

OCTOBER 2014



Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness...



*"... To bend with apples the moss'd
cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the
core; "*



Keat's ode "To Autumn" so eloquently describes the Suckley orchards and hedgerows which, after the glorious September, are bursting with bumper crops of blackberries, damsons, apples and quince.

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

OCTOBER 2014

Points of contact:

Newsletter Content: Hilary Pitt – 884355

Email: suckleynews@gmail.com

Next Issue: First week in December 2014

Content for newsletter to be submitted 21st November 2014

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

Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme – 840480 / www.suckley.org.uk

Village Hall: email suckleyvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk, Steve Boughton – 884210

Suckley School: Mrs Sheila Marshall – 884283

Suckley & Alfrick Pre-School: Freya Marskell – 07599 420230

Church Wardens: Dr Anne M Lewis – 884552 / Liz Devenish – 884787

Parish Clerk: Mrs Diana Taylor – 01684 569430

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

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

Skateboard Arena: Mr P Beaumont – 884550

West Mercia Constabulary: Emergency 999. Non-emergencies 101. Switchboard 0300 333 3000

PC3381 Sarah Ransome-Williams, CSO 6494 Tracey Caldwell,
CSO 5481 Collin Davies.

**Adverts in the Newsletter £10 for a one-off ad
or from £20 for the whole year**

Talk directly to your local customers
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Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme

Tel. 01886 840480

This is a voluntary initiative run by local residents who recognize the benefits of such a scheme to the community, and want to help their neighbours enjoy a better quality of life. For example, household repairs such as changing a light bulb, fixing a dripping tap, checking smoke alarms, moving furniture, or hanging a picture could all fall within the scheme where skills are available. If you are able to offer help, or need some assistance, please give us a call.

And all our volunteers are CRB checked, carrying with them a photo-identity card.

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More than a stamp and a pint of milk!



*Have you had a good look around your local Post Office and store recently?
If the answer is no then you really should!*

Suckley Post Office & Store has been providing essential supplies and services to the local community for over 50 years, with the current owners Barbara and Roger Blackburn having been in residence for more than ten years. But in addition to postage stamps, fresh bread and milk there are always items on display that you might not expect to find in your average village shop, next time you pop in for a stamp or a loaf, try to linger a little longer and have a good look around.

This autumn you will find realistically priced, hand-made, mulberry paper cards, envelopes, notebooks, scrapbooks, as well as other gifts and gift wrap and bags together with a selection of notepads for dog and cat lovers designed and produced by a Suckley family. **Christmas stock** will be on display from the end of October so watch out for more lovely gift ideas and Christmas cards for those special family and friends, including boxed cards designed by a local artist.

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

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There is usually also a small selection of “pre-loved” items for sale, such as jewellery, DVDs, and handbags, purses and shoes and boots and as the nights draw in and winter finally arrives don’t forget the shop also keeps reasonably priced bags of coal, logs and kindling. Whether you are a regular customer or rarely visit your local shop pop in soon and browse, you might be pleasantly surprised!

Barbara and Roger are always looking at ways to improve YOUR shop, so if there is any way that you think their service could be improved please let them know and remember that most debit and credit cards are accepted for purchases over £5.

Roger & Barbara Blackburn -

Contact: 884201 and website www.suckleypo.co.uk

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

The dangers on local roads and lanes

I recently had a serious cycling accident which resulted in me having 15 stitches in my head and bleeding on the brain (I was wearing a crash helmet) as well as numerous cuts, grazes and bruises. I was 9 days in hospital and after 8 weeks I am still not fully recovered.

The accident was due to poor road surface i.e., **potholes**.

I have 60 years experience of cycling both racing and leisure riding. If it can happen to me it can happen to anyone. I would urge anyone riding on local roads to take extra care and **always** wear a crash helmet.

Jim Allcock.

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SURGERY NEWS - ISSUE 21
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Online Medication Orders

Our new online medication ordering system is up and running. Lots of you have already signed up to use it. If you haven't done so, ask at Reception or see our website for details. www.knightwicksurgery.co.uk

The new system will send your order directly to our Patient Information system, and link with your medication record. This will help minimize errors and reduce lost orders.

PLEASE NOTE

Our old online ordering system is no longer available.

NOTICEBOARD

Flu Jabs

Clinics commence on Saturday 4th October
Check the website for eligibility and clinic dates.

Dispensers Vacancy

We are pleased to announce that Sahaj Uppal has now joined the dispensary team on a permanent basis.

Summary Care Record

From March 31st 2015, the Summary Care Record will come into force.

Summary Care Records (SCR) contain important information about any medication, allergies, and adverse reactions which you may have suffered.

Who can access my SCR?

Only healthcare staff involved in supporting or providing your care can access the information via their NHS smartcard. Their details will be recorded each time

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they view and will only be able to see the information they need to do their job. You can ask your surgery for a copy of your SCR, and although you will not be permitted to change any information written by the healthcare staff, should you notice any errors or incorrect information, please let the surgery know.

If you would prefer to opt out of the SCR and have not previously done so, then you must let your GP know by filling in and returning an opt-out form, which will be available at the surgery. For more information, please visit www.nhs.uk or call in at the surgery.

This Newsletter will also be available on the local Clifton on Teme website at www.clifton-upon-teme.co.uk or www.temetriangle.net courtesy of Bernadette Higgins AND on the Lower Teme Community Magazine site www.lowerteme.co.uk

Suckley's Defibrillator

Do you know how to access Suckley's defibrillator? It could be lifesaving.

Do 'Spread the Word' so that anyone and everyone who could use or benefit from a defibrillator knows that there is one on the wall of Suckley School. It's climate controlled cabinet is NOT locked (but it is alarmed and will squeal while the door is open!)

Remember:

Urgency is vital. Shout or phone for help.
Dial 999 or 112 (112 works throughout Europe and will override a 'locked' mobile phone).

Look after your safety and the immediate needs of the casualty (prioritise first aid like chest compressions) and send someone else (by phone if you are alone) to collect the defibrillator.

Anyone can use a defibrillator, even with no training. It will instruct you step by step and will not deliver a shock unless a shock is needed.

Suckley has recently hosted 2 'HeartStart' courses in Immediate First Aid and another is planned for this Autumn. If you would like to be informed about future HeartStart courses and Refreshers please contact Anne Lewis 01886 884552, 07957 388926, or email annelewis@doctors.org.uk

Country Living

It's a blessing to live in such beautiful country side. We've all chosen to make our homes here . And for many of us, that means living with pets, going for walks with our dogs, snuggling up with our cats, riding our horses.....

So how many of us have had close shaves when riding or walking on these country lanes. Who's lost their pets? Lots I'm sure. Just like the kind lady who stopped on her morning journey to say there was a dead cat on the road along the way from our house. Empathetic because her family also had lost a cat on these country roads. This is the third cat in eight years to be killed on the small road that we live on. Each time it is heart breaking.

Why do we drive so fast on such small roads, so that nothing stands a chance of reaching safety ? Why do we risk startling horses as we race around corners, endangering their riders lives? If the dog walker didn't hear you and move into the grass verge, would you hit them? What would happen if a child ran out from their garden in front of your car, could you stop in time?

Please, on your journey to and from work, to the school gates, to the post office or into town, night or day, take your time to really appreciate where you live and drive more slowly. Our children and pets don't understand speed limits. Neither do they appreciate the danger when there isn't a limit. For the sake of ALL, great and small, please SLOW DOWN !

Claire McDonald

Suckley Parish Council - Vacancy

Do you enjoy walking our local footpaths? If so, would you be interested in becoming a **Footpath Warden** for the Parish? Support and Training given by Worcestershire County Council. The post could be shared or you and a neighbour could work together on maintaining the footpaths which are enjoyed by so many in the parish.

For further information, please contact Diana Taylor, Clerk to Suckley Parish Council on 01684 569430 or e-mail dtaylor@suckley@msn.com OR speak to any Parish Council member.

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12th October & 9th November - 11.00am - 1.30pm

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A warm welcome to our new Head Teacher - and an interview with her pupils



Mrs Marshall with school pupil Imogen

I am writing to introduce myself. I am the new Head Teacher at Suckley School, and have now been in post for four weeks. I am delighted to be here and am enjoying getting to know the children, their families and members of the local community.

I have been teaching for many years, both in this area, and originally in Somerset and have had the pleasure of teaching in Malvern and Worcester schools. My ethos for our school moving forward is to embrace our 'STARS' vision, and maintain the family feel of the school and the highest standards for our learners.

The school has a delightful community feel and we are linking with the church, for assemblies and celebrations too. In fact, in December we are teaming up to hold a Christmas market prior to our carol service. We are also building new links with Fledglings, who are now offering before and after school care.

The school is currently full but would welcome visitors, and prospective children for 2015 at our **Open Morning on November 10th from 9am.**

Sheila Marshall (Mrs)

The Interview!

At the end of last term, pupils of Suckley School got together to ask some questions of their new Head Teacher - a sort of informal interview - which was due to be published in the August newsletter. However, due to email gremlins, their questions and Mrs Marshall's answers wandered about the ether for a month or more and finally landed in our inbox. A little late but thank you to the pupils who set the questions.

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What are you most looking forward to about being Head teacher of Suckley School?

I am definitely most looking forward to meeting with the children and their parents. I am also looking forward to working in such a caring school in a beautiful environment, and to continue and develop the excellent teaching and learning in the school.

Are you good at teaching, not just the paperwork?

I like to think that I am a good teacher, and other people have judged me that too! My children have fun when they are in lessons, and most importantly they learn. The children in my class last year have said that they really enjoyed the way we worked together to make learning active and interesting, especially when we presented it to their parents.

What made you want to become a head teacher?

I love teaching, I love being in school and I love to make a difference.

What new things will you bring to Suckley School?

I think that Suckley already has an exciting curriculum. It is now my job to blend that with the New National Curriculum so that learning continues to take place to prepare all children to achieve their best, and be ready for the next step in their school journey. I will also be bringing my enthusiasm and my sense of humour!

Why have you given the Classes names?

I have chosen to give the classes names because the numbers can easily be confused with the year groups. It is nice to have a sense of identity, and I have chosen birds from the Suckley locality, ranging from wrens, the smallest British birds to eagles, the highest flyers. Why birds? Because birds have wings to fly high!

What type of environment would you want at Suckley?

I have to confess to being a 'tidy freak!' I like tidy and ordered environments which are stimulating and there to start the learning from. Most importantly, I love to see children's work displayed for all to celebrate.

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

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

...	<p>VILLAGE HALL</p> <p>16th August - Coffee Morning. Very many thanks to those who attended our World War 1 themed Coffee Morning. The Hall was decorated in red, white and blue and there was the opportunity to see actual footage of the war, sample cakes from that era and listen to the old favourite songs of the period. Margaret and Tony Davies had put a lot of effort into finding out about the Suckley men who had fought in World War 1, many of whom didn't return. Some still have descendants living in the area. There was much of interest and a great deal of reminiscing went on over the coffee cups.</p>
...	<p>18th October - Fun Quiz (with the emphasis on FUN) We are charging £1 per person so it is up to you how large you make your team. We shall provide nibbles and glasses, but please bring your alcoholic drinks and we will serve tea/coffee or squash as required. There will be a tombola and the prize for the winning team is £25. The evening starts at 7.30 p.m. so do come along and ENJOY YOURSELVES.</p>
...	<p>Suckley History Society The society has arranged a private visit to the recently restored 15th century Masters House in Ledbury on Tuesday 28th October at 2.30pm</p> <p>Further information from Andrew Grieve on 884795 or Margaret Davies 884301.</p>

Local Services:

Mobile Library Timetable 2014

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: 10th & 31st October / 21st November

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

Stocks Farm Open day

Over 70 people from far and wide attended the event hosted by Ali and Richard Capper. The weather was perfect as was the setting on the lawn for tea and cake after the tour. Over £400 was raised for the Suckley SPACE Project and the Fledglings Nursery School, so grateful thanks to Stocks Farm for putting on such a splendid event.

Suckley Art Group

We have spent the last few months preparing our paintings for the Alfrick Show. We were delighted that we won two firsts, two third places and the Alfrick W.I. Jubilee Challenge Cup. We meet every Monday afternoon from 2-4 p.m. and it is our "oasis of peace" away from dogs, telephones etc. so we can just concentrate on our painting. We have no set formula but just paint whatever we want to. We all have different subjects we enjoy painting – as individual as ourselves. We welcome any visitors who want to see what we get up to and there is always a welcome cuppa to be had!

Carol Boughton.

Suckley Seasonal Specials

It still feels like Summer, so I really find it difficult to write much about how our village Christmas events will unfold... but there is a lot being planned by the School, the Church and the Village Hall. Watch this space!

The first 'December Special' will be the musical "The Daniel Jazz" which will be performed by members of the Community Choir. Madeline Brewin will lead the choir (and any roaring young lions who would like to come along!) So ... come along to our December All Age service and be prepared for something a little different!

Anne Lewis

Suckley Church

Services in Suckley Church In October and November:

Sunday October 5th 11.00am, Harvest All Age celebration followed by a Bring and Share lunch. This year please bring harvest offerings that are well-in-date non-perishable goods which will be given to the Worcester Food Bank.

Sunday October 12th 6.00pm, Celtic style evening service

Weds October 15th 10.00am, a small said service of Holy Communion

Sunday October 19th, we go to either 11.00 All Age service in Alfrick or 3pm evening worship in Knightwick Chapel

Sunday October 26th 11.00am, a family service of Holy Communion in the 'Common Worship' style

Sunday November 2nd 11.00am, All Age service (a lively informal service for all the family)

Sunday November 9th 6.00pm, Memorial service, remembering particularly those who have died in the last year

Sunday November 16th, we go to 11.00 All Age 'Shoebox service' in Alfrick.

Operation Christmas Child was created in 1990 for children in Romania. Each November thousands of churches, groups and individual donors prepare and collect shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies, personal items, and other small gifts. These boxes are then distributed in over 100 countries through national teams of volunteers who are connected locally to the children receiving the gifts.

Weds November 19th 10.00am, a small said service of Holy Communion

Sunday November 23rd 11.00am, a family service of Holy Communion in the 'Common Worship' style

Sunday November 30th 11.00am, Holy Communion with music led by Leigh Choir

Sunday December 7th 11.00 am, All Age service with 'The Daniel Jazz' sung by Madeline Brewin

Anne Lewis (884552, 07957 388926, annelewis@doctors.org.uk)

Liz Devenish (884787, 07929 001563, liz.devenish@virgin.net)

Useful information can be found too via the following links:

www.suckleyspace.org.uk, www.facebook.com/suckleychurch, www.wwrt.org.uk

An autumn cake for Suckley's bounteous produce. Richard Allen's apple and walnut cake

Hilary Pitt writes: *This recipe was one of the cakes served at the Stocks Farm Open Day. I had a request for the recipe and here it is. I cut this recipe out of a magazine around 12 years ago but have forgotten who Richard Allen is! All I can say is, thanks Richard, nice cake and perfect for this time of year.*

INGREDIENTS	
40g (1½oz) sultanas, soaked in 35ml (1½fl oz) brandy or cognac for several hours or overnight	1 tsp vanilla extract
350g (12oz) apples, Bramley preferably	1 tsp ground cinnamon
the juice and zest of ½ a lemon	185g (6½oz) plain flour, sifted
100g (3½oz) butter	½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
150g (5oz) sugar	½ tsp baking power
1 egg	50g (2oz) chopped walnuts

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/gas mark 4.
2. Line a 15cm (6in) cake tin with paper and set aside. Peel the apples and slice enough to arrange and cover the bottom of the tin. Grate the remaining apple and mix with the lemon juice and zest.
3. Cream together the butter and sugar until pale and fluffy. Gradually add the egg and vanilla extract, beating after each addition. Fold in all the dry ingredients as well as the grated apples and sultanas. Pour over the arranged apple slices in the tin and level off.
4. Bake for 40 minutes to one hour, reducing the temperature to 150C/300F/ gas mark 2 (if the cake colours too quickly) for the last 15 mins. A knife when inserted will come away clean when the cake is cooked. Cool in the tin for half an hour, then remove from tin to finish cooling.



FLEDGLINGS NURSERY SCHOOL - SUCKLEY

Pre-School for Suckley and Alfrick School.

Quality care, in a safe and welcoming environment, in the sensational grounds of The Hop Kilns.

Fledglings has opened its Nursery Room and can now take children from 3 months!

We also offer; Breakfast and after School care for Suckley School pupils up to the age of 11yrs.

Holiday Club for October Half term; £25.00 A day, 5 Days £100.00.

Gym and Dance groups to start after Half term, from Pre-School to 11 yrs
Baby and Toddler groups

Every Tuesday and Thursday 10.00am-1130a.m £3.00

For more information, Contact; Freya Marskell 07599 420230

Email: fledglingsnurseryschool@gmail.com

Website: fledglingsnurseryschool.co.uk



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Peru Mission

Some of you may be aware I am visiting Peru as part of the Diocese of Worcester Mission to visit churches and schools in the shanty towns, especially in Lima. The need to help the people in these areas is the reason for the visit and after self-funding the flights and accommodation etc. the reason for my fund-raising was to take gifts in the form of money with me.

A very successful tea and cakes event was held in September at our Church and it was lovely to see so many people there. There were stalls and cream teas. I would like to thank all those who attended, the lovely folks who helped on the day and the many donations of cakes, books, plants etc. Many thanks to those who couldn't attend and sent donations. The total raised was £253. Couldn't have done it without you. I will try and write an article for you after the visit.

Jenny Taylor.

Changes to Worcester - Suckley Bus Services*

The bus services through the parish are being changed from September 1st. The weekly (Fridays only) 425 service to Malvern is being withdrawn. In contrast the 423 service to Worcester will double in frequency to 6 times per day (except Sundays & Bank Hols), though with an earlier last bus back from Worcester at 16.40.

CP						
Worcester, Bus Station		08-25	09-40	13-25	14-40	16-40
Suckley Green, White House	07-33	08-56	10-13	13-56	15-13	17-13
Suckley, Stocks Cross	07-36	08-59	10-16	13-59	15-16	17-16
Longley Green	07-38	09-01	10-18	14-01	15-18	17-18
Alfrick Pound	07-40	09-03	10-20	14-03	15-20	17-20
Worcester, Bus Station	08-20	09-28	10-45	14-28	15-49	17-49

Notes: CP - This journey will accept concessionary pass holders

Operator Phone Number: LMS Travel - 01905 25252

*A full copy of the timetable can be found on www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/buses-in-worcestershire.aspx

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The Villages Playgroup

Early years education has changed considerably since the playgroup first opened in the 1980`s and it has transformed from a playgroup to an Outstanding Ofsted rated early years educational establishment. The Villages Playgroup meets during term-time at The Leigh and Bransford Memorial Hall on Mondays Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 2.30pm and as a group we are very much a part of the local community.

We are extremely proud that our Playgroup facility is one of the few playgroups to achieve a grade of 'Outstanding 'in ALL areas' from Ofsted in May 2012. What do Ofsted say about us?

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding.

"The owner and her colleagues create a most welcoming and stimulating atmosphere at this group where children thrive and make excellent progress. Children and the adults working with them relish the action-packed but relaxed sessions. Strong partnerships with parents, carers and others contribute significantly to the staff's great success in knowing each child well and in fully meeting every child's care, learning and development needs."

Our children go on to attend either Suckley or Leigh and Bransford Primary school with their playgroup friends, this helps to create a positive and seamless start in their development and primary education.

So why don't you come and have a look at our fantastic Playgroup and what it has to offer for children ages 2 to pre-school!

Contact Katie Wiggins on 07854477445 to arrange for a visit.



Do you need a Helping Hand?

If you are looking for an **alternative to residential care** or extra support for those everyday tasks that are becoming difficult for you or a loved one – then we're here to help - **from 30 minutes per week to Live-in Care.**

Our **Suckley care team** has been providing award winning quality home-care since 1989 and can help with: personal care, housekeeping, help getting around or even to provide a break to an existing family member or care-giver.

To find out how we can help you, call: 01905 401 958 or visit: www.helpinghands.co.uk



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A glimpse into life in Suckley in the 16th Century

R M O Capper of The Stocks writes about an early ancestor and discovers an inventory of his ancestor's goods and chattels as listed after his death.

My earliest recorded ancestor Richard Whittingsloe, alias Caper, lived and died in Suckley in 1646.

The Worcester Records Office let me have a copy of the settlement of his estate, a total of £4-3-10 at that time. It appears he was a butcher, possibly supplying the inhabitants of the parish. It would be wonderful to know where he had lived as there could not have been many houses in Suckley at that time.

His wife Maria neé Whittingsloe, was illiterate, making a rough 'M' on the document, not many people could read or write in the 1600s. The name Whittingsloe was part of the family name for some generations. I understand the name is derived from the occupation of wool bleaching or whitening.

The Cappers were those who made woollen caps, generally worn in the middle ages. Wool was the wealth of England. In the 14th century King Edward III (1327-1377) commanded that his Lord Chancellor whilst in council should sit on a wool bale, now known as "The Woolsack", in order to symbolise the central nature and huge importance of the wool trade to the economy of England in the Middle Ages.

Richard was buried in Bromyard, when the town was seeing much activity during the English Civil War.

His inventory listed on the next page.

June the third 1646.

Inventory taken of all the goods and cattles and chattels of Richard Caper of Suckley late deceased and apraised by James Rosse, Francis Gorway and William Palmer.

	£ . . s . . d
Imprimis. His wering apperel, valued at	0 . 10 . . 0
.	
In the hall of the shop one pair weights loosing knives and cleaver and	
Some other tools in the shop priced at	0 . . 6 . . 8
Item one coffer on little table board forme and one gammon of bacon priced at	0 . . 6 . . 0
Item-one chamber pot and one brass pistol	0 . . 5 . . 0
Item-Wood in the and the field	0 . . 2 . . 0
Item-One stolle and one candlestick	
Item-One Shaskin and all other things not seen.	
The whole sum in	4 . . 3 . . 10

Francis Gorway
William Palmer
31 March 1649

Exhibited etc.
by Maria Capper alias Whittensloe
administratrix etc.

Suckley History Society goes back 900 years in Leigh

On a warm and sunny evening last month, members and friends of our local history society gathered in the magnificent splendour of the medieval Leigh Court Barn, courtesy of the Advani family. Our Chairman gave a brief talk on its almost 800 year history, explaining that it is the largest and one of the oldest surviving cruck barns in Britain with a tile roof of ½ acre. Dendrology and radiocarbon tests suggest that it was built around 1325 for the monastic grange owned by the Abbots of Pershore. With the dissolution of the monasteries, Leigh grange passed into private hands in 1540 and the barn has been used as farm building until the mid 1980's when English Heritage funded a careful preservation and the building was opened to the public.

After exploring this ancient cruck framed barn, which is around 10 metres high and wide and over 40 meter long, the history group wandered along to the adjacent Leigh Church of St Ethelburga, which forms part of the classic medieval grouping of church, tithe barn and manor house. Here we were welcomed by Sheila and Jeffery Wright who entertained us with a presentation on the history of this 900 year old church. It is believed there was a 10th century monastery in Leigh, administered from the Benedictine Pershore Abbey, which was mentioned in the Domesday Book. The church was developed over three hundred years with the tower finally added in the 14th century.

We learnt that key features of the church are its imposing Early English Arcade, a Norman Font, a fine carved and painted 15th century screen, several fine tombs and a very rare 12th century stone effigy of Christ in Benediction which almost ended up in the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. This is now housed in the Lady Chapel but was originally placed in a Norman Arch high on the North wall. Following the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536, the Leigh estate (as well the Suckley estate) passed to Edmond Colles as Lord of the Manor and his family are celebrated in a fine tomb within the church.

The church has number of fine tombs and effigies including that of Sir Walter Devereux , Viscount Hereford who acquired the estate from the Colles and built Leigh Court. During the Victorian period the church was sympathetically modernised to include many fine stained glass features.

Our group then enjoyed refreshments in the church kindly provided by Jean Colley and Sheila Wright.

The History Society next two events in their busy calender are:-

A private visit to the recently restored 15th century Masters House in Ledbury on Tuesday 28th October at 2.30pm

As always non members are welcome to attend our events at a cost of £4.

Margaret Davies.

For more information on the next event, please contact Andrew Grieve on 884795 or Margaret Davies 884301.





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Where does a squirrel hid his nuts?!

Well, in my garden, a squirrel has been busy over the past few weeks burying nuts and seeds all over the garden including my plant pots. I cannot help but smile as I watch it carefully 'plant' the hazelnut, finding just the right spot in the lawn and daintily patting down the grass to fully cover its winter food store.

The grey squirrel, now the most common form found in England since the demise of the red squirrel, originally came from north America. As a species squirrels have been around for more than 35 million years and Australia and Antarctica are the only continents in the world that don't have squirrels. You may love them or loathe their destructive behaviour, they are however, a pretty smart and resourceful animal.

Squirrels can run as fast as 20 mph, survive a fall from a height of 100 feet (it has padded feet), jump a distance of 20 feet, and has a lifespan of (usually) 10 to 12 years if not eaten by a fox or owl or killed on the road.

A squirrel has a very large appetite. In a week, it eats a quantity of food that is almost equal to its body weight. They are mostly omnivores, eating nuts, fruits, seeds, buds, flowers, and even the bark of trees. Another delicacy for them is tree sap and they also feed on insects, small birds and their eggs. Squirrels cannot differentiate between the colours green and red and will often eat unripe fruits.

Squirrels have very sharp teeth, which continue to grow throughout their life. These incisors are used for cracking nuts or chewing through things to find food for example, horse chestnuts. They keep their teeth sharp by gnawing on wires or rocks.

And how, do you wonder, does the squirrel finds its nuts that it so carefully buried in the autumn? Well, they lick or rub the nut on their face, before burying it. This leaves a scent which allows the squirrel to find it when hungry. Now that's smart, isn't it?

Read more at Buzzle: <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/facts-about-squirrels.html>



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News from Suckley Parish Council Meeting Held on 8th September 2014

District Councillor – Anthony Warburton reported to the meeting. He emphasised his continuing concern and opposition to the proposed sharing of a Chief Executive with Wychavon District Council. Malvern Hills District Council did not appear to be considering other options. He was looking into taking further action on this proposal

Community Group – First World War Centenary 2014

Cllrs Andrew Grieve and Peter Whatley are still investigating the idea of a large piece of granite as a memorial with an engraved plaque. It was agreed that this would have to be a worthy tribute to the men and women of Suckley Parish who had given their lives in the two World Wars and others since.

Playing Fields – Since Cllr John Green fitted a new door and frame at the Playing Fields Pavilion, it has been broken into and the large copper hot water cylinder has been removed. A new lock and keys have now been put in place. The planning process for new Playing Fields equipment is ongoing. Cllr Carol Luton will be visiting Suckley School to find out what type of play equipment the children would like.

Suckley Church - The Christmas Fair will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 6th December.

Highways – Thanks to Co Cllr Paul Tuthill, quite a lot of progress has been made with outstanding Highways matters in Suckley Parish. Potholes and resurfacing work has been completed in Birchwood Lane/Mousehole Bridge/Nelson Pub/Tundridge Mill. Blackhouse Lane is also listed for pothole repair work in the next few weeks with a “midi” patcher being used to carry out a more permanent repair later this year. Reports have been received about the danger of overhanging branches/hedges in the area. The Clerk is following these up with County Highways/landowners.

Footpaths – The Clerk had received a letter from our Footpath Wardens – Richard Harward and Peter Markins. Both of these stalwart Wardens have looked after our footpaths in the Parish for some considerable time – Richard for

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ten years and Peter over four years ago. Due to health reasons, they are both now wishing to retire. The Council recorded their very grateful thanks to Richard and Peter for all the excellent work they had done over the years to ensure that Suckley footpaths were kept in good repair. The Council are now looking for one or two volunteers to keep up the good work – if you are interested, please contact the Clerk, Diana Taylor, or any of our Councillors. Both Richard and Peter would be pleased to help any new volunteer(s) to get started.

Police/Crime Report – Cllr P Whatley has been keeping an eye on the Police Crime Reports. So far, one ASB has been reported on their statistics in July. However, there have been a number of thefts recently from outbuildings in the area (including our Pavilion) and we wait to see what the figures will show for August. In the meantime, all parishioners should be aware of this recent spate of thefts and take extra security action.

Vas – Speeding – Cllr Peter Whatley has analysed the speeding data retrieved from the VAS camera from 14th July through to 26th August. The latest data was consistent with previous recordings, showing speeds in excess of 30 mph but the majority of vehicles exceeding the limit by under 5 mph. The number of vehicles exceeding 40 mph is very low, and a very small number of vehicles recording speeds of 55-60 mph generally in the early hours of the morning. Knightwick Road remains more prone to speeding than Stocks Road through Longley Green.

Wind turbines – Cllr Barry Kearley drew the attention of the Council to the planning applications/consultations being sought by G2 for the erection of a wind turbine 77 metres high just outside the Parish boundary (in Herefordshire). This would be highly visible, and he believed that others could follow, possibly in Suckley itself. Co Cllr Paul Tuthill stated that it was against Worcestershire County Council’s policy to have turbines.

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 10th November 2014 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 discussion in the meeting.