

Sulgrave News



October 2007

Beautiful Kitten! (grey with white detailing)

We have a new addition to the family! She was part of a captured family of feral cats from a farm. Perhaps it is enough to say that when her four siblings and mother were caught she was not included, and it was a week later when someone pointed out that there was still a little kitten about that she was lured into the humane trap. She approaches everything with claws out, and has a split personality, very Jekyll and Hide! Potentially very loving, if she sits still long enough, but bouncing around and attacking everything in sight. My legs are now like pin cushions!!! It has proved very difficult to complete this newsletter, as she is either sitting on my lap wanting fuss, or attacking my hands, mouse, etc., or chasing the cursor across the monitor. She is trying her best to contribute to this newsletter, so if you find any extra +++£\$&....ddd!dds in the text, my apologies.

Apologies also to Bob Foster for not having space for his photos of the Paris ride, but I'll try to show one or two in future editions (if I can extract them from the Word file). I'm also getting a back log of other stuff from civic bodies, which are proving difficult to accommodate, it's just a very full month.

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

newsletter@84f.com

Deadline for the November newsletter - 19th. October.

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 (this month Sulgrave)
W.I.	2nd Wednesday of each month at the Church Hall, 7:30 pm

SULGRAVE MANOR EVENTS

Come and have a great time at the very popular

Apple Weekend

13th/14th October 10.30-5.00

Free entry to Sulgrave residents with their blue cards.

Village Lunch

17th October at 12.30.

Set meal for only £6.50

Textile Study Day.

Saturday 3rd November 10.00-3.00

£35 to include refreshments. Please book in advance.

Avoid the crush by shopping for Christmas at our
Christmas Market on Sunday 2nd December 10.30-4.00

Hope to see you, Thea Young



Thank you for inviting me to present the awards for the Front Garden Awards last month. I would just like to apologise for the mistake made for the second place which was named as Coombe Cottage but described as Hill Cottage. Second place was awarded to Hill Cottage for its lovely frontage and so many apologies for this error to both parties. Good luck to you all for next year.

Sue McNally (Sulgrave Manor)

Castle Green Wall

On Saturday 6th October from 2.30 to 5.00pm there will be a guided tour given by a well-known expert in Dry Stone Wall building, (including a chance to handle the stones if the weather is fine), followed by an illustrated talk, tea and cakes at the Church Hall. Meet outside the church in Church Street.
Further information from Clare Pollak 01295 768224 or Martin Sirot-Smith, 710340.

Village Walk

There will be a village walk on Sunday 14th October. Meeting at the village shop at 2.p.m.

Last month we had a good walk to Greatworth and a nice meal at the pub.

Christina Shillito



Church

A big thank you to all those who helped decorate the church for our Harvest Festival. Our Harvest Supper at the beginning of September was a great success — good company and delicious food.

Even though it's only October please put Saturday, December 8th in your diary as we shall be holding our annual Christmas Bazaar in the Church Hall, between 10 am and noon. As usual there will be all things pertaining to Christmas so come along and make your last minute purchases.

If any of you have any cushion pads, feather filled or synthetic, I would be very grateful if you could let me have them.

More information next month.

Safari Supper

All systems are go for our Safari Supper on Saturday, October 27th. If you haven't already put your name down please contact Shrimp on 760214. We already have offers for venues for starters and main courses but if you could entertain guests in your home please let me know. We need to know wants to join in as soon as possible so that we can organise who goes where!!! This is an event not to be missed — a night without worrying about breathalysers and designated drivers, as everything is within walking distance!

Shrimp Christie

Women's Institute

At our September meeting Hywel and Ingram Lloyd gave us a beautifully illustrated talk about their trek in the Himalayas along "The Curzon Trail". The scenes were breathtaking and the stories of their day-to-day encounters enlightening and fascinating.

The annual front garden competition awards were presented by this year's judge, Sue McNally, to Ron and Chris Constable, Jo Powell, and Kath and Richard Miles.

This month there will be two annual W.I. meetings: five of our members are attending the County Meeting at Spinney Hill, Northampton; then follows our own AGM and small Harvest Supper prepared by the Committee.

Ann Mackness

Circle Dancing

This will be in the Sulgrave Church Hall this month, because the Culworth Hall is still closed for urgent repairs.

Further information from Clare Pollak 01295 768224

Coffee & Cards

Lis Stewart of Eagle Courts, Helmdon Road, will be showing her range of Pheonix Cards to those who drop by for a coffee and a chat on 23 October, 2:00 - 4:00 and 6:00 - 8:00.

If you cannot make it on the day give her a ring on (01295) 768840, or email lis.stuart@tiscali.co.uk



Nigel Dawe, who now lives in Abingdon, on a Massey Ferguson 35 tractor in the yard of Rectory Farm in 1960. For two years he worked for farmer Eric Digwood whom he remembers with affection. He says: "I remember he was a very kind and generous typical country gentleman." Nigel and his family lived in nearby Wool House. He would love to hear from anyone who remembers Eric Digwood.

Any memories could be passed on to me at the Newsletter or to Colin Wootton who is in contact with Nigel by email.

The New Sulgrave Bag Ladies – two for the price of one.

Good news – there is now a duo of Bag Ladies ready to welcome new residents to Sulgrave following my plea for a takeover bid last month.

Jane Lockwood of Coomb Cottage and Jean Bates of Sunnymead will work together to make sure no-one's missed and they'll let new people have all the sort of information that's really useful when you've just moved in.

So if you have new neighbours arriving from now on, please let Jane and Jean know and they'll be there.

Maureen Jeffries

Village Litter Pick

There will be a village litter pick, organised by the Parish Council, on Saturday 13th October 2007, meeting at 10am outside the Church Hall. Please come along to support this worthwhile walk around the village to help tidy it up for the winter.

Christine Coles - Parish Clerk

Beware of Charity Collection Bag Scams

It would seem that we are now getting collection bags, dropped on the door step, that are not of true charitable status but are just a scam to collect clothing etc which is then sold on the open market. Please ensure that the bags you are filling have a Charity Registration Number on them. Thank you

Vera Smith

An epic cycle ride through the Northern battlefields of France

by Bob Foster, Yew Tree House, Sulgrave

After several months dodging the rain in order to put in a sufficient number of preparatory hours in the saddle, on Thursday 30 August, Bob set off on his ambitious cycle ride of 280 miles from Greenwich Park in London, to Paris.

He was taking part in the 12th Annual 'Pedal to Paris', to raise money for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, which took place over four days, finishing under the famous Arc de Triomphe in Paris on Sunday 2 September.

250 riders, aged between 35 and 75, set out with a full Police motorcycle escort, at 08.00 on a chilly, but fine Thursday morning. They swept out through the Park, across Blackheath and on down the A20 to Dover. At each roundabout, cross roads and set of lights, they were waved through like royalty – past commuter traffic waiting somewhat impatiently!

After the junction with the M25 (no, don't worry, they didn't actually go down the motorway!), they were left to their own devices, following the specially placed 'poppy signs' to guide them on their way through Kent and competing with all the other traffic for every inch of the way.

Some 80 miles later, after a short lunch stop at Sellindge, the first riders (including Bob) reached Dover – around 2.00pm – and caught the early afternoon ferry to Calais.

The perfectly smooth crossing from Dover to Calais set the tone of the weather for the next four days – slightly overcast with a cool breeze from the north west – ideal for cycling. A French motor cycle escort team of some 20 bikes accompanied the 250 cyclists on their way in Calais.

Friday morning at 08.30 all the cyclists gathered for a ceremony at the War Memorial in front of Calais Town Hall, where wreaths were laid, the English and French National Anthems sung, and a reading of 'They shall not grow old.....' in both French and English, before once more setting off accompanied by the shepherding motorcyclists – due south to the next overnight stop in Abbeville, 75 miles away. 50 miles later, at the afternoon tea break, Bob was met by his daughter-in-law and his two grand-children – a wonderful surprise!

Before setting out on the third morning, the cyclists attended a ceremony at the Abbeville War Memorial, where Monsieur le Maire gave a very good speech to the assembled crowd of both French and English spectators. He said "it is good to welcome the British once again to Abbeville. Just over 60 years ago, in 1944, we were delighted to welcome you from the west, this time you are equally welcome, coming from the north!" 'En route' again with the roads closed and the traffic stopped 'pour les velos'.

After another long day in the saddle, and some 65 miles, the column of cyclists arrived at Beauvais, to be greeted by cheering crowds of officials, veterans and spectators. In the park in the centre of the town they attended a further ceremony at the City's War Memorial before being taken to their hotels for the night...

The final day, Sunday, was the amazing, (spine chilling) 65-mile, ride into Paris – still with the motorcycle escort closing every side road, stopping traffic at junctions and roundabouts to allow the column to sweep through like royalty once again, often being applauded and cheered by spectators standing at the side of the road or leaning out of their windows. Even car drivers having been stopped by the escorts tooted and clapped as the cyclists passed by – imagine the reaction of British drivers at being help up in this way!!

The due arrival time at the Arc de Triomphe was 15.22 (not 15.20, nor 15.30, but 15.22!) After 280 miles in four days this was duly achieved – to much back slapping and toasting with bottles of beer! The cyclists were greeted by the President of The Royal British Legion, Air Marshall Sir Ian Macfadyen CB OBE FRAeS, who presented a special medal to each rider to commemorate their achievement.

Bob says "Thank you so very much to all who supported me – your generosity certainly helped to keep the pedals pushing round."

By the way, did you know that The British Legion does much, much more than just support war veterans? They also support serving and ex-services wives and their families.

If anyone would like to support The British Legion – and Bob's epic effort - any contribution to the Appeal would be very much appreciated - just go to www.bmycharity.com/foster and make a donation direct to The British Legion Poppy Appeal. Don't forget to tick the box if you are a UK tax Payer – this generates an additional 28%!



The Sulgrave Village Shop Food Fair

Sponsored by The Four Shires Magazine

In conjunction with Sulgrave Manor's Apple Day
October 13th & 14th

You will see from the flyer enclosed with this month's Newsletter that Sulgrave Village Shop is not just a great community shop, it's also an exciting event organiser.

The Four Shires Food Fair is the first in a programme planned to promote "Living Local", and all villagers are invited to come along to the Manor to enjoy both Apple Day and the Food Fair – the Food Fair will feature 20 local food suppliers and cookery demonstrations taking place during the day.

Remember, all village residents can come along free of charge (don't forget your Sulgrave Manor pass, and family and friends from elsewhere will be asked to pay for admission).

There'll be lots of delicious foods to try and to buy, as well as all the Apple Day activities.

Not sure when to come? Saturday mornings are often the quietest time, so why not come then to give all the stall holders a good start to the weekend – and to have first choice of everything on offer.

DID YOU KNOW:
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TWO SIGNIFICANT SEPTEMBER DEATHS

Luciano Pavarotti...on Feb.24, 1988 Pavarotti received, 165 curtain calls, the most ever, and was applauded for one hour and seven minutes after singing the part of Nemorino in Donizetti's L'Elisir d'Amore at the Deutsche Opera in Berlin.

The Duke of Buccleuch...was the largest private landowner in Europe. Laid end to end the walls and fences that bounded his 280,000 acres would have stretched from Drumlanrig, his castle in Dumfriesshire to San Francisco.



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Rachel Carey 01295 768494

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

Notes from Parish Council Meeting held 13th September 2007

The Parish Council is made up of the following members and they can be contacted as follows:

Chairman – Cllr Graham Roberts (07778 584108)	Cllr Clare Pollak (01295 768224)
Vice-Chairman – Cllr David Kellett (07747 808574)	Cllr Jane Osborne (07879 624375)
Parish Clerk – Mrs Christine Coles (01295 276229)	Cllr Jo Powell (01295 768243)
	Cllr Andrew Waite (07787 502260)

Matters Arising

Rubbish bins in Stockwell Lane

A letter was sent to the residents of Stockwell Lane by the Clerk and the work has now been done to remove the bins off the main road. Thanks was given to these residents. The Clerk is still to chase South Northants Council regarding the excess water seen in the lane.

Councillors Reports

Pocket Park

Cllr Osborne and Kellett had visited Pocket Park and identified the springer that needs repositioning. In their opinion most of the bark in the play area needs replacing although it was only put in a couple of years ago. The Chair asked if it could be salvaged but it cannot be. The ground under the swings has eroded away and needs replacing. Cllr Kellett has obtained prices for proof membrane and bark and it could cost about £1700.00. It will be cheaper if the village can provide the labour. A note will be put in the newsletter asking for volunteers. The Clerk was asked to email Kevin Moore to ask for more information about the movement of the springer and play area in general. The hedging needs looking at and the pond area needs to be trimmed. Cllr Kellett and Osborne will try to organise a working party to do these jobs before the winter sets in.

Community Speed Update

Cllr Powell had read details of this in a recent newsletter. More speed guns are being bought in April and Cllr Powell has suggested she put Sulgrave's name on the waiting list to borrow them. She asked if any councillors would be interested in helping to use them in the village and several put their names forwards. Training should be provided and it will help to provide speeding statistics.

Sulgrave Parish Council (Continued)

Update on Allotment Area

Cllr Waite reported that progress is being made on the allotment area. A flyer was put in the last newsletter and is displayed on the website. Two additional people have taken plots and there are just two plots left. A meeting of users will take place on 21st October. This will be a get together for users to see how everything is going and exchange ideas etc. There is still a need for fresh water and the Chair passed details from Anglian Water to Cllr Waite.

Update on planning

Cllr Waite gave the following report.

The following applications have been approved by SNC

S/2007/0794/P - Single storey rear extension and pitched roof to garage at Little Tow.

S/2007/0577/P – Single storey rear extension, garden shed at rear and 1.8 metre iron railings and wrought iron gates at front of Old Wesleyan Chapel, Manor Road.

S/2007/0855/P – Replacement of existing wooden cladding to side dormer window with PVC replacement at 1 Church Street.

S/2007/0680/P – 2 front dormers and 1 rear dormer at Eagles Court, Helmdon Road.

The following application was refused by SNC

S/2007/0634/P, Removal of existing conservatory and construction of single storey extension at the Old Stables, Manor Road.

Amended Plans in circulation within PC

S/2007/1674/P & S/2007/1675/LB (amended plans). Conversion of traditional buildings into three dwellings (revision of S/2005/0883/P). Barn 1 – Amended size of utility room window 1 no new slit window. Creation of ventilation opening at first floor level. Barn 2 – repositioning of slit windows, new timber gate to enclosed courtyard at Dial House Farm, Magpie Road. A temporary stop notice was issued on the owners responsible for the barns at Dial House Farm at the beginning of August. These amendments will sort out the issues that were raised in that notice.

Update on work on Castle Green

Cllr Pollak gave a progress report on Castle Green Restoration Project.

Access path

The path was completed in July and villagers have been very complimentary about it, and enjoy using it. The contractors have been paid 95.5% of their invoice. Unfortunately the wall contractors damaged the path at the Church Street entrance, but they accepted liability and agreed the path contractors could repair it on their behalf. A price was obtained, and these repairs have now been carried out. To prevent similar damage from happening in the future, the Committee decided to ask for extra hardcore to be inserted under the mesh. There is sufficient funding to cover this.

The residents of Church Street raised an issue concerning the fencing. They feel it is unsightly, and would like to plant shrubs to screen it. This will be discussed by the Management Committee at their next meeting. Cllr Osborne noted that this should be thought about very carefully as in ten years time the shrubs would be big and very costly to maintain.

Sulgrave Parish Council (Continued)

Benches

There has been an offer to pay for a bench for the Green. This would be on condition that a memorial plaque could be attached to it. The Management Committee feel that this would be acceptable and would like to offer the opportunity for another matching bench to be provided if a resident would care to do so. From the floor Mr Bates asked the cost of a bench and Cllr Pollak replied an estimated cost would be £500.00. Cllr Powell asked what would happen if several villagers came forward asking to put benches on the green. They would be agreed on a first come first served basis but the limit would be three.

Permissive Path

As reported at the last council meeting, Lewis Thomas has drafted documents, and they are being considered. The Open Spaces Society has provided information that it is necessary to register permissive paths with the County Council every 10 years, to prevent them from becoming a Right of Way. Further progress is expected in the Autumn.

Geophysical Survey

This took place as planned on 5th August, and was very much enjoyed by all those who took part. Some helped with the surveying and others watched and enjoyed the scenery, the beautiful weather, the archaeology display and the company of other villagers. A report and photographs can be seen on the village website. The report from Northants Archaeology is expected in due course.

The Wall Restoration Project

As reported at the last meeting, Underwood and Weston started work prematurely, decided that the wall could not be restored for the price they had quoted and left the site. No contract had been signed, and there had been problems with communications between them, the management company Rhodes Partnership and Cllr Pollak. These problems have continued. The Parish Council felt that a strong letter should be sent to Underwoods, requesting a site meeting and this message was passed onto the Management Committee.

On 17th July a letter was sent to Rhodes Partnership and copied to Underwoods, setting out the situation as the Committee saw it, the issues to be resolved and clearly stating that the Parish Council and Committee were keen for work to recommence.

Copies of emails were received over the next few weeks, including a set of figures sent from Underwoods to Rhodes but there was no reply to this letter. Castle Green Committee members had several meetings over the next few weeks using the figures to try to consider what their options might be and how much contingency money was available. The figures indicated that £10K extra might be required.

Cllr Roberts attended one of those meetings with Martin Sirot-Smith and the Pollaks. Reluctantly it was recognised that the committee had no lever against Underwoods, as the next highest tender was more than £10K greater, a delay would mean an increase in costs. It was agreed that they should try to get them back on site, and complete the work if at all possible.

By 8th August the committee heard that Rhodes were disputing Underwood's figures and that a compromise had been suggested at a site meeting between them. Rhodes senior partner, Cecil Rhodes, asked to meet the Management Committee and Parish Council representatives to put forward his proposals. This meeting took place on Sunday 26th August.

Sulgrave Parish Council (Continued)

There was a full and frank discussion. Underwoods had wanted to pull out, but Rhodes had persuaded them to continue on the understanding that he would closely monitor the works and reduce costs. He felt he could manage to do the work on the understanding that there could be flexibility in the price up to a maximum of £3000 plus VAT. The Castle Green Committee acknowledged that they caught in a cleft stick, and finally accepted Rhodes' personal undertaking to keep to this figure, without a detailed contract. If the specifications had been altered then the original contract price could have been increased.

Underwoods returned to site on 3rd September. Cllr Waite and Pollak visited the site on Tuesday 11th and a considerable length of wall has been restored. The Access Steps were being built and the design and materials were discussed with the Site Foreman. The Archaeologist visited also and was happy with progress.

Two letters of correspondence were received in relation to the above work. The first was to say how well the work was going. The second was to complain about the way the contractors parked their vehicles. Cllr Pollak agreed to speak to the contractors and the Clerk would reply to the letter of complaint.

The Chair noted that there should be Parish Council representation at any future meetings to help support Cllr Pollak.

Finance Report

a) Cheques

The following payments were approved:-

£634.50 to R D Landscapes Ltd (three cuts in June/July/August)

£87.29 to South Northamptonshire Council (election costs for 3rd May '07)

£77.62 to ABB Lighting

b) To approve new bank signatory

It was agreed that Jo Powell would be a new signatory to replace Ian Cherry who was part of the old council and did not stand for re-election in May. The appropriate forms would be signed at the end of the meeting and returned to the bank.

Correspondence

A letter had been received from SNC as they are undertaking a review to their response to the flooding emergency on 20th July. SNC are asking which properties were affected by the flooding, how severe the flooding was, ie were gardens flooded, were properties flooded internally, were there any potential hazards created by the flooding or were there any injuries suffered. The Clerk will put a note in the next newsletter asking affected residents to respond to her so the Parish Council can compile their response to SNC.

A letter was received from Rodney Henn of Fleet Farm House, Sulgrave, Oxon. He is still receiving Neighbourhood Watch letters despite not being involved for some years now. The Clerk will write direct to remove him off the mailing list.

Open Forum

From the floor, Mr Bates asked if any progress had been made on the next phase of the underground cabling. The Clerk replied she has not heard from Central Networks but will send a letter asking for an update for the next meeting.

Date and Time of next meeting

Thursday 11th October at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

October 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5 Mums & Tots 1:30 pm Church Hall	6	7 Benefice Holy Communion 10:00 am Thorpe M.
8	9	10 W.I. Meeting 7:30pm Church Hall	11 Parish Council 7:30 pm Church Hall	12 Mums & Tots 1:30 pm Church Hall	13 Village Litter Pick 10:00 pm Church Hall Village Shop Food Fair in conjunction with Sulgrave Manor Apple Weekend	14 Holy Communion 8:15 am Sulgrave Village Walk 2:00 pm at Shop
15	16	17	18 Circle Dancing 7:30 pm Sulgrave Church Hall	19 Mums & Tots 1:30 pm Church Hall DEADLINE November Newsletter		20
22 Book Club 8:00pm Star Inn	23	24	25	26 Mums & Tots 1:30pm Church Hall	27 Safari Supper	28 Mattins 10:00 am Sulgrave
29	30	31				

Wild Cat strikes!

