

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday 12th June
The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

Saturday 25th June
Wacky Races

July (date tbc)
Annual Summer Cheese & Wine

Saturday 20th August
Annual Horticultural Show

Sunday May 1st & 29th Aug 7th & Sept 4th
Souldern Car Boots

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;

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

General Meetings

Thursday 19th May (Annual Meeting)

Thursday 21st July

Planning Meetings

Tuesday 19th April

Tuesday 21st June

(All meetings start at 7:30)

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

March 2016

Welcome to the Spring Edition of our Quarterly Newsletter.

Now that the clocks have sprung forward, the extra hour of daylight and improving weather gives us little excuse not to be outside getting the gardens back into shape!! We have a lot going on in 2016 in the village, so please get involved where you can and help us make it a great year to remember for the community.

Gigaclear

After months of disruption to our roads and lanes we're nearly there, thank you for your patience. All the fibres have been laid and most properties have now been connected although there are still a few that haven't yet gone live. Representatives from both the Parish Council and Gigaclear have done a 'snagging' tour and Gigaclear have agreed to make good all damaged verges in the village, although a date for this work has not yet been agreed.

Roads

OCC have some money available to repair some of the potholes, however only two have been done so far, these are on The Hill coming into the village. There are still no funds available for completely re-surfacing The Hill.

2016 Village Events

Kicking off with the Celebrations for the Queens 90th birthday on the 12th June, our summer season of social events promises to be action packed!!

The Queen's 90th Birthday will be celebrated in true Souldern style beginning with a special joint Chapel and Church service at 11am.

Then at 1pm all residents, by kind permission of Major and Mrs Gray, are invited to come along to Souldern House in the High Street with their picnics to toast the health of our Monarch and to enjoy a musical extravaganza with the choir and young people of Souldern.. Any youngsters who would like to take part please contact Anne Large at Anne.Large@knights1759.co.uk

The Inaugural **Souldern Wacky Races** are two weeks later on the 25th June. The launch of this event was held in early March, and entries are now starting to come in for what promises to be a top notch day out for all the family. Full details are available on the village website.

The Summer Cheese and Wine party will be held in July details of which will be confirmed soon

.....And then to round it all off we have the **Horticultural Society Show** on Saturday 20th August which is always a sight to behold. The quality of produce on display never fails to amaze, and you even get the chance to buy some of it after the judging has finished!

If this isn't enough excitement for you, the Village **Car Boot** sales are being held this year on the 1st and 29th May, 7th August and 4th September. Well known throughout the area for being one of the most friendly and sociable car boots, it gives everybody the opportunity to raise some cash when clearing out the garage or attic when you need a bit of a de-clutter!!

Memorial Trees The Parish Council are trying to identify which trees in the village are memorials for those killed in the two world wars.

So far the trees for John Payne, Sidney Blencowe Aubrey Finch and John Sweetman have been identified. Does anyone know of any others? In particular are there more on The Hill? It has also been suggested that there are three behind the Wall House in Back Lane. If you have any information please contact Dara Masterson-Jones on 01869 346440

Nancy Bowles Wood

The wood has been looking particularly lovely of late as everything is bursting into bud ready for the new season

Souldern Conservation Area Appraisal

On the 30th March Dr Rose Todd and her team from CDC came to the Village Hall to give us details of their proposal for changes to the boundaries of the Souldern Conservation area. Details of this proposal are available on the village website or on the CDC site. The SPC will be making a written response to the suggested changes, and these will be discussed further at our next planning meeting on Tuesday 19th April. All are invited to attend, and make their comments. Alternatively, you can make your own comments either on-line or using the form that was provided on the 30th March.

Souldern Vision (Community Led plan)

Also on display in the village hall on the 30th March were the statistical results from the Souldern Vision questionnaire. A more detailed document is currently being compiled in booklet form which will be distributed to every household in the very near future. Thank you to everyone who took the time and trouble to complete and return it.

Playground

At the March SPC meeting Tania Noble presented the latest ideas for improvements and updates for the village playground. High on the list of work necessary was the replacement of the big swing and new cradle seats for the infant swings together with the repainting of the digger. This work will be undertaken as the weather improves. It has been suggested that a willow tunnel/teepee is established in the playground, and this is currently being considered.

Anyone who would like to join the team and help out with routine inspections and maintenance working parties please contact Tania on 01869 346841.

Footpath and Bridleway update

We are very lucky in Souldern to have a wonderful network of footpaths and bridleways. These rights of way have been listed and described, and illustrated with some great photographs on our village website, by David Carlise: <http://www.souldern.org/recreational-areas/footpaths>. Please have a look at this web page; there might be some paths you never knew existed!

Any problems with access eg broken stiles, fallen trees, overgrown vegetation etc can be reported to katydraper@souldern.org, or to the Countryside Access Team at Oxfordshire County Council via their new online reporting system CAMSweb <https://camsv.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Village Website

The new village website has been up and running now since the beginning of November, and is being regularly updated. The website has now elevated itself to second on the Google search page!!! Lofty heights indeed.

Please contact us if you have any suggestions for other information that you would like to see posted on the site.

www.souldern.org