

JUNE 2015

# SUCKLEY NEWSLETTER

**A welcome to Julian and Mark - new owners of the Post Office**



*New faces behind the counter at Suckley Post office - Julian and Mark are getting to grips with their change of career*

You may have noticed that Suckley Post Office and Stores is now under new management. The handover took place on March 12th 2015 and thankfully Roger and Barbara were on hand to ensure that the ship didn't sink or run aground. It was a manic time for us that passed in a blur, and we can't thank them enough for the support they gave and we really wish them well for the future.

Let's introduce ourselves. Mark (the one on the left in the photo) is a northerner by upbringing, from a small town near Teesside called Thornaby-on-Tees. His mum still lives in the house where he was brought up, and through her regular

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JUNE 2015

## Points of contact:

Newsletter Content: Hilary Pitt – 884355

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

Next Issue: First week in August 2015

Content for newsletter to be submitted 24th July 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](http://www.suckleypo.co.uk) & [www.suckley.net](http://www.suckley.net) or for Parish Council business to <http://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/> then select Suckley from alphabetical listing.

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

Village Hall: email [suckleyvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:suckleyvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk), Steve Boughton – 884210

Suckley School: Mrs Sheila Marshall – 884283

Fledglings Nursery School: Freya Marskell - 01886 884088

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

Parish Clerk: Mrs Diana Taylor – 01684 569430

District Councillors: Ms S Rouse – 833653, Mr A Warburton - 832753

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

Skateboard Arena: Mr P Beaumont – 884550

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## JUNE 2015

phone calls she ensures that he still cleans behind his ears and eats his greens, whilst giving stern glares down the phone when he admits to indulging in the shop's extensive range of wine, beer and cider (quick plug there, sorry). Mark was not the only child she had to raise, as he also had to share his toys with Philip, his older (and wiser) brother who lives near London. He did the university thing and then served time in the IT industry doing nuclear reactor stuff for Windscale, civil service stuff for Planning Inspectorate, and various IT contract stuff that involved the daily commuting slog between London and Bristol. All pretty uninteresting unless you're into IT.

Julian (the one on the right in the photo) has come home to his roots, probably something to do with the alignment of the planets and the phases of the moon. He was brought up in St John's alongside his two brothers (triplets, a very frightening thought) and long-suffering parents. School was Henwick Grove (now Oldbury Park) and WRGS (now RGS Worcester). He then opted for a computer degree to put off having to work in the Real World, and spent the next few years doing IT development things in Nottingham, London, Holland and Bristol. Fate dealt him the hand of a contract at the Planning Inspectorate, which is where he and Mark first crossed the ill-fated path that ultimately led to where we are today.

Trixie (not in the photo, but attentively guarding Parcelforce and Royal Mail parcels for our highly valued customers to collect) is the brains of the outfit. A German Shepherd by upbringing, we rescued her from Bath Dog Homes in 2011 after she'd suffered 5 years of homelessness and nobody to give her either the time, the love or the doggy walks that she and every dog deserves. Now that's all been corrected, and you might hear her barking out back as she makes sure we're running the operation smoothly and not nipping off for a quality pint of local ale at the Nelson Inn (quick plug there, invoice is in the post) during business hours.

Why then Suckley and why a Post Office? From working in the IT industry to running a Post Office/shop is one of the more unusual career paths, especially with no previous retail experience. Well, we'd seen a Post Office in rural Wales up for sale and in an area where we'd been Trixie dog walking. We were already contemplating options outside of IT and seeing the Post Office got us thinking that was something we could do, so we looked around the rest of the country for something suitable. We had no particular location in mind, but it had to

## JUNE 2015

be rural-ish, with good dog walks and quality of life. Suckley PO popped up during a search on one particular agent website (can't say which one as we're not on commission) and it ticked all the boxes – rural, village, populated, dog walks, hills, bunny rabbits, sheep and fields. The added bonus was its proximity to Julian's family (Lower Broadheath and Malvern) and the lure of using his brothers for free labour ability to visit his mum more often.

How have we found the whole experience so far? It's been over 2 months now since we moved in and it has absolutely flown by. We've been bowled over the warm welcome the community has given us and how patient everyone has been whilst we've been learning the ropes. We're no longer posting sandwiches to Spain instead of ringing them through the till, and the day-to-day running is now a lot less frantic as we get ever closer to having the operation running like clockwork. The area has lived up to expectations for dog walking and Trixie is making good friends with the local rabbit and squirrel population.

As to the future, we're introducing IT (of course) wherever we can both in the shop and for running the back office. We're always looking at new products and you may have noticed the new range of whiskies and wines, ideal for a Saturday night in with good food and all very reasonably priced (another quick plug there!).

Please do come by and have a nose around, tell us if there's anything you'd like us to stock that we're missing, but most of all please come in and support your local Post Office and shop. We are sure to stock something you need and the Wisteria looks so much nicer than the concrete car park at Tesco!

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## Suckley Remembers



*To mark the centenary of World War 1, Suckley Local History Society has been researching the young men of Suckley parish who fell in the world wars in 1914-18 and 1939-45. Margaret Davies, the Society's treasurer, and her team have poured over official documents and interviewed local sources to compile this record for the Dedication Ceremony of the Suckley War Memorial to be held at 11am on Saturday 27th June 2015.*

**Roger Hardwicke Ballard** was born in 1892 at Evesbatch, Herefordshire. Roger began his military service on 9th Sep 1914 at Finsbury, Middlesex, where he enlisted in the 1st Battalion Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry) aged 21 yrs and was posted to France on 29th December 1914. Roger was confirmed killed in action at the Battle of BELLEWARDE, nr Ypres, Belgium on 16th June 1915 aged 22 yrs. He is commemorated on panel 9 at MENIN GATE MEMORIAL, YPRES and Suckley Church.

**E. T. Bradley** son of James & Matilda Lousia Bradley of Grove Hill, Suckley and was entered in at the INNER TEMPLE. He enlisted in the LONDON RIFLE BRIGADE,

JUNE 2015

5th Btn. He died on 5th December 1914 aged 22 yrs and is commemorated at BAILLEUL COMMUNAL CEMETRY, NORD.

**Godfrey Robert Baynham** was born at BROADHEATH, Tenbury but by 1911 he was living with his parents and five siblings at the BOAT HOUSE, SUCKLEY, and attended Suckley School. He enlisted on 20th November 1917 joining the TRAINING RESERVE of the ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE, being medically discharged on 25th February 1919 with "shellshock". We have no record of his death and more information is welcome.

**Arthur Dovey** was born at MARTLEY, son of Allen and Alice Dovey, 67 Rabone Lane Smethwick, Staffs. Arthur was a chandelier maker and he enlisted with DUKE OF CORNWALL LIGHT INFANTRY, 6th Btn. He died on 16th September 1916 aged 23 yrs and is remembered at THIEPVAL MEMORIAL.

**Ernest Elton** was the husband of Irene A.L. Elton of Bush Bank, Suckley. He enlisted as a private in the WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT (Prince of Wales own). Ernest died on 29th September 1917 aged 33 yrs. He is remembered at MENDINGHAM MILLITARY CEMETRY.

**John Wilde Evans** was an agricultural labourer living at PEWCROFT COTTAGES with his father George, a woodsman, his sister EMILY, a district nurse, and a younger brother SAMUEL GUY EVANS who was a groom. The Evans boys emigrated to Canada. John sailed on the ROYAL GEORGE from Bristol to Quebec on 10th July 1912. When war broke out, John enlisted with 4th Battalion CENTRAL ONTARIO REGIMENT of the Canadian Infantry, known as the 'MAD FOURTHS'. He was killed in action on 11th April 1917 aged 28 yrs and buried at ECOIVRES MILITARY CEMETRY, MONT-ST-ELDI (plot D28).

**Samuel Guy Evans.** Son of George & Fanny Evans of Suckley, Worcs. Samuel enlisted on 15th January 1915 at STRATFORD, ONTARIO with 1st Btn WEST ONTARIO REGIMENT of the Canadian Infantry. He was killed in action on 31st August 1916 and is buried in the SUNKEN ROAD CEMETRY, CONTALMAISON aged 28 yrs.

**James Cornelius Griffin** was the son of William & Mary Griffin of The Cross Keys, The Knoll, Suckley. He enlisted for the WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT, A Coy,

## JUNE 2015

2nd Btn. He was killed on the SOMME on 24th January 1917 aged 29 yrs. and remembered at SUZANNE MILITARY CEMENTRY, NO.3, FRANCE.

**Henry Halton** was the son of Annie Mountford, Wolner Hill, Bringsty. He died on 21st December 1915 aged 23 yrs. and remembered at THIEPAL MEMORIAL.

**George Henry James.** George was the husband of Alice James, SEATS COTTAGE, SUCKLEY. He died on 25th August 1917 aged 34yrs. He is remembered at COXYDE MILITARY CEMETRY, KOKSIDJE, WEST FLANDERS.

**James Thomas Mifflin.** James was born about 1893 at Suckley to Thomas and Margaret Mifflin. The 1911 census shows the family lived at PEWCROFT COTTAGES and James was a farm labourer. He enlisted at Abertilly, South Wales. He was killed in action on 2nd May 1915 aged 21 yrs. This would be during the second battle of YPRES, which was the first action when German troops used poison gas as a weapon. His body was never found for burial. He is remembered at MENIN GATE MEMORIAL, BELGIUM (panel 50).

**Albert Mifflin.** Albert was born at STANFORD BISHOP and became a wagoner's boy, but by 1915 Albert and his brother James were living at or near ABERTILLERY, BLAENAU, GWENT. This probably indicated that they were working in the coal mines of that area. They appear to have volunteered together, served in the same regiment, disembarked for FRANCE together and even died on the same day. Albert & James joined 3rd Btn. MONMOUTHSHIRE REGIMENT (TERRITORIAL FORCE). Albert's body was never found for burial but he is remembered at MENIN GATE MEMORIAL, BELGIUM (panel 50). He was aged 18 on 2nd May 1918.

**Thomas Phillips.** Thomas was the son of Walter & Mary Phillips, THE NEST, STANFORD BISHOP, BRINGSTY (a native of Suckley). He enlisted as a private in the EAST SURREY REGIMENT, 8th Btn. He died on 8th November 1916 aged 25yrs. and is remembered at COURCELETTE BRITISH CEMETRY, FRANCE.

**James Plaskett.** James was the son of James and Ellen (nee Carpenter) BRINGSTY. He married Alice Cottrell of LEDBURY and settled in LONGLEY GREEN, SUCKLEY. He joined the ROYAL ENGINEERS in London on 15th October 1915 at the age of 46yrs. He was attached to working parties who undertook hazardous duties and

## JUNE 2015

was killed by a single shot to the head on 1st December 1917 and is buried in GREVILLERS BRITISH CEMETRY, PAS DE CALAIS, FRANCE.

**Thomas Plaskett.** Thomas was the brother of James and also lived in LONGLEY GREEN, SUCKLEY. He enlisted in the 1st Btn. COLDSTREAM GUARDS and was involved in the battle of CAMBRAI, BOURLON WOOD, which proved particularly hard to capture. The Guards were deployed to push the Germans out and it seems Thomas was killed during this action on 27th November 1917, aged 32 YRS. This was the same weekend as his brother James. Thomas is commemorated on panel 2, CAMBRAI MEMORIAL, LOUVERAL, FRANCE.

**Timothy Vernalls.** Timothy was the son of John & Hannah Vernalls, JUDAS GATE (JUDYS GATE), SUCKLEY. Timothy and his brothers & sisters attended Suckley School. He enlisted with 1st Btn KINGS SHROPSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY. He was killed in action as a Lance Corporal on 21st March 1918 aged 27 yrs. He is commemorated on the ARRAS MEMORIAL.

**Thomas Frederick Woodyatt.** Thomas was the son of Alfred Edward & Ethel Woodyatt, KIRKHAM VILLS, BROMYARD. He enlisted with the SOUTH WALES BORDERERS, 5TH Btn. He died on 18th April aged 18yrs and is remembered at TYNE COT MEMORIAL.

**NOTE:** Out of the WW1 war list, there are 3 persons that we have no information on and any help with more information of these would be appreciated:

*T Boucher  
T Collins  
L Hibberd*

## SECOND WORLD WAR

**Henry A Burston.** Henry was a Post Office employee who enlisted as an AIRCRAFTSMAN 1ST CLASS, ROYAL AIR FORCE. He died during an air raid on London on 20th April 1943 aged 32. He is buried at ST JOHNS THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SUCKLEY.

**Harold Jonathon Dewhurst.** Harold was the son of Harold Brotherton Dewhurst and husband of Eleanor Mary Dewhurst. He attended Suckley School and

became a Master Baker, running a bakery at The Knoll, Suckley. He enlisted as LEADING AIRCRAFTMAN, ROYAL AIR FORCE and died on 27th November 1945 and is buried at ST JOHNS THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SUCKLEY.

**Victor Marshall Raymond Lloyd.** Victor was born on 31st March 1920. The youngest son of George & Alice Marlborough Lloyd (nee Price). He attended Suckley School and Worcester Royal Grammar School in 1931. In 1935 he gained 5 A Level certificates in English, History, French Physics & Mathematics. He worked as a Railway Clerk living at SINDONS MILL COTTAGE, SUCKLEY when he enlisted to serve in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve on 29th December 1939. He was called to permanent services in January 1940 and reported to No.2 RAF Dept., CARDINGTON, BEDFORDSHIRE, 218 sqdn (called the 'Gold Squadron') as VOLUNTEER RESERVE SERGEANT. W.OP/AIR GUNNER. On Tuesday 22nd April 1941, aged 21, Victor was part of a crew of 6 in a VICKERS WELLINGTON BOMBER. The plane crashed at MILIZAC, FINESTERE. Five of the crew were killed and the 6th member (rear gunner) was taken P.O.W. The Wellington Bomber was held by searchlights and flak and spiralled down towards the sea. He is commemorated at MILIZAC CHRUCHYARD, FINISTERE, FRANCE.

**Frederick Powell** was an AIR GUNNER in the ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER RESERVE and lived at GREENHILL COTTAGES. Frederick was killed on 30th June 1944, aged 20, in Malta and is commemorated on the Malta Memorial.

**Leonard Tolley.** Leonard was born on 26th October 1910. He lived at HAVENTREE, SUCKLEY and attended Suckley School.

**Alfred Windsor.** Alfred lived in PEWCROFT COTTAGES and in his spare time enjoyed amateur radio and enlisted into the NAVY. Rumoured to have been on 'THE HOOD' which was sunk by the BISMARCK in the Denmark Straights on 24th May 1941.

If you are able to help with any information on any of the names listed above, please contact Margaret on 01886 884301 or Mimed12@hotmail.com, who will be delighted to hear from you.

The Suckley Local History Society will be putting on an exhibition in the skittle alley at the Nelson on the Dedication day of the Suckley area during the 1914

– 18 War, which will feature more detailed biographies of the fallen plus local photos and artefacts of the period. At 2.30pm, again in the skittle alley at the Nelson, John Peters of Newman University Birmingham, will be giving a talk entitled Worcestershire – a Countryside at War. Everyone welcome.

Andrew Grieve  
Chairman – Suckley Local History Society  
01886 884795 or email [andrew@ajgrieve.co.uk](mailto:andrew@ajgrieve.co.uk)

.....  
**Danger created at The Ketch roundabout**

*Peter Whatley raises awareness for unsuspecting road users of the new road arrangements at the Ketch roundabout.*

As a result of the new roadworks and lane arrangements, (for those not aware) there are now two lanes leading off the roundabout onto the Carrington Bridge which merge only a few yards after the roundabout. Any vehicle in collision as a result of being forced to merge suddenly - or simply missing the abrupt end of lane - is likely to be forced into collision with queuing northbound traffic, or a head-on collision. This is an accident waiting to happen and, astonishingly, a designed-in danger.

There is an excellent video on Facebook by County Councillor Tom Wells which graphically shows the issue and a number of near misses. Tom has started a petition to demand a review of the work, with a view to getting the merging lane removed.

The video can be seen here:  
<https://www.facebook.com/tom.wells.39566/videos/902748453118624/?pnref=story>

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## Life full of Bull?



*Jill Hammonds sent this article into the newsletter at the beginning of May, giving us a glimpse into the life of a beef farmer. A few weeks later they were devastated to witness most of their herd 'testing positive' for TB, and a lifetime's work condemned to slaughter. John has since featured in the local papers and on BBC Midlands News, highlighting the personal distress of bovine TB. This article gives us an appreciation of the dedication and hard work that is the life of a beef farmer and how deep the blow of recent events is being felt at Pewcroft Farm.*

You buy a cow, an ordinary non-pedigree Hereford cross for £950. You buy a pedigree Hereford Bull for £2000 then you pay about £25 for each of them to have a lorry taxi home from market. You think they should be wormed as they have come from a different farm. You drive them into the cattle crush and pour the wormer on £3 each. You send their change of ownership documents online to 'The Powers That Be.' You turn them out together in the hope that the bull is sound and fertile, then cupid will call and she becomes pregnant. You make sure the cow has access to a selenium and magnesium mineral supplement and a salt lick in the field, another £10. Every single day for the next 130 days you check they are both well and not getting blue tongue, schmallenberg disease, blackleg, tetanus, foot problems or eye trouble through the summer, from the flies. In the Autumn you bring them inside the yards for the winter. Provide them with

good quality silage to eat and expensive straw to lie on every day for the next 20 weeks, perhaps a cost of £8 per week per animal. Luckily they don't need a Christmas present, but they have to be tended twice a day, over the holidays just the same. You pay the vet £5 to PD (scan) the cow, and if she is in calf you heave a sigh of relief.

When you think she is about to calve you check her frequently, cancelling any of your own social arrangements to be there and help if needed. Sometimes this goes on for two or three days. Eventually if luck is on your side, you don't need the vet to a difficult calving, at least £100, but either she manages well alone, or you help by pulling the calf out manually. You put iodine on the calf's cord to hopefully prevent it getting 'joint ill.'

A live bull calf is a wonderful thing, and on this farm they often get given names by our 4 little mini-farmers who try to watch the birth if they are around. Before it is more than 3 days old it has to have a tag put in each ear with its individual number, which then has to be registered online for its passport. (Most boy calves have to be castrated at this stage too, not nice either.) If the mother doesn't get milk fever or mastitis, both horrible and expensive, the new calf stays with its mum for the next seven months. It needs worming, £3, and feeding every day, especially after the heart-breaking noisy weaning time. It stays in the cattle yards over the following 5 month winter consuming silage and straw, plus a bit of cereal feed, say £10 per week.

Next summer it goes out to grass again with the other yearlings. (perhaps £4 per week towards the grass seeds, fertilizing, harrowing etc) Like all teenagers they like to let off steam, and find it amusing to run around madly evading capture for TB testing or moving to fresh grazing etc. Then another whole winter in the yard finds them growing well, wormed yet again (£3), but gaining weight, and getting towards their second birthday.

At this stage the farmer's wife needs a new tennis racquet and is nagging about a holiday, so money is needed. The bullock's details are sent to be entered into the sale catalogue. A lorry is booked to take them to Worcester market. Of course, before it can go 'the powers that be' decree that we must pay for a pre-movement bovine TB test. So the vet has to come twice more, 3 days apart to do the dreaded test costing around £10 per animal.

## JUNE 2015

You may wonder why I am boring you with all of this rant. (Please note, the costs I suggest do not include any labour cost whatsoever. It is our choice to keep cattle, and the hours John puts in over two years to produce a bullock cannot be counted up. It would be frightening to work out the very tiny hourly rate.) The point is, as you may have guessed, this bullock failed its TB test, so the lorry and the sale are cancelled. It had a very tiny swelling on the injection site. We now have a formal notice from 'the powers that be' telling us our farm is now closed up, we may not sell any animals in market, we may not buy or sell cattle privately, and we need a full herd TB test every 60 days. Until we are clear of TB in two tests, months apart, we are stuck in limbo. We wait for them to tell us when they will send a lorry to take him away to be killed. Often a long journey, and always a long wait for the meagre compensation 'the powers that be' are kind enough to send us. Probably about two thirds of its value, around £700 will arrive, usually with a letter to say it had no visible lesions when tested in the lab. This means that 'the powers that be' may sell the carcass into the food chain for meat.

I know, you will be sad for us poor grumpy farmers who do nothing but moan about TB. The BBC's 'Countryfile' programme recently showed that badgers kill ground nesting birds. We have certainly noticed that hedgehogs are getting much rarer than they used to be, this is partly because they are killed by Mr Badger. We are certain that the bovine TB is caused by the badger. It is a much, much worse problem than the foot and mouth disease of 2001. Even lovely Adam Henson from Countryfile has said that in the past. Next time you see a few cattle out in a field have a good look at them. The rate farmers are giving up keeping them because of TB, cattle and farmers under 60 will be a rarity soon. Next time you see British beef for sale buy it. That too will also be a rarity soon.

### Postscript:

*We are devastated to have spent the afternoon in the rain watching the vet condemn all except about 12 of our cows, the bull and half of all the young stock as they have all failed their TB test. They will have to be slaughtered even though they have newborn calves on them. It has been a life's work, which has just gone in the tests. Even the children are very upset, as the few remaining cattle will now have to go as it's not worth keeping only such a few. The ones they loved best are all on death row, a lot of tears are being shed.*

*I know there are much worse things for other people to live through, but when you hear the anti-badger-cull brigade sounding off, give a thought to Jessica crying for her special friend Creamy.*

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Alex Lane BSc (Hons) MC Optom

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## Suckley School News for the Summer Term

I can hardly believe that my third term as head teacher at our lovely school is upon me! Each term, following the seasons, brings new learning and new events to the school, and this one will be packed as always!

We are starting this term with a whole school learning project, called 'Africa!' It is inspired by the famous musical The Lion King, and the hook to entice us in has been the exploration of an amazing collection of artefacts from the continent, alongside a pre-existing link with a school in Gambia, called St Cecelia. Two of our classes will be exploring the animal kingdom of Africa, and where better to start that West Midland safari park! At the end of the theme they will be taking their parents 'on safari', sharing all that they have learned. The other two classes will be performing the Lion King, so watch this space for future stage stars!

We are pleased to be involved with an exciting archaeological dig this summer with Brockhampton National Trust site. This has been developed by one of our parents and we are privileged to have been asked to share the experience, and grateful to him for the link.

Our lovely, historical building continues to develop, keeping its character whilst meeting the needs of our children and families. The playground has been painted (thanks to our Suckley Friends PTA) with exciting new and vibrant markings, which the children are really enjoying, and our new mini kitchen has been completed, allowing up to three quarters of our children, who opt for them, to be served hot meals each day.

We are pleased to be linked with Suckley church and enjoy regular assemblies led by their 'Open the Book' team. The children love their interactive assemblies, and this is a super community link for us.

As you can see, we are busy! We always have time to share experiences though, so please do come along and visit, especially those with preschool children who are beginning to consider a reception place for the future.

Sheila Marshall.

JUNE 2015

## Your Churchyard Needs YOU!

*Suckley Churchyard Interest Group. Your thoughts and time could be invaluable to the future of your churchyard.*

The volunteers looking after Suckley Churchyard have become aware that several old graves, no longer attended, are falling in to unsightly disrepair and some are so unstable that they could injure someone. The PCC needs urgently to put this right. "A Stitch in time saves.....". Could you help us think about how to best look after the future care of the graves of those who are no longer with us, but are still precious in our memories? One delicately curved old gravestone has become part of a multistem tree that the birds planted. Volunteers tried to safely release the stone intact, but the Spring growth threatens to regain control!

Countries like Finland have locally financed national initiatives to keep their churchyards immaculate! What can we do here? The church has financial problems enough trying to cover basic expenses, so relies on volunteers.

Any ideas how we can widen our group of those interested in the graveyard would be welcome. If you can be part of the team of volunteers who help to put the problems right all the better (those with chain saws and strimmers particularly welcome at the moment!) If you care enough to be concerned, and would like to help, please contact a church warden. THANK YOU!

Anne Lewis 01886 884552, 07957 388926, [annelewis@doctors.org.uk](mailto:annelewis@doctors.org.uk)  
Liz Devenish 01886 884787, 07929 001563, [liz.devenish@virgin.net](mailto:liz.devenish@virgin.net)

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



FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents



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

...	<p><b>Suckley Village Hall. American Evening Saturday, 4th July, 2015</b> at 7.30 p.m. It probably won't have escaped your notice that this date is American Independence Day so, we are having an evening of all things American.</p> <p>We shall start with an American type supper and this will be followed by entertainment with "Soft Options", a group of Appalachian dancers and their musicians. <b>Tickets are priced at £5 per person</b> which includes the supper. American type drinks can be purchased at reasonable prices, as can a picture quiz sheet, the winner of which will receive a prize. There will also be a raffle.</p> <p>Do join in the fun and get your tickets early. Tickets can be ordered from Carol or Steve Boughton on 01886 – 884210 or Linda Taylor on 01886 – 884280 and we will arrange to get them to you. We would appreciate it if you could purchase tickets rather than just turn up so that we have some idea about catering needs.</p>
...	<p><b>Suckley Church Summer Fair - see article on right</b></p>
...	<p><b>Suckley History Society - Field trips for June and July</b>                  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.                  Andrew Grieve, andchris2@btinternet.com Tel.01886 884795                  Margaret Davies, Mimed12@hotmail.com Tel: 01886 884301</p>
...	<p><b>Suckley Church Summer Soiree 2015</b>                  Summer Garden Party with Drinks and nibbles, and a silent auction of tempting articles, opportunities and experiences. This year's Summer Soiree is at the Old Rectory, by kind invitation of Bill and Cleone Holden. Put it in your diary now, and don't miss this special occasion on Friday July 24th from 7.00pm.</p>

**Suckley Celebrates Summer!**

**Suckley Church Fair , Friday July 10th 6.00pm to 7.30pm**

We are raising funds for the general maintenance of the Church, and any help with donations for the stalls, or helpers in any way, would be greatly appreciated.

Let's make it a Suckley Fair like we used to have, lots of fun and community spirit to celebrate our wonderful Church and beautiful village. A walk in the Suckley Hills is being planned for 6.15pm, plus a barbecue, as well as games, plants, books, cakes, stalls and a tombola. Do come along and join us and let's make it a traditional social occasion for all ages.

A big thank you to all who have supported us through the journey of the proposed re-ordering of Suckley Church. The Chancellor has shown his wisdom and common sense in deliberating on the proposals, and a compromise has been reached.

We will all work together now on further specifications and costings before consultations take place again on details. Please see the PCC statement elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter.

Jenny Taylor.

**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@worcestershires.gov.uk

## Suckley Church

**Sunday June 7th** 11.00 am All Age Worship, a lively more informal service for all the family

**Saturday June 13th** at 3pm the Kidderminster Songsters will be singing in Knightwick Chapel

**Sunday June 14th** 6.00pm Evening Worship, a more intimate formal service in various styles

**Wednesday June 17th** 10.00 am, A said service of Holy communion

**Sunday June 21st** We go to Alfrick church for their 11.00 All Age service, or to Knightwick Chapel for their 3pm Evening Worship.

**Sunday June 28th** 11.00 Family Communion, Common Worship style

**Sunday July 5th** 11.00 am All Age Worship, a more informal service in various styles

**Sunday July 12th** 6.00pm, Evening Worship, a more intimate formal service in various styles

**Wednesday July 15th** 10.00 am, A said service of Holy communion

**Sunday July 19th** We go to Alfrick church for their 11.00 All Age service, or to Knightwick Chapel for their 3pm Evening Worship.

**Sunday July 26th** 11.00am 11.00 Family Communion, Common Worship style

**Sunday August 2nd** 11.00am, All Age worship, a more informal service with baptism of Edyn Bradley.

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

## Luscious Lavender - not just for making perfume

*Lavender is a quintessential English cottage garden flower and many in the village have one or two plants in their garden. Valued for its fragrance, it also has antibacterial properties and is a magnet for hoverflies and bees. Its flowers, freshly picked are also used in the kitchen and can be mixed with caster sugar to give a delicate flavour, which can be used in puddings such as panna cotta or crème caramel, ice-cream as well as cakes. Try it in this shortbread recipe below - lovely on a summer's day with a cup of tea in the garden.*

**Lavender Sugar:** To one cup of sugar use either two tablespoons of dried lavender or four tablespoons of fresh. Place in a tight-lidded container in a warm place for one or two weeks, shaking occasionally to distribute the lavender among the sugar. Sift the sugar to remove the lavender heads and store the sugar in an airtight container.

INGREDIENTS	
125g/4½oz lavender caster sugar, plus extra for sprinkling	300g/10½oz plain flour, plus extra for dusting
225g/8oz unsalted butter, softened	50g/1¾oz ground rice

### Method

- Line two large baking trays with baking paper.
- Sieve the sugar into a bowl and add the butter and cream the sugar and butter together.
- Sift the flour and ground rice into the mixture. Mix with a wooden spoon until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.
- Using floured hands, work the mixture together to form a smooth paste.
- Tip onto a lightly floured work surface and knead gently until the dough is smooth. Chill the dough in the fridge for 15 minutes.
- Roll the dough out to a 5mm/¼in thickness, and cut out biscuits using a cookie cutter. Place the biscuits onto the baking trays, and sprinkle with a little extra lavender sugar.
- Leave to chill for a further 30 minutes in the fridge.
- Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 180C/ 350F/Gas 4.
- Bake for 15-20 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. Carefully place the biscuits onto a cooling rack., sprinkle with extra lavender sugar (or a few fresh lavender flowers) and set aside to cool completely.



### 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 full time Live-in Care.**

Our **Suckley care team** has been providing award winning quality homecare 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 409 589** or visit: **www.helpinghands.co.uk**



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For more information contact **Katie Wiggins**  
**07854477445**

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**Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall, Sherridge Road, Leigh Sinton, Malvern WR13 5DE.**  
[www.villageschildcare.co.uk](http://www.villageschildcare.co.uk)

## SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### SERVICE & DEDICATION for SUCKLEY WAR MEMORIAL

at  
The Old Quarry, Longley Green,  
Suckley.

# 11.00 am SATURDAY 27th JUNE 2015

In Memory of all those from Suckley Parish  
who have given their lives in War

Service conducted by the Revd Anne Potter  
Vicar of Suckley Parish



## Dad's Army

*To complement the article of Suckley's fallen soldiers of both world wars, our Local History Society went marching last year with the Home Guard during WW11, through a talk from the distinguished Worcestershire war historian, Malcolm Atkin.*

Malcolm Atkin, an expert on the Civil War in Worcestershire with several books to his credit, has written a book on the Home Guard in Worcestershire, which is to be published this year.

He started by explaining the difficulties that this country had to face after war was declared in 1939 against Germany. The biggest problem was manpower to defend this country from the German invasion whilst its soldiers were engaged abroad. Thus it was decided to form a Local Defence Volunteers (LDV). The volunteers had no armoury of any sorts, only their LDV armbands and their pitch forks. They were often ridiculed and the German Government described them as terrorists!

Winston Churchill decided in July 1940 to form the Home Guard service with a target of 500,000 volunteers to be drawn from the reserved occupations, teenagers and ex-servicemen. They were all given a uniform and basic military training including rifle use, sniping and using explosives against tanks (including 'sticky' bombs which were extremely dangerous). Other duties included dealing with air raids. Worcestershire had approximately 20,000 men in the Home Guard and in 1943 Edith Summerskill found the Women's Home Guard.

The Home Guard was not only a counter invasion force against Germany, but they covered duties of the regular army by providing general and coastal guarding duties, freeing them for other duties. A possible invasion route was identified along the River Severn and the Worcestershire Home Guard was ordered to defend the Knightwick Bridge amongst others. This ultimately would have had to be by blowing it up!

Plans of a typical Home Guard base showed a corrugated steel shelter buried in the ground with an entrance shaft, a separate ammunitions store and an escape tunnel and documents record the names of local Home Guard and includes the

still familiar names, Plaskett, Jeynes, Jauncey, Twinberrow & Walker.

Whilst the Home Guard is well known for its light heartedness and spirit or fun, it should not be forgotten that all its members were volunteers who were prepared & trained to fight to the death in the event of a German invasion. The first planned counter attack was only expected to last for 30 mins once the invasion started which hopefully would win enough time for the second wave to arrive, their life expectancy being 2 hours. This would win enough time for the regular army to arrive.

However the Home Guard volunteers were credited with first delaying the German invasion plans and then, their subsequent abandonment. The talk brought the Home Guard to life with a good display of photographs, maps, artefacts and memorabilia.

### **NOTICE OF CO-OPTION**

Suckley Parish Council (Alfrick & Leigh Ward)

#### **VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR TO BE FILLED BY CO-OPTION**

The above Parish Council will consider filling by co-option a vacancy for a Councillor at its meeting to be held on

MONDAY 27th JULY 2015 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Those who are interested in serving the community in this way and want to become a candidate for co-option should obtain an application form for candidacy from the Clerk. Completed application forms should be returned to the Clerk by: **Friday 17th July 2015.**

Clerk – Diana Taylor, 9, Lambourne Avenue, Malvern Link, Worcs WR14 1NL  
Tel 01684 569430 – E-Mail – dtaylor@suckley@msn.com

JUNE 2015

## Roots, shoots & leaves

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

*What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not been discovered*  
Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82)

In the hedgerows surrounding our gardens, and lining the lanes, plants are burgeoning and blooming: crimson Campion and frothy cow parsley, wild garlic and the last few bluebells heralds late spring, and a promise of summer around the corner. Despite the recent blustery weather, gardening is becoming an urgent employ...

We've had Malvern R.H.S. show, which I am sure some of you will have visited, and Chelsea, with all of it's razzamatazz has been covered extensively on television, showing scenes reminiscent of film set construction as exhibitors rush feverishly to finish their gardens or stands in time for judging. While the scale of endeavour is above most of us, we can take ideas from such grand designs, whether it be hard landscaping projects or introduction to new plants. And it's the love of plants that binds all gardeners and horticulturalists: we humble country gardeners through to the dedicated nursery owners.

Looking good in the garden have been Lilac, Peony, Rhododendron and Azalea, Wisteria, Ceanothus and Broom amongst others. Honeysuckle is beginning to bloom and scent the garden, as is lily-of-the-valley, Choisya and Philadelphus. Penstemons, versatile and bold, are pushing up new growth after their spring prune. Late pruning helps protect the new plant growth from frost, similar to the way that leaving last year's Hydrangea flowers does. Hostas have emerged lush and tempting to slugs.

Control of slugs and snails poses a dilemma; is poison the answer, or physical removal and use of barriers the way? Slug pellets are either metaldehyde or ferric phosphate in composition, and while both can be harmful to wildlife and pets, the ferric type are certified for organic use, and can be considered helpful for limited usage. For a larger area, when slugs threaten crops of vegetables, a biological control of nematodes/eelworms can be applied. Order them on the internet and follow the instructions for use. Barriers such as copper tape, egg shells, gel repellents, and wool pellets, that expand with moisture and form a scratchy mat, also help. Or you can try diatomaceous earth, which is a powder

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JUNE 2015

of the sharp jagged remains of microscopic creatures that lacerate slugs as they attempt to attack your plants. Try setting slug traps of beer, half-grapefruit shells or flowerpots turned upside-down, and regularly remove the offending gastropods to a safe distance, not over the garden fence as they have an effective homing instinct and will return. And you'll upset your neighbour.

Encourage hedgehogs, sadly in decline, and other natural predators such as birds, frogs and toads, along with slow worms and ground beetles. Some plant varieties have been bred to be less susceptible to damage. For instance, with potatoes, Romano, Wilja, Charlotte and Kestral are fairly resistant to attack.

From the threat of pests to the attack of weeds: it is a Forth Bridge scenario for once you have weeded, new ones are popping up again where you started. The use of a sharp hoe in the vegetable garden is invaluable, provided it is done in dry weather, then weeds can wither and die on the surface of the soil. I dig the ornamental areas with a border fork, making sure to remove deep tap roots and trying to catch weeds before they seed.

We can now plant the hardened off bedding and vegetables, and continue to sow seasonal salad crops, as well as swede and chicory for winter cropping. Keep earthing up potatoes, and training peas and beans. As strawberries form, remember to protect from birds, and remove runners regularly ready for potting up. Tie in raspberry canes, having earlier selected the strongest and cut back the excess weaker ones. Lightly prune gooseberries and red and white currants and apply more mulch.

Prune early flowering Clematis and Chaenomeles, the flowering quince. Dead-head roses and other flowering species to encourage continuous blooming. Keep on top of staking and tying-in to prevent floppy untidiness of your perennials: it is much easier to put the support in before the plants grow too large, and you have to strangle them into place.

Now is the time to sow herbaceous perennials for next year and take soft-wood cuttings of shrubs. Mow the lawn regularly and apply a summer fertilizer and broadleaf herbicide. I have been raking and spiking my small area of fine turf, and I mow it most days with a little push cylinder mower, which is far superior to

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## JUNE 2015

a rotary mower as it cuts lower, encouraging grass growth, and a perfect green sward.

Finally, take advantage of local open garden schemes. It may not be Chelsea, but it can be an inspiration, and invaluable in helping you choose plants that will thrive under local soil and climatic conditions: the owners are always happy to impart their experience. Happy gardening!

### At last! An agreed way forward for Suckley Church!

One year after submitting our plans for the changes to Suckley Church the Chancellor of the Diocese of Worcester, Dr Charles Mynors has given his "judgement" as to what we can do. He points out that the church exists to serve the wider community, and churches like Suckley will have to adapt if they are to survive. He points out that in a small village such as Suckley it is not sensible to consider a separate school facility (for assembly, concerts, drama, PE, etc) when there is a suitable public building (the church) very close by that is unused during the week. He points out that the church will need to be properly heated for its expected needs and that underfloor heating is the most appropriate method.

He takes into consideration the views of those who have drawn up the plans, the Victorian Society, English Heritage and those who have voiced their objections to the scheme, and has sought a compromise in his judgement. So he proposes that there will be one toilet and catering facilities provided in the tower.

He would like us to consider the layout of the church to see how many pews need to be retained, how they can be adjusted to make them moveable, and how much open space should be created.

The PCC has met and unanimously agreed that, following the Chancellor's recommendations, we will begin to seek costings for the above. There will be further public consultation to discuss the details. We now have the necessary go ahead to start raising the money needed to pay for all of this.

**Members of Suckley PCC:** Rev Anne Potter; Liz Devenish; Mildred Griffiths; Di Holloway; Anne Lewis; Richard Lewis; Susanna McFarlane; Jenny Taylor; Linda Taylor.

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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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## Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme - now also working with South Worcestershire Citizens Advice Bureau.



The Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS) is available to Suckley residents and can be accessed from Monday to Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm, by calling 01886 840480. The GNS is a local and friendly scheme, staffed by Duty volunteers, who will try to help if someone needs assistance. This could be for anything - from changing a light bulb, collecting shopping, form filling, one-off help with gardening or just advice. This is all entirely confidential.

Several of the duty volunteers have now trained as Community Liaison Volunteers (CLVs) with South Worcestershire CAB in order to bring to more rural areas friendly, impartial and confidential access to the CAB's experienced advice. Enquiries may be broad, ranging through such issues as benefits, consumer advice, debt problems, disability, employment and housing, and much, much more.....



All the Suckley GNS/CLV volunteers have been screened by the Disclosure and Barring Service, a non-departmental public body of the Home Office

In Suckley, access to the CLVs is also via the usual local telephone number for the GNS: 01886 840480. CLVs act as a local, first point of access to information, advice and support from the Citizens Advice Bureau, as well as providing the Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme.

Please be assured we are available to help in a friendly, confidential manner.

You can also access the Worcestershire Advice Network's website at [www.advicenetworkworcestershire.org.uk](http://www.advicenetworkworcestershire.org.uk) and email your enquiry directly to the CAB, or you can ring 01684 563611, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10.00-4.00, to speak to an adviser.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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### **Surgery Announcements**

**We are sad to announce that Elaine, one of our receptionists has recently retired. Elaine has been with us for over twenty years and she will be greatly missed by patients and colleagues alike. Vanessa will be replacing Elaine and will be joining us on reception at the end of April.**

**Dee Davies, one of our district nurses will be returning to Knightwick after a spell working in the Malvern area. Kate who has stood in for Dee will be moving on to work at the Community Hospital in Ludlow. We wish her well.**

.....

### **Sick Day Medication**

Some medications should not be taken when you have an illness that makes you dehydrated. This is because they can either increase the risk of dehydration or because dehydration can lead to potentially serious side effects of the medicine. **If you are on medications that could put you at risk then you will receive an information card with your next medication order.**

### **Summer allergies**

If you have allergies that require adrenaline injections, e.g. Jext or an EpiPen then now is a good time to check that they are still in date.

### **Foreign Travel**

If you are lucky enough to be travelling overseas to exotic destinations this summer, then it is important that you get the right advice regarding vaccinations and other associated risks.

Donna and Sharon, our practice nurses can give you up to the minute advice on the country that you will be visiting. Just fill in a Travel Questionnaire 5-6 weeks before you travel. These can be found on our website or picked up from reception. We then need you to make an appointment to see one of our nurses, five weeks before you go.

You can find lots of information regarding holiday health on the links on our website: [www.knightwicksurgery.co.uk](http://www.knightwicksurgery.co.uk)



### **Patients Corner**

Do you look after someone – do other people think of you as a ‘carer’? Are you lonely, do you think there is no one to talk to, no one who cares or understands? Well, think again.

I am a Talktime volunteer for the Worcestershire Association of Carers. Talktime volunteers are here to keep in touch and offer a friendly telephone call, usually once a month. You can talk about anything in the knowledge that it is completely and totally confidential.

I have been a carer myself and I know how difficult things can sometimes be. It was a carers’ group that got me through. Having someone to talk to is important and Talktime offers this.

If you would like to know more about Talktime please call the helpline on 0300 012 4272 (low cost call).

Tina  
[www.carersworcs.org.uk](http://www.carersworcs.org.uk)

The Surgery Newsletter is available on the local Clifton on Teme website at [www.clifton-upon-teme.co.uk](http://www.clifton-upon-teme.co.uk) or [www.temetriangle.net](http://www.temetriangle.net) courtesy of Bernadette Higgins AND on the Lower Teme Community Magazine site [www.lowerteme.co.uk](http://www.lowerteme.co.uk)

**JUNE 2015**

## **News from Suckley Parish Council Meeting Held on 14th May 2015**

**POST ELECTIONS** - This was the first Parish Council Meeting to be held post elections on 7th May. Cllr Barry Kearley had not sought re-election, but the Council appreciated all his hard work during his term of office. Dist Cllr Anthony Warburton had been re-elected, and we welcomed our new District Cllr - Sarah Rouse - to the meeting.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR** - Paul Tuthill circulated a new brochure recently published entitled "World Class Worcestershire" which was part of a programme to attract business development to the County.

**LENGTHSMAN** - The Clerk and Cllr J Green confirmed that Barry Bennett our Lengthsman had given in his notice. He had done first class work in the Parish during his employment with the Council who were sorry to see him go. However, we are hoping to recruit a new Lengthsman very shortly.

**COMMUNITY GROUP** - War Memorial  
Plans for the dedication service for the Suckley War Memorial are progressing well. The revised date for the ceremony is Armed Forces Day - Saturday 27th June - 11.0 am at the Old Quarry in Longley Green. The granite stone has now been engraved and the ground work of york stone paving and access ramp has been very generously laid down (free of charge) by Ringway, the contractors to Worcestershire County Council Highways. After the service, which will be conducted by the Revd Anne Potter our new Vicar, refreshments will be available at the Nelson pub in Longley Green, where an exhibition of photos and information about the men and women of the two World Wars will be on show, together with other displays.

### **FOOTPATHS**

Following on from our previous meeting which raised the question of the state of bridlepaths and gates – Helen Philpotts very kindly agreed to be the "Acting Footpath Warden" contact for any problems. Her contact number is 07967 455704.

**JUNE 2015**

### **PLAYING FIELDS**

The Playing Fields passed a safety inspection at the end of March, but as previously reported, the Parish Council are planning to replace most of the play equipment as and when funding permits.

### **HIGHWAYS**

Although pothole work had been done in Birchwood Lane potholes are now re-appearing. The Clerk to contact highways about this (again!) Plans for the resurfacing of Blackhouse Lane have now been postponed to June, but we are promised that "it will happen."

### **BT PHONE BOX**

The Council may be able to purchase the BT Phone Box at the Village Hall for £1 (but only with the permission of Malvern Hills District Council). The Clerk to look into this possibility.

### **ELECTIONS – VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR**

The Parish Council is entitled to have nine Councillors, but due to Barry Kearley not seeking re-election we now have a vacancy. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk, Diana Taylor (details below) or speak to any of the Parish Council members.

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 27th July 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.