

JUNE 2013



SUCKLEY NEWSLETTER

Annual Report for Suckley - from our Parish Council Chairman

Suckley Parish Council held its Annual Meeting on 20th May, the minutes of which can be found on the Suckley page of www.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish. Its Chairman, Walter Huband gives us his report for 2012/13.

Your Parish Council has had a very busy year in 2012/13, especially as it was the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

I am pleased to report that the Woodland Road Flood Defences worked very well last year when we suffered a number of heavy rain storms. The Parish Council are still trying to get Worcestershire County Council Highways to put a culvert under Knightwick Road to improve water flow away from Woodland Road, but due to severe budget restrictions this will not be on their high priority list.

As part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in 2012, the Parish Council presented bone china commemorative mugs to all the children attending Suckley School and others who live in the Parish. The Community Group organised a very successful Family Fun & Sports Day on the Playing Fields, followed by a Barn Dance, Pig Roast and Raffle. Without my knowledge, Parish Council members nominated me to attend a special Jubilee Reception & Lunch held at the Guildhall in Worcester on 11th July 2012. This was attended by HM Queen Elizabeth and HRH Duke of Edinburgh. I was amazed and honoured to be selected to attend, and it was a day I will never forget.

Our Footpaths Wardens, Mr Richard Harward and Mr Peter Markins have worked diligently throughout the year to keep open and maintain our footpaths in the Parish. Both Wardens clear footpaths, repair stiles, steps, bridges and fences and endeavour to walk all the footpaths at least twice a year. They liaise with landowners and the Countryside Department at County

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

JUNE 2013

Points of contact:

Newsletter Content: Hilary Pitt – 884355

Newsletter Advertising: Tilda Swabey – 07739 264495

Email: suckleynews@gmail.com

Next Issue: First week in August 2013

Content for newsletter to be submitted 25th July 2013.

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 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

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

Skateboard Arena: Mr P Beaumont – 884550

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Hall and rely heavily on residents/footpath users to report problems to them. They are keen to recruit volunteers to help them in their mission, so if you are interested, please contact any member of the Council or the Clerk – Diana Taylor.

The Community Group, under the Chairmanship of Cllr Andrew Grieve continues to flourish. The Suckley Newsletter has been an outstanding success, with the Health & Wellbeing Group continuing to expand their services. Following the Community Plan Survey, a Results Public Meeting was held on 15th October 2012. The outcome of the Meeting showed that the Parish Council should focus their support for Suckley Post Office; Broadband Improvement; Footpaths & Bridleways; Facilities for children; Rate Relief for local public houses; Maintenance of the Old Quarry. The Council will, however, actively consider requests for support of other community facilities, provided that evidence is produced to prove genuine demand exists for the facility.

Under the management of Cllr John Green our Lengthsman -Barry Bennett - has worked extremely hard in the past year to keep our drains and ditches clear. This is proving to be a key factor in preventing our roads flooding. A specialist Jetting Team from County Highways has also been unblocking a large number of drains. A new Land Drainage Team has now been set up by the County Council to liaise with Parish Councils and landowners with the power to order ditches to be cleared.

Speeding issues continue to feature on the Council Agenda, especially along Knightwick Road and through Longley Green areas which show the highest level of hits. Figures have been sent to the Road Safety Partnership but their response was that we did not have enough exact information for them to take any action. The Council has, therefore, agreed with Alfrick, Leigh & Bransford, that we upgrade the data collection unit in the VAS camera at a cost of around £480. This will reset the speed level to 36 mph and will record the date, time, actual speed and vehicle counts. With this information we may be able to get an increased Police presence with radar speed cameras. You have been warned!

The Playing Fields Committee and the Council continue to improve and maintain the Pavilion and Playing Fields, with the Pavilion being completely redecorated this year. Andrew Duncan has been doing an excellent job mowing the Playing

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Fields, and worked especially hard leading up to the Jubilee Event. Regular risk assessments and an annual safety inspection have been carried out, but we are still having problems with rubbish being dumped on the field. The Council have been advised to have a tree survey carried out by a qualified Arboriculturist, and this will take place in the next month or so. Plans are in hand to increase the use of the Playing Fields in the coming year.

We are keen to try and improve the broadband speeds in Suckley, and as you may know, we are trying to register interests with Airband, a Community Broadband company based in Worcester who have been very successful in providing broadband in other rural areas. We need to have 20-30 registers of interests before a survey can be carried out.

The Council considered 13 Planning Applications during the year, mindful that Suckley is an AONB area, but also balancing the needs of the Community for work opportunities and housing.

In September 2012 we welcomed on board Dr Anne Lewis as our new Councillor to replace former Councillor Rosemary Harward. Cllr Lewis has already proved to be a very valuable member of the Council.

The Council decided to freeze the Parish Precept for 2013/14, but with the huge cuts in District and County budgets, it looks increasingly likely that County services will be reduced or withdrawn. This will bring pressure on Parish Councils to take on more responsibilities under the Localism Bill.

The Parish Council is up to full strength with nine Councillors who give their time and services on a voluntary basis. We all look forward to 2013/14 and will continue to work hard for the best interests of the Parish.

Finally, I would like to thank our Clerk, Diana Taylor, and all the Councillors for the support given to me throughout the year.

A WALTER HUBAND – Chairman

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Medals for musical pupils at Suckley School

On Thursday March the 21st Suckley School violinists performed at the Herefordshire Performing Arts Festival with great success. Beatrice Barnes won a gold medal and Isabella Avis Lee won a silver medal in the Grade 4 string solo class. Beatrice won the Musical Instrument Cup.

The Suckley School violin group, which consisted of Isabella Avis Lee, Beatrice Barnes, Morgan Blood and Hester Hill, won a bronze medal in the String Ensemble class. This was a huge achievement as most of the other players were a lot older and from schools a lot bigger than Suckley. Suckley School violinists are led by Mr Arthur Bancroft and it's his dedication to the group that helps them to reach these very high standards which are exceptional.

Beatrice and Isabella said that they really enjoyed performing although they were very nervous beforehand. Everyone at the festival was very friendly and encouraging. Their results made all their hours of practising well worthwhile.



Beatrice Barnes (left) and Isabella Avis Lee proudly display their awards after performing at the Herefordshire Performing Arts Festival

Stories of the deep - from a Suckley author

Richard Wall, a technical writer by profession has turned creative and published an ebook of short stories entitled "Five Pairs of Shorts". One of the stories is printed below, but first Richard tells us a little of his background.

I was born in Bromyard in 1962 and after a brief spell working in a dark, dismal factory decided ran away to join the navy at age 18 with dreams of enjoying sunsets in the far east witnessed from the flight deck of a magnificent destroyer. The navy had other ideas and so I spent the next 22 years in and around dark, dismal submarines. Still, you've gotta laugh.

I left the navy in 2002 and became a technical author working first for a documentation company in Cheltenham then going freelance with his company Black Dog Technical Writing Ltd.

My wife, Barbara (the chiroprapist and yoga teacher) and I moved to Suckley in 1992, renovating The Poplars and quickly becoming Jim Griffith's favourite neighbours. In 2010 we moved from The Poplars to The Boat House, where once again we embarked on a renovation project which is now finished, as is our bank account.

The Kidney Punch

1983, onboard the nuclear submarine HMS Colossus, somewhere beneath the North Atlantic.

"Stand-by to surface!"

Cocooned in the warmth of his sleeping bag, Able Seaman Dave "Dinger" Bell opened his eyes and blearily checked his watch. 22:30, two more hours to go. Happy days.

A submarine crew is split into two watches, known as First Watch and Second Watch. First Watch work 7 o'clock to 1 o'clock, Second Watch 1 to 7. Six hours on, six hours off the whole time at sea, sometimes for months on end. This meant that sleep time was precious and Dave lay awake just long enough to feel

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the boat begin to roll and then smell the foul odour of fresh air before falling back to sleep to the muffled sound of a helicopter.

He woke again to someone shaking his leg, then a voice hissed, “Dinger.” Then more insistent shaking followed by a louder hiss, “DINGER!”

Dave rolled over, opened his eyes and was temporarily blinded by a flashlight at full beam, held by a grown man giggling like a child.

“*****!”

“Time to get up, mate.”

Dave clambered out of his bunk, staggered to the bathrooms, freshened up and then joined the queue for the galley and some home-made soup.

“What’s in the soup, chef?”

“Who knows?”

“Happy with that.”

Sitting in the mess with a mug of indeterminate contents and a thick hunk of bread, Dave looked around at a dozen sailors avidly watching a dodgy video featuring a 1970’s boom-chicka-wah-wah soundtrack.

Dave grinned and said, “What’s the movie about?”

No response.

“Is there a car chase?”

“Clear off, Dinger.”

Dave laughed, finished his soup, rinsed his mug and made his way along the semi-dark passageway, climbed a ladder and turned to his left.

The Control Room was lit in an eerie red glow, referred to imaginatively as ‘red-lighting’, as it was every night at sea. Before raising the periscope at night, all lights would be switched-off resulting in pitch-darkness known equally imaginatively as ‘black-lighting’. The transition from red to black-lighting helped the captain maintain his night-vision when using the periscope and was also the source of endless amusement for a bored crew by providing the perfect cover for

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a sick mind to deliver an anonymous, random kidney-punch.

Able Seaman “Knocker” White was the unofficial 2nd Watch kidney-punch champion and arch nemesis of Dave. Standing a full five-feet-six inches in his smelly socks and proud owner of a ‘fuller-figure’ maintained religiously by a diet of beer and kebabs, Knocker had brought Dave to his knees more times than he could remember by a sudden blow to his lower back that brought tears to his eyes and emptied his lungs of air.

Tonight, Knocker was at his usual position standing in front of a display and Dave eyed him warily as he threaded his way through the dimly-lit control room and walked into the Sonar Room.

“What’s happening?” he said.

The Sonar Petty Officer turned to Dave. “We’re coming up to PD in a few minutes to mix it up with a few skimmers.” In English this meant that the submarine was going rise to periscope-depth and carry out a series of attacks on some Royal Navy warships. There was no love lost between ‘skimmers’ and submariners.

Dave put on headphones and settled down at his sonar set. The captain’s voice barked over the tannoy, “Black lighting in the control room, stand by to return to periscope depth.”

The submarine responded with a slight bow-up angle and the next couple of hours passed in a blur of activity as the captain maneuvered the submarine to engage multiple targets in a game of cat and mouse. This kept the operations team busy as they had to listen out for the constant changes in depth, course and speed and adjust their sensor equipment accordingly.

After two and a half hours, the Petty Officer tapped Dave on the shoulder. “Looks like things are gonna be quiet for a while, Dinger. Go and get yourself a cuppa and be back here in fifteen minutes.”

Dave nodded and walked out of the Sonar Room. Standing for a second to allow his eyes to adjust to the almost pitch darkness of the control room, Dave noticed a familiar portly shape hunched over a faintly glowing screen and allowed himself a terrible grin.

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Knocker White was still there. Payback time.

With the stealth of a panther, Dave crept over to stand behind the rotund shape presently engrossed in the goings-on of the electronic display.

Thank you, God.

Adjusting his stance and taking a deep breath, Dave flexed his shoulders, curled his right hand into a tight fist with the middle knuckle protruding, swung his arm back into the middle of last week and let go.

It was the punch of a heavyweight champion, the strike of an assassin. With the speed of an arrow leaving a bow, Dave's fist shot forward with unerring accuracy, burying itself knuckle-deep in soft doughy flesh just below the rear of the victim's rib cage.

The response was immediate.

“OOOOOFFFFF...” SMACK!

Dave winced at the sound of the head hitting the display screen, but grinned triumphantly as the figure sank to his knees moaning in pain.

Biting his fist to quell hysterical laughter, Dave made good his escape, moving as a shadow through the darkened control room with the swiftness of a ninja.

He was elated. Best kidney-punch, ever.

Exiting the control room, Dave descended the ladder and made his way to the mess. He was still laughing maniacally as he walked into the mess.

There, nursing a cup of tea, sat Knocker White. Dave did a classic Hollywood double-take.

“What are you doing here?”

“Havin' a cup of tea,” said Knocker.

“Who's on your display, then?”

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“Rear Admiral Harrison,” said Knocker. “Little fat bloke, just like me. He came onboard when we surfaced last night, said he joined the navy as a boy seaman and wanted to have a go at being an operator again.”

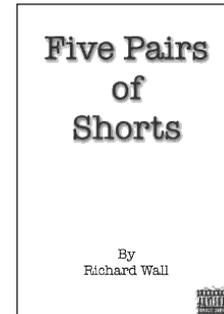
Knocker paused.

“Why do you ask?”

Just then the loudspeaker clicked.

“Able Seaman Bell, report to the control room...**NOW!**”

‘Five Pairs of Shorts’ by Richard Wall is available on Amazon for Kindle.



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

| | |
|-----|--|
| ... | <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>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> |
| ... | <p>Local History Society Wednesday June 19th - 18th Century mansion at Gaines Meet at the Gaines, WR6 5RD at 2.15 pm on Wednesday 19th June. Non members welcome at a cost of only £4. For lift sharing please contact Andrew Grieve on 01886 884795 (andchris2@btinternet.com)</p> |
| | <p>One for your diary! 7th September Suckley Village Hall - Cakes and Puddings evening.</p> |

Local Services:

Mobile Library Timetable 2013

Please note change of location and new times :

Fridays only at
 Suckley - Cross Keys 11.20 - 11.40
 Suckley School - 11.45 - 12.10
 Longley Green Post Office 12.20 - 1.00

Dates: 14th June, 5th July and 26th 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 Good Neighbour Scheme

Tel. 01886 840480

As the SGNS begins its second year of planning and support for the community, we thought that you may like an update on some of the requests that were received by the scheme over the past year .

In total, there have been 19 calls to the duty volunteers who have then in turn made requests to the according volunteers for the following;

- Form filling
- Help with working out answer phone technology
- Shopping
- Rogue hedge cutting
- Home from Hospital request
- Long Term Care enquiries
- Transportation
- One off repair to a leaking garden shed
- Garden assistance
- Finding a Father Christmas

So, as you can see, the requests have been varied yet useful and indeed some of the calls have been made by relatives based else where but having family living in Suckley.

It is also wonderful to be able to report that the scheme still receives new offers to join the volunteer list, which in turn means that we can offer a wider field of help. All our volunteers are CRB checked, carrying with them a photo-identity card.

REMEMBER the number 01886 840480

Recipes from the Suckley Masterchef

Saffron Risotto with griddled Chicken and Parmesan

Serves 4

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 4 x 6oz free range breasts of chicken, skinned | 1½pints of chicken stock |
| 12oz risotto rice | 4 fl oz of double cream, half whipped |
| Pinch of saffron strands | 2oz butter |
| 2 cloves of garlic, peeled and chopped finely | Juice of half a lemon |
| 2oz of shallots, finely diced | 1 bunch of fresh chives |
| 2fl oz of olive oil | |
| Salt and freshly ground pepper | Parmesan shavings |

1. In a large pan heat the olive oil and sweat the chopped shallots and garlic, stir for 2-3 minutes, add the rice and the saffron strands and stir for a further 5 minutes, then add the chicken stock
2. The risotto should be bubbling, whilst the endless stirring continues
3. Test the rice by biting a single grain which should be intact but firm, at this point stir in the half whipped cream, lemon juice, chives, butter and season well
4. Season well and griddle the chicken breasts until cooked through
5. Serve the risotto at once, placing the chicken on top of the rice, top this with the parmesan shavings

Suckley Church

Suckley Services for JUNE and JULY

Sunday June 16th We go to Alfrick for their 11am All Age Pet Service (A lively informal Service where your pets are welcome too!)

Sunday June 23rd at 11am Family Communion (a formal Common Worship service)

Wednesday June 26th at 10am a small said Common Worship Communion service

Sunday June 30th at 11am Family Communion for all 3 churches (a formal Common Worship service)

Sunday July 7th at 11am All Age Service (A lively informal service)

Sunday July 14th we go to Leigh Church at 11am for their Sea Sunday Family Communion (a formal Common Worship service)

Sunday July 21st we go to Alfrick for their 11am Family Communion (a formal Common Worship service)

Sunday July 28th at 11am Family Communion for Lammas, to celebrate the beginning of the wheat harvest (a formal Common Worship service)

Don't forget to enjoy Suckley Church's own Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/suckleychurch). You can enjoy the photos even if you don't have a Facebook account.



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Suckley History Society goes rabbiting into local history

At the latest History Society meeting on 18th April our secretary, Liz Devenish, welcomed Deborah Overton from the Worcester Archaeology & Archive Service to give her entertaining presentation on the History and Archaeology of Medieval and Post-Medieval Rabbit Warrens. Deborah introduced her topic of Coneygrees & Warrens by telling us that 'coneyes' were the adults and the young were called 'Rabbits' and were imported by the Normans from the Mediterranean area.

In medieval times coneyes were an important asset. Apart from the social status accorded to the Lord of the Manor for owning the rabbits, they provided meat for the Lordships table and the fur was used as luxury trimmings and items of clothing.

Because of their delicate nature of managed burrows, great thought went into their construction. Typically they were constructed to form a large mound with stone rubble & sand, then topped with turf so that the water would run off. Rabbits like to be warm & cosy without getting their feet wet, but they also needed water nearby to drink. Some of these mounds could be very long, hence the term 'Pillow mounds'. A ditch would be dug around the mound with lots of holes & tunnels for the rabbits to come out and enjoy the grazing. The mound was enclosed with a stone wall, topped with a willow woven fence, which was part of the warreners job to maintain.

In order to look after this investment the Lords of Manor would appoint a 'Warrener'.

This prestigious position came with a house and could be the forerunner of today's gamekeeper.

Field names indicating their usage included 'Coneygraze', 'coneygres', 'Coneygreen', 'Coneyard' and farm & house names such as 'Warren' give us a clue to their origins.

Of the 'pillow mounds', there are a few local examples in Alfrick and Old Storridge.

This fascinating talk continued over refreshments in a typically friendly and informal History Society social session. Deborah left us with a copy of the transcribed 1830's tithe map of the Suckley area – copies available from Andrew Grieve (01886 884795 andchris2@btinternet.com)

The Suckley History Society's next event will be an afternoon tour on Wednesday 19th June of the fascinating 18th century mansion of the Gaines just over the county border in Herefordshire. For the past 50 years this house has served as a Christian Youth Centre and is a real hidden treasure right on our doorstep. Leading architectural historian Julia Ionides will give us an illustrated talk on the evolution of the house from its early beginnings to the present time, which will be followed by a guided tour of the house and grounds finishing with refreshments.

Meet at the Gaines, WR6 5RD at 2.15 pm on Wednesday 19th June. Non members welcome at a cost of only £4. For lift sharing please contact Andrew Grieve on 01886 884795 (andchris2@btinternet.com)

Timely tips for the garden in June (from Laylocks)

- Plant up summer containers. Add a slow release fertiliser such as Phostrogen time release plant food. (Follow packet instructions carefully for best results.)
- Hanging Baskets - use as large a basket as your budget or bracket will support. Large baskets are always easier to look after as they don't dry out so quickly. They will do best in a lightly shaded position.
- Deadhead any faded Rhododendron flowers.
- Dig up and store tulips after flowering
- Hedges - start trimming fast growing Leylandii, Privet etc.
- In the Vegetable Garden keep sowing and planting out - warm and wet conditions are ideal for young plants to establish themselves. Hoe often to control weed seeds - this is best done at the start of the day so the sun will kill the weeds.
- Guard against pests such as carrot fly, cabbage root fly and greenfly.
- Now is the time to prune Spring Flowering Shrubs if required e.g. Forsythia, Flowering Currant (Ribes) etc.
- Provide support for tall herbaceous plants (e.g. delphiniums) while they are small.
- Watch out for Vine Weevil attacks on plants. The adult beetle eats the leaves, but the real damage is done by the white grubs which eat the roots. Treat established plants with *PBI Provado or pot new plants in *Plant Protection compost.
- Roses - treat with *Rose Clear to help prevent blackspot and greenfly attacks.

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“Heart Start Suckley”

Would you like to be better able to save a life? There is a growing interest in Suckley to better equip ourselves with basic resuscitation skills. Thanks to Chris and Jo from ‘HeartStart Defford’, who are prepared to offer their time, skills and equipment free of charge, we hope to set up a training course in Suckley (probably 2 or 3 hours), with refresher courses as needed. If there is enough interest we may be able to equip the village with a defibrillator and a team able to use that too. We can all of us benefit from being better equipped to deal with the emergency that we hope will never happen.

If you would like to be informed of any basic resuscitation course in Suckley, or be involved in any way to make this happen, please let Anne Lewis know. 01886 884552 or annelewis@doctors.org.uk These ideas have the support of both the Parish Council and the Suckley ‘Health and Wellbeing Group’ (part of the Suckley Community Plan).

Suckley Art Group

We have been meeting, as usual, on Monday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. We have spent the last few months doing whatever we fancy painting – anything from a prize bull to an old shed! Some members have also enjoyed creating their own Easter and Birthday cards for friends and relatives.

We are now turning our attention to the art classes laid down for the Alfrick Show and these will be our main projects for the summer months. Since one of the classes is “farm machinery”, we are hoping to make a trip to the Victorian Farm near Ludlow for some inspiration.

We are, as always, very happy to welcome anyone who would like to join our very informal group. Not one of us would set the Royal Academy alight but we do enjoy just “having a go.”

Carol Boughton - 01886 884210



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SPOTLIGHT ON - Wasted Medicines

A gentle reminder that medicines ordered and then returned unused cannot be recycled back onto our shelves. They are destroyed. In previous issues we have mentioned the huge sums of money that are wasted on unwanted medication.

Please take the time to read through your repeat list and only select those that are needed.

Our returned medication cupboard is literally overflowing!



Satisfaction Survey: You may be asked to participate in a satisfaction survey if you have certain treatments at the beginning of the next few months. It will require you to rate your satisfaction of the treatment you have received from 1 being very dissatisfied to 5 very satisfied. If you can help us out with this we would be very happy indeed!

Upcoming events. Race for Life in aid of Cancer Research Worcester June 16th 2013

Please leave any feedback about the newsletters and our digital display screen (constructive criticism welcome!) by emailing kateparkinson@nhs.net, text to 07745 209308 or filling in a comments form in the waiting room. Many thanks.

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.



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JUNE 2013

News from Suckley Parish Council Meeting

Held on 13th May 2013

This Meeting was the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Cllr Walter Huband was re-elected as Chairman and Cllr J Green as Vice-Chairman. Other Councillors were nominated to represent the Council on various posts - i.e. Planning, local Charities, Playing Fields Committee, Worcs CALC, Police, NHS, and Suckley School. The Council also noted/reviewed their Standing Orders, Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessments.

Speeding Issues - The Clerk reported that former Co Cllr Clive Smith had offered to pay for the upgrade to the VAS camera out of his parish budget, but unfortunately this did not come about, so all three parishes would now be paying for this upgrade. The camera in Suckley had logged hits in March as follows - Village Hall 1,211 and Opposite Church Lane 4,427. When the upgrade was in place, more detailed information relating to cars and speeds would be available. Following the concerns expressed re speeding in Suckley Green, the Clerk had contacted Highways. A Highways Traffic Engineer had visited the site and had recommended junction warning signs for the junction adjacent to Stores Cottage. The Council felt this would be wholly inadequate and the Clerk had put in a request for at least triangle signs with an exclamation mark or hazard warning on them. However, the response back from Highways was that this signage did not meet the criteria, so it would appear that the only signs we can have are the T junction signs.

Broadband Improvement – The Parish Council are still hoping for enough parishioners to sign up to Airband to make it a viable proposition for the Company. The Clerk had arranged for an Airband Presentation to be held at the Annual Parish Meeting on 20th May. Hopefully, we might get enough people interested to start up this service in the Parish. This is not a commitment to the service. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk, Diana Taylor (details below) or contact Cllr Peter Whatley on 01886 884126.

Highways - A large number of drainage problems in the Parish have been resolved, thanks to the efforts of Cllr J Green, Barry Bennett our Lengthsman and the Jetting team sent by Worcestershire County Council Highways. However, some potential flooding problems still remain, and the Land Drainage Officer

JUNE 2013

Mr Tom Palmer visited a few sites with Cllr J Green and the Lengthsman. Most of these concern ditches having to be cleaned out, or new ones constructed, to help with the run off water. The Land Drainage Authority (LDA) will be writing to landowners asking them to clear their ditches. Cllr J Green reported that the ice warning signs (snowflake) in Longley Green had been stolen. The Clerk has ordered replacement ones, but they may not arrive until later in the year.

Local Police - Crime figures for Suckley in April were reported as NIL.

Suckley Playing Fields - The Annual Safety Report has been completed, with no major issues to be dealt with. The long and time consuming Severn Trent Water saga regarding water leakage was now coming to an end, with Severn Trent finally relaying new pipe, and repairing a blocked drain pipe. Unfortunately, the problem of dumping garden waste and other materials on the Playing Fields continues, with hedge trimmings and half a tree being the most recently dumped items. Because of this, the Playing Fields Committee have decided to erect a removable bollard at the entrance to the car park. This would be about 650 mm above ground, painted yellow and black. Keys would be available for regular users and also held by Cllr C Luton.

Footpaths - The Footpaths Team of Harward & Markins has continued to prosper. The chief occupation over the year has been the clearing of windblown trees which have been falling and blocking the Worcestershire Way. Some of these trees are potentially dangerous, so the Wardens are asking for help in locating the owners of woods in the area so action can be arranged. A new bridge has recently been built replacing the old plank one which crosses the brook forming the boundary between Joe Roper's Lower House Farm and John Lewis' Low Yearsett Farm.

DIANA TAYLOR, Clerk to Suckley Parish Council
9, Lambourne Avenue, Malvern WR14 1NL
Tel: 01684 569430 E-mail: dtaylorsuckley@msn.com

Next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 8th July 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.