SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 52 NO. 7

SEPTEMBER 2023



	VILLAGE DIARY SEPTEME	BER			
Sat 2 nd	SC Craft and Produce Show	The Abbey	14:00		
Thur 7 th	WeCare2 (p. 10)	River Room	11:15-12:30		
Fri 8 th	All Saints' Singers 1st Rehearsal (p. 13)	The Matrix	19:15 - 21:30		
Sat 9 th	Community Brunch (p. 10)	River Room	9:30-11:30		
Sat 9 th	Ride and Stride (p. 10)				
Thur 14 th	Community Café (p. 10)	River Room	10:30-12:00		
Thur 14 th	Together in Stitches (p. 11)	River Room	19:30-21:00		
Fri 15 th	Bridge Afternoon (p 11)	River Room	14:00-17:00		
Mon 18 th	Knit & Natter (p. 12)	River Room	14:00-16:00		
Tues 19 th	WI (p. 8)	River Room	19:30		
Thur 21 ^{st st}	WeCare2 (p. 10)	River Room	11:15-12:30		
Thur 28 ^{th th}	Community Café (p. 10)	River Room	10:30-12:00		
Sat 30 th	Movie Matinee (p. 10)	River Room	16:00		
Sun 1 st Oct	Harvest Festival (p. 9)	All Saints' Church	11:00		

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

OCTOBER 2023 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Unless otherwise stated the Sutton Courtenay News copy deadline is the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

VILLAGE CONTACTS

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Andy Barrett 07717 662039

County Councillor: Richard Webber, 534001 richardwebber777@gmail.com (Schools, Roads etc.) District Councillor: Richard Webber-as above (Planning, Waste etc.) Parish Council Chair: Rita Atkinson, 848694 ritaatkinson@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk Stay & Play Toddler Group: Facebook page: @SCstayandplay Friends of All Saints'-Chair: Sue Jenkins 07885 437454 Matrix Music School: 847264 The Abbev: 242283 Village Hall – SC: scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com drb71@hotmail.co.uk Cricket Club: WI - Sutton Courtenay Amanda Bell 520057

SC Local History Society: John Talbot sclhs.org.uk enquiries@sclhs.org.uk Morna Whitlock, 848335 SCIDS (Drama Society): 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 Landfill Odours 0800 80 70 60 **Environment Agency:** 0800 71 46 14

Nordic Walking Group:

Churchmere Carp Synd.:

DAMASCUS Youth Project: 848694

Thames Water (leaks): Police Anonymous Hotline: 0800 555 111 Power Cuts: 105

Websites:

Parish Council: Oxfordshire CC: Village Hall:

Sutton Courtenay News: www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk Vale of White Horse DC: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk www.oxfordshire.gov.uk 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

See page 3 opposite for latest news about refurbishment and reopening plans.

Please visit our website/booking facility at https://suttoncourtenayvillagehall.co.uk/ in late August for updates about reopening, and going forward, you will still be able to book the hall for September onwards but your booking will show as pending until the Trustees have a confirmed date to reopen the Hall so there will be some uncertainty around it.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Mary Warrington - Treasurer Trustee on: contrary63@gmail.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.

POST OFFICE SERVICES

The nearest Post Office is at Milton, 11H Park Drive OX14 4RS and is open Monday to Friday from 8.00 to 17.15 with a final collection time of 16:45. It is closed on Saturday and Sunday. Further afield there are Post Offices in Didcot (in WHSmith, 188 The Broadway OX11 8RN) and in Abingdon (5-13 West St. Helen Street OX14 5BL) both of which are reasonably accessible by public transport.

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 on Appleford Road.





COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Drayton 20mph Zones

3 years ago the County Council unanimously passed a motion calling for the consideration of 20mph limits in any County Parish that requested them. At the time I do not believe any of us thought that such a policy would be quite so well received. To date, only a tiny majority of Parishes have failed to take up the offer or show interest. If my own mailbox is anything to go by, I would say that those in favour outnumber those against by more than ten to one.

Understandably, the police are concerned over the potential pressure on their resources of enforcing these speed limits. However, the evidence so far is that 20mph limits do indeed bring down average speeds in our villages making life for residents, quieter, safer and more pleasant. Of course, there are some concerns over potential consequences. Some Bus companies argue that the limits could make it harder for them to keep to their timetables. There is not enough evidence one way or the other to know the answer. A minority of residents argue that 20mph is annoyingly slow and leads to impatience and bad driving. Again, there is too little evidence to be certain, and it seems probable that it will take some time for drivers to become accustomed to slower speeds in all built up areas. What evidence there is, suggests that there is a driver learning process, but that 20mph limits lead to traffic flowing more smoothly and there is little impact on journey times.

In our immediate area, Shippon's 20mph zone is already operational. Drayton's is well underway and all the other Parishes are investigating where 20mph limits might be needed.

Changes in the way traffic and driving is managed bring out strong feelings initially but Oxfordshire's immediate path on this issue is set.

Grass verges

There has been much local concern around grass cutting and road safety in recent weeks as the weather has encouraged rapid growth of roadside vegetation. There has also been concern that cycle and pedestrian paths have become restricted and even blocked. If we are trying to encourage people to get out of their cars and cycle or walk, it is important that we keep our paths open and conducive to cycling and walking. Many people are passionate about roadside plant diversity. Growth at road junctions is a major concern for road users of all types. Budget cuts over the past 20 years have led to reduced amount of grass cutting down to one per year leading to very careful decisions having to be made over when to carry out grass cutting depending on each year's weather patterns.

Clearly, there is a balance to be had over how we treat our roadside verges. The present policy is one cut per year and junction cuts where safety is the major issue. Junctions are currently cut on a priority basis – major junctions first.

HIF1 update

At the OCC Planning Committee meeting on the 17th and 18th July, the committee heard presentations from the applicant, OCC Highways and 23 other representatives. The Committee voted by a majority of 7 to 2 to reject the application on a number of grounds.

The major concerns were:

1. That the application took no account of the impact on Abingdon

2. That no traffic modelling was available for scrutiny

3. The potential environmental impacts were not sufficiently considered.

As a result of the above, the Secretary of State has "called in" the decision of the committee. This means that a Planning Inspector will be asked to check the reasons and procedures for the refusal. Their report will be passed to the Secretary of State for a final decision.

The HIF1 scheme that was already badly behind schedule is further delayed. This results in uncertainty all around. District Councils are concerned over the impact on their Local Plans. County Council is concerned about the impact a delay will have if they are penalised for late delivery. Local Parishes are dismayed at the continuing uncertainty. No one can be confident of where we go from here, but there are discussions going on between Government and Councils. Everyone accepts that a solution to the lack of infrastructure following years of rapid development in Didcot and needed urgently.

The idea that the road between the Milton A34 interchange and Didcot should be treated as a stand alone project deliverable quickly may well provide a first step, whilst alternatives to the rest of the scheme are reassessed.

There is sure to be more to come on this in the next few weeks.

Richard Webber Cllr Richardwebber777@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Village Hall Refurbishment update from the Village Hall Management Committee

The renovation and redecoration is going apace, with the demolition of the old entrance lobby and a new one being built, updating the toilets and inner lobby, and a new fireproof roller shutter door fitted for the kitchen. The Trustees are expecting the hall to reopen for bookings sometime in October and we will be in touch with all persons who have provisionally booked the hall for dates in October to keep them fully up to date. We would like to thank everyone for their forbearance and we look forward to reopening the hall so that community use can begin again in this well established village venue. Please direct any questions to: Mary Warrington - contrary63@gmail.com.

See https://suttoncourtenayvillagehall.co.uk/ for updates and new bookings

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



Sutton Courtenay Art Trail – new benches, maps and noticeboards

When new housing developments are being planned the developer must make a financial contribution to

services in the area. The agreements drawn up by the planning authority (Vale of White Horse District Council) and the resulting funds are referred to as Section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). For larger developments the agreement often covers several areas of interest for example sports provision, footpaths, halls, and health services. The current list can be viewed on the District Council's website.

The Parish Council has been working on a project to utilise funds allocated to public art which can include street furniture, paving, hard and soft landscaping.

The Parish Council is commissioning Oxford Oak (Long Wittenham) to design and create benches and noticeboards to be places across the parish. The noticeboards at the Hari and Esha newsagents will be replaced, all the other noticeboards will include a hand-drawn map of the parish which has been designed by local artist, Linda Benton.



As part of the process the Parish Council has sought permission from landowners to install the new street furniture on their land and it is grateful for all the support received so far. The benches and noticeboards should be installed by the end of 2023.

The map below shows the proposed locations, see the notes below the map for further details.



- Bench 1 Kelaart's Field
- Bench 2 The Village Green by the Abbey
- Benches 3 & 4 Millennium Common
- Bench 5 Cemetery
- Bench 6a Lady Place, High Street
- Bench 7
 High Street by the Tullis Close/High Street
- junction
- Benches 8 north & south Rear of All Saints' Church
- Bench 9 Ginge Brook next to footbridge
- Bench 10 north near 32 Bradstocks Way
- Bench 10 south in front 34-44 Bradstocks Way

- Map 1 Kelaart's Field
- Map 2 Village Green (replacing the current map)
- Map 3 Village Hall
- Map 4 Bradstocks Way, near Cost Cutters
- Map 5 Heritage Park
- Map 6 & 7 Hari and Esha Newsagent (no map)
- Map 8 Junction of Peep O'Day Lane and Drayton Road
- Map 9 Corner by gates to Mill House

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Grants

The Parish Council is pleased to be able to award grants to local organisations which benefit residents in the parish. The organisation must be 'not-for-profit' although it does not need to be a registered charity. The Council will consider grant applications for the 2024-25 financial year at a meeting in November. If you are a member of a local group which would benefit from a grant, please contact the Parish Clerk (details below). Applications will need to be submitted by 12th November 2023.

Good Neighbour Scheme

Could you help run a Good Neighbour Scheme in Sutton Courtenay?

- Good Neighbour Schemes are local voluntary groups supporting older, vulnerable, and isolated people in your community.
- They help with things like shopping, transport, household tasks, dog walking, gardening, befriending whatever is most needed in your area.
- Oxfordshire Good Neighbour Scheme can offer £500 start-up grants for new schemes; existing informal schemes may also be eligible for funding.

Good Neighbour Scheme Support Service

The Community Information Network provides a support service for Good Neighbour Schemes across Oxfordshire and has a dedicated Good Neighbour Scheme Support Service Coordinator. The Service is delivered by Volunteer Link Up in partnership with Age UK Oxfordshire and is a project funded by Oxfordshire County Council.

This support service can help you with:

- Access to a start-up grant of up to £500
- Free Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for volunteers
- Insurance Cover
- Good practice guidelines
- Regular Networking Meetings
- Regular Email updates from the Good Neighbour Scheme Support Service Coordinator

To find out more:

Tel 07545 923 327 email oxfordshiregns@vlu.org.uk www.vlu.org.uk/good-neighbour-schemes/

Public Rights of Way

Sutton Courtenay has an extensive network of Public Rights of Way, these include footpaths, bridleways and byways. Most paths alongside a road are not a Right of Way but rather part of the public highway.

The Parish Council has no responsibility to maintain the Rights of Way but in recent years have utilised grant funding and Section 106 funding provided by developers when building new homes to upgrade old stiles and contribute to improving the surfaces of certain routes. This year, Section 106 will be used to install new gates on the footpath from Sutton Bridge to Appleford Road; to install new stiles on the footpath from Mill Lane heading north; and to upgrade the surface of footpath which runs alongside the cemetery.

The work has been identified from reports made by residents to the Parish Council and Oxfordshire County Council. If you notice any issue with a Public Right of Way please report it online at using the dedicated map https://publicrightsofway.oxfordshire.gov.uk/standardmap.a spx The Countryside Access team at Oxfordshire County Council will action any urgent items and larger projects will be recorded so that when funding is available there is a list of projects to be supported.

Councillor Vacancies

Sutton Courtenay Parish Council can have a maximum of 11 Councillors. Following the May 2023 election process there are 2 seats vacant, and the Council is looking to fill those seats by co-option.

Individuals who are on the electoral register and who live or work in the parish or within 3 miles of the parish can be considered for co-option. If you are interested in working in a small team to contribute to local life, taking forward projects which benefit people across the parish, then please contact the Clerk, Jennie Currie.

Please note the role is unpaid, as a minimum you would be expected to attend monthly meetings and check your Council email account at least once a week. You would be asked to take an active role in a couple of areas of the Council's work across recreational amenities, the cemetery, planning policy, community infrastructure (defibs, benches, bins), community events and representing the Parish Council at meetings with local charitable and commercial organisations.

Council meetings and contact details

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings. The dates of the next meetings are Tuesday 5th September, Tuesday 3rd October and Tuesday 7th November at 7.15pm. These are usually held in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall. However, please note that the meeting on Tuesday 5th September will be held at Sutton Courtenay Primary School due to the ongoing refurbishment works at the 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.

Councillors: Rita Atkinson (chairman), Robert Dalby (vice chairman), Teresa Field, Lyn Hodder, Father Morkos, Joanna O'Callaghan, Hugo Raworth, Jason Warwick and Fiona Wolveridge.

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.

DAVID JOHNSTON MP



After breakthroughs for the local AEAT Pensioners in recent weeks, I'm delighted to have had another campaign success – this time with benefits that are national rather than local.

Part of my campaigning on the environment includes being chair of the Community Energy APPG and the lead sponsor of the Local Electricity Bill. In simple terms, this means I have been campaigning for some time to see more support for community energy – by which I mean clean, renewable energy that local people generate themselves in their local areas. At the moment the setup costs are just too high.

I've spent the past few months working with my Government colleagues to try and get the principles of the Local Electricity Bill into law and to get some money behind community energy. This has resulted in a new Community Energy Fund of £10 million being created, which the Government has just announced, and which will be open for applications in the Autumn. I'm really delighted with this as it has the potential to benefit many community energy groups in England and -I hope - Oxfordshire. There'll be further good news when the Energy Bill comes back to the House of Commons next month too - so watch this space!

On 27th September, I will be holding a Pensioners' Fair for local pensioners – whether they live in Wantage, Didcot, Wallingford, Faringdon or any of our villages – at the Beacon in Wantage. I am doing this as a significant proportion of my casework involves trying to help pensioners access support or advice – whether about benefits they're entitled to, support with hearing and sight loss, or how to protect themselves against online scams. I'm therefore bringing together a lot of the key organisations that can provide guidance – together with some of the clubs that can keep people active and help guard against loneliness – in one place so that pensioners can drop in and talk to a range of organisations at the same time. Further details will be put on my website www.david-johnston.org.uk and do please spread the word.

I'm pleased that after my crime summits in Wantage and Wallingford, Thames Valley Police have taken action in this area in response to what local people told them. This has included following up with each individual who raised a case at the events, and broader work to increase contact with local schools/community groups and to make visits to places identified as problems.

Far from being a holiday – though I will go away for a week or so – parliamentary recess is a good time to travel all over the constituency on days other than Friday-Sunday, given MPs have to be in Westminster Monday-Thursday most weeks. I've very much enjoyed being out and about, whether in Uffington, Wallingford, Didcot or Grove and it's been great to visit places I haven't been to before like Serica Smooth in Wantage and Harwell Bowls Club.

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

FLEXICARE



Want to gain experience, have fun and learn new skills? Build amazing relationships? If you have from as little as 4 hours once a month, to spare, Flexicare offers a host of rewarding volunteering

opportunities that fit around your existing commitments and truly make a huge difference to local families.

Flexicare is an Oxfordshire charity that for nearly 40 years has provided a free sitting service for registered families with a severely disabled child and their siblings, giving parents the chance to go for a meal, spend time with other children or just breathing space.

Currently, we are desperately short of volunteers and with higher demand for sits and fundraising than ever, we really need you!

Sitter volunteers...

You need to be over 18 and have a wealth of energy, warmth and a fun-loving attitude. Flexicare will give you all the training and support you need; before, during and after sits. You don't have to sit solo – sometimes more than one sitter is needed, so you can be a valuable second pair of hands, eyes and feet! There are no regular set hours – we let you know a sit (up to four hours) is available: you say yes or no! We are especially in need of sitters at weekends, so volunteering with us can fit around existing employment.

Flexicare operates from Kidlington to Wantage; from Wheatley to Eynsham. A driving licence and access to transport is helpful, but not essential.

Non-sitter volunteering...

Full of ideas and have experience of project or event management? Help us plan and host fundraising events, from helping with washing up to running an event and everything in between.

Know your hashtags from your algorithms? Manage our existing Social Media content and launch us on other platforms too.

Smitten with slogans? Raise awareness by writing advertising copy and pulling together presentations.

Looking for team-building opportunities? Put together a sponsored team challenge: run a virtual marathon relay, host a quiz, do a skydive, climb a mountain's worth of stairs...

Visit www.flexicare.org or contact admin@flexicare.org for more info.

Flexicare (Oxford and Abingdon) is a registered charity, no. 1172635.

ABINGDON HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Abingdon's Heritage Open Days are a highlight of the late summer. This year the main events are on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September, the theme is "Creativity unlocked." You can discover the artistic influence of the town. From Hollywood icons, internationally renowned painters, Rockstars, top comedians and actors, Abingdon has been part of all their lives.

There are exhibitions about the historic Abingdon missal, plus a local artist, Oswald Couldrey. You can also be taught some painting techniques and try your hand at lacemaking. There will be the usual exhibitions, open historic buildings, walks, talks and trails.

You can find the full programme at <u>www</u>.abingdonheritage.org.uk/festivalprogramme

A Missal is a religious book which contains all the prayers, chants, and instructions for the celebration of Mass in the Roman Catholic Church. A Missal is used in Catholic churches today and helps the congregation follow the service and participate by knowing when to respond and what to say at certain points during the service. The Abingdon Missal dates back to the 15th century and is one of the most richly illuminated manuscripts to survive from the Abingdon Abbey Library. It is in two parts. One contains the texts for the religious occasions in the summer and the other those for the winter.



CITIZENS ADVICE



OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH AND VALE CITIZENS ADVICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Are you looking for a new challenge, and want to contribute something to your community? Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice is looking for volunteer advisers and IT specialists to work in our friendly offices in Abingdon, Didcot, Henley or Thame.

Citizens Advice gives people the knowledge and confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are and whatever their problem. In a typical year our 127 volunteers support over 9,000 people.

We are currently looking for:

Advisers: After comprehensive training you will be giving advice to clients in person or via the telephone or webchat. We advise on a broad range of topics including debt management, benefits,

- employment, housing and relationship issues. You will need good IT skills and a desire to help people in your community. A new adviser training course begins in early October 2023, so apply now!
- **IT specialists** to help to maintain our IT systems and support the service. Help staff and volunteers with day-

to-day IT issues, for example with trouble logging on, connecting to Wi-Fi and locating files. We also would welcome support to maintain our local Citizens Advice website.

We would like you to be available for two sessions per week if possible, either mornings or afternoons or for a whole day. We offer a rewarding, flexible and supportive working environment. You'll also learn new skills and meet new people in the course of your volunteering.

To apply, please follow this link:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-southvale/volunteer/Or, if you would like to discuss these

volunteering roles, please email: recruitment@osavcab.org.uk and one of our team will contact you.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH



St Peter's, Drayton St Peter & St Paul, Appleford St Blaise, Milton All Saints', Sutton Courtenay St Michael and All Angels, Steventon



From the Ministry Team

September heralds the start of new village activities as well as the commencement of learning courses of every description. September will also see our Parochial Church Council considering the life and work of our 5 village churches and how we best serve their communities. As custodians of old and historically important buildings, we face challenges and opportunities in how the church shows both a constancy and adaptability in the way it functions. Pandemic and recession have changed much in our church life, yet we are serving more villagers now than we have done in the last 50 years with the inevitable drop in income.

When I hear the word 'church' I think more of people than a religious building. The following three quotes have helped shape my understanding of the true nature of the life and work of the church:

- "The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating but helping and serving." Dietrich Bonhoeffer German Lutheran minister, theologian and executed by the Nazis in 1945 for being an anti-Nazi dissident.
- "The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members." William Temple Archbishop of Canterbury 1942-44
- "It is a mistake to suppose that God is only, or even chiefly, concerned with religion." R. V. C. Bodley In Search of Serenity (1955)

I am confident that our church buildings will remain standing whilst its people remain serving and caring. September heralds autumn with the prospect of the recession biting deeper; however, our churches design and purpose is to show the light and love of God for the benefit of everyone. How do we do that? A good place to start is listening to the voices of those we serve, for in doing so we can hear the voice of God and his leading. As the church is here for the whole community, please tell us how we can best serve and how our buildings can assist us in these purposes.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Reverend Phil Sutton

Thanks to all those families who attended the **Craft Afternoons** in the River Room during August. It was lovely to see you all and we hope you had fun!

CHURCH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

Monday 4th – 19:30 Baptism Preparation for all families interested in a christening service for their child / children, in the River Room.

Wednesday 6^{th} – 19:30 Safeguarding Training in the River Room – please contact Sue Jenkins for more information.

Saturday $9^{th} - 9:30-11:30$ Community Brunch in the River Room – all are welcome – see advert for more details.

10-6pm – Ride and Stride – if you would like to ride or walk your way around some churches in Oxfordshire to raise money for All Saints' Church and the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust then please let the parish office know and we can give you all the details and a sponsor form. **Monday 11th** – 19:30 DAMASCUS PCC Meeting

Thursday $14^{th} - 10:30-12:00$ Community Café in the River Room. 19:30 Together in Stitches in the River Room **Monday** $18^{th} - 2-4$ pm Knit and Natter in the River Room. **Thursday** $28^{th} - 10:30-12:00$ Community Café in the River Room.

Saturday 30th - 4pm Movie Matinee in the River Room

CHURCH DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2023

Sunday $1^{st} - 11:00$ Family Service for Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch in River Room – See advert for details.

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

A HUGE Pirate Thank you to all who supported the Opera Anywhere Production of the Pirates of Penzance, hosted by All Saints' Church on Saturday 12th August.

It was a sell-out performance and we received £895.65 from Opera Anywhere as our share of ticket sales and we made £87.96 in bar profits. This made a grand total of £983.61 for the All Saints' Church Fabric Fund.

Thank you to Opera Anywhere for such an entertaining evening and to the team at All Saints' who worked so hard to put it all together.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Holy Baptism

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

Finn Jonah Edward EVANS (30th July 2023) **George William BOURTON** (13th August 2023)

Holy Matrimony

We send our best wishes and congratulations to **Rodney** and **Hannah PARKER** who had a service of blessing in All Saints' Church on 5th August 2023:

Rest in Peace

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

Audrey CULLEN who died, aged 94, on 19th June 2023 see obituary page 15

And the following whose ashes were interred in the churchvard:

Christopher ROWE aged 87 (18th August 2023)



Donations of food gratefully received for the Abingdon Food Bank

They are in particular need of the following: Tinned Soup - Sauces for rice e.g. Curry, Sweet and Sour etc. - Small tins of baked beans or spaghetti hoops etc. -Shampoo - Shower gel for men - Sturdy carrier bags -Washing up liquid – Cartons of long-life fruit juice -Bottles of squash

> Cash (or contactless donations) will be given to Farm Africa The service will be followed at 12.15 with a HARVEST LUNCH in the River Room ALL WELCOME!

If you wish to come to the lunch please add your name to the list at the back of church or 'phone the Parish Office on 01235 847179 so we know for how many to cater for. Donations for the lunch will go to 'Farm Africa'.

If you can help by making a Cottage or Shepherd's Pie or providing an Apple Pie or Fruit Crumble then please let us know via the Parish Office, 01235 847179.



Bible Reading Fellowship Notes: New Daylight

These are ideal for anyone wanting an accessible yet stimulating aid to spending time with God each day, deepening their faith and their knowledge of scripture.

Each daily section includes a short Bible passage (text included), thought-provoking comment and a prayer or point for reflection.

A great and accessible way to start (or perhaps end!) your day, joining with other Christians across the parish and the country to study the Word and spend time with the Lord.

Sign up to receive the BRF Daily Notes! The next book covers the months September - December.

Contact Jack Jarvis on 01235 831395, or jarvisj044@gmail.com

A Christian Look At the Environment

A time to gather, study the bible, discuss and pray through this important issue.

On Wednesday evenings over five weeks, using a course from the John Ray Initiative, we will examine different theological and scientific insights to help us think about what a Christian approach to environmental issues might look like.

All are welcome, no pre-reading or study is required!

Wednesdays, 18th October - 15th November 2023 7:30 - 9pm

The River room, Sutton Courtenay and online via zoom.

Please register your interest at Admin@damascusparish.org.uk or on 01235 847179

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Community Café in the River Room



Run by the church for the whole community Thursday 14th September Thursday 28th September (in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support) 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? Open to all – a good place to meet with friends or make new ones. If you need transport to and from the River Room please 'phone the Parish Office on 01235 847179

MOVIE MATINEES

The next Movie Matinee in the River Room is on **Saturday 30th September 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. Voluntary Donations in aid of the Church Fabric Fund gratefully received.



Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust RIDE AND STRIDE Saturday 9 September 2023

If you would like to take part in this, please contact the Parish Office (01235 847179) for details. Any money you raise will be shared between the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay

NORDIC WALKING

With a qualified instructor Wednesdays & Fridays from 09:30 at the Sutton Courtenay Recreation Ground (OX14 4AR) For more information contact Graham Wells at graymar.wells@btopenworld.com



RIVER ROOM 200 CLUB

In Support of the All Saints' Community Space The result of the monthly Draws on 11 July and 10 August were:

JULY

 1^{st} - No. 53 (£40.00) 2^{nd} - No. 21 (£20.00) 3^{rd} - No. 36 (£10.00)

AUGUST

 1^{st} - No. 84 (£40.00) 2^{nd} - No. 20 (£20.00) 3^{rd} - No. 51 (£10.00)

New members are 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 13th at the All

Saints' Community Café in the River Room at 10.30 am.

Wecare2

Would you enjoy a little singing, a little company, some armchair exercises oh!and a cup of coffee? Do you care for someone who would enjoy this kind of gentle social interaction? Music and company do help to keep us in touch.

Wecare2 is a small group that meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday from 11.15 - 12.30 in the River Room at All Saints' Church. Transport can easily be arranged. For any more information please contact Morna Whitlock on -

01235 848335 or morna28whitlock@gmail.co

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



SUTTON COURTENAY WI



Come and enjoy the late Summer with us

'Happy Feet' - Foot care advice in September A talk about the River Thames in October We meet every third Tuesday monthly in the River Room, All Saints Church, Sutton Courtenay @ 7.30pm

Contact us at ofwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk or Tel 01869 331081



S.C.I.D.S.

S.C.I.D.S. is on its way! The story is ready! The team working! "The Wizard of Ox" All that is needed is a wonderful cast and backup team. All are welcome, those who have been before and those who are new to S.C.I.D.S. do come along to the first meeting. Aged between 7 and 107 years old we need you.

Sunday 26th November 3pm until 5pm Sutton Courtenay Village Hall -

Watch the next Newsletter There will be lots of fun, games, 'sign up' and tea, with S.C.I.D.S. cakes of course! Make a note of the date and come along. Any queries do contact Sally on 01235 847707 or sallydubock@gmail.com

BRIDGE AFTERNOONS

Starting again 15th Sept. : 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



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)

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





Despite the mixed summer weather, we were able to engage regularly with young people at the recreation ground and discuss many youth-focussed topics as well as continue activities that help build coherent teamwork. We are also proud of our young leader Alfie, who has been working towards an AQA Unit Award in Youth Leadership. Alfie says, 'Being a young leader is awesome because I can make a real difference in young people's lives and also in the wider community.'

To celebrate the work done over the summer, 22 young people accompanied by the staff spent a fun afternoon at the Wet 'n' Wild Aqua Park in Berinsfield. We are sorry that we were not able to take everyone due to transport limitations. Here are some photographs of the event:

An update on the charity from the trustees

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project (ADYP) was first established as a community group in 1999 with the support of the parish councils and the churches of Drayton, Appleford, Milton, and Sutton Courtenay with Steventon. In 2003, it became a registered charity.

The composition of the board of trustees has been stable over the years with two of the founding trustees still playing a major part in the running and management of the charity. It had always been a deliberate decision to keep the charity at a parochial level, as the objective is very much ensuring that adversely challenged young people have support at their doorstep and develop a sense of belonging through positive contributions within their community. This also gives them opportunities to develop skills in communication, leadership, teamwork, social responsibility etc.

Recently, the trustees have been looking at ways of ensuring the sustainability of the charity, which has had a hugely positive impact on all the DAMASCUS communities over the years and continues to play an important role in the support of their young people. In particular, the trustees are



now looking at succession planning as some of them are considering stepping down and, as part of investigating possible options for the future of the charity, are looking to see whether new trustees might be found.

If you are interested in becoming a trustee and want to find out more about what it entails, please do get in touch with Anne Whitehead (Trustee and Hon. Secretary) on 01235 848514 or email anne.whitehead23@gmail.com.

Tel: 01235 848694

James Damascus, Jake Damascus

James_Damascus; Jake_Damascus

YouTube - The Abingdon Damascus Youth Project – MIND GYM

Website - www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk



Only seconds left!

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

The Friends' Garden Party was a great success with 70 people taking part and enjoying a wonderful afternoon of good food and entertainment for both adults and children.

Thank you to all our helpers but particular thanks to those who supported the event enabling us to continue to help with the upkeep of the beautiful grade 1 listed church in our village.

Our next event is the Yuletide Evening at the Abbey in December. More details nearer the time.

Sue Jenkins (Chairman of the Friends of All Saints' Church)



The children's play tent





The musicians having a rest

A WALK DOWN CHURCHMERE AND BEYOND





OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL INFORMATION





Household waste and recycling centres open for longer during the summer. You can pop to a local centre to recycle different items, until 8pm - from now until Thursday 28 September. We're also reminding everyone to sort and separate their waste before their visit. Our nearest centre is in Drayton but if you have unusual recycling please visit Oxfordshire County Council's website

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environmentand-planning/waste-and-recycling



Did you know that emergency contraception is available for free in local pharmacies? Some pharmacies across Oxfordshire offer the morning after pill for free.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Don't wait, help is available.

To find a pharmacy near you, take a look online: oxfordshire.gov.uk/pharmacies



Ukrainian nationals are starting to rebuild their future and look for more independence.

Oxfordshire County Council, in partnership with the district and city councils, is looking for existing landlords, or people who have a vacant property and would consider becoming a landlord to those currently looking for somewhere to live. All Ukrainians have the right to rent, work and live in the UK. Many have secured paid work and others are eligible to receive Universal Credit and housing allowance.

If you're interested, you will receive:

- one month rent in advance
- a security deposit payment
- a £1,000 thank you payment.

Talk to the central housing team: oxfordshirehousingcapacity@southandvale.gov.uk Lloyd Gilks: 07858 687569 James David: 07849 574859

KNIT AND NATTER

Afternoons of chat and craft



 Come along with your own knitting / sewing / craft and enjoy free refreshments and company.
 Every 3rd Monday of the month 2:00 – 4:00pm
 The River Room, All Saints' Church, The Green, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, OX14 4AE Tel: 01235 847179 for more information

REST IN PEACE

Audrey CULLE N who died, aged 94, on 19th June 2023 was born on 15th October 1928 in Fulham, although most of her life was spent in Sutton Courtenay. She worshiped at All Saints' Church and built a wide network of friends across the generations - many of whom attended her funeral in the church on 28th July 2023 where her son, Iain, gave a personal tribute to his Mum. She served on the church welcome team for many years and her smile was so often the first to greet people at the door. For several decades she was our Sunday School teacher, and generations of children owe a great deal to her for her teaching, her patience and her loving kindness.

She was a member of the Women's Christian Fellowship and a willing volunteer at numerous church events making cakes, washing up, drying up, and taking her turn on the church cleaning rota and helping with flower arranging. She supported the work of Save the Children – helping to organize and run the Christmas card sales. She was always interested in people and never failed to be friendly and welcoming. As someone who knew her said – all her lines were laughter lines. Love shone out of her. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT



Watch out for this WhatsApp scam

Large community and religious WhatsApp groups are being targeted by scammers who infiltrate them to try and deceive their members into sending them money. Since January of this year, 268 people have reported falling victim to this scam.

The fraud often begins when a member of the group receives a WhatsApp audio call from the fraudster, pretending, or claiming, to be a member of the group. This is done in order to gain the individual's trust, and often the scammer will use a false profile picture and / or display name, so at first glance it would appear to be a genuine member of the group.

The fraudster will then call the victim and say they are sending a one-time passcode which will allow them to join an upcoming video call for group members. The scammer then asks the victim to share this passcode with them so they can be "registered" for the video call. What's really happening is that the scammer is asking for a registration code to register the victim's WhatsApp account to a new device where they then "port" their WhatsApp profile over. Once the fraudster has access to the victim's WhatsApp account, they will enable two-step verification which makes it impossible for the victim to access their account. The scammer will then message other members of the group, or friends and family in the victim's contacts, asking them to transfer money urgently as they are in desperate need of help.

What can you do to avoid being a victim?

• **Never** share your account's two-factor authentication (2FA) code (that's the six digit code you receive via SMS).

• **Set up two-step verification** to give an extra layer of protection to your account. Tap Settings > Account >Two-step verification > Enable.

• **THINK. CALL**. If a family member or friend makes an unusual request on WhatsApp, always call the person to confirm their identity.

• You can **report spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp**. Press and hold on the message bubble, select 'Report' and then follow the instructions.

If you have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Do You Enjoy Singing?

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



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

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

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

music. Please visit our website for details www.allsaintssingers.org or phone to find out more 07870 506774 * Rehearsals start 8th September * for an exciting Advent concert

SCN HELP NEEDED

The Sutton Courtenay News is looking for someone to join our happy editorial team to help in production of this great magazine.

We need a new Treasurer and Admin person to take over from Judy (scmail836@gmail.com). The job is voluntary and takes an hour or so a month. If you are interested and want to know more please contact Judy.





Sutton Courtenay (National Power) Trust

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 further information please email clerk.scnpt@gmail.com or telephone 07476 026406

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GRANDMA'S MEMORIES OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

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