# SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 51 No. 9

NOVEMBER 2022



**An Autumn Rainbow** 

# **VILLAGE DIARY**

Thur 3 Nov	WeCare2 (p. 8)	River Room	11:15-12:30	
Thur 3 Nov	Star Making Workshop (p. 8)	River Room	18:30-20:30	
Fri 4 Nov	Bridge Afternoon (p. 8)	River Room	14:00-17:00	
Sat 5 Nov	Jumble Sale (p. 7)	Village Hall	14:00-17:00	
Thur 10 Nov	Community Café (p. 7)	River Room	10:30-12:00	
Thur 10 Nov	Star Making Workshop	River Room	18:30-20:30	
Sun 13 Nov	Act of Remembrance	Village Green	11:00	
Tue 15 Nov	Sutton Courtenay WI (p. 9)	River Room	19:30	
Thur 17 Nov	WeCare2	River Room	11:15-12:30	
Fri 18 Nov	Bridge Afternoon	River Room	14:00-17:00	
Sun 20 Nov	All Saints' Singers 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert	Church	19:30	
Mon 21 Nov	ADYP AGM (p. 9)	Village Hall	19:30	
Sat 26 Nov	Movie Matinee (p. 7)	River Room	16:00	
Thur 24 Nov	Community Café	River Room	10:30-12:00	
Sun 4 Dec	SCIDS sign up (p. 9)	Village Hall	15:00-16:30	
Sat 10 Dec	Friends' Yuletide Evening	Church	TBA	

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

# DECEMBER 2022 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

N.B. There is no copy in January — Let us have any January notices for December 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.)

Parish Council Chair: Rita Atkinson, 848694

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 The Abbey: 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: John Talbot sclhs.org.uk

enquiries@sclhs.org.uk

SCIDS (Drama Society): Morna Whitlock, 848335

morna28whitlock@gmail.com

All Saints Singers: Kathy Harrop-Griffiths, 848230

secretary@allsaintssingers.org www.allsaintssingers.org

Sutton Courtenay Action: suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com

Non-urgent Police: 101 or policing team email:

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
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 6

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

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

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

The Editors have been contacted by people outside the village who would like to continue receiving a copy of Sutton 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

The Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group continues to review all comments received on the draft Neighbourhood Plan in consultation with its planning consultant. About

30 independent responses have been received, some of them are very extensive and contain several issues. Decisions will need to be made over whether or not to amend the neighbourhood plan in response to each representation. The decisions taken and the reasoning behind them will be recorded. This information will be incorporated into the consultation statement which forms part of the documentation submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council. The Parish Council will have to approve the amended Plan before it is formally submitted to the District Council. It is very much hoped that the submission would be done before Christmas.

## **Recreation Ground Refurbishment**

Whilst the site is closed to visitors, those using the main field can see that the new play equipment has been installed. The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) is being replaced and a new bike pump track created. The final phase of this work will be the installation of new safety surfaces and the finishing of a new path to join up the different activity areas.

Contractors have confirmed that the new outdoor gym equipment will be installed alongside the other works. If everything continues to go to plan then the equipment will be opened by the end of the year. The Parish Council wishes to thank nearby residents and visitors to the Recreation Ground who have been inconvenienced by the work for their patience and understanding.

#### New gates on rights of way

Thanks to a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment and with the support of the landowner, four new gates have been installed on rights of way in the Ginge Brook, Drayton Road, Mill Lane area. A fifth gate is due to be installed this month near Ginge Brook. These gates replace stiles and enable more people to access the rights of way in this area.

#### **Old Wallingford Way Cemetery**

The Parish Council opened the cemetery in 2000 which is located next to the Recreation Ground. Our Clerk visits the cemetery at least one a month to inspect the site, remove flowers/wreaths once they have gone past their best and to ensure additional tributes are near the headstones to enable the grass cutters to maintain the site.

Visitors to the cemetery are requested not to leave glass or plastic items (except artificial flowers) as these are prone to being broken due to weather conditions and by wild animals who often take a great interest in objects at the cemetery.

### **Councillor Vacancy**

There is currently one vacancy 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 council related training, can be paid by the Parish Council. For more information contact the Clerk.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings. The dates of the next meetings are Tuesday  $7^{th}$  November and Tuesday  $6^{th}$  December 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.



# **SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

# Harvest Festival!

Harvest Festival here in school with many parents and carers joining us. Prior to the event, children were able to bring in gifts to donate to the Abingdon Food Bank, a facility which is needed more than ever this year. As well as taking time to



be thankful for the food we have and for the abundance in the world, we also encourage children to begin to be aware of the difficulties that can occur around distribution

across the world and within our own communities. Each class performed a short poem or song during the service, and Reverend Helen led the prayers.

# A habit of gratitude

Before we eat lunch each day, every class takes time to pause together and express gratitude for our food. We share the same words across the school: "For what we are about to receive, may we all be really thankful." We welcome children of all faiths and none, so this is an invitation for reflection rather than prayer as such. Pause points like this give us all a chance to catch our breath and be mindful before we eat. We want our children to grow up with a habit of taking time to be grateful and appreciative of what they have, while also moving forward to change things for the better.

During the last school year we also had access to microscopes and electricity resources. Our Science Lead, Mrs Holderness, works closely with secondary school colleagues to make sure the progression of knowledge in science is strong and the children have good opportunities to embed key concepts. Working together, we are also able to make sure children are used to the same terminology and ways of thinking about experiments that they will encounter when they move to secondary school.

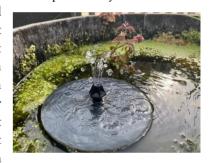
# Around the grounds

Our science garden, which we planted last summer, has really matured. It survived the heat of the summer and now we can enjoy working in groups in the lovely mild autumn



weather. It can be enjoyed on different levels depending on the age of the children. For example, here you can see our

solar fountain. The sound of the water is lovely, but we can also start explaining to children how the sun's energy can be converted with a solar cell to energy that generates the movement of the water, and with



our oldest children we can get into a bigger conversation about renewable energy.



# Learning about listening!

One of the good things about being part of Ridgeway Education Trust is that we can borrow resources from our partner secondary schools, Didcot Girls' School



and St Birinus School. This is often helpful for science equipment. Here you can see some Wrens children looking at a giant model of an ear — this term they are learning all about sound.





Headteacher: Ms Rachel Hornsey

Asst Headteachers: Lisa Knight & Louise Potter Office.3243@sutton-courtenay.oxon.sch.uk

Telephone: 01235 848333

# **COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

# Staying optimistic in an atmosphere of trickle down depression.

Clearly, things are not going as well as anyone would want. More people are angry and anxious than I can ever remember. I will sidestep Westminster difficulties and stick to local government, which finds itself squeezed between the uncertainty trickling down from above with the state and prospects for the economy and the desperate desire to do something for local residents arising from the cost of living crisis.

The demise of the Oxfordshire 2050 initiative and its ambitions to bring councils together on housing numbers and traffic has enormous implications for our future local economy.

With high inflation, the funding of the HIF1 Road, designed rightly or wrongly to address past shortages of infrastructure, is of increasing concern. If we want higher growth, we need new ideas on how to manage and fund our dated highway network.

Add to these concerns the other effects of the cost of living crisis and the urgent need to address the climate emergency and there are few grounds for optimism.

In short, it's all an unholy mess and there is a distinct shortage of ideas to sort it out. In an effort to resist growing depression, I am trying to focus on what I, as an individual, can actually do. Here is the list pinned to the kitchen fridge which reminds me and allows me to spend time on local government issues. The list keeps getting longer, but I hope some residents may find it useful...

#### Notes to self:

- Get out of car... when I complain about traffic, I am probably contributing to it
- Get on bike
- Get on bus and train when possible
- Wall
- Support local business
- Eat less
- Wear warm clothing
- Find reasons to be optimistic and share that message People with positive ideas and optimistic messages are needed more than ever.

Richard Webber

Richardwebber777@gmail.com

01235534001

# **DAVID JOHNSTON MP**



I've been pleased with the response of local companies to my work experience campaign. We've now got a great set of placements happening for over 30 sixth-formers at schools across the constituency,

from Wallingford to Faringdon Community College. I'm very grateful to organisations from Oxford Sigma and Hachette UK to Rebellion and Astroscale.

The point of this work experience campaign is to help young people understand the world of work. However, placements have dried up due to Covid and lots more people working at home for at least part of their week, meaning young people are not getting the opportunities others used to, particularly disadvantaged young people. I'm hoping this will grow in the years to come.

We were given the shortest time limit for speeches I've had in my time as an MP this month - 90 seconds each! - in a debate about sewage discharges, secured by a Conservative colleague of mine. The reason for the short time limit was there were 33 MPs present for just a 90 minute debate. It was still enough to make some key points: we all agree too much sewage is released into our waters - it should be rare but water companies don't adhere to this - it is not a new problem and it can't be fixed overnight as the alternative is sewage backing up into people's homes instead.

It was also important to highlight that the claim MPs voted to allow it to happen have been shown by independent fact-checking organisation, Full Fact, to be false - whichever

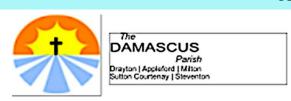
way the vote in question had gone, the sewage would not have stopped. I welcomed the new legal duty the Government has put on water companies to reduce this harm and the £56 billion that is being unlocked by its Storm Overflows Plan to tackle the problem. I particularly welcome that the Government is increasing the maximum fine that can be levied from £250,000 to £250 million.

Sixteen-year-old Niamh from Wantage came to see me about negative behaviour she and her friends have been experiencing from boys and men, including rape 'jokes', which adults around them have dismissed as 'boys will boys'. She is keen to campaign on this area and I am going to help her. I am arranging for her to meet Sharon Gaffka, whose campaign on spiking I have helped and I raised what Niamh had told me in the House of Commons the following week. As I have said before in Parliament, it seems pretty obvious that if we can ensure boys grow up respecting girls, they're unlikely to become men who disrespect women.

Lastly, I will be hosting a Local Crime Summit with Thames Valley Police in the coming weeks, so constituents can share their concerns about local crime and anti-social behaviour. Details will be published on my website and Facebook soon.

As if ever, if I can help with anything please do contact me via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

# **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

Autumn is a time of preparation for the long cold winter ahead and the darker evenings after the clocks have gone back. Harvest is over. This is the

time for pruning, for letting go, clearing out, for making changes. Sometimes these can be difficult for us to do.

Autumn is a time of great beauty, a time of abundance and even a celebration of the earth, as leaves decay to enrich the soil and prepare for new life. The harvest is gathered in; this is the time for looking ahead and preparing as best we can for the future. In these uncertain times, perhaps these things can be difficult for us to do.

Autumn is a time of the year when days draw in and, for a while, day and night are of equal length. It is a season of harmony and balance, when life comes full circle. It is a season of anniversaries: Remembrance Sunday, Armistice Day, All Souls and All Saints' Day. Time is set aside for remembering and counting the cost. It is a time of mourning and that can be difficult for us.

Autumn is a time of preparation, of looking forward, of recognising our place in that life cycle and of journeying towards wholeness. This season of autumn is one of looking forward and waiting, of looking forward to the coming of hope and healing, for that coming of Advent and the retelling of the great Christian story of Jesus coming into the world. Something for us to be thankful for, and also something joyous for us to look forward to.

The Reverend Rosie Bruce Associate Minister in the DAMASCUS Parish

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#### **Holy Baptism**

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

Isaac John Victor LAMPSON (16<sup>th</sup> October 2022) Samual Morgan Ronald LAMPSON (16<sup>th</sup> October 2022)

#### **Rest in Peace**

We send our condolences and the assurance of our prayers to the family and friends of the following people whose ashes were interred in the churchyard:

John David MacDonald (10<sup>th</sup> October 2022) Brian Laurence ELDON (19<sup>th</sup> October 2022) 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 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**  $6^{th} - 15:00$  Service for All Souls - see advert for details

**Monday**  $7^{th}$  – 19:30 Baptism Preparation Session for all those exploring baptism for their children – please contact the parish office on 01235 847179 if interested.

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>** – 10:30-12 noon Community Café in the River Room.

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.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – 19:30 DAMASCUS PCC Meeting Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> – 19:30 All Saints' Singers 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Concert in the church

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – 19:30 Sutton Courtenay Local Church

Committee in the River Room

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>** - 10:30-12 noon Community Café in the River Room

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>** – 16:00 Movie Matinee in the River Room **CHURCH DIARY FOR DECEMBER** 

**Sunday**  $4^{th}$  – 10:30am Christingle Family Service for all ages – come and make a Christingle and help support the work of the Children's Society

**Thursday 8^{th}** - 10:30-12 noon Community Café in the River Room

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>** – 18:30-20:30 Friends of All Saints' Yuletide Evening in the River Room

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>** – 18:00-19:00 Traditional Candlelit Carol Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

#### **MISSING ITEMS**

We have found the salt and pepper pots - Thank you! But we are still looking for a set of blue (sheet) tablecloths. If anyone has inadvertently kept them after an event, please could they be returned to the church as soon as possible.

Thank you!

# **ALL SAINTS' CHURCH**

#### ALL SOULS' SERVICE

A Special Service of Naming and 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 we have conducted a funeral for 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

HARVEST THANKS to all those who came to our Harvest CELEBRATIONS and donated food items for the Abingdon Food Bank or cash for Farm Africa. These were all very gratefully received and will be put to good use in the next few months supporting those in need. It was lovely to see so many people at the Harvest Lunch. Thanks to the team of people who cooked the delicious food and to Alison and Tim Budd who made sure it went smoothly on the day.

Also thank you to everyone who came and helped at the Churchyard Working party... look out for the date of the next one...

# **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 or 'phone 01235 847179 by 15th December 2022.

#### WARM SPACES IN SUTTON COURTENAY

At the time of writing our two half-term 'Warm Spaces' events are still to take place.

As the winter progresses we will continue to assess the demand for Warm Spaces in both the Village Hall and the River Room and advertise accordingly and promote on social media.

If you would like to make use of a warm space or volunteer to be a host at any of these sessions then please contact either: rector@damascusparish.org.uk or ritaatkinson@googlemail.com

# Community Café in the River Room



Run by the church for the whole community

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November

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 or make new ones. If you need transport to and from the church please 'phone the Parish Office on 01235 847179

# CHRISTMAS EVE TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION AND BONFIRE

Thanks to all those who responded so generously to our appeal for funds last year we have enough to cover the expense of running it again this year. The plan is to hold the Procession from outside the School to the Churchyard for the Carols around the Bonfire. All being well, torches will be on sale in early December from local shops. If you are able to help act as a steward for this event we would love to hear from you – please contact the parish office on 01235 847179 or admin@damascusparish.org.uk

#### **MOVIE MATINEES**

in the River Room (A WARM SPACE) on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November – 4pm

For a full programme to be sent to you please email: <a href="mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk">admin@damascusparish.org.uk</a> or pick one up from the back of the church Entry is **free** but donations for refreshments to church funds welcome.

# **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

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



RAISING MONEY FOR THE CHURCH GENERAL FUND

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

We meet with the Covid guidelines.

# FOLOWTHESTAR 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 <a href="mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk">admin@damascusparish.org.uk</a> (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.

#### Wecare2

Over the last few months a small group of people who are diagnosed with dementia, and their carers have come along to join the group in the River Room on the 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings of each month. In addition to the traditional songs we sing, led beautifully by Barbara Vellacot, we have played a variety of games including miniature bowls, Bingo and Animal sixes! We have one member who is a champion at the ball games, another is the neatest dice thrower. We all enjoy the history of the songs that Barbara brings and we enjoy accompanying her music. Two of the men compete for cymbal playing while the rest of us have tambourines or castanets!

On the Thursday after the Queen's death we all put together some jamjars of flowers to put in the Lady Chapel.

We would really welcome some more members, even if it is only that you feel a little isolated and would enjoy a small variation in your week. Do come along, transport can always be arranged. And if you know of anyone who is on the dementia road do bring them along to find out about Wecare2.

Morna Whitlock

# **RIVER ROOM**

# ADYP

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

In Support of the All Saints' Community Space

Winning numbers at the Draw on October 16 were:

 $1^{st}$  - No. 82 (£48.00)

 $2^{nd}$  - No. 31 (£24.00)

 $3^{rd}$  - No. 36 (£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 November 10 - at the All Saints' Community Café in the River Room at 10.30 am.

# FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS'

The Friends of All Saints' Church will be holding a

## YULETIDE EVENING

in the church on Saturday  $10^{th}$  December

Just the evening to celebrate the festive season Good food, nice wine, excellent company and Christmas carols!

Hold this date - more details to follow soon!

# **SC WI**



**SUTTON COURTENAY WI** 



## **RELAX AND ENJOY**

Come and join us for a warm friendly evening
This month we'll have fun with
'Alpacas and a world of fabulous fluff'
December will bring festive celebrations
- and an evening of music in January

lots to look forward to in the New Year

- 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



# The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project



Youth & Community Acting Together

You are warmly invited to the

# Abingdon Damascus Youth Project AGM

to be held on 21st November 2022 at 7.30pm, in the Sutton Courtenay Village Hall All Welcome.

For more information about ADYP please contact any of the team on jamesq.ycat@gmail.com, emily.adyp@gmail.com

Tel: 01235 848694

F

James Damascus, Emily Damascus



James\_Damascus; Emily\_Damascus

YouTube - The Abingdon Damascus Youth Project - MIND GYM

# **SCIDS**



S.C.I.D.S.



# It is time to sign up for another world premiere for SCIDS

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4th from 3pm until 4.30 in the Village Hall

Just come along for an hour and a half of games, some tea, and the story. "Empress Mathilda" written by Bernie Jones is based on a part of the history of Sutton Courtenay. Empress Mathilda was born here and one of her cousins was the Roger de Courtenay who gave our village its name. On **4th December** you can sign up (Oh yes you can!!!!!) for on stage; back stage; music; props; costumes; craft. We need everyone who enjoys spending winter Sunday afternoons having fun and tea together while rehearsing for what will be a world premiere.

Anyone from age 7 - 97 is welcome.

Rehearsals start on 8th January 2023 and continue every Sunday until the show on Friday/Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> /18<sup>th</sup> March.

Any queries please do get in touch .....Morna Whitlock 01235 848335 or morna28whitlock@gmail.com



# Retired and worried about the cost of living?

Even though you may have modest savings, a retirement income or own your own home, it's worth checking if you're entitled to Pension Credit.

Call 0345 450 1276 or visit www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/about-us/cost-of-living



I know that you will share our serious concern about the impact of the spiralling cost of living on people as winter approaches. Our specific concerns are obviously for older people and carers, particularly those who are managing on a fixed income. We know from the huge increase in people contacting us for advice and help that this is causing a great deal of anxiety to older people and their families, too many of whom simply have no idea how they will meet rising costs this winter.

In light of this, we are launching the first stage of a new **information campaign** to ensure that people are aware of and receiving all the support to which they are entitled.

The first stage of our campaign is focussed on raising awareness of **Pension Credit** and encouraging people to undertake a **benefits check** to ensure they are getting all the support for which they are eligible.

A recent JSNA Bitesize report has estimated that over 4,000 older people in Oxfordshire are not claiming the Pension Credit to which they are entitled, equating to a staggering £8.2m in unclaimed entitlement locally. Pension Credit also serves as a gateway to other forms of support, which could go a long way in helping some older people meet rising costs. We are asking for your help to ensure that all local older people are receiving the financial support to which they're entitled, by taking one or more of the following actions:

- publicising the campaign. You can find more information about the campaign here: www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/about-us/cost-ofliving-campaign/
- 'making every contact count' by raising the issue of entitlements in your contact with older people and carers
- emphasising that these are entitlements not handouts
- pointing people in the direction of the support available. You can find more information about entitlements here:
  - www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/benefits-entitlements/
  - encouraging people to check their eligibility using the Age UK Benefits Calculator here – www.benefitscheck.ageuk.org.uk/Home/Start/ or another benefits checker

Together, let's make sure that that £8.2m is in the pockets of local older people this winter, helping them to cover mounting expenses.

Penny Thewlis | CEO | she/her pennythewlis@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk Direct dial: 0774 126 1415

#### SUTTON COURTENAY (NATIONAL POWER) TRUST CHARITY

The Sutton Courtenay (National Power) Trust charity considers applications for grants for:

- the relief of poverty and distress which includes financial hardship
- education and recreation
- and other general charitable purposes

Any individual living in Sutton Courtenay can make an application for a grant.

Organisations based in Sutton Courtenay and operating for the benefit of the civil parish of Sutton Courtenay can also make grant applications. If you live in Sutton Courtenay and would like to know more about what types of things that can be considered and how to apply please contact the Clerk to the Trustees, Clare Pennicott on 07778284193 or email

clerk.scnpt@gmail.com or write to 8 Church Street, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4NJ

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE TREATED IN TOTAL CONFIDENCE



# Under pressure to use an energy pre-payment meter?

# Citizens Advice can help

In the concluding months of 2022, Citizens Advice is expecting to see more cases of a disturbing trend: low-income families with energy supply debts being pressured or even coerced into using pre-payment meters for their gas and electricity. Energy supplied by pre-payment meters costs more than energy paid by direct debit or on-demand, and this comes at a time when drastically increased price tariffs this autumn will probably see most people's fuel bills double.

Energy suppliers are legally obliged to negotiate repayment plans with customers who are falling behind on their bills, but many suppliers are ignoring this requirement and proceeding with installing pre-payment meters - or, for customers with smart meters, remotely switching them to prepayment.

If you are one of the many people who are confronting this problem, or are generally floundering amidst your finances, worried about the future, or want to discuss your problems in confidence, get in touch with Citizens Advice on Adviceline 0808 278 7907. You can also telephone the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133 or the Citizens Advice Debt Helpline on 0800 240 4420. Our website has lots of helpful information:

https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk

# **Wanderings Around Churchmere Pool**

On my walks around the lake and the common, I look for cheerful and happy vibes, but these are very difficult to find this month. Most of the trees by the lake, in an area known as Kiddies, have been lost. This was a magical spot.

However, the autumnal leaves on the standing trees are showing their true seasonal colours now. A fine display it is with the bright sunshine to light the show.

The anglers have been having a tough time with few catches; the low water is not helping vision. I have not seen Churchmere water level this low before. Even the ducks, swans and other water birds are standing in areas that are normally a few feet deep.

Hopefully we will get some rain this month, and a few more sunny autumnal days to enjoy.

Roger Rance

## **Trustees Needed**

Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice is a local charity providing free, confidential and independent advice to help people with problems in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse.

We are looking for several new trustees to join our Board:

Company Secretary Trustee PR and Communications Trustee Research and Campaigns Trustee

The main issues people bring us concern benefits, debt, employment and housing problems. Following advice, four in five people are able to resolve their problem and we help most to find a way forward. We also use evidence to influence policies and practices that affect people's lives both locally and nationally.

If you are interested in joining our Board, please email our recruitment team: recruitment@osavcab.org.uk



# THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



# Poppy Appeal 2022

The Royal British Legion was set up in 1921 to support the service men of World War 1 and their families. The first ever Poppy Appeal was held that year. Today, the Royal British Legion continues to provide support to serving and ex-serving personnel in many ways. This includes helping those with life changing injuries following conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and supporting veterans living with dementia. It also provides support with getting back into employment and, more recently, helping families impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

As part of the Royal British Legion 2022 appeal, poppies and other items will be available at different places around the village from Thursday, 27 October to Sunday, 13 November and Alan Calver will have his stall at his gate during this period.

There will also be a special Pop-Up Poppy Shop on the morning of Sunday 6 November in Costcutter in Bradstocks Way.



100% of all the money collected will go directly to the Royal British Legion.

Thank you for your support.

Poppy Appeal Organised for Sutton Courtenay and Appleford Poppyappealsca@gmail.com

# Royal British Legion Steventon & District Branch

# **Poppy Appeal Curry Lunch**

# Saturday 5th November, Steventon Village Hall, 12.30 for 1pm.\*

This is the only event in the year when those who have served in the Armed Forces and Reserves and others associated with the Defence Services can meet together, and we greatly welcome those who have a looser connection or who support us.

The cost is £15 per adult, first drink free thereafter donations. Children come free. Main Course provided by Tiffins. All Profit goes to Poppy Appeal

Cash or cheques please to N H Thompson, 27 Stocks Lane, Steventon OX13 6SS.
Tel 01235 832077

\*Please notify us of any dietary needs. There will be vegetarian dishes. Take Away available.

## **Other News**

Did you know that Sutton Courtenay used to have its own Legion branch — and indeed a women's section as well? Over the years, membership dwindled and the Sutton Courtenay and Appleford membership amalgamated with Steventon — hence the formation of the Steventon and District branch that we now have which also includes Milton and Drayton - mirroring the Damascus Parish.

#### **Treasurer**

We are currently looking for someone to take on the role of Treasurer for the branch. The work is not onerous, but we do need someone to fill the position to ensure that we meet the requirements of the RBL as a branch.

Please contact either Nick Thompson, Chairman on 01235 832077 or Paul Francis, Secretary, on 07799 026 666 if you would like to discuss this further.

#### **AGM**

The AGM of the Steventon and District Royal British Legion will take place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 7.00 p.m. and will be held at the home of our Chairman, Brigadier Nick Thompson, Garden Cottage, 27 Stocks Lane, Steventon OX13 6SS. All branch members are welcome to attend.

It would be very helpful if you could let Nick know if you are planning to attend.

Paul Francis Hon. Secretary Steventon & District RBL

# FROM THE EDITOR





#### SOME CURRENT SCAMS

# There are currently various Ofgem scams.

Ofgem are warning residents about a number of text messages circulating claiming to be connected to support with Energy Bills.

Recent examples have included:

GOV-UK: We have noticed that you are owed a £400 discount towards your bills. Please visit my-energy-bill-online.

GOVUK: We have identified you as eligible for a discounted energy bill under the Energy Bills Support Scheme. You can apply here: <a href="https://energybills-rebate.">https://energybills-rebate.</a>

Other messages are claiming to be from the energy regulator Ofgem.

Criminals are experts at creating spoof messages that then link to fake websites using official logos and branding of trusted organisations to trick you into taking urgent action without closer inspection. Residents are reminded that the Government support payments which are being made available will be automatically applied to energy accounts and you will not need to supply personal information to 'apply' for payments.

www.ofgem.gov.uk/avoid-and-report-energy-scams

#### **British Gas Scam**

See below - this is a copy of the latest email scam - DO NOT CLICK ON ANY LINK. - please forward it to philshing@britishgas.co.uk and delete it.

"British Gas wants to inform you that you are eligible for a payment refund.

Our records indicates that you have paid more than you should have for your British Gas service from 2021-2022.

Because of this reason and that we value our clients we have decided to refund the total amount which you have overpaid.

Refundable Amount: £185

Reference Number: BG176-6038514

Claim your refund now

Best regards,

British Gas Customer Service.

© British Gas 2022"

#### Millions of people fall victim to online scams each year.

If you think you've fallen for a scam message and provided financial details, contact your bank immediately on a number you know to be correct, such as the one on the back of your bank card. An edited Neighbourhood Alert is published on the left of this page. If anyone would like to read the full article it is: https://assets.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/images/site\_images/90948\_CURRENT\_SCAMS\_\_\_OCTOBER\_2022.pdf

The number and variety of scams are quite shocking. I have had many texts, and the odd email, from scammers myself. Scammers appeal to our fears and worries and seem to strike when life is at its busiest. It may seem easier to deal with that pressing problem quickly — especially when there is an easy way such as clicking on a link. **DON'T!** Think 'scammer' whenever you have an odd message purporting to be from a bank or official organisation — or even a strange message from a child, relation or friend. Stop and think, question the information and double check before taking action. Keep yourself (and your money) safe.

Editor

## **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

Rubber or Chicago – you choose

of a refresher', 'very rusty' or learning.

#### NORDIC WALKING

Get to know people who Nordic Walk in Sutton Courtenay and enjoy their company while walking and talking in the fresh air all year round.

Instruction is provided for free and you can borrow poles while learning Nordic Walking techniques. Walks are also free. You decide which walk you would like to try.

We have a 15 minute wellness walk for those awaiting medical treatment or recovering from surgery, for example knee or hip replacements. We also have a short 30 minute footpath walk exploring the village, a medium 40 minute walk and a long 90 minute walk.

We walk at the pace chosen by the Walk Leaders who cater for all abilities. So that no one is ever left behind we always have a volunteer back marker or tail walker. You are welcome to try all the different walks if you wish. Most Wednesdays and Fridays we have more than 30 people joining in.

After the walks we have coffee, tea and biscuits, and, on occasions, home-made cake courtesy of the Sutton Courtenay Football Club. Toilets are available at the club house.

Graham Wells

# **PUZZLE PAGE**

# Easy Sudoku

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

# Medium Sudoku

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

From www.puzzles.ca/sudoku

# WORD SEARCH - REMEMBER, REMEMBER THE $5^{\text{TH}}$ OF NOVEMBER

Ν	Ι	В	Т	S	S	Ε	Ε	Т	0	0	J	М	R	А
Н	Т	А	0	F	R	К	V	$\subset$	Р	U	L	М	А	Н
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0	0	Z	0	А	F	Ε	0	Р	L	Ν	R	R	S	0
D	Р	Q	F	Н	Т	I	I	S	W	G	Ε	$\times$	W	L
А	Н	Υ	F	S	А	Ν	R	R	А	R	L	В	В	Ρ
В	U	U	Ε	0	G	Т	Т	Ε	S	Ε	К	Υ	٧	В
G	К	U	Ε	J	S	К	R	0	${\sf W}$	Ε	R	I	F	Α
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Bangers	Parliament
Bonfire	Plot
Boots	Rockets
Conspiracy	Roman Candle
Fireworks	Scarf
Gloves	Sparklers
Gunpowder	Toffee Apples
Guy Fawkes	Touchpaper
Hat	Treason
Jumping Jacks	

 $From\ www.puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com$ 

V



The Thames from Sutton Bridge



# EVENING OF SPIRIT MEDIUMSHIP

11th November 7.30pm - 9.30pm Sutton Courtenay Village Hall



Tickets £10 (limited spaces) from oxfordshirewildliferescue.com

Wine & Beer for sale

All proceeds go to Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue



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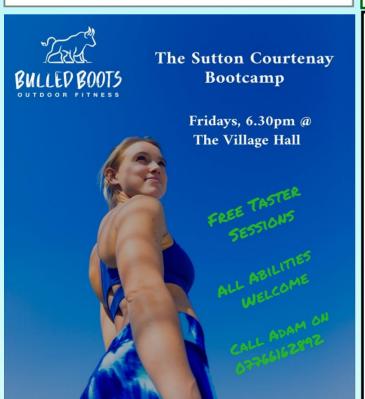
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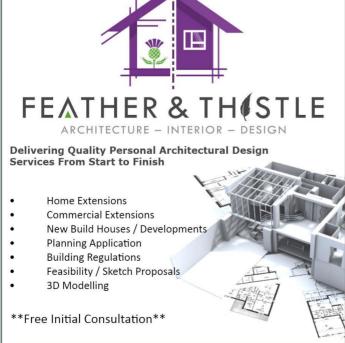
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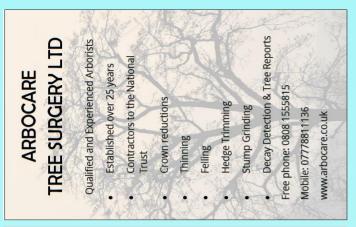
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