

Sulgrave News

March 2025



*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, Nikki Mulcahy and Claire & Jon Sadler.***

Costs are met by Sulgrave Parish Council.

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Deadline for the April Newsletter is

Friday 15th March 2025

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**

Queen Elizabeth's 25th Jubilee Celebrations

Sulgrave

Over the years, we have had very many memorable events in Sulgrave.

I was born in the village and lived here all of my life. One of the best occasions was the Silver Jubilee, 1977, held on Castle Green.

A committee of ten residents came together to arrange a programme to suit all ages and to include a high tea. Firstly, we needed to hire a marquee in case of weather problems, but the day was good. It was decided to find out who wanted to attend the meal so as to get an idea for catering. A small charge was asked of residents towards food but fundraising was also needed.

Programmes were printed and hand-painted (free of charge) with a prize for the lucky one.

Morning Events – A church service and school children's
pageant

Afternoon Events – Children's Sports and 'It's a Knockout'

At 5pm it was the meal, followed by various presentations of children's mugs, senior citizens souvenirs, sport prizes etc. During the meal, the jubilee cake was cut and a loyal toast made to Her Majesty, The Queen. Fortunately the committee were able to purchase a considerable amount of food and other items from the Cash and Carry. I remember my job at the meal was to dish out potato salad and coleslaw to each plate.

Evening Events – At 7pm a novelty Cricket Match in Madam's Close – men dressed as women and vice versa. One gentleman dressed in a lovely blue bridesmaid's dress. I remember I wore my father's farming cow gown, tied with a bag string belt, oversize wellies and cap.

The final evening event was a dance in the marquee from
9.30pm – 1am.

A good time and fun was had by all.

Valerie Henn





THE STAR INN

Thank you to everyone who have been using the bar. It's a delight to see everyone and enjoy some great evenings!

Going forward, I am continuing to increase the range of offerings, adding different types of single Malt Whiskey, a choice of Gins, Rums and Vodka but also fine tuning the wine menu to accommodate higher quality wines at decent prices. The Bar area itself, I will continue to decorate/ revamp over the next months. We have added a few games such as Backgammon and a Darts board. Over the next Month we are looking to start some Quiz nights and have some live Music evenings.

We have started making Pizzas using quality ingredients from our Italian supplier/ importer. These are available in the evenings throughout the week. A full Pizza menu with prices will be posted shortly and available at the bar for people to browse. Takeaway/ Collection will also be available.

A restaurant menu is also available throughout the week. The exact menu will change. We look forward to some more exciting dishes such as Duck in a Gran Marnier & Clementine sauce and some Moroccan food.

We will be posting some food evenings shortly.

We are now taking bookings for Sunday Roasts...07741316253.

To remind everyone, I enclose the pub opening times below.

Thank You to All !

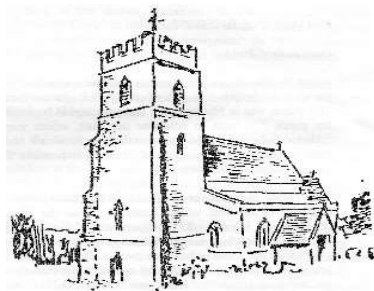
Mark

Bar Opening Times

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	6pm – 10ish
Wednesday	6pm - late
Thursday	4pm – late
Friday	4pm – late
Saturday	12pm – late
Sunday	12pm - 4ish

Provisional Deadlines for Newsletter Articles 2025

- Friday 15th March
- Friday 19th April
- Friday 17th May
- Friday 14th June
- Friday 19th July
- Friday 15th August
- Friday 19th September
- Friday 17th October
- Friday 14th November
- Friday 12th December.



Church News

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

Email – leggettluwe@yahoo.co.uk

Services for March:

March 9th.	Holy Communion.	8.15am
March 16th.	Holy Communion.	10.30am
March 23rd.	Mattins.	10.00am
March 30th.	Mothering Sunday.	3pm.

During March the church begins its journey towards Easter. This is the season of Lent.

Those who are on the rota for Flowers and Cleaning please note that after Ash Wednesday there are no flowers in church.

March 30th is the fifth Sunday of the month. There will be a Benefice Service at 10.30am at Chacombe which will be led by the Archdeacon.

We will also be holding a service at 3pm in the afternoon for our own celebration of **Mothering Sunday**. You are all invited to come along on this special day when we can thank our mothers for all that they do for us. There will be a gift to present to your mothers to show your appreciation! Please come along and join in.

Andrew Dixon and Shrimp Christy. Churchwardens

Work on the repairs to the North Porch is now scheduled to start on April 7th, subject to further bat survey on April 5th. We are leaving the scaffolding in place until then and keeping our fingers crossed. We are also hoping that repairs to the Tower will get under way in April, including work resulting from the damage caused by storm Darragh. The good news is that our concern that we would not be able to claim VAT relief for the repairs has gone away, following the Government now extending the funding for another year.

Andrew



Village Shop News Update

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

Some excellent news. The Shop and Post Office has been selected as one of the regional finalists for the Countryside Alliance Annual CA Awards (aka 'The Rural Oscars'). We were one of only five Village shops and Post Offices selected from the 12 counties that make up the Midlands region. Selection was based entirely on public nomination so thank you to all those customers who nominated us and put in a good word. But this is only the beginning. The next step is the selection of the regional finalists – and now the competition gets much tougher. The public vote will open in March and the winners, who will go on to represent their region in the final, will be announced in April.

So - we shall soon need your input again. Voting for the finalists will be online and, as selection is based on the number of nominations and the enthusiasm expressed by those nominating, we are relying on our customers and supporters to push us through to the next stage. We can be sure that all of the regional finalists will be pulling out the stops to get themselves selected so please give a few minutes of your time to help us squeeze ahead of the competition. As soon as we receive notification from the Countryside Alliance on how to submit a nomination, we shall put the relevant information up in the shop.

We get so much feedback from customers saying how much they love the shop and what a huge contribution they think it makes to the community that it would be nice to get this support translated into formal recognition.

Last month Zoe McCrow handed over her book-keeping duties for the shop to our newest committee member, Sue Ponting-Dabner. Zoe has managed the shop accounts for a number of years and has done a brilliant job. Chasing invoices and keeping on top of accounts can be a trying and time-consuming job and Zoe has been a model of efficiency in everything she has done. The committee and everyone involved with the running of the shop send her our thanks and gratitude. We are very grateful to Sue, who is very experienced in the field of finance, for taking

over the reins. The committee is sure that she will make an excellent job of filling Zoe's shoes.

We have just received a tranche of lovely new greetings cards so do cast your eye over the card stands to view the new arrivals.

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day to most of us) is on 4th March and, as usual, we shall be stocking all of the ingredients (and maybe a simple recipe) for you to make the perfect pancake.

Don't forget that the clocks go forward at the end of the month when we formally put winter behind us and step into spring.

Digby and Alison



2025 Pop up Van visits for
Sulgrave /Moreton Pinkney

March 8th

April 5th

May 3rd

May 31st

June 28th

July 26th

August 23rd

September 20th

October 18th

November 15th

December 13th

Weather Wise

Facts and figures from Sulgrave's own weather station.
(19 January - 15 February 2025)

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 current 'live' summary of the weather.

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.



Weather stats for January 2025

	Max	Low	Average
Tempera ture	11.3 °C	- 5.5 °C	2.7 °C
Rain	80.0 mm		
Pressure	1040.3 mBars	969.5 mBars	
Wind	Steady - 22 mph Gust - 27 mph		2 mph Direction SSW

Weather stats for 1 - 15 February 2025

	Max	Low	Average
Temperature	9.9°C	- 1.3 °C	3 °C
Rain	16.3 mm		
Pressure	1044.7 mBars	1016.6 mBars	
Wind	Steady - 16 mph Gust - 23 mph		2 mph Direction ESE

In last month's Sulgrave News I mentioned that unusually for a January, both the wind and day/night temperatures held steadily unchanged for a week. This steady state held for another 10 days and 17 days without rain! One exception was the night of the 10th when the temperature dropped to - 5.5 degs C, with the barometer at 1045 mBars, (30.86 inches of mercury). Hope your vulnerable cold water pipes were OK?

The subject of colour blindness came up in conversation the other day, which reminded me of a famous scientist called *John Dalton*, born in 1766 in the Lake District. The son of a weaver he was independently tutored and self-taught. As a quaker, traditional university education wasn't considered. In 1793, aged 27, he was appointed as a teacher of mathematics and natural philosophy at the Manchester Academy. Before the mid-19th century, the term '*natural philosophy*' was used to encompass all the individual sciences. Today it is a term which is rarely used, except by the oldest universities who still have professors of natural philosophy.

In 1794 Dalton identified *colour blindness*, and as both he and his brother could not differentiate "what normal people call green", he knew that it was an inherited condition. It is still known as "Daltonism" in some countries. Orange, yellow and green appear as one colour - a monotone greyness. It affects 8% of males and 0.4% of females in the UK. Given that there are 200 male residents in Sulgrave, 16 of them will have this difficulty and would not make good interior designers nor pilots! Many will be unaware of their "colour blindness", until it becomes an issue later in life. You might recognise their odd coloured socks!

Dalton published his “*law of partial pressures*” in 1808. It is still used as the rule for controlling steam and other gases during manufacture and storage.

But today he is considered to be the *founding father of atomic theory*. In 1803 he stated, “All elements are made of extremely small particles called *atoms*” and “Atoms cannot be subdivided, created nor destroyed”. The fact that the corner stones of nuclear science were established in 1808 with the publication of his paper on atomic weights is surprising. If one is asked to guess the date of the first principles of atomic theory being established, I’m sure you would say 1908 not a 100 years earlier.

So what has all this got to do with our monthly “Weather Wise” data?

Well in his spare time John Dalton was an avid weather data collector. He kept detailed meteorological diaries for 57 years, recording his observations, (over 200,000)! He died aged 77 in 1844. Go and see his “blue plaque” in Manchester.

I’m a bit of a late starter by comparison, but hoping that one of you will carry on my monthly diary in due course and may be even establish a weather principle or law to predict next week’s weather, as John Dalton tried to do!! More accurately than the Met Office.

More from Trebormint next month.

Written: Sunday 16 February 2025.

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PLEASE NOTE:

As Richard is very busy just now with other things, there are no ‘On the Farm Notes’ this month.



SULGRAVE **GARDENING CLUB**

Monday 10th March 2025

THE NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

An illustrated talk by Elaine and William Portch

7.00 for 7.30pm in Sulgrave Village Hall

Many of us will have spent a happy afternoon wandering round a group of gardens or perhaps a single spectacularly large one, opened under the banner of “The Yellow Book Scheme”.

Indeed, some of Sulgrave’s own private gardens will open this year on Sunday 29th June, as has been so for several alternate years.

Elaine and William are assistant county organisers for Northamptonshire, and they will be talking all about the NGS (as it’s known). It will be sure to make our own future visits even more interesting.

Non-members welcome - £5pp And our regular raffle £1 (cash)





Ok, hopefully we are getting over gloomy, sunless, chilly and all together joyless February weather, so come and join us for what we hope will be a totally uplifting event in the Village Hall for coffee, yummy cake and an opportunity to catch up on all the chat.

Saturday 8th March – 10am-12pm at The Village Hall

£3.50, cup of coffee or tea and a slice of cake, drink top up free.
All proceeds go our Church Hall, so you joining us is very important.



The next CCC will be Saturday April 5th 2025 @ 10.00am.

SULGRAVE VILLAGE HALL

We are looking for someone to take over cleaning the Village Hall, week commencing 24th February.

The job requires 2 hours per week to sweep and vacuum the hall and entrance, tidy and clean a small kitchen and clean and tidy two toilet cubicles.

Please contact Janet on 07585 419698

SULGRAVE PARISH **COUNCIL**



**Summary of Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday February 6th 2025 at
7.30 pm.**

Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Priestman. Cllr Powell. Colin Wootton.

West Northamptonshire Council: Cllr Alison Eastwood reported on the proposed re-organisation of local councils. We are already a unitary council but there is a proposal for a larger area to include Luton, Milton Keynes and North Beds with an elected Mayor, to be responsible for planning and transport. The various local authorities involved are currently rejecting this proposal. Cllr Eastwood responded to questions. Chair thanked her for her work on our behalf.

Parish Council Elections: To be held on Thursday 1st May. Parish Clerk will have application forms, next month. Forms to be returned to Towcester West Northants Council Offices by Wednesday April 2nd.

Newcomers Welcome: Nineteen invitations sent out for the event to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 1st March to welcome newcomers to the village. Cllr Peppiatt to lead on coffee and refreshments. Tables will be provided for display. There will be name badges for organisations attending.

V.E. Day: Village Events on Saturday 10th May to commemorate “Victory in Europe Day (8th May)”. It is planned to hold a special service in the Church, confirmation of which is expected after a meeting of the Parochial Church Council later this month. Cllr Parker will head up group to organise a picnic in Pocket Park.

Dog Waste Bins: In view of the increase in the number of dogs in the village it was agreed to double the size of the bins in Manor Road and Little street. The cost will be in the region of £220/bin. The contractor has not been emptying the bins on a regular weekly basis. The Clerk had written but received an unsatisfactory reply. Cllr Powell to monitor.

Grass Cutting: Cllr Higginson had received four quotes. All agreed to stay with present contractor.

Grass Verges: The grass strip along Spinners Cottages discussed. Cllrs could see the problem of parking off road and the damage to grass. Chairman to write a piece for newsletter. Clerk to write to the West Northants Council to ask for visit to discuss the lay-by and to inquire about laying a plastic strip.

High Speed Rail (HS2): Cllr Powell will join a proposed zoom meeting. The Banbury Road from the Magpie to Thorpe Mandeville to be closed for two years from this spring. (More details of this closure can be seen on the village website).

Councillors Reports: The Chairman reported that a footbridge would be put over stream on path AY5 in late spring.

Clerk to chase up Gigaclear Broadband in respect of their slow progress in making the necessary installations.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Richard Fonge, Chairman

Next Meeting Thurs 6th March @7.30pm

Off Road Parking. Spinners Cottages.

There is obviously difficulty in finding enough roadside parking along Magpie Road, as the number of cars per household has increased.

Whist sympathising with the problem, could I please ask residents to park off the grass whenever possible. The mowing season will start in April and we take pride in maintaining our grass areas in the village.

Your co-operation in this request would be much appreciated.

Richard Fonge. Sulgrave P.C.

HIGH SPEED RAIL CONSTRUCTION (HS2)
CLOSURE OF BANBURY ROAD BETWEEN THE
SULGRAVE MAGPIE JUNCTION AND
THORPE MANDEVILLE

*Message from Richard Fonge, Chair of Sulgrave Parish Council.
8th February 2025.*

It is proposed to close the Banbury Road for two years from sometime this spring. This is to continue the green tunnel to join up with the viaduct on Banbury Lane.

Banbury Lane is the lane from Thorpe Mandeville to Culworth which will be closed from time to time for the delivery of steel girders.

The Greatworth Tee Junction work was started last week on the B4525 (Welsh Lane).

Latest information is that it will be completed by this Autumn. When completed traffic will turn right at the second roundabout on the new road and go over the tunnel to meet up with B4525.

With Banbury Road closed and traffic lights on B4525 for six months or so, we will have to allow extra time to get to Banbury.

Richard Fonge. Chair. Sulgrave Parish Council. 8th February 2025.
(See Map on Sulgrave Village Website www.sulgrave.org)





With the snowdrops now emerging a small group took advantage of a nice day to be out in the fresh air finding subjects to photograph. We will be on the lookout for more spring flowers throughout February and into March, including some trips further afield as spring flowers will be the topic for our next meeting.

At our February meeting we explored the art of portraiture. We began with a demonstration of how best to light our model and the impact of that light on our subject. We explored a the best exposure to use and optimal focal length. This was an interactive session with members then following up and taking their own compositions, which we will have an opportunity to look at our next meeting. The meeting then continued with an presentation covering composition and style.

The Sulgrave Camera Club meets on the evening of the second Wednesday of the month in The Star and villagers with an interest in photography are welcome. Take a look at our website, sulgravecameraclub.org to see some of the members work.

For more information contact Grahamroberts53@hotmail.com.





SULGRAVE SEW'CIAL'

Spring Term (2) - 2025

Date	Day	Venue
Feb 27 th 2025	Thursday	Sulgrave Village Hall
Mar 6 th 2025	Thursday	The Cabin, Wemyss Farm, Sulgrave
Mar 13 th 2025	Thursday	Sulgrave Village Hall
Mar 20 th 2025	Thursday	Sulgrave Village Hall
Mar 27 th 2025	Thursday	Sulgrave Village Hall
Apr 3 rd 2025	Thursday	The Cabin, Wemyss Farm, Sulgrave

Terms Fees: *Payable on first evening* (Cash preferred)

Spring Term (2) £20 per person

Would you like two hours to yourself to concentrate on your own sewing, craft, knitting etc. projects?

This term there will be something a little different for those who want to participate. We will be starting a quilt sampler for beginners.

Why not come along and join us and at the same time and enjoy a chat and cuppa. And you may even pick a tip or two along the way!

For more information contact:

Sue Ponting-Dabner @ sponting16@yahoo.co.uk , 07808 267060 or
Libby Cave @ libbtcave@aol.com , 07747 842405

***Come along, enjoy and support
the first Sulgrave Club evening event***

The Sulgrave Club
enjoying entertainment together

presents

***From Guns and Roses
to Hearts and Flowers***

***Tickets are still available on line
or by scanning the QR code
or purchased, CASH or CARD
at the door on the Saturday evening***

An Evening with Romantic Author
Catherine Jones

Reflecting on Her Colourful Life

Captain in a male dominated British Army
Chairman of the female dominated Romantic Novelists' Association

Hilariously honest with a wicked sense of humour

Saturday, 1st March 2025 at 7.30 pm
Sulgrave Village Hall, Magpie Rd, Sulgrave, OX17 2RU

Entrance - £10 includes wine reception
Tickets - to buy scan QR code or click on
ticketsource.co.uk/the-sulgrave-club





March 2025

OPENING TIMES - We are Open Everyday

Monday – Saturday 08:00 – 17:00

Sunday 09:00 – 15:00

Serving Great Coffee, Cakes, Breakfast, Brunch and Lunch.

Friday Night's Throughout March

Our Tapas Evenings will be Greek by popular demand....

.....Some Greek Sun would be much better right now....



Now Open!

We had an unbelievable 1st day and Thank you all to those who have visited already.

7:30am – 4pm Monday – Friday

8am – 3pm on Saturday's.

Serving Coffee, Fresh Pastries, Cakes.

Freshly Filled Sandwiches

Sausage Rolls and All things Bread...

All Fire Station Bookings email – ofs@websters-events.coo.uk or

Call – 07876747437

Website – www.websters-events.co.uk

Facebook and Instagram – oldfirestationbrackley / oldbakerybrackley

News From Sulgrave Manor & Garden

We have started 2025 with the whole variety of English weather in a single month. The Manor team have been as professional as always in ensuring that the site was protected and we are grateful to have had no major damage from wind or rain. Any day now (I am an optimist!) the weather will turn spring-like and we will see the snowdrops and then daffodils begin to emerge in the gardens and will know that longer days are around the corner.

We have the temporary exhibition that is being planned for the Manor itself and for items from the Manor's collection in the wider county. The latter will help raise our profile locally and embed our work more fully within the museum's community. This will help set the scene for the America 250 UK project in 2026, which is really gathering pace.

Planning for our next major project in the Courtyard Hall is also well underway and we are looking forward to having a much more environmentally and financially sustainable heating system in place from 2026. We are extremely grateful to donors who have offered the support to make this project possible. Our next ambition is to make the whole site more accessible to visitors by replacing the surface of the car park and the pathways throughout the gardens. More on this in future Newsletters.

On a personal note, I was honoured to be invited to attend Ambassador Jane Hartley's final event at her residence, Winfield House, on 7 January, marking the end of a twelve-month programme of activity by the Philharmonia Orchestra, which was supported by the Embassy. It was a wonderful event in quite extraordinary surroundings. To have attended events in the Residences of the British Ambassador to the USA and the American Ambassador to the UK within 6 months speaks volumes about how Sulgrave Manor is seen on both sides of the Atlantic. What a privilege to be involved with such an organisation.

Carole Souter, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Fit for a Queen

July will see a new temporary exhibition open at the Manor as we host a collection of gowns made in the style of portraits of the six wives of Henry VIII. Accompanied by a costume for the Tudor king himself, the gowns will help us imagine what the wealthy Washington family might have been wearing when they had important visitors to the Manor.

Entry included in regular admission throughout July open days.





Award winning community led and run village shop and Post Office
01295 760066

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 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1. Newcomers Event @ VH am .Sulgrave Club Evening Event 7.30pm VH	2.
3.	4.	5.	6. PC Meeting @ Village Hall 7.30pm	7.	8. Coffee, Cake and a Chat 10am-12pm Village Hall Fish and Chip Van	9. Holy Communion 8.15am
10. Gardening Club Talk @ Village Hall 7.30pm start	11.	12. Camera Club Meeting 8pm	13.	14.	15. Newsletter Deadline	16. Holy Communion 10.30am
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23. Mattins 10am
24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30. Benefice Service @Chacombe 10am Mothering Sunday 3pm
31.						

Deadline for the April Newsletter is 15th March 2025