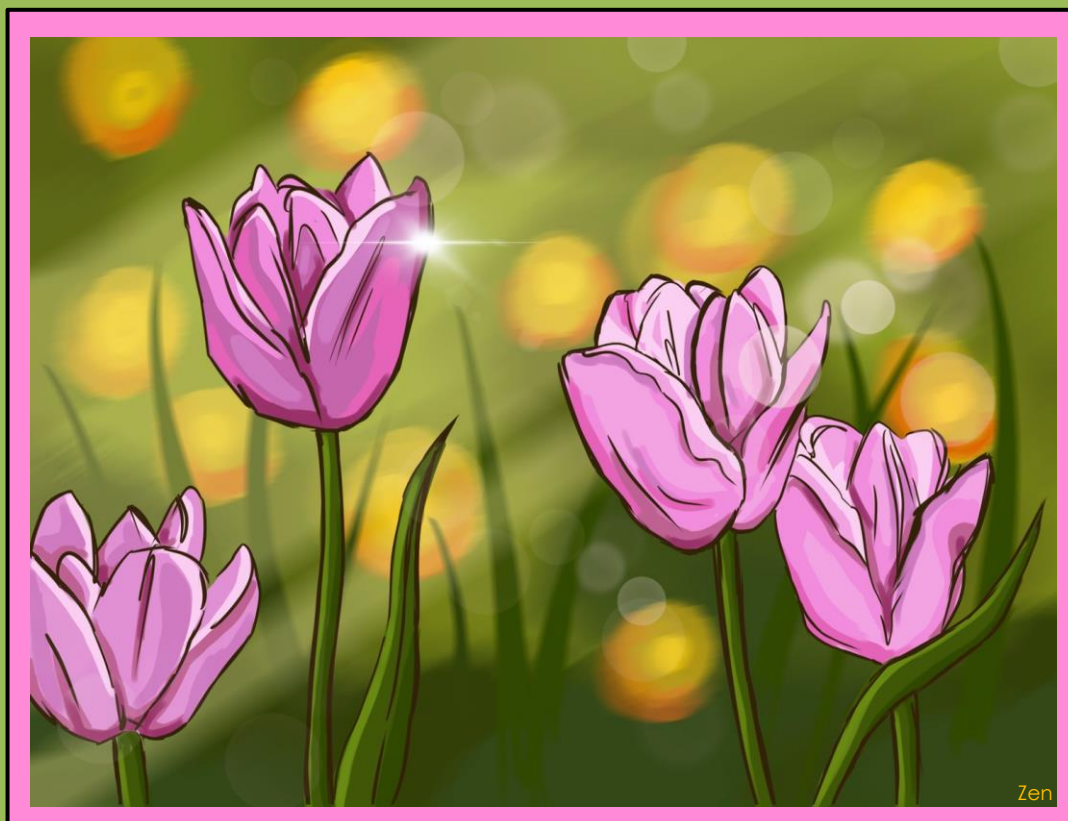


SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 52 No. 2

MARCH 2023



VILLAGE DIARY FOR MARCH

Thur 2	WeCare2 (pg 11)	River Room	11:15-12:30
Fri 3	Bridge Afternoon (pg 12)	River Room	14:00-17:00
Sat 4	Community Brunch (pg 9)	River Room	9:30-11:30
Sat 4	Friends of All Saints' Quiz Night (pg 13)	Village Hall	19:00
Mon 6	Knit & Natter (pg 12)	River Room	14:00-16:00
Thur 9	Community Café (pg 10)	River Room	10:30-12:00
Thur 9	Together in Stitches (pg 13)	River Room	19:30-21:00
Thur 16	WeCare2	River Room	11:15-12:30
Fri 16	Bridge Afternoon	River Room	14:00-17:00
Fri 17 & Sat 18	SCIDS - Empress Matilda the Musical	Village Hall	See Page 12
Mon 20	Knit & Natter	River Room	14:00-16:00
Tue 21	Sutton Courtenay WI (pg 11)	River Room	19:30
Thur 23	Community Café	River Room	10:30-12:00
Sat 25	The Great British Spring Clean (pg 3)	Village Hall	14:00
Sat 25	Movie Matinee (pg 10)	River Room	16:00
Sun 26	All Saints' Singers Rossini Concert (pg 10)	All Saints' Church	19:30
Thur 30	Fun Bridge Day (pg 12)	River Room	10:30-15:00

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

APRIL 2023 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH 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.

A wide range of key Post Office products & services are available at Hari & Esha News in the High Street. The opening hours are:

SUTTON COURTENAY POST OFFICE

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.





New Councillor

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome Robert Dalby to the Council. Robert was co-opted at the February meeting and with his appointment the Council has now filled its remaining vacancy.

The Great British Spring Clean 2023

Please join Parish Councillors on Saturday 25th March at 2pm for a Community Litter Pick. With the support of the Waste and Recycling Team at the Vale of White Horse District Council equipment will be provided and the waste will be collected by them after the event. Meet at the Village Hall to collect litter picks, rubbish bags and route maps. Refreshments will be provided at the end of the event.

Dog waste and litter bins

Both the District and Parish Council provides litter and dog waste bins in the village. The Parish Council is aware of some areas which would benefit from the provision of a bin or additional bins. If you have a location in mind please send details to the Parish Clerk, ideally with the What3Words* location.

*To learn more about this international mapping service which is increasingly being used by the emergency services visit www.what3words.com or download the app.

Thames Water Sewage Treatment Works discharge map

Thames Water has released an online map to show when the treatment works, including one at Drayton, are discharging into local watercourses. You can view the map at www.thameswater.co.uk/edm-map The Drayton sewage treatment works discharges into Ginge Brook which flows into the Thames.

Thames Water advises that our sewers carry foul water from our properties to sewage treatment works, where it is treated and returned to watercourses. When it rains, some of the rainwater gets mixed in with the foul water. At times of heavy or continued rainfall, the sewer system cannot always cope with the extra volume.

Storm overflows are used to prevent sewers flooding homes, gardens and streets. They act as a safety valve, diverting some of the rainwater and foul water into watercourses. This is called 'storm discharge' and contains some untreated sewage.

Storm overflows are regulated by the Environment Agency. Storm discharges are legally allowed, under the conditions of the Environment Agency permit. Storm overflows should only be used when necessary. Thames Water do not actively switch them on, they operate automatically when the flow levels increase.

In 2017, the Environment Agency asked all water companies to start monitoring storm overflow activity. Knowing how frequently they discharge gives an insight into the performance of the network and sewage treatment works. Thames Water has made this information publicly available with almost real time updates.

Potholes and Oxfordshire County Council's FixMyStreet app and website

Residents are encouraged to use the FixMyStreet app or fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk to report any road, cycleway, and pavement defects in the village, e.g., potholes, broken curbs, blocked drains, non-functioning street lights, obscured road signs. Reports on this app are fed back to the local Oxfordshire County Council Highways Officer, who will initiate action where needed. Please be aware of traffic when making reports of defects on the road carriageway and stay safe.

There are two FixMyStreet "super-users" in the village who will also see the reports. For large potholes (greater than 15x15 cm and at least 4cm deep on the road, or 2cm deep on a cycleway or footpath), the super-users can order a repair directly with the contractors, bypassing Oxfordshire County Council which will speed-up resolution: repair is then normally achieved within 28 days. However, super-users can only take action on unclassified (non-A and non-B) roads with a speed limit of 30mph or less. Repairs on A and B roads have to be handled by the Highways Officer.

The 2022 repair of the potholes on the High Street outside Hari & Esha News and the entrance to Lady Place were ordered by super-users and repairs were made well within the specified time-limit.

Council meetings and contact details

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings. The dates of next meetings are Tuesday 7th March, Tuesday 4th April and Tuesday 16th May 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.

Chairman: Rita Atkinson. Councillors: David Butler, Robert Dalby, 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 Councillors directly, their email addresses are on the website.



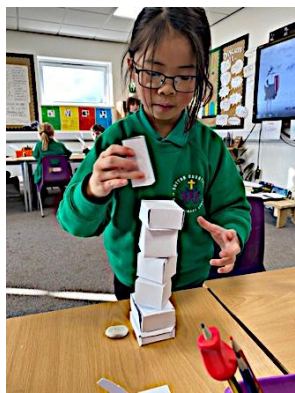
Supporting our wellbeing through art

There is no doubt that increasing numbers of children nationally are struggling to manage anxiety and heightened emotions. A day does not seem to go by without there being a story in the news about the crisis in children's mental health. As educators, we cannot claim to be experts in this field. But what we can try to do is to create an environment where children's wellbeing has the best chance. We believe that our art curriculum has a vital part to play in this. Watching a child lose themselves in creating something, we can see their sense of flow and the break from everyday worries. Through art, we can also value each child's unique and original work and celebrate them for who they are!

Curriculum design

We use a programme called Access Art – you can find out more at www.accessart.org.uk. There are lots of inspirational activities anyone can enjoy from aged 1-101! The school's programme helps us to plan our curriculum based on the study of working artists. Children see what has inspired them and then move on to investigate themes based on this as a starting point. There is always a lot of observational drawing in every unit, encouraging responses from what children see. They are taught to develop their ideas gradually in their sketch books so that they can experiment and practise.

Playing and experimenting



A central theme in all units is playing and exploring in many different media, in both 2 and 3D. Children learn that things rarely work out the first time you try them – in fact, we may not even know how we want things to turn out when we start exploring an idea. As children become comfortable with this uncertainty, it can impact positively on their mental wellbeing in all sorts of ways, not just in art.



Hearing children's voices



Progress in Art doesn't look quite the same as progress in other subjects, because we aren't looking for children to get 'better' at something in the same way – there is no right or

wrong in art. What we do see is children becoming more able to talk in depth about what they have chosen to include in their work, and importantly, why. This gives them a voice and a way of responding to the world around them.

For some children, who need a little more support, we are able to offer Drawing and Talking. This is a twelve session programme led by a fully trained mentor who works with children to use drawing to explore their feelings about things that are troubling them.

Dorian shows our school values!

Dorian showed our school values in spades this month. On the way to school, for the whole journey he collected litter. Look at how much he found! He then did the same on the way home. Well done Dorian for taking responsibility for the environment and helping to make our village a lovely place for all of us.



Opinion Polls

It is all too easy to become excited/depressed/anxious (take your pick) over the state of the nation's local and national politics. It almost seems that there is a competition going on between polling organisations to grab the headlines over who can be most dramatic. But is this the best way to test public opinion? And more importantly, how far do these polls actually influence public opinion? There are many examples of the polls turning out to be very wrong. Do they merely solidify passing trends or do they stimulate resentment in an electorate that does not like being told how it is going to behave?

I am not clear what purpose they serve except to give the chattering political classes something to chew on. At best, polls are a vague guide as to how public opinion might be shifting and at worst, a hindrance to independent thinking.

With some important local elections in May, many media outlets are beginning to obsess about what national polls are saying. I very much hope that people will make up their own minds and, as far as possible, ignore the polls.

Budgets

After many weeks of discussion and consultation, the process of forming a Council's budget culminates in a formal Councillor Budget debate. Yesterday's near 6 hour meeting at which an alternative budget produced by the opposition had to be considered first, culminated, as expected in a comfortable majority passing the ruling administration's budget. The whole exercise is called "a debate" but the outcome is almost always predetermined. It can be very frustrating for Opposition councillors as it is far too late for any of their ideas to be built into what will be passed on budget day. But having served as an opposition councillor for many years, I have some sympathy for them.

That said, I am very pleased with the outcome this year. OCC's finances are looking remarkably secure given the amount of financial uncertainty around.

In summary, more money is going into adult and child social care, highway maintenance, tackling climate change and protecting the most vulnerable from the worst of the cost of living crisis. As a package it seems to offer something for almost everyone with one proviso: that the increase in council tax of 4.99% (although in line with more than 70% of all other councils) is a tough ask of those in the next most vulnerable category. It was a choice between the pain of a Council Tax increase over the pain that would result from cutting frontline services. Politics is about making choices - often difficult ones.

There are plenty of other risks around the corner however. Not least the impact of inflation on all areas of the budget together with the announcement from government that we need to prepare for further cuts in central government finance in 2025-6.

Other challenges

In the next financial year, a number of issues affecting us all will have been resolved or irrevocably decided.

- The Thames Water Reservoir.
- The HIF 1 Road
- The development of thousands more houses at Culham, Didcot and Kingston Bagpuize.
- More clarity on the number of houses we need to build elsewhere.
- The potential development of Abingdon airfield.

And those are just the major issues. At the same time there are a number of other highway and traffic issues that have been outstanding for far too long.

Here's hoping the next financial year will be a little less pressured.

Richard Webber

Richardwebber777@gmail.com

07546 571521

ABINGDON DAMASCUS YOUTH GROUP

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

Registered Charity 1098966



Youth & Community Acting Together

Village Youth Voice and Community Action

Parish Councils are often in a position where they are aware that decisions that they make will possibly have more of an impact on young people in the future than on themselves. The purpose of ADYP's #iwill project (www.iwill.org.uk) is to facilitate a conversation between young people and local decision makers on issues identified by young people that will enable councillors to have a better understanding of the needs, hopes and aspirations of the younger generations.

Five young people have now started the ball rolling and once more familiar with how civic decisions are made, and at what level, will be taking the initiative to talk to councillors. We hope that they will be telling you something about their work in the next issue of the Village News.

Meanwhile our 4-weekly rotating sessions continue on Sutton Courtenay Village Hall from 6:30pm to 8pm. These are:

Drop in; Mind and Body Gym; Dare2Be and social action conversations

Tel: 01235 848694



James Damascus, Jake Damascus



James_Damascus, Jake_Damascus

YouTube-The Abingdon Damascus Youth Project-MIND GYM

Website - www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk



I'm delighted to have secured a breakthrough for the local AEAT Pensioners after 10 years of dogged campaigning by them. The National Audit Office – which has investigated high-profile cases such as Equitable Life and British Steel – has agreed to my request to look at the AEAT case and will produce a report setting out their views in the coming weeks. Parliament's powerful Public Accounts Committee will also hold an inquiry and are calling for evidence for this until 5th March:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7230/aea-technology-pension-case/>

A highlight in the last month was, of course, President Zelensky addressing Parliament. He gave a very powerful speech, conveying the bravery of the Ukrainian people and his thanks to the UK for our support during the past year.

For anyone born in the UK after World War II, as I was, it is impossible to truly understand what the Ukrainian countrymen and women are going through at this time, subjected to a relentless bombardment by Russian tanks and planes every day that takes the lives of their family members and causes untold destruction. The President's speech made us all feel proud of the UK's support. We were the first European country to start sending lethal aid to Ukraine and are the second largest donor of military aid in the world after the USA – a total of £2.3 billion since the outbreak of war.

In addition to all the military equipment supplied to Ukraine – and a major new package of air defence to help protect Ukrainian civilians and critical national infrastructure from

Russian strikes – we've provided a £220 million humanitarian assistance package and issued some 218,000 visas to Ukrainians. Oxfordshire has of course been at the forefront of hosting Ukrainian refugees, many of whom I have had the privilege to meet. Our support is very important – and must continue.

I was very pleased this constituency was the one Michelle Donelan, the new Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, chose to pay her first visit – to the Rosalind Franklin Institute at Harwell, to which the Government has just committed a further £40 million. The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology will be key for this constituency, and its creation has happened just before I hold the first meeting of my Science and Technology forum for businesses at Harwell, Milton Park and elsewhere. This forum will welcome George Freeman, Minister for Science, Research, and Innovation, as the guest speaker.

The other event coming up in the near future from me will be an Apprenticeships Fair for local young people and employers. While there has been a welcome growth in apprenticeships with the Government's Apprenticeship Levy, many employers struggle to fill their apprenticeships while, nationally, the highest-level ones disproportionately go to young people from higher income families. If you work for a company that wants to take part, then do get in touch.

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

THAMES VALLEY ALERT

Scam Reports Didcot & Wallingford

We would like to make you aware of some recent reports of a scam that we have received from local residents in Wallingford and Didcot.

It involves the victim receiving a phone call from someone saying they are a Police Officer, and they have their credit card. This is not genuine and the victims have not even lost their credit/debit cards. The intention of this scam is to get your pin number and other personal information from you. They will even sometimes offer to send a driver to collect your existing card or ask you to get large sums of money from the bank as they are investigating the bank for distributing fraudulent bank notes. If you get any similar calls please be advised that this is NOT a Police officer phoning you and it is a SCAM!

A genuine Police Officer would not ask you any personal questions about pin numbers etc. If you are in any doubt ask for the name, station and shoulder number of the officer and put the phone down. Once you have ensured the telephone line is clear and the scammer is not on the other end, you can phone the police on 101 and they will check whether it is indeed a Police Officer. If a genuine officer is calling they will be more than happy to let you do this. These scammers can sound very plausible so please be on your guard.

Message Sent By Vikki Allan (Police, Neighbourhood Administrator, South Oxfordshire & Vale of the White Horse)

How to Protect Yourself Against Scams

1. **Research companies and websites before buying.** No matter how urgent the offer may seem, or how badly you want the item or service, do your research first.
2. **Pay with a credit card or trusted payment processor.** Compared to debit cards and bank transfers, credit cards are far more secure.
3. **Avoid unknown links and downloads.** Scammers can use attachments and websites to infect your computer with malware.
4. **Keep personal information to yourself.** Many websites ask you to answer a series of security questions in case you need to recover your password. Remember which information you've set as security measures, and don't share it.
5. **Secure yourself online.** If a website offers two-factor authentication, use it. It's not bulletproof, but it's better than nothing. Use strong, unique passwords on the websites you frequent, and store them more securely with a dependable password manager.

CORONATION BIG LUNCH & BIG HELP OUT



How do you celebrate an event that Britain hasn't seen since 1953?

Connecting with your neighbours is a great start!

As part of a weekend of celebrations between Saturday 6th and Monday 8th May, His Majesty the King has invited communities to come together for a Coronation Big Lunch. This can range from a small gathering to a full-on street party. It is the perfect way to bring you and your neighbours together.

Whilst we recommend starting your planning three months in advance, organising a Big Lunch can be more straightforward than you think.

Getting started

- **Order a Coronation Big Lunch pack:** Free resources will be made available online by the Eden Project's Big Lunch team at CoronationBigLunch.com. There you can sign up for your free pack, which will be released in mid-February. It will include editable invitations, posters, recipes, and activity ideas.
- **Pick a date:** Sunday 7th May will be the most popular date, but you could consider [Neighbourhood Watch Week](#) which is 3rd - 9th June, during the Month of Community.
- **Talk to your neighbours:** Try to speak to all the households on your street – that way nobody feels left out!
- **Invites:** It is always a good idea to pop an invite or 'Save the Date' through each letterbox.
- **Apply for a road closure:** If you plan on closing the road, you will have to apply early – see your council's website for more information.

Planning

- **Share the work:** One or, preferably, two months before your event, ask your neighbours for help sourcing tables, chairs, and decorations.
- **Food:** You could ask those with odd house numbers to bring something savoury and those with even numbers could bring something sweet!
- **Games:** Plan activities for all ages – these could involve a street quiz for grown-ups or a treasure hunt for children.
- **Signage:** If you plan on closing the road for your celebration, you will need to source road signage. Some councils may lend signs to you and some will tell you where you can hire them.
- **Decorations:** Plan how your street will be decorated. The Eden Project has some great ideas! Visit: edenprojectcommunities.com/make-it-happen/decorations
- **Rain:** Of course, be prepared for rain! For ideas, visit: edenprojectcommunities.com/blog/weather-proofing-your-big-lunch

The Big Help Out

On Monday 8th of May 2023, The Big Help Out will encourage people to try volunteering. Have you considered a community litter pick for example? Not only is this a great way to make a real difference, but – by signing up with your neighbours and friends – it could also be a fabulous opportunity to get to know your community even better. Visit thebighelpout.org.uk for more information.

Please note that there will be a village litter pick held on 25 March (see pg 3). Come along to help & bring your ideas for The Big Help Out in May.
- Editor

Easy Sudoku

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

Medium Sudoku

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

Taken from www.puzzles.ca/sudoku (1086)



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

Dear Friends

*'The world, the country is in a mess
due to the failure of.....'*

Failure! We all experience it in some way or another; every day each one of us will fail in a myriad of small and large ways. Closely associated with failure comes blame; failure is hard to confront whilst blame is so easy to embrace. Failure is an intricate part of being human, therefore the question facing us is not, 'Will there be failure?' but, 'When there is failure, what will we do about it?' Failure can occasionally be devastating in its consequence whilst often the effect is small. The challenge for humanity therefore is, 'How do we make the kinds of mistakes that are safe and contained?' We must learn about what went wrong in order to avoid making the same mistakes again.

Traditionally the Church uses the season of Lent for serious and sober thinking – this year the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book is entitled 'Failure' and written by Bishop Emma Ineson; and this will be the theme for our parish services and study groups. The bible is full of accounts of serious leadership failure including Joseph, Moses, David, Jonah. Was Jesus successful in leading His team of 12? Immediately after the resurrection the disciples were confused, scared and ineffective. We learn from biblical historical narratives that the most spectacular disappointments and failures, public or private, are not the end of the story. The end of the story is written by God who knows what failure is and is not, and whose gracious love overwhelms our greatest failures. God sets a different scale for measuring success and failure, and the bible records many stories of failure redeemed, forgiven, restored.

The temptation is to use our many failures and disappointments to convince ourselves that we are not worth being loved. The bible narrative on failure says that the opposite is true. Many failures mean we have nothing to brag about but everything to be loved for. As we study some of the biblical narratives of failure, we pray that we will be disturbed when we are too comfortable, and comforted when we are too disturbed, and in praying take comfort in God's merciful and hope-filled judgement of each and everyone. If you want to join these discussions, please contact me or your village church.

With my prayers and regards,

Phil Sutton

A REMINDER

**Please don't forget that from Sunday 5th March
the church service times are changing from
10:30 to the later time of 11am.**

Services of Worship

1st Sunday: Family service at 11:00 am

2nd Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 11:00am + Junior Church

3rd Sunday: Morning Worship at 11:00am + Junior Church

4th Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 11:00am + Junior Church

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

Holy Baptism

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

Hugo Walter Sidney HOGAN (15th January 2023)

Freya Catherine Jane WELCH (5th February 2023)

LENT 2023 in the DAMASCUS Parish Dust and Glory – A Lent Journey of faith, failure and forgiveness

We will be running a course of six Lent Groups drawing inspiration from 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 on the following days:

Wednesday 1st March – Why I wrote this book

Wednesday 8th March – What is failure?

Wednesday 15th March – Sin, guilt and human nature

Wednesday 22nd March – The failing church

Wednesday 29th March – The greatest failure of all

Wednesday 5th April – How to fail really well

**The book is currently available at £8.99 – if you
would like to register an interest in taking part
in the course please email admin@damascusparish.org
or phone 01235 847179. There may still be places
and we may be able to order a copy of the book
in time for the start of the course.**

**Ideally you will have read the first chapter
before the first session on 1st March!**

CHURCH DIARY FOR MARCH

Friday 3rd – 14:00 Wedding of Daniel Bint & Amber Raymond

Saturday 4th – 14:00 – Burial of Ashes of Janet Speakman.

Sunday 5th – 11:00 Family Service (**NB new service time**). 12:45 Baptism of Charlotte Porter.

Monday 6th – 1:00 Burial of Ashes of Graham Pritchard. 19:30 Baptism Preparation in the River Room for all parents interested in baptism for their child/ children across the DAMASCUS Parish.

Tuesday 7th – 19:30 Singing Saints Practice

Sunday 12th – 11:00 Holy Communion and Baptism of James Dannatt

Monday 13th – 19:30 DAMASCUS PCC Meeting

Tuesday 14th – 19:30 Singing Saints Practice

Wednesday 15th – 14:30 Burial of Ashes of Keith Alan Gosbee.

Sunday 19th MOTHERING SUNDAY – 11:00 Family Service

Tuesday 21st – 19:30 Singing Saints Practice

Saturday 25th – 9:30-16:00 Marriage Prep, River Room.

Sunday 26th – 11:00 Holy Communion

Monday 27th – SC Local Church Council Meeting

Tuesday 28th – 19:30 Singing Saints Practice

Thursday 30th – 9:00 School Easter Service



EASTER LILIES ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

At Easter we provide an opportunity to remember loved ones with a display of lilies in church.

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of this year's lilies in memory of someone, please put your donation in an envelope with the name(s) of those to be remembered and deliver to Ann White at 24 Frilsham Street before Friday 7th April. A list of those remembered will be on display in Church.

WARM SPACES in Sutton Courtenay

We are offering a WARM WELCOME SPACE in the River Room at various times and dates to the end of March. 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 then please contact either: rector@damascusparish.org.uk or ring the Parish Office on 01235 847179.



COMMUNITY BRUNCH

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

SATURDAY 4 MARCH
9.30-11.30AM
River Room, All Saints' Church
Free of charge.

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

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

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

RIVER ROOM 200 CLUB

In Support of the All Saints' Community Space

Winners at the Draw on 9 February were:

1st – No. 24 (£45.00)

2nd – No. 3 (£22.00)

3rd – No. 94 (£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 March 9th at the All Saints'
Community Café in the
River Room at 10.30 am.

MOVIE MATINEES

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

Saturday 25th March 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 (to match the
theme of each film) are available.

Community Café in the River Room



Run by the church for the whole community

Thursday 9th March

Thursday 23rd 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?

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 telephone the Parish Office on
01235 847179

**Thank-you to all those who donated to our
special appeal for the DEC Turkey-Syria
Earthquake Appeal at the last Community Café
in February. We raised £203.20 – thank you!**

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



Come and Sing!



Singing is Good for You!

We are the **Singing Saints** - a small friendly group of
singers meeting on Tuesdays in All Saints' Church from
19:30-21:00 to rehearse hymns/carols and anthems,
both familiar and new, to sing at church services and
festivals. We are a mixture of experienced singers and
enthusiastic novices – come and join us –

All are welcome!

For more information, please contact Alex on
landsbert@west-manor.co.uk or 07970 596276

NORDIC WALKING

Get yourself ready to enjoy a new learning experience this Spring. Come to our Community Nordic Walking Teaching Centre for Oxfordshire where everything is FREE. This includes tuition, poles, and walks of different distances and routes each week. In addition, you get a massive helping of spring air while doing so.

Your posture improves immediately, and your limbs and joints are all supported as you discover a new way of walking. This is why people fall in love with Nordic Walking once they have tried it.

This is a community enterprise run by volunteers.

If interested, email me, Graham Wells, at graymar.wells@btopenworld.com for further details. Tuition is available every Wednesday and Friday all year round, from 09:30 for approximately an hour, at the Sutton Courtenay Recreation Ground (OX14 4AR). We have use of a Club House (thanks to the SC Football Club and volunteers) and an adjacent large free car park.

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.



SUTTON COURTENAY WI



We're going places

- come and join us for some great trips -

We'll be out & about in May & June

A social evening & quiz in April and a visit

from Thames Valley Air Ambulance Unit in May

Many more events 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



The countryside charity
Oxfordshire

TRUSTEES WANTED -
Campaign to Protect Rural
England - Oxfordshire

Do you care about your local countryside?

Want to make a difference?

Due to retirement of current trustees, we are looking for an Honorary Secretary and a Board Member to join our team.

This is an excellent opportunity to play an influential role in a respected and long-standing environmental charity, applying your experience to make a real difference, and to be part of a friendly group that is passionate about the Oxfordshire countryside.

Application deadline is **30 March 2023** in the first instance, but we are happy to receive expressions of interest on an ongoing basis.

For further info, please contact our Branch Director, Helen Marshall. E: director@cpreoxon.org.uk T: 01491 612079

See our website for more information:

www.cpreoxon.org.uk

Julia Benning | Communications Manager

Mon, Tues. Thurs 9.30-2.30 T: 07392 769377

E: comms@cpreoxon.org.uk www.cpreoxon.org.uk/

facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire, [Twitter@CPREOxfordshire](https://twitter.com/CPREOxfordshire)

20 High Street, Watlington, Oxon OX49 5PY

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.

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 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

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.

Monday, 6th March & Monday 20th March
2:00 – 4:00pm

And then every 3rd Monday of the month from April

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

Tel: 01235 847179 for more information



All Tickets £7
Call 847707 / 848335

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

FREE!



Wellness Warriors

Part of the Warm Spaces Initiative!

Delivered by Sabrina Mistry,
Instructor at Dojang X Martial Arts Academy

Are you looking for a gentle exercise activity that:

- ✓ Develops flexibility and mobility
- ✓ Applies Eastern breathing techniques to bring internal balance and calmness
- ✓ Explores gentle moves from traditional martial arts to improve co-ordination, focus and muscle strength
- ✓ Offers a relaxed and warm environment to make friends



If YES, join us on Fridays in March to explore this unique class designed to promote the longer-term health of our community!
All fitness levels welcome!

Fridays 3rd - 24th March 2023

10.30am-11.30am

River Room, All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay

Exercise clothes and a water bottle are recommended.

Contact Sabrina to reserve your space for each session:

Email: dojangx@gmail.com | Mob: 07938537310

Spaces are allocated on a first come, first served basis

For information about Wellness Warriors:

Email: dojangx@gmail.com

Or call 07938 537310

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Overgrown Hedging in Sutton Courtenay High Street and Milton Road.

As dog owners we regularly walk round Sutton Courtenay and find it is becoming increasingly difficult to walk safely on the pavements due to overhanging trees and overly wide hedging. If you are not looking carefully it is easy to get attacked by twigs and thorns and, in some places, you can be forced to step out into the road.

The road works and additional traffic have exacerbated the problem making the hedging dangerous to pedestrians, particularly at night.

Would home owners with trees and hedging bordering the pavements please go out and check before the next growing season starts. Consider whether a parent and child can easily walk side by side past your house – then if not, please CUT BACK your vegetation so you are not causing a danger. A particular plea to the owners of the hedging at the bottom of Milton Road near the mini roundabout.

Name & address supplied

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 Mar, 13th Apr, 11th May, 8th June, etc.)

For more information 'phone 01235 847179 or just turn up!

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS'

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

You will be pleased to know that The Abbey begins receiving guests again at the beginning of April. We are getting a steady flow of bookings for groups and individual retreats.

As many in Sutton Courtenay know, The Abbey and its community has faced a number of challenges over the last couple of years. The Abbey closed during 2021 and plans were made to sell the buildings and close the charity. At the same time a strenuous effort was made to reach out to potential partners who might bring The Abbey back to life and avoid the need to sell.

These efforts are now bearing fruit. In November 2021 a Regeneration Working Group was established involving trustees and supporters from the village who have brought professional and managerial experience, and the skills needed to look after the building, to work on The Abbey renewal project. The result is that we are opening again on April 1st but we still need more enthusiastic supporters to make it work.

How can you help?

We need you, the wider body of Abbey users and supporters, to join with us to help consolidate the recent gains we have made and secure the future of The Abbey.

The Abbey is always in need of professional and practical help. Some volunteers bring expertise in law, finance, management and business planning. Others bring specialist skills needed to survey, maintain and repair our buildings (both ancient and modern), offer spiritual direction to visitors or help run our programme of day retreats and courses on religious and spiritual enquiry.

As well as being a registered charity, The Abbey is a Charitable Limited Company called The Abbey Sutton Courtenay Ltd. The Company has a membership which has the responsibility of appointing trustees and providing the overall direction to the work of the charity. We would like to develop our membership into an active body of people who would like to support The Abbey with their energy, their skills and knowledge and, where possible, financially.

Company members are appointed by the trustees who are also the Directors of the Company. If you would like to become a company member, please email the Chair of Trustees, Adrian Rance-McGregor at:

adrianrancemcg@theabbey.uk.com

If you would like to offer your help in any capacity please email: volunteering@theabbey.uk.com

And finally... Many people in Sutton Courtenay have never even been through the gates of The Abbey. The gates are always open and you are welcome to walk through and enjoy the gardens.



The poster features a circular logo at the top with a yellow background and a black border. Inside the circle, there are black silhouettes of three people of different heights standing together, with two hands raised on either side. Below the silhouettes, the word 'FLEXICARE' is written in a curved path. The background of the poster is a blurred image of a path leading through a wooded area. The text on the poster is as follows:

Flexicare Community Walk

Sunday 8th May 2022

Cycle, run or walk circular routes of varying lengths across the Ridgeway. A wheelchair/buggy accessible route is also available. Refreshments will be provided en route.

Starting at Snells Hall, East Hendred, OX12 8LA

Raising money to support Flexicare, an Oxfordshire based charity providing a free, specialised sitting service for families with a severely disabled child.

Register at www.flexicare.org

Registered Charity Number: 1172635 flexicareoxford 

Join us on Sunday 8th May 2022 for the return of the Flexicare Community Walk. Run, walk, wheel or cycle your way along routes of different lengths and ease on and around the Ridgeway, starting from Snells Hall, East Hendred. Refreshments available. Raising money for Flexicare, an Oxfordshire based charity providing a specialised sitting service for families with severely disabled children. For further information or to register, visit our website www.flexicare.org



Photo taken near Culham lock by Jenny Richardson

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

Glenys Diana May STUBBINGS, who died on 19th December 2022, was born, according to her on 23rd January, but according to her birth certificate on 24th January 1941! Her funeral was held on 19th January 2023 at South Oxfordshire Crematorium and conducted by the Reverend Helen Kendrick. Her son, Tim, gave the family tribute from which this is an edited extract.

Glenys was born at home in 6 Thame Road, Great Milton, where she grew up, the fourth of five children. She always said she had a happy childhood. Glenys' first job was at Pressed Steel as a secretary. It was here that she met her future husband, Dennis. Apparently, he would drive past her window regularly on a forklift truck and would smile at her as he did so. From this, romance blossomed and in 1962 their son, Tim, was born and then their daughter Stephanie was born a year later in 1963. With two older girls from Dennis' first marriage, Lesley and Pauline, there were 4 children.

Glenys spent the next few years being involved in some aspects of village life in Sutton Courtenay, such as working in the playgroup and what was then young wives. Once Tim started secondary school, Glenys went to work for Bass Charrington the brewery, initially on Milton Park and then Abingdon. Eventually she was made redundant and worked in the security building at Milton Park. However, this was also around the time that she, Dennis and their daughter Stephanie, bought the village shop and Post Office in Bradstocks Way. Glenys worked there whenever she was not working anywhere else. The shop was eventually sold, and they bought their home in Harwell Road with the proceeds. Sadly, Stephanie died from Leukaemia which, of course, left Glenys heartbroken.

Glenys, continued working and found her next career move very much to her liking; she went to Tesco to work as a checkout operative. This combined her two greatest passions, talking and shopping. She loved to chat about anything and almost everything. She was also a grandmother to 10 and a great grandmother as well. She loved her garden and her gardening. She also loved her Yorkshire terriers, and to go shopping and spend money. She loved her family and was very grateful to them for all they had done for her and for the love they gave her.

Agnes (Dolly) EDWARDS who died on 29th December 2022 was born on 4th May 1950 in Sutton Courtenay. She grew up on the Harwell Road with her parents, Joseph and Emily Loveridge and her three sisters. The family connection to Sutton Courtenay remained important to Dolly all her life. As a young child Dolly, with her family, would spend up to six months of every year travelling, often to Evesham for the fruit picking, but always returning to her grandparents' bungalow in Sutton Courtenay. She enjoyed trips to Weymouth on holiday with all the family trailers and to Pontins at Weston Super mare. She never lost her love of travelling and would love going for long walks or being taken for car rides all over the countryside.

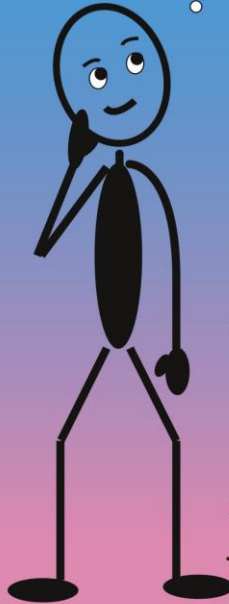
From an early age Dolly loved to sing and this was something she carried with her all through life. As children she and her sisters would often sing and dance and pretend to be 'The Shadows', and in her older years she liked nothing better than a sing-song, when she would make up songs spontaneously! Even though Dolly did not have an easy life, because of her struggles with ill-health, she loved her family – all of her sisters and their children; her son and daughter Joe and Emily and her grandchildren - Christiana, Lily-May and Dolly-Rose. They used to make her laugh when they got up to mischief but she loved them very much indeed. Even when she moved to Thame in later years she would often get a taxi back to Berinsfield so she could spend time with her sister Sally and the family and she loved sitting and eating a packet of Walkers' Crisps and a Pork Pie! Sadly, she spent the last year or so of her life in a Care Home in Burford under the restrictions of the Covid-19 lockdown.

Her funeral took place in All Saints' Church on 30th January 2023 followed by burial in the churchyard with her parents and near to her daughter, Emma, and amongst many members of previous generations of her family. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

And the following whose ashes were interred in the churchyard:

Michael HUTCHINS (21st January 2023)

All Saints'
Singers



**QUIZ
NIGHT**

+ Ploughman's Supper
Make up tables of 8 -
£12 per person
Saturday 22nd April 2023
@ 7:00 pm
Sutton Courtenay Village Hall
Hobbyhorse Lane OX14 4BB
Tickets from a choir member,
chairman@allsaintssingers.org
or 07870 566704

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We have a new covered outdoor restaurant dining area!

During the warmer weather at the weekends we will be using our wood fired pizza oven in the garden
- also available for take away
please call for details.

We are now taking bookings for Mothering Sunday - 19th March. Please call or email us early to avoid disappointment!

The Plum Pudding @ Milton



01235 834443

bookings@theplumpuddingmilton.co.uk

theplumpuddingmilton.co.uk

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See website for details

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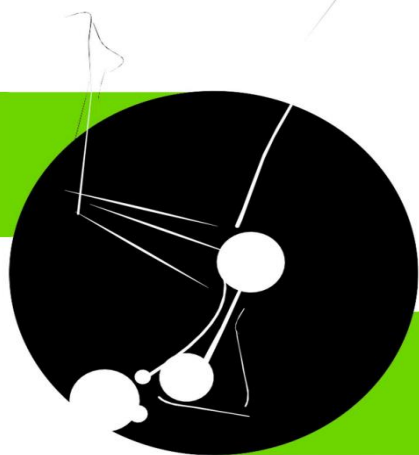
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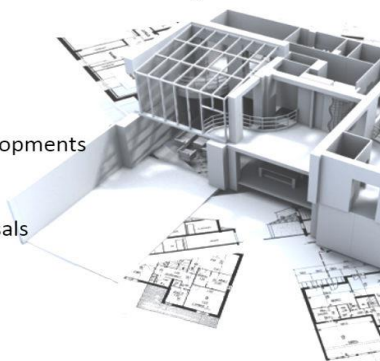
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