

**May 31<sup>st</sup> 2015, Sulgrave opening.**

Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> was both chilly and windy but we still sold 239 tickets. Seven gardens opened, Church Cottage, Threeways, Ferns, Rectory Farm, Manor/Herb Garden, Eagle House and The Cottage, all looked wonderful in the grey skies and fortunately it didn't rain. Teas were provided at Asby House where Joan and Terry seem to have perfected mass catering down to a fine art, many thanks to them and their team, limitless cups of tea drunk and no one counted the delicious slices of cake eaten. Then finally to help ease the chill of the day George and Jo Ann treated all visitors to a glass of champagne, wonderful!

To support this opening: 1 road sign made, put up and took down all road signs, 8 willing volunteers stood in the chill to park cars. Teas – an unknown army erected gazebos, collected chairs, tables, cups etc (and returned them), baked cake, poured tea, sliced cake and of course washed up.

So thank you to all who visited or helped and thanks to the Castle Green, the Village Hall committees and in particular the garden openers without whom it would not have been possible.

This was our 11<sup>th</sup> opening for the scheme. £1937.00 was sent to the NGS. Teas made £479 and George's plant stall made £247. Had the weather been kinder I'm sure that we would have had more visitors. Despite this people came from London, north of Birmingham, Coventry, Oxford and many from around Northampton; the Yellow Book and the smaller county booklets are amazingly popular and well used publications

Where does all this money go? Stats from the Chairman's recent bulletin –

“The NGS is one of the nation's most significant charitable funders of wider health care. We are the largest single charitable funder for most of our beneficiaries including Macmillan and Marie Curie which are two of the largest health charities in the UK. In 2014 we celebrated 30 years of annual grants to Macmillan and in 2015 our grant to them will have been more than £15million. Beneficiaries receive 80p of every £1 raised at gardens and we would like to increase this ratio. Parkinson's UK continues to be the guest charity for the third and final year”

Please do look at the village website as Colin has again perfectly recorded the “feel” of the event”. Many thanks for your support Colin. [www.sulgrave.org](http://www.sulgrave.org)

Finally the Village Shop was open from 3-5.30pm and Ken and Shrimp took £180 so another plus for the village1

If all goes as planned we will probably open again for the scheme in 2017 so any new gardens will be very welcome and it is never too late to start volunteering.

Ingram