

DECEMBER 2013

SUCKLEY NEWSLETTER

Is this Suckley's model citizen?



Jim Allcock has been living in Longley Green for 17 years and since his retirement spends his leisure time pursuing his hobbies which are model engineering, making model horse drawn vehicles and wood carving. He also enjoys cycling, riding 2 to 3 times a week for about two hours each trip as well as completing the occasional charity ride. He is a man of great skill and patience. Here is his story...

FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

DECEMBER 2013

Points of contact:

Newsletter Content: Hilary Pitt – 884355

Newsletter Advertising: Tilda Swabey – 07739 264495

Email: suckleynews@gmail.com

Next Issue: First week in February 2014

Content for newsletter to be submitted 24th January 2014.

Suckley Post Office: Roger & Barbara Blackburn - 884201.

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Village websites – for up to date information on what is happening in the village as well as a list of businesses and trades: www.suckley.co.uk & www.suckley.net or for Parish Council business www.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish (select Suckley from alphabetical listing).

Suckley Good Neighbourhood Scheme - 840480

Village Hall: Steve Boughton - 884210

Suckley School: Mr Matthew Mander 884283

Suckley & Alfrick Pre-School: Joanne Hall - 884766

Church: Wardens: Dr Anne M Lewis – 884552

Parish Clerk: Mrs Diana Taylor - 01684 569430

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Some of the models Jim has built including Herefordshire Wagon at the back of the picture. Notice the Swan matchbox in the bottom left corner - gives an idea of the scale of the models.

I started Model Engineering in the 1980s and over a period of 5 years made a live steam 5" gauge 0-6-0 tank engine, which was worth the effort as it took first prize at the Birmingham Society of Model Engineers show. A change of career and pressure of work meant that I didn't do any model making for a number of years.

In 2001, I joined the Guild of Model Wheelwrights, as I found Engineering models take too long to make and are too heavy to handle when completed. Over the years I have made various models including a Monmouthshire Wagon, a Bakers Cart, and a 9lb British Field Gun complete with Tender and Ammunition Wagon (this model took a second at the Midlands Woodex Exhibition). My latest model is of a Herefordshire Wagon. I found an old print, which inspired me to build the wagon showing that it was purchased by Henry Taylor of Tundridge Farm in the mid to late 1800s, which is less than a mile from where I live. The finished model is painted in the traditional colours of the Bromyard area, which are undercarriage and shafts – salmon, body – Prussian blue, name board – white lettering on blue ground. All my models are in 1/8 scale and to exhibition standard. Most models take about 500 hours to complete and I use well seasoned beech wood where possible.

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The Duke of Edinburgh is the Patron of the Guild of Model Wheelwrights and in 2007/8, I was involved with a group of Guild members in making a model of the Bennington Carriage used in competition by the Duke of Edinburgh. This was a great opportunity for me to work with some of the top model makers in the country. Two members visited the Royal Mews, measured and photographed the vehicle which was used for the model. Seven members from around the country then constructed the model by using the 200 photos and detailed sketches. On completion of the model we, with our partners, were invited to Buckingham Palace to present it to HRH Prince Phillip. I never thought that model making would lead to being invited to the palace and shaking Prince Phillip's hand. The Prince was delighted with the model and it is now displayed in his private apartments in Windsor Castle.



Close up of a Tender and Ammunition Wagon. There is a 6" rule between the wheel and the bucket, placed to demonstrate the detail and skill involved.

During the year the Guild of Model Wheelwrights exhibit at 20 shows throughout the country and I exhibit at several of these, mainly country shows such as Chatsworth Country show, Much Marcle Steam and Bewdley Heavy Horse show.

Friends ask why do I spend my time making models, my answer is, I don't do it to exhibit or compete but, because I like to see how the old technology works and I enjoy the challenge of making things to an acceptable standard with limited equipment. I have a small lathe, a miller/driller and a bench grinder.

A few years ago I was at the Woodex Exhibition with my daughter when we meet Mike Painter who is a master carver who gives tuition in wood carving. My daughter and I decided to give it a try and we both have been hooked ever



Jim's carving of a Georgian scholar which won him first prize in the 2008 Woodex Show.

since and I still go to a Master Class with Mike several times a year. Whilst model making is my winter activity, I carve through out the year, and it is very different from modelling, as there are no straight lines or accurate measurements to work with. It's much more artistic, using your eyes and feel. I had to learn not to just look at things but to really see them and also to "see" using my fingers.

I love 3D art and over the last few years I have carved various figurines, including a figure of a Georgian scholar which took first prize at the 2008 Woodex show. Other subjects include a Edwardian lady, a female nude, a ballerina, an archer, a Scottish piper and a bust of my neighbour's dog. Most carvings take about 200 hours to complete, but this is spread over several months, doing it as the mood takes me.

Most of my carvings are in Lime, a soft wood which is good to carve, and the bases are usually in Cherry wood which gives a good contrasting colour. My latest project is a carving of a Spanish Dancer. I have just completed a model of a small Vertical Steam Engine, and I am thinking of making a Governess Cart. I have lots of ideas finding the time is the problem!

For more information on Jim's hobbies, visit these websites:
Birmingham Society of Model Engineers www.birminghamsmc.com

Guild of Model Wheelwrights – www.guildofmodelwheelwrights.org
Jim's page is http://guildofmodelwheelwrights.org/GOMW_vehicles.htm#jimallcock

Mike Painter, master carver, <http://mikepainter.co.uk/>

Thanks Matt and good luck for the future!

Suckley School has almost doubled in size since Matt Meckin arrived as Head teacher 4 years ago. It is still a small rural school, but the school roll at the beginning of this term was 80 pupils; the highest for many many years. Matt has had a great impact on the school in many ways, converting to academy status, achieving an outstanding Ofsted assessment and securing the funding and overseeing the building of a wonderful new classroom, to mention but a few. Suckley is now a sought after school in the area and although small schools tend to be vulnerable, Suckley is now set up for a safe and secure future.

Having achieved such excellent results here, Matt is now moving on to a very different challenge. He has been appointed as Principal at Warndon Oasis Academy in Worcester. This is a very different school with over 600 pupils with a wide range of often challenging needs. It will be a difficult task and this appointment is a measure of how very highly regarded Matt is in the education world; we offer him our grateful thanks and many congratulations.

We are very sorry to be losing Matt but are extremely grateful to him for all the hard work and dedication he has shown, putting in extremely long hours. In addition to the essential school meetings, he has worked extensively with the SPACE Steering group, and has helped to secure the funding for the school's use of the reordered church space, which is now in place.

Matt is taking up his new post in January, and the School governors have already set up a plan to recruit the very best person to lead the school in the future. The governing body has decided to recruit for the new head teacher in the early part of 2014, so that the timing attracts the widest field and the new Head can be in place for September 2014.

Until then the governors have set up an interim leadership arrangement with an executive head, supported by a head of school and a deputy; this sort of structure is now being widely used nationally across smaller rural schools. Mrs Helen Davies has been appointed as executive head teacher for the next two terms. She is currently Head teacher at Lickhill Primary School in Stourport and she will work across her own school and Suckley within the role of Executive Head. Mrs Davies has an outstanding record in school leadership and she also

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has an excellent understanding of small rural schools, having been the Head teacher at Martley C of E Primary School for eight years prior to being at Lickhill. Mr Matthew Mander will be 'Head of School' and the person in charge of the full time day to day running of the school, working closely with the Executive Head; this a typical set up with an executive head arrangement. He will be joining us on secondment from The Coppice Primary School where he has been a Deputy Head teacher for five years. In addition, Mrs Alison Hall will be Deputy Head teacher for one year, so that she can also support the new leadership staff in driving the school forward. This interim leadership arrangement will ensure that we do not have to rush the appointment of a new Head teacher. It is the most pivotal appointment for the school and we want to make sure we get that decision absolutely right at Suckley.

We wish Matt Meckin every success in his future career and thank him for the enormous contribution he has made to Suckley School.

Liz Devenish, School governor, Chair of SPACE project. November 2013

'Tis the season to be jolly...

During the festive season, the spirit of Christmas usually comes in a glass (or two) particularly for those who frequent the two village pubs – The Cross Key or The Nelson. Whilst many villages are losing their pubs, Suckley is unusual in that it has two, and it is probably down to their very different characters that both are still serving regulars from far and wide. If you haven't visited either recently, Christmas is the time of year to correct this oversight.

The Cross Key (left) with regulars gathering for crib night and below, the Nelson Inn.



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Polly Beard and customers (including the local bobby!) outside Seville House. Polly is believed to be the lady in white apron standing beside the policeman.

With a little research* you discover that Suckley boasted eight public houses (as well as a number of ‘unlicensed’ beer sellers) which were the focal points for social activity in the village. Seville House, an inn run by Polly Beard in the late 19th / early 20th Century was well used by hop and fruit pickers as well as the local families, with Polly often serving drinks through a window – the windowsill still shows the signs of much trade.

Even the village hall, originally known as the Suckley Working Men’s Club and Parish Room, had a bar but members were restricted to one bottle of beer an evening. The club rules included no fighting, gambling, swearing or drunkenness. These rules were more ‘relaxed’ in the pubs, and often resulted in a visit from the local constabulary. In 1901, The Cross Keys, whose publican Percy Burgess , ‘was fined £2 by the County Magistrates for permitting drunkenness on his premises and also allowing drinkers to remain there a for nine-hour period. Police officers reported finding two women and several men sprawled drunk at the beerhouse.’ Today, Michelle keeps a more ordered house!

With changing agricultural practices, particularly after WW2, customers dwindled and the pubs were converted into private houses. Some still bear their ‘pub’ names – Seville House, Rough Leasow, Byeways, Crown Cottage, Plough Cottage – others have new names.

The two surviving pubs still serve the locals not only with beer and spirits but with a quintessential English character – a place to catch up with neighbours, play crib or darts, enjoy music nights, meet friends for lunch, partake in quiz nights, a quiet pint after a long day – and have been doing so for many years. Long may they continue to do so.

References: Aspects of Suckley – Suckley Local History Society; The Pubs of the Malverns, Upton & Nearby Villages, Tony Hobbs.

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Technology that can help to start a heart

It has been most enjoyable and interesting reading all about the Hop history of Suckley village. I have an old black and white photograph, given to me when we moved into the village, of our cottage drive lined with all the hop pickers enjoying what I suspect is cider! They look relaxed and cheerful despite what must have been very long working days. And then along came the Bruff hop picking technology that will have undoubtedly changed some of the longstanding hop season traditions.

Technology always brings with it change- not always for the better, but sometimes so. The Heart Start initiative is a scheme that is introducing new technology to rural villages. Its aim is to provide these villages with defibrillators and train local occupants to use them. It may seem a strange consideration, but I wonder what would have happened way back in the days of our hop picking heritage if anyone fell ill and required heart assistance? No mobiles, few, if any vehicles or ambulances and probably no such thing as defibrillators! And there will have been such occasions, then, now and into the future.....

In 2010, my daughter collapsed during an athletics meeting and was subsequently diagnosed with a rare heart condition that often causes fit young people to die. If she is ever ill at home, a village defibrillator could easily save her life. And this summer, my Father in Law had a sudden heart attack in our garden. Despite brave efforts to resuscitate him and a very swift ambulance response, he sadly died. Again, access and knowledge of how to use a village defibrillator could have helped. So, October saw myself and around 30 other local residents gather in the village hall from all parts of Suckley to receive some valuable first aid training. It was fun, participatory and straightforward, making us all feel self-empowered and confident (and the proud owners of Heart Start certificates!). And I encourage you to do the same. Chris and Jo from 'HeartStart Defford' will be coming again to Suckley in the Spring, so if you would like to take part in a training session (takes 2 hours), then please contact Anne Lewis - Tel No. 884552. Or email: annelewis@doctors.org.uk.

Claire McDonald

The British Heart Foundation. Tel 0300 3303311. www.bhf.org.uk
Cardiac Risk in the Young. Tel.01737 363222. www.c-r-y.org.uk

Heart Start Update from Anne Lewis: Thanks to the generosity of Suckley Parish Council and the initiative of our District Councillor Paul Tuthill, Suckley has been promised funding for an accessible village defibrillator, which will be installed on an outside wall of the school. We will look in to the options and choose the most appropriate defibrillator for our needs, and there will be (free) training for this for anyone who is interested.

Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme

The beginning of October saw Suckley village hall host the volunteers and core members of the Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme for their bi-annual meeting. The summer has been a quiet one with only the gentle fostering of community neighbourliness, none of the volunteers having been called upon directly. It was agreed that the SGNS would make itself available to offer advice to other villages setting up similar groups along with continuing the newly founded connection with the Home For Hospital scheme. The next meeting will be in March with perhaps a few more call outs over the winter months to report? You may have read that the NHS is promoting a 'Winter Friends' campaign, because thousands die every winter in the UK because of the cold. The over 75s are more likely to become seriously ill or feel isolated or lonely (over half live alone and television is their main form of company). Research has shown that loneliness and social isolation are as likely to contribute to an early death as smoking 15 cigarettes a day! One in 20 pensioners spend Christmas Day alone. So, as we enter the cold season, please do remember the number 01886 840480.

Messiah from Scratch:

The joy and spirit of Christmas was felt early in Suckley Church this year, as Handel's Messiah was brought to life. A multitude of candles and the red of the poppies just added to the atmosphere. Thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of David Kemp, our conductor from Bromyard, and the strong core of soloists and chorus from Madeline and the Community Choir, a really worthwhile evening was enjoyed by all, both audience and singers alike.

The occasion raised over £600 for Worcester's Acorns Hospice and Suckley Church, which made it all the more worthwhile.

This opportunity really brought out the wonderful acoustic qualities of Suckley Church. So.... what next? It was such a good evening that there were immediate requests for more..... Sounds good! Maybe it won't be too long before it is even easier to enjoy, with the SPACE projects plans for flexible seating, toilets and refreshments facilities. Watch this space!!

Do You Value your Village Shop and Post Office?

Roger and I will have been running Suckley Post Office & store for 10 years in February next year. If I said it was easy running a shop and Post Office I would be lying, but it is enjoyable serving our loyal customers. Yet we know that there are lots of Suckley residents who do not use our services often, if at all. To those people could we say that we are open all year round, not just when the weather prevents you leaving the village. Please feel free to come and say hello, we have lots to offer:-

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What could be more pleasant than visiting your local shop and Post Office and meeting other Suckley residents ... certainly preferable to queuing in the larger offices in town! Thank you for taking the time to read this – assuring you of our best service at all times.

Barbara Blackburn

Remembering Suckley's fallen of World War I

Timothy Vernall (27yrs), Thomas Phillips (25yrs), James Cornelius Griffin (29yrs) and E J Bradley (22yrs). These names may have no significance but to a few in the parish as they are the names of family members who died during World War One.

There is a framed "scroll" on one of the walls in the Village Hall naming the men of the Parish who gave their lives in the first world war (and there is another one for the Second World War). Do you believe their sacrifice deserves more recognition?

2014 marks the centenary of the outbreak of the war and MP Bill Wiggin is asking schools and local organization to think about how they could commemorate this anniversary. So too is the Heritage Lottery Fund who is on the lookout for imaginative local projects to mark next year's centenary with grants of between £3,000 and £10,000, available through its "First World War: then and now" programme. A wide range of community projects could qualify for support.

Activities that could gain HLF support include putting on an exhibition, telling a story through a smartphone app, DVD or website, creating a teaching pack or organising a community event. Another suggestion has been to sow field poppy seeds to bloom in the summer.

What could Suckley do to remember and learn more about the nature of the war and its impact on the local area? The Suckley community group is planning to come together next year to talk about how the village could respectfully commemorate those who gave their lives

The next newsletter will have more details but if you want to suggest an activity or have information on those whose names are mentioned above, then please get in touch with Diana Taylor 01684 569430 or Cllr Peter Whatley on 01886 884126 or email the newsletter (suckleynews@gmail.com).

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Grandchildren want to play with their new big toys like bicycles or radio controlled cars and there's knee deep snow outside? Try hiring the hall for an hour or two so you can remain sane and score some Brownie points at the same time for being clever grandparents.

We also hire out our tables, crockery etc. for a small fee so no need to panic if you have a big "do" at home.

Survey

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

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



FREE Newsletter to Suckley Residents

Festive Pie

Recipe from Ness Haworth

This recipe was for a Christmas pie, but I make it for the New Year with left over turkey. Great with my own homemade chutneys! You can also amend ingredients to taste.

Serves 8 - 10 people

INGREDIENTS	
2 tbsp olive oil	50g chestnuts, canned or vacuum-packed, chopped
knob butter	2 tsp chopped fresh or 1tsp dried thyme
1 onion, finely chopped	100g cranberries, fresh or frozen
500g sausagemeat or skinned sausages	500g boneless, skinless chicken breasts
grated zest of 1 lemon	500g pack ready-made shortcrust pastry
100g fresh white breadcrumbs	beaten egg, to glaze
85g ready-to-eat dried apricots, chopped	

METHOD

- Heat oven to 190°C/fan 170°C/gas 5. Heat 1 tbsp oil and the butter in a frying pan, then add the onion and fry for 5 mins until softened. Cool slightly. Tip the sausagemeat, lemon zest, breadcrumbs, apricots, chestnuts and thyme into a bowl. Add the onion and cranberries, and mix everything together with your hands, adding plenty of pepper and a little salt.
- Cut each chicken or turkey breast into three fillets lengthwise or slices and season all over with salt and pepper. Heat the remaining oil in the frying pan, and fry the chicken fillets quickly until browned, about 6-8 mins.
- Roll out two-thirds of the pastry to line a 20-23cm springform or deep loose-based tart tin. Press in half the sausage mix and spread to level. Then add the chicken pieces in one layer and cover with the rest of the sausage. Press down lightly.
- Roll out the remaining pastry. Brush the edges of the pastry with beaten egg and cover with the pastry lid. Pinch the edges to seal, then trim. Brush the top of the pie with egg, then roll out the trimmings to make holly leaf shapes and berries. Decorate the pie and brush again with egg.
- Set the tin on a baking sheet and bake for 50-60 mins, then cool in the tin for 15 mins. Remove and leave to cool completely. Serve with a winter salad and pickles.

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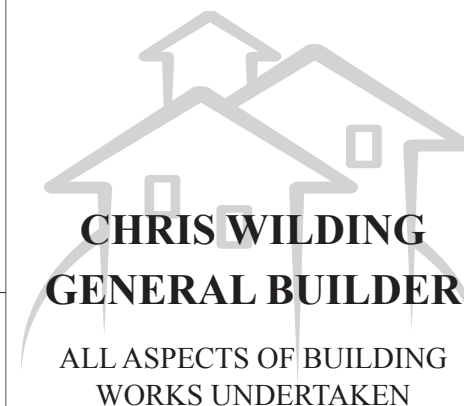
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What's on, what's happening in and around Suckley

...	<p>Christmas Fayre at Suckley Village Hall 7th December 2.00pm - 4.00pm. All the fun of the Fair, with Father Christmas in his Grotto. There are lots of competitions and fun stalls with prizes to win, Great Gift Ideas and Christmas decorations to buy. Come and discover the "Jam Jar Jamboree"! Will your raffle ticket win one of the exciting prizes? Organised by the Church and the School. Entry is free.</p>
...	<p>12 days of Christmas the Tudor way on 12th December There will be a Christmas flavour to the next Suckley History Society's evening meeting on Thursday 12 December. Elizabeth Pimblett of the Hereford County Museum will talk on how the Tudors celebrated the 12 days of Christmas, working up to it with advent fasting, and continuing until Jan 6th. Her talk explores the customs, food and the changing attitudes and religious practices which came in with the Reformation, and looks at how it was a community celebration and how elements of it have survived in local Herefordshire and Worcestershire culture. The evening will finish with the traditional History Society hospitality and refreshments which will have a festive flavour. The event starts at 7.30pm in Suckley Village Hall and non-members are very welcome - the non-member charge on the door is £4. More information available from Andrew Grieve (01886 884795).</p>
...	<p>Suckley Village Hall - Crazy Cakes and Cookies, 25th January Join us for a fun evening at the Hall at 7.30 p.m. Lots of tasting and a competition to guess what secret ingredients have been used. Like a certain cake or cookie? The recipe will be available for a few pence. Entry costs £4 per person on the door and this will include free tea or coffee to help the cake tasting along. If you want something stronger, please feel free to bring your own along.</p>

Local Services:

Mobile Library Timetable 2013

Fridays only at
Suckley - Cross Keys 11.20 - 11.40
Suckley School - 11.45 - 12.10
Longley Green Post Office 12.20 - 1.00

Dates: 20th December.

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

Harvest thank yous and SPACE news

A BIG thank you on behalf of the Worcester Food Bank for the many donations of food from both Suckley Church and Suckley School. It is very sad that a food bank is needed in Worcester, but it was heartening to see the 16 bags of non perishable groceries that Ellen Gwynne was able to take there from Suckley. Donations to the Food Bank are, of course, welcome any time. If they are left in church (clearly labeled for the Food Bank) we will make sure they are taken to Worcester. Drop some in to the church when you are on the school run!

Thank you too to those who came along to try out some of the possible chairs and pews being considered for Suckley Church, and who gave us their opinions. The Bring and Share Harvest lunch gave a useful opportunity to voice our thoughts and assess what was available. Despite representing the tall and the short, the large and the small, there was a surprising uniformity of opinion, which is helpful. Funds permitting, nearly everyone would prefer to have (stackable oak) pews to use in services, with a good supply of complementary oak finish lightweight comfortable stacking chairs hidden away discretely in oak finish cupboards to be available when they are needed.

It was also surprising to be able to see how much room is taken by a toilet for the disabled. The general feeling was that the basic kitchen facilities would be best placed on the South Side of the church, rather than in the North Transept (thoughts have moved on since the Spring newsletter).

Having established the principles behind what Suckley Church needs to make it more user friendly and useful, we are now getting down to the detail... choosing the most suitable lighting, best source of heating, right sound system, appropriate sewage system.... it all needs to be thought about, researched and advice sought. We want to get it right!

Please keep sending in your thoughts... they are all contributing to the way the plan unfolds.

Many thanks.

Anne Lewis and Liz Devenish (Suckley church wardens) 01886 884552 and 01886 884787, annelewis@doctors.org.uk and liz.devenish@virgin.net

Suckley Church

Services for December and January

Sun December 1st at 11am, All Age Service (a lively informal service)

Sun December 8th at 4pm, the annual Christingle service (a nationwide initiative by The Children's Society) for the whole family

Weds December 11th at 10.00am, a traditional said Communion Service

Sun December 15th, We go to Alfrick for their 11am All Age Service

Sun December 22nd at 6.30pm, the traditional Service of 9 Lessons and Carols, led by the Community Choir, is at Suckley this year

Tues December 24th at 4pm we go to the Cook's farm (Colles Place) in Lulsley for another Barnyard Nativity. Bring the whole family. This is very special.

Christmas Day at 10.30am a traditional service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) for everyone to celebrate together Christ's coming as a baby.

Sunday 29th December at 6pm, we go to Alfrick for their end of the year reflection in Words and Music.

Sun January 5th at 11am, All Age (a lively informal service)

Sun January 12th at 6pm, a said service of Celtic Worship

Sun January 19th, We go to Alfrick for their 11am All Age Service (a lively informal service)

Sun January 26th at 11am, Family Communion (a traditional communion Service when all ages are welcome).

Don't forget to enjoy Suckley Church's own Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/suckleychurch). You can enjoy the photos even if you don't have a Facebook account.



Easy Rider

You may have wondered (or maybe not) what submariners do for entertainment on long tours - no internet, no pub, no TV, no going for a long walk... Richard Wall's humorous short story gives us an insight to how they find ways to amuse themselves.

Life on board a submarine during the Cold War was 95% boredom and 5% excitement. Long weeks on patrol in the North Atlantic were often Groundhog Days of routine, routine and more routine. Mindless drudgery broken only by the occasional fire or (more often than I'm allowed to tell you) an errant Soviet submarine that needed chasing off.

After 22 years in the navy, I'm convinced that there exists no imagination greater than that of a bored submariner.

One means of entertaining the troops was the "off-watch" movie; shown in each mess, once in the afternoon and again in the evening (submarine crews work a two-watch, 6 hours on - 6 hours off routine) whereupon all those "off watch" would congregate watch a good 'fillum' before grabbing a few hours sleep.

The sign of a good movie is the effect on the crew afterwards. Memorable songs from a musical would be heard throughout the boat for days afterwards. "South Pacific", for example, often resulted in bathroom renditions of "I'm gonna wash that man right out of my hair", whilst "The Sound of Music" would prompt one sailor to begin "High on a hill lived a lonely stoker" whereupon his shipmates would respond "lay-oh-de-lay-oh-de-lay-hee-hoo".

Similarly, certain crew members could be seen along 2-deck passageway, sunglasses on, re-enacting the "Peter Gunn Theme" scene from the Blues Brothers.

"Grease" was an evergreen favourite. The mess would divide with one half turning up their collars to sing the boys songs with those on the other side of the mess singing the girls (one stoker memorably turned up, 4 weeks into the patrol, in a Pink Ladies outfit complete with lipstick and a blonde wig!). Such antics helped keep the dreaded boredom at bay and by and large were tolerated by the "grown ups" in the officers' mess.

Holloways

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DECEMBER 2013

However, when it came to post-movie shenanigans, one film above all raised the bar to a breathtaking level of inspiration. After watching *The Great Escape*, the craze ensued whereby crew-members would pay homage to Steve McQueen by riding around the submarine on imaginary motorcycles - complete with wrist-twisting 'brum-brum' noises. As with most antics this was afforded long-suffering acceptance until one careless rider lost control of his Norton 500 Commando on 'Dead Man's Curve' and collided with the weapons officer just outside the torpedo compartment. Henceforth it was decreed that such infantile behaviour was to cease forthwith.

The very next day, however, the stillness of the control room was broken by an anonymous Able Seaman, his face hidden by a crash helmet fashioned from duct tape, wearing goggles and a white scarf, leaving the sonar room en route to the mess for a cuppa. Riding his non-existent Ducati, the sailor entered the control room, leaned the bike hard over to negotiate the chicane around the periscopes, dropped it down a gear and roared off down the passageway.

The Officer of the Watch, incensed at this flagrant disregard for authority, pointed to a Petty Officer. "P.O." he yelled, "Go and bring that sailor to me." Snapping smartly to attention, the Petty Officer saluted, and with a hearty "Aye, aye, sir", kick-started his imaginary Harley Davidson and gave chase yelling "Nee-Naww -Nee-Naww."

Winter visitors to Suckley

Since October our countryside has been home to winter migrant fieldfares and redwings, chattering away in our orchards and hedgerows. Having flown all the way from Scandinavia and eastern Europe, they look very similar and are often spotted together foraging on fruit and berries and digging for worms and grubs. Both birds are related to thrush family (Turdidae) and prefer the fields and countryside to towns and cities. They are also on the RSPB Red Status, meaning they are globally threatened and their population is in severe decline.

If out walking this winter, you are bound to hear them chuckling away before catching sight of them - they are quite skittish when disturbed, their panicky flight makes for a noisy display as they fly off to a safe distance. Keep your eyes

and (ears) open and you will soon spot them - a delightful and attractive part of the winter scene. They will be gone in March and April, a few stragglers may stay on till May, leaving the orchards once more empty and quiet.

The redwing, *Turdus iliacus*, has creamy strip above the eye and orange-red flank patches making it distinctive to spot.

Fieldfares, *Turdus pilaris*, are large and colourful, much like a mistle thrush in general size, shape and behaviour. They stand very upright and move forward with purposeful hops. They are very social, spending the winter in flocks of anything from a dozen or two to several hundred strong.

Information taken from the RSPB website www.rspb.org.uk where you can find out more and listen to their song / call



Left: The redwing, with its distinctive cream strip above the eye. There is a red patch just below its wing on its chest.

Below, the fieldfare is bigger than the redwing, and is similar to a thrush with its speckled chest.



Image: www.wildlife-imaging.co.uk

© Chris Grady @ Wildlife Imaging

Suckley History Society goes Medieval

'Medieval times in Herefordshire & Worcestershire' was the subject of a very interesting talk by Louise Manning at the October meeting of Suckley Local History Society

Bruce Roscoe chaired the meeting in the absence of Andrew Grieve who was doing a 400 km cycling challenge in Northern Tanzania around Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for St Richards Hospice.

Bruce introduced Louise, who is no stranger to our members, having hosted a visit to her farm at Castle Frome last year when she talked about the local Mormons and their connections to her home.

Louise told our meeting of various battles, keeping the Welsh out of the border countries and offered some insights on how land was given to various barons favoured by the king. We learnt about King Harrold and his subsequent marriage to the widow of the 'Welsh Ruler' and how Suckley was part of Earl Eadwine's great manor of Bromsgrove.

She took us forward to the time of the Domesday Book, when the Earl of Hereford was appointed by William the Conqueror and took five hides at Suckley out of the Bromsgrove Manor and that in 1086, Suckley was recorded as having 59 households, a mill, a fishery and twelve beehives, valued at £24.00, whilst other local villages were only valued at £3 to £4.

King William held onto the ownership of Droitwich as the salt that was mined there was extremely valuable and transported to all parts of the country.

We heard stories of how the Norman Barons took Saxon wives and how the villagers needed permission from their Baron to marry. Also how strip farming was the accepted practice of the day, when an acre of land was defined as to what could be ploughed by one man & oxen in one day.

Looking back as this year draws to an end, our members have enjoyed a very varied programme, with local visits and talks being enjoyed. Now our members are busy planning next year's programme!!

See centre pages for details on the last meet of the year.

Cycling in Tanzania for Charity – Andrew and Christine Grieve raise £2500 for St Richards Hospice



At the start of their cycling adventure, Andrew (in the middle) and Christine (on the right) are all smiles. But, they have 250 gruelling miles ahead of them, sweltering 30°C heat - and only 5 days to do it in.

On October 5th 2013, an intrepid band of cyclists including Andrew and Christine Grieve of Suckley set off on an African charity challenge. Joining 43 other cyclists, for the long flight to Kilimanjaro Airport, Tanzania, East Africa, we nervously wondered how we would fare in the company of the fit and svelte looking young cyclists. With ages ranging from 19 – 63, we were definitely at the more mature end of the spectrum! Our challenge was to cycle from the lower slopes of Kilimanjaro to the World Heritage site of Ngorongoro Crater covering a total of 400 kms or about 250 miles in 5 days, climbing thousands of feet in temperatures of 30°-35°C to raise money for St Richards Hospice.

On our first day on African soil, we were all excited if not a bit scared of the challenge ahead of us. For Christine, it was a journey “home” as she lived in East

Africa for 18 years and this was her first return trip in 17 years. Christine was happy to find her Swahili language skills came back very quickly and enjoyed using them in her unofficial role as interpreter!

Starting out at 7am, we cycled a combination of dirt “roads” and tarmac through villages attracting curious stares from the friendly locals with Kilimanjaro peeking out of the clouds. We ended the day at a Maasai Village, welcomed by singing and dancing and best of all, cold beer and roast goat.

Day two was the toughest challenge of the entire ride. Drought conditions had caused the dirt roads to break down into sand so even the fittest of the riders found the going very hard. Walking and cycling in deep sand for several hours took its toll on our spirits and we struggled against very hot and dusty wind. We did see some ostrich and gazelles running beside the road and we tried to race them, needless to say, we lost! Lunch was under a few thorn trees with a group of Maasai, dressed in their distinctive costume, staring in amazement at our group of lycra-attired cyclists! Revived by lunch and knowing a tarmac road was just up ahead, gave us all a lift in spirits until we saw a long 8 mile hill climb towering in front of us. Arriving in camp that night was a physically exhausted and very subdued group, as it started to dawn on us just how hard this challenge was going to be.

Another 7 am start on the third day saw us tackle the longest ride of 63 miles through undulating hills on mostly tarmac with occasional dirt road diversions. We made good time and arrived at our campsite at Tarangire Game Reserve in time for a cold beer, a swim in the pool and a great dinner of, you guessed it, roast goat!

The next day was a short but sharp cycling day finishing at Lake Manyara Safari Lodge, where a real bed and showers awaited us! Up to then we only had a cup and bucket to wash in and tents to sleep in. With temperatures reaching 40°C we cycled across the floor of the Rift Valley, through more Maasai villages and some of the roughest roads yet. Finally reaching a tarmac road, we were all feeling that this day was going well, until we came to the foot of the escarpment and were confronted with a 2.5 mile 20% hill climb in the heat of the day to the lodge. The group made slow and painful progress up the switchback road but were rewarded with spectacular views over the Rift Valley from the top. A late lunch,

swim and a few glasses of wine at the Safari Lodge restored our spirits.

On our final day, we were back on our bikes at 6 am, to cycle up to the gates of the Ngorongoro Crater National Park. It was our shortest cycling day, but really tough as it was almost all up hill. The last climb up to the finish line produced many emotional moments as the exhausted but triumphant group had surmounted all the challenges. Altogether this team effort managed to raise over £125,000 for a variety of cancer charities.

Andrew and Christine Grieve are raising money for St Richards Hospice - a Worcester based hospice that provides free palliative care and support for cancer sufferers and their families (www.strichards.org.uk). You can help our fundraising at <http://www.justgiving.com/Grieve-Africa>

A short video of our adventure can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka1Jm1ya3Lw>

Andrew Grieve



Sensibly sheltering in the shade, a group of bemused Masaai look on as Christine and her cycling companion decide to give their bikes a rest.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

Tilda and Hilary @ Suckley Newsletter

SURGERY NEWS - ISSUE 16
DECEMBER 2013



We are the Young@Knightwick is a magazine for all our 16 – 24yr old patients and is full of Health Information relevant to that age group. Written by a teenager, for her peer group the magazine is available by following the link on our website. There will be a new issue every 2 months

PART TIME RECEPTIONIST REQUIRED Mon 8am – 1pm & Tue 8am – 1.30pm Previous experience preferred but not necessary .Please contact Kate Parkinson for more information on 01886 821279 or email kateparkinson@nhs.net

Dispensary Team:

Can we please take this opportunity to remind you to allow extra time for orders over the Christmas period. We will be closed Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th so please order and collect around these days. As always, please do not order early unless you have a genuine need to collect medication earlier than usual, as this causes a backlog and delays for others. We recommend that orders for collection before Christmas reach us by Wednesday 18th December.

Our new computer system is now successfully installed. We are still getting to grips with the differences to our old system and all its little quirks, but generally it is working well. For those patients who book on-line, please bear with us. We will restart online booking once we are confident the system is working correctly. Thank you for your patience.

DON'T FORGET TO HAVE YOUR FLU JAB IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO!

Dr. Andrew BYWATER

MA, MB, BChir, DA, FP(cert.)
Qualified in 1982 from Cambridge University and Westminster Hospital. He has a particular responsibility for our diabetic patients and minor surgery. He previously worked for 10 years as a Clinical Assistant in Dermatology and Gastroenterology at Worcester Royal Infirmary. He has developed a diagnostic ultrasound service for the practice. Dr Bywater is the Clinical Governance lead for the Practice. He enjoys all forms of rural pursuits and is never happier than when waving a fly rod or exercising his spaniels.

The full A4 version of this Newsletter is available at the Surgery. It will also be available on our own dedicated website – www.knightwicksurgery.co.uk and on the local Clifton on Teme website at www.temetriangle.net - courtesy of Bernadette Higgins



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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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News from Suckley Parish Council Meeting Held on 11th November 2013

COUNTY COUNCILLOR - County Councillor Paul Tuthill reported that Malvern Link Station was still in the process of refurbishment, but this should be completed by Christmas. The Fire Station in Malvern Link was also being rebuilt. The County Council was aiming to find savings of £30M per year to balance the budget. The Council was also looking at bus services to see if they could be made self funding.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR - Dist Cllrs Anthony Warburton and David Hughes reported to the meeting. The District Council would be taking over the responsibility for civil parking schemes from 12th November. The Malvern Job Centre was moving into the Hub at Malvern Library by the end of November. The Council was looking at forward planning and budgets, with further reductions being needed. There was a deficit in 2014/15 and again in 2015/16, but the Council was doing its best to avoid cutting back on essential services. The Inspector has now looked at the South Worcestershire Development Plan and has asked for additional information on the predictions in the Plan. It is looking very likely that an increase in the number of dwellings will have to be included in the final Plan. In the meantime, MHDC is very exposed as the Inspectors may well find in favour of development in the absence of an approved plan. This Phase I report should be back to the Inspector by the end of the year.

SPEEDING ISSUES - The Clerk reported that the speeding data for Suckley had been downloaded from the VAS camera. There was a problem with printing out this data, but it was hoped to be resolved in the next week or so.

COMMUNITY GROUP – DEFIBRILLATOR - Around 20 names have now been put forward for training in basic first aid/Heart Start training linked to the defibrillator. In view of the extra cost of the special outside box to store the defibrillator, Co Cllr Tuthill offered to increase his matched funding if this was found necessary. However, he reported that the Fire Service was also offering training, and it might be worthwhile linking up with Alfrick and Leigh if they were interested. Cllr A Lewis agreed to look into the various schemes and costs of defibrillators/training. The Council agreed to place an order at the January 2014

meeting. If you would like to get involved in this scheme and the free training, please contact Cllr Anne Lewis on 01886 884552.

COMMUNITY GROUP – First World War Centenary 2014

The Council will be looking at a number of ways to commemorate the Centenary, including the possibility of a memorial and a poppy planting scheme. More information will be available in the New Year, but if you are interested in getting involved, or have a view on this, please contact the Clerk Diana Taylor (see below) or Cllr Peter Whatley on 01886 884126.

PLAYING FIELDS - The wire netting fence surrounding the all weather pitch has been vandalised in two places. The Council agreed to look into the costing of a CCTV camera.

HIGHWAYS - Extra salt/grit has been ordered to make sure the Parish is well stocked for the coming winter.

SUCKLEY SCHOOL - Cllr Liz Devenish reported that as Mr Meckin would be moving to a larger school headship in Worcester, an interim management plan was being put in place until a new permanent Head Teacher could be appointed in September 2014

LOCAL POLICE - Crime figures for Suckley - October – 4 ASB – 1 incident of malicious online communication, 2 nuisance ASB incidents, and 1 incident involving a dog attack on sheep.

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 13th January 2014** at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall. There is always time at the beginning of the meeting for parishioners to make a short address to the Councillors for discussions in the meeting.