

Sulgrave News



December 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 January newsletter is 7th December

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

Sunday December 2nd 10.00am

Sunday December 9th 8.15am

Sunday December 9th 4.00pm

Sunday December 16th 6.00pm

Sunday December 23rd 3.00pm

Monday December 24th 11.30pm

Sunday December 30th 11.00am

Benefice Service at Sulgrave

Holy Communion at Sulgrave

Christingle at Sulgrave

Evensong at Sulgrave

Carol Service at Sulgrave

Midnight Holy Communion at Sulgrave

Carols at Edgecote



It's all happening in December!

Please don't think that there's nothing going on in the village in the run-up to Christmas. Get your diaries out and put in the following events!!

On December 8th we shall be holding our annual Christmas Fair in the church Hall. Come along at 10 O'clock and so some last minute Christmas shopping - I promise, you will not be disappointed. There will be some fantastic home-made cakes and preserves, Christmas wreaths for your door and some wonderful Christmas arrangements. We will again be selling beautiful cyclamen plants to brighten up your homes.

Jula will be selling her amazing jewellery and you can stock up on cards and wrapping paper. There will be an abundance of hand-made gifts - Christmas stockings, covered coathangers, wrapped soaps and lavender hearts to hang in the wardrobe. We will be serving refreshments during the morning and you have the opportunity to join in our fantastic raffle. You will be amazed at some of the wonderful gifts you will be able to purchase.

In the evening there will be "A celebration of Christmas in the church at 6.30pm. This will be presented by the Judith Baxter Singers. Entrance is only £5.00 including mulled wine and nibbles. The singing and readings will certainly get you in the right mood for Christmas.

Our annual Carol Service takes place on Sunday, December 23rd at 3.00pm in the church. Please come and join in the familiar carols and see the figures placed into the Nativity. There will be tea and refreshments after the service. Please come and join us

If anyone can provide cakes or gifts or raffle prizes for the Christmas Fair, please contact the following:-

Cakes & Preserves

Gillie Clegg - 760296

Jan Prior - 760233

Raffle prizes & Gifts

Shrimp - 760214

Flower and Cleaning Rota for December

December 1st

Advents-no flowers - Mrs J Bowen-Jones

December 8th & 15th

Carol Service - All to decorate

December 22nd & 29th

Mrs B Christy



Christingle in Sulgrave

On Sunday December 9th at 4pm in our church

This will be our 20th Christingle, when, in a short service, we celebrate the start of the Christmas season, and support the valuable work of the Children's Society.

Do come. Everybody is welcome:

for children - a decorated orange

for adults - a nice cup of tea!



Janet & Kenneth Tattersall wish all their friends in
Sulgrave a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy
New Year

With love
Janet & Kenneth



Janet & Maureen would like to invite you to our

Soup Kitchen

at Sulgrave Church Hall on
Tuesday 11th December at 12.30pm



Game Soup

or

Celery & Stilton Soup (v)

Both served with croutons, bread rolls and butter

Christmas Pudding & Custard

Mince Pies

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



The Holly and the Ivy

Our annual wreath-making will be on Friday December 14th in the Church Hall from 9.30am onwards. Do hope our group of faithful, aspiring florists will be able to come, and any newcomers will be most welcome.

Just a reminder; warm clothes, secateurs, and any broad red ribbon - to replenish old stock. Contributions of greenery, especially that with pliable stems, can be left, please, outside the hall on Thursday 13th.

Coffee and biscuits, as always, and off back home by midday!

Julie Metcalfe 768103



*Christmas Bazaar
Saturday 8th December - 10am- 12noon
Sulgrave Church Hall*

Sulgrave Knitting and Sewing Group

Please come along to the annual Christmas Bazaar. It's an opportunity to purchase our hand knitted and sewn items for seasonal gifts and presents. We look forward to seeing you.

Julie Metcalfe



WANTED!PROPERTY IN SULGRAVE

We are still looking for somewhere to buy in Sulgrave. If you are considering moving, please would you get in touch with us.

Ideally, 3/4 bed detached with reasonable garden, although anything considered.

Phil and Alison Watts

E-mail: wattsalison@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 01295 760366/ 07769771663

Page 5

COME DANCING!

If you can already dance, or if you'd like to learn ballroom dancing,
I know a very good teacher who may be persuaded to take on a
small group of us
(if we can agree time & place!)
during Nov, Dec & the New Year - STRICTLY for fun!

If you are interested, give me a ring on
01295 768343
or email Libbie@compuserve.com

Look forward to hearing from you
Libbie



Annual Village Carol Singing 7pm Friday 21st December On Castle Green.

By doing something a little different this year we really hope to bring the community together – young and old- to celebrate the beginning of Christmas.

Please come and join us on **Castle Green** at **7pm** on **21st December** for an hour of community carol singing, mulled wine, soup and mince pies.

All donations will go towards future village community events.

We'll provide song sheets food and drink – so wrap up warm, round up friends and family, grab a lantern and come and join the festivities.



See you all there.
Lis Stuart and Sarah Holley



Village Shop News Update
Telephone : 01295 760066



Some excellent results for our Shop's performance to report going into the Festive Season; our takings during October were 13% up on the same month in 2011 & year to date, January to the end of October, we are 4.2% ahead of the same period in 2011. This year has been tremendously successful, & yes I know we still have 2 months to go, but thanks must go once again to you our customers, our ever willing band of volunteers & David. We're attending the Market at the Three Conies in Thorpe on Saturday, 1st December to spread the word about what's on offer at our Shop & hopefully sell some produce, flowers & plants as well. Our Shop is becoming the envy of many surrounding villages & long may it continue to be the case!

You should have received your Christmas Order Forms in last month's Newsletter but just in case you've mislaid them, another set is enclosed with this month's as well. There's a really good selection for all across every department so do take a little time to examine the Forms & note the order deadlines to avoid 'disappointment'. We have a fair proportion of our Festive stocks in the Shop now along with all the year round favourites. David was particularly keen for me to tell you that we have purple flowering broccoli is stock again which is selling well along with the Romanesque.

I referred to the fantastic work that Digby Lewis quietly gets on with in selecting & buying very reasonably priced wines for us in last month's Newsletter. Whilst it's a little early to be specific about the wines that will be on sale in December (Christmas is 4 weeks away as I write this), he's kindly penned an article which is also in this issue which I think you'll find very interesting. As we get closer to having our Festive wine selection available, he will arrange for his chatty & informative labels to be attached to the stock; which wine will go best with what food, always useful especially if you're in a bit of a hurry. Thanks for all your work behind the scenes this year Digby.

We held another very positive & well supported Volunteers Meeting at The Star at the beginning of November. These are always fantastically useful sessions to get together for us on the Management Committee to get first hand feedback & suggestions for improving our services still further & we'll be carrying on with these in 2013. Many thanks to our Volunteers for the support, feedback & ideas.

The days are so much shorter now & I for one have noticed how good our newly refurbished notice boards look outside the Shop. Thank again to Nick Grant for giving us his time to carry out this work for us at no charge; we really appreciate it. That's about it then for another year so it just leaves me once again to thank you all for supporting YOUR Shop in 2012. Have a very happy Christmas & a wonderful new year.

'Mac' Macdonald
01295 760470



WINE IN SULGRAVE VILLAGE SHOP

Unless you are an expert, how do you choose which wine to pick off the shelf when you are faced with the serried ranks of bottles in a supermarket? Do you just go on price or choose the ones on 'special offer'? Take either of these options and you are quite likely to be disappointed. And have you ever asked for advice in Tesco as to which wine would go well with a steak supper? Exactly!

At Sulgrave Village Shop we try to provide a regularly changing selection of wines covering a wide range of styles. To help customers choose what they want, we have written labels for all our wines to provide a brief summary of the style and flavours so you will have a reasonable idea of what you are getting and, hopefully, won't be disappointed.

Unfortunately the duty and tax on wine is very high which means that, at the cheaper end of the range, a relatively small percentage of the cost of a bottle is the price of the wine. So how do we at SVS manage to provide a range of palatable wines at such reasonable prices and still manage to make a small profit for the shop? The explanation is that our trusty buyer has located an outlet for so-called 'remaindered stock'. These wines may be the result of retailers becoming bankrupt and the bailiffs selling off stock at very low prices, the offloading of stock by big retailers who don't have enough bottles to supply all of their stores or the clearance of stock to make way for new lines. The end result is that we have been able to purchase many wines at a very good price and are thus able to sell them cheaper than they cost in the big stores or on line. But we don't buy wines just because they are cheap. Almost all of our wines have been recommended as being particularly good value and a number have won awards in international wine competitions.

The only way we have been able to monitor our marketing abilities is by the amount we sell and it would seem, from recent sales, that we are getting things more or less right. But what we need is FEEDBACK. Please let us know which wines you like and, equally importantly, which ones you don't. Because remaindered stock comes and goes we can't always replace popular lines though we do our best to maintain a wide range and to cover all tastes. But we are always willing to respond to our customers' needs. For example, would anyone be interested in slightly more expensive wines? (Don't forget – the more you pay for a bottle of wine the higher the proportion of the price is actually spent on the wine). If so, how much would you be prepared to pay? Are there any grape varieties of wine styles (dessert wines? Sherry? Port?) that you would like us to stock. Please let us know and we shall do our best to please. Cheers.

‘John the Post’s’ Memorial Bench

Ken & I wanted to say a HUGE thank you to all of the Sulgrave residents for your astonishing generosity; we said last month that we were well on our way to achieving the £500 target to buy a wooden bench with a plaque in John The Post’s memory ... as I write, we have handed over £830 to the Parish Council Clerk.

We have the necessary permission to go ahead with the installation work outside our Shop & more than enough funds to pay for this, the bench & the plaque. Once we know the timings for everything then we’ll give another update; in honesty it’s likely to be early on in 2013 now. We also have to decide on how best to use any funds remaining & if anyone has any suggestions then do please let Ken or myself know.

I know that ‘Young John’ & John’s wife Pat are touched by the generosity of everyone & have asked us to say thank you from their family. It means a great deal to have a fitting tribute to their John, our friend.

Ken Christy, Wysteria Cottage, Helmdon Road, Sulgrave
‘Mac’ Macdonald, Grafton House, Park Lane, Sulgrave



Sulgrave Matters

Education and Training Funding

- SEC has been helping Sulgrave village children since 1759, it was then called ‘Timcocks & Walkers Gifts’
- Its purpose has always been to assist the children of Sulgrave in their education or acquiring work related skills
- It can contribute to educational needs or activities of local institutions or individuals
- In the past it has provided funding for Culworth school - books; and Mini Meadows pre school - equipment
- Individual support has previously been for educational trips & tuition
- The scheme’s remit allows for books and equipment as well as travel & tuition
- In return for funding we ask for the contribution to be acknowledged where possible, for example:
 - schools labelled the books and equipment
 - reciprocating by giving something back to the village such as a talk on a school exchange trip or tuition to others
- To read more about the fund and its history visit the village web site www.sulgrave.org
- To apply write to James Garnett Dove Cottage, Church Road, Sulgrave, OX17 2RP

Age UK Oxfordshire in Banbury

5 White Lion Walk, OX16 5UD

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

As a new volunteer at Banbury's Age UK Oxfordshire Centre, I have been surprised to learn just how many services and activities are available to our senior community. How many people know, for instance, that Age UK Oxfordshire offers **free information and advice** on benefits, housing, form filling, or residential care? Our warm and friendly **Cafe** serves drinks and cakes and welcomes everyone. Individual personalised **Computer Lessons** may be booked for just £5 per hour and are held in White Lion Walk. **Phonelink** is a free befriending service whereby volunteers ring up and chat regularly to lonely or isolated people who request this service. There are **Insurance Services** tailor-made for the over 50s for **Home, Car or Travel**. **Motor Breakdown Services, Gas and Electricity, Wills and Funeral Plans** can all be arranged through Age UK Oxfordshire. Did you know that basic **Foot Care** is available for only a small fee? Or that **Support for Carers** in Banbury is now on offer? Activities in the Centre include a **Singing Group** on Mondays, **Knitting Group** on Tuesdays, **Book Club** monthly on Thursdays and monthly **free Film Shows**. Activities in other venues include **Seated exercise, Tai Chi** and an **Asian Ladies' Group**. The **Home Support Service** arranges for someone to come and visit people at home for a modest fee to help with jobs such as shopping and light cleaning, or just play a game of scrabble, for instance. Please try to use your local Age UK Oxfordshire Centre and tell your friends about it.

If you would like **more information** on any of the above, please call in to **White Lion Walk** between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday - or ring **01295-278040**. If you would like to **Volunteer** or be a **Fundraiser**, please also ring this number.

Juliet McKenzie
Culworth

Judith Baxter presents

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

AN EVENING OF
FESTIVE MUSIC
SONG AND
READINGS

RETURN VISIT OF "THE JUDITH BAXTER SINGERS"

With Hilary Henderson - Piano

SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER

6.30pm

THE CHURCH OF ST JAMES THE LESS
CHURCH STREET SULGRAVE OX17 2RX

FUNDS TOWARDS THE CHURCH

ENTRANCE £5.00 INCLUDING FESTIVE LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

At the door or in advance from Shrimp Christy, Wisteria Cottage

Helmdon Road, Sulgrave 01295 760214

Banbury Symphony Orchestra
Christmas Concert 2012



Saturday 15 December 2012

4.30pm – 6.00pm

St Mary's Church, Banbury.

Christmas charity fundraising concert

in association with The Rotary Club of Banbury.

A Programme of Festive Music and Christmas Carols.

Christmas Concert Tickets

£5 adults, £2 children. available on the door or at One Man Band, Banbury

Tel. 01295 266788

Details are on the website; www.banburysymphony.org

GOODBYE TO THE ASH TREES ?

The news that a fungus, *Chalara fraxinea*, which for some years has caused die-back and ultimate death of ash trees in mainland Europe has now spread to this country is causing serious concern. It has been suggested that the spores of the disease are spread on the wind, but it seems more likely that they have been carried on the very many young trees imported annually from continental nurseries. An apparent failure to identify quickly and accurately the exact nature of the problem meant that no restriction on this trade was imposed until very recently. The result is that thousands of newly planted ash trees are now being ripped out and burnt, but it is widely admitted that the disease is out of control.

Isn't it odd to think that we appear to find it necessary - economically at least - to import trees which are native to this country and which grow here in profusion? Each year, I pull dozens of self-sown ash saplings from my garden! We don't learn very quickly from experience, do we? Remember "Dutch" elm disease, brought into Britain on timber imported from America.

How will the death of our ash trees affect our own parish? It is not well wooded, and in most of the small woodlands (largely planted within the last sixty years or so) the ash doesn't form a major constituent. However, in the wider landscape it's a different story. A comprehensive survey of the parish, carried out in 1988-89, proved that almost exactly two-thirds of trees of a height of 20 feet or more in hedgerows or on roadsides were ash. Their disappearance will devastate and denude our landscape.

There's a strong case therefore for planting many more native trees of other and varied species to fill the gaps.

George Metcalfe
(former Parish Tree Warden)



Sulgrave Village Bag Lady

Julie Wood is our new "Bag Lady" so if anyone knows of someone who has moved into the village recently, please let Julie know, telephone 768326.

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

HS2

Sulgrave Parish Council wishes to make residents aware of the Consultation being undertaken on the matter of compensation along the proposed HS2 route.

Details of this can be found on the website:

<http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/consultations/property-compensation-london-to-west-midlands>

Paper copies have been made available at the Village shop.

Residents are also reminded that the South Northants Action Group against HS2 are seeking donations for funding their activities. Details can be found on the following website: <http://snag-against-hs2.org/>

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

You are invited to THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

To be held on

**THURSDAY 13th December 2012
@ 7.45PM**

In Sulgrave Church Hall

This is your opportunity to speak with the councillors

Mulled Wine and mince pies
will be served after the meeting

n Sulgrave Church Hall



We look forward to seeing you there

December 2012

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	SulgraveServiceBenefice2 10.00am
7	Church HallFairChristmas 8 10.00am	Sulgrave4.pm ChristingleHoly Communion 9 8.15am
14	15	SulgraveEvensong 16 6.00pm
21	22	Carol Service 23 3.00pm
28	29	EdgecoteCarols at30 11.00am

Deadline for the January Newsletter is 7th December 2012

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
4	5	6
Church Hall Soup Kitchen11 12.30pm	12	Church Hall Mtg Parish Council13 7.45pm
18	19	20
25	26	27

	MONDAY					
	31					
		3				
			10			
				17		
					CommunionMidnight Holy24	11.30pm