all the concerns that were made as follows:-

- All mortar to hen and chick to be checked by U&W, failing mortar to be replaced.
- The wall to be checked by U&W and all loose stones to be replaced.
- The pier to Dark End had been rebuilt, the ground will then be banked up with smaller stones bedded with soil and soil put back over to form hard bank preventing vehicles from hitting pier.

## **Sulgrave Parish Council** (Continued)

- The bank to the drain to be taken further back and 2 tiers of stone to be placed to prevent the loose soil washing into the drain.
- The bank in Dark Lane to be levelled off and reseeded.
- The bollard markers were placed in the agreed positions. One to be placed either side of step, one bollard around bend at start of Dark Lane and 2 on the next radius all as marked.
- The sycamore that has started to shoot in Dark lane to be removed.
- Bob has ordered 2 new pimpled slabs because of the increase in width to steps.
- Bob to arrange for railing manufactures to fit railings.

Since Cllr Pollak's return from holiday, there has been little activity on site. Minor work at the Dark Lane entrance and the drain opposite Wemyss Farm has been carried out and progress has been made with the steps which look good. The most important issue is the defective mortar along the top of the wall, which Cllr Pollak believes needs a lot of work and winter is fast approaching. Cllr Pollak has complained by email to Rhodes but Cecil has been on holiday. He will arrange another site visit with U & W next week to address these concerns.

### **Benches**

The benches have been delivered and their positions were agreed at a site meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Geoff Ratley of Towrise was at this meeting and the method of installation was discussed with him. He hopes to do the work in a few weeks time.

### **Finances**

£382.77 Final payment on the Access path and fences made to Morris Contracting.

£4000.00 Stage Payment to Underwood and Weston.

### **To discuss printing costs of newsletter**

Cllr Waite had tried to make contact with Wendy Barnes at Sulgrave Manor but she is on holiday. The costs for black and white copying are 2p per sheet and 6p for colour. As the existing agreement is to print in black and white, the budget figure agreed at a previous meeting will cover printing for the next few months.

### **To discuss grass cutting schedule**

The Chair noted that he had received a letter from a villager about the grass cutting. He felt the current contractor Philip Daynes did the work very well but needed to be provided with better instructions. The grass has grown exceptionally quickly this year and there was also a period of six weeks during the summer when the grass was not cut at all.

Cllr Waite advised that the council intend to circulate a questionnaire to get views from the village as to how the grass cutting should be done. This information will enable the council to put an advert in the local newspaper before Christmas to seek tenders. This information will then be used when setting the 2009 budget in January 2009.

The Chair felt there were two issues to consider. The grass has been very wet and long and some areas have not received enough attention. Philip Daynes has done a good job for the last two years but the quality of his work has deteriorated this year. The council will put together a specification with map and those villagers who want to cut their own piece of frontage can declare it. However Cllr Kellett felt this would make a contract very difficult and could build in extra cost. The specification will include Pocket Park, Castle Green and the permissive path. The Clerk is to obtain costs to put a small advert in the local newspaper. Cllr Waite to put together a questionnaire and circulate to the village.

## **Sulgrave Parish Council** (Continued)

### **Councillors Reports**

#### **Community Speedwatch**

Cllr Powell noted this exercise has now finished. At the end of the third week, nine people were caught speeding. She thanked all the volunteers who helped. She felt it was a worthwhile exercise and Sulgrave will be put on the list for next year. They will have first refusal. Cllr Powell is still waiting for the results taken via the grey box. Cllr Powell has agreed to do this exercise next time if enough volunteers come forward. One person was very rude to the volunteers and he was visited by the police afterwards.

#### **Parking outside Spinners Cottages**

A meeting was held with Nick Gore of NCC on 4<sup>th</sup> September and he was very interested in the proposals put forward. They discussed what could be done and he was asked if he could provide any support. Mr Gore advised he would be happy to support the project but would not be able to give any funding. He would prefer angled parking to chevron parking. To undertake a feasibility study would cost £1500.00. The Clerk is to write to Cllr Ben Smith (NCC) and Cllr Ashley Warren (SNC) to ask if they know of any grants that the council could apply for to pay for this study. Cllr Pollak agreed to speak to Mike Pearson at SNC. Another meeting of the working party was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

#### **Allotments**

Cllr Waite has been able to look into the water charges. The standing charge is £26.00 per year and water charge is 120.83p per cubic meter. The cost saving if the council were to dig their own trench would be £150.00. Cllr Waite has been given details of who to contact at NCC about a grant from Jill Barrett.

#### **Finance Report**

The following payments were approved and cheques raised accordingly. They were proposed by Cllr Pollak and seconded by Cllr Powell.

Mrs Tattersall noted there was a hole in the hedge, which belongs to the Parish Council, between Pocket Park and Nashes. There is an element of danger as animals are kept in the field. The Chair agreed they would have a look and fix it asap.

Mr Coverley of Stable Court, Helmdon Road noted he had been to two meetings to discuss the parking outside Spinners Cottages and he thanked Cllr Waite for all his hard work. The general idea is to provide more spaces for the villagers in these cottages and get the cars off the road. However if the land belongs to the highways and NCC are not prepared to fund the project he could not see it moving any further forward. The Chair replied that it is difficult and challenging but the Parish Council must take the project stage by stage. If they can get the funding, they must carry out a feasibility study to see the results. The Parish Council always said it would be a tough project and may take many years to achieve.

#### **Date and Time of next meeting**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

**November 2008**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2 <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> 10:00 am Culworth.
3	4	5	6 <b>Parish Council</b> 7:30pm Church Hall	7	8	9 <b>Remembranc Service</b> 10:45 am Sulgrave
10	11	12 <b>W.I. Meeting</b> 7:30pm Church Hall	13	14	15	16 <b>Evensong</b> 6:00 pm Sulgrave
17	18	19	20 <b>Circle Dancing</b> 7:30 pm Culworth	21	22	23 <b>Mattins</b> 10:00 am Sulgrave
24	25 <b>Book Club</b> 8:00 pm The Star	26	27	28		30 <b>Holy Communion</b> 10:00 am Sulgrave

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

