

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 41 No. 1

FEBRUARY 2012

VILLAGE DIARY

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

February				
Tues	7 th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tues	7 th	7.30pm	Spiritual Fellowship	Village Hall
Tues	14 th	2.00pm	Women's Christian Fellowship	Village Hall
Tues, Weds, Thurs	14 th , 15 th , 16 th	10.00am- 4.00pm	SC Environmental Education Centre Family Events (see page 13)	SC Env. Ed. Centre
Wed	15 th		COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS	
Mon	20 th	8.00pm	Royal British Legion meeting	North Star, Steventon
Tues	21 st	5.00- 6.30pm	Pancake Party (see page 7)	SC Primary School
		7.30pm	WI Meeting	Village Hall
Weds	29 th		Deadline for receipt of applications for SC National Power Trust (see page 4)	

Quiz Evening

Annual quiz evening in aid of the Friends of
All Saints Church

Come and test your general knowledge. All
welcome. Just turn up at the door.

Saturday March 3rd, 7.30pm for 8.00pm, at the
Village Hall

All contributions for the next edition should be e-mailed to editor@suttoncourtenay.co.uk or taken to Changes in Milton Rd or Burgrey Stores in the High St on or preferably before the copy date entered in the Diary above. To have any contribution published you must provide your name & contact details to the Editors. To advertise, e-mail advertising@suttoncourtenay.co.uk or telephone 07831-526784

VILLAGE CONTACTS

	Contact	Telephone
County Councillor: (Schools, Roads etc.)	Stewart Lilly 2 Hengest Gate, Harwell Village	832867
District Councillor: (Planning, Waste etc.)	Gervase Duffield Appleford House, Appleford	848319
Parish Council Chairman	Michael Jenkins Danluda, Churchmere Road	847174
Bookings for Village Hall	Caroline Grundy Rita Atkinson	848679 848694
Sutton Courtenay Website	www.suttoncourtenay.co.uk	
Environment Agency: Odours from Landfill		0800 80 70 60

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

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

HOLY BAPTISM



**OLIVIA JANE
RANCE**

4th December 2011

**BEAU CHARLES
BURDOCK
CRAIG
DENTON**

18th December 2011

**LAUREN
SAM
SHEPHEARD**

15th January 2012

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

**FELIX
JOHN
SISSINS-
ROFFEY**

15th January 2012

**XAVIER
ROBERT
SISSINS-
ROFFEY**

15th January 2012

**RUPERT
MARK
SISSINS-
ROFFEY**

15th January 2012

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Council Tax 2012

The Parish Council has carefully considered its budget for 2012/2013 looking in detail at its income and expenditure. The Council has taken a positive decision not to increase the precept in view of the economic climate and the financial difficulties that people are generally facing. This is the 3rd year that the precept remains the same. This equates to less than £1 per week for a Band D property.

Appleford Road – Extension of 30 mph limit

The new housing development at the Eastern end of the Appleford Road is well on the way to completion. In the interests of road safety and to reduce danger to all road users the County Council intends to introduce lower speed limits to safely accommodate the associated junction. The proposal is to extend the 30 mph 155 metres east of its current position.

WRG / Hanson Site

A planning application for the importation of reject building blocks from Berkshire and Warwickshire, to be crushed and mixed with other locally available materials, and then made into new building blocks at the Milton Blockworks, was considered by the County Council on 16th January. The Parish Council had lodged strong objections to this, having concerns for the transportation requirements to bring in 1100 tonnes from outside of the area each week, the impact on residents that the process would have, and the lack of an environmental impact assessment with the application. The Parish Council attended the meeting, and spoke against the proposal. This, however, was approved 13 votes to 1.

Expansion of village

It was reported in the November issues that the Parish Council had written to the District Council regarding the rapid increase in the number of dwellings in the village in recent years. The Vale of White Horse District Council has a draft Interim Housing Supply Policy which could lead to more dwellings in the area. The District Council has confirmed, that whilst the housing policy has not been finalised, it acknowledged that the final policy would need to take into account the existing planning consent for development at the Amey site.

Real Time Bus Information

You can check the predicted time for your bus well in advance by searching on the Oxontime website via the Oxontime SMS text service. Oxontime predictions are updated every 30 seconds, giving the latest information to help plan your journey. More information about this and how to obtain the times for your bus stop can be found at: <http://www.oxontime.com/style/pages/smsservice.asp>

Catholic Church site – Hobbyhorse Lane

Last month it was stated that the Church site was sold by the Church of England. Further queries have been raised with the Parish Council regarding whether it was actually sold or gifted. The Parish Council has checked with the Church of England who state this it was sold. However the Parish Council has no confirmed information as to the value of the transaction. It is understood that the transfer of the land took place in 1967 and anyone interested in finding out more information can contact the Land Registry. The website is www.landregistry.gov.uk, email enquiries to customersupport@landregistry.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 08444 892 1111 for assistance.

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxon OX13 6PU Tel: 01865 391833.
Email: info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk. Date of Next Meeting: The next ordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th February, 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

FROM: Councillor Stewart Lilly

Christmas is over & I hope you all had a happy time with friends and family.

2012 will bring further challenges which will bring fresh chapters to old topics. One topic that remains constant in your Parish is WRG / Hansen and their associated problems. The County Council has in fact been recently credited with the way in which it is ahead of the game nationally in processing all our waste. However, it does have to go somewhere. For the moment the proposed MBT facility within Sutton Courtenay appears not to be proceeding. The Company are allowed the right of appeal and at the time of writing this note the outcome of that remains unknown. They have until March.

I am pleased to report that within my Division, the Trading Standards Department and the Police have had great success in dealing with doorstep crime. Elderly and vulnerable people should always alert the Trading Standards Dept and / or the Police for advice. This is an increasing problem in these tough economic times so do seek proper identity from anyone purporting to sell services or products at the door. **(Action Line for these incidences: 0845-051-0845)**

Public transport in the area remains positive, but regrettably the Service No: 97 through Appleford has not proved the success I would have wished and is currently under review as the financial subsidy is quite expensive for the usage it receives. However, within Sutton Courtenay the new timetables for routes 32/32A seem to be well received.

You may also like to know that the Counties Fire & rescue service received last November the accolade of being the best & most efficient fire service in the Country. This service is run entirely independently by the County Council.

Most Parish Councils in my Division willingly accepted the 1 ton of free salt to be locally stored and thus available if difficulties occur with that white stuff! The County Council has also invested heavily in new road clearing equipment and new vehicles are located locally at the Drayton Works.

During 2012 further dialogue will be held with Network Rail as the promotion of more freight going by rail between the Midlands and South Coast ports is pursued. This will have local implications and I will keep abreast of events. However, it will also take a large number of trucks off the A34.

Very best wishes for 2012!

Stewart.

Sutton Courtenay (National Power) Trust

This Trust was established with the donation from what was National Power (now RWE nPower). The sum donated was invested and the interest acquired has in the past been given to local worthy and needy causes. Although the interest currently received is negligible, the Trustees continue to meet to consider any grant applications. The Charity will consider grants specifically for the relief of poverty and distress, education and recreation and any other general charitable purposes. If there is any local organisation or individual who would like to be considered for a small grant, then please contact the Clerk to the Trustees stating the purpose for the grant, the amount required, and if an organisation supply a copy of the latest accounts. The deadline for receipt of applications is Wednesday 29th February, 2012

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

SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nursery Places...

Will your child be turning 3 years old before September? Are you looking for a stimulating and enriching nursery? Have you considered our nursery class at Sutton Courtenay C of E Primary School?

Run by a qualified and experienced teacher working alongside an experienced nursery nurse, our nursery class, Sparrows, is open from 8.50am to 11.50am Monday to Friday. The children have a wealth of resources to choose from in order to develop their learning and to enjoy making friends. At special times the nursery class joins the rest of the school to celebrate special occasions and participate in performances such as the Christmas nativity play and Harvest festival.

The children are able to explore the nursery, both inside and out in the large and safe garden area that we have. We are expecting the nursery to be full at Easter, so if you are hoping for a place in the nursery in September, when there will be limited places available. Please make an appointment to see the school and register a place for your child.



**Love life; love learning;
love one another**

Friends of Sutton Courtenay School

Since the relaunch of our Fundraising Association, Friends of Sutton Courtenay School (or FOSSCS) have worked tirelessly to raise money to provide those extra resources, which enable us to enhance the facilities that we have on offer. Only a few months after the formation of this fantastic group, an amazing Summer Fair attracted hundreds of people and raised over £2200 for the school – a phenomenal amount for a small (but rapidly growing) school. Similarly at Christmas, and working in partnership with the Church over £2000 again was raised from a brilliant Christmas Bazaar (with the money split between Church and School). A Christmas disco was very popular with the children and there are future plans for a Quiz Night – so please watch this space. Every single parent is eligible to be a member of FOSSCS and as it is a Friends Association, if anyone else would like to be involved in this very active group – or could lend a hand or some expertise from time to time, please do contact the school. With the money raised from these events, FOSSCS are helping the school to develop their own mini Forest School within the grounds, so if you are particularly interested in this project, we would love to hear from you.

Our school is continuing to grow rapidly. We currently have 112 children within the main school and, at Easter, will be at full capacity of 30 within the nursery. In September we are expecting to have over 120 children within the main school and will be able to sustain our five-class structure, which is fantastic for the school. If you are looking for a school place for your child and are interested to find out more about Sutton Courtenay C of E, please do make an appointment on 01235 848333 for a visit and don't forget to visit our very popular website: www.suttoncourtenayprimary.co.uk

Alison Ashcroft

Headteacher

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS' SUTTON COURTENAY

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS', SUTTON COURTENAY

Priest-in charge: The Reverend Helen Kendrick (848297) Helen@kendricks.fsnet.co.uk

Churchwardens: Mary Warrington (847346) & David McKenzie (847489) **Treasurer:** Lynn Cabbage (848768)

Director of Music: Ian Miles (01235 426109, mob 07788 715873) **Tower Captain:** John Napper (848292)

Children's Church: Vivienne Maunders (848077) **Verger:** Bill Clarke (847183) **Sacristan:** Pamela Vivian

Flowers: Pat Napper (848292) **Women's Christian Fellowship:** Rose Woodward (848510) **Friends:** Nora Harragin (848235)

MONTHLY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

1st Sunday: Family Service at 10.30am

2nd Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 10.30am (with Children's Church) and Evensong at 6pm

3rd Sunday: Morning Worship at 10.30am (with Children's Church)

4th Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 10.30am (with Children's Church) & Evening Praise at 6pm

From the Ministry Team...

The Church's season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (22nd February). But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament where the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their actions as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. This was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of wrongdoing. In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

Receiving ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday is a symbolic action which encourages us to remember the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us. Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this Lent, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say: 'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus) (Luke 5.32). 'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father. Above all remember how you can always start again as this story reminds us. A man out walking in the early Spring saw a bird's nest lying on the ground. It had been destroyed by a storm. He thought sadly of the time and work it must have taken to build it, but suddenly his thoughts were interrupted by a bird singing. When he looked up into the tree, he saw a wonderful sight: the little bird was busy building another nest! You can't go back. You can't rewrite the past. But you don't have to wallow in regret or remorse. Your experiences have made you the person you are today and, if you're still breathing, then you can start your life over again, beginning right now. In the Bible we hear how King David blew it – his mistakes were bigger than most people's, but he decided not to be a prisoner of his past. And in the Psalms he prayed: 'You will give me added years of life as rich and as full of those of many generations, all packed into one.' (Psalm 61.6). All of us have things we wish we had done differently – or hadn't done at all. But there is no use in looking backwards. What is past is past. This Lent put the past under the forgiveness of a merciful God and move on. Your best days are ahead if you can accept this promise and move forward.

With love and prayers, Helen

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

EDUCATION SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5TH 2012 LEARNING & SERVING

This year we are focusing on those who serve, those who are famous and those who are only known to a few people; those who serve children in schools as teachers, teaching assistants, cleaners, cooks, lunchtime supervisors and governors; those who serve in clubs, giving their time freely serving young people and their communities. Come and celebrate with us...

10.30am Sunday 5th February 2012
in Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School,
Bradstocks Way.

ALL ARE WELCOME to join us for our act of worship in the school hall, followed by refreshments. (Please note that there will NOT be a service in All Saints' Church).

PANCAKE PARTY SHROVE TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2012



Sutton Courtenay
CofE Primary School,
Bradstocks Way
5.00pm-6.30pm
(NB earlier time)

**Open to all 0-11 year olds
(must be accompanied by an adult)**

Entry on the door: 50p per person for 2 pancakes (you can buy more if hungry!)

Easter Egg Raffle and Games

For more information please contact the Rev'd Helen Kendrick,
848297

or Alison Bampton 847226

CHURCH DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

- **Sunday 5th** – A Celebration for EDUCATION SUNDAY at 10.30am in Sutton Courtenay CofE School – **NB no service at All Saints' Church** – followed by refreshments and a chance to look around our church school.
- **Wednesday 8th** – 8pm Baptism Preparation at the Vicarage, 3 Tullis Close for all those interested in baptism for their children or for themselves. Please contact Helen for more details.
- **Tuesday 21st** – 5-6.30pm Pancake Party (see advert)
- **Wednesday 22nd** – **ASH WEDNESDAY** – 7.30pm Holy Communion.
- **Tuesday 28th** – 8pm Lent Group (see advert)

CHURCH DIARY FOR MARCH

- **Saturday 3rd** – 7 for 7.30pm Friends of All Saints' Church Quiz Night in the Village Hall – teams of 6!
- **Tuesday 6th** – 8pm Lent Group (see advert)
- **Tuesday 13th** – 2pm Women's Christian Fellowship Meditation for Lent led by Helen Kendrick in All Saints' Church.
- **Sunday 18th March** – 10.30am Family Service for Mothering Sunday.

LENT 2012

A CHURCH FOR TODAY?

A Four Session Lent Course

Exploring our relationship with God, with each other and with the world.

From 8pm-9.30pm
at 1 Tullis Close, Sutton Courtenay

on the following **Tuesdays**:

28th February and
6th, 13th, 20th March.

All are welcome – please ring Tim Budd (01235 820942) if you plan to come.

ALL WELCOME.

A SERIES OF THANK YOUS...for all your support for the church and various causes IN NOVEMBER

All Saints' Church sent **£279** to the Royal British Legion Poppy Fund (£218.90 of which was from the collection at the Remembrance Sunday service).

The newly formed All Saints' Players, led by Mary Warrington, took the Village Hall by storm with their performance of 'Jingle Bells, Batman Smells'. Thanks to the support of people of all ages it raised **£635.11** for church funds.

The Christmas Bazaar at the end of November – an event jointly run by the All Saints' Church and Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School - made an incredible profit **£2126.10**. This has been shared between the church and the school and thanks go to all those who helped set up, run the stalls and clear up at the end and to all those who came and shopped. It was a great event and will be repeated on Saturday 24th November 2012!

AND IN DECEMBER

We supported the work of The Angel Tree Fellowship helping send presents to the children of prisoners and raised **£113.58**.

The Church Choir raised **£684.08** for the charity Smile Train from Carol Singing round the village and the collection at the Torch Light Procession.

And, as ever, a **BIG THANK YOU** goes to the bellringers; the choir; the flower arrangers; the church cleaners; the churchwardens for decorating the tree and the crib; the readers and intercessors; the leaders and members of the Junior Church for the Crib Service; the children who came dressed as shepherds, angels, kings and sheep; Burgrey Stores & Changes Hair Salon for selling the torches; the Allen family for the Christmas Eve bonfire and the many hundreds of people who joined in with the procession from far and wide; and finally to all of you who came to worship, to sing, to pray and to wonder once again at the greatest story ever told. *Helen*

REST IN PEACE

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

Alfred Ludwig Henker (known as Bob or Ludy) who died on 20th November 2011 and whose funeral took place on 1st December 2011 in All Saints' Church was born in Dresden in 1922. Bob left school to serve his apprenticeship as an electrician. On being called up he served as a Navigator in the German Air Force. He was shot down three times before being taken prisoner at Arnhem and brought to England where he at first worked in the coalmines, and was given his nickname, Bob – which stuck with him for the rest of his life. He was then moved to the POW Camp at Milton Depot. He was later transferred to agricultural work on a farm in Cornwall, which was where he met Margaret at the YMCA. They were married on 1st August 1949 and came straight to Sutton Courtenay as there was a job at Courtenay Nurseries, part of Lady Place, as a gardener/handyman which included a tied cottage. They lived initially above the fruit and vegetable shop at 58 High Street and then at 10 The Green where Peter and Marian were born to complete their family. In 1950 Bob took British Citizenship. After he suffered a back injury, whilst helping Dr Sinclair of Lady Place collect a heavy garden statue, he had to give up this type of work and was rehoused on the new housing estate on 28th May 1958. He then worked as an electrician at the MG Car Works in Abingdon for 23 years. When the factory closed down he took a job at the Home Office in Steventon until he retired. Both he and Margaret were interested in photography and joined both Sutton Courtenay and Abingdon Camera Clubs. Over the years they took a lot of slides, made them into shows and took them around the old people's clubs in Abingdon. In the 1950s the Queen visited Abingdon after the Town Hall had been refurbished and Bob was asked to make a scale model of it for a shop window display to celebrate the occasion and it can still be viewed in Abingdon Museum. He always enjoyed gardening. He also loved dancing and he and Margaret joined the country and western club in the village. In later years they were also key members of the Evergreens Club. Bob was devoted to Margaret - they celebrated their 62nd Wedding Anniversary in August – and to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who will greatly miss him. *This is an edited version of the tribute given by the Reverend Helen Kendrick*

John Cecil Pitson (Big John) who died on 21st November 2011 and whose funeral took place on 1st December in All Saints' Church was born in Milton on 2nd May 1938. Apparently John was tall from an early age as the bottom of the bed had to be sawn off to let his feet hang over the edge! He left school at 15 to work on a farm in Steventon and did his National Service in Cypress in the late '50s. Ellen and John moved to Barretts Way in 1962 where they brought up their boys and have lived ever since. John worked at Ameys, for Pembertons the Coal Merchant and then for 18 years at Morris Motors. He then spent 18 years working for the Power Station before retraining as a Fork Lift Truck Driver. After five years he retired to take up gardening for a large number of people locally. The family joke was that John had three mowers in the shed but not a single blade of grass in his own garden, although the mowers helped out with other people's gardens. He loved playing bowls and has played for the Marlborough Club, at Milton Hill and in Harwell. He had only just stepped down from being Captain of the Kennet League. Both John and Ellen enjoyed the Turkey and Tinsel weekends organised by the Evergreens, going to Bingo regularly and the Vicar's Tea Parties as well as travelling all over the world. Wherever he went John was often regarded as a tourist attraction in his own right, as the locals would be fascinated by his great height and size. He will be greatly missed by Ellen and all his family and friends. *This is an edited extract from the tribute given at the funeral by the Reverend Helen Kendrick.*

Anthony David Pratley (Tony) who died, aged 81, on 2nd December 2011 was born on 9th March 1930 at Clifton Hampden to a large family. He worked at Trotman's Bakery, Ameys and the Gas Board and he did National Service. Tony was a lovely person, a bachelor and home lover. When all the siblings left home Tony remained, and after Dad died he looked after Mum. Tony was a keen gardener, even though he was disabled with peripheral neuropathy and severe arthritis in his knees and back but he never let it get him down. Tony could do his own chores with the help of his mobility scooter, putting out the bins, cleaning his beloved car and shopping, with the help of Jackie his sister. His love of traction engines also took us to several rallies every year. He collected corgies and dinkies and his house was full of them. In Tony's younger days he loved bicycles. He belonged to a cycle group and they would meet up on a summer evening outside the Abingdon Town Hall and ride up the downs to little pubs, then back again, or go for full days to London or the coast. Tony loved painting pastels and water colours and most of the family have one of his pastel paintings. The Milton Art Club really cared for and looked after him. He loved going to the pub until the smoking ban began. He and Pete and his friends would sit with a pint and a ciggy and he loved a singsong at the pub. He also liked to dance and despite his disabilities he would do a two step at the Country and Westerns in the village hall hanging on to his friend Marina. Tony may have lived on his own, but he was never lonely as he was visited by family and friends who will all miss him greatly. *This is an edited version of the tribute given at the funeral by Tony's niece Sharon, on behalf of his sister Jackie and all the family.*

Phyllis May Powell (formerly known as Loveridge) died, age 99, on 8th December 2011 was born in Kingsclere in 1912. Her father worked in the racing community as a stable lad, so the family moved around the stables, from Blewbury to Letcombe Regis to Salisbury Plain. Phyllis had many happy memories of time spent with her brothers and sisters. When she was 18 she met Jack Tolley – a National Hunt Jockey – and had her first son, Ken. Sadly Jack was killed in a riding accident and Phyllis was left to bring up Ken on her own with the loving support of her own family. Always a good cook, she was working in a café when the 2nd World War started and she then joined the ATS. She met Edwin James Willey – better known as Ted – when she was out walking with friends and his ammunition lorry had broken down. They struggled to find somewhere to live but they eventually set up home as a family in a converted railway carriage in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell before moving into a cottage where their other two children were born. Ted was an entrepreneur and Phyllis worked alongside him in his many business ventures. Phyllis always loved travelling. From the early camping holidays with the children in Cornwall and the New Forest to trips to Italy and Yugoslavia, she enjoyed many holidays in both the UK and abroad. She and Ted retired to Cornwall there but sadly Ted died aged only 65 and Phyllis returned to Brightwell to live with her sister and husband. In the early 1970s Phyllis met and married Rueben Loveridge and they lived in West Hanney for a short while before moving to Abingdon. Rueben died in the early '90s and after time on her own Phyllis met Len Powell and they became companions. Later she went to live in the Bluebell Unit in the Meadows. Such was her desire to not be a burden on the family, she always went away for Christmas – the timing of her death once again meant that she has gone away for Christmas so as not to cause any difficulties to her family who will all miss her greatly. *This is an edited extract from the address given at the funeral by the Reverend Helen Kendrick.*

REST IN PEACE CONTINUED

Anthony Brian Deadman (Tony) who died, aged 76, on 11th December 2011 was born on 8th March 1935 in Sutton Courtenay to a large family. At 14 he went to work as a Cobbler because his Mum wanted him to have a trade. He then became a Painter and Decorator until he joined the Army in 1952. Family legend has it that he wanted a motorbike but his Mum wouldn't let him have one so he joined up! He served for seven years, two of them in Egypt. On his return he took up lorry driving for Ameys and became a car mechanic. It was whilst working underneath a lorry in 1962 that it dropped on his head – seriously injuring him. Whilst lying in hospital he heard the doctors telling his parents that he would be in bed for 18 months – but such was Tony's determination he was out within a week and made a complete recovery. In 1963 he came to the Forge Garage in Appleford where he managed the petrol pumps for Margaret Cross and slowly began to develop the car repair business. In 1968 he met Doris and in 1969 they bought Forge Garage to run it as their own business. Work was always his focus, and Tony and Doris worked hard together to build up the business and to provide for their family of Jill, Brian and Alan. He was a very skilled mechanic, specialising in automatic gear boxes, and never liked to let anyone down. And in 1977 when he broke his hip in an accident at work he was back at work working balancing on two crutches as soon as he was out of hospital. Tony was a hard worker but he was also generous with his time in helping others. During one very bad winter when the Milkman couldn't get through he drove a Land Rover to collect the milk and then delivered it around the villages – in return for this kindness he was given a week's worth of free milk! He enjoyed meeting customers and could chat for England. He always had a soft-heart for children and was devoted and very proud of his grandchildren and their achievements. In later life he joined the local group of The Canal Zoners – and liked reminiscing with fellow soldiers about their time in Egypt. In October 2008 he became ill and never really recovered his health. Above all he never lost his sense of humour and never took life for granted. Having come close to losing his life at such a young age he was always very grateful for the life he had. He will be greatly missed by his wife Doris and all his family and friends.

This is an edited extract from the address given at Tony's funeral by the Reverend Helen Kendrick held at All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay on Monday 19th December 2011.

THANK YOU FROM MARGARET HENKER

Margaret Henker and family would like to thank the Reverend Helen Kendrick for the lovely service she gave at the funeral of Mr A.L. Henker (known as Bob) on December 1st. He died on November 20th at the age of 89 after a long illness.

Thank you to all who attended the funeral, for all your messages of sympathy and for donations to Ward 7 of the John Radcliffe Hospital in lieu of flowers. The donations amounted to £249.63. Many thanks to Didcot Funeral Service for all their help.

WOMENS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Our first meeting of this New Year was on 10 Jan 2012 which was a social one where our Committee Members provided and served afternoon tea to fellow members. It was well attended and all who came enjoyed it. We also had a Bring and Buy stall which was well supported both in giving and buying.

Our next meeting is on 14 Feb 2012, when we will be having an illustrated talk by Nick Brazil on 'The History of Wallingford' in the village hall at 2pm. Visitors are very welcome.

Rose Woodward (Secretary)

SUTTON COURTENAY SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

February

Tues 7th 7.30pm Spiritual Fellowship meeting with Maureen Bright in the Village Hall

March

Tues 6th 7.30pm Spiritual Fellowship meeting with Christina Green in The Village Hall

On Tuesday December 6th we welcomed David Chapman our popular medium who arrived a little late but gave evidence to some of our members with his usual sincerity and good humour. After we had our usual raffle which was extra large as it was Christmas, plus the usual refreshment. It was good to see you all.

It has come to our notice there has been some slight aggro in the car park prior to the meeting. We know you did not cause this and that you park sensibly. We are working on this situation. We hope this does not deter any one from coming or cause upset in any way.

CHURCHYARD TRANSCRIPTIONS

Sutton Courtenay Churchyard

We have at last completed the transcription of Sutton Courtenay Churchyard, Church, Cemetery and War Memorial – this has meant copying every word that can be read on over 921 monuments and checking and rechecking names and dates with the help of burial records, then collecting them, together with a photograph of each monument, onto a CD-Rom. Alan Simpson, the MI Co-ordinator for OFHS (Oxfordshire Family History Society), has overseen this task, checking many records himself, and was the computer expert who put it all together and produced the CD.

You may wonder what the point of all this work was. Well, there is a national programme to record for family historians names and dates on headstones before it is too late to read them. (Many stones in the Churchyard have worn badly as we can tell you!) OFHS is encouraging every parish in the County to produce a Transcription.

Copies of the CD will be given to the Vicar, the PCC, the Parish Council and all helpers. If anyone wants to buy a copy, they can be ordered online or by post, cost £6, from OFHS: <http://www.ofhs.org.uk/CDsales.html> The code will be OXF-MI-SUT.

Many thanks to those who turned out in all weathers to do the work: Judith Allan, Diane Armstrong, Audrey Cullen, Eleanor Davies, Anne Grimm, Colleen Killingback, Pat King, John Talbot, Mary Thompson, Faith Wilson, Pauline Wilson, Margaret Woodall. Latin translator: Julia Twaits. Photographers: Ron Newport and Ann Seth. David Ward for drawing the plans.

Sarah Ward



NOTICE FROM COUNTY TRADING STANDARDS

Fake Vodka on sale in Oxfordshire shop

Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards Service is warning people to be vigilant after counterfeit Vodka, containing dangerously high levels of an industrial solvent found in screen wash and nail varnish remover, was found on sale in a shop in Oxfordshire.

The product 'Arctic Ice', which is branded to look like Vodka, was analysed and found to contain Isopropyl Alcohol, which can cause symptoms including drowsiness, stomach pain and cramps, vomiting and diarrhoea. If enough is consumed it could cause unconsciousness and death.

The label on the 'Arctic Ice' bottles give no indication of where the alcohol has been produced, or who the manufacturer or importer is, and carries a fake HMRC duty stamp.

This discovery of unsafe alcohol follows seizures of counterfeit wine and Vodka in the county during a Trading Standards campaign to identify counterfeit and illegal alcohol and remove it from sale.

Richard Webb, Acting Head of Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards Service, said: "Shop owners should be very wary if they are offered cheap alcohol. It may be smuggled, counterfeit or, like Arctic Ice, be unsafe for human consumption.

"Elsewhere in the country, shops have had their alcohol licenses reviewed or revoked because they have been found in possession of illegal alcohol. If any members of the public have this alcohol in their homes they should not drink it and should destroy it. If you have consumed this product, our advice is to contact your doctor immediately."

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Smoked haddock chowder

This recipe can be served on Ash Wednesday which is in this month. It's a warming and filling soup in the cold weather. Serves 6.

700g smoked haddock
1.5 litres milk and water,
mixed
3tbs sunflower oil
1 onion
5-6 potatoes
1 leek
0.5 tsp nutmeg



Remove skin and check for bones in fish. Put in pan with milk and water and simmer for 5 mins. Heat oil and add chopped onion, sliced leek and chopped potato. Cook 5 -10 mins, stirring frequently. Add seasoning and nutmeg. Pour in strained fish liquid. Simmer until vegetables are very soft. Cool, and then liquidise half contents. Return to pan and carefully stir in flaked fish. Check seasoning and reheat. Just before serving stir in chopped parsley. Serve with crusty bread or rolls.

SUTTON COURTENAY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE



Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



February Half Term Family Events

@ the

Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre

Woodland Wonder

**Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th
10am-4pm**

Discover some of the amazing creatures that make their homes on our nature reserve. Follow trails and solve clues to learn about fascinating wildlife.

Make bird feeders and create your own edible woodland animal to take home.

Just drop in, there is no need to Book.
The activities will take around two hours.
Picnics are welcome. No dogs please.
Suggested donation £3/child



Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre is supported by:



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Steventon and District Branch

I would like to introduce myself as the new Secretary of the RBL Steventon & District Branch, having taken over from Pearl Stanbridge at the last AGM held in November.

As many of you will know, Pearl had been Secretary for the last 30 years and I would like to pass on my thanks, and the thanks of all of our members, to Pearl for the tremendous effort and dedication that she has given to the Legion. She will certainly be a hard act to follow but I am pleased to say that she has promised to be on hand to provide me with help whenever I need it.

The British Legion has an association with the servicemen from the first and second world wars. It is obvious why this should be the case as the Legion is now in its 91st year but there is far more to the Legion than that. It is very much at the forefront of caring for and providing practical assistance for the service men and women and their families who need such support today. Providing practical care, advice and support to the Armed Forces family is at the heart of everything that the Legion does.

The Legion has been the major voice for the Armed Forces community since its creation in 1921. It has a dedicated campaigning team pressing politicians throughout the year to improve the lives of Service people and their families.

It is also the nation's custodian of Remembrance, ensuring people remember those who have given their lives for the freedom we enjoy. They are responsible for the Two Minute Silence on Remembrance Sunday and 11th November and also organise the Festival of Remembrance and assist with the march past at the Cenotaph.

Each year the nation expresses its unequivocal support for the Legion's work through its generous support of the Poppy Appeal, raising over £36 million in 2010, which goes towards its vital welfare work.

Part of The Royal British Legion family of charities, the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, provides a living and lasting focus for Remembrance for those who have lost their lives or suffered in the Service of their country. It is also home to the Armed Forces Memorial.

Whatever views are held on the decisions taken by politicians to send our armed forces into conflict, it should be the duty of us all to support those individuals, and their families, who require support as a result of serving their country.

It is one of the UK's largest membership organisations. 360,000 members support the work undertaken and enjoy friendship through the worldwide network of branches.

Membership is open to everyone, not just those with a link to the services, and currently costs just £12 a year. Simply by becoming a member you are helping the work of the Legion and directly supporting the people of our armed services.

You can find out more about the Legion's current work on the internet by visiting www.britishlegion.org.uk and you can join on-line. Alternatively, and if you would prefer to join at local level, please contact me directly and I will be pleased to provide further information and a membership application form for you.

Your local branch meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at the North Star in Steventon at 8.00p.m. If you are interested in helping with our local activities, or should you just wish to join us for a social drink, please come along and meet the committee members. We will be pleased to talk to you about the Legion in general, and your local branch in particular.

Paul Francis (Hon. Secretary)

RBL Steventon & District Branch, 32 Harwell Rd, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, OX14 4BW

Tel 01235 848215

E mail: francisoxo@aol.com

DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT

Thank you

Thank you very much indeed for the tremendous response to our appeal to support DAMASCUS Youth Project in its endeavour to win the NatWest Community Forces competition in our area.

We polled the highest number of votes on our area – the finish was very close and there were many nail-biting moments where we wondered whether we would make it.

The effort of several young people who politely delivered leaflets and requested people to vote is a huge testimony to their commitment to the project. They are some of our finest future young community leaders.

The money will be used to enhance and expand our young leaders' project.

If you would like to help with the work of the youth project we would love to hear from you.

Gary Hibbins (07766014676)

BUPA London 10,000

The Bupa London 10,000 is presented by the London Marathon and is run on the course likely to be used for the 2012 Olympic Marathons. The 2012 race will be held on Sunday 27th May, starting at 11am.

The DAMASCUS Youth Project has secured 8 places (awaiting confirmation at time of going to press). If you would like to run the course, and raise funds for the project, please get in touch with Rita Atkinson (ritaatkinson@googlemail.com or 01235 848694) as soon as possible.

Recruitment to our Young Leaders Project



The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project (Registered Charity 1098) piloted a successful Young Leaders' project in which four young leaders undertook support work with younger people in their communities. It provided an excellent opportunity for the young leaders to develop and grow their communication and leadership skills at the same time as making a valuable contribution to their community. The younger people gained immensely as it helped build a positive support network for them within the community.



We believe strongly in developing inclusive, vibrant and sustainable communities in which young people have opportunities to be significant contributors. An important part of this vision is to continue our young leaders program by opening up the opportunity to participate, to all young people (aged 16 to 19) living in the DAMASCUS villages. If you are in that age group and would like to be part of it please get in touch with us.

We expect a commitment to positive role modeling; flexibility to do evening work; an enjoyment in working and communicating with younger people (aged 11 to 13) and willingness to work as part of a team. Previous experience of volunteering with DAMASCUS is preferable but not essential. We provide training and support, and a small remuneration to compensate for missed opportunities to do other evening work.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and we expect all volunteers and staff to share this commitment and undergo appropriate checks and provide references.

CONTACT: For more details and application, please email rita.atkinson@googlemail.com or garyhibbins@hotmail.co.uk. If you are unable to access the internet, please telephone on Gary 07766014676 or 01235 848694

DEADLINE: Wednesday 8th February 2012. Interview Date: Saturday 11th February

DAMASCUS Youth project is also supported, locally, by Champion Recruitment; Parish Councils and a NatWest Community Force grant.

SUTTON COURTENAY WI

Did you know the WI will celebrate its 97th Anniversary in September 2012, plus it's often a case of once a member, always a member. This is surely proof of all the good things to be found within the organisation, not least one's fellow members. That's why we're still here, still relevant and still growing after nearly a Century.

A beginning of a new year is always a good time to try new skills and on offer from Oxfordshire Federation to our members in February is the opportunity to enjoy a Day of Dance, Beginners Patchwork and a trip to Waterperry Gardens where Norman Rockwell, the famous illustrator and artist from the USA, will be giving a talk.

We are continuing with our very successful monthly lunch meetings and our first one in 2012 will be on Thursday February 2nd at 12 noon at Chiltern Garden Centre.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday 21 February in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. We will be welcoming Rev. Frank Parkinson who will be speaking about "Understanding Stress in 2012".

If your New Year's Resolution was to try new things in 2012 then why not pop along to one of our meetings and see for yourself all the things we have on offer and at the same time meet new friends. You will be made very welcome. For more information please call Sally on 01235 848924.

The All Saints' Singers

Forthcoming Concert Sunday March 25th

Petite Messe Solennelle. Gioacchino Rossini

For our regular concert goers; another chance to hear this exciting work first performed by The All Saints' Singers in 1992.

The Petite Messe Solennelle has been described as neither little, solemn or particularly liturgical in spirit but there is no doubting that after many years of composing opera, and at the age of 77, the Rossini magic could still work its spell. One simply cannot describe a mass as "fun" and yet this is exactly the expression and feeling the work creates. This work has everything. The light hearted and brilliant rhythmic excitement of the Kyrie, the hushed intensity of the Sanctus, and some of the most remarkable operatic solos ever sung in a liturgical setting.

Rossini specified the work to be performed by a small group of singers with 2 pianos and a harmonium in accompaniment. The inscription in the introduction to the first version of his score reads: "Twelve singers of 3 sexes - men, women, and castrati - will be enough for its performance: rest assured Lord that my cherubim will sing properly and con amore your praises and this little composition which is, alas, the last mortal sin of my old age"

Our pianists for the concert will be Peter McMullin and Gulliver Ralston, both highly acclaimed Oxford musicians and previous performers for the society.

We also welcome back the quartet of soloists who performed so beautifully in our concert last November. The performance will be directed by Caroline Hobbs-Smith

Tickets can be bought at Burgrey Stores or 848205

SUTTON COURTENAY CAMERA CLUB

When I was asked to write a potted history of the Camera Club I realised that the club has already existed for 25 years before I joined it, so I asked Joan Clifford, my predecessor as secretary, to fill in the details. She wrote: 'the LODU CLUB (LIGHT – Over, DARK - Under exposed), later to be known as the Sutton Courtenay Camera Club, was formed in 1960.

It started in the sitting room of Ida and Stan Wills, who had the hardware shop in Milton Road for many years. Just seven of us, Stan and Ida, Win Fookes (Treasurer), Florrie Roe, as she was then, Jackie Matthews, Edith Mackay and myself. We were just interested in taking photos and wishing to learn more. A committee was formed with Ida as Chairwoman, and I was 'temporary' Secretary (a job I held for 35 years). If I remember correctly, we paid 1/- a meeting. We gradually gathered more members and grew too big for Ida's sitting room, so we held jumble sales, raffles, etc. to get funds to hire a room at the back of The Fish. At several of these meetings we were joined by a very humorous and pleasant man known only to us as 'Bunny'; it wasn't until sometime later we discovered he was James Robertson Justice, a popular character in British films at the time. However, they were not happy with us at The Fish as we didn't buy many drinks from the bar, so we moved to a room at the old Village Hall. We still ran jumble sales and raffles, etc. – and had to put up the subscriptions to pay for this larger room. We also had outings, rallies and treasure hunts, all with photography included, which everyone enjoyed. We then had cups and trophies for winning competitions, and began having Annual Dinners with the awards presented by a Guest of Honour, together with a certificate designed and drawn by Edith.

By now we were having judges, as until then we had judged the slides ourselves, giving points for Focus, Exposure, Composition, etc. At one time we had nearly 50 members and were now in the Club Room in the new Village Hall. It was a bit crowded at times, but we had fun as well as showing slides. We bought projectors and a large screen from the Wallingford Club, so that we could do an Annual Show in the Village Hall. At this show people in the village were encouraged to enter slides in an Open Competition and the winning slides were put up on the screen and presented with a prize. The hall was so full one year that although we had 100 tickets printed I had to write out more.

By this time we were making Audio Visual shows dissolving the pictures between two projectors. We felt we were getting quite professional! As time went by photography was getting more technical and many of our members had either died, moved away or just left. It was a pity but not everyone could afford the equipment to carry on. Eventually my husband Arthur and I were proud to be made Honorary Members.

I will now pass this on to June for more up to date records of the, by now, 'Sutton Courtenay & District Camera Club'.'

Joan Clifford

Just after I joined the club in 1985 we had a bit of a boost when Didcot Camera Club closed and we acquired a few new members from Didcot. All our work then involved slides and I was overwhelmed by their magical quality. The Annual Audio Visual Show Joan mentioned had been the attraction and our best advertisement, but gradually over the years fewer club members entered the Slide Show Competition and finding a good evening's entertainment became more of a challenge. Audiences got smaller and new members were a rarity. Then digital cameras began to take over and judges were becoming more used to dealing with prints. Most photographers now spend a lot of time sitting at their computers and many prizewinning pictures have been manipulated. It was a whole new ball game and our older members did not adjust easily. Steadily membership dropped until it was no longer a feasible proposition to continue the club.

We truly made every effort to keep the ball rolling. Calling the club 'Sutton Courtenay & District Camera Club' was one ploy which we hoped might encourage members from other villages or towns. We did a massive amount of advertising. But we needed new blood and some youthful enthusiasm and technical knowledge.

Our final real effort was our 50th year celebration when we had a full year of activity including an exhibition of our work, but the drop in number of members was relentless as year followed year. In spite of this we had very pleasant evenings and were always known as a very friendly club; also we were very competitive in competitions with other local clubs. We are very sad and sorry to see the end of the club but feel it was inevitable.

June Luther (Ex-secretary).

SPEAKERS' CORNER

Dog Mess

Please, please, please could it be noted of the re-occurring dog mess situation, it really is so frustrating to have to attempt a daily village obstacle course of poo. If I threw my babies dirty nappy outside your doors you would not be happy, especially if you had to clean your shoes and your children's/ grandchildren's and their buggies because of such a lack of respect for one's community.

IF YOU HAVE A DOG TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT.

Mrs Bennett

I would like to add my voice to the growing number of complaints about dog fouling in the village - more specifically Tyrrells, Bradstocks and Barretts Way. Every day walking to school with my daughter I find myself constantly saying "mind out/look out there's dog poo in front/ watch out" etc, and at the same time-weaving too and fro with the buggy trying to avoid it. I did complain to the council recently about it because I saw an owner let their dog foul and then walk away. Unfortunately it was my word against theirs so nothing could be done unless more than one person complained. I urge all villagers to report the culprits to the council in the hope of stopping this disgusting problem.

Mrs Woodley

If you have
a dog take
responsibility
for it

Fishing lake off All Saints Lane

I have recently purchased the AERE fishing lake off All Saints Lane Sutton Courtenay and I have allowed the public to use the footpath around the lake as this caused a lot of resentment to the last owner from walkers etc.

However! Due to the large amount of dog waste that is being left behind by careless dog owners I am going to close the Lake to the Public once again unless the owners start to take responsibility for their dogs fouling.

It would be a shame to lock people out but with poachers and dog waste I am running out of reasons to keep the gates open and my first responsibility has to be the security and well being of the Anglers who lease the Lake from me as a recreational area NOT a waste tip.

At the end of February 2012 I will make my decision and no further notice will be given.

Regards,
Wayne Brooks

EDITORS' NOTES

Please could the person who delivers or posts the Sutton Courtenay News to Margaret Killick please get in touch with Nora Harragin on 01235 848235. Margaret's husband has asked for it to stop being sent, but Nora cannot

Thank you

We would like to thank Pat Steptoe from Sutton Courtenay Camera Club for donating the closing balance of the Club to the Sutton Courtenay News.

We would also like to thank all the village residents and everyone else who rallied around to spread the word that the dates given for bin collections in the December issue were incorrect. Diane has spent time on the naughty step, and sincerely apologises for any confusion caused.

Reminders

Please be aware that we are unable to publish letters which do not give names and contact details to the editors. If you do not wish your name to appear in the newsletter, we can still publish it saying name withheld. We have recently received a couple of letters with no contact details, and we do not wish to disappoint anyone for that reason.

We have been asked to remind readers that the Sutton Courtenay News Diary is now kept at Burgrey Stores. If you have a village event coming up, please do put it in the diary, and we will publish it on the front page. This should also help to avoid date clashes.

Stolen

Would the person who took my scarf and sheepskin hat from the George & Dragon on Christmas eve, after the churchyard carols, please return them to the coat hooks in the pub, whence I can retrieve them? I'm sure you needed them on the night; but as I am an old pensioner I'm feeling the cold without them and can not afford to replace.

(name withheld)

This newsletter is produced by the editors, Diane Armstrong and Clare Pennicott, and Peter Draper, who is in charge of advertising. Our contact details are:

Diane	editor@suttoncourtenay.co.uk	tel 07553 801032
Clare	editor@suttoncourtenay.co.uk	tel 07778 284193
Peter	advertising@suttoncourtenay.co.uk	tel 07831 526784

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LOOKING FOR A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

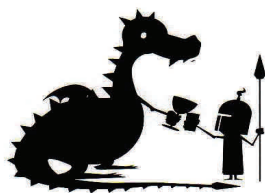
Your local Air Ambulance needs new volunteers to help us with our busy events calendar. If you like meeting new people, trying new things and joining a fantastic social network – why not volunteer a few hours per week for the Air Ambulance? We do not receive any Central Government or National Lottery funding so without volunteers we would not be able to continue saving lives in your community, 365 days of the year.



TVACAA needs YOUR help to ensure the Air Ambulance can continue to provide a life saving emergency service in Oxfordshire. Can you help us make a difference?

Eleanor Green
Oxfordshire Fundraising Manager
eleanor@tvacaa.org or 0300 999 0135





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- Helen & Douglas House charity quiz night Thursday 8th March - please ring for details

David & Cristina: Telephone: 01235 847446

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For more information contact:

Christine Henderson

Tel: 01235 847310

Mobile: 0775 148 3475

Email: chrishenderson44@yahoo.co.uk

Help us help our friends Julian and Olly towards their £1800 Arthritis Research total fundraising target to run the London Marathon!

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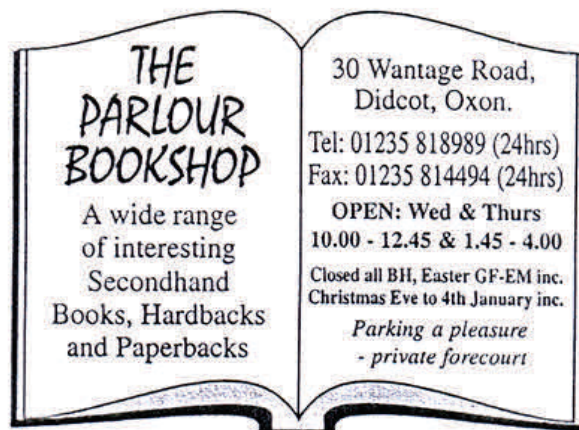
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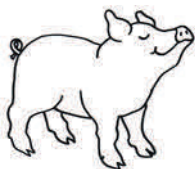
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