

VACANCIES

Two exciting opportunities have occurred within the Council for anyone who would like to be involved in shaping the future of our community and really making a difference

Parish Clerk

The flexible working hours are salaried and cover a wide variety of tasks

Councillor

As one of the existing Councillors has moved away a vacancy has arisen for a replacement

If you are interested in serving your community in a practical way please do give us a call

Nick Oakhill (Chairman) Tel: 01869 345784
clerktosouldernparishcouncil@gmail.com

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)

Our last Meeting of the year

will be held on

Thursday 17th November

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

October 2016

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of our Quarterly Newsletter.

As we enter the last quarter of the year, the Children have returned to school to start a new year, the evenings have become considerably more chilly and reassuringly Anton has returned to our TV screens with a new partner..... Will he make it to Blackpool?? Our last two newsletters have highlighted the social events that have taken place over the past six months. This edition is much more geared towards the more practical day to day issues which affect us all. We apologise if it's a bit dry, but its not all beer and skittles in Souldern!

Highways/Byways and Footpaths

Last week representatives of Oxfordshire County Council paid a visit to assess the condition of roads within the Parish. As a result of this we hope to see the potholes filled on the Hill, in Back lane and Fox lane before the turn of the year. Unless, however, there is some form of divine intervention, due to a) budget restrictions and b) priority, we will not get the Hill resurfaced any time soon. If we are fortunate enough to get the work done this year, please be aware that at short notice you may be asked to park cars away from your house in certain areas for a day or maybe two. We hope this will not cause too much inconvenience, and as much warning as possible will be given.

We are very fortunate that in our village generally, the footpaths and bridleways are navigable without major inconvenience. Occasionally remedial work needs to be carried out in order to maintain the status quo.

Over the coming month's the Canal and River Trust have to undertake major work to the Walls supporting the swing bridge over the canal at the end of Footpath 11. As this forms part of a well used loop for many in the village, it will be necessary to find an alternative route for the next few months.

If you come across any rights of way that are unnecessarily blocked, please bring this to the attention of Katy Draper, the Councillor who takes the lead on the footpaths and bridleways in our village (Tel: 01869 345811).

Environmental issues

Some parishioners have recently had reason to contact the local Environmental Protection Officer, the outcome of which is still pending resolution. Should anybody have a particular incident or concern that they wish to draw to the attention of the EPO, he can be contacted directly using the following email address; amrik.bilkhu@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

The EPO is responsible for monitoring environmental pollution and incidents which pose a risk to lifestyle, economy and environment.

Grass Verges.....

At the end of July Oxfordshire County Council finally got around to cutting our verges. For many parishioners this represents one of the most visible ways in which OCC manages, or doesn't manage, dependant on your perspective, our common spaces. Within local government there is a major "unitary debate" taking place just now which will affect us all one way or another once the outcome has been decided. The arguments are ongoing, but recently the County Council's Cabinet formally decided to support development proposals for local government reorganisation, based on a single council for the whole of Oxfordshire that would save around £100m over five years. OCC want to emphasise that they must also ensure that the new model can be responsive to the needs of communities and work effectively with stakeholders from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Which brings me back to the Grass verges!!! If things pan out as proposed, it is likely that before too long we will become responsible for looking after our own grass verges. In the meantime we want to have a general tidy up of the roadside spaces in the village, and to that end a work party will be mustered in the near future. If you are willing and able to get involved please contact Nick Oakhill (Tel: 01869 345784) who will be co-ordinating the exercise.

Souldern Vision

The vision gave us a plethora of information, some of which will be used to develop new groups and ideas within the village. One of the key things that it highlighted was that whilst our summer events had been as all inclusive as we could practically make them, they were very much family and activity focussed.

With 25% of respondents over 65 years of age, we have not done enough to involve our more senior members of the community. We are wishing to remedy this situation, and so a **Christmas lunch** is being

organised that will take place on **7th December** in the village hall and will be funded by some of the proceeds from the Autumn Sale organised by Linda Palmer (*see below for further details*). The Village Networks Experts Roadshow will be attending the lunch and will be able to offer practical help and advice on matters that are of concern and there will also be 'time to talk' on suggestions for future get togethers and events so all suggestions welcome. Please look out for further details or contact Barbara (345931) if you would like to come.

There will also be a **Village Christmas Party** which is being held on the Sunday **18th December** in the village hall. Details on this are currently being finalised, and will be publicised once they are available.

One village institution that has slipped off the radar are the Bellringers, and we hope to rekindle this group very shortly. If you are interested in becoming a member of new team, please contact Kirsty Allpress (Tel: 01869 345587). No experience is necessary, just a heap of enthusiasm. Training will be given at regular meetings.

Walking is another popular pastime in Souldern. Living in such a pretty village with such beautiful countryside all around us there is nothing better than getting out and about in the fresh air. If you would like to be a part of a walking group, either regularly or just from time to time please contact Susan Jones or Rob Large. They are looking to organise the first **Souldern Stomp** on Sunday 30th **October** if there is enough interest from parishioners. Lasting for a maximum of two hours the walk will start @ 10am from the Fox Inn and also finish in the vicinity of the Fox Inn!!! Please contact Rob - roblarge@souldern.org if you would like to get involved.

Similarly if you would be interested in starting or being part of any other type of leisure group e.g. film club, history group, etc please get in touch with Barbara on 345931 to be put in touch with each other.

Dates for your Diaries

Souldern Autumn Sale

Saturday November 12th 2-4pm
in the village hall.

(Part of the proceeds will go towards the Christmas Lunch on December 7th so please do support it).

Souldern Community Christmas Market

Saturday November 19th
9:30-1pm in the Church