Sulgrave News

June 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.

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 July Newsletter is Saturday 14th June 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 TOUC

A Unique Garden Event Coming to Sulgrave



Carole and John Matthews have over 30 years of experience, following a career in the general Antiques world, they decided to specialise solely in vintage garden tools and features. Today this Redditch based couple take great pleasure in sharing their expertise with fellow gardeners (and farmers).

Originally from Birmingham this husband-and-wife team are regular exhibitors at the famous Malvern Festival where their stall is a treasure trove of a bygone era of antique implements – from a turn of the Century blacksmith made Garden Fork, Clay Fork, Victorian Hoe and Hand Fork, to 1930's Daisy Grubbers, spades and forks. They spend their spare time, when not gardening, giving talks to groups of likeminded people around local counties.

The Sulgrave Club is joining forces with our The Gardening Club and staging what promises to be a fascinating insight in gardening past and present with our very own **Antiques Garden Roadshow**_on Saturday 5th July from 2pm. (See Advert for details)

John will be giving us an enlightening talk about their journey and the history of his wares as well as displaying an array of interesting antique items which are all on sale. Please bring along any old relics (gardening!!) for him to give an appraisal with his provenance opinion.

A great event for all garden lovers and I am sure the farmers amongst you, so we look forward to seeing you on 5th July at The Thatched House, Manor Road, Sulgrave, OX17 2 SE.

Pamela Wagman

ThatchedTea@aol.com



The Sulgrave Club and The Gardening Club



proudly presents

A Vintage Garden Antiques Roadshow

featuring

John Matthews leading expert in Garden Tools and Features

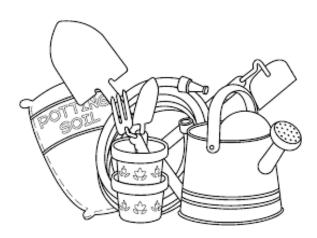
His fascinating Lecture will include examples of his vintage collection of garden implements all of which are on sale

Why not bring some of your own (garden) relics and heirlooms for John to give his learned opinion

Saturday, 5th July 2025, at 2.00 pm
The Thatched House, Manor Road, Sulgrave, 0X17 2SE
Entrance: Members Free: Visitors £5 (cash only) per person
Raffle: £1 a strip, Refreshments: Afternoon Tea

Reservations: Please email: the.sulgrave.club@icloud.com

"Give us the tools and we will finish the job"



SULGRAVE GARDENING CLUB

MONDAY 9TH JUNE

A SUMMER'S EVENING VISIT TO TWO LOVELY GARDENS

By kind permission of Mr & Mrs David Swan

We will meet at South Newington House (OX15 4JW) from 6.15 for 6.30pm, and during the visit stroll across to Bush House.

A tree lined drive leads to a garden of great interest. Herbaceous borders designed for year round colour, an organic kitchen garden, orchard and pond for wildlife and hydration for the bees, and a walled parterre.

Then, just across the road, an additional family member's garden to enjoy.

Admission to the gardens is £12.00, to include wine or a soft drink, with monies going to the National Garden Scheme.

Please bring your £12 with you (right money please), plus a little extra cash if wanted as there will be plants and honey to buy. The church with wall paintings will also be open.

Please let Maureen know if you'll be coming along - 07788 191601 (<u>maureenjeffery1@btinternet.com</u>), and car share where possible. Details of parking etc will follow before the visit. For satnay, use OX15 4JL.

We look forward to seeing you there
Pamela and Maureen



Village Shop News Update

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



We are writing this in early May when the weather is bright and sunny so we hope that Sulgrave is still being bathed in sunshine when this newsletter hits the streets.

Some good news is that Jai has succeeded in getting the shop phone working again (same number as before) so you can once again call to order to make any orders or reserve your croissants and pain-au-chocs at the weekend.

Our wine shelves are well stocked in readiness for the barbecue season and in the coming month there is a special offer of 3 for £10 for a range of local beers and ciders (Hook Norton and Loddon beers, and Saxbys and Cotswold Ciders) - so stock up while you can. We shall be stocking bags of charcoal and BBQ starter fuel throughout the summer so there is no excuse for not donning your aprons and getting sizzling.

The asparagus season has been in full swing and the big bunches of locally grown spears have been very popular. Also selling well are our boxes of big fat strawberries. They are not particularly cheap, but everyone says they are delicious, and we shall do our best to ensure we have a good stock (together with cream to pour over them) in readiness for Wimbledon which starts at the end of the month.

General sales have been very good of late so the message that Sulgrave Village Shop has a great range of products and offers excellent value has clearly spread throughout the neighbourhood. Thanks yet again to everyone (management and volunteers) who have helped make the shop such a huge success.

We have recently picked up a couple of new volunteers and it is good to see some youngsters helping behind the till. With many of us now our eighth or ninth decade, young blood is always very welcome.

Sulgrave will be opening for NGS Open Gardens Day on Sunday 29th June, so the shop hopes to re-open in the afternoon to provide a service for the many visitors that the event always attracts.

Enjoy the sunshine (we hope)

Digby and Alison



Church News

The Rector for our Benefice is
Nick Leggett 07925 419068
Email – <u>leggett1uwe@yahoo.co.uk</u>

"FIRST FAMILY SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION - 18/5

Father Nick led the first family holy communion in about 15 years on Sunday 18th May, with 20 villagers in attendance - a great turnout!

We listened to the parable of the Good Samaritan and Dylan Mulcahy joined Father Nick in the prayer section of the service with a Good Samaritan related prayer.

Refreshments were much enjoyed after the service and we look forward to the second family Holy Communion which will take place on the 3rd **Sunday in June, on the 15**th, **Father's Day**, again at 10.30am - do join us if you can. If there are any families with children who would like to take part in the service please contact Kate Miles as soon as possible.

Editor Wanted

To curate the Sulgrave Village Newsletter on a monthly basis.

The role will require just a few hours each month to:

- Organise the copy sent in, usually via email, and present it in the monthly village newsletter.
- Send the finished piece via email, to the printers in Brackley.
 - Collect the finished newsletters from the printer and deliver them to The Keatleys for sorting and delivery.

Since taking on the role of Editor over 2 years ago, I have returned to teaching. Much more of my time is being taken up by the paid job these days and so it is time to hand the newsletter over.

If you are interested in taking on the role or would like more information, do get in touch, via email. - Lisa.griffin5@btinternet.com





At our most recent meeting the topic for discussion was light, the more light captured by a digital camera the better the resulting image, but how do we compensate for poor light, shadows and those early morning and late evenings when the golden hour before dawn and blue hour before dusk can also be the best time for some lovely images.

We started by answering some of these questions with a short but instructional video

from YouTube which illustrated various techniques to overcome the problems, followed by a lively discussion.

There was also our woodland photographs to share, our monthly challenge was to track down the bluebells and some really nice photographs were shown as a result. A few members had also been to Clattercote Reservoir near Cropredy to photograph the wildlife.

Our next meeting date is now Tuesday 17th June, a change to avoid another booking at The Star on Wednesday. We will take into account our discussions on light with the next monthly challenge 'Backlight Photography'

If you have an interest in Photography and would like to learn more about our friendly club, contact Grahamroberts53@Hotmail.com



Weather Wise

Facts and figures from Sulgrave's own weather station. (19 April - 17 May 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 (<u>www.sulgrave.org.uk</u>) has a grey 'patch' on its homepage, which shows the current 'live' summary of the weather.



17 May 2025

Weather stats for April 2025

	Max	Low	Average
Temperature	26.2 °C	0.3 °C	10.4 °C
Rain	25.9 mm	(7 mm on 21st & 17 mm on 23rd.)	
Pressure	1032.9mBars	993.9mBars	
Wind	Steady - 17 mph Gust - 31 mph		2.2 mph Direction ESE

Weather stats for 1 - 17 May 2025

	Max	Low	Average
Temperature	27.3 °C	2.0 °C	9.5 °C
Rain	3.3 mm		
Pressure	1027.4 mBars	1007.5mBars	
Wind	Steady - 14mph Gust - 16 mph		2.6 mph Direction - East

The drought continues!

We are in the midst of the driest spring for over a century - according to the BBC Weather website. In Sulgrave we've only had 37mm of rain since the beginning of March. In the same 11 weeks last year we had 195 mm!

I was beginning to think HM Government would have to appoint a "Drought Minister' as it did in the very dry summer of 1976. As part of the campaign to encourage the public to reduce its water usage, we were all urged to only have 4 inches of water in our baths and to put a brick into the toilet cisterns to reduce the volume of each flush. A week after Mr Denis Howell MP was appointed, there was extensive flooding across the UK. The press quickly changed his title to "The Flood Minister"!

The Good News.

Our Sulgrave weather web site is beginning indicate light rain showers over the Bank Holiday weekend. (24 -26 May). The BBC weather guru's told us this morning that the weather for the next two or three weeks is likely to become more normal I.e. typical for late May Bank holiday weekends, i.e.damp!. I do remember it snowing at Silverstone Circuit on one occasion for an end of May race meeting.

So the 'blocked jet air stream" I talked about last month is on the move again, apparently reverting back to its more normal route consequently allowing our usual Atlantic weather systems to drift over the UK again.

No need for the Government to appoint a "Drought Minister" to urge us to share our baths!

More from Trebormint next month. Written: Saturday 17 May 2025.



May on the Farm



This month we remembered V.E. day and after reading Colin Wootton's excellent account on the website, of life in war time Sulgrave, it has brought home to me how country life of that time is so distant from today.

Because Sulgrave has only had internal development, mostly in old farmyards, there has been no outside development, meaning the fields around are as they were back then, with some a lot larger after hedge removal. A consequence of Government policy in the 1960's to encourage food production as the modernisation of agriculture gathered a pace and people left the land to work in other industries and occupations. It is the fields up the concrete road that have been enlarged for arable production mainly. The Positioning of the water troughs give you an idea of where old boundaries once were.

However since those immediate post war days when steam trains were seen from Sulgrave, we now have a disused railway line which is a wildlife corridor with an abundance of wildlife and flora, dominated by the whitethorn in full bloom(The May blossom).

Also three woodlands have been planted on Sulgrave farm, the most noticeable on the path to Barrow hill, with wild flower meadows below it and trees were planted some thirty plus years ago on the side of Magpie and Moreton roads. All adding to the diversity of our Parish whilst traditional farming of livestock and grain continues.

Two old established spinneys one at the bottom of the great green (field off Little street) and the other opposite the junction of the Weston Rd and Moreton Rd both have rookeries. Rooks need pasture to live off. Dung beetles etc. So you only have rookeries near pasture and I think their chatter in the trees this time of year is one of the most evocative sounds of spring.

Another great sight is to see hares boxing in the spring.

Writing about these changes, makes it even harder to witness the destruction of our countryside over the road by HS2.

Perhaps the greatest loss to our villages are those true countrymen who understood the way of the countryside, respected its values and customs and lived alongside nature through their work.

A good maxim from one such countryman when asked why he hadn't got a particular item. Loosely translated, "You only have what you can afford'.

Richard Fonge.

2025 Pop up Van visits for Sulgrave / Moreton Pinkney



	May 31st	June 28 th
July 26th	August 23 rd	September 20 ^{th.}
October 18 th	November 15 ^{th.}	December 13 th

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Summary of Parish Council Meeting held at Sulgrave Village Hall on Thursday 8th May 2025.



The Chairman, Cllr Richard Fonge, opened the meeting with a minute's silence in recognition of V.E day.

Parish Council Elections

Cllr Fonge re-elected as Chairman. Cllr Will Priestman stood down as Vice Chairman. Cllr Mike Powell elected in his place. Cllr Priestman thanked for his time in the post.

Apologies for Absence

Cllr Sarah Parker.

V.E Day Celebrations.

The picnic in the Pocket park had been a success. Hook Norton brass band were much appreciated. The Chair thanked Cllr Parker for organising the event, and also Jill and Anthony Barrett for their help.

A reminder of the Church Service on Saturday 10th May at 11.00 am.

High Speed Rail (HS 2)

Cllr Mike Powell updated on road closures. The Banbury Road through Thorpe Mandeville will be closed from Monday 12th May for approximately two years. Cllrs to be offered a trip along the service road to view works in July. Bridge to be moved into place in Lower Thorpe next month. Cllr Parker in talks with Haidee Williams our liaison officer on possible funding for pocket park.

Sulgrave Manor.

The Chair had noted that it was good that the Manor were sending regular contributions to the newsletter. He had visited the Manor and talked to the staff. Visitor numbers are up and there are many school visits.

Allotments.

The council were concerned about lack of use. Only three plots in use. Rose Sillitoe, an allotment holder, suggested she put a piece in newsletter. After discussion all agreed and Cllr Will Priestman would report back to Council with progress.

Pocket Park.

New double swing installed that day. However, the supporting legs of other play items were beginning to rot. Cllrs Parker and Powell had met Charles Smyth Osbourne, Village Shop Chairman and discussed the shop's offer of financial support. Agreed to wait and see the outcome of HS2 talks.

Councillors' Reports

The Chair reported that a new foot bridge had been installed on the footpath to Weston;

Councillor Eastwood re-elected to West Northants Council; a new editor needed for the village newsletter. At £30,000 the cost of extending the layby in Magpie Road was prohibitive, since the money would have been a charge on parish funds.

Meeting closed 8.15pm. Next meeting June 5th.





Sulgrave Gardens will be opening, as part of the National Gardens Scheme, on the 29th of June, from 2.00-6.00p.m.

Combined entry to all gardens £7.

Participating gardens:

Bentleys Farm Bungalow - Kim and Tony Keatley

The Chestnuts - Mel and Chris Kirkpatrick

Eagle House - Sue and Andrew Dixon

Mill Hollow - Judith and David Thompson

Rectory Farm (Teas and plant sales) - Joanna and Charles

Smyth-Osbourne

The Thatched House - Pamela and Colin Wagman

The Watermill - Alison and Tim Frost

Wootton House - Zoe and Richard McCrow

There will be refreshments and plant sales at Rectory Farm. The cakes are always delicious and not to be missed!

This is always a great event, providing an opportunity to meet fellow villagers and support extremely worthwhile cancer and nursing charities.

Tickets cost £7 and are available on the day, at the entrance to most gardens, so visitors can just turn up.

Please place it, indelibly, in your diaries.

David Thompson.



Summer Swan Song

a farewell concert of madrigals plus a few old favourites



St Peter's Church Brackley

Saturday 7th June 2025, 7.30pm

Tickets £10 (Under 16s free)



PRESS RELEASE - NO EMBARGO - 10th May 2025

SUMMER SWAN SONG CONCERT

A Celebration of audience favourites and Musical Memories

BRACKLEY JUBILEE CHOIR invites you to a farewell concert, which will take place on Saturday June 7th 2025, at 7.30pm in St Peter's Church, Brackley. NN13 7BB.

This concert will be the final performance of the Brackley Jubilee Choir, and this event marks the culmination of 48 years of musical excellence and community engagement in Brackley, which began in 1977 when Eddie Palmer was the inspiration behind the formation of the Brackley Jubilee Choir for mixed voices, in honour of the late Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee celebrations.

Whilst the choir is both honoured and saddened to share the news of its farewell concert, this final concert provides the opportunity to express the heartfelt gratitude from the choir for the unwavering support we have enjoyed from our audiences over many years.

Under the direction of Nick Perry, at this concert the choir will perform a varied selection well known and beloved pieces that have resonated with audiences over the years. The full Summer Swan Song concert programme will feature an eclectic collection of choral music from madrigals to favourite anthems showcasing the capabilities and the dedication of our choir members – including some of whom are our founder members!!.

"This concert is not just a farewell; it's a celebration of the friendships, experiences, and music we've shared," said Chair, Auriel Warwick. Over the past 48 years the choir has built an enviable reputation of successfully performing a number of challenging sacred music, classical, modern and musical theatre concerts and during this time we have been fortunate to have performed with many local talented musicians

and professional soloists, and we invite everyone to join us for an evening filled with joy, nostalgia, and beautiful harmonies."

Thank you to those who have supported the choir over the years and join us as we take this final bow at Brackley Jubilee Choir and celebrate the power of music to bring people together.

Audience members are cordially invited to remain after the concert, when light refreshments will be served and everyone will have the opportunity to join choir members and share their favourite memories from past performances.

Diary note: Saturday 7TH June 2025 @ 7.30pm, at St Peter's Church, Church Road, Brackley. NN13 7BB. Tickets: £10.00 (£5.00 under 16's) – are available at the door.

Press & Publicity- Contact: David Taylor

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

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



Once again thank you to all of you who have been supporting us. Remember "use it or you'll lose it" and we will try to make it worthwhile for you.



Our Italian pizzas have been enjoyed by many and they are served when the pub is open. We have done two very successful curry nights and will continue to do curry on Wednesdays, served from 6.30pm.

We will not be doing Sunday roasts through the summer but are going to do barbecues – various meats plus salads. Hopefully we will have had at least one of these by the time you read this.

Please ring **07741316253** to book a table for a meal. It is not essential but does help us with organisation.

The Sulgrave Club bingo night was very successful and there will be more I am sure, plus other events.

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

BINGO is BACK AGAIN at The Star



Wednesday Evening, 18th June 2025, at 7.30 pm

Mark's homemade pizzas available on request

Please note it is "cash only" for Bingo and Rafffle Tickets The Star accepts cards for food and drinks

To book email: the.sulgrave.club@icloud.com

The Sulgrave Club

The Sulgrave Club enjoying entertainment together





OPENING TIMES

Monday - Saturday 08:30 - 17:00

Sunday 09:00 - 15:00

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



Opening Times

7:30am – 4pm Monday – Friday

8am – 4pm on Saturday's.

Serving Coffee, Fresh Pastries, Cakes.

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Email - danny@websters-events.coo.uk or

Call - 07876747437

Website – <u>www.websters-events.co.uk</u>

Facebook and Instagram – oldfirestationbrackley / oldbakerybrackley



News from Sulgrave Manor and Garden

We are delighted to welcome visitors once again as we open our doors for the 2025 Season. How wonderful it is to greet both familiar faces and first-time guests! For those returning, you'll notice some lovely new additions to the garden, including our herb garden and more apple trees. Inside the Manor, we've refreshed some exhibitions to bring history to life in new ways.

With the sunshine gracing us, many visitors have been enjoying their refreshments in our scenic Courtyard - don't worry, parasols and the Brewhouse are available for those who prefer a bit of shade!

2025 Season: 30th March – 30th September

Open: Sundays, Mondays (including Bank Holidays) and Tuesdays
10:30 till 4pm, last entry at 3pm.



Robin Hood Performance for all the Family!

Join us for an unforgettable evening of laughter, adventure, and legendary heroics as The Pantaloons bring their hilarious take on *Robin Hood* to life!

Follow Robin, Marian, and the Merry Men deep into Sherwood Forest as they outwit the dastardly Sheriff in a fast-paced, family-friendly performance packed with bold action, clever comedy, and plenty of audience interaction.

Expect your blocks to be busted, your ribs to be tickled, and your swashes thoroughly buckled!

Bring a picnic, a blanket, and your sense of humour.

Tickets are selling fast – book yours now, via our website www.sulgravemanor.org.uk/



Volunteers

We are incredibly grateful to each and every one of our volunteers - their time, dedication, and support mean the world to us. Whether assisting in the Manor, Garden, or helping with our collections, their contributions are invaluable.

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, we'd love to hear from you! Please email enquiries@sulgravemanor.org.uk for more details.

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SUNDAY 8TH JUNE

10AM - 4PM **COSTOW FARM**

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 MACHINARY
 - FARM ANIMALS NATURE WALK
 - TRACTOR AND TRAILER RIDE



Onsite catering and refreshments for sale. To find out more information visit our website

www.costowfarms.co.uk







































Revised Deadlines for Newsletter Articles 2025

- Saturday 14th June
- Saturday 19th July
- Saturday 16th August
- Saturday 20th September
 - Saturday 18th October
- Saturday 15th November
- Saturday 13th December.



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07918 066 314 (WhatsApp us)

Scan to visit our Facebook page







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

June 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30.						t i
2.	3.	4.	5. PC Meeting &.30pm @ Village Hall.	6.	7. Brackley Jubilee choir Concert 7.30pm	8. Open Farm Sunday @ Costow Farm 10-4pm
9. Garden Club Trip	10.	11.	12.	13.	14. Newsletter Deadline	15. Holy Communion 10.30am
16.	17. Camera Club Meeting @ The Star 8pm	18. Bingo @ The Star 7.30pm	19.	20.	21.	22.
23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28 Chip Van	29. NGS Open Gardens 2-6pm