

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 52 No. 1

FEBRUARY 2023



N.B. Financial help during the economic crisis - See Page 12

VILLAGE DIARY

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Thurs 2 nd Feb | WeCare2 (p.10) | River Room | 11:15-12:30 |
| Fri 3 rd Feb | Bridge Afternoon (p.11) | River Room | 14:00-17:00 |
| Sat 4 th Feb | Community Brunch (p.11) | River Room | 9:00-10:30 |
| Mon 6 th Feb | Knit and Natter (p.11) | River Room | 14:00-16:00 |
| Tue 7 th Feb | Parish Council Meeting (p.3) | Village Hall | 19:15 |
| Thurs 9 th Feb | Community Café (p.10) | River Room | 10:30-12:00 |
| Thurs 9 th Feb | Together in Stitches (p.4) | River Room | 19:30-21:00 |
| Thurs 16 th Feb | WeCare2 (p.10) | River Room | 11:15-12:30 |
| Thurs 16 th Feb | Millennium Common Management Committee Meeting. (p.15) | FCC Environment plc site office | 14:00 |
| Fri 17 th Feb | Bridge Afternoon (p.11) | River Room | 14:00-17:00 |
| Sat 18 th Feb | Movie Matinee (p.10) | River Room | 16:00 |
| Sun 19 Feb | Concert - Steven Yang (p.16) | All Saints' Church | 14:30 |
| Mon 20 th Feb | Knit and Natter (p.11) | River Room | 14:00-16:00 |
| Tue 21 Feb | Sutton Courtenay WI (p.11) | River Room | 19:30 |
| Thurs 23 Feb | Community Café (p.10) | River Room | 10:30-12:00 |
| Sat 4 th March | Community Brunch (p.11) | River Room | 9:00-10:30 |
| Sat 4 th March | Friends Quiz Night (p.16) | Village Hall | 19:00 |

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

MARCH 2023 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 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

Lay ministers: Jack Jarvis (831395) & Alex Landsbert (847443)
Authorised preacher: Paul James (848129)
Churchwarden: Hilary Otterburn (01235 834725)
Pro-Warden: Alison Budd (01235 527853)
Parish Office: 01235 847179 admin@damascusparish.org.uk

For Services of Worship - Please see Page 8

VILLAGE HALL

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

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

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

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS CONTACTS

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

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

All contributions for the next edition should be 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 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 Refurbishment

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who attended the reopening of the play area on a rather chilly, yet sunny Wednesday just before Christmas. There are plans being made for a grand opening once the weather warms up.

The Recreation Ground, which is owned by the Parish Council, previously had a rather small and tired play area, plus a multi-use games area (MUGA) and a skate park. Following a £315,000 refurbishment the northern side of the site now has a large fenced play area with over 15 pieces of equipment designed for children aged 2-14 years; a new MUGA; a new BMX pump track; a 4 person carousel; new shelters, benches and improved access from the car park with a footpath linking the areas.

The project has been financed with a £100,000 grant from FCC Communities Foundation; a £10,000 grant from National Lottery Awards for All England; £97,000 from developers' contributions (60% of which had been tied to providing recreational facilities) and £78,000 of public funds held by the Parish Council, the majority of which had been saved up over recent years.

At the south west corner of the Recreation Ground, thanks to a grant of £30,000 from the Sutton Courtenay National Power Trust, an outdoor fitness area has been installed with 6 activity stations. Visitors can download an app from Kompan Ltd which enables them to download videos and tips on how to use the equipment.

You can read more about the opening ceremony on page 14.

Sutton Courtenay Parish Council Budget

The Parish Council has agreed the budget for the forthcoming financial year – 2023-24. Parish Councillors decided to keep the contribution from Council Tax payers the same as 2022-23. As there has been a slight increase in the number of properties in the parish this has resulted in an increase of £238 in the overall precept.

Budget for 2023-24

Receipts

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Precept | £79,000 |
| Contribution to grass cutting from OCC | £ 1,572 |
| Cemetery fees | £ 2,000 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | £83,072 |

Payments

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Staff costs | £28,900 |
| Administration | £11,664 |
| Cemetery | £ 2,774 |
| Recreation Ground | £ 5,650 |
| Village Green (inc. War Memorial) | £ 2,010 |
| Other Outside Spaces & Assets | £15,737 |
| Grants | £16,250 |
| Projects - funds to come from Ear Marked Reserves | |
| TOTAL PAYMENTS | £82,985 |

Ground

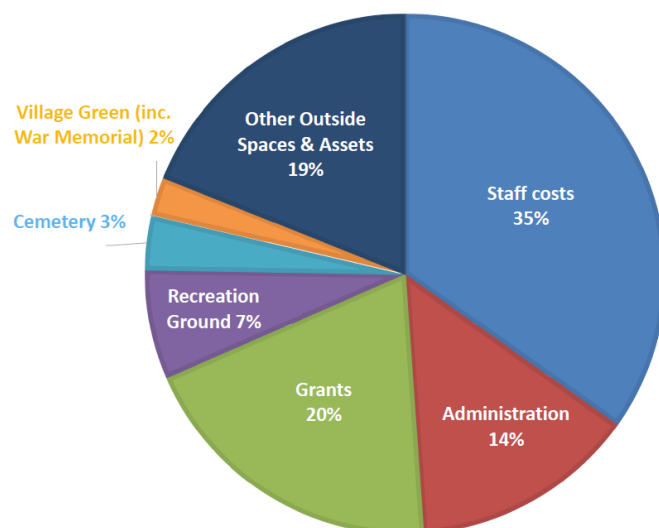
TOTAL SURPLUS

£ 87

Average Band D property comparison

2021/22 Council Tax Band D average £63.65
2022/23 Council Tax Band D average £65.38
2023/24 Council Tax Band D average £65.38

Councillors decided to concentrate on core costs and any expenditure on projects will come from reserves or external funding. This chart shows how the total expenditure is split across budget headings. The full budget is available on the Parish Council's website.



Council meetings and contact details.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings. The dates of next meetings are Tuesday 7th February, Tuesday 7th March and Tuesday 4th April 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.

Miss J. Currie, Clerk

Chairman: Rita Atkinson. Councillors: David Butler, Eileen Daw, Teresa Field, Lyn Hodder, Father Morkos, Joanna O'Callaghan, Hugo Raworth, Jason Warwick and Antony Willott.

Correspondence should be sent to the Clerk, Miss J. Currie, Sutton Courtenay Parish Council, c/o 44 Harrington Close, Newbury, RG14 2RQ info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk 07495 123 353.

Alternatively, you can contact the Councillors directly, their email addresses are on the website.



Happy New Year!

Although the spring term starts in January, which feels like a dark month, time very quickly gathers momentum and we start to see signs of spring. The evenings will get lighter, and we will see the first flowers soon. In school, it is a favourite term of many teachers as they really start to see the children come on with their learning. They have fully settled with their teachers and progress accelerates across the curriculum.

All the children have made a great start to the new year, with the atmosphere around school calm and purposeful. As always, as a staff, we are constantly looking at what is going well and what we can do even better. On our Inset day we were looking at how we can model learning for the children more effectively through our clear explanations, as this will help them pick up on challenging concepts more easily. As a team of teachers and teaching assistants we work to share ideas.

SIAMS inspection

On Friday 18th November we had a visit from the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspectors. This is the inspection which Church schools undergo every five years. I am delighted to share the final version of our report, which is now published on the website. The report reflects the best of our school, and we can rightly feel very proud. In gathering evidence for the report, inspectors spoke with parents, governors, trustees, teachers, and most importantly, children. I am also proud of the way the whole school community conducted themselves through the inspection process -everyone was calm, articulate and quietly confident. The report captures many of the lovely things that make our school special, but in particular our strong vision and the curriculum which enables children to grow in this.

How we support attendance

This term, attendance can really suffer as there are so many illnesses around which spread rapidly through school. We work hard to achieve good attendance in school, because this is the best way for children to reach their potential. When

children have low attendance, it not only has negative impact on their academic work, but it can also make it difficult for them to maintain friendships and learn social rules. However, we aim to manage this in a supportive way.

Attendance Ladder



Sometimes families can find children are reluctant to come to school, and there is a lot we can do to support them, working together to look at the barriers that may be creating anxiety. We track attendance carefully, looking at patterns we see emerging, and we aim to support early if things are going off track.

Welcome back, Mrs Kapswarah

Mrs Kapswarah has returned to our school this term after leaving in 2019 –she is delighted to be back and has settled into Robins class very quickly this week. The children have made the transition to a new teacher extremely well. Having a teacher join us who has experience in a range of other settings is a wonderful opportunity for us as a school, as they see ways of working with fresh eyes and can help us to develop what we do. For the first few days, Mrs Kapswarah's focus has been on hearing every child read, making sure she really knows what their next steps are. She has also suggested some new books we have been able to order to complement our existing reading scheme.



Headteacher: Ms Rachel Hornsey

Asst Headteachers: Lisa Knight & Louise Potter

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

Telephone: 01235 848333

Together in Stitches

Do you wish you could find time for craft projects?
Would you like a fun evening meeting like-minded people in Sutton Courtenay?

If so, Together in Stitches is for you!

Bring your craft project, whatever that may be, and come and enjoy a chat (and possibly a glass of wine)

Second Thursday in the month (7:30-9pm, River Room)
FREE this Spring as part of the **Warm Spaces** initiative.

(9th Feb, 9th Mar, 12th Apr, 11th May, 8th June, etc.)



Happy New Year!

A new year seems an opportune time to invite you to take a moment and think about what “youth work” means to you. We would love to hear from you (contact details below).

For us, at its core, “youth work” is about understanding and validating the experiences of young people, but equally about challenging and educating, albeit informally, to deepen their experiences.

Youth work did not develop to “keep kids off the streets” or to keep them entertained with “something to do”. We do not see ourselves as the ‘providers’, but the ‘enablers’ of communities and their young people; and we challenge the notion that youth work is only about providing tangible youth activities in isolation from the rest of the community. It is said that “there is no one way of doing youth work”. However, it is accepted by all practitioners, that whatever the approach, we work towards the same values and principles of positive youth development – the six Cs:

- Character
- Compassion
- Competency
- Confidence
- Connection
- Contribution

For us, a lot of the work in addressing the six Cs happens in encounters at bus stops, shops, parks, street corners where we engage with young people and find they are eager to be heard. We engage with young people to help them to feel valued and motivate them to become active members of their community through social action. And this is where the wider community has to play its part – “*it takes a village to raise a child*”.

Going forward, our work will focus much more on making those community connections, with youth advocacy & leadership in the community at its heart. A sustainable win-win for everyone in our growing community.

In addition to the one-to-one bespoke support we give to young people and our detached work meeting young people wherever they are out in the community, we also run weekly in-building sessions. Our plan is to theme these sessions on a monthly rotating basis as follows:

- Week 1.** **Drop in** – A safe & welcoming space for all young people to feel ownership and responsibility towards that space. Games, music, chat & chill.
- Week 2.** **Mind and Body Gym** – Keeping active through sport & brain games, empowering

young people to make informed decisions and widen horizons.

- Week 3.** **Dare2Be** –A space for young people to express themselves by experimenting with different modes of creativity (e.g. art, music, storytelling).

- Week 4.** **Village Youth Voice and Community Action** – Youth-led conversations on the burning questions of the day. A space for young people to be heard & seen and to develop leadership skills in order to become contributing members of their communities and plan social action.

We believe young people are fully capable and able to solve their own issues with appropriate support, and we are excited to re-claim the roots of meaningful youth work & to support young people to be the change makers in the communities in which they live!

Let us know what “youth work” means to you. And if you have any questions regarding the information above, or you would like to support the project in any way, please get in touch with jamesq.ycat@gmail.com or Jake at jakef.ycat@gmail.com



NORDIC WALKING

Did you know that Nordic Walking is one of only five physical activities recommended by The Chief Medical Officer for a total body workout.

South Oxon Free Nordic Walking Group(SOFNW) is based in Sutton Courtenay OX14 4AR and meets from 09:30 every Wednesday and Friday all year. Tuition is FREE, and poles are provided for this. All walks with SOFNW thereafter are FREE. Brand new Nordic Poles, adjustable to your own height, can be purchased for £25 (which is cost price), from the Hub site. SOFNW has over SIXTY regular Nordic Walkers each week looked after by FIVE qualified Walk Leaders, but we still have space for more. If you can walk then you can Nordic Walk. For more details please email GRAHAM, an INWA and BNW Instructor since 2018 with 12 years' experience of Nordic Walking, on graymar.wells@btopenworld.com.

Reservoir - your chance to respond...

Thames Water's draft WRMP (Water Resources Management Plan) was published mid-December, and consultation ends **Tuesday 21st March**.

The links to the responses are:

WRSE wrse.uk.engagementhq.com/ and you can see the draft Plan at wrse.org.uk/media/va1bz21z/10306a_wrse-bv-plan-2022final_online.pdf

Thames Water: thames-wrmp.co.uk/ and you can see the draft Plan at thames-wrmp.co.uk/hearing-your-views/document-library/

Traffic

It cannot be denied that our roads are becoming more and more congested. Even the rat runs are choked with rats. Whilst the pressure for more and more housing remains, and with it the pressure on County Highways to pass new developments, is it inevitable that things are going to get worse? The photographs attached show rush hour queues at Culham Bridge, Drayton Rd, and the A415 at Marcham. It would be only too easy to find many more. Have we already reached saturation point? The latest major housing development to be considered in our area is the Lioncourt development at Fyfield with 600+ houses potentially spilling yet more cars on to the Frilford crossroads. Marcham. OCC Highways judge that the effect on Marcham will be marginal, but there are concerns that this argument must soon run out and the cumulative impact of several developments on the immediate and wider area must carry more weight. But spare a thought for OCC Highways and the District Councils. Under our current planning system, Districts have to offer up areas for thousands more houses in their Local Plans. OCC is then charged with trying to make our Highway network function properly and take all the resultant flak. Having just arrived back home from a photography session, having spent the best part of two hours driving a very few miles, I am struck by the irony of the damage we are causing to the environment, to our own physical and mental health and to the impact on local commerce. Are our only solutions growth at all costs and ever more roads?

A lighter note - New Year Resolution

Determined as I am to get out of my car and on to my bicycle whenever possible, I decided a few days ago that the weather was warm enough for a shopping visit to Tesco by bicycle. Yes, it had been raining, but the forecast looked promising. As we approached via the Ock Valley cycle path, we passed a pedestrian coming the other way who kindly warned us that the path ahead was flooded but just about passable. My wife went first through what looked like six inches of muddy water steering her way through an 's' bend in the path. She managed to get through safely so I followed. I could see that there was a short cut avoiding the 's' bend if I made straight for the dry path the other side. Older readers will know exactly what I mean when I say that my direct route went

straight over a Dibley-scale pothole invisible under the mud. The bike suddenly disappeared underneath me and I fell in up to my waist. Unhurt but sodden, I picked myself up and squelched the last yards to Tesco to purchase new dry trousers and underwear. Having found great value replacements, I made my way to the checkout while my wife did the shopping.

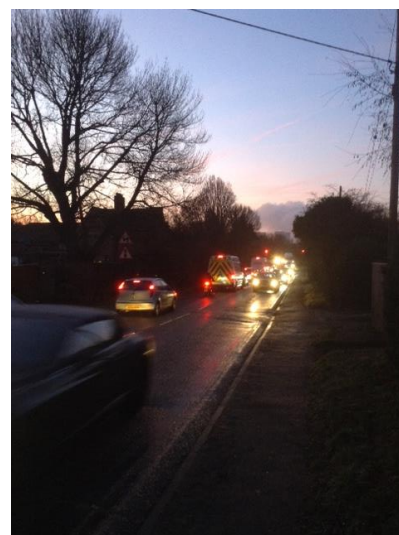
However, I had forgotten the issue of the security tag firmly attached to my new trousers. It seemed that the machines that remove security tags are firmly mounted on top of the checkout conveyor belts. It took a Tesco manager and two members of staff to manoeuvre me into the correct angle to allow the tag to be removed – much to the amusement of the checkout queue.

And the moral and new year resolution? Never try to outsmart the wife by suggesting a better way of doing anything.

Richard Webber Cllr

Richardwebber777@gmail.com

07546571521





If you haven't heard from me since last year, then Happy New Year!

Just before Christmas we had the sad news that a key community figure in Didcot, Hasnath Miah, died at the age of just 49 after a stroke. Hasnath had been homeless for part of his life and had been helped by local people, including through free meals, to get back on his feet. He swore if he was ever in a position to help others, he would do so. He developed a successful restaurant called Indian Dream, and in the pandemic began giving free meals to key workers, the homeless and young carers, just in the way he had been given food. In total he gave away more than 10,000 free meals.

I paid tribute to Hasnath in the House of Commons the following week in a speech including a number of local matters. I included my campaigns to see more GP surgeries here and to reopen Grove Station. I updated people on the Local Electricity Bill that I am the lead sponsor of, which aims to remove the barriers to community energy being created by local communities and sold to it.

And I talked about a couple of the things that have come out of activities I ran for the first time last year: firstly the crime summit, where antisocial behaviour was a recurring theme – something my boss in the Department for Levelling Up, Michael Gove, is now tasked with working up a strategy on – and my

work experience campaign for local young people. Many employers have got out of the habit of providing work experience with so many staff now working from home, yet it's a vital way for young people without connections to learn about the workplace.

Work experience is of course a familiar theme from my pre-politics career working on social mobility, a topic I used for a PMQ I was drawn for in the first week back of the new year. You're 24 times more likely to become a doctor if a parent is one – only 6% of doctors come from a working class background – and 17 times more likely to become a lawyer. And as I wrote in a recent article, it's not just the responsibility of the Government or schools.

In brief: the Thames Water Resources Management Plan is currently open to consultation. Make sure you take part on their website at thames-wrmp.co.uk as it includes the reservoir proposal. You can respond to the Draft Regional Plan for the South East on the WRSE's website at wrse.uk.engagementhq.com/our-consultation. I know there have been Royal Mail problems again, so I've been highlighting these once more in parliament and with the company. And congratulations to both Grove and Southmoor Kebab Vans on being nominated for the Kebab Van of the Year Award.

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

THE ABBEY



The good news is that The Abbey is not up for sale. New life is being breathed into our beautiful Abbey which is now being prepared for re-opening as a spiritual retreat centre in line with the objectives of the charity that owns and manages The Abbey.

A lot has happened since we last reported progress in the Sutton Courtenay News. A new body of trustees has been appointed and is now directing the plan for re-opening this Spring. A 'Regeneration Working Party' comprising local people who want to see The Abbey up and running, has been established. The Working Party has developed a stabilization plan to secure the financial health of the charity as we prepare to restart our work here. From 1st April the Abbey facilities will again be available for hire. Preference will be given to use it as retreat and for workshop events with a spiritual focus, but we

also encourage commercial use until our finances are again on a stable footing.

Arrangements are being put in place to undertake the essential maintenance work on the buildings and grounds and to prepare a longer-term plan for the restoration of the buildings.

Some exciting new partnerships with other charitable bodies are emerging which promise to bring new life and important business to The Abbey. As soon as these are firmed up, we will share this with you through the Sutton Courtenay News.

We are aware that there are many people in the village who support The Abbey and want to see it come back to life. We welcome this support and if anyone would like to volunteer their help in any particular way, please do email. Also, please be in contact if you want to make use of the facilities. Have a look on the website: The Abbey is there to be used!

We are developing a new staffing structure for The Abbey, and we will advertise any positions (for instance in housekeeping or management) in the Sutton Courtenay News as soon as we are able.

If you want to help as a volunteer or use the Abbey in any way, please do email me. Please be patient if our response is not immediate – we are only just beginning to get things together.

Adrian Rance-McGregor

Chair of Trustees

volunteering@theabbey.uk.com

admin@theabbey.uk.com

www.theabbey.uk.com



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

Valentine's Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. But how can we go beyond simply offering flowers and a card? Jesus says: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34). How can we express love like Jesus in our everyday relationships to our partner, children, neighbours or work colleagues?

Listening

We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. According to James, 'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry' (James 1:19). How well do we listen to others? How often do we find ourselves already thinking of what we want to say before somebody's finished speaking? Listening takes time; don't rush it!

Touching

Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in His world, including lepers, the sick and children. This was completely out of character for rabbis of His day. For us today, a warm handshake may be of value. Of course, it should always be an appropriate touch – helpful for the other person, not just for ourselves.

Speaking

Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Do we speak words of grace, by offering comfort, giving encouragement or expressing care and concern? However, we should also be ready to speak words of truth, in asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation or addressing conflict. As Paul urges us, don't avoid: 'speaking the truth in love'.

Where is the challenge for us in expressing love this Valentine's Day?

With love and prayers,

*The Reverend Helen Kendrick,
Rector of the DAMASCUS Parish*

CHURCH DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

Saturday 4th 9-10:30 Community Brunch in the River Room – part of the **WARM SPACE** initiative – open to all. N.B. earlier finish time.

Monday 6th 14:30-16:00 Knit and Natter in the River Room – an afternoon of chat and craft in a **WARM SPACE**. Come along with your own knitting / sewing / craft and enjoy free refreshments and company.

Monday 6th 19:30-21:00 Baptism Preparation in the River Room for all those interested in baptism.

Tuesday 7th 7:45-8:15 Online Prayer Group – see poster for details

Thursday 9th 10:30-12 noon Community Café in the River Room – part of the **WARM SPACE** initiative.

Tuesday 14th 7:45-8:15 Online Prayer Group – see poster for details

Saturday 18th 16:00 Movie Matinee in the River Room – part of the **WARM SPACE** initiative – open to all.

Sunday 19th 14:30 Piano Concert in All Saints' Church with tea and cake – all welcome – minimum donation of £5 on the door. Please see advert for more details.

Monday 20th 14:00-16:00 Knit and Natter in the River Room – an afternoon of chat and craft in a **WARM SPACE**. Come along with your own knitting / sewing / craft and enjoy free refreshments and company.

Tuesday 21st 7:45-8:15 Online Prayer Group – see poster for details

Wednesday 22nd **ASH WEDNESDAY** – 19:30 Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes to mark the beginning of Lent, All Saints' Church.

Thursday 23rd 10:30-12 noon Community Café in the River Room – part of the **WARM SPACE** initiative.

Saturday 25th Marriage Preparation Course for all couples getting married in the DAMASCUS Parish in 2023

Tuesday 28th 7:45-8:15 Online Prayer Group – see poster for details

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

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING SERVICE TIMES IN ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Due to the reduction in the number of clergy in the DAMASCUS Parish, with the retirement of the Reverend Meg Heywood last October, we have had to revise the pattern of services across the parish. We are doing our best to ensure that each of our five churches has a service every Sunday and to enable us to do this we have to change the times of the services.

FROM THE FIRST SUNDAY IN MARCH 2023 (Sunday 5th March) the morning service in All Saints' Church will start at **11:00am** NOT 10:30am.

HOLY BAPTISM

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

Evelyn (Evie) Elsie COOMBS (18th December 2022)

Hugo Walter Sidney HOGAN (15th January 2023)

REST IN PEACE

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

Elizabeth (Liz) Alice SPARKES who died on 23rd November 2022. Her funeral was held in All Saints' Church on 19th December 2022, conducted by the Reverend Helen Kendrick.

Joshua James WILLIAMS who died, aged 19, on 20th November 2022. See Obituary Page 18

CHRISTMAS THANK YOUS

These are even more heartfelt than usual as, like many people, I was struck down by one of the many viruses circulating around the community over Christmas. This meant that, although I had prepared for every service, I was not well enough to take any of them. So especial thanks must go to those who stepped up to cover for me – Tim Budd, Paul James and the Junior Church team, Alex Landsbert and The Reverend Canon Phillip Tovey. And also special thanks to Phillip Agg who played for all the services when both our organist and our keyboard players were also taken ill.

In the days leading up to Christmas over 400 handmade stars were distributed across the village – thank you to Bryony for coordinating this (and the making of the large Ukrainian stars on the gateposts) and to all the crafters and the walkers who distributed them. We were delighted to see so many people taking part and bringing the stars to hang on the Christmas tree in the churchyard (thanks to Brian and Alan for putting this up for us). If you would like to reclaim your star to keep and hang on your own tree in future years,

then please do come to church and pick it up from the box just inside the door.

We were also delighted to be able to distribute nearly 90 hampers, as gifts of love, across the village – thank you to Alison Budd for coordinating the shopping (and thanks to Aldi in Didcot for being so helpful) and to all those who helped deliver them. Particular thanks go to the individual who generously donated to make this possible. Special mention must also be made of our cake baking team who handmade and decorated all the cakes. We are hoping to deliver hampers again for Christmas 2023 and will be asking for nominations later in the year.

The Singing Saints must be thanked for their musical contribution to the Christmas celebrations. The Carol Service, combined with singers from Drayton, was really uplifting and the Singing Saints also toured the village carol singing and helped lead the carols at the Torchlight Procession. Thanks to the Flower Arranging team who decorated the church so beautifully.

Thank you to all those who donated money to our Christmas Charity. Through collections at the December Community Café; at the Carol Singing around the village and at the Torchlight Procession we were able to raise the amazing amount of **£1,503.08** to send to Sightsavers.

I must also thank David McKenzie for organising the sale of the torches, and the shops who sold them for us. Thank you also to the marshals for keeping everyone safe enroute; Alan Whitlock and Margaret Hamilton for support vehicle duties on the night; the Allen family for providing the bonfire and especial thanks to Callum for all he does as the all-important fire marshal. And thanks to Jon Smith for providing the light and the sound, and to Alfie and Seanna who helped with all the setting up.

And finally, thank you to all those who followed the star to sing and celebrate with us or simply dwelt in wonder at the greatest story ever told and, hopefully, came closer to finding out where the star leads.

Helen

WARM SPACES in Sutton Courtenay

We are offering a **WARM WELCOME SPACE** in the River Room at various times and dates this winter. Where these are indicated on the individual adverts this means that the event is free and open to all. Also keep an eye on the Facebook Page for All Saints' Church where we will advertise additional drop-in sessions.

We offer free WiFi and kitchen facilities from which simple free refreshments are served.

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 ring the Parish Office on 01235 847179.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

LENT 2023 in the DAMASCUS Parish

We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday with a service of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes at 19:30 in All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay (you can join in with this service via zoom – please contact rector@damascusparish.org.uk for the link to be sent to you).

We will then be running a series of six Lent Groups exploring the Archbishop of Canterbury's chosen Lent Book - 'Failure - What Jesus said about sin, mistakes and messing stuff up' by Emma Ineson.

From 19:30-21:00 in the River Room (participation via zoom also possible) on the following days:

Wednesday 1st March - Why I wrote this book - or 'success and failure revisited'.

Wednesday 8th March - What is failure?

Wednesday 15th March - Sin, guilt and human nature: towards an imperfect theology of failure (sort of)

Wednesday 22nd March - The failing church

Wednesday 29th March - The greatest failure of all

Wednesday 5th April - How to fail really well

To register an interest please email admin@damascusparish.org.uk or phone 01235 847179.

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 Freepik



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Community Café in the River Room



Run by the church for the whole community

Thursday 9th February

Thursday 23rd February

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?

This is part of the **WARM SPACE** initiative- - 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

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 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.

MOVIE MATINEES

The next Movie Matinee in the River Room

(A WARM SPACE)

is on **Saturday 18th February 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** and refreshments are available.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY BRUNCH

A 'warm welcome' space for the whole community. Come and join us for breakfast baps, warm drinks and welcoming company.

SATURDAY 4 FEBRUARY
9-10.30 AM

River Room, All Saints' Church
Free of charge.

Future dates 04/3. 01/04 (revised). This event is being organised by Beth and Mike Summers in collaboration with All Saints' Church as part of the Warm Welcome Campaign.



KNIT AND NATTER



Afternoons of chat and craft in a Warm Space

Come along with your own knitting / sewing/craft and enjoy free refreshments and company.

First Session - Monday, January 16th 2-4pm

And then every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month

**The River Room, All Saints' Church, The Green,
Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, OX14 4AE**

Tel: 01235 847179 for more information



SUTTON COURTENAY WI



Here's an invitation

to join us for our 2023 meetings

In February a talk on RNLI - Past & Present

Our Annual Meeting for members is in March

**A social evening & quiz in April and more events
and trips planned for the coming year**

Come and see, enjoy, join in!

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

For details contact our Secretary on 01235 847612



RIVER ROOM 200 CLUB

In Support of the All Saints' Community Space

Winning numbers for December and January, drawn at the Community Café on 15 January, were:

December

1st – No. 15 (£45)

2nd – No. 38 (£22)

3rd – No. 23 (£10)

January

1st – No. 58 (£45)

2nd – No. 39 (£22)

3rd – No. 11 (£10)

New members always welcome. Please see the information in All Saints' Church or email landsbert@west-manor.co.uk. The next draw will take place on Thursday February 9 - at the All Saints' Community Café in the River Room at 10.30 am.

STOP PRESS – Together in Stitches – see page 4

BRIDGE AFTERNOONS

Come and play bridge on the 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons in the River Room from 2-5pm with a cup of tea and a piece of cake - £5

Tables, cards and score cards all provided

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

Rubber or Chicago – you choose

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

THE RIVER ROOM

All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay OX14 4AE

This attractive, light and modern room, with adjacent well-equipped kitchen, entrance foyer & two WCs (one accessible) is perfect for group meetings or private parties.

Capacity: 40 seated to 80 standing.

Plus – projector, complete A/V system, digital piano

All enquiries: 01235 847179

Financial Problems due to the Current Economic Crisis?

If you live in Sutton Courtenay and are experiencing financial problems arising from the current economic crisis, you may be eligible for a grant from the Sutton Courtenay (National Power) Trust. For details on eligibility and how to apply please email the clerk to the trustees at clerk.scnpt@gmail.com

ALL ENQUIRIES AND APPLICATIONS WILL BE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE



Sign up for Low-cost Broadband Citizens Advice Tip

Citizens Advice Henley has expressed concern that people in need are not taking advantage of cheap broadband and mobile phone schemes set up specially to help them. Loosely termed “social tariffs” or “essential broadband”, these schemes are discounted deals intended for those on Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Employment and Support Allowance, and some other benefits.

Statistics show that only 1.2% of those eligible to register for these low tariffs have done so, although they could save over £100 a year.

Social tariffs are provided in the same way as normal phone and Internet packages, but at a lower price. Network providers liaise with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to ascertain customers’ eligibility, and the DWP is required to provide only the necessary information, so that personal information remains safe.

At the time of writing, not all telecom companies offer social tariffs but it is possible for those who qualify to switch to a supplier that does provide them. The usual fees for switching contracts, leaving a contract early or terminating them have in many cases been scrapped for those on benefits who qualify for these tariffs – but check with your supplier to make sure.

More information is available on the Citizens Advice website www.citizensadvice.org.uk or you can call Adviceline on 0808 278 7907. You can also go to www.gov.uk and search for “cheaper broadband” or to www.ofcom.org.uk (search “social tariffs”).

Help is at hand for people finding it hard to pay for food and energy bills

The Household Support Fund scheme has opened again for people finding it hard to cope with the rising cost of food and energy bills.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have reopened the scheme to help households meet the costs of life’s essentials.

The fund is initially open for applications to help eligible households that have not received any support from the fund previously. However, from 13 February, if funds remain, it will be opened up wider to households that have received some funding in the past but not since May last year.

Residents can apply for support by filling in an online form on the councils’ websites or by calling their Community Hub team during office hours on 01235 422600. The fund closes on 31 March, or sooner if it is fully allocated.

Cllr. Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing at South Oxfordshire District Council said: “We’re delighted that we’re able to offer this important scheme again because we know that some households are finding it hard to make ends meet. If someone hasn’t received this kind of support before and think they may be eligible, please visit our website to find out more.”

Cllr. Helen Pighills, Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities at Vale of White Horse District Council said: “We want to help support as many residents as we can, particularly after Christmas and during the cold winter months. If anyone needs help with completing the application form, please contact our friendly Community Hub team for assistance.”

The councils recognise that many residents are struggling in these difficult economic times and are offering a wide range of advice, including information on free or affordable food banks and council tax support. They can also help to signpost people for debt advice and other cost of living support, and provide information on housing support as well as guidance on how people can look after their mental health and wellbeing.

Residents can find out more about the Household Support Fund and other cost of living support available from the councils’ websites:

whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving

southoxon.gov.uk/costofliving

Notes

The Household Support Fund Extension (HSF3) was announced by government in September 2022. Oxfordshire County Council receive the Household Support Fund for the county area as the upper tier authority and make the funding available to district and city councils as appropriate for the circumstances of the area.

Communications:

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils
01235 422400

[@southoxon](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk)

[@whitehorsedc](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

Dear All,

The Abbey

We would like to thank all that attended our (admittedly last minute) meeting held at Matrix Arts Centre on Thursday 5th January. There was a good turn out and apologies from those who could not attend.

One of the purposes of that meeting was to gather the necessary evidence to nominate The Abbey as an Asset of Community Value (ACV: which is now submitted pending approval). This should help to ensure the future of The Abbey if it were to be put up for sale, as it gives the community a period of six months to pool funding to buy it. We are happy to be able to have this security blanket if needed.

We are delighted to hear that the Abbey is opening again as a spiritual retreat centre with some community members forming a working group to help facilitate this, and local individuals taking governance as the new trustees.

The formation of our Supporting The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay Group was to help broaden the scope of potential future activities held in the grounds for the wellbeing and development of the community, as well as enabling the Charity to continue its work. While it seems the Charity now has a roadmap for financial stability for use as a spiritual centre, we would like to see The Abbey fulfil its full potential, as to prevent a financial situation where the sale is again considered.

We would reiterate that our best intentions are with the Charity that owns The Abbey. We wish to work together to ensure its prosperity for future users and to protect the memories that many of us hold deeply rooted there.

In many ways, we believe that the threat of its closure being made public has been beneficial in that it has initiated a community spirit in the village that would like to see positive sustainable development, and to many, The Abbey could provide this.

We would like to hold another meeting, ideally in The Abbey itself. If you are interested, our contact details and mailing list is at the bottom of this article.

Thank you for your ongoing support, we look forward to hearing from you.

Kate MacKenzie Taylor and Kai McKim

savesuttoncourtenayabbey@gmail.com
07783 796601
07454 334466



Poppy Appeal Total for 2022 for Sutton Courtenay and Appleford

The total raised through the pop-up shop and collection tins around the village was **£1929.59**.

A big thank you to everyone.

Melanie Jefferies

Poppy Appeal Organiser for Sutton Courtenay and Appleford

CRICKET

Steventon Cricket Club - Cricket for All

A New Year and a new challenge? I know you have heard it before but this one comes with lots of new friends, a beautiful village green and a bar! Things have been changing at SCC and we have built on the well-established Senior Men's teams who play in the Cherwell League so that we now have Ladies Softball and Hardball teams, Junior Mixed and Junior Girls teams from Under 11 to Under 15. In addition, we run All Stars and Dynamos Cricket sessions during the summer for 5 to 11-year-olds so there really is something for everyone!

We welcome players in all sections and it really doesn't matter if you haven't played before as we provide support from our team of ECB qualified coaches. This year, we have received a grant from the FCC Communities Foundation which means that by the start of the season we will have a new two-lane net facility built to ECB Standards to provide state of the art facilities for our members.

Our indoor training sessions run from January to March with sessions for boys, girls, ladies and men. So, whatever your age, sex or ability, whether you are an experienced player or completely new to the game please get in touch by emailing mike.day@covesion.com or call/send me a message on 07929 043733.

It's great fun, in a fabulous setting and it would be wonderful to see you, oh and did I mention there is a bar!

Mike Day

RECREATION GROUND REOPENING

On 21 December 2022 the long-awaited reopening of the Sutton Courtenay Recreation Ground took place. The organisers were fortunate that the day was sunny and there was a substantial turnout of residents of all ages.

Installation of the new play area was by Ashford Contract Services Ltd. who were subcontracted by Kompan to do the construction. Anthony Stiff and Maria Lara Mijancos of ASA Landscape Architects designed and managed the upgrade to the recreation ground. The parish council was successful in obtaining grants from FCC Communities Foundation and Awards for All. It was also able to access relevant s106

contributions from the VWHDC and allocate some of its awarded CIL funds. Over the past ten years, the parish council had been also building up a reserve to ensure sufficient funds for the upgrade. This phase of the upgrade also includes installation of combination rugby/football posts with nets and it is hoped they will be installed in the field by March.

The design was informed by feedback from village residents to a bespoke survey included in the village news in 2020, consultations with children in the village school, clubs, and young people from the Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project who conducted an online survey of their peers, and appraised neighbouring play parks to inform their feedback to the parish council.

Environmental considerations were high on the list of design requirements. This is one of the first play areas in the county to install equipment made from recycled plastic marine waste using Kompan's Greenline range, alongside other equipment made from Robinia which is regarded as an extremely sustainable source of wood. Excavated soil in the installation phase of the play area was used to build up the BMX track near the skate park, thus reducing the need for several trips to dispose the soil elsewhere.

The organisers invite and encourage feedback about the new grounds and all comments can be directed to the Parish Council Clerk, Ms J Currie (info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk 07495 123353).





Ridgeway Education Trust
Excellence through Partnership

Support the village primary school and join the largest volunteer force in the county by becoming a Governor

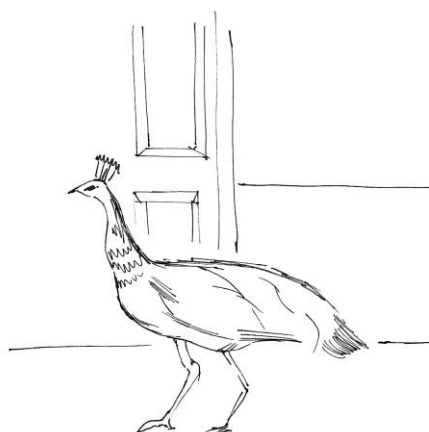
Sutton Courtenay (CofE) Primary School is part of Ridgeway Education Trust (RET) a multi-academy trust which, along with the village primary school, comprises Didcot Girls' School and St Birinus School. The two secondary schools also include Didcot Sixth Form, a mixed sixth form of some 320 boys and girls.

The primary school currently has 2 vacancies for Trust appointed Governors for its Local Governing Body. Being a school governor is a challenging but hugely rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference to young people, give something back to your local community and use and develop your skills in a board-level environment.

Contrary to popular thought, you don't have to be a parent, or connected to the school in some way to be a governor. We welcome individuals who want to get involved in the community and have a commitment to making sure there are high aspirations for all the children in our school and a commitment to achieving the best possible outcomes for them. Governor training support will be provided. Not essential, but it helps to be naturally inquisitive with a willingness to learn.

In terms of time commitment, we expect that governors will attend up to 6 meetings a year, which will take place in the evening and rarely last more than 2 hours. Occasional visits to see the school in action would be most welcome.

If you would like to learn more please contact: our Chair of Governors, Rita Atkinson (rita.atkinson@ridgewayeducation.com) or our Clerk, Lisa Major (lmajor@ridgewayeducation.com) or visit the [RET website](#).



Millennium Common Management Committee

Further to my article in the SC News (Dec22/Jan23), this is a reminder that the Committee is looking for volunteers to get involved in the management of the Common. We only meet formally twice a year and the next meeting is at 2pm on Thursday 16 February 2023 in the site office of FCC Environment plc on the landfill site. If you are thinking of volunteering and would like any information regarding the Common or the Committee, then please do get in touch with me, either on hignells@btinternet.com or 01235 847753.

David Hignell –Chairman

LOST AND FOUND

LOST YOUR HOUSE KEY?

A set of keys with a distinctive keyring was found on 19 January near the old telephone box in the High Street, opposite The Nursery. They are now safely in Matrix Arts Centre's office waiting for collection.

01235 847264 or just pop in and describe the keyring.

FROM THE EDITOR

The editors wish to thank **Shirley Rance** for her years of service for the Sutton Courtenay News. Shirley stepped down from her role organising the distribution of the Sutton Courtenay News in January. She will continue to distribute copies for a couple of roads near where she lives.

Shirley became involved with the Sutton Courtenay News many years ago and, together with Sue Walker, has quietly and efficiently organised SCN distribution. Nothing is ever too much trouble for Shirley. She always smiles no matter what. She has kept on top of new houses being built and occupied so that we can keep the print run and distribution up to date. Her contribution has been invaluable, and we will miss her.

I am delighted to report that Lynette Shackell will be taking over from Shirley, and so distribution will continue to be well organised.

The success of the Sutton Courtenay News is dependent on our band of distributors – thank you to all of you.

Editor

EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY



Sunday 19th February 2.30PM
PIANO CONCERT

A 40-minute programme of classical music, with tea and cake

Born in London in August 2008, Steven Yang started playing piano at the age of four. He obtained a music scholarship from Summer Fields school in Oxford at eight years old, and then gained a music award at Eton College. Steven also plays the violin and organ, for which he often comes to this church to practice. He's a member of the Eton College junior orchestra and lower chapel choir.

**Grande Sonate
Pathetique
No. 8 in C minor –
Beethoven**

**Sonetto 123 del
Petrarca – Liszt**

**Rondo
Capriccioso –
Mendelssohn**

**La cathedrale
engloutie (Sunken
Cathedral) –
Debussy**

**Minimum Donation
£5 per person ON
THE DOOR –
proceeds to All
Saints' Church and
the George Orwell
Society (in the
120th anniversary
year of his birth)**

**All Saints' Church
The Green
Sutton Courtenay
OX14 4AE
01235 847179**

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 4TH MARCH 2023



**FOLLOWING OUR LAST VERY SUCCESSFUL QUIZ EVENING WE ARE
ORGANISING OUR NEXT QUIZ TO TAKE PLACE AT THE VILLAGE HALL
SUTTON COURTENAY**

DATE: SATURDAY 4TH MARCH

TIME: 7PM FOR A 7.30PM START

**COST: £80 PER TABLE FOR A TEAM OF 8. THIS INCLUDES A
PLOUGHMANS SUPPER**

**DRINKS CAN ONLY BE PURCHASED AT THE BAR AVAILABLE
THROUGHOUT THE EVENING**

RAFFLE TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE EVENING

**PLEASE CONTACT THE CHAIRMAN SUE JENKINS to enter a team/s
either by email: SJenkins33@aol.com or ring 07885437454**

*The Friends of All Saints' Church are a Charitable Organisation who help to support the
upkeep of the 12th Century grade 1 listed Norman Church in Sutton Courtenay*

Fun Bridge Day

In The River Room
All Saints' Church
Thursday 30 March 2023
10.30 am to 3.00 pm
(in aid of the River Room)

Programme:

10.30 am coffee and home made
biscuits
11.00 am play starts
12.30 pm two course lunch with wine
3.00 pm raffle prize draw and finish
Tables, cards/score cards provided
£80 per table

Please contact Camilla King for queries or to
book a table on kingaandb@gmail.com or
telephone 01235 531253.

**ALL SAINTS' SINGERS
SUTTON COURTENAY**

**Music Director
Sebastian Thomson**

ROSSINI PETITE MESSE SOLENNELLE

**All Saints' Church
Sutton Courtenay**

**7:30 pm Sunday
26th March 2023**

Tickets £15 - to include programme - from:
chairman@allsaintssingers.org or 07870 506774,
The Bookstore, Bury St., Abingdon,
Hari & Esha's in Sutton Courtenay
or from www.trybooking.com/uk/CCOF
For more information: www.allsaintssingers.org

SCIDS presents

Empress Matilda

THE MUSICAL!



Friday 17 March 6.30pm

Saturday 18 March 2.00pm & 6.30pm

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

All tickets: £7

Call 847707 / 848335 (from 20 Feb)

Joshua James WILLIAMS, who died in tragic circumstances, aged 19, on 20th November 2022, was born on 28th August 2003. Joshua (or Josh or Wish as he was sometimes known) was born in Macclesfield, after a 24-hour labour, to his parents, Simon and Alie. The family moved to Sutton Courtenay when he was sixteen months old and he was baptised, along with his young brother, Thomas, in All Saints' in 2005. He attended Culham Primary School and then St Birinus where he achieved some decent grades at GCSE, but his A-levels didn't go quite to plan. He was well known across the village from his days working in The Swan, where he became part of the Swan family. He then worked at Culham Science Centre – cycling at great speed on his bicycle from Sutton Courtenay every day - before getting a job managing a café in Milton Park. He enjoyed kick boxing and jujitsu and had ambitions to become a UFC fighter. He had recently enrolled on a copywriting course. He was developing into a young man searching for his way in life and truly wanted to embrace life in all its fullness. He was someone who was always busy, who wanted to be the best he could be at whatever new interest he took up. He was ferociously competitive – particularly with his brother Thomas - but he was also supportive and motivational. He had a surfeit of self-confidence with a natural charisma and a warm smile. He was a good listener and a friend to many – as witnessed by the number of people who attended his funeral on 14th December 2022 in All Saints' Church. Personal tributes were given by his Dad, Simon; his brother, Thomas; with a reading from his Mum, Alie. The address was given by the Reverend Helen Kendrick, from which this is an edited extract.

WINTER WEATHER

During the very cold snap before Christmas ice formed on the Thames above the weirs for the first time in many years.

More recently, heavy rain has caused the Thames to breach its banks at Sutton Courtenay. The river reached a height of 3.85 metres on 17th/18th January 2023 (normal 1.91 to 3.51 metres). check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/station/7084. Thank goodness for our wonderful flood meadows either side of the river which accommodate millions of gallons of water at times like this.



Ice on the Thames above the weirs – December 2022
Joanna O'Callaghan



Looking across the flooded meadow – Thames in the distance. 18th Jan 2023
Editor



Where does the river end and the field begin?
18th Jan 2023
Editor

PUZZLE PAGE

Easy Sudoku

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

Medium Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | | 6 | | 4 | | | 2 | |
| 2 | | | 9 | 6 | | | 7 | |
| 3 | | | | | 2 | | | |
| | | | | | | 1 | 6 | |
| | | 7 | | | | | 9 | |
| 6 | | 1 | | | | 4 | | 2 |
| | | | 8 | | | | 3 | 9 |
| | 9 | | | | | | | |
| | | 4 | | | 1 | | | 8 |

From www.puzzles.ca/sudoku

WORDSEARCH

The topic is WINTER

Taken from www.puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com

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

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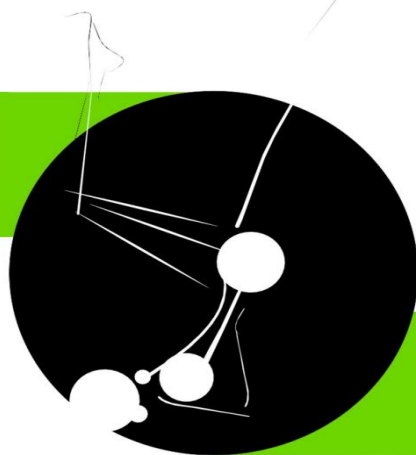
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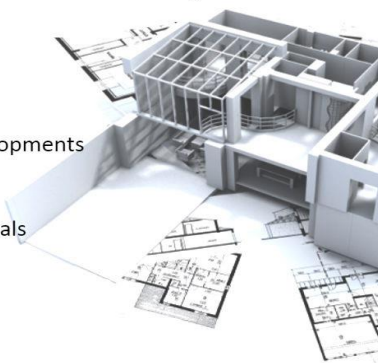
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