



Fall 2017

Volume 17, No 1

Friends of Sulgrave Manor

The President's Letter

One of my first trips to Sulgrave Manor as the Junior Representative from the NSCDA to the Sulgrave Manor Trust was in a very cold and wet January. Laura Rutherford, Bess Fuchs and I had crossed the Atlantic for the January Board Meeting, and although I had visited Sulgrave Manor several years before as "tourist" and attended previous board meetings, it was nothing like this trip. Fortunately Laura Rutherford and Bess Fuchs were "in charge." Bess drove, Laura navigated and we stayed at a great little hotel in Wroxton. In our travels we got lost a few times, ended up in places we didn't intend to see (largely due to our inability to decipher the ring road signs), and spent a lot of time at the Manor and with the other Board members.

Our resident photographer, Bess, took a lot of pictures in order to document all the repairs that needed to be done. At that time repairing the windows in the Great Hall was a major necessity. When Bess instructed me to stick my finger between the glass and the metal framing so she could take a photograph it never occurred to me to refuse. In the past several years I have learned a lot – and when to say no! This January Sue McNally, Estate Manager, took us on a tour of some of the most serious challenges facing us, and when we got to the electrical problems, I knew enough to say "no way am I putting my finger in there!" The electrical problems as well as the water coming through the walls in the kitchen at floor level are among the most serious concerns. I must admit that I didn't stand in the puddles either.

There is much to do, but there has also been a lot of progress. The windows are long since repaired, the archives have been moved to a climate controlled area and have been placed in the proper storage containers. Manor House and Kiln Farm cottages have been re-thatched as well as restoration of some of the art works and textiles accomplished. Getting rid of the "Death Watch Beetle" and his little spotted friend who prefers old wooden furniture to wood framing is a work in progress. The Death Watch Beetle has a remarkable resemblance to what is

called in some parts of the United States a "Palmetto Bug", but in Texas is just a BIG Cockroach.

The Friends of Sulgrave Manor have been able to provide financial support in so many areas, from window repair to thatching and a three year commitment to the salary of our CEO, Alison Ray. Now we are in the process of determining our next priorities, and there are certainly a lot of worthwhile opportunities just waiting for us.

The Friends annual meeting is coming up very soon in Richmond. Pearl Adamson, Susan McCreary and Sue Knepper have put together a wonderful venue and agenda for the meeting. And of course, next June (2018) will be not only Dames Day at Sulgrave Manor but our incredible trip to Yorkshire, the Cotswolds and Cornwall.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

Victoria Bradshaw
Senior Representative from the NSCDA to the
Sulgrave Manor Trust
President of the Friends of Sulgrave Manor



*Vicky and Marvin Bradshaw with
George Washington at Sulgrave.*

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New CEO at Sulgrave Manor

We are very excited to have a new chief executive officer at Sulgrave Manor. Alison Ray an experienced heritage professional having worked for the UK National Trust and independent Historic Houses and Museums, came on board last fall. Alison was responsible for the £3m capital redevelopment of Winterbourne House & Garden for the University of Birmingham where she also managed the University's strategic relationships with regional Arts organizations including Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and the Birmingham Royal Ballet.

Following a short break to look after her twins Alison worked on a freelance basis helping independent museums to develop their business plans and visitor offerings. She joined Sulgrave Manor Trust in November 2016 as CEO.

When asked about plans for Sulgrave Alison said "After nearly 100 years as a visitor attraction, Sulgrave is at a turning point in its history. We want to update the way we operate and the experience we offer our visitors. It is an exciting time where we can begin to explain the story of the Trust to our visitors and some fascinating stories about the crucial role played by the NSCDA right from the Trust's inception in 1914.

The sentiments shared during Sulgrave's opening ceremony seem particularly relevant today when we hear of discord across nations and we hope that Sulgrave can play its part as 'a centre from which sentiments of friendship and goodwill between the British and American peoples will forever radiate'. (Marquis of Cambridge, 1921) Today's visitors have high expectations and by updating how we share our house and collections, and better displaying our treas-



Alison Ray, the new CEO at Sulgrave Manor.

ures, we hope to inspire future generations with the story of the special relationship between the UK and the US and Sulgrave's important part in that story."

Alison

Friends of Sulgrave Manor New website

Visit the Friends of Sulgrave Manor's new website.

<http://www.sulgravemanor.us/>

For the password email: sbcongdon1@gmail.com

MIDSOMMER TUDOR FAIR

The Annual Meeting of the Sulgrave Manor Trust takes place in the United Kingdom in June each year, and this year the weather was absolutely lovely. We arrived in Sulgrave early in order to be able to attend the Midsommer Tudor Fair on Sunday afternoon at the Manor for children, adults and those in-between!

Sulgrave Manor has many events coming up during the year in order to involve the neighboring communities, village and visitors in activities occurring in the village.

The event began with Maypole dancing for both children and adults in Tudor costumes followed by a proper Tudor wedding, excerpts from a Midsummer Night's Dream and tours of the Manor. Needless to say there were food stands including one that had a "roasted pig" which certainly looked authentic and tasted pretty good. If you weren't up to the pig, hot dogs were available too.

The first joust was between two good knights who jousted in appropriate attire and the winner was to challenge the Dark Knight (Lord Pendragon) in the afternoon in order to win the hand of the Fair Maiden. I sat on the ground with the children for the final joust in the afternoon – rooting for the "good" knight – (he was cutest), but there was a lot of support for the Dark Knight. In all, it was jolly good fun!

Vicky Bradshaw



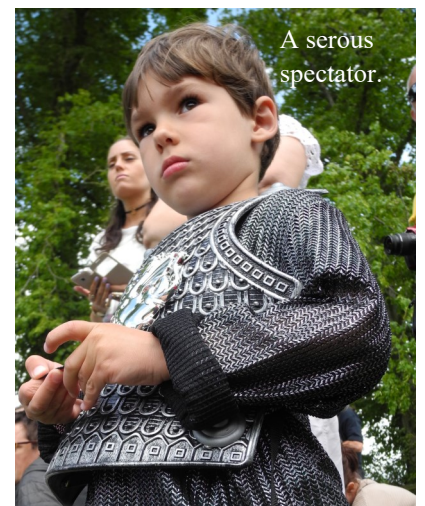
Excerpts from a Midsummer Night's Dream.



Welcome to the Fayre.



Trying to vanquish the White Knight.



A serious spectator.



Some Events of the Day

Have 600 Year Old House, Need lots of money!!!

Let's help maintain Sulgrave Manor
Last year our funds helped to move the archives.

YES! I want to Help Sulgrave Manor.

My check is enclosed Payable to: **Friends of Sulgrave Manor**

Please charge my: VISA MasterCard

Credit Card #:

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Signature:

Name:

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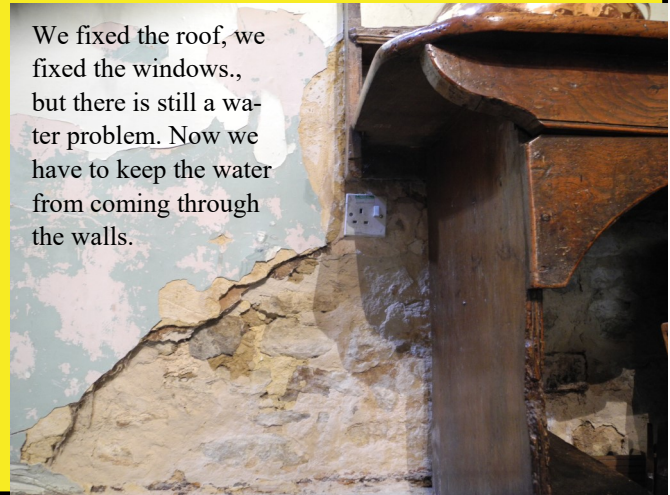
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Mail check to:

Mrs. William B. Blaylock

10245 Epping Lane, Dallas, TX 75229



We fixed the roof, we fixed the windows., but there is still a water problem. Now we have to keep the water from coming through the walls.

**Colonial Williamsburg Magazine
Shines the Spotlight on Sulgrave Manor**

The story of how George Washington came to lead a fledgling nation must naturally begin with his ancestral home in the hilly farm country some ninety miles northwest of London. Washington's English roots begin at Sulgrave Manor, a place that holds historical significance on both sides of the Atlantic.

Washington's American life, like that of his English ancestors, was grounded in farming. In 16th-century Sulgrave, the Washingtons established themselves as wool merchants, a fact noted by the sheep heads, a symbol of the wool trade, that decorate the entrance to Sulgrave Manor.

George Washington inherited the Mount Vernon property on the banks of Virginia's Potomac River from his brother Lawrence. He initially grew tobacco and later switched to grains, implementing new 18th-century methods of husbandry, crop rotation and fertilization.

"Whether through his DNA or the subtle influence of the actions of his ancestors, George Washington's Virginia life is uncannily similar to the lives of his English family generations before Washington's rise certainly supports the adage that history repeats itself.

Both Sulgrave Manor and Colonial Williamsburg bring their respective stories to life through the work and talents of costumed interpreters.

And like Colonial Williamsburg – Sulgrave Manor is grounded in the belief that historic preservation, keeps alive an environment where the buildings themselves help to tell stories of the people of the past.



George Washington reenactor at Williamsburg.

Fund Raising Luncheon For Sulgrave Manor With a “Dirtless Dig”

Jean Ann Blackwell-Miller, Arizona Assoc Trustee, Friends of Sulgrave Manor, gave a fundraising luncheon last spring. The menu was reminiscent and based on the House of Commons Churchill Dining Room.

MENU

1st course - Scottish egg salad with spinach and baby greens. French Bread
2nd course - Intermezzo

3rd course - Guinness Beef, garlic potatoes, English peas and maple roasted carrots

4th course – English Trio Dessert Plate

*****Veuve Clicquot served*****

To begin the day, Elizabeth Pagels showed the finds of a ‘dirtless dig’ from Sulgrave Manor in the 15th century tying into 18th century Colonial America. The Arizona Dames were challenged to explore the findings and determine the class system of the inhabitants. After a period of inspection, a break was taken for lunch. Elizabeth then finished her presentation with the participants’ conclusions. Everyone found the presentation educational and fascinating.

Elizabeth Pagels, having taught early American history for 17 years in Tucson Arizona schools, is now retired. Mrs. Pagels became a facilitator at Colonial Williamsburg Teachers Institute after attending as a teacher. She does living history presentations and is the author of historic books and plays. She often opened her classroom to the Arizona Dames and we were welcome to participate in many programs she had throughout the years. She joined the Dames in honoring Colonial Williamsburg Teachers Institute alumni an annual tea in her classroom.



Donations enabled the Manor to move its archives from the jumbled space in the attic, to a climate controlled space above the gift shop.



Elizabeth Pagels, an alumni of the Colonial Williamsburg Teachers Institute sponsored by the NSCDA/AZ.

We would like to thank all of the outgoing Associate Trustees of Sulgrave Manor. Their combined work and effort have greatly contributed to the increase in contributions from their respective states and to the awareness of Sulgrave Manor. We welcome and look forward to working with our New Associate Trustees.

Retiring Associate Trustees

LA Ms. Jayne Lobdell Middleton
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Newsletter of the Friends of Sulgrave Manor
George Washington's English Ancestral Home

The National Society of
The Colonial Dames of America

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Bess Fuchs, Editor and Photographer

Traveling With the Friends of Sulgrave Manor
Cotswolds, York, Chatsworth with Cornwall Add-on

Tues 12 June • Arrive in London and go to hotel Flemings of Mayfair • Welcome cocktail reception • Daphne from Noteworthy will also join the programme. • Dinner at leisure. •

Wed 13 June • Meet guide Mo Anderson at the hotel and drive North to Oxfordshire. • Arrive at Le Manoir aux Quat's Saisons for lunch in La Belle Epoque. • Before lunch view the wonderful gardens including a short tour by the Head Gardener. • After lunch continue north to York. To The Grand Hotel York.

Thurs 14 June • Today will be a walking day. • Visits include York Minster, The Shambles, and The National Railway Museum . On arrival at York Minster you will be greeted by either the Archbishop or one of his Canons (subject to diary). • Afternoon tea at Betty's Tea Rooms. • Dinner at Gray's Court.

Fri 15 June • Today visit Castle Howard and Harewood House. • Lunch at The Talbot Inn at Malton.

Sat 16 June • Chatsworth House – the home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire • Chatsworth has extensive grounds to enjoy as well as a wonderful shop!! • Then journey to The Lygon Arms and dine in the hotel Bistro.

Sun 17 June . • Dames Day at Sulgrave Manor. • The group will attend Church at St. James the Less followed by lunch and an afternoon tour at Sulgrave Manor.

Mon 18 June • Today we will tour gardens in the Cotswolds and have a private lunch at Great. Chalfield hosted by the owners. • Final dinner is included either at the hotel or locally.

Tues 19 June • Off to Heathrow, and the journey home. COST PER PERSON IS GBP£3,365.00 sharing.

Unless you want MORE! The Cornwall extension for three days. COST PER PERSON IS GBP £1,698.00.

For more information, contact: Victoria Bradshaw, 10515 Egret Lane, Dallas, TX 75230-4224. (vp_bradshaw@yahoo.com)

Of course there is also a \$300.00 donation to **The Friends of Sulgrave Manor** to be mailed to Vicky at the above address.