

Sulgrave News



July 2020

Regular Events

BB&C Service 2nd Sunday of the month at Culworth church - 11.00am

Circle Dancing 1st Thursday monthly at Culworth village hall 2.30pm-4.30pm

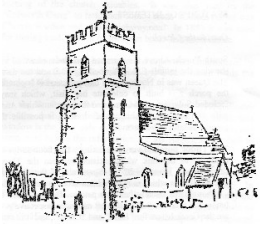
This newsletter is an independent publication, edited and compiled by Janet Smith. It is delivered free of charge to all houses in Sulgrave and Stuchbury by Sally & Andrew Elliott, Susie Mason, Pim Lockwood, Jean Bates, Rachael Hijstee, and Jan Castle. Costs are met by Sulgrave Parish Council. It is 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 August Newsletter is 17th July 2020

If you have information, articles or stories for the newsletter telephone Janet on 01295 760397 or e-mail gypsysmith7@gmail.com

As always, articles can be left at Sulgrave Village Shop



Church News

Due to the Coronavirus church services will cease until further notice. We hope to keep the church building open, but this may well change.





Village Shop News Update

Shop Telephone – 01295 760066



e-mail: svshop@hotmail.com

At long last we appear to be returning to some semblance of normality. By the time *Sulgrave News* hits the streets, the shop will have re-established face-to-face trading (albeit with strict social distancing rules in place) and will once again be baking sausage rolls, pasties and baguettes, serving coffee, selling newspapers and accepting dry-cleaning. We hope that within the next few weeks the shop and the Post Office will be back to normal operating hours, though we shall have to follow government guidelines and, for the time being, only one customer at a time will be allowed into the shop. This will inevitably mean some queuing at busy times so, if there is a queue, please be as quick as you can and, if you want to browse through the greetings-cards, choose a time when the shop is quiet. The shop is still accepting orders so, if you don't yet feel ready to come into the shop, you can complete a form or phone your order in and collect it when it is ready.

Understandably, the rules on self-isolation meant that a number of our regular volunteers, many of whom are in the "at risk" age group, were unable to take up their usual stints behind the till or on baking duties. Now that we have protective measures in place in the shop, we are hoping many of our older stalwarts will re-join the team and ease the pressure on our two supervisors and the brave volunteers who have selflessly kept everything running through the crisis. Many thanks to those who have already come forward and we look forward to welcoming back more of our regulars over the coming weeks. If you are willing to return to duty, please contact David Walker who will be only too pleased to allocate you a slot. Clive Nicholl's handicraft skills are again on display in the shop and the till and post office areas are now enclosed by Perspex screens - so shop staff are well-protected from the coughs and sneezes of customers. Antiviral hand gel is on hand for all customers to use as they enter the shop – so we are as well protected as we possibly can be.

The shop is well stocked at the moment and we once again have a range of Wessex Mills flours, a wide variety of Grumpy Mule coffees, and a good selection of wines and beers. Our fruit and vegetables now come in fresh every day (thank you to the volunteers who do the Helmdon run to collect them) so are always in tip-top condition. New lines include crisps in some interesting flavours (wagu beef & honey, serrano chili and honey, truffle & rosemary); to go with all our extensive range of cheeses there are Farmhouse crackers (cranberry & pumpkin; black olive), Peter's yard sourdough flatbread, Military pickle and cheeseboard pickle and - for those with a sweet tooth - millionaire shortbread, granola flapjacks, Dundee cake, Cotswold butter fudge and strawberry & Chamapage conserve.

The shop management committee continue to hold Zoom meetings every week to discuss how to improve our service and keep everyone safe while still adhering to the government guidelines. As things are constantly changing, be sure to keep up to date by referring to Nextdoor, Facebook and the Village website.

We hope that all the customers who we supplied over the peak of the lock-down when they couldn't get to supermarkets don't desert us now that regulations are being relaxed and we trust that they will continue to patronise the shop. We need your support during the good times as well as the bad.

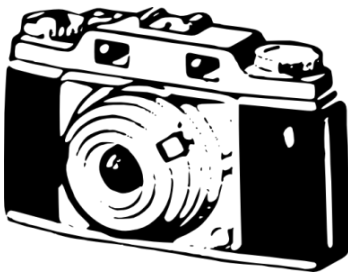
Let's hope that we shall soon be able to meet in gardens to enjoy a glass of wine, a summer salad or a barbecue – though maybe the hugging and kissing will have to wait a while.

Digby and Alison

The fish & chip van will be visiting Sulgrave on the following dates between 5.30pm and 7.00pm outside the village shop



July 4th
August 1st
August 29th
September 26th
October 24th
November 21st
December 19th



At our most recent meeting Dominic told us all about one of his favourite photographers, Mario Testino, the international fashion photographer. His work has often been seen in the top fashion magazines such as Tatler and Vouge and we all picked up some ideas and handy tips from the manner in which the photographs were taken and an interesting conversation on the art of portraiture followed.

We then had our own critique session with members showing their own photographs. We discussed style and composition and learn from each other as we improve our photography skills.

At our next meeting we intend to look at Focus; how should you focus your camera to get the best possible sharpness? There are lots of different techniques and suggestions from the rule of thumb to the highly technical and we will be talking these though.

Following that we will be comparing photographs from our current monthly challenge "Colour of Choice!" and looking forward to see some varied contributions.

If you are interested in photography and would like to participate Sulgrave Camera Club is meeting whilst "socially distancing" via Zoom video conferencing every two weeks. Our next meeting is Wednesday 1st July at 8.00pm.

For details contact grahamroberts53@hotmail.com



SULGRAVE PRODUCE SHOW

Sunday 6th Sept - 2-4pm

The Sulgrave Produce Show Committee (Janet Smith, Maureen Jeffrey and the Miles family) have decided that, we would like to go ahead with this year's Produce Show if this is possible, in line with all government guidelines operating at this time.

We feel it will be a nice village event for us to look forward to and having been at home for the last 3 months many villagers may well have produce and flowers from their beautifully tended gardens/allotments that they would like to enter.

Currently we envisage the event will need to be staged outside under gazebos and we will need to socially distance as appropriate. However, we should still be able to organise a raffle and provide tea, coffee and cake in safe ways. Any monies raised, after expenses, will be going towards the proposed refurbishment of the Church Hall.

The Camera Club are currently reviewing some changes to their class and we have made a few changes to entries for this year's proposed show. We are also including a gluten free class for the first time this year.

Entry forms will follow in the August newsletter but for now enjoy working out how many entries you will be making - lockdown permitting.

Many thanks

Sulgrave Produce Show Committee (Miles family, 760957, Janet Smith, Maureen Jeffery)"



Sulgrave Allotment Society

Grow Your Own!

A single plot has recently become vacant. The plot has been cleared and is ready for cultivation.

If you are interested in taking on a plot, please contact Sharon Ford on +44 (0)7801 345000



June was undoubtedly our busiest month of trading since we started 18 months ago. Our name is creeping out there and we are enjoying sharing the new Dine to Door Experience with so many lovely new customers.

We thought we would share what we have planned for July;

4 - 5th July - Cheese Lovers Afternoon Tea and Cheese Lovers Ploughman's Boxes.

11 - 12th July - Lebanese Dine to Door Special. (As requested via our online poll) Menu and orders will go live on our website and social media on Friday 3rd July at 6pm.

25 - 26th - July Date Night Dine to Door Special. Menu and orders will go live Monday on 13th at 6pm.

All orders now go through our new website: www.websters-events.co.uk/dinetodoor
If we sell out of any products online please email me as we only limit order numbers to our delivery slots outside of the village. We always fit Sulgrave orders if possible.

Any alternative enquiries please email danny@websters-events.co.uk.

Thanks again for your continued support.

Danny and Ryan.

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Reports

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD VIA "ZOOM" TECHNOLOGY VIDEO CONFERENCING ON 7TH JUNE 2020

Councillor Richard Fonge was elected as Chairman and Councillor Will Priestman as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.

The Chairman presented his Annual Report (see below).

A formal notice is to be put on notice board to advertise the one vacancy on the Council and asking for applicants

Councillor Will Priestman gave an update on the speed signs on the Helmdon Road. The delivery of the Solar Powered Speed Warning Sign is awaited (for erection by the Council). The moving of the 30mph signs back up the Magpie road, is awaiting approval.

Councillor Neil Higginson reported on the grass mowing. Very satisfactory. One complaint, that they had missed a small area in Towrise. He had spoken with the contractor.

Councillor Laura North reported on behalf of the Allotment Committee. Two more plots had been taken and cultivated, with the last two going to be cleared and left ready, making it easier to take on. To be advertised in this months newsletter

The Chairman reported that the Pocket Park was in good order, with the newly planted trees establishing well. It will remained locked until such time as the Government says otherwise

It was noted, what a tremendous job the Village Shop was doing for the whole community .

Footpath Warden Graham Roberts presented his report. All footpaths were in good order apart from AY3 which crosses the old railway line on the way to Moreton Pinkney.

Colin Wootton presented the report of the Castle Green Committee, including the news that the proposed Midsummer Fair has been cancelled. (See below)

Councillor Anna Faure is to contact HS2 (High Speed Rail) about a number of matters.

REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR RICHARD FONGE, FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2020

We all remember the two Ronnies famous sketch of the " Four Candles", well this has been the year of the four Chairmen, or should I say Chair.

Twelve months ago Chris Jackson resigned due to work pressure. Chris had lead the Council with great effect for two years, in a quite and efficient manner, and we thank him for all his efforts on our behalf. Troy Daniels then stepped up from the vice - chairmanship for a couple of months, before he too had to resign due to work commitments. So the Parish Council lost two of its younger members, highlighting the difficulty of serving your community whilst juggling a career and a young family. Our thanks to Troy for his valuable input, and on the completion of the installation of the defribalator, a task he took on and completed with great thoroughness. After the August break, Will Priestman took charge, before my election in October.

Your Council has achieved all it has set out to do during the year, plus it has responded to other unspecified events.

Cllr Anna Faure has kept us informed of HS2 developments, and we have also appreciated the added expertise of Colin Wootton.

Troy Daniels, whilst no longer a Councillor, still maintains responsibility for the defibrillator.

Mike Harmon joined the council during the year but had to resign when he moved to Shropshire. We thank him for his sound input, albeit so brief.

Cllr Will Priestman has been responsible for the V.A.S scheme, and we have now speed signs moved back on Helmdon Rd, and await the solar powered speed sign installation. The full cost of £4,000 being met by the grant we applied for.

Will is also getting monthly updates from Sulgrave Manor to report back to Council.

An unexpected occurrence and a needless piece of vandalism was the destruction of the Tattersall bench up the Moreton Road. Cllr Laura North took the responsibility of raising the funds for the replacement with the blessing and support of Mrs Tattersall and achieved in raising enough funds to buy a replacement, with an excess going to the Pocket Park funds

Cllr Neil Higginson once again supervised the grass mowing and trimming, and pavement widening. What a good job was done.

Two dog poo bins were installed at either side of Madam's close, in Little Street and Manor Rd, at the request of a resident and are emptied by volunteers. My thanks goes to Neil in getting them put up, and the notices above. Sadly dog poo is still to be seen around the village.

The Castle Hill was bought by the village and is now securely fenced, with a notice on the gate to inform. My thanks to Martin and his committee for their work in securing this outcome. The reporting back is always thorough and expansive in delivery!!

The pond in Pocket Park and surrounding area is much improved by the cutting back of the elder and the planting of trees, plus the dredging of the pond and the filling in of a large dip, now grassed over and mown. The wood has had some remedial work done and new planting, with some dozen trees. My thanks to the many of all ages who came and cleared scrub and planted the trees on that Saturday in January. A real community event.

The community of Sulgrave has responded to the lockdown by caring for those in need of help. The Shop has excelled itself in its service to us all. We are so fortunate.

In conclusion I would like to give a special thanks to Christine Coles for her guidance and consummate diplomacy, in what has not been the easiest of years.

Councillor Richard Fonge (Chairman)

REPORT OF THE CASTLE GREEN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DUE TO TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY 2ND APRIL 2020

Cancelled owing to the Coronavirus Outbreak

Until the advent of the Coronavirus restrictions, it had been a very active year for the Committee. Five full Committee Meetings and numerous informal consultations. This all followed on from the Parish Council's acquisition of the Castle Hill site, thus adding to the Committee's responsibilities.

As outlined in our Project Reports in the May and December Newsletters, we needed to firstly secure and then improve and enhance the site. With willing support from the owners of the neighbouring properties, we were able to cut back all overhanging branches and trees, repair and, where necessary, replace broken boundary fencing. We then fixed a stock proof fence around the whole perimeter.

We then removed all the elder and sycamore saplings and cut out all the dead wood from the mature trees. After which we cleared the whole area of accumulations of general rubbish and material. Thanks are due to Paul Lewis, our preferred contractor and a number of local individuals for achieving all this so efficiently.

Paul was then commissioned to construct a Kissing Gate between the Castle Green itself and the Castle Hill site. This, hopefully, will encourage villagers and visitors alike to climb the Hill and thus enjoy the unique views of the village and its surrounds. We will put in situ a notice encouraging use and informing visitors of their responsibilities when there are grazing animals present.

We had planned to celebrate the successful conclusion of the whole enterprise with a Mid-Summer Fayre on Sunday 21st June – Mid Summer's Day. This, like the highly successful Michaelmas Fair of two years ago, would have involved many of the village's organisations and individuals. However, the corona virus has sadly put paid to this. We will endeavour to reorganize it for the Autumn when, hopefully, the virus has been defeated and we can have a bountiful double celebration.

My thanks, as usual, are due to your Committee, namely Paul Crowley, Richard Fonge, Peter Pollak, Jo Powell, Will Priestman and Colin Wootton for their commitment and support.

Martin Sirot-Smith, Chairman.

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

You are invited to
THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

To be held on

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

In
Sulgrave Church Hall



We look forward to seeing you there

JULY 2020

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1.....8.00pm Camera Club via ZOOM	2	3	4 5.30pm Fish & Chip Van Village Shop	5
6	7	8	9	10	11.....	12
13	14	15	16	17 DEADLINE FOR AUGUST NEWSLETTER	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Deadline for the August Newsletter is 17th July 2020