

FEBRUARY 2015



SUCKLEY NEWSLETTER

Weakest Link

The last issue of the newsletter included a poem by Peter Vaughan and the creative talents of Suckley continue with this short story by Kim Jolley. Pop the kettle on, make a cuppa and enjoy this amusing tale of when Emily met the "Queen of Mean".

Number fifteen on the 'List for Living', as Emily Lane thought of it these days. She'd heard the phrase on the radio recently. It was a more optimistic version of 'Bucket List': a concept coined by a brave woman who had used the frightening knowledge that she would be 'the conquered' in her battle with cancer, as a spur to fulfil many life-long ambitions.

Emily made plans. Since her teenage years she'd written down ideas, aspirations, intended projects, and had managed to scatter the back page of the current diary, where she wrote her lists, with bright red ticks of achievement. But it was time for a new challenge. Work was slow; just before Christmas was always a trying time for gardeners. Inactivity, along with seclusion could be a problem if one didn't keep busy. It was time to apply to meet the 'Queen of Mean'. So, on a cold, sharp December evening, after days stranded in frost, gloom and winter's uncompromising fist, Emily logged onto the search engine and was soon on the site. There Anne loomed, dominating the home page, dressed in her customary black. Challenging, daring you to risk humiliation for the chance of some TV time, and a faint chance of hard cash.

You don't scare me Emily thought, and navigated to the application form. Having done the easy name, address and general detail disclosures, she set about composing an attractive and witty (she hoped) account of herself. She

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

FEBRUARY 2015

Points of contact:

Newsletter Content: Hilary Pitt – 884355

Email: suckleynews@gmail.com

Next Issue: First week in April 2015

Content for newsletter to be submitted 23rd March 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 & 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

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
& support your local community

Call 01886 884355

Email: suckleynews@gmail.com

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

FEBRUARY 2015

listed hobbies and interests guaranteed to demand a second look from the BBC researcher. Sky-diving; well she'd enjoyed a couple of tandem jumps fifteen years ago, playing the clarinet; she had owned one for thirty years though rarely disturbed the neighbours with it, and singing in a choir; that was the admission that would attract the attention of the feared compere.

There, it's done. All I can do now is wait.

And she did wait. She even forgot she was waiting. Christmas passed, and as spring knocked on the curtained door, a phone-call; Ross, the cheerful young man reminded her of the wait, and invited her to an audition in Gloucester. Herded around the BBC Gloucester studios by Sophie and Claire, their custodians for the day, twenty hopeful and potential strongest linkers gazed through glass partitions at disc jockeys with earphones, and researchers with clip boards, the music and chat piped into the corridors.

The hopefuls crammed elbow-tight into an office and were handed a sheet of questions.

You have fifteen minutes to complete your paper. It was like an informal school exam. Emily thought she'd done quite well. She didn't know the new chancellor's name, for shame, but apart from that.

Sophie and Claire returned to collect the test papers, then, taking the parts of Anne and the scoreboard, put them through a few rounds of the game. They banked, they passed, and they suffered Sophie's tongue-lashing. A true princess of mean. Emily wondered if Sophie had been tutored by Anne, as an understudy would be in the theatre.

Coffee and tea were brought in, and one by one, they had a camera test and the room next door. All they had to do was chat to the girls informally while being filmed. Then, one by one they drifted off, and again, waited.

Two months passed before Emily received the letter that told her she had been short-listed. Her glee turned to dismay as she read that there was no guarantee of appearing, and that she may not hear for a year. She had better put it out of her mind. Check out that 'List' for another opportunity. She could start on the

FEBRUARY 2015

Offa's Dyke walk; that would be a long-term goal, walking on free, dry weekends over the next however long it took. Or maybe re-join a choir. Some up-to-date experience, should she need to impress Anne.

She nearly didn't answer the phone call when it came. It was Ross, the researcher; she had been picked. As she hung up, she whooped and chased round the garden like a puppy having a funny five minutes.

The pack arrived with instructions for dress code; three different outfits, smart casual, no stripes, checks, small floral design or white. Emily received a plane ticket to Glasgow, and a hotel booking, to include breakfast. Reality in an envelope.

At the airport she soon found the taxi rank with a sign indicating where 'Weakest Link' contestants should wait. She joined the small group of excited, chattering fellow 'Linkers'. Despite having decided on an early night, Emily found herself arranging dinner out with a few of them.

Might as well make the most of the experience, she thought.

They enjoyed a lavish Oriental banquet, with delicious dishes from Thailand, Canton and Japan. The wine flowed and the waiter took photographs of them. No-one wanted to leave, but good sense prevailed, and they were all back in their rooms before midnight.

After forcing herself to eat breakfast, Emily boarded the mini-bus for the studio. Signing the visitor's book, they were issued passes. 'Emily James. Weakest Link Contestant' in bold letters.

The next hour flew by in a whirl of make-up, wardrobe selection and some extra note-taking by a researcher, for Anne's benefit. Up to date ammunition. And then more waiting. In the green room, they watched as the first show of the day was recorded. Refreshments were served with caution; no-one wanted a coffee stain on their beautifully prepared clothes.

As the two finalists came on the screen, the team were ushered down stairs and corridors to the recording studio, where they shuffled around in a nervous

huddle, waiting for their moment. Anxious looks were exchanged, and the air fell thin and quiet.

The door burst open and the two beaming finalists came out, relieved and exultant. Team Emily was now in the firing line, each of the nine finding their podium, complete with their names in lights. After a briefing about the camera and how to leave the podium if voted off, she arrived. Marching up to her point of command, Anne issued the contestants with instructions, and without any further pre-amble, the fight began.

The first round is always simple, the questions designed to settle the team, and build up a good starting accumulation of cash. So, Emily was inwardly disgusted when several of the others banked early. One girl banked, passed and then answered a question wrongly. She was for the chop, Emily thought. As soon as the round ended, and Anne had announced our meagre winnings, she disappeared behind a black curtain. The camera man came on and they had to write on their voting cards, keep writing, and keep writing, until he had a shot of everyone writing. Then, allowed off their posts, the contestants discussed the round, and the first casualty. Emily sat down on edge of Anne's podium and practiced her yoga breathing, helping her stay calm.

Round by round, they voted off the player they thought was the weakest link. Round by round Anne insulted and embarrassed them, and then she came to Emily.

After establishing Emily was in horticulture and sold plants, Anne asked if she sang to the plants.

Well, I used to, but they started dying, Emily replied. A titter from the team.

So do you talk to them? What do you say? Anne probed.

I say things like 'Hello darlin'. How are you today. Would you like a drink? A bit of grub?'

Anne stared at her, for a moment speechless as the team giggled, then suddenly turned on Freddie. She gave him a hard time, and had him singing the Johnny

Cash classic, 'Ring of Fire'.

Now, just four of them remained, and Emily still had no votes against her. She'd had three arithmetic questions, an irony for someone who'd struggle through two attempts at maths O' Level. She had an Archers question, a delightful bonus, as she'd listened for thirty years. She had to pass on one about Sasha Baron Cohen. *Who's she?* Emily thought.

A strained, taut air filled the studio. Freddie had gone. The remaining three regarded each other tensely. The last set of questions ended leaving Geoff and Emily in the final. Emily was amazed and quietly breathed more yogic breaths. Hands trembling, she stood next to Geoff, ready for the home-run.

Where that answer came from, she had no idea. Robert the Bruce? How did she know that? And how come Geoff had never heard of an avatar? But there was Anne, telling her she was today's strongest link, and had won two thousand pounds.

She said in her winner's interview she had taken part for the fun of it, and to win was the cherry on the icing on the cake.

An orchard of cherries, more like, she thought as she pocketed the cheque, and headed for the airport.

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.

Ageing Well Small Grant Scheme

An Ageing Well Small Grants Scheme has been made available to local communities and residents to promote independent living.

Grants only available to local communities and residents within the Malvern Hills District

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
or telephone **01684 862 283**.



Boiler Juice

THE SMART WAY TO BUY HEATING OIL

Heating oil just got cheaper in your area!

Every day we group orders to save our customers even more!

**CHEAPER
HEATING
OIL!**



Quick and easy, we search our database of local and national suppliers to find you the best price!

Visit www.boilerjuice.info to see how much you can save on your heating oil or call our friendly team on

0800 151 3135

Thousands of customers have rated us 5 star 

Suckley Parish Council Meeting - 12th January 2015

COUNTY COUNCILLOR - Paul Tuthill reported that work had started on the incinerator plant in Hartlebury. The cost of building this incinerator was around £190M. It was essential that this project was undertaken as the Council had to comply with new waste disposal regulations coming into force. The Council was also looking to expand schools in the North Malvern area, and a consultation was taking place with Leigh & Bransford School, Somers Park School and North Lea School. Cllr Liz Devenish agreed to speak to Suckley School about any extra available places, but the general view was that Suckley was running at full capacity.

COMMUNITY GROUP - War Memorial

Cllr Carol Luton has sourced a suitable large piece of granite (previously owned by the Madresfield Estates) who have generously agreed to donate it to the Parish for the Memorial. Cllr Peter Whatley together with the Clerk visited a memorial site in Pensax where local granite boulders had been used as a memorial. This was a much larger memorial than the one planned for Suckley, but the Parish Council might incorporate some of the layout ideas from Pensax. Cllr Peter Whatley produced an outline plan of the memorial site. He will be liaising with Co Cllr Paul Tuthill and Worcs Co Council Highways re access/road works etc. and putting together a budget. Cllr Andrew Grieve reported that the History Society was working on the details of those who had given their lives in the two World Wars. Work is also being started on the dedication ceremony – a date some time in June but yet to be fixed. Please contact Cllrs Andrew Grieve or Peter Whatley if you have any information that would be helpful or would like to help with this project, or the Clerk, Diana Taylor (contact details below).

PLAYING FIELDS - The mole problem on the Playing Fields is still continuing despite some work having taken place to try and resolve it. The moles obviously like our Playing Fields! Cllr C Luton is liaising with a number of Playing Field Equipment Companies to obtain quotes. The guide prices are around £30 - £40K. The Council will be looking for sources of funding i.e. Lottery Fund and others together with local fund raising. Co Cllr Paul Tuthill has already granted some of his Parish Fund to the Playing Fields project.

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 Liz Devenish reported that the Bishop of Worcester has offered the post of Team Vicar in the Worcestershire West Rural Team (with special responsibility for Leigh & Bransford, Suckley, Alfrick & Lulsley) to the Revd Anne Potter. This offer has been formally accepted, with Anne starting at Easter. Anne will also be an Associate Priest at Crown East and Rushwick pending pastoral reorganisation according to the Deanery Plan. Ann is currently Associate Priest at Badsey with Aldington, Offenham & Bretforton, in Evesham Deanery. Anne is married to Mike who owns a forestry equipment company, and they have four adult children. Prior to ordination, Anne owned Offenham Village Shop & Post Office.

HIGHWAYS - Although quite a lot of progress has been made with Highways matters in Suckley Parish, there are still some outstanding issues – mainly blocked drains & ditches, overhanging hedges/trees and some fly tipping. The Clerk and Co Cllr Paul Tuthill to try and resolve these items as soon as possible. Blackhouse Lane is scheduled to be resurfaced in March.

SUCKLEY SCHOOL - Cllr Liz Devenish reported on the continuing excellent progress at the school under the new Head Teacher - Sheila Marshall. A small extension has been provided for the children to sit and eat their school meals. Some changes have been made, including a regular newsletter on the school website. The school now has 83 pupils on the roll.

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 9th March 2015 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.

Suckley History Society glimpse the past through the lens

The final Suckley History Society meeting of 2014 was a fascinating glimpse through the photographers lens into countryside life as local Suckley resident and former museum curator, Robin Hill, entertained a well attended evening with illustrated tales of farming life from mid 19th century in his presentation entitled "The Working Countryside – a rural past captured on camera".

Robin wove together the development of photography over the hundred years with a history of the farming subjects of the photos, many of which captured individuals in formal settings which allowed for long exposure times required by the early cameras. Many of the early photos of people and farming scenes were taken or commissioned for personal interest with no awareness of their present interest as a historical record. We were able to see how daily working and "Sunday Best" dress changed over the period and get a sense of the hard manual labour required to complete the many tasks around the farm. The photos of heavy horses and all the support services of saddlers, blacksmithing, carts, and travelling stallions captured a bygone age while the images of steam engines, traction engines, threshing machine and early tractors illustrated the transition to more modern farming practices. The long gone farming practices of hand-milking, cheese and butter making, hand shearing, hayrick building and hand scything harvests all required large numbers of hard working labour whose efforts were captured on film by the early photographers.

Robin finished his talk with the observation that the traditional film photos taken by both amateurs and professions over the period had created a valuable archive for historians and he questioned whether modern digital imagery could provide such a secure historical record for the future as technologies change and die away so swiftly.

The evening finished with festive drinks and food as members and friends made the event a social occasion to round of an enjoyable year of activity for the Suckley Local History Society.

The 2015 programme of events, outings and talks will be announced early in the New Year



2 Jubilee Cottage
Church Lane
Suckley WR6 5DE

Dean Edmunds Dip FA
Independent Financial Adviser

Mobile 07717 358980

- FREE independent financial advice
- Local adviser
- Specialist in investment, pension, mortgage and annuities

Email dean@face-uk.com

Financial Advice Centre Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

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.

R J PARSONS TREE AND GARDEN CARE

- Post & Rail Fencing
- Gate Hanging
- Contract Mowing
- Strimming
- Tree Lopping & Felling
- Hedge Cutting

**CHIPPER HIRE AVAILABLE
WITH OPERATOR**

Tel: 01886 884176/832483

Mob: 07889 676422

FULLY INSURED

Three Counties Chimney Sweep Services

- * Clean
- * Efficient
- * Professional
- * Sweep & Vacuum
- * Stove & Liner Installation
- * Bird Guards & Cowls

Fully Insured Service
All Areas Covered

Ian Robson
Tel: 01684 891005
Mob: 07403 277436

info@threecountieschimneysweep.co.uk

Member of The Guild of Master Sweeps



Seasonal Affective Disorder - SAD

Seasonal Affective Disorder is a type of depression that has a seasonal pattern. The episodes of depression tend to occur at the same time each year, usually during the winter. It's estimated that SAD affects about 2 million people in the UK. It is more common in woman and is more likely to develop in people aged 18- 30.

What are the symptoms of SAD?

The two main symptoms are a low mood and a lack of interest in life. You may also be less active than normal and sleep more.

What causes SAD?

The exact cause of SAD is not fully understood, but it is thought to be linked to reduced sunlight during the shorter days of the year.

Diagnosing SAD

You should visit your GP if you have the symptoms of SAD. They may carry out an assessment to check your mental health.

Treating SAD

Light therapy is often used to treat SAD. This involves sitting in front of or beneath a light box, which produces a very bright light. Other therapies such as cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) or medication may also be recommended.

Further information can be found at www.nhs.uk/conditions

Remember to allow at least 4 weeks prior to travel for any vaccinations that you may need. Foreign Travel Forms are available on our website or at Reception

BARRY KEARLEY
FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS

Solar PV – get paid to generate you own electricity.

Biomass – get paid to heat your home or business premises.

Act now and save yourself £££££'s

Full demonstrator systems available to view.

We also offer a complete range of electrical works from full rewires, fuse box replacements to extra sockets. All certificated, guaranteed and professionally carried out.



Barry Kearley

01885 475000

07975 835372

Barrykearley@hotmail.com



ANDREW JELLEY OPTICIANS

Andrew Jelley BSc (Hons) FC Optom

Teresa Davies FBDO

Duncan Edwards FBDO

Alex Lane BSc (Hons) MC Optom

34/36 High Street Bromyard Herefordshire HR7 4AE

tel: 01885 488259 email: enquiries@andrewjelleyopticians.co.uk

www.andrewjelleyopticians.co.uk

Mission to Peru

Jenny Taylor visited Peru in November last year with the Bishop of Dudley, Graham Usher and six other representatives of the Diocese of Worcester. Her group had a particular interest in children's ministry, so the trip included visits to schools and the diocesan children's home in Peru as well as the Shalom Project for children with difficulties and the school for children with hearing problems.

Here are a few reflections on my part of the visit. When I first saw the notes on the Pew sheets, I remembered attending a Conference for Head teachers of Church of England Schools at Hartlebury, and the presentation one of the teachers did on their visit to Peru. I remembered the colours of the native costumes worn, the smiles on the faces of the people, the animals, but I couldn't remember anything about the mission. My enquiries into the mission took me to meet Margaret Rutter, Rev. Phil Bradford and our newly appointed Archdeacon Rob Jones. They interviewed me and invited me to take part in the mission which was to take place six months later in November, 2014. The costs involved were considerable and the itinerary changed many times as this was arranged by the Diocese office in Lima.

However, we finally left Birmingham on 4th November, with a four and a half hour wait in Amsterdam to change planes before the twelve hour flight to Lima. We arrived at our first accommodation in a Convent in Lima to find we were in the basement in the cells with an iron bedstead, child's desk and bedside table. This was the accommodation of the nuns before they built a new annexe. We had shared showers but separate toilets! You had to whistle when you were in the showers but what happened in Peru stays in Peru, as the saying goes.

We travelled by mini-bus to see the schools and churches in the area for the first week. The roads were full of speed bumps, the driving was unbelievable, and security was tight. The welcome everywhere was very warm and the children were a delight. The Churches were mainly half built with an altar and space for many people, so the church could grow, as congregations are not large, mainly because the country is largely Roman Catholic.

The enthusiasm of the priests and the good work they do with the families is an example to us all. The poverty we saw was heartbreaking but this was particularly obvious in the shanty towns, where people lived in homes made out of bamboo mats and had no running water or electricity. They had to buy their water from a water tanker that visited and then store it. A memory that will stay with me is the children, who we had been told not to give sweets to, were asking us for something. It turned out they wanted our bottle of water to drink. It was so hot and dusty. I had never believed that Peru could have so much dessert, with a very long coast on the Western side. The lack of water and the lack of building regulations shocked me. So many homes were part built but they always left the top unfinished so that they could add another floor when finances allowed them. If a house was being built of bricks, it meant the family was middle class, but I would have to show you the photographs for you to see the state of the houses.

We had many visits including one to the Shalom centre for children with disabilities, built on three floors, but a hole in the floor in the centre of the building. This was explained because although there was a lift planned, the contractor had run off with the money before the lift was put in. This was pitiful for a centre for disabled children, who now could only use the ground floor. We travelled through the passes of the Andes and we all suffered with altitude sickness of various degrees of severity and with tummy problems. Twelve hours on a bus was not a pleasant experience. But I will say no more! The people at the Church Mission were pleased to see us and gave us a tremendous welcome for travelling so far to see them.

When we reached the shores of Lake Titicaca we were surprised to see the people who live on rush islands in the middle of the lake. If you ever visit Peru, this is a must see, as are the Condor Eagles, the world heritage site of Cusco and Machu Picchu. I could go on, but will leave you with this taster. If you ever feel the need to experience what the world wide church is doing, then watch out for the notes on the Pew sheets in a couple of years time, when the Peru Task Group will most likely be going on a mission again.

The £261 funds raised before I left from the afternoon tea and donations were given to The Church of St. John the Baptist in Ica to provide a Christmas treat for the children in the shanty town there. They will have been able to provide

FEBRUARY 2015

hot chocolate and Panetta cake and a treat to up to three hundred children in the dustiest area of Peru, who mainly live with single parents in their bamboo homes.

Thank you, Jenny Taylor



Images from Jenny Taylor



The Talbot at Knightwick

Tel: 01886 821 235

Fax: 01886 821 060

Web: www.the-talbot.co.uk

Email: info@the-talbot.co.uk

Valentine's Night Celebrations

Saturday 14th February

Bring your 'Special Someone' for a 4 Course Dinner
with Complimentary Liqueur Coffee

£35.00 per person



Overnight accommodation only £90.00 for 2 people (with breakfast)

Please phone or see the website for more information.

TEME VALLEY MARKETS

8th February & 8th March - 11.00am - 1.30pm



COMPLETE TAX RETURNS

PAYING TOO MUCH TAX?

A locally based specialist in small business, self-employed and Personal taxation

- Bespoke tax and accounts service
- Tax returns completed and submitted to HMRC
- Competitive rates
- 10% discount for all new clients

Call Mark Trevethan (ATT)

Tel: 01886 884461

E mail : mark@completetaxreturns.com

www.completetaxreturns.com

COMPLETE TAX RETURNS
The Barn Grove Hill Suckley
Worcestershire WR6 5EE

Chimney Sweep

Andy Johnson



- Certificate issued
- Weekend/Evening sweeps available
- Traditional brush/Power sweep

01886 821933/ 07798 790913



REGISTERED MEMBER

www.instituteofchimneysweeps.co.uk



My Lovely Christmas

With the festive season over, many will be heaving a sigh of relief that it is over and life can get back to normal. But for Carol Boughton, Christmas 2014 was a memorable one, filled with family laughter, fun and love.

Wow, I'm going away for Christmas for the first time in ten years.

We have spent numerous difficult and stressful Christmases with our learning disabled son and, much as we love him, he has severe challenging behaviour. In 2013, we decided we could no longer have him home as we could not cope with him. We had a quiet Christmas that year at home, consumed with guilt, until we realized that he had had a great time in the home where he lives. So, for 2014, we were happy to leave him, having decorated his room, as usual, with various Christmassy bits and pieces including his own little lit-up tree and having secreted a large Santa sack of family presents with the staff ready to be opened on Christmas Day.

I had asked our daughter what we could bring to help with Christmas and she said "just bring yourselves and a smile". She did add that we'd be locked in the cupboard if we misbehaved. I think she must have remembered that I had said I was going to grow old disgracefully! Anyway, the cupboard she alluded to and quite often does, as a family joke (I hope) happens to be her walk-in larder cupboard so things could be worse.

The dogs were invited too but, since our daughter and granddaughter both keep rabbits, two of whom are house rabbits, I decided that two terriers and four rabbits would not make for harmonious relationships particularly if the dogs decided that rabbit was on their menu for Christmas dinner.

Discretion being the better part of valour, I booked the dogs into the kennels for the Christmas period. I asked the kennel maid, by way of conversation, whether she would be working on Christmas Day. She replied that she was but she didn't mind as she liked to give the poor dogs that had been left at Christmas an extra hug. Do dogs know it is Christmas? Now this should have made me feel guilty but not a bit of it. My dogs can't wait to drag me from the car to reception and they don't give me a backwards glance when I hand them over. Nor are they

that delighted to see me when I collect them again – they have too good a time and, I suspect, are utterly spoilt.

It really felt quite strange not having to order the turkey, make puddings and cakes and organise menus but I did manage to elicit an agreement that I could peel some vegetables. My Christmas pinney was duly packed.

Christmas Eve arrived and having deposited the dogs at the kennels, we set off in winter sunshine enjoying the countryside, having chosen a cross country route, rather than passing endless lorries on various motorways. After a leisurely lunch, we arrived at our destination in plenty of time to avoid all the expected cars jamming the road for the Christingle service during the afternoon at the church opposite.

On arrival, I found myself enveloped in a bear hug by this blonde giant who could charm the birds off a tree when he isn't being a typically monosyllabic teenage chap. Having extricated myself from his middle shirt button, I wondered just when my only grandson changed from being a boy into this tall, good looking young man. My granddaughter, far more restrained as befitted her nineteen years, was no less welcoming. How confident and assured she was, having obviously benefitted from her first term at University. And so, we were soon settled, exchanging news over a cuppa and enjoying each other's company.

We had been told that Christmas jumpers were to be worn on Christmas Day, so, having left shopping a bit late, there wasn't a lot left in the shops by way of Christmas jumpers. However, I had found a bright blue sweatshirt for me depicting a dozy looking moose exclaiming "Merry X-moose" which I thought was tolerably funny but could only find a medium sized sweater of a suitably sober nature for my more conventional husband. Luckily he could just squeeze into it and surprised the whole family as they really didn't think he would wear such a jumper. Later, I told my grandson "don't push the paper hat – that is a step too far!"

So, by 7 a.m. Christmas morning we were all assembled, suitably attired but where were the children? My son-in-law, who's a big kid when it comes to Christmas, was itching to see them open their Santa sacks. Well, they are teenagers but they did emerge eventually and there followed much exclaiming

over their gifts. There was great amusement when my granddaughter pulled out a laminator and copier paper, much needed for her studies whilst my grandson was somewhat embarrassed to receive his first electric shaver. We all received gifts later before tucking into a superb Christmas dinner.

Trust my daughter, a music teacher, to find some musical crackers. Each cracker contained a different sized whistle and the box came complete with the score for Good King Wenceslas. Being the least musical person, I was given two whistles to play which, needless to say, I kept mixing up. Definitely a hoot, or, more appropriately, a toot!

We spent the afternoon playing table games, chatting and exchanging telephone calls with other family members. My grandson, dressed as an oversized elf, spent an hour or so patiently showing his granddad how to use his mobile phone to the full, most of which he's probably forgotten by now!

Boxing Day called for a walk over the Army ranges to blow away the cobwebs before yet another big meal. Trying to better the whistling crackers, my daughter had found a "Pass the Christmas Pudding". Each layer unwrapped revealed a forfeit so there was a mad scramble not to be holding the pudding when the music stopped. I ask you, who can remember the names of all Santa's reindeer?

For our Christmas present, our daughter and son-in-law had bought us tickets to see "The Nutcracker" performed by the Moscow City Ballet, complete with a Russian orchestra, at Guildford on Boxing Day. What a wonderful performance that was and we so enjoyed it.

We had had a great Christmas with the family – so relaxed and full of fun and laughter. When we got home, we found that our son had been happy and enjoyed his Christmas and the dogs hadn't missed us a bit. What is more, we hadn't been locked in THAT cupboard.

FOOT HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL

TREATMENTS IN THE COMFORT
OF YOUR OWN HOME

BARBARA WALL

07990 501498

01886 884181

email: mail@paadena.co.uk

www.paadena.co.uk

PEGASUS
Building Restorations, Limited
Established 1975



Specialists in Listed Building
Repair and Renovation.
Traditional Joinery Supplied
and Installed. Doors, Windows,
Staircases, Sash Windows

The Old Smithy, Pump St, Malvern, Worcs.

TELEPHONE
01684 311601
FAX: **01684 311602**
www.pegre.co.uk
Email: pegasus@pegre.co.uk

YOGA

Classes held in a
purpose built studio in Suckley

THAI YOGA MASSAGE THERAPY

Treatments

& Classes

Why not learn a new therapy?

Barbara Wall

07990 501498 or 01886 884181

email: mail@paadena.co.uk

www.paadena.co.uk

BRUFF BUSINESS CENTRE

Suckley WR6 5DR



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



Holloways

The Glasshouse Café at Holloways
Lower Court, Suckley WR6 5DE
next to Suckley Church

Italian coffee, fine teas and homemade cakes.
Breakfasts ♦ hot and cold lunches ♦ traditional afternoon tea ♦ children's menu
We use fresh ingredients and local produce.

Holloways Gift Shop.

Inspirational gifts and cards for every occasion.

Have you thought about having your special occasion at
The Glasshouse at Holloways?
Book now for Mothering Sunday Lunch on
15th March.

Visit our website, or call in for more information.

Open Monday to Saturday 9am – 5pm

Reservations: 01886 884665

www.holloways.co.uk



FREE SESSION VOUCHER

FREE places available for all 3 and 4 year olds.

We are also able to offer FREE places to some families who are eligible under the 2 year play and learning scheme.

Ofsted EY439978
Read what Ofsted say about our outstanding pre-school provision

For more information contact
Katie Wiggins
07854477445

Opening Hours
Monday Tuesday
Thursday
9:00am to 2.30pm
(term time only)

We are a friendly playgroup with along and successful history, and guarantee everyone a warm welcome. We provide exciting educational spaces for children from two up to school age. Why not come along to a free play session?

Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall, Sherridge Road, Leigh Sinton, Malvern WR13 5DE.
www.villageschildcare.co.uk

Professional Mobile Dog Groomer

Call Yvonne on:

01886 822023

Mob: 07967 521426



yvonne809@yahoo.com

Hawthorn Designs

... stylish interior design

Free quotations
In-house workroom

- Curtains
- Blinds
- Soft Furnishings
- Interior Design
- Fabrics
- Paints
- Wallpaper



No 1 Station Road, Bromyard, HR7 4HP
Tel: 01885 483 851
www.hawthorndesigns.com
jo.mcculloch@hawthorndesigns.com

FEBRUARY 2015

Suckley Church welcomes its new Vicar

Rev Anne Potter has accepted the post of 'Team Vicar in the Worcestershire West Rural Team' (WWRT) with special responsibility for Leigh and Bransford, Suckley, Alfrick and Lulsley. She will also be an Associate priest at Crown East and Rushwick.

Anne has been Associate Priest in Badsey with Aldington, Offenham and Bretforton, in Evesham Deanery. She is married to Mike, who owns a forestry equipment company, and they have 4 adult children. Prior to ordination, Anne owned Offenham Village Shop and Post Office.

So... make a special effort to join the Palm Sunday Procession this year! Palm Sunday on 29th March, will be Anne Potter's first service as our new Vicar. Bishop Graham will also be with us. Fiona and Ferdinand the donkeys will lead the procession. What a special occasion! Put it in your diaries now! You can join us at the beginning, parking at the Bruff, leaving at 10am, or park at the Nelson and join us about 10.30am, hopefully arriving at Suckley Church in time for the 11.00 service. I expect some folk will come dressed 'in character' and others will bring a 'palm' to wave. This is always a really enjoyable opportunity to remind ourselves how the Easter story begins to unfold and share it with our community.

If you have any queries related to Suckley Church please contact your churchwardens: Anne Lewis (884552, 07957 388926, annelewis@doctors.org.uk)
Liz Devenish (884787, 07929 001563, liz.devenish@virgin.net)

SPACE news: It is nearly a year since we filed our 'Petition for Faculty' (for the proposed SPACE project) with the Diocese. This process has now reached the Chancellor, Dr Charles Mynors, and we await his opinion. Nearly there!! The plans are that Suckley Church will be enabled to be a more comfortable and effective Church for both the churchgoers and our community as a whole.

Useful information can be found too via the following links:
www.suckleyspace.org.uk
www.facebook.com/suckleychurch
www.wwrt.org.uk

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

FEBRUARY 2015

Young Voices 2015

On Monday the 12th of January 16 children from Suckley School went to **Young Voices** in the Genting arena, Birmingham. **Young Voices** is the biggest children's singing/dancing concert in the world. We left at 11 o'clock in the morning and got there around twelve.

The Genting arena blew our minds away! (For the ones that haven't been there!) It was massive. We practiced for 3 hours with 6300 other children! We had a break for dinner and then the show began.

When the parents arrived the arena started to fill up. We all had mini key ring torches and when the arena went black we all shone our torches up and it looked amazing. We used our torches for the whole thing. We sang lots of songs and sang with- Lucy Spraggen, Mc Lowri, and Tom Belington and danced with Andy and his dance crew called Urban Strides. We did a Mexican wave in the stadium and it was brilliant. It ended at 9:30 pm. We got back at 11 o'clock. We hope we can go next year. We had a fantastic day!!

Ingrid and Freiya.



Urban Strides dance group performing at Young Voices.

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

rural & agricultural estate agents,
auctioneers and chartered surveyors



Specialists in the sale and rental of all rural and village properties throughout the Teme Valley, West Worcestershire and East Herefordshire – from tiny cottages to country estates.

Fisher German John Sanders supply outstanding marketing coupled with unrivalled regional and national coverage - all at highly competitive rates



to discuss any property matters from land sales and valuation to house sales and rentals contact

01905 726220

Partners: Morgan Aps MRICS,
Christian Sanders MRICS FAAV, Matthew Barker MRICS,
Anthony Mayell FRICS FAAV, Yan Gittins MRICS FAAV



FISHER GERMAN
JOHN SANDERS
CHARTERED SURVEYORS

www.fishergerman.co.uk



S & P LANDSCAPING

www.sandplandscaping.co.uk

- Hard landscaping
- Dry stone walls
- Paths and patios
- Garden & stock fencing
- Bespoke garden buildings & tree houses
- Planting solutions
- Garden clearance

Pete Fletcher

07813 333841

peterfletcher84@yahoo.co.uk

2, Lower Barrow Cottages, Suckley WR6 5EJ

Pussy Cat Cattery



Luxury Boarding Cattery in an idyllic, safe and calm location for cats only. Built and run to Feline Advisory Bureau guidelines.

We care for your cat.

Seville Cottage,
Suckley, Worcester. WR6 5EQ
www.pussycatpussycat.net

01886 884867

Viewings are most welcome

D G BERRY

Building & Construction Services

TEL. 01886 830140
MOB. 07909 511346

THE COTTAGE
CLAY GREEN FARM
FOLLY ROAD
ALFRICK
WORCESTERSHIRE
WR6 5HN

 **CIOB**
THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BUILDING



CHRIS WILDING GENERAL BUILDER

ALL ASPECTS OF BUILDING
WORKS UNDERTAKEN

TEL: 01886 830189
07976 621719
christopher.wilding@btinternet.com

Free Quotation

A.C. PLASTERING

Drylining / Skimming / Rendering

- » Prompt
- » Tidy
- » Reliable
- » Reasonable rates

Call Adam on 0774 988 0739

BEAUTY IN THE STICKS

Relaxing treatments in the comfort
of your own home.

Manicures, pedicures, waxing,
Thai facials, eye treatments and
pamper parties for an extra
special night in!

Suzanne Hammonds
01886 884055

M TAYLOR HEATING
PLUMBING, HEATING, OIL, GAS, LPG

MIKE TAYLOR
PLUMBING AND HEATING ENGINEER

07734 812027
01886 884 280

THE HALL HOUSE
SUCKLEY
WORCESTER
WR6 5DN

mtaylorheating@aol.com



Knightwick, Bromyard Road, Worcester WR6 5PH

Tel: 01886 821585

High Class Family Butchers & Caterers
Specialists in Home Cured Bacon

Suckley Church

Suckley Church services February and March are :

Sunday 1st February 11.00am All Age service with the short musical 'The Daniel Jazz'. Bring a lion and be prepared to roar!

Sunday 8th February 6.00pm A quiet service with opportunity for prayers for healing

Sunday 15th February We go to Alfrick for their 11.00 All Age service

Tuesday 17th February 7-9pm Shrove Tuesday We are invited to Broadwas Village Hall for a WWRT Pancake Day Social

Wednesday 18th February 10.00am Ash Wednesday will be a said service of Holy Communion Service in Suckley with opportunity for imposition of ashes

Sunday 22nd February 11.00am there is a service of Holy Communion (Common Worship style) in Suckley

Sunday 1st March 11.00am All Age service (a lively more informal service)

Sunday 8th March 6.00pm Evening Prayer CW style. A quiet said service

Sunday 15th March 11.00am We go to Alfrick for their 11.00 Mothering Sunday service. All mothers and others welcome!

Sunday 22nd March 11.00am there is a Family Communion service (Common Worship style)

Tuesday 24th March 7.00pm We are ALL invited to Leigh Church for the Licensing service of our new vicar Rev Anne Potter

Sunday 29th March is Palm Sunday 11.00am Family Communion service (Common Worship style) Join the donkeys as they set off from the Bruff at 10.00, then the Nelson at 10.30. Bring a 'palm' to wave!

Sunday April 5th is Easter Day, at 11.00am there is a service of Family Communion (Common Worship style) in Suckley, with an Easter Egg hunt afterwards!

Remember the Easter Story! We give Easter eggs because an egg means new life. It reminds us that there is a new life inside that can come out. We celebrate Easter Sunday because that is the day Jesus came alive after being crucified on Good Friday. Jesus can bring new life to us all!

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

Seville Orange Shrub*

If you are planning to make Seville Orange marmalade, buy an extra kilo, and combined with that brandy left over from Christmas, you will have a delicious liqueur. The only downside is that you have to wait several months before drinking. Makes just under a litre.

INGREDIENTS	
300ml strained Seville orange juice	1 tspn grated nutmeg
600 ml brandy or rum	300g granulated sugar
Finely grated zest of 1 orange	

METHOD

1. Mix the orange juice, brandy or rum, orange zest and nutmeg together in a large wide-necked jar. You may find the mixture of acid and alcohol forms a gel but don't worry, the mixture will become liquid again when you add the sugar. Seal the jar tightly and leave for 7 - 10 days in a cool, dark place.
2. Transfer the juice and alcohol mixture to a pan, add the sugar and heat gently to about 60°C. When the sugar has dissolved, strain the liqueur through a jelly bag or muslin. Decant the strained liquid into a sterilised bottle and seal with a cap.
3. Store for several months in a cool, dark place so the shrub can fully mature before you take the first tipple. Use within 2 years.

* A shrub is an old-fashioned kind of drink - essentially a fruity, alcoholic cordial. Based on rum or brandy, it is traditionally flavoured with acidic fruit such as Seville oranges, lemons or redcurrants.

This recipe is from *Preserves by Pam Corbin - River Cottage Handbook No2*. This very useful book is full of recipes and advice on making seasonal chutneys, jams, cordials, pickles, ketchups and bottling fruit etc.

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

...	<p>Saturday, 25th January, 2015 - CRAZY CAKES AND COOKIES. 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>
...	<p>Calling all musicians young and old who would like to play together in an informal way for the occasional church service For the last few years, at the Christingle service in Suckley, the music has been provided by an 'orchestra' that just met up an hour before the service began. There is a small 'core' of competent musicians (strings, wind and percussion!) that is topped up by anyone else of any age who is prepared to come along. Another church has shared with us their music (several instruments for beginners and full score) that they have amassed over the years. We ask for willingness to play rather than a demanding commitment. SO.... How about getting together for the 11.00 service in Suckley Church on Palm Sunday (29th March) to welcome our new Vicar? If you are interested and would like to find out more please contact Richard and Anne Lewis on 01886 884552, 07957 388926, or annelewis@doctors.org.uk</p>

Local Services:

<p>Mobile Library Timetable 2015</p> <p>Orchard Bungalow - 10.10 - 10.25 Cross Keys 10.30 - 10.45 Suckley School - 10.50 - 11.10</p>	<p>Dates: 3rd Thursday in the month</p> <p>Enquiries about this service should be made to Malvern Library, Graham Road Malvern. Telephone 01905 822722, or email malvernmobile@worcestershires.gov.uk</p>
---	--

Suckley War Memorial Update - January 2015

Plans for the Suckley War Memorial are progressing well.

A large piece of granite has been donated for the Memorial, which will be sited at the Old Quarry in Longley Green. An inscription on it will acknowledge the sacrifice made by parishioners in all wars.

Cllr Peter Whatley has been in negotiations with the main highways contractors for Worcestershire County Council, Ringway, resulting in them offering to undertake the groundwork for the memorial site, including labour and materials. The Parish Council is very grateful to Paul Tuthill, our local County Councillor, for help with this.

The memorial's dedication has been set for Saturday 2nd May at 11am. This is a significant date for Suckley: on 2nd May 1915 two brothers from the Mifflin family were killed in action in the First World War.

Details of the dedication ceremony are still being planned, but the Council hope that the new Vicar of Suckley, Revd Anne Potter, will be available to lead the dedication. Pupils from Suckley School will be invited to take part, as will be County and District Councillors, plus our local MP, Harriet Baldwin. The British Legion will also be invited together with representatives from local regiments.

Suckley History Society intend to put on an exhibition of histories of all those from Suckley who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars. The location and opening times for the exhibition will be advised shortly.

The Parish Council extend an open invitation to everyone in the Parish to come and participate in the dedication, giving thanks to all who gave their lives in the World Wars and other conflicts, so that we can enjoy the gift of freedom.

Please contact Cllrs Andrew Grieve or Peter Whatley if you have any information that would be of interest, or if you would like to help with this project.

Alternatively contact the Parish Clerk, Diana Taylor, on 01684 569430.