

Ladies,

Sally Congdon, Vicky Bradshaw and I are just back from our June Board meeting at Sulgrave Manor and we wanted to provide you with an update on our trip and what is going on at Sulgrave!

So much has changed in 6 months! Phase I, the exterior renovation of the Manor is complete. The scaffolding is off the Manor, the new entrance is beautifully landscaped, the courtyard cement pavers have been replaced by beautiful stone, the George Washington exhibit has been moved into the previous gift shop, a play areas has been created, and the gardens are in full bloom and are beautiful! I think the photos below speak for themselves.



January 2019



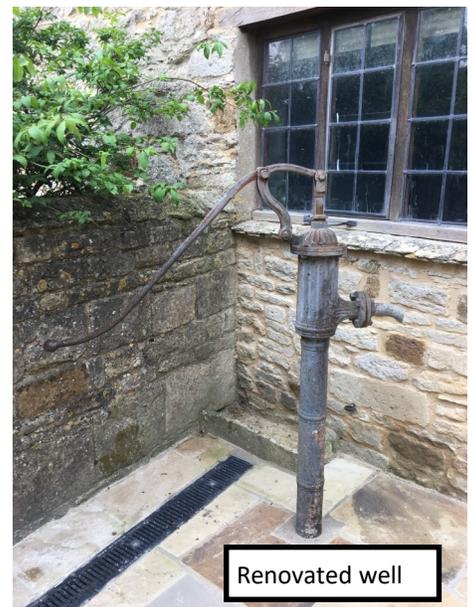
June 2019



New pavers



Discovery of a well



Renovated well



New sign post in courtyard



New entrance



New signage



Gardens



Gardens



New play area

We had a very successful Board meeting on the 25th. Nigel Bowles, the Sulgrave Manor Chair, and the rest of the Board were effusive in their thanks to the NSCDA for their support of the Manor and in particular the awarding of the Phase II grant to cover the interior renovation.

After the Board meeting on Monday, Alison Ray, the Sulgrave CEO, led the Board in a strategic workshop on target audiences and messaging. The workshop content was based on a programme funded by Museum Development East Midlands. Designed by the Arts Marketing Association, and delivered by Morris Hargreaves Macintyre (MHM), 21st Century Visitor Attraction allowed 6 museums to come together to learn more about Audience Engagement. It offered small museums the opportunity to benefit from international research, industry best practice and to learn from the work carried out by MHM for some of the best known Arts and Museum organizations in the UK.

“Friends of Sulgrave Manor Bookmark” Program

Below is our second set of recommended books! I hope you enjoy them this summer and please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or comments on our book selection!

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BUNKER, NICK. YOUNG BENJAMIN FRANKLIN: THE BIRTH OF INGENUITY, 2018.

Did you know that Benjamin Franklin’s father, Josiah Franklin came to America from Banbury, England, the closest town to the village of Sulgrave? And that Ben’s Grandfather, Thomas Franklin, is buried there?

The first four chapters are rich in the stories of Josiah, and his several brothers who grew up in Ecton in Northamptonshire. Their father, Thomas, carefully saved to provide paid apprentices for them in various cities including London for Josiah, who became a dyer of silk in the textile industry. All the Franklins were Presbyterians, active in their churches in Ecton, and later Banbury, where the atmosphere was tolerant...until the Restoration of the monarchy under Charles II. Josiah, as a Presbyterian, and a (pro-parliament) Whig, came to America when the King began crushing dissenters and those other than Tories. The silk dyers guild to which Josiah belonged was deemed by the King to be a nucleus of Whigs. If interested, don’t miss the pages about his departure and how his choice of destination happened!

GROOM, WINSTON. THE ALLIES: ROOSEVELT, CHURCHILL, STALIN, AND THE UNLIKELY ALLIANCE THAT WON WWII, 2018.

Though there were many nations against the Axis powers, three men became the leaders of the Allies who dealt with the war in Europe and the Pacific. Groom covers the backgrounds, personalities, and leadership styles, of Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin, who despite great difficulties and distrust, came together in common cause to win the war. Churchill’s hugely important spirit, letters, and speeches are distilled for us here.

This is about a mighty piece of the vital substance and effort of the “special relationship” between the US and UK, with wonderful anecdotes and a writing style to move your reading right along through our momentous shared history.

OLSON, LYNNE. CITIZENS OF LONDON, 2010

This engaging read is about how the US alliance with the UK developed during WWII. It focuses on three key Americans-Edward R. Murrow, the CBS journalist, John Gilbert Wynn, US Ambassador to Great Britain, and Averill Harriman, the driven businessman and FDR’s agent for the Lend-Lease program and Churchill’s relationship to them. This book is a lively page-turner by a correspondent, turned historian, who has chosen to focus on this period.

SMITH, SALLY BEDELL. ELIZABETH THE QUEEN: THE LIFE OF A MODERN MONARCH, 2012

Ever wonder where Q E II went to school? Where she met Philip? Or have hundreds of other questions about her personal and professional life? Hers is a reign that bridges the lives of our grandmothers, mothers, our own, and those of our children, and some of our grandchildren!

Smith is a sterling American biographer (and earlier, a New York Times reporter) of the royal family who was granted much access for this book which will answer your questions. She has also published DIANA IN SEARCH OF HERSELF: PORTRAIT OF A TROUBLED PRINCESS, 2012 and PRINCE CHARLES: THE PASSIONS AND PARADOXES OF AN IMPROBABLE LIFE, 2017.

She lives in Washington, DC, and is a member of the Sulgrave Club.

Other Sulgrave Manor updates include:

- A grant application to the Historic House Foundation for Phase 2 Restoration funds was successful. SMT has been awarded £20,000.
- At least one of the metal window frames at the Wool House requires complete replacement.
- Consultation continues on Kiln Yard development, we were able to review some of the initial plans.
- Visitor and group figures for May were up. Group and school figures were down for June.

Phase II restoration planning is underway. Actual renovation will start in the fall. This will allow the Manor to capture as much revenue as possible during the summer months and also to continue with some school visits.

Vicky, Sally and I left England the next day to fly home. As we drove together to the airport we reflected on how wonderful the Manor looked and how lucky we are as an organization to be so integrally involved in maintaining the building and supporting its core charter of:

- To preserve Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of the family of George Washington, the first President of the United States of America, for the public benefit, and
- To provide and support education in subject areas relevant to Sulgrave Manor and its historic role in the history of Anglo-American relations and to the history, literature and institutions of the United States.

As always, we thank-you for all your hard work in helping raise funds for the Manor through the FSM and want to emphasize that this year it is extremely critical that we all do our best to educate our Corporate Societies on Sulgrave Manor and encourage donations.

I look forward to seeing you all in October at the Friends of Sulgrave Manor annual meeting!



Vice-President, Friends of Sulgrave Manor

NSCDA, Junior Representative to Sulgrave Manor Trust