

## PARISH COUNCIL

At the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 18th May, Nikki Robertson (Responsible Finance Officer) and Barbara McGarry (Clerk) will both stand down. We are in the process of replacing them with a professionally qualified clerk and RFO who should be in place for our July meeting. A very big thank you should be expressed to both Nikki and Barbara for their hard work and support of the Village and the Parish Council. Whilst we will be losing Nikki to the sunnier climate of Qatar, Barbara will continue to be heavily involved in community life and projects.

## A VACANCY EXISTS

### For the position of Councillor in the Parish of Souldern

Should anyone who is resident within the village wish to serve their Community in this way please contact the Chairman, Nick Oakhill on 345784

## MEETINGS

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

### 18th May (Preceded by Annual Meeting at 7pm)

13th July / 14th September

9th November

### Planning Meetings

20th June

15th August / 17th October

Don't forget to check the website for updates and other village information [www.souldern.org](http://www.souldern.org)

Souldern Parish Council contact details are:

Chairman: Nick Oakhill - 01869 345784

Clerk: Barbara McGarry - 01869 345931

Email: [clerktosouldernparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerktosouldernparishcouncil@gmail.com)

# NEWSLETTER FROM SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL

**April 2017**

*Welcome to the Spring Edition of our Quarterly Newsletter..... although the temperature outside does not feel particularly welcoming just now!*

*We have a lot to pack into this month's offering so without further preamble lets get to it.*

## Village Social

Let's start with the fun stuff. The grand Easter egg hunt was very much enjoyed by those that came along to Souldern Manor on Easter Sunday. The sun shone, and the grounds of the Manor looked magnificent. All of the eggs found a home, and parents/grandparents were able to avail themselves of refreshments kindly provided by Lucy Cornish and her team. Our gratitude should also go to the Souldern Solstice crew who supplied the eggs, and to Rosie Sanders for letting us invade her gardens!!

The Souldern Solstice crew are this year organising an event which will take place on the Village playing fields on Saturday 17th June. Loosely based around the "It's a Knockout" format. more information will follow shortly (once all of the games have been designed!). As last year it is intended to have a bar and entertainment in the evening, with a fitting finale to round the Day off.

The Summer Cheese & Wine is being held on Saturday 8th July at Pleasant View, Foxhill Lane. Tickets are available from PCC members

## Souldern Playground

Lucy Cornish and her team are organising a Spring clean up at the playground on the morning of the 20th May, starting at 9.30. Afterwards Lucy has very kindly offered to host a BBQ at Spring house as a thank you for the helpers. Please contact Lucy at [lucy.matthews@ndcn.ox.ac.uk](mailto:lucy.matthews@ndcn.ox.ac.uk) to register your interest.

It is also planned to replace the big swing at the end of May, along with the chainlink bridge. Other improvements will be made during the Summer, and plans are afoot for some new additions later in the year. Lucy and her team will be looking to organise some fundraising efforts throughout the summer to finance the changes. Please help her where you can.

## Highways and Byways

The village was fortunate enough to get some remedial works undertaken to the pothole's on the Hill, however they have quickly reappeared. The Parish Council would encourage parishioners to report any sizeable holes to OCC by visiting <http://your.cherwell.gov.uk/potholes>

## Highways cont...

Last year OCC did not bother with the verges in the village, apart from one token trim at the end of July. This year we have taken the matter into our own hands, and the verges within the 30 mph zone (not already being looked after by residents) will be tended by the SPC contractor, for which we are being reimbursed by OCC. Hopefully a much better arrangement all round.

The swing bridge on footpath 11 has been rebalanced and can now be operated from either side of the canal.

The Countryside Access team are aware of a dead tree along footpath 23 (leading from Foxhill Lane towards Nancy Bowles Wood). A team will be removing this in the next week or so. Please continue to inform Katy of any other problems spotted on our village footpaths and bridleways.

[katydraper@souldern.org](mailto:katydraper@souldern.org)

## Horticultural Society

At the Easter egg hunt a competition was launched. Children of all ages from 0-100 were invited to plant Sunflower seeds in their gardens, with the aim of growing the tallest Sunflower. There will be two age groups, 12 and under/ 12 and over. The rules are simple. Grow the tallest sunflower you can, no holds or growing techniques barred. To be judged on the 18th August. Prizes will be presented at the Annual flower show on the 20th August. Details on other classes at the show are available from Carol Gray at Pleasant View, Foxhill Lane.

## Village Flower Bed

The flower bed at the top of Bovewell was established in 2009 by David Blunt. For the past six years, Marc and Katy Ballmann have been looking after it and donated the plants and bulbs. We now hope someone else would like to have a turn!

There are various established perennials, which provide some colour throughout the year, but summer and winter bedding needs to be planted, and the bed weeded and watered. Therefore, it is a case of planting up twice a year, and then a small amount of maintenance. At the Horticultural Society AGM, it was agreed that the Society would provide funds for the plants. Villagers may also wish to donate any spare bedding plants. As always, the more volunteers the better, but it may be that one person/family should act as overall coordinator. Please email or telephone me you are able to help with this.

Many thanks, Katy

[katydraper@souldern.org](mailto:katydraper@souldern.org) or 345811

**Time To Talk** provides an opportunity for residents to get together and chat over a nice cup of coffee and piece of cake. Coffee Mornings are held monthly, on the first Wednesday of each month from 11-12:30am in the village hall and everyone is welcome, including mums with young children. A small charge of £1 for a coffee and cake is asked for and a raffle and book exchange are offered. All funds raised will be put towards another Christmas lunch at the end of the year.

Issues of interest and/or concern are aired at the coffee mornings and if you would like any information, event or help included please do let Barbara, Lyn or Alex know.

Donations of cake and biscuits are very gratefully received and

nothing goes to waste. Anything that is left over is sold at the end of the morning to very grateful customers who really appreciate the opportunity to buy the really delicious homemade goodies.

## Souldern Village Hall 100 Club

The 100 club started as selling 100 numbers and running a 'lottery draw' as a fund raiser towards the upkeep of the Village Hall.

You can buy one or more numbers for £10 each. A draw is made each month and as per lottery rules you have the chance of winning your money back.

A village hall representative will be coming around to give you the opportunity to buy numbers in the next couple of weeks so please do support your Village Hall.

We urgently need to raise funds to replace the windows and external doors which will cost £5,000.

## Defibrillator

The Parish Council had hoped to arrange for a representative from South Central Ambulance to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May to talk about installing a community defibrillator and to demonstrate the equipment. Unfortunately, this date was not convenient so a further date is to be arranged.

We are looking for volunteers to help organise this project, so if you would like to help, please contact a member of the PC or attend the Annual meeting when more information will be available.

## Changing Rooms and Playing fields

To date we have not received a great deal of response regarding the future use of the Changing rooms at the far end of the Village Hall. Over the course of the next few months the Parish Council will draw up some proposals and have them ready to present at the SPC meeting due to be held in September. In the meantime if you have any suggestions you wish to make, please let them be known to a councillor.

Whilst there will not be an active sports team using the playing fields, the grass will continue to be maintained as it has been historically. We would like to encourage parishioners to use the field for impromptu games of rounders or other ball sports!! Why not use it for family picnics in the summer when (and if) the weather warms up!!

Bring on the Sunshine.....

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

### Time to Talk

Wed May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th, Aug 2nd

### Annual Village Event

Sat June 17th (Details to follow)

### Cheese & Wine

Sat July 8th (Pleasant View)

### Horticultural Flower & Veg Show

Sat August 20th