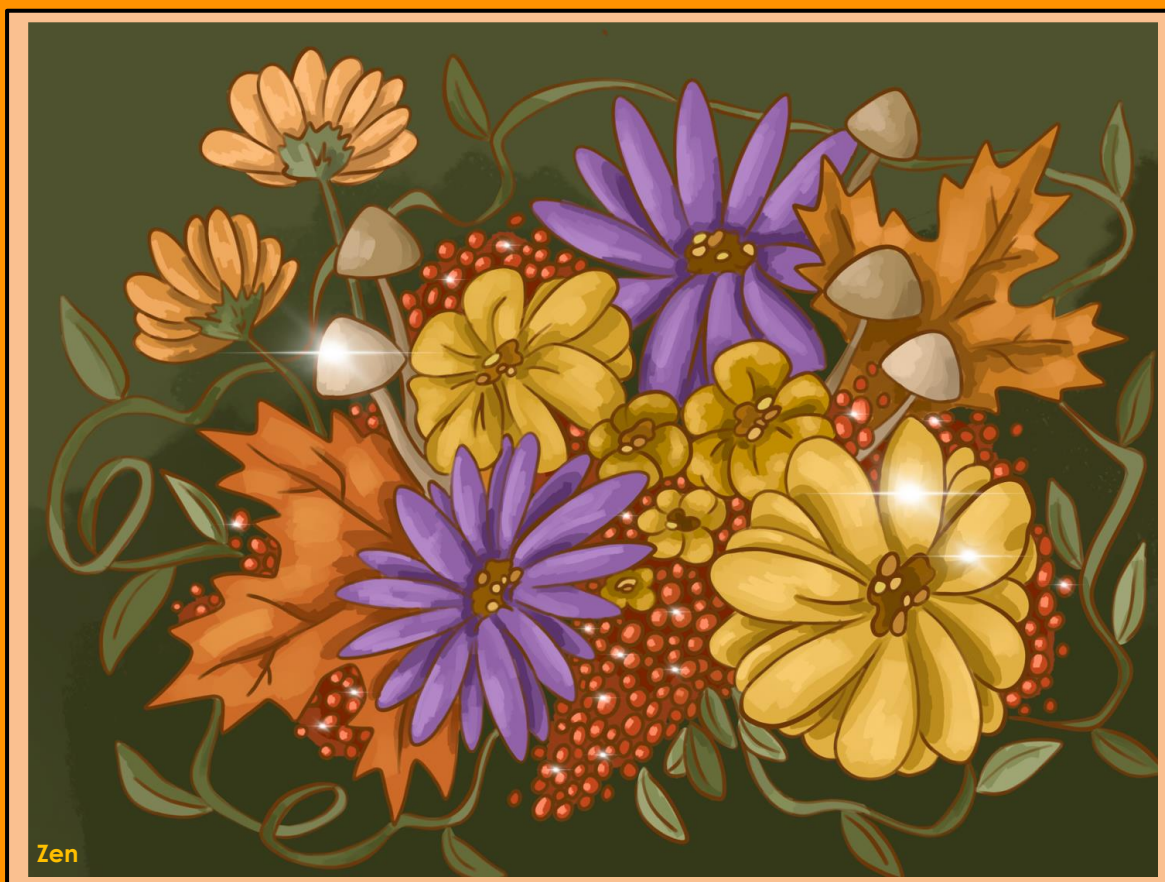


# SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 53 No. 8

OCTOBER 2024



## VILLAGE DIARY FOR OCTOBER

Tue 1	Parish Council Meeting (p 3)	Village Hall	19:15
Thur 3 & 17	WeCare2 (p 11)	River Room	11:15-12:30
Fri 4 & 18	Bridge Afternoon (p 9)	River Room	14:00-17:00
Sat 5	Community Brunch (p 9)	River Room	9:30-11:30
Sun 6	Harvest Festival & Lunch (p 8)	All Saints' & RR	11:00 & 12:15
Thur 10 & 24	Community Café (p 10)	River Room	10:30-12:00
Thur 10	Together in Stitches (p 10)	River Room	19:30-21:00
Sun 13	Open Day at the Matrix (p 6)	Matrix	10:00-14:00
Tue 15	WI (p 11)	River Room	19:30
Mon 21	Knit & Natter (p 10)	River Room	14:00-16:00
Sat 26	Movie Matinee (p 11)	River Room	16:00

Previous copies of SCN are available on the website under Archives at [suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](http://suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk)

**NOVEMBER 2024 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024**

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

## VILLAGE CONTACTS

Parish Council Chair: Rita Atkinson, 848694  
[ritaatkinson@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:ritaatkinson@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk)

Stay & Play Toddler Group: Facebook page: [@SCstayandplay](https://www.facebook.com/SCstayandplay)

Friends of All Saints'-Chair: Sue Jenkins 07885 437454

Matrix Music School: 847264

The Abbey: 847401

Village Hall – SC: [scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com](mailto:scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com)

Cricket Club: [drb71@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:drb71@hotmail.co.uk)

WI - Sutton Courtenay: [kathyhead809@gmail.com](mailto:kathyhead809@gmail.com)

Nordic Walking Group: Graham Wells 847322

Churchmere Carp Synd.: Andy Barrett 07717 662039

DAMASCUS Youth Project: 848694

SC Local History Society: John Talbot [sclhs.org.uk](http://sclhs.org.uk)  
[enquiries@sclhs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sclhs.org.uk)

SCIDS (Drama Society): Morna Whitlock, 848335  
[morna28whitlock@gmail.com](mailto:morna28whitlock@gmail.com)

All Saints Singers: Kathy Harrop-Griffiths, 848230  
[secretary@allsaintssingers.org](mailto:secretary@allsaintssingers.org)  
[www.allsaintssingers.org](http://www.allsaintssingers.org)

Sutton Courtenay Action: [suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com](mailto:suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com)

Non-urgent Police, 101 or policing team email:  
[AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

Environment Agency: Landfill Odours 0800 80 70 60

Thames Water (leaks): 0800 71 46 14

Police Anonymous Hotline: 0800 555 111

Power Cuts: 105

**Websites:**

Sutton Courtenay News: [www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](http://www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk)

Parish Council: [www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk)

Vale of White Horse DC: [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

Oxfordshire CC: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Village Hall: [suttoncourtenayvillagehall.co.uk](http://suttoncourtenayvillagehall.co.uk)

Action Fraud: [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

Citizens Advice: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

### The Ministry Team

Rector: The Reverend Helen Kendrick  
The Rectory, 3, Tullis Close, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4BD  
01235 848297 [rector@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@damascusparish.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: The Reverend Rosie Bruce  
07766 421773 [rosie-bruce@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rosie-bruce@hotmail.co.uk)

Associate Priest: The Reverend Phil Sutton 01235 635476  
or 07507 378737 [revphil@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:revphil@damascusparish.org.uk)

Assistant Curate: The Reverend Dov Whittle  
07586 969985 [curate@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:curate@damascusparish.org.uk)

Lay ministers: Alex Landsbert (847443)

Authorised preacher: Paul James (848129)

Churchwarden: Alison Budd (01235 527853)

Parish Office: 01235 847179 [admin@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk)

**For Services of Worship - Please see Page 8**

## VILLAGE HALL

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall is available to individuals and Commercial users to hire for adult or children's parties as well as other social/regular events. The hall has a bar/ kitchen area with fridge and hot water urn. A smaller Committee room for meetings/gatherings and a fully equipped Kitchen. Facilities include Wifi, Projector screen, microphones and a music centre. A Registered Charity, we are funded by the revenue from this hire which is used to cover the cost of insurance, repairs and utilities. To book the hall go to: [suttoncourtenayvillagehall.co.uk](http://suttoncourtenayvillagehall.co.uk) and follow the on screen prompts. If you need to contact the booking clerk please email: [scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com](mailto:scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com)

## SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS CONTACTS

Sutton Courtenay News is published by the editorial team, the members of which are: Katherine Harrop-Griffiths (07946 474238), Kathy Whittaker (07966 512062) and Bernie Jones (07761 375991). Bernie deals with all the advertising.

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

All contributions for the next edition should be emailed to [editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](mailto:editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk) or [scmail07@gmail.com](mailto:scmail07@gmail.com) Copy can also be posted in the mailbox on the outside the garden door of Cross Trees, 1 Church Street before the copy deadline. Otherwise, telephone us and we can arrange for collection of your letter. To have any contribution published you must provide your name & contact details to the editors. To advertise, telephone 07761 375991 or email [advertising@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](mailto:advertising@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk)

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

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

## POST OFFICE SERVICES

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

## SUTTON COURTENAY DEFIBRILLATORS

The village has three defibrillators. One is located outside the front roller doors of Sutton Courtenay Tyres on the High Street. The second is outside the Football Clubhouse in the Recreation Ground. The third is outside the Fish on Appleford Road.





## The New Benches for the Village Green and Church Street

Previously we reported that two wooden benches were coming to the end of their lives and the Parish Council would consider options at its September meeting. Having heard from a number of residents who asked that the Parish Council replaces the timber benches rather than remove them, new benches have been ordered for the Village Green and at the nearby Church Street bus stop.

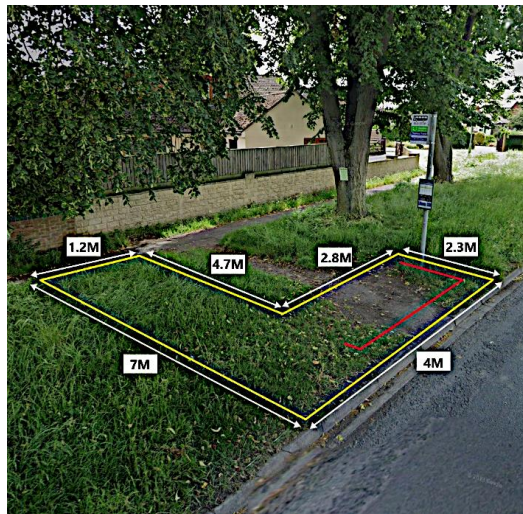
The benches will have cast metal ends/supports and recycled plastic slats. The original inscription on the Village Green bench will be reproduced and a plaque added to the bus stop bench to record the original contributors.



## New bus shelter for Milton Road

Also on the agenda at the September meeting was the possibility of installing a shelter at the Bradstocks Way bus stop on Milton Road. Due to narrow pavements in the village, most bus stops do not have enough space to accommodate a shelter. That is not the case at this stop and following a number of requests from residents to improve the surface and provide seating the Parish Council has linked up with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to make significant improvements at this stop. OCC will fund a new path and hard standing for a shelter. The Parish Council has agreed to cover the purchase and installation of a shelter which will incorporate seating. Below is a photograph to show the type of shelter to be installed (although it will be in the dark green colourway of modern Oxfordshire shelters) and a plan of the proposed location.

The Parish Council will use funding from local developers (Community Infrastructure Levy) for both projects. With the long-term maintenance being covered by the annual precept (the Parish Council's portion of Council Tax).



## Grants for 2025-26

The Parish Council is pleased to be able to award grants to local organisations which benefit residents in the parish. The organisation must be a not-for-profit although it does not need to be a registered charity. The Council will consider grant applications for the 2025-26 financial year at a meeting in November. If you are a member of a local group which would benefit from a grant, please contact the Parish Clerk (details below). Applications will need to be submitted by 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

## Abingdon Marathon Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – road closures in Sutton Courtenay

The annual Abingdon Marathon will take place later this month. The race start time is 9am with a 5 hour cut off for runners. Runners are most likely to be passing through Sutton Courtenay between 10:30am and 1:30pm.

The route brings the runners into Sutton Courtenay from Abingdon via Drayton, the north/south section of Milton Road to Milton Park and then heads north via Harwell Road, the High Street, Brook Street, Drayton Road and Peep O Day Lane to Abingdon Rugby Club before looping back around to the complete the section again. More details can be found online at [www.abingdonmarathon.org.uk](http://www.abingdonmarathon.org.uk)

## Council meetings and contact details

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings. The dates of the next meetings are Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 7.15pm. There is an additional meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November to consider grant requests. Meetings are normally held in the Committee Room at Sutton Courtenay Village Hall.

The agenda for the meeting will be published on the Council's website [www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk) and on the noticeboards located outside Hari & Esha News, High Street; near Costcutter, Bradstocks Way; and on the open space at Skylark Fields.

Councillors: Rita Atkinson (chairman), Robert Dalby (vice chairman), Teresa Field, Paul Galliver, Lyn Hodder, Father Morkos, Joanna O'Callaghan, Ian Pratley, Hugo Raworth, Jason Warwick and one vacancy.

Correspondence should be sent to the Clerk, Jennie Currie, Sutton Courtenay Parish Council, c/o 44 Harrington Close, Newbury, RG14 2RQ [info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk) 07495 123 353.

Alternatively, you can contact Councillors directly, their email addresses are on the website.



Life in Westminster and our constituency continues to be a hive of activity as I'm now in my 3<sup>rd</sup> month as your MP. I've had the opportunity to raise questions, including at Prime Minister's Question Time, and contact ministers regarding matters important to you. Some of our residents will be affected by the government's withdrawal of the winter fuel allowance, and I will continue to fight for those least able to bear this cut in their income.

Recently I joined the National Farmers' Union to celebrate the hard work of farmers and growers at their Back British Farming Day. I am proud to celebrate and support the terrific work of our local farmers, especially as we approach Harvest time!

A major concern for the residents of Sutton Courtenay has been the FCC landfill site and significant odours emanating from it. I met with the site operators with local councillors. They seem confident that works they have done to remove water contaminated with landfill material, and works to prevent this from happening in the future, will lead to a reduction of the odour problem, they tell me:

*"FCC Environment would like to confirm to residents of Sutton Courtney and the surrounding villages that all leachate has now been removed from the landfill site and temporary capping works are nearing completion which we are confident will remediate the recent odour issues we have been facing on site due largely to the extremely wet weather conditions."*

*FCC acted swiftly when the problem was encountered and the business has spent £1.4 million on remedial works on site in recent months. We continue to carry out daily monitoring and odour inspections both on site and off site and feedback our investigations for each complaint back to the Environment Agency".*

I am pleased to see that the number of complaints about the odours from the FCC landfill site has reduced but I will continue to work with the local councillors and monitor the work carried out by the site operators.

*If you note further odour issues, please report them to the Environment Agency's hotline via 0800 80 70 60.*

My team here in Oxfordshire and Westminster continues to grow and provides support for all our constituents. Please contact me if I can help, or if you would like me to attend a local event or meet with a local organisation. My parliamentary email address is [olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk)

I continue to look forward to meeting as many as of you as possible.

Olly Glover



### SUTTON COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL

The current trustees of Sutton Courtenay Village Hall (charity number: 300213) have, for some time now, been wishing to stand down from their role as trustees. It is a voluntary role and over the years the duties and responsibilities have increased. For two consecutive years, the trustees have advertised for new trustees but none have been forthcoming.

Additionally, the Village Hall and all its land is an unincorporated charity which means the trustees are personally liable for any adverse event which can damage the charity or any accident where it can be proven that the village trustees were negligent in their duty of care.

The Village Hall is an important community asset and it would be detrimental to community provisions should the charity be closed and the land disposed of. The trustees approached the Parish Council in its role as the custodian trustee of the charity and regular grant provider for advice.

The Parish Council resolved to support the Charity and sought advice from specialist solicitors. The first step is to convert the charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), this means there is limited liability. The Parish Council further resolved to become the sole corporate trustee. The CIO constitution allows the Parish Council to set up a committee for the management of the Village Hall (including tennis court and allotments) which can include non-Councillors with full voting rights.

As the new Sutton Courtenay Village Hall CIO will have its own identity there is the possibility that in the future the charity will no longer need the Parish Council to be the trustee and individual trustees could be appointed.

Mary Warrington – Trustee  
[scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com](mailto:scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com)

## PETER STEVENS - DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Hi all, it is with pleasure that I write my first column for the monthly magazine. I apologise upfront for the late start – I was elected councillor back at the end of June, and then promptly went on holiday with my family, followed by the normal summer holidays through to the end of August, which has meant that I am only really coming up to speed now in September. However, I have now attended the council meetings for all of the six parishes in my division, as well as sitting on two full county council meetings and three committees that scrutinise council work. Public life as a councillor is quite different from my normal work, with lots of wordy reports to read and more formalities - but more formal for the good reason to ensure everyone gets their democratic say - so worthwhile and rewarding.

In terms of news, we are waiting to hear about the new HIF road and bridge across the Thames in between Appleford and Sutton Courtenay. I spent a lot of time over the summer trying my best to help resolve issues with school buses which have faced considerable challenges over the holidays to prepare for the new school year. I visited the massive landfill site in between the two villages, where I saw what action is being taken to prevent bad smells re-occurring from leachate problems over the past year, and I have asked to visit the waste transfer site there to find out what they are doing to minimise their impact on us.



I am trying to support the new pavilion for the football club at Milton through planning difficulties. I will be trained on the legalities of planning before being allowed to join the county planning committee in November, where I will then scrutinise plans for the landfill site, gravel pits, waste transfer stations, the HIF road, and other infrastructure and large new local developments, to try to get the best deal for local residents and optimise long term outcomes for communities.

At county, district, and parish level, we objected to Thames Water and their proposed SESRO mega reservoir, and I continue to feed into the consultation to improve their strategic plans for the Thames, improving resilience to flooding, harnessing flood waters, stopping leaks, stopping sewage spills, and improving water recycling, as well as safeguarding water supplies.

This week, I am going to meet the county highways team at Marcham to discuss improving the roads, and to find out what steps they are taking to make the repairs to pot holes last longer and be more resilient to the climate changes increasing their prevalence.

I am also being briefed on the master plan to redevelop the Dalton barracks next to Abingdon, and will find out more about the new Joint Local Plan ahead of next month.

More next month, until then enjoy the last of the summer sun.

Peter Stevens

### SUTTON COURTENAY (NATIONAL POWER) TRUST

The **Sutton Courtenay (National Power) Trust** charity considers applications for grants to:

- Individuals living in Sutton Courtenay who are experiencing financial hardship
- Individuals living in Sutton Courtenay for education, recreation or other general charitable purposes
- Organisations based in Sutton Courtenay which operate for the benefit of the civil parish of Sutton Courtenay

#### **ALL APPLICATIONS ARE CONSIDERED IN TOTAL CONFIDENCE**

If you would like to know more & how to apply, please contact the Clerk to the Trustees either by:

email: [clerk.scnpt@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.scnpt@gmail.com)

phone: 07778 284193 or

writing to 8 Church Street, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4NJ

## ABINGDON DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT (ADYP)

REMINDER: - A reminder that all young people living in Sutton Courtenay in school year 6 and above are welcome to attend our youth drop-in every Wednesday from 6:30pm to 7:45pm at the Village Hall. It is a safe space for young people to socialise and do fun activities. We also provide support with topical issues that concern young people and about which they wish to be better informed.

During school holidays, we organise inter-generational community events – we are proud of the active participation of many young people, and their contributions to our community, in these events.

As summer holidays drew to a close, and by popular demand, they arranged another Doorstep Bingo session for the elderly (photo below). We hope to continue Bingo sessions during the October half term, along with some cake and tea, in the Village Hall – so do look out for our social media posts.

Alfie Turner



Instagram: [Abingdon.damascus.youthproject](https://www.instagram.com/Abingdon.damascus.youthproject)

Website: [www.ycat.org.uk](http://www.ycat.org.uk)

Email: [alfiet.adyp@gmail.com](mailto:alfiet.adyp@gmail.com)

Phone: 01235 848694

## MATRIX ARTS CENTRE



## MATRIX ARTS CENTRE

Yamaha Music School open day

Sunday 13 October

2 - 7 year olds



Music - Art - Dance - Wellbeing - 01235 847264 - [office@matrixartscentre.org.uk](mailto:office@matrixartscentre.org.uk) - Matrix Arts Centre is a registered charity

# THE ABBEY

## The Abbey Café

Bring your friends and enjoy a selection of delicious homemade cakes or a light brunch in our beautiful medieval hall.

We are open every Saturday from 10 am to 2pm.

## Workshop on UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 10am – 4pm, price: £25

A workshop on understanding trauma, and how not to trigger people who suffer post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Someone with PTSD often relives the traumatic event through nightmares and flashbacks, and may experience feelings of isolation, irritability and guilt. We will explore how to provide mental health first aid. As part of the workshop, we will also do some centring and grounding exercises.

The workshop will be led by **Sushila Dhall**, Psychotherapist and Capacity Development Lead.

Sushila has worked for the past 20 years for an Oxfordshire-based charity, working therapeutically with refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable migrants. She has been training staff in a variety of external organisations, such as Housing Providers, Job Centres, Social and Health Care staff and trainees, voluntary hosts and mentors, GPs, NHS employees, teachers, detention centre visitors, and university staff.

Please book via Eventbrite on the Events page on our website: [theabbey.uk.com/events/](https://theabbey.uk.com/events/)

**All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Abbey charity.**

## Volunteering

The walled garden


If you have a few hours to spare each week and want to help us care for our beautiful walled garden, we'd love to hear from you. Gardening experience is not necessary but would be helpful. Join our volunteer team and make new friends.

Please contact Pascaline at: [welcome@theabbey.uk.com](mailto:welcome@theabbey.uk.com) or by phone: +44 (0)1235 242 283 for any questions. You can also visit our FB page "The Abbey Sutton Courtenay" or our Instagram account [@theabbeyuttoncourtenay](https://www.instagram.com/theabbeyuttoncourtenay)

THE ABBEY OFFICE OPENING TIMES: - 9AM - 1PM




**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
*At the Abbey*



Got some time on your hands to give to a worthwhile cause? Then why not help us in our beautiful walled garden.

**CONTACT US :**  
[welcome@theabbey.uk.com](mailto:welcome@theabbey.uk.com)



**The Abbey Cafe**



Bring your friends and enjoy homemade cakes or a light lunch in a magical place!

**EVERY SATURDAY  
10AM TO 2PM**



THE ABBEY SUTTON COURTENAY



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



## From the Ministry Team

### "SEASON'S GREETINGS"

Last month, Revd Dov Whittle wrote about embracing the start of autumn, as he starts a new chapter in his life story. Dov was ordained this summer and joins the DAMASCUS ministry team with eagerness and optimism.

Autumn is a season of change, but still holds to traditions. The Michaelmas Fair springs to mind. This was a hiring fair for agricultural workers and an essential part of rural life in the past. Harvest festivals and harvest suppers are held in our churches and villages to celebrate and be thankful for our food. In more recent times they have become occasions to share what there is. Donations to local food banks are collected in our churches throughout the year, but it becomes more poignant at harvest time. Please check out our collection boxes and for more information regarding items to donate.

DAMASCUS Parish Harvest services are on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

Caring for those less fortunate than us is part of Christian living. James writes in the New Testament that Christians are to "care for orphans and widows in distress." He also says that we should be "quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger" which sounds rather obvious advice, but not so easily done.

Pruning is often done in Autumn, which is to enable better growth. It is also a good time to take stock of things before the winter months come. The same can apply to ourselves. What might need pruning or improving or preparing for? Which leads on to thinking about future seasons, future harvests, and particularly the environment.

October is traditionally the month for celebrating the harvest, and November is a time of remembrance. All Souls services are on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and Remembrance Day Services on 10<sup>th</sup> November. More details can be found nearer the time on the church notice board or on the website. [www.damascusparish.org.uk](http://www.damascusparish.org.uk)

Season's greetings, from Revd Rosie Bruce

## Services of Worship

1st Sunday: Family service at 11:00 am  
2nd Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 11:00am + Junior Church  
3rd Sunday: Morning Worship at 11:00am + Junior Church  
4th Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 11:00am + Junior Church  
5th Sunday: Special services across the Damascus Parish – please see church noticeboard for details

## Holy Baptism

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

Margot Carole Marie DAWSON (8<sup>th</sup> September 2024).  
Service conducted by The Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick

## Rest in Peace

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

Carol ANGUS (2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024)  
Joshua David JACKMAN (13<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

### CHURCH DIARY FOR OCTOBER

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup>** – 19:30 Baptism Preparation for all those interested in a Christening Service for their child / children

### CHURCH DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – 15:00 All Souls' Service  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup>** – 19:30 Baptism Preparation  
**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>** – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 11:00  
Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial followed at 11:15 by Service of Remembrance in All Saints' Church



## HARVEST FESTIVAL – ALL WELCOME! -

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

### 11:00 Family Service for Harvest Festival

Donations of food gratefully received for the Abingdon Food Bank. They particularly need:

**TINNED SOUP - SAUCES FOR RICE EG CURRY, SWEET AND SOUR ETC - SMALL TINNED BAKED BEANS OR SPAGHETTI HOOPS ETC – SHAMPOO - SHOWER GEL FOR MEN - STURDY CARRIER BAGS - WASHING UP LIQUID - CARTONS OF LONG-LIFE FRUIT JUICE - BOTTLES OF SQUASH**

and cash (or contactless donations) will be given to Farm Africa

The service will be followed at 12.15 with a **HARVEST LUNCH** in the River Room

If you wish to come to the lunch please add your name to the list at the back of church or 'phone the Parish Office on 01235 847179.

'Give as you can' donations for the lunch will go to 'Farm Africa'.

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





### COMMUNITY BRUNCH

HUGE thanks to Beth and Mike Summers, and their incredible team from Oxford Community Church, for initiating and running the Community Brunches in the River Room over the last 18 months.

All those who have attended have enjoyed delicious food and fabulous hospitality. They are now taking a step back but because the brunches have been such a success we are keen for them to continue.

**The NEXT Community Brunch will be from 9:30-11:30 in the River Room on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October,**

hosted by Dov Whittle, our new Curate. Bacon and Sausage Butties with Vegetarian and GF/Dairy Free options. Croissants and pastries. Fruit and Granola. Fruit Juice. And plenty of coffee and tea!

**All welcome – donate as you can!**

### ALL SOULS' SERVICE

**A Special Service of Naming and Remembering those who have died  
3pm on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay.**

**Refreshments of tea, coffee and cake will be available afterwards in the River Room.**

Invitations will be sent to the next of kin of all those we have conducted a funeral for over the past two years. But if you wish us to remember someone else – regardless of when or where they died – please add their name to the list at the back of church or let us know at the parish office. We will then ensure their name is read out and a candle is lit in their memory.

If you need transport to and from the service, or have any other questions, please contact the Parish Office on 01235 847179 or [admin@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk)

### 500 Bells Needed!

Hunting for a crafted Christmas tree decoration the weekend before Christmas seems to have become a tradition in Sutton Courtenay and Appleford - which many look forward to. Last year volunteers across the villages crocheted, knitted and sewed over 450 angels. This year we're setting the challenge to make **500 bells** – any craft which will withstand being in a plastic bag overnight in midwinter is welcome.



If you can help, instructions and patterns are available at the back of All Saints' Church. Alternatively, phone 01235 847179 or email [admin@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk) or contact us via our Facebook page and we'll get them to you. Your crafted bells need to be back in church by **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December** so we can prepare them for the Bell Hunt. Thank you!



### CHRISTMAS CHOIR AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

We invite you to join the Christmas Choir to sing at our Christmas Services – particularly the Carol Service at 6pm on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024.

Philip Agg, one time Director of Music and Organist at All Saints', will be leading the practises on 22 October, (not 29<sup>th</sup> – Half Term), 5, 12, 19, 26 November, and 3, 10 and 17 December. If you are interested, please come along from 19:30 – 21:00 to All Saints' Church. We can promise some musical joy (and a bit of hard work). **All are welcome!** Or phone the parish office on 01235 847179 for more details.

### Community Café in the River Room



Run by the church for the whole community

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> &  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October  
from 10:30-12:00 - all welcome!

Why not drop by for coffee or tea & delicious  
homemade cake & conversation and to browse the  
books or jigsaw puzzles on offer?

Open to all – a good place to meet with friends or make  
new ones. If you need transport to and from the River  
Room please telephone the Parish Office on 01235 847179

DAMASCUS parish online prayer  
Tuesdays, 7:45 - 8:15 am

A time to gather together online to praise our Father  
God, to listen to Jesus, and to join the Spirit in  
interceding for each other, our community, our country,  
our world.

Contact: Helen and Katie on [DAMASCUSprayer@gmail.com](mailto:DAMASCUSprayer@gmail.com).

Image by Freepik

"they raised their voices  
together in prayer to God...  
After they prayed" things  
began to happen!  
Acts 4:24,31

### RIVER ROOM 200 CLUB In Support of the All Saints' Community Space

The result of the final monthly draw  
on 17 September was:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – No. 57 (£20.00)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – No. 84 (£10.00)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – No. 21 (£5.00)

Sadly, this has been the last draw. Thank  
you all for your support while we've been  
getting the River room up and running.

Please remember to cancel your  
subscription standing orders!

### CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

We are planning, once again, to make up  
Christmas Hampers for distribution around  
Sutton Courtenay in the week before Christmas.  
If you know of an individual, a couple or a family  
who would appreciate a gift of a hamper then  
please let us know their name and address and  
we will do our best to ensure a hamper is  
delivered to them.

**The aim of the hampers is simply to spread the  
love of Christmas around the community.**

Please email the name and address of the  
person(s) you wish to nominate (letting us know  
how many adults and children in the household)  
[admin@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk) or 'phone 01235  
847179 by **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024.**

### KNIT AND NATTER



Afternoons of chat and craft

Come along with your own knitting / sewing /  
craft and enjoy free refreshments and company.

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month 2:00 – 4:00pm

The River Room, All Saints' Church, The Green,  
Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, OX14 4AE

Tel: 01235 847179 for more information

### Together in Stitches

Do you wish you could find time for craft  
projects?

Would you like a fun evening, meeting like-  
minded people in Sutton Courtenay?

If so, Together in Stitches is for you!



Bring your craft project, whatever that may be,  
and come and enjoy a chat (and possibly a glass  
of wine)

**Second Thursday in the month  
(7:30-9pm, River Room)**

## RIVER ROOM & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



SUTTON COURTENAY WI



We always welcome new members

We meet every third Tuesday monthly in the River Room, All Saints Church, at 7.30 pm

Come along for visit

15<sup>th</sup> October

Talk Beetle drive with Wine and Nibbles

Contact us via email at

[suttoncourtenaywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:suttoncourtenaywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

Or 01869 331081



### We care2

Would you enjoy a little singing, a little company, some armchair exercises oh! .....and a cup of coffee?

Do you care for someone who would enjoy this kind of gentle social interaction?

Music and company do help to keep us in touch.

We care2 is a small group that meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday from 11.15 - 12.30 in the River Room at All Saints' Church.

Transport can easily be arranged.

For any more information please contact

Morna Whitlock on -

01235 848335 or [morna28whitlock@gmail.com](mailto:morna28whitlock@gmail.com)

### MOVIE MATINEES

The next Movie Matinee in the River Room is on

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October - 4pm**

For a full programme to be sent to you please email:

[admin@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk)

or pick one up from the back of the church

Entry is **free** and refreshments

(to match the theme of each film) are available.

### AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

#### THE RIVER ROOM

All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay OX14 4AE

This attractive, light and modern room, with adjacent well-equipped kitchen, entrance foyer & two WCs (one accessible) is perfect for group meetings or private parties.

Capacity: 40 seated to 80 standing.

Plus – projector, complete A/V system, digital piano

**All enquiries: 01235 847179**

### RSPB VOWH LOCAL GROUP

Your RSPB Local Group (Vale of White Horse) has been enjoying the Autumn migration with a wide range of species seen across the County and at Farmoor and Otmoor in particular. Two Facebook Groups, RSPB Vale of White Horse Local Group and Friends of RSPB Vale of White Horse Group will give a flavour of the local birdlife and our website [www.rspb-vwh.org.uk](http://www.rspb-vwh.org.uk) has more details about what is on.

At our first indoor session on Monday 16 September Fergus Mosey, who works for the RSPB at Otmoor, gave us a fascinating annual update on our favourite local reserve.

Outdoor wildlife walks and indoor talks both take place monthly (7.30 pm in the River Room, by the church, Sutton Courtenay, and/or via Zoom in deepest winter).

The next illustrated talk will be on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October. Nick Bowles will talk about The Butterflies of Bird Reserves.

At 10.00 on Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup> the group will meet at RSPB Arne, Dorset, one of Springwatch's broadcasting centres, hoping to see a range of seasonal migrating birds,

including Avocets, Spoonbills and Dartford Warblers and especially the Osprey and White Tailed Eagle which eluded us in March.

Future events this year are:

Talk 18th Nov: The East Atlantic Flyway (Nick Williams)

Walk 24th Nov: Otmoor Starling Murmuration

Talk 16th Dec: British Birds of Prey (Mary Braddock)

If you would like to join us for the 2024-25 season, the cost is £15 for adults (whether or not you are an RSPB member), and free for under-16s. This covers our programme of monthly talks and wildlife walks, and a quarterly e-Newsletter. If you prefer to attend just one or two talks, you can do this as a non-member for £5 per talk. You can join using the form on our website (under "Contacts"): [www.rspb-vwh.org.uk](http://www.rspb-vwh.org.uk), or at a meeting. For meetings with an option to join via Zoom, members receive the link via email a few days beforehand.



**Friends of All Saints**

**Yuletide Evening with Supper and Christmas Carols at:  
The Abbey Sutton Courtenay  
Saturday 7th December 2024**

**6.30pm-8.30pm  
Tickets: £12 adult, £6 child**



Please contact Sue Jenkins at [SJJenkins33@aol.com](mailto:SJJenkins33@aol.com) or ring 07885 437454 for tickets



**Thank you**

Thank you for participating in our Summer 2024 consultation and events on our proposal for an essential new reservoir for the South East. This project aims to secure future water supply for 15 million people, including you and your neighbours here in Oxfordshire.

The 12-week consultation period has now closed, and we're reviewing your feedback. We'll share any design updates and publish a formal response to the consultation early next year.

You'll have another chance to have your say in our 2025 public consultation. In the meantime, please stay updated via our website: [www.thames-sro.co.uk/sesro](http://www.thames-sro.co.uk/sesro)

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

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

New script, new start, SCIDS is back. The team is ready, the Village Hall is booked, as yet no cast!

To sign on to the next extravaganza please do come along -  
**DATE - Sunday 24th November**  
**TIME 2.30 until 4pm**  
**VENUE Sutton Courtenay Village Hall**

All are welcome, new members as well as returning, age 7 until whenever and many skills both on and off stage are needed. Cakes, tea and games will be the plan!

Any further queries please contact:  
Sally Dubock ([sallydubock@gmail.com](mailto:sallydubock@gmail.com)) or  
Kirsty Butler ([kirstymbutler@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kirstymbutler@hotmail.co.uk)) or  
Bernie Jones ([kateandbernie@gmail.com](mailto:kateandbernie@gmail.com))

**BRIDGE AFTERNOONS**

Come and play bridge on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday afternoons in the River Room from 2-5pm with a cup of tea and a piece of cake - £5

Tables, cards and score cards all provided  
Just come along and we make up tables based on experience/choice. All standards of play welcome – from experienced players to those who are ‘just in need of a refresher’, ‘very rusty’ or learning.

Rubber or Chicago – you choose  
**Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> October**  
Come and join us

## LETTER FROM A VILLAGE NEWCOMER

Dear Liza

So, the woods are blazing crimson and gold, the paths are adorned with conkers, the swallows have absconded... and the Aunt Sally season is over for another year. Good to my word, I've been learning the ropes. I won't tell you where, because some of my early sighters flew over the backing and peppered the car park, but I can say that this game distils the agony and ecstasy of sport into its purest form.

The general idea is you throw sticks at a 'dolly', held waist-high on a metal stand. Our forebears had the dolly mocked up as an old woman's head, so we can all pat ourselves on the back for not doing that, (much as it might have excused my inaccuracy). It's a fine thing to settle yourself at the oche as the heir to such a rich tradition. The trouble is, the dolly is 10 yards away, and that's further than it sounds, especially if you've had too much to drink, or rather too little (no doubt the optimal balance is the focus of PhDs and data analysis at the elite end of the game).

If you've been 10 pin bowling you'll be impressed by all the X's on my scorecard. In my first leg (6 throws) I was brushing and wafting at the dolly from all angles but she wouldn't drop. Then I made some technical tweaks and got steadily worse. But I won't need to remind you about my famous sangfroid. You are probably already visualising the last throw of my last leg: the spin, the swerve, the subtle appreciation of thermal updrafts and the density of the cooling air. There was a most delicious clank and I set off on a lap of honour, shirt twirling above my head. The other sounds were the 'sticker-up' shouting 'iron' and the caller shouting 'blubber' in my direction. It later became clear that this was to record a 0 score rather than a reference to my physique. Apparently you can't knock the dolly off if you hit the stand.

I'm sure by next season I'll be a linchpin of the SC team, who by the way are comfortably midtable in the F section of the Abingdon and district league (and no, there isn't a G section). Come and try it for yourself!

Love from, George



### Have your say on women's health services in Oxfordshire!

Healthwatch Oxfordshire would like to hear about your experiences of getting help for women's health issues, such as perimenopause, periods or cervical screening, as well as your experiences of health services more generally.

- What works well and what could be better?
- Is there anything that makes it difficult to get the help you need?
- What ideas do you have for how women's health services could be better?

Please share your experiences and views by completing an anonymous online survey at:

[www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/womenshealthservices/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/womenshealthservices/)

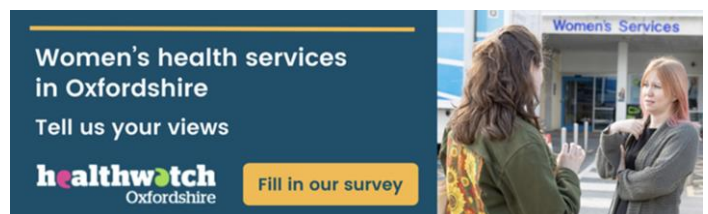
The survey will be open until **31st October**.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire is an independent charity for people who use health and social care services. It finds out what matters to local people and makes sure their views are heard by the people who make decisions about those services.

It will use your feedback about women's health services to help shape support and improve services.

If you would rather talk to someone about your experience, or would like a paper copy or translated survey, please contact Healthwatch Oxfordshire on **01865 520520** or at [hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk](mailto:hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk)

To find out more about the work of Healthwatch Oxfordshire see [www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk)



Free training for  
Oxfordshire  
Community Groups



Free workshops | Talks | Network | Promote your group

Saturday 21st September 2024

Plant Identification training day in Cholsey

Friday 4th October

Managing Green spaces training day in Witney

Saturday 19th October

Leadership skills training day in Kidlington

Saturday 23rd November

Our Top 10 Activities to Engage your Community hands-on day in Oxford



Scan for website

To book your free place, email: [teamwilder@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:teamwilder@bbowt.org.uk)

#teamWILDER



Join BBOWT's  
Community Network  
and be part of #teamWILDER



Are you part of a community group helping nature in your area?  
Then please join our Community Network!

The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust wants to help everyone to take action for nature. We have created a Community Group Network which provides free training, online resources, publicity on a web map and opportunities to learn from others' experiences at online meet-ups and Facebook group.

Join the discussions & knowledge sharing on our Facebook group  
[facebook.com/groups/bbowtcommunitynetwork](https://facebook.com/groups/bbowtcommunitynetwork)

Attend monthly Zoom presentations and networking events  
[bbowt.org.uk/events?type=1021](https://bbowt.org.uk/events?type=1021)

Use our toolkit of resources, training links and advice  
[bbowtcommunitytoolkit.org](https://bbowtcommunitytoolkit.org)

Add your jigsaw piece to the BBOWT map & find volunteers  
[bbowt.org.uk/team-wilder-community-groups](https://bbowt.org.uk/team-wilder-community-groups)

To find out more or subscribe to the newsletter  
email: [teamwilder@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:teamwilder@bbowt.org.uk)

Scan for website



#teamWILDER



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Parking fine Scam please do not respond or click into the link.

We have been made aware at Trading Standards that text messages similar to this are being received by residents in Oxfordshire. Please do not click into any links. Do not pay - this is a scam. The red flags in this text message are boldly highlighted for you to be aware.

- 'your local council' – not named,
- it is referred to as a parking fine not "charge certificate",
- the capitalisation and punctuation are grammatically incorrect.
- Very little information of where and when the parking fee was not paid,
- No vehicle registration
- Why would they text you if you have a parking fine?

STOP, TAKE 5, THINK BEFORE RESPONDING,  
DON'T CLICK INTO LINKS OR BE RUSHED.

**Parking Penalty Charge Notice:**  
Please Pay a parking penalty charge notice (PCN) issued by a local council.  
If you do not pay a PCN within 28 days, you'll get a 'charge certificate' and you'll have 14 days to pay the original fine plus 50% more. If you do not pay you'll be prosecuted - you may have to pay a bigger fine as well as court costs.  
Please pay your fine at the link after reading the information.

<https://qrco.de/bfNkYm?iibu=1mIGPuu2qP>

Thank you again for your cooperation.

### Easy Sudoku

	1				5		
	6	5	8		1		
2		8		9			7
		9	4	6		8	
		4		8			
1					7		
	9			5			
			2	1			8
4			7				2

### Medium Sudoku

			5				6
					6	9	
						8	
5			8		9		2
6	3			4			
8					2		4
			2			4	
	4		3	6			5 8
	6	1				2	

Taken from [www.puzzles.ca/sudoku](http://www.puzzles.ca/sudoku) (1091)

## WORDSEARCH

The topic is OCTOBER



C N F H W U E X M S Z B C T M  
 H F E M A R I G O L D H O S U  
 A O I E E N D K M D R P C E S  
 N F I F W F Y Q R Y A N R V H  
 G G N P Z O A N S L L I M R R  
 E K S K R R L A J A B O H A O  
 C O Y G B O N L S V N Z X H O  
 L D P I Z T C V A G A J L M M  
 O R L C H E Q S Q H M D E S S  
 C Y S E V A E L G N I L L A F  
 K S M S H O R T E R D A Y S D  
 S U F J G W L U Z M T M G D L  
 M R R S D S N I K P M U P I E  
 R S Y A D E N O Y T R I H T Z  
 T O U R M A L I N E S W G S O

Taken from [www.puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com](http://www.puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com)

- Change clocks
- Chrysanthemum
- Falling leaves
- Halloween
- Harvest
- Libra
- Marigold
- Mushrooms
- Opal
- Pumpkins
- Scorpio
- Shorter days
- Thirtyone days
- Tourmaline



## Tell us about your care

Share your experiences of using health and care services in Oxfordshire to help us change local care for the better. Leave your reviews of hospitals, GPs, pharmacies, care homes and dentists at [www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk /services](http://www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/services)

@HealthwatchOxfordshire

@HealthwatchOxon

**healthwatch**  
Oxfordshire  
Your voice on health and care services



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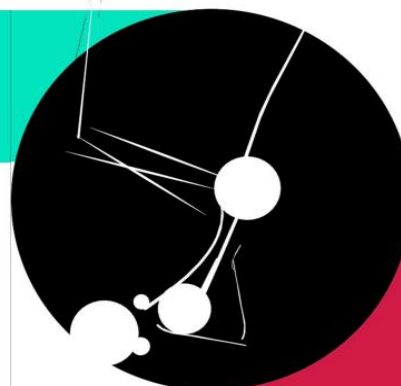
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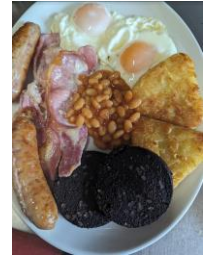
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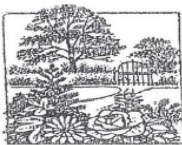
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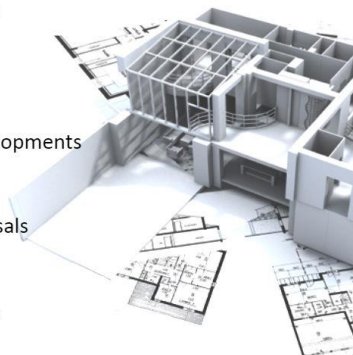


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