



# SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 48 NO. 10

DECEMBER 2019/ JANUARY 2020

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



The  
next edition of  
Sutton  
Courtenay News  
will be in  
February 2020.  
**THE COPY  
DEADLINE  
IS  
WEDNESDAY  
JANUARY  
15TH.**

## VILLAGE DIARY

The Diary is compiled from details sent to the Editors or added to the Village Diary kept at Burgrey Stores.

<u>DECEMBER</u>				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>7.30pm to 9.30pm</b>	<b>QUESTION TIME WITH THE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>7.15pm</b>	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
	<b>3rd</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Spiritualist Meeting</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>Wednesdays</b>		<b>Various</b>	<b>DAMASCUS Youth Project - see page 5 for times</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>Fridays</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>9am-10.30am</b>	<b>Stay &amp; Play – see page 5 for dates</b>	<b>School</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>6.30pm-8.30pm</b>	<b>Yuletide Evening</b>	<b>The Abbey</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>10.30am-12noon</b>	<b>Community Café</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>WI</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>Carol Singing around the Village see page 7</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>24th</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Torchlight Procession from the School to the Church</b>	
<u>JANUARY</u>				
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>15th</b>		<b>FEBRUARY SCN COPY DEADLINE</b>	



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



## 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.)	Richard Webber—as above
<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>	Mary <a href="mailto:steventonrainbows@gmail.com">steventonrainbows@gmail.com</a>
<b>Stay &amp; Play Toddler Group</b>	Facebook page: <a href="#">@SCstayandplay</a>
<b>Chairman, Friends of SC Parish Church</b>	Fred Cubbage, 848768
<b>Matrix Music School</b>	847264
<b>The Abbey</b>	847401
<b>Cricket Club</b>	<a href="mailto:drb71@hotmail.co.uk">drb71@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Sutton Courtenay WI</b>	Val Melville 847612
<b>Nordic Walking Group</b>	Graham Wells 847322
<b>Churchmere Carp Syndicate</b>	Roger Rance 847241
<b>DAMASCUS Youth Project</b>	848694
<b>Sutton Courtenay Local History Society</b>	Mary Thompson 848527 <a href="mailto:marydthompson@outlook.com">marydthompson@outlook.com</a> <a href="http://www.sclhs.org.uk">www.sclhs.org.uk</a>
<b>SCIDS (Drama Society)</b>	Morna Whitlock, 848335 <a href="mailto:morna28whitlock@gmail.com">morna28whitlock@gmail.com</a>
<b>All Saints Singers</b>	Steve Fisher 07812 037530 <a href="http://allsaintssingers.org">allsaintssingers.org</a>
<b>Sutton Courtenay Action</b>	<a href="mailto:suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com">suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sutton Courtenay Forum</b>	<a href="mailto:suttoncourtenayforum@gmail.com">suttoncourtenayforum@gmail.com</a>
<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b>	07762 597118 <a href="mailto:nhwsuttoncourtenay@outlook.com">nhwsuttoncourtenay@outlook.com</a>
<b>Non-urgent Police</b>	101 or policing team email <a href="mailto:AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk">AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk</a>
<b>Environment Agency:</b>	Landfill Odours 0800 80 70 60
<b>Thames Water (leaks):</b>	0800 71 46 14
<b>Power Cuts:</b>	105
<b>Websites:</b>	
<b>Sutton Courtenay News</b>	<a href="http://www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk">www.suttoncourtenaynews.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>

## SUTTON COURTENAY POST OFFICE

A wide range of key Post Office products & services are available at Burgrey 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

Sun: 09.00 – 12.00



## SUTTON COURTENAY DEFIBRILLATOR



A DEFIBRILLATOR IS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE FRONT ROLLER DOORS OF SUTTON COURTENAY TYRES ON THE HIGH STREET.

ANOTHER ONE WILL SOON BE OPERATIONAL OUTSIDE THE FISH, APPLEFORD ROAD.

FULL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS ARE PROVIDED AT THE TIME OF USE.



## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

### The Ministry Team

Rector: The Reverend Helen Kendrick

The Rectory, 3 Tullis Close, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4BD

Tel: 01235 848297, e-mail: [rector@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@damascusparish.org.uk)

Assistant Curate: The Reverend Karen Hyde

Tel: 07526 985395, e-mail: [curate@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:curate@damascusparish.org.uk)

Associate Priest: The Reverend Rosie Bruce

Tel: 07766 421773, [rosie-bruce@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rosie-bruce@hotmail.co.uk)

Associate Priest: The Reverend Phil Sutton

01235 526114 or 07507 378737, [revphil@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:revphil@damascusparish.org.uk)

Associate Priest: The Reverend Meg Heywood

Tel: 01235 537100, [revmeg@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:revmeg@damascusparish.org.uk)

Lay Ministers: Tim Budd (527853), Jack Jarvis (831395) &

Alex Landsbert (847443)

Authorised Preacher: Paul James (848129)

### Services of Worship

1st Sunday: Family Service at 10.30am

2nd Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 10.30am (with Junior Church)

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 Parish – please see church noticeboard for details

Wednesdays: BCP Holy Communion at 9.45am

## SUTTON COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL



The village hall is a registered charity available for hire for community related recreational activities. It is located in Hobbyhorse Lane (OX14 4BB). It has a large main hall, a smaller meeting room and kitchen. There are regular activities that take place on some weekday evenings.

To find out more or book the hall please contact the Secretary to the Village Hall Management Committee **Rita Atkinson** on **01235 848694**, email [scvillagehallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:scvillagehallbookings@gmail.com) or telephone **Jackie** on **01235 847817** Hire Charges vary depending on the use of the hall. The maximum hire charge for the main hall is £16 per hour. Commercial bookings and regular hire are negotiated separately. Visits prior to hire are welcomed.

## SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS CONTACTS

This newsletter is produced by the editorial team, the members of which are Diane Armstrong (07553 801032), Clare Pennicott (07778 284193) and Bernie Jones (07761 375991). Bernie also deals with all advertising.

All contributions for the next edition should be e-mailed to [editor @ suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](mailto:editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk) or taken to 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, email [advertising @ suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](mailto:advertising@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk) or telephone 07761 375991

For distribution enquiries please contact Sue on 847158 or Shirley on 847241 or any of the editors. The Sutton Courtenay News is printed with support from Sutton Courtenay Parish Council.

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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 <https://suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk> but please contact the Editors to discuss what other arrangements can be made for those unable to access the website.



## Defibrillator

The village now has a second defibrillator. This is located on the front of The Fish on Appleford Road. The original defibrillator is near the garage on

High Street. Demonstrations on how defibrillators are used is being arranged and dates will be published once finalised.

## Footpath along Church Road

We have received many queries and comments regarding the state of the footpath alongside Church Street both in respect of the path itself and the overhanging trees. These are matters dealt with by Oxfordshire County Council and the issues have been raised with the relevant departments at that Council for rectification. The Parish Council will continue to chase them.

## Magnox

A meeting with Magnox is being arranged which will discuss the reinstatement of footpaths and accessways following the recent reinstatement works carried out by them. Details of any outcomes will be provided once the meeting has taken place.

## Free car parking for Christmas shoppers

South and Vale have confirmed their annual free parking for shoppers dates. These will be on Saturdays 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> December in all Council owned car parks in Abingdon, Wantage, Faringdon Goring and Thame. Didcot's free parking dates will be Mondays 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December, Henley's on Tuesdays 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December and Wallingford on Thursdays 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December.

## Planning Applications:

The following planning applications were discussed

**P19/V2384/HH** demolition and rebuild of the existing enclosing wall in front of the listed building. Rebuild collapsed wall to the side of the listed building. Replace iron railing with timber fence. Erect garden office in rear garden away from listed building The Old New Inn, 44 High Street Comments: The Council had no objections but would comment that it regrets the loss of the railings for a wooden fence.

**P19/V2300/FUL** retrospective application for the changes to approved dwelling (Lapwing Barn) and extension of the private amenity space to the west (change of use to residential) Lapwing Barn, 95A Drayton Road Comments: The Council expressed its concern at another retrospective application on this land. The property has been affected by a series of amendments and changes that, cumulatively, have changed the development from that originally approved. The Council objected on the above grounds and for reasons previously stated (unnecessary expansion of the site not in keeping with the emerging Neighbourhood plan).

**P19/V1977/FUL** installation of a temporary building within the existing service yard to house pallets of stock to protect the stock from the weather. Hachette UK Distribution Limited, Milton Road. Comments: The Council had no objections but did make the following comments, any traffic should be diverted around the village, the application is in Sutton Courtenay and not Didcot, strong conditions should be put in place to ensure that the structure does not become permanent, no extra sewerage, adequate tall tree screening to prevent intrusion.

**P19/V2436/FUL** new two storey 4 bedroom dwelling 120 High Street. Comments: The Council objected to the planning application as overdevelopment, impact on neighbour's privacy, loss of trees, increased traffic through the village.

**P19/V1992.FUL** (amended) Demolition of two properties and outbuildings and construction of a new detached dwelling and detached garage. 3 Mill Lane Comments: The Council objected to the planning application due to the potential flooding risk and increase of traffic through the village.

**P19/V2559/HH** Demolition of existing conservatory and single storey rear extension. Erection of new side and rear two storey extension and rear single storey extension. Associated internal reconfigurations. 30 High Street. Comments: The Council had no objections.

**P19/V2555** Change of use of dog kennels to form residential dwelling and change of use of stable block to form ancillary office and plant room, plus external alterations and associated landscaping improvements and car parking space and a new access point. The Old Kennels Drayton Road. Comments: The Council objected to the application due to the risk of flooding at the property and the increase of traffic through the village as the property has not been used as kennels for a considerable amount of time and therefore any development would result in increased traffic flow. Also, that the access to the development joins the main highway on a 40mph stretch of road.

## Date of next meeting:

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall Frilsham Street. The following meeting will be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020.** Please check the Noticeboard outside Burgery Stores in case arrangements change.

Clerk: Helen Savery, 10 Sovereign Place, Wallingford, OX10 9GF

Email: [info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk)

## STOP PRESS

Thames Water has telephoned the Parish Clerk saying that they were unable to start the High Street works in November as originally planned. They will be starting on 13th January for approximately 8 weeks, with traffic lights. After that they will move to Drayton Road with the road closure order in place. They will continue to update with information should it change.

## THANK YOU TO THE NEW SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS VOLUNTEERS & ANOTHER VACANCY

Thank you to all the new volunteers to deliver Sutton Courtenay News to Bradstocks Way, Heritage Park and Amey Close. Another of our very long serving volunteers has decided to retire. Thank you Audrey for all that you have done over very many years. There is now a vacancy to deliver to a section of the Drayton Road. If you are able to help please contact the Editors on 07778 284193 or email [editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](mailto:editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk) for further information.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to Pat & Sam Quennell for all the years they delivered our Sutton Courtenay News.

Margaret Hamilton

## Parliamentary Candidates

# Question Time

As all the candidates are new faces, it is important that you take the opportunity to question how they plan to represent you and your families on both national and local issues.

<b>Richard Benwell</b>	<b>Liberal Democrats</b>
<b>Mark Gray</b>	<b>Independent (tbc)</b>
<b>David Johnston</b>	<b>Conservative Party</b>
<b>Jonny Roberts</b>	<b>Labour Party</b>

Short statements by each candidate will be followed by questions to help you in deciding which of them deserves to be our MP.

Some questions in advance please to [RDr9982139@aol.com](mailto:RDr9982139@aol.com) to help get the session started

## Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

### Monday 2 December 7.30 to 9.30pm

The event is open to neighbouring villages

Parking is limited, so if possible, SC villagers are asked to park elsewhere and/or walk in.

#### SUTTON COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL



Our hall is a community facility managed by volunteers (trustees) for everyone in the community. It is the focus of many groups from the village and the surrounding area who meet weekly or monthly for a variety of activities.

It could be the perfect venue for your large family gathering, party, group dining, formal occasion, client gathering or committee meeting. We can also make arrangements for conference meetings for local businesses.

It is an excellent venue for children's parties as the main hall can easily accommodate a Bouncy Castle. The hall has sound equipment, and the bar area facilities include a fridge and a large urn. Crockery can be hired or you can bring your own.

In addition there is a kitchen and a smaller hall/meeting room. There is ample onsite parking. Behind the village hall is a tennis court which can be used free of charge.



Community hire charges for the main hall are £16 p/h but if you want to use the hall on a regular basis, the rates are negotiable.

We encourage you to come and look round prior to booking. The Village Hall is situated in Hobbyhorse Lane, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4BB

Contact: Rita Atkinson on [scvillagehallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:scvillagehallbookings@gmail.com) or telephone 01235 848694 or Jackie on 01235 847817



## Working Together For Our Children

This week we are holding our parents' and carers' consultation evenings, and it has been lovely to see so many families coming into school to share in their child's learning journey. It is a wonderful opportunity to see their work and have a chance to ask teachers questions. For the staff, it is a time to talk in detail about how each child learns and what we can do together to help that journey along. The key word here is **together**. It is when we are clear about our expectations and we all share the same vision for the progress we want them to make that children respond best.



## Anti-Bullying Week

This week our Year 5 anti-bullying ambassadors began the week by presenting a special assembly to launch Anti-Bullying Week. School across the country take part in this, and all classes have special PSHCS lessons drawing attention to ways in which the school community can work together to tackle bullying. This year the theme is "Change Starts With Us." The children are encouraged to think about how we are all responsible for working together to change the little things that can go wrong, before they become big things. Our focus with the children is on them looking out for each other, and challenging things that they see straight away. To kick start the week, lots of us wore odd socks to celebrate that we are all different.

## Remembering Together

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November many of our children attended the Remembrance service at All Saints' Church. They placed a wreath from the school on the monument, and a group of



year 5 children performed the poem 'In Flanders' Fields'. They were accompanied this year by Maria Robertson, the drama lead from Didcot Girls' School. Having specialist to work with the children has been one of the many benefits to us of joining Ridgeway Education Trust.

## Outreach Group

Last week the Outreach Group from Year 6 visited the Abingdon Food Bank at Christchurch, taking our donations from our Harvest Festival. The group are very busy now getting ready for our next charity event this Friday, to celebrate Children In Need. Don't forget to wear something spotty and bring your bear all dressed up for the competition.



Headteacher **Mrs Rachel Hornsey**

Assistant Headteachers **Lisa Knight and Louise Potter**

[office.3243@sutton-courtenay.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3243@sutton-courtenay.oxon.sch.uk)

Telephone 01235 848333

## SUTTON COURTENAY STAY & PLAY GROUP



**All parents, grandparents and other carers - please bring your babies and toddlers to join us for play and chat on a Friday morning (term time only)**

**DECEMBER 6TH & DECEMBER 13TH**

**!! PLEASE NOTE OUR DETAILS !!**

**Day and Time** — Friday Morning, 0900-1030

**Venue** — Sutton Courtenay Primary School

**Price** — 1<sup>st</sup> visit free. Thereafter £1 per family (includes coffee & tea for grown ups but no snacks for the little ones)

Please note there is no parking available in the school car park.

Please park on the street outside

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page (@SCstayandplay) to find out the latest news!

Contact details: Farzana Akter: 07935553595  
& Lizzie Whitaker :07454015636

## DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project  
Registered Charity 1098966



Years 6,7, and 8, 6-7pm, and Year 9+, 7-8pm

**Activities at the Village Hall every Wednesday**

Entry is £1 and a tuck shop is available

**SO, SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST A YOUTH CLUB!**  
**PLEASE SEE PAGES 10 & 11 FOR DETAILS OF RECENT EVENTS & ACTIVITIES**



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

### "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

As I write this letter I am looking forward to a few days spent Christmas shopping with a friend in Wales. This has become an annual fixture for us – we try to buy quirky and unusual presents, preferably hand made, for friends and family in the craft and gift shops in West Wales and then wrap them all before returning home. It is meant to relieve the stress surrounding Christmas preparations and it works for us! But for some November will seem too early for present shopping. For others, far too late. Apparently, despite the increase in on-line shopping, 23<sup>rd</sup> December is still officially the busiest shopping day of the year in the UK. Perhaps, in my experience, especially true for the men of our nation as they rush out to buy presents for their loved ones. Many of us spend considerable amounts of time and money each year seeking out special, appropriate and sometimes unique gifts for our friends and our families. Yet, what should be a pleasure and delight, becomes a huge burden in every way.

In this era of dramatic climate change, we need to be mindful of the impact of giving presents on the environment. We should strive to minimise unnecessary packaging and plastic and buy, or even make, gifts which will be well-used and treasured. Perhaps we should even consider giving of our time and talents rather than 'things'.

Because, above all, sucked into excessive consumerism we seem to have forgotten that the giving and receiving of gifts is meant to help us remember God's gift in sending Jesus to live on earth among us. Christmas has become a time to compare ourselves with each other (who buys or receives the best gifts) rather than pointing us to the One whose gift is 'indescribable'.

Jesus gave up everything in order that we might know and experience the kind of riches we can't buy on-line from Amazon or even in Harrods!

Wrapped in a new-born baby sized parcel, God gave the very best of His love, His grace, His mercy and His forgiveness to anyone willing to receive it.

The lavish generosity of our God ought to be remembered every time we give or receive a gift – however small it appears, and especially as we are urged to share what we have. "Support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

This year, across the DAMASCUS Parish, there are plenty of opportunities to give to those in need: whether supporting the Children's Society at all our Christingle Services; gifting toys in Steventon for the Oxford Women's Refuge; supporting the work of Toilet Twinning across the world at the Torchlight Procession in Sutton Courtenay; or supporting Maggie's Cancer Centres at the Carols Evening in Appleford. (please see the parish Christmas Card for more details or visit [www.damascusparish.org](http://www.damascusparish.org) or [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) ).

"Lord Jesus, Indescribable Gift of the Father, I thank you for this expression of Your generosity. May I mirror Your generosity this Christmas to those in need. Amen."

Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas

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

## YOU STAY – WE PRAY!

All Saints' Church prays on a weekly basis for all Sutton Courtenay residents who live and work in each road. In a 26-week Rota, everywhere is prayed for twice in each calendar year. As roads are of different lengths, some will be prayed for twice (on consecutive weeks) and some for three weeks. As well as the monthly Rota in .S.C. News, there is a printed Rota for the whole year in the Prayer Space of the Lady Chapel at All Saints.

In addition to the Rector's prayers as she travels round the village, the specific roads will be prayed for by name at each Wednesday's Morning Prayer. And of course we can all remember each specific area as we move round Sutton Courtenay!

In December 2019 we will pray for those who live and work as follows –

Sun 1 Dec to Sat 7 Dec – Barretts Way, Churchmere Road

Sun 8 Dec to Sat 14 Dec – Bradstocks Way

Sun 15 Dec to Sat 21 Dec – Bradstocks Way

Sun 22 Dec to Sat 28 Dec – Bradstocks Way

Sun 29 Dec 2019 to Sat 4 Jan 2020 – Church Street, Mill Lane

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## RIVER ROOM UPDATE

The walls are up (including the stones with our 21<sup>st</sup> century graffiti) and the roof will hopefully be on by Christmas and the fundraising is continuing. £900 at the Jumble Sale. £1400 from on-going e-bay sales. We still have a way to go and the collection at the Torchlight Procession will be shared between the River Room and Toilet Twinning (we've twinned with 3 toilets so far).

An ENORMOUS jumble thank-you to all those who donated items and all those who came and shopped and all those who helped set up, sell and clear away, on one of the wettest and windiest days this year. Thanks to your generosity we made £900 towards our River Room Appeal.



Mid- November: Church building project—work commences on internal walls and the initial roof structure. Roof completion anticipated by the year end.

## Holy Baptism

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

20<sup>th</sup> October 2019 - Barnaby Angus Christopher MORRIS (Barney)

27<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – Elio Felix FURZE

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019 – Chloe Mia STEVENS



For all baptism, wedding or funeral enquiries please contact the Reverend Helen Kendrick on 01235 848297 or email: [rector@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@damascusparish.org.uk)

## COMMUNITY CAFÉ

10.30am-12noon

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December

*The proceeds from this Community Café will go to Toilet Twinning*

**(No café on 26<sup>th</sup> December)**

*Run by the church for the whole community*



**All Saints' Church**

Why not drop by for coffee, delicious homemade cake & conversation and to browse the books on offer? Open to all – a good place to meet with friends. If you need transport to and from the church please 'phone Helen on 848297.

## Singing Saints - Come and Sing!

**Singing is Good For You!**



We meet on Tuesdays in All Saints' Church from 19:30-21:00 under the expert leadership of Paul Francis to learn some new music, hymns/carols and anthems, to sing at the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December** at 6pm. We are a mixture of experienced singers and enthusiastic novices and are in need of more men – but all are welcome!

For more info please contact Helen Kendrick on 01235 848297.

## A Night at All Saints' Church

Join us for a **Sponsored Sleep, Pizza & Movie Night** for children & young people

**From 6.00pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December to 9:30am Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Pizza Supper, Film & Cooked Breakfast included

Parents are welcome to accompany their own children but in ALL CASES please complete the Parental Consent Form (available from the back of the church or by emailing [rector@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@damascusparish.org.uk)) and return it to: the Reverend Helen Kendrick, The Rectory, 3 Tullis Close by **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December**.

**Minimum Sponsorship £20** - Collect as many sponsors as you can to help us raise money for the River Room – providing new toilet facilities; a kitchen and meeting room for All Saints' Church fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond

## Transport to & from All Saints' Church

If you'd like transport (or can offer a lift) to Church on a Sunday, or to other events, please contact Diana Hasting:  
3 Chapel Lane, OX14 4AN Tel/Ansafone: 01235 847430

## CHURCH DIARY FOR DECEMBER

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>** - 10:30 Christingle Family Service for Advent – come and celebrate with us and support the work of the Children's Society as we make Christingles together. 18:00 Advent Carol Service – a reflective time of Advent music and readings to mark the season

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – 19:30 Singing Saints

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>** – 19:30 Advent Course in St Blaise, Milton

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>** - 14:00-17:00 An Afternoon of Creative Craft – come and make a box with your ideas about Christmas for the exhibition on 14<sup>th</sup> December – craft materials provided but more supplies welcome!

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>** – 18:00 Church Sleepover

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>** – 18:30-20:30 Friends of All Saints' Church Yuletide Evening in the Abbey

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>** - 19:30 Singing Saints

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>** – 19:30 Advent Course in St Blaise, Milton

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>** – 10:30-12 Community Café

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>** – 13:00-17:00 Christmas in a Box Exhibition – Entry Free – Seasonal Refreshments available

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>** - 9:00 Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School End of Term Christmas Service in All Saints' Church. 18:00 Carol Singing around the Village

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>** - 18:00 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>** – 18:00 "The Longest Night" - A short service of reflection for those who find the jollity of the Christmas season painful because of loss or bereavement

**CHRISTMAS EVE** – 13:30 Crib Service rehearsal. 15:00 Crib Service. 18:00 Torchlight Procession. 23:30 Midnight Mass at Appleford Church

**CHRISTMAS DAY** - 10.30 Family Eucharist

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>** – 9:45 Holy Communion at Drayton (no service in SC)

## CHURCH DIARY FOR JANUARY

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup>** – 19:30 DAMASCUS PCC Meeting, Steventon

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>** – 19:30 Bible Course Starting – see posters

## CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE

The 'Singing Saints' will be singing around the village on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December** raising money for the River Room Church Building Project and Toilet Twinning.

Please come and join us or listen out for us at the following stops at the approximate times:



**6pm outside Costcutter**

**7pm Lady Place**

**8pm at 30 Chapel Lane**



and of course we will be at the Friends of All Saints' Church Yuletide Evening on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Abbey from 6.30-8.30pm; at the Carrol Service on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December** at 6pm in the Church; on Christmas Eve singing round the bonfire in the churchyard following the Torchlight Procession and singing at 11.30pm Midnight Mass at Appleford and 10.30am on Christmas Day in All Saints' Church.



## CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

For all the family  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 10.30am  
to mark Advent

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.*

## A Traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols



Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2019 6pm

NB Saturday NOT Sunday

All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay

All are welcome!



## A Service of Quiet Reflection for the Longest Night

For all those who find the jollity of the Christmas season painful because of loss or bereavement  
a short service of quiet reflection with music and readings

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 18:00-18:45

All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay

## Christmas in a Box!



Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019

A Creative Christmas Exhibition for all ages

1-5pm – FREE ENTRY – delicious seasonal refreshments available – Christmas gift stall (in aid of River Room)

All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay

Individuals, organisations and shops and businesses are invited to get creative and help us celebrate Christmas.

What does Christmas mean to you?

And can you put it in a box?

Any size box will do and be as imaginative as you like. It might be a Nativity Scene in a shoe box...a miniature version of a shop ready for Christmas...a collection of your favourite Christmas decorations...a 3D portrayal of the Torchlight Procession...

Why not have a go?

Make it at home or join us in church on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 2-5pm for a creative afternoon and make some boxes together!

Completed boxes can be brought to church between 10:00-12noon on the morning of 14<sup>th</sup> December.

For more information please contact the Reverend Helen Kendrick, 01235 848297 or rector@damascusparish.org.uk



## TORCHES FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION



Will be on sale from mid-December from:  
Burgrey Stores; Changes, Costcutter and the Church (at Sunday Services)

Price: £3.50 each (NOT FOR SALE TO UNDER 16s).  
Glowsticks for Children will also be available for £2.50 each



Don't miss out on one the Village's traditional events.....

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS'

## YULETIDE EVENING AT THE ABBEY



Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 6.30-8.30 pm

Cheese & Pate, Mince Pies, Mulled Wine

Soft drinks and cash bar. Raffle.

Carol singing with the SINGING SAINTS.

THE ABBEY, The Green, Sutton Courtenay OX14 4AF

Admission by ticket only: Adults £12, Children (under 12) £6

Available from BURGNEY STORES, High Street

or Fred Cabbage (fred.cabbage@btinternet.com) 01235 848768

Everyone welcome!

\* The Friends of All Saints' Church is an independent charity that has been in existence for over 30 years to assist with the preservation and upkeep of the Grade I listed church in the Village

\*\* Note: FRIENDS QUIZ NIGHT – 29<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY - VILLAGE HALL



## Remembrance Sunday 2019

Photographs courtesy of Fred Cabbage. Fred also took the photograph of the Christmas Tree on the front cover.

Thank you



We send our condolences and the assurance of our prayers to the family and friends of Pamela Bance who died recently.

**Pamela Mary Bance (nee Stone)** known as Pam, who died on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 was born on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1927 in a GWR railway carriage in the sidings at Steventon Railway Station. She grew up there with brother John and sister, Sheila. Later the family were to relocate over the rails to a railway cottage where Pam lived until she married. Having completed her education at Steventon Village School and Didcot Girls Grammar School Pam set out into the working world. After weekend jobs in the local bakery putting jam into doughnuts and at Easter adding sultanas to the hot cross buns, she looked for something more fulfilling. For her first job, part of the war effort, Pam worked at the MG car works in Abingdon, at the time commandeered to build tanks, thinking nothing of the cycle ride morning and evening from Steventon. After the war she joined the newly established AERE Harwell, working in the Chemistry Division where she met Don, soon to become her husband. On the 19<sup>th</sup> August 1950 Pam married Don at Steventon Parish Church, conveniently outside the football season because at the time Don was a successful, local footballer. Pam and Don Bance began their long and very fulfilling marriage in Newbury in private digs before moving to new council accommodation in Wildmoor Gate, Abingdon, where they were to live until 1981 before moving to High Street, Sutton Courtenay. During this period Pam was a loving wife attending to Don's every need. On 29<sup>th</sup> October 1952, Sonia was born followed by son David on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1955. For several years Pam worked as a full-time mother bringing up her new family. She went back to work, first as school secretary at Dunmore Infants School, and then as a local government officer at the Abingdon Borough Council Housing department working in Abbey House. She was a knitter, knitting jumpers for her children, her grandchildren and later for the Neo Intensive Care Unit for premature babies. She loved to travel; travelling across Europe and north America. In conversations she would frequently resort

to the atlas to study the geography or refresh her memories of a place or event. Pam was respectful to the earth. She loved gardening and would regularly reel off names of plants and flowers. She took an interest in wildlife and particularly birds. Raised at the time of houses with vegetable gardens, chickens, and rationing mum was very frugal with her purchases. Being aware of recycling and her impact on the earth long before this became popular. She cooked traditional healthy food and bread and cakes were always being prepared at home. In 1984 their relatively peaceful life was shattered with the arrival of the first of five grandchildren – Emily. Pam gave-up work to become a 'fully time' Nanny and set about the task with her usual determination and devotion. Pam went on to divide her attention with Mary, Kate, Harry and Oliver and lately with her great grandchildren; Zachary, Phoebe and Isaac. Pam loved children and they never ceased to amaze her. She was a good role model for all her family, generous with her time, always setting a good example even when others weren't. She was a loyal and faithful member of the worshipping community at All Saints, alongside her husband Don, a woman with a deep personal Christian faith who strove to live a loving life – being patient and kind in full measure. She had a real gift for hospitality – most often seen wielding a tea-towel or serving refreshments at church and other village events. She was a stalwart of the Women's Christian Fellowship, serving for a long time as Treasurer and of the WI. She led a very active social life with friends across the village and loved to help in any way that she could. She was always interested in people and never failed to be friendly and welcoming with a warm smile. Love and kindness shone out of her. In later years she moved to Oxenford House in Cumnor where their love and care was of the highest order and always so appropriate to her needs. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends who gathered for her funeral on 8<sup>th</sup> November in All Saints Church. *This is an edited version of the tribute given by her son David and the address given by the Reverend Helen Kendrick.*

## COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

### Expressway

Much is made of the idea of the Oxford-Cambridge "Arc". For some, it represents the future for Oxfordshire, presenting an opportunity for increased economic growth, based on the established "knowledge spine" and reputations of the two universities, and our centres of scientific research. To others, it represents a threat to rurality and the climate - with a potential Expressway linking the area paid for by vast quantities of extra housing.

But the "Arc" is, in reality, simply an idea. As a major net contributor to the national exchequer, the idea of stimulating further growth in the area and attracting further investment, is hard to argue against.

This does not necessarily mean that an Expressway is inevitable, however. Indeed, several of Oxfordshire's Councils have come out firmly against the Expressway. The latest of these is the County Council itself, who, in November, passed a motion rejecting the idea outright - "whatever the route" and a letter was sent to Highways England to that effect.

It is argued that connecting up the Arc could be done just as effectively (and at much lower cost) by improving and completing the East West Rail link provision. It is also argued that the carbon output in building the new road would make achieving our reduction targets almost impossible. It seems that this is going to become a major bun fight in the next few months.

### The School Run

We are all noticing just how stressed our local road system is, at present. The 10 mile journey from Drayton to Oxford can take 90 minutes at some times of the day. Yet at half terms and school holidays, it can be done in under 30 minutes. There are daily tailbacks at Culham Bridge and around Frilford crossroads. Major congestion caused by roadworks and accidents somewhere in the system are increasingly common. And even the rat runs are becoming congested. School Travel Plans have been around for many years, but clearly, something more is needed. And spare a thought for parents trying to get their children to school on time when bus services are often not good enough. Not much wonder that many parents are prepared to risk the wrath (and these days the possible financial consequences) of taking children out of school in term time). Is it possible that the solution lies in the coming together of the Education system, our Transport bodies and even the Travel industry? – variable term times? – variable starts to the school day? There is certainly a need for some fresh thinking.

### And please vote.

If you are reading this before December 12<sup>th</sup>, please make sure that you remember to exercise your democratic right and cast your vote. Then have a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Richard Webber Cllr OCC

[Richardwebber777@gmail.com](mailto:Richardwebber777@gmail.com)

01235 534001

# ABINGDON DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT

## THE FOOTBALL FUNDAY

On Thursday the 31<sup>st</sup> of October The Abingdon Damascus Youth Project hosted a Football Fun Day at Drayton FC in conjunction with Oxford United in the Community.

The morning was cold but we saw over twenty young people attend and enjoy a few technical drills delivered by the coaches. After a short lunch break the fun carried on into a match where the young people put into practise the new skills they learned.

The day finished off with a penalty shootout and some amazing saves from the goal keepers. A massive thank you must be said to

all the people who showed up, Oxford United in the Community, Pete Ivy at Drayton FC for letting us use their premises and to Milton Park for providing the funding to run the day.

“It was awesome, everyone got along, there was no arguments, even the coaches were great, gave out banter that they could receive too. Wicked.” – Young Person, 18

“We had a laugh on both days. The Oxford coaches did some fun drills and the meeting others from around the villages was exciting!” Young Person, 14.



## SENIORS CITIZENS AFTERNOON TEA

On Sunday 17th November some of the Sutton Courtenay members of the Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project hosted afternoon tea for the senior members of the village in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall.

The following young people helped and hosted the event:-

Jake Oliver, Marshal Muldoon, Mia Muldoon, Liam Doyle, Leiarna White, Keira White, Alice King, Shelby Curran, Erin

Hamilton, Madeline Grisbrook, Edgar Hamilton, Alfie Turner, Harvey Johns, Evan Hawkins, Jacob, Chloe, Issy, Chloe, Olivia.

In addition to tea, cake and savouries, there was bingo, a dance performance by Angles Performing Arts including Madeleine, Issy and Chloe, music by and dancing to The Groove Company.

Here is a selection of some of the photographs from the afternoon.



Eyes down!



A well deserved break!

# ABINGDON DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT

## LETTERS OF THANKS TO THE EDITORS

The Editors have also received the following letters of thanks from two of the guests that afternoon.

It was a grey afternoon in November. I was a bit nervous but agreed to meet a couple of ladies from the village for the tea party in the village hall.

We were greeted by young people and shown into the main hall that was beautifully laid out with tables and flowers and a couple playing a clarinet and a keyboard a mixture of all time music ... There were balloons on the walls and it was like a birthday party except we were of all of a certain age .....past our sell by dates.

We sung a mixture of songs like As time goes by and For me and my Gal and then the Sutton Courtenay Girls got talent, 3 beautiful young ladies performed acrobatics and danced. After more tea and cake we had 3 goes at Bingo and had lots of chatter. Loads of lovely food too.

Thank you to everybody, all the Kids that served us, the sandwich makers and the bosses for a special winter treat.

Sally Furze

\*\*\*\*\*

A BIG THANK YOU to the DAMASCUS Youth Group and helpers who gave a wonderful afternoon tea and entertainment on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November. We were very well entertained by the music and dance troupe, waited on the tables by the youngsters of our village Very well done. Thank you very much from Roderick & Margaret Hamilton and members of Sutton Courtenay WI who went to a lovely event.

## EDITORS COMMENT

The Editors were invited to the Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project AGM on 19<sup>th</sup> November held at Milton Park. The Project originally served Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton and Steventon but in recent years, due to its success in these villages, also now includes parts of Abingdon. The Project aims to enable young people to make a positive difference within their own communities

What an inspirational evening. These was a fantastic turnout of not just the young people and their families but also the High-Sheriff of Oxfordshire, Lady Jay of Ewelme, parish councillors from the five villages, five police officers including Chief Inspector Matthew Bullivant and PCSO Alison Blood; Matthew Barber the deputy Police Commissioner; three head teachers.

Prior to the formal business of the AGM those who attended were treated to a presentation of the work of the Project, and the activities (ranging from art and sport to litter picking) and workshops (including subjects such as bullying, substance abuse, money management, relationships, social media) that have taken place. It was also the opportunity for Lady Jay to recognise the achievements of 18 young people when she presented them with certificates for these achievements. From Sutton Courtenay Kate King and Courtenay Frankum received "Becoming a Young Leader" certificates and Harvey Johns received an AQA certificate in Basic Woodwork. The Project has three committed, enthusiastic and hardworking Youth Workers in Roxy (who she herself says benefitted from the Project from a young age), Jake and James. They don't just wait for the young people to come to them. They make themselves available regularly at the very places where the young people hang out – street corners, bus stops, the shops etc. They put up a gazebo at venues where young people can drop in for a chat.

## 26TH ABINGDON SUTTON COURTENAY SCOUTS

### **We provide fun, friendship, and challenge**

In this Autumn term at **Beavers & Cubs**, the children made their preferred choice of activities for the year and have been working towards their "Experiments & Science" and "Musician" Badges.

For "Experiments & Science", we explored the properties of kitchen liquids: we cleaned some old coins and even made a hollow coin with kitchen vinegar! Wow! We also cast imprints of toy animals using plaster of Paris. We made an attempt of a volcano using Cola & Mentos; although unsuccessful, we won't give up and will have another go in Spring when the daylight will be back.

Apart from badge activities, we made some hedgehog houses and



distributed them in the neighbourhood and during the baking afternoon, we made famous Alison's cookies. Yum!

This term, Scouts have been inspired by The Great British Bake Off. One week they baked several types of biscuits and later Victoria sponges. The results were impressive and we hope they will replicate these results for the next year's produce show!

Besides the Bake-off theme, they made some scary but beautiful pumpkin designs for Halloween and have been preparing for climbing later in the year.

### **Remembrance Ceremony**

As the nights draw longer and days colder, we continue the tradition of joining the community to commemorate the British and



Commonwealth servicemen and women for the Act of Remembrance at the village church.

If you would like your child to join any of our sections, email us for more information [26thAbingdon@gmail.com](mailto:26thAbingdon@gmail.com)



Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, Village Hall 7.30pm

## THE HISTORY OF THE ARMY AT DIDCOT, MILTON DEPOT & SUTTON COURTENAY

Illustrated talk by David Taylor

This talk will explain the background to World War 1 and the need for an Ordnance Depot which was established between Didcot and Sutton Courtenay. The area was used in both World Wars by the army and later the RAF until the depot closed in 1964. When the land became vacant the power stations were constructed on the site so the area has had an impact on nearby villages such as Sutton Courtenay and Milton over many years.

David Taylor is Chairman of Didcot & District Archaeological and History Society and writes about historical subjects relating to Didcot and the surrounding area. He is also a tour guide in Oxford.

Everyone welcome: Members free: visitors £3

Mary Thompson: website [sclhs.org.uk](http://sclhs.org.uk)

## NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP (NAG5)



### County Lines

This term is used about drug gangs from big cities who expand their operations to smaller towns, often using violence to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell drugs. Heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine are the most common drugs

being offered and supplied. In most instances the users or customers will live in a different area to where the dealers and networks are based, so drug runners are needed to transport the drugs and collect payment.

Dealers will frequently target children and adults – often those with mental health or addiction problems – to act as drug runners or move cash, so that they can stay under the police radar. Dealers may take over a local property, normally belonging to a vulnerable person, and use it to operate from. This is known as cuckooing. Young and vulnerable people will quite often be exposed to physical, mental and sexual abuse and, in some instances, may be trafficked to areas a long way from home as part of the networks' drug dealing business.

Children often don't see themselves as victims, or realise they've been groomed to get involved in criminality. It's important that we all play our part to understand county lines, and to speak out if we have concerns. Signs to look out for are:

- An increase in visitors and cars to a house or flat
- New and regularly changing residents (e.g. different accents compared with local accent).
- Change in resident's mood and/or behaviour (e.g. secretive, withdrawn, aggressive, emotional).
- Substance misuse and drug paraphernalia.
- Changes in the way young people you know dress; unexplained, and sometimes unaffordable, new things (e.g. clothes, trainers, jewellery, cars etc).
- Residents or young people you know going missing, maybe for long periods of time.
- Young people seen in different cars or taxis, driven by unknown adults.
- Young people seeming unfamiliar with your community or where they are.
- Truancy, exclusion, disengagement from school.
- Increased anti-social behaviour in the community.
- Unexplained injuries.

If you have concerns the best advice is to trust your instincts. Even if someone's not involved in county lines drug dealing, they may be being exploited in some other way, so it's always worth speaking out. Call your local police on 101, or call 999 if it's an emergency. If you wish to remain anonymous you can call the independent charity **Crimestoppers** on **0800 555 111** or visit <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>.

If you're a young person worried about your own or a friend's involvement, a good option is to speak to a trusted adult about your concerns. You can also call **Childline** on **0800 1111**, or visit <https://www.childline.org.uk> which is a private and confidential service where you can talk to specially trained counsellors about anything that's worrying you.

**To contact the police about non-emergencies please use the online reporting tool on the Thames Valley Police website at: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk>. You will be contacted within 24 hours of filing the report.**

**If you don't have online access please call 101 for non-emergencies.**

**Call 999 in the case of emergency.**

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





Well where has that year gone, Flew by in a flash!

But its never too late to come along and join us at Sutton Courtenay WI.

We meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Tea, cake and a good old natter is included! Meet new friends or catch up with old ones.

The WI is for all ages, you are never too young or too old. It's definitely not all Jam and Jerusalem!

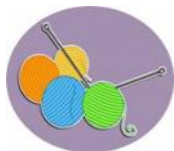
Come along for an evening and find out what you have been missing.

If you would like any more info please call Val on 847612.

Dates for our next meetings :

21<sup>st</sup> January Nick Brazil – Castles in the air (Bizzare world of Victorian inventions)

18<sup>th</sup> February Social Evening



## DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?



The All Saints' Singers are a small and friendly group of choral singers, led by a professional music director, who meet on Friday evenings at 7.30 in the

## Matrix Music School, Sutton Courtenay.

We are looking for new singers as we start on Friday 6 September to prepare for our next concert on Sunday 24 November, which will include music by Mozart, Fauré and Vaughan Williams.

Membership is free to new members in their first term, so why not come along and give us a go?

Further details on our website <https://allsaintssingers.org> or from our Chairman, Steve, on 07812 037530.

## SUTTON COURTENAY SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

On Tuesday November 5th we had an interesting meeting with Paul Wilkinson, and Fin (a young guy) who gave us an excellent and amusing reading which also gave us something to think about.

We had a good turnout of people who came in spite of the cold weather.

We thank you all off supporting us this year and look forward to the New Year and the help you give us. Have a good New Year.

Enquiries - Pat or Sam 01235 847460

### DIARY

Tuesday December 3rd 7.30pm Village Hall Spiritual Meeting with John Scotcher.

Tuesday January 7th 7.30pm Village Hall Spiritual Meeting with Pat.

## SUTTON COURTENAY NORDIC WALKING GROUP



Want to improve your health with a full body workout in the open air. Nordic Walking will Improve your Posture, Balance, Co-ordination, Gait, Flexibility and also Mental Wellbeing .

Yoga and Pilate exercises also included in dedicated warm ups and cool downs .

All instruction and walks are free. To register contact Annalie at [Annalie.Thomasson@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:Annalie.Thomasson@southandvale.gov.uk) of Go Active Gold. Early New Year courses planned.

## GUIDING IN SUTTON COURTENAY

We were sad earlier this year when we had to close the Brownie Pack and I am sorry that now it does not seem possible to keep Brownies or Guides running due to low numbers and no adult leaders.

There are Brownies in Steventon (Mondays) and in Drayton (Wednesdays). Rainbows run in Steventon on Mondays.

There are also many units in Didcot.

I understand that girls are welcome to join Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in Sutton Courtenay, 26<sup>th</sup> Abingdon Scouts, so do look at that option too.

Do contact me with any queries.

Mary Thompson, Abbey District Commissioner

[www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) [steventonrainbows@gmail.com](mailto:steventonrainbows@gmail.com)

## CASINO RURAL

To the card playing gentlemen and ladies of Sutton Courtenay.

Winter is upon us, and I should like to get a FRIENDLY mid-week poker evening, Texas Hold-em, or Kaluki (rummy with 2 packs). Nothing fierce, playing with chips, and all who enter pay £5.00 for your chips. When your chips are gone, you're gone, buy ins only in the first session, the last man standing takes the pot. Coffee and biscuits available in house **or** you are welcome to bring your own wine and snacks. If you're interested please phone Roger on 01235 847241.



In 2020, the charity which manages The Abbey in Sutton Courtenay will mark 40 years of stewardship. A special programme of events will be running throughout the year to which we warmly invite our friends and neighbours in the village and hope many of you will join with us to celebrate.

We'll be reflecting on the 40 years of "people power" that has restored The Abbey to its current glory and celebrating the leap of faith taken by our founders back in 1980 when they took on the derelict site.

Documenting this story and preserving it for posterity is our tribute to Fred Blum, Stephen Verney, Pearl Mitchell and the small army of volunteers who have ploughed thousands of hours into The Abbey's restoration and continue to give so freely and generously of their time to this wonderful building's ongoing care.

If you have any knowledge to share as a former resident, staff member or guest, or remember the place from growing up in the village and know anything of its war-time history, we would very much like to hear from you.

We'll be hosting several events: concerts, log fire evenings, speakers and tours of the House and Gardens to name but a few. Feedback from recent visitors is positive!

- A wonderful building with a great sense of history and philosophy of purpose

- Staff were very welcoming, informative and friendly

Energy, peace, commitment, beauty, enthusiasm, community. Great cakes!

In thinking of the next 40 years we wonder how The Abbey can best serve our local and wider community. This question will run through the gatherings and offerings in 2020 and we invite you to help shape the work of The Abbey in the future.

A planning meeting will be held in early December and the full programme will be published in the January edition of this magazine. To find out more and to get involved please contact :

Website: [http://www.theabbey.uk.com/?page\\_id=217](http://www.theabbey.uk.com/?page_id=217)

Email : [admin@theabbey.uk.com](mailto:admin@theabbey.uk.com) or telephone: 01235 847 401

## COSYING UP THE ABBEY 2020

Guests and residents at The Abbey Sutton Courtenay are set to be warmer and cosier this winter having won funds to introduce further energy conservation measures on the site, this time in the hard-to-treat medieval house. This support comes from Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) with funding from Grundon Waste Management Ltd from their own funds and through the Landfill Communities Fund.

The grant of £2000 is a very welcome contribution to the costs of the Cosy Up project which seeks to implement a raft of

recommendations set out in an Energy Audit of the medieval building conducted by Moira Dorey of Oxford Brookes' Environmental Information Exchange. It will enable staff at the retreat centre to improve building performance, boost guest comfort as well as conserve energy consumption.

Over the next couple of months Abbey Staff and volunteers will be installing framed secondary glazing in well used rooms, masses of insulation in the loft spaces, thermal blinds at several windows, plus chimney sweep in various fireplaces.

## ABBHEY CALENDAR

### December

**Sunday December 8th 7.30pm to 9pm - Alinka Rowe & Tom Fetherstonhaugh – Chamber Music Recital**

In the Abbey's medieval Great Hall featuring music by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms and Bruch. Attendance by donation at the concert but £15 is suggested but all are welcome, 8 – 25 years old free . Proceeds support the Abbey, a registered charity.

**Monday 9th 7.30pm to 9.30pm - CIRCLE DANCE**

Gentle dancing in the Great Hall and gardens to music from around the world. New Dancers always welcome, no experience or partner needed. Suggested donation £4 to £8 per person. No booking necessary.

**Tuesday 10th 10am arrival to Thursday 12th 2pm departure - REST & RENEWAL RETREAT**

The unique medieval building and extensive grounds provide the perfect environment to 'stop and think'. Includes full board. Contact us for more details.

**Thursday 19th December 7.30pm to 9.30pm - TAIZÉ BY CANDLELIGHT**

In the Great Hall an evening of sacred song originating from Taizé, a monastic ecumenical community in France. Come expecting to sing! No singing experience is needed. Candles lit and warmed with the glow of a log fire. Please RSVP. Suggested donation £12. Pay on the door.

**Saturday 21st December 7pm to 9pm - SOLSTICE SINGING with EMILY MARSHALL**

Emily Marshall will teach Solstice Carols for all to enjoy so come prepared to sing. Songs and warm drinks will then be taken to the Solstice Fire to sing to the flames bringing light on this longest of nights. Please RSVP. Suggested donation £10. Pay on the door.

**Sunday December 22nd 7.30pm to 9pm - Késia Decoté – Piano Recital**

An intimate piano recital in the Abbey's medieval Great Hall. – a programme of solo piano music to honour the Winter Solstice

### JANUARY

**Monday 13th 7.30pm to 9.30pm - CIRCLE DANCE**

Dancing to beautiful music from around the world in the Great Hall and gardens. New Dancers always welcome, no experience or partner needed. Suggested donation £4 to £8 per person. No booking necessary.

**Tuesday 14th 10am arrival to Thursday 16th 2pm departure - REST & RENEWAL RETREAT**

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## SUTTON COURTENAY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN—UPDATE



Good progress is being made towards the Neighbourhood Plan for Sutton Courtenay. Through it, residents will have their say on how they want to shape the future development of the village. Once we have a neighbourhood plan in place, planning authorities will have to take it fully into

account when they make their major decisions on future housing, roads and other developments affecting us.

So it is important that, as well as reflecting the views of residents so clearly expressed in the many consultations and the questionnaire survey, we are able to produce hard evidence to support the policies we want to see. Work is going on to put together that evidence on a range of topics, all aimed at showing SC as a vibrant sustainable community in its own right and protecting it from over development and creeping absorption. Sometimes it can be frustrating to have to 'go through the hoops', but we have to make sure our neighbourhood plan meets all the requirements for approval, both by residents and the relevant authorities.

We are identifying the views and green spaces that are important to the village, along with the pathways and cycle tracks that link them and could link them better. We are working to bring out the character of the village as something worth protecting and developing. We are also setting out the conservation and green principles that should govern our development, from energy saving housing to electric charging and from wildlife encouragement to future proofing of flood prevention. And we are clarifying issues that will make SC a healthy and sustainable place to live in for people across the generations.

If anyone has expertise in wildlife or green pathways or has good local knowledge of these and is able to contribute their time please do contact the Steering Group.

The NP Steering Group will continue to update progress through SC News and through the NP pages of the Parish Council website at [www.suttoncourtenay.pc.gov.uk](http://www.suttoncourtenay.pc.gov.uk) and residents are always welcome to feed in their thoughts and suggestions to our Chair, Joanna O'Callaghan at [outlands32@btinternet.com](mailto:outlands32@btinternet.com)

### REQUEST FOR FAMILY HISTORY

The Editors have received the following email from Paul King. If you have any information that might help him he can be contacted via email at [kingsbtook28@btinternet.com](mailto:kingsbtook28@btinternet.com) or contact the Editors. And we will forward the information to him.

I was wondering if you could help at all? I am tracing my family history. Primarily back from a line that emigrated to Western Australia at the turn of the last century. Many of their ancestors come from the Sutton Courtney, Sutton Wick, Culham and Appleford villages. I was wondering if any of your parishioners were tracing their family history they may find they are related to those listed below.

Ancestral names include

Kimbrey/ Kimbry

Grove

Denton

Hope

Smith

Church

Lay

## CHURCHMERE POOL CARP SYNDICATE



I am happy to tell you that the water in the lake is rising, but it still has a good eighteen inches to go to get to its proper level, so a little more rain in this area please. A number of top end twenties have been showing, but with the drop in air temperature and the odd frost, the fish are not being as cooperative as they were in the summer, but some still being arrested for their photo opportunities.

One of the swans, the pen (female), was not looking so good, had a crook in its neck, swan rescue was called, their diagnosis was the swan had suffered a stroke, the bird has now been placed in a safe swan sanctuary. No sooner had she been relocated than a new pen flew in and after a few spats with the cob, has settled in.

We have planted a few more trees and shrubs this Autumn with the hope of further colour in the coming years.

In Kiddies 1 we have built a boat slipway, it does need a few improvements, which will be dealt with in the coming weeks.

Roger Rance

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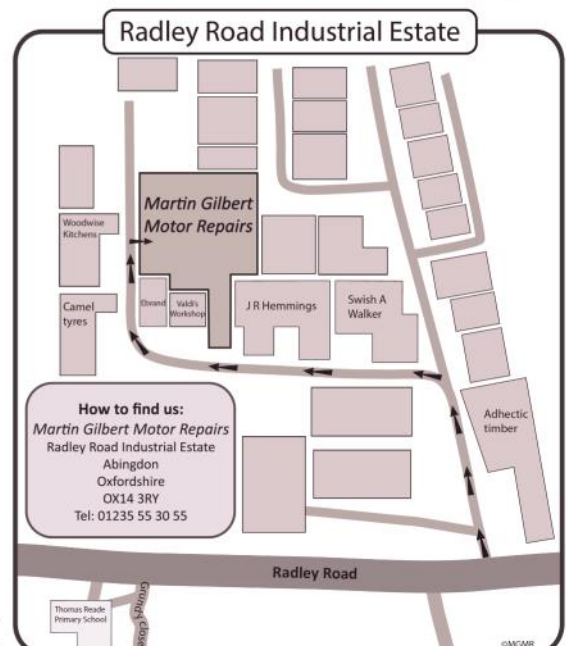
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