

Sulgrave News



September 2009

Happy Birthday to Both!

Thank you for the reminder that the Village Shop is five years old, and I would just say that it is also five years since my first newsletter, so happy birthday to both

I have use rather a lot of this month's newsletter to report on the founding of the SWWAG Committee, but as it is a quiet month for news, I hope you don't mind, and I will endeavour to keep these reports short and sweet in future, as I understand full details will be available on a dedicated website for those of you who wish to keep up with the latest details.

Details of the Harvest Supper and Festival are also in this newsletter.

I'm pleased to say that I'm am finally getting over the lingering effects of the Shingles, and look forward ot enjoying the remaining weeks of summer.

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

newsletter@84f.com

Deadline for the October newsletter - 18th. 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



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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 Tuesday of each month at the Star Inn, 8:00 pm (not August) |
| Circle Dancing | 3rd Thursday of the month at Culworth, 7:30 pm |
| Pilates | Most Wednesdays Culworth 7:30 pm |
| | Most Fridays Sulgrave Church Hall. 9:30 am & 10:30 am |
| W.I. | 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Church Hall, 7:30 pm |



A CHURCHYARD MYSTERY

The headstones and memorials in the churchyard can be a source of great interest. The inscriptions tell us of those who spent their whole long lives, we hope happily and profitably, within the village, but alongside them, and too often, the sad graves of those whose lives were cut short by illness or accident.

These same headstones however carry something else of note. One cannot fail to notice the multicolour patches that embellish them. These are, of course, lichens, and hereby hangs a mystery. They are described as cryptogamic plants, that is, plants which bear no proper flowers, a group which also includes ferns, mosses and liverworts. The "crypto-" part of the word is from Greek, and means "secret", a hint of the mystery which surrounds them. Lichens are usually taken to

be the product of a close interaction between a fungus and an alga. The word for such a relationship is symbiosis, meaning "living together". Quite how this works is not quite clear, but it seems that the fungus provides spores and moisture, while the alga manufactures food by absorbing carbon dioxide from the air.

The word lichen may be pronounced in either of two ways, but most experts pronounce it "like-n" rather than to rhyme it with "kitchen". As you look round the churchyard you will see lichens growing on stones everywhere, on not only memorials but on the church itself and on boundary walls. They don't appear to take to polished marble, but may be seen on concrete and on mortar, and on wood including trees and worked timber such as gates and fence posts. To untutored eyes (such as mine) there may seem to be only about four kinds of lichen - white, black, grey and yellow - but this is far from the truth.

The British Lichen Society lists over 2000 species found in the British Isles. They are difficult to identify - it requires an expert with a hand-lens - and most of their names are long and hard to pronounce. Fortunately, such an expert did the job for us. The late Tom Chester, of Evenley, paid a series of visits to Sulgrave churchyard between the dates 1983 and 2001, and painstakingly recorded 101 species (a small number of them are nationally rare). Even this staggering total is not a local record (Wappenham holds that distinction). Apparently our local stones (the greyish limestone and the reddish-brown ironstone) are particularly favourable to the growth of lichen. You will of course find lichen growing on stone walls elsewhere in the village; there are probably some near you!

Lichens generally do no damage to stonework, and surely beautify it. If however you find that they are obscuring the inscription on your family headstones, then by all means carry out a little judicious scraping, but please keep this to the minimum. They are to be treasured.

George Metcalfe

SULGRAVE & WESTON WINDFARM ACTION GROUP

Constitution of the Action Group

Name

The Action Group shall be known as the **Sulgrave and Weston Windfarm Action Group (SWWAG)** hereafter referred to as the Action Group.

Aim

The aim of the Action Group shall be to mount a campaign to have the proposal to build a wind farm between Sulgrave and Weston rejected by the relevant authorities.

Committee

The Action Group shall be controlled by a Committee comprising the following officers elected from the members of the group:

a. A core Committee comprising;

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer

b. Village Representatives from

Sulgrave, Weston, Helmdon, Culworth, Moreton Pinkney
and Thorpe Mandeville

c. Leaders of working groups on

PR and publicity
Fundraising
The impact of the wind farm on horses, riders and bridleways.
Impact on the Manor
Legal issues
Any other groups that, in due course, may be deemed necessary

Members of the Core Committee shall be elected at the first meeting of the Action Group. Candidates for the Core Committee shall be proposed and seconded by two other voting members of the Action Group. In the event that a post is contested, a 'first past the post' vote shall be held to determine which candidate is elected.

Village representatives and leaders of working groups shall be appointed to the Committee by the Core Committee as and when they become available.

Existing Committee members may be voted back on to the Committee 'en bloc' if they have indicated their willingness to serve for a further term and there are no other members wishing to join the committee. If there are more nominations than posts available then a vote shall take place.

In the event that there are insufficient candidates to fill all the positions, some posts may remain vacant. However, the Committee must consist of at least a Chairman, Secretary

and Treasurer.

If an elected officer is unwilling or unable to complete his/her term of office, then a replacement officer shall be co-opted onto the Committee for the remainder of the term by the remaining elected officers.

The Committee may appoint small working parties to cover specific tasks. They will report directly to the Committee.

Membership

Membership of the Action Group shall be open to all who share the Action Group's aims and are prepared to play an active role. There shall be no restrictions with regard to place of residence for membership of the Action Group.

Bank Account

The Treasurer of the Action group shall open an account (or accounts) in the name of Sulgrave & Weston Windfarm Action Group (SWWAG). All cheques on the account must be signed by (any) two members of the Core Committee.

Committee Meetings

Any member of the Committee can call a Committee Meeting at any time. A Committee Meeting requires a majority of the elected officers to approve each resolution of the meeting.

General Meetings

There are two types of General Meeting:

Annual General Meeting
Extraordinary General Meeting

At either type of meeting, resolutions can be placed before the membership for adoption by the Action Group. These resolutions will be adopted if they are approved by a majority of those present at the meeting. The exception to this rule is a change to the Constitution of the Action Group. The rules for these are described in later sections of the Constitution.

An Annual General Meeting shall be held once a year within a month either side of the anniversary of the establishment of the Action Group.

The agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall contain the following items in order:

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
Chairman's report
Treasurer's report including a presentation of the accounts
Election of Officers
Any other business

An Extraordinary General Meeting can be called by the Committee at any time. In addition the membership may organise an Extraordinary General Meeting after submitting a notice to the Committee signed by 10 members of the Action Group.

If an Extraordinary General Meeting is called by the membership, a minimum of four weeks notice must be given to the Committee unless the Committee waive their right to this minimum notice period.

Changes to the Constitution

Any proposed changes to the Constitution must be approved at a General Meeting of the Action Group. In addition, details of the proposed change(s) must be made available to members when notice is given of the General Meeting in which the change is to be debated.

In order for a change to be approved, it must be subject to a vote at the General Meeting and must be approved by at least two thirds of the total membership of the Action Group. In the event that a member is unable to attend the General Meeting, he/she can vote by proxy by submitting his/her vote in writing to any member attending the General Meeting.

Winding up of the Group

When there is either no longer a need for the Action Group or the Action Group is unable to function, the assets of the Action Group shall be liquidated and the proceeds distributed to local Parish Councils for use in environmental projects in the villages participating in the Action Group or any other causes that the Committee sees fit to support.

MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE SULGRAVE / WESTON WINDFARM ACTION GROUP

A meeting was held in Sulgrave Church Hall on Saturday 15 August for the purpose of establishing an action group to oppose a plan to construct a 9 - turbine wind farm between Sulgrave and Weston. Invitations to attend the meeting had been sent to all local residents who had expressed an interest in being part of an action group. 31 residents attended the meeting (Annex 1).

The meeting was opened at 5 pm by Colin Wootton who has been *de facto* co-ordinator of the opposition movement. Colin presented a brief summary of the activities leading to the meeting and gave a précis of the current situation. He then asked for nominations for a chairman of the action group. Digby Lewis was proposed by Ken Christy and seconded by Susie Blayney. There were no other nominations for the position and Digby Lewis took the chair.

The Chairman thanked the members for their support and said that he was very happy to accept the nomination. The Chairman gave an acknowledgment of the huge amount of work that Colin Wootton had put into the establishment of the action group. The Chairman asked for nominations for Secretary, Vice Chairman and Treasurer. There was one nomination for each position. Colin Wootton was elected Secretary (proposed Shrimp Christy, seconded Bob Foster); David Thompson was elected Vice-Chairman (proposed Joyce Barber, seconded Susie Blayney) and Paul Crowley was elected Treasurer (proposed Pim Lockwood, seconded Simon Gilmore).

The chairman explained that the main purposes of the meeting were to formalise the action group, agree on a name for the group, adopt a constitution and approve a plan of action.

1. Establishment of the Action group.

- a. It was proposed that the Action Group be run by a committee comprising:
 - A core committee of Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary and Treasurer
 - Representatives of Weston, Sulgrave, Helmdon, Culworth, Moreton Pinkney and Thorpe Mandeville
 - Leaders of working groups on PR and publicity, fundraising, horses and riders, the Manor, Legal issues.
- b. It was agreed that, as many people wishing to be members of the action group were on holiday or unable to attend this meeting, the core committee would appoint committee members to represent villages and working groups in due course.
- c. There was a debate as to how large the catchment area for the group should be. It was agreed that representation on the committee should be restricted to the villages (listed above) in the immediate vicinity of the proposed wind farm though this would not preclude anyone from outlying areas from joining the Action Group. It was noted that a committee with no limitation on the number of members could become unmanageable and it was felt that the present arrangement of 4 core members and 10 members representing villages and specific working groups was satisfactory.

2. Name of the Action Group

The chairman proposed the group be known as the Sulgrave & Weston Windfarm Action Group with the acronym SWWAG. This was approved by the members.

3. Adoption of a Constitution

The Chairman read out a proposed constitution. This was modelled on the constitution of another action group but with appropriate changes made. A number of amendments were suggested from the floor and it was agreed that they would be incorporated into the document. It was agreed that the amended constitution be adopted subject to approval by the legal working group. (Annex 2)

4. Plan of Action and Proposed Activities

- a. The Chairman listed a number of issues which needed to be addressed.
- b. It was agreed that committee members responsible for PR and publicity; Fundraising; Impact on horses and riders; Impact on the Manor and legal Issues would be appointed as soon as possible. Each of the above committee members would be authorised to set up a working group to assist with their allocated task. Committee representatives from the listed villages also to be sought without delay.
- c. The Chairman suggested that, in addition to the above committee-based working groups, members of the action group would be required to set up a website (Colin Wootton would oversee this activity); collect and collate information from other groups and conduct wind speed investigations at the proposed site. Members were

urged to follow any leads which they thought relevant and feed their findings back to the committee. Further working groups could be set up (e.g. wildlife data collection) when required.

- d. The Secretary noted that the website would provide a running commentary on progress which would be accessible to anyone and serve as a means of communication between the members of the Action Group.
- e. Contact with All Souls College to clarify the nature of the agreement between the College and Enertrag was considered a priority. Robert Tomkinson agreed to attend to this on behalf of the Action Group
- f. The Chairman stressed that the impact of the proposed wind farm on the Manor was of prime importance and noted that strong resistance from the Manor Board (and the Colonial Dames of America) would constitute the strongest card in the group's hand. Christopher Magnay agreed to arrange a meeting between representatives of the Action Group and appropriate members of the Manor Board.
- g. It was agreed that local and press coverage was of considerable importance. The Chairman said that he intended to approach the editors of local newspapers and the Four Shires Magazine with a view to publicising the fact that there is a great deal of local opposition to the proposed development. There were some offers to assist from the floor.
- h. The Chairman pointed out that there would be a need to raise funds to support the Action Group's activities. These were likely to be moderate initially (eg cost of setting up a website) but, if the case were to go to appeal, the group would need to raise many thousands of pounds. The establishment of a fund raising group was thus a priority. It was suggested that members of the Action Group pay a subscription. Whether this should be £10 or £20 per year was put to the vote and £20 pa was approved by a ratio of 12:8. It was agreed that this should be discretionary rather than obligatory. The Treasurer said that he would set up two accounts (one current and one interest bearing) in the name of the Action Group as soon as possible. It was noted that the opening of accounts and the means of access to funds should be reflected in the constitution.
- i. The Chairman noted that information on the effects of turbines on horses and riders was conflicting. Enertrag claim to have evidence that horses and other animals adapt to the presence of wind turbines very quickly but other sources come to the opposite conclusion. The 'Horse Group' (comprising Joanne Delaney, Charles Smyth-Osbourne and Simon Gilmore) have already started to collect information on these issues. Joanne Delaney had found that there were over 450 horses stabled within a radius of 2½ miles of Sulgrave which implies that the subject will have significant local interest. Charles Smyth-Osbourne has agreed to contact the British Horse Society for their views and to obtain guidelines on how far turbines can be sited from bridleways.

- j. The Chairman advised the meeting that contact had already been made with the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and that their wind farm expert, Brian Skrittall, had been very helpful. It was noted that English Heritage would probably be of less relevance though the group has been advised to contact them if the case goes to appeal.
- k. The Committee was asked whether it should have a political working group. The consensus seemed to be that SWWAG should not be seen as being in any way political or aligned with any political group. However, lobbying the Conservative Party, which may well have different priorities from the current government with regard to land based wind farms and the relative importance of off-shore and on-shore wind power, should be encouraged on an individual basis. Feedback from the prospective Conservative candidate for the Daventry Constituency (which incorporates South Northants District) has been very positive.
- l. It was similarly noted that while support from the local hunting community will be very valuable in view of the large numbers involved and their extensive sphere of influence, the Action Group should not use 'impact on the hunt' as a major argument. It was suggested that supporters of the hunt would probably be most effective lobbying on an individual level. The Chairman reminded the meeting that great care needed to be taken at all times to ensure that we do not make any statements that could be seized upon by Enertrag and used in their case to gain approval for the development.
- m. The question of sound and health implications of turbines was raised. It was noted that most wind farms complied with Government and WHO guidelines and that it was unlikely we could make an effective challenge on those issues. However, we would need to ensure that, when Enertrag took the background sound measurements for their environmental impact study, they did not site their recorders in positions that would result in atypically high background sound readings. This, apparently, is a well known trick employed by survey teams.
- n. The relevance of a small airfield at Niden Manor was raised. The Chairman said that he had already had discussions on this and that arrangements were being made to meet the owners and discuss current usage.
- o. It was suggested that the term "wind farm" had rather cosy, rural connotations and that it might be better to refer to "wind turbines" when presenting our case to the public. It was agreed that this should be borne in mind.

5. Closure of the meeting

There being no further points for discussion, the Chairman thanked all the members for attending and contributing to what had been a very productive first meeting of SWWAG. The meeting closed at 6.30 pm.

**COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH
20 SEPTEMBER – 1 NOVEMBER 2009**

This year Sulgrave has been offered the use of the speed watch equipment on the first, third and fifth week of the above period.

WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS TO ENABLE THIS TO GO AHEAD.

If you would like to help to improve the safety of our village and can spare an hour a couple of times a week, please contact: Jo Powell 768243. There will be training available on 12 September for new volunteers. *Thank you.*

Sulgrave Women's Institute

The Speaker for our September monthly meeting is Mr. John Taylor, who is a local vet. Members enjoyed the talk at our August meeting by Mrs. Carol Tones on 'Lingerie through the Ages'. This was very light hearted and much laughter was heard from our members at some of the items she brought from her collection. *Margaret Watts*

St James the Less, Church News

We invite you to add your own decoration to our beautiful Church to celebrate our Harvest Festival. It is open every day, and will be decorated on the Friday and Saturday prior to the Harvest Festival on Sunday, 27 September, at 6:00 pm.

The Harvest Supper will be held in the Church Hall, the previous evening, 26 September, at 6:30 pm. There will be a list in the shop or you can ring Shrimp on 760214 to reserve a place. Numbers are limited so please book early.

The cost for an adult is £6.00, and children of primary school age £3.00.



Thank you to those 'villagers' who joined us on Sunday 16th March and supported this very worthy cause. It was a beautiful afternoon, the tea and wine possibly got mixed up but you helped raise £314.00, so well done.

SULGRAVE VILLAGE SHOP CELEBRATES ITS 5TH BIRTHDAY IN SEPTEMBER

**IN ITS FIRST FIVE YEARS YOUR SHOP HAS BEEN
RECOGNISED AS A LEADER IN COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE
AND ATTRACTED WIDE ATTENTION**

DECEMBER 2005	Countryside Alliance Best Rural Retailer - Regional Winner
FEBRUARY 2006	Featured on television programme "Tonight with Trevor McDonald"
MARCH 2006	"The Observer" Ethical Awards Finalist - "Best Ethical Retailer"
JUNE 2006	Featured in article in "The Times" on Community Shops
NOVEMBER 2006	Featured in an article in "The Independent" on Rural Shops
OCTOBER 2007	Featured in an article in "The Times" on locally sourced food
DECEMBER 2007	Award from Campaign for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE) for building conversion

**SULGRAVE VILLAGE SHOP
QUALITY, VALUE AND SERVICE**

September 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Benefice Holy Communion 10:00 am
7	8	9 W.I. Meeting 7:30 pm Church Hall	10 Parish Council 7:30 pm Church Hall	11	12	13 Holy Communion 8:15 am Sulgrave
14	15	16	17 Circle Dancing 7:30 pm Culworth	18	19	20 Evensong 6:00 pm Sulgrave
21	22 Book Club 8:00 pm The Star Asta's Book by Barbara Vine	23	24	25	26 Harvest Supper 6:30 pm Church Hall	27 Harvest Festival 6:00 pm Sulgrave
28	29	30				