

# SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 46 NO. 1

FEBRUARY 2017

## VILLAGE DIARY

The Diary is compiled from entries in the Village Diary kept at Burgrey Stores. Please enter your events in this Diary.

### FEBRUARY

Friday	3rd	7pm	Brexit Public Meeting with Ed Vaizey MP	Didcot Civic Hall
Tuesday	7th	7.15pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village hall
Tuesday	7th	7.30pm	Spiritual Fellowship	Village hall
Sunday	10th	10.30am	Christingle Family Service	Church
Monday	13th	7.70pm	Circle Dancing	The Abbey
Tue - Thur	14th	10am	Wild at Heart	Environment Centre
Wednesday	15th	7.30pm	Open meeting on Fun Fest	Village hall
Wednesday	15th		COPY DATE MARCH SC NEWS	
Thursday	23rd	10.30am	Coffee, Cakes, and Books	Church
Saturday	25th	6.30pm	Boulevard Swing –Church Fundraising	Manor Barn
Monday	27th	7.30pm	SC Village Hall AGM	Village hall
Monday	27th	7.30pm	Circle Dancing Taster session	The Abbey

### MARCH

Saturday	4th	4pm	Swallows and Amazons Movie session	Church
Saturday	11th	7.30pm	Friends of All Saints Quiz Night	Village hall

All contributions for the next edition should be e-mailed to [editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](mailto:editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk) or taken to Changes in Milton Road or Burgrey Stores in the High Street before the copy date entered in the Diary above.

To have any contribution published you must provide your name & contact details to the Editors.

To advertise, e-mail [advertising@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](mailto:advertising@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk) or telephone 07761 375991

## VILLAGE CONTACTS

<b>County Councillor:</b> (Schools, Roads etc.)	Richard Webber, 534001 <a href="mailto:richardwebber777@gmail.com">richardwebber777@gmail.com</a>
<b>District Councillor:</b> (Planning, Waste etc.)	Gervase Duffield, 848319 Appleford House, Appleford
<b>Parish Council Chairman</b>	Michael Jenkins, 847174 <a href="mailto:msjenkins@msn.com">msjenkins@msn.com</a>
<b>Beavers, Cubs and Scouts</b>	Adrian Rouse, 07730 313384 <a href="mailto:adrian.j.rouse@gmail.com">adrian.j.rouse@gmail.com</a>
<b>Brownies</b>	Sarah 07855 544609
<b>Parish Priest</b>	Rev Helen Kendrick, 848297 <a href="mailto:helen@kendricks.fsnet.co.uk">helen@kendricks.fsnet.co.uk</a>
<b>Associate Priest</b>	Rev Tim Hewes 07771 880117
<b>Churchwardens</b>	David McKenzie / Fred Cabbage 847489 / 848768
<b>Church Treasurer</b>	Tim Budd 820942
<b>Director of Music</b>	Ian Miles 426109
<b>Tower Captain</b>	John Napper 848292
<b>Children's Church:</b>	Julia James / Vivienne Maunders 848129 / 847077
<b>Church Flowers</b>	Ann White 847662

<b>Chairman, Friends of SC Parish Church</b>	Fred Cabbage 848768
<b>Matrix Music School</b>	847264
<b>The Abbey</b>	847401
<b>Cricket Club</b>	07880 560403
<b>DAMASCUS Youth</b>	848694
<b>Non-urgent Police:</b>	101
<b>Environment Agency:</b>	0800 80 70 60
Landfill Odours	
<b>Thames Water (leaks):</b>	0800 71 46 14

### Websites:

<b>Sutton Courtenay</b>	<a href="http://www.suttoncourtenay.co.uk">www.suttoncourtenay.co.uk</a>
<b>Parish Council</b>	<a href="http://www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk">www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk</a>
<b>Vale of White Horse DC</b>	<a href="http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk">www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk</a>
<b>Oxfordshire CC</b>	<a href="http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk">www.oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>

## MONTHLY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

1st Sunday: Family Service at 10.30am  
 2nd Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 10.30am (with Junior Church)  
 and Book of Common Prayer (BCP)  
 3rd Sunday: Morning Worship at 10.30am (with Junior Church)

4th Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 10.30am (with Junior Church)  
 5th Sunday: Special services across the DAMASCUS Group –  
 please see church noticeboard for details  
 Wednesday: BCP Holy Communion at 9.45am

## SUTTON COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL

Various organisations have permanent bookings for use of the Village Hall on certain days of the week. Local individuals or organisations may nonetheless enter one-off bookings for events which clash with permanent bookings. At least **seven weeks notice** must be given to **Rita Atkinson (848694)** or **Caroline Grundy(848679)** of the hall management team, e-mail: [scvillagehallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:scvillagehallbookings@gmail.com) This allows one week for them to convey the needful six weeks notice to whichever organisation had the permanent booking.

## SUTTONCOURTENAYNEWS.CO.UK

The Sutton Courtenay News is proud to announce the launch of its own website. Full editions of the News will now be available for digital download in pdf format from this website, as well as previous editions, and other material from the News. From time to time, we may also place additional material on the website for readers to refer to. We would welcome any comments and suggestions. We would also like to invite any budding photographers who would like to see their photos of the village and village life featured on the website, or used as page backgrounds, to submit them to us by email.

This newsletter is produced by the editors, Diane Armstrong and Clare Pennicott, and Bernie Jones, who is in charge of advertising. Mary Pike is responsible for distribution. Our contact details are:

**Diane** editor @ [suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](mailto:suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk) 07553 801032 **Clare** editor @ [suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](mailto:suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk) 07778 284193  
**Bernie** advertising @ [suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](mailto:suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk) 07761 375991

The Sutton Courtenay News is printed with support from Sutton Courtenay Parish Council

## Council budget 2017/18

The Parish Council held its budget meeting prior to Christmas to discuss its financial requirements for next year. It carefully considered income and expenditure, and has set a precept of £51146. This is the amount that is charged via the council tax to the residents in the parish, and represents a slight increase on the amount of the precept last year. However the number of houses in the parish has increased too, so there should not be a significant difference in the amount payable for the parish element. The Council when deciding on its spending, included a sum of £10925 to award to local organisations by way of grant where residents benefit.

## Warehouse - Sutton Courtenay Lane – Update

Residents have been asking questions about what is happening to the warehouse site at the southern end of the village. The situation is that all the planning conditions in regards to the warehouse application have now been discharged. There is therefore an unfettered consent. The roads agreement with the County Council too is complete. Shed has been demolished and the site is being cleared. This will take a few weeks. There is no planned date for starting construction. Some people have been asking too about an idea a while ago to put 3 smaller units on the site. This was not progressed and a planning application was not lodged.

## Letters to the Council or Councillors

Sometimes letters are sent to the Council or to Parish Councillors without the author's name, address or contact details. Anonymous letters are not helpful. It may mean that the Council cannot consider them. It also means that there is no way of replying to the person who wrote it, so they will remain unaware if the Council or Councillor has managed to deal with the query. If anyone wishes to contact the Council or their local parish councillor, please provide your name, and contact details.

## Foul language in recreation ground

As reported last month the Council received comments regarding the foul language which can be heard during sports matches on the pitches in the recreation ground. If anyone hearing inappropriate language from players, brings the matter to the attention of the linesman, then the referee can speak to team captains, and if necessary matches stopped.

## Oxfordshire County Council – Unitary Authority bid

The County Council is proposing to abolish all six councils (county and district) and to replace them with a single new unitary council for the whole of Oxfordshire. "A Fresh Start for Oxfordshire" has just been published, and the County Council would like to hear views on what is proposed, so that it can consider points made before submitting a final bid to central government for a decision. Information can be found at [www.oneoxfordshire.org](http://www.oneoxfordshire.org)

See also page 10



## Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been considered :

P16/V2472/HH Double storey side extension, new roof dormers and internal alterations at 7 Ginge brook. The Council restated its comments that no access should be from Ginge Brook

P16/V2010/FUL Erection of 2 bed dwelling at Peewit Farm, 95 Drayton Road. The Council stated that the height should be no more than originally consented and windows not to overlook neighbouring property.

16/V2216/FUL Demolish garage of no. 90 and erect 4 detached dwellings on land rear of 90A Milton Road. The Council stated that this was overdevelopment of the land.

P16/V2777 Variation of condition 3 in consent P13/V0858/HH at Cedar Croft, High Street to allow new first floor windows to comply with building regulations. Council objected to the application owing to the resulting overlooking of neighbouring gardens. Other means of fire escape could be provided

P15/V2353/O Erection of 200 dwellings (additional information- gas migration and drainage reports) at Hobbyhorse Lane. Council agreed that there was nothing in the additional reports which made any material difference to the concerns raised previously.

MW.0129/16 Retention of existing site office building and compound in association with monitoring of the former Sutton Wick landfill. Council had no objections

MW/.0130/16 Pumped underground drain to take leachate from FCC site. Council enquired where the leachate was being treated before discharge into the public sewer system.

P16/V2693/FUL Erection of 83 houses and associated works on Land south of Appleford Road. Council objected owing to the impact on traffic and sewer system

(Continued on page 4)

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS CONT

(Continued from page 3)

P16/V3115/FUL Proposed extension on the North side of the Church to provide meeting room, kitchen and WCs at All Saints Church. The Council raised objections on grounds of inadequate parking.

P16/V3232/LB and P16/V3231/FUL Redesign of new house, adjacent to the Manor House, Church Street. Council had concerns regarding the impact on the views from the river, and asked for a tree survey.

MW.0137/16 Erection and operation of mobile asphalt plant for a temporary period of 12 months during demolition and reconstruction of existing plant at Appleford sidings.

The Council had no objection provided the hours of operation were controlled and there were no vehicles through the village.

MW.0139/16 s. 73 application to change quarry operating details by varying conditions of a previous consent at Sutton Wick Quarry. Council had no objections

P16/V3098/HH Conversion of garage to granny annex at 41 Milton Road. Council requested conditions as to occupancy and non severance.

P16/V3179/FUL Replacement windows at 3A Tyrrells Way. Council had no objections

P16/V3121/HH Erection of conservatory at 42 Lady Place. Council had no objections

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 at 7.15 pm. in the village hall, Frilsham Street. Please check noticeboard outside Burgrey stores in case arrangements change. Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham Tel: 01865 391833**

**or email: [info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk).**

### **Sutton Courtenay Post Office**

A wide range of key Post Office products and services are available at Burgreys Stores in the High Street.

The opening hours are

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 08.00 – 18.00,  
Wed 08.00 – 17.00,  
Sat 08.30 – 13.00, and  
Sun 09.00 -12.00.

## A NIGHT IN THE CHURCH

### **A Sleepover with a difference**



It was early in December, a Friday night that was dark and damp that ten intrepid sleepers and four equally intrepid adults met at All Saints for a Church sleepover. Led by Helen (our vicar who dreamed up the idea!!!) we all arrived and quickly got to know each other with a couple of games before settling to an amazing selection of Pizzas around a long table properly laid and looking very inviting.

After supper there was tour of the Church inside, before Churchwarden David took everyone outside for a dark tour of the churchyard and a look at the stars, in again and we arranged our beds, on the carpet and with all the pew cushions as a base. Helen and Vivienne chose to be close to the radiators which almost proved to be a mistake. Phew!!

We watched Jungle Book as one by one the sleepers fell asleep, and to the surprise of all the adults we had a good nights sleep. (Apart from the heat - Phew!!! ) By eight in the morning all were dressed and packed and therefore ready for the arrival of David and Janet Knowles who arrived with a full English breakfast (and how!) accompanied by Diana Hastings with additions of milk and drinks and marmalade!

It was a great night, great fun, (the young wanted to repeat it weekly!!) and we concluded with prayers all around the breakfast table, led by Helen and with everyone contributing their own thoughts in turn. Thank you to Helen, David, Vivienne and Morna. Thank you to Fred for the heating (Phew!!!) and to David; Janet and Diana for breakfast. The final big thank you is to all the sponsors, the night raised a wonderful £500 for the funds towards the River Room.

# SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## New Beginnings

As the New Year starts, the staff and children have all come back full of enthusiasm for the term ahead. In Key Stage 2, their learning is centered around the theme of 'Bright Lights, Big City', whilst in Key Stage 1 the children are looking in detail at the changing seasons, taking their inspiration from the natural world outside the classroom. Themed planning of learning, where we link areas of the curriculum together to make sure we cover what we need to, are very much central to the way we work in the school. We encourage children to make connections in their world, and use the skills they are learning in different contexts.

Watching the natural world around us reminds us of how essential change is in the cycle of life. Children understand this and experience the wonder of it – after all, for them, growing up every day, change is what they do! I take my inspiration from the way they learn as I steer the school through the period of change approaching, beginning with the building of our new classrooms. Of course, the main excitement for the children will be the arrival of diggers on site, but for the adults involved there are more far reaching considerations.

The school exists to serve the whole village, and we are expanding at such a fast rate because the village is growing and changing so fast. We now have to look closely at what our community needs from our school, and how we can best provide that. We will be developing our before and after school care soon - we already offer a breakfast club, and are working on setting up after school facilities. This is an important part of how we can support family life, and we all know children learn better when they are happy and settled.

Our library is also currently being re-designed, with a generous contribution from the Friends of Sutton Courtenay School who work so hard raising money to enhance different aspects of school life. The children are enjoying watching Mr Greenough constructing the shelving. We are very lucky to have a talented workman as part of our team!

### Winter Garden Friends

*Just before Christmas, Wrens and Falcons classes wrote some wonderful poetry. The theme was 'Robins', and they thought about the questions they would like to ask these little birds. Here is Hannah's poem:*

*Hello my furry friend  
with a ruby chest.*

*I see you building a winter nest.*

*How do you keep your beautiful feathers clean*

*In the bleak midwinter?*

*Do you love to eat fresh garden worms and burgundy berries?*

*What is it like in the candyfloss clouds?*

*Do they have a silver lining?*

*I wonder why you come every Christmas?*

*Goodbye little friend.*

Rachel Homsey, Headteacher

Lisa Knight and Louise Tristram, Assistant Headteachers

[www.suttoncourtenayprimary.co.uk](http://www.suttoncourtenayprimary.co.uk)

01235 848333

[office3243@ocnmail.net](mailto:office3243@ocnmail.net)



## SUTTON COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL AGM

**Monday 27 February 2017 at 7.30 pm in the village hall**

To receive the report and accounts from the trustees for work done in the last year.

An invitation to all - we do hope you will attend and find out what we do and perhaps join us in managing your community building.

On behalf of the trustees I would like to record a big thank you to Jackie Greenough who does a tremendous job in looking after the building on a day-to-day basis. This is also evident from the many compliments that have been received from users.

Rita Atkinson (848694)

Secretary (Sutton Courtenay Village Hall Management Committee)

## BROWNIES



We are a group of girls aged 7 to 10 years old who meet every Monday evening from 18:00 to 19:30hrs at the Sutton Courtenay Scout & Guide Hall (next to the Village Hall), during term

time. At the moment we are a very small group of Brownies and would love more girls to come and join us for fun, games,

crafts, trips, badges and friendship. If you would like to come and see what we do please contact Sarah on 07855 544609 to arrange a visit or for more information please visit our web site [www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus)

Brownies are also looking for adult or young leaders (14yrs+) to help run the unit, this is a volunteer role and very rewarding. You will be fully supported by an experienced leader and training opportunities. Please contact Sarah on 07855 544609 for more information with no obligation.

# SUTTON COURTENAY PARISH CHURCH

## From the Ministry Team

Valentines' Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. But how can we go beyond simply flowers and a card and the over-commercialisation of the day? Jesus says: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34). How can we express love in our everyday relationships like Jesus?

### *Listening*

We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. How well do we listen to others? When with somebody, do we find ourselves already thinking of what we want to say before they've finished speaking. Listening takes time; you can't rush it!

### *Touching*

Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in his world, including lepers, the sick and children. One survey has suggested that we all need at least 8-10 meaningful touches a day to maintain emotional health! A warm handshake, touch on the arm or hug can be of real value. Of course, it should be appropriate touch – helpful for the other person not just for ourselves.

### *Speaking*

Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Do we speak words of grace, by offering comfort, giving encouragement or expressing care and concern? However, we should also be ready to speak words of truth, in asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation or addressing conflict.

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

*With love and prayers Helen*

*The Reverend Helen Kendrick,  
Priest in Charge of Sutton  
Courtenay with Appleford*



## Christmas Thanks

Following the Church choir carol singing around the village and the Torchlight Procession we have been able to send £1,232 to Mercy Ships (a charity which exists to bring hope and healing to the poorest of West Africa). Thank you to everyone who made a donation and thank you to the hosts of the Carol Singing – Joe and Katy in Springfield Way, Bernie and Kate in Lady Place and Alan and Morna in Chapel Lane. If you would like to host a carol singing session at Christmas 2017 just let us know! Also enormous thanks to all those who make the Torchlight Procession possible – the volunteer stewards, coordinated by the Churchwardens; Colin Whitehead & friends for the lights and sound; the Allen family & Callum Mackenzie for the bonfire. We could not do it without you!

Thank you also to everyone who supported the Christmas Tree Festival on the second weekend in December. We raised £461.18 for the Church Building Project - £60 of which will go towards building a toilet in an impoverished country via [toilettwinning.org](http://toilettwinning.org). We have now contributed towards the building of two toilets – we hope to make it several more in due course!

## CHRISTINGLE SERVICE, for all the family

10.30am, Sunday 5<sup>TH</sup> February 2017

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, SUTTON COURTENAY



**Come and make your own Christingle!**

*A collection will be taken for the work of  
The Children's Society and refreshments will be served  
after the service.*

## Movie Matinée

**All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay**

**Starting at 4pm Saturday 4th March**

**Swallows & Amazons (cert. PG)**

fun for all the family

**ENTRANCE FREE – DONATIONS WELCOME**

**REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

## COFFEE, CAKES & BOOKS

Thursday 23rd February 2017, 10.30am-12noon

Why not drop by for coffee, cake & conversation and to browse the books on offer?



Open to all – a good place to meet. If you need transport, please phone Helen on 848297

# CHURCH DIARY

## CHURCH DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

- **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>** – Marriage Preparation Day for all couples getting married in the DAMASCUS Group of Churches
- **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>** – 10.30am Christingle Family Service
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup>** – 8pm Sutton Courtenay PCC
- **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>** – 10.30-12 Coffee, Cakes & Books
- **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>** – 6.30-10pm Cocktails, Music, Dinner & Dancing to Boulevard Swing in Manor Barn – see advert for details
- **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> SHROVE TUESDAY** – 3.30pm-5pm Pancake Party in the School for all 0-11 year olds accompanied by an adult

## CHURCH DIARY FOR MARCH

- **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> ASH WEDNESDAY** – 7.30pm Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes
- **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>** – 4pm Movie Matinee – Swallows & Amazons
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup>** – 8pm Baptism Preparation in the church for all those interested in baptism for themselves or their children
- **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>** – 7.30pm Lent Group – more details coming soon
- **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>** – Friends of All Saints' Quiz Night

## BIRTHS & MARRIAGES



### Holy Matrimony

We send our best wishes and congratulations to the following who were married in All Saints' Church recently:

Barry Lewis WHARTON and Victoria (Vicki) Louise BLACK  
(3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016)



### Holy Baptism

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

Jack Michael ROBERTS (27th November 2016)

Rose Eliza PAYNE (4th December 2016)

Esmé Melanie Diane BOLTON (4th December 2016)

Flynn George Thunder BOLTON (4th December 2016)

## REST IN PEACE

**HELEN TYLER** who died aged 70 on 25th November 2016 was born on 11th July 1946 in Paisley to her parents Helen and Peter and she was big sister to two brothers – Peter and John. Her parents sent her to Sunday School, which she attended regularly and she enjoyed it so much she ended up as the Sunday School Teacher. On leaving school Helen went to work as a Junior Accountant but due to ill-health in the family she had to change jobs and eventually worked for Pressed Steel. It was at work that she met her future husband Frank. It was love at first sight for him as he thought, “that’s a cracker, I’m going to marry her!” It took six weeks of persuasion but he kept on asking her out until she said yes. They went on their first date in February 1966 to La Scala Cinema to see John Wayne in Stagecoach. Frank enjoyed the film tremendously but Helen fell asleep! Despite this inauspicious start they became engaged on Christmas Eve of that year and married in March 1968 in the South Church – the parish church of Charlston. There was rain, snow and fog on their wedding day and driving to Edinburgh for their honeymoon, the lights on the car packed up and Helen had to shine her torch out of the window so they could see where they were going. They went onto celebrate 48 years of married life. Work brought them south when they moved, initially to Drayton and then to their home in Sutton Courtenay on Bradstocks Way, where they brought up their boys – Malcolm, Andrew, Steven and Robert.

Helen worked in the Lemonade department at Morlands Brewery and also worked at the Manor House in Sutton Courtenay and as a cleaner and barmaid at the Swan. She decided to go into catering and got a job at the Head of the River having put herself through Abingdon College to get her City and Guilds Catering and Management qualification. One of her last jobs was working for Gateway & Summerfields in Didcot until it closed. As the years went by problems developed with her legs and the surgery she was offered did not help. She was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis and from then on she always hated going to the doctors. In 1984 she thought she was suffering from indigestion until she discovered she was pregnant with Robert. She was a very caring and protective Mum and also strict but fair. She never lost her Scottish accent and a joke in the family was that Steve told his teacher he couldn’t learn his spellings, despite the hours Helen spent helping him, because he had a ‘foreign’ Mummy! Over the years she was involved with the village playgroup; the PTA at the school, and the Cubs and Scouts – she helped with many fundraising activities. She also became involved with the Evergreens and would help Mary Maddox organise trips to Blackpool and other places. She was always a good cook and liked to knit – making many jumpers for her four boys. She was a very proud and doting grandmother to her grandchildren.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## REST IN PEACE CONT

*(Continued from page 7)*

Helen was a stoical, straight-talking, strong-willed and forceful individual but gradually her increasing ill-health reduced her mobility and she died at home. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

*This is an edited extract of the address given by the Reverend Helen Kendrick at the funeral which was held in All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay on 10th January 2017*

**VIOLET BOWERS** (SIS) who died, aged 83, on 5th December 2016 was born on 29th June 1933 in Iver, Buckinghamshire – the 4th child in the family and the first girl. Her three older brothers called her 'Sis' from the moment she was born and the nickname stayed with her for life. She attended school in Clifton Hampden and Milton – although she didn't like school much and left as soon as she could. She was always a very jolly girl and, although she tried to be the older bossy sister to her younger sister Liz, she failed, as laughter was never far away. She liked to enjoy herself and took a great delight in life and all the fun it had to offer. As a young woman she worked for a Market Gardener at Kingston Bagpuize and for the local farmers helping with the potato picking and other harvest work. A hardworking woman she must also have cleaned all the local pubs at some point over the years. She met her husband, Jim Bowers in the early 50s and they set up their first home together in a caravan in Westbrook – going onto have their first four children there – before moving to a house in Barratts Way where Sis lived for over 50 years. They went onto have six children in total – Jack, Tink, Carol, Pauline, Marty and the baby who sadly died very young. Sadly the marriage came to an end after twenty years and Sis became a Single Mum, continuing to bring up her family and working hard to provide for them. She loved all her children equally and did her best to ensure that they never went without. She was a strong character who set boundaries for her children and she wouldn't tolerate any backchat. She was very much a force to be reckoned with and was defensive and protective of her whole family. From an early age she loved to sing – and once won a singing competition as she had such a good quality voice. She also loved to dance. In later years she continued to enjoy a singsong at social gatherings and playing bingo. She was also a keen darts player – playing on a team for the Red Lion at Drayton. She always maintained a wide circle of friends and was well known as the life and soul of parties. Known as 'Little Nanny' she was very proud of her 11 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren whom she loved and spoilt whenever she could. Her main focus throughout her life was her family and she always liked to know what was going on and to keep in touch with everyone. During the last five years of her life Sis grew progressively frailer as she suffered from diabetes and its side-effects. She was cared for by her family until her death.

*This is an edited extract from the address given at her funeral on Tuesday 20th December 2016 in All Saints' Church by the Reverend Helen Kendrick.*

**GLADYS MABEL WINCHESTER** who died aged 97 on 8th December 2016 was born on 8th July 1919 in Loughborough to her parents Albert and Hettie and she was soon joined by Jack, her younger brother. Gladys had a challenging childhood. Her father had lost a leg in the First World War and her Mother died of septicaemia when Gladys was only 12 years old. She met her husband Elrick during the Second World War and they went onto have a long and happy marriage. They were both musicians – Elrick sang and Gladys played the accordion – and would perform at the many dances held throughout the war. Gladys had some vivid memories from this time of her life – from saving up her clothing coupons for her wedding and having to spend hours queuing for food to feed the three men in her household. She could also recall the night that Coventry was bombed when the sky was lit up for miles around. She and Elrick went onto have one child – Anne – who remembers Gladys as a very caring and loving Mum. Gladys always loved gardening and she and Elrick worked in partnership – she would look after the flowers, whereas he was only interested in growing things he could eat. Pets always featured in her life – initially dogs but then her two cats - Roly and Dusty - in later years. Although her main focus was always her family and caring for friends and neighbours she spent time working outside the home in a factory making hosiery for M&S where she worked her way up to become a supervisor. In retirement she and Elrick discovered the joy of travelling. Gladys also went on a 'continental catering course' to learn how to cook other cuisines – but Elrick always preferred to eat English food! Gladys and Elrick moved to Sutton Courtenay in 1985. She was a fantastic grandmother to Sam and Sarah and was always making cakes; willing to play games and was a keen babysitter. She was immensely proud of them and their achievements and would have been really proud of her great-grandson Marlowe who entered this world as Gladys left it. Unfortunately Elrick died not long after moving to Sutton Courtenay but Gladys – showing the same determination of her early years – rebuilt her life and made many new friends. Having been an active member of the Young Wives during her years in Loughborough she loved belonging to Evergreens in her later years. She enjoyed the weekly socialising and games of bingo and would take every opportunity to go on their outings and holidays. There are not many people who can say that they celebrated their 80th birthday in Paris and their 90th in Jersey and on her 92nd birthday she went to an Abba Tribute Concert – where her name was read out as the oldest Abba Fan in attendance! Sadly Gladys became bedbound five years ago and the time since has been a long goodbye for Gladys and for Anne and for all those who cared for her. The whole family are immensely grateful for the care Gladys received in her final years – from the carers but also from supportive friends and neighbours in Katchside. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

*This is an edited extract from the address given by The Reverend Helen Kendrick at the funeral held in All Saints' Church on Monday 19th December 2016*

*(Continued on page 9)*



## REST IN PEACE CONT

*(Continued from page 8)*

**FRANCES JEAN WOODWARD** who died aged 95 on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016 was born in Berkhamsted on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1921. She was the second eldest in a family of five. As a young girl she moved, with her family, to a farm in Steventon and then later to a bungalow in Sutton Courtenay. She would often tell stories about the dances she went to at the old village hall in Old Wallingford Way and about dancing the 'Paddy Kline' – although her daughters are not sure what that was. They have tried 'googling' it but to no avail - it must have been a Sutton Courtenay speciality! She met her husband to be, George, at one of those dances. He had a bet with Mervyn Hyatt about who should ask her to dance and George won – or, as he often used to joke about it later – 'I got lumbered with her!' They corresponded with each other whilst George continued serving in the Navy and they were eventually married in this church on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1947. The majority of their married life was spent in Frilsham Street, where they brought up their three girls – Jane, Sarah and Georgia - before retiring to live in Katchside. She became the backbone of her family. Kind and caring, understanding and compassionate she was always there when her children needed her. She was generous and hardworking – a good neighbour to many and always with a sense of fun and mischief and love of life. In her spare time she found painting immensely rewarding and produced some lovely pictures which had pride of place in her home. She was also talented at sewing, knitting and smocking and made clothes for her daughters. She volunteered for the St John's Ambulance Service, which she loved so much that she went onto work as an auxiliary nurse at the Radcliffe Infirmary and later on at the Marcham Road Hospital. She was quietly proud of her career and was always compassionate and caring to her patients. However, she always focused her life and energy on bringing up her family and was very proud to be 'Nanny' to Wayne, Laura, Daniel, Emma and Zara and, in due course, a great-Nanny. In later years George and Frances enjoyed leisure time on their boat on the Thames until they became unable to jump on and off! Sadly, George – who had been such a dedicated and devoted carer for Frances as she grew frailer - died in 2011 and the last three years of her life were spent at Leafield Care Home in Abingdon where she received exceptional care, delivered with dignity and compassion. Her memory continued to fade but on good days her amazing sense of humour was still as good as ever. She had a lifelong love of music and she loved to sing and dance. In Leafield she would sing along to music whenever she could and, when much else was forgotten, she could still recall lyrics from long ago and, even when bedbound she would still manage to dance with her arms in time with the music. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

*This is an edited extract from the address given by the Reverend Helen Kendrick at the funeral held in All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017.*

**FREDA KATE FANNY JONES** who died, aged 92, on 2nd January 2017 was born on 23rd April 1925 in Appleton on 23

April 1925 to Frank and Maud Woodward. Along with her siblings, Marjorie, Nancy, George and Frank, who have all sadly predeceased her, they moved to 31 Harwell Road, Sutton Courtenay as children and with the exception of Nancy, they spent the majority of their life in Sutton Courtenay. During the Second World War Freda joined the Red Cross as a nursing auxiliary and was working at a convalescent home in Burcot when she met Ron, who was a patient. When he had sufficiently recovered from his injuries, Ron returned home to Teignmouth, Devon and Freda followed. They married on 20 May 1947, and returned to Sutton Courtenay to live at The Sheiling, a wooden bungalow along Ginge Brook. As the family grew they moved briefly to Dry Sandford before moving back to a new house in Barrett's Way in 1958 where they remained until moving into a bungalow in Milton in 2004. Both Freda and Ron were active members of the Sutton Courtenay community. Freda helped Ron with the Football Club (as tea lady), Friday night bingo, Christmas draw and weekly lottery raising funds for the Football Club. She was a member of the WI, the Evergreens, the Women's Christian Fellowship and on the Village Hall Committee. She loved going on the organised outings and holidays with her friends. Freda worked as a home help for many years and then as an escort on the transport taking children to Kingfisher and Teasdale schools in Abingdon, as well as caring for her mother and then her husband Ron during his ill health. She also worked for a while at the egg-packing station in Sutton Courtenay and she was also a volunteer at the League of Friends coffee shop at Abingdon Hospital. Besides being a loving Mum to Peter and Helen, she was affectionately known as 'the outlaw' by Simon; Grandma Freda to Sam and Kelly, Amy and Martin, Chloe and Scott; Great Grandma to Beth, Jessica, James, Aiden, Chase and Zara and a good friend to many. She was so proud of her grandchildren and great grandchildren; always keen to have new photos of them. They remember her as the maker of the best ever Roast Potatoes and Yorkshire Puddings. Freda suffered for many years with arthritis and increasing heart problems and after a fall at the end of August breaking her hip, she spent 12 weeks in hospital. She then moved to Winterbrook Nursing Home but her health deteriorated rapidly. The care and compassion she received there was excellent. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

*This is an edited extract of the address given by the Reverend Helen Kendrick at the funeral held at South Oxfordshire Crematorium on 18th January 2017.*

**BABY FINLEY GORDON HILL** (26th December 2016-26th December 2016) whose funeral was held on 9th January 2017 at South Oxfordshire Crematorium.

# COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

## Unitary Government – time for Oxfordshire residents to decide.

It was confirmed by both sets of the expensively-commissioned experts that Oxfordshire's Local Government is badly in need of improvement and that Unitary Government in some form is the obvious way forward. The estimated savings from forming a single Unitary Council (replacing the present County and 5 District Councils) amount to more than £20m every year.

When the issue is explained to residents, almost all I have spoken to respond "Surely. It's a no-brainer. So why are we not getting on with it?"

There seem to me to be two types of argument that are raised against a single Oxfordshire Unitary solution. The first type all boil down to Councils and councillors desperately arguing for self preservation. The second group of objections is more worthy of an answer.

With large councils comes a reduction in democratic accountability. But how many of us know our District or County Councillor? How many of us even know what the different councils do? I certainly didn't before I got directly involved. At present there are 63 County Councillors. The experts reckon there would be 120 Unitary Councils in a one Oxfordshire Unitary Council. In other words, each councillor

would be responsible for half the number of people. Councils would no longer be able to pass the buck between each other. There would be *one council* responsible for all local services, *one council* to make the big necessary decisions and *one council* to blame if things go wrong. In my view, that would give local government *more* not less democratic accountability.

Every day we delay in going Unitary wastes public money – that is the money that you and I pay in our Council Tax. £20 million of savings every year is the equivalent of £60,000 every day – the equivalent of what it takes to fill many potholes and to support a Children's Centre or two of the bus services we are about to lose. Can we really afford to delay further? As someone who has spent the past four years facing the dreadful choices that austerity has offered, I have to ask - is the prevarication any longer morally justifiable?

However you feel on this issue, I very much hope that all residents of Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay, Drayton, Marcham and Shippon will join me on entering their views on the OCC website where a consultation is about to begin. It is about time that ratepayers rather than councils or councillors should be allowed their say.

Richard Webber [Richardwebber777@gmail.com](mailto:Richardwebber777@gmail.com)  
01235 534001

## OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### ONE new council for the whole of Oxfordshire?

#### Have your say.

Oxfordshire county council wants to know what you think about its draft proposal to abolish all six councils in Oxfordshire and replace them with a one new council for the whole county, called a 'unitary' council.

#### Why change?

Central government is changing the way councils are funded, and councils will soon have to pay for services mainly from council tax and business rates. Unless local government is reorganised, Oxfordshire councils will not be able to pay for vital public services for local communities and vulnerable people as the population increases and gets older.

#### The proposal

Oxfordshire currently has a two-tier local government – a county council plus five district and city councils. Oxfordshire County Council thinks that all of Oxfordshire's six councils should be abolished and replaced with one new unitary council which would save £20m each year – money that would pay for better services and keep council tax low. That money would be enough to fill over 300,000 potholes or provide 1 million hours of home care.

The new council would be simpler for residents and business, with one website and one point of contact.

One councillor would represent your community and be

accountable for all services. As members of an 'area board' serving the existing district or city areas, each councillor would take decisions affecting their community and also the county as a whole.

Environmental services such as street cleaning, countryside services and grounds maintenance would be properly joined up and managed locally to respond to community needs.

Bringing together social services, housing, leisure and welfare benefits would mean joined up support for people who need extra help, improving health and wellbeing. And joining up planning, housing, jobs and transport would mean Oxfordshire's housing shortage can be addressed, along with investment in vital infrastructure such as roads.

Without changing local government in Oxfordshire, further service cuts may be needed. The government is reducing funding and a unitary council is more financially sustainable in the long term.

Oxfordshire County Council believes a new council for the whole county makes most sense. Simpler. Better services. Lower cost. That's what 'One Oxfordshire' means.

#### Join the debate

This is a draft proposal and Oxfordshire County Council wants to hear from residents, before finalising the proposal and sending it to the government for a decision. To find out more and have your say, go to [www.oneoxfordshire.org](http://www.oneoxfordshire.org) or come to a drop-in event at a library near you. Dates of the events are available on the website.

## ED VAIZEY MP

Welcome to 2017! As this is my first Parish News of the New Year, may I wish you Happy new Year and hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and got to spend time with your families and loved ones.

2017 has arrived with quite a full in-tray for me as your local MP. Issues such as the congestion on the A34, the continued campaign to re-open Grove station, my campaign to secure better fertility treatment for people in Oxfordshire, and the need to secure continued investment in science and technology post-Brexit will take centre stage. The early months of this year will see us take the formal step to begin leaving the European Union, an issue that will dominate the agenda in the House of Commons.

One of the issues I am most contacted about is local health services, and I share many of the concerns my constituents have raised about the ongoing review, known as the Sustainability and Transformation Plan. I am very unhappy with how the process is being undertaken, and the constant delays to publishing anything meaningful is having a severe impact on local services. Prior to Christmas two GP practices failed in a bid to secure funding to expand their premises to cater from growing populations.

This situation is becoming very urgent, and I will be meeting local NHS chiefs early in the New Year to try and get from them a clear timeline for the STP, so that we can all have a say in how our health services are developed. I am also seeking meetings with health ministers to discuss the failed capital bids for GP surgeries so I can understand why they were turned down so we can have greater success in the future.

In January I will be also co-hosting a debate in Parliament on the provision of IVF treatment. This is an area that I have campaigned on for some time, and I am frequently contacted by constituents who are having difficulty funding fertility treatment. I fear that this area is seen as a treatment that local health services can easily cut and reduce. I will be making Ministers aware of my concerns, and hope they take some action to further protect this important service.

January also saw my first public meeting on Brexit, held at the Beacon in Wantage at 18:30 on Friday 20th January. I will be holding a second meeting from 19:00 on Friday 3rd February at Didcot Civic Hall. I am looking forward to meeting many of you at these events and hearing your views on Brexit.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any pressing issues that you would like help with. Either myself or one of my team will get back to you as soon as possible and do what we can to assist. You can contact me on any matter at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, [dicksonce@parliament.uk](mailto:dicksonce@parliament.uk) or 01235 768 888. Email is the quickest and most reliable way to get in touch, as I keep a very close eye on my emails and can reply very quickly. Details of my activities in Parliament can be read on my website, <https://www.vaizey.com>. I also send out occasional general interest emails about developments in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please complete the online form at <http://bit.ly/EdVaizeyMP>.

Ed Vaizey

## SC ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

### Wild at Heart: Love is in the air

Tues 14th, Wed 15th and Thurs 16th February, 2017

10:00am - 3:00pm

Visit Sutton Courtenay to find out what our amazing wildlife is up to this February. Wrap up warm to explore the reserve then join us inside by the fire to enjoy some crafts. Suitable for children aged 4 - 11 years. Booking Essential. £4 per child, accompanying adults free.

For those with pre-school children we run Nature Tot sessions every month. A great opportunity for you and your little one to have fun in natural surroundings. Activities include; mud painting, mask making, bug hunting and much more. Booking essential.

For all bookings please head to our website [bbowt.org.uk](http://bbowt.org.uk)

Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust

Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre, Sutton  
Courtenay Rd, OX14 4TE

01235 862024



# THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2016

On behalf of the Royal British Legion I would like to thank everyone who supported and gave so generously to the 2016 Poppy Appeal, and the house-to-house collectors for giving their time and continued support.

I am delighted to report that a total of £2,909.81 was collected, comfortably exceeding last year's record £2,792.64

Mark Haffenden

Poppy Appeal Organiser, Sutton Courtenay & Appleford

01235 847177

mark-haffenden@hotmail.co.uk



## EARTH TRUST

Sunday Drop-in: **Build a Bug House**, Sunday 5th February, 10am-2pm.

**Creepy Crawly Comics**, Monday 13th February, 10am-3pm.

**Planetarium**, Tuesday 14th February, 3pm-6.30pm.

Woodland Adventure, Wednesday 15th February, 10am-12pm.

**Woodland Adventure**, Wednesday 15th February, 10am-2pm.

**Build a Bird Box**

Thursday 16th February, 10.30am-12pm and 1.30pm-3pm.

**Discover and Play**, Friday 17th February, 10am-12pm.

**Song Writing Workshop: Climb That Tree**

Saturday 18th February, 11am-12pm.

**New Moon Walk**

Tuesday 21st February, 7pm-9pm.

**Basket Weaving**, Sunday 26th February, 9.30am-4.30pm.

More information can be found on our website [www.earthtrust.org.uk](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk).

All events take place at the Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ unless otherwise stated.

## FUN FEST ON THE RECREATION GROUND

**An open meeting – Wednesday 15 February 7.30pm at the Village Hall**

**‘Community is much more than belonging to something; it's about doing something together that makes belonging matter.’ Brian Solis.**

Sutton Courtenay is very lucky to have a well-maintained recreation ground thanks to the Football and Cricket Clubs and the Parish Council. It is a wonderful open space where large events can be held safely for all the family.

The last time a large all-village event was organised on the recreation ground was as the new millennium dawned. That was seventeen years ago and so much has changed in the village since then. Most importantly we have many new fellow residents and it would be great to have a big welcome day for all the family.

With this in mind we are simply floating the idea to see if there is any interest in organising a village fest on the recreation ground. Its suggested objectives are:

- To promote and encourage the spirit of community in Sutton Courtenay
- To promote involvement of all groups and individuals in Sutton Courtenay
- To promote the richness of the village's many clubs/activities
- To promote local talent in the community
- To have fun and enjoyment whilst organising the event

Although this is largely about having a village event that everyone can enjoy, we recognise the need to raise funds for the many village causes. This all remains to be discussed and it would be good to have all organisations represented at the meeting – please do not see this as toe treading. This is simply an idea – there have been no discussions on when, what and how.

If you are unable to make the meeting but are interested please ring or email [ritaatkinson@googlemail.com](mailto:ritaatkinson@googlemail.com)

Margaret Hamilton (01235 847472) and Rita Atkinson (01235 848694)

# BOULEVARD SWING

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February

Come along for an evening of special entertainment – a 3 course meal, cocktails, listen or dance to Popular easy-listening Band who play music in jazz-swing style\*

Playing in the atmospheric surroundings of

## The Manor Barn, Sutton Courtenay

(by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Warne)

**Tickets £25**, available from **BURGNEY STORES**, High Street or by 'phone to (01235) 848768 and include one complimentary cocktail and the three-course meal

**Starting at 6.30 (meal from 7.15)**

**Event ends at 10.00**

**Dress: smart/black tie optional**

\*Listen to music clips at [www.boulevardswingjazz.com](http://www.boulevardswingjazz.com)

SPECIAL EVENT IN AID OF **Church Building Project**



# ROYAL BRITISH LEGION STEVENTON AND DISTRICT

The Branch will continue to hold routine meetings at 7.00pm in the Sports and Social Club, Steventon. All members are most welcome, and meetings are now held on a more informal basis. Forthcoming meetings for 2017 remain on the third Monday of every second month, as follows:

20th March,	15th May,	17th July,
18th September,	20th November	

As ever, the Branch is always available to support and advise, and key contact details for current Committee members are:

President: Pat Buckland, 07778 039967

Chairman: Al Costley, 07832 340468, e-mail [al\\_costley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:al_costley@hotmail.co.uk)

Secretary: Paul Francis, 07799 026666, e-mail [francisoxo@aol.com](mailto:francisoxo@aol.com)

Treasurer: Rod Clewley, 01235 831206, e-mail [rod@rclewley.orangehome.co](mailto:rod@rclewley.orangehome.co)

# DIDCOT U3A

Didcot & District U3A meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm in the Didcot Civic Hall. Please arrive 15 minutes before the start time to ensure you are all seated for the 2pm start.

Tuesday 21st February 2017

Phil Judkins will give a talk entitled 'Enigma, Bletchley and the Hunt for Hitler's secret weapons'

Tuesday 21st March 2017

Alistair Lack will give a talk entitled  
A light hearted History of Oxford University

It's never too late to expand your horizons...

The University of the Third Age offers the opportunity to share your knowledge, experience and talents with others and learn from them in friendly surroundings. Why not come along to the next meeting of the Didcot & District U3A and find out what we are all about.

A member of our committee will be on hand to make you welcome

For more information phone 01235 211291 or 01235 510048 or email [secretary@didcotu3a.org](mailto:secretary@didcotu3a.org)

# SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

## Happy New Year to all.

As we start the New Year we wish to thank everybody who see to the chairs and help to clear up. It means a lot to us. Also for coming to the meetings.

On Tuesday December 6th David Chapman took our meeting with his usual high standard and great presentation. Also his train from London was nearly to time.

Tuesday January 3rd was a cold night but quite a few came to

enjoy Sharon Higginson, from the village, who once again took the meeting to her usual very high standard.

On Tuesday February 7th we will welcome Ian Smith, an experienced medium, on his first visit to us.

Queries? Pat or Sam 01235 847460

Tues. Feb 7th 7.30pm Village Hall. Spiritual Meeting with Ian Smith.

# MILTON METHODIST CHURCH

## Services in February

Services start at 10.30 and you are most welcome to join us.

5 February Combined service at St Blaise to celebrate festival of St Blaise (starts later at 11.00 a.m.)

12 February Mrs Tabitha Griffiths

19 February Rev Katherine Pickering, service of Holy Communion

26 February Mr Malcolm Newton.

## Lunch Club- next lunch Tuesday 7 February

On the first Tuesday of each month we prepare and serve a lunch in the Methodist hall for £3.50/person. The lunch is usually followed by a short talk. Anyone is welcome to join us but lunches need to be booked in advance. ( Ring Geoff Caudle

Ab 531409 or Mary Hancock Ab 848336 to book)

**Art group**, each Friday 2- 4.00 p.m.

It is amazingly conducive to settling and getting on when everyone around is doing the same. Come and work with us at the art group, cost £2 to include refreshments.

**Knit and Natter**, 4th Tuesday of the month 10-12 noon

Come along and knit and chat, working either on your own project, or using some of our wool for one of the charity knits. We have knitted a huge number of little jerseys for the charity Knitone2saveone as well as hats for our Romania boxes and blankets for the SNAP unit at the JR. Cost £2 to include refreshments

Mary Hancock

## PAST TIMES



### Sutton Courtenay Primary School 1957

Following our publication of Michael Lacey's photograph last month, these children have been identified:

L to r top, Pauline West, Brian Goodall?, Sheila Staples, Ralph Thatcher, Linda Lewis, Colin Fidler, Suzanne Buckle

Middle, Maria Howard? Diane Clayton,?? Stephanie??, Pat Wakefield, Dorothy Squires

Bottom, Gerald Lacey, Michael Jenkins, Richard McKay, Richard Berry

Also identified but not positioned: Victoria Smith, Susan Whitehead, Violet Foster, Margaret Gough

Many thanks to Anthony Stratton, Michael Jenkins, and Sandra Ellaway for their detective work. But the jigsaw is not quite complete!

## AGNES FRASER

Agnes Fraser, previously living at 76 Milton Road Sutton Courtenay, passed away peacefully at her home in Dollar, Scotland with family at her side on Sunday 20th November aged 90.

A dearly loved wife of the late Jock Fraser, she will be greatly missed by her children; Anne, Janet, Richard and Robert and grandchildren Daniel, Georgina, Josh, Luke, Michael, Ruth, Isi and Lewis.

She was born on the 28th November 1925, in Querrin, County Clare, Ireland, to Michael and Kate McMahon. By the age of thirteen she had lost both her parents, and continued living with her older brothers and sisters. She helped run the family farm, ploughing fields, milking cows and her main love was riding horses. In the late 40's Agnes travelled to Liverpool to train to be a nurse at Clatterbridge hospital in Birkenhead.

After qualifying, Agnes moved to Saffron Waldon, to work as a Nursing Sister in A&E. She met her soon to be Scottish husband, Richard Fraser, better known as Jock, at the local RAF dance and they married in 1953. A few years later Jock was posted to Tripoli where the family, now with three children, Anne, Janet and Richard, stayed for 3 years. Jock's final posting was to Abingdon and the family moved to Milton Heights in 1961 where Robert was born. They moved to Sutton Courtenay in 1965. Agnes worked at Abingdon Hospital and then became a nurse at MG retiring in 1985. She lived

in Sutton Courtenay for 37 years making many friends. She was involved with running the local youth club, was part of the Catholic Church committee and delivered the SCNews for many years, commitments, that, she will still be remembered and recognised for.

Agnes was very much involved in the lives of her grandchildren, Daniel, Georgie, Isi and Luke, helping with school runs to Sutton Courtenay Primary School and after school care.

After losing her husband, Jock, in 2000, Agnes decided to move to Dollar, Scotland in 2003. She moved close to her daughter Anne and family and became involved more practically in the lives of her Scottish grandchildren, Josh, Michael and Ruth. Agnes's arrival into the quiet town of Dollar certainly didn't go unnoticed, and she very quickly became famous for being the "white haired granny that drove the blue 3 wheeler". Her faith was extremely important to her and at 83 she would regularly drive to Liverpool to visit her sister, Mary.

Agnes was very much the heart and core of her family. On Sundays everyone was keen to get a taste of her famous Yorkshire puddings and apple pie, which was topped with her favourite Viennetta ice cream, or as Lewis her youngest grandson now calls it "grandma's ice cream". Although we will no longer have that opportunity of talking with her, we will all treasure those memories, those stories and that love which she gave us all.

**Saturday 11th March is the date of this year's**

**Friends of All Saints'**

# **QUIZ NIGHT**

**Sutton Courtenay Village Hall**

**7.30 for 8.00 pm**

**Tickets required in advance for this year's event at only £5.00**

Available at **Burgrey Stores** from 1<sup>st</sup> February or by contact with [fred.cubbage@btinternet.com](mailto:fred.cubbage@btinternet.com)  
01235 848768 before 9th March.

**Admission at the door is £7.50.**

Tables of 6 maximum.

Up to **6 rounds** including General Knowledge, Music, Gardens etc. **Prizes. Cash Bar**

**An event by the Friends of All Saints' to raise funds for the Church fabric**



## **SENIOR CITIZEN TEA PARTY**

**Invitation to all Senior Residents of Sutton Courtenay  
Tea Party  
Sunday 30 April 2017  
Sutton Courtenay Village Hall**

Young people of Sutton Courtenay extend a warm invitation to all Senior Citizens to an afternoon of entertainment and refreshments. The event is being organised under the responsibility of the Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project.

Please look out for more details in the next issue of the Village News. Meanwhile if you would like to share any suggestions or thoughts please contact us via our DAMASCUS Youth Workers - Roxy Elford (07875649008) and of course if there are any other young people who would like to be involved do get in touch please.

Ellie Greenaway

## **S.C.I.D.S**

After "Plotters" comes Papertown Paperchase! There are 25 young people with some wonderful adult helpers rehearsing in the Village Hall

### **"Papertown Paperchase"**

SCIDS is hoping to follow the 'sold out' fun of last year, so please put the dates in your diary – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March in the Village Hall at 6.30p.m. Tickets will be on sale from 15<sup>th</sup> February from the Whitlocks (848335) or the Dubocks (847707)

## **Bicycle found behind church**

**Found shortly before Christmas in All Saints' Lane behind the Church, a relatively new bike. Please contact the Editors, NAG5 or the police for more information. If it is not claimed the police will have the power to dispose of it.**



# A FAIR DEAL FOR SUTTON COURTENAY

## Progress/update on major planning applications

Just before Christmas, a small group of villagers met with the Leader of the Vale, Matthew Barber and Emily Hamerton, Development Manager. This meeting arose from the village march. We had a frank and open discussion and, as a result, a "Sutton Courtenay Forum" was established. On 20<sup>th</sup> January, we held the first meeting of the Forum with the Vale.

The impact of the Local Plan, Didcot Garden Town, Purpose and Objectives of the Forum and an update on the major planning applications affecting the village, were discussed at length. Sutton Courtenay is the only village in the Vale to have established such an original initiative. It is encouraging that we have progressed this far and we hope that through the Forum we can begin to address some of the development challenges affecting the village.

After the meeting, Cllr Matthew Barber commented on the Forum: "I recognise the genuine concerns within Sutton Courtenay of the cumulative impact of development over a long period of time and from today's meeting it is already clear that we can work closely to resolve many of them. I would never suggest we can find a solution for every issue but I have no doubt that the transparent and open dialogue we have now established will be a great benefit to the local community."

He also commented on the Local Plan: "The adoption of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan provides greater certainty for villages such as Sutton Courtenay over future development by giving the Council more powers to refuse planning applications outside of the local plan."

The next meeting will be attended by a senior officer from the County Highways team. At the meeting we will plan actions. A one-to-one meeting between the Forum and Didcot Garden Town will also be scheduled.

## Major Planning Applications

### East Sutton Courtenay P15/V2352/O

There is a holding objection on drainage and the developer has been asked to provide more information. The village has hired an independent expert who has been directly involved in discussions with the Vale. When the developer responds the additional information will go through a further consultation period. This site is included as a Strategic site in the Local Plan.

### East of Harwell Road P16/V0646/O

This development is outside of the Local Plan and so has the potential to be refused by the Vale. The Vale has already refused the application for 15 houses on the old Catholic Church site which overlaps with this application P16/V2306/O. Unfortunately, the village is well aware that refused applications can be won on appeal.

### South Appleford Road P16/V2693/FUL

An application for an additional 28 houses has been lodged. OCC have objected subject to further transport assessment. There are also ongoing discussions about the condition to add traffic lights on the bridge junction.

To sign up to the regular email update or contribute to our fighting fund, contact: [action@suttoncourtenay.co.uk](mailto:action@suttoncourtenay.co.uk)

Up to date information and planning applications links at Facebook Group: Sutton Courtenay Action

Sutton Courtenay is unique in facing the cumulative impact of a wide range of industrial and housing developments on a woefully inadequate sewerage and highways infrastructure and traffic gridlocked by the narrow bridge over the River Thames. To its east are gravel pits and aggregate plants, an extensive landfill site with a large Material Recovery Facility and a composting site which regularly emits noxious odours. To its south there is to be a giant warehouse, which with the considerable extension of Milton Park, albeit under the welcome Science Vale initiative, will put even greater pressure on the inadequate infrastructure.

In addition, at the last count there is - approved or in the pipeline - a grand total of 1168 new dwellings, doubling the size of the village despite the above pressures. Moreover, one of the proposed development is adjacent to uncapped and unlined landfill cells, with potentially toxic contents, methane gas in evidence, with high ground water levels in an area which floods regularly, severe odour problems and with dangerously inadequate access.

Faced with these cumulative impacts Sutton Courtenay requests that it is considered as special case in planning decisions, and that:

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS ARE CARRIED OUT ON ALL CURRENT AND FUTURE SC APPLICATIONS, to ensure cumulative impact considerations are fully addressed by officers and the planning committee.

THE VALE FULLY ADDRESSES INDEPENDENT EXPERT ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS, especially where such advice conflicts with that of statutory consultees and/or the advice given by developer appointed experts.

THE REDROW/HOBBYHORSE LANE APPLICATION IS DEFERRED, until all issues raised by residents and their independent experts have been satisfactorily resolved, the EA and OCC have responded in full and that a review is completed of the risk assessment undertaken in deciding that this was to be a Strategic Site, despite the above risks.

PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO SCIENCE VALE UK APPLICATIONS, over warehousing and applications involving large numbers of low wage jobs.

MORE NEW HOMES BONUS IS DIRECTED TO SUTTON COURTENAY AND ITS INFRASTRUCTURE, to compensate for all that has been and will be earned by VWHDC from SC applications

THE SUTTON COURTENAY PC AND NDP ARE INVOLVED IN ALL STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS AFFECTING THE PARISH



## SUTTON COURTENAY CRICKET CLUB

2016 was a good year for the club as our juniors continued to impress, regularly winning games throughout the season. Our continued thanks to the parents, children and volunteers who make this happen. In 2017, we plan to have the junior teams entered into the local leagues.

Many people supported our Fun Day and Junior Tournament last year, this helped raise much needed funds for the Club and a contribution to Cancer Research too. We plan to use the club funds for new equipment for the juniors and train our volunteer coaches too.

We would like to thank Kit Thomas who is stepping down as Captain of the Senior team after 5 years. He will stay on as Secretary but his enthusiasm and commitment to the team was greatly appreciated by all those in the club. We look forward to many more years of his playing and perhaps a few wise words of advice to the new captain every now and then.

**New Players:** We are always looking for new players of all abilities and age. We would like to start a ladies team too. If you are interested, please get in touch or come along to our winter nets at the Sports Hall, Radley College on Sunday mornings from 9.00 - 10.00 - open to all, come and have a go...

**Volunteers:** Our thanks go out to our volunteers who help behind the scenes, organising matches, ferrying kids and adults

to/from matches, those who make teas and everyone else. We always need more people to help - if you can spare a few hours a month please get in touch.

**Sponsorship and Donations:** The Club simply cannot survive on membership fees alone. In 2016 we had fantastic support from CostCutter, C+N Autos, The Plum Pudding, The Swan, Burgery, Mathews Garden Centre and Florist, The Fish and Silver Fox Silver as well as many individual donations. The Club's website, facebook page and Twitter account attract hundreds of views each month and offer local businesses a reach to the local communities and beyond.

Cricket isn't an expensive sport to get into and the club has many items of equipment to lend new players. Apart from the gentle exercise, the Club has a good social side, in 2017 another Open Day / Junior Tournament is planned as well as a couple of trips for T20 or Test Match Cricket.

**Contact:** Search Facebook for "Sutton Courtenay Cricket Club"

**Website:** [www.suttoncourtenaycricketclub.co.uk](http://www.suttoncourtenaycricketclub.co.uk)

**Email:** [secretary@suttoncourtenaycricketclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@suttoncourtenaycricketclub.co.uk)

Geoff Worsley

## CIRCLE DANCING AT THE ABBEY

Join us at the Abbey for Circle Dancing to beautiful music from around the world. We dance in the Great Hall of the Abbey, a unique Grade 1 listed medieval building, set in four acres of beautiful grounds in the heart of Sutton Courtenay.

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to newcomers, and so are offering a FREE taster session on Monday, 27th February from 7.30 - 9.00 pm. All we would ask is for a small donation to contribute towards the cost of heating.

### What is Circle Dancing?

The circle is an ancient, universal symbol of wholeness and unity, and Circle Dancing has its roots in the community dance of many cultures. Each person joins the circle as an individual but, through the dance, becomes connected with other participants and the still centre around which the circle moves. The important thing is participation.

As well as traditional dances, whose origins are lost in the mists of time, new dances are being created and new music written for them. The repertoire is constantly increasing, so a typical circle dance session might include dances from Greece, Israel, Russia, France, as well as recently choreographed ones. Their varied origins deepen an awareness of our shared world, and some people refer to this type of dance as 'World Dance'.

The patterns of the dances reflect the cycles and rhythms we all experience in life. Some are solemn, some exciting, some light-hearted; some are very lively, some complex and some simple; some can lead us into stillness and reflection.

The modern circle dance movement arose out of the work of Bernard Wosein, a German ballet master and choreographer, who was also drawn to Slavonic culture and folk dance. He travelled widely in the Balkan region, where the old 'round dances' were still kept alive. He was struck by the sacred quality and symbolism that their ancient steps and rhythms expressed. Learning them and sharing them with others also inspired him to develop his own choreographies in the spirit of the traditional dances. Bernard Wosein then introduced Circle Dance to the UK at Findhorn in 1976. Since then many groups with regular meetings have developed here and around the world.

The aim of circle dancing is to create a sense of well-being, wholeness and community. Indeed, recent research from Oxford University has shown that such dancing benefits health, boosts the body's 'feel good' endorphins, and increases feelings of social connectedness. So it's official: dancing together is good for you!

No partner is needed - just bring yourself and a comfortable pair of shoes. Absolute beginners are welcome too, because the dances are simple, and are taught and walked through first.

There's no need to book in advance, but if you'd like further information, you're welcome to contact:

Elizabeth Mitchell, 01865 806791 [emwym@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emwym@hotmail.co.uk),  
The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4AF

# NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP—NAG5

With shorter days and colder weather it's a good time for a few safety and security reminders.

## Pedestrians

- Use pavements, or paths, whenever possible.
- If there is no pavement keep to the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic, keep close to the side of the road and walk in single file
- In poor daylight conditions help road users to see you by wearing or carrying something light-coloured, bright or fluorescent.
- When it's dark use reflective materials (armbands, jackets, waistcoats, sashes, footwear). Drivers using headlights can see reflective materials three times further away than those that are non-reflective.
- Never try to cross the road in front or behind of a vehicle with its engine running.

## Cyclists

- At night white front and red rear lights must be lit. Flashing lights are permitted but it is recommended that cyclists who are riding in areas without street lighting use a steady front lamp. Bicycles must be fitted with a red rear reflector. Lights and reflectors should be kept clean and in good working order.
- Brakes must work efficiently, gears should be working correctly and the chain properly adjusted and oiled.
- Tyres should be in good condition and inflated to the pressure indicated on the tyre.
- All traffic signs and traffic light signals must be obeyed. You must not cross the stop line when the traffic lights are red. Some junctions have an advanced stop line to enable you to wait and position yourself ahead of the traffic.
- You must not cycle on a pavement (if you are concerned for your safety, or that of young children, you can dismount and push your bicycle on the pavement until you feel it is safe to re-join the road).
- For your own safety please wear a helmet and light coloured or fluorescent clothing in daylight and reflective clothing at night to help to ensure that other

road users see you.

## Vehicle drivers

- Keep your windscreen and other windows clear of dirt and remove any snow from front and rear lights, windscreen, windows and roof using de-icer and a scraper as necessary.
- Ensure the windscreen wipers are in working order and keep the screen wash reservoir topped up.
- Ensure front and rear lights are in full working order and free from dirt. Use headlights in seriously reduced visibility.
- Keep number plates clean and visible.
- Tyres should have a minimum 2mm of tread and preferably 3mm or above.
- Avoid the water pump freezing by using antifreeze.
- Car batteries rarely last longer than five years. Consider replacement if it's nearing the end of its life - lights, heating and wipers place a high demand on batteries during winter months.
- Remember that stopping distances are **10 times longer** in ice and snow.
- Carry an emergency kit in the car: tow rope, shovel, hazard-warning triangle, a fully charged mobile phone, de-icing equipment, a working torch, warm clothing, wellington boots, blanket and emergency rations including a hot drink in a flask.

## The Highway Code & ROSPA

Full information for pedestrians and road users is available in printed copies of The Highway Code or online at <https://www.gov.uk/highway-code/contents>. A copy of The Highway Code e-book can be downloaded at <http://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/download-pdf.html>. Alternatively, visit ROSPA's website at <http://www.rospa.com>, or call ROSPA's general information line on 0121 248 2000.

**Contact NAG5 by calling 01235 848694 or e-mail [neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com](mailto:neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com)**

## LOCAL FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The fifth annual **Culham Quiz** will take place on Saturday 4th March at 7.30 pm in the Schumann Hall of the European School. Tickets, priced £10, are available from Philip Owen, 6 The Green, John Ward, 'Winton', Thame Lane, or from Burgrey Stores, Sutton Courtenay.

On Saturday 25 March 2017, **Oxford Harmonic Choir** performs Tippett's A Child of our Time (Oxford Town Hall at 7.30 pm). Tickets are £15– £18 (concessions available) from Oxford Playhouse (01865 305305, [www.ticketsoxford.com](http://www.ticketsoxford.com)),

and on the door from 7pm. Visit [www.oxfordharmonicchoir.org](http://www.oxfordharmonicchoir.org) for more information.

**Long Wittenham Pre-School Nearly New Sale**, Sat 1st April, 10-12 noon, Long Wittenham Village Hall  
[nearlynew@longwittenhampreschool.co.uk](mailto:nearlynew@longwittenhampreschool.co.uk)

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**Sutton Courtenay Village Hall.**

Details are below and we would welcome newcomers who are keen to find out more about the party.

**FISH'N'CHIPS SUPPER AND QUIZ NIGHT on  
Friday 17 February 2017**

**7.30 for 8pm in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall,  
Frilsham Street, OX14 4AZ**

Sutton Courtenay & Drayton Conservative Branch invite you to a General Knowledge Quiz Night. This is not a political meeting but an opportunity to meet your local prospective Council Candidates socially and to have a fun evening. Tickets at £16 p.p. include a Welcome Drink and Supper with Dessert. There will be a Cash Bar. Tickets available by cheque (payable to W&DCA) from Mrs Diana Hasting, 3 Chapel Lane, Sutton Courtenay, ABINGDON, OX14 4AN. Credit-card payment is available from Wantage & Didcot Conservative Association at 8 Gorwell, WATLINGTON, OX10 5QE tel: 03333 706580 or e-mail [group@oxfordshireconservatives.com](mailto:group@oxfordshireconservatives.com)

If you have dietary requirements please contact Diana on 01235 847430 (or e-mail at [diamarl@btinternet.com](mailto:diamarl@btinternet.com)) so that an alternative supper can be arranged.

## Great present

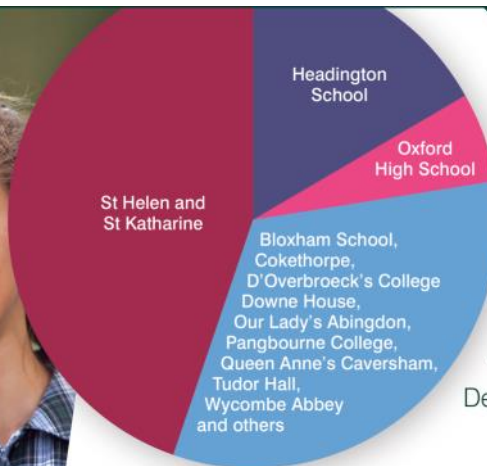


**Open Mornings:**

**Friday 10 March 2017, 9.30am – 11.30am**

**Friday 5 May 2017, 9.30am – 11.30am**

**Friday 9 June 2017, 9.30am – 11.30am**



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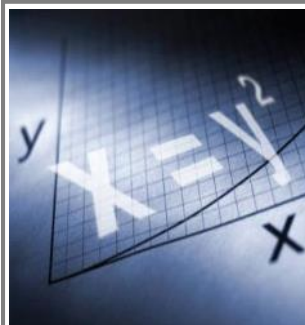
## BRAYSHAW'S

Accountants

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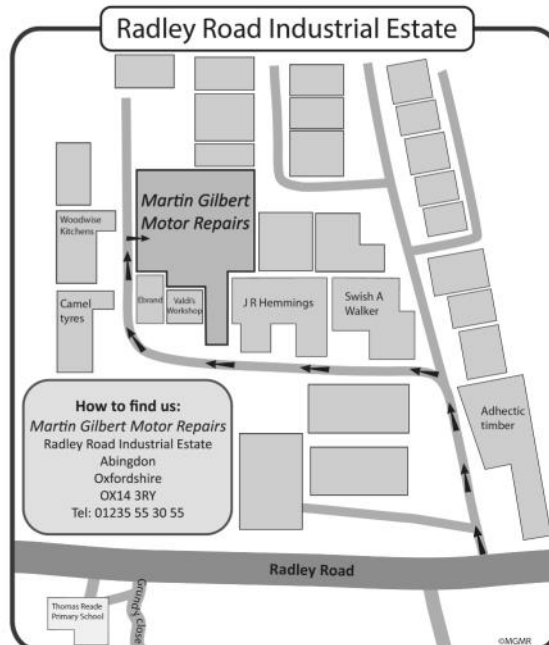
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