

Sulgrave News



July 2008

In Glorious Black & White!

Due to changes in the arrangements for printing the newsletter, for the foreseeable future, the printed version will revert to a Black & White format. This month's version seen on the village web site will also be B&W, but next month I will use colour where possible on the internet.

I hope everyone had a good time at the Village Fete (Mid-Summer Madness) and I enjoyed meeting everyone who managed to find my trains down by the tennis courts. Thanks to Oscar (from Banbury) who was so captivated that he kept dragging his grand parents back right throughout the afternoon.

Many thanks to Crissy, and everyone, else who put a great deal of effort in organising the event.

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

newsletter@84f.com

Deadline for the August newsletter - 18th. July.

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

Appletree Cottage, The Close, Greatworth, Banbury, OX17 2EB
Telephone 01295 711326, or email newsletter@84f.com

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 Tits & Tots did it!!!!



Tracey, Claire, Nicky, Caron, Lis, Linda & Sue

Thank you to everyone that supported us on Wednesday in our Race for Life at Silverstone.

We have raised around £400 – a fantastic amount for Cancer Research. Special thanks to Andron at The Star for providing much needed sustenance after our exertions!

Please could you leave your sponsor money in the shop in the tin provided so we can hand it over as soon as possible.

We are already looking forward to doing it all again next year – if you fancy joining us we would be delighted to have you in our team!

LOCAL WALKS

There will be a Village Walk to Culworth and back on
13 July, meeting at 10:45, at the Village
Shop.

Christina Shillito



W.I. Garden Cup Awards 2008

Sulgrave Front Garden, Window Boxes & Hanging Baskets Competition

The appointed judge, Mrs June Oxley from Culworth writes :

There is nothing that an amateur gardener, like me, likes better than an invitation to wander round other people's gardens which is what I did in early June this year.

Sulgrave was in full bloom and the fragrance from the beautiful roses was everywhere.

I started off down Manor Road and was soon struck by the effort made by people with little or no front garden – Apple Acre and Harry's Cottage had wonderful purple and pink petunias in the window boxes and The New Bungalow sported colourful hanging baskets.

The plants tumbling over the wall of 2 Spring Cottages were a profusion of colours.

Entering Towrise it was quite obvious that no. 18 will be a strong contender as the garden matures. The clever screening of the parking area from the garden was well thought out and the hanging baskets were lovely.

Moving on down Manor Road, Kiln Cottage was a delight of a typical cottage garden with beautiful grey, pink and green with a lovely old fashioned rose in the corner.

Leaving Manor Road a peek round the wall of Blythe House revealed some beautiful and unusual aquilegias and many other contrasting shrubs.

Spinners' Cottages were a selection of different styles - no.7 a gravel, grasses and evergreen garden while no. 4 sported a mouth watering row of ice cream coloured daisies.

On now to Helmdon Road where a (nearly) bonsai tree provided a talking point!

Stone House in Little Street showed a clever use of pale lemon and green hanging baskets to complement the colour of the garage door.

Now on to the most difficult part of the afternoon, picking the winners.

I feel that first place should go to Mertyne in School Street. There had been so much thought and effort put into this garden, loads of colours, beautiful aliums for texture and a lovely array of salmon dascias over the small wall.

My second choice is Ferns in Helmdon Road, something completely different. A raised garden jam packed with shrubs of differing colours and textures introduced with aliums and grasses, all accessed by tiny gravel pathways. Each step up to the house was graced with a different terracotta pot.

Third place is 14 Spinners' Cottages. A marvellous cacophony of colour; red hot pokers against a background of purple wild geranium fighting with burgundy perpetual sweet peas which, in turn, shaded a well laden apple tree.

Thank you for sharing your lovely gardens with me.

Many Thanks

I wishes to thank all my studio visitors for their contributions to the Robin Oakley Church Restoration Fund during Oxford Art Week, for which we raised £119.50. I did so enjoy meeting many of you in the studio, where the children were able to draw while we had a chat and some refreshment.

Again many thanks indeed for making Oxford Art Week so enjoyable.

Barbara Burke

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Nash's Yard in Manor Road

Last week (June 2008) a workman repairing the roof of a barn in Nash's Yard found a bottle containing a note, written in pencil on a page apparently torn from an accounts book, as follows:

1897

In this bottle will be found a script, touching the horrible murder which took place this Sat afternoon at 4 o'clock when a lad only 13 yrs age was fearfully murdered by his uncle only 25 yrs age in a field of oats near in the village who completely severed his head from his body.

Inquest today resulted in willful murder.

July 12 1897. Victoria's Jubilee Year

This little village of Sulgrave is very much cut up today. I who am a stranger working a carpenter on this roof where the bottle will be found hoping whoever finds this bottle will discern the writing.

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Year 1897

Mr. Adkins. King Sutton.

This mystery has now been solved by Sulgrave History Society member Valerie Henn, who has lived in the village all her life. All of the facts in Mr Adkin's "script" turn out to be true.

In 1897 Albert Smith aged 13 and his sister Alice aged 9 lived in Sulgrave with their father Francis, a farm labourer. Their mother had died some years previously.

On Saturday 10th July of that year they were alone in the house whilst their father was at work. Their uncle James Shaw aged 25 arrived unexpectedly and took them out for a walk. He was newly discharged from the army after seven years in the Scots Guards.

They went first to Mr Godfrey's shop in the village and bought sweets. The local constable Fred Cole saw them leaving the village along the Helmdon Road, apparently in high spirits. They climbed a fence bordering the road and went into a field of

oats then known as "Stone Pits".

Francis Smith arrived home from work just after 6 pm to find Alice on her own. She said that her Uncle James had sent her home some hours earlier but brother Albert had been allowed to stay out. When he didn't return by 8 pm Francis commenced a search which was called off at 2 am on the Sunday morning when it was too dark to continue.

The search was resumed on Sunday morning but when there was still no sign of Albert, Francis sent his elder brother to Banbury where Sarah Hobbs, James' sister lived, this being the most likely place for him to have gone. James Shaw was indeed there and said that he had left Albert outside the Sulgrave blacksmith's shop at 4 pm on the Saturday.

Francis called the police. On Sunday evening Constable Fred Cole found the headless body of Albert Smith in a ditch. His head was nearby covered in grass, together

with a cut-throat razor wrapped in a bloodied piece of paper. There were signs of a violent struggle. Alice Smith then told Constable Cole that James Shaw had assaulted her in that field but didn't know whether this had been witnessed by her brother because he had walked on ahead. She said this was why her uncle sent her home.

James Shaw was arrested within the hour and charged with murder.

On the next day, Monday, an inquest was held before a packed crowd in Sulgrave's school room. The verdict was "wilful murder".

The trial was held on 19th November before Mr Justice Wills. Shaw claimed he was in Banbury at the time of the murder, having travelled there by train from Helmdon Station. However, Helmdon station signalman Alfred Hobbs recalled telling him at 3.45 pm that there would be no train until after 5 pm.



The station in Helmdon (c1910)
where James Shaw went after the murder
photo courtesy of www.helmdon.com

Shaw had then walked to Brackley and caught the 5.22 pm train to Banbury as witnessed by a police constable who happened to share the same carriage.

It also emerged that a police constable had seen Shaw in Sulgrave village at 1.30 am on the Sunday morning and another constable had seen him in Banbury some three hours later. He offered no explanation as to why he

had made the long walk from Banbury to Sulgrave and back again in the course of Saturday night and Sunday morning. The prosecution suggested that he had returned to bury the body but the presence of searchers in the area had prevented him from doing more than throwing it into a ditch and covering the head with grass.

The court heard evidence as to Shaw's mental state. A number of his former army colleagues attested that he had delusory and violent tendencies. This was confirmed by prison officers attending him as he awaited trial. However, the jury concluded that he was sane and returned a guilty verdict. Mr Justice Wills duly sentenced him to death.

This sentence was later commuted to one of life imprisonment on the basis of evidence from two eminent London doctors that he was "criminally insane".

Thus it turns out that, far from being some kind of a hoax, Mr Adkin's message in a bottle was a true record of the facts. He must have written it immediately after the inquest in the village school, which he may well have attended. Clearly he was much moved by this event and the stir it had caused in the village and wished somehow to record his feelings for posterity. He chose the time-honoured builder's method of a "message in a bottle", safely concealed until the next renovation or demolition and so his bottle remained intact for 111 years.

More details can be found in

**Northamptonshire Murders
An exploration of murders in
Northamptonshire from
1852 to 1952**

by Kevin Turton

To purchase this book go to The History Press website at

<http://www.thehistorypress.co.uk>

Any further information or comment on this affair would be welcome.

Send an email to:- Info@Sulgrave.org or telephone me on 01295 760788.

Colin Wootton

Women's Institute

This month we are looking forward to our Summer Picnic in the garden of our Vice President and Assistant Treasurer, Margaret Watts, in Culworth.

In June two visitors joined us when we all enjoyed sampling the dishes produced by Ali Templeton, assisted by her husband, following her vegetarian cookery demonstration.

Earlier in June I attended the National AGM at Echo Arena, Liverpool. This is always an exciting experience, as you meet members from throughout England and Wales. The two resolutions were debated: the one to urge Government to ban the fishing practice of bottom trawling the sea bed was not carried; the second one to urge the provision of treatment and therapy for the imprisoned severely mentally ill in a more appropriate and secure residential environment was carried by a 97% majority. Guest speakers were Professor Averil MacDonald on women in science, Baroness Susan Greenfield on an individual's unique repertoire of behaviour. The final speaker was Sandi Toksvig, writer and broadcaster; if you listen to "The News Quiz" on Radio 4 for example, you'll know how amusing this was !

Ann Mackness

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)

Draft Notes from Parish Council Meeting held 5th June 2008

Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Confirmation of minutes of last meeting held on 15th May 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

Permissive Path – The final document is available now. The Clerk was asked to check with the councils insurers to clarify if there is public liability cover to use the path and they confirmed there is. Cllr Pollak will need to read the document with her husband and send to their solicitor. It will then be available for the other councillors to see.

Sulgrave Parish Council (Continued)

Rights of Way Improvements

The Parish Council had received a document and CD for improvements to the public rights of way and bridleways. It was forwarded to Cllr Pollak and Christina Shillito (CS), the Footpath Warden for their advice.

The letter is from Richard Hall and his office is Sustainable Transport in Northampton whereas the Rights of Way Team are in Brixworth. Richard Hall's group have conducted a survey and they say a majority of people want toilets, car parking, better signage and better surface underfoot ie no mud. The signing would be on posts giving distances and notices in villages with maps. CS felt it would be better to tell people to go to the council website where they can download maps of all description and it could be regularly updated at no cost rather than expensive signs with a lot of information on all over the countryside. People wanted all footpaths changed to bridleways and more access is needed for MPVs, mothers with buggies and disabled people in motorised wheelchairs. CS thinks they are planning to get of stiles and replace them with either a gap or a gate. Mixing footpaths with bridleways is difficult for walkers. Although riders will slow down, the hooves destroy the surface very quickly and can make it dangerous. They want to have more cycle routes and in CS's experience, this does not work as cycles come from in front and behind, are fast and a walker does not know where to walk. New paths would be created to link up existing paths, this would be done by paying private landowners for their field edges. This seems a good idea if it can be done. The idea to widen verges on busy roads so walkers can walk more safely between paths is good as there are places around Sulgrave where this could be helpful. They want to make gates on bridleways rider friendly. During 2005/6 £50K was given for thinking of ways to improve the system and more money has been put in over the following years. At the same time they have cut the number of Rights of Way Officers. CS feels that more Officers are needed on the ground to help with basic work such as cutting back growth of nettles at gates, small repairs and a quick response to problems.

CS noted that there is expensive work to be done. There are drainage issues on the Boggy Field by AY8. Cllr Kellett felt that access to the countryside should be muddy and passable. Access to gates and stiles should be clear for all walkers.

In conclusion Cllr Pollak noted that she and CS would set up a working party, take the positive ideas from the CD and welcome ideas from anyone else. The idea of footpath wardens was introduced by NCC but they don't seem to be listening to them. Cllr Pollak agreed to reply to the letter on behalf of the Parish Council.

Copying of newsletter

Enquiries had been made with Sulgrave Manor about copying the newsletter. Costs will be split 50/50 between the Manor and the Parish Council and the cost will be £60.00 per issue. Colour copies would be charged at 6p per sheet and black and white at 2p. Previously all the newsletters have been produced in colour. The council recognised the Manors help as they produced the last one at very short notice and thanks was given to them. The Chair noted that no money has been set aside in this years budget as the service has been free for a few years.

Cllr Kellett felt there was nothing technical in producing the newsletter. A new printer could cost £100.00 and he suggested the council think about purchasing a new one. The newsletter could then be produced each month for less than £60.00. The work could be carried out within the council and used for other general copying that is needed.

Sulgrave Parish Council (Continued)

Both Cllr's Powell/Pollak did not agree to this idea as they felt they were doing enough already and more electric would be used. It would not necessarily be a cost saving exercise.

A discussion took place whether the newsletter should be in colour or black and white as it would be cheaper to produce in that way. Cllr Waite felt that people would miss the colour but it was better to have it to read even if in black and white. The Chair agreed as it provides a valuable community service.

A note would be put in the next newsletter asking if anyone in the village would be willing to sponsor a printer for the Parish Council. In the meantime it was agreed the Manor should continue producing the newsletter in black and white for the foreseeable future. There would still be a colour copy on the internet for everyone to access if they have a PC. The following resolution was then proposed by Cllr Kellett:

"That a total amount of £100.00 be set aside from the budget for a period of three months to be used for the publication of the Sulgrave newsletter by Sulgrave Manor". This was seconded by Cllr Pollak and all the councillors voted in favour.

Councillors Reports

Community Speedwatch

Cllr Powell has contacted PC McQuaid as some volunteers cannot make training on 2nd August. Another session has been arranged for 21st June. The Chair is still to liaise with Cllr Powell about posters.

Castle Green Restoration Project

Cllr Pollak gave the following update.

The Wall

Cllr Pollak was not able to stay to discuss the wall restoration at the last council meeting and understood that great concern was expressed about the way Rhodes were administering the project. She then drew the councillors attention to the March council meeting when the following statement was made:

"They sympathised with the frustration and criticisms expressed at that meeting but reminded me that in August last year it looked as though we might not be able to continue with the wall project. At that time Graham and members of the Castle Green Committee had a meeting with Cecil Rhodes and reluctantly agreed that the only way forward was to trust Cecil Rhodes to act on our behalf to bring the project to a satisfactory conclusion, so it would not be helpful to try to bring any formal complaints against him".

Cllr Pollak pointed out that the wall has been rebuilt and the general appearance is good. There are problems with snagging and steps/handrails but the Castle Green Committee (CGC) will continue to withhold £13K from Underwood and Weston so they are in a strong position.

The CGC met after the last council meeting and agreed a draft response to the Rhodes Partners. This letter, an illustration drafted by Andrew, shows the required modifications to the handrails and some explanatory notes were sent to Rhodes by post and email on May 20th. Rhodes Partners were then on holiday for 10 days and the CGC are awaiting their response.

Sulgrave Parish Council (Continued)

Finances

No cheques have been drawn.

Benches

Three benches are being ordered and English Heritage has been approached for permission to set them in concrete. They have also given verbal permission for the sign board posts to be set in concrete too. This will ensure they last much longer than if they were placed directly into the soil.

Sign Boards

The committee are finalising the wording for the main information board for the site and Leigh Dickinson of Church Street has agreed to create a digital design which will be sent to the sign manufacturers. The committee hope it will be ready in time for the formal opening of the Restoration Project, which is planned for 31st August.

The discussion was then opened up to the councillors. Cllr Kellett felt the problem was with the Rhodes Partnership and the Parish Council should write and state that the work must be finished by a certain date. Cllr Waite noted that the situation has to be handled very carefully otherwise everything could be lost at the end which would be detrimental to the project. The Parish Council must remain firm and the contractors must finish what they started. The Chair noted that if the Parish Council was a proper business, they could take a different view on it. However they are not and must keep the job moving forward in the best way possible. They cannot be exposed to any unnecessary risks.

It was agreed that the Rhodes Partners must respond to all the points in the latest letter in a timely manner and by 15th June. There will be no reason then for them not to give a new completion date. Cllr Pollak will continue to liaise with them.

Parking outside Spinners Cottages

Cllr Waite has published the survey results in the newsletter and on the website. He has circulated dates for the working party to meet and is waiting for their response.

Underground Cabling

The Chair had sent a list of questions as follows re the proposed work in the village.

Question: During excavation work will there be road restrictions and restricted traffic flow?

Answer: There will be little or no traffic restrictions.

Question: Do you expect residents who park on Magpie Road to have that restricted?

Answer: Residents will not be affected and they will receive a letter in advance. They will not be able to park on grass verges, an alternative may be to park in the Church Hall car park.

Question: 8 weeks is a long time for the work, what is the actual elapsed time for the work?

Answer: This is the anticipated duration time including re-instatement.

Question: If they excavate the grass area adjacent to the footpath can they confirm re-instatement will include replacing the turf?

Answer: They will put topsoil down and seed only.

The Chair is to draft a suitable response.

Sulgrave Parish Council (Continued)

Allotments

Cllr Waite confirmed he has made an application to Anglian Water for a fresh water supply for the allotment area.

Drains

The drain at the top of Towrise/Manor Road was reported to the Street Doctor as it is often wet when there has been no rain.

Water problem in Stockwell Lane

The Chair and Clerk had received the inspection report from Chris Reynolds (Building Inspector) who visited the site in March. He found no signs of running water emanating from the grass verge adjacent to the highway. Most of the water was finding its way into the nearby road gully but some was trickling down the road. In his opinion the water is either ground water or a burst water mains. His recollection of the site when inspecting the excavations was weathered limestone and clay with no ground water. There was evidence of water in the excavations to the retaining wall adjacent to the highway/ditch. He has suggested that the Parish Council contact SNC who may be able to advise on the possibility of ground conditions from the geological map and the presence of any spring water to the hillslope. The Chair agreed to make contact with SNC.

Finance Report

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

£846.00	R D Landscapes Ltd (4 x grass cuts)
£50.00	Parish Clerk (float)

Update on Planning Applications

The following application has been permitted by SNC:-

S/2008/0271/P, Extension to front of garage at Coombe Cottage, Helmdon Road

The council has received three new applications to consider:

S/2008/0587/LB, Alterations and repairs to a section of boundary wall at Corner House, Helmdon Road. The council will approve it.

S/2008/0694/P, Porch to front, replacement car port including pitched roof and timber doors to front. Replacement shed to rear at Hangland, Manor Road. The council will approve it.

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. In circulation. Waiting for a drawing from SNC.

Correspondence

Email from SNC to note that Barn No 3 next to Dial House Farm is going to be called 'The Old Piggeries'.

Open Forum

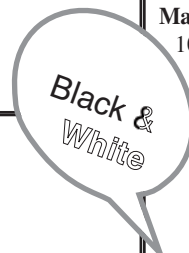
Mrs Barber congratulated Cllr Waite on his excellent work with the Spinners Cottages survey.

Date and Time of next meeting

Thursday 3rd July 2008 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

July 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3 Parish Council 7:30 pm Church Hall	4 Mums & Tots	5	6 Benefice Holy Communion 10:00 am T. Mand,
7	8	9 W.I. Meeting 7:30pm Church Hall	10	11 Mums & Tots	12	13 Holy Communion 8:15 am Sulgrave Village Walk 10:45 at the Shop
14	15	16	17 Circle Dancing 7:30 pm Culworth	18 Mums & Tots	19	20 Evensong 6:00 pm Sulgrave
21	22	23	24	25 Mums & Tots	26	27 Mattins 10:00 am Sulgrave
28 Book Club 8:00 pm The Star	29	30	31			



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