

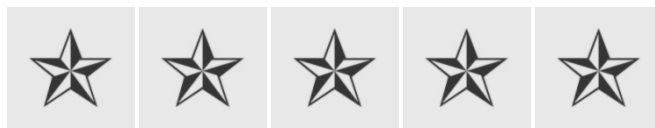
Sulgrave News

February 2012

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 - 7.30pm

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, 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.



Deadline for the March newsletter is 17th February

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 Services

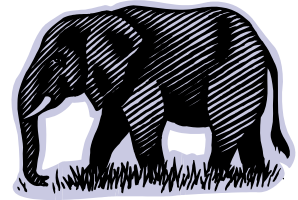
February 5th 11.00am Benefice Service at Sulgrave

February 12th^h 8.15am Holy Communion at Sulgrave

There will be no Evensong on February 19th, instead we shall hold the George Washington Service at 3.00pm. This celebrates George Washington's birthday. All are welcome.

February 26th 10.00am Mattins at Sulgrave

Church News



SAFARI SUPPER

Get your diaries and calendars and, with a well inked pen, put a cross on March 24th. This is the date of the SAFARI SUPPER. If you're new to the village this is the very best way to meet other people in a relaxed social situation!!

Sign up by ringing either Anne Dyde on 760634 or Shrimp on 760214. If you can be a host for either a starter or a main course, please let us know. We want to get as many people as possible. We are keeping the cost at £15.00 per head, we understand that times are hard. Even so, where else could you have a fantastic night out with no designated driver!!

GO FOR IT!!!

Shrimp

Flower and Cleaning Rota for December

February 4th & 11th Mrs J Symes-Thompson & Mrs. J Coverley

February 18th & 25th Ms J Smith



Janet & Maureen would like to invite you to our

Soup Kitchen

at Sulgrave Church Hall on
Tuesday 7th February at 12.30pm



Spicy Parsnip Soup (v)

or

Winter Vegetable Soup (v)

Both served with croutons, bread rolls and butter

Treacle Roly Poly with
Custard or Cream

Cheese & biscuits, celery & grapes

Cafetieres of freshly brewed coffee

£7.00

Booking is essential
To reserve your place please call

Janet Smith
01295 760397

Maureen Jeffery
01295 768268

"YOU CAN SEE FOR MILES....."

Barrow Hill is the highest spot in this parish, at 181 metres (or 182 metres, according to which map you're looking at) above sea level. That means that if you stand on top of the "barrow" which is perhaps a Bronze Age burial mound, you are more or less at the six hundred feet mark. That's quite a good height for this mainly low-lying county, of which, incidentally, the highest natural point is Arbury Hill, to the west of Badby at 225 metres.

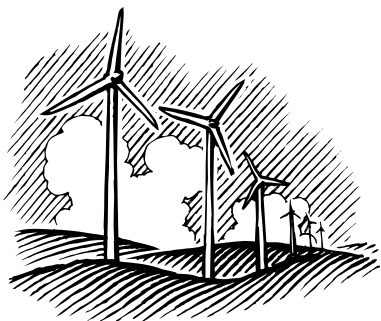
Barrow Hill therefore offers quite a good view, one which, in the late eighteenth century, prompted an esteemed local historian to write "(from here) it is said can be seen nine counties - Northamptonshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, and, 'tis thought, on a very clear day, some parts of Hampshire and Wiltshire may also be seen." Very wisely, he doesn't vouch for this, nor does he say who was the far-seeing person who made this remarkable claim. Of course, he didn't have the benefit of our beautiful Ordnance Survey maps, nor probably a decent spy-glass.

Yes, "you can see for miles", but how many miles? Perhaps not as many as one might think. If Barrow Hill had been an isolated hill looking down over a plain, one would have had great views in all directions, but here the view is largely blocked out by neighbouring high ground of similar height. See for yourself. Go up to the hill on a clear day, perhaps with a good pair of binoculars, and look around you. You'll have to take up more than one viewpoint, as trees and other vegetation partly screen the view. Now how far can you see? You'll see Sulgrave, of course, and Moreton Pinkney, but not too far beyond either village, but they are not as much as a couple of miles away. Away to the north-west you'll notice a radio mast. That's six miles away. The most extensive view is to the south-east, in the Silverstone direction - perhaps seven miles at the most.

Now, how many counties can you see? The three nearest neighbouring counties are Oxford, Warwick and Buckingham. The range of hills running along the western horizon from north-west to south may not be very high in themselves, but they are enough to prevent any sighting of Oxfordshire or Warwickshire (that radio mast is still in Northamptonshire, if only just). That leaves Buckinghamshire, of which the nearest point is about six miles away in that south-easterly direction. If you look intently on a clear winter's day, with your binoculars and maybe a little imagination, you may think you see in the far distance a low line of hills. Is that the Chilterns? Or is it a mirage? Can we be sure? In the absence of any positively identifiable feature, it's difficult to be sure that we can see any part of Buckinghamshire.

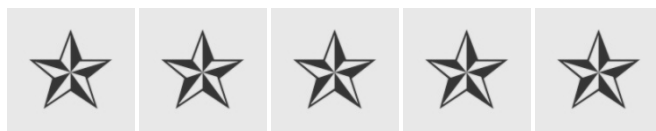
So how many counties can be seen? It's likely that all you are looking at is Northamptonshire. But it's still a lovely view, and well worth the walk up to it, isn't it?

George Metcalfe



May Public Inquiry into the Broadview Energy Windfarm Proposal

Broadview Energy's appeal against the decision of South Northants Council to refuse planning permission for five 410 feet high wind turbines between Helmdon and Greatworth, and very close to houses in Stuchbury, is to be considered at a Public Inquiry commencing on Tuesday 15th May. The venue for this Inquiry is yet to be announced. Whilst there is an intervening ridge in the 2000 metres between Sulgrave and the wind farm, the turbines are so high and the relative ground level differences so small that they would completely dominate the horizon above the village. With the nearest turbine only 750 metres from the house, the wind farm would be an overwhelming presence immediately to the south of Stuchbury Hall Farm. The appearance of the unspoilt countryside which is the setting for Sulgrave and the surrounding villages would be completely changed. The Helmdon Stuchbury and Greatworth Windfarm Action Group is in close contact with South Northants Council to agree the best strategy for defending the Council's decision at the Inquiry. Whilst the Inspector will decide whether to dismiss or allow the appeal on the basis of the evidence, the presence of local people at the inquiry will not go unnoticed and concerned villagers should attend whenever possible. Details of the venue and times of sitting will be posted in future newsletters and on the village website (www.sulgrave.org) where further details of the proposal can be seen.



PLEASE HELP

Had a new computer for Christmas???? Got the old one lying about??
WE can give it a good home!

Sulgrave Castle Archaeology Group need a computer to store all the information in the Sulgrave Castle Excavations Archive so that it can be made available to researchers and others interested in Saxon and Norman life in the South Northampton area.
If you think you can help, please contact me:



Clare Pollak, Project Coordinator,
Sulgrave Castle Excavations Publication project
clarepollak@fsmail.net
or 01295 768224.



Colin and Molly Wootton have moved house in Sulgrave and their new address is:

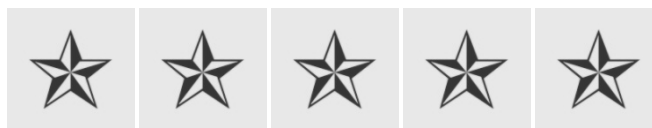
Dippers Cottage, Little Street, Sulgrave, Banbury, Oxon OX17 2SG

The telephone number is 01295 760072

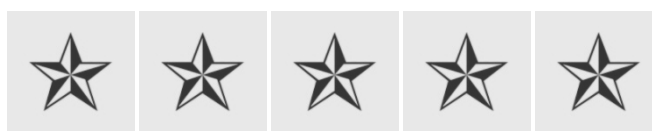
Colin's email address remains as:

colin.wootton@virgin.net

Mobile phone numbers are unaffected by the move.



Chris and Jo Coverley wish to express their thanks to the many residents who have sent letters and cards of sympathy following the sudden death of their son, Paul. It has been a great comfort to us and our family knowing that we are in your prayers and thoughts during these difficult days.



SULGRAVE BOOK CLUB

8.00pm The Star Inn

February 15th

March 21st

April 18th

"The Elegance Of The Hedgehog" by Muriel Barbery

"Before I Go To Sleep" by S. J. Watson

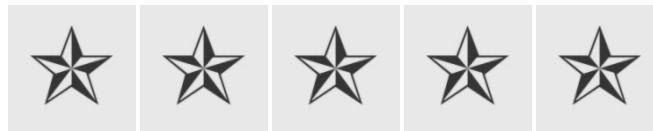
"One Day" by David Nicholls



Bank Holiday Monday 4th June 2012

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

The Village Jubilee Committee are making plans for a fun filled day for the entire village for both the afternoon and the evening. Please be sure to write the date in your diary, note it on your calendars or even tie a bit of string around your finger!! Further information will follow in the next edition of the news letter.



Poor Eyesight? Need some Help

If you or a loved one are concerned about or experiencing sight loss and need some help, why not visit **Northamptonshire Association for the Blind's Mobile Sight Centre** when it is a town near you!

Our friendly Information Officer, Fred Cannon, is able to offer specialist advice, support and information on a wide range of topics relating to sight loss. On board you will also find a display of everyday living aids and equipment designed to make life a little easier for people experiencing sight loss.



We have: 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 2012 Diaries and Calendars.

Visit our **Mobile Unit** when it is in **Brackley Town Centre**, outside the Town Hall from 10:30am -1pm on **Wednesday 1st February**.

For further information or support call our **Helpline: 01604 719193**. or visit **www.nab.org.uk**



“Our telephone number is changing – and our website is better than ever”

Northamptonshire County Council’s number for general enquiries changes to **0300 126 1000** from today, **Thursday 1st December 2011.**

It replaces the 01604 236236 number and means that everyone in the county calling from a landline will be charged at a local rate, regardless of their own area code. Customers are being urged to update their current contact details for the county council to make sure they can get through if they do need to call.

Anyone calling the council will now access an automated call-handling system, which requires callers to press a number to choose the council service they want to contact.

The council’s most popular and frequently requested services will be at the top of the list to ensure getting through to the right department will be as quick and easy as possible.

However telephoning is not the only way to access council information and services. The county council’s website www.northamptonshire.gov.uk is constantly being developed and updated to improve the range of features it offers.

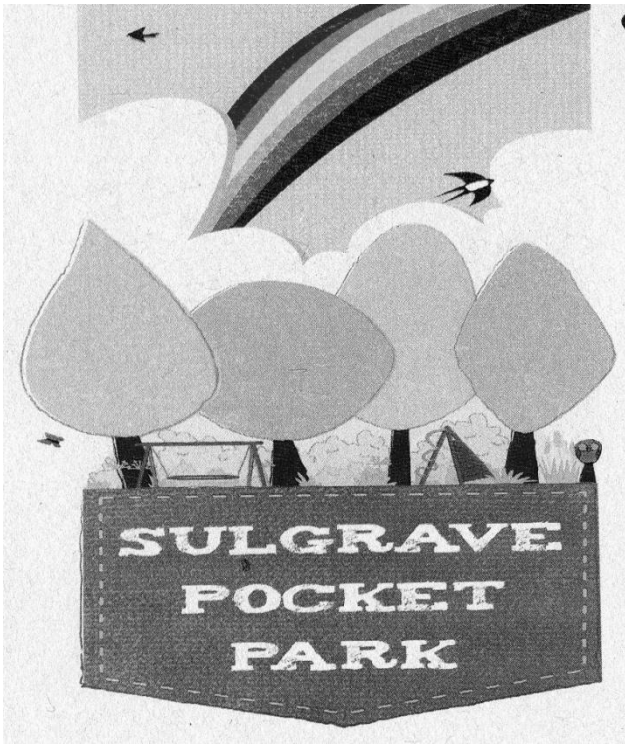
The new phone number comes just a few months after the introduction of an award winning iPhone app, Android app and mobile web browser which have been developed to make it easier for people to access the county council’s website www.northamptonshire.gov.uk whilst out and about, rather than making a telephone call.

Customers can now contact the council by:

- Visiting our website – www.northamptonshire.gov.uk
- Downloading our iPhone or Android app
- Finding us on Facebook
- Following us on Twitter - @MyCountyCouncil
- Browsing our website from their mobile phone
- If customers need help using our website, they can get this from their local library

And if they need to speak to someone they can:

- Call us on 0300 126 1000 – our new number has a local rate for all landlines



Pocket Park Warden

If you are interested in becoming the new Pocket Park Warden, please see a member of the Sulgrave Parish Council for more information.

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr G Roberts
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

Draft Notes from Parish Council Meeting held 5th January 2012

The Parish Council is made up of the following members and they can be contacted as follows:

Chairman - Cllr Graham Roberts (07778 584108)
Parish Clerk - Mrs Christine Coles (01295 276229)
Cllr Clare Pollak (01295 768224)
Cllr Jane Osborne (07879 624375)
Cllr Jo Powell (01295 768243)
Cllr Andrew Waite (07787 502260)
Cllr Sally Harding (07711 5564123)

Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Confirmation of minutes of last meeting held on 17th November 2011

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record

Matters Arising

Bench in memory of John Down - A permission letter has been received from NCC but there are procedural conditions that must be adhered to.

Beech trees on Stocks - Cllr Pollak noted that they were last inspected in December 2009. A Picus Tomograph was carried out with recommendations that the test was repeated in one years time to monitor the speed of growth of fungus. The price then was £220 plus VAT. It was agreed that this test should be carried out again on both trees.

Action: Cllr Pollak to look for the contact details and arrange a site visit.

Councillors Reports

Councillor Resignation

The Chair reported that Cllr Osborne has resigned from the Parish Council. The Chair gave a huge vote of thanks for the eight years she has served on the council. Her work on Pocket Park with others was a great legacy. The council will now look to co-opt someone else onto the council.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations - June 2012

The planned meeting had to be cancelled. To be re-arranged.

Street Lighting

Paul Jones has asked to meet with the council to discuss next steps. Mr Jones also has interesting information about the level of service currently being provided by EON.

Action: The Clerk to circulate meeting dates to the Chair and Cllr Waite.

Parking on Magpie Road

Cllr Waite noted that South Northants Homes are going to proceed with submission of the planning application to improve the parking outside Spinners Cottages. Previous comments have not been unanimous with the merits of the scheme but the alternative is to do nothing. Some have said they do not support the scheme but others have said they do support it.

From the floor Mr Pollak felt there was apathy from the people involved. He felt the scheme would move the cars further away from the road and not solve the immediate problem. Every house has between two and three cars and at present the cars that are parked on the road are helping with traffic calming. This proposed scheme would increase disputes about parking between neighbours. Cllr Waite was surprised to hear this as the Parish Council have been talking about a scheme for a long time. The Chair then noted that a consultation group was set up four years ago. A consultation document was sent out and the findings reported at council meetings. The Parish Council were very pleased when South Northants Home said they wanted to be involved in the scheme and this was the only way the scheme could be considered. It would be too expensive for the Parish Council to pay for the work on their own. It has taken a lot of time to get to this stage. A scheme has now been circulated and the Parish Council have commented on the drawings. If the planning application is submitted, the Parish Council and all residents of Spinners Cottages will have the chance to respond. It was agreed that South Northants Homes should be allowed to submit the proposed planning application. The village to be mindful of the fact that included in this proposal is disabled access which is going to be included for a resident of Spinners Cottages.

Laying of hedge in Pocket Park

Cllr Waite has received a quote for £900.00 and the work can be carried out in late January/early February. He recommended the Parish Council accept the quote and get the work done. There are sufficient funds in the account to pay for the work. It was agreed by all councillors. Cllr Waite to ensure the hedge is child proof.

Localism Bill meeting on 9th January

Cllr Waite is to attend this meeting at the offices of South Northants Council.

Sulgrave Castle Project - Tree Removal

In early 2000 the South Northants Council Heritage Department worked with Sulgrave History Society to draw up a Draft Management Plan for Sulgrave Castle Scheduled Ancient Monument. The plan included the removal of most of the large trees along the Southern and Western banks of the Castle Mound. This was recommended by SNC's Tree Officer who said their roots were a threat to the underlying archaeological remains. By Autumn 2010 the Castle Green Restoration Project had been successfully completed and all the aims of the Management Plan had been achieved with the exception of the tree removal, because no funding had been made available to carry out the work.

It is not possible to mow the grass on Castle Hill, so it has to be kept short by grazing animals during the summer months. English Heritage recommended using sheep rather than cattle, to prevent damage to the underlying archaeology, so for several years a local farmer has kept his rams there. The sheep have improved the grass enormously but the areas around the trees have deteriorated badly. Along the Southern and Western banks of the Ancient Monument the heavy tree cover excludes the light and prevents the grass from growing properly. Here the sheep have been causing considerable erosion to the banks. Stones have been dislodged and the underlying soil has been trampled. Removal of the trees will enable the damaged areas to be re-seeded and eventually the sheep allowed to graze there again. Cllr Pollak suggested that a community project could be set up where a qualified tree surgeon would be employed to fell the trees and do the major work but a team of villagers could be found to help with the clearance work. This could provide free fuel for log-burning stoves for the elderly or infirm residents. Cllr Pollak has received one estimate so far. If the Parish Council wish to adopt the project they could make a small grant towards project costs and claim back the VAT. Possible sources of funding could be via South Northants Council for up to 35% of the total project cost. English Heritage are coming to inspect the site soon as they may be able to offer grant funding if they feel that heritage is 'at risk'. Mr and Mrs Pollak, as owners of the site would be willing to make a financial contribution if necessary. Planning permission may be needed and timing of the work is important as the trees would be difficult to cut when they have leaves on. The neighbours would be consulted too. The project was agreed in principle.

Action: Cllr Pollak to circulate the papers to the councillors.

Setting of precept 2012/13

The Chair noted that the precept set last year was £10,570.00 and total expenditure for this year until 31st March would be approximately £9761.00. The main areas of spend continue to be lighting, mowing, clerks salary and costs, village maintenance and the public works loan payments for the shop.

The Chair noted that money is held in reserves for the village shop, Castle Green, Pocket Park maintenance and trees and shrubs. He suggested that a fifth one is open to be called 'Street Lighting'. The Parish Council to decide at the end of the financial year how much to put into this reserve account for lighting.

He suggested that the precept could be set at the same level as 2011/12 or increased by a nominal 2%. It was agreed by all to increase the precept payment for 2012/13 by 2% to £10,781.00.

Action: The Parish Clerk to notify SNC.

Finance Report

a) Cheques for approval

£83.32 to EON (street lighting maintenance)

£34.00 to Northants ACRE (membership)

£12.96 to Clare Pollak (refreshments at meeting in December)

These were proposed by Cllr Powell and seconded by Cllr Pollak.

The Chair reported that £981.00 had been received in donations from Claire Purves funeral. The cheques have been paid into the Pocket Park account. The Parish Clerk to ask Jane Osborne about other sponsorship money and how it will be paid into the account.

Planning Applications

Spring Farm Ridge

Broadview Energy Developments Ltd are appealing under Section 78 to the Secretary of State against the decision made by SNC to refuse to grant planning permission for the wind farm at Spring Farm Ridge, land to the north of Welsh Lane between Greatworth and Helmdon. The appeal will be determined on the basis of an inquiry. All representations must be received by 30 January 2012. All previous representations made on the application have been forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate and the appellant. The Action Group are raising money to pay for legal advice.

Correspondence

- SNC, Rural Job Clubs. Details to be put in the newsletter.
- CPRE, Planning explained
- Northants ACRE, Bulk-buying scheme for domestic heating oil
- SNC, Charging for Parish Council elections
- Proposal from Ben Smith to purchase a heavy duty shredder/chipper. Cllr Smith is offering £750 from his councillors empowerment fund for a heavy duty shredder to be purchased and used by individual gardens which would reduce the amount of garden waste being collected or transported to a County Council Recycling Centre. The Parish Council must be responsible for the hire of the shredder at no cost (other than fuel), arrange secure storage and insurance, carry out any training, repairs and servicing at their cost. It was agreed not to pursue this offer.

Open Forum

The Clerk to report street light no's 14 (opposite Sulgrave House) and no 20 which is on during the day.

The Clerk to report excessive flooding on the corner of Little Street and Manor Road.

The Parish Council social meeting held on 8th December was very well attended by 12 people.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Meeting on 9th February 2012 at 7.45pm in the Buttery at Sulgrave Manor (new venue during the cold winter months)

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

You are invited to
THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

To be held on

THURSDAY 9th FEBRUARY AT 7.45PM

In the Buttery at Sulgrave Manor
(Please note the new venue during the colder months)

We look forward to seeing you there



February 2012

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 11.00am Benefice Service At Sulgrave
6	7 12.30pm Soup Kitchen Church Hall	8	9 7.45pm Parish Council Meeting Buttery at Sulgrave Manor	10	11	12 8.15am Holy Communion at Sulgrave
13	14	15 8pm Book Club Star Inn	16	17	18	19 3pm George Washington Service at Sulgrave
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 10am Mattins at Sulgrave
27	28	29				

Deadline for the March Newsletter is 17th February 2012