

Sulgrave News



September 2008

Well, that was the Summer!

Long live the Indian Summer

As I do this newsletter, we have perhaps the best summers day for a month! A glass of wine, and a lunchtime snack in the garden, with the Guinea Pig on the lawn and cats wandering around, wonderful. Shame about the unreliability of the British climate!

Thanks to everyone for their contributions this month. They will appear on your doorstep in glorious black and white, while for those with computers you can see it in full colour on the village web site.

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

newsletter@84f.com

Deadline for the October newsletter - 19th. September.

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
Mums & Tots	Please ring Lis Stuart on 768840 or Claire Purves on 760640 for further information
W.I.	2nd Wednesday of each month at the Church Hall, 7:30 pm



SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report 2008



Published by Sulgrave Parish Council and available free of charge in the Village Shop, Star Public House or view on-line at www.sulgrave.org

Annual Report 2007/8 will be published during August 2008 and made available free of charge to any interested party. In view of the costs of publishing the document it has been decided to make copies available for viewing rather than meet the cost of a full distribution to every household.

Copies will be made available at the Village Shop, The Star Public House or by request from the Parish Clerk, Mrs Christine Coles (01295 276229)

If demand outstrips supply the Parish Council will arrange for further copies to be provided.

The Annual report will cover the following headings:-
Introduction - Chairman's Report for the year - Sulgrave Parish Council Financial Report (Total income received £13,429.00 and expenditure for the year totalled £9775.00) - Information and Communications - Amenities Report - The Year ahead - Officers of the Council

REMINDER

HELEN & DOUGLAS HOUSE HOSPICE TABLE TOP SALE & COFFEE MORNING 6th SEPTEMBER

The Old Sulgrave Store, School Street
Please come and give your support to this worthwhile charity

Contact Valarie Henn 760270

The Tardis Appears in Magpie Road

The eons old Tardis (with repaired chameleon circuitry), has landed in Magpie Road. During its upgrade and refit, it has gained a state of the art surrounding steel mesh force field.

Reports say "it is on the verge" and is visited frequently by aliens in helmets.

Local Sulgrave residents say that, so far, there have been no sightings of The Doctor.

Peter Mackness



Sulgrave Church

Harvest Festival & Supper

Our Harvest Festival Service takes place at 6 pm on Sunday, September 14th. We would be so grateful to have any excess produce; fruit, vegetables, or flowers, with which we can decorate the church. Please bring it along on either Friday or Saturday before the service.

The Harvest Supper will be held the evening before, September 13th, in the Church Hall. There is a list in the shop so please sign up if you wish to come. The cost is £6.00 for adults and £3.00 for children of primary school age. If you can help or if you have any dietary requirements please let me know, on 760214.

Path Repairs

You will have noticed that during August the Church path has been re-tarred. The old broken slabs have been replaced, and the Leylandii trees removed. Their roots had caused some of the original stones to lift and the path was very uneven. Once the path is completed we will address the state of the flower beds on either side.

Garden of Remembrance

The Garden of Remembrance has been lovingly tended over the years, and latterly by Ron and Anne James. Sadly, they have had to relinquish their responsibility for the garden and we should like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work, care, and attention that they have lavished on this cherished area over the years.

Sue Pearce has stepped into their shoes and the garden is in safe hands for the future, providing a quiet corner of reflection in the churchyard.

Shrimp

The Wages of Sin are Death

Last year I succumbed to sloth, and failed to kill many Magpies. The Magpie population soared.



The result in 2008 has been the wholesale destruction of the nests of songbirds in the garden and on the farm. A Mallard nesting on the island in our lake also had a nest destroyed. I think Crows may have been responsible for this, as they could view the mother's movements from a near by Ash tree.

The final straw came when the nests of two pairs of Blackbirds and also a Collared Dove were destroyed in our barn, and I found two Magpies helped by some Jackdaws eating the fledglings on the concrete floor.

Starting after much of the damage had been done I have now made a big dent in the Magpie numbers, which I hope will enable our songbirds to recover in 2009.

J. Magnay, Sulgrave Farm



This is one of three short stories that reveal the life and death struggle behind the scenes of the idealic countryside of Sulgrave. I will publish the others in the next months. ed.



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LIFE EXPECTANCY

The countries of the world with the highest life expectancy are Japan, Iceland and Switzerland, where the average is 80-82 years.

The lowest life expectancy is in Swaziland, Botswana and Lesotho where the average is frighteningly low at 32-36 years.

Average life expectancy in the UK is 78.4 years.

Women's Institute

Last month Lucy Sylvester enthralled us by designing and then skilfully creating unique pieces of jewellery

This month our meeting welcomes Peter and Margaret Whittle of Tadmarton to tell us "The Cottage Crafts Story". Many of you will know of them for their many years of fundraising for Katharine House Hospice by opening their home annually to sell Cottage Crafts. Their story should evoke much interest. Do come if you would like to meet them.

We are also looking forward to presenting trophies to the three winners of the Front Gardens Competition. They are:

Eileen Roberts of Mertyne, School Street
George and Julie Metcalfe of Ferns, Helmdon Road
Sally Harding of 14 Spinners' Cottages

Stop Press – What an achievement!

Back in March this year I wrote in this newsletter that Sulgrave with Culworth W.I. were entering the County annual Challenge Trophy Competition. This was to produce a garden design for our new County Headquarters at Moulton.

Four of our members, Jean Bates, Pauline Flynn, Julie Metcalfe and Eileen Roberts volunteered and they've proved themselves a winning team - first place in the Northamptonshire Federation! They worked as a team from a blank canvas to design the layout, the planting scheme and costing.

We are all elated at their success and the Challenge Trophy will be presented to them at the annual Council Meeting in October.

Ann Mackness

Your chance to have
your say and make
your voice heard



In the largely rural area of South Northamptonshire, it is easy for your village or parish group to feel isolated and miss out on opportunities to meet other groups in the area. Equally, you may feel that you have no say in decisions being taken in your area that may affect the members of your group. The South Northamptonshire Forum, hosted by South Northants Volunteer Bureau, is aimed precisely at meeting those needs. The next meeting is on

Thursday 25th September at 4pm
Syresham Village Hall, Nr Brackley, Northants

The meeting will feature a presentation by Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire ACRE about the Community Speed Watch programme.

In addition, representatives of local village groups are invited to come along and share issues around the successes and difficulties of running a small local group.

If you are active within a community or voluntary group in South Northamptonshire, this forum is for you. Please come along!

PUT THE BRAKES ON VEHICLE CRIME & DETER OFFENDERS FROM YOUR VEHICLE

Between June 2007 and June 2008 there were 253 recorded offences of number plate thefts across Northamptonshire West.

To ensure that your vehicle isn't next, why not consider investing in a theft resistant number plate (for more details visit www.secureplate.com) or replace existing screws in your number plate with non-return screws to prevent its removal.

Stolen number plates can be used as an aid to commit further offences and Northamptonshire Police's Crime Prevention Officers are carrying out an initiative across the Western side of the county to raise public awareness to this.

The Force's Mobile Police Station will be pulling up on, Wednesday 3 September in Tesco, Brackley, between 10 until 12; and Waitrose, Brackley, between 1pm and 4pm. Officers will be on hand to provide car owners with the knowledge on how they are able to secure their number plates in order to prevent them being stolen from their vehicles.

Informative packs will also be distributed which include a questionnaire, designed to encourage people to think more about vehicle crime. A winner will be selected from those that answer all questions correctly and will be presented with a prize of a £150 Silverstone voucher.

Anyone with information about criminal activity should contact Police on 08453 700700 or call Crimestoppers anonymously and free on 0800 555111.



WHAT IS PILATES

Pilates is a body conditioning technique developed in the early 20th century by German born Joseph Pilates. It is different to other methods of exercise and focuses on strengthening weak muscles whilst stretching stronger ones, to create a balanced integrated body. Pilates works both the body and mind.

WHO IS PILATES SUITABLE FOR?

Pilates is suitable for men and women of all ages and abilities. Participants can be first time exercisers, those looking to enhance general fitness or enhance your current fitness plan. It is of great benefit for those wanting to help prevent injury, especially for those who suffer with lower back pain, neck problems and recurrent injuries.

BENEFITS OF PILATES

Pilates improves 'core stability' by concentrating on strengthening the muscles of the trunk. This increases the support of the spine, which in turn improves posture, co-ordination and balance. The body becomes strong and flexible without overdeveloping major muscle groups. Stomach muscles are flattened and arms and legs are streamlined. If any of the exercises are too difficult due to a previous injury, exercises can be adapted to suit your specific needs.

Every Friday at Sulgrave Village Hall

9.30am to 10.30am or
10.30am to 11.30am

Every Wednesday at Culworth Village Hall

7.30pm to 8.30pm

Everybody welcome. If you require any further details, please contact

Julie Russell on 07778 673677

(Advertisement)

VILLAGE WALK - 10:00 am. Saturday 13th September

We will meet at the village shop and leave at 10:00 am., walking to Brackley for a pub lunch and optional spot of shopping or browse in the book shop.

Returning on the bus(selection of times)

as the walk there is approx

5.5 miles

Christina Shilito



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 3rd July 2008

Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Confirmation of minutes of last meeting held on 5th June 2008

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

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

Update on Quality Status application

To gain quality status means that they council has to be well structured and operating in the correct manner. Any communication with a local authority should be dealt with more efficiently if the council is a quality one. The Clerk has done a lot of preparation work so far and thanks was given to her. The Clerk will complete the copying and pass to the Chair for binding.

Councillors Reports

Castle Green Restoration Project

Cllr Pollak gave the following update.

The Wall

Several emails have been exchanged with Rhodes Partnership and on 16th June a sketch drawing of the proposed new steps was received. Cllr Pollak was able to correct one or two items on the drawing which Rhodes agreed to. A letter was then received on 2nd July which noted that Cecil Rhodes had held a meeting with Underwood & Weston who were keen to complete the work to everyone's satisfaction as quickly as possible. They have discussed the programme and will make every endeavour to complete the work by the end of July. They are awaiting approval from the Castle Green Committee for the design of the railings.

Finances

No cheques have been drawn. An invoice has been received from the Pollaks solicitor and it will be paid when Paul Crowley is back from holiday. It has been agreed the Parish Council will pay the CGMC 46% of the invoice so that a single cheque is sent to the solicitor. The remaining 54% will be covered by the HLF.

Benches

Three benches have been ordered for the Green, and English Heritage has given permission to set them in concrete.

Sign Boards

There has been no further progress with the sign boards, although much work has gone into discussions with the manufacturers.

The discussion was then opened to the council. The Chair felt they should be cautious about approving the handrails although they could make a fair judgement of the drawing. The job does need to be finished but the grand opening may have to be delayed. He felt that Rhodes should be told that it is a target date and the village will be disappointed if the work is not finished by then.

Printing of Newsletter

Cllr Waite has spoken to the Manor about the agreement to print in black and white for the time being. Cllr Waite is to advise Tom Cockeram of the same agreement although the colour in the newsletter will be more relevant to web users.

Dog Fouling

Four responses were received to the local questionnaire. The Chair has hoped the publicity has raised awareness of the problem and it will disappear over time.

Parking outside Spinners Cottages

An email has been sent round and a working party are meeting in the church hall on 22nd July.

Pocket Park Inspection

The inspection report is similar to last year. Labelling of equipment is not compliant and surfaces under the equipment need to be made safe. £8K was raised at the recent village fete and some of this money is going to be used in Pocket Park.

A huge vote of thanks was given to members of the Sulgrave Fete Committee, Andron and Joy at the Star Public House and Peter and Moo Maudant for use of their garden.

Cllr's Kellett and Osborne have discussed the safety report and put together an action plan. They are going to consult the younger users of the park to see what they would like in there.

A lot of money has been spent previously on bark in Pocket Park but this is not an appropriate finish. There is another type of matting which costs £30.00 per square metre. The Chair then read out a letter from County Councillor Ben Smith who has an allocation of £10,000.00 to distribute to parishes within his ward for specific projects. Cllr's Osborne and Kellett will respond accordingly to ask for funding.

Underground Cabling

There is no further news on this.

Footpaths

The first step has been made and a meeting held between Cllr Pollak, Christina Shillito and Colin Wootton to discuss improvements to footpaths.

Allotments

Cllr Waite was able to meet with Anglian Water to agree the position of the standpipe connection and how it will be made. It could be connected in two weeks time and plumbers

should be registered with Anglian Water.

Cllr Waite is currently waiting for a quote and may be able to get a second one before the next meeting. He suggests that a percussion type tap is put on the pipe and the supply is metered to encourage users to be mindful of what they are using. It would depend on the weather and who uses their plot. The charge should be similar to a single dwelling. He felt that progress should be made as quickly as possible. The first phase would be to put the pipe and tap in the ground. He has not met with the allotment holders yet but is planning to discuss it with them at a later date.

From the floor, Mr Bates asked why a meter was being put on if people were not going to be charged for what they use. A water bill is less if on a metered supply and would be better value for money. Mrs Barrett, an allotment holder, felt the council should not rush into this lightly as it could cost a lot of money and the council were not sure of exact costs at this time.

All the councillors felt they needed a clearer idea of the exact charges for installation and more details on metered and unmetered supplies before any more work is done. Cllr Waite agreed to get this for the next meeting.

Finance Report

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

£260.96	Parish Clerk (hours worked)
£42.16	Parish Clerk (mileage)
£17.50	Parish Clerk (SLCC membership 2008/9)
£81.58	ABB (Lighting)
£195.00	DKJ Services (Review of accounts 2007/8)
£60.28	John Hicks (Pocket Park inspection)
£162.15	Castle Green Committee (in lieu of payment made to Photiades Solicitors, St Albans for work on permissive path. Total invoice cost is £352.50. Heritage Lottery will pay 54% and Parish Council to pay 46%. Castle Green Committee to settle whole invoice first).

Annual Return 2007/8 - To approve and sign Sections 1 & 2

The completed annual return was presented to the Council by the Clerk. Sections 1 and 2 were then accepted by the Council and signed by the Chair and Clerk. The Clerk would prepare the paperwork to be sent to the external auditor by 15th August.

Update on Planning Applications

S/2008/0587/LB, Alterations and repairs to a section of boundary wall at Corner House, Helmdon Road. This has been accepted by SNC.

S/2008/0-652/P, Removal of existing conservatory and construction of single storey extension to rear at The Old Stables, Hill Farm Yard, Manor Road. This has been accepted by SNC.

Correspondence

British Red Cross – Details of Dial-a-Wheelchair service to be put on the noticeboard and website.

Date and Time of next meeting

Thursday 2nd October 2008 at 7.30pm in the Church hall.

September 2008



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5 Mums & Tots	6 Coffee Morning 10:30 am Old Sulgrave Store	7 Benefice Holy Communion 10:00 am M.Pinkney
8	9	10	11	12 Mums & Tots	13 Walk to Brackley 10:00 at the Village Shop	14 Holy Communion 8:15 am Sulgrave Harvest Festival 6:00 pm Sulgrave
15	16	17 W.I. Meeting 7:30pm Church Hall	18	19 Mums & Tots	20	21 Evensong 6:00 pm Sulgrave
22	23	24	25 S. Northants Forum 4:00 pm Syresham Circle Dancing 7:30 pm Culworth	26 Mums & Tots	27 Summer Sale 2:00 pm Culworth	28 Evensong 10:00 am Sulgrave
29 Book Club 8:00 pm The Star	30					



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

