

Horticultural Society

On Friday 29th January the Horticultural society are hosting their annual Cheese and Wine evening at the Village Hall from 7pm. Tickets are available from any member of the committee.

And for those who are looking to demonstrate their prowess in the garden or kitchen, your efforts should be geared towards peaking on Saturday 20th August when the Society will be holding its Annual show in the Village Hall.

Village Website

The new village website has been up and running now since the beginning of November, and is being regularly updated. Please contact us if you have any suggestions for other information that you would like to see posted on the site.

Parish Council Meetings

Please remember that Parish Council meetings are open to all residents. These will be held in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30p.m on the following dates;

Thursday 21st January

17th March / 19th May

21st July / 15th September

17th November

We also hold meetings every other month to discuss any local planning applications. These are open to all residents and are also held in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30 p.m. Dates in February, April, June, August, October and December to be confirmed.

(Please check the notice boards, the website or register on the village database)

Souldern Parish Council contact details are:

Chairman: Nick Oakhill - 01869 345784

Clerk: Barbara McGarry - 01869 345931

Email: clerktosouldernparishcouncil@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER FROM SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL

December 2015

Welcome to the Winter Edition
of our Quarterly Newsletter.

Seasons greetings to all parishioners from Souldern Parish Councillors. We hope that you all had a peaceful and happy Christmas. With 2015 behind us there is a lot to look forward to in 2016, with a few village projects ongoing and several events planned for the summer already.

We feel it is necessary to begin this edition with an update from the Superfast broadband providers for the village, as many will be keen to know when they can expect the new service to become available.

Gigaclear update

Installation of the fibre optic cable in the village is now well underway, with works recommencing on the 4th January. The latest update we have from the project manager, David Thrower, is for all works to be completed at the beginning of February, with a view to having the new service available to subscribers by end of March.

Working, crews will endeavour to maintain access wherever possible but please feel free to discuss any access issues with crews directly or contact David Thrower on 07789 54301. Where possible all trenches will be permanently reinstated the same day, where this is not possible it will be the following day and any excavations will be barriered off.

Gigaclear will make sure that where there are risks to existing stone walls they will investigate relocating routes, however you will be covered under their public liability if their works directly undermine or damage structures.

Gigaclear are happy to discuss the siting of pots if once it is marked you deem it not fit for purpose. This should be called in to the Gigaclear customer service team who can relay to their design team.

Gigaclear will carry out snagging a visit on completion of all works, this will ensure all verge, highway and footway reinstatement are restored to their former state and to a standard deemed suitable by OCC Highways inspectors.

Souldern Vision (Community Led Plan)

The information from the questionnaires is in the process of being collated before the results and comments are presented to the village. We are expecting them to be available before the end of March.

2016 Village Events

(see also Horticultural Society section)

And then there were many!!

Preparations have already begun for the Inaugural Souldern Soap Box Derby which will take place on Saturday 25th June. Rosie Sanders has very kindly agreed to let us use the rear entrance to Souldern Manor for the course, and the aircraft hanger will be the venue for the Pitstop party later that evening. This promises to be a really special day out for all of the family, and we hope that as many people as possible have a go. There will be communal soap boxes available for those that want to take part without the hassle of having to build their own racer. Just turn up and hop in, preferably in fancy dress!!!

The technical specifications for the soap boxes has been agreed, and are now available to download from the village website.

The Queen will be 90 this year, and the village will be joining in with the rest of the country in celebrating the occasion on Sunday 12th June, with a Garden Party which is being held at Souldern House, by kind permission of Major Sandy and Mrs Diana Gray. Full details of both events will be publicised when they are available.

Playground

Since the last newsletter, Mark Baker and his team of helpers have replaced the frame of the toddlers swing, and the platform of the big slide. There is much more to be done and when the weather improves work will continue on updating other pieces of equipment. High on the list is the repainting of the digger. Tania Noble will enrol the assistance of willing volunteers in the near future.

Special thanks should go to Karen Gray who held a make up morning which raised £450 that will

go towards playground improvements. Well done Karen!!!

Nancy Bowles Wood

Its been a relatively quiet period for the wood of late, but there is some coppicing work to be carried out shortly, so if you would like to lend a hand please contact Tim Vincent by emailing him on nbw@souldern.org

Consideration For Others in the Community

Parking is the issue that continues to cause most angst in the village just now, a situation which is being exacerbated by the number of tradesmen currently working on properties, mostly in the High Street. If you have work being done to your property, please be sympathetic to the tolerance of your neighbours as their patience and goodwill can only be relied upon for so long.

As always good communication early on can overcome any number of potentially tricky situations.

To date this winter, we have been experiencing some unseasonally mild weather. At some stage we are sure to experience a change in fortunes. If we do, please spare a thought for any elderly neighbours and make the time to call in and check if they need any help.

Also, we have adequate supplies of grit in the bins around the village, and in store if needed. We do however, need parishioners to take the responsibility to spread the grit onto the roads as required. Please, if you have a grit bin outside of your property and a freeze is expected, as long as you can do so safely, make the effort to place some of the grit onto the road to ease the situation the following morning. It should be noted that the grit is for use on public highways only.

Souldern Football Club

Suitably inspired by their new kit, Souldern football club go into the new year at the top of their league. Having played thirteen games, they are currently one point clear of their closest rivals. We await further news of continued success in the new year. There are a number of teams below them that have games in hand, but lets hold out for a title winning season.