



MERRY CHRISTMAS



HAPPY NEW YEAR

*From Pickles - the
"Jubilee" donkey at
Acton Mill Care Farm.*

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

DECEMBER 2012

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Next Issue: First week in February 2013

Content for newsletter to be submitted 25th January 2013.

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Suckley School: Mr Matthew Meckin - 884283

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Church: Wardens: Dr Anne M Lewis – 884552

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School has the 'X' factor in time for Xmas!

Stuck for ideas for Christmas presents? How about a musical CD unique to Suckley? School teacher, Danielle Duignan tells us how Suckley pupils are getting creative in the recording studio - producing their own CD in time for Christmas!



Year 5 and 6 on a visit to the Cobnash Recording Studio.

Year 5 and 6 have been working on creating and producing a CD for their curriculum hook this term. They have organised songs, composed music and raised money to buy materials. They wrote letters to Rogers of Martley and AJ Griffiths Engineering, who have kindly sponsored them. On the 26th November, Josh from Cobnash Recording Studio in Kingsland came over to record with the whole school, as all children will appear on the CD. Year 5 and 6 are then going to the recording studio on 5th December to record their songs. Once this has been done, the children will reproduce the disks and create labels ready for sale.

The CDs will be available to buy at Suckley Christmas Fayre which is held on Saturday 15th December in the village hall. CDs will cost £5 each.

The CD will include some modern songs such as 'sing' (the jubilee song by Gary Barlow), classics that we all know like 'Let's go fly a kite', and favourites e.g 'I'm a believer'. There's a twist on a classic Christmas song, and one written by the children. Also on the CD is an instrumental piece by the school violinists. It has something for everyone, and can be enjoyed all year!



Pupils composing their own music for the CD.



Teme Valley Market

Suckley has one of the oldest 'farmers' markets' right on the doorstep at Knightwick. Held one a month since 1997, the market has grown both in popularity as well as in numbers and variety of stalls. Su from The Talbot tells us more...

The Teme Valley Market at The Talbot, Knightwick, first opened its doors (as it used to be held in The Shoot Room) in October of 1997 with just four stalls selling cheese, honey, wine and cakes, these four stall holders are still with us fifteen years later!

The initial impetus was a talk at Holme Lacy Agricultural College on Farmers' Markets in America and the setting up of the Bath market - the first in England.

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After that initial 'toe in the water' the market has taken place on the second Sunday of every month since; the only exception to this being the 3 months of the 2001 Foot and Mouth crisis.

In 2000 the market moved outside to a marquee, due to the increased number of both customers and stall holders, currently there are 22 local producers who attend every month and a further 7 who are seasonal. In addition to the original four, it is now possible to buy meat, fish, eggs, vegetables, fruit, preserves, biscuits, fudge, beer and cider.

In 2003 the committee applied for a DEFRA RES grant, anyone who has ever applied for a grant of any description will know the work involved, but the end result was worth it, enabling the purchase of an extra section of marquee, tables, a trailer, hand-washing facilities, outdoor heaters and to top it all off – literally - corporate identity bunting for the top of the marquee.



The Talbot's Farmers' Market offers the shopper a variety of food, drink and gift stalls. Its Christmas Market is on Sunday 9th December.

While Teme Valley Market has always been referred to as a "Farmers' Market" this is no longer strictly true, as although all of the stall holders produce, make or grow the items they sell and come from within a 30 mile radius (two of the prerequisites) there is now a small proportion of craft people, such as metalwork, woodwork, jewellery, knitting and photography.

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Customers are now coming from far and wide on a regular basis; many from Birmingham and the Black Country and even some from London! The market is open from 11.00am until 1.30pm officially, but this tends to be slightly elastic if people arrive early.

The next market is the Christmas Market on Sunday 9th December. This is always the busiest of the year and there are Carol Singers to get you in the festive mood. It is possible to get many of the things needed for the perfect Christmas Dinner - You can even buy your Christmas tree, mistletoe and welcoming Christmas wreath for your front door. There will also be lots of wonderful gift ideas and stocking fillers such as hampers, handmade soap, beautiful silver and semi-precious stone jewellery, indulgent handmade chocolates and fudge, luxury scarves in mohair and alpaca and hand turned wooden practical and decorative pieces. If you're dazzled by the array, why not give a gift token?

The family of our long time stall holder, silversmith Stephen Green who died earlier this year, will be having a stall at the December market so those who would like to buy a memento of his work will be able to do so.

The second Sunday in January is also Plough Sunday, an important date in the farming calendar, so as usual there will be a short Plough Blessing Service at 12 noon.



Disappointment and controversy but 2013 offers new hope.

Steve Gray has certainly had a roller coaster of a year. In the final rounds of the karting championship, Team DGB finishes a disappointing eighth. Steve is also disheartened when he is dropped by his team. But - good news follows - he is quickly signed up by a rival team so 2013 offers new excitement and challenges.

After the euphoria of our first podium finish Team DGB arrived at Forest Edge near Andover with high hope of a repeat performance. Sadly, despite all three drivers being closely matched we were mystifyingly off the pace of everyone else

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and finished a disappointed sixth in class. It was only later in the week that we found out that the throttle wasn't opening fully and we had been racing with less than full power. With two rounds of the championship to go however we felt we still had a chance of taking fourth place overall. It was not to be.

Bayford Meadows at Sittingbourne in Kent hosted the penultimate round. Chris Brown qualified an excellent third but towards the end of his first stint he again had a spin on a damp track dropping us to tenth. And there we stayed for the next two hours. Despite being on the pace we never made up the lost ground.

Sadly the event was also marred by another driver taking exception to some aggressive driving by Chris Brown. Although no punches were thrown it was a controversial end to the day. With one round to go we had dropped to sixth in the championship. It would take a massive effort to attain our target of fourth.

So to the final round then at Buckmore Park in Kent and a major controversy on the eve of the event. My two colleagues decided that for next year they wanted to race as two two-man teams as Team DGB 1 and Team DGB 2 with me leading the second team. As over the last four races I had become our second quickest driver I felt the decision was wrong. The race on the Sunday became something of a sideshow. It poured with rain. Chris Brown again had a first lap spin which dropped us to last. After my stint we were up to tenth and stayed there until my last stint when we climbed one further place.

In the final standings we were eighth in the championship. But off track events had taken over. My two colleagues had to endure some serious criticism from other drivers for their decision to axe me. I have no hard feelings about it but was clearly disappointed. However, only days later I was signed by a rival team and on paper at least we appear to be one of the stronger teams. The rivalry next year is clearly going to have some added spice! Roll on February.



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Update and Views on SPACE Project

The SPACE Project is certainly a topic much talked about in the village at the moment. What follows is a selection of edited articles that have been submitted to the Newsletter; some update on the project's progress and others reflect personal views on what is proposed for Suckley Church.

SPACE - By Andrew Bullock, Team Vicar

We had an informative evening in Suckley last month in which the first draft plans of what the PCC is proposing were shared with the community. Listening to some of the chat afterwards has prompted me to point out the following, purely from my own perspective of ordering worship week by week. All of the following would be an asset.

- The provision of separate meeting rooms for Creche and Sunday School – the present arrangements are not proving satisfactory. The young parents feel the stress of noisy children keenly and if there was a sound-proof room they could slip into (rather than outside into the cold), so much the better.
- The provision of running water and facilities for serving refreshments - it always gratifies me that people are able to do this with such good grace considering the circumstances they are working in! Offering hospitality is a massively important part of the Church's mission in welcoming people – much ministry is made possible simply through the 'work' of chatting and praying after a service over a cup of coffee.
- The provision of loos - I'm sure this doesn't need spelling out!
- Whether we like it or not, the technology revolution is thoroughly under way and technology provides useful tools for the process of making disciples. We have been under considerable stress before services trying to get the audio visual and sound equipment working adequately.
- The flexibility of being able to make use of different configurations would be welcome.

The vestry will, apart from being a vestry with more space, will also become a dedicated chapel. Services for small numbers can be held there in a warmer environment. Not only that but it will become a place of prayer with prayer boards, somewhere where people can be quiet and in comfort.

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As I pointed out in my letter (Sphere December) - we are called to worship God with gratitude, but also to respond to our neighbour's needs with love. The proposals for Suckley Church could also serve the needs of Suckley School - let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven. (Matt 5:11)

I think all who were at the meeting sensed the aggression and antagonism in the building and I should like to invite everyone back for a simple act of worship on Monday December 10th at 8pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

A wonderful opportunity for Suckley Church - Diana Holloway

Treasurer of the PCC of Suckley church, Chair of the governors of Suckley School.

I write after the open meeting in the church on 7th November with a view to clarifying some misconceptions. I have a unique position within the community in that I have been involved with the PCC for 25 years, and been the treasurer for ten years. I am also currently Chair of the Governors at Suckley School, and have been a governor for ten years.

As treasurer of the PCC I have watched the church struggle to cover the ever increasing cost of running the church. We receive funds from donations, fees and fund raising and from this we can cover the costs of our quota (which pays the vicar) but not much more. Sadly the number of people who give financial help to the church is dropping, the fund raising is mainly borne by a very small group, and the volunteer help is dwindling and largely of the older generation. In my opinion the church is unsustainable in its current position and we can only look forward to a steady decline in finances and then not paying our quota to the Diocese.

The recent village survey of community priorities has shocked many of us; Suckley people have put the use of the bottle bank way above the use of the church in the condition it is in. No wonder we struggle with fundraising and giving. If we are unable to pay for our church to be maintained and our quota it will close, and revert to the diocese, who will sell it. We have all seen the fantastic projects on programmes like Grand Designs, turning unusual buildings like our church into living spaces.

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Meanwhile the school has been growing steadily in numbers and reputation under the current excellent leadership of Matt Meckin. We are proud to have a roll of 70 children and hope to expand to 85 in the near future. With this and the school now being an academy and a achieving 'outstanding' in a recent Ofsted inspection we feel the village school is secure for the future. We all know the great benefits a village has with a thriving school; the knock on effects to the village shop and the cross section of people attracted to live in Suckley are a couple of examples.

It is important to make clear that it was the PCC that approached the school (approximately three years ago), suggesting that they could use the church for music, drama, PE, assemblies and lunches. The headmaster has secured the funding for rental of the space directly from the Department of Education, ie it is not coming out of the school's current budget. This is now a fantastic opportunity for Suckley Church; we can secure an income stream to cover the costs of running and maintaining the church and approach Educational charities and Trusts to raise funds to convert the church, providing facilities for church use and a sensitive modernisation.

The Diocese fully support the plans: we are not alone with these problems and linking back in with the community is the only way forward. The PCC have listened very carefully to the objections, and thought has gone into ensuring full daily access, stackable pews, quiet areas and preserving the most important features of the church. However compromises will have to be made, the removal of the Victorian pews is one. This will create a space available for some community uses, not just for the school to use.

People worry about the school closing, and the effect that it could have on the church's income. Firstly the school is very secure in its own right, but secondly the new opportunities for music, drama, PE etc in the church will only further establish the long term viability for the school by attracting more pupils and keeping the high quality staff.

There is still a long way to go with this project and next year the SPACE group will be approaching over 100 trusts and charities to start the fund raising process.

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Use it or Lose It! Jenny Taylor (01886 884726)

This is what we were told 18 months ago about our Church. We were told the Church needed more money to run it and more support. This article appeared in the Sphere magazine and many people responded including myself. I will only speak for myself and have offered my services in many ways to the Church, including setting up a Friends of the Church for fundraising, becoming a member of the Parochial Church Council, offering to be on the Steering Group and having meetings with the Church Warden, Church Treasurer, Vicar and Archdeacon. I have also set up the Flower Festival to show that the Village can pull together for the Church and raise money to help the Church with essential maintenance. I was turned down for the Parochial Church Council, and have not been asked to set up the Friends by the PCC or asked to join the Steering Group for SPACE!

The project is flawed in many ways, the thing we all agree on are that the Church would benefit from a small kitchen area and toilet, but the project seems to assume that the Church is redundant on Monday – Friday each week. The monies received from the School will be £6,000pa which is only guaranteed for five years and there will be the cost of the extra heating, lighting and insurance. Who will cover the cost of business rates, when they lease the Church? Many of the volunteers are going to stand down if this project moves forward and this will leave hole of £3,000 in the 'Free of Charge at present' annual budget of the Church (Figures as presented at the last meeting by the treasurer). This project has divided the Village and another meeting is needed to answer some of the questions not able to be asked at the last meeting on 7th November. If this is not the case, you will have the opportunity to write with your concerns to the Diocesan Advisory Committee, once the Public Notice has been displayed.

SPACE...after the Open Meeting.. what next? - Liz Devenish

Chairman, the SPACE project (email liz.devenish@virgin.net
Mobile 07929001563, Home 01886 884787)

Thank you so much to all of you who attended the open meeting at Suckley Church on November 7th; the church was full! The aim of the meeting was to explain and get feedback on the plans for adapting the church for wider use, including sharing the facilities with the adjacent Suckley School.

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We had a series of presentations; the Archdeacon Roger Morris, explained that the Diocese of Worcester “is excited and enthused by these proposals”. He explained...“ the Church of England nationally has developed and promoted a policy around the extended use of church buildings for a vast range of social and community activities.”

Anne Lewis, our churchwarden and Vice chair of the project, talked about the history of the project and the links between the church and the School, and headmaster Matt Meckin showed how the school and church can share facilities, ably helped by three pupils whose public speaking skills were very impressive.

The architects plans were then shown and the evening concluded with a question and answer session and refreshments. We realise that there was not enough time for everyone to make themselves heard, and not all of us are comfortable speaking up in public. There is still plenty of time to ask questions and tell us your views, and say what you would like to happen, so please get in touch. There is a display board about the project in the Church, and we have a list there of all the SPACE committee members and their contact details. The church has been locked during the day for many years but we now have arrangements for unlocking the church each day, so you should be able to go in when you like to see the board, and to enjoy the church.

Suckley Church in the future – Amanda Smith

My Grandparents attended Suckley church in the late 1800s until their deaths in approximately 1935 and 1948 along with their 4 children. They are both buried in the church yard as are 2 of their children. My father always said they were not too pleased with the new church and thought it too big for the setting. He always described it as ‘a barn of a place’. They used to walk up from the White House and were usually met on the way home by the family dogs who knew the Sunday routine and what time to set off up the road to meet the family.

We have been attending Suckley most months since we moved to Alfrick 20 years ago and both children were confirmed there. I enjoy Suckley as it is but do find we can be rather too spread out and a bit chilly if care is not taken to sit near a heater in winter. I would be very happy to see changes made to make the space more usable for the church, school and village as a whole as long as there

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is provision made for the occasional big service, wedding or funeral. It would be good to have a kitchen area and a loo would be good as well. We must always remember it is a place to worship God first and should clashes occur its use as a church should always come first. The church should as far as possible be open to the public to come and pray but I don't think that applies to the whole church as long as there is access to a suitable quiet area.

I think the church has to look at earning its way in a modern society or it will become a museum and be lost as a living church to future generations. If it is a building where happy memories are made it will remain loved and cared for. As a Church we are called to serve our fellow man and maybe by offering our building this will open new ways to serve and reach others for Christ. The ‘church’ is the people not the building, this building was built for the ‘church’ to come together to learn about and worship God this does not mean it cannot be used for other events between worship times - look at what goes on in the cathedral!!

I am sure the SPACE team will consider all sides in prayer and seek to do God's will to his glory with the final outcome.

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Demise of Village Hall – by Carol Boughton

“Suckley Village Hall which has served the community for over a century has closed its doors for the last time – another village amenity to disappear forever.”

Makes grim reading, doesn't it?

Well, it hasn't happened yet, but, it will become a reality in the not too distant future if something isn't done now.

The Management Committee (all six of us) would dearly love to update the Hall to make it more comfortable and welcoming for the people of Suckley. We are not funded by anyone but rely on the hiring of the Hall/contents and fund raising activities. Sadly, the Hall is now vastly under used and, in the last year or so, our variety of fund raising events have had to be cancelled because of total lack of support.

The recent Suckley Survey shows that you, as residents of Suckley, put the Village Hall fairly high on your list of “wants” for the community.

So, what do we need to make the Hall a viable amenity? Firstly, we need more ideas and expertise which means that we need new Committee members to work with us. As you know, many hands make light work. Secondly, we need support for our events so that we have a source of income which can be put towards making the Hall what we would all like to see it become.

So, if you want the Village Hall to remain part of the amenities of Suckley, please urgently and carefully consider what you, as residents of Suckley, can do to help. Any ideas and or offers will be welcome.

Please contact Carol or Steve Boughton on 01886 884210 or e-mail c.boughton@homecall.co.uk

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

...	<p>Suckley Christmas Fair. Sat December 15th 2-4pm in Village Hall. Come and enjoy this event for the whole village. Meet your neighbours, shop and have afternoon tea. Father Christmas will be there in his Grotto, Suckley School children will be selling their Christmas CDs, tombola, cake stall, raffle, and book stall - Christmas shopping with festive fun!</p> <p>If you can't make it on the day, please support our Grand Village Raffle. Tickets for sale in Suckley Post Office. The Christmas Fair is in aid of village charities: Suckley School, Suckley Church and Suckley Village Hall.</p>
...	<p>Quiz nights at the Nelson Held monthly at The Nelson always on the third Wednesday of the month, starting at 8.30pm. Free to enter for teams of up to 5 people. Small prizes for the winning team.</p> <p>Next quiz nights are December 19th and January 16th 2013. More details if required from Max, Rod or Belinda at The Nelson (884530).</p>
...	<p>SPACE Project: If you have any questions or would like to share your thoughts on the proposed re-ordering of the church, please do not hesitate to contact:</p> <p>Liz Devenish. Chairman, the SPACE project. email liz.devenish@virgin.net Mobile 07929001563, Home 01886884787</p>

Local Services:

Mobile Library Timetable 2012
 Fridays only at
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 Damson Way - 2.10-2.25pm
 Longley Green Post Office 2.40-3.35pm

Dates: 7th & 28th December
 Enquiries about this service should be made to Malvern Library, Graham Road Malvern or telephone 01905 822722, or email malvernmobile@worcestershire.gov.uk

Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme tel: 01886 840480

Did you know that as well as the Community Car Scheme, Suckley has its own Good Neighbour Scheme that can help you during difficult times. So, if you (or your neighbour) needs some advice or some one-off assistance with:

- ❖ Shopping
- ❖ Advocacy Care
- ❖ Repairs & Odd Jobs
- ❖ Gardening
- ❖ Pet walking
- ❖ Befriending
- ❖ Pension & Prescription Collection

.....or anything else you might expect a good neighbour could perhaps help with, then get in touch. As a group of CRB checked volunteers we have now been operating within our community for 6 months and have successfully responded to several requests for help during this time. So, remember **01886 840480** for the Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS). **"We're here to help."** Claire McDonald.

In memory of Marie Woodroff

With gratitude the Suckley Good Neighbour team would like to acknowledge Marie's input into the GNS. Marie was a core member of the group, right from the onset bringing her energy and interest as well as her experience in social welfare. As the project developed, Marie volunteered to be the Chairperson, which she performed with enthusiasm and care until she was too poorly to manage. And even then, her husband Alan was delegated to pass on any GNS news! Full of compassion and joy, Marie will surely be missed by her family and friends and will be a loss to our community too.

Suckley Local History Society field trip to the Hive, Worcester

Heavy rain and floods caused the postponement of our planned tour of the Worcestershire Local History Archive at the end of November. Our visit has been re-arranged for **Thursday 6 December** starting at 7.30pm and non members are most welcome (£4 non member fee applies). This £60m development was recently opened by the Queen and contains 12 miles of archive material including 26,000 records of Worcestershire historic buildings. Our group will enjoy a private tour lead by Deborah Overton of the Worcestershire Archive & Archeology Service and will be able to view archive documents of the Suckley area. More information available from Andrew Grieve (01886 884795).

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Suckley Church

Suckley Services for DECEMBER and JANUARY

Sunday December 2nd at 11am, All Age Service
(a lively informal service)

Sunday December 9th at 6.00pm, Healing
Service, a quiet traditional service

Wednesday December 12th at 10.00am, a quiet traditional Communion Service

Sunday December 16th we go to Alfrick for their All Age Service at 11am

Sunday December 23rd at 4pm Crib Service in Suckley Church (*NB change of service*)

Christmas Day Tuesday December 25th at 10.30am Family Communion. All welcome to Celebrate Christmas!

Sunday December 30th at 11am Family Communion

Sunday January 6th at 11am, All Age Service (a lively informal service)

Sunday January 13th at 6.00pm, Evening Prayer is a Celtic service

Sunday January 20th we go to Alfrick for their All Age Service at 11am, (a lively informal service)

Sunday January 27th at 11am, Family Communion Service (no Sunday school).



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Keepers, Beaters, Birds and Dogs

Following on from her article in October's Newsletter, Rachel Slade continues with a description of how a shoot is managed and organised and how it would not be possible without a well trained dog.

The shooting season is now in full swing. Adrenaline is pumping, hip flasks are flowing and the dogs are at peak fitness ready to work. In this article I will go into more detail about the standard days shooting and the work and the people that are involved in running a good shoot.



A common sight in our countryside, the pheasant originated in Asia.

Shooting has been an important part of our rural social history for hundreds of years and the traditions and etiquette have been passed down from generation to generation. The pheasant was introduced by the Normans to this country from Asia in the 11th century. It was introduced solely as a game bird and has been bred ever since for this purpose.

A shoot is managed by a gamekeeper and can cover any area from a small wood to hundreds of acres. The size of the shoot determines how many birds the gamekeeper puts down each year. The birds come from a specialist breeder and at the end of each shooting season, the remaining birds are caught and sent back to the breeder to use as breeding stock. The eggs are collected from the birds and put into incubators between April and June. The breeders rear them from one day old chicks to "poults" - the name given to birds around 6-8 weeks old.

In July, the poults are then sent on to the gamekeeper who releases them into large open pens around the shoot site, feeds and closely monitors them. The pens are then gradually opened up and the birds are allowed to "go wild". They

quickly learn to cope for themselves but the gamekeeper still feeds them twice every day to ensure they are well fed and healthy. This also ensures the birds stay within the shoot grounds and don't wander off.

Shoot days are busy and for the uninitiated look like organised chaos. They are usually made up of mad characters with dogs and muddy boots and a sense of humour is a must! All these people can be divided into three groups:

The Guns: these are the people who pay to come and shoot the birds. There are normally between six and ten guns and they can expect to do four or five "drives" a day. They can be recognised by their tweed suits, funny socks, posh 4X4s and a shotgun! The guns are led by a Shoot Captain who guides the guns across the country to their "pegs". A peg is the spot where the gun must stand. He must stay on his peg and can only load his gun when on that peg. Safety is of the utmost importance.

The Beaters: these are the workers for the day, dressed in camouflage with dogs (mainly Spaniels) and led by the gamekeeper. It is their job to "line-out" and "drive" the birds to a certain point - the flushing point- where they then fly over the guns. Beaters have to be fit to walk lots of miles over difficult terrain, controlling their dogs to drive the birds in the right direction. Pheasants are not as stupid as they look and it takes a good gamekeeper to know his birds and direct his team of beaters accordingly.

The Pickers-Up: as the name suggests, it is their job to pick up the birds that have been shot and to catch any wounded birds to prevent them suffering. A job that is underestimated by many, a picker-up may work any number of dogs at the same time and there is usually a team of them working "behind" the guns. A good picking up dog, normally a Labrador will watch a bird fall, which is known as marking and then when the drive is over, and the shooting is ended, will remember where the birds have fallen and go and retrieve them and bring them back to the handler. At the end of the day, all the birds are added up and the total is known as "the bag".

The Gamekeeper is in charge of the day, alongside the Shoot Captain. They liaise with each other about where the birds are, the best place for the guns to stand, the best way the beaters can drive the birds and the amount of birds they can

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expect at each drive. The guns decide before the shoot day how many birds they would like in "the bag" and a good gamekeeper will present enough quality birds for a good days shooting. Shooting will be on different terrain; open fields, woodland, lower and higher ground to test the abilities of the guns. There is usually a lot of Mickey-taking about accuracy!

The Dogs; There is nothing better than watching a good gun dog work! Dogs are essential on a shoot day, as they do a number of jobs us humans couldn't! Generally Spaniels are used for beating. Pheasants are very clever at getting into undergrowth and sitting tight and Spaniels are very good at getting into undergrowth and pushing them out. They are not allowed to catch them, just merely encourage them to move along! Picking up dogs tend to be Labradors. They are bigger dogs have better "marking" abilities, better memories and are stronger. Spaniels will pick up, but the smaller dogs can struggle to carry a fully grown cock bird.



Vital to game shooting, spaniels are used for beating - flushing out pheasants, deep within the undergrowth, towards the guns.

Training a gun dog takes a lot of time and patience and starts from the minute you bring your puppy home. It is important that your dog bonds with you, as it will want to please you. It is very easy to lose patience when the dog doesn't do as you ask and you will lose its trust. You need to decide what aspect of shooting you would like to be involved in before you start training. Do you want to beat or pick up? You need to keep your training clear and focused to avoid confusing and ruining your dog, However, you may find, depending on your dogs breeding that despite your intentions, the dog is actually better suited to something else! You will only get back from your dog what you put in, and never be afraid to ask for help - if it all starts going wrong, it is the handler's fault and not the dogs. A famous saying in the shooting world is "a Labrador is born half trained and a Spaniel dies half trained!"

Recipes from the Suckley Masterchef

Roast Goose with Two Stuffings

This celebratory goose dish with its choice of seasonal stuffings makes a great alternative Christmas dinner recipe. Merry Christmas to you all!

Ingredients:

1 x 4-5.5kg/9-12lb goose

For the outside-in stuffing

110g/4oz dried cranberries or dried apricots

60ml/2fl oz ruby port

1 small onion, chopped

2 rashers green (un smoked) back bacon, cut into strips

2 cloves garlic, chopped

450g/1lb sausage meat

85g/3oz fresh white or brown breadcrumbs

2 tbsp fresh parsley, chopped

½ tsp fresh thyme leaves, chopped

150g/5oz peeled, cooked chestnuts, roughly chopped

1 egg, lightly beaten

salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the shallot, sage, hazelnut and orange stuffing

350g/12oz shallots, thinly sliced

60g/2oz butter

15g/½oz caster sugar

1 orange, finely grated zest and juice only

3 heaped tbsp fresh sage, chopped

85g/3oz roasted, skinned hazelnuts, roughly chopped

150g/5oz fresh white breadcrumbs, from a good quality loaf

1 egg, beaten

salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

1. To make the outside-in stuffing, soak the cranberries in the port for an hour. Fry the onion and bacon gently in the butter until the onion is tender and the bacon cooked.

2. Add the garlic and fry for another minute or so. Cool slightly then mix with the remaining ingredients, including the cranberries and port, adding enough of the egg to bind.
3. Fry a small piece of stuffing to test seasoning and adjust accordingly.
4. To make the hazelnut and orange stuffing, fry the shallots gently in the butter until golden, then add the sugar and the orange juice.
5. Simmer until the liquid has virtually all evaporated leaving a delicious jammy mass of shallots.
6. Pour boiling water over the sage, leave for one minute, then drain and squeeze dry. Add to the shallots, along with all the other ingredients.
7. Fry a small piece of stuffing to test seasoning and adjust accordingly
8. To prepare the goose, trim the excess fat from inside the goose. Pack the 'outside-in' stuffing into the neck end of the goose, pressing it firmly and then tucking the flap of skin neatly down around it.
9. Secure firmly underneath with wooden cocktail sticks or a metal skewer.
10. Three-quarters fill the stomach cavity with the hazelnut and orange stuffing.
11. Preheat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5.
12. Prick the skin of the goose all over with a fork. Season with salt and pepper. Lay some of the fat removed from the cavity over the thighs to keep them moist.
13. Cover with foil and place on a rack in the oven with a tray underneath so that you can empty out the fat regularly.
14. Roast a 4kg/9lb goose for three hours, a 4.5-5kg/10-11lb goose for three-and-a-half hours and a 5.5kg/12lb goose for four hours.
15. Remove the foil for 30-40 minutes before the end of the cooking time so that the skin can brown and crisp.
16. To check the bird is cooked, pierce the fattest part of the thigh with a skewer. If the juices run clear then the bird is done.
17. Rest for 20-30 minutes, oven turned off with the door ajar, before carving





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and a
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Our Xmas and New Year opening hours are as follows:

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CLOSED 6.30pm Mon 31st Dec REOPEN 8.00am Wed 2nd Jan 2013

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Dr Jonathan Salter

Qualified from The London Hospital in 1983. He completed his
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time working in Australia as a GP. His interests include minor
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Suckley Parish Council Meeting - held On 12th November 2012

SPEEDING ISSUES - The response from the Safer Roads Partnership was not very positive, as the VAS camera does not record actual speeds, only numbers of cars exceeding the 30 mph speed limit, which means vehicles could be doing only 32 miles per hour or 50 plus miles per hour. The Clerk was asked to find out if the camera could be reregistered to record a higher speed of 35 mph so that all vehicles being recorded would be exceeding 34 mph (the leeway allowed before prosecution)

COMMUNITY PLAN - Cllrs Andrew Grieve and Peter Whatley reported on the Survey Results Meeting held on 15th October. The turnout was disappointing, but nevertheless based on the results, the Parish Council agreed to prioritise the following facilities and services for promotion – and where legally possible – Parish Council precept support :-

- ◇ Suckley Post Office
- ◇ Rate relief for public houses
- ◇ Mowing & other necessary maintenance for Longley Green Old Quarry Site
- ◇ Facilities for children
- ◇ Footpath & Bridleway maintenance
- ◇ Broadband Improvement

BROADBAND IMPROVEMENT - The Council’s attention was drawn to Airband Community Internet Ltd – a small but growing wireless internet service provider delivering high speed broadband to business and residential customers in rural areas using wireless broadband. Download speeds from 10 Mb up to 30 Mb are attainable. The Clerk and Cllr Peter Whatley were asked to find out what would be needed to get a reliable 20Mps signal covering as much of the Parish as possible. Airband engineers will be looking at the area in January and publicity to outline what services could be offered will be organised as soon as Airband make details available. The Parish Council are hoping to organise a Presentation Meeting in February 2013. If you are interested in registering, please contact the Clerk Diana Taylor (details below) or contact Cllr Peter Whatley on 01886 884126.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR(S) REPORT - Dist Cllr Anthony Warburton reported on the South Worcestershire Development Plan (Significant Changes) which had

been put forward to MHDC members. Much disquiet had been raised about this plan and a meeting to debate a range of issues would be held at the Bank House on 13th November at 7.00 pm. The main area of concern related to the proposed development at Newland, and a Policy Group of Councillors would be recommending that the huge number of houses proposed for this site be spread around the Malvern area and not just dumped in one place. There was no new road structure planned to support this development at Newland.

OIL PURCHASING SCHEME - the Chairman Cllr Walter Huband reported that a meeting had been held on 13th September, with the Scheme already up and running in the Martley area. If you are interested in joining this scheme, please contact Walter Huband on 01886 884379.

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE - from January 2013 the Mobile Library will include a new stopping point at Suckley School. Exact timings yet to be announced.

SUCKLEY SCHOOL - The Council received a report via The John Palmer Trust regarding the school activities. A Book Club had been formed to encourage the children to discuss the books being read. A teacher from Malvern was developing creativity in art, wood carving etc. Recently 12 teachers from other schools came to see what Suckley School was doing. A new teacher, Miss Pullen had taken the place of Miss Rogers. There were 70 children at the school this term and 80 are expected next year. £25,000 had been granted for a new classroom which would accommodate the reception class. The book about the school which had been created and published with the help of the pupils had virtually sold out. A new scheme for the pupils to create their own CD which should be ready for Christmas was under way. The School would be holding a Carol Service, a Nativity and a School Fair in December.

DIANA TAYLOR, Clerk to Suckley Parish Council
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 Tel: 01684 569430 E-mail: dtaylorsuckley@msn.com

Next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 14th January 2013 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall. There is always time at the beginning of the meeting for parishioners to make a short address to the Councillors for discussions in the meeting.