

Horticultural Society

On Friday 27th January the Horticultural society are hosting their annual Cheese and Wine evening at the Village Hall from 7p.m. Tickets are available from Phil Mander And for those who are looking to demonstrate their prowess in the garden or kitchen, your efforts should be geared towards peaking on Saturday 19th August when the Society will be holding its Annual show in the Village Hall.

Bellringers

There has been a welcome interest in restarting the bell-ringing group and plans are underway to get things started. If you are interested please contact Kirsty Allpress (Tel: 01869 345587).

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 19th January

16th March / 18th May (Annual meeting)

20th July / 21st September

16th November

We also hold meetings every other month to discuss any local planning applications. These are open to all residents and are held in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30 p.m on the following dates:

Tuesday 21st February

18th April / 20th June

15th August / 17th October

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 2016

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 and New Year. With an eventful 2016 behind us, we want to maintain the momentum in 2017. There are a few changes to inform you of in this newsletter, so please take the time to read it and if you have any comments don't hesitate to let us have your thoughts.

Souldern Football Club

Sadly, the Football club took the decision to withdraw from the Banbury league before Christmas. This was mainly due to the difficulty that the management were facing in raising a regular/competitive eleven. The football club has been disbanded, which means that there will not be any organised sport taking place on the sports field in the near future. Whilst this turn of events is regrettable, it gives the parishioners of the village the opportunity to re-evaluate how we want to use both the playing fields, and the changing rooms in the future. One option is to allow another football team to use the pitch and changing rooms, thus maintaining the status quo.

Alternatively, the field could be used for other sports, and the changing rooms could be converted into other rooms and the space used to extend the village hall.

Whatever we do needs to be thought through and planned carefully. We do not need to make any hasty decisions, but your initial thoughts are sought in order to gauge public opinion. Please contact any of the Souldern Parish Councillors to air your views.

Diversion of Footpath 1

OCC have asked the Parish Council to take part in an informal consultation into the possible diversion of footpath 1, which currently runs through Lower Souldern Grounds farm. Joe Abernethy of Lower Souldern Grounds attended the Parish Council meeting on 17th November 2016 to outline the new route. As only a small number of villagers were at the meeting, further comments on the proposal would be helpful in informing the Parish Council response

to OCC. Briefly, the new route is to divert the path which currently runs through the farmyard, to pass to the north side of the farm buildings, along the field edge. It would have a definitive width of 2.5 metres, have a grass surface along its entire length and be free from structures. The current electric fencing arrangements would be replaced with stock fencing and plain wire. Details of the proposed new route can be found at <http://www.souldern.org/home/announcements/consultationonfootpath1lowersoulderngroundsfarm> and are also displayed on the village notice board. Please send any comments to Katydraper@souldern.org by 21st January 2017.

Joe would be happy to discuss or walk the proposed new route with anyone who wishes to do so, and he can be contacted on 07894 065212

Should the proposal proceed to a formal application, villagers will then of course have the opportunity to comment directly to OCC.

Footpath 11.

The work to repair the swing bridge has now been completed, and the footpath has been re-opened.

Defibrillator

At recent Parish Council meetings discussions have taken place about the possibility of installing a defibrillator in the village. We hope to have a public meeting in the village hall about this soon. We are hoping to have a representative from the ambulance service present, who will be able to provide us with more information. We will also be discussing fund raising to provide the equipment. When confirmed, the date for this meeting will be advertised on the notice board and website.

Lambing at Lower Souldern Grounds farm – An invitation from Joe Abernethy

In March the lambing of 300 breeding ewes will be well under way at Souldern Grounds Farm and Joe Abernethy would like to extend an invitation to any villagers (and their children) interested in seeing lambing first hand to visit the farm

In recent times farming has become a lot less familiar to the consumer and hopefully people will see this as an opportunity to see what goes into the process.

Anyone interested in going to visit please call Joe on 07894 065212 to arrange a day/time, they will be made very welcome.

Souldern Playground

Tania Noble handed over the reins of the playground group to Lucy Cornish in October. We would like to

take this opportunity to thank Tania for her efforts in keeping the playground a safe environment for the village's children to play in, and also for her leadership in raising funds to enable further improvements to be made in the spring of 2017. We look forward to seeing the willow tepee flourish this year.

The first task for 2017 will be to replace the big swing. After that, Lucy has other plans afoot to make changes to the playground, with further details to follow in later issues.

Social Events in Souldern

'Time to Talk' Christmas Lunch

To begin the festive season a full Christmas lunch, including Turkey with all the trimmings, Christmas pudding and coffee was enjoyed by 40 Souldern residents in the village hall. Thank you to Wrightons for supplying and serving such a superb meal, we would certainly hope to repeat the occasion again next year. The lunch was also attended by 'Village Networks' who were there to offer help and advice of a practical nature and the outcome of the lunch reinforced the need for more social get togethers and a 'Time to Talk'. Therefore, on **Wednesday 1st February** we will be holding a **coffee morning**, again in the village hall from 11-12:30. Everyone Welcome.

Children's Christmas Party

The week before Christmas Mr Marvel arrived to entertain the younger children of the village, an event that was much enjoyed by all that went along. For those that weren't already excited enough, this party seemed to hit the spot!

Thanks to Souldern United Charities for their generous contribution in helping to make the party possible, and also to the individuals who made voluntary donations. Due to these gestures funds are available for a further evening that is being organised for the 12-16 year olds from the village. A trip to Bicester Bowl is to be organised. Please contact Susan Jones/ Anne Large or Katie Gambrell if you are interested in getting involved.

Souldern Stomp

The next Stomp is planned to take place on Sunday 29th January, meeting outside The Fox at 10am (max 2hr walk). For those interested, please contact Rob Large on 07725 601797 or Charlie Jones.

Summer Event

The Summer Solstice group are making plans for an event, which will be held in June on the Village playing fields. We are not sure of the format for this yet, but the boys are itching to involve Fireworks this year, so you can be sure that there will be some entertainment for the evening! Further details will be made available as we get them.