

Sulgrave News

September 2023



This newsletter is an independent publication, edited and compiled by Lisa Roberts. It is delivered free of charge to all houses in Sulgrave and Stuchbury by Kym & Tony Keatley, Susie Mason, Jean Bates, Rachael Hijstee, Jen Castle, Nikki Mulcahy and Claire & Jon Sadler. 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 October Newsletter is Fri 15th September 2023

If you have information, articles or stories for the newsletter telephone Lisa on **01295 768598** or e-mail **lisa.griffin5@btinternet.com** or post through my letter box – **Asby House, Manor Road, Sulgrave OX17 2RZ**

IF YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL OR A HOBBY THAT YOU COULD TELL US ALL ABOUT THEN PLEASE DO GET IN TOUCH

From The Editor.....

*This month I'm starting with a message
which arrived in my inbox last week.....*



"Dear Lisa - I was working in the churchyard yesterday and picked up a copy of your newsletter.

I am a grave tender and have an 'oven ready' article on grave tending, which I have offered to various parish magazines and newsletters. It has already been published in Launton Lines & The Claydons newsletters, as well as the present issue of Vale Life. My idea was that it could be used as a backup if you were struggling for content.

I have attached the long copy (820 words), so please feel free to edit it and use it whenever there is a need

I hope it's of interest and you can make use of it

Regards

Andy Stephenson

"THE GENTLE CRAFT OF GRAVE TENDING"

‘A gentle craft, carried out by gentle people in gentle surroundings’ would be my summing up of Grave Tending, a niche industry which is slowly but surely growing in the U.K.

The idea is to clean and restore graves and headstones in a non-destructive manner (i.e. no sand blasting!), using environmentally friendly products as far as possible and doing so in as gentle way as is feasible.

No matter what I do, I can never return the stone to its original state, as constant exposure to the weather and the environment will inevitably weather and age it, but it is certainly possible to return it to a condition that a customer ‘can be proud of’, as one of my clients said to me.

Those sorts of feelings are always in my thoughts when I'm working for a client and cleaning their loved one's resting place – I'm acutely aware of their investment in feelings, time, money and memories, hence the name of my company Memories Grave Tending.

It's safe to say that Grave Tending is not widely known in the Dioceses of St. Albans and Oxford, the 2 areas which I cover.

Although there's no authentic history of the trade, I think it's safe to say it has its roots in Eire, with its centuries old tradition of 'Cemetery Sunday'. This was an annual day, usually in the summer, where graves were garlanded and decorated, but has slowly but surely morphed into a day of remembrance, flower laying and grave cleaning.

There's an apocryphal, but amusing story, which says it was a side line for Council cemetery workers. It's said they'd be tipped a few quid by mourners or relatives to look after the grave, a process which happily continued for many years until Council managers found out that the workers were spending half their time, and using the Council's tools to carry out their profitable side line in working hours. Needless to say, this brought an abrupt halt to the practice!

Back to reality, it's certainly a well-established trade in Ireland, with even small towns having several firms. A blogger writing on the subject said that the Roman Catholic community had far more 'flamboyant' graves and were far more likely to use their services than their more austere Presbyterian counterparts.

Interestingly the biggest firms in England tend to be in the North West/Merseyside, areas with a long history of Irish immigration. Having said that the sector has spread throughout much of the U.K. to the extent that there is now a national Association of Grave Tenders (of which I am proud to say, I am a member of) www.associationofgravetenders.org which encourages best practice, professionalism and environmentally friendly processes.

Many of the best practises are taken from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org), which it would be remiss of me to ignore. They are a wonderful organisation, which somehow manages to maintain 1.75 million graves over 23,000 burial sites in

153 countries, all in impeccable condition. If it's good enough for them then it's good enough for me!

I think this gradual expansion has to do with 2 trends, namely longevity and mobility.

Turning first to longevity – we are all living longer, and youngsters today will usually spend many years knowing their grandparents and even great grandparents. This just didn't happen 50-75 years ago. and means that today's generation have, in my humble opinion, a far more intense bond to their grandparents. This results in work for me (!), as they don't want their much-loved relatives to be forgotten or neglected.

This latter point feeds into the second trend, namely the increased mobility of families in the last 50-75 years. So many people now move away from their birthplace for work or University etc. but still feel a connection to their family's historical base. They are obviously unable to tend their relative's graves and so the need for someone to do it for them.

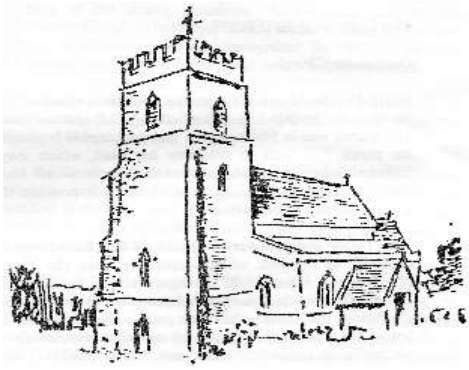
So why do I do it? Primarily it gives me huge job satisfaction, something I hadn't had for years. It's also very rewarding, seeing the results of my endeavours and hearing/reading the positive, and sometimes very moving, reactions from my clients. I enjoy running my own business and I love the environment; graveyards are very peaceful, beautiful places which are a joy to work in. Add in the fact that there's no pressure or deadlines, that my clients are lovely people and I've always been interested in churches and local history I think it's safe to say I've got the perfect job!

I hope I've shone a light on a niche sector that my friends and acquaintances are generally fascinated by.

I'll sign off with, inevitably, a little sales pitch. If you want to see examples of what I can do, or require any further information please visit my website www.memoriesgravetending.co.uk .

Thank you for this, Andy!

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Church News

*The Rector for our Benefice
is Nick Leggett 07925 419068
Email – leggettluwe@yahoo.co.uk*

Services for September:

<i>Sunday, 10th. September.</i>	<i>Holy Communion.</i>	<i>8.15am</i>
<i>Sunday 17th. September.</i>	<i>Mattins.</i>	<i>10.30am</i>
<i>Sunday 24th. September.</i>	<i>Harvest Festival.</i>	<i>6pm</i>

This month we will be celebrating Harvest Festival on September 24th at 6pm. Please join us to celebrate the good things we enjoy here in Sulgrave. We are thankful for all there is to offer here particularly our friends and family. We would like to decorate the church so if you can spare any fruit, flowers, vegetables and foliage it would be much appreciated. On the Friday evening before Harvest Festival, we will be holding our Harvest Supper in the village hall. (See separate note).

On Saturday, September 9th the annual Ride and Stride sponsored bicycle ride takes place raising money for the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust. The idea is to cycle to as many local churches from 10am to 6pm. Please contact Shrimp if you would like to participate. Half the money you raise will come back to our own church.

**If you have any queries please contact the Churchwardens,
Andrew Dixon and Shrimp Christy**

HARVEST SUPPER.
FRIDAY 22nd September at 6.30pm VILLAGE HALL

Years ago there were at least six working farms in Sulgrave and Stuchbury. The Harvest Festival and Harvest Supper were a great celebration and most of the villagers would have come together to give thanks for the harvest.

Times have changed but we still have the opportunity to be thankful for all the good things we enjoy. The Harvest Supper on September 22nd welcomes you all so please come and join us.

The cost is the same as it has been for the last 5 years, £8.00 for adults and £5.00 for children of primary school age. Younger ones are free!

Delicious food and good company are the order of the day.

There will be a list in the shop to sign up or **call Shrimp on 760214.**

Please indicate any dietary requirements and a contact number.

The Supper will begin at 6.30am.

We look forward to seeing you.





Village Shop News Update

Shop Telephone: 01295 760 066  e-mail: svshop@hotmail.co.uk

We are getting tired of talking about the dreadful weather – so we shan't. Fingers crossed that things will change come September and that we shall have what we used to call an Indian Summer.

The shop remains as busy as ever and we continue to do our best to avoid running out of essentials though, from time to time, items we have ordered don't turn up.

As with many products, the purchase prices of some of our wines have gone up substantially over the past few months. You may also have heard that, from August, the duty on most alcoholic drinks has been increased. This means that most bottles of wine will cost 44p more per bottle, beers and cider above 4.5% ABV will increase by 1p a can and spirits such as Vodka will increase by 81p per bottle. Sorry chaps but this is all supposed to be good for your health! We do our best to keep our booze prices as low as possible but I am afraid some of these purchase price increases will have to be passed on.

Some good news on the wine front is that we have managed to get another consignment of the excellent 'Les Chefs de l'Enclave' rosé. This has been given a firm thumbs up by the pink drinkers of the village - so grab a few bottles while you can. It usually retails at £9.95 a bottle so the shop price of £7.45 is a bargain.

I am afraid we have had to change the date of the Shop AGM to fit in with committee members' availability. Summer holidays always get in the way of planning. So, the new date for the Shop AGM is 20th September at 7.30 in the Village Hall. All the information in last month's newsletter and the message that everyone is welcome still applies. Please do your best to

attend. You will also be offered a glass of wine and a few nibbles if you join us.

We are expecting delivery of a new range of greetings cards so do keep your eyes on the racks.

The Autumn Equinox (when the hours of daylight equal the hours of darkness) is on 22 September. It's all downhill after that.

Digby and Alison

Births, Marriages and Deaths

Katie and Chris from Helmdon Road would love to share with the village that on Saturday 12th August at 9.30pm they welcomed **Arabella May Florence Harper. 6lb 8oz**

She is already enjoying walks around the village.



Howe & Co

Quality Fish & Chips

2023
Pop up Van visits for
Sulgrave /Moreton Pinkney

September 23rd

October 21st
December 16th

November 18th



SULGRAVE PRODUCE SHOW

Sulgrave Village Church Hall

Sunday 3rd September 2.00-4.00pm

3.30pm Prize giving and raffle draw

Tea and cakes throughout the afternoon

Entry forms & fees to be with Kate Miles at The Garden House
by 8.00pm on Wednesday 30th August



Sulgrave Produce Show ENTRY FORM - 2023		
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Name: Age (if 16 or under).....

Address: Phone No:

Class No.	Class	X below
VEGETABLE & FRUIT CLASSES		
1	Three potatoes - main crop variety	
2	Three chillies - any variety	
3	Three runner beans with stalks	
4	Longest runner bean	
5	Five French beans with stalks	
6	Three carrots - one variety - foliage attached	
7	Truss of cherry tomatoes	
8	Three round tomatoes - one variety (not cherry)	
9	One Lettuce - any variety	
10	Cucumber - single	
11	Three courgettes - 1 variety	
12	Vegetable basket - any size - 5 asst vegetables	
13	Three apples of one variety - eating	
14	Three apples of one variety - cooking	
15	Saucer of one variety of soft or stone fruit	
COOKERY CLASSES		
16	Jar of jam - any variety	
17	Jar of jelly - any variety	
18	Jar of marmalade - any flavour	
19	Jar of chutney - any variety	
20	Four cheese scones - any recipe	
21	Four plain shortbread fingers - any recipe	
22	Victoria sponge sandwich - raspberry jam but no cream	
23	Four pieces of Rocky Road - any recipe	
24	Gluten Free (GF) any variety - please state	
25	Loaf of bread - any sort any shape	
26	Bottle of home-made cordial	
27	Bottle of home made liqueur	

Total No. Of Entries:		
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Class No.	Class	X below
FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES		
28	An arrangement of flowers from your garden in a jam jar for the kitchen table	
29	Arrangement in a jug from the herb garden	
CUT FLOWER CLASSES		
30	One fragrant rose bloom	
31	Three rose blooms of one variety - 1 bud, 1 part, 1 full	
32	Three stems of Chrysanthemum - one variety	
33	3 stems of any flower from your garden - one variety	
AGE SPECIFIC CLASSES - 2 Sections		
Age 6 and under - age to be stated on all entries please		
34	Animal or bird made from vegetable/fruit/flowers	
35	Four fairy cakes to be judged for decoration (cakes can be bought)	
Age 7 to 11 - age to be stated on all entries please		
36	A picture of a flower using pasta shapes - max A4	
37	Four flapjacks	
PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES size 7"x5" or 18cm x 13cm		
38	ADULT -	
39	16 AND UNDER - Animals	

SULGRAVE GARDENING CLUB

Monday 11th September 2023

VISIT TO HILL CLOSE GARDENS, WARWICK

An afternoon visit and guided tour of the unique and wonderfully restored Victorian leisure gardens in the heart of Warwick.

Surely worth a visit if only because they are situated in the historically named Bread and Meat Close!

We will be shown round the sixteen individual hedged gardens, featuring - as well as summer houses - herbaceous borders, heritage fruit and vegetables, asters, chrysanths and so much more. Then left to wander and enjoy them before meeting up for delicious cakes, tea and coffee.

Hill Close Gardens (CV34 6HF) are about 28 miles from Sulgrave. Ample parking on arrival. Everyone to meet there for a 2.00pm start. Price for all of us will be £9.00 each, cash please, collected by Maureen on arrival. This includes entry, guided tour and tea/coffee and cakes. Regret RHS discount does not apply on guided visits. The gardens do operate as a charity so we hope RHS members will be fine with this – the refreshments alone are worth over a fiver.

Numbers are needed by Tuesday 5th September – please let Pamela or Maureen know if you plan to join us.

Not a member (yet) but would love to come along? Not a problem, just let us know.

Pamela Wagman – thatchedtea@aol.com 07774 848988
maureenjeffery1@btinternet.com 07788 191601 / 01295 768268





Macmillan Coffee Morning

**Sulgrave Village Hall,
Saturday 30th September
10am.**

**Please come and support this very worthwhile charity
catch up with friends, bring friends, meet friends
have a coffee or tea eat cake, buy cake, donate cake, and there
will be gluten free options.**

All donations welcome.... cake, cash, help!

**Last year we made £240 and Macmillan say that this paid for a
nurse for 1 day, let's see if we can make enough for a nurse for 2
days or even more!**

Ingram Lloyd 07796545288. Ingram.lloyd2@gmail.com

**Just giving link:
[www.justgiving.com/page/ingram Coffee Morning for Macmillan](http://www.justgiving.com/page/ingram%20Coffee%20Morning%20for%20Macmillan)**

**WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING**

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

"Weather Wise"

Facts and figures from Sulgrave's own weather station.

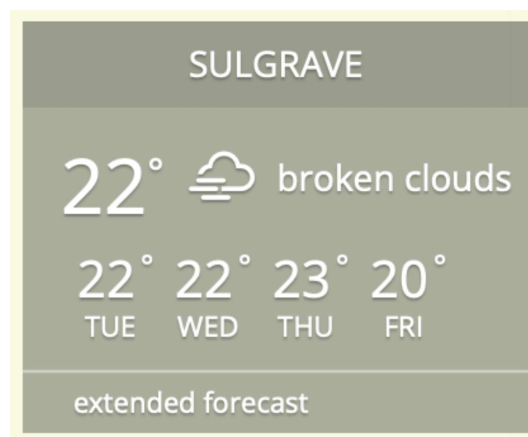
(17 July 2023 - 18 August 2023)

Intro. *(For new readers of the "Village Newsletter").*

Your Editor thought it would be interesting to talk about the weather! After all, it is the subject we often choose to talk about when we want to break the ice! Sulgrave has had its own weather station in the centre of the village for several years. Its' "live data" is posted every two or three minutes, wirelessly, via the internet, to a host website in the USA, where it can be seen by any visitor from around the world.

The Sulgrave village website, (www.sulgrave.org.uk), has a grey "patch" on its homepage, which shows the key points of this "live weather data".

Clicking on the patch's bottom line - "extended forecast" - switches you to the main dashboard of Sulgrave's weather station website, opening up an almost endless array of weather data. It shows what will be happening in the next 10 days from Sulgrave's perspective and what has occurred in the previous weeks, month or years.



17 July - 18 August 2023.

According to the MetOffice, **"The UK had the 6th wettest July since 1835,"**.

We had 170% more rain in July, than the average for the same month during 1991 - 2020, and 210% more during the thirty year period before that! (Ref: MetOffice report for July 2023).

Browsing through the MetOffice's various monthly and annual reports, I found an archive of monthly regional recordings stretching back to 1873 - 150 years! In there I discovered the monthly rainfall records for our Central region,.

Unbelievably, last month was the 6th wettest July in the UK's Central region since 1873. We've only had three other "wetter Julys" since 1922!

Central Region' had a mean of 107 mm in July. We measured 109 mm in Sulgrave, so we are comparable with the MetOffice's rain gauges!

The mean temperature last month for Central England, was just 0.6 degs C lower than the mean for the last thirty years, (1991 - 2020). No evidence of climate warming this year, but perhaps one of the effects - more rain!

So although we had a very warm beginning to July with the daytime temperature peaking at just over 28 degs C, it quickly became much cooler and wetter!

Out of interest Sulgrave's monthly rain falls have been:

May = 34.3 mm, June = 58.7 mm, July = 109 mm, August so far = 36.6 mm

Summary of principal weather data for 17 July - 18 August
2023

	<i>Max</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Average</i>
Tempera ture	27.2 C	8.3	15.8
Rain	87mm		
Pressure	1021 mBars	983 mBars	
Wind	Steady - 16 mph. Gust - 20 mph		Av direction SSW

By the way, 1 inch of mercury = 33.77 mBars, thus 30 inches of mercury = 1013 mBars or 1013 hPa.

Sulgrave weather station website also shows a forecast for the coming ten days, which from experience, should only be relied upon for the first two to three days, becoming less accurate as we move further ahead, but it does provide a good general guide.

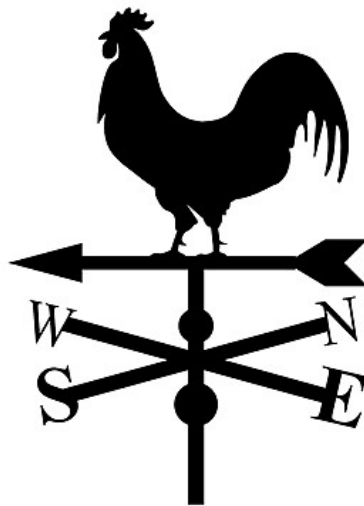
More technical info', can be found on the Sulgrave weather station website at:

<https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/IUNITEDK128>

Incidentally, if you are about to go on your travels, you can search for a local "Personal Weather Station" (PWS) for your destination, to see what is about to occur when you arrive. Do you really need to take your umbrella or that thick sweater?

More from "*Trebormint*" next month.

Written: Saturday, 19 August 2023





Parish Council

Dates of future meetings:

September 7th October 6th November 2nd

Dog Fouling in Sulgrave.

There are still irresponsible dog owners here in Sulgrave who are not clearing their dogs mess. This situation is so bad that our grass cutting contractor has complained and is considering withdrawing his services. He tells me that his machinery and clothing get badly splattered so they have to be thoroughly cleaned after working here. It would be a great pity if this were to happen as this contractor has served us very well over several years with his high standard of workmanship.

If the dog bins happen to be full take your dog poo bags home with you. **THERE ARE NO EXCUSES**

At the entrance to Pocket Park there is a ' NO DOGS ' sign, yet when I cut the grass I find dog mess. Who in this village thinks it a good idea to let their dogs foul a play area used by our children ?

Richard Fonge.
Chairman Sulgrave Parish Council.

AUGUST ON THE FARM (2023)



Sloes (Fruit of the Blackthorn) – Photo: Colin Wootton

The month of August is the main harvest month, and this year like many in the past it has been, so far, a month of poor weather for both farmers and holiday makers. When there are short spells of fine sunny days it is essential to be able to harvest as much as possible, but it also means that the Farmer cannot wait for the grain to dry naturally to the 14% required for storage, hence it has to be dried artificially, increasing the cost of production, not cheap at today's energy prices, unless solar panels have been installed on the grain store.

August 1st is Lamass day in the Church calendar. On Lamass day in years gone by when a village like Sulgrave was very dependent on a good harvest, a loaf of bread was blessed in the Church as a prelude to the harvest. This ritual is still observed by a friend of mine at their Church in Warwickshire.

Observing the crops around the village, the wheat looks as if it will yield well, as has the barley this year. The spring barley up the concrete road which has suffered from the heavy storms

more than most, now needs fair weather to ripen off and yield well.

A comparison.... Sixty years ago, wheat yielded 1.5 tonnes /acre on average and ten acres a day could be harvested... 15 tonnes a day. Today 3.5 tonnes and eighty acres a day harvested. 275 tonnes a day.

Last month I referred to Banbury Market and how it was a stockyard of England. It seems incredible to think today but stock was driven through the streets of Grimsbury to grazing on the fields up Overthorpe Hill. Once a month there would be a consignment of cattle from Ireland, which would come by train from Holyhead straight to the market and then to those fields, before their sale to local farmers.

Markets provided not only a place for farmers to do business, but also a place to share experiences and socialise. So important when often living on a lone holding. Today so few are involved in the industry, due to the great advances in technology and specialisation that loneliness is a problem.

People used to whistle when working, a sound not often heard now. Indeed, those of us of a certain age can remember a radio programme on the Light Wave called "Whistle while you work". The light wave became Radio 2 in the late sixties.

Looking forward rather than back, the hedgerow harvest looks promising, with plenty of blackberries ripening, crab apple trees laden to the limit, and plenty of sloes for the gin, particularly along the old railway line.

Richard Fonge



We played at the Coronation Lunch on Sulgrave Castle Green, May 7th 2023

We are now recruiting players. If you have an old cornet/trombone/horn/drum kit gathering dust in your loft, or if you played in the past and have no instrument, borrow one of ours or blow away the cobwebs and have a blow or bash with us!

Get in touch with Chris, at The Chestnuts, Little Street,
or contact us at brackleyband@gmail.com <http://www.brackleyband.org.uk>

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Sulgrave Charities – Supporting Education for Villagers

It's that time of year when all things education come back into focus for some of us. This is just a reminder that one of The Sulgrave Charities was specifically set up to support the education of the children/young people of Sulgrave and so we would welcome any applications for funding which fit the criteria: the purchasing of text books, specialised equipment, tools etc. would all fit the brief.

You can apply via the village website – see the list on the right-hand side of the webpage or just email me in the first instance....

lisa.griffin5@btinternet.com. **ALL APPLICATIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL.**



Fabula Arts

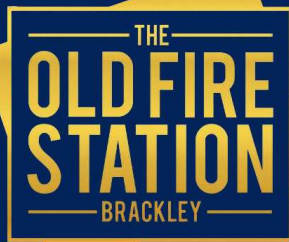
COMMUNITY CHOIR

6.15-7.15pm Wednesdays

**King's Sutton
Church Hall**

OX17 3RJ

**anniechatfield@fabulaarts.co.uk
fabulaarts.co.uk/community-choir**



**COFFEE, BREAKFAST,
BRUNCH AND LUNCH
WITH ICE-CREAM**

**MILKSHAKES AND
SMOOTHIES COMING SOON**



SAVE THE DATES...

SEPTEMBER 5TH - All cakes will be priced at just £1 to celebrate our 1st Birthday

SEPTEMBER 9TH - Join us for our Fire Station Fun Day to celebrate Webster's being in Brackley for 12 months. The plans have started and all details will be shared soon.



Our evening events will return soon, we are just extremely busy with private events and Wedding Season at the moment

BOOK FOR CHRISTMAS

We are now taking
bookings for private
Christmas parties



THANK YOU!

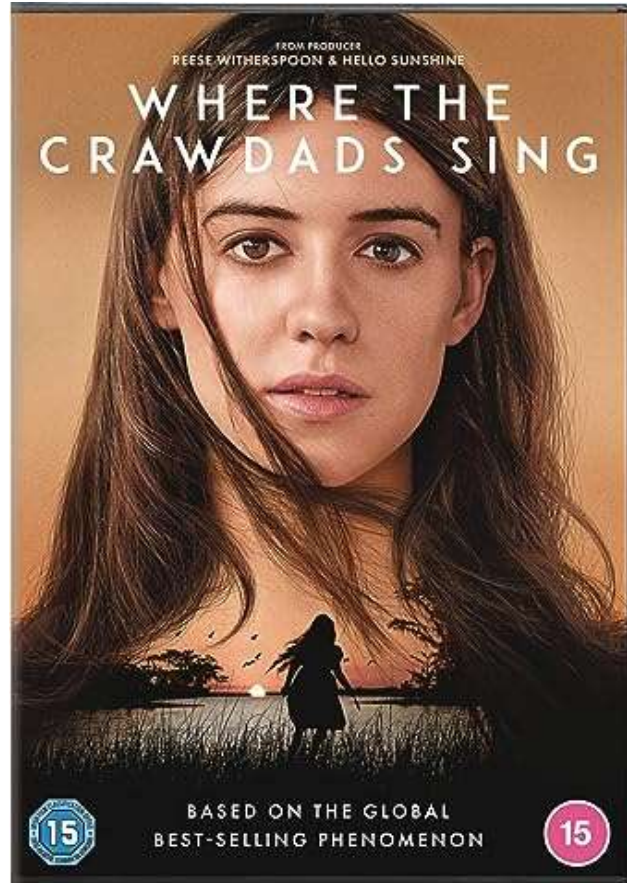
Thank you to every single person
who is supporting this venture.

We are excited to see what the
next few years brings

Monday - Saturday 8.30am - 4.30pm, Sunday 9.00am - 2.00pm

For any booking information, please email: OFS@WEBSTERS-EVENTS.CO.UK

CULWORTH VILLAGE HALL
THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER
DOORS OPEN 6.30PM



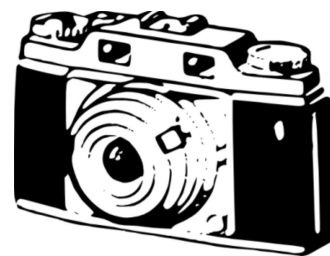
"Where the Crawdads Sing" is a coming-of-age story of a young girl raised by the marshlands of the south in the 1950s. When the town hotshot is found dead, and inexplicably linked to Kya, the Marsh Girl is the prime suspect in his murder case.

TICKETS - £15 (to include Red Lion supper)
£7.50 FILM ONLY
CONTACT JULIE TO BOOK
01295 760855

jules.tinn@gmail.com

Bring your own liquid refreshment and glass

Sulgrave Camera Club



At the Camera club meeting in August we had a presentation and Q and A session on Night photography, usually called Landscape Astro

Photography, the opportunities for those willing to stay up late result in some pretty stunning photographs.

There is no need for expensive star tracking equipment and telescopes for this style of photography, a good digital camera for detail and sharpness of the image, mounted on a tripod does a really good job. Even the later generation mobile phone can capture some pretty stunning images.

The evening concluded with showing photographs of the monthly challenge, “Scary” - there were some pretty scary photographs – so well done to those who took up the challenge.

Our next meeting will be earlier in the month of September – due to holiday commitments. We will be at The Star on 6th September at 8.00pm for our usual enjoyable evening session.

Finally, some advance notice of a presentation by professional landscape photographer Sarah Howard, Sarah will be at Sulgrave Village Hall on 22nd November from 7.30PM to give a talk on her work photographing some of stunning locations in the UK and Europe. A nominal entry fee of £5.00 to be charged on the door to cover costs. If you are interested in attending this presentation. Please email chris.behan@mac.com

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Sulgrave Camera Club presents

An Evening with

Sarah Howard
PHOTOGRAPHY

a leading UK landscape photographer

Wednesday 22nd November 2023, at 7.30pm

in Sulgrave Village Hall

Sarah is a regular speaker about landscape photography.

Sarah is a passionate traveller and lover of the natural world and is known for her authentic and faithful style of photography.

Sarah is the founder of 'Image Seen', which offers landscape photography workshops, holidays, and tuition, set among some of the most breath-taking scenery in the UK & Europe.

This evening is open to any person interested in hearing Sarah speak about landscape photography in a relaxed and entertaining manner.

There is an entrance fee of £5.00, payable at the door.
If you are interested in attending, please contact the organiser at:
grahamroberts53@hotmail.com





THE STAR - UPDATE ON 'TRIP 3' – NOVEMBER 2023

TOTAL NOW TO DATE since March 2022 is £15,675 – This does not include donated aid

We would like to say HUGE THANK YOU'S to;

Shelagh for running the raffle on an extremely wet Funday in July –
NO ONE ESCAPED SHELAGH - Shelagh managed to raise a fantastic amount of £252.00 from selling raffle tickets where 100% of ticket sales went to the Ukraine Fund

Claire organised another wonderful Dog Show for the Funday. Although I am not sure Claire has ever done a dog show in torrential rain before! Claire organised the dog show and Chloe was the judge.

They raised a fantastic amount of £60.00 for the Ukraine Fund. The Ukraine Pot was also on the bar as always – We were amazed at how generous people were - £160.00 was raised from people just popping money in the pot - Fantastic

UKRAINE VEHICLES

One vehicle has now been purchased and was on show at the Classic Car Event in August, with a collection pot next to it – This is a 4x4 that will be used to carry civilians/soldiers to where they need to be, especially during the snowy colder months

We now have all 4 drivers in place for 'Trip 3'

Steve, Paul, Nigel and Luke, 3 of which have been before – We are also now collecting aid for 'Trip 3' to fill both vehicles

UNFORTUNATELY – WE ARE BEHIND

Due to 2 wet fundraising events - Although the people that did attend gave generously, footfall was dramatically reduced because of the weather, around 200 people down on the Funday alone + rain abruptly halting the car show – This means currently we are long way off where we should be in the Ukraine Fund – We still have 1 more vehicle to purchase + the funds needed for fuel etc to get the vehicles to Ukraine – We are pushing hard & hopefully 'Starfest', if dry, will be a HUGE boost to the Ukraine Fund

'STARFEST' – LIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER - 12PM TIL MIDNIGHT

This will be a big fundraising event to boost the funds for Ukraine
Admittance Fee - Adults £10.00 under 12s £5.00 – Babies Free
Ticket sales will go to the Ukraine Fund

Music slots are full – The music is varied – Something for everyone – The Hooky Lorry will be their stage



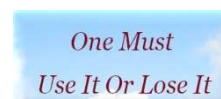
BANDS & SOLOs CONFIRMED ARE: Shambolic, The Sidekicks, Bryter Than, Uninvited, The Town Sparks, The Village Folk, CJ Wood & M^2 – Musicians will play from 12pm til Midnight with short change over breaks – Music in between

**We have now also fitted in M^2 (M-Squared) for 1 hour
A wonderfully talented young group from Helmdon who contacted us. I think there will be many 11-14yr olds going home wanting to be ROCKSTARS after this performance – I will wait for you to judge WHY for yourselves**

**We should have some villagers playing for 45 minutes, if they can get something together between them for a 45 minute set –
Always a difficult time of year to get together being holiday season for many – We will look forward to this ‘The Village Folk’**

We have a Pizza Tent, BBQ, Coffee & Cake Horsebox, Ice Cream Van, Face Painting & Glitter Tattoos

PLEASE NOTE: We desperately need a dry day for this event! It would have a detrimental effect on the Ukraine Funds we have saved otherwise, instead of increasing it - Rain means low attendees & huge losses for an event this size! We have already applied for the music licence & have everything crossed for a dry day



I have been told by numerous people you are still enjoying reading our updates – I thought you may be getting a bit bored by now but apparently not? So here we go with the next updates

As I sit at my desk typing this update – I can hear the Church Bells ringing, how wonderful, love this sound

Thank you Karen, for sorting out Ted’s transport & Sally for the backup number – Ted is most pleased

Moto GP was a nice busy weekend as normal – Unfortunately, like most events during July & August it was rather wet on the Saturday for all those attending Silverstone

ROAD CLOSURES

Is it just us or does everyone think road closures are becoming an increasing pain? We now have the road closure between Eydon & Culworth until 2024 it seems. Meaning all our lovely customers in Woodford Halse, Eydon etc have a longer diverted route to get to us. Not very helpful for our footfall or for those needing to travel that way

A VERY WET JULY & AUGUST FOR GARDEN EVENTS ☹

Unfortunately, we cannot predict the weather – We have had 3 big garden events in 5 weeks, not one has been dry.

The wedding reception in July made the most of their afternoon and evening. The Bride & Bridesmaids got ready at The Star and left in their wedding car from here. It was lovely to be a part of their special day



from start to finish. They were determined to have a wonderful time despite the heavy showers, luckily the sun did shine quite a lot in between. Thankfully with a lot of them being farmers they were used to the unpredictable weather and had a wonderful time. They were determined to remain outside with the marquee. The gorgeous wedding dress train did not stay white for long, but they were not deterred. Lovely to see them all singing, dancing and enjoying themselves – CONGRATULATIONS Steven & Josie

The Family Fun Day was next - When we looked at the weather on the Friday to make the decision to go ahead or cancel, we had possible showers until 4pm – SO we decided to go ahead, showers would be fine, we can deal with them, it is England after all, always a possibility of showers. We contacted all the stall holders, Claire with the dog show, the ponies, the ice-cream van, the coffee van, and the bouncy castle, we all agreed we could manage the showers. The bouncy castle set up on the Friday evening, everything in the garden was put in place including all the extra tables & chairs put out, the outside bar was ready GREAT months of preparation & we were ready to go. This was going to be the biggest Funday we had ever had – The advertising had gone everywhere and 100s of people were coming 😊

OH DEAR – NOOOOO

This cannot be happening we said to each other when we awoke to the sound of heavy rain – PLEASE NO – But sadly yes, the rain did not slow down and give us a break once throughout the day – The garden was soaking wet, there were big puddles in the carpark, stallholders started to pull out 1 by 1, the bouncy castle could not go up in the heavy rain, and the ponies did turn up BUT had to leave after 45 minutes, they were soaking wet ☹️ We had our heads in our hands and have to admit we cursed the British summer weather many times



BUT THANK YOU

To the stall holders who did turn up so we could fill the marquee (thank goodness we had not had the weather to take the marquee down). Claire & Chloe for battling the weather & continuing with the dog show soaking wet, Shelagh for collaring everyone for the raffle, the ice-cream van for selling ice-creams, the coffee van for selling lots of hot chocolate, the Star Team for battling on **AND** the amazing people who turned out to support the event with a smile and sheer determination to support the fundraising and us, the children were also amazing and played on the space hoppers in the rain – Thank you to you all, you know who you are, too many to list AMAZING – I had 2 children come up to me and say ‘do not worry about the rain we have had an amazing time’ That was truly magical to hear, thank you Jackson & Theo – So although it was not the event it was supposed to be after months of hard work, we thank you all for the event you made it to be – The laughter was still there and The Star was full to bursting with so many people who had made the effort to join us – It felt like the good old days where everyone pulled together – Thank you Valerie for telephoning me the next day to explain you could not attend due to the awful weather, you were certainly not the only one, totally understandable, and the phone call meant a lot.

PLENTY OF ROSETTES FOR THE VILLAGE DOGS THIS YEAR

It appears we have plenty of 4-legged village stars. We had many dogs attending from outside the village and it was lovely to meet them all, they to proudly went home with rosettes. I thought it would be nice to list the village rosette dogs for you this year. I have to say there were a few village dogs that won more than 1 rosette

WELL DONE DOGGIES – CONGRATULATIONS

PADDY / JIMMY / BONNIE / SPUD / PADDINGTON / TESS
Honorary dog residents for the weekend were BILLY & OLIVE

Lovely LEO what can I say other than leave Mummy at home next year.



When you see Sarah & Luke walking Leo around the village, ask them about Leo and the car – OOOPS Sarah – If there was a rosette for the best pub guard dog Leo would have won it for sure. We don't really want you to stay at home Sarah!

I have to say there are plenty of village dogs that do not take kindly to anyone else, human or dog, entering their pub living room! We feel very loved, although maybe it might be slightly to do with the treat pot, but only slightly of course!

FINALLY – We could take our marquee down 3 days before the Classics & Vintage Show. We had been waiting for a dry 48hrs so the marquee & grass would both be dry – An unusual challenge for July & August

Well, another day and another event, this time in August – Let's have a Classic & Vintage show bigger than ever before, the garden was made ready and even part of my horse field had to be mown (the less said on that subject the better, sore point isn't it Graham) - This time there was minimal chance of even a shower, and a lovely 3 days of sunshine before the event – AT LAST everyone can enjoy the garden.

Some vehicles turned up the day before, including a Rolls Royce trailered all the way from Anglesey. We awoke to sunshine, fantastic.

We had a busy morning, tractors and cars turning up one after another, amazing. The gardens were full of vehicles. Ice-creams were sold in the sunshine, everyone was having a wonderful time walking around the vehicles and having a good chat to one another.

THEN – YES IT ABSOLUTELY DID IT RAINED AGAIN!

Firstly, just a quick shower, only a few of the soft tops left – Then heavy rain for a good 20 minutes, the cars started leaving 1 by 1. Everyone either ran for cover in the pub or left. Honestly, not again –

The 3rd big event was over, rained off again, this time in August. An event that should have gone into the evening ended abruptly by 3pm. We had the pleasure of some villagers staying for their dinner in the

pub & that was lovely. At least everyone enjoyed themselves in the sunshine for a little while this time. Please weather be kind to us for our last garden event of the year 'Starfest', dare I say it the biggest event of all



IT IS 5 STARS ALL ROUND FOR THE STAR



Following on from our 5* Beer & Cellar Rating

WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT

5* for our Kitchen Hygiene Rating & Kitchen Management from Environmental Health



AIR AMBULANCE SUPPORT – HELPING SAVE LIVES

The clothes bin is still being used by many people – THANK YOU It has been emptied 5 times now which is very good. Unfortunately, there is no way of telling how full the clothes bin is getting until it is completely full – We ring them for collection as soon as the bin is full, it can take up to a week to be emptied

IMPORTANT PLEASE only fill with accepted items which are:
Clothing, Towels, Sheets, Blankets, Curtains & Paired Shoes
ONLY – No Duvets!



Psychic Night – Tuesday 19th September

We have hosted 2 of these events so far & both have SOLD OUT!

Tickets are selling quickly for September & we have therefore been asked to host another in November (21st) – Novembers event will be the last one in 2023 – They are then looking to return to The Star in February/March 2024 -

These events are extremely busy with food orders – Please bear this in mind & ensure you book for food on these evenings!

An evening with Pete & Penny – 2 experienced & talented Psychic Mediums – 2 x 45 minutes of Clairvoyance & Mediumship

Please Remember we only host this event - Tickets are not purchased through us – Tickets are only available online or by scanning the QR code in the bar on their poster

STILL GOING STRONG

Homemade Pie Night – Friday & Saturday Evenings - £15.95

Can you clear your plate for your FREE dessert? GOOD LUCK 😊

We have rather a lot of people travelling to The Star for Pie Nights –
A good few people lately have managed to get their FREE desserts

Ian's Folk Night – Date to be confirmed - 7.30 till 10

At the time of print we have no confirmed date for Folk Night in September – Please keep an eye out for the boards outside the pub if Folk Night will be going ahead in September, they may be worn out from 'Starfest'?

BINGO – SUGGESTED DATE – WEDNESDAY 13TH

SEPTEMBER ?? I have had a few enquiries regarding bingo night – I am aware a lot of people are away in September – Do you want Bingo in September? I will host if we can get a minimum of 18 to play. Please let me know if you are interested?
– QUIZ NIGHTS WILL RETURN A LITTLE LATER

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Computer running too slow?

Need help navigating your new PC?

Struggling with Wi-Fi black spots?

Want a spreadsheet building?

Worried about losing your files?

Local and friendly IT support available to residents of Sulgrave and the surrounding villages.

For all your hardware and software needs.

Call or email Oliver. 07791 934503 sulgraveitsolutions@gmail.com

September 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		Aug 30 th Deadline for Produce Show Entries		1	2 'Starfest' @ The Star 12pm 'til midnight	3 Produce Show 2- 4pm @ Village Hall
4	5	6	7 Parish Council Meeting @ Village Hall 7.30pm	8	9	10 Holy Communion 8.15am
11 Gardening Club Visit to Hill Close Gardens	12	13 Bingo Night at The Star ????	14 Culworth Cinema Night @ Culworth Village Hall 6.30nm	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17 Mattins 10.30am
18	19 Psychic Night @ The Star	20	21	22 Harvest Supper 6.30pm @ Village Hall	23 Fish and Chip Van	24 Harvest Festival 6pm
25	26	27	28	29	30 Macmillan Coffee Morning 10am @Village Hall	

Deadline for the October Newsletter is Friday 15th September 2023