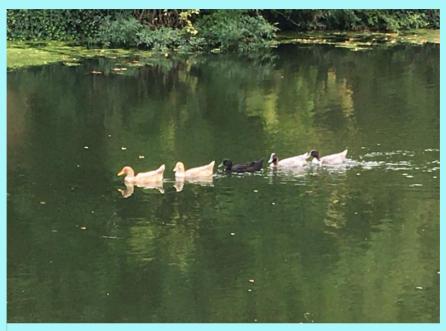
### SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 51 No. 7

SEPTEMBER 2022



Colour Coordination on Sutton Pools

#### **VILLAGE DIARY**

Thur. 1 Sept.	WeCare2 (p. 10)	River Room	11:15-12:30	
Sat. 3 Sept.	Craft and Produce Show (Entry form p. 18)	Village Hall	14:00	
Tues. 6 Sept.	Parish Council Meeting (p. 3)	Village Hall	19:15	
Wed. 7 Sept.	Meeting about SC Neighbourhood Plan (p. 6)	Village Hall	19:15	
Fri. 9 Sept.	1st rehearsal All Saints' Singers (p. 17)	Matrix	19:30	
Sat. 10 Sept	Ride and Stride (p. 8 & 10)	Local	All day	
Sat. 10 Sept.	WI Coffee Morning (p. 13)	53 Bradstocks Way	10:00 - 13:00	
Thur. 8 Sept.	Community Café (p. 9)	River Room	10:30-12:00	
Wed. 14 Sept. to Sun.18 Sept.	Abingdon Heritage Open Days (p. 5)	Abingdon		
Thur. 15 Sept.	WeCare2 (p. 10)	River Room	11:15-12:30	
Fri. 16 Sept.	Bridge Afternoon (p. 10)	River Room	14:00	
Sat. 17 Sept.	Movie Matinee (p. 9)	River Room	16:00	
Tue. 20 Sept.	Sutton Courtenay WI (p. 12)	River Room	19:30	
Thurs. 22 Sept.	Community Café (MacMillan) (p. 9)	River Room	10:30-12:00	
Sun. 2 Oct.	Harvest Festival (p. 9)	All Saints' Church	10:30	
Sun. 2 Oct.	Harvest Lunch (p. 9)	River Room	12:00	

Previous copies of SCN are available on the website under Archives at suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk

#### OCTOBER 2022 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

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

#### VILLAGE CONTACTS

County Councillor: Richard Webber, 534001 (Schools, Roads etc.) richardwebber777@gmail.com District Councillor: Richard Webber-as above

(Planning, Waste etc.)

The Abbev:

Rita Atkinson, 848694 Parish Council Chair:

ritaatkinson@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk

Stay & Play Toddler Group: Facebook page: @SCstayandplay Friends of All Saints'-Chair: Sue Jenkins 07885 437454

Matrix Music School: 847264

847401 Village Hall – SC: scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com

Cricket Club: drb71@hotmail.co.uk WI - Sutton Courtenay Val Melville 847612 Nordic Walking Group: Graham Wells 847322 Churchmere Carp Synd.: Roger Rance 847241

DAMASCUS Youth Project: 848694

SC Local History Society: Mary Thompson 848527 sclhs.org.uk

marydthompson@outlook.com

Morna Whitlock, 848335 SCIDS (Drama Society):

morna28whitlock@gmail.com

All Saints Singers: Kathy Harrop-Griffiths, 848230

> secretary@allsaintssingers.org www.allsaintssingers.org

Sutton Courtenay Action: suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com

101 or policing team email: Non-urgent Police:

AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Landfill Odours 0800 80 70 60 **Environment Agency:** 

Thames Water (leaks): 0800 71 46 14 Police Anonymous Hotline: 0800 555 111

Power Cuts: 105

Websites:

Sutton Courtenay News: www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk Parish Council: www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk Vale of White Horse DC: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk Oxfordshire CC: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk Village Hall: suttoncourtenayvillagehall.co.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)

Churchwarden: Hilary Otterburn (01235 834725)

Pro-Warden: Alison Budd (01235 527853)

Parish Office: 01235 847179 admin@damascusparish.org.uk

For Services of Worship - Please see Page 8

#### 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.

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall has a new website suttoncourtenayvillagehall.co.uk from where you can access a trial online-booking system. Please use it to make your booking inquiry. Full instructions are given. Also, any feedback would be appreciated so that we can fully evaluate the system. If you have any difficulties booking or you want to speak to someone about a booking, please contact Rita 01235 848694 or email: scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com

#### **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 e-mailed 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 Courtenay News. It can be viewed 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.

#### **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**



#### Neighbourhood Plan

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of July the Parish Council launched a six-week (Regulation 14) consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan. The Draft Plan and supporting documentation

are available to read on Sutton Courtenay Parish Council's website www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk. If you are having trouble accessing the online documents, please email nhp@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk. A response form is available to download and complete. It should be noted that this is still a working document, and we need your comments to ensure it reflects the matters of importance and relevance to our area. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has arranged a public meeting on Wednesday 7 September at 7.15pm in the Village Hall to present a summary of the Plan and to discuss key aspects. The response deadline has been extended to Sunday 18 September.

#### Recreation Ground refurbishment

Sutton Courtenay Parish Council has secured a £100,000 grant from the FCC Communities Foundation. They award grants to community projects from funds donated by FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund. The funding combined with a £10,000 grant from Awards for All, developers' contribution and Parish Council reserves will enable the first phase of the refurbishment to take place during this winter. This phase will include a new play area, new multiple use games area (MUGA) and a new BMX, Scooter/Bike Pump track.

The work will start the week beginning Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September and should be completed by Christmas. Unfortunately, the current play area, MUGA and skate park will be closed during the refurbishment. A section of the car park will also be unavailable.

Access to the main Recreation Ground including the football club will not be affected, although there will be less parking available.

#### Grants

The Parish Council is pleased to be able to award grants to local organisations which benefit residents in the parish. The organisation must be a not-for-profit although it does not need to be a registered charity. The Council will consider grant applications for the 2023-24 financial year at its Finance and General Purposes working party meeting in November. If you are a member of a local group which

would benefit from a grant, please contact the Parish Clerk (details below) Applications will need to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

#### Councillor Vacancies

There are currently 3 vacancies within the Parish Council. To become a member of our Parish Council you must be:

- Over 18 and on the electoral register
- Live within 3 miles of the parish boundary
- Able to attend regular evening meetings
- Have an interest in local issues
- Have a desire to improve the quality of life in the Parish
- Able to represent the views of local people

The position is unpaid, but some expenses, such as for council related training, can be paid by the Parish Council. For more information contact the Clerk.

#### Change of Clerk

Jennie Currie was employed as the Council's Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) in July. The Council would like to thank the outgoing Clerk, Helen Savery, for her services and wish her well with her future plans. The email address for the Clerk is unchanged, Jennie's telephone number and address has been included below.

#### Date of next meeting: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.15pm in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

The agenda for the meeting will be published on the Council's website www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk and on the noticeboard outside Hari & Esha News, High Street, Sutton Courtenay.

**Clerk,** Miss J. Currie, Sutton Courtenay Parish Council, c/o 44 Harrington Close, Newbury, RG14 2RQ

info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk 07495 123 353

Chairman: Rita Atkinson. Councillors: David Butler, Eileen Daw, Teresa Field, Father Morkos, Hugo Raworth, Jason Warwick and Antony Willott.

Note from the Councillors — we are delighted to welcome Jennie as the Council's new Clerk and RFO (Responsible Financial Officer). Jennie comes with extensive relevant previous experience and is already providing strong support for the Council's major projects which are currently underway.

#### SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### Our New Fence!

You may remember that way back in 2019, I wrote about a funding application we had made to improve the security of our perimeter fence. It was a very flimsy wire construction which was totally unsuitable. Projects of this size cannot be funded out of the normal school budget, and so we applied for a grant from the central government Condition Improvement Fund. Our first bid was turned down, but, undaunted, we re-applied. The children joined in our appeal and wrote letters, spoke to Councillor Richard Webber, and made this short video to support our application:

https://youtu.be/3AQcHZy7wQ0.

Over this summer, the work is being carried out and in September the children will return to school with a smart new fence which offers much more security to the school site. There are even electric gates which we are very excited about! It looks very smart but we will also be involving the children in ideas on how to soften the appearance with planting and designs so it continues to reflect our welcoming ethos.

#### A Final Performance...

Year 6 delighted us at the end of last term with their outstanding performance of the musical show, Shakespeare Rocks. The singing almost lifted the roof. At the end, Mrs Hamblin shared some of the journey the children had been on to produce such a wonderful show. She described how many children had at first felt reluctant about performing, especially after not having been able to for two years. The more confident ones had helped others, encouraging them and coaching the acting. Some of the strong singers also acted as voice coaches to their peers. The end result was a performance of exceptional quality where every single child gave 100% confidently and with obvious enjoyment. It was a joy to watch and made us so proud of the way the children were living up to our school values.

#### Sports Day!

It was wonderful to see so many of our school community able to watch for our first open sports day for three years. It was a lovely occasion to end the term with us all together. A massive thanks to Mrs Knight for organising everything. It was also lovely to have FOSCS there providing much needed refreshments. Thanks too to the students from Didcot Girls' School and St. Birinus School who helped out, running up and down the track with equipment and generally helping to keep things on track. Once again, we were all proud of the way the children demonstrated our school values together. They were ready to just have fun and take part, so respectful and supportive of each other, and responsible in their attitudes. Year 6 were wonderful role models - after their incredibly busy term they still found the energy to give it their all and inspired us with their joyful participation. You can see a short video with highlights at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2I09e1TBswk



#### Challenging times ahead

As I write, there are many concerns for all schools going forward into this winter. Schools are funded per pupil and there has been no increase to cover the rising cost of fuel and the much-deserved pay increases this year for teachers and teaching assistants who are also struggling with the cost of living. We are very aware of the huge pressures on our families too. As always, we will work together to do the very best with the resources we have for our children, but decisions seem tougher than ever.



Headteacher: Ms Rachel Hornsey Asst Headteachers: Lisa Knight &

Louise Potter

Office.3243@sutton-courtenay.oxon.sch.uk

Telephone: 01235 848333

#### **ABINGDON DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT**

#### The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project



Youth & Community Acting Together

It is with sadness but great pride that we say farewell to Roxy Elford who has been a key member of the Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project staff for over twelve years. Prior to joining as staff, Roxy engaged with ADYP as a young beneficiary. We are extremely proud of Roxy's achievements in the time she has been with ADYP, both in the personal development of her career and in the support she has given to countless young people over the past twelve years.

Roxy's understanding of young people and the approach that she takes with them inspires their trust and confidence; and she has a very high success rate in supporting young people back on to the Education, Employment, Training track.

After working as a qualified youth worker for some years Roxy wanted to develop an understanding of the formal education system, and the relevance and benefits of informal (youth work) education being integrated into the more formal education system. To this end Roxy, supported by AYDP, did an MA in Education, Childhood and Youth Studies.

Roxy is now moving on to take up a fulltime post at Didcot Girls' School (part of the Ridgeway Education Trust) as a teacher of Personal Development.

Thank you Roxy, we wish you all the best and know that you are just down the road and that our engagement will continue albeit in another context.

Roxy wished it to be recorded that while she is very sad to be leaving, she knows she could not have moved forward in her career had it not been for the support and encouragement that ADYP gave her over the years.

Jake Fleetwood is also moving to take up a job closer to home which leaves him time in the evenings to pursue his other interests. Jake joined us in April 2019 as a qualified youth worker and in the short time that he has been with us transformed our social media engagement — this proved hugely beneficial, as not long after, as we all know, we went

into lockdown due to the pandemic. It meant that we were able to provide continuous support to our most vulnerable young people, and even to offer some face-to-face work as staff were classified as key workers. We know we will still see Jake as he is a keen angler and enjoys the local fishing opportunities. Jake has also offered to come back for some evening sessions — an offer that cannot be refused!

Due to the summer break, we have not been able to say a proper thank you to Jake and Roxy. They will both be coming back to say a proper goodbye to young people over the autumn term. If anyone would like to contribute to leaving presents for both of them and/or sign a card – please do get in touch.

More updates on arrangements going forward will follow in the October issue of the Sutton Courtenay News. The trustees wish to publicly record their huge thanks to all ADYP staff for the commitment and hours they put in to supporting young people within their own communities, often working at times of the day when most of us wish to enjoy social time with family and friends.

Rita Atkinson

Trustee, Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

The ADYP Team — James Quartermain and Emily Astley-Madge. Do contact either of us on: jamesq.ycat@gmail.com, emily.adyp@gmail.com

Tel: 01235 848694 or 07875649008



James Damascus, Emily Damascus



James\_Damascus: Emily\_Damascus

YouTube – The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project – MIND GYM

Website – www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk

#### ABINGDON'S HERITAGE OPEN DAYS - 17<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPT.

Abingdon's Heritage Open Days are always a highlight of the town's late Summer Events calendar. This year the main events are on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September, but our "Engines, Drains and Nuisances" Exhibition will be open in St.Ethelwold's on the Thursday and Friday (15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> September) as well, and we kick off with a talk in the Unicorn Theatre on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

This year's theme is:

#### "Astounding Inventions and Innovations"

-very appropriate for this area-and we will have the usual mix of exhibitions, open historic buildings, walks, talks and trails. You can find the full programme at https://www.abingdonheritage.org.uk/festivalprogramme

#### **COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

#### Water Supply

Whatever we might think of the Thames Water proposals for future water supply, and, in particular, that our area should allow them to build at a cost of £2b+ Europe's largest aboveground reservoir; whether you are a fisherman or a yachtsman or a vehement objector; whatever your views no one could disagree that we would reduce the scale of future water problems by reducing our per capita daily water consumption.

Thames Water currently assumes that each of us uses on average more than 160 litres a day. Most of our neighbours with similar standards of living use much less, some as little as 110 litres per day. If we could all follow the best examples we could save the equivalent of several reservoirs.

I am not in a position to preach on this subject. Like everyone else, the latest heat waves and the predictions that we should expect many more in the future have made me aware that I have not being doing enough. As a Thames Water rate payer and on a water meter, I have another reason to do more now.

There are things Councils are trying to do and things my family and I could do to help. I decided (for the first time, I am ashamed to say) to spend 48 hours focusing on how my family and I use water:

Morning tea or coffee / dish washer / washing saucepans/flushing loos / watering garden / washing cars / cleaning teeth / laundry / showers and baths / washing hands / window cleaning / house cleaning — all together it's a staggering amount. Would I and my family be able to exist on 70% of our current water usage?

One particular excess which came to light in our house is that our cold water and hot water kitchen pipe is shared. To get a glass of cold water (4 or 5 a day for each of us in recent weather) we have been used to running off the warmer water from our cold tap until the water has run cold. When we collected the run off of warm water, we had enough to water most of the garden. It may not be enough to save the planet but it's a start.

I am sure there will be hundreds of other good ideas being used by residents which would benefit everyone. If you have ideas, please let me know and I will publish them.

I already treat the car accelerator pedal like a tap, likewise our fuel and energy consumption; it's about time I treated water the same way.

Here are the Friends of the Earth tips for saving water:

- 1. Turn off the tap when brushing teeth (6 litres/min) and fix leaking taps (up to 60 litres a week wasted)
- 2. Shower with less....17 litres used every minute.
- 3. Save up dirty clothes. Full loads use less water than two half loads.
- 4. Reduce food waste.
- 5. Water plants early morning and evening manually and water soil at roots.
- 6. Using a water butt saves up to 5000 litres a year
- 7. Low flush toilets use less than half the old style toilet.
- 8. A full dishwasher uses less water than washing everything by hand.
- 9. Eat seasonal vegetables where possible.
- 10. Only boil the water you need.
- 11. Steam your veg.
- 12. Check pipes for leakage. Locate household stop valve and keep local Thames Water telephone number handy. (see page 2)

Richard Webber.

Richardwebber777@gmail.com 01235534001

#### SC NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

#### OUR VILLAGE - SECURING THE FUTURE

Notice of Meeting - Wednesday  $7^{th}$  September at 7.15pm in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

The Pre- submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan was uploaded to the Parish Council website at the beginning of July at the start of the six-week (Regulation 14) consultation period on the Draft Plan. Notice of the consultation was also uploaded to the website and displayed on the Parish Council Notice Board outside Hari & Esha on the High Street and on social media. Some of you have taken the opportunity to assess the documents and have responded accordingly. The Steering Group acknowledges the extent of the documentation and therefore understands that not everyone will wish to read it in detail. In the light of this we have arranged an informal event where summary material will be presented to support residents wishing to make a response. The deadline to feedback comments is being extended to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September to enable residents to respond after the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> September.

At the meeting there will be the opportunity to meet members of the Steering Group, Parish Councillors, and our planning consultant.

#### Please join us at the Village Hall on Wednesday 7 September at 7.15pm.

The Draft Plan and supporting documentation are available to read on Sutton Courtenay Parish Council's website www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk. If you are having trouble accessing the online documents, please email nhp@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk or call 01235 848694. It should be noted that this is still a working document, and we

need your comments to ensure it reflects the matters of importance and relevance to our area.

Another smaller session is also being arranged on Saturday 10 September between 10am and noon in the village hall committee room, for those who are interested but cannot make the Wednesday evening.

Joanna O'Callaghan

Chairman, Sutton Courtenay Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

#### **INFORMATION**

#### Sutton Courtenay (National Power) Trust

Sutton Courtenay (National Power Trust) is a charity that considers applications from appropriate individuals or organisations in Sutton Courtenay for grants specifically for the relief of poverty and distress, education and recreation and any other general charitable purposes. If there is any organisation or individual in the village who would like to be considered for a grant, then please contact the Clerk to the Trustees for further information on eligibility and how to apply.

Clerk to the Trustees: Clare Pennicott, 8 Church Street, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4NJ

Email – clerk.scnpt@gmail.com Telephone – 07778 284193



#### TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SUTTON COURTENAY POST OFFICE FOR BUILDING WORK

Sutton Courtenay Post Office has been temporarily closed from 17<sup>th</sup> August for urgent building work. The work is due to take two weeks. The branch at 120 High Street, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, OX14 4AX, is due to reopen on **Friday 2 September at 9am**.

During the work alternative Post Offices include:

- Milton PO, 11H Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4RS
- Drayton PO, 9 The Green, Drayton, OX14 4JA
- Abingdon PO, 5-13 West St Helen Street, Abingdon, OX14 5BL

Graham Simmons, Post Office Network Provision Lead, said: "We apologise for any inconvenience caused to our customers during the work. The safety of our customers is of paramount importance. Therefore, to allow for the building work to take place, it will be necessary for the service to close temporarily."

Issued by:

Post Office Press Office 20 Finsbury Street LONDON, EC2Y 9AQ

Tel: 07436 038445 or 020 7012 3456 (24 hours),

Email: pressoffice@postoffice.co.uk

www.postoffice.co.uk

We're **Scouting** for Volunteers in Sutton Courtenay!





CUDS

We're reviving the 26th Abingdon scout group, starting with Beavers and Cubs for local 6-10 year olds.

If you're 18+ there are many ways to get involved. Give as much or as little of your time as suits you. Join us and together we can:

- ✓ Bring benefits to our local community
- ✓ Inspire and help young people to reach their potential
- Improve the health and wellbeing of everyone involved



26<sup>th</sup> Abingdon

f

Contact us on Facebook 26th Abingdon Scout Group

Email us: 26thabingdon@btinternet.com

Golden mirabelles.





A lone sunflower in a parched field;

#### **ALL SAINTS' CHURCH**



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

#### Back to School

I love this time of year as I have fond memories of getting ready for going back to school after the long

summer holidays. New pencil case and new pens; new shoes and uniform; new class and new friends; a new start and new lessons to be learnt.

September is that time of year when we get back to school after the summer break and even for those of us not returning to school there is a sense of getting back to our usual routines after living a different pace of life during the summer. As disciples (lit: *learners*) we are all called to learn from Jesus and live like Him. God wants us to make a difference as disciples whether in our school or workplace or amongst our family and our friends. As St Paul writes:

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.' (Colossians 3:17).

'WHATEVER you do': As Christians we believe that God is at work in every aspect of our lives. He can use whatever we do to make a difference to those around. But do we really believe this? Our lives shouldn't be like an orange, segmented into the sacred and secular, but more like an apple, in which the whole is available to God.

'Whatever YOU do': God wants to use us to share God's love with the people around us, wherever we spend time. We can trust Him for the resources we need hour by hour, day by day, year by year. What do we need from Him?

'Whatever you DO': Our work is for God alone, as a response to God's love for us. How does this perspective make a difference when what we do seems hard, unrewarding, or unappreciated by others?

A man standing on a train platform was asked one day: 'Who are you?' He replied, 'I am a Christian thinly disguised as an accountant.' If we were asked the same question I wonder what we would say? As disciples of Jesus Christ, our identity is rooted in God and His call upon our lives. For each of us, September represents going back to school with Jesus, to learn how we can live for Him.

With love and prayers

Helen

The Reverend Helen Kendrick, Rector of the DAMASCUS Parish

#### Services of Worship

1st Sunday: Family service at 10:30 am

2nd Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 10:30am + Junior Church 3rd Sunday: Morning Worship at 10:30am + Junior Church 4th Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 10:30am + Junior Church 5th Sunday: Special services across the Damascus Parish – please see church noticeboard for details

Wednesdays: BCP Holy Communion at 9:45 am

#### CHURCH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

**Saturday** 3<sup>rd</sup> – 14:00 Wedding of Christopher Bradley and Jennifer Tritton

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup>** − 19:30 Baptism Preparation

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>** – 19:30 Singing Saints Practice

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>** – 15:00 Wedding of Alex Michael Eltham and Laura Jane Harris.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>** – Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride – please call the parish office on 01235 847179 if you would like a sponsor form to raise money for your local church and the OHCT.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – 19:30 DAMASCUS Parochial Church Council Meeting in the River Room

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>** – 19:30 Singing Saints Practice

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> – 16:00 Movie Matinee in the River Room

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – 19:30 Sutton Courtenay Local Church Council Meeting in the church

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> – 19:30 Singing Saints Practice

#### CHURCH DIARY FOR OCTOBER

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>** - 10:30am Harvest Family Service in All Saints' Church. Followed at 12 noon with a HARVEST LUNCH in the River Room - **ALL WELCOME!** See advert for more details.

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – 19:30 Baptism Preparation Session for all those seeking baptism for their children in the DAMACUS Parish, River Room

**Tuesday**  $4^{th}$  – 14:00 Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School Harvest Celebration at the school.

**Tuesday** 11<sup>th</sup> – 19:30 Singing Saints Practice – Christmas rehearsals begin! See below.

#### **CHRISTMAS CHOIR**

If you would like to join the Christmas Choir to sing at our Christmas Services – particularly the Carol Service at 6pm on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022 then please come along to the Tuesday evening Singing Saints at 19:30 – 21:00 from Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October. We can promise some musical joy (and a bit of hard work).

All are welcome!

#### **ALL SAINTS' CHURCH**

#### Holy Baptism

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

Isabella Sienna ROBINSON (17<sup>th</sup> July 2022) Brodie Eli PARROTT (31<sup>st</sup> July 2022)

#### Holy Matrimony

We send our best wishes and congratulations to the following who were married in All Saints' Church recently: **Aaron Craig WEBB** & **Laura Beth BOWERS** both of Drayton (13<sup>th</sup> August 2022)

#### 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:

**Mike Stuart JENKINS** who died suddenly on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022. For obituary please see page 19.

And the following whose ashes were interred in the churchyard:

John Stanley Wright (11<sup>th</sup> July 2022) Sheila SEARLE (23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022) Diana May GOWNEY (30<sup>th</sup> July 2022)

#### Community Café in the River Room



Run by the church for the whole community

#### Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

(this one is in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support)

from 10:30-12:00

all welcome!

Why not drop by for coffee or tea & delicious homemade cake & conversation and to browse

#### **MOVIE MATINEES**

The next Movie Matinee in the River Room is on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September – 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 for refreshments to church funds welcome.

#### **CROCKERY & CUTLERY HIRE**

All Saints' Church has some crockery, sets of cutlery and glasses plus other miscellaneous catering items which can be hired for private parties or other events. If you are interested please contact the Parish Office on 01235 847179 or email admin@damascusparish.org.uk

#### **MISSING ITEMS**

Over the past year or so we have lost / mislaid a box of salt and pepper pots from the church and a set of blue (sheet) table cloths. If anyone has inadvertently kept them after an event please could they be returned to the church as soon as possible. Thank you!

#### WARM SPACES

As part of the Warm Spaces initiative the DAMASCUS Parish is hoping to be working with organisations across the villages to provide as much help as we can in offering offer FREE warm spaces in our churches / church rooms / community buildings to individuals and families at various times through the weeks in the winter. Watch this space for more information.





#### HARVEST CELEBRATIONS Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022

10:30am Harvest Family Service in All Saints' Church

(Donations of food gratefully received for the Abingdon Food Bank and cash or donations via the Sum Up Machine will be given to Farm Africa).

Followed at 12 noon with a HARVEST LUNCH in the River Room

#### ALL WELCOME!

If you wish to come to the lunch please add your name to the list at the back of church or 'phone the Parish Office on 01235 847179 so we know for how many to cater.

If you can help by making a Cottage or Shepherd's Pie or providing an Apple Pie or Fruit Crumble then please let us know via the Parish Office, 01235 847179.



#### FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS'

#### THE FRIENDS' GARDEN PARTY

This annual event was held on 10<sup>th</sup> July in the delightful garden of Teresa and Peter at 3 Drayton Road. The whole event was, unfortunately, marred by the sudden and unexpected death early that morning of Mike Jenkins, husband of our chairman, Sue. It was decided to continue with the event as a tribute to Mike and the work he had done for our community. The team, although shaken, managed to hold the lunch without Sue's leadership.

The food was good, the weather warm and sunny, the location delightful and everyone had a good time. More than this we were able to raise about £900 towards the Friends' of All Saints' Church and this will go towards maintenance of the fabric of our beautiful  $12^{\rm th}$  century church.

Thank you to everyone who made this event happen — the Friends' Committee, our stalwart band of helpers, Helen Kendrick, Teresa and Peter and, of course, Sue Jenkins, who planned it all.

### Still thinking of an outside party this Autumn?

Borrow a tent from 'The Friends of All Saints' Church'

The Friends of All Saints' Church have two good quality white tents that can be borrowed for your outdoor entertaining. Each tent is  $6m \times 3m$  (20ft x 10ft) with sides that can be added or not, depending on weather.

A donation to The Friends of All Saints' Church would be appreciated.

To erect and strike the tents - Friends of All Saints will provide a supervisor but the borrower would need to provide an able-bodied team of four as labour. Times for this would be negotiable.

All enquiries to:

Morna Whitlock (morna28whitlock@gmail.com)
David McKenzie (d.j.mckenzie@hotmail.com)



#### Join us in 2022 - 10 September

Dust off your walking boots or oil your bike and enjoy a day out raising money to support All Saints' Church and also OHCT (Oxfordshire Historic Church Trust) by taking part in Ride and Stride and visiting participating churches in and around this area. For more information see:

https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/

Sponsorship forms can be obtained from the Parish Office 01235 847179

OHCT is a generous funder of works on churches in Oxfordshire.

#### **RIVER ROOM ACTIVITIES**

#### **RIVER ROOM 200 CLUB**

In Support of the All Saints' Community Space Winning numbers at the Draw on July 14 were:

1st-No.35 (£50.00)

2nd-No.49 (£25.00)

3rd-No.68 (£10.00)

On 11 August they were:

1st-No. 33 (£50.00)

2nd-No. 22 (£25.00)

3rd-No. 49 (£10.00)

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 September 8<sup>th</sup> at the All Saints' Community Café in the River Room at 10.30 am.

# Do you live with, or care for someone living with Dementia?

#### Wecare2

Wecare2 is a small group of people with dementia and, of course, their carers. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from 11:15 to 12:30 in the 'River Room' at All Saints' Church.

Our aim is to sing a little, socialise a little and have an "elevenses" together.

New members will always be welcome.

If interested either as a customer (transport can be arranged) or to help, please contact

Alan & Morna Whitlock

Brookfield, 30 Chapel Lane. Sutton Courtenay,

OX14 4AN

morna28whitlock@gmail.com

01235 848335 or 07787 521039

#### **BRIDGE AFTERNOONS**

Come and play Bridge on  $1^{st}$  and  $3^{rd}$  Friday afternoons in the River Room starting again  $16^{th}$  September 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.

See page 11 for some participants' reports.

#### **DAVID JOHNSTON MP**



I'm very grateful to the companies that have offered work experience to local young people as part of my work experience campaign. They're from a range of different

sectors and highlight the depth and breadth of employment opportunities — and creativity — across the constituency. I have been hosting the young people interested in politics myself — 6 so far — and, given what has been happening in recent weeks, they've seen some quite eventful times in Westminster, albeit still at a bit of a distance. It's clear lots of organisations have got out of the habit of providing work experience, as a result of Covid, so if your organisation can help, please do get in touch: I'm arranging placements for October half-term.

You might have seen a debate in parliament has been renamed the Sir David Amess Summer Adjournment Debate. This debate happens just before we go on summer recess and allows us to raise any issues of relevance to our constituencies. Sir David's contribution was always a tour de force as he could get 30 or so topics into a 4-minute speech, so naming the debate in his memory is a fitting tribute.

For what it's worth, I didn't manage anything like 30 topics. I managed to get in a few, including the Didcot Good Neighbour Scheme and my campaigns on GP surgeries, Grove Station, building homes to the latest environmental

standards and the Local Electricity Bill, as well as problems constituents have been having with passports and driving licenses (and a couple of other things). But as I said as I started, none of us can get close to what he used to do in that debate.

Recess is its usual mixture of activity: surgery appointments across the constituency and visits to local businesses and charities, alongside attending summer events and the usual casework, door-knocking and planning for the autumn. It's good to be able to spend a lot more time at home in Didcot — even if it is as hot as it has been! — but contrary to what some people suggest, it's far from a 5-week holiday. I am getting to read more than I usually get to do when parliament is sitting, which I very much miss most of the year, and I will have a week abroad for a holiday, but few of us down tools.

By the time I write the next piece we'll know who the next Prime Minister is. Based on the conversations I've been having, I suspect the race is closer than people expect. Whoever wins has a big set of challenges facing them, starting with the cost of living, particularly energy. While I don't know exactly what each candidate will do if they win, I know that whoever does win will take further action to support people - every one of us realises how difficult things are.

As ever, if there is anything I can do to help then do please email me via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

#### **BRIDGE AFTERNOONS**

Bridge Afternoons have been running in the River Room for about a year and we asked for comments from regular participants — we received these. Perhaps this activity is something you might like to try?

Editor

\*\*\*\*

When my husband died, I lost my regular Bridge partner. Then I moved away from an occasional group I used to enjoy playing with. I am not a Bridge fiend, and I don't play complicated conventions, and I'm not really enthusiastic about joining a serious Bridge club. So, NO MORE BRIDGE?

I'm obviously not on my own here. Other people have said: 'I'd like to get back to playing Bridge but don't have a partner" or, "We'd like to find another couple to play Bridge with", or "I'd really like to learn to play Bridge but classes seem a bit daunting" — or even, "I'd like to get to know people before I commit to playing regular Bridge with them"!

At the River Room we've been trying to meet this need. Maybe we don't attract people who prefer the challenges offered by Duplicate Club Bridge, but we are a friendly bunch who enjoy a few rubbers — either with pre-existing partners or with a range of new partners. We have capacity for 10 tables, though on average up to now we've been about 3. We welcome all standards of play and try to arrange partner and table combinations to suit. We usually have a

table for 'beginners and improvers' with in-play support from one of our more accomplished members. No lectures first — you just sit down and play. We meet on two Friday afternoons a month and stop for tea and cake — and a chat. We ask for a donation of £5 each time towards the River Room hire and refreshments.

We've been meeting throughout the winter — with a couple of Covid breaks — and had a longer break for the summer season with its gardening, holiday and family demands. We will meet again at 2 pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Please do come along — either by just turning up or emailing me in advance at landsbert@west-manor.co.uk. Please do also ask any questions — which I'll try to answer.

Alex Landsbert.

\*\*\*\*

Never having played bridge I was anxious about joining the group. I was made most welcome and encouraged to learn. Indeed, one of the more experienced players sat with me and guided me through the mysteries of bidding and playing my hand so that, after a short time, I was able to play without embarrassing myself and am now keen to continue to learn through playing.

Malcolm Ross

#### HE DID IT!

#### MANY CONGRATULATIONS

to Alan Calver (84) on successfully completing a free-fall tandem parachute jump on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and raising the incredible sum of £5,824 (total at the time of going to press) for the **DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal**.

Pictures of Alan's free-fall tandem jump can be seen outside his home on the High Street! It is not too late to donate if you haven't already done so. The Just Giving page (Alan Calver's Parachute Jump) will be kept open until the end of September.

Thank you everyone.

#### And some words from Alan....

A HUGE THANK YOU to all the people who donated whatever they could afford. It was a fantastic effort. I would like to say a big special thank you to a few people who went a few steps further by distributing a flyer to every house in Asquith Park, Rye Gardens and Springfield Way. This was done by Jess and Alan from the High Street. Also Ruth and Kevin from Tullis Close, who delivered flyers to the whole of Appleford Way including the new developments. Also the members of the Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project who delivered a few in Bradstocks Way etc. I delivered to the new estate on the top of Milton Road and most of Milton Village. I also carried out a six-hour delivery stint on Milton Park.

But the biggest thank-you has got to go to my very good friend the Reverend Helen Kendrick who set up the Just Giving Page and also accounted for all the loose money and cheques and made sure all went well. Thank you and God bless you Helen.

Alan Calver

#### Update from the Sutton Courtenay village Garage/Yard sale 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Despite the baking hot sun, lots of people got out and joined in with the Sutton Courtenay garage sale day and the final amount raised for charities and good causes was £1130.00.

All the costs of running the day were met by the team. Here are some of the charities and good causes helped:

All Saints Church

SC Primary School

Didcot Emergency Food Bank

**DAMASCUS** 

Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue

Prostate Cancer

Parkinson's

Stray Cats rescue

Cats Protection

Guide dogs

**RNLI** 

SC Matrix Arts Centre

Primary Biliary Cholangitis Society

I would like to thank our team, the sellers and everyone who joined in.

Brian Johnson





#### SUTTON COURTENAY WI



DISCOVER MORE ...
In September we will be hearing about the 'RNLI - Past and Present' and their amazing work to keep us safe.

October will bring us all we need to know on 'Trading Standards & Consumer Rights'
- don't miss these dates!

We meet every third Tuesday monthly in the River Room, Sutton Courtenay at 7.30 pm.

For details contact our Secretary 847612



#### **Sutton Courtenay Women's Institute**

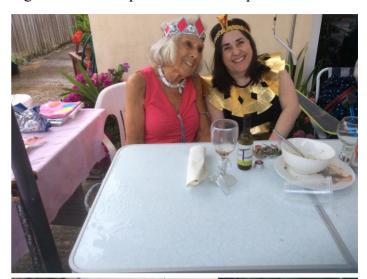
Coffee Morning, Cake Stall and Raffle

10<sup>th</sup> September 10:00 am to 1:00 pm 53 Bradstocks Way

Come along and meet us – All Welcome

#### Photos from the WI Fun BBQ.

All those fine days and it had to pour with rain on the night of the barbeque!! It didn't dampen our fun!





#### THE DROUGHT OF 2022







A very dry Summer and a record heat wave has left many of our familiar walks bone dry. Where is that longed for rain?

#### **LOCAL ACTIVITIES & INFORMATION**

#### NORDIC WALKING

Do you want something that brings you social contact, will help your immune system, provide a sense of achievement, and is free and easy to learn?

Nordic Walking in Sutton Courtenay could be the answer.

Contact Annalie at active.communities@southandvale.gov.uk or the Qualified Instructor, Graham, at graymar.wells@btopenworld.com for details about how to arrange tuition at the Recreational Ground, Old Wallingford Way, OX14 4BP. Lessons take place on Wednesday mornings and poles are provided. There is a free car park for 41 cars adjacent to the ground and a club house with toilets.

#### FREE TO GOOD HOMES

I have a beautiful cockerel, two handsome geese and four pretty canaries looking for good homes.



If interested please contact me on ssjenkins33@aol.com or on 07885437454

Sue Jenkins





#### WANDERINGS ROUND CHURCHMERE POOL

This has been a long time span, with the weather changes there have been changes around the pool and the common.

**Early June**, we were looking at a green and pleasant land, but in just a few weeks this was a brown, dusty desiccated scrubland, but still with its own beauty if you look beyond the obvious.

The anglers have been disrupted with two spells of spawning early June and again in mid July. This caused two shutdowns each of two weeks, so as to not stress out the fish, and to rest the lake. The carp are easily seen cruising above the oxygen weed, look out for the orange Koi.

Bird life has bloomed; coots, moor-hens and ducks have bred, but our resident pair of swans have not. We have a strong community of green woodpeckers, though they now seem to inhabit the lake's far side, now that the tall willows have been felled. Kingfishers are in evidence if you are quick eyed.

Should you be walking the common, unfortunately you will now have missed the wild orchids, but the chicory is in full bloom - a beautiful bright blue — as are huge drifts of deep pink rose bay willow herb - so much to take in on short walks.

**August:** Well the clock has ticked over a witching hour into August - not a lot to report - the lake is very low, in fact as low as I have ever seen it. The weed is not the problem to anglers as it has been over the last few years. Pop Rib (that's the name of one of the carp), was captured and weighed in at thirty pounds.

The family of Canada geese are progressing well and will soon be flying off. Green woodpeckers have bred well and are in good evidence. The Common would improve with the pathways having a trim back, I'm sure the birds will have finished breeding and a good downpour can only improve things all round.

Now in **mid August**, Churchmere lake is even lower, angling is slow, there is a horrid algae bloom, which does no good to anyone - anglers, birds or fish - and is unsightly to viewing walkers. I took time to fish the river this week, the fishing was slow and had no flow.

Flowers on the common are burnt and leaves are crispy, I am not normally a harbinger of gloom, but we in this area are in need of some serious rain, as is the rest of the country and Europe.

Roger Rance.

#### **PUZZLE PAGE**

#### Easy Sudoku

7	6	1						4
	8		6		4	1	2	
						6		
	7			2	3			6
5	9						1	7
2			5	1			8	
		5						
	1	4	3		8		6	
6						8	5	3

#### Medium Sudoku

4			9		5			
		5		1				
	3		7	6	8	4		5
	5	6	4	8				
	1						7	
				2	6	5	3	
9		2	6	7	1		5	
				4		7		
			3		9			6

#### WORDSEARCH

The topic is A New Term!

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L	Ε	$\subset$	0	Ε	G	В	Ν	Ε	Ε	J	L	J	F	F
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S	R	Т	Z	R	А	А	I	I	F	0	Ε	Н	0	L
0	А	Ε	М	I	А	D	S	Ν	Т	А	٧	I	Ε	Ε
Ν	R	R	0	V	Р	Р	Н	S	Р	К	Ε	L	$\subset$	R
Н	I	S	Т	0	R	Υ	Н	Н	М	А	$\times$	I	F	S
Н	L	0	М	Н	Υ	0	F	Υ	G	А	$\times$	$\subset$	Υ	F
Ν	S	$\subset$	I	Т	А	М	Ε	Н	Т	А	М	Ν	R	F
S	$\subset$	Н	0	0	L	В	А	G	L	D	${\sf W}$	Ε	L	К
М	R	0	F	I	Ν	U	F	U	J	К	Ν	Р	Р	$\times$
U	Ρ	А	$\subset$	К	Ε	D	L	U	Ν	$\subset$	Н	Ε	Υ	U
М	0	0	R	s	S	А	L	$\subset$	Н	А	0	Z	I	0
Т	Ε	×	Т	В	0	0	К	Α	Z	М	Ε	Z	D	Т

INK

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BLAZER MATHEMATICS
CLASSROOM PACKED LUNCH

COMPASS PENCIL
DESK RULER

ENGLISH SCHOOLBAG

FRENCH SCIENCE
GEOGRAPHY TEACHER
HISTORY TEXTBOOK

K TIE

LESSON UNIFORM

 $Taken\ from\ www.puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com$ 



# CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

#### Why are they stolen?

Precious metals such as rhodium, platinum and palladium are used in catalytic converters. The price of some of these metals has risen sharply in recent years and as a result has led to an increase in the theft of catalytic converters.

#### Which vehicles are most targeted?

- · Honda, Toyota and Lexus vehicles
- Hybrid vehicles as they have two power sources, so the catalytic converter is used less frequently. The metals are less likely to corrode, meaning they are worth more and are therefore more attractive to thieves.
- Vans, SUVs and 4x4s as the ride height makes access to the exhaust system beneath them easier

#### CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

1 PHYSICAL PROTECTION

2 SECURITY MARKING

3 SURVEILLANCE

4 CAR PARKS

5 DEFENSIVE PARKING

REPORTING

To keep your vehicle safe, ask your manufacturer or dealership if they can give you any advice on a tilt sensor, welding bolts or adding locks/guards to protect the catalytic converter under the vehicle. Any products will need to be approved by the vehicle manufacturer for use on your vehicle model and you should also make your insurance company aware of any vehicle modifications.

Once an unmarked converter has been removed, it is difficult to match it to the vehicle. Security marking of catalytic converters is possible with a heat-resistant marking system, and is best applied by a garage when the vehicle is being serviced. A sign in your window saying your catalytic converter has been marked may deter thieves.

Where possible, park your vehicle in a garage or secured area if you have one. Garage alarms, outdoor lighting and CCTV can also help to deter thieves. If you have a dash cam, set it to detect movement.

Where a secure garge isn't an option, park in a well-lit and well-populated area. Public car parks displaying Park Mark signage have additional levels of security in place. (www.parkmark.co.uk)

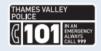
Find out from your dealership where the catcon (as they are also known) is positioned under your vehicle and ask for advice on how to park defensively to limit access to it. Avoid parking your vehicle half on the pavement and half on the road, as this may make it easier for thieves to access it.

If you see someone acting suspiciously under a vehicle, call 999 if a crime is in progress or 101 in a non-emergency. You can also report a crime online via our website www.thamesvalley.police.uk. Obtain as much information as possible, including any vehicle registrations.

f

www.thamesvalley.police.uk Deaf? Non-emergency text 18001 101

For crime and community information www.thamesvallevalert.co.uk





There has been an increase in catalytic convertor thefts from vehicles across the South & Vale area.

We ask the public to remain vigilant & take appropriate crime prevention measures, which have been suggested in the leaflet above.

To keep your catalytic converter safe, you can ask your car dealer for advice on locks or guards that are approved by the vehicle manufacturer and tested to Sold Secure Gold.

Alternatively, try to make sure your vehicle is parked in a garage overnight, or if you have a commercial vehicle, park it in a secure compound. If this isn't possible, park in an area that's well-lit and overlooked and try to park so that the converter can't be easily reached by potential thieves. Vehicles that sit high above the road are particularly vulnerable.

You should also register your converter and mark it with a forensic marker, which will make it harder for thieves to dispose of. Call us on 999 if a crime is in progress or 101 for non-emergencies

#### Message Sent By

Victoria Allan (Police, Neighbourhood Administrator, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse)

#### **ALL SAINTS' SINGERS SUTTON COURTENAY**

For those of you who do not know us, the All Saints' Singers is the community choir of Sutton Courtenay. It was founded in 1983 by Patrick Salisbury who was the choir master for many years. He retired from his role as President of the choir about 18 months ago. The money raised from the choir, friends and colleagues in appreciation of his many years of service has been sufficient to establish an annual prize for Musical Endeavour to be awarded to a student in the village. The Matrix Music Centre has also contributed something to the fund.

We are delighted to announce that the first Patrick Salisbury Prize for Musical Endeavour was awarded to **Isla Clark**. She received the prize in a small private ceremony on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and had the thrill of speaking personally on Zoom to Patrick Salisbury who spoke the nomination. She was joined at the Matrix by her parents and sister, by Lindsay, Antonia, her teacher, and Sandra Knowles, Chairman of All Saints' Singers Sutton Courtenay. She was presented with a certificate and a book token.

#### This is her nomination:

I nominate Isla Clark for her achievement in her first year of music: for her hard work, overcoming challenges, and her enthusiasm in class, culminating in a great result for her first piano exam.

Well done Isla!

Isla hopes to spend some of the token on a book of piano arrangements of Harry Potter music.





# Do You Enjoy Singing? All Saints' Singers of Sutton Courtenay are looking for new members



Research has shown that singing in a choir is good for you – it improves well-being, helps memory, posture and breathing, and reduces stress.

Come and reap the benefits of singing together!

We are a friendly community choir with an excellent music director. There is no audition, and it is not necessary to be able to read music.

Please visit our website for details

www.allsaintssingers.org

or phone to find out more

07870 506774

\* Rehearsals start 9th September in the Matrix \*



#### SUTTON COURTENAY CRAFT AND PRODUCE SHOW

#### **ENTRY FORM**

#### Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September

The hall will be open for bringing entries between 9:45 and 11:00am promptly, as after this the doors will be locked for judging to begin.

Late entries cannot be accepted

Entries to either: Mrs Val Dalby, 6 High Street, Sutton Courtenay or

Mrs Brenda Budd, 25 Milton Road, Sutton Courtenay by Thursday 1st September,

NAME		
ADDRESS		
TEL		

Entry fee 20p per item up to a maximum of £5.00 per family — please remember to include payment with your entry form. Entry for children's classes is free. Please use separate forms for different family members or indicate on one form.

Only one entry in each class per person please.

Please circle class numbers entered:

1a	1b	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11a	11b	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
43a	43b	44	45	46	47	48	49a	49b	50	51
52a	52b	53	54a	54b	55a	55b	56	57	58	59a
59b	60	61	62a	62b	63a	63b	64a	64b	65a	65b
66a	66b	67	68	69	70					

For further information, telephone Val Dalby 01235 848633

Copies of this form can be downloaded from suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk home page.

#### **REST IN PEACE**

Mike Stuart JENKINS, who died suddenly and unexpectedly on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022, was born on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1946 in Sutton Courtenay; an only child to his parents Irene and Joseph Jenkins he first lived in Chapel Lane and then in the Pavilion on Churchmere Road. By all accounts he was thoroughly spoiled by his Mum.

He attended the old village primary school and then went on to Larkmead in Abingdon. He was always a bright and clever young man and, on leaving school, he initially worked for the Electricity Board — learning practical skills which served him well throughout the rest of his life.

He then decided that what he really wanted to do was to teach so he went to the teacher training college at Culham where he specialised in Maths. His first job was in Blackbird Leys and from there he went on to West Oxford Primary School where he served as Headmaster, and then on to Stephen Freeman School in Didcot. At one point he was head of both schools, but eventually he focused on Stephen Freeman from where he retired fifteen years ago.

His first wife, Paula, grew up in Culham, and Mike would ride his bike over the bridges to meet her. At first her father was a bit dubious about the young man who came courting but they were married in Culham Church when he was 22 and she was 20. They went on to have three sons, Adam, Luke and Daniel. As a Dad he could be a bit stern, and he always had high expectations of his sons; but he and Paula balanced one another as parents.

When Paula became ill in 1995 Mike fulfilled his wedding vows by caring devotedly for her, but nevertheless it was devastating for the whole family when Paula died and it was hard for all of them.

When Mike met Sue she brought a new light and energy into his life, bringing him out of his shell, as they blended their families together and they were both enjoying life in retirement and as grandparents together.

Mike had joined the Parish Council in 1971, as a young man of 25, and he served for over fifty years — latterly as Chairman. He always loved this village and was dedicated to serving people in whatever way he could. Sue recalls the hours he spent on the 'phone patiently listening to people's troubles and complaints and trying to help them in the best way he could. He briefly served as a Labour District Councillor but he never enjoyed party politics very much, much preferring to serve the community at parish level. He also served the wider community as a Rotarian and a Mason.

As a young man he enjoyed rowing and playing football — and was very involved with Sutton Courtenay Football Club. In later years Sue introduced him to Croquet but - in typical Mike fashion - he was happier serving on the committee than actually playing the game. Sue also introduced him to the joys of skiing. They enjoyed many holidays together over the past twenty years — although Mike never wanted to leave home he always enjoyed himself once they had arrived at their destination. He loved gardening and

had also built up quite a menagerie of dogs, geese, chickens and canaries.

In his younger years Mike played guitar and sang in a band in the late 60s / early 70s with Chris Bartrum, Tom Colborne, David Hignell, Paul Thomas and John Todd. They used to play at the Swan, the George and the Fish as well as at a folk club in Wantage and even at the Grapes, opposite the New Theatre in Oxford, where, with his dark hair and glasses Mike sometimes passed for Roy Orbison (until he started to sing)!

Mike was sociable and enjoyed pub life and dinner parties with friends. He had an extremely dry sense of humour. But he was also a private man, who could sometimes be very taciturn. A no-nonsense individual, he was ultra-organised and liked to be in control and he could also be stubborn and obstinate – qualities which sometimes made it hard for those closest to him. He was dedicated to serving others and this sometimes meant that his family did not always get the best of him. Nevertheless, he strove to live a life of faithful service. When he saw a need he responded to it – quietly, without fuss – trying to do things in the right way. He will be greatly missed by his family and his wide circle of friends who filled the church for his funeral on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

This is an edited extract of the address given at the service by the Reverend Helen Kendrick. Tributes were also given by his son Adam, friend Rod and wife Sue.

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