

Sulgrave News

March 2024



*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.***

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**Deadline for the April Newsletter is
Friday 22nd March 2024**

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**

Sulgrave is very special but why did you choose to live here?

Please tell us of your journey to our Village, whether it was 50 years ago or this year. Share your memories of what it used to be like, what makes it special to you.

The Wagmans are kicking off this new strand with how they found us.

“OUR COTTAGE BY THE SEA”

‘Why Sulgrave’, the question most asked of us since we discovered this unique place in 2021. The short answer is pure luck! The long one is a serendipitous journey beyond belief!



Covid caused havoc for everyone, signalling a complete change of lifestyle for many, us included. A near fatal undiagnosed infection (put down to ‘long covid’) meant just such a rethink of our retirement plans, heralding some astonishing lightbulb moments. It happened in those awful dark days of total lockdown, when to our horror no hospital could/would admit me as I was undiagnosed, no home nursing staff could be hired, but worst of all was our children weren’t allowed near us to help. The situation was unimaginable in 21st century Britain.

The dream of spending the autumn years of our lives in warmer climes sounds a panacea with droves of our age buying ‘holiday homes’ abroad in the hope of fulfilling this dream. In truth, apart from the fact it’s just another kitchen with a better view for women, living overseas is not always what you bargain for. No matter what health care is available in these countries, when you are very sick can the kids, or nearest and dearest, easily get to you and how long can their commitments allow them to stay? Suddenly without warning, our dream could no longer be a reality.

A myriad of reasons led us to abandon the people intensity and risk in central London during lockdown, so when illness struck we were in rented a ‘sea view’ house in Sussex. Idyllic in normal times, but sadly in Tier 4 (remember that) it became a getaway prison. Unable to even see neighbours (except at different ends of the beach) a chronic wi-fi connection and lousy sky tv package, days were endless. Until out of sheer boredom daytime television gave us hope in the shape of ‘Escape to the Country’ - we fast became addicts. So much so that Colin casually said one day ‘well if we aren’t going to semi retire in the sunshine, why not buy a little cottage by the sea in England’ whilst looking at the tv

screen – ‘see you could get something very cheap over here and not have to ever set foot in an airport’. Mind you, we know now those prices only applied if you wanted to live in the Outer Hebrides!

And so, our journey began... late December 2020 through January and February 2021 I would surf the Rightmove website two days a week, and three days a week we would pack our mini with lunch and tea (and a pee bottle as petrol station toilets were closed) and off we ventured like intrepid explorers. We all know how ridiculous the Covid rules seem now, only being able to see the kids on zoom, not being able to even meet outside, yet bizarrely you could meet an Estate Agent, don a hazmat suit and walk around a complete stranger's house because you actually were allowed to buy a new home!!

From very early on in our viewings we realised there are no isolated cottages by the sea (as seen on tv) along the Sussex or Kent coasts. Of course, there are lovely old seaside towns like Worthing, Ferring, Amgmering and Goring etc but sadly crammed with faceless bungalows, where few amenities were within walking distance, cars were essential, and full of lookalike inhabitants waiting for their last walk by the sea before clocking off – or so it seemed to us and definitely not where we wanted to end our days!

So, the next 2.5 months we found ourselves travelling through most of the home counties from Sussex into Kent into Suffolk Cambridgeshire, up to Peterborough, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire. Needless to say, the ‘sea view cottage’ had rapidly turned into a barn conversion, then into an Oats House, into houses with land, houses in a village, new, converted, and everything in between. We toyed with the idea of living on the river, until before we got through the front door the seller would be showing us how much they had spent on flood prevention! In truth we never realised what it was like to be the other side of the pleasure boat, well it's roughly like being in a zoo! One river property, which in another life would have been fabulous with its own narrowboat, was so far away from civilisation that the agent told me you had to go down stream on the boat to Sonning to get a pint of milk. For sure the little bridge to the property was never going to take an Ocado van!

This journey was rapidly becoming a whole new education. By now, the barn conversion was winning, except barns come in three types. Either in the middle of the homestead so you can't even walk to the road, let alone a shop, Or, on a noisy main B Road as they would have needed to be when used for produce. Or in a group of three or four and if you don't like your neighbours you are properly ‘stu....ed’. We also realised that if it was taking us over 2 hours to get back down to London in bleak February in lockdown, in normal times and in summer that's 3.5 hours

plus so back to the drawing board. As our London home is near Marylebone station, we got the rail map and drew a circle around all areas where it took 50/60 mins by train, and no more than 1hour 35 mins by car. This brought us to Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire – so we started all over again.

Now, without laughing out loud at what comes next, we had narrowed down our wishes, just like on Escape to the Country, to precisely what we did and didn't want for our new home. Nothing on a road, nothing in a village, only 3 bedrooms with one downstairs, all windows should look at the rolling countryside views, definitely not Grade 2 listed and cut both our arms off if it had a Thatched Roof. Ok you can stop laughing now....

After two months of searching the internet my head was spinning from new home website details. I'd given up looking at all the photos, having now 'kissed a lot of frogs' we knew some Agents let's say stretched the truth! For example, if a handcrafted oak kitchen was described but the colour looked orange in the image it was obviously at least 40 years old, there must be an avocado bathroom and so the house needed ripping. If the agent showed us the garden first, the house was rubbish, if there was an aerial view of the property it was clearly dilapidated and too bad to get a close up...I could go on.

Therefore, when The Thatched House in Sulgrave popped up my screen the only photo I looked at was taken from the Courtyard showing the long kitchen area and the garage – I didn't bother scrolling down and didn't even look too closely at the wording except I knew it was bigger than we wanted – understatement – but the main thatched house was not in view. It was near another village called Morton Pinkney where we had an appointment to see a barn conversion, so as usual I clipped together the particulars ready for our journey. Unfortunately, I only got the Savills brochure about 4 hours before we left when I saw the Thatched part of the house and the size! Colin was not at all happy. 'Why are we going to see this place, its Thatched, it's on a road, it's way too big, its Grade 2, cancel the appointment' but I argued that we were in the vicinity and why shouldn't we just take a look we had nothing else to do. He grunted, and definitely under sufferance he agreed to visit, still mumbling 'it's not fair to the sellers if we aren't remotely interested'

Personally, I fell in love with Sulgrave as we drove down into the village with the view of the old Vicarage and the Church tower poking through the bare trees, even on a bleak February day in the rain, it was magical. As we passed the Village green with the Stocks I 'oohed and aahed' he grunted again. 'The shop has a post office' I exclaimed – he was definitely not listening, he did not want to be in Sulgrave no matter what. As we got further down Manor Road, past picture postcard houses with banks of crocus and snowdrops, there loomed the Pub which looked like

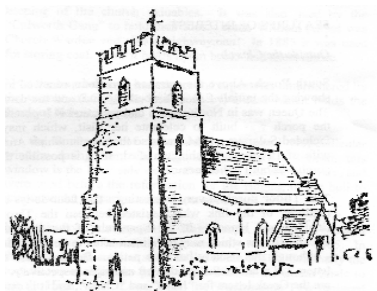
it was almost next door to the house— sadly still no response from my driver.

He noticed the Manor car park and said, 'we are half an hour early, let's stop as I want to show you how this road is an obvious 'rat run' from Sulgrave through to Weston and will be so busy which is exactly what we didn't want'. We parked up poured a coffee and we waited, and we waited, 23 mins later Charles walked his two horses up Manor Road. Colin was now confused, but then a white van come down – his eyes lit up, but it was an Amazon van and went right back out. He said 'this doesn't add up looking closely at the map (remember those) 'let's take a ride up (the gated) road to prove my point' in rain-soaked February in a mini! Yup you got it we came very quickly back down realising we would need a tractor to go further and he reluctantly drove into the TTH courtyard to be greeted by Jackie and Steve Allum.

With Covid ever present and bedecked in masks and plastic shoe coverings we followed Jackie at a distance. from room, to room, to another room. You could just hear us murmuring (ala *Escape to the Country*) 'ooh Colin look at the beams' or 'oh look another wood burner' The agent's brochure did not prepare us for the size of the front garden, let alone the kitchen patio, and certainly not the meadow orchard. Jackie, then showed us the three-car garage with the workshops whilst Steve waited in the enormous kitchen. We came out of the garage and walked to the front of the main door, then Colin said those immortal words. 'Right, I will give you the asking price, take it off the market, I will exchange in three weeks. Jackie burst into tears and said 'but you haven't even spoken to your wife' Colin looked at me and I replied. 'well, you don't find treasure like this every day' and he nodded. However, it wasn't until the day of completion that the Allums handed us an old battered file with all the details of The Thatched House Hotel, the story of the tea rooms, and the original hotel keys to the rooms that we realised with had bought such an historic place.

Our intention was we would spend 3 or 4 days a week in the country, we would have a house where all 13 of our brood could stay in school holidays, and the rest of the time we would live in London as usual. It didn't quite happen like that because we quickly realised we had stumbled upon the wonderfully welcoming village of Sulgrave where we didn't just find a home but an amazing new family of friends, as far away from the sea as you can get, which we loathe to be parted from, but undoubtedly the best journey of our lives.

Pamela Wagman



Church News

*The Rector for our Benefice
is Nick Leggett 07925 419068*

Email – leggettluwe@yahoo.co.uk

Services for March

Sunday 10th.	10.30am. Mothering Sunday
Sunday 17th.	10. 30am. Holy Communion
Sunday 24th.	10.00am. Palm Sunday. Mattins
Thursday 28th.	7.30pm. Last Supper Mass
Sunday 31st.	8am. Easter Sunday. Holy Communion

March is a particularly busy month in the life of our church. Easter is early this year and the run up to this special time will be hectic.

On March 10th. we celebrate Mothering Sunday and there will be a special service to remember our mothers at 10.30am. This is an opportunity to say 'Thank you' for all that they do. Please come along, there will be a small token for the children to present to their mothers.

During Easter Week there will be an evening service at 7.30pm. and on Sunday there will be an Easter Day Holy Communion Service at 8am. Yes, it's early, but it will mark the beginning of a very special day in the church calendar.

There will be services in every church in the Benefice. Please check the notice boards for more details or contact the Church Wardens. There are no flowers in the church during Lent but we would be grateful for your help with cleaning and polishing before Easter Day. A list of tasks will be left in the church. Thank you for your continued support.

Shrimp and Andrew. Churchwardens.



Village Shop News Update

Shop Telephone: 01295 760 066



e-mail: svshop@hotmail.co.uk

Whether you define it meteorologically or astronomically, Spring will be arriving in March – the first of March if you are of a meteorological bent and the twentieth if you favour the astronomical model. Either way we can soon say goodbye to the winter blues.

A shop deep-cleaning exercise, arranged by Jane, took place at the end of January. It went very well and, after a co-ordinated effort by Jane, Fiona, Janie, Bridie and Alison, the shop looked bright and sparkling and all the stock had been date-checked and arranged in order. Merit badges all round.

A range of Hook Norton bottled beers has been added to our booze range and there will be some new additions to the wine shelves so do keep a weather eye open.

We hope to get a small range of Easter eggs in to add to our stocks of ever popular mini-eggs and there will be plenty of other chocolates in stock for you to enjoy over the Easter holidays.

We have ordered some different kinds of cakes to add to our range and some new greetings cards have just arrived.

Be sure not to forget that **Mother's Day is on Sunday 10th March** or you will be in deep trouble.

And don't forget that the clocks go forward on Sunday 31st March after which it will begin to feel as though Summer is not far away.

Digby and Alison

PS: Please note that the shop will close at 1.00pm on Good Friday (29th March) and will be closed all day on Easter Monday (1st April). We shall be open as usual on Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st March.



SULGRAVE GARDENING CLUB

TULIP TIME with JOHN GIBSON

Monday 11th March at 7.30pm
Sulgrave Village Church Hall

Our speaker for March is a real expert in his field.

John Gibson was until recently a vice chairman of The Royal Horticultural Society's Bulb Committee, and he has been growing and hybridising bulbs for forty years. He has now retired from running his mail order business selling specialist daffodils, hyacinths and tulips. John's illustrated talk will include how cut tulips are produced, coverage of the various types of tulips, including the historic and beautiful English florists tulip, and colourful pictures of visits to the Keukenhof Gardens and Dutch bulb fields.

This lovely evening is free to all Garden Club members and non-members are welcome too, at £5 per person.

There will be the usual raffle (could be a tulip theme going on this time), and light refreshments after the talk.

If anyone would like to volunteer to do the refreshments, just for this month, please contact Pamela or Maureen – it needs two people, all the basics are supplied.

We will be asking for numbers of those who would like to join the coach trip to the opening day of the RHS Malvern Spring Festival on ***Thursday 9th May***. We need 32 people to make it viable, with club members and their friends having priority before we throw it open to the village. Details will be circulated at the meeting.

Pamela thatchedtea@aol.com

07774 848988

Maureenjeffery1@btinternet.com

07788 191601

SULGRAVE GARDENING CLUB

COACH TRIP TO RHS MALVERN

SPRING FESTIVAL

Thursday 9th May 2024



Depart - Sulgrave Village Hall at 7.45am.

Return - to arrive home around 5.30pm.

Gardening Club members are invited to come on this wonderful day out to the highly recommended **RHS Spring Festival**, held annually at the Three Counties Showground with the backdrop of the beautiful Malvern Hills.

Our trip is on the **opening day of the show**, with everything at its absolute best. Specialist plant stalls, show gardens (mostly more relatable to than the Chelsea spectaculars), floral art, stands, food and drink – everything you could wish for to make a perfect day out. And going by coach makes everything so easy.

The all-in cost (coach and admission) for members is £58 per person.

If we have spare seats, non-members are invited at £65 each.

Members : To book your place, please email/message Pamela or Maureen as soon as possible (by March 31st) so we know how many spare places there may be. Details of how to pay will follow.

Non members : Similarly, please register your interest with Pamela or Maureen and we will let you know after March 31st if you're in luck. Places will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

Pamela Wagman thatchedtea@aol.com 07774 848988
maureenjeffery1@btinternet.com 07788 191601



Sewing for Pleasure *Group*

My sister Sue, and I are thinking of starting a "Sewing for Pleasure" group to run weekly, possibly on a Thursday night, depending on Church Hall availability.

This notice is really asking for an expression of interest. This is a not for profit group only charging a small amount to cover the cost of the hall and a small amount for coffee and cake/biscuits.

I'm sure there are many people out there who have unfinished projects, and could benefit from a couple of hours a week to finish them off or if you have a particular project we could help you achieve it.

Our particular interests are quilting. However, if someone else has experience in other areas we could all share knowledge.

We have a couple of spare sewing machines that could be borrowed.

We are happy to have younger sewers over the age of 13 but below the age of 15 will need to be accompanied by an adult.

if you are interested please can you text

Sue 07808267060 or myself, **Libby 07747842405**.

If we have enough people show an interest we will make more plans.

Libby Cave

MEGAN TARGETT
Crohn's and Colitis Young Fundraiser of the Year 2023
Rev4Rob in memory of Robert Henn Died 27 December 2020



2023 YOUNG FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR WINNER - Wow!! Thank you so much to everyone who nominated me for this award. I was over the moon to receive recognition let alone a beautiful award. This means so much to me in more ways than one. Losing a member of your family to this disease is heartbreaking. Grief is tough, learning to live without the ones you love is life changing and I endeavour to everything possible to raise money, supporting people with Crohn's and Colitis in his memory. Firstly, a huge thank you from me to every single one of my volunteers that help me year in and year out to put on a great event for Crohn's and Colitis UK. I couldn't do it without you all. Everybody comes together as one big family to remember, raise and support the charity and those we have lost to the illness. For me this is my late Uncle Robert, who was like a father to me.

Secondly, a HUGE thank you to Alex demain's family who took their time in reading the nominations and listening to story's and for choosing me to win. I find it so heartwarming that Alex's legacy lives on through this amazing award.

Thank you to Crohn's and Colitis UK and to all the companies, football teams etc who support us with donations to raise money each year.

Check us out on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok @Rev4Rob our next BIG event is planned for 2026.

"Weather Wise"

Facts and figures from Sulgrave's own weather station.
(20 January 2024 - 18 February 2024)

Intro. (For new readers of "**Sulgrave News**").

Your Editor thought it would be interesting to talk about the weather! After all, it is the subject we often choose 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.



Stats for January 2024

	Max	Low	Average
Temperature	12.9 C	- 5.8 C (18 Jan '24)	+ 4.2 C
Rain	51 mm		
Pressure	1039 mBars	972.6 mBars	
Wind	Steady - 21 mph. Gust - 31 mph		2.6 mph direction SSW

A New Year

Last month, we began the new year with a new calendar, albeit in a 2000 year old format, (apart from a minor amendment in 1752). It works so why fix it?

Incidentally, in the Chinese calendar, 2024 began on the 10 February and is the year of the dragon [🐉, 🏠]. So watch out, it may be a scary, bumpy 12 months.

The origins of "February", like most of our names for the months of the year, continues to show its Roman routes from Julius Caesar

“*Februarius*” in Latin means making a sacrifice or an atonement for previous actions.

In Roman times, this was the month for the purification festival, called “Februa”, which involved lots of baths and washing rituals, with offerings to the gods to atone for the mistakes we made last year.

In northern European countries, February is usually called the Pearl Month, after the droplets of thawing snow refreeze on the branches of the trees overnight.

Remember, that this is a Leap Year, hence February has 29 days. The extra day is added every four years, to bring the normal year of 365 days in line with the solar year, which has 365 and a quarter days. Otherwise we would gradually drift out of sync’ with the true solar seasons.

1 - 18 February 2024

	<i>Max</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Average</i>
Temperature	16.2 C	1.6 C	8.3 C
Rain	93.5 mm		
Pressure	1034.5 mBars	973.25 mBars	
Wind	Steady - 19mph. Gust - 24mph		2.5 mph. Direction SSW

We’ve had over 10 times more rain this month so far, than we had in the whole of February last year!.

But **it is** getting warmer, with our average temperature so far this month at eight degrees, as opposed to four degrees last month. My lawn will need cutting very soon!

Total rainfall in Sulgrave for the last six months of the year to Dec’ 2023 was 448mm. (Same period in 2022 = 233 mm).

For reference, units for measuring atmospheric pressure:

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

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

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

More from “*Trebormint*” next month. *Written: Sunday, 18 February 202*

From Chris Behan:

I thoroughly enjoy Bob Foster's Sulgrave "Weather Wise", as the village has, in my view, its own micro climate.

A year ago I discussed this with Matt Taylor, the BBC weather presenter. I put to him a theory of mine about Sulgrave weather. Unforecastable?

I asked.....Is there a UK equivalent of the continental interior weather, presumably without the steamy temperatures, and, if so, does it explain why it is difficult to provide a reliable local forecast for the location where I live?

The location is Sulgrave, South Northamptonshire, a hilltop village, 600 feet above sea level. It is 150 miles from the North Sea coast, 200 miles from the North Devon coast and 120 miles from this English Channel. A mini continental interior?

The wet south-westerly winds from the Atlantic seem to have lost most of their energy and moisture by the time they reach Sulgrave. The cold north-easterly and easterly winds from the Arctic and Northern Europe have faded by the time they reach the village. Sea fogs and cloud cover drifting over East Anglia never reach us. As a result, I get the impression that forecasting the weather for the area around the village is complex.

I also gave him a photographic illustration of my theory.

BBC forecast, November 16, 2022, 11.21, is drizzle and cloudy whilst my photography shows it's a beautiful Autumn day.

Matt said that my theory was not far off the mark, and reliable forecasting for such a small area, especially Sulgrave, was not easy. He later showed me a satellite photo of the UK cloud cover at that time and date. Sulgrave was at the centre of low pressure and the rain clouds were doughnut shaped, swirling around South Northants and the hole in the middle was centred over our area. Hence, my beautiful Autumn day photo



I put this theory and Matt's response to Bob, who gave me a most detailed reply, concluding, "You're right. Well at least I think you are"

2024 Pop up Van visits for
Sulgrave /Moreton
Pinkney

March 9th
April 6th
May 4th
June 1st
June 29th

July 27th
August 24th
September 21st
October 19th
November 16th
December 14^h

Annual Village Litter Pick

to take place on

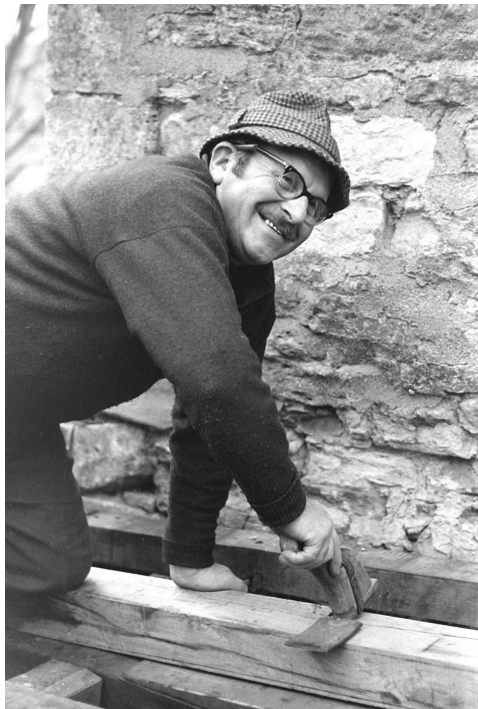
Saturday 30th March.

***Assemble at Church Hall for
10am.***

Parish Council.



February on the Farm 2024



Vincenzo Luigi Cugini at work on Syresham Church roof in about 1970

Photograph by Colin Wootton.

Richard Fonge writes:

The countryside remains much the same as it has for last three months, with hedge trimming the only task being carried out. Whilst some is done by the farmer himself, most hedge trimming is done by a contractor. With some dispensation allowed in August to cut, the season extends from September to the end of February. A contractor therefore has six months to plan his work, and one man has been doing this for well over fifty years.

Many of you may have recognised a small blue Leyland tractor at work in the parishes around here, cutting hedges in winter and mowing grass verges for the council in summer. This combination of senior citizen and tractor of sixties vintage still do a high-class job and have created quite a record for longevity.

Noel is a great character always happy to break off for a chat and recite a yarn or two, and this brings me to mention a past Sulgrave village character, known only to those of you who have lived in the village for a long time. In Manor Rd you may have noticed a cottage

between Nutcracker and Hill Farm house that has a wide oak front door with raised and fielded panels and inscribed in the stonework above are the initials V.L.C. 1956.

This was the home of Vincenzo Luigi Cugini, an Italian carpenter, joiner and cabinet maker who worked for the village builders, Wootton Brothers. He made the door in the company's carpenters' workshop between the telephone exchange and the present village shop to advertise his skills.

Vince was conscripted into the Italian army, serving time in Abyssinia before surrendering along with many other Italians at the battle of El Alamein. He then became as a prisoner of war to the Sulgrave camp situated on the left up the Helmdon Rd (a stack of white silage bags marks the area today). This was in 1943 and the prisoners, all Italians, were sent to work on the local farms.

Vincent like many of his compatriots stayed on after the war and was offered a job by Sid Wootton, father of Colin (who has been kind enough to supply this information) and he was to stay with the firm until his retirement. He was a master craftsman and I have witnessed some of his work in a friend's house built in the late sixties. Married with a family before the war separated them, he was to marry a Sulgrave lady called Connie, who outlived him by some twenty years.

Sulgrave has a rich history and this true story needs to be remembered for posterity.

Richard Fonge





SULGRAVE CULTURAL CLUB

If you would like to be part of a new exciting group, and are interested in the Arts, whether music, theatre, galleries, concerts, exhibitions, opera, films or craft fairs please contact me. The aim of the group is to arrange visits, lectures, tours of cultural activities in the surrounding home county vicinity with talks nearer to home.

However, I can't do this alone, so I **NEED YOUR HELP**, especially from those 'in the know' of what is on offer around the area.

I would like to hold a 'discussion' meeting at *The Thatched House* on either *Wednesday 20th March or Thursday 21st March at 7.30pm* to try and outline a possible programme of events for later in the year. You really don't have to be 'high-brow' to come along.

If you are interested, please contact me below with which date is best suited to you and I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Pamela Wagman thatchedtea@aol.com or give me a call on 07774848988





Parish Council

SUMMARY OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON: THURSDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2024

Apologies. Colin Wootton, Graham Roberts.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The Chairman, Cllr Richard Fonge, reported that the water leak in Manor Rd had been repaired. Broken land drains had been the problem.

Sulgrave Manor: Open day for villagers to be held on Thursday 22nd February.

High Speed Rail (HS2): Cllr Staples reported on the poor lack of communication and information coming from the HS2 contractors. The last update she had received on the new road opening was that it would be by February 15th. She had written a letter on behalf of the Council expressing our concerns and asking for £15,000 in compensation to go towards new equipment for Pocket park. A villager also spoke of the closure of both the Radstone Rd from mid-February and the A43 night closure.

Highways: Cllr Priestman reported that he had received news that the pole for the speed monitor on Magpie rd had been signed off finally. To be reported to W.N.C. Potholes in Manor Rd, poor verge in Helmdon Rd and signpost with fading lettering in village centre.

Castle Green: The Chair advised that money should be budgeted for the Green. Wall repairs, fencing and steps in need of care. £2,000 agreed by Council.

Pocket Park: Final quote received from Wickstead. March meeting to decide.

Grass Mowing: Cllr Higginson reported that the cost of mowing is to increase by 12%. Council agreed to accept this. The contractor was commended on the standard of his work and Council also noted, as had many villagers, the good quality of recent work to village footpaths.

Church Library: The Chair reported on a meeting with Andrew Dixon. The Church authorities had agreed to the removing of pews in North transept to accommodate the village library. After discussion it was agreed that the council would pay for the furnishings. Bean bags, table, chairs and book case.

Councillors' Reports: The Chair read a note from the Newsletter editor asking for a clear directive on editorial matters. It was agreed to make it an agenda item at the March meeting.

Summer Event: Chair had invited all interested parties to a meeting on the 8th of February to discuss proposed summer event.

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

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Sulgrave Camera Club

Lots to report from the Camera club this month.

We started the new year exploring the latest software from Luminar. There were some mixed feelings about the artificial intelligence built into this product as the images could be manipulated to be very different from the actual photograph taken. There were some interesting opinions from members. It was back to reality at the end of the month with a really enjoyable evening in the Village Hall with a talk and presentation from Sarah Howard of Image Seen.

Sarah demonstrated you do not need to edit your photographs, capturing in-camera some stunning landscapes with very little post production. Photographs from some of the best locations in the UK were complimented with images from the

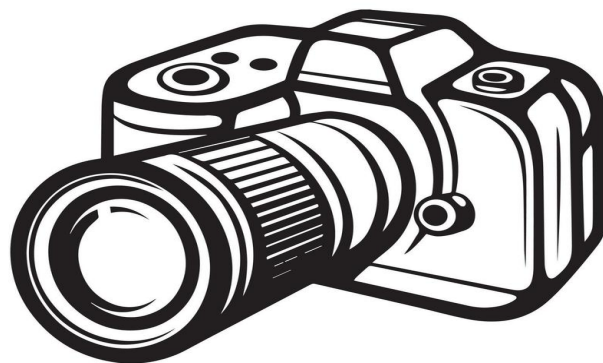
Dolomites, Tuscany and Slovenia. Be sure to get up early for the misty morning light and you will have a photograph for hanging on your wall at home.

Sarah is offering a day in the Cotswolds for a small group on Wednesday 5th June. This is open to members and non-members, so if you would like to come along - let me know at the email address below.

Our plan to go and capture snowdrops at Evenly Woods was spoilt by the weather so a small group visited the Hesletine Gallery in Middleton Cheney. The Royal Photographic Society had an exhibition of photographs which was an hour well spent. We plan to go to Evenly towards the end of February to try again, hoping the snowdrops have not wilted away!

Finally, our February meeting was held in The Star, with thanks to Steve and Niki. We were nostalgically looking back at photos members had taken on film. It was interesting to note the dynamic range of colour, from pure white to pure black, was so good.

The next meeting, with the topic yet to be decided, will be on **6th March, in The Star from 8.00pm**



Contact Grahamroberts53@hotmail.com



March 2024



Friday 1ST March

Our first Pizza night was a huge success. Jojo's will be back serving amazing Pizza's between 5 and 9pm and we'll be serving Cocktails and Puddings all night long. Takeaways available too.

Friday 15th March

The 3rd Friday of each month will be a different themed event – This month will be Puddings and Pies – A selection of pies, mash, chips and vegetables. Full pudding menu and takeaways will also be available.

Thursday 21st March

Pottery Panda 7-9pm. Pottery and Puddings, create a design on your chosen pottery along with some delicious puddings.

DRAG BINGO FRIDAY 22ND MARCH

Miss Leigh Ding will be the host for the Evening.

Tickets available from the Coffee Shop.

(This event will be held in Brackley Town Hall)

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DON'T FORGET TO SAY SULGRAVE AT THE TILL FOR 10% off!

Advisable to book – especially at the weekends.



Coffee ,Cake and Chat

Saturday March 23rd 10-12 noon 2024

More fresh coffee and homemade cakes, to say nothing about the chat.

£3.50, cup of coffee or tea and a slice of cake, drink top up free.

**Save the Date for next CCC
Saturday April 20th 10.00am.**

All proceeds go to offset hall running costs, so you joining us is very important







EASTER CONCERT

Faure's Requiem & Cantique de Jean Racine

Organist: Jonathan Clinch - Royal Academy of Music

Soprano Soloist: Lydia Bruton

Baritone Soloist: Michael Ferguson

Saturday 23rd March 2024 @ 7.30pm, St Peter's Church, Brackley.

Last performed by The Brackley Jubilee Choir in 2015, Faure's Requiem & The Cantique de Jean Racine are amongst the most widely performed choral works, with Faure's Requiem generally considered the composer's greatest achievement. Written in memory of his father and first performed in Paris in 1888, this magnificent work is admired for its clarity, balance, serenity, and ethereal beauty, and enjoys tremendous popularity with concert goers and lovers of sacred music everywhere.

Chair of Brackley Jubilee Choir, Auriel Warwick said: "Our Easter concert is a tribute to Faure and Bruckner, whose anniversaries take place this year. The music we're singing is beautiful and so accessible to those on the threshold of 'classical' music."

Jonathan Clinch is an organist and academic specialising in British Music and culture of the 19th and 20th Century. He holds the post of Lecturer in Academic Studies at Royal Academy of Music, having previously been Frank Bridge Research Fellow at the Royal College of Music and OCVF Research Associate at Cambridge University. He teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses in British music and culture.

Lydia Bruton is a young soprano from Coventry, who recently graduated from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, studying under the guidance of local Brackley musician and Associate Head of Vocal and Operatic Studies Jonathan Gunthorpe and outside of conservatoire, Stephanie Windsor-Lewis.

Scottish baritone, Michael Ferguson, studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland under the tutelage of Scott Johnson. He continued his education at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama studying the Artists Masters degree first

under Robert Dean and then jointly under Robert Dean and Marcus Van den Akker.

In acknowledgment of the 150th anniversary of the birth of **Austrian composer and organist Anton Bruckner**, this concert programme will also include a selection of choral pieces from Bruckner's expansive catalogue of sacred music, to complete an evening of engaging and varied music – sure to please both regular and new audience members from the growing Brackley and District community.

Diary note: Saturday 23rd March 2024 @ 7.30pm, Easter Concert at St Peter's Church, Church Road, Brackley. NN13 7BB. Tickets: £12.00. Available in advance via a Choir member or at the door.

Brackley Jubilee Choir is a mixed voice choir based in Brackley, Northamptonshire. The choir was originally formed in 1977 to celebrate the late Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee, and over the past 45+ years has built an enviable reputation of successfully performing a range of challenging sacred music, classical, modern and musical theatre concerts. The choir rehearses every Tuesday 7.30 p.m. to 9.15 p.m. during school term time at the Baptist Church, Waynflete Close, Brackley, NN13 6AE. New members are always welcome to join us at our rehearsal evenings from 9th January 2024.

Press & Publicity - Contact: David Taylor

E-Mail: david.taylor@fisherkingmedia.co.uk Tel: 07811 716355

Web Site: <http://www.brackleyjubileechoir.co.uk/>



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'Are people interested or am I wasting my time?'

Many thanks to all of those who have been in touch in response to my request for feedback on all things newsletter.

The Parish Council will be discussing some proposals, which have been put together as a result of the feedback, at their meeting this month.

More on this in April's edition.

In the meantime, I've had requests for more articles. So, if you might be interested in writing about our wildlife and plant life each month or what should be happening in our gardens, including the growing of veg each month, then please do get in touch.

We've already started the 'How you found Sulgrave' articles...I'd love one of those from someone each month. As always, something from or for the younger people in the village would be SO welcome...what things are going on, or not going on for our younger residents. Amazing art, what's going on at school, hobbies.....let me have it.





Award winning community led and run village shop and Post Office
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Opening Hours *Do check with the shop as times may change, particularly on Bank Holidays.*

Day	Shop	Post Office	Freshly available
Monday	8.30am – 1.00pm	9am – 1pm	Sausage Rolls, Pasties
Tuesday	8.30am – 6.00pm	9am – 1pm	Sausage Rolls, Pasties, Filled Rolls, Bread
Wednesday	8.30am – 6.00pm	9am – 1pm	Sausage Rolls, Pasties
Thursday	8.30am – 6.00pm	9am – 1pm	Sausage Rolls, Pasties, Filled Rolls, Bread
Friday	8.30am – 6.00pm	9am – 1pm	Sausage Rolls, Pasties
Saturday	8.30am – 3.00pm	Closed (stamps only)	Croissants, Pain Au Chocolat, Filled rolls, Bread
Sunday	9.00am – 12 noon	Closed (stamps only)	Croissants, Pain Au Chocolat

Why not open an account to charge your purchases too? Ask next time in the shop.

Volunteers always welcomed – either as part of the volunteer management group (HR, Finance experience particularly needed), to work in the shop, or various other key roles behind the scenes. Please leave your details in the shop, and someone will get in touch with you.

March 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.Camera Club meeting 8pm The Star	7.	8.	9. Chip Van	10. Mothering Sunday Service 10.30am
11. Garden Club Talk 7.30pm @ Village Hall	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17. Holy Communion 10.30am
18.	19.	20. Sulgrave Culture Club meet (?) 7.30pm The Thatched House	21. Sulgrave Culture Club meet (?) 7.30pm The Thatched House	22. Newsletter deadline	23. Coffee, Cake and chat 10-12pm @Village Hall Brackley Jubilee Choir Concert	24. Palm Sunday Service /Mattins 10am
25.	26.	27.	28. Last Supper Mass 7.30pm	29. Shop Closed	30. Annual Village Litter pick 10am meet @ Village Hall	31. Easter Sunday Service Holy Communion 8 am

Deadline for the April Newsletter is Friday 22nd March 2024