

AUGUST 2011

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Next Issue: First week in October

Content for newsletter to be submitted **26th September 2011.**

Suckley Post Office: Roger & Barbara Blackburn - 884201.

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

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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 & Alfrick Pre-School: Joanne Hall - 884766

Church: Wardens: Dr Anne M Lewis – 884552

Parish Clerk: Mrs Diana Taylor - 01684 569430

District Councillors: Mr D Hughes - 833049, Mr A Warburton - 832753

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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In this issue....

As of September, Suckley School is to become an Academy as changes in legislation allows Ofsted rated “outstanding” schools to take increased control of their future. In addition, with 4 other local schools, Suckley will form part of a trail blazing collaborative partnership called the Malvern Academies Partnership which will allow them to use their pooled strengths and resources when facing the challenges ahead. This will be the first of its kind in England and it’s happening in your village.

Elsewhere in the village, the debate around the reordering of the church continues to explore all the options available. There are plans to look at a shared mobile speeding sign for the village, sourcing snow clearing contractors and all sorts of opportunities for you to get involved - from bringing vehicle licenses to the Post Office, to getting the village together for the Jubilee Celebrations or helping with next year’s Knapp and Papermill Open Day.

There are also updates from the surgery, and the newly formed Health and Well Being group, fond memories of a much loved village character who will be sadly missed, as well as tips for the garden and a delicious recipe in case your tomato crop exceeds all expectations.

Enjoy your summer!

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of severe weather. They need contractors from all parts of the County and the Parish Council has been asked to contact local contractors who might be willing to undertake this work.

They also needed to know the availability of storage for 1 tonne bags of rock salt so that supplies are ready. Please contact the Clerk, Diana Taylor, at dtaylor@suckley@msn.com or tel 01684 569430 if any local contractor is interested in tendering for this task.

COMMUNITY PLAN - The Council heard from Mr Mark Malloy regarding plans for a survey to find out the key issues within the parish. Some of the issues identified in the 2001 Suckley Planning for Real document were still relevant today. Both he and Cllr A Grieve felt it was vital for the Parish Council to be a lead force to support this community action. The Parish Council agreed to support and endorse the development of the Community Plan to March 2012.

WOODLAND ROAD - Progress was continuing on Woodland Road Flood Relief Project. The Parish Council still held £2K ring fenced for spending on this project, hopefully on a specific item rather than into the general "pool." Festival Housing had paid outstanding monies to remove part of the overground cable and was awaiting programme dates from Central Network.

FOOTPATHS - The Footpaths Wardens Richard Harward and Peter Markins had been busy. They had installed steps on the slippery bank leading up out of the parking area at Crews Hill, and it was hoped to do a similar job on the steep bank opposite Steps Cottage. The plank bridge by the brook below Grove Hill had been replaced. The stile by the new lay-by is to be replaced with a pedestrian gate. The Wardens have walked the Worcestershire Way where it runs through the parish, and met Hilary Pitt, the local Worcestershire Way Warden.

PLAYING FIELDS - these are still suffering from vandalism and damage to the all weather pitch. Support bars for the wire surround needed rebolting, the wire fence had been damaged by people climbing over it. Repairs were put in the good hands of Cllr John Green.

Suckley School Report

Yes, it's that time of year - end of term (yippee!), school holidays started (please let it be sunny) and for some children the anticipation of starting school for the first time in September. Matthew Meckin, Suckley Primary School's headteacher looks back over the past year and looks to the future with the recent major change to the school's status.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to share some exciting news about the long term future of Suckley Primary School. After several months of consultation, the Governing Body have taken the unanimous decision to convert to Academy Status on August 1st 2011. The school has decided to become an academy out of choice and because it is in a position of strength to do so.

The advantages for both the school and children were the key drivers in the decision making process. Whilst under the control of the Local Authority, the long term future of small schools provides a certain amount of vulnerability, especially in the current financial climate. In converting to an Academy, we take control of our own future and become a charitable company with a long lease on the school buildings and land.

Furthermore, we will be given the freedoms, autonomy and independence to design a future that is right for our children and the local community. The school and Governing Body will still be directly accountable to the Department for Education and Ofsted. There will also be financial benefits (the school will now receive its full allocation of funding), which will result in improved provision for our young people. Whilst the school is no longer under the control of the Local Authority, we will still be buying back certain services from them, ensuring that we maintain the strong partnership, that has been built up over a number of years.

As you may have seen in the local press, we are also working with other local schools in a 'collaborative partnership', which will see each school maintain their own governance and independence, whilst sharing practice and expertise on a business and teaching and learning level. This is the first 'collaborative partnership' nationally and we are indeed one of the first primary schools to

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convert in the county. It is quite clear that the Government intend for most, if not all schools, to take this route in the future. By being at the forefront of this development, Suckley will not only grow its reputation, but also be in a strong position to choose exactly how we develop in the future and who we work with in the process.

We will not be having Academy within our title, but will be changing the school name to fit in with its current and traditionally known name of 'Suckley School'.

The future of the school is an exciting one. The children, staff and parents exhibit a unique warmth and togetherness, which makes for a wonderful place for our young people. The school continues to grow in reputation and I would like to thank the whole community for contributing to this process. We now have 59 children on roll, which is an increase from the 47 on roll a year ago and highest recorded for some 20 years. There are also nine reception children starting in September. The next two years are also looking healthy with a forecast of 70 children on roll by 2013. A recent data survey has shown that there is a small, but positive increase in children residing in our catchment of Suckley and Alfrick. When this is matched to the school's growing reputation and the attracting of children from outside of catchment; we can have real confidence in the future of the school.

Our curriculum (based upon 'real life' contexts) is flourishing and has included a farmer's party for local farmers and story sacks being made for Suckley and Alfrick Pre-School. The children are thriving off a balance of academic coverage, alongside the development of key life skills. This year's year 6 SATs results are outstanding with 100% of children achieving the national average of level 4 in English and Maths. Our Maths results were in the top 10 in the county, with 60% of children achieving level 5 (working well above national expectations). The children's social and emotional growth continues to blossom and we are continually surprised at how supportive they are of each other.

A superb year for Suckley School and we look forward to sharing more with you in the future.

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SURGERY NEWS - continued

Phil finds working for Knightwick Surgery a breath of fresh air, where GP's and the staff put Patient Care first. Knightwick Surgery can boast that it maintains the highest targets for the Quality Outcomes Framework, consistently maintains high target standards for all other Health Promotion initiatives and is by far the friendliest Surgery that Phil has ever worked in.

The full A4 version of this Newsletter is available at the Surgery.

It will also be available on the local Clifton on Teme website at www.clifton-upon-teme.co.uk or www.temetriangle.net courtesy of Bernadette Higgins and on our own dedicated website – details above.

For feedback / comments about this Newsletter, please contact Sharon Salter on 01886 821279 or email sharon.salter@nhs.net A large print format is available on request.

Suckley Parish Council Meeting 11th July 2011

SPEEDING - In view of the concerns expressed by parishioners regarding speeding through Longley Green and along Knightwick Road, the Council had been considering purchasing a mobile VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) for use within the Parish. The cost would be in the region of £3K. However, there were many hoops to jump through before the Council could get one in place. Worcs County Council have strict criteria as to where signs can be placed, and prefer parishes to share a VAS to make them more effective. Co Cllr Clive Smith offered to put c£3K out of his budget to purchase a sign to be shared between Suckley, Leigh & Bransford and Alfrick & Lulsley. The Clerk is now liaising with the other parishes and Worcs County Council Area Highways Engineer to identify suitable sites.

CO-OPTIONS – PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES - There are two vacancies for Councillors. The Parish Council were prepared to look at applications on 11th July, but two further applicants had expressed an interest. However, the Clerk had not received their applications in time for 11th July meeting. The advice from Worcs CALC (Association of Local Councils) was that "best practice" was to look at all the applications in one go. This means that the Council has had to postpone co-options until the September meeting.

HIGHWAYS – Grit/Salt Bins - Worcestershire County Council are compiling a list of contractors willing to help clear snow from the highways during periods

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Flu Season 2011/12

We are hoping to get a head start on Flu vaccinations this year by sending out postcards to those who are at risk under 65 years of age this August. Clinics have been set up for the following dates and can be booked by calling reception on 01886 821279.

Saturdays: 8th, 15th & 22nd Oct 8am – 11am
Thursdays: 13th, 20th & 27th Oct 6.30pm – 8pm

Anyone 65 years or over is entitled to a flu vaccination and can attend the above clinics also. At risk groups: Heart disease, Kidney disease, Liver disease, Diabetes, Respiratory disease, Stroke, a weak immune system or is pregnant.

For information on our services, links to health information, to order medication online or ask for travel advice, please visit our new website: www.knightwicksurgery.co.uk

Magazine Appeal

We are aware that the majority of the reading material in the waiting room appeals mainly to our female patients. If you have any recent (less than 6 months old) comics or magazines suitable for older children, young adults or men we would be happy to make use of them.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Phil Popplewell

Phil joined the surgery 2 years ago as our Practice Manager.

He has worked in the Health Service for 36 years, the last 13 as Practice Manager.

Phil worked in Dyfed Primary Care Services in 1990 before starting his own business managing GP Fund-holder schemes for Doctors in Pembrokeshire, Carmarthen and West Glamorgan. He became a Practice Manager when the Fundholding scheme was discontinued by the Government in 1998.



Memories of Jim Cairns

Jim Cairns, landlord of the Cross Keys for nearly 30 years and postman for Suckley and Acton Green for 15 years, died on Thursday 21st July. So many villagers have expressed their sadness and shock and our thoughts are very much with Michelle, Lindsay and Andrew.

There are so many anecdotes and memories that each of us who knew him could tell and they would probably fill two newsletters. Whether you knew him for 20 years or 2 years, you will have a tale about Jim and no doubt be laughing as you tell it. Here are some of your memories.

He always called me 'Young Man', even though I am 45
He loved his golf and would deliver the post early if he wanted a good game.
He got married 5 times because he enjoyed wedding cake.
When you are having a laugh, you expect him to walk around the corner still.
He shouted out loudly when delivering the post 'Aye, got your marquees (knickers) on the line already'
Even early in the morning when sorting the post, he used to sing at the top of his voice.
He loved to make the ladies feel young and was so flirtatious
He enjoyed a chat and always had a twinkle in his eye.
(Thanks to Jenny Taylor and friends for the above)

He bought a wood burner for the pub but not wanting to spend too much money on the logs, put a lit candle in it so that if anyone complained about the cold, he said "the wood burner is on – look at the flames!" *A Cross Keys regular.*

"A legend, a man of high morals, with ability to create a lively and friendly debate on his own. A hit with the women of all ages! An absolute pleasure to play golf with (modest when he play well but always told you when he played badly). An 'expert' in all fields, he tried his hand at most things including livestock farming; the only 'farmer' on record to drown ducks (made a nice pond but forgot the ramp for them to get out). A rare publican in that he actually asked if you wanted to buy something. A good friend." *A Cross Keys regular.*

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“Heather and I have never forgotten his kindness the first night we arrived at our new home. We couldn’t get in and Jim was confronted with a lady he had never met before desperate for the loo and on the verge of tears. He calmed her down and helped us through a very stressful hour until we managed to gain entry. A flirt for sure, but a proper gent all the same.” *Steve Gray*

“When I first came to Suckley as the ‘new boy on the block’ Jim trained me very well regarding the ways of the community and which dogs would eat me and which ones deserved a biscuit. He also taught me the ‘hiding places’ for all your parcels and packets to ensure continuity. People soon realized they had a new postie as I took them unawares, they couldn’t hear me coming from ½ a mile away shouting ‘Oi you!’. As his successor, I have never heard a bad word spoken against him, everybody loved him, he will be sorely missed.” *Bill the Postie*.

Jim was a BIG character: loud, funny, rude, flirtatious, kind. He enjoyed discussions, liked singing, LOVED his golf and was generous of spirit. He had a way about him and he will be missed.

His funeral will be held in Suckley Church at 3.00pm on Thursday 4th August.

Big Event - 2011 Jubilee Celebrations

A number of volunteers met on 27th July, and decided to focus the 2011 Jubilee Celebration on a summer afternoon of fun with a picnic and games. This would also incorporate any events societies or groups may want to arrange, such as a treasure hunt, local hunt fun ride etc., or their own fund raising activities around the sports field on the day.

The group is currently concentrating on gathering a network of individuals who could offer assistance, advice or volunteer their time, even just for a short period and to look at setting up smaller groups to focus on different aspects of the day eg games group, picnic group, logistics etc. Key to the success of the event is finding a good marketing person to help point the group as a whole in the right direction or perhaps take charge of this activity. If you are interested or know of someone who could help make this the one event of 2011 where the whole village can get together, please get in touch. Call Andrew Grieve on 884795 or email thebigeventsuckley@gmail.com

Next meeting is at 7.30pm on 1st August in the Village Hall.

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and bees this year. They do of course self seed like there is no tomorrow, but to be sure of getting the same mix again next year, I’ll be collecting seed heads just before they spill their contents all over the garden. (Anybody want any?) A challenge next year will be to see if I can get them to establish in a wild patch where I’m also growing various bulbs, foxgloves and evening primroses, in addition to the wild native plants that have gained a foothold. The grasses here

are vigorous (but attract all manner of butterflies, moths, bees and other insects) so the other plants need to be thugs themselves in order to survive.



An increasingly uncommon sight, a comma butterfly in my garden in July.

My pot marigolds – Calendula - will continue flowering for a long time yet. They tick all the right boxes - they can be started off before winter strikes, will flower for months if you keep deadheading them, are irresistible sources of food, slugs leave them alone and the petals are great in salads. If you keep the seed you can develop your own strain of plants which will be particularly suited to your local environment. You can do this with vegetables as well, but not of course the F1 varieties which will not come true from seed.

Next time I’ll be looking at late autumn and into the winter when shelter becomes important.

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Plants for Bees and other Insects – late summer and early autumn

Adrian Holmes continues with his advice and recommendations for garden plants to feed our wildlife through the summer and into the autumn

We are now coming towards the end of the summer feeding frenzy, but there is still much we can do to keep the food supply going. As ever in gardening, we're also thinking about the future as much as the present and it is time to start planning for the autumn and beyond.

Late summer and early autumn is an ideal time to divide tired perennials, take cuttings and plant new plants. The days are still OK with a fair amount of daylight and warmth and the soil is easy to keep moist. An ideal time for your new plants to establish themselves and settle down for the winter.

So what should we be looking for in a wildlife friendly garden? You really need not look much further than the daisy family for a whole range of late flowering plants. Asters are great, but often maligned because of their tendency to succumb to mildew which makes them look both ghostly and ghastly. But try something like Aster x frikartii 'Monch' – it's a cross between an Italian aster and a Himalayan one – and you may be converted. Cone flowers – Echinacea – also well known as a source of many herbal remedies – are reliable; perennial sunflowers (Helianthus 'Lemon Queen' is particularly good with dark green foliage and a mass of lemony petalled flowers), rudbeckias (coming in reds, yellows and shades in between), and dahlias (beware the dreaded molluscs) to mention just a few.

But other plants can go on into the autumn as well – astrantias, eupatoriums, monardas, persicarias (again, a wide choice of size and vigour to suit your circumstances), and of course Japanese anemones. All will provide valuable food sources for bees and insects.

My opium poppies (Papaver somniferum) have just about finished flowering now, but they have been great this summer. I have deep red, with almost black markings, doubles and singles and a greyish/pink with darker blotches, also in double and single forms and they have all been like magnets to all sorts of insects

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ALL LEVELS WELCOME

Re-ordering of Suckley Church

Following on from the recent proposals to re-order the Church and subsequent open meeting, Jenny Taylor puts forward her concerns and alternative suggestions to the proposed changes. She submitted this letter to the Newsletter before the recent announcement of academy status of Suckley School.

I, like many other long established families of Suckley was surprised to see the letter in the Sphere and Parish Magazine about the re-ordering of Suckley Church. Having been unable to attend the meeting (on 8th July), I wrote a long letter to the Churchwarden to which I received a reply saying my points would be read out to the meeting. This was not done and I would like to re-iterate a few of them here.

1. The Church should not be classed as redundant and this is the first we have heard about needing more money for maintenance of this lovely old Victorian building.
2. The Church needs to be updated with a toilet facility and small kitchen area.
3. The idea of it being used by school for a gymnasium, hot school meals and extra class-room space when the school numbers are only in the 50's and the demographics of villages mean numbers are unlikely to climb much above this number is not a good reason for spending over £200,000 and losing the whole atmosphere of the Church. There is no building work planned for Suckley in the new South Worcestershire Development Plan.
4. If a Friends of Suckley Church was formed, I would be happy to work with other interested parties who at present volunteer for flowers, cleaning, churchyard maintenance and fund-raising but do not necessarily go to church each week.

Lets have our Church for Suckley families, as it stands now and has done for approximately 125 years. Join a Friends of Suckley Church Group to raise funds for the material upkeep of the Church for future generations or we will lose it. I have spent over 50 years supporting this Church, starting when Jim Ranford was Churchwarden and then when my mother Millie Griffiths was Churchwarden. My contact details are 01886 884726. Jenny Taylor (nee Griffiths)

Suckley Church

Special services over the next few months:

September 4th we join all our local churches in the Marquee in Alfrick for a 'Songs of Praise' at 4pm

September 11th Healing Service 6pm (a quieter more contemplative service)

Regular Services at Suckley: There is a basic pattern of:

1st Sunday All Age Worship 11am (a lively informal service)

2nd Sunday Evensong with prayers for healing 6pm (a quiet contemplative service)

3rd Sunday we go to Alfrick for their All Age service at 11am or Leigh for Evensong at 6pm

4th and 5th Sundays Common Worship Holy Communion with a Sunday School (a traditional service).

For further information please contact Anne Lewis (Suckley Church warden) on 01886 884552 or annelewis@doctors.org.uk

HOLD A BLOOMING GREAT TEA PARTY AND RAISE MONEY FOR LOCAL MARIE CURIE NURSES

This summer Marie Curie Cancer Care is calling on all tea lovers in Worcestershire to put the kettle on in support of local Marie Curie Nurses.

This year alone Marie Curie's specialised local nurses look to provide free care and support to 186 terminally ill patients and their families in Worcestershire – yet there are more and more who need this support.

By getting together with friends, family or neighbours and holding a Blooming Great Tea Party of your own you can ensure this care can continue in Worcestershire.

TV actress and baking enthusiast Fay Ripley is supporting The Blooming Great Tea Party and said: 'I'm planning to hold a children's tea party and get the kids involved but it can as simple or as extravagant as you like, from a builder's cuppa with colleagues to getting the whole family round for a gathering in the garden, so what are you waiting for?'

Please register today online at www.mariecurie.org.uk/teaparty or call 08700 340 040 for your free Tea Party fundraising pack.

Health & Well Being Group

Open Meeting of the Health and Well Being Group (H&WBG) Suckley held on 12th July 2011. The H&WBG would like to thank all those who attended and we were pleased with the interest and enthusiasm shown. There were two guest speakers. Our first speaker Pat Stokes gave us very useful information on how to initiate and organise our intended Good Neighbour Scheme in Suckley. She has already established the scheme in Pembridge, which is now fully recognised and used successfully.

Our second speaker was Paul Leopold whose experience includes 40 years in the police and 11 years with the ambulance service which equips him well to be our local Neighbourhood Watch expert. He discussed the way in which Neighbourhood Watch worked, with very useful advice on how to protect your home, such as crime alerts being available on line and communicated directly to the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators. There was a buzz of interested conversation when the meeting closed, reflecting a meeting that had been worthwhile

Following Paul Leopolds talk on Neighbourhood Watch it was felt that the Suckley Co-ordinator Elizabeth Tabberer-Mills should have been included in the H&WB Directory. I have spoken to Elizabeth and unfortunately, due to lack of interest, whilst the Watch is all set up she is no longer prepared to continue as coordinator but would be happy to pass on all the information to anyone who would like to take it over. Please contact: Elizabeth Tabberer-Mills, 01886 884012, bib.andy@virgin.net

Please make amendments to the following in your H&WB Directory:
Suckley Pre-School should read Suckley and Alfrick Preschool (2 to school age)
Joanna Hall - Manager. Tel: 01886 884766 Email: Pre_school@hotmail.co.uk

A Vision for the Future of Suckley Church

Anne Lewis writes: 29 people attended the first open meeting on June 8th. 7 other people sent in detailed representations of their thoughts. Thank you!!

A very brief illustrated summary of the situation was distributed, and the following presentations were made:

Andrew Mottram (Worcs Diocese Heritage Buildings and Community Development Officer) urged us to improve our church's usefulness by returning to the model of the church in medieval times when it was the lively heart of all aspects of life in its community (not just the spiritual). His point was that church congregations can no longer expect to be able to maintain their buildings with traditional 'giving and 'fundraising' alone, and need to find innovative ways of using the church to respond to the needs of the community and bring in the necessary income stream.

Di Holloway (Suckley Church treasurer and Chairman of Suckley school governors) said that maintaining Suckley church had become unsustainable for the present small congregation (electoral roll 36), and church closure looked inevitable unless new ways of creating the income needed were found. There have been many successful and enjoyable fundraising events in recent years; but in a village with only 219 households, fundraising is not enough as a reliable source of significant regular income. She emphasized that the proposed new large community space would complement the present Village Hall facilities, which would continue to be needed. The PCC wants to work with the Hill Trust in looking after the needs of our community.

Matt Meckin (Suckley School head teacher) said that the school is successful and numbers of pupils are increasing. However the present school site was too small to provide some statutory aspects of the school curriculum. The expanding school would benefit enormously if able to use the space available within the adjacent church (for assemblies, PE and dance, drama etc.). The school use could then generate both capital funding and an ongoing income stream for the church, which would improve the long term viability of both school and church within our village.

ANDREW JELLEY OPTICIANS

Andrew Jelley BSc (Hons) FC Optom
Teresa Davies FBDO
Duncan Edwards FBDO
Alex Lane BSc (Hons) MC Optom

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AUGUST 2011

Renewing a vehicle license at the Post Office

Now that Alfrick Post Office has closed, we have to travel to further afield to find a PO to renew our car tax. The DVLA licenses 4000 Post Offices to carry out the tax disc service on their behalf, but when a PO closes that license goes back into a pool and the DVLA then decide where in the country the need is greatest. The DVLA does offer alternative renewal methods (telephone, internet) but there are many people in the village who don't have a computer and who prefer to visit their local Post Office and to pay either by cash or cheque.

It would be more convenient (and more fuel efficient) if Suckley Post Office were able to issue licenses - servicing Suckley and the nearby parishes. It is up to us, the local residents to request that the DVLA award our PO with this service. Please let them know the need for this service in the area is quite acute, by putting your thoughts on paper and send them to the DVLA and your local MP.

DVLA by Post
Vehicle Customer Services (VCS)
DVLA
SA99 1AR

Local MP by Post
Harriett Baldwin MP
Malvern Hills Science Park
Geraldine Road
Malvern
WR14 3SZ

DVLA by email
<http://www.direct.gov.uk/emaildvla>

Local MP by email
harriett.baldwin.mp@parliament.uk

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A timely reminder!

With autumn on the horizon, now is a good time to arrange for your boiler to be serviced before the weather starts to turn. Call Mike Taylor on 07734 812027 or 884280

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FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

AUGUST 2011

Anne Lewis (Suckley churchwarden) looked at our own church building, and then at examples of reordering projects in other churches, to help stimulate our thoughts and ideas of how Suckley church's future might take shape.

By dividing into 3 groups, individuals were able to discuss their ideas and their reservations, which were then summarized for all to hear.

In summary, there was general acceptance of the inevitable need for reordering if we want to keep our Church open. (Reordering is the term used when a church makes the structural changes required to respond to the changing needs of its community). There was complete agreement that 1) the church should provide basic facilities (toilets, kitchen and heating) and 2) the project should not compromise the priority use of the church as a church e.g. the facilities for services, weddings and funerals. (We would expect they would be greatly improved!)

The PCC now has a better understanding what is, and is not wanted. A mailing list will enable communication with those who wish to be involved. There will be a 'Focus Group' with representation from a wide spectrum of the village, and consideration of a new 'Friends of Suckley church'. When the holiday season is over the PCC will be working on the thoughts and ideas gathered, and the next public meeting will be later in the year.

We will need a professional fundraiser to help us find all the likely funding sources. For interest, when the recent major tower repairs were needed, the church (with the help of a professional fundraiser) wrote to 44 charitable trusts, which contributed £47,800 towards the £65,000 raised. (Fundraising, individual donations, and recovery of tax (Gift Aid) made up the total.) The trusts written to were those interested in 'church buildings' and 'English heritage' projects. If our present reordering project is of major relevance to the school, then that will enable us to approach a completely new set of Trusts and Charitable organisations whose interest is in Education and Community projects.

The PCC has sought to find as wide a response from the community as possible. If you would like to send your thoughts and ideas, receive a questionnaire, or join the mailing list please contact Anne Lewis or Di Holloway (annelewis@doctors.or.uk, 01886 884552, or diana@holloways.demon.co.uk)

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AUGUST 2011

Recipes from the Suckley Masterchef

Chilled Vine Tomato and Red Pepper Soup

This is probably the best soup you could have chilled; sun ripened tomatoes, crimson red peppers all full of the flavours of summer. Once made it will keep chilled in the fridge for up to 4 days, or freeze up to 3 months. In this recipe I use Crème Fraîche and spring onions to garnish it, however there are many other ways to finish it, pesto, truffle oil, picked herbs to mention but a few.

Serves 4 persons

2½lb x ripe vine tomatoes split in half
2 x large red peppers, de-seeded
4 x cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
1 x large onion, peeled and chopped
2oz x tomato puree
4flox x olive oil
Salt and ground white pepper

12tspn x Crème Fraîche
4 x spring onions, finely chopped
Juice of ½ lemon

1. In a deep saucepan pour the oil, heat gently and add the garlic and onion, cook until tender
2. When tender, add the red peppers and tomato puree, again cook until tender
3. Add the tomatoes and cover with a lid simmer for approximately 25 minutes, place all the contents of the pan into a liquidiser and blend well for at least 4-5 minutes
4. When blended pass the soup through a coarse sieve, twice, and chill for 24 hours
5. Mix the Crème Fraîche with the spring onions and lemon juice
6. Correct the seasoning and serve into pre-chilled soup bowls, spoon in 1 teaspoon of the Crème Fraîche into each bowl.

The soup ought to be the right consistency, however if you feel it is too thick simply add a drop of tomato juice.

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

AUGUST 2011

The Knapp and Papermill Open Day 2011

Tina Henderson, Warden at the Papermill Nature Reserve writes on this year's Open Day event and what the visitors enjoyed at this gem of reserve on our doorstep.

Sunday 24th April 2011 was the day of the annual Open Day at the Knapp and Papermill Nature Reserve, Alfrick Pound. The glorious weather meant that visitors were able to enjoy the reserve at its best. This time of year is popular at the reserve especially for the show of Green winged orchids on Big Meadow. This year they were indeed showing in profusion and in such varied colours from the deep purple, to salmon pinks and white. Of course, another popular siting here are the bluebells. Visitors who joined the guided walks were shown the very best of these at the Knapp as well as being given an insight of the work of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

The Open Day also offered the opportunity for visitors to talk to various wildlife experts from reptiles and amphibians to Bats and Bees. As wardens, it really is interesting listening to some of the discussions that crop up, such as the lady who really didn't know what to do about the bees who had moved into her loft space to a young gentleman who was interested in how to establish a successful wildlife pond. The younger generation joined in a variety of pond dipping activities with the Watch Group Team. They found themselves inundated with enthusiastic youngsters eager to search the river for hidden treasures.

After a relaxing walk, Visitors were able to enjoy a variety of refreshments including a pig roast. As all the stalls are held in the Orchard, our Open Day is the one day when visitors can enjoy munching something nice actually on the reserve, with some wonderful ambient music in the background. It really is quite surreal.

Of course the success of the Open Day is all down to numerous people working away in the background supporting the Wardens in a number of ways. This includes advertising, offering others the opportunity to hold a stall in quite a unique setting, not forgetting the wonderful donations of home-made goodies! If you are interested in joining us next year, please don't hesitate to contact the Wardens, Fergus or Tina on 01886 832065.

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AUGUST 2011

Suckley Village Hall

THE HILL TRUST

The Hill Trust is the body which looks after your Village Hall, which is held in trust for the benefit of all the residents of Suckley. The Management Committee maintains the fabric of the Hall and deals with all the bookings and everyday running of this facility. We would also like to improve the Hall for the future (we do not receive any outside funding.) How can you help?

The Committee would love to have a few new members. It is not an arduous task and many hands make light work. We already have a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, so you do not need to worry that you will be bullied into those jobs! Please give Carol a ring on 884210 if you feel you could offer help or want further information. Most importantly, please support our fundraising events which are usually fun evenings and are well advertised around Suckley and in local publications.

Without your support, we shall be unable to make the Hall a place you can be proud of.

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

... **Saturday September 10th: Talk by Brian Draper**
"Where to watch Wildlife along the River Severn".

The evening starts at 7.30 p.m. and costs £4 per person. Light refreshments will be available to purchase during the evening.

... **Saturday October 1st: Quiz Night with Gwyn Williams**

Teams of four (although we can make up teams for you). Evening starts at 7.30 p.m. and costs £4 per person. Bring your own drink and nibbles. Be prepared for fun and laughter and groans of despair! Prizes for winners and the losers.

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

AUGUST 2011

Events in Suckley over the coming months

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	12th August, 2nd September, 14th
Suckley - Cross Keys 1.45-2.00pm	October, 4th November, 25th
New Road Estate - 2.10-2.25pm	November, 16th December
Longley Green Post Office 2.40-3.35pm	

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

NEWS FROM THE GREENHOUSE CAFE

Congratulations to The Greenhouse Cafe at Holloways. They have won 'Highly Commended' for the coveted Taste of Worcestershire Award (and that means 2nd place in the entire county of Worcestershire!) Well done Gill and all her staff.

Enjoy a delicious award-winning lunch at The Greenhouse soon. Did you know the cafe is licensed and can cater for parties?

For reservations call 01886 884665. The Greenhouse is open 9am - 5pm Monday to Saturday and on Sundays, until the end of August, 11am - 4pm.

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