

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 49 No. 8

OCTOBER 2020

More development in the village?



Spotted on the Millennium Common.
Where are the other 17?

Chromebook Appeal for our Village School



Would you be able to support the education of our village children in this particularly difficult time?

Many are disadvantaged by lack of technology at home. Digital learning has never been more important and we are now setting most of our homework online. We are also using computers in the classroom more than ever to prepare children in the event of us needing to move to remote learning.

Our aim is to add 60 Chromebooks (basic laptops) to our technology resources to loan out and use in school – we are asking for your support to help meet this challenge. **You might be surprised by how little one costs.** For £231 you would be able to donate a Chromebook to the school and know that you are giving a real boost to a child's education now and having an impact for years to come.

Donations can be made to the charity Friends of Sutton Courtenay School (registered charity no. 1165543) via the below bank details:

**Parent Friends and Staff of Sutton Courtenay School
(Ref Chromebook)**

Barclays

Sort Code 20-01-09

Account No 50888508

If you would like to discuss your donation, please do not hesitate to contact Headteacher Rachel Hornsey via the school or 07985 584938

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS EDITORIAL VACANCIES FROM 2021

See page 5 for more information or
contact

Clare on 07778284193 or

Diane on 07553 801032

Covid 19 Restrictions

As we go to press the government is indicating that there may be further restrictions in the coming weeks/months. If any further restrictions prevent us from delivering SCN as usual we will do our best to have a limited number of copies printed each month for collection from the shops and we will keep the website updated with the latest edition. Please check the website for details - www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk

or contact the editors.

NOVEMBER SCN COPY DEADLINE - WEDNESDAY 21st OCTOBER 2020

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

VILLAGE CONTACTS

County Councillor: (Schools, Roads etc.)	Richard Webber, 534001 richardwebber777@gmail.com
District Councillor: (Planning, Waste etc.)	Richard Webber—as above
Parish Council Chairman	Michael Jenkins, 847174 msjenkins@msn.com
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Adrian Rouse, 07730 313384 adrian.j.rouse@gmail.com
Brownies	Mary steventonrainbows@gmail.com
Stay & Play Toddler Group	Facebook page: @SCstayandplay
Chairman, Friends of SC Parish Church	Fred Cabbage, 848768
Matrix Music School	847264
The Abbey	847401
Crickets Club	drb71@hotmail.co.uk
Sutton Courtenay WI	Val Melville 847612
Nordic Walking Group	Graham Wells 847322
Churchmere Carp Syndicate	Roger Rance 847241
DAMASCUS Youth Project	848694
Sutton Courtenay Local History Society	Mary Thompson 848527 marydthompson@outlook.com www.sclhs.org.uk
SCIDS (Drama Society)	Morna Whitlock, 848335 morna28whitlock@gmail.com
All Saints Singers	Steve Fisher 07812 037530 allsaintssingers.org
Sutton Courtenay Action	suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com
Sutton Courtenay Forum	suttoncourtenayforum@gmail.com
Neighbourhood Watch	07762 597118 nhwsuttoncourtenay@outlook.com
Non-urgent Police	101 or policing team email AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
Environment Agency:	Landfill Odours 0800 80 70 60
Thames Water (leaks):	0800 71 46 14
Power Cuts:	105
Websites:	
Sutton Courtenay News	www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk
Parish Council	www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk
Vale of White Horse DC	www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk
Oxfordshire CC	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

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



THE VILLAGE HAS TWO DEFIBRILLATORS. ONE IS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE FRONT ROLLER DOORS OF SUTTON COURTENAY TYRES ON THE HIGH STREET. THE OTHER IS

ANOTHER ONE IS OUTSIDE THE FISH, APPLEFORD ROAD.



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

Assistant Curate: The Reverend Karen Hyde
Tel: 07526 985395, e-mail: curate@damascusparish.org.uk

Associate Priest: The Reverend Rosie Bruce
Tel: 07766 421773, rosie-bruce@hotmail.co.uk

Associate Priest: The Reverend Phil Sutton
01235 526114 or 07507
378737, revphil@damascusparish.org.uk

Associate Priest: The Reverend Meg Heywood
Tel: 01235 537100, revmeg@damascusparish.org.uk

Lay Ministers: Tim Budd (527853), Jack Jarvis (831395) & Alex Landsbert (847443)

Authorised Preacher: Paul James (848129)

Churchwardens: Nicola Turner (01235 833938) or Hilary Otterburn (01235 834725)

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

**Due to Covid restrictions these times may change.
Please check with the church. See pages 8 –11**



SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS CONTACTS

Sutton Courtenay News 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.

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

All contributions for the next edition should be e-mailed to editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk or taken to Burgrey Stores 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 or telephone 07761 375991

For distribution enquiries please contact Sue on 847158 or Shirley on 847241 or any of the editors.

The Editors have been contacted by people outside the village who would like to continue receiving a copy of Sutton Courtenay News. It can be viewed on line at <https://suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk> but please contact the Editors to discuss what other arrangements can be made for those unable to access the website.



FCC – “Radcot Green” development

A presentation will be being given to the Parish Council in respect of this proposed development. The Parish Council will be holding a further Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 13th October at 7pm to facilitate the same. Due to current restrictions this will be a virtual meeting. Should you wish to attend the same, please do contact the clerk on the below details and the login information will be provided closer to the time.

Land at Appleford Road Planning Appeal

The planning appeal in relation to the proposed building of 93 houses at Appleford Road is due to take place on 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th October 2020. The inquiry will take place virtually given the current restrictions in place. The Parish Council has engaged a Planning Consultant to prepare and present a statement on their behalf.

Anybody is able to observe the inquiry either via Microsoft Teams or by dialling in by telephone (this will incur a charge). Should you wish to do so, written confirmation of your intention should be given to the Inspector prior to the inquiry proceeding so that sign in details can be provided – please do contact the Clerk on the below details and she will provide you with the relevant contact information for the Inspector’s office.

Thames Water works – High Street

With the completion of the works on Drayton Road, Thames Water will be looking to commencing the works on the High Street. However, their initial investigations earlier in the year discovered high water levels. This means that the work will need to take place in the summer months and work therefore will not be commenced until May 2021 at the earliest and this will be dependent on weather conditions over the summer. Their investigations also confirmed that due to the positioning and size of the pipe, this may need to result in a road closure. They have confirmed that given the time before works can proceed they have time to investigate whether there is a way for the works to be completed with traffic light control but they can make no assurances that this will be the case. We will keep you updated onto any further information on the same both in this newsletter and on the Parish Council website.

Covid-19 update

The Parish Council would like to express its thanks to the Sutton Courtenay Covid-19 support group for its continuing work in helping the residents of Sutton Courtenay. Although a lot of their support has now diminished due to the lifting of restrictions, they are ready and willing to assist going forward should the need arise. Please are you able to keep an eye on neighbours to ensure well being going forward.

There is a real concern relating to people’s mental health following lockdown and should you have any suggestions on ways in which reduce any feelings of isolation please do contact the clerk on the details below.

Given the new rules brought in on 14th September, please do endeavour to follow social distancing guidelines and restrictions on gatherings to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Recreation Ground

A working party is looking at the redevelopment of the recreation ground. A consultation is due to take place. Please look out for details both in this newsletter, on the Parish Council Website and on the noticeboard outside the post office.

Planning applications

The following planning applications were discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 1st September 2020-

P20/V1746/FUL - Partial re-plan of reserved matters application P14/V2061/RM to facilitate the erection 17.no dwellings.

Land to the south of Appleford Road

Comments: Council object on the basis of the increase in traffic, exits onto roads with speed issues, no connection with paths encouraging more use of cars, car parking spaces do not meet OCC size requirements.

P20/V1916/FUL - Retrospective planning permission for the retention of Agricultural Access Track.

95 Drayton Road Sutton Courtenay

Comments: Council has no objection.

P20/V1903/FUL - S73 - Variation of wording of condition 6 (removal of current bund and replace it with a new one) on application ref. P18/V0069/O Residential development of 91 dwellings and associated access.

Land at Appleford Road

Comments: Council objects and disapproves of any variation to the wording.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 6th October 2020 at 7.15pm via Zoom meetings

Please contact the clerk for log in details should you wish to attend the same.

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

Email: info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 01235 364211

Trustees of the Village Hall Management Committee

VILLAGE HALL AGM

16 November at 7.30pm

Further details in November SCN



Welcome back everyone!

A huge congratulation this week to everyone involved in getting the children back to school so smoothly for this new school year. The atmosphere in school has been amazing, with everyone clearly so glad to be back. I cannot believe how quickly the children have settled down into school. As I walk around, I see them engaged in their lessons, enthusiastic and respectful. I feel so thankful to have such a supportive school community. Parents have worked hard to prepare their children for the new ways of working and given their children the confidence to return without a hitch.



Hopefully, we can now have a period of continuity for the children. In the national plan this autumn and winter, primary schools will be the very last thing in communities to close, after secondary schools, pubs and non-essential shops and businesses. The government has recognised how important it is for young children to have stability and routine. So for now, we are enjoying the fact that we are all back together again as a school community.

Reading books this term

It is really important that children have the right books at the right level for learning to read. This was one of our biggest challenges in lockdown and we are keen to catch up with reading as quickly as we can.

To keep everyone safe, we have a strict system to avoid sharing. Books stay in our scheme boxes and are not touched by other children before they are given



to another child. When they come back to school, they are kept in separate boxes so we can remember when they came back, and kept apart for 72 hours. They are then considered safe as the coronavirus cannot survive on surfaces longer than that, and can be returned to our stock. It's a bit more complicated than it used to be, but we are all getting used to the 'new normal'!

Remote teaching

Our Year 5 and 6 teacher, Ms Parks, was in Croatia when the government announced the quarantine measures. This was particularly upsetting as she had already cancelled her trip to France and swapped to Croatia to avoid the quarantine from there! She missed the first two days of term but she was determined to teach her



class. Like something from a science fiction film, Ms Parks taught her class remotely like a giant HAL! The children were incredibly well behaved and attentive. Well done Falcons! As the headteacher, I hovered in the background feeling quite redundant.

Headteacher **Ms Rachel Hornsey**
Assistant Headteachers **Lisa Knight and Louise Potter**
office.3243@sutton-courtenay.oxon.sch.uk
Telephone 01235 848333

THE MATRIX



YAMAHA MUSIC SCHOOL



New classes starting: 2 - 7 year olds

Open Day 11 October: 4 - 7 year olds



Need A Mask



Volunteers in the village continue to make and distribute reusable non medical face masks free of charge to residents of the village. Although cheap disposable masks are now widely available they end up in landfill at best. Reusable, washable, masks are preferred, many 100% cotton and bio degradable, so please save your money protect the environment and request a free mask from scfacemask@gmail.com.

The masks are even delivered to your door free of charge. For those wishing to make a donation, Our group has been closely supported by the Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project and a donation to this charity would be very much appreciated,

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/12999#!/DonationDetails>.



Scams

Amazon Prime scams, in various guises, are still circulating locally. As outlined in last month's Safety Corner, courier scams are also prevalent in the area, with criminals posing as police officers. If you receive an uninvited or unexpected phone call which asks you for personal, banking or credit card details, or for cash, you should **never** provide them and you should immediately end the call. **Remember that criminals are experts at sounding genuine and completely plausible. They want to make you panic, so that you don't stop and think about what they're asking you to do.** If you've been a victim of a scam or fraud please report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or by using their online reporting tools at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

Reporting suspicious texts (phishing) and emails (smishing)

Suspicious emails should be forwarded to the National Cyber Security Centre's suspicious email reporting service at report@phishing.gov.uk

Suspicious texts should be forwarded to 7726, which will enable your provider to investigate the origin of the message and, if it's malicious, to take action.

Cybercrime – how to stay secure online

Fraud and cybercrime are the most common criminal offences in the UK, with analysis showing that 86% of frauds have a cyber element. Here's how you can make it harder for cyber criminals to access your online accounts and devices.

- **Install the latest software and app updates.** Cyber criminals exploit weaknesses in software and apps to attack your devices and steal your identity. Software and app updates are designed to fix these weaknesses and installing them as soon as possible will help to keep your devices secure. For more information visit the National Cyber Security Centre website at <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/top-tips-for-staying-secure-online/install-the-latest-software-and-app-updates>
- **Protect your email account by using a strong and separate password.** Cyber criminals can use your email account to access many of your personal accounts and find sensitive information, such as your bank details, date of birth and address. Having a strong, separate password for your email account means that if cyber criminals steal the password for one your accounts they can't use it to access your other accounts.
- **Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) on your email account.** 2FA is the single best thing you can do to improve the security of important online accounts, such as your email account. 2FA enabled accounts require you to verify your identity by using your password (first factor) as well as a randomised 6-digit code (second factor) that's delivered to your mobile phone. If your password's stolen the criminals will still need your phone. If your phone's stolen, they still need your password. For up-to-date instructions on how to enable 2FA visit <https://www.telesign.com/turnon2fa>
- **Use a password manager** You should use a different password for each of your online accounts. A password

manager's an app on your phone, tablet or computer, which stores your passwords securely so that you don't have to remember them all. For more information visit <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/top-tips-for-staying-secure-online/password-managers>

- **Secure smartphones and tablets with a screen lock.** Each time you want to unlock your device, or switch it on, you'll be asked to enter a PIN, password or fingerprint. If someone gets hold of your device they'll be unable to access any data on it.

AbiMeds prescription collection and delivery service

AbiMeds has now ceased delivering prescriptions. Please see their website for suggested alternatives at <https://abimeds.org/abimeds-alternatives>. Other options are to call the pharmacy that dispenses your prescriptions to see if they can deliver, or ask a friend or neighbour if they can help. Sutton Courtenay residents can also contact Emily Madge, the Covid-19 Volunteer Group Coordinator, on 07707 779642 or email suttoncourtenayc19@gmail.com to request assistance.

CONTACTING THE POLICE

The police request that you should only call 999 in an emergency and 101 if it's urgent. If possible, please use the online reporting services at www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Contact NAG5 by calling 01235 848694 or e-mail neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com

STOP PRESS

We've had a report from a Sutton Courtenay resident about persistent phone calls offering water and sewerage services. Luckily the call recipient was not taken in and put the phone down. It's often the case that scammers target people in the older age bracket, so please do tell your elderly relatives and friends to exercise caution.

Please let us know if you, or anyone you know, has received similar calls. Thank you. Call 07762 597118 or email nhwsuttoncourtenay@outlook.com

SUTTON COURTENAY (NATIONAL POWER) TRUST

This Trust was established with a donation from what was National Power (now RWE nPower). The endowment sum is invested, and the charity meets from time to time to consider possible grant awards, and the management of the funds. The charity will be meeting in the Autumn.

If there is any organisation which benefits the residents of Sutton Courtenay, or an individual who would like to be considered for a small grant, then please contact the Clerk to the Trustees whose details appear below, by the end of September. Please state the purpose for the grant, the amount required, and if an organisation supply a copy of the latest accounts, together with income and expenditure figures, or if an individual please supply proof of need and bank statements.

Clerk to the Trustees: Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham, Oxon OX13 6PU Tel: 01865 391833 email: SuttonCourtenayNPTrust@gmail.com

Urgent need for consultation.

Covid has inevitably slowed up Council's ability to consult. There is no doubt that, under normal circumstances, all Parish Councils in the area would have had direct face to face presentations and briefings from OCC Highway officers to explain their thinking on the proposed new link road and Thames bridge and how they are planning to manage traffic over the coming years. The apparent silence from the Council has allowed an atmosphere of anxiety and suspicion to develop. That atmosphere is stimulated by the signing of the HIF fund, the now certain funding of the new infrastructure, the SODC Local Plan inspection with the likely passing of plans for many more houses at Culham, and talk of a Radcot Green development on the FCC site near the Power Station. It is understood that traffic modelling has been done and the proposed new road layout around Didcot, Sutton Courtenay, Appleford and Culham will not only cope with the extra traffic the new homes will generate, but will improve current traffic flow.

However, anxieties remain and indeed are growing, of a South Abingdon rat run developing, and increasing damage to ancient village properties with more HGV traffic. But perhaps most damaging, there is a growing suspicion that the wool is being pulled over the resident's eyes and that COVID and its impact on consultation is being used as an excuse to foist yet more housing on an area that is already struggling to cope. Whilst the silence persists, these anxieties will continue to grow.

This article is an appeal to Council's to address the problem of consultation as a matter of urgency and is being copied to OCC Highways for a response.

COVID-19 Community Group

In case there are people in a Sutton Courtenay and Appleford who are not aware (and there cannot be many), since the outbreak of the pandemic, a group of volunteers has been meeting regularly to try to minimise the impact on the community life. The volunteers include representatives from the PC, the Damascus Youth Project, the Church, the NAG and others. Not only has it been heart warming to see them in action, but it has underlined the fact that, in an atmosphere of conflicting messages and often depressing news from above, it has demonstrated how the COVID impact is best handled by local communities from the "bottom up". I believe Government - national and local is learning this.

Whilst preparing for a second spike (should there be one), the Group is now moving its focus on to Mental Health and how to keep people cheerful and positive with a collection of safe activities for all ages.

When this is all over, there will be a time for a round of thanks and appreciation for all the COV19 Group, but in the meantime, if you have useful ideas that can be added to the collection, please let us know.

Richard Webber
richardwebber777@gmail.com
 01235 534001



I spent the parliamentary recess visiting as many individuals and organisations as I could. I met with the founders of innovative companies like Rosemor and Aquobex, whose cleaning and flooding solutions respectively attract custom from around the world. I visited hotels like the

Bear and Milton Hill House, hotels being one of the sectors of the economy that has been particularly badly hit by lockdown, with some people being more reluctant to return to their previous way of life. At gyms like tfd Health and Fitness and Fitness Space people *are* keen to get back their previous way of life – and as a gym-goer myself I understand them! – they just have to book in advance and adhere to a higher standard of hygiene than perhaps they did previously. No bad thing, in my book.

At Farmer Gow's I saw not just what a great family day out the farm is for young and old, but also met the proprietors of successful businesses that Anne Gow has as tenants on the site, from LissieLou, the cake decoration business, to Bark and Berry Dog Grooming and the Oxford Yurt, a pretty impressive glamping site – I've never been glamping myself, but if you like doing so I'd check them out. I was pleased to make my first visit to the Westmill Wind and Solar Farm and delighted they were successful in their bid for Government funding for a new visitors' centre that will increase the number of visitors 6-fold.

Along the way there were lots of other independent businesses, like Didcot Glass and Glazing, Emma's Vintage Style, 30 Something and Bob's Butchers. Charities too, like Children Heard and Seen, which supports the children of prisoners – more on that in a future column. On my Facebook page ([davidjohnston4wantage](https://www.facebook.com/davidjohnston4wantage)) you'll see I've started 'three questions' with the owners of different organisations to spread the word about organisations people might not have heard of.

On my week off, we went to the Lake District, but unfortunately I crocked my knee on a crag and am currently on crutches! It's my first real experience of having restricted mobility and it does bring home quite how many places are inaccessible for those who need to use crutches or a wheelchair to get around, something I've understood only theoretically before. Parliament is probably one of the worst examples, although I'm grateful I've temporarily been given an office nearer to the House of Commons to reduce the walking I have to do. As ever, if I can help with anything then do get in touch via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk





The DAMASCUS Parish
Drayton | Appleford | Milton
Sutton Courtenay | Steventon

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

DAMASCUS Parish Letter for October

"Wild flowers full of beautiful colours"

"Bird song raising spirits to the sky"

"Thank God for our gardens and the comfort of nature"

"Loving kindness is the shield".

These are some of the comments given to me by people who were, and perhaps continue, shielding. During those strange weeks, despite the anxiety and frustration of lockdown, many were thankful of the abundance of nature, and of the green spaces in our villages. You may have explored or discovered new parts of our villages. You may also have seen the kindness of sharing produce, plants, books, toys. You may have tried or seen neighbours growing vegetables and enjoying home grown produce. However, there were shortages too, loo rolls and pasta spring to mind. Home baking was dependant on the supply of flour and eggs. These shortages perhaps serves as a little reminder of how fortunate we are, ordinarily; not to have to worry about food shortages or being hungry.

September and October are months when the harvest is gathered and celebrated. The harvest festival as we know it today, was the invention of a great eccentric clergyman, Robert Stephen Hawker (1803-75) vicar of Morwenstow, N. Cornwall. He was fond of early church history and probably got the idea from reading about Lammas, which was an Anglo Saxon church festival to celebrate the "first fruits" of the grain harvest. Harvest festivals rapidly became widespread in the late Nineteenth century, and have become quite the norm.

This year there is a new normal; social distancing, sanitizing hands, wearing face coverings, are just a few. In this new normal there is time to celebrate harvest, to be thankful for the rural nature that surrounds us. There is also space to share and be reminded of those who are going hungry, and counties where the harvest will not be shared or so bountiful. Yet there are ways to help support those in need, locally and further away. These are ways to show gratitude and thankfulness for the blessing that we have. Donations to local food banks can be placed in boxes found in the DAMASCUS parishes churches throughout the year. The demand on food banks has sadly increased greatly in 2020, and harvest time makes this more poignant. Fair Trade produce can be bought throughout the year too, and is a direct way to support farmers and craft workers. Many of these will be living in countries less able to overcome the effects of the pandemic we are living through.

The Reverend Rosie Bruce, Associate Priest

Details of church services, online services, events during the season of harvest and on to Remembrance, can be found on www.damascusparish.org.uk

The River Room and the DAMASCUS Parish Office

The River Room and the new DAMASCUS Parish office are now up and running. We won't be able to have the grand-opening until next year because of COVID-19, but if you would like to have a look around please ring the Parish Office on 01235 847179 to arrange a visit. We would love to show you around!

Churches Open for Private Prayer and Public Worship

All five of our church buildings continue to be open for private, individual prayer during daylight hours. Public worship has also resumed and small choirs are singing at most services (but no congregational singing is allowed). **Please note that face masks must now be worn in places of worship.** Please use the hand sanitizer provided when entering and leaving the building and observe the guidance on keeping safe physical distance. It is now possible for baptisms, weddings and funerals to take place inside the church building (with maximum of 30).

'Worship at Home' continues. The online service can be accessed either via our weekly mailing or the website www.damascusparish.org.uk or via the All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay Facebook page. If you, or anyone you know, would like to be added to our mailing list please contact Alison Bampton, our administrator: admin@damascusparish.org.uk (In order for us to keep contact details on our database each person must fill out a GDPR form if they have not already done so. This can be completed and returned via e-mail. You can ask to be removed at any time).

Most importantly, please let us know if you need help of any kind so that prayer and practical support can be offered in a safe way, or if you need advice on weddings, funerals and baptisms.

YOU STAY – WE PRAY!

All Saints' Church (part of The DAMASCUS Parish) 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. The Rector prays for all the village and of course we can all remember each specific area day by day.

At this time of social distancing and even sometimes self-isolation, if you feel the need for special prayers and support, please contact the Rector (the Revd Helen Kendrick) by phone on 01235 848297 or by e-mail at rector@damascusparish.org.uk

It is hoped that our Church will remain open – both for our weekly Sunday Services and also for the Community Cafe (every other Thursday) – but this will depend on Government Covid-19 restrictions. For full details, please contact the DAMASCUS Parish Office on 01235 847179

In November 2020 we will pray for those who live and work as follows –

Sunday 1 November to Saturday 7 November – Abingdon Rd, All Saints' Lane, Brook Street

Sunday 8 November Saturday 14 November – Amey Close, Appleford Road

Sunday 15 November to Saturday 28 November – Asquith Park, Chapel Lane

Sunday 29 November to Saturday 5 December – Barretts Way, Churchmere Road

Stewardship and Giving

These are challenging times for many of us and , as stewards and custodians of the churches in the DAMASCUS Parish, we are dealing with the impact this pandemic is having on our finances.

Thanks to the generosity and thoughtfulness of many, a large part of our income comes in planned giving which gives us great stability.

However, there is no doubt that our income has been seriously affected by the church closures and not being able to run fundraising activities.

If you normally give through the Sunday collection plate please would you consider:

- a) continuing to put to one side the amount you would normally donate and bring it to church when we reopen for public worship
- b) set up a direct debit by joining the Parish Giving Scheme - forms can be emailed through to you - please contact the Stewardship Officer - David King

stewardship@damascusparish.org.uk

- c) make a one-off bank transfer using these details The DAMASCUS PCC

CAF Bank Limited Account. 40-52-40
00031419

- d) writing a cheque payable to The DAMASCUS PCC and sending it to the DAMASCUS Parish Office, All Saints' Church, The Green, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, OX14 4AE.

All Saints' Churchyard Working Group

From 9:30am on Saturday, 3rd October we will be holding an Autumn clear up in the churchyard. Volunteers welcome!

Please bring your own tools to work with and your own refreshments as we are unable to provide those at this time.

The Reverend Karen Hyde

Congratulations to the Reverend Karen Hyde on the successful completion of her Curacy in the DAMASCUS Parish. She has been officially signed off and has now been licensed as a Self-supporting Associate Priest to the DAMASCUS Parish. Bishop Colin completed the licensing at his farewell service in Sutton Courtenay with the clergy of the Abingdon Deanery Chapter on Tuesday 15th September. COVID-19 has made discerning the next step more challenging for Karen, but we are delighted that, for the moment, she is still working within the parish. Please keep Karen and all her family in your prayers at this time.

The Reverend Canon Christopher Clarke

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Rev'd Canon Christopher Clarke, who died on 13th August 2020. Chris was a former Parish Priest of Sutton Courtenay and Appleford from 1977-1985.

ALL SOULS'

Sunday 1st November 2020

This year we will be holding two All Souls' Services to name and remember those who have died: One at **4pm** and one at **6pm**

All Saints' Church , Sutton Courtenay.

These services will provide an opportunity to remember and to give thanks for the lives of those we love, who have died.

Invitations will be sent to the next of kin of all those we have conducted a funeral for over the past two years and you will be asked to RSVP.

During the service the names of those for whom we have conducted a funeral service in the past two years will be read out and a candle lit in their memory. If there are other people you also wish to remember, regardless of where or when they died, please add their names to the list in church (stating which service you wish to attend).

Due to COVID-19 the seating capacity of the church is greatly restricted so you MUST book your place at the service you wish to attend – by phoning the parish office on 01235 847179.

If you need transport to and from the service, or have any other questions, please contact Helen on either 01235 848297 or at the Parish Office on 01235 847179.

Community Café in the River Room

(COVID-19 restrictions apply – Table service only, use hand-sanitizer, keep 2m distance & wear a mask when not eating or drinking).

**Thursday 8th October & Thursday 22nd October
from 10:30-12:00**

all welcome!

As we go to print clarification from the government and from the Diocese is still awaited so we cannot confirm if these will be able to take place. Please ring the parish office 01235 847179 to check.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

We are celebrating our Harvest Festival on **Sunday 4th October at 10:30 in All Saints' Church.**

All are welcome!



We will be collecting dry and tinned food goods for the Abingdon Food Bank and money donations for Farm Africa.

Sadly, due to COVID-19 restrictions we are unable to hold a harvest lunch this year.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday 8th November

We are still waiting for guidance from the Government as to what is going to be permitted on Remembrance Sunday. Please look out for information nearer the time.

Thank you.

A note from Helen....

After 20 years of ordained ministry (over 17 of them spent in Sutton Courtenay with Appleford and the DAMASCUS Parish) I have been granted a sabbatical by the Diocese of Oxford. This means that I will be out of the parish from the end of December until Sunday 11th April 2021 (COVID-19 permitting). My plan is to spend 30 days on a retreat at St Beuno's in North Wales and then some time resting and some time studying in our home in Wales – during which I hope to write up a booklet on the lives of some of my predecessors as incumbents of Sutton Courtenay. Some of you may remember a talk I gave to the Local History Society several years ago – the research for which will form the basis of the booklet.

To help with my research I would love to talk with any of you who have memories of any of my predecessors. Please contact me on 01235 848297 if you would be happy to share what you know with me.

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Ride or Stride

Thanks to Fred Cabbage and Christopher Kendrick who were our two intrepid cyclists who set out to raise money for the OHCT and All Saints' Church this year. We were also delighted to welcome over 20 cyclists to the church during the day – thank you to Alison Budd for acting as welcomer. It is not too late to donate - please contact fred.cabbage@btinternet.com. Thank you!

RIVER ROOM 200 CLUB

At the time of going to print we have 57 members of the River Room 200 Club which is helping with our ongoing fundraising to pay for this amazing new community facility – especially during this time of COVID-19 restrictions - and we have held three monthly draws with the winning numbers as follows: July: 1st 99, 2nd 87, 3rd 11; August: 1st 10, 2nd 18, 3rd 49; September: 1st 9, 2nd 29, 3rd 87

Only £5 for one ticket a month (£60 a year) enables you to take part in a monthly draw for 25% of the proceeds. There will be 3 prizes each month and you can hold more than one ticket.

Application forms from the Parish Office 01235 847179 or
Email: admin@damascusparish.org.uk

REST IN PEACE

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

Vera Mary Jones (formerly of Tullis Close, Sutton Courtenay, who died aged 92 on 24th August 2020, was born in Cardiff on 17th November 1927, an only child to her parents Doris and Arthur Jones. She was extremely close to her Cousin Doris throughout her childhood and they grew up as sisters – remaining good and supportive friends to one another throughout their lives. She attended Penarth County School which is where she met Malcolm. Malcolm borrowed her hockey stick, they became childhood sweethearts and marriage followed in due course in 1952 - a marriage which endured for 56 years until Malcolm's death in May 2008. On leaving school Vera trained as a pharmacist and worked in a chemists in Whitchurch. When Malcolm's work took the family to London she worked at East Grinstead Pharmacy and eventually Malcolm's job brought them to Oxford and they moved to Tullis Close, Sutton Courtenay in 1962 – as one of the original residents of the Close. Vera continued to work for Boots in Abingdon and then for the pharmacy at the Clifton Hampden Surgery. All this alongside bringing up her boys. Gareth born in 1958 in East Grinstead and Wynford in 1962 in the Warren in Abingdon. Wynford described Vera as a fantastic Mum – a loving and supportive parent who ensured they had a balanced and secure childhood. She was always willing to take them to all their sporting commitments – driving here, there and everywhere. She loved having an open house for all their friends and she was always encouraging of their involvement in sports and other interests. She was a good home cook – although this didn't stop her on one occasion from allowing a steam pudding to boil dry and explode all over the kitchen ceiling! She did attend a Cordon Bleu Cookery Course but she didn't last as she thought the portions too small. Her idea of a good meal was a generous Lamb Roast. She always had a very sweet tooth – was almost addicted to chocolate bars and she loved a sherry. In her younger years she had been a keen hockey player and also enjoyed tennis. In later years in

the village she enjoyed being part of the Evergreens Club in Sutton Courtenay and was a loyal supporter of the bingo sessions at the Village Hall – enjoying the fun and the tea and biscuits. She was a great knitter – making many jumpers for Malcolm and the boys but she was also skilled at shrinking everything in the wash. She enjoyed traveling and went with Malcolm all over the world, supporting his stamp collecting, on trips to Canada and North America. It was his interest in stamps from this part of the world that led to he and Vera doing a year's house exchange in British Columbia, Canada in the late 80s. They also enjoyed trips to Portugal and several cruises in the Mediterranean. She loved being Nana Vera to her grandchildren and doted on them all – there were always sweet treats in the cupboard for them whenever they came to visit. She was a big part of their upbringing and enjoyed many outings with them over the years – and was kind and generous with her time. Sadly Malcolm was diagnosed with cancer in 2003 and his health gradually declined until his death in 2008. He was looked after by Vera – who truly honoured her marriage vows by caring for him so devotedly. Vera was a straight-talking individual who could often be outspoken. She was never afraid to express her very definite point of view – and this could sometimes be challenging for friends, neighbours and family alike - but she also had a sense of humour and could tell a funny story. She had a fantastic memory for facts and excelled at spelling – practically a walking dictionary! As a family they always kept either cats or dogs, until their last dog, Pepper died. As Vera's health failed, she needed more care and as the boys had promised their Dad they would always look after their Mum – Wynford and Heidi adapted their home in Cholsey so they could care for her and she spent her final years surrounded by her family and, in her turn, was cared for so devotedly by them. Vera was always social and outgoing and in recent years she enjoyed time spent at the Cholsey Day Centre joining in with the sing-a-longs, the exercises, chair dancing and even horse racing! Her 90th birthday, held at the Day Centre, was a joyful celebration. Her funeral was held at South Oxfordshire Crematorium on Thursday 3rd September.

NORTH APPLEFORD ROAD APPEAL APP/V3120/
W/20/3247391 STARTING 6 OCTOBER

The appeal on the decision to reject the application to build 93 houses North of Appleford Road is to be held virtually on MS Teams starting at 9.30 am on Tuesday 6 October and is expected to last for several days.

Villagers who would like to participate or observe the proceedings should register asap with the Planning Inspectorate having read the Inquiry Attendance Information in the attached letter. The Inspectorate stress that all written submissions from application and appeal stage will be taken into account by the Inspector and re-stating the same points won't add any additional weight to them. The case officer is:

Holly Dutton - Tel: 0303 444 5022 or
Email: holly.dutton@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Registered participants in whatever capacity will receive individual joining instructions, providing details of any requirements, guidance and support, whether joining by MSTeams or telephone.

The Parish Council has retained a planning consultant to represent it and Sutton Courtenay Action will also be participating.

The documents relating to the appeal can be found at the Vale planning application site under the appeal tab at:

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P15/V2933/O>

At the time of writing, this is not providing access to these documents but this should be rectified shortly. It is becoming clear however that OCC has decided to adjust its traffic objection due to the successful HIF Infrastructure bid for the new bridge across the Thames and associated road improvements. That is due to be completed in 2024, so meanwhile, OCC appears content to agree to the development of 40 houses on the site under Grampian conditions.

This does not, however, negate the other reasons for refusal that; it is speculative development which is not allocated in the Local Plan; the Vale has sufficient housing to meet the required 3 years supply and that the site is beyond the built area of SC and part of the open countryside.

Some 60 villagers objected to the application when it first arose in 2015. Their objections are also on the above website should anyone wish to review theirs. It will be possible to dip in and out of the event. **villagers are asked to at least register to observe the proceedings, to reinforce the degree of concern felt about this speculative application**, despite the proposed infrastructure improvements, which it is far from certain will reduce the traffic flow through the village.

Sutton Courtenay Action.

Email: suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com

Dispirited villagers - a call to arms!

We'd like to think we live in a democracy, but residents of Oxfordshire might disagree.

A case in point - over objections from the newly-elected South Oxford district council, Culham Parish council and many villagers within Culham itself – the construction of more than 3,000 houses has been approved **through direct Government intervention** on greenbelt land between the EUROPEAN school and JET site/Culham Laboratories. How is this democracy?

What does this mean? At least 3000 more cars on the road queuing to get into Abingdon, or through Clifton Hampden and on to Oxford or to Didcot is what it means. And, as you are all aware, with the possibility of more housing estates springing up in the local area, this will inevitably result in more cars. We are facing gridlock. We're becoming Milton Keynes!

How much, if any, thought has been given to infrastructure? Unlike Milton Keynes, very little it would seem.

While Culham still put up a fight to stop over-development in their village, Drayton, Appleford and Sutton Courtenay now face problems of our own. We are surrounded by builders hoping to turn our villages into one huge conurbation. FCC, the company that manages the landfill sites between Sutton Courtenay, Appleford and Didcot, wants to build many hundreds of new homes on their site – land that was meant to be returned to agricultural use.

And then there is "the bridge" with its slip-road at Appleford. Suggesting this new bridge will enhance the speedy flow of traffic through Sutton Courtenay is laughable.

Roads through the village will become "rat runs". Road parking will be stopped. Noise levels will increase and air quality will drop. How will the increased volume of traffic, from both directions, navigate the difficult turn by The Fish? Once past this pinch point, cars frequently accelerate along Appleford Road breaking the speed limit towards Appleford.

The proposed bridge is supposed to facilitate the movement of traffic to the JET site over the river. The idea appears to be a "box ticking" exercise with little intelligent thought given to outcomes from this outrageous plan. Yes, more traffic will move to the JET site – but not just from the new road. Inevitably, more traffic will also move to JET through our villages!

We must make our voices and concerns known! We need to pester, if needs be, our local MPs. They are our representatives in the Houses of Parliament. Let them prove themselves as such.

David Johnston, MP for Wantage (Sutton Courtenay, Drayton, Appleford) david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

John Howell, MP for Henley (Culham, Clifton Hampden) Howelljm@parliament.uk

Layla Moran, MP for West Oxford and Abingdon, layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

Name & address supplied





I had intended that I would retire from running Churchmere Pool at the end of our fishing year, which would have been the 31st March 2021. But certain things have transpired against my decision, not least of them Corvid19 and general health. This horrid virus has upset many lives in all sorts of various ways, our house has thankfully stayed clear.

Back to the lake. We appear to have cleared the virus which was attacking our fish stock, fingers crossed, and we have resumed angling, so that's a plus. Coots, moorhens, ducks, swans, and our solitary cygnet all appear in good health, as do the herons and kingfishers.

I have enjoyed the landscaping and running the lake, not only for the angling members, but also birdwatchers, walkers, and the viewing public. I will of course keep an interest and now hopefully do more fishing, you never know perhaps a few more of Rogers Rants.

Having now handed the running of Churchmere Pool over to five very conscientious members, who have formed an administrative group, at the moment known as the Forum. I have every faith in their knowledge and commitment to fish health and Churchmere Pool, and hope they have as much fun as I have over the last seven years.

Roger Rance.

Would you like to have a gym in your hands, so that on every step you push your total weight, via your poles, down to the earth with your poles if taught the correct way? This equates to doing a couple of thousand press ups without any perceived extra effort each time you walk for forty minutes with the Sutton Courtenay Nordic Walking Club. Imagine the benefits to your upper body shape and strength plus posture. This is only one of the differences between any type of walking and Nordic Walking. Two one hour Free courses with poles provided are now starting again, max number per course at present is four members. These are held on Thursdays on the Village Recreation Ground, Old Wallingford Way each week starting at 1030 for an hour, with a local qualified British Nordic Walking Instructor with eleven years' experience of Nordic Walking. Please contact Go Active old Annalie.Thomasson@southandvale.gov.uk to register and more details.

Walks twice a week again Free with trained British Nordic Walking walk leaders taking bubbles of a limited number with strict social distancing once training has been completed. Poles, a pair, can be purchased from the Instructor following training at the cost price of £21, these are fully adjustable for any height of person.

This club has now some eighty trained local Nordic Walkers since the inception in Sept 2018. We have 16 men at present. We have on average 20 plus walkers on Wednesday and the same on Fridays. The walks are very sociable and at your own pace. Free back up instruction on technique is provided when asked for.

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Check out our website and Facebook page for current opening hours, which may change in accordance with government guidelines.

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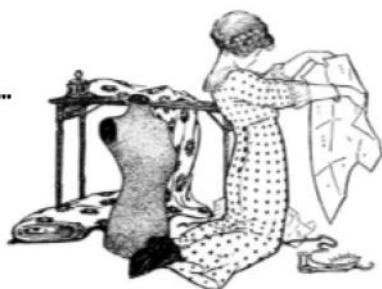
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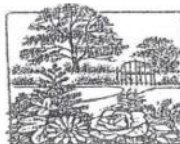
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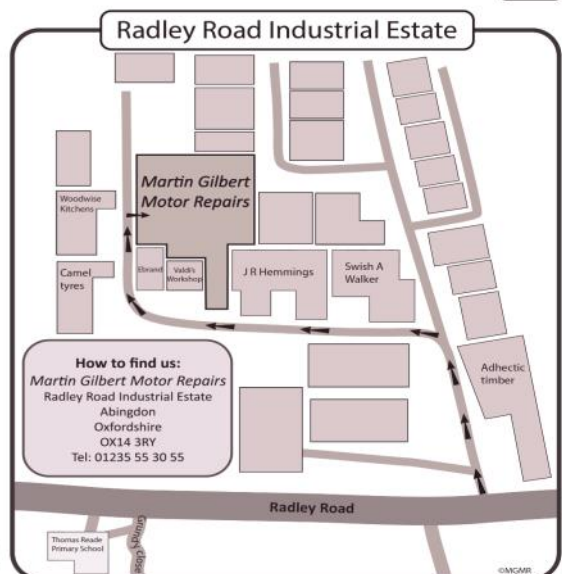
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