

APRIL 2011



SUCKLEY NEWSLETTER

In this issue....

A spring walk without stiles, be a good neighbour and Archie's carrots.

BIG Celebrations, Parish Council demystified, the talented 'arty farty's' only male member, keep fit and snap shots - old and new.

Lunches in the Greenhouse, summer canapés at the White House, goings on in the Chicken Shed and how to make money on your roof.

Race night, quiz night, Duo's in the Nelson, Elgar in St Edburga's. Times for the Easter Services, times for the library and ideas for Mothering Sunday.

Meet the Doctors and their team, become a Parish Councillor, join the MHS and learn to keep bees.

Phew! It's exhausting.

Who knew so much could go on in one village...



FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

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Points of contact:

Newsletter Content: Hilary Pitt – 884355

Newsletter Advertising: Tilda Swabey – 07739 264495

Email: suckleynews@gmail.com

Next Issue: First week in June.

Content for newsletter to be submitted **25th May 2011**.

Suckley Post Office: Roger & Barbara Blackburn - 884201.

Shop Open: Mon – Fri 7.00am – 6.00pm, Sat 7.00am – 1.00pm

Post Office Open: Mon – Fri 9.00am – 5.30pm (till 1.00pm Weds)

Sat 9.00am – 12.30pm

Village websites – for up to date information on what is happening in the village as well as a list of businesses and trades: www.suckleypo.co.uk & www.suckley.net

Village Hall: Steve Boughton - 884210

Suckley School: Mr Matthew Meckin - 884283

Suckley Pre-School: Linda Negrin-Torres - 884766

Church: Wardens: Dr Anne M Lewis – 884552

Parish Clerk: Mrs Diana Taylor - 01684 569430

Playing Fields: Bookings & Pitches Mr & Mrs Luton – 884558

Skateboard Arena: Mr P Beaumont – 884550

West Mercia Constabulary: Emergency 999. Other matters 0300 333 3000

PC3381 Sarah Ransome-Williams, CSO 6494 Tracey Caldwell,

CSO 5481 Collin Davies.

Have YOU something to say?

We welcome all contributions to the newsletter and are very grateful to those who have written for this issue. If you would like to write something (or ask a question) for the newsletter, whether it is about a Suckley past or what the village needs for the future, please get in touch – call Hilary on 884355 or email suckleynews@gmail.com

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ALL LEVELS WELCOME

BIG Event for your diary

To celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee, there will be a four day weekend from Saturday 2nd June to Tuesday, June 5th 2012. Various groups within Suckley including the Parish Council would like to bring the village together for a day of celebration over this period.

Taking the idea of looking back over the last 60 years of life in the village, and looking forward to what the future might look like, a few suggestions have been made of what this could look like or what form this could take.

The main aim most are agreed, is to bring the whole village together and to have fun and secondly perhaps raise some money to support future community activities and good causes.

So far ideas for the day have included:

- A procession of floats through the village
- A traditional sports day with family fun games and races as the centre point of a village fete
- Stalls run by village groups & societies
- A 1950's style tea party at the fete, which might include dressing up and prizes
- Puppet show - Punch and Judy
- An early evening family barn dance with hog roast and beer tent
- A local history exhibition of the village

Other events and activities might be taking place anyway could be scheduled to take place over the Jubilee weekend such as local walks, a fun ride, open gardens etc.

Events could take place at the various key community venues – Playing Fields, Parish Hall, Church, School etc.

But do you have your own thoughts on what form of celebration the

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village should have? Or perhaps a talent, resources or contact that could help support the event? Can you help make this event a success to celebrate?

Your chance to contribute, find out more or show support for the event is at the Annual Parish meeting on Monday 16th May at 7.30 pm. in Suckley Village Hall. The Jubilee Celebrations will be an item for discussion and after the Parish Meeting, there is an opportunity to meet and talk to Parish Council members - drinks and nibbles will be supplied.

Your Parish Council – What Does it do for Suckley?

Following on from the article above and with the Annual Parish Meeting being held on 16th May, this is a good opportunity to remind ourselves of the role of the Suckley Parish Council.

With growing environmental concerns and spending cuts, we are being asked to think locally, rather than globally. The Parish Council has therefore an increasingly important role in promoting and maintaining sustainable communities.

Your Parish Council has an overall responsibility for the well-being of your local neighbourhood. Its work falls into three main categories:

- Representing your local community
- Delivering services to meet local needs
- Striving to improve quality of life in the Parish

Powers of the Parish Council are wide-ranging and ever increasing. Parish Councils generally might provide, maintain or contribute to the following services:

- Allotments
- Community transport schemes
- Local Planning Applications
- Bus shelters
- Crime reduction measures
- Lengthsman Scheme

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- Local youth projects
- Festivals and celebrations
- Litter bins
- Local Footpaths
- Tourism activities
- Traffic calming/speeding measures

They will often work with the unitary authority and co-operate to ensure the effective delivery of services to the local community.

The Parish Council is funded by a 'precept' that is collected through your council tax. This money is invested back into your local neighbourhood by your local council to improve facilities and services for you. Your Parish Council needs to hear from you to understand what individual Parish needs are required..

Our Parish Council Elections will be held in May, and the councillors being put forward for nomination to the Parish Council are :-

Walter Huband (present Chairman) John Green (present Vice-Chairman)
Liz Devenish, Pearl Griffiths, Carole Luton, Andrew Grieve. Rosemary Harward.

Mike Jackson is not putting his name forward this year, so there is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Applications for nomination have to be submitted to Malvern Hill District Council by April 4th (more details below). Would you be interested?

Why should I work with my Parish Council?

Think about working with your Parish Council, or becoming a Parish Councillor, if:

- You want to do more for your community, improve quality of life and the local environment
- You want to influence local decision making and make sure your money is spend according to local wishes
- You want to make a difference

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What does a Parish Councillor do?

Parish Councillors have 3 main areas of work:

1. **Decision-making:** through listening to local feeling, attending meetings and committees, Councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented. Councils may have responsibility for running local services such as: open spaces, play areas, village halls, community care schemes and potentially much more.
2. **Monitoring:** Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working. When appropriate, the Parish Council can lobby other service providers for improvements, such as Malvern Hills District Council/Worcs County Council and work in partnership with other parishes and agencies.
3. **Representing:** as local representatives, Councillors have responsibilities to their parishioners. The amount of time involved depends on the size and responsibilities of the Council and on how much time an individual Councillor has to offer.

Anyone living in the parish, or within the permitted distance of the boundary, can put themselves forward for nomination - but the papers have to be handed in to **MHDC offices by noon on 4th April**. Diana Taylor, the Parish Clerk, has nomination papers should anyone be wishing to put themselves forward. Please contact Diana on 01684 569430 or email her on dtaylor@suckley@msn.com

The Annual Parish meeting will be held on Monday 16th May at 7.30 pm. in Suckley Village Hall - all are welcome. Wine/juice and nibbles after the meeting is over – a good chance to meet and get to know your Parish Councillors.

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Walk To Suckley Church and Suckley Hills

Garth Lowe leads regular walks in the local Parishes - dates and times can be found in The Sphere. Below, he suggests a walk around our Parish, taking about 2 hours depending on how short your legs are! If you like you can time your walk to take in coffee at Holloways Greenhouse or lunch at the Nelson. Or you can pick up some of Barbara's delicious freshly made rolls at the Post Office. If you are not sure of the Parish footpath network, it might be advisable to take a map with you.

This walk starts from The Nelson, Suckley and is unique in avoiding climbing a single stile. From the Inn turn left along the road, passing a turning to Cradley and then take a footpath on the left thro' a hop yard, leading to another lane.* Turn left once more, and then at a road junction take the footpath on the right, past a cottage. Follow the path across fields through three gateways, climbing slowly to some farm buildings by another lane. Turn right at the lane and in about a quarter of a mile, take the next footpath on the right thro' a gate into an apple orchard. Keep on this path, down a stony farm track, past a small barn and make a left turn at a junction along a tarmac farm track, into a dip and up to the main Suckley to Bromyard road.

Turn right here and take the next path to the left just after a converted hop kiln. Suckley Church is now in sight where a stop can be made for coffee (at Holloways). Return out of the churchyard and go left to cross the Suckley to Knightwick road down another farm track, which crosses a small stream and finally reaches a pond on the left. Continue past the pool and take a hunting gate at the end of the first building on the right, and then go diagonally left across a grass field to a field gate in the far corner leading into Suckley Hill Woods. The path climbs slowly uphill to the right and emerges at a junction, with the Worcestershire Way. Take this well marked route to the right, up and along the ridge for quite a distance. At another major junction, the Worcestershire Way goes left, but carry on all along the ridge ignoring the main junction, to emerge in a field, with splendid views to the west.

Walk in Suckley cont/...

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The path here actually goes diagonally downhill and joins a bridle path returning up to the ridge, to a gate in the far left corner. A steep path then goes downhill to rejoin the Worcestershire Way, out into a field and down to a gate in the corner. Cross over an old race horse training track, thro' another gate to then cross Longley brook by a twee bridge and emerge onto the road by the Post Office that leads right, back to the Nelson.

**To shorten this walk turn right at the lane and take the next farm track on the left by a hop yard. Then take the next right and follow instructions above starting "into a dip".*

Arty Farties Art Group

We have now been in existence since January and, although our numbers are small, we enjoy our Monday afternoons doing our art work. Most of the time we "do our own thing" but we have decided to do a specific project once a month. During March, we had an afternoon learning about mixed media which is a specific interest of one of our members and she was able to guide the rest of us. We were all engrossed cutting up magazines and turning the most uninspiring bits of paper into collages. Next month, our only gentleman member, whose speciality is painting tiles and china, is going to show us how to decorate our own mugs for use at our meetings – the partaking of tea or coffee being an essential part of our afternoons! We are also looking forward to the warmer weather so that we can enjoy painting outside.

If anyone is interested in joining us at the Village Hall for a friendly two hours on Monday afternoons, do come along or phone Carol on 884210 for further details.

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The Chicken Shed at the Knowle, Suckley

Annette Wilson, a qualified beautician, tells us a little of her business and offers some great ideas for a special Mother's Day.

Twelve years ago I needed a challenge. I had been working as a Medical Secretary for the previous twenty two years and felt the time was right for a change. I decided I would like to set up my own business working from home - the old chicken shed in the garden had the most glorious views across the fields to the Suckley Hills and beyond to The Malverns. A Beauty Therapy Course was available in Worcester during the evenings, so I felt reassured that I could still carry on with the day job and study in the evenings. The builders were called in and the old shed was eventually transformed into a lovely bright, airy room - much bigger than some of the treatment rooms I had experienced with no natural light - and a big south facing window installed to take in those lovely views! I was up and running by the summer of 1999, still keeping on my other job just in case it was all a complete disaster! Now twelve years on I have no regrets. I enjoy meeting up with my ladies, most book their next appointment on leaving, returning every four, five or six weeks. A variety of treatments are available to book- manicures, pedicures, waxing, massage, facials and auto-bronze. For my facials I use skincare from Susan Molyneux, a company based in Cheltenham where all products are manufactured. You will not see their products in any shops or department stores where no advice or treatments are offered. The products rely on plant extracts and minerals to provide the active ingredients. There are no artificial perfumes, only the natural aromas from essential oils. There is no animal testing of the products and lanolin and synthetic colours are banned. The products are safe for even the most sensitive of skins.

Spring has arrived and after a long, cold winter our skin needs a bit of attention. With the extreme cold weather, plus more time spent in a centrally heated environment, our skin will have become very dehydrated and will need rehydration and revitalising. We all take our feet for granted - why not treat them to a deluxe pedicure - a manicure for feet! Gift Vouchers are available to purchase and Mother's Day is coming up very soon - go on, give your Mum a treat - she deserves it!

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News from the Hive - from Robin Hill

After the snow and ice of December and January it has been great to see the bees flying once more. Recent warm days have brought large numbers out for the first time in many months, and the excited hum of insects seeing daylight again and feeling the sun on their backs is a welcome sign that spring can't be too far away.

Watching bees returning to the hive, it is easy to spot those that have been gathering pollen from early-flowering bulbs. Others have been busy finding water, and at this time of year it is common to see bees drinking from the margins of garden pools or visiting standing water on fields or in ditches. Many will be making cleansing flights after their winter confinement, and it is at this time of year that light-coloured washing can return to the house dry but with numbers of tell-tale yellowish spots. Bees are house-trained enough not to dirty their hive, so a repeat wash for some clothes is a small price to pay for a healthy, happy colony! In the coming weeks beekeepers will be preparing for the season ahead. Like many I am often approached by those thinking of keeping bees themselves, but who are unsure as to how to go about it, and even daunted by the prospect. This is quite understandable - the world of the bee can often appear secretive and mysterious.

So for those thinking about keeping bees we are going to be holding two half-day taster sessions at our apiary in the village. These will be designed to answer the common questions, introduce people to the equipment we use and – most importantly – give those who want it an opportunity to handle bees. Only by having a go will you know whether managing a hive of 50,000 lively and inquisitive insects is for you! Both sessions will be limited to six adults, so as to give plenty of time for individual needs, and those interested will be encouraged to sign up for both – one early in the season and the second later in the summer.

Interested? Then please email hill_phillipson@btinternet.com for further details. Should there be sufficient interest from those coming to the half-day introductions then we plan to run a six-week course in early 2012 that will finish with the delivery of your very own bees. Watch this space for further information!

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Suckley Village Hall

Suckley Village Hall upcoming events for your diary. Tickets are normally available from Suckley Post Office or on the night if places remain available.

...	<p>Saturday April 9th, 7.30pm: 'A Lifetime through the Lens - The intriguing story of an Victorian Lady Photographer'</p> <p>Local historian and Worcestershire Museums officer Robin Hill looks at the life and legacy of a local photographer with a national reputation. Marjory Wight was born in Lower Wick before moving to Herefordshire via Hartlebury, where for a time she was secretary to the Bishop of Worcester. In a life that spanned from the late Victorian period to the 1970s she recorded many rural scenes and period buildings, wrote articles to accompany her evocative images and thankfully left us with a considerable legacy of a prolific career.</p> <p>The talk includes a selection of Marjory Wight's photographs, as well as a look at the type of camera technology available to her - a far cry from today's digital age.</p> <p>Tickets priced at £5 are available in advance from Suckley Post Office (01886 884201) or on the door. Refreshments available during the interval.</p>
...	<p>Saturday May 21st, 7.30pm: Race Night...</p> <p>... and they're off! Race night is always one of our most popular events... place your (small) bets, sponsor a race... hear what the pundits have to say about the form and then watch the race on the Village Hall Big Screen(!) accompanied by expert commentary.</p> <p>Tickets include a hot supper!</p>
...	<p>Saturday June 18th: Family Quiz night...</p> <p>** NEW **</p> <p>A fun event for all ages and one that'll need parents and children (or uncles and aunts and nephews/nieces, or grandchildren and grandparents) to work together to be in with a chance of winning!</p>

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Events in Suckley over the coming months

Holloways Greenhouse Café

Sunday 3rd April - Mothering Sunday Lunch

Show your mum how much she means to you on Mothering Sunday by treating her to a traditional Sunday Lunch.

Our Limited Edition lunches include:

Italian on the 8th April with such delights as Chicken Cacciatore, tiramisu, feta & olive fusilli with other delicious choices.

Greek Lunch on 22nd April.

Another **Italian lunch on 5th May**; followed by

Spanish lunch menu on 19th May.

Please book to save any disappointment. Call Holloways Greenhouse Café on 01886 884665.

Entertainment at **the Nelson Inn - on Saturday 30th April**, a fabulous Boy/girl duo called Now 2 will be appearing - don't miss it!

Wanted! Mature ladies and gentlemen for local keep fit class.

Fitness, flexibility and fun at Suckley Village Hall, every Tuesday, 11am to 12 noon. For more information, contact Margaret on 01886 884301 or Julian on 07770 822033.

Mobile Library Timetable 2011

Dates:

Fridays only at

Suckley - Cross Keys 1.45-2.00pm

New Road Estate - 2.10-2.25pm

Longley Green Post Office 2.40-3.35pm

8th April, 20th May, 10th June

1st July, 22nd July, 12th August,

2nd September, 14th October,

4th November, 25th November,

16th December

Enquiries about this service should be made to Malvern Library, Graham Road Malvern or telephone 01905 822722, or email malvernmobile@worcestershire.gov.uk

Make a note for your diary! A "Summer Canapés and Drinks" evening will be held at The White House, Suckley (by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Persey) on the evening of 15th July. In aid of Suckley Church and Suckley and Alfrick pre School. Entrance by paper donation. More details to follow in next issue of Newsletter.

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Health and Wellbeing Group

As part of the Suckley Community Plan, the Health and Wellbeing Group has compiled a list of useful local contact details with information about local amenities. Every household in Suckley should receive one soon.

In addition we have the strong foundations of a "Good Neighbour Scheme", so that where appropriate and possible, our network of volunteers in every area within Suckley can provide help and support of a more practical nature. If you would like to be part of this, and would like to offer a little time, your knowledge or expertise, or just be a 'potentially useful person', we need to hear from you to make the project work.

Please contact Marie Woodroff (volunteer coordinator) 01886 884562 or email alanwoodroff@onetel.com

Thank you for your help. Suckley needs YOU!!

Suckley Church

Seasonal Suckley services and forthcoming events are:

April 3rd is Mothering Sunday: Suckley All Age Service at 11am.... with distribution of daffodils for mothers, grandmothers, and all the loving ladies in our lives. Come and bring your Mum!!

Easter Services:

Palm Sunday 17th April: The All Age Service is at Alfrick at 11am with a fun Easter Egg hunt.

Good Friday April 22nd:... Suckley All Age Service at 10am, Easter Day Suckley Family Communion at 11am

Rogation Sunday May 29th: All Age Service at 11am on Pewcroft Farm. We will be outside if fine, or in the barn if wet. Bring and Share BBQ lunch followed by a gentle stroll round the farm.

Sunday July 31st is when the Teddy Bears bring their owners to the Annual Suckley Teddy Bears' Picnic.

For further information please contact Anne Lewis (Suckley 884552)

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Allotment News - only three plots left!

This exciting new venture continues at an amazing pace. When we started we hoped for 10 or 12 plots to be rented. At the moment 22 people have paid for theirs, and two more are booked.

Several allotment holders have started planting fruit bushes despite the very wet conditions underfoot. Various plots have polythene to warm the soil, and much shed building has been taking place. Someone told me they will be painting theirs to look like a beach hut. At least one shed has a primus stove in, so I am hopeful that the odd bacon buttie will be forthcoming!

Many of the keen folks have already got plants started at home in pots, and now we have had dry, warm spell, hopefully the field will be a hive of activity as the planting out is done. We were pleased to meet many of the early numbered plot holders over tea and cakes, it gave everyone chance to meet and exchange ideas. I have been so impressed with the enthusiasm of the community.

I am considering giving a prize at the end of the season (a bit like the BAFTAs, perhaps we'll call it the DAFTERS) for the tidiest allotment, the most hospitable shed party, the most flamboyant planting layout, the shed with the most comfy chairs and any other crazy idea that strikes me. Certainly the best children's small plot will get a prize, lots of young are appearing and I hope they will make friends.



Archie on 'his' allotment planting his favourite veggies - carrots!

If anyone else wants to be involved please let us know a.s.a.p. You can have a 60ft x 20ft plot for £2 a week.

John and Jill Hammonds 01886 884221 john@pewcroft.fsnet.co.uk

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Solar PV Panels - why??

Local electrician Barry Kearns writes about the FiTs energy generation scheme introduced last year, allowing households and business to be paid for generating energy by installing solar PV panels.

Have you noticed that all sorts of properties are having panels fitted to their roofs - ever wondered why? Read below to help to understand some of the real benefits of having some.

The Feed-In Tariff

From April 1st 2010, the UK Feed-In Tariff (FiT) came into effect, making solar panel installation a very attractive investment indeed. The FiT will apply across England, Scotland and Wales and is designed to incentivise solar panel installation, by offering what is referred to as “clean energy cashback”. Put simply, it means that homes and businesses implementing small scale low carbon energy generation with solar PV panels will be paid for the energy they generate. This even applies if the households or businesses use all of the electricity they generate themselves! The rates have also been set so that those generating electricity through solar PV will be paid well above the rate at which utilities companies sell electricity, to account for the fact that solar generated power is more expensive to produce than fossil fuel generated power.

Feed-In Tariff Rates

How much you get paid will depend largely upon the type and size of the solar PV technology you use in your home. This table acts as a guide as to the pence per unit a new solar panel installation could earn.

Essentially, the price you will be paid per unit for energy you generate and then use yourself goes up to 41.3p. For energy you generate and then export back to the grid (as opposed to using yourself) it goes up to 44.3 pence per unit. More information about the Feed-In Tariff rates can be found detailed in the table below.

Size of Solar PV System	Generation Tariff (pence per kWh) Self Used Energy	Export Tariff (price per kWh) Exported Energy
<4kW (new build)	36.1	39.1
<4kW (retrofit)	41.3	44.3
4 - 10kW	36.1	39.1
10-100kW	31.4	34.4
100kW - 5MW	29.3	32.3
Off Grid Systems	29.3	32.3

These rates apply to systems installed between 1st April 2010 and 31st March 2012 and will be paid for a period of 25 years. The payments are even linked to the Retail Price Index. However levels drop for systems installed later than this – so get in early.

With such a great returns of typically 10-12% per annum, don't wait; give me a call for a solar panel installation quote or to see a full demonstrator system at Crooks Farm, Acton Beauchamp. Call Barry on 01886 884177 or 07975 835372 or email barrykearley@blackberry.orange.co.uk

Suckley Photography Group

Our group, albeit small (currently standing at 9 members) is full of enthusiasm and looking forward to learning and experimenting with our cameras over the coming year. Our cameras range from “point and shoot”, SLR to the latest DSLRs. However sophisticated the equipment we are keen to have fun whilst sharing and learning the skills to take great images - and judging by past artistic efforts there are some very talented photographers amongst us.

We are planning to go out on trips to various locations over the coming months to take photos and have discussed using the services of a professional photographer for the day to learn some key tips and techniques. At our last meeting we tried our hand at indoor shots with a home made but effective ‘softbox’ to take close up shots of still life objects. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 5th April in the Village Hall at 8.00pm. More information is available from Steve Welch on 01684 564510.

APRIL 2011

The Malvern Horticultural Society

Adrian Holmes writes a regular gardening column for the newsletter. For this issue, we have asked Adrian to write about the Malvern Horticultural Society, (MHS) of which he is a member.

MHS is probably one of the oldest such societies in the country, having been founded in 1850. We have about 50 members and have room for plenty more!

We meet every month throughout the year (apart from December) combining indoor meetings with informative, interesting and knowledgeable speakers during late winter, spring and autumn with summer walks and visits to gardens both locally and further afield. Horticulture is such a vast subject that we have no problem in varying our programme from year to year to cater for the wide ranging interests of our members.

Our indoor meetings are held in April, September, October and November on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm at The Chase 6th Form Annex, Geraldine Road, Malvern WR14 3NZ and finish by 9.30pm. Meetings in May, June and July are outdoor ones with visits to gardens and local walks. The 2011 programme is:

Apr 27 A worm's eye view of gardening for wildlife with Richard Fishbourne
May 25 Riverside walk at Upton on Severn
June 22 Coffee Evening
July 27 Visit Russell Quarry Garden, Baggington, Coventry
Aug 24 Afternoon visit Arley Arboretum
Sept 28 Vegetable growing for everyone with Pete Chamberlain
Oct 19 Perfume in the garden with Susan Russell
Nov 23 AGM & A plantsman's plants Paul Hervey-Brooks

Visitors are welcomed at all our events, so please come along and "try us out". For more information, please call Adrian on 884696 or email him on soundpost1@aol.com

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

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The (Malvern) Hills are alive....with the sound of music – TAKE 2!

Volante Strings' next concert will be at St Edburga's Church, Leigh on May 14 at 7.30pm and will be in aid of Leigh Church Heritage Fund. Tickets £10 (children free) available from Jean Colley 01886 832964. Included in the price of the ticket will be wine, fruit juice and canapes.

This popular and successful orchestra is made up of local professional players and instrumental teachers who are passionate about string music. Their enthusiasm, together with a relaxed and informal approach to each performance has inspired audiences both here and abroad. Some of the players will introduce the pieces, giving interesting snippets about them and telling us what to listen out for.

The programme will include Grieg's popular Holberg Suite, some short pieces by Elgar (who of course lived locally) and Wren's Serenade for Strings - remember the theme tune to the BBC Monitor programme? - well, it's that tune! Corinne Frost and Hilary Summers (cellos) will also be soloists in a beautiful arrangement of a sonata by Handel (of Messiah fame).



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Welcome to our Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Knightwick Surgery Newsletter. This is an abridged version for the Suckley Newsletter – full, colour versions are available from the surgery on request. We hope you will find this surgery newsletter helpful and informative. Its aim is to keep you, our patients, up to date with news concerning Health Issues, Current Concerns and general Surgery Information.

Introducing the Knightwick Team:

Drs Bywater, Salter & Hinton GPs	Phil Popplewell - Practice Manager Has responsibility for coordinating all aspects of service delivery for the Surgery.
Claudia Buxton - Dispensary Manager Responsible for on-site Dispensing Services	Kate Parkinson - Reception Manager Responsible for all Reception Services Deputizes in Practice Manager's absence
Sharon Salter - Lead IT & Data Administrator Responsible for all data records & IT systems.	Penny Bowden - Lead Practice Nurse Co-ordinates and oversees Nursing & HCA services.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Dr. Elizabeth Hinton MBBS, MRCP, DFFP, DRCOG
Qualified from UCL Medical School in 1997.

She gained experience in various fields in hospitals in London and Worcester. Her particular areas of interest are Genitourinary Medicine, Family Planning and Gynaecology. She joined the Practice in August 2010.



Health Awareness Campaigns this quarter:

British Heart Foundation: Cycling in Britain, Running in the Wyre Forest and at Chepstow and hiking are on the fund raising agenda, see website: www.bhf.org.uk

Coming soonMarie Curie Morning Tea at The Surgery - date to be arranged.

SURGERY NEWS cont/....

Missed Appointments

The surgery understands that in winter the weather can be unpredictable, which may make it difficult to attend appointments that have been made. We have been keeping a record of missed appointments per week and displaying this number in reception. Some patients have been surprised by how many appointments are wasted. Please could we ask that if you are unable to attend an appointment, telephone the surgery to let us know as soon as possible, as we can often fill appointments at short notice for patients with urgent problems.

Annual Check Letters

To ensure that our patients, who are on a chronic disease register, have the best possible care, we send out invitation letters for annual checks. These letters are different colours (corresponding to the disease register the patient is on), which helps with the allocation of sufficient time to carry out the necessary checks by the doctor, nurse or HCA. When making an appointment it is very helpful to tell the receptionist which colour letter you have received and if possible the type of check you are invited to come for.

News from the Departments.....

Reception: Our appointment system is designed to ensure appointments are always available when people need them most. We have two types of doctor's appointments – pre-bookable (4-6 weeks in advance) and those that are released by the system for booking on the same day. Book on the day appointments are kept on Friday afternoons and Mondays to ensure people can be seen before or after a weekend. We would ask people to book their appointments sensibly to ensure fair access for all patients. We will always fit people in if they have a genuine medical need to be seen on that day.

Nursing Team: We have experienced staffing problems recently due to staff shortages, holiday & illness. This has led to a shortage of appointments and cancelled clinics. We are hoping to rectify this problem in the near future with the recruitment of a new Practice Nurse. We would like to thank our patients for their tolerance and understanding during the past months.

For feedback / comments about this Newsletter, please contact Sharon Salter on 01886 821279 or email sharon.salter@nhs.net

Details of all other staff are in the full version of the newsletter.

List of Available Services also in full version.

A large print format is available on request.

APRIL 2011

News from Suckley Parish Council Meeting held on 14th March 2011

Items from the minutes included Footpaths, Charities Report, Woodland Road, Playing Field, Planning and District and Parish Council Elections on 5th May. Full details of the Minutes can be obtained from the Parish Clerk, Diana Taylor (contact details below) but the Parish Council was particularly keen that the following item was included in full in the newsletter.

HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

The Clerk reported that she had applied for more salt/grit bins for Knowle Bank and along Stocks Cross to Acton Beauchamp. The Clerk to liaise with Co Cllr Clive Smith to try and get these bins in place in time for next winter!

Speeding – Knightwick Road. The Council have received a number of complaints from parishioners about speeding along this road (and others) within the Parish. The Clerk had made extensive enquiries into the ways and means of installing speed camera warning signs, but it was a very complicated issue, with many departments getting involved i.e Highways, West Mercia Police, Worcs Co County Council Traffic Management, Accident Studies – to name just a few. Even if the Council purchased a sign (£2,625 plus VAT per sign) we could not necessarily put it up where we wanted to. Worcs County Council have a very lengthy policy on this matter – sites have to be approved and need to have a proven speeding history, backed up with up to date speed data and/or accident data. At the moment there is no official record of collisions/accidents in the Suckley area. The Council felt that the best first step would be for the Clerk to liaise with Co Cllr Clive Smith to try and get a mobile VAS camera/sign placed back in the parish. The Council felt that we should also try and put together an “incident” record relating to speeding in the parish.

If you have any knowledge of speeding incidents in the parish, please contact the Clerk, Diana Taylor, Tel 01684 569430 or e-mail dtaylor@suckley@msn.com so we can start compiling a file for future reference.

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