

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS



VOLUME TWO NUMBER ONE
— JANUARY 1973

VILLAGE DIARY FOR JANUARY 1973.

- Dec. 24 EVENSONG at 6.30 p.m. will be said.
MIDNIGHT Communion at All Saints' 11.30 p.m.
- Dec. 25 Holy Communion at All Saints' 8 a.m. and 12 noon
Family Service 11 a.m.
MASS at Christchurch, Midnight and 10 a.m.
- Jan. 2 Tues M.U. Party at Vicarage 7 - 10 p.m.
- Jan. 3 Wed. Darby & Joan - Whist Drive.
"Under Fives" Play afternoon at Vicarage 2.30 p.m.
- Jan. 8 Mon. Camera Club. 8 p.m. "Gates" and 2 open.
- Jan. 9 Tues Parish Council. Club Room 7.30 p.m.
- Jan. 17 Wed. Darby & Joan. Mr. Cripps & His Magpie Group.
- Jan. 18 Thur W.I. 7.30 p.m. Cookery Demonstration.
- Jan. 21 Sun. Bishop Knell preaches at All Saints' 10 a.m. FAMILY COMMUNION
No Evensong at All Saints'. (United Service. 6 p.m. at Steventon)
- Jan. 25 Thur Horticultural Society. MEMBERS' EVENING. Members and their
friends are invited to bring their own 35 mm slides of
GARDENING INTEREST. 7.30 p.m.

All Events in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

COPY DAY for February is Wednesday, 17th January. Please make entries
in the POST OFFICE DIARY and deliver contributions or adverts before
that day, to THE POST OFFICE, THE EDITOR OR ROGERS' SHOP.

AMEY GROUP

Phone - for GRAVEL S.C.344, for ASPHALT, LATEXFELT Industrial flooring S.C.811, for PREMIX concrete S.C.355, CONBLOC building blocks S.C.281.

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FOR REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE & ALTERATIONS. Phone S.C.254

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HALL'S GARAGE. Vehicle repairs and servicing. M.O.T. inspections. Body repairs. Cut price petrol. S.C.236.

GEORGE AND DRAGON

ANNE & HARRY POPE greet all their customers and welcome new friends. Come in for a drink, or bring your friends to a meal. Luncheons, Dinners, Snacks at the Bar. Telephone S.C.252.

EDITORIAL. Many of us feel strongly about the treatment received by Mrs. Rene Holborough at the hands of the Head Post Office in Oxford, after a long, cheerful and faithful service. Her plight, and that of other auxiliary postwomen in the area, has already received publicity in the North Berks Herald, but I draw your attention to some further information on this page. The offer of a job starting at 4 a.m. in Abingdon seems totally inadequate compensation in the circumstances. Likewise, as a writer to the aforementioned newspaper pointed out, it can hardly be "economical" to deliver the mail by TAXI while Mrs. Holborough was on holiday, and it has been seen delivered in similar luxury for the second post.

Space is limited this month, as there are several contributions from different groups and organizations. These are important as they represent active groups in the community, but I would suggest that a fairly detailed account of your organization's activities say, two or three times a year would be advisable, (this does not include the Football Clubs who need to keep us in the picture month by month). However, do bring our attention to events of special interest, and please use the Post Office Diary.

In future editions we hope to include items for some younger readers, such as a competition, or a Quiz to test their knowledge of the village, and always welcome any contributions from children, particularly if they can discover something about their village's interesting past.

Finally, as we hope this NEWS will reach you before Christmas may we wish all of you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year, and, as we are endeavouring to reach out with a friendly word and information into your home, will you remember YOUR neighbour in this season of Goodwill?

FAREWELL TO A FAMILIAR VILLAGE PERSONALITY.

Very soon after Mr. Stratton took over the Post Office in 1946, he asked Rene (Mrs. Holborough) if she would help him by taking a temporary job delivering some mail. This she agreed to do and her "walk" covered all the village as it was then, from Appleford Road right through Milton Road and Harwell Road. Over the years since then she has unfailingly carried the mail, although with the growth of the village the extent of her "walk" was reduced but not the number of houses to which she delivered.

In the autumn of 1967 Mr. Stratton departed for sunnier climes (no doubt heartened by your gift of thanks for his long service to the village) and I was extremely glad to have Rene's help for her local knowledge has been most useful.

Now, in the interests of economy and an attempt to give a better service (?) the Head Post Office at Oxford have decided that, as from 29th January, mail delivery work in this and several other nearby villages will be carried out direct from Abingdon. This, of course, will mean that Rene's postal work (over 26 years) will come to an end. I think this must be the longest "temporary" job I've known. Many people will miss her on her round in the morning as yet another part or rural life is absorbed in the modern trend of 'rationalisation'. If, therefore, during the next few months you get mail through your letter-box which is not addressed to you, do not grumble too much at the postmen - after all they do not have the same knowledge of local affairs which Rene has accumulated over the years she has been delivering the mail - in all weathers and always with a smile.

As this looks like being her last Christmas delivery I sincerely hope it will be a fine one for her.

STOP PRESS

I.D.

See the bottom of Page 7, for an important NOTICE.
(The VICAR WAS TYPING THIS NOTE WHEN THE PRINTERS ARRIVED!)

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7th NOVEMBER 1972.

Matters under discussion were as follows:-

The Village Green. The Commons Commissioners conceded that the Parish Council have established their claim to "Squatters Rights" over the Village Green. Dutch Elm Disease. All trees along the Ginge Brook will be examined by the County Forestry Adviser.

War Memorial. Messrs. Axtell informed us that the stone is too much pitted for the lettering to be renewed and the cost of bronze plates would be prohibitive.

Litter Container, Hobbyhorse Lane. The Council was unable to think of an alternative site for this, so the Chief Public Health Inspector is to be asked whether the container can be restored to the original site.

Garages near children's playground. A letter from the Housing Manager stated that it is proposed to demolish eight or nine of these garages, owing to persistent damage. It is hoped to arrange a meeting with the R.D.C. Housing Committee about this area.

Sutton Courtenay News Letter. The Parish Council agreed to contribute £20 to help with the high running costs.

Planning Applications:-

- (a) Two Dwellings between 2 and 4 Abingdon Road for the Amey Group.
Objection on road hazard.
- (b) Extension to offices, Appleford Road for Messrs. Amey. No comment.
- (c) Bungalow and Garage, Churchmere Road for Mr. H.W.R. Haynes.
Objection on account of sub-standard road.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 5th DECEMBER 1972.

Matters discussed at this Meeting were as follows:-

Large Litter Container. This has now been replaced in Hobbyhorse Lane, following a letter from the Parish Council last month protesting at its removal.

Footpaths 14, 15 & 16. The Footpaths Committee walked these paths following a report from Councillor Taylor, and it was agreed that strong, easily negotiable stiles should be erected on these paths. The County Smallholdings Committee will help us towards the cost of some of these.

Southfield Drive. It was agreed that the parking of unauthorized cars here should be referred to the police.

Southern Electricity Board. A letter from the S.E.B. stated that charges will increase by 5% from April 1973. There will be the normal extension of street lighting throughout the nights of the Christmas period.

Planning Applications:-

- (a) Garage and conservatory, 18 Barretts Way. No Comment.
- (b) Garage, 141 Drayton Road. No Comment.
- (c) Dwelling and Garage, site adjacent to 120 High Street.
No Comment on plans, but objection to access.

Milton Trading Estate. It was unanimously agreed that Sutton Courtenay Parish Council should not attend a meeting of Parish Councils to be called by Didcot Parish Council to discuss the establishment of light industry on Milton Trading Estate. This Council supports Abingdon R.D.C.'s policy of opposition to light industry here until better roads are provided, and sees no reason to change this view.

The next meeting of the Prish Council is 9th January 1973.

A SAD STORY.

THE DIDCOT YOUTH who caused the death of the pet cygnet on the river at Sutton was taken to Court where he pleaded guilty. He was fined with costs the sum of £10.17. This was a savage premeditated attack with a six foot stick at a time when he thought few people would be about. There had been a previous attach on the same young swan when a brick had been tied to its leg in the hope of causing it to drown. Its parents were able to get it to the bank where the brick was removed. Such cruelty seems unbelievable to decent people and must be stopped.

E.E. Hailey, Hon. Sec., R.S.P.C.A.

FOOTBALL CLUB NOTES.MENS' SECTION.SUTTON RESERVES ARE TOP !

After a tremendous start to the season, 7 wins, 1 draw and 1 defeat, Sutton Courtenay Reserves are top of their league with games in hand. Basically a young side, supported by two of the clubs longest serving players, Mike Denton and Arthur Wood, the side has done very well against much older and experienced opposition.

Manager Pete Harding's policy of playing young players from the village has paid great dividends, if the performances of Colin Bolton, Alan Hyatt, John Woodbridge, Pete Breakspear and Mick Mooring are anything to go by. The season is nearing the half-way stage, and a few good wins over the Christmas period would put the reserves in a very strong position for the run-in to the season.

One final note, there is a game of football at the Recreation Ground each Saturday afternoon, and more supporters from the village would be most welcome. Refreshments are available on each match day, so why not come along and watch the gillage's winning teams?

TOTE.

Many people have asked that we publish the TOTE draw results each month for the benefit of those who do not see the results which are on display in various places in the village.

<u>Week No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Payout.</u>	<u>Nos. Drawn.</u>	
20	14th Nov.	£18.60	19 - 11	Two winners each received £9.30.
21	21st Nov.	£18.72 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 - 19	One winner received £18.72 $\frac{1}{2}$
22	28th Nov.	£18.60	3 - 29	Three winners each received £6.20.
23	5th Dec.	£18.75	7 - 29	Three winners each received £6.25.

Would anyone wishing to join the TOTE please contact any one of the following collectors:- Mr. R.M. Jones, Mr. A. Birkby, Mr. A. Ellaway, Mrs. S. Elford, Mrs. Gilsenan, Mrs. B. Dodd, Mr. R. Denton, Mr. F. Whiting, Mr. D. Dodd, Mr. F. Heredge, Mr. J. Hornby, Mr. L. Bond, Mr. M. Hyatt, Mr. J. Napper. Mr. G. Lacey.

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and a special thank you to all our collectors. If anyone would like to help by starting a TOTE collection book among friends and neighbours please contact one of the collectors or one of the promoters who are:- Mr. R.M. Jones, 25 Barretts Way, Mr. J. Napper, 39 Tyrrels Way, Mr. F. Whiting, 26 High Street.

BOYS' SECTION.

The Christmas Draw will take place in the Village Hall on December 22 at 9 p.m.

FRIEND KRONK.

Well! Somebody must love him if it's only his leggy wife. You may have seen him around the village, soberly dressed in grey, distinguished looking when standing, with a cold fishy stare in his eye, but that eye misses nothing. He knows every pond in the village and although his flight is slow he get around.

Has he visited you yet? Don't be caught as I was, for I thought he would never come under all those cables but he did, nearly clearing the pool of orfe and goldfish at one meal. He had young to feed then, but has been hunting again recently (spotted up Harwell Road last week, Ed.) and the only real safe-guard is to cover the pond with wire. If you don't he will be in, and that long beak of this heron, - used to catch eels and frogs, both of which he loves, - is too much for any poor goldfish. The trouble is, I love birds and am a fellow fisherman, so have a sneaking admiration for him, but as fish keepers we have a duty to defend our little scaly friends, so wire up, pond keepers - or you'll be sorry!

F. Curd.

P.T.A. NEWS.

For our November meeting we were very pleased to have a return visit from Mr. Dawson, Headmaster of John Mason High School, who came especially to answer questions raised by parents concerned about the effect the change to Comprehensive schooling will have upon their children. He dealt with specific problems such as out of school activities, school curriculum, problems associated with homework, transport and school uniform. In the latter case he assured us that every effort will be made to avoid unnecessary expense. He also gave us a very clear insight into the aims of the school and the ways in which children are helped to feel a member of the school community in spite of the large numbers involved. Those of us present were fortunate to meet a Headmaster obviously concerned with the ideals of the comprehensive system, but also aware of the immense problems involved during the changeover period and anxious that these should be openly discussed.

At the very beginning of the month the whole school was given a most enjoyable morning's entertainment by the Brian Way Theatre Company - a touring company from London who specialize in performing plays in which all the children can take part as well as watch. This was part of the P.T.A.'s contribution towards the children's Christmas treats and, judging from their faces and reactions, was extremely successful.

Clare James, Hon. Secretary.

SUTTON COURTENAY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

The W.I. met on September 21st to hear records and a talk given by Mrs. R. Lang of Wantage on GILBERT & SULLIVAN. This was a very entertaining evening. The competition for a cardboard hat representing a Gilbert and Sullivan character was won by Mrs. Barnham. The raffle was won by Mrs. Drummond.

Our next meeting was held on October 19th. We listened to Mr. Alan Paterson of Culham College, who gave us a talk, illustrated by slides on the History of Nuneham Park. It was interesting to hear the history of a stately home and garden in our own locality. The competition which followed was a quiz on slides of stately homes, which was won jointly by Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Burden. The raffle was won by Mrs. Hall.

In our November meeting on the 16th, we had a most enlightening talk with many colourful slides on Mr. Mathieson's stay and travels within the Australian continent. The raffle was won by Mr. Mathieson and the competition for the most original souvenir from abroad was won by Mrs. Hall. There was no meeting in December but the Christmas dinner was held on 7th December at the Upper Reaches. The next meeting will be on January 18th when we have a Cookery Demonstration of Buffet Suppers given by the North Berks College of Education. New members are very welcome.

PUBLIC SPEAKING BY THE MOTHERS' UNION.

Oxford Diocesan M.U. recently held a Public Speaking Competition at Sutton Courtenay, represented by Mesdames Monica Francis (Chairman) Florence Hayden (Speaker) and Edna Barnham (Vote of Thanks) were, with St. Peter's, Didcot, the only local contestants.

Eight teams attended the Final, judged by Mrs. Daphne Cloke, of Radio Oxford. Subjects ranged from "Childhood memories" (our Speaker's choice) to "Baby Hedgehogs" and "Selling Antiques". The winner, a "real pro." in an outstanding team from South Bucks, spoke on "Amateur Dramatics". Our team was rewarded by a detailed and appreciative, written assessment of their performance.

NEWS, VIEWS AND ADVERTISEMENTS.

7.

Brief news items and letters are welcomed by the Editor, Mary Thompson, 124 High Street, at any time before Copy Day. The rate for advertisements is 5p a line (approx. 10 words), except for 'FOUND', 'WORK WANTED', and 'WELCOME TO SUTTON COURTENAY', which are free. Take them to the Post Office, the Editor, or Rogers' Shop before Copy Day.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK all our friends and neighbours in the village for the help, kindness, and sympathy towards ourselves and our daughter Nicola over the past year. She was loved and admired by many and in return gave us all many happy memories.

Thank you everyone. Gill and Andy Speake.
88 Bradstocks Way.

WE CONGRATULATE Daniel and Agnes Price, of 44 Harwell Road on their DIAMOND WEDDING. They were married at Wolvercote, Oxon, on Christmas Day 1912, as the Vicar was to be on holiday on Boxing Day.

WE ALSO CONGRATULATE Stanley and Rose Fuller, of 35 Milton Road, on their GOLDEN WEDDING celebrated last month, and LORRAINE, one of their grand-daughters, on sending such a beautiful letter to Her Majesty the Queen to tell her. The Queen does not, as a rule, send congratulations to Golden Wedding Couples, but her Lady-in-Waiting sent the Queen's thanks and best wishes.

GREETINGS.

Mrs. Long, THE NEW INN.
Wishes a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all her friends and customers.

THE POST OFFICE will close at 1 p.m. on Saturday 23rd December and will re-open at 9 a.m. on Thursday 28th December although there will be a delivery of mail on Wednesday 27th December.

FOUND at the Post Office.

1 pair ladies sheepskin lined mitts and 1 pair men's brown gloves (rather worn).

LOST AND FOUND.

A LARGE WHITE PLATE with BLUE RIM is still missing after the Harvest Supper. Mrs. Jager will be glad to receive this, and has still one Pyrex plate unclaimed.

THANKS. The SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS warmly thanks the PARISH COUNCIL for a DONATION of £20, and the SUTTON COURTENAY WIVES GROUP for a DONATION of £5. We rely on the entirely voluntary help of many groups in the village to produce the NEWS, assemble it and distribute it FREE to every home in the village. We feel it can thus be regarded as a genuinely communal effort, but of course, financial assistance is always greatly appreciated and needed to buy paper, printing materials etc.

OUR THANKS ALSO to this month's artist - Mr. Barnham.

WIVES GROUP PLEASE NOTE - Next meeting will be January 9th - Our A.G.M.
Which we hope all will attend.

Associated Design Partnership, Oxford, will attend the
VILLAGE HALL at 8.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 3rd January
to explain the proposal for developing LADY PLACE and other
adjacent land.

SUTTON COURTENAY DIRECTORY II.GROCCERS & NEWSAGENTS.

A. & I. WEIDNER. Large selection of grocery. Cut meats etc. Frozen goods, inc. bulk supply. Dry cleaning. SUNDAY & DAILY PAPERS. Cosmetics, stationery. DAILY DELIVERIES. S.C. 227.

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