

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 54 No. 2

MARCH 2025



VILLAGE DIARY FOR MARCH

Sat 1	Community Brunch (p. 10)	River Room	9:30-11:30
Every Sat	The Abbey Café (p. 7)	The Abbey	10:00-14:00
Sat 1	Lights. Camera. Action. (p. 10)	River Room	19:30
Tue 4	Parish Council Meeting (p. 5)	Village Hall	19:15
Thur 6 & 20	WeCare2 (p. 10)	River Room	11:15-12:30
Fri 7 & 21	Bridge Afternoon (p. 10)	River Room	14:00-17:00
Sat 8	Friends of All Saints' Quiz (p. 11)	Village Hall	19:30
Thur 13	Together in Stitches (p. 10)	River Room	19:30-21:00
Thur 13 & 27	Community Café (p. 12)	River Room	10:30-12:00
Sat 15 & 29	Talks in The Abbey (p. 6)	The Abbey	11:00-13:00
Mon 17	Knit & Natter (p. 11)	River Room	14:00-16:00
Fri 21, Sat 22	SCIDS – Much ado about Ali Baba (p. 11)	Village Hall	See advert
Sun 23	Music Open Day (p. 12)	Matrix	Book now
Sat 29	Movie Matinée (p. 10)	River Room	16:00
Sun 30	All Saints' Singers Concert (p. 11)	Church	19:30

Previous copies of SCN are available on the website under Archives at suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk

APRIL 2025 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH 2025

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

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Parish Council Chair: Rita Atkinson, 848694
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

Cricket Club: drb71@hotmail.co.uk

WI - Sutton Courtenay: 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
enquiries@sclhs.org.uk

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

All Saints Singers: Kathy Harrop-Griffiths, 848230
secretary@allsaintssingers.org
www.allsaintssingers.org

Sutton Courtenay Action: suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com

Non-urgent Police, 101 or policing team email:
AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Environment Agency: Landfill Odours 0800 80 70 60

Thames Water (leaks): 0800 71 46 14

Police Anonymous Hotline: 0800 555 111

Power Cuts: 105

Websites:

Sutton Courtenay News: www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk

Parish Council: www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk

Vale of White Horse DC: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Oxfordshire CC: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Village Hall: suttoncourtenayvillagehall.co.uk

Action Fraud: www.actionfraud.police.uk

Citizens Advice: 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

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

Associate Priest: The Reverend Phil Sutton 01235 635476
or 07507 378737 revphil@damascusparish.org.uk

Lay ministers: Jack Jarvis (831395) & Alex Landsbert (847443)

Authorised preacher: Paul James (848129)

Churchwarden: Hilary Otterburn (01235 834725)

Pro-Warden: Alison Budd (01235 527853)

Parish Office: 01235 847179 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 and follow the on screen prompts. If you need to contact the booking clerk please email: 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 or 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

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 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.





Given the awful weather we had in January, I was so sorry to see how some constituents once again faced flooding or the threat of it. I have been in contact with our local councils to ensure the concerns of constituents who contact me are heard.

It has been a busy month in Parliament, with the opportunity to speak up and debate local, national and, indeed, international issues. In the Didcot and Wantage constituency, I am serving both urban and rural communities, but many of the topics debated affect constituents wherever they live. I voted in favour of support for the women affected by the changes to retirement in the WASPI Bill; in favour of the Climate and Nature Bill (which so many of you contacted me about); and the Sunshine bill that requires new homes to be fitted with solar panels at the outset. I have asked questions about the shortage of medication for those with epilepsy, ADHD and Parkinson's Disease. I was also able to applaud the work of small post offices whilst arguing they need more support.

Education has featured heavily this month; with debates about the critical need to improve the services for children and young people with special needs. I enjoyed my visits to local schools where I heard from the hard-working staff of their concerns and difficulties but also saw the difference they are making. The young women at Didcot Girls School gave me a grilling as challenging as any I have seen in parliament! I was also able to sing the praises of Bikeability this month; a scheme in many of our schools that teaches children to cycle safely.

While the work in Parliament is serious, there can be lighter moments – and so I was pleased to squeeze in a mention of the divisive matter of mayonnaise on chips whilst discussing the merits of Belgium, Switzerland and Norway! Much closer to home, I have met constituents in my surgery as well as spending time in the constituency hearing their concerns, and more importantly trying to resolve them where I can. Affordable housing, challenges around the management of new housing estates and transport infrastructure feature heavily, although I was pleased to see the Milton Park Local Development Order come into fruition, and the new cycling and transport infrastructure put in place.

Unsurprisingly, I have been contacted by many residents concerned about the Chancellor's recent statement and her very public support for the planned reservoir. I continue to push for a public inquiry – the anguish of those affected by flooding and the rise in water bills is a clear signal that Thames Water does not have the trust of those of us living locally.

My team and I continue to serve constituents in addressing a wide range of personal matters. Please contact me if you need support or would like to meet or wish to invite me to a local event (I can't make them all but I try to fit in as many as I can)!

Contact: olly.glover.MP@parliament.uk

For more regular updates, you can follow me on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OllyGloverLD/> and Bluesky: [@ollyglover.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/ollyglover.bsky.social)

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Sutton Courtenay News needs a new volunteer distributor for Tullis Close and Mill Lane. If you are interested and want to know more please contact:
Lynnette by text to 07966490233
or email editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk

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

phone: 07778 284193 or writing to 8 Church Street, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4NJ



Call for volunteers to set up a Sutton Courtenay Path Maintenance Volunteers Group

The Parish Council is very aware of the importance and need to maintain parish footpaths as they form a vital part of our parish's amenities.

Oxfordshire County Council's Countryside Access team is responsible for maintenance of Public Rights of Way in Oxfordshire. Due to Oxfordshire County Council's limited budget for the maintenance of Oxfordshire's Public Rights of Way a measure of self-help may be needed from us as a community, in addition to active and timely reporting of issues.

Access to information and reporting problems on our footpaths

A map of the Public Rights of Way in our parish can be viewed at: publicrightsofway.oxfordshire.gov.uk/standardmap.aspx and search 'Sutton Courtenay' under parish. There is a facility to report problems on routes. All reports are acknowledged and updates provided by the Countryside Access team.

You can also view a listing of the Public Rights of Way with descriptions at

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/countryside/countryside-access/public-rights-way/public-rights-way-online Select the file 'S' from the list labelled 'Definitive Statements by parish'. Our parish reference is 373.

A limited picture of some of the local footpaths is reproduced opposite – a greater magnification and wider area can be viewed through the Oxfordshire County Council website that will display each footpath with its identifier (format - parish reference/footpath number/section number). Path furniture such as gates, signage and stiles can also be viewed on the interactive map.

Initiatives by the Ramblers Association

The Parish Council has been investigating voluntary schemes for the regular maintenance of footpaths, currently setup across the county, and have contacted the Ramblers Association.

(a) Voluntary Path Clearance Groups

Discussions were held with the coordinator for the Vale Path Volunteers which is the footpath maintenance team of the Vale of White Horse Ramblers Group. Vale Path Volunteers are a group of volunteers who work with the approval of the Oxfordshire County Council Countryside Access team. They clear vegetation, such as brambles and tree branches, which obstruct the use of the Public Rights of Way in the Vale of White Horse District Council area.

The Vale Path Volunteers coordinator kindly came out to walk some of the footpaths in Sutton Courtenay. His verdict was, 'currently, the paths walked are not sufficiently restricted by vegetation to warrant a visit by the Vale Path Volunteers, but I am sure that in time they will be. When

you feel that vegetation is close to causing a problem, please let me know, and I will conduct a recce with a view to arranging a work session by the Vale Path Volunteers'. However, it should be borne in mind that this is a small voluntary group that covers the whole of the Vale and there may be long waiting times before our requests could be serviced. Remedial work needed to improve the surface of the footpaths is not within the remit of these volunteer groups.

A person wishing to join the Vale Path Volunteers does not have to be a member of the Ramblers Association. However, they would be expected to participate in all Vale Path Volunteers activities, not just those related to one specific location, such as Sutton Courtenay.

Another excellent example of a voluntary footpath maintenance group can be found at chilternsociety.org.uk/path-maintenance/

(b) Parish Path Warden scheme

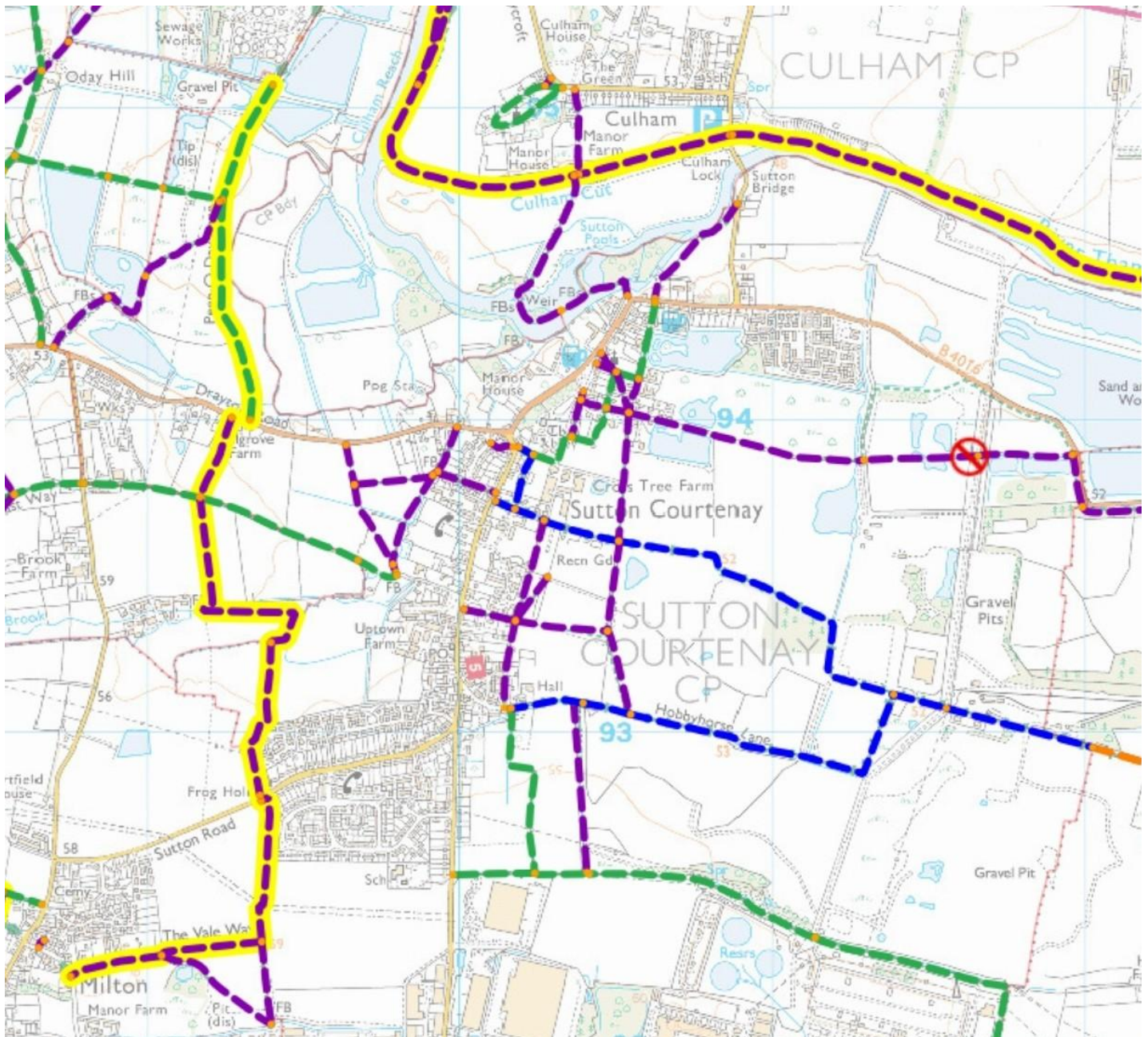
The Ramblers Association also have a Parish Path Warden scheme run by Oxfordshire Ramblers (in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and others). It is volunteer-based and co-ordinated, on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council, by the Oxfordshire Ramblers Association.

The purpose of the Parish Path Warden scheme is to keep Oxfordshire's Public Rights of Way open for easy use by reporting any path problems e.g. vegetation overgrowth, difficult stile, locked gate, collapsing footbridge, path not made good after ploughing etc. This does involve walking all the paths at least once each in summer and winter. The Parish Path Warden is given a large scale (1:10,000) map of the parish, which contains details of all the Public Rights of Way, including their reference numbers. The scheme helps in developing a strong working relationship the Oxfordshire County Council Countryside Access team who organise an annual meeting for all Wardens to give an update and discuss any generic issues. A parish can have more than one Parish Path Warden.

Setting up a volunteer group for path clearance in Sutton Courtenay

The Ramblers Association provides guidance and training for those who would like to set up a footpath clearance group. The coordinator of the Vale Path Volunteers group has offered to provide advice and guidance as needed. There is a range of information on the Ramblers Association website including Risk Assessments, Code of Practice, and advice regarding equipment, ranging from saws and loppers to power tools.

The Parish Council would support such a group by arranging for collection of bagged arisings from the clearance. Grants to buy the equipment can be sourced. A secure place to store the equipment could be investigated. If you are interested in starting up such a group please get in touch with the Clerk to the Parish Council, Jennie Currie (details opposite).



Council meetings and contact details

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings. The dates of the next meetings are Tuesday 4th March, Tuesday 1st April and Tuesday 6th May at 7.15pm. 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 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, Father Morkos, Joanna O’Callaghan, Lia Plowman, Ian Pratley, Hugo Raworth and Jason Warwick. There is currently 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 07495 123 353. Alternatively, you can contact Councillors directly, their email addresses are on the website.

The Friends of All Saints’ Church

Can you help us?

We need the use of a sizeable garden in which we can erect a couple of large tents and some gazebos with seating for about 80 for a Sunday lunch in June/July.

Our team does all the work.

The Friends of All Saints’ Church is a charity formed of people who are passionate about preserving the wonderful 12th Century Grade 1 listed Church we have in our village for future generations to enjoy.

One of our annual events is a delightful Garden Party in the Summer. However, we have not yet been able to secure a venue for this year’s party.

If you have a garden we could use for this charity event and want more information please contact Sue Jenkins on 07885 437454 SJjenkins33@aol.com

THE ABBEY

The Abbey Café

Our popular café reopens on the 8th of March. We've been busy hosting some retreats but can't wait to welcome you back on Saturdays from 10 am to 2pm. So check our website for the menu or for any updates.

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

Saturday talks at The Abbey

Last November, we were pleased to launch our Saturday talks as part of our educational programme. You can find the full list of events on our website and social media pages.

This month, we welcome Pauline Rudd on the 15th March and Kevan Martin on the 29th March who will share their knowledge and expertise. Pauline Rudd is an Emeritus Professor and Fellow of the Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research at University College Dublin – she will be talking about the interface between science, nature, and faith. Kevan Martin is the co-founder of the Thames Valley Wildflower Meadow Restoration Project and he will share his experience of developing a connected community approach to landscape-scale restoration.

Please check our website for more details.

We're open to approaches too, so please contact us if you have an idea for a suitable talk. These events will be held in the Library from 11am to 1pm on Saturdays.

Volunteering at the Abbey

The walled garden

We are developing a great team of volunteer gardeners. If you have a few hours to spare each week and want to help us

SATURDAY TALKS AT THE ABBEY
Towards the healing of a wounded world
Communication, partnership and the gifts of the spirit
Saturday 15th March 2025, 11am - 1 pm
A reflection after 2 years of living in solitude
in the Wicklow mountains
Speaker: Pauline M. Rudd
Price £10 (including coffee/tea)
Please book at [eventbrite.co.uk/e/1247317723889](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1247317723889)
All proceeds will be donated to the Abbey charity

SATURDAY TALKS AT THE ABBEY
"Networking for Nature"
Saturday 29th March 2025, 11am – 1 pm
Speaker: Kevan Martin
Price £10 (including coffee/tea)
Please book at [eventbrite.co.uk/e/1253811206069](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1253811206069)
All proceeds will be donated to the Abbey charity

care for our beautiful walled garden, we'd love to hear from you. Gardening experience is not necessary. Come and spend time in this special garden and enjoy working with other volunteers and make new friends.

Please contact Pascaline at: 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 @theabbey Sutton Courtenay

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

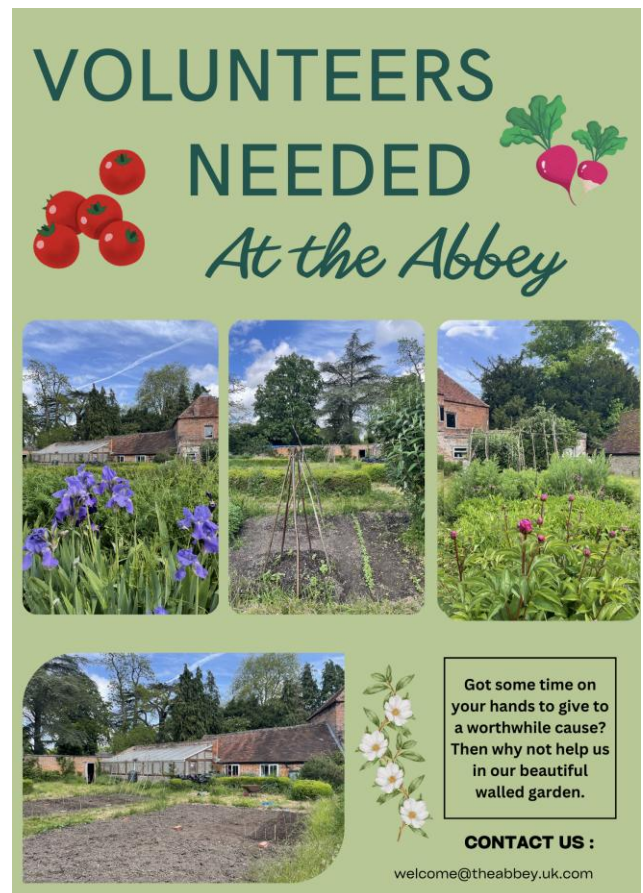


The Abbey
Café

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

EVERY SATURDAY
10AM TO 2PM

THE ABBEY SUTTON COURTENAY



**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

ADYP

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project
Registered Charity 1098966



Our Wednesday evening sessions (6.30pm to 7.45pm) continue in the Village Hall. Alfie Turner and Harvey Hudspeth are delivering activities supported by Trustees Roxy Elford and Rita Atkinson. Both Alfie and Harvey, have been beneficiaries of ADYP and, once again, we are proud of the way our young people give back and lead by example to support younger people in the community.



Taking the 'healthy or unhealthy' quiz to trigger discussions around protective behaviours to develop skills and build resilience to make positive choices in relationships.



Keeping fit with 'Just Dance' on an old Wii console – it still works!

Other news - Trustees are currently recruiting for a qualified senior youth and community worker.

ADYP Drop-in: Wednesdays 6:30–7:45 pm
at Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

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

Website: www.ycat.org.uk

Email: alfiet.adyp@gmail.com

Phone: [01235 848694](tel:01235848694)

RSPB VoWH LOCAL GROUP



The RSPB Local Group (Vale of White Horse) will be returning to the River Room, by the church, Sutton Courtenay for the March meeting. We also do monthly wildlife walks.

We have opened up our photo competition, rules and an entry form are on the local group website www.rspb-vwh.org.uk Entries should be emailed to Mike Haddrell (mikehaddrell@gmail.com) by 17 March. The images will be judged by Ben Andrew at the River Room meeting on 28 April, which is one of the upcoming events:

- * Talk 17th Mar: The Ridgeway (John Tyler, River Room & Zoom)
- * Walk 30th Mar: Farmoor
- * Walk 27th Apr: Greenham Common
- * Talk 28th Apr: Photographing Birds, Ben Andrew (River Room only)
- * 12th May: AGM and Members' Evening (River Room only)

* Walk 25th May: Otmoor

* Walk 22nd June: Greenham Common (evening, nightjars etc)

With not much of the 24/25 season left to go, we have now reduced new membership to £10 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 an individual talk, 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, or at a meeting (cash, cheque or bank transfer). For meetings with an option to join via Zoom, members receive the link via email a few days beforehand.



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

Dear Friends,

During this month of March, the church is in preparation for Easter. It is a time called Lent, which is like Advent for Christmas, a time when Christians seek to refresh, renew or strengthen their faith. It is part of that faith journey Dov was writing about in his letter to you last month. Advent looks forward to the birth of Jesus, of God coming to us. Lent reflects on Jesus' trial, suffering and sacrifice of his life. The joy of Christmas turns into the sorrow of Lent and then turns into the joy of Easter. This is the great mystery of faith "Christ has died, Christ is risen and Christ will come again".

The Old Testament prophet Malachi (3:1-5), warns of this future event, saying that when the Lord comes he will judge against those who do harm to others. There is a long list which includes those who would "thrust aside the widow and orphan (the vulnerable), the alien foreigner (the refugee), those who bear false witness (the liars)". Throughout scripture in both the Old and the New Testament, the message is clear, that we must look after and take care of each other.

My Grandmother taught me that charity begins at home. I am now beginning to understand how true this really is, because without it our communities and our lives would be the poorer. Our villages are fortunate to have many social and recreational opportunities such as the village hall, sports clubs, art, drama and singing groups, warm spaces, green spaces, the DAMASCUS Youth Project, the village magazine you are reading, to name but a few. All of these, including the parish councils, are there because people volunteer themselves and others support them.

In the Damascus parish, the ministry team are able to provide services every Sunday at various different times in each village, because of the help and support of volunteers. Jesus gives us only two rules to live by, the first commandment is to love God and the second to love one another. Simple yet hard. However, we can all be that "charity" that begins at home, the place where you live. Our communities need volunteers and supporters to take care of each other and to look after our environment. If you are not one of these yet, hopefully you will soon be benefitting from being one.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for our village and for every person who lives here.

*Help us to care more for our community, to share your love,
and to stand for your truth. Amen*

The Reverend 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

CHURCH DIARY FOR MARCH

Saturday 1st – 9:30-11:30 Community Brunch, River Room **WARM SPACE**

19:30-21:00 - 'Lights, Camera, Action' – an illustrated talk by former Churchwarden, Fred Cabbage, on British Film Locations in the River Room. Entrance by donation. Drinks and nibbles available. Raising money for the All Saints' Tower Appeal.

Tuesday 4th - SHROVE TUESDAY – 17:00-19:00 Pancake Party at St Blaise, Milton – child friendly – all welcome.

Wednesday 5th – ASH WEDNESDAY – 19:30 Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes to mark the beginning of Lent, All Saints' Church.

Saturday 8th – Marriage Preparation Day for all those getting married in the DAMASCUS Parish in 2025.

19:00 Friends of All Saints' Quiz Night in the Village Hall

Monday 10th – 19:30 The DAMASCUS Parochial Church Council Meeting, St Blaise, Milton

Tuesday 11th – 19:30 Vicar's Fun Day Planning Meeting, River Room

Wednesday 12th – 19:30 Lent Group, River Room

Thursday 13th – 10.30-12 noon Community Café, River Room. **WARM SPACE**. 19:30 Together in Stitches, River Room. **WARM SPACE**.

Wednesday 19th – 19:30 Lent Group, River Room

Wednesday 26th – 19:30 Lent Group, River Room

Thursday 27th - 10.30-12 noon Community Café, River Room. **WARM SPACE**.

Saturday 29th – 16:00 Movie Matinee, River Room **WARM SPACE**

Sunday 30th – MOTHERING SUNDAY – 11:00 Family Service for Mothering Sunday – come and receive a posy of flowers as a gift of love. 19:30 All Saints' Singers' Concert, All Saints' Church

CHURCH DIARY FOR APRIL

Friday 4th – 9:30 Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School Easter Service, All Saints' Church

Saturday 5th – 9:30-11:30 Community Brunch, River Room **WARM SPACE**

Holy Baptism

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

12th Jan 2025 – Louwen Anthony Willoughby WELLSTEAD

19th Jan 2025 – Mia Ella ROBINSON

Both services conducted by the Reverend Dov Whittle

LENT 2025 in the DAMASCUS Parish

We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday (5th March) with a service of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes at 19:30 in All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay.

Lent Groups will begin on Wednesday 12th March at 7.30pm in the River Room. Please see advert for details. **To register an interest in attending** please email admin@damascusparish.org.uk or 'phone 01235 847179.

Easter Lilies



At Easter we provide an opportunity to remember loved ones with a display of lilies in church. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of this year's lilies in memory of someone, please put your donation in an envelope with the name(s) of those to be remembered and deliver to Ann White at 24 Frilsham Street before Friday 18th April. A list of those remembered will be on display in Church.

DAMASCUS Parish online prayer meeting

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.

Interested? We meet on-line every Tuesday at 07.45 - 08.15

Please contact: DAMASCUSonlineprayer@gmail.com



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

COME AND SEE

Answering your questions about faith

LENT 2025

in the DAMASCUS Parish

This Lent, explore what it means to be human and what it means to be baptised as a Christian. The two questions belong very closely together.

Come and See is for people exploring faith and Christians who have been coming to church for years. You'll receive a daily email and a weekly short video in Lent. **Come and See** how these life-giving reflections will enrich your life.

If you would like to join our in-person Lent Group in the DAMASCUS Parish then come along:

River Room, All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay

Wednesdays 19:30-21:00

12, 19, 26 March & 2, 9, 16 April 2025

Please sign up on the lists at the back of each of our churches or email admin@damascusparish.org.uk or 'phone 01235 847179 so we have an idea of numbers. **We look forward to welcoming you.**

Vicar's Fun Day 2025

We are hoping to hold another Vicar's Fun Day on the Village Green
(subject to permission from the Parish Council)

on **Bank Holiday Monday 26th May 2025.**

At this stage we are just trying to gather together some volunteers who would be happy to help in the planning and running of the day. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity and / or have any ideas we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Helen at rector@damascusparish.org.uk or phone the parish office on 01235 847179.

We are planning to raise money for the restoration of the bells in All Saints' Church and for the creation of safer access to the tower and ringing chamber to ensure the bells can be safely rung for generations to come.

WARM SPACES in Sutton Courtenay

We are continuing to offer a WARM WELCOME SPACE in the River Room at various times and dates in March.

Where these are indicated on the individual adverts this means that the event is free and open to all. We offer free WiFi and kitchen facilities from which simple free refreshments are served.

If you would like to make use of a warm space just turn up or contact either: rector@damascusparish.org.uk or ring the Parish Office on 01235 847179 for more information.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community Café in the River Room



Run by the church for the whole community

Thursday 13th March

Thursday 27th March (for Water Aid)

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?

This is part of the **WARM SPACE** initiative- - Open to all – a good place to meet with friends or make new ones. If you need transport to and from the church please 'phone the Parish Office on 01235 847179

LIGHTS. CAMERA. ACTION.

An Illustrated Presentation on English Film and TV

Locations



Saturday 1st March 2025 at 7.30pm

River Room, All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay

With Drinks and Nibbles

Donations Welcomed

Raising money for the Tower and Bell Appeal

MOVIE MATINEES

The next Movie Matinee in the River Room

(A **WARM SPACE**) is on

Saturday 29th March 2025 – 4pm

For a full programme to be sent to you please

email: admin@damascusparish.org.uk

or pick one up from the back of the church

Entry is **free** and refreshments are available.



WeCare2



This is a small and gentle group welcoming people with dementia, their carers and those older members in the village who live alone and would enjoy an hour in company.

We meet in the River Room, All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay on the first and third Thursday each month, from 11.15 to 12.30. Transport can be arranged if needed.

The group has a cup of coffee/tea and we try varied armchair exercises and then finally sing together some well-known traditional songs.

Music is recognised as being so beneficial to positive mental activity.

If you are interested and would like more information please phone/contact

Morna 07787 521039/morna28whitlock@gmail.com



COMMUNITY BRUNCH

The NEXT Community Brunch will be from

9:30-11:30

in the River Room, All Saints' Church

Saturday 1st March

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!

FREE - WARM SPACE

ALL WELCOME!

(Donations welcome – surplus funds go to the Abingdon Food Bank)

BRIDGE AFTERNOONS

Come and play bridge on the 1st and 3rd 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

Come and join us

KNIT AND NATTER



Afternoons of chat and craft

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

Every 3rd 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



Friends Of All Saints' Church

QUIZ EVENING

Saturday 8th March @ 7.30pm
in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

We invite you to take part in our annual Quiz evening

Table of 8 @ £12 per person
to include supper

Please contact:

Sue Jenkins 07885 437454

or SJJenkins33@aol.com to book a table

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

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FRIDAY 21 MARCH 6.30pm

SATURDAY 22 MARCH 2.00pm & 6.30pm

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall



All tickets: £7

Box Office: 847707 / 848335
(from 24 Feb)

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Sutton Courtenay

Music Director
Sebastian Thomson

Brahms Ein deutsches Requiem

All Saints' Church
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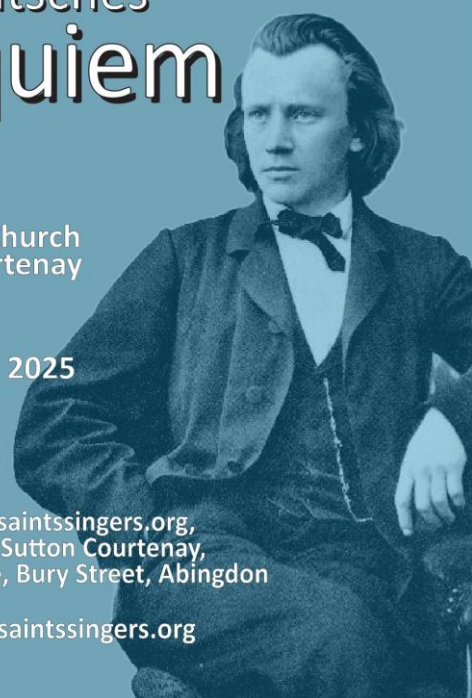
Sunday
30th March 2025
7:30 pm

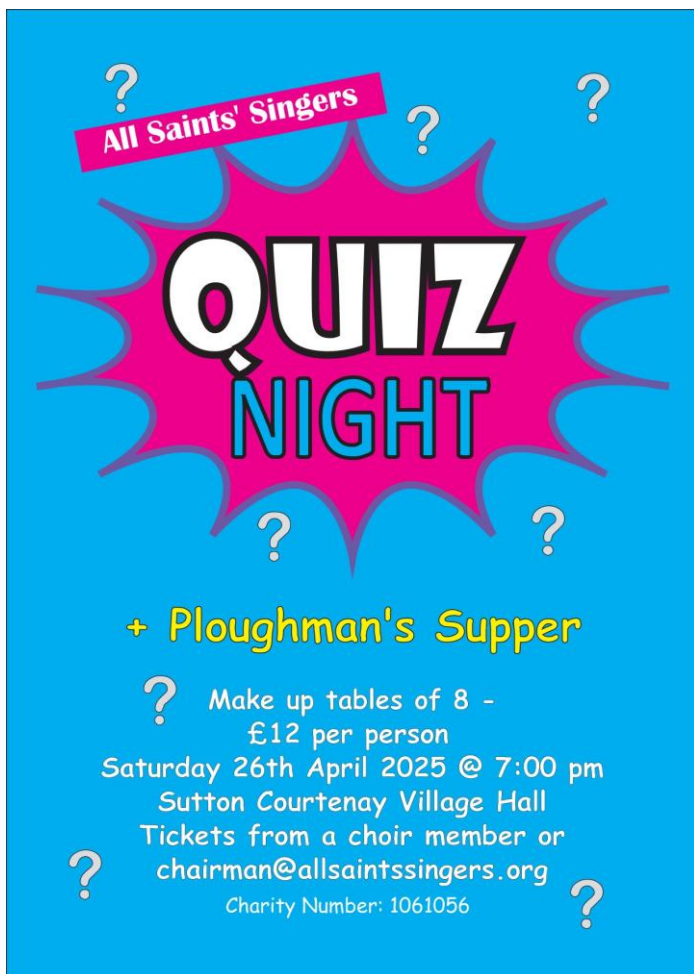
Tickets £15

From:

chairman@allsaintssingers.org,
Hari & Esha's, Sutton Courtenay,
The Bookstore, Bury Street, Abingdon

More info: allsaintssingers.org




Quiz Night
+ Ploughman's Supper
 ? Make up tables of 8 -
 £12 per person
 Saturday 26th April 2025 @ 7:00 pm
 Sutton Courtenay Village Hall
 Tickets from a choir member or
 chairman@allsaintssingers.org
 Charity Number: 1061056

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, & come & enjoy a chat (and possibly a glass of wine)
Second Thursday in the month
(7:30-9pm, River Room)
 For more information 'phone 01235 847179
 or just turn up!

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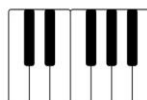



Another lovely Milton Minors Playgroup session today.
Every Wednesday 9/30 till 11/30am.
Come along and join us!
£4 per session including refreshments.

Milton Methodist Church Hall
 Milton High Street, OX14 4EJ



Come and try our engaging music courses on Sunday 23 March - book now!
 Children start their music journey with us between the ages of 2 - 7 and can continue through to 18



Matrix Arts Centre
 Sutton Courtenay OX14 4UA
www.matrixartscentre.org.uk



Thank you from Sutton Courtenay Village Hall Trustees

On Saturday 25th January 2025, the village hall came alive to the sound of over 90 people dancing reels, jigs and hornpipes to the music of a distinguished Cèilidh band. It was Burns Night after all, **and** it was the 265th anniversary of the great Scottish poet's birth.

This is the fourth year that Carolyn Fox and her team have organised the event, and each year it grows in popularity. It certainly qualifies as an established event in the village's calendar.

The trustees are immensely grateful to Carolyn and her team and all those who supported the event, as one of the causes they support, in their fundraising, is the Village Hall. £650 was donated to the village hall funds for further improvements.

It is a lot of work, and each year Carolyn takes a deep breath before diving into the excellent organisation of the event. Carolyn said, 'If I ever waver, I remember dear Tammy who encouraged me to start the event 4 years ago and was my biggest supporter and helper. If I have ever thought about not continuing, I can hear her voice telling me what a wonderful event it is and how I must continue.' Indeed, Tammy did so much to encourage all of us to do more within our community.

We are grateful to all who support and make the event such fun.

Fun Fact: In 2009, Burns became the first person to appear on a commemorative Coca-Cola bottle.

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall Trustees



PLEASE VOTE FOR THE SCOUT GROUP AT TESCO

The 26th Abingdon Scout Group, based in Sutton Courtenay, has been selected for the Tesco Stronger Starts campaign. We are aiming to buy camping equipment for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts so that they can take part in weekend, and longer, expeditions.

Please pop your blue tokens into our pot when you shop at Tesco in Abingdon or Grove. Voting is open now and lasts until the end of March.

THANK YOU!



How to help us with your submissions

Dear Reader,

We absolutely love the contributions we get – the news, the comments, and especially, the posters and photos. As I am sure you are aware, we are juggling with limited space and limited time. We try to give every contribution the best exposure we can, and we are always mindful of our readers and try to ensure everything is legible. There are some ways in which you could help when submitting contributions for the editorial section.

Posters

Posters add a splash of colour and interest and really lift our magazine. Please keep sending them in. Your designs are great!

However, we do have one request and that is to bear in mind the size of the columns in our magazine – 9.15 cm width. When you design your poster shrink it down to check that it remains legible - a whopping size 20 font can shrink to an unreadable size 8. Ideally, printed font should be size 12 for good legibility but size 11 is acceptable. Smaller than this and you need to think carefully about your audience and their eyesight. We are happy to advise. Where we can, we may change the text size to make it legible without spoiling your design. If we can't, we will get back to you with suggestions. We can use submissions in jpg, png, pdf and Word formats. Posters in portrait orientation will get better exposure.

Text Contributions

Please send us these in Word format if at all possible. Text in the body of the email is manageable, but pdf format is not helpful because we have to reformat it and that can take time. We love the photos that bring the text alive but be aware that they will be reduced in size to fit our columns – we just do not have unlimited space!

If you don't have access to Word or any of the software mentioned above, please don't let that stop you contacting us and giving us your news and views – we accept handwritten letters and can take copies of precious photos and return them to you. We love hearing from you.

If you have a query please phone one of us or email (see Sutton Courtenay News Contacts on Page 2) and we will be pleased to help.

And please ensure that contributions are with us by 5:00 pm on the third Wednesday of the month – this allows us the time we need to get on with the job!

Thank you,

Editor

With Mad March upon us, it is time to look to spring and a new year.

Recently I went to London with my family to join the Chinese New Year celebrations, and it struck me as positively uplifting at the end of winter to coincide the timing of new year celebrations with the start of spring and signs of new life, as is apparently quite common in some other cultures. I look forward to our local rituals like the chance to see new lambs on a local farm. Following the new year theme, our councils have just debated and agreed the budgets for the new year too. This year's budget is much the same as last year, as in reality, although the sums are large, there is very little wriggle room to do anything new or different. Both district and county are well run financially and have balanced budgets. However, the county has found more money for repairing roads – and ideally making a more permanent job of it than the frequent fire-fighting temporary pot hole repairs that seem to be needed just to keep things ticking over. Oxfordshire, believe it or not, is ahead of many councils in the UK, in that it is trying to prioritise enough money to keep the status quo, and we have also found some money to move from fire-fighting to more, better, and more permanent repairs. The other headline I want to share is that the county has also found new budget for flood alleviation work, which is much needed as this is now an annual theme for our Thames-side communities.

You, like me, might have received a letter recently from Thames Water announcing large rises in their water bills to pay for long neglected infrastructure improvements. Although approved by Ofwat, the rises are large, and a bad omen for what might be coming with the mega-expensive new strategic Oxford reservoir for the South East, to which we have

been objecting as excessive and inappropriate because, if they fixed our current infrastructure and improved water management to standards seen in the best developed countries, it would not be needed. Sight of the new bill increases really rubs this in, as this is just a taster of annual mega price hikes for years to come to pay for the new reservoir. We continue to hold Thames Water to account for a better deal.

Looking forward to the rest of the year, the way local councils are run is changing with the devolution bill, with plans to be submitted by November. For us, this means by the end of 2028, Vale of White Horse District Council will be merged into Oxfordshire County Council. So, it's not really devolution to local areas. But it may be beneficial in terms of economies of scale and other efficiencies. We have yet to see. Restructures can take a lot of time and effort and having been through a lot of restructures personally in the private sector, and knowing how gruelling they can be, my sympathies are with our council staff, who must do their best to navigate how central government want to restructure local services, without adversely impacting the current delivery of high-quality services. Beyond this, the new government are keen to create more strategic combined authorities ideally led by a mayor – like in big cities. However, Oxfordshire is less convinced this will be beneficial for us, as we are a far cry from a big city with different challenges and demographics. On the plus side, one must believe that this long overdue new government are delivering changes now that are long overdue. I will keep you posted on how this pans out.

See you in the Spring!

Councillor Peter Stevens

THAMES WATER



An essential new reservoir for the South East

As we move into the Spring, our teams will be undertaking a range of environmental surveys to support the next steps in the reservoir design. This involves surveying the local trees and ecology. Additionally, we've started our archaeological assessments with oversight from technical experts, digging shallow trenches in nearby fields to explore any potential findings. These works are necessary to ensure we document and preserve anything of archaeological significance below the surface of the ground. All topsoil is being carefully stored and will be replaced once the surveys have been completed. You may notice our work from the public footpaths.

Our clay compaction trial at Hanney Road continues, and following the creation of the borrow pit, we are planning to test the clay in March 2025, when the weather is drier. For more details or questions, visit our website for updates: www.thames-wrmp.co.uk/projects/sesro/



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

MEDIUM SUDOKU

								5
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4	1		9					
	5	7	2					9
			7		5		2	

Taken from www.puzzles.ca/sudoku (1254)



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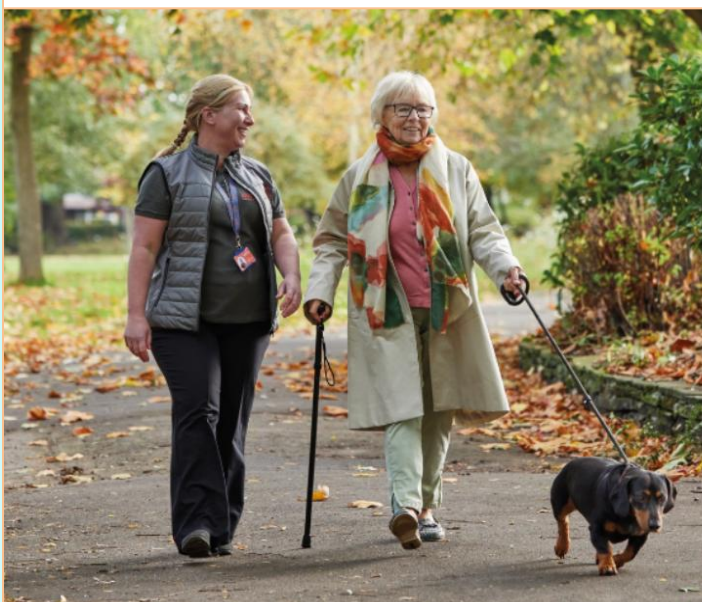
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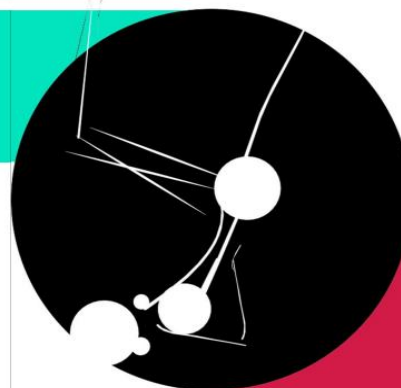
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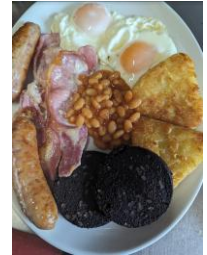
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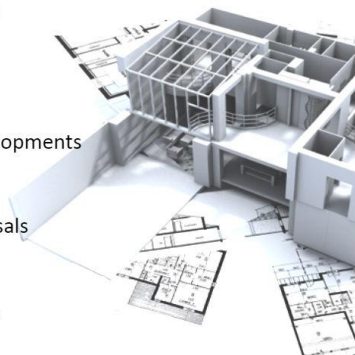


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