

Sulgrave News



December 2014

Regular Events

- BB&C Service 2nd Sunday of the month at Culworth church - 11.00am
Book Club 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Star Inn - 8.00pm
Circle Dancing 3rd Thursday of the month at Culworth - 7.00pm

This newsletter is an independent publication, edited and compiled by Janet Smith. It is delivered free of charge to all houses in Sulgrave and Stuchbury by Maureen Jeffery, Susie Mason, Pim Lockwood, Jean Bates, Racheal Hijstee and George Metcalfe. Costs are met by Sulgrave Parish Council and Sulgrave Manor. 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.



Deadline for the January newsletter is 13th December 2014

If you have information, articles or stories for the newsletter telephone Janet on 01295 760397 or e-mail janet_m_smith@btinternet.com.
As always, articles can be left at Sulgrave Village Shop

Church News

Service for December

Sunday 7 th	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion at Morton Pinkney
Sunday 14 th	8.15am	Holy Communion at Sulgrave
Sunday 21 st	3.00pm	Carol Service at Sulgrave
Wednesday 24 th	11.30pm	Midnight Holy Communion at Sulgrave
Sunday 28 th	10.00am	Carols at Edgecote



In the 'run-up' to Christmas there is always a lot going on in the church. On Sunday December 21st at 3pm we shall be holding our Carol Service. This is an opportunity to join in the Nativity. Please come, bring the children and experience what Christmas is all about!

On Christmas Eve we shall celebrate Holy Communion at our Midnight Service. We shall be decorating the Church and would appreciate any donations of foliage and (preferably) white flowers. Please call me on 760214 if you can help.

Our annual Christmas Fayre will be held in the Church Hall on Saturday, December 6th between 10am and noon. Come and purchase last minute gifts. There will be the usual cyclamen and Christmas arrangements - both vastly superior to what is found in commercial establishments. Have a cup of tea and a chat, enter the raffle, catch up with friends etc. If you can support us in any way by providing a raffle prize or making a cake, please let me know.

Shrimp



Flower and Cleaning Rota - December

Sunday 7 th / 14 th	Ms J Smithr
Sunday 21 st / 28 th	All to decorate. Altar flowers - Mrs E Cave



Janet & Maureen would like to invite you to our

Soup Kitchen

at Sulgrave Church Hall on
Tuesday 9th December at 12.30pm



Game Soup

or

Broccoli & Stilton Soup (v)

Both served with croutons, bread rolls and butter

Christmas Pudding

Cheese & biscuits, celery & grapes

Cafetieres of freshly brewed coffee

£7.50

Booking is essential

To reserve your place please call

Janet Smith
01295 760397

Maureen Jeffery
01295 768268



Village Shop News Update
Shop Telephone – 01295 760066

We're into the 'zone' counting down for the festive holidays. Sharon & Joanna have both been busy researching & sourcing new products to tempt you & your families. The Christmas Order Forms have all been circulated (more are available in the Shop if yours has been misplaced) & we're already receiving a number back; there are some really organised people out there.

Rather than re-write War & Peace this morning, pop in & take a look at what's available but here's a few to get you in the mood:

- We've become something of a destination shop for people thanks to Digby's excellent wines. Remember that there's a 5% discount on purchases of 6 or more bottles
- Hand made wreaths are available to order with a choice of red, gold or silver colour themes
- Fresh Christmas trees will be available for you to order
- We're stocking greeting cards produced by our very own Emily Russell

You may have also noticed a few new pieces of equipment in the Shop? Out with the old, in with the new; thanks to Michael for his excellent work in sourcing & arranging the installation of the new chiller cabinet. More storage space & easier for you to get to the contents. There'll be a new freezer unit shortly for the 'upstairs behind the scenes' area as well. Both are necessary investments that along with the new computer & till / debit card system, will help improve the service that we're looking to provide to you all.

Yours,

'Mac' Macdonald
01295 760470



**There will be no Book Club Meeting
in December**



Sulgrave's Advent calendar 2014

This Christmas Shrimp and I have inveigled sufficient "volunteers" to create a village Advent Calendar. This is not an idea thought up by us but one I had heard about in a Cambridgeshire village (Abington Piggotts). The idea is to have 25 houses with a window which is clearly visible from the road / pavement and that the window would have a simple (or highly decorated) picture / scene similar to those depicted in an Advent calendar.

The first opening will be on Monday December 1st at Hill Farm Yard at 5.30pm. For subsequent openings please hunt the numbers around the village, the time will be the same unless notified otherwise. Please attend if you can as we would love a good crowd!

Dec 21st opening will be the Nativity Scene in the Church as part of the Carol Service at 3pm.

It is hoped that this will be a good Christmassy village effort and be fun for all.

If you are interested in offering to help in any way do contact me or Shrimp preferably as soon as possible! Shrimp: 760214. Ingram: 760520.



Soup Kitchen

From January 2015, lunches will be on WEDNESDAYS. The dates are planned to be as shown below. Should any of them need to be changed as the year progresses we will give as much notice as possible.

January 14th, February 10th, March 10th, April 8th, May 6th, June 3rd, July 1st,
August 26th, September - no lunch, October 7th, November 4th, December 2nd.

Christingle Service, 3pm, Sunday 11th January 2015 - Calling all children!



We are planning to hold our annual Christingle Service, to raise funds for the Children's Society, which helps disadvantaged children across the UK, on Sunday 11th January. This candlelit service, where every child receives a Christingle orange bearing a candle, red ribbon, fruit and sweets, makes a really nice end to the festive season BUT it requires children to make it really special as they take part in the prayers, readings, singing and often a short play! If you would like to take part in the service please could parents contact either KATE MILES (tel 760957 or e-mail simonkatemiles@yahoo.co.uk) or LINDA HARRISON Tel (760531). Similarly if there are any adults who would like to help in the organisation of this service please contact either Linda or myself, as we would really appreciate some extra help.

We look forward to hearing from villagers of all ages and please put this date in your diary for January for a final Christmas celebration!

Many thanks
Kate Miles and Linda Harrison



THE EVENT OF THE YEAR!



Christmas Fayre - Sulgrave Church Hall
Saturday 6th December 10.00am till Noon

Raffle, Refreshments, Gifts, Cakes, Biscuits, Preserves,
Cyclamen, Christmas Arrangements, Doggie gifts,
Presents etc.



Events at Sulgrave Manor

Saturday 6th December - Tudor Christmas Feast

The Tudor Christmas Feast begins at 5.30pm with entertaining talks in the house bedecked in its Christmas finery followed by traditional libations and a Tudor repast. Tickets are £35 each and must be booked in advance include pre- dinner drinks and a 3 course meal. Cash bar after dinner service.

Saturday 13th December 11-4.

Christmas fun day. Story telling, make Christmas gifts and crafts to take home. Childrens Christmas tour of the house. Entrance £8 children adults free. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Visit Father Christmas in his grotto (additional fee £4 applies, limited availability)



Letter to Father Christmas

From the beginning of December there will be a special postbox in the shop where you can place your letters to Father Christmas. All those under the age of 10yrs are welcome to write their wish lists and put them in the box. Please put your full name and address so that Father Christmas knows who you are and where you live.

Remember - be good!



The Christmas Wreaths

Twenty two years ago Pauline Flynn, Julie Metcalfe, Eileen Roberts and a small group of Sulgrave villagers started the Christmas tradition of decorating the village with wreaths to mark the route for the Carol Singers.

This year we will be meeting in the Church Hall on Friday December 19th at 9.30am for the wreath making.

How about coming along?

You need secateurs, gardening gloves - no best clothes and no experience necessary!!!

We promise a warm welcome, warm room, refreshments and be home by midday!!!

If you can help please phone me on 01295 768484

Joan Taylor



Lost my resin hedgehog has gone missing from my back garden. We think it was probably a fox who was very cross when he found out it was not edible. It was very lifelike and could be anywhere in Sulgrave... I would like him back if anyone finds him.

Pat Thomas

The Blades, Helmdon Road

01295 760432



Janet and Susie wish a very happy Christmas and prosperous w Year to all their friends in Sulgrave. Lots of Love



FOR SALE

A small mobile gas heater, plus all instructions.

Call Joan on 01295 760737

Knockout Nosh—where food is fun!

CHRISTMAS CAKES AND PUDDINGS

TO ORDER

Any size.

Boozy or non-boozy. Iced, nudded or plain.

Gluten free if required

Profit shared with Sulgrave Village Shop



Call Susie Blayney on Tel: 01295768322 / 07787187250
Email: Susie@knockoutnosh.co.uk www.Knockoutnosh.co.uk
follow the knockout nosh blog for ideas



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

At the October meeting of the Wappenham branch of the RBL, following references to the fact that Sulgrave lacked a door to door collector, I felt that I should offer my services. Having never undertaken such a task before, I set out with some trepidation on my first excursion. The wonderfully enthusiastic reception everywhere I went soon dispelled any misgivings and the generosity of your donations soon filled my box. Indeed I had to ask for another! I heard stories of the amazing atmosphere at the Tower of London poppy field and one family told of a visit to Ypres on the previous day. Many of you were so pleased to see a collector on the doorstep after several years without.

On a personal note, thank you all for the cordial greetings I received wherever I went and for the interest you showed in RBL and my own military career. A special thank you now for your generosity to the appeal, without you support the Legion would not be able to carry on its great work supporting needy veterans.

The total collection by the whole of Wappenham branch amounted to £3841.17 and of that you donated £450, split between the village shop and myself.

If anyone fancies a very rewarding experience next year, RBL would be delighted to find an extra collecting box and tray of poppies, we are also happy to enrol new members. You do not have to be an ex service member, all are welcome.

I salute you all
Donald Taylor

NESTBOX NOTES



If you have a bird nest box in your garden, and you haven't already cleaned out old nesting material, now would be a good time to do so. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, birds in general prefer to start with a nice new nest rather than to re-use the old one (there are of course exceptions, such as some birds of prey), and, secondly, the old nest will now include quite a variety of small wildlife, insects, woodlice and so on (wear gloves when you do the clean-pout).

Since the first year when nest boxes were put up around the village (1997), I have kept a record of their occupancy by great tits and blue tits. This year, of the 26 nestboxes, 14 had been occupied. This equals the highest number since 2008, but, as a percentage of the total (59%^), it's not as good as 2008's 14 out of 18 (78%). An important contributory factor is that, in 2012, ten more nestboxes were put up (following a box assembly stall at an event on Castle Green). It may therefore mean that we've reached a sort of saturation point, as the tits do not nest in communities - they are territorial to some degree and won't nest near to another, so there's a limit to the number of nests within a given area.

By the way, this survey does not include any nest boxes situated in private gardens. I'd like to hear of any successful nesting.

A sad footnote: within the last two years two of the boxes in the Pocket Park and the wood have been vandalised.

George Metcalfe

SULGRAVE CASTLE ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

With this issue of Sulgrave News you will find a copy of our leaflet "Sulgrave Castle Scheduled Ancient Monument", which resembles our previous leaflet, "Castle Green Public Open Space" but focuses on the Castle Hill itself, and the results of excavations that were carried out there between 1960 and 1976 by Mr Brian Davison.

Production of the leaflet, and installation of an Information Board alongside the footpath leading into the churchyard, where the Castle is easily visible, should enable the general public to understand the grassy hill they are looking at. It also marks the culmination of the Lottery-funded part of our Castle Hill Project, which was set up to examine and catalogue the 'Finds' from the excavations, under the supervision of Dr Richard Ivens, a professional archaeologist who was Site Supervisor at the 1976 excavations.

We also undertook to arrange events and produce publications to inform the public. The first stage involved numerous volunteers from the village History Group, who worked tirelessly on washing, counting, marking and re-bagging the finds, many of which had not been touched since 1976, owing to lack of funding. A complete digital Archive was produced by Dr Ivens, and a copy will be delivered to the Local Records Office, where it will be available to the general public.

Ultimately Dr Ivens' full report and analysis of the excavations will be published in a professional Archaeological Journal, alongside specially commissioned expert reports on the pottery, bones, metalwork and coins; hopefully in 2015.

Over the last two years, thanks to the HLF's 'Local Heritage Initiative', we presented a 'History Day' at Sulgrave Manor, attended by over 80 members of Local history Societies in Northamptonshire. Mr Brian Davison, Director of Excavations, and Dr Richard Ivens gave illustrated first-hand accounts of the excavations, and then led an 'on-site' visit to the Castle Hill and the Castle Green.

Also during this time Clare Pollak (Project Coordinator), Colin Wootton, (Chairman of the Group), and I have written, designed and published a complete pack of teaching materials, including maps, plans and 20 work-cards, with comprehensive notes for local school groups to come and investigate the site. In August these were 'tried' at an enjoyable event held on site with local children and their families.

An exhausting, but thoroughly engaging project, involving many people from local volunteers to experts in their particular fields, as well as the project team itself. My thanks to everyone for all the time and commitment given over the years. All this, together with the work of the Castle Green Committee will hopefully make the whole site much more accessible, and better understood.

Martin Sirot-Smith, Chairman, Sulgrave History Society; Treasurer to the Archaeology Group

NB The AGM of the Sulgrave History Society and the Archaeology Group will take place at the Star inn on Friday 12th Dec at 8.15pm.

‘Give a lift to your community’

Brackley Area Volunteer Car Service (BAVCS) provides transport to people from Brackley and the surrounding villages who find it difficult to get to essential medical appointments, as they do not have ready access to public or private transport.

The car service has six passengers from Sulgrave who require help with journeys to doctors, opticians and dentists etc. The majority of our 357 passengers are elderly; indeed the average age of the passengers is 84 years.

BAVCS is entirely dependent on a team of friendly, loyal and helpful volunteer drivers who use their own vehicles to take registered passengers to their appointments. The drivers are from all walks of life and the majority have completed several years’ voluntary service with BAVCS.

If you would like further information about becoming a volunteer driver then please get in touch with Linda or Viv at BAVCS **Tel: 01280 841099** or email info@snvb.org.uk

A mileage allowance is paid and the voluntary role is totally flexible with the drivers choosing which journeys to do, when and how often.

Why not ‘Give a Little Gain a Lot’

Melanie Bignell
Operations Manager
South Northamptonshire Volunteer Bureau (snvb)
Brackley Volunteer Centre
Market House Courtyard
Brackley
NN13 7AB

SNVB Registered Charity 1104848
Company Limited by Guarantee 5068116

Northamptonshire Association for the Blind

37 Harborough Road , Kingsthorpe, NORTHAMPTON. NN2 7BB

Helpline: 01604 719193

Email: helpline@nab.org.uk

www.nab.org.uk



Christmas Gift Ideas

*Are your loved ones or friends blind or partially sighted?
Are you wondering what to buy them for Christmas?*

Then why not visit one of **Northamptonshire Association for the Blind's Sight Centres** to see a range of different gift ideas. They display and sell a variety of specialist aids and equipment that can make the perfect birthday or Christmas gifts for someone living with sight loss.



Gifts include: Kitchen Gadgets, Talking Clocks and Watches, Reading and Writing Guides, plus other Household Aids. There are Big Button Telephones and Mobile Phones, Large Print Books, Playing Cards and NEW Large Print 2015 Diaries and Calendars.

The gifts vary in price to meet all budgets and they won't be found on the High Street.

Locations:

Kettering Sight Centre located behind QD's on the High Street, at the top of the Wadcroft car park (off Commercial Rd).

Open Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays 10am-1pm.

New **Northampton Sight Centre** located on the Harborough Road opposite Waitrose in Kingsthorpe. Open Monday – Friday 9am-3pm.

:

Helpline: 01604 719193

www.nab.org.uk



Local Council Elections in 2015



There will be Local Council Elections in May 2015 in Sulgrave. In order for the Parish Council to represent a true cross-section of the community, we would like to see seats contested for Sulgrave Parish Council next year.

This is a brilliant opportunity for you to get more involved with what goes on, on your doorstep, and to help make decisions that shape this community.

Sulgrave Parish Council is currently involved in the upgrade of the street lighting system and improvements to the Church Hall. We try to raise the profile of Sulgrave with both the District Council and County Council and other service providers to enhance the facilities within the village i.e. highways, water, public transport, and indeed all aspects affecting the village.

The role of a Councillor is to ensure that the views of the community are put to the relevant persons or bodies and the special interests of the community are protected and promoted. It is also to suggest new initiatives or development to existing policies. The Parish Council is also responsible for setting the parish precept and for controlling spending of it.

If you would like any more information please contact any existing Councillor or the Parish Clerk.

Sulgrave Parish Council welcomes your interest

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

You are invited to
THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

To be held on
THURSDAY 11th DECEMBER 2014
@ 7.45PM

In
Sulgrave Church Hall

Mulled wine and mince pies
will be served after the meeting



We look forward to seeing you there

December 2014

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
5	Church Hall Fayre Christmas 6 10am-Noon	Morton Pinkney Benefice HC.7 10.00am
12	13	Sulgrave Holy Communion 14 8.15am
19	20	Sulgrave Carol Service 21 3.00pm
26	27	Edgecote Carols at 28 10.00am

Deadline for the January 2015 Newsletter is 13th December 2014

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
3	4.....
10	Church Hall Mtg Parish Council 11 - 7.45PM
17	18
Sulgrave Communion Midnight Holy 24 .11.30pm	25
31	

MONDAY	TUESDAY
1	2
8	Church Hall Soup Kitchen 9 12.30
15	16
22	23
29	30