

NEWSLETTER FROM SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL

March 2015

Consideration for others in the community

Dog Fouling: Historically we have had a very good track record of keeping the village clear of dog litter, and with many new dogs arriving with their owners into our community can all please make every effort to maintain the high standards. Two bins have been installed at the top of Wharf lane and at the junction of Ezra's ditch with Abernethy's lane. Bags are available at the following locations throughout the village, please use them. The corner of Deepwell Cottage in the High Street and at Spring Cottage opposite the pond

Spring Clean

At this time of year, as we come through Winter, most communities look a little lacklustre and in need of a pick me up, and Souldern is no exception. SPC would like as many parishioners as possible to join with them in giving the public spaces within the village a spring clean on Saturday 25th April. Start time is 10 a.m. Meeting point: Village hall.

Footpath 11

Parishioners will be very relieved to hear that the Canal Bridge that forms an integral part of Footpath 11 has finally been re-opened.

Leave as found

With various projects going on throughout the village, there is bound to be some upheaval and gnashing of teeth as grass verges/ walls and sensory systems are sometimes damaged. If you are undertaking such a project please be sympathetic to your neighbours and try not to alienate them, and when works are complete please make sure that the contractors leave the immediate area as they found it when they first arrived. SPC will continue to monitor and intervene where necessary, but better to be good neighbours and keep everybody in the loop from the start.

Parish Council Meetings

Please remember that Parish Council meetings are open to all residents. For the remainder of 2015, these will be held in the Village Hall on Thursdays from 7:30 on –

- 8th April (Planning)
- 14th May (Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm)
- 10th June (Planning)
- 16th July
- 17th September
- 19th November

Souldern Parish Council contact details are:
Chairman: Nick Oakhill - 01869 345784
Clerk: Barbara McGarry - 01869 345931

Email: clerktosouldernparishcouncil@gmail.com

*Happy Easter to you all, go easy on the Chocolate!
Welcome to the Second Edition of our Quarterly Newsletter. Apologies for the delay in getting this out to you; we've had a few things that we wanted to include which have needed updating in the last week!*

There is a lot going on in the village just now with Spring upon us and Summer just around the corner, so please get involved whenever you can.

Parish Council Elections

The Local Council elections will be held on Thursday 7th May. Alan Martin and Richard Deeley will be standing down as Councillors, which leaves two spaces on Souldern Parish Council. If you have an interest in getting involved please speak to either Barbara McGarry or Nick Oakhill about what is involvedsooner rather than later as nominations have to be with Cherwell District Council no later than Thursday 9th April.

Car Boot Sale

The first Car Boot Sale of this season will be held on Sunday 12th April on the village playing fields.

These, almost legendary events have become an integral part of the summer social calendar (behind Ascot/ Henley and Wimbledon). Please come along and see if you can pick up a bargain, or maybe you want to de-clutter the garage; this is the ideal opportunity to do so and raise some funds in the process.

If you would be willing to get involved in the organisation of the Car Boot Sales, please contact either Mary May or Nick Oakhill.

Souldern Vision (Community Led Plan)

Help shape the future of your village. To get a true picture of the needs of the village it is important that all residents engage and have their say. In our December newsletter we mentioned the creation of a Community Led Plan which is being launched **on the morning of Saturday 20th June In the Village Hall ahead of the.....**

Summer Solstice Event

Planning for the Summer Solstice event is now well underway and the organising group would like to thank everybody for their positive feedback. In mid-April all households will be receiving further information. To help with the preparations we will be asking for an indication of numbers attending and, as with the jubilee event, asking for contributions towards the afternoon tea and donations of prizes and money to cover some of the costs of the event.

The format of the day will be as follows;

12.00	Fun & Games on the Playing Field in conjunction with the launch of Souldern Vision in the Village Hall
14.30	Village 'Treasure Hunt' starts
16:00	Street Tea Party and games on the High Street
19.30	Barbecue & music at The Fox

For more information email: solstice@souldern.net

Also, keep an eye on the website

www.souldernsolstice.uk which will be launched after Easter.

Village Database

For those who did not respond first time around, if you would like to receive future editions of this newsletter by email please send a mail to clerktosouldernparish-council@gmail.com, and you will be added to the list. Do it now whilst it's fresh in your mind!

Development and Planning in Souldern

At our January planning meeting Mike Kerford – Byrne, (one of our Cherwell District Councillors), came along to give us an update of the Cherwell District Local plan. The amended plan was passed to the Inspector in December and is now awaiting approval. When adopted, it will make the situation clearer for our village to create and adopt a Neighbourhood Plan of our own. In the meantime there is little point in creating a document that may be at odds with a plan from much higher authority.

Our next two planning meetings are due to be held in the Village hall on the 8th April and 11th June. Both starting at 7.30 p.m. .

Broadband update

Like buses, you wait for ages and then they all arrive at the same time...so it is with prospective superfast Broadband providers.

Gigaclear came to give a presentation to interested parishioners on 10th March, at which twelve households were represented.

Gigaclear are currently in the process of delivering their network to the villages of Croughton and Aynho, and our village is a prospective for them.

Gigaclear promises to deliver their superfast broadband via fibre cables to all households that sign up. This service will provide a minimum of 50 Mbps, which is infinitely faster than the current service.

If enough households subscribe they claim they will start connections from July/August 2015.

More information is available on www.gigaclear.com

The major downside to this system will be the significant upheaval within the village necessary for the laying of the cables to every household.

.....And on the 11th March Nick Oakhill received an email from a representative of BT with whom a

meeting has been arranged for Thursday 9th April @ 4pm, when we hope to find out how BT are going to respond to the Gigaclear offer, as currently their latest estimate of "sometime in 2016" seems out of kilter with the competition. Anybody interested in attending should come along, the venue being The Barn House, High Street.

More information will follow on this when available as understandably, some villagers are uncertain of the options available to them. We will try to assist wherever possible.

Village Website

The Parish Council is currently working with the other organisations and some individuals in the village to construct a Souldern Village website. Part of this website will record as much of the history of our village as possible. We are aware a number of books, pamphlets and similar documents have been written about the village over the years. It would be very helpful if details of these very important documents could be gathered and recorded, even re-printed where possible and made available. If you have any books, records or other documents about the history of Souldern, and would be prepared to either donate or share them with other residents, then please let the Clerk to the Council (Barbara McGarry) know. Obviously we recognise that some documents might have significant personal importance to you and so you would not want them to 'go missing'. We promise that every care will be taken of all books, pamphlets, records and similar documents. In particular at this time, we are looking for historical information about education in the village. If you have any documents, photos or other information about education in the village, please let Ann Prescott (ann.prescott112@btinternet.com) know, as she will be collecting and collating this.

There may be other interesting objects or artefacts from Souldern's past that are still in the village. We would be very keen to record details of these on the website as well, perhaps including photos if possible. Again, if you have any information, then please let Barbara McGarry know.

There is no doubt that Souldern has a very long and interesting history. Please help us to record as much of this as possible. We are very lucky these days to be able to store information electronically. Original documents can be scanned and stored, allowing them to be returned to their owners.

Nancy Bowles Wood

Over the winter Romney Summers stood down as leader of the NBW management group, and has been replaced by Tim Vincent. Romney has led the group with great aplomb and gusto over the last 6 years, and her efforts have been very much appreciated. Tim has a great deal of experience of woodland and nature conservation and will make a very able successor.

If anybody is interested in getting involved with the woodland group please contact the parish clerk who will pass them onto Tim.