

All change at the Post Office - a farewell to Barbara and Roger



Barbara and Roger with their grandchild, Sophie, on their last week in the Post Office.

It's been over eleven years since Barbara and Roger Blackburn took over the Suckley Post Office, serving both local and passing customers. During that time, (even when the village was snowbound) their hard work and commitment has ensured that our village shop continues to supply our community with the essentials such as bread, milk and firelighters, along with cakes, cigarettes and wine, fresh veg, dog food, dry cleaning, ice lollies, sweets, newspapers - even Christmas gifts and cards. They were also a valuable resource to many a delivery driver whose satnav had failed them.

Now they have decided to move on, but they will not be far as they are planning

Points of contact:

Newsletter Content: Hilary Pitt – 884355

Email: suckleynews@gmail.com

Next Issue: First week in June 2015

Content for newsletter to be submitted 22nd May 2015

Suckley Post Office: Julian and Mark - 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.

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to spend more time with their grandchild, Sophie, who will no doubt keep them busy! We wish them well, whatever venture they take on next.

The Post Office and shop will now be run by Julian and Mark - please pop in and say hello!

The lull before the (farming) storm?

Jill Hammonds updates us on life at Pewcroft, gearing up for spring and having to deal with time-consuming government paperwork.

The agricultural year has its busy times and its very busy times. In February our little corner of Suckley has a short quiet period before calving. Calving varies, some years most of the cows are kind to John and have their babies in the daytime out in the fields in the sunshine. You can be sure that if there is a difficult one it will be in the pouring rain and at night.

Have you tried chasing a cow round in the dark with two feet sticking out from her nether regions? Even worse, a little bottom and a tail showing under the cow's tail. That really is 3am panic stations! Do you call the vet and hope you have got her into a shed with lights before they arrive, or do you hunt around for the ratchet and try to pull it out before the cow is exhausted? Sometimes, if it is a young first time calver they are understandably frightened and prefer to run away or get aggressive. If a live calf comes out, both cow and ancient farmer are happily tired out. One gets to work licking the baby and the other falls back into bed!

Once the cows are out days and in nights we have lots of small volunteers to move them around. Three little girls with their 'farming sticks' can be quite a deterrent to an ambling cow. They talk sternly to Patch, Ruby, Panda Creamy, Blackie and even Curly the bull if they dare to go the wrong way.

The spring tractor work, spinning fertiliser, harrowing silage fields and spraying the cereals all have to wait for some warm dry weather as it's not good to make wheel marks on the ground. Otherwise, the main tasks now are daily chores of feeding the cattle in the yards and putting them clean straw. I must admit the

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cattle have clean bedding seven times a week, which is a very great deal more often than we do!

It is the time for maintenance jobs such as machinery repairs, chain-sawing trees which have fallen on fences through the winter storms, and some farm building jobs. Most farmers are 'jack of all trades' and will tackle practically any task. It is apparently painful to ask for specialist help and even more painful to pay for it, when a bit of bindertwine and a six inch nail will probably do. We often have 'meaningful discussions' about when to call the Aga man, boiler man or tractor mechanic.

There is one vital thing that farmers have to do, far, far worse than any physical work. It's wading through the government web sites to register online cattle passports and field information for the European farming schemes. Every minute detail such as awkward corners, tracks and tiny pools in every field has to be measured and accounted for. If a small mistake is made by the farmer there are very hefty financial penalties. Needless to say the websites don't work properly, the 'help' from their helplines tell you to be patient and keep trying. Words which shouldn't be said are often said, the least amongst them are 'chocolate and teapots.'

Did I say February was a short quiet time? Wrong again. We have been busy putting up signs for our EXCITING, SUPER, FRIENDLY, WONDERFUL, BRILLIANT VALUE, ALLOTMENTS. If you should be wisely wishing to rent one for £2 / week phone us on 884221. You may be thrilled to know that there is free water and even free, superior, top class, very special, well-rotted muck!!

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lubbylou1@gmail.com

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@malvernhills.gov.uk
or telephone **01684 862 283**.



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News from Suckley Parish Council Meeting held on 9th March 2015

COUNTY COUNCILLOR - Paul Tuthill reported that fortunately now only one Fire & Rescue Station was going to be closed due to budget cuts. New shifts and working methods regarding manning Fire & Rescue Stations were being implemented, together with the possibility of merging Fire & Police Headquarters around the County. The County Council would be increasing the Council Tax rate by 1.9% in the coming year 2015/16. This increase was mainly earmarked for children's services. The Council's total spend was about £360M per year. Co Councillor Tuthill was considering making a donation to Worcestershire WildLife Trust for the acquisition of Blackhouse Wood as the Trust was seeking contributions. Although this acquisition was generally considered a welcome move by the Parish Council, a number of issues had been raised within the Parish regarding access to the woods by walkers and horse riders, as fencing had taken place and some gates had been padlocked. The Council asked the Clerk to try and arrange a Presentation by the Trust to the Parish Council and parishioners for some time in April to hear what the Trust has to say and to talk through any concerns.

COMMUNITY GROUP - War Memorial

Cllr Peter Whatley reported that in January he and Co Cllr Tuthill had met with the Highways contractors - Ringway – who after initial discussions regarding the site access - had offered to do all the groundworks for the memorial site free of charge, including a ramped access to the site for wheelchair users. This was excellent news. However, at the time of the Parish Council meeting a firm date for completion of these works had not been fixed. It had been hoped that Saturday 2nd May would be the dedication date, but in view of the huge amount of work needed to take place, the Parish Council agreed that it would be better to cancel 2nd May and reschedule a new date – possibly in June.

POST OFFICE - The Council were informed that Roger and Barbara Blackburn had sold the village shop/post office, and the new owners would take over on 13th March. The Council expressed their thanks to both Roger and Barbara for all their support to the community in the years they have spent in Suckley, and wished them well for the future.

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FOOTPATHS - The question of the state of bridlepaths and gates was raised. However, with the retirement of our two stalwart Footpaths Wardens, concern was expressed about the future state of our footpaths in the parish. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Footpaths Department to find out who is responsible for bridleways/gates. If anyone would be interested in becoming a Footpaths Warden, please contact any of our Councillors or the Clerk, Diana Taylor (contact details below).

SPEEDING – VAS CAMERA - Cllr Peter Whatley reported on the speeding statistics from 2013-15. These showed that speeds have reduced at Bruff Bank and the Nelson Inn locations. The numbers of vehicles exceeding 30 mph reduced at Church Lane, but peak speeds very high. Village Hall speeds give cause for concern – speed here rising. Peak times for speeding were 7.0 am – 9.30 am and 5.00pm – 7.00 pm, though highest recorded speeds occur throughout the day. The Parish Council agreed that a request be made to West Mercia Police to attend with speed camera at peak speeding times, preferably stationed at the entrance to Damson Way to detect speeding vehicles in both directions. You have been warned!

ELECTIONS - As well as Parliamentary Elections, Parish & District Council Elections will also be held on 7th May. The Clerk will be receiving notices of all these Elections to be posted around the Parish.

SUCKLEY CHURCH - Cllr Anne Lewis reported that the Revd Anne Potter would be starting her work in Suckley on Palm Sunday.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th May at 7.30 pm in Suckley Village Hall. All parishioners are invited to attend. This is a later date than usual because of the Elections.

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 Thursday 14th May 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.

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Suckley War Memorial Update – March 2015

Plans to create our new war memorial continue to advance. The memorial stone is now in Suckley and a stonemason has been appointed to make the following inscription upon it:

“In Memory of those from Suckley Parish who gave their lives in War”

Our new vicar - the Revd Anne Potter - has agreed to lead a ceremony of dedication for the memorial while members of Cradley British Legion will provide a bugler and standard-bearer. Pupils from Suckley School will be invited to place a cross for each parishioner killed during the World Wars as part of the ceremony.

Most importantly, the contractors have confirmed their ability to construct the memorial base using high quality stone and provide access to the site directly from the road through Longley Green. Unhappily, the dates on which they can perform the works are too close to the originally proposed date for comfort. As they are giving their time and the materials for the memorial to us for free, the Parish Council has reluctantly decided to delay the dedication ceremony.

A new date for the memorial's dedication has therefore been fixed for Saturday, 27th June which is Armed Forces Day. The ceremony will commence at 11am at the memorial site. That is in the former quarry in Longley Green, which is situated about halfway between the post office and The Nelson Inn. Light refreshments will be available immediately after the dedication ceremony at The Nelson, courtesy of the Parish Council. In addition, as advised previously, Suckley History Society intends to use the function room at The Nelson to mount an exhibition reflecting the histories of the men who died in the World Wars.

Suckley Parish Council extend an open invitation to all residents to participate in the day's events, giving thanks to those who have given their lives to allow us to live in freedom.

If you require more information, or have material which might be of interest to the History Society in connection with the event, please contact Councillors Andrew Grieve or Peter Whatley, or the Parish Clerk, Diana Taylor, on 01684 569430.

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

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For Tiny Tots...

Rugbytots at The Villages Playgroup



Following on from the success of our in-house P.E sessions, we are delighted to be able to share the news that we have secured the services of an established and successful organisation to deliver a play programme using the multiple skills of rugby. **Rugbytots** is currently delivering their rugby specific play programme in several local primary schools including Leigh & Bransford and Suckley. We are a community group and would like to see that all local children can benefit from such an initiative. This is an excellent introduction to rugby and will provide children from the ages of 2 years to 7 years, with an interest in sport, some basic skills to help them transition into any number of other sports. So come along to the Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall and join us for half an hour of fun filled rugby specific skills, tailored towards your child's learning and development.

First Session Free - Tuesdays 2.30pm

The Villages Childcare, the Leigh and Bransford Memorial Hall, Leigh Sinton
Contact Katie Wiggins on 07854 477445 for further information

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Pensioners' perks!

There are a number of local(ish) businesses that offer discounts for those 60/65+ age wise. Our thanks to newsletter readers for the following:

- The Bell Inn, Martley Road, Lower Broadheath has a 2 course lunch (Mon-Fri) for £6.50.
- B&Q 10% discount Wednesday (nearest branch is Malvern Link) - sign up for a discount card.

If you know of other local businesses offer 'pensioners' perks', please email suckleynews@gmail.com

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

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Roots, shoots & leaves.

A garden commentary by The Garden Rover (& two dogs)

God almighty planted a garden. And indeed, it is the purest of human pleasures.
Francis Bacon 1561-1626 'Of Gardens'

The wrong grade in Maths O' level halted my first choice of career as a met observer in the Wrens, and lack of opportunities stumped my vet nurse career, so a close friend suggested plants and horticulture.

It started in a nursery that imported house plants from the Continent for wholesale to garden centres. A love of plants was nurtured by the boss, Ron, who imparted knowledge and enthusiasm in barrow-loads. I learned to tend plants exotic and un-imagined with diligence.

The boss then diversified into the world of make-believe: greenery dressing for film sets, involving travelling to studios or locations inventing temporary worlds. By this time my partner and I had started a gardening business and were also helping my two brothers who had an established company that included work with sports turf; tennis courts and bowling greens.

Then I spent five years driving around London in a big van, keeping office plant displays beautiful. I learned to navigate the metropolis whilst visiting plants in wonderful buildings like Post Office Tower and the Italian Embassy. Fortune has allowed me to work in beautiful gardens, tend plant displays in exceptional buildings, meet scores of interesting people and hopefully make them happy with my efforts.

So, to work...

March strolled in and spring was heralded by daffodils and primroses. It was a mild, kindly winter. Snowdrops, the cheerful indication of winter's wane have faded and can be divided.

A few plants of interest at this time of year include: Helleborus, with flowers ranging from white and yellow, through pinks to deep, almost black purple; Daphne, with it's rich scent, and preferring an acid soil, is a gem of an evergreen brightening the border; Pulmonaria is looking good, low growing, shade tolerant

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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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herbaceous plant that may have lush green or silver-spotted foliage with bright blue, white or pink flowers; Cyclamen delicate within the woodland border; tiny Iris reticulata or Iris danfordiae, fragrant little bursts of gold and blue, and an unusual plant, Edgeworthia chrysantha, the paper bush. From China, it has Daphne-like terminal clusters of white to yellow fragrant flowers that open before the foliage appears.

And then of course Camellia, Forsythia, Ribes and Magnolia. My favourite Magnolia for a large garden is M. campbelliana: huge pink blooms that resemble little flamingos. Aubretia is beginning to flower, and it's a good idea to trim it when it's finished to encourage new growth, and maybe a second flush of flowers. Many plants respond well to a bit of brutal treatment; they feel threatened, so push out more growth, or flowers.

The days are noticeably longer, and the earth will be warming up. Now is the time to prepare seed beds for early outdoor sowings of crops like lettuce and radish. Early planted potatoes will need earthing up and soon the maincrop can go in. It will be soon time to sow root vegetables, plant out indoor-sown vegetables after hardening off and checking for further frosts. Onion sets and shallots can be planted.

Cut back shrub such as Cornus and Salix to ensure a splash of colour next winter, and also prune summer flowering shrubs such as Buddleja and Ceratostigma. Shrubs that will be flowering in spring can be pruned straight after the blooms fade.

April showers bring April weeds, so hoeing or digging them now will pay dividends. And keep an eye open for insect pests. All roses should have been pruned by now, and any division of perennials can be completed. Dahlias, Gladiolus, lily and other bulbous plants can be planted.

Mulch everything! Shrubs and roses, trees and herbaceous plants. A good layer prevents weeds and conserves water. In autumn, I fill old compost bags with leaves and the following year it has rotted down to easily used friable mulch. I also keep a compost heap which is turned and aerated every so often. Application of general fertilisers can be done now too.

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Lawns will need regular mowing now. An early season top-dressing with a light sandy/loam mix will level the surface, and applying fertiliser/weed killing spray as the season progresses will ensure fine turf. Establish the lawn edges with a half-moon: a crisp edge defines, neatens and suggests a garden is well-tended, even if there are areas of tattiness.

Sow seeds for hardy annuals, and a little later, half-hardy annuals. As perennials grow, support them with stakes, and keep checking for pests. In the vegetable garden, continue sowing carrots, lettuce and other plants for succession cropping. Sow broccoli, kale marrow and swede. Water and liquid feed in dry periods. Tomatoes in the greenhouse will need the side shoots removed, and as soon flowers appear, feeding should commence. Melons and cucumbers can be planted. Water carefully and ventilate the greenhouse to help prevent fungal disease.

Don't forget to feed indoor plants. And don't forget to sit and enjoy your garden space. That should keep you busy for a while...

Happy gardening.

'The Garden Rover' aka Kim Jolley will be writing regular columns for the newsletter. If you have any gardening you would like covered, get in touch with the newsletter - email suckleynews@gmail.com or call 884355.

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Pay Your Council Tax & Water Bill More Slowly!

Have you noticed that if you pay by direct debit, both your Council Tax and Severn Trent bills are "front loaded"? That means you pay over fewer than 12 months, paying more than you need to each month. In addition, Severn Trent's default billing date is the 1st of each month. That may not be convenient for you. You have the right to pay over 12 months if you choose, spreading your bills evenly through the year and keeping your money in your pocket, rather than making a free loan to the council bodies and Severn Trent.

To spread your Council Tax over 12 months, follow the instructions on the back of your bill. Look for the paragraph that begins in bold "Extending your

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instalments to March". To do the same with Severn Trent, phone or email them and tell them you want your payment plan to operate over 12 months, not 8. You can also ask them to change the payment date from the 1st of the month to a date that makes better sense for you: for example the day after your wages or pension are paid. While you're talking to Severn Trent, also ask them if you are paying for "surface water drainage". If you have soakaways for your gutters, you should not be paying anything for surface water drainage.

Peter Whatley

The 2015 History Society Programme of Meetings

Have you ever wondered what the Suckley area was like in the past? What all the quarries around here were used for, how the old railway line worked, how agriculture has changed over the centuries? Or the history of some of our more unusual and special buildings and the people who have contributed to our heritage? If so, then come along to our meetings or better still become a member of your local history society. This year, our programme of meetings is as follows:

- Thursday April 9th - Railways of Worcestershire
- Saturday May 2nd - Worcestershire – a Countryside in Wartime
- Thursday June 11th (afternoon) - Visit to Greyfriars and Tudor House Museum, Worcester – field trip
- Thursday July 16th tbc - Visit to Whitbourne Hall – field trip and guided tour
- Thursday 13th August - Visit to St Giles Church Acton Beauchamp – field trip and guided tour
- Thursday 10th September - The Real War Horse – horsepower in WW1
- Thursday 29th October - Humble Homes – vernacular architecture of Britain
- Thursday 10th December - Elgar's Countryside

Meetings will be held in Suckley Village Hall, starting at 7.30 pm, except field trip outings – travel arrangements to be advised. Refreshments are available at our meetings at a small charge as we aim to make these occasions sociable and fun, as well as interesting and informative. Non-members are always welcome to attend our meetings - the non-member charge on the door is £4.

Andrew Grieve, andchris2@btinternet.com Tel.01886 884795
Margaret Davies, Mimed12@hotmail.com Tel: 01886 884301

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www.villageschildcare.co.uk

SURGERY NEWS - ISSUE 24
APRIL 2015 / MAY 2015



From 31st March, Knightwick Surgery will offer patients the facility to view online, export or print any summary information from the record relating to medications, allergies and adverse reactions. Please ask reception for more details.

DID YOU KNOW?

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Monday mornings can be manic!

Please help us by phoning for any blood test results after 11 am.

We are said to announce that Pam, one of our practice nurses at the surgery and Marilyn, one of our administration staff are retiring. We all wish them both health and happiness for the future.

The Surgery Newsletter is 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

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New Resources for our community from the Suckley Good Neighbour Team

As everyone in our spread out village of Suckley is hopefully aware of by now, calling the free telephone number 01886 840 480 will enable you to talk to one of the Suckley Good Neighbour volunteers. With a team of fellow volunteers to draw upon, hopefully whatever the request for help, we are able to respond in some helpful and supportive way. Each month that passes usually sees a call to the duty volunteer responsible for holding the number that month and to date, every call has been varied, requiring various willing responses from the team.

Over the last few months, several of the duty volunteers have taken up the invitation from Malvern's Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to train as Community Liaison Volunteers (CLV).

So, what is a Community Liaison Volunteer ?

Community Liaison Volunteers have all been thoroughly checked and received several hours of training at the CAB offices, shadowing their own volunteers and meeting the professional team of advisors in order to bring to rural communities, such as Suckley, friendly, impartial and confidential access to all the CAB's experienced advice. Enquiries may be broad, ranging from a problem with something that's been purchased developing a fault, help with reducing energy bills, debt management, employment issues, looking for support after an extended hospital stay and much, much more besides.

The link with SGNS extends what is already available, with added local access now being possible to the extensive services of the CAB. And in Suckley, access to the CAB Community Liaison Volunteers will be via the telephone network already set up for the Suckley Good Neighbour scheme.

And if you'd like to become a volunteer for the SGNS, the number's the same and we'd love to hear from you!

Alternatively, if you'd like to find out more about the rural outreach work of the CAB, then please contact Paula Kingston at paula.kingston@malvernhills-cab.org.uk Tel. 01684 567146 or 07972 599457.



The Talbot at Knightwick

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Fax: 01886 821 060

Web: www.the-talbot.co.uk

Email: info@the-talbot.co.uk

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TEME VALLEY MARKETS

12th April & 10th May - 11.00am - 1.30pm



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Village Hall News

Many thanks to all those who came to our LOVE LABELS fashion show and sale on 14th March. There were so many rails of clothes from M&S, Monsoon, Next, Principles etc. that they took up three walls of the hall. The ladies of the Village Hall committee (shrinking violets all) were persuaded to strut their stuff as models, plus a friend and Purdy who did so well modelling the children's clothes. We shan't be giving up the day jobs!

There was such a buzz when people were invited to select and try on any of the garments they fancied. Many of us added several new items to our wardrobes as prices were so reasonable. A good evening.

Art Group.

We are still enjoying our Monday afternoons in the hall. We put the world to rights, discuss local issues, exchange plants and produce but still manage to do some serious painting. We are looking forward, in the near future, to the challenge of the art classes for the Alfrick Show. Please do join us if you would like to, even if you think you are not good enough – none of us is ever going to get near the Royal Academy! We just enjoy painting at our own levels.

General news.

Users and visitors to the Hall will notice that new double-glazed windows have been put in the toilets, kitchen and committee room. The side windows of the original Hall have been renovated and re-painted. We welcome suggestions about what you would like to see tackled next or what improvements you would like to see.

We would like to make a list of “**friends of the hall**” who could undertake the occasional job or make the odd cake. Perhaps you could offer help at an event from time to time. Although we would welcome new Committee members, we know many people do not wish to be tied down to Committee work but would give an hour or two now and then. We would love to hear from you.

Carol Boughton - 01886 – 884210

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Suckley Samples America!

Pupils of Suckley School enjoy milkshakes and watch sharks and wolves in Worcester as Imogen (age 11) reports on an American experience.

On the 27th of February, a small group of children in year 6, travelled to the big city of Worcester to watch the Worcester Wolves play against Sheffield Sharks in Basketball. Suckley, a small rural school in Worcestershire, decided to go and watch The Wolves, as their hook/theme was based on a U.S.A topic and as you might be aware Basketball is an American sport that was invented in 1891.

Excitement was alive on the bus. To really get into the American spirit the class of Suckley agreed to go to a real American dinner, Detroit's. Everyone ordered a milkshakes chocolate, banana or strawberry. In fact they were so tall that the children had to stand up to drink from the towering straws. One of the children had a picture taken with whipped cream all over her face after eating the giant milkshake. As the children ventured further into Detroit's they realised not only was the food American, but the music playing was American; the pictures were; like Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley and Buddy Holly. There was also the Statue of Liberty (AKA Lady Liberty) and an American flag waving out side.

After the children had finished there delightful milkshakes, in the dark they strode across the racecourse to the other side, so as to get to the Worcester University Arena. But before they could get there, they had to cross a bouncy bridge known as the Sabrina Bridge. When they were at the arena they unfortunately had to queue up. However, once they were inside their mouths dropped and hit the floor. The atmosphere was electric! Before they could watch the thrilling event they firstly had to find their seats. Luckily, they found them, they were positioned the 4th row from the top. Once they had settled the countdown began. They had to wait for 40 minutes until the game began. Fortunately, for some people they could eat their dinner whilst they were waiting, whereas others just had to sit and wait. During the delay, a group of cheerleaders entertained the crowd. The two teams took this as an advantage, and carried on practicing and warming up. Finally, the game was on....

Disastrously, Sheffield took the lead. Then Worcester responded with quick reactions and stole the lead off them and kept it throughout the rest of the game. Try as they might, the Sharks were no match for the Wolves. So the game ended 87-65 to Worcester. All around, the stadium was filled with cheer and jubilation. Could it get any better?

As night drew to a close the class ambled back to the bus. The American experience had lived up to the classes expectations!!

Holloways

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Vacancy for Parish Footpath Warden - but what's involved?

The Parish Council has been advertising for a footpath warden since Peter Markins and Richard Harward resigned last year. So far, the post remains empty. You might be interested but not sure as to what is involved...

So, what is a footpath warden? Parish Path Wardens (PPW) are expected to actively support the policies and working practices of Worcestershire County Council. This includes the regular inspections of public rights of way in their parish. Their responsibilities include: carrying out clearance of minor vegetation; carrying out way marking; contacting landowners to provide information, or to discuss and seek to resolve obstructions on public rights of way on their land; attending occasional meetings and appropriate training events. The PPW should be reasonably physical fit, diplomatic and unbiased.

Peter Markins outlines how he and Richard managed their time and effort as PPWs:

The time that Richard and I spent on the footpaths together was doing one morning or afternoon a week and then only if the weather was ok. All footpath wardens have to do an introductory day at WCC to be advised on the law and regulations about the paths. You will be issued with basic equipment for cutting back overgrowth and given maps for the Suckley paths together with their path number, plus associated footpath/bridleway signage and equipment. You will be introduced to your WCC supervisor who will help you with any enquiries and also who you can contact to have any work that needs to be done that you feel that you are unable to complete yourself, ie large areas of undergrowth that needs cutting back, fallen trees, broken bridges or missing or broken finger posts. Richard and I decided on an area to walk in our allotted time to see what we would find, if it could be dealt with there and then, we would sort it out, if not we would leave it for another time or inform WCC. We would also receive calls from the public about a location which we would try and visit straight away or on our next day out depending on the nature of the problem.

The post could be shared or worked in partnership (as Peter and Richard did) and if you are interested, then 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.

Beauty in the Sticks

Hello, my name is Suzanne Hammonds. I want to tell you about my exciting new business here in Suckley. I am offering numerous beauty treatments at reasonable prices, both in my specially built treatment room and in your own home. I am a fully qualified beautician, insured through the British Association of Beauty Therapy and Cosmetology (BABTAC) to do manicures, pedicures, waxing, facials and eye treatments. My new skill is Swedish Massage, and I have recently completed that diploma course. Complete privacy is assured in my pleasant new treatment room.

If you want a 'girls'night in' or have a birthday or special occasion to celebrate, why not let me do you a normal or luxury package? I am always careful to use very good quality products. As I am not tied in to any franchise type arrangement, I can use items from whichever company brand I feel appropriate or the client chooses. (For example, at the moment I often use OPI nail varnish and ASP gel polish.)

I am married to George, and we have two little children. Jack is two and Chloe is five. The children are lucky go to lots of their friends' parties, so I now do 'Princess Parties.' Your little princess and her friends can have hand and foot massages, their nails painted any colour or design they choose, and I even do sparkly (definitely removable!) tattoos.

I started my business because I absolutely loved having massages and facials myself, and always felt better for some pampering, especially after work. It certainly helps to relieve some general aches, pains and stress, so I thought it would be good to offer it to other people. As I am getting more clients, I am enjoying getting to know them as they come for repeat treatments. I find it rewarding, as they appreciate being pampered, so they leave feeling happy, refreshed and often more confident.

I am available in the daytime or for evening appointments, so please phone on 01886 884055 or 07828 482435 for BEAUTY IN THE STICKS!

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Suckley Church

Suckley Church services April and May are :

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! All Ages welcome.

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!

Sun 12th April 6.00pm A Celtic style service of Holy Communion

Weds 15th April 10.00am A said service of Holy communion

Sun 19th April We go to Alfrick for their 11.00am All Age service

Sunday 26th April 11.00am there is a service of Holy Communion (Common Worship style) in Suckley

Sun 3rd May 11.00am All Age service (a lively more informal service)

Sun 10th May 6.00pm A peaceful service with the opportunity of prayers for healing

Sun 17th May 11.00am We go to Alfrick for their 11.00am All Age service.

Sunday 24th May 11.00am there is a Family Communion service (Common Worship style)

Sunday 31st May 11.00am there is a Family Communion service (Common Worship style)

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

Wild Garlic Pesto

Suckley is surrounded with wooded areas that are home to *allium ursinum* more commonly known as wild garlic or ramsoms. Often found among or close to bluebells, its broad fresh-green leaves have an identifiable 'garlicky' smell when crushed. It has a gentler flavour than 'kitchen' garlic, and when chopped can be added to salads, mixed into warm potatoes or even added to a cheese sandwich. Foraging for food has become fashionable recently and there are many websites and books available to help on identifying and cooking edible plants as well as giving guidance on responsible foraging.

**Best to pick young leaves before the flower heads bloom*

INGREDIENTS	
1 large bunch of wild garlic, washed*	150mls olive oil (mix half extra virgin, half normal)
1 small bunch of curly parsley, washed	squeeze of lemon juice
60gms pine nuts, toasted	salt and pepper
60gms parmesan cheese	

Method

1. Place all the ingredients into a food processor apart from the olive oil.
2. Add a grinding or two of salt and pepper (remember parmesan is salty).
3. Blitz for a minute or two.
4. Then slowly pour in the olive oil until blended.
5. Taste to check seasoning.

Use for mixing into pasta, mashed potatoes, adding to cream cheese for dipping or swirl into pistou soup.

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

...	<p>Saturday, 30th May, 2015 Village Hall Coffee Morning from 10.30 to 12 noon. Do come and join us for a catch-up with friends and neighbours over a cuppa and delicious homemade cakes.</p>
...	<p>Suckley Church Summer Fair. Friday July 10th Suckley Church Summer Fair in the churchyard - more details in June newsletter but put the date in your diary.</p>
...	<p>Suckley History Society - Talks for April and May. Held in the village hall, starting at 7.30pm. Thursday April 9th - Railways of Worcestershire Saturday May 2nd - Worcestershire – a Countryside in Wartime</p>

THE CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS OF SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL INVITE YOU TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**ON TUESDAY 26th MAY 2015 AT 7.00 pm
SUCKLEY VILLAGE HALL**

Come along and meet your Parish Councillors
Here is a chance to put your point of view to the Parish Council !

Agenda items include
County & District Councillors Reports – Chairman's Annual Report
Community Group - Local Trust & Charity Reports
Suckley School – Report & Presentation by the pupils
Suckley Playing Fields – West Mercia Police - Footpaths in the Parish
Suckley Village Hall - Parochial Church Council – Suckley War Memorial

Enjoy a glass of wine/fruit juice with nibbles
All residents are very welcome

Bus Service 423 Worcester - Suckley - Alfrick Pound (Circular)

Monday to Saturday: from 22nd February 2015. No Sunday or Bank Holiday service.

Please note the table below has been amended to show Knightwick/Suckley/Alfrick Pound timetable only.

	<i>Notes:</i>	<i>CP</i>				
Worcester, Bus Station	--		09-40	13-25	14-40	16-40
Knightwick, Suckley Turn	07-30	08-53	10-10	13-53	15-10	17-10
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

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Local Services:

Mobile Library Timetable 2015

Orchard Bungalow - 10.10 - 10.25
Cross Keys 10.30 - 10.45
Suckley School - 10.50 - 11.10

Dates: 3rd Thursday in the month

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

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