

# SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 51 No. 8

OCTOBER 2022



## VILLAGE DIARY

Sun 2 Oct	Harvest Lunch (pg 10)	River Room	12:00
Thur 6 Oct	WeCare2 (pg 12)	River Room	11:15-12:30
Fri 7 Oct	Bridge Afternoon (pg 14)	River Room	14:00-17:00
Sat 8 Oct	Churchyard working party (pg 9)	Churchyard	9:30-12:00
Sun 9 Oct	Yamaha Music School Open Day (pg 17)	Matrix	10:00
Thur 13 Oct	Community Café (pg 10)	River Room	10:30-12:00
Mon 17 Oct	Village Hall AGM (pg 6)	Village Hall	19:00
Tue 18 Oct	Sutton Courtenay WI (pg 12)	River Room	19:30
Thur 20 Oct	WeCare2	River Room	11:15-12:30
Fri 21 Oct	Bridge Afternoon	River Room	14:00-17:00
Sat 22 Oct	Movie Matinee (pg 11)	River Room	16:00
Tue 25 Oct	Warm Spaces (crafts-pg 11)	River Room	14:00-16:00
Wed 26 Oct	Warm Spaces (lunch & bingo-pg 11)	Village Hall	12:30-14:30
Thur 27 Oct	Community Café	River Room	10:30-12:00

Previous copies of SCN are available on the website under Archives at [suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](http://suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk)

**NOVEMBER 2022 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 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  
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District Councillor: Richard Webber—as above  
(Planning, Waste etc.)  
Parish Council Chair: Rita Atkinson, 848694  
[ritaatkinson@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:ritaatkinson@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk)  
Stay & Play Toddler Group: Facebook page: [@SCstayandplay](https://www.facebook.com/@SCstayandplay)  
Friends of All Saints'-Chair: Sue Jenkins 07885 437454  
Matrix Music School: 847264  
The Abbey: 847401  
Village Hall – SC: [scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com](mailto:scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com)  
Cricket Club: [drb71@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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: John Talbot [sclhs.org.uk](http://sclhs.org.uk)  
[enquiries@sclhs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sclhs.org.uk)  
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[www.allsaintssingers.org](http://www.allsaintssingers.org)  
Sutton Courtenay Action: [suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com](mailto:suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com)  
Non-urgent Police: 101 or policing team email:  
[AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)  
Environment Agency: Landfill Odours 0800 80 70 60  
Thames Water (leaks): 0800 71 46 14  
Police Anonymous Hotline: 0800 555 111  
Power Cuts: 105

### Websites:

Sutton Courtenay News: [www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](http://www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk)  
Parish Council: [www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk)  
Vale of White Horse DC: [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)  
Oxfordshire CC: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
Village Hall: [suttoncourtenayvillagehall.co.uk](http://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](mailto:rector@damascusparish.org.uk)  
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07766 421773 [rosie-bruce@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rosie-bruce@hotmail.co.uk)  
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or 07507 378737 [revphil@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:revphil@damascusparish.org.uk)  
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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 emailed to [editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.





## Neighbourhood Plan

The public consultation meeting held on Wednesday 7 September in the Village Hall was well attended from parishioners across the village. A short summary of the key aspects of the extensive documentation was presented and it is also available to view on the Parish Council website [www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk). The Regulation 14 consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan is now closed. The Steering Group is collating all comments and will work with the Planning Consultant to address the comments and update the documents where applicable. All comments and responses will be published and sent to the Vale along with the updated documents. From there on the Vale takes over the process – please do look at the summary on the parish council website – slide 10 sets out the process.

## Recreation Ground Refurbishment

The upgrade is now underway. Sutton Courtenay Parish Council has managed to secure funding for an outdoor gym so that will now be constructed within this phase as well. The Council is still in the process of drawing down s106 funding for combined rugby/football posts to be installed on the playing field. This would complete the initial phases of the work. Refurbishment of the cricket practice strips will be done in a subsequent phase subject to availability of funding.

## Planning Matters

New river crossing – HIF1 application update:

The Parish Council continues to work with the neighbouring parish councils of Appleford, Culham, Burcot & Clifton Hampden and Nuneham Courtenay in relation to current proposals, by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), for a new road (HIF1) between Didcot and the B4015 at Clifton Hampden.

There are continuing concerns that the impact of the proposed road on our adjacent communities has not been adequately modelled and considered in the decision on the alignment for the road along its route together with the siting and need for junctions (i.e., roundabouts, T junctions etc). With support from professional consultants, the 5-parishes group has been asking the County Council for clarification and more information on these key issues in relation to this application. To date no substantive response has been received. The council also made representation at OCC's cabinet meeting in March.

A request to meet with members of the OCC Cabinet Advisory Group, set up to oversee the detailed design and development of HIF1, is still outstanding.

The OCC Case Officer has raised queries with the applicant (OCC Highways). We understand a response is in preparation and there may be progress after this. OCC is also looking at its planned expenditure on all major projects.

Meanwhile, the 5-parishes group is looking at mitigation measures should the HIF1 project go ahead despite all the objections raised on several fronts. For Sutton Courtenay, the proposed principal mitigation measures are inclusion in the scheme of the derating of the B4016 to a 'C' road and the removal of routing agreements (FCC and Hanson) through our village and inclusion of traffic calming measures.

## 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 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.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 4th October 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](http://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](mailto: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.





## A time to give thanks

In school this week, as we approach the Queen's funeral, the children have had an opportunity to take a pause and reflect on the passing of Queen Elizabeth. Although this is a sad time, it is also an opportunity to encourage the children to give thanks for her long life and reign. All but the very youngest have happy memories of our Platinum Jubilee celebrations this summer just gone, which was a time when they were able to reflect on the many changes that have taken place during her lifetime. It is important for us to be able to talk about death honestly with children, and about how we can remember happy times we have had together. Many children bring their own feelings to this as they will be able to relate to loss having experienced the death of a loved family member or a pet. There has been lots in the media about her life this week and children may want to explore this more over time. In the meantime, it is also important to remind them that we can pray for her family who are also grieving and for our new king, Charles III, as he begins his reign.

## New starters

The children have settled back into the new school year brilliantly. Their behaviour has been exemplary as I have walked around the school; polite, smiling and hard-working children in every class. They consistently show our school values. Our newest starters in Robins and Barn Owls classes are quickly getting into the swing of school routines. Of course, we also welcome new staff, who have settled in exceptionally well – well done to Miss Gibbons in Kestrels class, Miss Jones in Robins class and Mrs Corris in Falcons class, who are also smiling at the end of their first week. We hope everyone who has joined us will feel at home very quickly.



## FOSCS first meeting

FOSCS is the Friends of Sutton Courtenay School, a friendly group that meets regularly to plan events and fundraisers to bring the whole school community together. Over the years they have done a huge amount to build our school identity and enhance the children's experiences, raising money for improvements to the school grounds, the library, and for technology equipment. They also support our school ethos with inclusive events and initiatives such as the second-hand uniform sales. We had our first meeting this week and have lots of exciting events planned this term including cake, books and uniform sales, and our fabulous Turn on The Lights experience in December (we do hope Father Christmas has saved the date!).



## Welcome to Mrs Pointer

Mrs Greenough has been joined by a new assistant, Mrs Pointer, in the kitchen this term. Together they are working hard to cook the balanced menu that all children in Key Stage 1 can benefit from free of charge. We urge parents to take up this offer. They are often surprised at what children will eat at school when their peers are all eating together! We never force a child to eat anything, but the family style service here at school, where children eat in their classrooms, is often enough to encourage them to try new things.



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

### A Personal Reflection

Catherine and I made a big decision this week. We would make an effort to witness directly one of the events in London commemorating the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and to pay our respects to her memory. The prospect of possibly queuing up for 24 hours or more to attend Westminster Hall was a bit beyond us, but the procession from Buckingham Palace to the Houses of Parliament and the predicted 4 hours of queuing to get a position on the Mall seemed just about manageable. Catching the 6.30am Oxford Tube into London, going via Hyde Park and Green Park, we found a position by 10.30am and waited for the procession start time of 2.22pm precisely. It was well worth the wait. We met a variety of people of varying opinions on the issues of the day, but all were agreed that our Queen was indeed a very special person and witnessing a part of her send-off was something we would talk about for years. We discussed the major world issues, the Cost of Living crisis, the change of government and Paddington Bear.

What was it about the Paddington Bear sequence in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations that had made such a big impression on all of us? We agreed that it wasn't simply the humour, but was as much the coming together of two characters, gentle, kind and caring, and both with the ability

to bring people together. For all the journalists' and commentators' words and reflections over the many events of the past week, it was Paddington's final words "Thank you your majesty, for .... everything" that summed up our feelings better than any of them. Yes, it was a long wait, but we all agreed that it had been well worth it. The conversation flowed and the time passed quickly.

The parade and procession were incredibly moving and, despite watching two buses drive past us full, and not getting home until midnight, we would not have missed any of it for the world.

We now face a time of upheaval and great change. A new King, a new Prime Minister and Cabinet, a fully stretched economy, a major war, a climate emergency and the tail end (we hope) of a major pandemic. Locally we face the threat of major new infrastructure, roads and reservoirs. It all seems a bit of a mess. But it must have felt the same when Queen Elizabeth was a young girl and she helped to ensure things got better. We owe it to her memory to stay positive, to find the best in people and to work as tirelessly as she did, and to work together to make things better ourselves.

Richard Webber

[Richardwebber777@gmail.com](mailto:Richardwebber777@gmail.com) 01235 534001

### DAVID JOHNSTON MP



When the announcement was made that Her Majesty had passed away, I cried in the way I do when told that someone I am close to has passed away, even though she was not someone I had ever met. It felt like we had lost our anchor, the person who has seemingly always been there to help get us through whatever troubles the country has been facing, most recently Covid.

Parliament does not usually sit on Fridays or Saturdays, but it did so on both days after the Queen's death in order that MPs could give their tributes. In total across the 2 days, 321 MPs gave their tributes to Her Majesty, including myself, shortly before 10pm on the Friday (you can watch it at [www.david-johnston.org.uk](http://www.david-johnston.org.uk)). Before that, we received the live broadcast to the nation from our new King in the House of Commons; a perfectly pitched and moving address.

The MP speeches were emotional, funny and heartfelt. Over and over the same themes emerged: that even when you hadn't met her you felt like you knew her; that she had given an incredible service to our nation; that she was sharp, passionate, selfless and mischievous, with twinkling eyes.

I bounced between different ceremonies in the constituency and in Parliament during the period of mourning, each of them poignant, but none so emotional as filing past Her Majesty's coffin in Westminster Hall when she was lying-in-state. This truly brought home what had happened, although I think it will take some time for it to properly sink in yet.

It is a momentous time for our nation and for the Royal Family. Our new King assumes his responsibilities at a time of great sadness for him and his family. I've no doubt he will be an excellent King. He has shown, in his time as Prince of Wales, the care and concern he has for this country and has had decades to learn from Her Majesty (who became Queen at just 25) the best way to conduct the role. May Queen Elizabeth II Rest in Peace and God Save the King.

The period of mourning, of course, affected the activities that I undertook this month, but around it were still several visits and events, including the Didcot Twinning Association's reception for the Mayor of Meylan, an area of France twinned with Didcot, and a fundraising launch for a 14th century chantry window in All Saint's Church, North Moreton. Two other things to note: September is Alzheimer's Month and I know a lot of your families - like my own - have been affected by this and related conditions, so as a 'Dementia Friend' I encourage people to take part in activities supporting this. Similarly, the 2nd of October is Silver Sunday, the national day for older people, with plenty of events going on which I have been asked to encourage people to participate in or run. You can find out more at [silversunday.org.uk](http://silversunday.org.uk)

As ever, if I can help with anything then do please contact me via [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)



# ABINGDON DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT

## The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

Registered Charity 1098966



As many young people begin their new journeys at school, we too are excited to start a new chapter on developing communities of support around our young people.

As a Youth and Community project we are constantly working with and towards change and, as some of you may already be aware, we have had some big changes within the team recently. As with any transition, planning and reviewing is essential to ensuring we maintain the high level of practice we expect of ourselves.

With this in mind the vision of the project is adapting, and we will be revising our current provision to ensure we continue to have the highest impact possible.

We will be developing more targeted and transformative programmes that aim to have long-term results which are sustainable and transform the way in which young people and their communities live their lives.

We are going to focus on offering targeted group work, instead of the traditional “youth club/drop-in” sessions, as we have done in the past.

Our AGM will be held in November at which a presentation of our targeted approach will be made. We do hope parents and the wider community will attend the AGM to find out more.

James Quartermain, & Emily Astley-Madge

Do contact any of us on [jamesq.ycat@gmail.com](mailto:jamesq.ycat@gmail.com), [emily.adyp@gmail.com](mailto:emily.adyp@gmail.com)

Tel: 01235 848694



James Damascus, Emily Damascus



James\_Damascus; Emily\_Damascus

YouTube - The Abingdon Damascus Youth Project - MIND GYM

Website - [www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk](http://www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk)

## Sutton Courtenay Village Hall (Registered Charity 300213)

### Notice of AGM

**Monday 17th October 2022 at 7pm.**

**Venue: Sutton Courtenay Village Hall**

The Management Trustees of the above charity invite you to its AGM. At the meeting a report on the work of the charity and the audited accounts will be presented.

Please do attend. We are actively searching for new trustees who would like to take a share of the work and responsibility of managing this community building for the benefit of all. Fresh thinking and new energy to raise major funds are needed to take the hall on to its next stage of development.

The trust deeds allow for up to 12 members to be elected at the AGM. Any resident is entitled to attend and put themselves forward for election as a trustee.

However, it is important to understand the duties and responsibilities of a trustee. These are set out in the guidance set out by the Charity Commission and available at the link below:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3)

The trust deeds also entitle specified organisations to appoint trustees – most of these are no longer functioning. In the interests of getting a good mix and representative cross-section on the committee – all regular user groups are invited to consider sending a member to be appointed as a trustee to the committee and share in the management of the hall.

Rita Atkinson, Secretary  
01235 848694

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## SUTTON COURTENAY PRODUCE SHOW

After a two-year absence due to Covid restrictions and concerns, the Committee were absolutely delighted to be able to hold a show this year and we were very pleased to welcome people who entered for the first time. We had more entries than before from children and hope this will encourage even more young people next year. Some classes did have fewer entries due to the very hot weather and lack of rain, but this had been expected.

After expenses, the money we raise from the raffle and refreshments is donated to local organisations. We thank those local businesses who all donated very generous raffle prizes; Mathew & Son, Costcutter and Changes hairdressers and to all who bought raffle tickets and refreshments.

Our congratulations go to Mike Kerswell for winning the cup presented for having the most points over all classes.

### 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winners

<b>Produce</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Mike Kerswell 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sally Furze 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jane Allen	<b>Flowers</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Margaret Hamilton 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sally Furze 3 <sup>rd</sup> Liz Maconochie & Val Dalby
<b>Cookery</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Jane Allen 2 <sup>nd</sup> Liz Maconochie 3 <sup>rd</sup> Karen Maconochie	<b>Crafts</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Liz Maconochie 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sue Hignell 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jane Allen
<b>Drinks</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Liz Maconochie & Karen Maconochie 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jane Allen	<b>Flower Arranging</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Margaret Hamilton 2 <sup>nd</sup> Val Dalby 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sally Furze
<b>Photography</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Jane Allen 2 <sup>nd</sup> Geoffrey Hill 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jacky Smith & Liz Maconochie	<b>Art</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Carol Quelch and Liz Maconochie 2 <sup>nd</sup> Amelia Cuddon & Gary Nobbs
<b>Children's Classes</b> Under sixes: 1 <sup>st</sup> Johann Krzikalla	<b>Children's Classes</b> Seven to Elevens: 1 <sup>st</sup> Emily Dalby 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sophia Dalby 3 <sup>rd</sup> Zofia Scaber & Miriam Brown

-The Produce Show Committee

I was so pleased to be back in the village hall for the show.

It was nice to meet old friends again after the lockdown.

I first started entering in 1979 when it was called Sutton Courtenay Horticultural Society. We met in the Manor and later in the Barn. Mr Curd was Chairman and Mr Francis was Secretary. I think it was when Daphne took over that the name changed.

It was exciting to arrive in the morning with our exhibits, searching for the right table to display our wares. This had to be done by 11am when the judging started. In the afternoon we arrived with baited breath hoping to see a 1<sup>st</sup> on our entries. After a refreshing cup of tea, the prize giving commenced.

It was a lovely day! Exhibits were taken home and plans for next year began. What to grow, what to embroider and knit.

I would like to thank the Committee for organising the show and all those who prepared the hall. The show has helped create a community spirit in the village, with the help of some WI members who have planted daffodils and given a seat.

Looking forward to next year! -Doreen Cranmer



Rogerick Hamilton presenting the overall winner of the children's classes



Jane, the overall Show winner





The  
**DAMASCUS**  
Parish  
Drayton | Appleford | Milton  
Sutton Courtenay | Steventon

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

The news on our economy, energy costs, NHS and business growth is far from hopeful. Concern for the wellbeing of nations and individuals

has increased to levels of anxiety and fear that are unprecedented for most of our nation's population. There is no quick fix and no one person or political group is solely to blame. Where can we find hope in hopeless times? Hope is so often to be found in human form in the skill of NHS staff, the courage of our rescue services such as the RNLI and in the neighbour, carer or welfare worker who comes alongside in our time of need.

Two statements of Jesus' emphasise his priority for those who are in need or oppressed, therefore this should be our local church's priority too: *'Whatever you do for such people, you do it to me'* (Mt 25:40) and *'I am going away, and the world will see me no more - but you will, because you know me'* (Jn 14:19). The world may never see Jesus in the faces of people in need, but Christians must. Surely a people of faith and hope must live and act in a way that they offer a sure hope to others; a pattern of faithful living demonstrated so wonderfully by our late Queen Elizabeth. The abiding challenge for Christianity is that it cannot be committed to Jesus Christ without being committed to his brothers and sisters. In his recent book, *Navigating a World of Grace*, Graham Tomlin, Bishop of Kensington defines "holiness" as the willingness to live generously towards others.

The five churches in the DAMASCUS Parish are reviewing how we best care for our community in desperate need. Please look out for details of our actions and working partnerships in village magazines, our website, social media and notices around the villages. If you are interested in what we are undertaking or interested in how you can join with us, then please get in touch with your village church; we would welcome your contact.

*Rev'd Phil Sutton, Associate Minister, 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 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 DAMASCUS Parish, River Room, All Saints' Church

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>** - 14:00 Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School Harvest Celebration at the school.

19:30 Singing Saints Practice

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>** - 19:30 Singing Saints Practice - Christmas rehearsals begin!

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>** - 19:30 Singing Saints Practice

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>** - 14:00-16:00 Family Craft Afternoon in the River Room (part of the Warm Spaces initiative) see advert for details.

19:30 Singing Saints Practice

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>** - 12:30-13:30 Community Lunch & Bingo in the Village Hall (part of the Warm Spaces initiative) see advert for details

## CHURCH DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>** - 18:30-20:30 Star Making Workshop in the River Room– see advert for details

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>** - 14:00-17:00 Jumble Sale in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall– see advert for details

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>** - 15:00 Service for All Souls (see advert for details)

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>** 18:30-20:30 Star Making Workshop in the River Room - see advert for details.

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** - 11:00 Act of Remembrance at War Memorial on Village Green. 11:15am Service of Remembrance in All Saints' Church - all are welcome.

## Holy Matrimony

We send our best wishes and congratulations to the following who were married in All Saints' Church recently:

Christopher (Chris) BRADLEY & Jennifer (Jenny) Ann TRITTON (3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022)

Alex Michael ELTHAM of Sutton Courtenay & Laura Jane HARRIS of Sutton Courtenay (8<sup>th</sup> September 2022)



**BARGAINS GALORE!**

# *Jumble Sale*

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>  
November  
2 - 5pm  
Sutton  
Courtenay  
Village Hall**

With tea & coffee  
available  
Entrance: £1 per person  
Children: FREE

**RAISING MONEY FOR THE  
CHURCH GENERAL FUND**

**QUALITY BRIC-A-BRAC  
CLOTHES – TOYS – BOOKS –  
FURNITURE – HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**

Donations on the day  
between 11:00-12:30  
or to arrange collection beforehand  
please contact  
01235 847179  
Or email [admin@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk)



## **CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**From 9:30am to 12 noon**

Please could you spare a couple of hours to help keep the churchyard clean and tidy? John Napper does a wonderful job of looking after the grass – spending many hours taking care of it – but we are reliant on voluntary help to keep the rest of it in good order whilst being kind to wildlife. Please help if you can.

Refreshments will be provided.

## **ALL SOULS' SERVICE**

**A Special Service of Naming &  
Remembering those who have died**

**3pm on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November  
All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay**

**This year we are holding our service in the  
afternoon at the earlier time of 3pm and  
refreshments of tea and coffee and cake will be  
available afterwards in the River Room.**

The service will be livestreamed - please contact us if  
you would like the link sent to you.

Invitations will be sent to the next of kin of all those for  
whom we have conducted a funeral over the past two  
years. But if you wish us to remember someone else -  
regardless of when or where they died - please add their  
name to the list at the back of church or let us know at  
the parish office.

If you need transport to and from the service, or have  
any other questions,  
please contact **the Parish Office on 01235 847179**  
[admin@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk)

## **Follow The Star THE GREAT INVITATION**

### **CRAFTERS NEEDED FOR COLOURFUL STARS**

It was sheep in the dark days of lockdown; it was hearts spreading the love last year and  
this year we want to light up the community with colourful stars.

Can you help us to create a community of stars – by knitting, crocheting or sewing or by  
donating balls of colourful wool?

The idea is that the week before Christmas we will hang colourful stars all over the village,  
with an accompanying booklet, and an invitation for whoever finds the star to 'follow it' to  
the stable, which is going to be erected in the churchyard.

**For this to work we need as many crafters as possible to make as many stars as possible.  
Can you help us beat the 340 hearts which were made last year?**

If you can, please pick up some instructions from the back of the church, or contact the  
Parish Office [admin@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk) (01235 847179) or send a message via the  
All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay, FB Page.

**Completed Stars will need to be returned to the Parish Office  
by Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022.  
Thank you!**

### **STAR MAKING WORKSHOPS**

We are also planning on making six large Ukrainian style Christmas Stars for  
display outside and inside the church. If you would like to help make these  
stars we are holding two workshops on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and Thursday  
10<sup>th</sup> November from 6.30pm to 8.30pm in the River Room with refreshments  
provided. All you need to do is bring yourself and your creativity.  
Anyone aged 9-90+ is welcome to come and join us.

## **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) and all are  
welcome!

## **BOOK OF CONDOLENCE IN MEMORY OF THE QUEEN**

Thank you to all those who came and signed the Book of  
Condolence in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth  
II. The book will be held in our church safe and then  
deposited in the Berkshire Records Office, along with all  
the church records, in due course. And an especial thank  
you to John Napper for the tolling of the church bell and  
to Alan Whitlock for ensuring the flag was at half-mast  
and raised at the appropriate times.

**Community Café in the River Room**



*Run by the church for the whole community*

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

**from 10:30-12:00** - all welcome!

Why not drop by for coffee or tea & delicious homemade cake & conversation and to browse the books or jigsaw puzzles on offer?

**A WARM SPACE** - Open to all – a good place to meet with friends.

If you need transport to and from the church, please 'phone the Parish Office on 01235 847179

**RIVER ROOM 200 CLUB**

**In Support of the All Saints' Community Space**

Winners at the Draw on September 18 were:

**1<sup>st</sup> – No. 52 (£48.00)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – No. 71 (£24.00)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – No. 29 (£10.00)**

New members always welcome.

Please see the information in  
All Saints' Church or email  
[landsbert@west-manor.co.uk](mailto:landsbert@west-manor.co.uk)

The next draw will take place on  
Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup> at the All Saints'  
Community Café in the  
River Room at 10.30 am.

**Books and Jigsaws**

Looking for something to keep you occupied as the nights draw in? Did you know that at the back of All Saints' Church there is a second-hand book and jigsaw corner? This is open whenever the church is open (during daylight hours seven days a week) and you are welcome to come and buy and/or borrow books or jigsaw puzzles. Donations can be put in the wall safe on the left-hand side of the main church door. All money raised goes to support the church. If you have books or jigsaws you wish to donate then please leave them in the box provided. Thank you!



**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

They are in particular need of the following:

**Tinned Food:**

MEAT curries, hotdogs, chilli, stew, corned beef, ham.

FISH tuna, mackerel, sardines and salmon.

FRUIT peaches, pears, pineapple, fruit cocktail, etc.

VEGETABLES including peas, carrots, sweetcorn, tomatoes, instant mash potato.

PULSES chick peas, lentils, red kidney beans etc.

SOUP chunky soups and cuppa soup.

**Other Food:**

HOT DRINKS tea (foiled in 80s most useful), coffee, hot chocolate.

PUDDINGS long-life sponges (tinned or plastic wrap), custard, rice pudding.

COOKING OILS sunflower, vegetable or olive.

CEREALS breakfast cereal, porridge, granola, muesli, Ready Brek.

JAMS etc marmalade, jam, peanut butter, chocolate spread, Nutella, honey

& cash (or contactless donations)  
will be given to Farm Africa

The service will be 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 telephone the Parish Office on 01235 847179 so we know for how many to cater. Donations for the lunch will go to 'Farm Africa'.

*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.*

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH & RIVER ROOM

### 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](mailto: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!

### CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Thanks once again to a very generous anonymous donation, from someone who simply wants to give back to the community, we are planning to make up Christmas Hampers for distribution around Sutton Courtenay in the week before Christmas.

If you know of an individual, a couple or a family who would appreciate a gift of a hamper then please let us know their name and address and we will ensure a hamper is delivered to them in the week before Christmas.

The aim of the hampers is simply to spread the love of Christmas around the community.

Please email [admin@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk) or 'phone 01235 847179 by **15<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

### MOVIE MATINEES

The next Movie Matinee in the River Room is on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October - 4pm**

For a full programme to be sent to you please email: [admin@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto: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.

### CREAM TEAS

**A really BIG thank you** to everyone who supported the Cream Teas over the summer. We raised over £1,000 for the River Room Building Fund thanks to your support and the hard work of Morna and her team of helpers. The other good news is that an anonymous benefactor has paid the remaining money on the Diocesan loan we took out to ensure we could complete the building project during the Covid-19 lockdown. We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support.

### WARM SPACES in Sutton Courtenay

As part of the Warm Spaces initiative the following events are being organised during the October Half Term.

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 from 2-4pm in the River Room**

Family Craft Afternoon – suggested donation £1 per household  
*All resources are provided and refreshments will be available.*  
*All children must be accompanied by an adult.*

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 from 12.30-1.30pm (Lunch) & then 1.30-2.30pm (Bingo) in the Village Hall**

Community Lunch and Bingo - suggested donation £1 per household  
To book a place at either session please ring the parish office on 01235 847179 or Rita Atkinson on 01235 848694 by Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

As the winter goes on we will continue to assess the demand for Warm Spaces and advertise accordingly. If you would like to volunteer to be a host at any of these sessions then please contact either: [rector@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@damascusparish.org.uk) or [ritaatkinson@gmail.com](mailto:ritaatkinson@gmail.com)



## Memories of Sutton Courtenay

Sutton Courtenay Local History Society is launching a new project “Memories of Sutton Courtenay”. We already have a collection of photos, maps, articles, books and memoirs which we are currently cataloguing and archiving and we’re keen to add more!

You can browse some of our collected material on the society’s website at: [sclhs.org.uk/archive.html](http://sclhs.org.uk/archive.html)

If you have any photographs of the village which you would be willing to donate we would be very pleased to receive them. Photos might be of people, buildings, work, play, events or anything else connected to the village. They don’t have to be very old; things move on so fast even photos from a few years ago will show something which will be of interest to future generations.

Would you be interested in providing an oral or written history of your life in the village? We’re keen to collect these too. We can arrange to have oral histories recorded, and written memoirs would also be welcome.

Of course, if you have anything else you think we might be interested in, e.g. books, maps, artefacts etc. please let us know!

If you would like to contribute to “Memories of Sutton Courtenay” please get in touch using our email address [enquiries@sclhs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sclhs.org.uk) or by telephoning 01235 848162

We are hoping to have regular articles in the Sutton Courtenay News featuring the history of the village. For example, Queen Elizabeth II never visited the village (as far as we know!) but her father King George VI did in 1941 to visit a Home Guard training camp, photo below donated by Rose Woodward whose father is one of the soldiers in the picture.

John Talbot  
Sutton Courtenay Local History Society



*A Browning machine-gun team looks less than confident during a Home Guard training camp in Sutton Courtenay in September 1941. In the background, their sergeant talks to King George VI who was paying a brief visit to the camp.*

## FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS’ GARDEN PARTY



Photos taken by Charlie Knowles.



### NORDIC WALKING

Do you want to get back to fitness after the recent disruption to all our lives from Covid?

All it needs is YOU (the most important part) as well as a set of Nordic walking poles, and free instruction from a qualified instructor. You will then be set to join us in sociable led walks twice weekly if you wish. You can also, of course, walk daily using the poles, on pavements or footpaths. You can use them locally and on holidays once you have learnt how to use them properly. This can be a 365 day exercise routine exercising 90% of your muscles - a full body workout at your pace, a cost-free adventure for you. Nordic walking poles can be purchased at cost price of £21 per set prior to instruction if wished.

If interested please check out our portal at [southoxonnordicwalking.notion.site](https://southoxonnordicwalking.notion.site) which gives more details of how to apply.

Graham Wells

### Wanderings Around Churchmere Pool

**4th September.** It is now Autumn, and I am writing this early as I have a few commitments in the coming weeks. It has been a strange year; the blackberry crop has been good from early August, but unfortunately not prolonged and the fruits have withered too soon and desiccated berries just hang there unused. Walking round the common after the showers, leaves are falling without the colourful annual displays, but I am optimistic that could still happen. The lilies are still in bloom and have been all summer on the lake. I have seen a Red Shank, a pretty brown wading bird speckled with white, and as the name, suggests red legs. Now is the time to see unusual birds as they are beginning to relocate either to here, or to warmer climates. So, eyes open, you never know what you will see.

Carp have also woken up - through the heat wave, because of very high air pressure, the fish had become somewhat dormant. In the last few days, though, there have been some multiple catches, (more than one at a session). Lily, the daughter of a committee member landed a 28lb fish, and a 38lb fish was landed by one of our better young anglers. As with virtually everywhere, we need rain, now and all through winter, so all the water courses start next year with a good level.

Roger Rance



SUTTON COURTENAY WI



### AN INVITATION ...

and a warm welcome to our autumn meetings  
In October it's what you need to know about  
**'Trading Standards & Consumer Rights'**

and in November we'll have fun with  
**'Alpacas and a world of fabulous fluff'**  
- we'd love you to join us -

We meet every third Tuesday monthly in the  
River Room, Sutton Courtenay at 7.30 pm  
For details contact our Secretary on 847612



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](mailto:morna28whitlock@gmail.com)

01235 848335 or 07787 521039

**We meet with the Covid guidelines.**



### BRIDGE AFTERNOONS

Come and play bridge on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday afternoons in the River Room from 2-5pm with a cup of tea and a 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

### CALLING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Can you write an informative article for our readers? We welcome contributions about:

- Gardening
- Cooking
- Plants
- Birds
- Other animals
- Places of interest within the village
- Money-saving tips
- Sporting activities (get a team together)
- SC-CYCLE items (declutter sustainably!)
- A message to invite people who may wish to share your hobbies or interests

Everyone at Sutton Courtenay News wishes you all a safe and restful summer. The submission deadline for the November issue is Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

The Editors

### ABINGDON MARATHON

This is a notice to inform local residents that road closures and traffic management will be in force on the day of the 2022 Abingdon Marathon, scheduled for Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022. For full details please view the following online document:

[abingdonmarathon.org.uk/press/2022\\_AM\\_RoadClosuresNoticeR02.pdf](http://abingdonmarathon.org.uk/press/2022_AM_RoadClosuresNoticeR02.pdf)

Dene Stringfellow - 2022 Abingdon Marathon Course Director

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It has come to my attention that my pet ducks featured on the front page of September's edition of this newspaper. While delighted by this, my ducks were in a state of unbridled euphoria. I captured this moment with a photograph that I would like to submit to next month's edition.



This is what an impressed duck looks like!

### GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE SC NEWS

An observant fan of our little publication has noticed that it has changed from matt to shiny paper. Being eco-minded, they asked if it is recyclable. A quick inquiry to our printers revealed that yes, indeed, the Sutton Courtenay News is still recyclable. So, please be responsible with your rubbish.

The Sutton Courtenay News Team welcome Judy Baggott who comes on board as our new Treasurer and Administrator.

The team also want to thank our outgoing member, Clare Pennicott. Clare has been a member of the team for more than 11 years, first as an editor and then, more recently, as our treasurer and administrator. During Clare's time with the Newsletter, she has played an important part in introducing colour printing and, more recently, silk-coated paper which have done much to improve your experience of our magazine. The present editors thank her for her help and support over the last 18 months and wish her well in her next venture.



## PUZZLE PAGE

### Easy Sudoku

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

Taken from [www.puzzles.ca/sudoku](http://www.puzzles.ca/sudoku)

### Medium Sudoku

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

## WORDSEARCH

The topic is SPOOKY

N M F C G M G M T S K X A O Q  
 E S C M P G O S K E L E T O N  
 E V U K C T X T W V B Y F W J  
 W M T C N F A A B J F K U V Q  
 O K N A O C W E R E W O L F I  
 L W H I K P U M P K I N L C O  
 L P S C G N S E D S S W M A W  
 A S A H H H R U P R T S O N O  
 H L C R I I T I C P S E O D R  
 B D X R P V D T H O O E N Y C  
 N Y A M E E E E I L H K Q C E  
 P O A C R A F R S M G W Y O R  
 O V T W G N M C S N E T E R A  
 B D E K C I T S M O O R B N C  
 R B T A E R T R O K C I R T S

BlackCat	Broomstick
CandyCorn	FullMoon
Ghosts	Halloween
HocusPocus	Nighttime
Phantom	Pumpkin
Scarecrow	Scream
Shivers	Skeleton
Spiderweb	TrickorTreat
Vampire	Werewolf

Taken from [www.puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com](http://www.puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com)



## Residents of South Oxfordshire and Vale Are Being Warned To Be Cautious of Cold Callers

Residents of South Oxfordshire and Vale are being warned to be cautious of cold callers offering to do roofing work. They may even approach you while you are in your front garden or on the street near your home.

Many legitimate traders will be booked up, so the advice is to be wary of traders who can arrive to start the work the same or following day and push for a quick agreement to use them. Always make sure you receive a final total cost in writing before agreeing to any work starting.

Oxfordshire residents can check the Local Authority's Buy with Confidence scheme for local traders who have been vetted and approved by Trading Standards [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk)

If anyone believes that they have been the victim of such a rogue trader and wants advice, you can contact the Citizens Advice National Consumer Service on 0800 144 8848 or via its website at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk).

*Message Sent By* Rachel Ward (Police, Corporate Communications, Thames Valley)

SEE SOMEONE BEING  
**HARASSED IN PUBLIC?**

WHEN YOU FEEL SAFE, ASK THEM...

**'ARE YOU OKAY?'**

THOSE THREE LITTLE WORDS

LET THEM KNOW

YOU STAND BY THEM, AND THAT  
**STREET HARASSMENT IS NEVER OKAY.**

IF YOU SEE IT. ASK IT.



Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales. CID No. 1173349

Witnessing street harassment and not safely intervening sends the message to those experiencing it that it's okay and society normalises it. Ongoing acceptance of street harassment contributes to a toxic culture. We want to change this, but we need your help.

[ourwatch.org.uk/streetharassment](http://ourwatch.org.uk/streetharassment)

## OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH AND VALE CITIZENS ADVICE



### Warm Home Discount rules updated for 2022-23

As winter approaches, many people will be nervously anticipating the cold weather and its inevitable effect on their heating bills. The Warm Home Discount (WHD) was introduced by the government in 2011 to offset some of this burden.

For 2022-2023 there have been a couple of significant changes to the WHD: the number of energy suppliers participating in the scheme will increase, and those on disability benefits who don't have low incomes nor high energy costs will not receive the WHD.

The value of the WHD payment is currently £150. Nobody needs to apply in order to receive it, with the exception of those living in mobile homes on a park home site (see below). The payment is credited automatically to the consumer's electricity supply account (or credit is directly applied to a pre-payment meter), and energy suppliers have to make this payment by 31 March each year at the latest.

Eligibility for the WHD is ascertained by means of data-matching between energy suppliers and government departments. There are three eligible groups of consumers: low-income pensioner households; low-income people on some means-tested benefits; and households with high energy costs. This last criterium is determined by the type of property you live in, especially its age and its floor area (based on information supplied by the Valuation Office Agency or the Land Registry).

There is an alternative form of WHD for those living in mobile homes on park home sites. For more information about this, visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search for "Warm Home Discount". Also see the information under "Check if you'll get the Warm Home Discount in 2022" on [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk). The Citizens Advice consumer helpline is 0808 223 1133 and our Adviceline is 0808 278 7907 if you have other concerns about energy costs.



@bbowt



BBOWildlifeTrust



BBOWildlifeTrust



BBOWT

## Events at Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre this Autumn

### Young and Teen Rangers

Do you love nature and being outdoors? Want to find out more about UK wildlife and how you can look after it? Come and join our Wildlife Rangers clubs.

Clubs will run on the first Saturday of each month. Have fun learning about wildlife on the nature reserve and develop bushcraft and conservation skills.

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October

Teen Rangers (aged 12-17 years) 10am-12noon

Young Rangers (aged 8-12 years) 1.30pm-3.30pm

£7 per child. Booking essential.

### Nature Tots

Outdoor exploration, stories, songs, sensory play, making friends, meeting bugs and lots of nature fun on our lovely nature reserve, all year round. Different themes every month (eg dinosaurs, minibeasts, weather). Come join us!

Wed 19, Thur 20 and Fri 21 October; 9:30am-11am

Wed 16, Thur 17 and Fri 18 November; 9:30am-11am

Wed 14, Thur 15 and Fri 16 December; 9:30am-11am

£7 per child, accompanying adults free. Booking essential.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Aimed at children aged 18 months to 4 years.

### Wild Connections

Connect with the wild and each other on our beautiful reserve. Seasonal strolls, nature activities, chat and refreshments. Suitable for anyone over 18 years.

Last Friday of the month, 10:30-12:00, £2 per session

### Sunrise Walk and Breakfast in Nature

Start the day a bit differently! As the sun rises join us for an early morning meander - dew laden cobwebs, wary foxes, early birds - there is always something to see. A member of our learning team will guide you around the varied habitats on our nature reserve, then we'll finish the walk with hot drinks, fruit, and pastries to send you off to the rest of your day refreshed!

Wednesday 5 Oct, 7:30am-9am

£10 per head Booking essential

### Family Trail: Happy Hedgehogs!

Join us for a fun fact-filled self-led trail, a spiky craft activity and storytelling. Find out how YOU can make a hedgehog happy!

Autumn is in full swing and hedgehogs are busy preparing for their winter hibernation. Come and join us at our beautiful nature reserve in Sutton Courtenay to learn more about hedgehogs and what you can do to help them thrive. You can make a hedgehog-themed craft to take home and relax under the trees for live storytelling.

This event is suitable for families with children aged 4 to 11 years. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> – Thur 27<sup>th</sup> October; 10am-2pm

£5 per child; Booking essential

### Bushcraft workshop: Wild Jewellery Making

Make your own wild jewellery - from necklaces to key rings!

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