SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 51 NO. 1

FEBRUARY 2022



THE POST OFFICE DIARY for JANUARY.

Sat. 1 "Best Day" for sending "Copy" to "News" Editor. Tue. 4 Sutton Courtenay Wives. Wed. 5 Last day for "Copy" for Sutton Courtenay News. Mon.10 Camera Club - Competition for the "Potrait Cup" & 2 open. Also Printing day for Sutton Courtenay News.

VILLAGE DIARY

1 February	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	19:15
4 February	Bridge Afternoon	River Room	14:00 - 17:00
10 February	Community Café	River Room	10:30 - 12:00
18 February	Bridge Afternoon	River Room	14:00 - 17:00
23 February	Senior Citizens' Tea Party	Village Hall	14:00 - 17:00
24 February	Community Café	River Room	10:30 - 12:00
26 February	Movie Matinee	River Room	19:00
5 th March	Friends of All Saints' Church Quiz Night	Village Hall	19:00

MARCH 2022 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2022

Unless otherwise stated the Sutton Courtenay News copy deadline is the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

VILLAGE CONTACTS

County Councillor: (Schools, Roads etc.) District Councillor: (Planning, Waste etc.) Parish Council Chair:

Beavers, Cubs & Scouts: Matrix Music School: The Abbev: Village Hall – SC: Cricket Club: WI - Sutton Courtenay Nordic Walking Group: Churchmere Carp Synd.: Roger Rance 847241 DAMASCUS Youth Project: 848694 SC Local History Society: Mary Thompson 848527

Richard Webber, 534001 richardwebber777@gmail.com Richard Webber-as above

Eileen Daw

eileendaw@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk 26thAbingdon@gmail.com Stay & Play Toddler Group: Facebook page: @SCstayandplay Friends of All Saints'-Chair: Sue Jenkins 07885 437454 847264 847401 scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com drb71@hotmail.co.uk Val Melville 847612 Graham Wells 847322 sclhs.org.uk marydthompson@outlook.com Morna Whitlock, 848335 morna28whitlock@gmail.com Kathy Harrop-Griffiths, 848230 secretary@allsaintssingers.org www.allsaintssingers.org Sutton Courtenay Action: suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com 101 policing team or email: Landfill Odours 0800 80 70 60 0800 71 46 14

All Saints Singers:

SCIDS (Drama Society):

Non-urgent Police: AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk **Environment Agency:** Thames Water (leaks): Police Anonymous Hotline: 0800 555 111 Power Cuts: 105

Websites:

Parish Council: Oxfordshire CC:

Sutton Courtenay News: www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk Vale of White Horse DC: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

The Ministry Team

- Rector: The Reverend Helen Kendrick
- The Rectory, 3, Tullis Close, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4BD 01235 848297 rector@damascusparish.org.uk

Assistant Priest: The Reverend Rosie Bruce 07766 421773 rosie-bruce@hotmail.co.uk Associate Priest: The Reverend Phil Sutton 01235 635476 or 07507 378737 revphil@damascusparish.org.uk Associate Priest: The Reverend Meg Heywood 01235 537110 revmeg@damascusparish.org.uk Lay ministers: Jack Jarvis (831395) & Alex Landsbert (847443)

Authorised preacher: Paul James (848129)

Churchwardens: Nicola Turner (01235 833938)

or Hilary Otterburn (01235 834725) Parish Office: 01235 847179

For Services of Worship - Please see Page 10

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS CONTACTS

Sutton Courtenay News is published by the editorial team, the members of which are: Katherine Harrop-Griffiths (07946 474238), Kathy Whittaker and Bernie Jones (07761 375991). Bernie deals with all the advertising.

Sutton Courtenay News is printed with support from the Sutton Courtenay Parish Council.

All contributions for the next edition should be emailed to editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk, taken to Sutton Courtenay Tyres petrol station shop or posted in the mailbox on the outside the garden door of Cross Trees, 1 Church Street before the copy deadline. To have any contribution published you must provide your name & contact details to the editors.

To advertise, telephone 07761 375991 or email advertising@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk

For distribution enquiries please contact Sue on 847158 or Shirley on 847241 or any of the editors.

The Editors have been contacted by people outside the village who would like to continue receiving a copy of Sutton viewed It can be Courtenay News. on-line at suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk but please contact the editors to discuss what other arrangements can be made for those unable to access the website.

SUTTON COURTENAY POST OFFICE

A wide range of key Post Office products & services are available at Hari & Esha News in the High Street.

The opening hours are:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 08:00 -18:00 Wed: 08:00 - 17:00

- Sat: 08:30 13:00
- Sun: 09:00 12:00

SUTTON COURTENAY DEFIBRILLATORS



The village has three defibrillators.

One is located outside the front roller doors of Sutton Courtenay Tyres on the

High Street. The second is in the old BT phone booth opposite the Nursery on the High Street.

The third is outside the Fish, Appleford Road



VILLAGE HALL

The village hall is a registered charity available for hire for community related recreational activities. It is located in Hobbyhorse Lane (OX14 4BB). It has a large main hall, a smaller meeting room and kitchen. There are regular activities that take place on some weekday evenings. To find out more or book the hall please contact the Secretary to the Village Hall Management Committee Rita Atkinson on 01235 848694, email scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com.

Hire charges vary depending on the nature of the use of the hall. The maximum hire charge for the main hall is £16 per hour. Commercial bookings and regular hire are negotiated separately. Visits prior to hire are welcomed.

In accordance with government rules to prevent, and protect against, the spread of the coronavirus, the Village Hall Management Trustees have prepared risk assessments, guidance & new conditions of hire for users. These are under constant review as the government guidance changes. Please get in touch to check if your activity is permitted under the regulations.



Welcome

The Parish Council had recently coopted Hugo Raworth and Jason Warwick onto the Council. Places still remain vacant and should you be interested in becoming a councillor, please do contact the clerk on the details below.

Recreation ground update

Due to the high level of Covid cases, the Parish Council has rearranged the date for the exhibition in relation to the upgrade. This will now take place on Saturday 26^{th} February between 10am and 12noon. Please feel free to join us on that date to see the plans for the refurbishment. A leaflet is in the process of being prepared and will be delivered to every property in the village. Please keep a look out for the same.

Planning Matters

New river crossing - HIF application

The Parish Council submitted a holding response to this application stating its initial main concerns on the application and confirming that a further response would be made in due course. It also continues to work with Appleford, Culham, Burcot & Clifton Hampden and Nuneham Courtenay Parish Councils in relation to obtaining advice from professional consultants in relation to the application. The Parish Council will keep you updated in relation to this matter.

Land to the north of Hobbyhorse Lane

The Parish Council objected to the application. We await the outcome of the application.

Other planning applications discussed

P20/V3101/FUL – amendment No 1. Demolition and removal of 3 storage units and the erection of a new single storey storage unit. Buckles Yard Drayton Road Sutton Courtenay. Comment: Council has no reason to change or add to its previous comments on the application.

Road closures

We have received notification from Oxfordshire County Council of Drayton Road and Milton Road being closed with work being commenced prior to the publication of the Sutton Courtenay News. We have contacted the contractors who have confirmed further details as follows:

"Work will start at the very top of Milton Road by the junction of Drayton Road from 17th January 2022, processing down with the use of traffic lights until the closure comes into play on 31 January 2022.

The road closures will be carried out in two halves, the northern end of the closure on Milton Road, from 31st January to 28th February followed by the closure to the southern end on Drayton Road, from 28th February until 21st April 2022.

During both sections of the closures, access will be maintained for local residents living on the road but there will be no through route on the entire road. We will be progressing down the road, excavating, laying duct, reinstating and then shifting along our worksite. At some point along the closure, vehicles will come to a point they cannot go any further and will need to drive around the diversion to get to the other side."

We have also received notification of footpath closures by Balfour Beatty on behalf of National Grid whilst overhead cables are repaired or replaced. The rights of way affected are 373/12/50 and 373/24/40. Works are due to take place at some point between March and July 2022. We await the formal road closure documentation from Oxfordshire County Council and will update you as soon as we have more definite dates for the closures. The company representative has confirmed that they will keep the closures as short as possible to cause minimum disruption.

Deep Clean

Vale of the White Horse District Council have confirmed that they will be spending a few days in each parish/town across Vale of White Horse to perform a deep cleanse. Sutton Courtenay's dates for the clean are from 10th February to 16th February. They will be litter picking, sweeping and removing weeds/moss on pavements. Please note that they will not spray weeds, cut grass or vegetation or remove weeds and moss that is on roads. They only clear land to which the public is permitted access and that is under the direct control of the district council.

The date of the next Council meeting is Tuesday 1st February 2022 at 7:15pm in the committee room of the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Further details of the meeting will be placed in the noticeboard outside Hari and Esha Stores in due course. Full details can be obtained from the clerk.

Clerk to Council: Helen Savery, 10 Sovereign Place Wallingford, OX10 9GF.

Email: info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk, tel: 01235 364211

DIDCOT A POWER STATION SITE

RWE Generation UK Plc., owners of the Didcot Power Station site, would like to notify the residents of Sutton Courtenay about a planning consultation relating to redevelopment proposals on the Didcot A Power Station site. Residents will receive an information leaflet on or around the 27th January 2022 providing details about the proposal together with a link to a website (www.didcotdatacampus.co.uk) where people

> can leave questions and comments. LOOK OUT FOR IT!

STOP PRESS – notice received too late for inclusion: Citizens Advice needs volunteer advisors – see suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk

50 CONGRATULATIONS to the Sutton Courtenay News!

In 2022 the Sutton Courtenay News celebrates 50 years of continuous production.

Revd. George Jager was the editor of the News when it was first produced in 1972 and I succeeded him as the next editor. By then the village had grown considerably in size and it was felt that a village newsletter would encourage a feeling of belonging to a community. The aim was to produce an independent production that provided information about the village, what was happening in it and news about the various clubs and organisations. It would be delivered free to every home in the village. To achieve this we relied on the help of many volunteers, which is still true today.

The first copies of the Sutton Courtenay News were very simple compared to the present professional editions. Having collected contributions, I edited and typed up the copy and handed it to one of the volunteers who typed it on stencils. A different artist each month, including children, contributed a drawing for the cover. I also encouraged items from children which was quite easy to do as I was doing a lot of supply teaching at the school at the time so got them to write poems etc. Originally the News was printed in the attic of the former vicarage but later was printed in the basement of a house in Mill Lane. The pages were then assembled and stapled together on my dining room table by ladies from the Young Wives Group, to the accompaniment of much chatter and cups of tea. The bundles were then distributed throughout the village to the many people who volunteered to deliver the News.

Throughout its history the Sutton Courtenay News has depended financially on the income from advertisements, a grant from the Parish Council and donations from participating contributors. It was a privilege to have been involved with the News in its early days – but it was not without its risks! I was threatened with legal action over an article written by the vicar at the time. A number of editors have followed me, and all have left their mark. Our thanks must go to the many volunteers who have helped to make the Sutton Courtenay News a success and I hope it will continue to play a role in the village for many years to come.

Mary Thompson



Collating the first copy in December 1971 in the Vicarage - members of the Young Wives Group

Ann Baker, Joyce Rayner, Maureen Happé, Muriel Barrett, Rosina Woodward and Barbara Hands

The front page holds a picture of the first page of the first edition of the Sutton Courtenay News published in January 1972. It shows a pen and ink drawing of the Plough pub and the adjacent house drawn by Tony Mulein, a resident of Sutton Courtenay.

We are part way through a project to scan all the copies of the Sutton Courtenay News that we hold from 1972 to the present. We have scans of the first edition and also editions from April 1972 onwards. All those we have for 1972 have been scanned into the Archives on suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk. We are still missing copies of the 2^{nd} and 3^{rd} editions – February and March 1972 – if you have copies we would love to borrow them to scan and put with our on-line collection.

What is unchanged from January 1972?

- SCN is still free and delivered monthly. It is still paid for by advertisers and by a 'gift' or grant from the Parish Council
- It is non-profit making.
- Those who compile and distribute the magazine are still volunteers.
- The reasons for SCN in the words of Revd. Jager 'we believe that local news is good news. We believe that this little local paper will enable us all to enjoy life better, and to be better neighbours, because we know better what is going on.'
- The ethos 'The NEWS is Non-political and non-Denominational; but we shall give news of political and religious activities, as well as social events and of our Parish Council and the Social Services.... We shall also feel free to comment and to publish our comments.'
- Problems 'Councillor R.S. Fidler undertook to make a preliminary clearing of the children's playground and to remove the litter.'
- Adverts from Mathews & Son and Hall's Garage still feature.

What has changed?

- The number of copies from about 800 to 1350 now
- The methodology of production copy used to be typed onto stencils for home printing onto A4 sheets which were stapled together. Only black ink was used.
- The size it was 8 pages and is now between 28 and 36 pages.
- The cost of advertising £2.50 annually for a three line typed entry (12 to a page) and now - £49 annually for a small pictorial advert in colour (10 to a page).
- There were 32 village organisations listed in the directory! This included the Bell Ringers, Darby & Joan Club, Mothers' Union and the S.C. Senior Citizens' Dinner Club among others. Of note is the fact that there were 3 Brownies packs and 2 Guides packs as well as a Scouts pack. But much was made of the fact that there was no Cricket Club!

News of the Football Club and its scores was an important section. And newcomers to the village were mentioned. It is interesting to see that the Wilson Family were welcomed when they moved to the White House in Appleford Road having come from Appleford – a member of the Wilson family still lives there.

A feature was the news that the Vicar had ruptured his Achilles tendon just before Christmas 1971. During his period of enforced rest he thanked well-wishers, and, in particular, those who had undertaken the chores of clock winding and clinker removal!

If you have any memories or photographs of the village in 1972 please let us know. We would like to include them in other editions during our Golden Anniversary year.

I would like to thank Mary Thompson and Rose Woodward for their help with old documents.

Editor



A rainbow seen over Norman Hall January 2022

SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Happy New Year!

We have had an excellent start to the
year and feel there is so much to be grateful for. The children have come back to school with their usual energy

and enthusiasm but there is also a sense of focus. As Rachael Warwick, our Executive Headteacher, said when she visited this week, "The atmosphere is so calm and purposeful". We are proud of our children's behaviour, which is a very important part of their learning – some would say THE most important part; because children cannot learn in a stressful, chaotic environment. However, this is not just a simple case of having rules and sticking to them. It is a highly skilled set of interactions between staff and young children as they adjust, minute by minute, to minimise conflict, choose battles carefully, and create the optimum learning environment for all children. We all know that no two children are the same, and being inclusive means supporting them all to feel safe and able to co-operate for learning.

Panto visit



All the staff who went with the children to the pantomime agreed that they were a credit to the school. They were excited but polite and respectful. They also enthusiastically joined in with the audience participation. After not being able to go last year, a visit to a live theatre performance felt like even more of a treat. Our youngest children did particularly well. They will have been most affected by the restrictions over the past two years as there will be some experiences with large crowds they may have missed. But they coped confidently and took it in their stride. We are very proud of them!

Get outside!

At this time of year, it is so important to get outside whenever we can to make the most of the daylight. Children have four active break sessions during the school day – two free play sessions in the morning, a lunch break, and a planned active break sessions such a Daily Mile run or time with equipment such as bats and balls or skipping ropes. Barn Owls, Robins and Wrens classes are enjoying Forest School. While there, they learn about outdoor challenge and explore the concept of assessing risk.

And breathe!

Across the school, we are really working on our *breathing* this term! Teaching children to be aware of their breathing gives them a really useful wellbeing skill throughout life. When we are excited or stressed, we tend



to breathe more quickly. We can teach children to notice this and to consciously slow down their breathing, which helps them to regulate their feelings independently. We are learning the techniques together in assemblies and then teachers are practicing these in class to follow up.

Many parents are talking to me about children struggling to sleep at the moment. Lack of daylight can be an issue, so we encourage them to get outside as much as they can. Keeping lights low in the evening, turning off screens well before settling to sleep, and trying some of the breathing exercises could well make the difference.

Headteacher: Ms Rachel Hornsey Asst Headteachers: Lisa Knight & Louise Potter Office.3243@sutton-courtenay.oxon.sch.uk Telephone: 01235 848333

NORDIC WALKING

Come and learn a new type of exercise which takes place completely out of doors and for which we provide free instruction.

Sign up to enjoy the 'POWER OF THE POLES' once you become a Nordic Walker here in Sutton Courtenay. Your posture improves when you use your poles to push yourself more upright, and by using your upper body to propel yourself forward.

It is like having four legs instead of two. This means that the perceived effort is much less than for normal walking, which only uses fifty per cent of your muscles at most.

Poles are provided for the one-to-one sessions and new adjustable ones can be purchased at cost of $\pounds 21$ if you want them.

Free walks are available with qualified Walk Leaders. To register an interest and obtain more information. Please contact active.communities@southandvale.gov.uk

COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

My children like to make sure that I am fully informed and updated on any new ideas and ways of thinking. This Christmas, I was given a book by a young, eminent Dutch economist who is passionate that many of our economic problems could be solved with a universal basic income given to everyone together with policies providing housing to the homeless free of charge and obligation. He believes that there is overwhelming evidence that the homeless, the unemployed and those below the poverty line would respond very positively. Whilst I am not fully persuaded, I am intrigued enough to start reading the economist's follow up book.

However, in our part of Oxfordshire - particularly in the Vale - we have, thankfully, very low unemployment, homelessness and poverty. But we do have a related problem and it is getting steadily more acute. This is the problem of housing affordability. A few weeks ago, I was approached by a young local scientist who was despairing of ever being able to get into the housing market. He was in his early thirties, on a well above average salary but had no access to the bank of mum and dad. He had been saving towards a house deposit but price increases were outstripping his rate of savings. The village he would like to stay in now had almost nothing for sale under £350,000. There are almost certainly far more people in our area in this bracket than those in poverty.

One possible solution is simply to build more homes. We've been trying that for some years now. The latest government survey had both VWHDC and OCC in the top 10 of 150 councils for the numbers of houses built since 2010. But whilst housebuilders insist on building more large homes for the wealthy and London commuters, this simply feeds more house price inflation. We need more affordable housing or rather, housing that people can afford. But there is little profit for developers in low cost, affordable housing. In addition, there is no evidence in this country that building more houses reduces house prices.

With some ingenious use of capital reserves, VWHDC has managed to build 10 affordable homes in the past year. Very few councils have been able to do this and, anyway, it is a drop in the ocean of what is needed. Without major changes in the way Councils are allowed to finance building, it is doubtful that solutions lie in this direction.

So how does a wealthy area like ours provide homes that the next generation of local residents can afford? No one really knows. There is, however, some unlikely light at the end of the tunnel. Latest ONS statistics suggest that population numbers in this country (and indeed worldwide) are falling. This may give us some economic challenges, but fewer people need fewer houses. If this trend continues, one might expect a steady downward pressure on house prices which would allow more young people to get on the housing ladder. It would also mean less house building in the future.

But does this mean that the solution lies in less economic growth? I need to get on with my Dutch economist's next book. Happy New Year

Richard Webber Cllr VWHDC/OCC

DAVID JOHNSTON MP



I held my debate on the role of developers, housebuilders and management companies at the beginning of January. You can watch it on my Facebook page. I used as many constituency examples as I could of the low-

quality of some homes, their environmental impact, the lack of affordable homes, the role of management companies (who charge large fees for very little work) and the overall broken process by which the houses come into being, including the failure to provide the infrastructure that is always promised.

My recommendations included ensuring a higher building standard for the homes, 'use it or lose it' planning permission, making builders build to the latest environmental standards, (not the ones that existed when they got planning permission, often several years before), a tougher regime for management companies that prevents them hiking their fees and treating home-owners the way they do, and for the infrastructure to support new homes to go in first, as people no longer believe it will follow afterwards.

As I said, my campaigns for better infrastructure – including Grove Station to be reopened, improvements to the A420 and A34 and much better medical facilities for the constituency – are the least we should see given the number of houses we've had. There was quite a bit of cross-party support for what I said, and it is something I will return to regularly.

Making predictions about Covid is a mug's game but, at the time of writing, we do seem in a much better place to what we were last year. I am glad that people could, in general, have a better Christmas and New Year than they did the year before. I am particularly pleased our schools have remained open for all children (most were open for at least vulnerable children throughout the pandemic) as it is the best place for them to learn.

Regular readers will know I am the lead parliamentary sponsor of the Local Electricity Bill, which would enable local communities to buy their energy from local, renewable sources. At the moment a community operation generating renewable energy would have to pay in the region of £1 million set-up costs to access the grid and agree to supply the whole country, rather than just, for example, their local village. This year, I'll be chairing a new All Party Parliamentary Group of MPs and Lords to try and help push this forward.

I know many of you are continuing to have problems with your post. I am in regular contact with Royal Mail about this, which is something I held a debate on in Parliament in June 2021 and which I have raised multiple times. As ever, the Royal Mail staff are working hard but something is still not working correctly. I'll continue to keep on the case of Royal Mail HQ.

As ever, if I can help with anything do get in touch via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

ABINGDON DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT



December was great for us in ADYP, with lots of celebrations and a good (Covid-safe) party at the Drop in! However, December wasn't just about having a party and celebrating, the young people were hard at work looking at recognising the signs for unhealthy relationships with both friends and partners. A key focus of this was analysing text message conversations to highlight the need for good communication skills. Further to this, we were looking at protective behaviours and the balance between being at risk and risk-taking behaviour.



We were asked by Waitrose to help make some Christmas cards for some of their elderly customers. We have said it before, but we will say it again – Sutton Courtenay has some amazing artists! Hopefully we have made some elderly residents smile with our cards!



We are now fully back in the flow and are looking forward to making the most of this new year. We are eager to continue our series of thought-provoking discussion sessions on tough but important young-people focussed topics. We are working closely with the Oxfordshire Discovery College to help support our young people with some interactive workshops around dealing with feelings in difficult situations. Next month we hope to have some images and more news about these workshops!

Finally, we are holding a community intergenerational event on 23^{rd} February 2-5pm in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall. Some of you may remember previous Senior



Citizens' Tea Parties organised by young people – please look out for the poster and do join us again – all Covid-safe restrictions in place at the time will be followed. The reply slip is below.

The ADYP Team – Roxy Elford, Jake Fleetwood and James Quartermain, Emily Astley-Madge

Do contact any of us on jamesq.ycat@gmail.com, jakef.ycat@gmail.com, roxy.ycat@gmail.com, emily.adyp@gmail.com

Tel: 01235 848694 or 07875 649008



Jake Damascus, Roxy Damascus, James Damascus, Emily Damascus

Jake_Damascus; James_Damascus;

Roxy_Damascus, Emily_Damascus

YouTube - The Abingdon Damascus Youth Project MIND GYM

Website - www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project Senior Citizens' Tea Party Reply Slip Please return by Sunday 20th February as below.

I am able to attend the event on Wednesday 23^{rd} February 2022, 2 pm to 5 pm at Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

I do / do not require help with transport I have /do not have any special dietary requirements Please state requirements:

Contact phone number (in case we have to inform you of changes due to the pandemic)

Address (if lift required)

adaress (if lift required)

Reply slip can be returned to:

Emily Madge (4A Bradstocks Way), Hari & Esha News (120 High Street), the Church or ring Rita Atkinson (848694) for collection.

...._..

ADYP



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you!

I would like to thank the person who supplied my lovely surprise Christmas Hamper. I returned from a walk and found it on my doorstep. It was a lovely surprise, and the contents were very enjoyable. Many thanks.

Doreen Denton

Thank you so much Sutton Courtenay, together we have raised £1,385.53 for the 2021 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. This includes £422.95 raised at the Pop-up Poppy Shop and £258.27 from Alan's centenary display.



Royal British Legion local representative

WECARE2

Do you live with, or care for someone living with Dementia? or would you just enjoy a time of companionship?

Wecare2

Wecare2 is a group where we can meet, greet and sing along a little, one morning a fortnight in the 'River Room' at All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay from 11.15 am to 12.30 on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. All are welcome, so please get in touch to let me know if you would like to join us.

Morna Whitlock morna28whitlock@gmail.com 01235 848335 - Brookfield, 30 Chapel Lane. Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4AN

To stay safe we will follow Covid19 advice.





St Peter's, Drayton St Peter & St Paul, Appleford St Blaise, Milton All Saints', Sutton Courtenay St Michael and All Angels, Steventon

From the Ministry Team...

Love Hearts – were they your favourite sweets? Love hearts - February is the month of celebrating love albeit with roses, cards and chocolates rather than a tube of cheap sweets. The more extravagant your gift, the better; love is measured in extravagance. Ask a London florist what is a generous bouquet of red roses, and the response may well be 'at least 50 blooms!'

Love hearts – love hurts. True love is not measured in financial extravagance, but the extravagance of time, commitment and dedicated care and compassion. If you truly love, then you will certainly hurt more for others than yourself.

February is a month when not much seems to happen. St Valentine's Day, midway between Christmas and Easter, provides a welcome opportunity for spenders and businesses alike to gain from yet another round of retail indulgence. But February offers us so much more. It's a time for looking and seeing that *"love is all around me and so the feeling grows... it's everywhere I go."* From the gentle warmth of a winter's sun to the delicate gossamer threads and dressing of frost on trees and cobwebs to the delicate and vibrant colours of the crocus, hellebore and winter berries.

February – a time for turning from the dark of winter to the growing light of day. February always makes me think of 'love hearts and love hurts'; that God's gentle, exquisite and extravagant love is not shown in one commercial festival, but on every day of the year. God's true love for us knows what it is to hurt; he allowed his Son to suffer in all human forms and in doing so, he showed us that with his love, *"There's no beginning, there'll be no end 'cause on my love you can depend."*

If you are struggling with the loss of a loved one, feeling unloved, take a walk around your garden or village and let the words of a familiar hymn, poem or song to come to mind. Or ask a member of the ministry team to walk or talk with you so you can explore God's love for you.

The words quoted are from a 1967 song: Love is all around.

May you find February a truly lovely month.

The Reverend Phil Sutton Associate Minister of the DAMASCUS Parish

CHURCH DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

Monday 7th – 19:30 Baptism Preparation in the River Room – for anyone interested in exploring baptism for their children or themselves- please phone the Parish Office 01235 847179 to reserve a place.
Tuesday 8th - 19:00 Living in Love and Faith, River Room (see advert for details)
Thursday 10th - 10:30-12 noon Community Café in the River Room
Tuesday 22nd - 19:00 Living in Love and Faith, River Room
Thursday 24th - 10:30-12 noon Community Café in the River Room
Saturday 26th – 4pm Movie Matinee (for details please email admin@damascusparish.org.uk)
CHURCH DIARY FOR MARCH
Tuesday 1st - 19:00 Living in Love and Faith, River Room

Wednesday 2nd – 19:30 Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes

Saturday 5^{th} – Marriage Preparation Course in All Saints' Church and the River Room

19:00 Friends of All Saints' Church Quiz Night in the Village Hall

Monday 7th – 19:30 Baptism Preparation in St Peter's Church Room, Drayton

Tuesday 8th – 19:00 Living in Love and Faith, River Room **Wednesday 9th** – 19:30 Lent Group – venue TBC

Services of Worship

1st Sunday: Family Service @ 10:30 am

 2^{nd} Sunday: Parish Eucharist @ 10:30 am + Junior Church

3rd Sunday: Morning worship @ 10:30 am + Junior Church

 4^{th} Sunday: Parish Eucharist (a) 10:30 am + Junior Church

5th Sunday: Special services across the Damascus Parish – please see church noticeboard for details.

Wednesdays: BCP Holy Communion at 9:45 am

Holy Baptism

We send our best wishes and congratulations to the following who were welcomed into the family of the church through baptism:

Koby George Soden – 5th December 2022 Ryan Appleby Pinana - 12th December 2021

Rest in Peace

We send our condolences and the assurance of our prayers to the family and friends of the following people who died recently:

Lawrence Leslie Tyler who died on 26th October 2021 Dorothy May Charles (Dolly) who died on 28th Oct 2021 See pages 14 and 15 for obituaries

CHRISTMAS THANKS

Despite ongoing restrictions Christmas felt a lot more 'normal' than 2020 and thanks must go to all those who worked so hard to make it happen and to help us all to discover what lies at the heart of Christmas.

300 handmade hearts were distributed across the village – thank you to all the crafters and the walkers who distributed them. We were delighted to see so many people taking part and really glad that so many of you loved the hearts so much you took them home with you! Hopefully you will keep them and hang them on your tree for years to come.

We were also delighted to be able to distribute over 80 hampers, as gifts of love, across the village – thank you to Alison Budd for coordinating the shopping (and thanks to Aldi in Didcot for being so helpful) and all those who helped deliver them. Particular thanks go to the individual who generously donated to make this possible. Special mention must also be made of our cake baking team who handmade and decorated all the cakes. We are planning to deliver hampers again for Christmas 2022 and will be asking for nominations later in the year.

The Singing Saints and friends and our team of organists must be thanked for their musical contribution to the Christmas celebrations. The Carol Service, combined with the congregation from Drayton, was really uplifting and the Singing Saints also toured the village carol singing and helped lead the carols at the Torchlight Procession. Thanks to all of you.

Thanks to the Flower Arranging team who decorated the church so beautifully.

Thank you to all those who donated money to our Christmas Charity. Through collections at the December Community Café; at the Carol Singing around the village and at the Torchlight Procession we were able to raise £1,000 to send to Flexicare (Oxford & Abingdon) - a local charity providing babysitting services free of charge to families with a disabled child. Considering the adverse weather conditions on Christmas Eve and the reduced numbers of people attending the Torchlight Procession this is still a wonderful amount – thank you everyone!

I must also thank David McKenzie for organising the sale of the torches; Alan Whitlock for support vehicle duties on the night; the Allens for providing the bonfire, and especial thanks to Callum for all he does as the allimportant fire marshal. And thanks to Jon Smith for providing the light and the sound and to Chris who volunteered to help with all the setting up and the dismantling of the equipment.

And finally, thank you to all those who came and sang and celebrated with us, or simply dwelt in wonder at the greatest story ever told and hopefully, came closer to finding what lies at the heart of Christmas.

Helen Kendrick



An Invitation to Explore Together

All around us we see changing understandings of human identity, changing patterns in relationships and families, changing sexual attitudes and activity. How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? What does it mean for followers of Jesus to walk in love, faith and holiness today? We invite you to join with us as we explore these issues from 19:00 - 21:00 on the following Tuesdays:

8th February – Learning Together.

22nd February - Identity

 1^{st} March – Relationships. 8^{th} March - Sex

 22^{nd} March – Life Together

in the River Room, All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4AE

All are welcome and for more information or to register, please email admin@damascusparish.org.uk or 'phone the Parish Office on 01235 847179

MOVIE MATINEES

The next Movie Matinee in the River Room is on Saturday 26th February – 4pm For a full programme to be sent to you please email: admin@damascusparish.org.uk or pick one up from the back of the church Entry is free but donations to church funds welcome.



FUTURE VILLAGE EVENTS

HOLD THE DATE and

WATCH THIS SPACE!

Sunday 5th June Village Celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the Village Green...

BOOK THE DATE!

MURDER MYSTERY EVENING

19:00 for 19:30

Saturday 21st May 2022 Sutton Courtenay Village Hall Cocktails; Two-Course Meal and Cash Bar A 1950s themed evening of mystery and intrigue – will you be able to solve the crime? More details to follow and tickets on sale soon! A shared fundraiser for Sutton Courtenay Village Hall and All Saints' Church



Friday 25 March 6.30pm Saturday 26 March 2.00pm & 6.30pm

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

All tickets: £7 Box office open: Sun 27 Feb Phone: 848335 / 847707

BRIDGE AFTERNOONS

Come and play Bridge on 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons in the River Room (Feb 4th and 18th) 2-5 pm with a cup of tea and piece of cake - £5 Tables, cards and score cards all provided

Just come along and we make up tables based on experience/choice. All standards of play welcome – from experienced players to those who are 'just in need of a refresher', 'very rusty' or learning. Rubber or Chicago – you choose.

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH QUIZ NIGHT SATURDAY 5TH MARCH 2022



Following our last very successful zoom quiz evening we are organising our next quiz to take place live at the Village Hall, Sutton Courtenay Date: Saturday 5th March Time: 7pm for a 7.30pm start Cost: £80 per table for a team of 8 (£10 per person).
This includes a ploughman's supper. If your team is fewer than 8 we can join teams together so please let us know. Drinks can only be purchased at the bar available throughout the evening

Raffle to take place during the evening PLEASE CONTACT THE CHAIRMAN SUE JENKINS to enter a team/s either by email: sjjenkins33@aol.com or ring 07885437454

The Friends of All Saints Church are a Charitable Organisation who help to support the upkeep of the12th Century grade 1 listed Norman Church in Sutton Courtenay

Choisya 'Sundance' touched by frost



RIVER ROOM 200 CLUB

In Support of the All Saints' Community Space Winning numbers at the Draw in January were:

> 1^{st} - No.10 (£52.00) 2^{nd} - No. 63 (£26.00) 3^{rd} - No. 1 (£9.00)

New members always welcome. Please see the information in All Saints' Church or email landsbert@west-manor.co.uk. The next draw will take place on Thursday February 10 - at the All Saints' Community Café in the River Room at 10.30 am.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS -NEEDS A NEW TREASURER

Could you spare an hour or so a month to look after SCN's finances and help with its administration?

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- Arranging the AGM
- General administration

If you would like more information please give me a ring (07778 284193) or email me (scmail838@gmail.com)

Clare

Proposed formation of Sutton Courtenay Community Footpaths Group

• Are you a keen walker or rider?

• Are you interested in the natural environment?

• Do you view our footpaths network as an essential village amenity?

• Would you like to see our footpaths kept in good repair and 'walkable' all year round?

• Would you like to contribute to the quality of life in our village?

Maintenance of footpaths are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council. However, they are an important amenity for the village. Many parishes have voluntary Footpaths Groups that are concerned with maintaining, repairing and promoting the local footpath network and liaising with the County Council.

The Parish Council would support the formation of such a group with an information pack, helpful contacts and possible small funding opportunities.

To facilitate the formation of such a group, the Parish Council can arrange a public meeting as soon as is practical. Meanwhile, if you are interested, please contact me on:

email: eileendaw@suttoncourtenay-pc.co.uk or phone: 01235 848437.

Councillor Eileen Daw Sutton Courtenay Parish Council



Can You Help?

All Saints' Church is a beautiful, ancient historic building. Whether or not we are churchgoers we can all enjoy the cultural history it holds. Would you be able to give an hour or two every few weeks to help keep it clean? The more volunteers the less often each person has to fill a 'slot'. Please let us know if you can help. Alison 01235 527853 or Morna 01235 848335



Aconites beginning to flower



WI





OXFORDSHIR

WE'RE READY FOR A GREAT NEW YEAR OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES COME AND JOIN US - in January for some hilarious poetry (with a difference!) At our February meeting we'll be discovering a new craft and having fun making decorations for Easter and you need to come and join us to see what other exciting things we will be seeing and doing in the New Year! We meet every third Tuesday monthly in the River Room, Sutton Courtenay at 7.30 pm

For details contact our Secretary on 847612



Joe Nahmad

Joe died on 19th November 2021 and his funeral was held at the Oxford Crematorium.

Joe Nahmad was much loved and had an enormous love and knowledge of music of all kinds. He was very loving and kind and loved his friends, his kids and his wife. He got a first-class degree in English Literature and was a very clever well-read man. He had a very emotional side, having a lot of Middle Eastern heritage of which he was very proud. He was one of a kind and can never be replaced and will be much missed.

Jane Taylor

Lawrence Leslie Tyler who died on 26th October 2021 was born on 18th August 1931 in Appleford – in the old railway cottages. He was the second son of the family, and he grew up there with older brother Frank and younger siblings Elsie and George. He attended Appleford School before going onto St. Birinus. His first job was working on the railway at Didcot before going to work for a building firm - from where he was made redundant and then moved to work for Smallbones, the Builder and Undertaker in Streatley - where he remained until retirement. He then began a new career as a gardener for most of the houses on the Drayton Road in Sutton Courtenay and, of course, spent many hours tending his own beautiful garden. He was always a hard worker. Lawrence met Beryl, his future wife, one New Year's Eve, in the Black Horse in Appleford. And, after a courtship of six years, they were married in All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay on 11th September 1954. They were married for nearly 62 years, until Beryl's death in 2016. Theirs was a marriage of loving, supportive companionship which endured through all the ups and downs of life. Lawrence was a devoted husband who did most of the cooking and nothing was ever too much trouble for him. He was always willing to help not just Beryl but family, friends and neighbours too. Although they had no children of their own they took great delight in their nieces and nephews and, in due course, great and great-great nieces and nephews and I know that Lawrence was extremely grateful for the love and support he received from all of you, but particularly Jeanette in recent times, which enabled him to remain independent in his own home as long as he did. He was always very proud of his extended family and made a point of visiting his brother, George, and his family, every Sunday - for a coffee made with milk and two sugars always accompanied by biscuits! Lawrence always enjoyed watching sport on TV - from the Grand Prix to football and also spent many hours watching all the games shows - from Blankety Blank to Bullseye and the

Generation Game. Beginning with holidays in a caravan at Littlehampton - where they spent many happy times with their nieces - and then an exploratory trip to Ostend, to see if they liked going abroad, Beryl and Lawrence began many years of adventures with holidays across Europe, which they both greatly enjoyed. But they also always enjoyed the simple things in life especially fish and chips at the seaside. In later years Lawrence and Beryl enjoyed trips to garden centres on a Sunday afternoon. Beryl would tell Lawrence what to buy and plant in the garden and he would work hard whilst she supervised. Over the years their beautiful roses have given pleasure to anyone passing their garden along the Ginge Brook. He would also grow delicious tomatoes but he never ate them himself. Sadly, Beryl became ill in 2015 but Lawrence fulfilled his wedding vows by visiting her almost every day for hours whilst she was in hospital and, apparently, he only missed two days of her entire stay and that was when he himself was in hospital! When Beryl was moved to The Close Care Home in Burcot Lawrence continued to visit her daily. He was devastated by Beryl's death but, with help from the family, he adapted to life on his own. He kept on driving for as long as he could – taking Dolly for outings to the Boundary House for lunch and to have her hair done. He finally agreed to give up his car after a series of mishaps and a few close encounters with the Ginge Brook and, after a series of falls at home, he accepted that the time had come when he needed more care and he wanted to go to the Close because he knew people from when Beryl had been looked after there. I know the family have been so helped by the care that both Beryl and then Lawrence received from all of the staff. Lawrence was a real character – a good ole' boy as they say in old Berkshire. He wasn't a moaner or a grumbler. In fact, he was very content with his life – always positive and generally happy. He did hold strong views on some things and could be very determined, some might say stubborn, when he needed to be. He was hardworking and loyal and supportive to his friends and family, and very generous and caring and will be greatly missed by his family and friends. This is an edited extract of the address given at his funeral at Oxford Crematorium on Tuesday 16th November 2021 by The Reverend Helen Kendrick. The burial of his ashes took place on Tuesday 23rd November in All Saints' Churchyard.

Dorothy May Charles (Dolly) who died on 28th October 2021 was born on 12th October 1933 in Sutton Courtenay on the High Street – although there is some uncertainty in the family about which house it was in – as family legend says Number 10 and her birth certificate says something else! What is certain is that Dolly was the last but one in a family of seven – five boys and two girls – and she lived with her parents Ellen May and

Francis William Buckle, who she considered to be the best Mum and Dad in the world. Growing up as part of a large family meant that she had what she considered to be the best of childhoods of which she had a great many fond memories. She attended Sutton Courtenay School - just over the road from the family home - and then moved onto Box Hill in Abingdon - where she remembered that the Abingdon children didn't really like the village children - but she worked hard at school and enjoyed her time there. On leaving school she worked in Woolworths - working her way up to become a Store Supervisor. She would cycle in and out of Abingdon with her sister Joan and her cousin Beryl. When she left Woolworths she worked in the village for Mussels and then Elkins and then the West's before going to work for a while in the little general store in the Nursery. Eventually she did some cleaning at The Manor House. She met her future husband Albert in the 1950s. Dolly and Albert, although going out with other people at the time, used to see each other in the pubs in Sutton Courtenay. Albert was obviously smitten and, after breaking off his engagement to another girl, eventually asked Dolly out to the pictures. She said yes and they had a two-year courtship before marrying on 9th March 1957 here in this church. There were so many relatives living in Abingdon that they hired a coach to bring all the guests to the wedding and the reception, for 103 guests, in the old Village Hall on Old Wallingford Way. Their friends and neighbours did all the catering for them. They were together as a couple for 65 years and married for just under 62, and lived their whole life together in Dolly's family home in the High Street. Dolly's greatest hobby was shopping - a life-long passion of hers and, with her sister Joan, she liked nothing better than going out to hunt down all the best bargains. For these expeditions Albert was always the taxi driver and indeed he would drive them wherever they wanted, and they often enjoyed long drives around the countryside. She enjoyed going to the Bingo in Abingdon and, along with Albert, would help to run the Christmas Lunches for OAPs in the village for many years. After Albert died, her

brother-in-law, Lawrence would act as her taxi driver and they enjoyed outings for lunch to the Midget and the Boundary House in Abingdon and he would take her to get her hair done. Family was always important to Dolly, and it became a tradition every Friday for her and Albert to have tea and cakes with them. The younger generations of the family used to tease them that they were like characters out of 'Last of the Summer Wine'. Dolly loved all her nieces and nephews and never missed a birthday. And every year she would make Christmas puddings for all the family. She was always extremely organised and kept meticulous lists and newspaper cuttings. She liked nothing better than to know what was going on across the village - and nothing much happened without her knowing about it. Having lived her whole life in the village she knew most people, and, as the years went by, attended many a funeral here in the church. After Albert's death Dolly became increasingly dependent on her family and on her wonderful neighbours - who looked out for her and helped out in so many ways. Very sadly ill-health dominated her final years - she suffered from COPD and tinnitus and could never get the hang of her hearing aids. She coped incredibly well with these frustrations and was always cheerful and welcoming. Her very close friend Averil Sawley, with whom she was friends for over eighty years, was an important part of her life. They grew up together, played together and helped each other - and spoke to each other at least twice a day. In fact, in her letter of condolence to the family, Averil wrote - "She was always ready to help anyone". Dolly was indeed a kind and caring individual who will be greatly missed by all her family, friends and neighbours. This is an edited extract from the address, given by the Reverend Helen Kendrick, at Dolly's funeral which was held on 1st December 2021 in All Saints' Church.

Dorothy's family would like to thank everyone who sent such kind messages of sympathy on the loss of their Aunt and sister, Dorothy (Dolly). Thank you to everyone who attended Dorothy's funeral and for the donations raised for All Saints' Church in her memory.



The river captured on a cold morning walk in January

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