

OCTOBER 2011



Happy Anniversary.

This is the first anniversary issue of Suckley's Free Community Newsletter - appropriately it's a paper anniversary!

Started as a result of the Suckley Community Plan organised by Councillor Andrew Grieve, the newsletter has grown and grown - going from 8 to 28 pages and now including over 25 adverts from local businesses. This not only provides a continually updated list of your local suppliers and services, but also means we don't have to charge for the newsletter - everyone in the village receives a free copy.

In the last year, the newsletter has brought you a range of articles, from greyhounds to bumble bees, from secret armies in the Suckley Hills to memories of a much missed friend. Contributions have come from all over the village - and we now have some wonderful regular features: from green fingered Adrian Holmes to our resident Masterchef Pat McDonald; health news from Knightwick Surgery; postings from the farm gate courtesy of Jill Hammonds; Parish Council reports from Diane Taylor; and Village Hall entertainment and activities from Mo Dutta and Carol Boughton. That's not to mention the individual contributions, keeping you informed of village events and activities including updates on the Suckley Community Plan.

We are very grateful to all those who have contributed to the newsletter, and our thanks to those who have given us some great feedback. But we still need more! Can you, or someone you know, tell us something we don't know about our village or its surroundings? Want to share your passion or tell us what's on at the farm or the school or the pub? We are always looking for new stories and would love to hear from you. Or perhaps you would like to help us pull the newsletter together? The more the merrier - just give us a call!

We hope you've enjoyed reading it and that we've helped some of you to publicise and get support for your local activity, event or local business. It's your newsletter, please help us make sure it's the newsletter you want.

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 December

Content for newsletter to be submitted **25th November 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 & 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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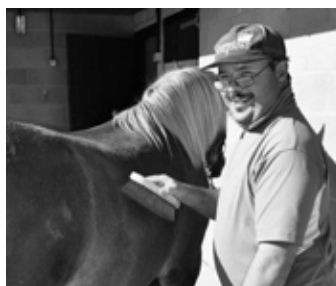
Acton Mill Care Farm

Care farming is the therapeutic use of farming practices. Care farms utilise the whole or part of a farm to provide health, social or educational care services for vulnerable individuals / groups of people. In the beautiful setting of Acton Mill, Suckley has an excellent care farm facility, managed by Matt Hooper. Visitors to the farm are in no doubt that Matt is much admired and respected by those who work with him, tending the livestock, managing the land or nurturing the vegetable patch. We've asked Matt tell us a little of the history of the farm and brings us up to date on its role as a care farm.

At Acton Mill Care Farm we aim to provide fun and new learning experiences to all who attend our facility. We are a small 21 acre farm located in the picturesque countryside of the Herefordshire & Worcestershire borders. Our family has lived in the village of Suckley for more than 160 years; and one of our ancestors assisted in the building of the local church after it was destroyed in a fire.

We have been living here as a family at Acton Mill Farm for a little over 8 and a half years and there have been many changes and renovations done to improve our farm. Acton Mill itself has an interesting history - there has been a mill here since about 1614 - and comes with its own history book "The Pingree Legacy" that details the life of Job Pingree, a Mormon, who lived in the house in the 1800's. Job's father, who died when Job was six, made his living running a grist mill, milling gorse etc for animal feed. Over the centuries, the mill has been used to grind corn, full wool and crush salt to fine crystals. The farm also made cider, the apples being trampled solid into large sacks, pressed and the juice fermented.

Now, today as a Care Farm, those attending Acton Mill get to work alongside cattle, sheep, pigs, ponies, donkeys, goats, rabbits and chickens – for some this will be the first experience of being near such animals. They are taught how to care and look after them, learning how different animals have different needs. This includes feeding, exercising and cleaning of animals – feeding the lambs being a favourite job - and making sure their enclosures are secure. We also teach them how to care for the natural environment – our 'forest school'



Don't know who is enjoying this more. Me or the horse?!

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– where they learn skills such as coppicing and woodland conservation work. Horticulture also plays a part of the farm with the students sowing and planting fruit, vegetables and flowers, nurturing them while they grow. The resulting produce from the farm is then harvested and sold locally.

This excerpt by Brandon, taken from his school's blog, tells how much his visit to the farm means to him and how good behaviour is a reward in itself: *"Yesterday at the farm I done forest school all day.... i love it at the farm it is treat that my teacher pays a lot of money for us to go there so we should be lucky because no other school gets what we get so we all should be on our best behaviour at the farm and think of those who dont have as much treats as us so before you play up at the farm think first.the best present for me is being good because if you be good you get rewarded and when you get rewarded you become more happy and when your happy everyone becomes happy it is not hard to be good so why dont everyone give it a try because like i said it is not hard and when i say that i mean that. The good thing about forest schools is that it teaches you what to do if you ever get stuck in a forest full of all different things so be good and you might learn a lot from it i am not just saying this i mean this you really do learn a lot from it. be happy."*



*Now which one will I have for tea?
Just joking - this collie loves to watch the rabbits.*

Those attending the care farm, which is classed as a social enterprise, are funded and supported by social services, charitable bodies or individual families. Our philosophy here at Acton Mill is to provide a friendly and enjoyable learning opportunity that is designed to promote each participant's personal development. On our farm, we encourage participants to become more independent, self-sufficient and to learn self-discipline. It is important to us that we operate a safe working environment, in which they feel secure and comfortable, enabling them to develop skills, gain experience and flourish as individuals.

To find out more on Acton Mill Care Farm, you are very welcome to come and visit, to see if we are what you are looking for. Please get in touch with Matt Hooper, Care Farm Manager, Acton Mill Farm, Suckley. Tel: 01886 884227, mobile: 07730 217481 or 07929102338. Or please email: rosemaryhooper1956@yahoo.co.uk More information can be found on our website: www.actonmillcarefarm.co.uk

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Local author, Steve Gray and his new novel.

Steve Gray has lived in Suckley for 16 years. He runs a successful business providing transport solutions for the less able but in his spare time, he writes. His novel "Quinn's Way" has recently been published and here he provides us with a taster of what is all about....

Joe Quinn, former used car salesman and now a millionaire property developer and gentleman racing driver whose life turned on a tragic twist of fate. Charismatic, hugely successful and never without a beautiful woman on his arm or in his bed, Quinn is the envy of his peers. A man who appears to have everything. A winner. But he remains driven yet haunted by his past from which there appears to be no escape. Then one dark, cold November evening, a young wife and mother is found brutally slain on the drive of her secluded home. As a former lover Quinn falls under suspicion.

"Quinn's Way" is a story of love, ambition, betrayal, murder and revenge combined with an often controversial look behind the scenes of the retail motor industry. Will Quinn prevail once more? His way - Quinn's Way.

Steve Gray was born and raised in the small Lincolnshire village of Burton-upon-Stather just north of the steel manufacturing centre of Scunthorpe. The youngest of four brothers he was educated at the world renowned John Leggott College in the town. Following a number of sales positions he eventually decided to combine his passion for selling with his love of all things automotive and entered the retail motor industry where he remained for over thirty highly successful years, principally with Hartwell PLC. Serious ill health led to his early retirement. Following a period of recuperation he now covers the length and breadth of the country providing transport solutions for the less able. He is an occasional writer of articles dealing with a wide range of subjects. His works have been featured in a number of international publications.

Married with two grown up children and two grandchildren, he is an amateur sportsman of some note and a former Kart racing champion. When not working he and his wife of almost forty years, Heather, divide their time between homes in Suckley and North Cornwall. Quinn's Way is his first novel. Buy now from the online bookstore at www.authorhouse.co.uk Amazon, or to order from W. H. Smith, Waterstones or all quality bookstores. ISBN: 978-1-4567-7175-1(SC)

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Suckley 'Neighbourhood Development Plan' – your voice and views really count

Your voice and views always have counted but at long last central government is also giving recognition to the important role of local people and communities at parish level and what they are and can do to improve the quality of life for everyone.

Have you heard of the Localism Bill which is expecting to become law sometime during 2012? It's really important and in different ways gives us a greater voice and influence over local matters. But we need to understand it and then use it. In summary these are the key points for us to take note of in Suckley at this stage:

- **Neighbourhood Planning – what is it?** Instead of local people being told what to do the Government thinks local communities should have genuine opportunities to influence the future of the places where they live. The Bill will introduce a new right for communities to draw up a '**Neighbourhood Development Plan**'
- **Neighbourhood Development Plan – what can it achieve?** It will allow communities to come together through a local parish council or neighbourhood forum and say where they think things like new houses, businesses/shops and services should go – and what they should look like
- **Neighbourhood Development Plan – what might it look like?** It could be very simple, or go into considerable detail where people want. Neighbourhoods draw up their plans in a way which identifies their own needs and look to address these.
- **Neighbourhood Development Plan – how will the Government help?** The Government will fund sources of help and advice for communities. This will help people take advantage of the opportunity to exercise influence over decisions that make a big difference to their lives.

In summary the Localism Bill says:

'We want to pass significant new rights direct to communities and individuals, making it easier for them to get things done and achieve their ambitions for the place where they live.'

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Suckley residents are good at this sort of stuff. We are in a great position to meet this agenda building on the significant amount of work previously done in 2001 when it published a Parish Plan. The Plan identified a number of priorities including flooding/speeding and volume of traffic/formation of Neighbourhood Watch/request for cricket team/keeping the primary school open.

This plan was updated in 2010 when the approach was to focus attention on specific areas via small task groups who met on a number of occasions to identify key issues and possible improvements. This included the development of the Health and Well Being Group and Play and Leisure Group all of which have been reported on in previous issues of the community newsletter alongside other initiatives.

So we can keep ahead of the game in terms of the new developments and be in a good position to apply and access any monies available via Central, Local, or District Government, the Parish Council in July 2011 (with support and active encouragement from District Councillors) decided it would lead a review of existing plan/s and initiatives taking place within the Parish. The outcome of this review, which will include a community consultation process, will form the basis of the Suckley Neighbourhood Development Plan ready for 2012.

What can you do as a Suckley resident?

- Attend a Parish open meeting to hear more about the Neighbourhood Development Plan – this will take place in October or November. Details to be confirmed
- Think about what knowledge/skills/experience you could contribute to the development of the Plan
- Respond to a Suckley Community Questionnaire
- Talk with your Parish Councillor/s about your views on priorities for the community

What next?

- Look up 'Localism Bill' on the web and find out more for yourself about what's happening
- Look out for notification of an open Parish meeting sometime in October/ November which will be your opportunity to contribute at an early stage the shaping the Suckley Neighbourhood Development Plan process

Mark Molloy – Team Leader, Suckley Parish Development Plan

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Autumn farm notes....

Jill Hammonds' amuses once again with her anecdotes and going's on at Pewcroft although it's not good news with the TB testing.

....where did the summer go?

I blinked and missed it I think. The hot Easter was the only time I remember having four warm days together. Dry and cloudy weather seem to be constant through the summer months. Despite this the cattle appear to be in good condition to face the coming winter. That includes Panda's twins Robbie and Rosie born in August. Speedy, Weedy, and Greedy our April Fool's Day 12 year old cow triplets have all had twins in the past, but also had 9 single calves in ten years breeding! It is very, very rare to have calf triplets born and survive so they have done really well.

The dreaded TB testing results showed up three 'inconclusives' meaning that they have to be tested yet again. They are three we bought 18 months ago, and so have been tested clear here four or five times. It is strange that the other cattle, all home bred, tested clear this time as last time, and only the non home bred ones showed up. We have to endure another test in October and the positive ones will be slaughtered even though they are suckling young calves. It is absolutely certain that the badgers cause TB in cattle. Perhaps the badger lovers would like to come and witness the cattle demise, and explain to us why the badgers have killed off most of the hedgehogs, and eaten lots of the eggs of ground nesting birds. The reason is simple, there are too many badgers. The government seem reluctant to cull some of them, and yet they don't mind sending decent cows to death and paying farmers puny compensation.

On a happier note we have been told by some friends that they saw an otter at the bottom of our drive recently on their way home from the hunt puppy show. I am sorry to say I accused her of seeing things, or having a drop too much at the 'do' but all four of their family saw it and their car followed it down the road into a neighbour's garden. They are knowledgeable country people so I now believe it to be true. We were lucky to see otters on the Isle of Mull in the summer, but it would be even more of a thrill to see one in Suckley.

Talking of holidays we are getting the hang of "staycation." (Who invented that ghastly word?)

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With three year old Kate and one year old Jessica to look after for the weekend what should we do with them but take them to a farm! I totally recommend Shortwood near Bromyard for a family outing. The girls enjoyed holding kittens and guinea pigs and sitting on Primrose the cow. Kate was able to milk the cow and have some warm milk squirted into her hand for their cats to lick. Feeding potatoes to the outdoor pigs and piglets, and throwing wheat to the ducks, geese and gleenies was just as popular as the tractor ride and the excellent café. Best of all, the cutest baby animal we have ever seen in 40 years of farming. A four day old donkey foal. Ahhhhh.....

The following day we all enjoyed a boating afternoon on the newly opened section of canal from Droitwich to Ladywood. It was great to see the work of the Canal Restoration Trust, and we hired their boat, the Pamela May and her crew. Its great value for ten people, three hours gentle relaxation with tea included for five pounds each. We hope to return to the area to walk the towpath down to Porter's Mill then the Severn at Hawford.

Our harvest was completed early this year. All was safely gathered in by the end of July, and John even had all the straw in the barn by then. It is a great relief to have it done, but an even better feeling comes when the barley is sold. It should hopefully be enough to buy the seeds and pay the contractors for ploughing, planting, combining and baling.

The hens have a touch of summer madness. I found about 12 walnuts in the nest-boxes and one hen was trying very hard to sit on hers to hatch them out. With the outer green covering on top of the brown shells walnuts are quite as big as a hen's egg, so a hen couldn't get it in her beak to put it in the nest box. How they got there is a complete mystery. Squirrels may have carried them in I suppose, but I think it unlikely that they would carry the walnuts in through the hen house past the hens into the nest-boxes.

The allotments have been very productive and a great joy to us and the people working them. I have been overwhelmed by the goodwill there. Some people have already paid up for next season, six months before they have to. Nearly all of the 28 gardeners have *voluntarily* paid for the water they used this dry summer. There is an unofficial competition for the most quantity and variety of fruit and veg., and I am often asked to admire the largest pumpkin. It gives me

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great pleasure to tell the allotment holder ours are bigger on our muckheap!

Here's the advert – we hope to plough up another row of allotments if there is enough call for them. They are 60 feet x 20 feet, and the rent is £2 / week. Free well rotted manure is delivered to each plot as requests come. Please phone us if you are interested 01886 884221, or come along and see the field for yourself along Knightwick road, Suckley.

Recipes from the Suckley Masterchef

Roast partridge, glazed white turnips & Madeira sauce

“This of all the game birds is my favourite, these birds are at their best in the Autumn at the beginning of the season when they are still full of left over corn from harvest time, I can recollect my father putting the ‘chaff’ that collected on the combine harvester and scattering it at the edge of the wood, and watching both pheasants and partridges carefully taking the remaining pieces of corn”

“This dish is a fairly complicated dish but is probably worth the effort and will become a firm favourite in your culinary repertoire year on year. Serve with rösti potatoes and glazed button onions.”

Roast Partridge

Serves 4 persons

4 x Partridges	24 baby white turnips (with tops)
8 x cloves garlic, crushed	100g butter
4 x bay leaves	4 x portions of Madeira Sauce
50ml x olive oil	(see next page)
Salt and ground white pepper	

1. Preheat oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6
2. Place inside the carcass of each bird 2 cloves of garlic and a bay leaf and then season with salt and pepper
3. Tie with string the legs and the parsons nose together giving the bird a nice firm shape, and then seal the bird in a roasting tray with the oil and place in

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the oven for 10-12 minutes, remove from the oven and allow to rest for a further 10-12 minutes.

4. Remove the tops (don't throw away) and peel the turnips still leaving ½ inch of green stem on each and place into a saucepan with the butter, a small amount of water and some salt. These will take approximately 15 minutes to cook until tender, just before they are ready add the tops to the same pan for 2 minutes, then drain off all the liquid.

Heat through the onions, sauce and potatoes, remove the legs and breast from each bird and sit a rosti in the centre of each plate with the partridge on top, place the turnips around with the green tops and pour over the sauce.

Madeira Sauce

Makes 4 portions

500g Chicken wings, diced	6 black peppercorns, coarsely crushed
4 shallots, sliced	1/4 bottle Madeira
12 button mushrooms, sliced	1 tbspn red wine vinegar
4 cloves of garlic, sliced	1 litre chicken stock
2 sprigs thyme	25ml olive oil
1 small bay leaf	

1. In a saucepan heat half the oil and sear the chicken wings, until golden brown turning frequently
2. In a separate frying pan with the remainder oil add the shallots, mushrooms, thyme, bay leaf, peppercorns and garlic.
3. Saute over a moderate to high heat until light brown in colour
4. Add the vinegar and reduce until all the moisture has evaporated.
5. Add the shallots, mushrooms etc. to the meat. Pour over the Madeira. Reduce this by half.
6. Add the stock and bring to the boil, skim and reduce the heat and simmer for 30-40mins.
7. Allow to rest for 5mins off the heat, pass through a fine muslin cloth several times to remove any impurities and this should give a wonderful clear sauce.

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Adrian Holmes in his final 'wildlife friendly gardening' article, looks at the coming winter and plants that give shelter and food for wildlife in the garden.

In the bleak midwinter....

...as Christina Rossetti's late 19th century poem goes (but most probably better known after it became the basis of the Christmas carol set to music by Holst in the early 20th century.) The poem didn't have a lot (in fact - anything) to do with gardening, but spare a thought for the wildlife which has to endure 'frost, moaning winds, earth as hard as iron and water like a stone, where snow had fallen and more snow lay on snow, long, long ago.' Sound familiar? Last two winters?

In this final gardening wildlife article we look at the winter survival kit: shelter and nourishment.

For shelter it has to be evergreens and even some robust perennials. Both these groups have the added benefits for us humans in that they add structure and interest to the winter garden. Taking the perennials first, you're looking for plants with flower spikes or foliage that won't be reduced to an evil looking slimy sludge at the first frost. The flower spikes of *Acanthus spinosus* - commonly known as bear's breeches (who on earth thought that one up?) - is good as the heads will last for months (but alas not the leaves which do go mushy like over boiled cabbages). *Crocsmia* flower stems are made of stern stuff, as are the spikes of the roundheaded leek - *allium sphaerocephalon*. Evening primroses, verbascums, sedums and various grasses will stand well into winter before dying back, and some marginally hardy plants, such as penstemons, are best left alone until late winter/early spring anyway since the top growth protects the crown during the worst of the winter. There are numerous evergreens available and they can be as small or as large as you like. Obvious ones are conifers (yes, including *leylandii* - a boring hedge but a fine tree in its own right), hollies, box, *pyracantha* and *sarcococca* - a brilliant shrub for a shady corner with a scent in deep winter to rival a rose in summer. If you do feel compelled to tidy your borders, shove some of the leaves and debris towards the back or under a hedge for a cosy niche for at least some of the little creatures.

Secondly, nourishment. Scent is the key in winter. It has to be powerful in order to carry any distance in the cool air. Big audacious flowers would not survive the weather, so the winter flowers are small, but what a punch they pack! Get

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a whiff of a *sarcococca*, or a *viburnum*, or a *daphne*, or a witch hazel and you'll understand what I mean. Even though honeybees won't appear until spring, bumblebees can be stirring at any time and you only need a couple of *viburnums* to provide flowers in these dark months. *Viburnum x bodnantense* 'Dawn' is one of the best and well known. It is an early flowerer which will go on and on from November, albeit intermittently if the weather turns really cold, while hybrids of *V. carlesii* will flower by April if not before. And finally, there are other plants such as the winter flowering *Iris unguicularis* and *Narcissus* 'Cedric Morris' which given a warm snug position can be showing off before the old year is out.

Our journey round the garden for wildlife for a year draws to a close. Inevitably, the surface has only been scratched and there is so much more that you can do to make your patch more wildlife friendly than has been possible to cover in these articles. It is a question of helping nature find its own balance, while having a great garden for you and your friends to enjoy, and that can't be bad, can it?



Hamamelis is a winter-flowering shrub, commonly known as witch hazel. Its spicy fragrance and spidery flowers in yellow, orange and reds make it a must for the winter garden.

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Health & Well Being Group

Thank you very much to those of you who have offered their services as volunteers for the proposed Good Neighbour Scheme. We would like to remind you, and inform those who may want to volunteer, that a meeting has been called for us to look at the services that you as individuals would like to offer, and the best way forward to achieve these aims.

Volunteering is a highly rewarding activity because it benefits not only the recipients of the service but the community as a whole.

If you have already offered your services, or would like to do so, we shall be delighted to see you at 7.30 pm on Thursday the 20th October in the parish hall.

Would you kindly complete and bring with you the following questionnaire.

.....

Would you like to volunteer to help? What could you help with?

Occasional transport	Yes/No
Collecting prescriptions/pensions/shopping	Yes/No
Minor household repairs/assistance	Yes/No
Helping with pets	Yes/No
Helping with one-off garden tidy up	Yes/No
Form filling	Yes/No
Befriending/ advocacy	Yes/No
Could you hold the service phone on a rota basis	Yes/No
Other help/skills please specify	Yes/No

Name.....Address.....

.....

Phone No.....Mobile Phone.....

E-mail address.....

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Suckley Church -

Suckley Harvest lunch

Sunday October 2nd after the All Age Harvest service there will be a simple homemade hot lunch (£5 per head, £2 for under 16's) which will be served in the Greenhouse. All welcome. To assist our knowing catering numbers please let Jill Hammonds know if you would like to come. 01886 884221.

Suckley Services in the next few weeks are as follows:

October 2nd All Age service for Harvest Festival 11am (a lively informal service when we celebrate the Harvest). Afterwards there is the Harvest lunch (see above)

October 9th Evensong 6pm (a quiet formal service, without hymns)

October 16th we go to Alfrick for their All Age service at 11am

October 23rd we go to Leigh for their Harvest/ Patronal communion service

October 30th Holy Communion with Sunday School 11am ('Common Worship' based)

November 6th All Age service (lively informal service) 11am

November 13th Remembrance and memorial service 6pm

November 20th we take our shoeboxes full of toys clothes and toiletries to Alfrick for their 'Shoebox Service' 11am

November 27th Holy Communion with Sunday School 11am ('Common Worship' based)

December 4th Christingle Service 4pm (note time!)

December 11th All Age service 11am (note time)

Watch out for Suckley Christmas services....December has lots of them!

Suckley Church reordering update.

The last of our three chosen architects visited at the end of September. We now await their feedback and ideas, based on the needs and priorities of the Church. Thank you to the many who have given the PCC their personal thoughts and feedback, thus helping provide appropriate guidance for the architects, and stimulate our looking into setting up a 'Friends of Suckley Church'. There will be another public meeting when we have all the necessary information. Watch this space for future dates and information!

Anne Lewis (church warden 01886 884552)

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OCTOBER 2011

News from Suckley School

Open Morning Information — November 3rd 2011

We would like to invite you to come and see our school. We will be hosting two introductory group talks and tours of the school. The first at 9:15 am and the second at 10:30 am. Please contact the school Secretary to book one of these slots. Or alternatively just come in during the morning to have a look around the school.

Official Academy Opening — November 3rd 2011

We converted to Academy Status (through our own choice) on August 1st and we would like to celebrate the achievement with the children at 11:45am. They will be presented with a small memento and there will also be an environmentally friendly balloon release! We are hoping to secure a very special guest to do the opening and present a new plaque to the school.

Any members of the community are welcome, please inform the Secretary if you would like to attend.

Please call the school 01886 884283 or e-mail: office@suckley.worcs.sch.uk. Visit our website www.suckley.worcs.sch.uk

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SURGERY NEWS - ISSUE 4 OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2011



..... News flash!

We are seeking to recruit a Senior Practice Nurse 20hrs p/w
Please contact Phil Popplewell on 01886 821279 Closing date 7th Oct

REMINDER If you have not yet booked your flu jab we have appointments left on Sat 22nd Oct. Patients who are not eligible for the vaccine at the Surgery may purchase them at Boots or Tesco Pharmacies.

FOCUS ON: Patient Participation Group

The Surgery is participating in a national NHS initiative to find out the views and opinions of our service users. Its purpose is to ensure that patients are involved in decisions about the range and quality of services provided by the Practice. Accordingly, we have invited a group of patients and staff, representative of our entire practice population, to form a focus group to discuss and make suggestions regarding comments and issues highlighted in our patient surveys. The result of the consultations will be published on our website and in the surgery in due course.

INFORMATION NEEDED! To help us allocate resources appropriately, we are updating our patient records to include the smoking status of patients aged 16 and over. You may receive a phone call asking for this information but it would help us if you could text or email your status. Please state full name, date of birth and whether you are a current, non or ex smoker. Many thanks. Text to: 07745 209308 Email to: sharon.salter@nhs.net

SPOTLIGHT ON: The District Nurses

Although not directly employed by us, we are very fortunate at Knightwick Surgery to have the District Nursing Team based with us on-site. This gives us a unique and valuable insight into the domiciliary needs and requirements of our patients which in turn helps us to provide the best possible care programmes involving, when necessary, outside agencies. (Read more in the full newsletter)

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.

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Guided Geology Walk Saturday 8th October

10am start at Alfrick Village Hall / GR: SO 747532. WR6 5HW

Walk along part of the Geopark Way circular trail in the parishes of Alfrick and Suckley. The walk explores the geology seen along the trail. Limestone and shale which formed some 420 million years ago containing fossils of sea creatures, together with 230 million years old red sandstones and conglomerates can be seen along the walk. The landscape along the trail is varied allowing for wonderful vistas across the Worcestershire countryside.

Booking essential: Phone: 01905 855184. E-mail: eht@worc.ac.uk Cost: £1.50

- The walk will be up to 5 miles. There are some hill sections along the walk
- Estimated finish time of 3.00pm, back at Alfrick Village Hall
- Please wear sturdy footwear and suitable winter clothing
- Please bring a packed lunch with you
- Please note: This event will not be attended by trained medical staff; those attending do so at their own risk.

Suckley Parish Council Meeting 12th September 2011

SPEEDING - The Clerk reported that she had received further complaints about speeding, some of which were just outside the parish boundary. Co Cllr Clive Smith confirmed that he was progressing the purchase of the VAS camera – to be shared with four parishes – Suckley, Leigh & Bransford, Alfrick & Lulsley, Knightwick & Doddenham. The VAS camera can only be sited on roads with a 30 mph speed limit, and these sites have to be approved by the Highways Engineer. Four sites within Suckley have been identified by the Council – the bank by the Bruff; Knightwick Road (village hall); Longley Green (Grove Hill Drive); Holloways (school turn in from Knightwick Road). Please contact the Clerk Diana Taylor at dtaylor@suckley@msn.com or any of the Councillors if there are any other sites you feel would be suitable for the VAS camera.

CO-OPTIONS – PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES - The Council received five excellent applications for the two Councillor vacancies. After a series of votes, the successful candidates were Mr Barry Kearley and Mr Peter Whatley, who will now be formally co-opted onto the Council at their next meeting in November.

HIGHWAYS – Grit/Salt Bins - Worcestershire County Council are still looking for contractors willing to help clear snow from the highways during periods 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. Despite making an application for extra grit/salt bins in February this year, our request did not meet the Highways criteria for supply of bins. Because of cutbacks the County Council is unable to provide any further bins, but they are now proposing that Parish Councils purchase their own bins (which would be green to differentiate them from Highways yellow bins). The cost will be £175 per filled bin, delivered to sites within the parish. Proposed sites are each side of Knowl Bank and at Stocks Cross Roads. These sites have to be digitally photographed and then approved by the Highways Department. The Parish Council will also have to arrange for supplies of 1 tonne bags of salt/grit to be safely stored for “topping up” and road use during the winter. The Council agreed to order three bins,

subject to clarification that the sites would be where local people wanted them to be; identifying a local site for storage; the cost of topping up supplies and how the County Council would deliver these supplies. The Clerk is to make further enquiries.

WOODLAND ROAD - Good news! The Clerk had heard from Paul Bingham/ Albert Higgins at Festival Housing. Work will commence on 3rd October for about three weeks.

E-on Power will be doing the cable diversion on 6th October. Trenching works across the car park will start on 4th October. Paul Bingham has written to all residents regarding the work schedule.

FOOTPATHS - Footpath Wardens Richard Harward and Peter Markins went to inspect the path from Mill Coppice to Archenhills Cottage and found to their pleasant surprise that a notoriously bad length of footpath had been cut back to a high standard. The Wardens also looked at a hazardous place where the footpath from Chapels Farm crosses the brook on to Stocks Farm. A spring-loaded pedestrian gate was all that prevented cattle getting across into the Stocks Farm hopyards. Using materials supplied by Mr Capper they made a double compartment so that if a beast got through the gate it would still have to jump the stile to reach the hops! They also found damage to finger posts up Crews Hill on the Baston Hall estate. Direction posts had also been pushed over and left lying on the ground. Delivery of replacements is now awaited.

VILLAGE FACILITIES - This is a survey being carried out by Malvern Hills District Council as part of evidence gathering work for the South Worcestershire Development Plan. The survey is to assess the existing provision of social and community facilities within the rural areas. For the first time this survey also includes a section on internet (broadband) accessibility to ascertain internet speed. Could you please contact the Clerk Diana Taylor at dtaylor@suckley@msn.com or Tel 01684 569430 if you could help with this Speedtest, which requires Flash V10 or later. Many thanks.

NEXT MEETING DATE - Although the next Parish Council Meeting date is 14th November, this may have to be moved as the Clerk, Diana Taylor, will be going into hospital for a knee operation (date not yet known).

OCTOBER 2011

Suckley Village Hall

THE HILL TRUST

We had a disappointing response to our request for support for the Village Hall. The latest event, a talk by Brian Draper on 10th September, saw just 6 people attend. 2011 has been a very poor year as far as support has gone but we remain hopeful and are looking forward to a better turn out to the Quiz on 1st October.

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 there are places available.

...	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.
...	Suckley Christmas Fair The annual Christmas Fair is on Saturday December 3rd in Suckley Village Hall, organised jointly by the Village Hall, Suckley School and PreSchool and Suckley Church. Come and do your Christmas shopping, have lots of fun, and meet the rest of the village!

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.

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

OCTOBER 2011

Activities, Groups & Societies

Arty Farties Art Group

Although attendance has been spasmodic during the summer (there is always so much to do and places to see when the weather is good) we have met throughout. We have been mainly "doing our own thing" but, having been offered the services of a live model, we spent a couple of weeks looking at the proportions of the human body so that if we use the model during the winter, we shan't completely disgrace ourselves!

We would still welcome more members so if you dislike Mondays and want some light relief, do come and join us whatever your particular craft is. We meet Monday afternoons from 2 p.m. to about 4.30 p.m. Either pop into Suckley Village Hall while we are in session or call Carol on 01886 884210 for details.

Calling all Actors!!

There has been an Amateur Dramatic Society in Whitbourne for many years and during that time we have put on many pantos, plays, revues etc. in our Village Hall.

We now find ourselves short of people willing and able to take part in our planned pantomime in January/ February. We are therefore casting the net wider to attract new members from nearby villages who don't have their own Am Dram group. We would welcome children and adults, whether or not you have been on the stage before. Without new members we will not be able to stage the panto which would be a great shame.

If you are interested please call one of us for a chat as soon as possible. (We need to start rehearsals soon!) Call Jenny Williams on 01886 821137 or Rob Slater on 01886 821684

Mobile Library Timetable 2011

Dates:

Fridays only at	14th October, 4th November,
Suckley - Cross Keys 1.45-2.00pm	25th November, 16th December
New Road Estate - 2.10-2.25pm	
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@worcestershire.gov.uk

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