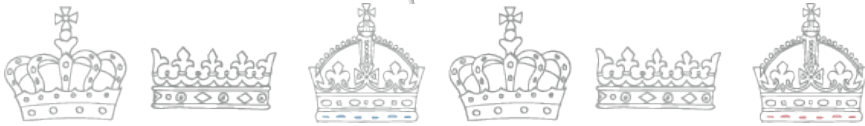


JUNE 2012

SUCKLEY NEWSLETTER



Suckley Celebrates...

.... the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with an exciting fun filled family event on 4th June.

The Suckley Village Playing Fields will be at the heart of the celebrations with an afternoon of family sports and fun with a bouncy castle, pony rides, donkeys, bric-a-brac and craft stalls. The highlight of the afternoon is a traditional FREE children's tea party with jelly and cake!

In the evening, a family barn dance, with music by the popular 'Stone the Crows Ceilidh Band', will be held in the marquee, and a (free-range) pig roast will be provided by Hill Top Farm, Cotheridge. With a bar and raffle with great prizes (weekend holiday break, horse riding lessons, Peacock Blue Mystery Box) - it is great opportunity to celebrate the Jubilee with friends and neighbours.

Entrance to the afternoon event is free for children (under 16) and just £1 for adults. Tickets for the Barn Dance are £8 adult / £4 child / £20 family (2 adults, 2 children) and includes a free drink from the bar (non-alcoholic for the children).

Tickets are going fast but there are still a some available at Suckley Post Office, Holloways Garden Centre or call 01886 884795.

See you there!



FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

JUNE 2012



SUCKLEY FAMILY FUN DAY



Programme of Events

2.30pm

Children's Sports Event

with ex-Suckley School teacher Henry Walker



4.00pm

Arthur Bancroft's Suckley Children's Folk Orchestra



4.30pm

Children's Jubilee Tea Party

with jelly and cake!



Also in the afternoon there will be a bouncy castle, pony rides, donkeys, bric-a-brac, book and craft stalls, display by History Society, Health & Well Being Group, The SPACE Project and community board.

The bar open is open is from 2.30pm

7.00pm

Barn Dance

with Stone the Crows Ceilidh Band

Pig Roast

Raffle

Prizes include weekend holiday break, horse riding lessons, Peacock Blue Mystery Box plus other exciting prizes.

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Beer Festival 2012

19 Real Ales 12 Local Ciders

Friday 1st until Tuesday 5th June

BBQ Printed Polo Shirts Pig Roast
Local Sausages Fish & Chips Homemade Pie Engraved Glassware Bouncy Castle

Friday	Sunday	Monday
8pm Hypnogenician Kiegan Valley. 7 - 10pm Sausage Baps	All day Bouncy Castle 3pm Tug of War 5pm Pig Roast 6pm Fun Quiz 8pm Live Music- The Nightshift 7-9pm Fish & Chips	All Day Bouncy Castle 12pm Vintage Vehicles 3pm Pub Golf 7pm Pub games night 12-3pm Ploughman's Lunch Buffet 6-8pm Homemade Pie,
Saturday	Tuesday	Fox & Hounds,
2pm-6pm Children's Princess & Pirates Fun Day 8pm Live music from Nick Medakovic & Phil Whitehead 4-8pm BBQ	2-4pm English Tea Party with Croquet 7pm Jazz Night Jubilee Party – Live Music from Perdido Street	01886 821228 WR6 5QT.



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Isobella's Baby Sitting Service

* A little bit about myself:

I'm 16 years old, and a scholar at Malvern St James. I have a younger brother. I live in Suckley, and am happy to cover Suckley, Alfrick, Leigh Sinton and other local areas. I have previously baby sat children of friends and family age 3+.

- I charge £4.50 per hour
- Left hand side displays what the money will go towards.
- This service is offered between the hours of:
 - Sun'- Thurs' : 19.00 - 22.00 (during term time)
 - Fri' & Sat' : 18.00 - 23.00
 - Mon' - Sun' : 18.00 - 23.00 (during school holidays)
 Hours can be negotiated : past 23.00 however charges rise.
- Booking up to 24hrs in advance.
- My parents will drop off and pick me up.
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07531132050
(text or call)



I am happy to help out with odd jobs around the house, please call to discuss.

Isobella's Baby Sitting Service

During April 2013 I will be 1 of 21 visiting the Gambia with my school, and helping towards providing the local Gambians who currently live in poverish conditions to have a better standard of life, through providing basic necessities such as food and water. Along with educating women and children in a school we have previously funded and built out there.

100% of the funds raised through this service will be spent directly on families while we are there and have seen what is of greatest importance to them, i.e. food , water pumps, clothing, shelter. (I am paying for the trip myself.)



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JUNE 2012

What Suckley did for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on June 2nd 1953

Margaret Davies looks back through the Parish records to 1952 to discover how the village came together to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Coronation.

In 1952, King George VI died while Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh were away in Kenya. She was immediately called home and acceded to the throne as Queen Elizabeth II on 6th February 1952. One little episode that comes to mind is that the radio stopped broadcasting as respect to the King, we did not have television in those days.

First of all, the Suckley Parish Council formed a "Suckley Coronation Committee" to organize venues to gather money for the cost of fun and games for the Coronation celebrations. Mr Smith was the chairman and Mrs Fynn secretary. Members of the committee made a house to house collection and Suckley Parish was divided into nine areas.

A very successful 'whist drive' was organized; also a concert which was booked for two hours for the 22nd May and was going to be the last event before the Coronation. The cricket club organized "A crazy match" where the men dressed as ladies. Hilarious fun and enjoyment was had by all. Also the ladies of Suckley, formed a football team and played against another ladies team. Wow! How modern. I believe the spectators had laughed themselves sick with these two games and they were ready for the Coronation fun.

There was discontent in the committee over the date of the festivities and some wanted it to take place on Saturday 6th June so that everyone, including the helpers would be able to hear the Coronation service over the radio, but Mr Merrick insisted that this was not the wishes of the village. A vote was taken and all the festivities would be held on Coronation Day. To help boost the funds a 'jumble sale' and a 'progressive teas' were organized.

On Coronation Day, the children's sport was held with ice cream, teas and squash, with Coronation mugs donated to the children. The Rector organized the races and Sir D'arcy Waechter kept order and fair play for the sports.

In the evening a dance was held at the Club Room with a bonfire and fireworks not far away. It was at this venue that the FREE beer and cider was given (approximately twenty-seven gallons of beer and ten gallons of cider were ordered). What a good time everybody must have had!!

The over 65's were not left out either. They received 1/2 lb of tea each and a visit to the Coronation film, which was all paid for by Mr Griffiths at The Stocks. A souvenir was to be sent to the persons away in the forces and to those in hospital, which was either fifty cigarettes or a souvenir tin of biscuits.

Loyal greetings were sent to the HM the Queen, on the accession of her coronation on June 2nd 1953 from the parishioners of Suckley, Worcestershire. All good things must come to an end, and there was about £30 left in the kitty of which the committee decided to buy a seat from Harrods to be installed at the Stocks junction.

Let's hope it will be a fine day on June 4th 2012.

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JUNE 2012

Stocks Farm 1962 to the present day

Ali Capper writes about another anniversary celebration in the village. The current owners of Stocks Farm celebrate 50 years at the farm and Ali takes a trip down memory lane and fondly recalls past employees.

It's always so lovely to read about what everyone is getting up to in the village and when we heard about this Jubilee edition, it seemed to make sense to share a bit about Stocks Farm and our recent history. This is particularly relevant as 2012 marks the 50th year since the farm was bought by the Capper family. So while this is the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Mark Capper is 10 years behind and is celebrating his Golden Jubilee this year!

Today Stocks Farm is run day to day by Mark, his son Richard & Richard's wife Ali Capper and the farm comprises 100 acres of apples, 100 acres of hops and we rear 250, 000 broiler chickens every year. Our customers include Wye Fruit in Ledbury and ultimately Tesco and Asda for the Gala, Braeburn & Bramley apples plus Bulmers and Magners for the cider apples. Our hops are sold to breweries worldwide but we're very proud to supply lots of local & UK Brewers too including Wye Valley Brewery, Hook Norton, Fullers, Marstons & Greene King. Highbury Poultry in Shropshire buy our chickens that are sold on as whole birds to butchers and the catering trade.



Early days at Stocks Farm. Mark Capper, far right, with some of the employees of the farm

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

JUNE 2012

Today's permanent employees include three full time and two part time villagers who do a great job day in, day out and who between them have worked here for a staggering 105 years! In order of the year they started they are: Rod Thomas (1967), Hilary Dunn (1980), Stephen Harper (1990), John Blandford (2007) and Joe Orgee (2011). And on the subject of loyalty and long service we must mention Valerie Lock and also George and Valda Harper who retired in 2010 to Ludlow. The Harpers started in 1976 so between them they clocked up another 68 years at the farm!

When Mark bought Stocks Farm it had an excellent reputation. The land agents and surveyors (Bernard Thorpe and Partners) in their summary of the farm said Stocks Farm was 'a particularly well known hop and fruit farm.... one of the finest fruit farms in the West Worcestershire border' as the land was 'productive and frost free'.

In 1962 there were 10 cottages "tied" to the farm, 9 of which were not habitable. Even the main house had a lot of work that needed doing, another quote from the land surveyors refers to the "extensive woodworm" and "dryrot attacks": "It is impossible to estimate without taking up a lot of floor boards how far this dryrot has gone but there may well be trouble over this item"! The land surveyors report also shows the living standards required of that era and the necessity for these improvements: "The cottages, apart from the Bailiff's house have not been modernized and if you are to retain the right sort of labour over a period of years in my opinion it is essential that your cottages should have a bathroom and W.C. in the near future"! New cottages were built at a cost of £3,000 each and the others were either improved or sold off.

When asked, Mark's view of the last 50 years was that "there had been times when it was marvellous and times when it was very scary too!"

Now for a trip down memory lane... the regular employees on the farm in 1962 included:

Alan Evans who was the farm manager, had very broad experience and was a sheep enthusiast.

Ted Jeynes grafted and grew all the young fruit trees and in 1972 he was awarded the Three Counties medal for 42 years of service.

cont/...

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

The Talbot at Knightwick
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JUNE 2012

Frank Freeman was the wagoner who looked after the horses and who is fondly remembered for tending to speak to horses and humans in the same way! The gardener, Bill Lloyd, was also responsible for shooting 100's of Bullfinches in the orchards throughout the winter as they used to feast on the fruit buds, destroying the crop. His wife was housekeeper at The Stocks.

Len Astbury was our expert bricklayer and maintenance man, all the walls built on the farm and in the garden were his handiwork!

Our ploughman was Les Pugh and an expert at ploughing down the hopyards.

George Bladen was a general farm worker.

Bunny Morris was a well-renowned Dryer of Hops and an expert on the wirework structures that we use for the hops to grow (he also kept a talking jackdaw!)

George Baker was our shepherd and was also an expert showman of sheep, he tended our flock of Clun sheep that grazed the orchards. Sadly the sheep had to go when the orchards were replanted with the more modern Bush trees.

Two other local families who have been very important to Stocks Farm through the last 50 years - 3 generations of the Beaumont family and 3 generations of the Philpotts family!

If you want to find out more about Stocks Farm, see www.stocksfarm.net.

If you can commit to 6 weeks work for 6 days a week from the beginning of September and you are keen to work outside to pick fruit or hops, to supervise fruit pickers or to drive a tractor during harvest, please call 01886 884202.

If you'd like to visit Stocks Farm during September to see the harvest, please get in contact. We can facilitate groups of 2-50 visitors.



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JUNE 2012

Pit-Stop Update - thrills and a few spills!

Steve Gray continues his adventures watching from the trackside as his team enjoys success and some untimely bad luck with engine failure. He also witnesses an accident that through sheer good luck sees one driver escape serious injury.

Encouraged by our fifth place in North Wales the team arrived at Llandow in South Wales with high hopes of a good result. My injured shoulder was still causing me some pain so we decided on a strategy which would mean I only do a limited amount of driving. Free practice took place under cloudy skies but with no rain and we quickly got to grips with what is quite a demanding circuit. Sadly for our number two driver, Christopher Dean, he got caught out by a driver losing control immediately in front of him and spinning to a halt. Chris had no time to react and hit him head on. Although it was a relatively low speed impact and the Karts are quite robust, Chris forgot one of the rules of having an accident, take your hands off the wheel. The shock of the impact was transmitted up his arm resulting in what was later diagnosed as a stress fracture. The Kart required a new nose fitted before qualifying.

Qualifying however went extremely well as our number one driver, Chris Brown, put in a storming performance to qualify sixth overall and third in class. The top three were covered by just two one hundredths of a second! Chris got a great start off the grid and within two corners was up to fourth overall and second in class. And that was where he stayed through till the first fuel stops and driver change. We lost a little ground at the first fuel stop but as the race moved into the second hour we were still running comfortably in sixth overall and third in class. Then the engine seized. Worse, it was at a point furthest away from the pits so that by the time we had been recovered and transferred to a spare Kart (permissible in cases of extreme mechanical failure) we were several laps behind and last. Engine seizures are virtually unheard of. The rest of the event we treated as a test session just concentrating on gaining experience. I felt really sorry for my two team mates who are not having the best of starts to their racing careers. They both show a great deal of promise however and I feel sure that before the seasons end we will enjoy greater fortune.

JUNE 2012

The race immediately preceding ours highlighted the dangers of motorsport. Two drivers were battling for a place and collided on the start and finish straight with one being pitched into the safety barriers. It was a real case of a driver not using his brain. That no one was seriously hurt was down to pure luck. The whole incident was captured on camera and has been posted on YouTube under the heading LLANDOW 360. It really is very scary.

We now have a break until the end of June when we visit Bayford Meadows in Kent. Hopefully both Chris and myself will be back to full fitness by then.

Oil Purchasing Collective

Suckley Parish Council is investigating the possibility of setting up a bulk purchase for heating oil. Similar schemes have enabled members to benefit from reduced costs. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Cllr A W Huband, on 01886 884379

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Lower Grove Hill Equestrian

Having successfully established and developed a riding school a decade ago, Kim Shortall has now decided to start a new riding school based at Lower Grove Hill Farm in Suckley.

I have over 25 years of experience in the equine industry, ranging from teaching, racehorse rehabilitation, racing, hunting & supporting my two daughters with their love of show jumping. Until recently I have been running a succession of livery yards within the Malvern area, including the last 3 years at home. Every horse in my care has always been given individual attention to suit their personality and needs.

My daughters Demi & Tori have both successfully competed with the BSJA - Demi producing her own ponies & Tori following closely in her footsteps. Tori also won Silver at the Championships of Great Britain in 2009 along with many other wins and achievements. She is currently representing her school in open Team Show Jumping.



Kim Shortall of Lower Grove Hill Equestrian, riding "KennyOak Charles", Kim's Dressage Horse.

JUNE 2012

Our Horses and Ponies

At Lower Grove Hill Equestrian (LGHE), we have over 10 horses and ponies, all stabled and grazed at home. All horses and ponies are suited to any type of rider from the age of 6 years upwards and to suit any ability, from the beginner to the more advanced rider. All horses and ponies at LGHE are micro-chipped and the yard is extremely safe and secure with 24-hours supervision and CCTV.

Tuition

Group lessons are available for the younger generation, with a maximum of 6 children in any one hour group. We also offer Private Lessons, in show-jumping, cross-country and dressage a speciality. Debbie Jones, an experienced Advanced Dressage Rider and Trainer, is available for specific training instruction in dressage from Preliminary to Advanced levels.

We also hold courses for owners or parents to gain experience and a qualification with the BHS Horse Owners Certificate. Pony Club Achievement Badges are also catered for. Please see the Pony Club website.

Our instructors are BHS registered. We are fully licensed with MHDC and also insured. First Aiders are on site and all staff & instructors are CRB checked.

Hacking

We are lucky enough to have the most wonderful hacking in the county. We have direct access to miles of bridle paths, riding across the stunning Suckley Hills and fantastic woodland. Together with the panoramic views of the Worcestershire/Herefordshire countryside, this is the most ideal place for you to enjoy hacking either your own horse or pony or alternatively hiring one of our own well-behaved, experienced horses or ponies

For more information please feel free to contact Kim, on 01886 884163 or 07779308582 or alternatively visit our website www.3countiesridingschool.co.uk



FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

JUNE 2012

Recipes from the Suckley Masterchef

A Seasonal recipe for a favourite local vegetable

Having lived in the Cotswolds next to the Vale of Evesham where the famous asparagus comes from, made me truly spoilt; this majestic vegetable in such abundance is a sheer delight. I have two favourite ways of cooking and eating asparagus, buttered and char-grilled both are simple and very effective.

Asparagus comes in various sizes:

- Jumbo, fat about 1 inch thick stem
- Sprue, medium sized ½ inch stem
- Grass, very fine pencil thickness

Portion sizes:

- as a garnish 6 pieces
- as a starter 12 pieces
- as a main course 20 pieces

Classic Blanched Asparagus with Hollandaise

Based on using Sprue asparagus - Serves 4

- 2kg Asparagus
- 500g unsalted butter
- 3 egg yolks
- Juice of one Lemon
- Salt and Pepper

Method

1. Peel and trim the stalks of the asparagus, making sure to remove the woody and tough bases.
2. To make the Hollandaise place the egg yolks and lemon juice in a bowl, this bowl then needs to sit in a pan of simmering water (Bain-Marie).
3. Melt the butter and pass through a fine sieve or muslin to remove the 'sediment' so you are left with clarified butter.
4. Whisk the yolks and lemon juice mixture until it is light and frothy (sabayon). Now you have to add the clarified butter a little at a time, whisking all the time as this will thicken the mixture and make an emulsion, If you add the butter too fast then the sauce will split, Finally taste and season the sauce. The sauce needs to be kept warm until you serve it.
5. In a large pan of boiling salted water blanch the asparagus for approximately 5 minutes the asparagus should be firm to the bite. Toss in a little melted butter and season.
6. Serve hot with the Hollandaise Sauce.

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents



What's on, what's happening in and around Suckley

...	Bank Holiday Monday 4th June 2012 We are counting down for a fantastic family day with a Children's Sports Day & (free) Tea, entertainment and evening Ceilidh Barn Dance. It's not too late to lend a hand and/or help on the day – contact Nessa on 01886 884383 / 07792 552458
...	PLEASE NOTE: If you live in the Parish and would like your child to receive a commemorative Jubilee mug and he/she does not attend Suckley School, please contact the Clerk, Diana Taylor at dtaylorsuckley@msn.com Tel 01684 569430 or any of the Parish Councillors so we can register your request.
...	Suckley School collecting second hand clothes including all clothing, bedding, soft toys, shoes, hats, belts and handbags. The next collection date is Friday 15 June and all bags are to be dropped off at school between 8.30am and 12.30am. Black bin liners or other types of bags are fine. Generally the School raise about £300 a collection which is fantastic - the more bags we receive the more money we raise.

Local Services:

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 Suckley - Cross Keys 1.45-2.00pm
 Damson Way - 2.10-2.25pm
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Dates: 1st June / 22nd June, 13th July
 Enquiries about this service should be made to Malvern Library, Graham Road Malvern or telephone 01905 822722, or email malvernmobile@worcestershire.gov.uk

Suckley Church News and the SPACE Project

A big THANK YOU to all those who took part in The BIG Clean Up on Saturday 19th. Both the churchyard and the church have benefitted from the extra attention. Those areas of the ground that had settled unevenly have shared a trailer load of topsoil. A mountain of prunings will help light Suckley's Jubilee Beacon next month! The newly released area at the bottom of the churchyard, and the areas with new topsoil will be seeded and hopefully soon grass over and look much happier and be easier to mow. THANK YOU!

The PCC has been working hard to secure the financial viability of the church building, and to ensure it can remain open, as a consecrated church, for future generations. Whilst the local churchgoers may be used to managing without loos, it is really not good enough, and those travelling from a distance to weddings baptisms and funerals need facilities. If the Church improves its facilities, it will be able to share the space with the school, enhancing the school and providing an income stream than will enable the church to survive and remain alive in the 21st century.

So, Suckley is launching the SPACE Project (Suckley Parish Academy & Church Enterprise") with the help of the newly formed Steering Group (8 PCC members with 11 others drawn from the wider community, representing the many aspects of Suckley life). The Chairman of the Steering Group is Liz Devenish who is a Parish Councillor and a School Governor.

The objective of the SPACE project is to provide toilets and a good quality kitchen, and to enable the interior of Suckley Church to become a flexible venue with modern facilities useful to all members of the community for a wide variety of activities. This project will make the Church an attractive and comfortable venue and satisfy the need for a large space that the Church, the School and the Community can use, and in so doing will ensure the longevity of the building as the centre of Suckley life.

So.... That is the SPACE Project. The Steering Group will continue to seek your views and ideas, with a stall at the Suckley Jubilee Celebrations, questions in a parish survey, and another open meeting (with the architect) later in the year. The Business Plan is underway.... So watch this SPACE!

Anne Lewis (Church warden) and Liz Devenish (SPACE project Chair)

JUNE 2012

Travels and Travails in China – Green and Black Dragons

On his last instalment, Adrian Holmes enjoys scenery that has inspired art forms, legends and the religion of the Naxi people of Western China.

It was time to leave the Tibetan plateau and the motley assortment clambered aboard the ever faithful minibus with mixed feelings. On the one hand this Shangri La was the promised botanical land that had tempted us to venture high into the mountains of Western China in the first place, and it had not failed to deliver. But on the other we were homeward bound, looking forward to meeting up again with our unfortunate member, and had dates to keep with green and black dragons.

So, back down the Lancang Valley we went. It is surprising how different a road can be if you turn round and travel on it in the opposite direction. Instead of pointing up to the skies as we did when ascending, now in the descent we had panoramic views of the valleys, with waterfalls tumbling down sheer rock faces of the deep, steep ravines, disappearing behind the lush evergreen trees which clothed the valley sides only to reappear in a frothy ferment further down. This is the scenery that has inspired an art form: Shanshui. Beginning in the Tang dynasty in the seventh century, shanshui, or mountain water, captures the essence of the landscape – its rhythm, emotions and atmosphere rather than the factual detail.

And emotions are tied very closely with our next port of call, the Green Jade Dragon Mountain outside Lijiang. Legend gives this mountain, together with its twin, Haba Snow Mountain, an earthly life (panning for gold in the Golden Sand River to make ends meet) when they were threatened by an evil fiend. Haba died, but Green Jade successfully fought off the invader, wearing out thirteen swords in the process. The thirteen peaks of this mountain range represent these swords. This mountain is a holy one for the Naxi people, not only because of this legend, but also because it was the place where, long ago, young lovers leapt to their deaths to escape from arranged marriages and feudal ethics.

To digress into botany for a minute, Green Jade Dragon Mountain has its own riches in flora. The heavens opened when we set off up the trail starting

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out at about 2,600 metres. It leads, about 600 or so metres further up to a Royal Botanical Gardens of Edinburgh Research Station. We did not get that far this time, but we had time to see more lilies, berberis species, saxifrages, edelweiss, roscoas, delphiniums, primulas, climbers including clematis and any number of pedicularis species.

The Black Dragon resides in the Black Dragon Pool Park on the outskirts of Lijiang. A holy place for Naxi people, it was created a mere 250 years ago, but boasts one of the finest “typical” views of China there is: a foreground of the Black Dragon Pool, mid-ground of the Moon Embracing Pavilion and the arch of the marble Belt Bridge and in the background the snow covered peaks of the Green Jade Dragon Mountain. The Pool is fed by springs and is kept scrupulously clean in honour of the Naxi god Shu who lived in the water. There are many interesting temples and pavilions dotted around the park, each with their own history and significance. There is also a “band stand”, a term which does do no justice whatsoever to the Naxi musicians who came for about 10 or so minutes to give a rendering of their music, a blend of ancient music drawn from a number of sources such that it is hailed as “a living fossil of the Orient music”. If you are ever in Lijiang, I would strongly recommend a visit to this park, it is well worth it (and if you are over 70, it won’t cost you a yuan!).



Black Dragon Pool Park, showing the Moon Embracing Pavilion, the marble bridge and Green Jade Dragon Mountain.

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So that is it. We have travelled hundreds of miles, crossed and re-crossed some of the great rivers of the world and climbed up high into the alpine belts of the mountains. We have visited places where history was made and where one man's imagination of utopia inspired a generation of dreamers. We have met with ethnic minorities, seen where and how they live and glimpsed a little into the future. All that remains now is to hop on a plane at Kunming airport at 0730 in the morning, fly to Shanghai and then home.

But wait a moment, what's that we hear on the news? A typhoon in Shanghai, the only one for ten years? All flights in and out cancelled until further notice? Oh no, here we go again.

Postscript: the news was right, we were delayed; we eventually got to Shanghai a day later, but to the wrong airport. We were not expected at the KLM desk when we finally reached it, and were told there were no seats available on any flights for 18 hours. But the silver lining? Seats were found on a flight that night – did we mind Business Class – way hey!

ANDREW JELLEY OPTICIANS

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Suckley Church

Suckley Services for June and July

Sunday June 3rd at 11am, All Age Service to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee (Leigh Church has Bishop John at their 9am Common Worship Communion service that day)

Sunday June 10th at 6.00pm, Celtic Service, a quiet contemplative service.

Sunday June 17th we go to Alfrick for their Fathers' Day All Age Service at 11am. Bring your Dads and Grandpa's!

Sunday June 24th 11am service Family Communion Service with Sunday School.

Sunday July 1st at 11am, All Age Service (a lively informal service)

Sunday July 8th at 6.00pm, Evening Prayer a quiet traditional service

Sunday July 15th at 11am, we go to Alfrick for their All Age Service (a lively informal service)

Sunday July 22nd at 11am, Family Communion Service with Sunday School.

Sunday July 29th at 11am, Family Communion celebrating Lammas Tide (giving thanks for the first fruits of the harvest)

Also on 29th July, listen for the Suckley Church bells at 8am as they ring out for the Olympics opening!

Suckley Church is pleased to be able to be open to visitors most days now, thanks to a small generous hearted group of volunteers. Please let me know if you are able to join the rota and make it even easier! (The groups cover as follows: "School Days, half a term at a time", "Saturdays", "Sundays" and "Mon to Fri in School hols, a week at a time")

Anne Lewis (Church warden 01886 884552)

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Report of April meeting of Suckley Local History Society

The second meeting of our newly reformed society was held on the 19th April and was very well attended. We were delighted to welcome our speaker Dr Katherine Lack, an academic historian who lives in Whitbourne, and who has studied the history of population movements in this area. The title of her talk was "Change and Migration in the Hereford/Worcestershire border area in the 18th and 19th centuries." and the essence of it, according to Katherine was "Who went Where When and Why".

Dr Lack gave us a fascinating insight into how a picture of the past can be teased out of census data. Although we tend to think that things were relatively stable in the past, it appears that by 1851, there were lots of Herefordshire people in every county; they were already moving about. Most of the migration from this area was of young, single people. She focused on the difficulties involved in historical research techniques, including the problems caused by traditions of naming; for example, in 1750s, 23% of men were called John, and 17% of women were called Anne! It was much easier to trace those with less common names and our speaker was delighted to discover that happy occurrences such as the unusual name of "Unett", could be found amongst the ancestors of a member of our audience!

It would seem that the growth of Cheltenham as a spa town in the 1850s and the resulting increase in demand for domestic servants, encouraged many young people, and especially women from this area to take their chance and move into service positions in the town. Literacy was a key determinant of migration, and major population movements often followed other significant events such as the opening of a railway line.

The evening was rounded off with convivial refreshments and we are now inviting you to join us at our next meeting. This will be a field trip on Saturday June 30th, to Castle Frome, entitled The United Brethren and The Early Mormon Church; a Walk, a Talk and Tea. Numbers are limited to 25, so please contact our chairman Andrew Grieve on 01886 884795 asap if you would like to come along.



QUEEN'S JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

We will be closed on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th June.

We re-open at 8am on Wednesday 6th June. Please arrange collection of medication around these times. Thank you

Exercise

We all know the benefits of keeping fit, but sometimes it seems that there is always a reason not to exercise more. Even simple things can improve our health – walk the children to school if possible, take the stairs rather than the lift, walk more briskly than usual, swinging your arms as you go. Anything that increases your heart rate is good for you! Here is one patient's perspective:

A patient's view of exercise classes by Ann Giddings

'I knew I should exercise more, and wanted something close to home, not too costly, where the class times suited my home life, but the main thing was that I should enjoy it. So I started going to a Zumba session on Wednesday evenings. It really is great fun. There are people of all ages, all shapes and sizes, mainly female but occasionally a man has been seen! I asked "What should I wear", but didn't need to be concerned - basically anything that's comfortable is fine, but do bear in mind that you're likely to get hot, so layers are a good idea. I do the low impact version of the dance routines / exercises in the main (I'm 65), but I do get hot and sweaty so I think it must be doing me good. And I get thirsty – if you go, remember to take a bottle of water. We're very lucky in Whitbourne to have several different exercise classes at the Village Hall. Apart from Zumba, there's a yoga class on Friday mornings for those interested in increasing their suppleness and wellbeing, and line dancing classes that run on Monday and Friday evenings. So really, there's something for everyone. Happy exercising!' Contact information for local exercise classes are available from the Surgery.

Cont/...

Carers Week: 18th – 24th June is National Carers' Week.

If you look after a friend, relative or neighbour of any age, who through illness, disability, addiction or frailty can't manage on their own, then you are a carer. You may see it as part of your life or your duty to care, but there may be times when you need information or some help. Being a carer can affect your health. You can register as a carer at the surgery. We work closely with Carers Action Worcestershire and will shortly have a dedicated support worker for carers registered at our Practice. If you need help or advice you can contact the Carers Action helpline on 0300 012 4272

District Nurses

We are pleased to welcome Caroline Berry to the District Nursing Team based at Knightwick Surgery. She has replaced Chris Cartwright who left the team in May.

The full A4 version of this Newsletter is available at the Surgery. It will also be available on our own dedicated website – www.knightwicksurgery.co.uk and on the local Clifton on Teme website at www.temetriangle.net, courtesy of Bernadette Higgins.

PART TIME DISPENSARY ASSISTANT required for Knightwick Surgery. Initially 10 hours per week to include Friday afternoon. Experience preferred but not essential as training will be given. For further information please contact the Dispensary Manager, Claudia Buxton. Tel. 01886 821697 or email claudia.buxton@nhs.net

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Suckley Parish Council Meeting 14th May 2012

This was the Annual Parish Council Meeting, so a large part of the Agenda was taken up with nominating our Chairman (Cllr A W Huband) and Vice-Chairman (Cllr John Green) followed by noting and/or reviewing Standing Orders, Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessments, Insurance Review, and nomination of Councillors to various posts/charities.

DIAMOND JUBILEE - Cllr Andrew Grieve reported that the Community Group were all working hard to on the Jubilee Event to be held on Monday 4th June on the Playing Fields. A Family Fun Sports Day was planned, followed by a children's Jubilee Tea. There would be a Bouncy Castle, Stalls, Ice Creams, Cream Teas and a special performance by Arthur Bancroft's Suckley Children's String Orchestra. In the evening there would be a Family Barn Dance, Bar, Pig Roast and Raffle. The Clerk reported that Cllr A W Huband (as Chairman) and Cllr L Devenish (PC Representative on the School Board of Governors) would be handing out the Jubilee Mugs to Suckley School pupils at their Sports Day on 31st May. Enough mugs had been ordered to cover the extra number of new intake pupils who would be attending the Sports Day.

SPEEDING - Cllr P Whatley reported on a meeting with Gerry Brienza from County Highways held on 5th April. Various speed restricting options had been discussed, most of which were either not suitable for the roads in question, or would be too expensive for County Highways to consider. However, road marking to visually narrow the size of the road was a possibility and he would consider this option. He also agreed that more mph repeater signs were needed and he would look into getting these put into place. Mr Brienza had also agreed to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 31st May to talk about speeding issues. Cllr P Whatley also reported that Police Speed Cameras had been in action in Longley Green, but no speeding tickets had been issued as far as he was aware. The Clerk reported that the VAS camera had logged 2554 speeding vehicles in March at the Bruff and 3094 in April in Longley Green. The VAS camera was now in place by the Village Hall during May and would be moving near to the junction with Church Lane for June.

WOODLAND ROAD - The Clerk reported that following a meeting with Gerry Brienza from County Highways, he would be looking into the possibility of a wider culvert under Knightwick Road to improve the flow of water away from Woodland Road, and to minimise any flooding of Knightwick Road. Despite

the very heavy recent rainfall, it appeared that the defences had worked. Severn Trent Water had also cleared their ditch from Knightwick Road up to the sewerage plant.

SUCKLEY PLAYING FIELD - Cllr C Luton reported that the annual safety inspection had taken place, and the safety report was noted by the Council. The internal walls of the pavilion and the rendering in the toilets had now been painted twice. The floor was being levelled and sealed next week. Green reported that he had shifted three bags of rubbish from the Playing Field, and a new load of conifer cuttings had been dumped on the Field. The Annual Safety check would be taking place in March.

SUCKLEY SCHOOL - A report had been received by the Clerk from former Cllr Mrs Rosemary Harward on her attendance at the John Palmer Trust Meeting. Mr Meckin had been congratulated on the excellent Ofsted Report. The school had qualified in all 5 "judgements" The school was expected to have up to 75 pupils by 2013 and Mr Meckin was hoping to have a small extension built which would house a nursery and after school care. The Forest School had been a great success as was last term's Spanish theme, which included a Spanish Art Gallery and a restaurant. A Sports Day would be held on 31st May together with a Jubilee Tea Party. On 4th July the school would be hosting an Olympics for Special School pupils to further understand children with disabilities. The Leaving Service would be held on 20th July. The Trust had granted £500 to the school to send children on the Pioneering Trip which was so successful last year. Another request had been received to finance the cost of renewing the worn out Playground marking. The cost of this would be in the region of £2,625.

COUNCILLOR VACANCY - The Clerk reported that four parishioners had expressed an interest in the vacancy. She had received the go ahead for co-option from MHDC Electoral Registration Department. If you would be interested in joining the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk – Mrs Diana Taylor on 01684 569430 or e-mail dtaylor@suckley@msn.com

PLEASE NOTE: If you live in the Parish and would like your child to receive a commemorative mug and he/she does not attend Suckley School, please contact the Clerk, Diana Taylor at dtaylor@suckley@msn.com Tel 01684 569430 or any of the Parish Councillors so we can register your request.

A stone garden urn - is it really old?

Are you starting to collect garden antiques? But how can you tell if a garden urn is genuinely old — and how old? It is notoriously difficult to date garden antiques and amateurs can easily make mistakes. These photos show two urns — the one on the left looks much older than the one on the right, but is it?



On the left a jardiniere and the right, a urn-shaped finial. Which one is the eldest? Appearances can be deceptive.



Are you starting to collect garden antiques? But how can you tell if a garden urn is genuinely old — and how old? It is notoriously difficult to date garden antiques and amateurs can easily make mistakes. These photos show two urns — the one on the left looks much older than the one on the right, but is it?

The large composition-stone jardiniere on the left, derived from a 16th century Italian original, has an exceptionally good patination of moss and lichen. This planter is only 30-40 years old, but looks like an antique.

Compare this to the carved limestone urn-shaped finial in the second picture. This has very little weathering as it has been cleaned and stored inside for the last fifty years or so. The style of carving, however, with large lobes and deep curving fissures, is typical of the late 17th or early 18th century. This magnificent urn would be twice as much to buy as the jardiniere.

An experienced expert, such as Edward Holloway, from Holloways Garden Antiques, uses many clues to work out the age of a piece. A certain amount can be deduced from the design, material, weathering and provenance, if known, but this example shows that first appearances can be deceptive.

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

Points of contact:

Newsletter Content: Hilary Pitt – 884355

Newsletter Advertising: Tilda Swabey – 07739 264495

Email: suckleynews@gmail.com

Next Issue: First week in August 2012

Content for newsletter to be submitted 20th July 2012.

Suckley Post Office: Roger & Barbara Blackburn - 884201.

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

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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 or for Parish Council business www.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish (select Suckley from alphabetical listing).

Suckley Good Neighbourhood Scheme - 840480

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

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