

DECEMBER 2014

# SUCKLEY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2014

## Points of contact:

Newsletter Content: Hilary Pitt – 884355

Email: suckleynews@gmail.com

Next Issue: First week in February 2015

Content for newsletter to be submitted 23rd January 2015

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](http://www.suckleypo.co.uk) & [www.suckley.net](http://www.suckley.net) or for Parish Council business to <http://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/> then select Suckley from alphabetical listing.

Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme – 840480 / [www.suckley.org.uk](http://www.suckley.org.uk)

Village Hall: email [suckleyvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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.

Merry Christmas everyone  
and a very Happy New Year

*Our festive cover is designed by Suckley School pupil,  
Hannah (Year 2)*

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## Ageing Well Small Grant Scheme

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There are two grants available:

**Community Grants** – Are available as start up grants to support the local community and its residents to 'age well' and live independently for longer, whether this be by setting up a local social group or an exercises class.

**Individual Grants** – Are available for property clean up's and/or energy reducing measures to ensure the home is a safe and warm environment to live.

For further information on the grant criteria and how to apply please contact Melanie Whistance (Malvern Hills Health Improvement Co-ordinator)

via email: [melanie.whistance@malvern hills.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.whistance@malvern hills.gov.uk)  
or telephone **01684 862 283**.



## War Memorial for Suckley

Last year the Parish Council asked for comments about providing a permanent memorial to all those parishioners who have given their lives for us in conflict. In recent months, we've been asked to pursue the scheme by a number of parishioners. So, here is what the Parish Council proposes to try to do, using existing parish funds, plus grant aid from County and District level. We envisage a simple stone memorial: possibly one large block like the one pictured below; possibly an assembled structure using local stone.



An example of how the war memorial for Suckley might look. The Parish Council is proposing that the memorial is of a simple design, possibly using local stone.

It will be placed in Longley Green quarry using an area to the north (road) side of the site roughly 20 feet wide by 15 feet deep. The sketch map (overleaf) shows the location and rough size of the proposed site. The site's surface and the roadside verge will be levelled off to provide easy access to the site with excess soil being placed at the rear of the quarry. The site will be bounded with a post & rail fence to prevent vehicles being driven into the quarry and retain the majority of the quarry for other public use. If funds allow, we would like to provide a bench seat on either side of the site. The memorial will bear a plaque intended to honour the parish's dead in all conflicts, not only the World Wars.

The plaque's wording is currently suggested to be "In memory of those from Suckley Parish who died serving their country".

If you have a better suggestion or have a comment to make about the proposals, please contact either the Parish Clerk, Diana Taylor (01684 569430) or Councillor Peter Whatley (suckleypc-pw@live.co.uk).

Peter Whatley

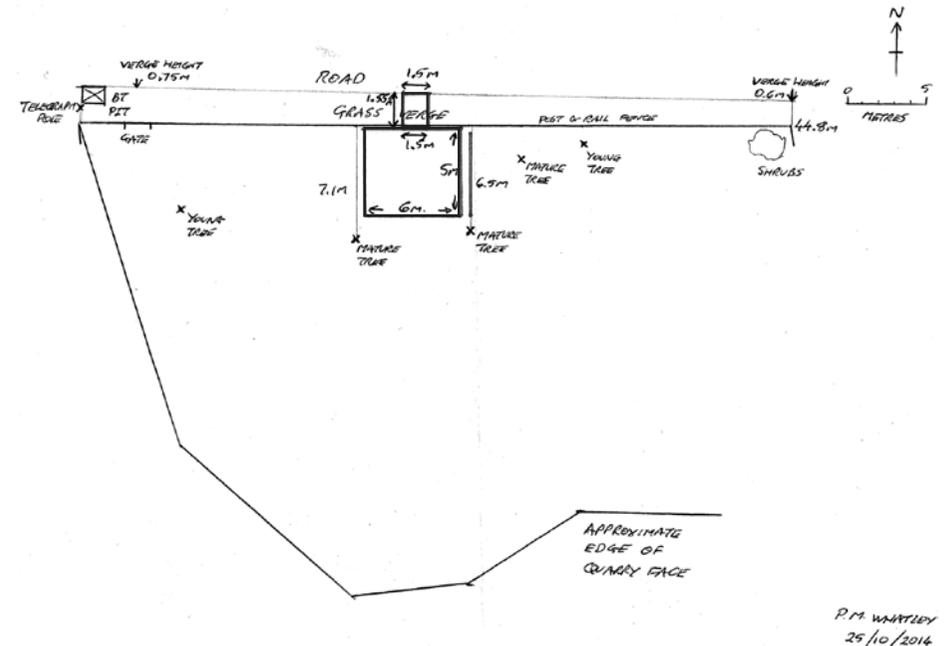


Diagram of the proposed siting of the war memorial.

## Poetry to lift the heart on a grey winter's day

*Our first poem in the Newsletter, as penned by Peter Vaughan, whose son and daughter-in-law live in Longley Green. Peter wrote the poem after a lovely walk starting near the bridge in Longley Green, taking in Birchwood and Bearswood Common.*

### Batchcombe and Bearswood

Ash Wednesday 2011

The gate leads full to Christmas, apple, plum  
While cockerel winds his clock at spring mid day.  
Ahead a glimpse of North and Malvern tops  
The Beacon overlapped with may.

Nestling Link, like sow with young,  
Valley farm, huge with hops and oast  
Neat lanes of stunted apple and behind  
The whale of Suckley, green and ghost.

The cottages perched pale and bleak for folk.  
500 orchard, marshalled ranking men  
At edge of garlic wood , the sorrel, wild white  
Shooting bed of celandine, beneath the den.

The green and yellow, settled here at Nature's hand.  
The pits, part hid by bramble, branch and bell  
And high above, cold blow in trees, through ancient stand  
Of hollies, where rested ashes dwell.

The snapped skeletal tree, and more art here  
Than any heap of bricks in pain.  
A pile of brightly coloured rounds  
The beauty spent, and heartless stain.

Deep banks of stream, and down to leafy bed  
To artists' views, and upward leap to sky.  
A coasting, mewing hawk peers down on  
Ancient fruit, sheds bark but loathe to die.

A shattered barn exposed, the timbered fingers out  
The rusted wheels , a miller's book  
Near mill race, marsh and bulrush brown  
To cradled Cradley Brook.

It's Nature, vibrant green, waking from the past.  
Who made all this? The puzzle solved but just so vast.

## Suckley under Birmingham Airport flightpath trials?

*Claire McDonald writes:* In May this year a national Airport Trial began.

Major airports began to test out new flight paths, including Birmingham , who are trying out new routes and also increasing the concentration over existing routes. The changes are part of a drive to overhaul the UK's airspace by 2020 and use more accurate navigation technology. Instead of following navigational beacons on the ground when approaching or departing airports, airliners will use satellite navigation. This system known as performance-based navigation, will allow pilots to fly their routes more precisely and noise will be concentrated along narrower flight paths.

The change has prompted some airports and National Air Traffic Services (Nats) to test new flight paths for departing aircraft flying below 4,000ft. This has meant that since May, low flying aircraft have been crossing our villages at much lower levels and on a more frequent basis. The noise is audible inside and depending upon the size of the aircraft, can actually effect conversation outside. There have been many complaints made to date, with some trials being postponed early.

The contact details for Birmingham Airport Noise Concern is Tom Redfern; Tel.0121 7678464. Or visit the official site at [www.birminghamairport.co.uk](http://www.birminghamairport.co.uk) . Go to Contact Us and then the Noise Complaints Page. Although our villages are deemed too far from Birmingham Airport, there is also a general contact for the Civil Aviation Authority which is [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk). Or [complaints@caa.co.uk](mailto:complaints@caa.co.uk) You can also write to External Response Team (Complaints), Civil Aviation Authority, Gatwick Airport South, West Sussex, RH6 OYR

### 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.

### News from Suckley Parish Council Meeting Held on 10th November 2014

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:** Anthony Warburton reported that despite his and other Councillors' opposition - majority approval had been given for the appointment of a shared Chief Executive for Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils. This would be the present Chief Executive of Wychavon Council. A redundancy package had been agreed with the Chief Executive of Malvern Hills District Council.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR:** Paul Tuthill reported on the proposed new Worcestershire Parkway Railway Station to be sited at Norton, on the outskirts of Worcester. This would deliver improvements to rail services to and from London and connections to the cross country network. A public engagement exercise is currently under way – if you would like to put your views over or find answers to questions, please go on-line to [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/parkway](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/parkway). The work on the Southern Link Road was progressing well, but so far the County Council only had funding available for a draft design of a widened river bridge. The estimated cost of building a new bridge was £7M.

#### COMMUNITY GROUP: War Memorial

Cllrs Andrew Grieve and Peter Whatley have made considerable progress with the idea of a large piece of granite as a memorial with an engraved plaque. Draft plans have been drawn up for the memorial to be sited in the Old Quarry at Longley Green (a site owned by the Parish Council).



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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.

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A suitable area would have to be excavated to provide a flat surface on which to mount a memorial, plus seats for private reflection. The site would lie back from the roadway within the present fenced off area, but access would require changes to the roadside verge. The proposed site is bounded by mature trees in the Old Quarry. Please contact Cllr Andrew Grieve or Cllr Peter Whatley if you would like to help with this project, or the Clerk, Diana Taylor (contact details below).

**DEFIBRILLATOR** - Cllr A Lewis reported that the defibrillator was now placed in its box on the wall of Suckley School. A significant group of Suckley volunteers have now been trained in basic first aid and the use of a defibrillator. The device itself talks a volunteer through how it is to be used. The ambulance service knows its whereabouts and details which it can pass on if appropriate to a local emergency situation. Cllr A Lewis thanked Co Cllr Paul Tuthill and Suckley Parish Council for providing funding to match the grant from the British Heart Foundation, and to Cllr J Green for coming up with the idea in the first place!

**PLAYING FIELDS:** No further break-ins or theft have occurred since Cllr John Green fitted a new lock at the Playing Fields Pavilion. However, we still have a mole problem which is being addressed. Cllr J Green also reported that he had filled 8 bags with rubbish left on the field. Unfortunately, this seems to be an ongoing problem. Cllr C Luton reported that Suckley School pupils had been very enthusiastic about new playing equipment and design of the Playing Fields. One Playing Field Equipment Company had already visited the Playing Fields and would be sending in costings and ideas.

**FOOTPATHS:** As previously reported, with the retirement of our two stalwart Footpaths Wardens, concern was expressed about the future state of our footpaths in the parish. If anyone would be interested in taking on this very worthwhile task, please contact any of our Councillors or the Clerk, Diana Taylor (contact details below).

**SUCKLEY CHURCH:** Cllr A Lewis reported that the SPACE project continues to move through the Faculty process to the Chancellor for his opinion and decision. Locally the Archdeacon will facilitate discussion between members of the PCC and those who have expressed some reservations about the reordering project in order to find a way for the church to move forwards. The "Parish Profile" has

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been passed first to a Bishop's preferred candidate whom the Bishop considers could be right for the Parish. If this person is interested, then he/she could be appointed by Easter. If not, the position will be advertised and the whole process takes longer. The Christmas Fair will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 6th December.

**HIGHWAYS:** As previously reported, thanks to Co Cllr Paul Tuthill, quite a lot of progress has been made with outstanding Highways matters in Suckley Parish. Some outstanding areas still need to be resolved i.e. some potholes in Birchwood Lane and the severe state of Blackhouse Lane. However, these are in the system to be repaired. The mysterious white lines along the road from Mousehole Bridge have been put there as a "speed reduction" exercise i.e. making the road appear narrower than it already is!

**WIND TURBINES:** Cllr Barry Kearley has previously drawn 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). Two turbine applications have now been put forward to Herefordshire Planning. These would be highly visible, and he believed that others could follow, possibly in Suckley itself. There have been a high number of objections from residents in the area, which is on the edge of Suckley Parish. Please contact Cllr B Kearley if you wish to raise any objections, or contact Herefordshire County Planning Department.

**Finally – the Clerk and Parish Councillors wish all residents of Suckley a very happy Christmas and New Year!**

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 12th January 2015 at 7.00pm 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.**



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## Miss Smiler meets Master Laughter

*As we gear up for the Christmas holidays, Carol Boughton remembers a holiday of a different time and one of warm days and carefree fun with no turkey or presents in sight.*

With winter taking hold, I was thinking back over what I had been doing during the sunny summer we had enjoyed. Quite unexpectedly and at short notice, I had been invited to spend a few days at Potters Leisure Resort at Hopton, Norfolk. My husband was planning to take a group of bowlers there late in the year and the Resort was eager that we should assess the suitability.

The very name Hopton-on-Sea sparked a distant memory for me as I recalled a childhood holiday to a holiday camp in 1950. I was delighted to find that the Golden Sands Holiday Camp was still there and actually located adjacent to Potters.

Our family certainly didn't have a car in 1950. We would have arrived in Norfolk by train – my father manhandling two large suitcases and my mother holding a child firmly in each hand. So, once in camp, there we stayed to enjoy the amenities provided or we climbed down the cliff to play on the beach and paddle in the sea.

So soon after the austerity of the Second World War, everyone was prepared to enjoy and make the most of the week's holiday which was as much as the parental purse could manage at that time. Imagine what a paradise it was for a youngster, with so many activities laid on – you only had to turn up and it was all free! With children fully and happily occupied, it also allowed parents to enjoy adult activities of their own. Even if it rained (and I never remembered it raining) there was always plenty to do indoors. These type of holidays freed one from the vagaries of the English climate when one had to wander around in the wet trying to find something to do or the need to build endless sand castles and eating sand with the cucumber sandwiches.

Our accommodation was a wooden chalet in a row of identical chalets. It was little more than a large garden shed with beds but it was our little home for the

week. The chalet next to ours was occupied by an older, childless couple, but, for some reason, known only to themselves, they took to my sister and I and became very friendly with my parents. They became our beloved "Auntie Win" and "Uncle Bern" and remained firm family friends for the rest of their lives.

It must have been lovely for my mother not to have to do any cooking or washing up. We ate in a large dining hall at long tables, canteen style. In true "Hi-de-Hi" fashion, we were summoned each morning over a loud speaker by a voice announcing "good morning, campers, it is 7 o'clock and the first sitting breakfast will be served at 7.30am" One could only hope that you would be allocated a second sitting if you were particularly fond of your bed! However, two little girls were always up and ready long before the allotted time and had to be restrained from finding "auntie" and "uncle" next door.

Whilst my sister and I were fully occupied (supervised by designated staff) enjoying all sorts of activities like a sports day or a games afternoon, my parents along with "auntie" and "uncle" would play tennis, bowls or just enjoy a peaceful cuppa. Of course, in best holiday camp tradition, there were also competitions. The camp shop did a roaring trade in crepe paper as one of the highlights of the week was the children's fancy dress competition. I have vivid memories of my mother and "auntie" sitting outside the chalet sewing crepe paper into some fabulous creations for us girls.



I entered the competition as the Queen of Hearts in a hooped crinoline (goodness knows where mother found the wire for the hoops), complete with a crown and a plate of tarts. My sister was a diminutive Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary, firmly grasping a toy watering can. I am sure we had strict instructions to behave ourselves or else the dresses would rip! I can't remember winning but, I am sure, all the children received some reward.

I did, however, win one competition. Miss Golden Sands had been chosen and a Miss Smiler and a Master Laughter were needed. I stood for what seemed like hours with all the



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Email: [fledglingsnurseryschool@gmail.com](mailto:fledglingsnurseryschool@gmail.com)

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other little girls grinning until my jaw ached but it was all worthwhile. The judging panel chose me! The boys then had to line up and Master laughter was chosen. He and I had to be photographed with Miss Golden Sands. I had a big yellow rosette to wear and Jack, which was Master Laughter's name, wore a green one. I don't recall that we had any duties to perform which was probably just as well because I was too busy having a good time.

My sister and I were deemed to be too young to join in the evening entertainment but there was a rota of staff members who would constantly patrol the chalets – like a mobile baby sitting service and would alert parents if they heard any crying or disturbance. This enabled my parents to enjoy the evening activities. One particular evening it was topsy turvey night when the men had to dress as women and the women dressed like men. I must say, my parents looked great as each other and my father even struggled into mother's corsets. I remember feeling rather fed up as I wanted to join in the fun too but I was firmly put to bed.



Mistress Smiler, ie Carol, front row and second from the right, with Miss Golden Sands. Master Laughter is second from left.

All good things come to an end and, too soon, the cases were being re-packed and we were making our way home. We had some great memories and, of course, we had the excitement of waiting for the photos to be developed when we could re-live our holiday all over again.

And no, there was no fairy tale ending – I didn't go on to marry Master Laughter!



The GPs and Staff would like to wish all our patients a very merry Christmas and happy and healthy New Year.

#### Christmas Medication Orders:

Last date for ordering medication to be collected by Christmas is FRIDAY 19th DECEMBER. If you require extra medication due to holiday, please ensure your order reaches us by WEDNESDAY 17th DECEMBER

We will be closed on 25th & 26th December and weekend of 27th/28th. We re-open on the 29th December. We will also be closed on Thursday 1 January 2015.

#### Flu jabs

Many thanks to all who attended our Saturday Flu Clinic – flu jabs are still available please contact Reception for an appointment.

#### Macmillan Coffee Morning

Many thanks to all who contributed to yet another very successful event. You were all very generous with your time and money and we raised an amazing £97...Well done to everyone

#### Keep Warm And Well

- Draw curtains at dusk and close doors to block out draughts
- Have regular hot drinks and at least one hot meal a day. Regular eating maintains energy levels.
- Wear several light layers of warm clothes rather than one thick layer
- Keep as active as possible
- Wrap up warm and wear shoes with a good grip if you need to go outside

Try to keep your bedroom and living room at 18°C and 21°C respectively. Alternatively, heat the living room during the day and the bedroom just before you go to sleep.



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## Suckley Local History Society - Masters Ledbury Landmark

The society's final field trip of the year was a real highlight event – a private viewing of the major (£4m) restoration of The Masters House in the heart of Ledbury.

Our "guide" was Gary Butler, one half of the London based Butler Hegarty Partnership, who are the retained architects in charge of this important building restoration project.

Our group of 20 met at the entrance to a building site and before our tour were fitted up with very fetching blue safety helmets and tabards! We learnt that the property is part of the wider St Katherine's hospital site, founded in 1232 which includes St Katherine's Chapel, Hall, Barn and Almshouses. It is a rare example of a medieval hospital complex that is still intact, although it is now surrounded by the town centre car park. St Katherine's Hospital was founded in 1232 by Bishop Hugh Foliot to provide for the spiritual as well as the material well-being of the poor and the aged, the sick and the distressed, travellers and pilgrims and hospitality to the Bishops of Hereford whose summer palace was in Whitbourne. The hospital was housed in St Katherine's Hall and Chapel. The hospital was set among a range of service and farm buildings and was the centre of a considerable estate which, by 1316, covered an area of 606 acres.

In the 15th century, the Master removed himself from the dormitory and hall to live in a newly completed 'Mansion House', now known as the Master's House. The Master was responsible for the complex and was housed in this fine medieval building, which has been dated to 1487. Over the centuries the complex has been in continuous use by the Dean and Chapter of Hereford cathedral and more recently by Herefordshire county council. As a result, the building has seen many additions and alterations which tell the story of over 500 years community activity.

This is a late medieval, timber-framed open-hall house with cross wings at each end. It is a late example of a medieval hall house because there was an open hearth in the centre of the room with smoke vents in the roof. A fireplace and chimney were added later as fireplace technology improved! The master and his supporters would sit at a top table at one end of the hall where they would

receive applicants for alms and hospitality.

Gary Butler highlighted the many changes to the building and the evolution of the house over the centuries. There were original carpenters marks, mud and wattle panels and original 15th century oak timbers to help trace its history. Members were interested in the similarities and contrasts to the medieval buildings at Lower Brockhampton and Leigh Barns that the Society had visited earlier this summer.

The final talk in History Society's 2014 series of events will on Thursday 11th December at 7.30pm in Suckley Village Hall when our speaker will be Suckley resident Robin Hill who will be presenting "The Working Countryside – a rural past captured on camera"

We will finish the evening with some festive refreshment and, as always, non-members are very welcome to join us at a cost of just £4.

For more information contact Andrew Grieve on 01886 884795 or andchris2@btinternet.com





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DECEMBER 2014

## 2015 is expected to be an exciting year for Suckley Church

Suckley Church is looking forward to 2015 with eager anticipation of news in several areas! In the next month or two we will be meeting with our Chancellor, Charles Mynors, who is a barrister specialising in listed buildings, conservation areas, and ecclesiastical law. He will consider the proposed plans for the church facilities (to make the building more user friendly for the church community, the school next door, and the village community as a whole) and guide us through what he thinks is best for our church. We will know what he thinks before long!

We also expect to be welcoming our new Vicar before Easter, and we may know who he or she is before Christmas! This person needs to be pretty special to match what we have asked for in our 'Parish Profile' (there is a copy of this 'job description' at the back of church, for interest).

We hope and pray that this 'pretty special person' will be prepared to take on our 4 (Suckley, Alfrick, Leigh & Bransford) very different rural churches... or actually 5 churches... because in the last week we have heard that the church serving the villages of Crown East and Rushwick will join our immediate group of churches! This 'pretty special person' will not be working alone, because our churches are now very much part of the bigger group WWRT (Worcester West Rural Team); and it has been refreshing to be looked after by ministers David Sherwin, Adrian Graesser, Richard Tweedy, and Jennifer Whittaker, and their support team.

Anne Lewis (884552, 07957 388926, [annelewis@doctors.org.uk](mailto:annelewis@doctors.org.uk))  
Liz Devenish (884787, 07929 001563, [liz.devenish@virgin.net](mailto:liz.devenish@virgin.net))

Useful information can be found too via the following links:  
[www.suckleyspace.org.uk](http://www.suckleyspace.org.uk), [www.facebook.com/suckleychurch](http://www.facebook.com/suckleychurch), [www.wwrt.org.uk](http://www.wwrt.org.uk)



FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

DECEMBER 2014

## Our versatile Village Hall - party space, indoor play area or crockery hire - it's all there for you!

The hire charge for the Hall is just £7 per hour. We have a well equipped kitchen so what about a children's party? We have even hired the hall out for Christmas when there have been just too many guests for Christmas dinner to hold it in a private house. Grandchildren want to play with their new big toys like bicycles or radio controlled cars and there's knee deep snow outside? Try hiring the hall for an hour or two so you can remain sane and score some Brownie points at the same time for being clever grandparents. We also hire out our tables, crockery etc. for a small fee so no need to panic if you have a big "do" at home.



## Survey

In the near future, we shall be sending out a survey specifically pertaining to the Village hall. We really value your comments, ideas and requirements or, indeed, whether you feel a hall is needed at all. Please take a few minutes to help us see our way forward by completing this survey.

**THE TRUSTEES AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE HALL WISH ALL THE RESIDENTS OF SUCKLEY A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

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**Suckley Church**

Suckley Church services December and January are :

**Sunday December 7th at 11.00am**, All Age service (a lively and more informal service)

**Sunday December 14th at 4.00pm** A Christingle Service (in support of the Children’s Society)

There will be no mid month Wednesday service in December (Sunday December 21st we go to Leigh Church at 6.30pm for their service of 9 Lessons and Carols)

**Christmas Eve Weds at 4.00pm** there is a Crib Service in Suckley Church. Come and visit Mary and Joseph and the newborn King. You are invited to bring with you gifts (well-in-date non perishable food) for the Worcester Food Bank

**(Christmas Eve Weds at 11.15pm we go to Leigh Church for their ‘Midnight Communion’ service)**

**Christmas Day at 10.30am** Family Communion Service

**(Sunday December 28th at 10.30am** we go to Broadwas Church with all the WWRT churches for a Communion service)

**Sunday January 4th at 11.00am**, All Age service (a lively and more informal service)

**Sunday January 11th at 6.00pm** a said service in the Celtic style

**(Sunday January 18th** we go to Alfrick Church at 11.00am for their All Age service, or to Knightwick Chapel at 3pm for their informal ‘Evening Prayer’ service)

**Sunday January 25th at 11.00am** Family service of Holy Communion

When our lives are busy, our country becomes increasingly cosmopolitan, Sunday is no longer the ‘special’ day of the week that it used to be, and Christmas becomes a stressful spending jamboree, please try and take time to come along to one of the Christmas services. We all need to be reminded that we are celebrating the simple humble beginnings of Jesus’ life on earth, and the gifts offered to that baby were symbolic of his life as our loving shepherd, and our King, who was born as God’s gift to us.

A warm welcome awaits you in Suckley Church. There are several different types of Christmas celebration... so find one that suits you. May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas. HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Anne Lewis (884552, 07957 388926, [annelewis@doctors.org.uk](mailto:annelewis@doctors.org.uk))

**Damp Ginger Bread**

*Claire McDonald's recipe is from an old Bero recipe book so the measurements are all in lbs and oz.*

INGREDIENTS	
12oz golden syrup	2 tspn ground ginger
4 ½ oz butter	1 tspn mixed spice
9oz plain flour	1 large egg beaten
1 ¾ tspn Bicarbonate of soda	½ pint milk

**METHOD**

1. Line and grease a small baking tray.
2. Melt the butter and syrup.
3. Place all the dry ingredients into a bowl and mix. Pour over the butter and syrup mixture and mix.
4. Beat the egg and milk together. Gradually add this to the cake mix. The final mixture will be of a batter like consistency.
5. Pour this into the prepared try and bake in a moderate oven for 50 minutes, but check regularly after 30 minutes (really, this is the instruction regarding the oven temperature! So I opt for 160° which seems to work ok!).
6. The Cake should be golden brown. Let cool in the tin, lift and slice into cubes.
7. Enjoy

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

...	<p><b>VILLAGE HALL</b>  <b>Saturday, 7th December - CHRISTMAS FAIR - 2-4pm.</b>                  Kick off your Christmas celebrations by joining us at the Christmas Fair. Lots of things for the children to do whilst waiting to see Father Christmas, great stalls to browse around and refreshments when you need a break. Entry is free.</p>
...	<p><b>Thursday 11th December at 7.30pm.</b> The History Society's 2014 series of events final talk will be in Suckley Village Hall. Our speaker will be Suckley resident Robin Hill who will be presenting "The Working Countryside – a rural past captured on camera"</p> <p>We will finish the evening with some festive refreshment and, as always, non-members are very welcome to join us at a cost of just £4. For more information contact Andrew Grieve on 01886 884795 or andchris2@btinternet.com</p>
...	<p><b>Saturday, 25th January, 2015 - CRAZY CAKES AND COOKIES.</b>                  Join us for a fun evening at the Hall at 7.30pm. Lots of tasting and a competition to guess what secret ingredients have been used. Like a certain cake or cookie? The recipe will be available for a few pence. Entry costs £4 per person on the door and this will include free tea or coffee to help the cake tasting along. If you want something stronger, please feel free to bring your own along.</p>

Local Services:	
<p><b>Mobile Library Timetable 2014</b>                  Fridays only at                  Suckley - Cross Keys 11.20 - 11.40                  Suckley School - 11.45 - 12.10                  Longley Green Post Office 12.20 - 1.00</p>	<p><b>Dates:</b> 10th &amp; 31st DECEMBER                  Enquiries about this service should be made to Malvern Library, Graham Road Malvern. Telephone 01905 822722, or email malvernmobile@worcestershire.gov.uk</p>

**Village website address change:**

At the end of October Worcester County Council revamped their website and, without advising anyone, changed the addresses for many pages. It is particularly difficult to find Parish or Town Council websites under the new WCC web menu system, but Suckley's can be found by going to <http://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/> then selecting Suckley from the list.

**Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme (SGNS)**

We are a group of CRB checked volunteers who are here for the community - to help, assist and aid our Suckley neighbours on those occasions when a neighbourly helping hand is needed.

Over the past two years we have put estranged family members back in touch, provided care and domestic cleaning advice, helped with an overgrown garden, repaired a wind damaged shed and re-tuned a TV. And sometimes, just shared a chat and a cup of tea.

So, if you have a problem, why don't you see if we can help?

Although there have been a few problems gaining access to the website, it is now up and running, so you can find out a little more about the SGNS or volunteer your services on [www.suckley.org.uk](http://www.suckley.org.uk)

So remember the number to call.....01886 840480

The SGNS will be running throughout Christmas and on into the New Year.

**We wish all our neighbours a peaceful and happy season ahead.**

