

NEWSLETTER FROM SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL

June 2015

Welcome to the Third Edition of our Quarterly Newsletter.

Thankfully, the summer sun has arrived just in time for Wimbledon and the School holidays!! Enjoy it while it lasts, as we all know how unpredictable our summers can be. There has been a lot going on in the village over the last month and it has been encouraging to see so many parishioners out in force.

Souldern Vision (Community Led plan)

Thanks to the efforts of Peter Cross, Barbara McGarry, Mary May and team the launch of this project was a tremendous success. The Pimms and Pizza in the village hall certainly helped to encourage comments on the post it notes. The next stage of the process will involve all households in the village being given an opportunity to complete a questionnaire which will be delivered in the coming months. Please take the time to answer this constructively, as it will be used to shape the future services/projects and activities within the village.

Summer Solstice Event

I think it would be fair to say that this event was an outstanding success. Everything had been meticulously planned by Ian Gray and his team with one noticeable exception.....the typically contrary British weather! But oddly this helped to bring everybody closer together, and as always our lets make this happen attitude shone through.

The races on the playing field were conducted in good spirit and we saw some very competitive tussles, not least in the Cadbury's Crème Egg and Spoon races (other eggs are available) where you could see the intensity of the concentration on the faces of the competitors. The candy floss being handed out from the Pound as part of the treasure hunt was a welcome distraction from the monsoon rain. And then onto the Afternoon Tea, which had to be moved to the tented village in the grounds of The Fox. All that came along provided, and were treated to a magnificent feast thanks to the efforts of Susan Jones and her team. The evening was rounded off with a Barn Dance, and what a splendid way to finish

It is also coming up to a very busy time of year for the local farming community, and whilst the traffic flow through the village will not be as heavy as it might have been in the past, please be aware and tolerant of the tractors and trailers that will be passing through. Try not to block the carriageway for them.

Souldern Football Club

It would be fair to say that last season was not a vintage season for the club, with a grand total of no league victories to their credit. However, under new management and quite probably playing in a lower league the club is looking to improve upon last year!!! The new management team are looking to encourage more active participation from the village community. So, if there are any budding Lionel Messi's lurking in Bates Lane or Bovewell, please contact Nick Oakhill who will put you in touch with the club manager.

Horticultural Society show.....

Will take place on Saturday 22nd August in the Village Hall. The details of classes and entry booklet will be delivered to you shortly by a member of the committee. This is a wonderful event, and it would be great to see some of the recent entrants to the village getting involved. Particularly the Children, where a range of classes give the opportunity to win some great prizes and trophies!!! The main emphasis remains of having some fun, so you don't need any external coaching from Paul or Mary to brush up on your baking skills. Everybody suffers from a soggy bottom at one time or another!!!

The organising committee look forward to seeing record entries this year.

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. General meetings on Thursdays and Planning meetings on Wednesdays from 7:30 on

16th July

17th September (Planning)

19th November

Souldern Parish Council contact details are:

Chairman: Nick Oakhill - 01869 345784

Clerk: Barbara McGarry - 01869 345931

Email: clerktosouldernparishcouncil@gmail.com

a real family day out. Everybody that got involved should be justifiably proud of their efforts and contributions as it was a fantastic advertisement for our community. Photos from the day can be viewed on the Solstice website: souldernsolstice.uk

Originally the idea was that events such as this should be Bi-annual, but already there are whispers about something for next year. Watch this space.....

Village Database

For those who did not respond first or second time around, please send a mail to clerktosouldernparishcouncil@gmail.com, and you will be added to the list. Do it now whilst it's fresh in your mind! This information will be used by the Parish Council only, to distribute information relevant to our community.

Development and Planning in Souldern

There are several planning applications with decisions pending just now. We will provide an update on these at the next Parish Council meeting on Thursday 16th July. The next planning meeting will be held on 17th September.

Broadband update

There is much confusion surrounding the provision of Superfast broadband connectivity to our Village. Sadly, the reality is that progress has been slow and fresh information has only become available in the last 24 hours.

Today the Sales and Marketing director of Gigaclear, Joe Frost has clarified their current position. They remain committed to the provision of Superfast broadband to Souldern, but remain 25 households short of the required number to proceed. It is their intention to hold an open day in Aynho after installation has been completed there. This is likely to be in either August or September and Souldern villagers will be invited to talk with existing users about the process of becoming connected. In the early part of next week we are expecting feedback from BT with regards to the feasibility and possibly a proposal for a community funded project to provide us with an alternative option to Gigaclear.

The Parish Council is also in the process of writing to our new MP and Oxfordshire County Council to explain the situation and to ask for

their assistance in moving things along more swiftly. When we have some fresh information, it will be passed on promptly.

Nancy Bowles Wood

The wood has looked tremendous all through the spring, with very little maintenance being done. Recently the benches and picnic table have been repainted, and are now back in situ. In the Autumn there will be a planned programme of thinning out of some of the hazel stools, in order to allow them to regenerate. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Tim Vincent (345033).

Playground

Tania Noble organised a working group at the playground on the 6th June, when the train was repainted. Many thanks to all for their efforts.

There will be a further working party, which has been pencilled in for Saturday 12th September. Please come along and join in if you are able to spare the time. Equipment and materials will be provided.

Your Village Hall Needs You!

The Village Hall committee have been itching to give the building a makeover for some little while. It would be really nice to get this done before the annual Horticultural Society show on 22nd August. New curtains are in the process of being made and we now need to organise the painting of the hall interior. Please would any willing volunteers please take one step forward and contact Mary May (341053), so that a time and date can be set for a coordinated team effort.

Consideration for others in the community

Dog Fouling: The third bin has been placed on Church Lane in the last fortnight, hopefully this should provide adequate coverage for all dog owners in the village to finally eradicate the litter nuisance. Please continue to make use of these bins, to date the response has been excellent.

Parking: Sadly this continues to be an issue in our village, and we are constantly being asked to do something about it. Without being heavy handed about it can we please make a plea to all drivers to refrain from blocking footpaths and pavements. Common sense should prevail, if you cannot walk past on the pavement don't park there.