

# Sulgrave News



August 2008

## I'm Late, I'm Late, I'm Late!

Said the white haired, balding, bearded editor.

With apologies to Alice and the Rabbit.

This edition has many of Colin Wootton's photographs, taken at the Midsummer Madness event, which you will find on the Village Web Site. I hope you enjoy them.

Please check the church service times in the calendar, as I don't have up-to-date details of these.

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

**newsletter@84f.com**

## Deadline for the September newsletter - 22nd. August.

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



## Your Shop - The future

Sulgrave Village Shop is in its fourth trading year and has enjoyed a most successful start up period. In 2007 it recorded its first small profit on a turnover of £137,000. However in 2008 turnover is down and the shop might well trade at a loss. While the shop is in a relatively robust state it cannot sustain ongoing losses.

The presence of the shop in the village is a great asset, particularly in these times of rising fuel and food prices. After such a promising beginning it would be a tremendous loss if the shop was to go into decline and therefore it is important that a viable and sustainable future is found.

The Management Committee has projected the need for a turnover in excess of £150,000 for the shop to become commercially sustainable. If 2007 represents a peak in the shop's current sales capacity, then questions have to be answered about the future.

While every effort is being made to expand the appeal of the shop within the village and to surrounding villages, the achievement of an increase of £20,000 in turnover is a big ask and therefore serious consideration may have to be given to some other ways of running the shop. These would almost certainly involve a reduced level of service and would not necessarily be in the best interests of the community.

For the shop to have a viable future there are two key challenges that must be met.

Firstly, the shop's cash resources must be sustained. Trading losses have to be underwritten by the introduction of new capital which might be found from new members and the establishment of an annual subscription, or by fund raising events as required. At current levels of trading it is likely that annual losses in the region of £1,000 to £1,500 might accrue. Also there are outstanding loans which are due for repayment in 2009 which will eat into



limited capital reserves and reduce any capacity to finance possible losses. Ideally, new capital will be raised during the next 18 months to replace these loans and meet trading losses.

Secondly, there must be the continued support of volunteers and the active involvement of a management committee with a range of skills including retailing, purchasing, accounting and administration. This continuity is perhaps the greater of the two challenges. New input is required and those that have carried the responsibility must be allowed to pass it on. In 2009, after five years, it will be time for at least two new members to stand for appointment to the Management Committee.

These matters do not require immediate action; there is a year in which to consider what is best for the village. The Management Committee looks to the community for its contribution to the debate in reviewing the challenges that face the future of **YOUR** shop. An open meeting is being planned for October to hear your views

Thanks!

An increase of £20,000 in sales equates to an extra £400 per week; or 40 people spending an extra £10 per week; or 80 people spending £5 per week. A round trip to Banbury in a family car costs almost £3 in fuel.

*Robin Prior*

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### Castle Green Management Committee

In June's issue of the Sulgrave Newsletter we announced that the official opening of the Castle Green Improvements and Enhancements would be on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August. However continual contractual difficulties have meant that we cannot be absolutely certain that all the works will have been completed by the date.

It is proper therefore, to delay this event until Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2009. Full details of all activities, guests and happenings, will of course be posted in the newsletter and on the website as the date approaches.

We apologise for any disappointment caused by this change but look forward to seeing everything in place by the Spring of 2009.

Martin Sirot-Smith  
Chairman CGMC

### Strange Laws

Members of Parliament are not allowed to wear suits of armour in the House of Commons.

A law passed by Oliver Cromwell banning the eating of mince pies on Christmas Day has not yet been repealed.

Wyoming State Legislature banned the photographing of rabbits during January, February, March and April without an official permit.

Anyone detonating a nuclear weapon within the city limits of Chico, California, USA, is liable to a \$500 fine.

In Arkansas, USA, it is illegal to extract the teeth of a bear or otherwise to surgically alter them.

Owners of monkeys in Indonesia must have an identity card for the animal, complete with a photo of it.

In France, no pig may be called Napoleon.

No one may eat a rattlesnake in public on a Sunday in Kansas, USA.

It is illegal to sell a teddy bear or play with a yo-yo on a Sunday in Memphis, Tennessee, USA.

A law in Alderson, West Virginia, USA, says that 'No lions shall be allowed to run wild on the streets'.

In Spades, Indiana, USA, you may not open a can with a revolver.

In England it is illegal to impersonate a Chelsea Pensioner.

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### Women's Institute

This month we are looking forward to a demonstration of jewellery making by Lucy Sylvester. You are all welcome to come and see her at work.

Our picnic evening was on one of July's wet days and being outdoors was not possible. Plan B was implemented and we enjoyed a lovely time in Margaret Watts' home at Culworth. The food we all brought to share was delicious.

On the 23rd of August we are holding a "Summer Saturday Sale" in Culworth Village Hall, details elsewhere in this newsletter. Do come along.

*Ann Mackness*

## Midsummer Madness 2008

What great day we had for the Fete, we were so lucky with the weather and the support we had from everyone was fantastic. Thank you all so much. We raised £8,350.00 from the afternoon and evening events and I think a good time was had by all.

A big thank you to our hosts, Moo & Pete for letting us use their lovely garden, and kitchen, and paddock!! Also to Joy & Andron for hosting the BBQ, feeding us all and organising the entertainment. The band were really good, my kind of music anyway, even if it was a bit loud for some.

The fete organising started about 3 months before the event when a small team got together to plan what we were going to do. They then went out to recruit more volunteers until we had about 75 adults and children volunteering to help out in some way. Some were press ganged, some husbands and wives had no choice!!

The preparation for the actual day started weeks before, Libby and Susie gathered donations for the auction of promises, there were tombola tickets to stick, Valerie has had this task for years but she says that this was her swan song. Janet sold a 100 squares. Donations for other stalls were gathered and of course the BBQ tickets were sold. All through May and into June the weather did not look promising and we were all keeping our fingers crossed, that despite being the same weekend as the Glastonbury festival, the sun would shine on our efforts.

The day before all the shopping for the BBQ had to be done, then chopping of onions .... 6 kilos!! Moving tables and gazebos people are so generous in lending their belongings.

A team then met early morning to move the tables and chairs from the Church Hall to the garden. They then had to move the same to the pub at the end of the afternoon and put them away on Sunday morning! The same team put up gazebos (without instructions), signs and generally got the place organised, with addition of bunting, beautifully dressed stalls. The fete looked a picture!

The stall holders then brought in their wares, the various games and events got going. Our volunteers probably never got away from their pitch most of the afternoon because so many of you arrived to support the day. At one point we must have had over 200 people in the garden and over the course of the afternoon we must have had over 300 visitors. We ran out of raffle tickets, all the cakes sold out, as did the bottle stall, teas did a roaring trade as did the face painting, there were queues at one point. The constant pony rides kept Greg fit, he crammed his weekly exercise into one afternoon!

There were so many things to do and look at, the games were popular with

children and adults alike and we won't mention the local cider.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes lettuces by the dozen and crates of strawberries were being chopped and hulled. The pig was gently roasting and I was panicking because I had no tickets left and was wondering whether I could feed 220 people, never mind whether they could all sit down to eat.

The auction of promises was a great success, our auctioneers were in good voice and humour. The food did not run out and the dancing went on well into the evening.

The counting of the money was then the only thing left to do ... to which we have to be grateful to Robin who was handed a crate full of coins to bank

It all came together in the end only a few things to learn from for next time. What did happen to Shire Horses for example?

Thanks to the "committee" for all their help, to the many other volunteers, to those of you who lent us equipment and most of all to all of you who came and spent your money. Without whom all of our efforts would have been in vain.

*Crissy*







## Unclaimed Raffle Prizes

There have been a number of unclaimed raffle prizes from the fete.

They are as follows:-

Orange ticket	437	Bath products
Orange ticket	438	Bath products
Orange ticket	504	Jewellery
Orange ticket	531	Audio book
Orange ticket	533	Cava
Orange ticket	886	Pen
Blue ticket	953	Mulled Wine



If you have one of these tickets, can you please contact Sally Harding on 01295 768412 to arrange delivery of your prize.

## TABLE TOP SALE & COFFEE MORNING

**6th SEPTEMBER**

Jonathan Henn as some of you may not know was disabled due to an unfortunate accident at the age of 2, is a voluntary worker at the Helen and Douglas House Hospice shop in Church Lane, Banbury.

Helen & Douglas house is a hospice for children & young people with life time and life shortening illnesses. They also provide support for their patient families.

We, as a family have decided to help Jonathan raise funds for this worthwhile charity by holding a Table Top Sale and Coffee Morning on the morning of Saturday the 6th September (2008!) at the Old Sulgrave Stores, School Street, opening at 10:30am.

Stalls will include Raffle, Tombola, Cakes, Books etc etc. Any contributions or help would be much appreciated.

Please contact Valerie Henn, The Retreat, Park lane, Sulgrave. Tel: 01295 760270

Please come and give your support to this worthwhile charity.

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Jonathan through his voluntary work for the Red Cross attended a garden party on the 9th July at Buckingham Palace hosted by Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall.

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## Mind your Manor!

Keep your eyes and ears open in August.

**BBC Gardeners' World** will be showing a programme on the history of the cottage garden. It features the new Tudor vegetable plot by the Forge at the Manor, described by Rosemary Verner, one of the schools' team, since cottage gardens began from these origins. Caroline Holmes, a garden historian, is also interviewed in the Rose Garden on the later developments in cottage gardens.



**Touch FM** have a regular Workplace of the Month slot and the Manor will be on this in August also.

Sorry no firm dates or times known.

*Wendy Barnes*



**Sulgrave with Culworth W.I.**

invite you to a

# Summer Saturday Sale

admission free

**Culworth Village Hall**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

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Clothing – Cakes

Bric-a-Brac

Raffle Prizes

and More

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Refreshments

**All Welcome**

## South Northants Homes appoints first handyperson

On Monday 12 May 2008, South Northants Homes (SNH) were pleased to welcome Geoff Rooke as their first 'handyperson' within the housing association.

A familiar face to staff and locals, Geoff was previously employed by South Northamptonshire Council as the caretaker at the Springfield office but made the move to join newly-formed South Northants Homes following the transfer of 2,900 homes from the council in March.

Geoff's role is to assist older, disabled and vulnerable people living within one of SNH's properties by completing small jobs, including minor repairs and aids and adaptations such as grab rails. Priority will be given to urgent cases and the costs incurred will be to cover the supply of materials alone.

Under normal tenancy agreements tenants would be responsible for these tasks. This new service will therefore be valuable to individuals who would otherwise find it difficult to arrange for this work to be carried out and by someone they have confidence in and whom they trust.

Geoff will rotate around SNH's nine sheltered schemes to begin with but SNH anticipate that the popularity of the service will lead to further appointments. The handyperson service could then be extended to tenants more widely at a nominal charge and a 'menu of works' could be introduced to help those who may not have the requisite skills to undertake certain jobs.

Paul Calland, the newly appointed Managing Director of South Northants Homes, said:

"Geoff's appointment has been a positive move for South Northants Homes and aligned with our mission statement supports the diverse population and the varied needs of the tenants we accommodate. South Northants Homes has received much feedback which has complimented the handyperson service and we hope to be able to support further provision in the future".

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## 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

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)

## Date and Time of next meeting

Thursday 28th August 2008 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

**August 2008**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 <b>Mums &amp; Tots</b>	2	3 <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> 10:00 am
4	5	6	7	8 <b>Mums &amp; Tots</b>	9	10 <b>Holy Communion</b> 8:15 am Sulgrave
11	12	13 <b>W.I. Meeting</b> 7:30pm Church Hall	14	15 <b>Mums &amp; Tots</b>	16	17 <b>Evensong</b> 6:00 pm Sulgrave
18	19	20	21 <b>Circle Dancing</b> 7:30 pm Culworth	22 <b>Mums &amp; Tots</b>	23 <b>Summer Sale</b> 2:00 pm Culworth	24 <b>Mattins</b> 10:00 am Sulgrave
25 Book Club 8:00 pm The Star	26	27	28 <b>Parish Council</b> 7:30 pm Church Hall	29 <b>Mums &amp; Tots</b>	30	Laying Bear!

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

