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DIARY CO.TINUED ON PAGE 6

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SUTTON COURTENAY DIRECTORY I

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ANNE & HARRY POPE greet all their customers and welcome new friends. Come in for a drink, or bring your friends to a S.C. 252.

EDITORIAL: It must have been gratifying for the Parish Council to see about one hundred members of the public at the Parish Council Meeting on 6th February. It was clear that the majority came because of the interest shown in the proposed plans for Lady Place and the residential development opposite (of which more is said elsewhere in the 'News'), but it is a sad reflection on the general apathy of the public towards local affairs, that people will only turn up at such meetings when they feel there is an issue which directly affects them. During the brief time I served on the Parish Council before going to America, it was discouraging to see maybe only two or three people present. It is true that some of the business conducted may seem tedious but it is not always so, and it is essential. Whilst the public may normally only speak at the Annual General Meeting (which, incidentally, is on 6th March), you may speak to councillors either before or after a meeting or, indeed, at any time, and how are they to gauge public opinion unless you express it? I would remind you that elections take place this year and will be writing more on this subject later. County Council elections take place on 12th April to elect representatives to the new Oxfordshire of which Sutton Courtenay will then become a part, and who will take office in April, 1974. District elections, including Parish Council elections, take place on 7th June next. There is a map of the new Oxfordshire posted in the Post Office.

I have been asked to bring your attention to the fact that the new valuation list for ratepayers is now on view at the Rural District Offices, 66 Bath Street, Abingdon. As your rateable value can increase by three times (though not necessarily the amount in rates that you actually pay) it would be advisable to check it as soon as possible! Several organizations, myself included, also have an explanatory leaflet available.

You are probably by now aware of the formation of the Friends of Sutton Courtenay", a society whose aims are set out briefly below. Whilst the aims of the society appear to be admirable, I hope it will not have a divisive effect upon the village. After all, we must consider the village as a whole and not just that part which isparticularly historic and picturesque, and find ways and means both to keep it beautiful and to beautify it.

THE FRIENDS OF SUTTON COURTENAY

A Society has just been formed in the village, which should have a wide appeal amongst all those who have the interest of the village at heart. The Society, known as the Friends of Sutton Courtenay, has as its aims:

Primarily, to ensure that the unique character, charm and beauty of Sutton Courtenay are protected, and, where desirable and possible, enhanced.

Secondly, to enable all who subscribe to the primary aim to discuss matters affecting the aim, to form a corporate view, andto provide an authoritative voice for expressing that view.

Anyone who subscribes to the aims of the Society, and who wishes to join, is asked to contact the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. L.T.H. Phelps, 1 Chapel Lane, Sutton Courtenay. Annual subscription is 25p.

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Nearly one hundred parishioners attended this meeting of the Parish Council, since the Chairman had invited them to express their views on the Planning Application to develop land to the east and west of the high Street. The meeting opened with the general business of the Council.

Correspondence (1) A letter from the Head Postmaster saying that the proposed revision of postal services must be postponed, owing to lack of staff. (2) A letter from the Divisional Surveyor saying that to put posts and chains to preserve the grass verges outside the Almshouses would require a licence from the County Council. A sub-committee is to be formed to deal with this. The Surveyor also said that no finance was available for re-surfacing roads across the Green. (3) A letter from the Headmaster, Mr. F. Curd, in reply to an enquiry from the Council about the possibility of the school children helping to clear up litter on the Council Estate. Wr. Curd expressed the view that prevention of litter is better than endlessly picking it up, that the whole village was at fault, not only the Council Estate, and put forward several ideas for talks in the School, competitions, more litter bins, etc., to make us more litter-conscious. The Chairman offered to discuss this further with Mr. Curd. (4) A letter from the Dutch Elm Disease Officer stated that, although the village has had only one case of the disease, the utmost vigilance must be maintained. In the case of particularly fine trees a cure can be made by injetion, though this is expensive. such trees should be notified to the officer. The Council agreed that the elm opposite the Plough came into this category and the cost should be defrayed from the Free Fifth. (5) A letter from Mr. S.J. Rayner complaining of the state of Frilsham Street. As this is listed as a footpath, it was agreed that advice should be asked from the District Surveyor. (6) A letter from the Clerk of the R.D.C. re "The Old House" stating that the temporary preservation order is not to be confirmed until a further survey be made. The barns in High Street belonging to Mr. Caudwell are to be upgraded to Grade 2.

Planning Applications:

(1) For workshop and stores extension, Appleford Road, for Amey Roadstone Corporation. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged between the Parish Council, the R.D.C., and Amey Roadstone Ltd. to discuss this new expansion.

(2) Toolshed and access to 30 Milton Road for Mr. P. Walsh

No comment.

(3) Conversion of part of old school to dwelling, 11 High Street, for Major Potts. A protest had been lodged against this by Mrs. Newell, claiming that windows would overlook her property. No Comment providing that some agreement can be reached about

(4) Erection of building for a Research Institute for the study of Human Nutrition, with car parking and Residential Development of 16 terrace houses and 31 detached houses on land to the east and west of High Street. Also temporary use of flats 41A and 410 High Street for Dr. Sinclair as offices for International Institute. There was "No Comment" on the temporary use of the After lengthy discussion, in which members of the public joined, the Council were not opposed, in principle, to the plans for the Institute, but wished to be given further details of

The application for the development of land on the west side of High Street was opposed on the grounds (1) Not scheduled for development (2) The land is in a conservation area. (3) Its development would create a serious traffic problem (4) It would overburden the educational and other public services (5) Sutton Courtenay would cease to become a village and (6) it would threaten the barns scheduled for preservation.

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LADY PLACE DEVELOPMENT

The following is a brief summary of that part of the Parish Council Meeting in which members of the public were invited to comment. The "Friends of Sutton Courtenay" objected on grounds very similar to those voiced by the members of the Parish Council, and in addition expressed concern over the future of the proposed Institute of Nutrition and its financial viability. A request was made for the repair of the old stone wall and the preservation of the chestnut trees within it. It was noted that the type of house proposed would largely cater for people in a relatively high income bracket and would in no way assist the housing problems of people such as newly-weds or those with a low income who could not afford to pay either the prices or the rents.

One of the few speakers who supported the proposed plans did so because, the houses being o low density, it may well prevent high density building in the future. There is such a desperate shortage of building land that the area might well be taken over

and a less desirable scheme come into being.

Dr. Sinclair, who again alone answered queries and faced his critics, explained that in consultation with his colleagues, Mr. Caudwell and Mr. Hedges, little commercial agricultural use could be found for the land in question apart from intensive rearing of pigs which would no doubt be objectionable. (A member of the public suggested that grazing land for horses would be welcome and enhance the village scene). Dr. Sinclair stated that originally he had planning permission for five cottages in the vicinity of Lady Place and was now proposing three houses. With regard to the financial stability of the Institute of Nutrition, he emphasized that it was a going concern and it was intended in the future to increase the number of Trustees, and hopefully to include a representative from the village. Plans for the Institute were available for inspection.(A leaflet about the Institute is available in the Post Office - Ed.)

The next meeting, which will be the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

will be on March 6th at 7.30 p.m.

LITTER AND YOU - YES, YOU!

The school was asked by the Parish Council to pick up litter. When asked to give an honest answer, not many children want to do this task. Discussions with staff and children followed and it was agreed some action was necessary, that a litter campaign would be launched, but that we were not in favour of doing it on a permanent basis. From March 1st to March 7th, the latter very appropriately Ash Wednesday, we are appealing to everyone in the village to pick up all litter in their immediate surroundings, and after that date we will begin, through these pages, to record our litter 'black spots'.

Why all this litter? Modern packing has much to answer for, and the children have written to the Minister of the Environment suggesting legislation to restrict unnecessary packing, thus saving money and reducing litter. Really the answer comes back quite simply to you. Please do not drop it; take it home - the cigarette packet, the sweet wrappers, the useless bag, the tin,

the bottle and the modern horror of plastic.

We shall be asking for litter wardens, possibly a family, to undertake keeping a street or part of a street tidy. If you are willing, please send your name and suggested area" to school. Two competitions are planned, one for families and one for children and these will be exhibited at a later date along with facts and figures collected by the children. We have a beautiful village, we hope to keep it so, and make our many visitors aware that they are very welcome, their litter is not. The children felt that you would not want to keep hearing about litter, for they have tired of the often repeated subject — so please help, LEAVE NO LITTER — and not another word! F. Curd.

MORE ON LITTER

Many people visit the attractive area around the river to fish or to walk or enjoy the scenery. Could we appeal to all fishermen to take away their litter, as the area abounds in empty plastic and paper bags, discarded boxes that once contained fishing reels, lines etc. Likewise, as spring and summer progress many people picnic in the vicinity, so please do not leave rubbish lying about. More bins for litter might help, but please try and keep this region beautiful.

A working party of children collected some bottles thrown into the Field Study Centre, and a small exhibition was set up in the school. Comments from children - (not edited):-

"I was startled when I saw the posters taking the mickey out of mice. Poor mice, it's bad enough with cats destroying our British mice, but trapped in bottles by stupid people is unfair. At the rate we are going the world will lose all its animals".

"The animals in the bottle had horrible deaths because of us - dirty humans who can't look after our animals of the wild. We throw bottles down, an inquisitive animal creeps in and is trapped and drowned in the water inside. The water soaks up their energy and slowly but surely they die. They desperately need us to stop all this or they have had it. Animals in the wild need our help, otherwise we kill the wild."

FOR SALE

All Saints' Mothers' Union members and their friends are KNITTING in aid of the Church Bazaar. Give your orders to Mrs. Jager, the Vicarage, or Mrs. Barnham, ll Southfield Drive.

VILLAGE DIARY CONTINUED

Mar. 6 Shrove Tuesday. Mothers' Union 2.30 p.m. Bring & Buy. Mar. 7 Under Fives Play Afternoon. 2.30 p.m. at Vicarage.

Mar. 13 W.I. Music Workshop at Vicarage. 2.15 and 8.0 p.m.

ALL EVENTS ARE IN THE VILLAGE UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. THANKS to Mr. A. Malein for doing the cover this month.

COPY DAY for April is Wednesday, 14th March. Please make entries in the Post Office Diary and deliver contributions before that date to the Editor, the Post Office or Rogers' Shop.

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SUTTON COURTENAY - THE PAST

Recent proposals for residential and other development in Sutton Courtenay have aroused considerable interest and in some cases, active concern from its inhabitants. The formation of the Friends of Sutton Courtenay has brought our attention to the beauty of our village. But what about the history of this village and its development into what it is today? I hope over the months to build up a picture of Sutton Courtenay, for I am sure many comparative newcomers have little idea of its interesting heritage.

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Sutton Courtenay has been a village since early Saxon days. Comparatively recently over forty small rectangular huts were excavated - some of these squalid buildings may have been dwellings but others showed signs of weaving and pottery manufacture. But there is evidence of habitation in the area long before Saxon times. Two ancient earthworks exist, one a barrow in Sutton Wick, and "at the cross-ways at the southern end of the village is a round barrow planted with five elms known as the Cross Trees". (This was taken from records of some 70 years ago. These trees became diseased and have since been replaced with Spanish chestnuts by Hon. David Astor, of which two have survived). Neolithic arrowheads of flint have been found and a Bronze Age dagger some ten inches long. Roman remains have also been discovered - a bronze dagger, the remains of an earthenware cup found with a dkeleton, urns, fibulae and a ring. About 1850, a strigil (a skin-scraper used when bathing), a bell and fragments of a chain, all in bronze were found. The strigil was of a very thin metal, coated with an incrustation of fine colour and considered of good workmanship and design, and it is thought that the chain was part of a scourge or instrument of torture. Some of these items, together with some early Roman bronze brooches, a ring and a vase are in the British Museum.

From about the 9th to the 12th century, Sutton Courtenay was known as Sutton or Suthtune or, as in this extract from the Domesday Book of 1086, Sudtone.

"The King holds Sudtone in demesne. It was assessed T.R.E. (that is, at the time at which it was acquired by its Norman holder) at 23 hides and 1 virgate; it is now assessed at nothing. There is land for 20 ploughs. On the demesne are three ploughs; and 48 villeins and 21 bordars (a class of peasant between villein and serf) with 17 ploughs. There are 2 serfs and 3 mills worth 50 shillings and 300 acres of meadow and woodland to render 40 swine". A 'hide' and 'virgate are both measurements of land; 'demesne' being landed property or an estate.

SUTTON COURTENAY - THE FUTURE

As part of the 1971 Census, Primary school children throughout the country were asked to contribute an essay on their impressions of the village in which they lived, the best contributions to be locked away in the official archives until the year 2001. We are proud to report that Gillian Baker, of 73 High Street, then at Sutton Courtenay Primary School, had her essay accepted as one of the very few from Berkshire. We wish we could have reprinted her essay, but if you are still around in the year 2001 you will be able to read it then!

Since the Football Club erected its Pavilion on the Recreation Ground, it has continually been subjected to vandalism. Only recently glass had to be replaced in all the windows and wire guards placed over them. These have again been broken, this time with air gun pellets and the Police have now been informed.

BOYS' SECTION TEAM NOTES

Congratulations to the under 15's who have now won their League. They have also reached the Under 15 Cup Final in which they play Northway (Oxford), on Hanney F.C. Ground on Sunday, 11th March, K.O. 2.30 p.m. The Under 16's begin their defence of the War Memorial Cup which they won last year when they play Buckland Minors at home on Sunday, February 25th, K.O. 2.30 p.m.

The Third Annual six-a-side tournament will be held on Sunday, May 13th. There are six age groups this year and with 120 entries expected the first matches will begin at 11. a.m. and continue through to 7 p.m. to provide eight hours of Continuous Football. It is also intended to have side shows and competitions to provide something for all the family. There will be Bowling for a Ham for the Men, and for a Tea Service for the Ladies, Penalty Kick and Football Target competitions and lots more so make a note of the date.

WIVES GROUP

We began our meetings in January this year with our Annual General Meeting when Mrs. Audrey Torevell was elected President, and Mrs. Doreen Denton, Vice-President. We next had a very interesting meeting when Mrs. Clifford brought along her slides, and to round off January, we had a trip to the Thames Television Studios to see a recording of the show "Who Do You Do".

On February 6th we had a Beetle Drive and on February 29th we have a visit from Mrs. Giddings, a member of the Association for the Blind, to talk about their work - their products will also be on sale.

On March 6th we are having an evening showing our own slides with a competition for the funniest, and on March 20th a talk about Deep-Freezers by Buy-Lo from Drayton. This is an open meeting and we hope anyone interested will come along - all will be most welcome.

ALL SAINTS' NOTES

We hope that our members will support the Open Group discussing "What is real in Christianity?" on Wednesdays (Mar. 14th 21st and 28th) at 8 p.m. (probably at the Vicarage). The meeting at this time on Mar. 7th (Ash Wednesday) will be a discussion of the new Revision of the Communion Service that we shall be using at 8 a.m. on March 11th and 25th.

Although the Vicar and other friends and relations of our seven candidates will be at Drayton at 10 a.m. on March 18th for the Confirmation, we shall also have Family Communion at that time at All Saints. At 6.30 p.m. that day our own Mrs. Cullen who is a Diocesan Social Worker will speak on "The Ministry of Women". Mr. Frank Nelson has agreed to be our representative for liaison with our County Social Workers.

We propose to have a Bazaar on December 1st. proceeds will be for All Saints' Church and a quarter each for the Church Overseas (for repair of "vicarages") and for the Abingdon Salvation Army Appeal. Mrs. Newell of "Buckridges", is Chairman of the Committee. They already need YOUR help. For more details see "Church News".

NEWS, Brief is 5p Wante rake Post

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NEWS, VIEWS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

Brief news items and letters are welcomed. The rate for adverts is 5p. a line (approx. 10 words) except for 'Found', 'Work Wanted', and 'Welcome to Sutton Courtenay', which are free. Take them to the Editor, Mary Thompson, 124 High Street, the Post Office or Rogers' shop before Copy Day.

WELCOME TO SUTTON COURTENAY

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffs to Appleford Road from Didcot. Mr. and Mrs. Rennison to 23 High Street.

B.A.J. LING, 10/12 Milton Road, Sutton Courtenay.

Don't forget Spring is coming! Buy your non-taxable goods now before V.A.T. - Mowers, Garden Tools, Seeds, also Plants and sundries.

SENIOR CITIZENS

The Treasurer would like to publicly thank all the individuals who contributed and made the Christmas Dinner the success it was, especially the following: - Sutton Courtenay Social Club, (Bingo), The New Inn, The Plough, The George and Dragon, The Wives Group and the Football Club.

FOUND

One lady's or child's watch.

One pair of black mitts.

One only sheepskin mitt. All now at the Post Office.

THE YOUTH CLUB have tidied up Dropshort Lane.

MR. E. BAKER, 46 Barretts Way, would like to thank everyone for the sympathy and goodwill shown to him and the children on the death of his wife, Joan, who died peacefully in the Radcliffe Infirmary on 15th January. The collection undertaken on behalf of the children amounted to £28.80. This sum, together with £60 contributed by myself has been put in the Bank for the childrens' future benefit. A sincere thank you to all collectors and neighbours.

SUTTON COURTENAY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

At the end of the current term (6th April) a vacancy will arise for a Playgroup Assistant. Preference will be given to those applicants who live in the village, who have experience with handling young children and who have no children under 5 years. The Assistant will be required to work the following hours:—

Tue. 9.00 - 11.45 a.m. and 1.15 - 3.15 p.m., Wed. 9.00 - 11.45 a.m. and Thurs. 9.00 - 11.45 a.m. Apply to Mrs. A. Runyard, 22, Frilsham Street, Tel. S.C. 670 (evenings).

THE 'NEWS' would like to thank an anonymous donor for a gift of £1 and also the Boys' Football Club for a donation of £2.

CORRECTION TO THE SUPTON COURTENAY DIRECTORY
Would you please note the following corrections to the Directory
issued last month. We apologise for any inconvenience caused,
but would those responsible for giving us the information
kindly make sure it is accurate in future, and in some cases,
despite our appeals, we received no information at all.

Sutton Courtenay Playgroup - Meets 9,15 - 11.45 a.m. 1.15 - 3.15 p.m.

3rd Sutton Courtenay Brownies - Meets Thursdays 5.30 - 7.00 p.m. Clinic - is held the second Thursday in the month.

3rd Sutton Courtenay Guides - The address of Mrs. Miles
86 Milton Road not 74 as printed.

SUPPON COURTENAY DIRECTORY II

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