

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 51 No. 10

DECEMBER 2022 – JANUARY 2023



Zen

The Sutton Courtenay News Team wish all our readers,
distributors, contributors & advertisers
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

VILLAGE DIARY

Thur 1 & 15 Dec	WeCare2 (pg 10)	River Room	11:15-12:30
Fri 2 & 16 Dec	Bridge Afternoon (pg 11)	River Room	14:00-17:00
Thur 8 Dec	Community Café (pg 9)	River Room	10:30-12:00
Sat 10 Dec	Friends of All Saints' Yuletide Eve (pg 9)	All Saints' Church	18:30-20:30
Sat 17 Dec	Star Hunt in Village (pg 7)		
Mon 19 Dec	Carol Singing in Village (pg 7)	Start at Costcutter	18:00
Tue 20 Dec	Sutton Courtenay WI (pg 10)	River Room	19:30
Sat 24 Dec	Torchlight Procession (pg 8)	School Gates	18:00
Thur 5 & 19 Jan	WeCare2 (pg 10)	River Room	11:15-12:30
Fri 6 & 20 Jan	Bridge Afternoon (pg 11)	River Room	14:00-17:00
Mon 16 Jan	Knit & Natter (pg 8)	River Room	14:00-16:00
Tue 17 Jan	Sutton Courtenay WI (pg 10)	River Room	19:30
Thur 12 & 26 Jan	Community Café (pg 9)	River Room	10:30-12:00
Sat 28 Jan	Movie Matinee (pg 8)	River Room	16:00

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

FEBRUARY 2023 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2023

Unless otherwise stated the Sutton Courtenay News copy deadline is the 3rd 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](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
Cricket Club: drb71@hotmail.co.uk
WI - Sutton Courtenay Val Melville 847612
Nordic Walking Group: Graham Wells 847322
Churchmere Carp Synd.: Andy Barrett 07717 662039
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.





Recreation Ground Refurbishment

The construction work is almost finished, with new surfaces and the planting of hedging some of the final aspects of the project. All the equipment will be subject to a formal inspection report before being made available for public use so please be patient until the final fences come down. There will be an official opening party held at the play area, please check the Parish Council's website and posters at the park for the date.

The Parish Council has secured funding from local developments to install permanent goal posts on the Recreation Ground. These will be sited away from the Football Club's two main pitches.

New gates on rights of way – what are the padlocks for?

Following our previous update on the new gates which have replaced stiles, the Council received a couple of queries regarding the padlocks that are on two of the 'kissing gates'. These padlocks can be opened with a RADAR key and once open would allow users of mobility scooters or wheelchairs to pass through the gate. The padlock does not interfere with the traditional mechanism of the gate which is secured by a standard latch.

RADAR keys can be purchased locally from the District Council. You may be asked to show proof of your disability when purchasing a key. These keys will also give you access to disabled toilets across the country.

Parish Council litter and dog waste bins

The Parish Council has increased the collection frequency of its litter bins so that all the bins will be emptied on a weekly basis. The decision has been made as the Council has recognised that residents are making good use of the bins but they are often overfilled. Hopefully the weekly collections will ensure that less items end up on the ground.

Old Wallingford Way Cemetery – Christmas tributes

The Parish Council appreciates that many families will be visiting the cemetery over the Christmas period. In February 2023 the Parish Council will arrange for the removal and disposal of any remaining Christmas tributes. At the same time the old compost bin will be emptied and removed. Visitors are asked to make use of the onsite bin which will now be emptied weekly.

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 wild animals who often take a great interest in objects at the cemetery. Glass and plastic items may be removed by the Parish Clerk.

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/work within the parish or within 3 miles of the parish boundary
- Be able to attend regular evening meetings
- Have an interest in local issues
- Have a desire to improve the quality of life in the Parish
- Be 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.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings. The dates of next meetings are Tuesday 6th December 2022, 10th January 2023 and 7th February 2023 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, Lyn Hodder, Father Morkos, Joanna O'Callaghan, Hugo Raworth, Jason Warwick & Antony Willott.

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CYCLING

Since the first lockdown, like many, I have been moved to use my bike to get around much more. Whenever possible, I cycle to my Council Offices for meetings. I am past the age of being a member of the Lycra brigade, and as a result of pressure from family and wiser colleagues, I am now wearing my crash helmet. My car usage has dropped dramatically and I am becoming an expert on understanding how and why the X2 bus timetable behaves the way it does. Living in Drayton, I am fortunate to be close to a regular half hour bus service in most directions. Many people are not so lucky. If/when the buses are late, it is almost always because they have been held up in car traffic.

It is all very well for the likes of me to bang on about encouraging people to use their cars much less, but so often the major obstacle to this is the unreliability of our public transport, together with the safety of our cycle network. Here and there, we have stretches of well made, dedicated, safe and attractive routes for cyclists (Peep-O-Day Lane being the classic example). Very few of these join up properly at present and the cyclist too often has to take his/her life in their hands as they try to negotiate busy roads and fast traffic.

Last Saturday, we decided to try a longer trip to a cup of coffee. Only about 20 miles + hills, but even after careful planning, it involved some stretches of busy roads. Most car drivers are very aware of the need to give cyclists (particularly those not in the flush of youth) plenty of room as per the new Highway Code. However, a significant number seem to find cyclists little more than an irritating obstruction. While we cannot afford to join up safe cycling routes as quickly as we would like, and so many of our roads are too narrow for dedicated cycle lanes, all of us - cyclists, pedestrians and car drivers - have to accept the need for sharing the roads. In the past 30 years, the number of cars on our roads has doubled. That cannot be sustainable. Last Saturday, we decided to get off main roads wherever possible and explore usable byways. This involved carrying the bikes at various points and negotiating gates and even stiles at one point.

On the way home, we took on the roads again and risked the traffic. Summing up our day, we agreed that it had been a beautiful day, we were fitter than when we started, and we were still alive. But was it enjoyable? Nowhere near as enjoyable as it should have been. Having been overtaken by two electric cyclists, even older than us, shooting up Steventon Hill, we are seriously considering the latest electric adaptations to normal bikes – less than half the price of new electric bikes. We wonder if going a little faster on shared roads might actually make us safer.

A recent VWHDC publication caught my eye recently. “The councils intend to encourage sustainable active transport methods like walking and cycling, and to make maximum use of green spaces and the districts’ waterways as it’s widely recognised that spending time in the natural environment is beneficial for mental health and wellbeing.”

Meanwhile, OCC is heavily involved in a “Vision Zero Summit” on road and cycling safety. Bring it on!

Richard Webber Cllr

01235 534001

Richardwebber777@gmail.com

THAMES VALLEY ALERT



Think ‘WIDEN’ to reduce your chances of being burgled this Winter

Taking simple measures, such as locking your windows, leaving indoor lights on a timer, double or deadlocking your doors, and having exterior lights on sensors, can significantly reduce your chances of being burgled.

A combination of WIDEN actions is the most effective and recommended by police throughout the country. Additionally, at Neighbourhood Watch we believe neighbours keeping an eye out for each other is also key to preventing burglary.

- **WINDOWS:** Lock your windows
- **INTERIOR:** Put your interior lights on a timer
- **DOORS:** Double or deadlock your doors
- **EXTERIOR:** Put your exterior lights on a sensor
- **NEIGHBOURS:** Keep an eye out for neighbours

For more information check: ourwatch.org.uk





My work experience campaign has been a great success and I'm very grateful to all of the employers who offered placements to local young people this year. I visited a number of the young people participating while they were on their placements and they had all enjoyed their time. They found the workplaces friendly and felt they had learned new things. The whole point of this campaign was that work experience placements had dried up as a result of Covid and lots of people working from home – but they remain a vital way for young people to learn the skills the workplace needs.

It was standing room only in Westminster for the first meeting of the Community Energy All Party Parliamentary Group, which I chair and which is sponsored by Power for People. As readers know, I am the lead sponsor of the Local Electricity Bill, which is designed to remove the barriers to local generators of renewable energy selling that energy to local people.

The bill now has support from 311 MPs, within touching distance of half of the House of Commons. There was a great atmosphere in the room with people having come from as far as Scotland to attend! The bill has changed significantly as a result of conversations between the campaign team and civil servants and we remain hopeful of seeing it incorporated into other legislation.

Another issue I have campaigned on is anti-social behaviour. In my first couple of years most of the complaints I received were about anti-social behaviour from unauthorised traveller camps. This is something I raised in the House of Commons as it was frequently accompanied by local people being subjected to abuse, and to theft and damage to their properties.

In the past few months, I have received increasing complaints about broader anti-social behaviour and crime, including drug dealing and business burglaries. I have made visits to businesses that have been burgled – sometimes repeatedly – and I held a crime summit in Wantage for local people to raise the experiences they've been having directly with Thames Valley Police. See my Facebook page (www.facebook.com/davidjohnston4wantage) for updates about the outcomes of this.

We also saw Back British Farming Day this month. I am a regular visitor to the constituency's first-rate farms – and a regular consumer of their meat and dairy products! – and I see first-hand how hard our farmers work. We should do all we can to support them, not least by buying local wherever possible.

I've continued my visits to every kind of organisation we have in the constituency – including sports clubs. I am a big sports fan and have recently been to both Grove Rugby Club and Wantage Town FC games. We have lots of sports clubs in the constituency. They are almost all run by volunteers and act as a great resource for the community – do visit the ones near you when you can.

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



Do you know an older person who may need support?



Colder temperatures, plus insufficient food and heating, as well as reduced contact with friends and family, mean this winter could be really bleak for many of our most vulnerable older neighbours.

Checking in on them is more important than ever. It's easy to start a conversation - from a 'hello, how are you?' when passing by, to popping by for a cup of tea and a chat.

A functioning neighbourhood community can give a much-needed lift to an isolated older person struggling to get by. This may also lead to the opportunity to direct them to local voluntary organisations or council services which could provide them with much needed support.

Age UK provide up to date guidance on the latest energy support schemes as well as their Save Energy, Pay Less information guide and their Help with Heating Costs factsheet. These cover everything from temperature controls to how to access household insulation grants and could be a real lifeline for your older neighbours.

For more information see: ageuk.org.uk

ABINGDON DAMASCUS YOUTH GROUP

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project
Registered Charity 1098966



ADYP drop-in:

When? Wednesdays from 6:00 – 7:30pm

Where? Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

Contact? James Quartermain

jamesq.ycat@gmail.com

01235 848694



James Damascus



James_Damascus

YouTube - The Abingdon Damascus Youth Project - MIND GYM

Website - www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk



**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

This year churches across the DAMASCUS Parish (Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon) are inviting you to 'Follow the Star' to a church near you to experience once again the wonder of Christmas – the same wonder the shepherds experienced. Shepherds in first century Palestine would have been attuned to the wonders and ravages of nature: star-lit nights, cold and heat, storm and calm, and the unwelcome attention of predators. They would have been more aware than we of human dependency on the seasons, and more respectful than us of the precarious nature of existence. Fear, as well as appreciation, would have shaped their religious sensitivities. Some think the shepherds near Bethlehem may have been guarding sheep for the Jerusalem Temple, which used them as part of the sacrificial ritual. Yet the kind of work shepherds did and the hours they had to keep barred them from orthodox religious observance; they were regarded as uncouth and untrustworthy and were not allowed to give testimony in law courts. It was typical of St Luke (the only New Testament writer to refer to the shepherds) to put them in the forefront of his narrative. Luke is the writer who favours the underdog: tax collectors, sinners, women, old and poor people and non-Jews all figure favourably in his account. Deliberately he sets before us shepherds as the first Christmas worshippers. They already knew how to *wonder*. William of St Thierry wrote: "A man who has lost his sense of wonder is a man dead." The 19th Century scientist Michael Faraday wrote: "Let us consider... how wonderfully we stand upon this world. Here it is that we are born, bred and live, and yet we view these things with an almost entire absence of wonder..." This is no plea for anti-intellectual faith, but rather for the discovery of an extra dimension. Wonder is the prime ingredient of worship, and we need to recover it and use it. It takes practice. The poet William Blake encouraged us to look into the ordinary and see the extraordinary:

"To see a World in a Grain of Sand,
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower:
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour..."

The late Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster wrote, "A sense of the sublime leads to a sense of awe, which is, I suppose, that combination of wonder and fearfulness you may feel in the presence of what takes your breath away. It is not afraid in the sense of feeling scared, but rather an awe-struck sense of amazement that the ordinary is rather more extraordinary than the extraordinary... it is not the rabbit out of the hat but the rabbit out of the rabbit that is so

surprising..." So, in the astonishing story of heaven-come-to-earth in Bethlehem, of divinity in a cowshed, it is *shepherds* who receive the revelation. Not priests, not presidents, not philosophers. "An angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified." For all they knew it might have been bad news. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord'." The response of the shepherds was to go and see. Not to question or even to reason. The main constituent of their belief was already *wonder*. They were accustomed to marvelling, for they were surrounded by a world of marvels. So, they responded to the invitation and went to look. And as they looked, they marvelled. Later, they were to return "glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard."

With love and prayers,

The Reverend Helen Kendrick, Rector of the DAMASCUS Parish

Services of Worship

1st Sunday: Family service at 10:30 am

2nd Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 10:30am + Junior Church

3rd Sunday: Morning Worship at 10:30am + Junior Church

4th Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 10:30am + Junior Church

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

Wednesdays: BCP Holy Communion at 9:45 am



Sunday 4th December

10:30 Christingle Family Service – for all ages
Come and make your own Christingle and explore
where the Star leads.

The service will be followed by refreshments in
the River Room.

Holy Baptism

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

Georgina Zoe Alice VERNEDE (30th October 2022)

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

CHURCH DIARY FOR DECEMBER

Please see the church Christmas card for full details of all our Christmas services across the DAMASCUS Parish.

Sunday 4th – 10:30am Christingle Family Service for all ages – come and make a Christingle and help support the work of the Children's Society whilst learning all about Jesus as the Light of the World – family friendly and fun and followed by refreshments

Thursday 8th - 10:30-12 noon Community Café in the River Room

Saturday 10th – 18:30-20:30 Friends of All Saints' Yuletide Evening in All Saints' Church

Thursday 15th – 1:30pm Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School Christmas Service in All Saints.

Saturday 17th - From 9:30am you are invited to go on a 'Star Hunt' around the village. If you find one you are invited to keep and read the booklet and follow the star to any of the Christmas Services (to hang your Star on the Christmas Tree in the churchyard) to find out what it is pointing to: the person of Jesus and the light he brings to each of us.

Sunday 18th – 18:00-19:00 Traditional Candlelit Carol Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Tuesday 20th – Christmas Hamper delivery around the village

CHURCH DIARY FOR JANUARY

Sunday 1st – 10:30am Holy Communion, All Saints' SC – a service for all the DAMASCUS Parish led by the Reverend Phillip Tovey

Monday 9th – 19:30 DAMASCUS PCC Meeting

Saturday 28th – 4pm Movie Matinee in the River Room



Come on a Star Hunt!

It's not too late to make a star or two or more! Instruction packs can be found in the church – just pick one up – or email admin@damascusparish.org.uk and ask for one to be sent out to you.

Completed Stars will need to be returned to the Parish Office by Sunday 4th December 2022. Then join in with the Star Hunt around the village from 9:30am on Saturday 17th December.

Keep the booklet, as a gift from us, and bring the Star to the churchyard to hang on the Christmas Tree. And why not join in with our Christmas Services to find where the Star is leading?

A Traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols



**6pm on Sunday 18th December 2022
at All Saints' Church**

*With the combined choirs of
Sutton Courtenay and Drayton*

An alternative to the World Cup Final!

Thank you to everyone who came and helped fold all the church Christmas cards for the Parish.

With all our villages growing in size this becomes a bigger job each year and we were grateful for help from across the community.

Thank you to all those who came & supported the Jumble Sale on 5th November. We took £800 on the day & hope to make a final total of £1,000 for the work of the church, once we have included the eBay sales. Huge thanks to all who helped set up, run & clear up at the end. We could have not done it without you.

Enjoy Singing Carols? Can't get enough of them?

**Come and join in with Carol Singing around the
Village on Monday 19 December**

18:00 Bradstocks Way (outside Costcutter)

19:00 Lady Place

20:00 Chapel Lane (Number 30)

With plenty of refreshments along the way from our hosts this is a great way to get in the Christmas spirit and help raise money for Sightsavers

**DAMASCUS parish online prayer
Tuesdays, 7:45 - 8:15 am**

A time to gather together online to praise our Father God, to listen to Jesus, and to join the Spirit in interceding for each other, our community, our country, our world.

Contact: Helen and Katie on DAMASCUSprayer@gmail.com.



"they raised their voices
together in prayer to God...
After they prayed" things
began to happen!
Acts 4:24,31

Image by Freepix

CHRISTMAS EVE TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION AND BONFIRE



Torches will be on sale in the local shops from Saturday 10th December.

Price: **£3.50** each
(NOT FOR SALE TO UNDER 16s).

The procession begins at 6pm from outside the school gates – please follow the guidance of the stewards and keep to the pavements – culminating in the churchyard at All Saints' for carols around the bonfire.

This Christmas we will be raising money for Sightsavers – an international charity which works to eliminate blindness and to promote the rights of people with disabilities.

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

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

It is not too late to nominate someone to receive a Christmas Hamper this year.

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**

MOVIE MATINEES

The next Movie Matinee in the River Room (A WARM SPACE) is on

Saturday 28th January 2023 - 4pm

For a full programme to be sent to you please

email: admin@damascusparish.org.uk

or pick one up from the back of the church

Entry is **free** but donations for refreshments to church funds welcome.



KNIT AND NATTER – January 16 at 2pm

Come along to the River Room between 2 & 4 on Monday 16 January to Knit and Natter.

These afternoons are already a very successful event on the first Monday of the month at St Peter's Drayton, and we are now having additional sessions on the third Monday afternoon at All Saints'.

Join in once a month to knit or natter - or do both!



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH & RIVER ROOM

Community Café in the River Room



Run by the church for the whole community

Thursday 8th December

NB Only one café in December

Thursday 12th January 2023

Thursday 26th January 2023

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

RIVER ROOM 200 CLUB

In Support of the All Saints' Community Space

Winners at the Draw on November 13 were:

1st – No. 29 (£48.00)

2nd – No. 50 (£24. 00)

3rd – No. 12 (£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 December 6th at the All Saints'
Community Café in the
River Room at 10.30 am.

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS'



Friends of All Saints'

Yuletide Evening at All Saints' Church

Saturday 10th December 2022

6.30pm to 8.30pm

Tickets £12 adult, £6 child

Available from Sue Jenkins (Chairman)

07885 437454 or any member of the committee

Includes supper and glass of Mulled Wine or Soft Drink

Enjoy an evening of food, wine and Christmas Carol Singing



WARM SPACES in Sutton Courtenay

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

Or ring the Parish Office on 01235 847179

NORDIC WALKING

With Nordic Walking it is never too late to be what you want to be, and never too late to learn something new.

You will find new friends from the village and discover the many footpaths which can all be accessed from our meeting venue. Once you have taken up the offer of a free taster on any Wednesday or Friday morning, throughout the year, starting at 9:30 for an hour, you will be able to join us on one of our led walks. There are eight different walks, each of a different length, from the Recreation Ground. By learning the correct technique, in an hour you will be turning your walk into a full upper body workout.

You will be taught how to push through the special pole straps against the ground to propel yourself forward. This means you complete the equivalent of a push up with every step. Walking only exercises 40% of your total body, Nordic Walking 90%.

I am a qualified instructor with over 12 years' experience of Nordic Walking. Just contact me on graymar.wells@btopenworld.com to find out whether Nordic Walking could change your life as it did mine.

Graham Wells



SCIDS



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 17th /18th March.

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



SUTTON COURTENAY WI



We're looking forward to a brilliant year of fun, friendship, entertainment, and lots more

In January an evening of 'Music of London'

and in February a visit from the

Thames Valley Air Ambulance Unit

Come and enjoy, learn, make friends

We meet every third Tuesday monthly in the

River Room, Sutton Courtenay at 7.30 pm

For details contact our Secretary on 01235 847612



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

We care2

We care2 is a small group of people with dementia and, of course, their carers. We meet on the 1st and 3rd 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.

A BRIDGE DAY IN THE RIVER ROOM

A Date for your Diaries
Thursday March 30
WATCH THIS SPACE!

We continue to enjoy regular Bridge
(for all levels of competence, including beginners)
in the River Room on 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons,
2-5 pm, with tea and cake, at £5 a time.

New members (or visiting players)
are always very welcome.

FOSTER CARERS



Foster Carers Needed in Oxfordshire

Love - that's what fostering is all about. As Oxfordshire foster carer, Sue, says: 'these kids don't want money, they don't want things - they just want love and attention, and they want your time'.

Oxfordshire County Council's fostering team is looking for people with big hearts to become foster carers. So, if you've got love to give, they'd love to hear from you!

Find out more about fostering at:
oxfordshire.gov.uk/fostering

Naomi Cooper
Marketing & Campaigns Officer
Oxfordshire County Council
naomi.cooper@oxfordshire.gov.uk
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk



Do You Enjoy Singing?

**All Saints' Singers of Sutton Courtenay
are looking for new members**



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

Come and reap the benefits of singing together!
We are a friendly community choir with an excellent music director.

There is no audition, and it is not necessary to be able to read music.

Please visit our website for details

www.allsaintssingers.org

or phone to find out more

07870 506774

*** Rehearsals starting 6th January ***

LOST AND FOUND

On 11 November a purse containing a National Rail railcard was found near the Lady Place playground in the High Street. If this belongs to you, please contact the Sutton Courtenay News editors (editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk) for information about how to get it back.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On Wednesday 26 Oct 12:30-1:30pm, a lovely lunch of homemade soup, bread, tea & coffee and other snacks. All served so beautifully by our DAMASCUS group, it was great to be waited on. Followed by bingo and a quiz. Not many people but good to see them.

-Pat & Sam Quennell

Easy Sudoku

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

Medium Sudoku

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

Taken from www.puzzles.ca/sudoku

WORDSEARCH

The topic is CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

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

Carol	Holiday
Christmas Tree	Jingle Bells
Dancing	Mistletoe
Decorations	Resolutions
Family	Santa Claus
Festive	Snowman
Fireworks	Tinsel
Fruitcake	Turkey
Good Cheer	Wreath



UPDATE FROM THE ABBEY

It is some months since we last updated people in the village with news from the Abbey. In June we told readers of the Sutton Courtenay News that, following the decision to close the Abbey, we were looking at options which included possible renewal partnerships or the sale of the Abbey and the closure of the charity.

Readers may be aware of the difficulties facing the charity running the Abbey. As one factor is the deteriorating financial position arising from the lack of income, a final decision about the future will be taken soon. The trustees have worked closely with the Charity Commission throughout this period.

The Abbey belongs to a charitable limited liability company and it is the members of the company who advise trustees about future policy. In September the members, aware that no viable regeneration or partnership proposals were then available, instructed the trustees to put the Abbey onto the market with a view to possible sale.

In considering renewal options, the trustees and a wider body of supporters have sought renewal or partnership proposals that would secure the financial future of the charity through providing services in line with its charitable purposes and providing public benefit as required by the Charity Commission. There is one remaining renewal option being considered which has yet to be fully evaluated.

Over the last 40 years or so, people from all walks of life and all faiths have been able to enjoy the magnificent grounds and buildings. The Abbey has been open to people from all over the world as well as the village. Our hope is that, if we sell, we can find a buyer who would retain this gift of welcome and hospitality, but we are aware that legal constraints may make this impossible.

Brad Strachan
Chair of Trustees

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SAVE OUR ABBEY

We are a group of local residents who have spent many years visiting and cherishing the Abbey of Sutton Courtenay. I, Kate Taylor, have grown up in the village, attending the local primary school, and remember excitedly cutting through the Abbey on my way to the river, going round the labyrinth, participating in art classes there, climbing the rather large trees. Many important events in my life have been held in the Abbey, my grandfather's funeral being one, a wedding being another, discovering my enjoyment in old architecture and techniques. My mother and father and all their friends also grew up in the village, with childhood memories of the Abbey being some of their most fond. I, Kai McKim, recall staying at the Abbey to visit a family friend, Marie Darkins, who used a studio by the dovecote as a pottery workshop. We helped out picking asparagus in the kitchen garden of which we made a soup in the old kitchen, where wishes and affirmations written on small notes were stuffed into the old cracked oak rafters. My parents were married at the Abbey and some of our most cherished photos of family members, now passed away, have in the background a wisteria covered face of the Abbey. It has always been a place of special importance for Sutton Courtenay; it was a place of sanctuary for refugees and displaced children in the 60s, in 1973 the Dalai Lama held a conference with displaced Tibetans there, and in the mid 70s Bishop Colin Winter, the former Anglican Bishop of Damarland in South-West Africa, stayed there, to escape apartheid. The Abbey has been a space that has brought community together for Sutton Courtenay and internationally.

PRIVATISATION

We recently discovered that there are plans to sell off the Abbey to a private developer ... luxury flats? We are very anxious about the future of the Abbey and its value as a site of local and global influence being lost.

HELP US SAVE THE ABBEY

This is an open letter intended for the owner of the Abbey and the charity he represents - The Sutton Courtenay Abbey Ltd. We write to him to urge him to meet with us and share their intentions.

Our letter is also to you, our neighbours in Sutton Courtenay. If you share our concerns and wish to keep the Abbey as a place for the community, please get in touch and join our campaign. We will be arranging a public meeting soon to discuss the next steps in this process.

Kate MacKenzie Taylor (07783 796601)

Kai McKim (07454 334466)

savesuttoncourtenayabbey@gmail.com



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A new vision for the Abbey in Sutton Courtenay

Hi there - I am George Taylor - the chap who together with his scientist father Chris Taylor conceived "The Nursery" in the High Street when he was 15. I have lived in Sutton Courtenay since 1961. My father started the Sutton Courtenay News and I printed it on a duplicator for about 10 years. The Matrix Music school, a successful charity, is run by Lindsay MacKenzie, my partner since 1983.

My idea to take the Abbey in communal and charitable ownership through the 21st century is to rename it "The George Orwell Centre", making it a place to reimagine life on this planet - every aspect of it.

Everybody in the English speaking world knows of George Orwell, or should do ... the Centre could, I think, quite easily attract people and funds from a much greater variety of sources than the current charity.

I am personally particularly interested in community - especially for the young and old - and in ways of bringing them together, to help each other, and to help transfer the knowledge and skills of the older to the young generations, before they are lost to the world.

The current charity appears to have lost its way, for reasons that I do not fully understand. Maybe it is better to accept that, and for the current trustees to pass on the responsibility to a new group of people, with energy, imagination and fresh ideas.

I am looking for anybody with any energy whatsoever, but it would be particularly helpful at this stage to get the help of retired professional people who could help think us through the practical, legal and financial problems most likely to be faced at an early stage. Of course, I would accept the help of anyone, regardless of whether they are retired or not. My daughter is currently studying architecture in London, and I will be encouraging her friends, and other students with other skills and interests, to help.

I will be walking around the village knocking on doors over the next few months, so I apologise for that in advance. I will be doing that to find out what people think, to ask them what their skills are and what they might contribute, and to ask them if they know of anybody or any organisation that might help.

I helped Fred Blum restore the Abbey 40 years ago. I was trained as an architect and know the building intimately. I am not wealthy, but I am prepared personally to put a reasonable amount of money towards preventing the Abbey deteriorating, and to support a housekeeper and administrator, and maybe a retired master craftsman.

In the long run I envisage "The George Orwell Centre" becoming quite a dynamic place, carrying out the objectives of the current charity, and a LOT more!

If you would like to help in any way, including contributing ideas and names of possible sources of help, please contact me, George Taylor on 07843 900240, taygrg@icloud.com. My address is 60 High Street, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4AS. You are welcome to pop in for a cup of tea. Ring me first, to make sure I am in. Or invite me to your house for a cup of tea.

PS I see that my daughter Kate and her friend Kai have themselves written in to the Sutton Courtenay News - that is the trouble with busy schedules and deadlines. Good for them! I suggest you contact either Kate or Kai or myself - or all three of us. The more contacts made the better! Then we can start figuring out what to do next.



POPPY APPEAL 2022 – A BIG THANK YOU

Unfortunately, I won't know the total raised until after the deadline for contributions for this issue of the Sutton Courtenay News. But I want to say a big thank you to everyone who donated to this year's appeal. With a special mention for Alan Calver who stood at his gate despite the rain and for Darren Blay and the staff of Costcutter for the pop-up shop, cream teas and raffle. The effort they put in was amazing, as shown in the photo.

Melanie Jefferies

Poppy Appeal Organiser for Sutton Courtenay & Appleford
- poppyappealsca@gmail.com



I am writing to remind both old and new residents in Appleford and Sutton Courtenay of the existence of the Millennium Common and to draw your attention to this wonderful, natural community facility. It is an area of land in the northeast quarter of the Village, immediately to the south of the new Persimmon Homes and Linden Homes developments in Appleford Road. It was formally handed over to the two villages by WRG (now FCC Environment Ltd) in December 2001, having been designated in 1999 under the provisions of a Section 106 Agreement for an 80-year period expiring 2079. The signatories to the Agreement were Oxfordshire County Council, Hanson plc (who funded the project) and WRG (now FCC Environment plc, the landowners).

Whilst the site is owned by FCC it is managed by a Management Committee that meets twice a year (February and July) which is administered through Oxfordshire County Council. Legally, the Committee has no right to override the wishes or interests of the owner; it merely has a managerial role. The overall management objectives for The Common are: -

- To manage it as a nature reserve with a diverse range of habitat types to support a wide range of plant and animal species; and
- To provide an open-access public open space for local residents.

The Common extends to approximately 7ha and in its early days recorded over 250 species of flora and fauna. There are several footpaths crossing and circulating The Common although these footpaths are permissive rather than statutory and all are accessed via four separate access points in Churchmere Lane – off statutory Footpath No 373/12. It is reasonably well used by local residents for informal recreation purposes and the Management Committee, on a yearly basis, undertakes some management work in order to keep the Common and its footpaths open and unobstructed.



The managing committee is made up of 6 formal Members – an elected County Councillor, an elected District Councillor, two representatives – Appleford PC and Sutton Courtenay PC, and a representative from both Hanson plc and FCC Environment plc. The Committee can co-opt up to 3 additional persons who will become voting members of the Management Committee and can co-opt other, non-voting Members as well as 2 no-voting advisors from OCC.

Our next meeting will be 2pm on 16 February 2023 in the offices of FCC on the landfill site. Having been a Member of the Committee since 2009, firstly as a representative of SCPC and latterly as a co-opted Member. I have been Chairman since 2013. It is my intention to stand down and let someone younger take my place on the Committee. I am also aware that there are others who are proposing to stand down this time and the Committee will, therefore, need to co-opt some new members. We are looking for volunteers.

If anyone would like more information about The Common or the Committee, I would be pleased to hear from you either on hignells@btinternet.com or 01235 847753.

David Hignell - Chairman



THE VILLAGE AND THE COURTENAYS

In Saxon times the village was a royal vill known as Sudtone or Sutton, so how did it become Sutton Courtenay? Henry I named his daughter, Matilda, who grew up in France having been betrothed to the Holy Roman Emperor, as his successor. Her second marriage to the Count of Anjou produced three sons the eldest of whom, Henry, was born in France in 1133. Participating in the Crusades, Henry was accompanied by Renaud (or Reginald) de Courtenay, a French nobleman of the House of Courtenay, who was born about 1125 at Courtenay, France.

Reginald de Courtenay was with Henry when he arrived in England in 1153 to claim the throne, becoming Henry II in 1154. By 1160 Henry had granted Reginald de Courtenay custody of the manor of Sutton in recognition of his loyalty and support, giving him property and influence in the village.

Reginald's wealth also came from acquiring extensive lands in Devon through his marriage. From now on the village was known as Sutton Courtenay. His grandson, Robert, built Norman Hall in about 1190.

In 1284, after years of dispute with the Abbey in Abingdon, Hugh Courtenay won the right to appoint the priest and take control of land and tithes belonging to the Abbey thus increasing his wealth and importance.

By the mid-fourteenth century, when the Courtenays acquired the earldom of Devon, their interests were increasingly centred there. Thomas Courtenay, the 5th Earl of Devon, died at Abingdon Abbey in 1458. The 6th Earl of Devon, also Thomas Courtenay, was tried for treason and beheaded in 1461; his younger brother, Henry, was also beheaded. As a result, their lands and possessions were forfeited to the Crown, ending the Courtenay association with the village. Their lands etc. in Devon were eventually restored to the Courtenay family and today the 19th Earl of Devon, Charles Courtenay, resides at the ancestral home of Powderham Castle, Devon, owned by the family since 1391.

The Courtenay Society, based at Powderham Castle, was founded to link descendants of the Courtenays throughout the world.

The Local History Society welcomed the Courtenay Society to the village on two occasions for a talk about the village and to visit the places with which the Courtenays were associated.

Mary Thompson

ODDS & ENDS

EASY WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY

- turn your appliances off standby mode
- draught-proof windows & doors
- turn off lights when leaving a room
- turn the thermostat down by 1 degree
- wash clothes at a cool setting & reduce the number of loads
- avoid the tumble dryer
- spend less time in the shower
- swap your bath for a shower
- boil the kettle with only as much water as you need
- insulate the hot water cylinder
- only heat the rooms you use
- don't run the dishwasher if it's not full
- change to energy saving light bulbs
- defrost the freezer to improve its efficiency
- put a lid on pans to cook faster
- use a washing-up bowl rather than leaving the tap running
- don't leave tap running while brushing teeth
- don't iron things people never see

From: energysavingtrust.org.uk & moneysavingexpert.com

Fun Christmas Facts

Jingle Bells was the first song played in space (1965)

Eggnog originated from a British medieval hot milky ale-like drink

The city of Vancouver, Canada claims to be the birthplace of the first 'ugly Christmas sweater' party

It took only six weeks for Charles Dickens to write 'A Christmas Carol'

It is tradition in Japan to eat KFC at Christmas

If you gave all the gifts listed in 'The 12 Days of Christmas' it would equal 364 presents.

LOCAL EVENTS & INFORMATION



As a budding or hobby musician, there's nothing better to develop your musical skills and have fun at the same time than playing in a band with other like-minded people, guided by an expert tutor. Project Band, founded by Simon Currie, saxophonist with The Manfreds since 2001, does exactly that. Project Band welcomes players of saxophones, flute, clarinet, brass, plus piano, guitar and rhythm section aged 16+ to play modern pop, soul, funk and jazz in an enjoyable and nurturing band setting.

All the musical arrangements and backing tracks used are available on the Project Band website, so sight-reading isn't necessary. There will be plenty of scope for confident players to develop improvisation skills in the sessions too. Tunes like Happy (Pharrell Williams), Uptown Funk (Bruno Mars), Ain't No Sunshine (Bill Withers) and I Shot the Sheriff (Eric Clapton) join many more in the Project Band repertoire. Each set of sessions will feature a different mix of new tracks and old favourites. Tutors Simon and Damian have a wealth of experience between them, having played with many band greats and pop icons over the years as well as teaching and running their own groups.

Project Band runs termly over thirteen weeks of two-hour sessions, finishing with a concert. The Abingdon sessions are currently held at Larkmead School on Monday evenings. Trial sessions are available.

Visit the Project Band website to find out more
www.projectband.co.uk

A Christmas SYMPHONY

15 DECEMBER ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, OXFORD 7PM
 16 DECEMBER THE BEACON, WANTAGE 7.30PM
 17 DECEMBER DORCHESTER ABBEY 7PM
 18 DECEMBER ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WITNEY 6PM

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Happy Holidays



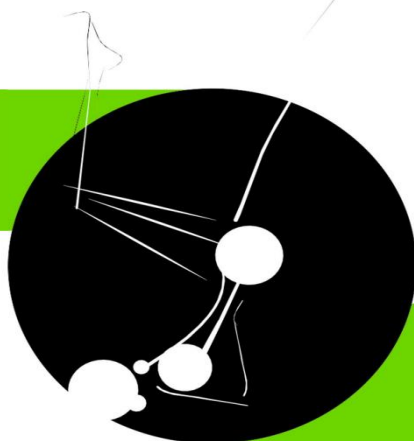
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Williams 2022

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