

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 54 No. 4

MAY 2025



May Blossom – Appleford Road

VILLAGE DIARY FOR MAY

Thur 1 & 15	WeCare2 (p. 11)	River Room	11:15-12:30
Fri 2 & 16	Bridge Afternoon (p. 12)	River Room	14:00-17:00
3 - 26	Oxfordshire Artweeks		
Sat 3	Community Brunch (p. 10)	River Room	9:30-11:30
Every Sat	The Abbey Café (p. 6)	The Abbey	10:00-14:00
Tue 6	Parish Council Meeting (p. 3)	Village Hall	19:15
Every Wed	DAMASCUS Youth Project (p. 4)	Recreation Gd	tbc
Thur 8 & 22	Community Café (p. 11)	River Room	10:30-12:00
Thur 8	Together in Stitches (p. 12)	River Room	19:30-21:00
Thurs 8	Lighting a VE80 beacon (p. 8)	Steventon Hill	21:00
W/e 10 - 11	VE80 event Steventon (p. 8)	Steventon	
Wed 14	Friends of All Saints' Church AGM (p. 12)	Church	19:30
Sat 17	Churchyard Working Party (p. 9)	Churchyard	9:30 – 12:00
Sat 17	Liberation – D-Day to Berlin film (p. 10)	River Room	19:30
Mon 19	Knit & Natter (p. 12)	River Room	14:00-16:00
Wed 21	Annual Parish Meeting (p. 9)	Church	19:30
23 - 26	English Music Festival (p. 14)	Dorchester	
Sat 24	Movie Matinée (p. 10)	River Room	16:00
Mon 26	Vicar's Fun Day (p. 9 & p. 11)	The Green	12:00 – 16:00

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

JUNE 2025 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY 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

Nordic Walking Group: Graham Wells 847322

Churchmere Carp Synd.: Andy Barrett 07717 662039

DAMASCUS Youth Project: 07956 038022

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

Thames Water Customer Service: 0800 316 9800

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.

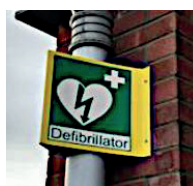
The Editors have been contacted by people outside the village who would like to continue receiving a copy of Sutton Courtenay News. It can be viewed on-line at suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk but please contact the editors to discuss what other arrangements can be made for those unable to access the website.

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.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



Welcome to our new Councillor Cathy King

At its April meeting the Parish Council co-opted Cathy King to the vacant seat. The Parish Council consists of 11 Councillors who all live in the parish, the role is unpaid and they collectively make decisions at Parish Council meetings which are open to the public. There is always a public session at the start of a meeting when residents can raise matters.

The Parish Council employs the Parish Clerk and utilises contractors to provide services in the community and maintain Parish Council owned assets that are for the benefit of the village.

Reporting problems in the parish

We appreciate it is confusing as to which Council looks after different services and who to report matters to.

If you notice any problems at the Recreation Ground, Cemetery, Village Green or with any of the public benches in the parish then please report these directly to the Clerk to the Parish Council, Jennie Currie, as these sites are owned and managed by the Parish Council. You are welcome to send photos of the problem via WhatsApp, text or email. Our contact details, including a new number, are below.

If you notice an overflowing litter or dog waste bin outside the above areas please report it to the Vale of the White Horse District Council via the Report It form online at tinyurl.com/3kwesvbk or by calling 01235 422422.

For public rights of way please use the dedicated map publicrightsofway.oxfordshire.gov.uk

For all other issues to do with pavements, roads, bus stops, etc. please report the problems via fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk or by calling the County

Council on 0345 310 1111. If the County Council is not responsible then the issue will be forwarded to the District Council.

If you are not satisfied with the response you receive from the District or County Council then please contact us, explaining who you contacted and what their response was.

For anything to do with rubbish and recycling collected from your home then it is the Vale of the White Horse District Council's contractor, Biffa, via email to: admin.vale@biffa.co.uk or by calling 03000 610 610.

Council meetings and contact details

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings. The dates of the next meetings are Tuesday 6th May, Tuesday 3rd June and Tuesday 1st July 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, Cathy King, Father Morkos, Joanna O'Callaghan, Lia Plowman, Ian Pratley, Hugo Raworth and Jason Warwick.

Correspondence should be sent to the Clerk, Jennie Currie, Sutton Courtenay Parish Council, c/o Village Hall, Hobbyhorse Lane, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4BB info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk 07496 924 685 (new number April 2025). Alternatively, you can contact Councillors directly, their email addresses are on the website.

SUTTON COURTENAY (NATIONAL POWER) TRUST

Financial Difficulties?

The local charity, **Sutton Courtenay (National Power) Trust**, can consider applications for grants from individuals living in Sutton Courtenay who are experiencing financial hardship. Grants may also be available for other charitable purposes.

The charity can also consider applications for grants from organisations based in Sutton Courtenay which operate for the benefit of the civil parish of Sutton Courtenay.

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE CONSIDERED IN COMPLETE CONFIDENCE

If you would like more information and how to apply, please email the Clerk to the Trustees clerk.scnpt@gmail.com or write to 8 Church Street, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4NJ



Spending time with local people and businesses to understand your concerns and working to find ways to make improvements is the most important part of my role as your MP. I am grateful for opportunities like this newsletter to provide local people with updates and to prompt new connections.

In Parliament, I have continued to advocate for issues that matter to our constituency. I've spoken about the importance of aligning new housing developments with adequate infrastructure – such as a new railway station serving Grove and Wantage, and new or expanded GP surgeries - at every opportunity. I will be on the legislative committee scrutinising the government's new Planning and Infrastructure Bill, which is a chance to critically examine the Government's bill that will guide development in the future and to suggest amendments and improvements before it becomes law. There is a need to address emerging concerns that this bill will not deal with the imbalance between new housing and existing public services and infrastructure, nor give sufficient consideration to natural and architectural conservation.

I have started working with fellow MPs on cross-party efforts to improve safety on the A34, including concerns about the length of the slip roads at the Chilton interchange. A project to improve safety and congestion was 'paused' by the previous administration, but the huge disruption caused by accidents on the A34, and, more importantly, injury and loss of life on this National Highways Road, must still be addressed.

Back in the constituency, I recently joined young people at an Oxfordshire County Council Pizza and Politics session, where we discussed the use of smart phones,

amongst other topics. I had a useful meeting with GARD (Group Against Reservoir Development) about the latest on the Reservoir and have secured a meeting with the Minister for Water and Flooding to discuss local concerns about this huge project.

Our area is a hub of research, innovation, and enterprise. Recent activities included opening the Nebula Building at Milton Park and welcoming Harley Davidson. With the government's announcement of the Oxford Growth Corridor, I am keen to help ensure that Culham, Harwell Campus, and Milton Park can benefit from investment and opportunities that arise. But I am mindful that most of our local businesses are small or medium sized and face different challenges. I recently chaired a discussion with local entrepreneurs and have visited local farmers to understand how new policies around tax and national insurance are impacting them, and the cost and availability of food.

The local and regional media have covered several issues impacting our area recently, so I have been interviewed about A417 flooding, hare coursing, and rural crime. In my first appearance on *the BBC's Politics South show*, I was on a panel discussing conflict in Ukraine and rising energy bills which are topics many of you have contacted me about. And on a lighter note, while advocating for children's literacy skills, I shared my favourite childhood story: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

If you have any concerns with which you think I can help you the best way to reach me is by email at olly.glover.MP@parliament.uk or if you are not able to email you can leave a voice message on 0207 219 7657.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Please can I remind everyone that Sutton Courtenay News does not tolerate abuse towards any of our team. Everyone on our team deserves respect for the part they play in getting this magazine to your house. Please treat them kindly.

Our team is not just composed of the editors and administrator but encompasses a large team of deliverers who bring the magazine to every house in the village once a month – even those with difficult-to-find letter boxes!

We are all volunteers and work hard to bring you an attractive magazine containing news, views and adverts – a means whereby you can stay in touch with neighbours, find out what has been going on in the village, source a local tradesman or service, and learn what fun might be in store nearby. This magazine is free to all households in Sutton Courtenay.

If you enjoy this magazine and value what it contributes to village life, perhaps you would consider volunteering to help.

Editor

PLEASE HELP - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sutton Courtenay News needs new volunteers to distribute the magazine around the village. There are currently three vacancies:

1. Tullis Close and Mill Lane.
2. A patch covering part of the High Street and the Green.

For these two please contact Lynnette by text to 07966 490233

3. Tyrells Way - Please contact Sue on 847158.

If you want more information, or prefer to contact us by email, please email:

editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk

SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL



We are delighted to share the wonderful experiences and achievements of our last Spring Term at Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School. Our school is committed to providing a well-rounded education that celebrates and nurtures our diverse community while fostering high expectations. If you are looking for a school for your child, we invite you to visit us, meet our exceptional team of leaders and teachers, and experience the vibrant learning environment we offer.

At Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School, we prepare our children to thrive in a society where communication, collaboration, critical thinking, empathy and resilience are key to personal leadership. Our teaching and learning approach empower our staff to challenge all learners whilst simultaneously providing inclusive strategies for learning. We celebrate the diversity of our current society, encompassing different religions, needs, languages, and interests. Most importantly, we focus on developing a love for lifelong learning, ensuring our children are well-equipped to navigate and contribute positively to the world around them.

This term has been filled with enriching activities and events. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a captivating performance from a local dance school, enjoyed a fantastic production of Beauty and the Beast during Year

5's trip to Our Lady's Abingdon, and were inspired by our Open the Book assemblies led by Reverend Helen and her fantastic team. Our Junior Leadership and Ambassadors Meeting concluded with a cohesive plan for Red Nose Day. They organised a wonderful day filled with unique talents showcased during the Class Talent Show. Additionally, our Easter service led by Reverend Helen and Key Stage 2 pupils was a beautiful event, and we are grateful to the All Saints' Church community for their support.

We are thrilled to announce that many parts of our school have been refurbished, or given a makeover, during the Easter holidays. The kitchen has been equipped with new appliances, a new SEND office was created, and our staffroom was updated. Additionally, work is in full swing on our new library. We are currently raising funds for rich and diverse texts in our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 reading nooks, our classes' reading corners, and our new school library.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your ongoing feedback and support. Your participation in the RET Parents Survey and direct communication with us helps make our school the best place for our children.

Mrs Chende, Headteacher
office@sutton-courtenay.school
Telephone: 01235 848333

ADYP

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project
Registered Charity 1098966



Hi everyone! I hope everyone is well. Over the Easter break we did a few activities including a mega Easter egg hunt around the recreation ground. We also had an intergenerational bingo event run by our young people; we started these in 2020 and have put on several similar events. They have always proved very popular with everyone, young and old! See photos of the DAMASCUS gazebo and people playing Bingo.

We have now moved to the recreation ground, and we are setting up gazebo sessions every Wednesday. At the time of writing we are still negotiating timings, so please either contact me or check out our socials to keep up to date. We are open to young people ages 10-18 (Year 6+) We have a range of sports activities and discussion-based events.

Instagram: [Abingdon.damascus.youthproject](https://www.instagram.com/Abingdon.damascus.youthproject)
Website: www.ycat.org.uk
Email: alfierturner@adyp.onmicrosoft.com
Phone: 07956 038022



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 10am to 2pm. Please note that occasionally the café won't be held in the Great Hall if we are hosting a retreat or another event. But we're pleased to let you know that we will do our best to offer you some treats from our 'Abbey Café Van' in the grounds. So, check our website and social media for any updates.

ARTWEEKS

A group of mixed media artists will be exhibiting their work at the Abbey in Sutton Courtenay from the 10th to 18th of May, open daily from 11am to 6pm. As part of Oxfordshire Artweeks, the exhibition features a vibrant selection of paintings by six unique and innovative artists: Emma Waddleton, April Jones, Liza Widdowson, Sarah Walton, Felix Wilkinson and Emma Woodford.

All are warmly invited to come along, meet the artists, and enjoy a rich display of abstract and figurative paintings in this beautiful and historic setting.

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 Christopher Upton on the 31st May. Christopher Upton is the co-founder of the Zerodig project, and he will share his knowledge and expertise about sustainable agriculture and how to create and maintain an undisturbed living soil to grow healthy food.

Please book for this event on Eventbrite (link on our website).

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

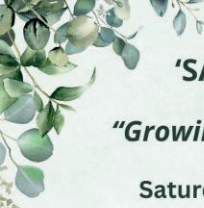
The walled garden

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.

And we'll be taking part in Vicar's Fun Day, so look out for our stall!

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



'SATURDAY TALKS AT THE ABBEY'

"Growing healthy food with nature"


Saturday 31st May 2025, 11am-1pm

How to grow healthy food by nudging nature in the direction needed to do much of the work. Achieving this balance by recognising the role and importance of creating and maintaining an undisturbed living soil. With a healthy living soil in place the plants will largely look after themselves and the weed burden will be greatly reduced.

Speaker: Christopher Upton


Christopher is the co-founder of the Zerodig project. He has been involved in climate action since the mid-1990s when he issued the world's first carbon-offset certificate to the government of Costa Rica, funded by the World Bank in 1997. Christopher has an MA in Agricultural and Forest Sciences from the University of Oxford and a Masters degree in Agricultural Economics.

Price: £10 (including coffee/tea).
Please book for this event on Eventbrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1247340010549>. All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Abbey charity.







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

SCIDS REVIEW

Wow! A huge thanks to our wonderful village for your support at this year's SCIDS production, **'Much Ado About Ali Baba'** in March.

We had a record number of ticket sales and more children in the cast than ever before. Managing to get 41 on stage, plus having a backstage crew, was quite an achievement! SCIDS is all about bringing our community together, making friends and having fun.

So, let's hear what the children had to say...



SCIDS is a fun thing to do in winter. Everyone is really friendly and it's great to do, especially if you want to see what it's like to act. ~ *Josie*

SCIDS to me is fun, sociable and makes me happy. SCIDS is the one thing that pops into my head when I have had a long Friday. "Yes I have SCIDS in two days." I can guarantee that if you join SCIDS you will never want to leave. ~ *Isla*

SCIDS is such an incredible club for acting and making new friends. I really enjoyed performing again in front of friends and others. Can't wait for next year!! ~ *Megan*

Being in SCIDS is amazing. I love getting together each week to practise (and eating delicious home-made cakes!). I love meeting everyone in it and making friends while we work together to make a special show. I can't wait for the next one! ~ *Florence*

Being part of SCIDS is an incredible experience. You can showcase your talents, grow in confidence and make lovely friends along the way! I can't wait to do it again next year! ~ *Beth*

SCIDS is really fun and it was my favourite club of all clubs that I do and everybody has a line. ~ *Harry*

SCIDS is really fun because it fills my Sunday afternoon with happy times, and we can make new friends along the way. ~ *Toby*

SCIDS is such an amazing place to have fun and make new friends. I really enjoyed doing it and can't wait for the next show! ~ *Jess*

I liked acting and really liked everyone at SCIDS and the costumes were fantastic! ~ *Rosie*

I loved being in SCIDS and enjoyed being Laila the villager. I can't wait for next year! ~ *Rosela*

SCIDS is great! I like it because we can make new friends, and I loved being a cheeky sheep. ~ *Tylia*

As my first year at SCIDS and backstage, the first thing that struck me was how well organised and equipped they were for a village drama community. ~ *Quentin*





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

On 8th May our nation will mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day - Victory in Europe Day, when the evil of Nazism was defeated in Europe. Regardless of our age, we are all called to remember with thankfulness the courage and sacrifice of all who served at home and abroad to win the fight for freedom against Nazi tyranny. But that wasn't the end of the war. In Burma, Singapore, and other places, the war raged on as fiercely and cruelly as ever. VJ Day, in August 1945, finally brought hostilities to an end. The troops still fighting between May and August, and their families, felt overlooked as they struggled to live with uncertainty and hope.

May 2025 occupies the time between Easter Day and Pentecost. Our churches have celebrated the joy of the resurrection, and we await the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit in power to set the Church alight in love and witness. After the first Easter, the first disciples lived with the knowledge of Christ's great victory over evil but struggled to come to terms with what this meant for them as they remained under the threat of death from powerful religious and military powers. The national and local VE80 activities together with the bible readings in your church services, provide an important opportunity to consider how we can live grounded in the past and moving to the future, knowing that we and all our times, are held in the hands of our unchanging and faithful God and how this can strengthen us as we continue our pilgrimage.

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those men and women who have died in active service, particularly in the Second World War, whose sacrifice brought Victory in Europe.

As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen.

Steventon extends a warm welcome to join with them in the lighting of a VE80 beacon at 21.00 on the 8 May. We are immensely grateful to Aces High Gallery (located behind St Michael's Church, entering through the 'Skyfall' gates) for hosting a weekend of VE 80 celebrations on the 10/11 May. We welcome you to a large scale VE80 themed event including military vehicles and equipment from the era, talk with reenactors and military veterans, jeep rides, food stalls and local musical groups. Weather permitting, WW2 aircraft will be seen flying over our villages and hopefully landing close by. Further details will appear in your church and on notice boards around the village look at <https://ve80.com/> or contact me on 07507 378737.

The Reverend Phil Sutton, Associate Priest in the DAMASCUS Parish

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 MAY

Saturday 3rd – 9:30-11:30 Community Brunch, River Room (followed by Baptism Preparation for anyone interested in a christening service for their child)

Thursday 8th - 10.30-12 noon Community Café, River Room. 19:30 Together in Stitches, River Room

Sunday 11th – 10:00 Confirmation Service for the DAMASCUS Parish in St Peter's, Drayton. **NB No service in All Saints.**

Monday 12th – 19:30 DAMASCUS PCC Meeting at St Michael's, Steventon

Wednesday 14th – 19:30 Friends of All Saints' AGM, All Saints' Church – all are welcome to hear how the Friends support the maintenance and improvement of the fabric of the church

Saturday 17th 9:30-12 noon Church & Churchyard Working Party – help us to keep the church and the churchyard well-maintained. Bring your own gardening equipment. Refreshments provided.

19:30 A special screening of 'Liberation D-Day to Berlin', River Room – see poster for details.

Wednesday 21st – 19:30 Annual Parochial Meeting

Thursday 22nd - 10.30-12 noon Community Café, River Room. 18:00-21:00 Drop off at All Saints' Church any donations for the Vicar's Fun Day.

Saturday 24th – 16:00 Movie Matinee, River Room

Monday 26th – 12:00-16:00 Vicar's Fun Day, Village Green

CHURCH DIARY FOR JUNE

Sunday 8th – 12:30 Friends of All Saints' Church, Garden Party – see ad for details.

Saturday 21st – 10:00-17:00 Flower Festival 'Bells in Song and Verse', with Cream Teas

Sunday 22nd – 13:00-17:00 Flower Festival 'Bells in Song and Verse' with Cream Teas. 3pm George Orwell Society Act of Commemoration around the grave of Eric Arthur Blair.

Sunday 29th – 10:30 Ordination of the Reverend Dov Whittle as a Priest at Dorchester Abbey – all welcome. **NB no service in All Saints.**

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Holy Baptism

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

Alfie Roger Allen SYMONDS (23rd March 2025)

Ellie May Anne SYMONDS (23rd March 2025)

Service conducted by the Reverend Dov Whittle

Brooks Terry BAREFIELD (6th April 2025)

Service conducted by the Reverend Helen Kendrick

Rest in Peace

We send our condolences and the assurance of our prayers to the family and friends of the following people whose ashes were interred in the churchyard recently:

Mary Veronica FREEMAN (27th March 2025)

Donald Alfred START (29th March 2025)

In Sutton Courtenay we will be marking VE80 with a special screening of 'Liberation – D-Day to Berlin' in the River Room on Saturday 17th May at 7:30 pm – see poster for more details.

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

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

We know many people appreciate the beauty and tranquillity of the churchyard, but do you realise how much time and effort it needs to keep it in good order?

We are extremely grateful for the many hours John Napper spends keeping the grass mown but we rely on voluntary labour to help with the rest of the maintenance. If you can spare an hour or so on **Saturday 17th May from 9.30 to 12 noon** we would very much appreciate the support. Refreshments will be provided.

Vicar's Fun Day 2025

A Fun-Filled Event for the Whole Community

To be held on the **Village Green** (by kind permission of the Parish Council) on

Bank Holiday Monday

26th May 2025 12-4pm.

HELP NEEDED PLEASE!

- set up tents, gazebos and put out tables and chairs in the morning or take them all down again at the end
- volunteer for an hour or two on a stall
- bake a cake or two
- donate full bottles of wine
- donate empty wine bottles (with screw caps please)
- donate raffle prizes

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

Raising money for the:



NOTICE

Wednesday 21st May at 7.30pm – the Annual Parish Meeting of the DAMASCUS Parish will be held in All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay

This is a joint meeting of those whose names are on the church electoral roll, together with 'persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a Register of Local Government Electors' (Churchwardens Measure 2001 paragraph 5.1) and is held for the purpose of electing Churchwardens.

Following straight on from the Annual Parish Meeting will be **the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.**

This is a meeting of those whose names are on the church electoral roll for the purposes of presenting the annual report and accounts for 2024 and for electing Parochial Church Council Members and Deanery Synod Representatives.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



COMMUNITY BRUNCH

The NEXT Community Brunch will be from

9:30-11:30

in the River Room, All Saints' Church

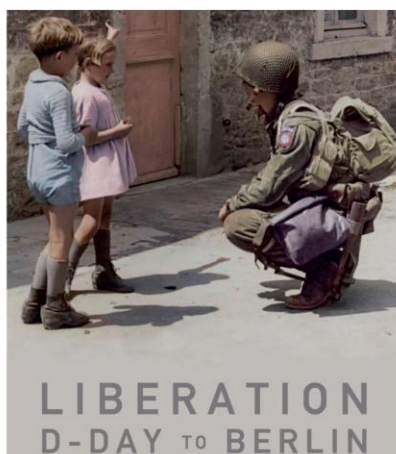
Saturday 3rd May

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)

A special screening of...



19:30. Saturday 17th May. River Room.

All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay

To mark VE80 we are offering an opportunity to view two episodes from this four-part documentary presented by Jonathan Drake, Executive Producer and resident of Sutton Courtenay.

ENTRANCE FREE

Donations for the Tower and Bell Appeal welcome.

Drinks and canapes will be served.

Enquiries: admin@damascusparish.org.uk or 01235 847179

NB includes footage from the concentration camps

COMPETITION TIME!

You are invited to design
A BANNER FOR THE BELLS

As part of our fundraising campaign for the



and the Vicar's Fun Day Celebrations on Bank Holiday Monday 26th May we are running a competition to design a BANNER FOR THE BELLS.

Your design needs to be on one side of A4 paper (portrait).

You might like to incorporate key features of Sutton Courtenay – from the past and present – the oldest bell dates back to 1675, just imagine what history it has rung.

The winning designs (2) will be made up into full-sized banners and hung in All Saints' Church when the refurbishment work on the Tower and Bells is complete.

Designs (from individuals or community groups) need to be submitted by

3.30pm on Monday 26th May

(you can design them at the Fun Day where paper and felt tips will be provided)

with an entry fee of £1 per design.

Please ensure you write your name and contact details clearly on the reverse of your design.

The winning designs will be announced at the Vicar's Fun Day and the 'Together in Stitches' team will then make the winning designs into full-sized banners.

If you have any questions please 'phone the Parish Office on 01235 847179

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

SUTTON COURTENAY WI



It is with regret that we announce that Sutton Courtenay WI is disbanding. There will be no further meetings after 15th April 2025.

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

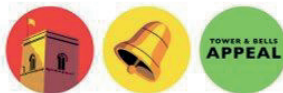
All enquiries: 01235 847179

COMMUNITY EVENTS



**BANK HOLIDAY
MONDAY
26th MAY
VICAR'S FUN DAY
12-4pm**

Bringing the Community Together
and raising money for
All Saints' Church



Tea & Cakes
Bouncy Castle &
Children's Games
BBQ & Food served all
day at the George and
the Swan
Stalls and Games
Repair Tent
Books & Jigsaws
Nearly New
Plants
Bottle Tombola &
more!
Abbey Brass
Drayton Community
Choir
Raffle
Abingdon Town Crier
Sutton Courtenay
Village Green
(by kind permission of
the Parish Council)

If you would like to
help please ring the
parish office and
speak to either Helen
or Alison on 01235
847179 or email:
rector@
damascusparish.org.uk

Flower Festival

“Bells in Song or Verse”

**Saturday 21st (10:00-17:00)
& Sunday 22nd June (14:00-17:00)**

An invitation to individuals, community groups or businesses to take part in our Flower Festival by creating an arrangement on the theme of bells in song or verse ('Ding dong bell, Pussy's in the well' or 'Oranges and Lemons, ring the bells of St Clements' anyone?)

To join in please contact admin@damascusparish.org.uk or 01235 847179 at the DAMASCUS Parish Office, All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4AE by **Monday 9th June.**

Raising money for All Saints' Church

WECARE2



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 Café in the River Room



Run by the church for the whole community

Thursday 8th May

Thursday 22nd May

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 church please 'phone the Parish Office on 01235 847179

The next Movie Matinee in the River Room is on

Saturday 24th May 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**. Themed Refreshments.



The Friends of All Saints' Church
invite you to their
Summer Garden Party
at 8, Church Street, Sutton Courtenay
on Sunday 8th June at 12:30

£15 per person (child 2-16yrs £7.50)
Family ticket 2 adults + 2 children £38

For tickets please contact
Sue Jenkins 07885 437454
or email sjjenkins33@aol.com

Cash bar, Raffle,
Children's entertainment

Come and enjoy great food and good
company in a lovely garden setting

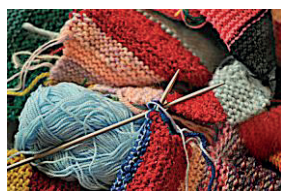



Friends of All Saints' Church AGM

You are invited to the Friends' AGM to be held in
All Saints' Church
on Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 7:30 pm

The Friends raise money to help maintain this
architecturally beautiful building for future generations.

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

BRIDGE AFTERNOONS

Come and play bridge on 1st & 3rd Friday afternoons in
May in the River Room from 2-5pm with a cup of tea &
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

N.B. SUMMER BREAK in JUNE, JULY, AUGUST



Tuesday 24th June

**River Room, All Saints' Church,
Sutton Courtenay**

from 14:00 to 17:00

Optional tour of the churchyard at 13:30

Afternoon tea, prizes, raffle
£60 per table/£15 per person
Tables & cards provided

Contact: Camilla King - kingaandb@gmail.com

Early booking advised



Raising money for
the Church's
Tower & Bells Appeal



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!**

MILTON MINORS



Milton Methodist Church Hall
Milton High Street, OX14 4EJ



Milton Minors Playgroup

**Every
Wednesday
9/30 till
11/30am.**

**Come along
and join us!**

**£4 per session
including
refreshments.**

Milton Minors, creating a supportive, nurturing, and engaging environment for parents and minors in Milton Village. We strive to build a sense of community and belonging through accessible, fun, and educational activities that promote the physical, emotional, and social well-being of young families. Our goal is to foster connections, encourage growth, and provide a safe space where children and parents alike can thrive together and form links with the wider community.

MILTON MANOR

MILTON MANOR HOUSE A hidden historic gem!



**Open to the Public
17th May to 1st June inclusive
2pm to 5pm
Milton, Oxfordshire OX14 4EN**

A family home with a pleasant, relaxed and informal atmosphere, fascinating history and interesting grounds.

Tour of the house and access to the grounds:

Adult £10 Child £3

Grounds only: Adult £5 Child £1

N.B. Cash only

Tea room. Free parking.

Sorry - no dogs

See www.miltonmanorhouse.com for details

FLEXICARE

Flexicare Community Walk Sunday 18th May 2025

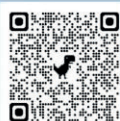


Walk, run or cycle your choice of circular routes across the Ridgeway. A range of lengths to choose from. Wheelchair and buggy routes available. Dogs on a lead are welcome. Delicious refreshments provided!

**Starting at Snells Hall, East Hendred
OX12 8LA from 9am**

Raising funds to support Flexicare, an Oxfordshire based charity providing a free, specialised sitting service for families with a severely disabled child.

**Register at www.flexicare.org/events
Donate at www.flexicare.org/donate**



Flexicare (Oxford and Abingdon) | Registered Charity no 11726
www.flexicare.org | 01865 321881 | admin@flexicare.org

ALL SAINTS' SINGERS



The All Saints' Singers gave a very successful concert on 31st March in All Saints' Church. We sang 'Ein deutsches Requiem' by Brahms. The text was in German and we were accompanied by two excellent pianists playing the church piano, as well as two wonderful soloists. The piece was quite demanding, and the choir were thrilled by their ability to achieve a standard that really pleased their music director, Sebastian Thomson.

The choir has grown in recent years, both in size and expertise; and we are attempting more complicated works and enjoying them.

Our next concert will be on 8th December 2025 when we will be singing Rutter's 'Gloria' and Cecilia McDowall's 'A Winter Night' as well as some rousing Christmas carols with participation from the audience.

The next term starts on 5th September. If you would like to join us you would be very welcome - we sing on a Friday evening in the Matrix. There is more information on our website allsaintssingers.org.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND INFORMATION



Oxfordshire Young Farmers County Show & Rally

Saturday 17th May 2025

Sheencroft Farm, Blewbury OX11 9ED

(Gates open 9.30am)

www.oxfordshireyfccountyshow.org.uk

YFC Competitions, Dog Show, meet Kaleb Cooper, vintage & modern machinery, 80+ trade & craft stands, Motorcycle Display, Go-Karts, Bouncy Castle, refreshments, bar.

Something for all the family

Adults £12, 10-16 year olds £6, under 10's free.

Discounts available for advance bookings from

www.ticketsource.co.uk

RSPB LOCAL GROUP



The remaining events in the RSPB Local Group (Vale of White Horse) 24/25 season:

- 12th May: AGM and Members' Evening (River Room, 7.30pm)
- Walk 25th May: Otmoor
- Walk 22nd June: Greenham Common (evening, nightjars etc)

Thinking of joining? See: www.rspb-vwh.org.uk, for details. The 25/26 season will start in September, with initial talks from Fergus Mosey who works at RSPB Otmoor, and a visit from the Owl Conservation Project including some of their live owls!!

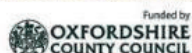
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EMF



EIGHTEENTH ENGLISH MUSIC FESTIVAL

**Dorchester-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire OX10 7HH**

23 – 26 May 2025

www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk

The eighteenth annual English Music Festival (EMF) returns to Dorchester Abbey, Oxfordshire from Friday 23 May until Bank Holiday Monday 26 May 2025. The opening concert, performed by the BBC Concert Orchestra and conductor Martin Yates, features the long-awaited World Première performance of the Symphony no.2 by the unjustly neglected composer Stanley Bate, together with a rare performance of Ralph Vaughan Williams' 'Heroic Elegy and Triumphal Epilogue' and the Cello Concerto of Sir Arthur Bliss performed by celebrated cellist Raphael Wallfisch - a highlight of the commemorations for the 50th anniversary of the composer's death, alongside works by William Alwyn and Frederick Delius. Orchestral, chamber choral concerts and recitals continue throughout the weekend.

NORDIC WALKING

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Wednesdays & Fridays from 09:30 at the
Sutton Courtenay Recreation Ground (OX14 4AR)
For more information contact Graham Wells
at graymar.wells@btopenworld.com

E-bikes can catch fire due to issues with their lithium-ion batteries.

Never leave them unattended while charging because these batteries are highly efficient, but contain flammable fluid. If the battery is damaged, overheated, or improperly charged, it can ignite and cause a very dangerous fire that produces toxic gases and large amounts of smoke with little warning. oxfordshire.gov.uk

Storing safely

Store e-bikes, e-scooters and batteries in a cool place, avoiding extreme temperatures.

Avoid storing e-bikes, e-scooters and batteries in areas that block escape routes.



An essential new reservoir for the South East

Latest News

We're continuing to develop our proposal for a new reservoir in Oxfordshire, a key infrastructure project for the South East.

Following last year's public consultation, we've been reviewing feedback and refining our designs. The reservoir is essential for securing water supplies for 15 million people, addressing challenges like population growth, climate change, and protecting our rivers. Our evolving plans include widening our programme of environmental surveys and a focus on creating a public space that will benefit local communities for generations.

We're committed to keeping you updated and will share more information this summer, ahead of another public consultation later this year. Thank you for your ongoing interest as we work towards a sustainable water future for the region.

You can read our Spring 2025 update brochure here: thames-sro.co.uk/news

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Venue 228**

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The Pottery, 8 The Green, Culham, OX14 4LZ



www.charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk
pots@charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk





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Sunday: Closed

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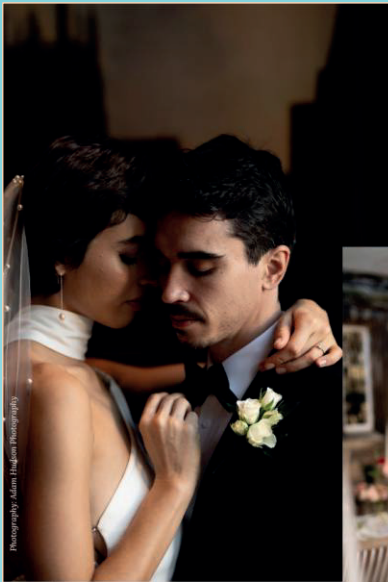
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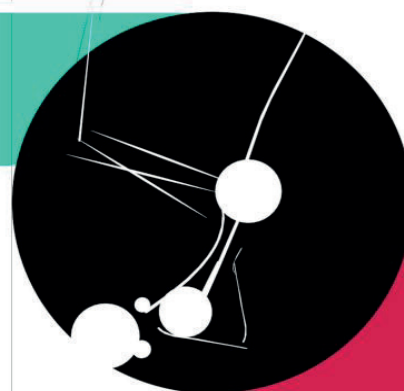
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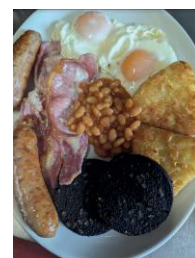
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See website for details

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Fri 12h – 14h30 & 18h – 21h; Sat Evening 18h – 21h

No food: Mon, Tues, Sat Lunch or Sunday Evening

Introducing back from March 2nd to our Sunday menu is Roast
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Sun - 12-9pm

Kitchen Hours

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Tues - 12-2/6-9pm

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Thurs - 12-2/6-9pm

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Sat - 12-3/6-9pm

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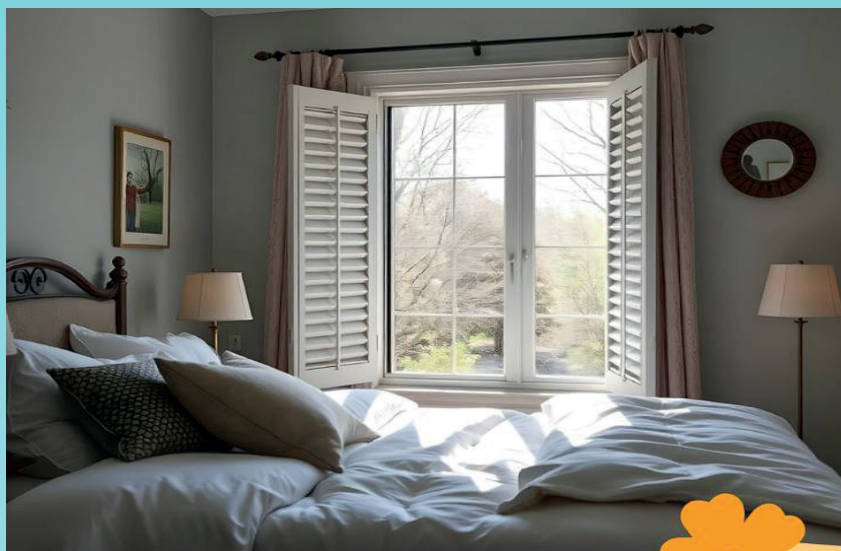
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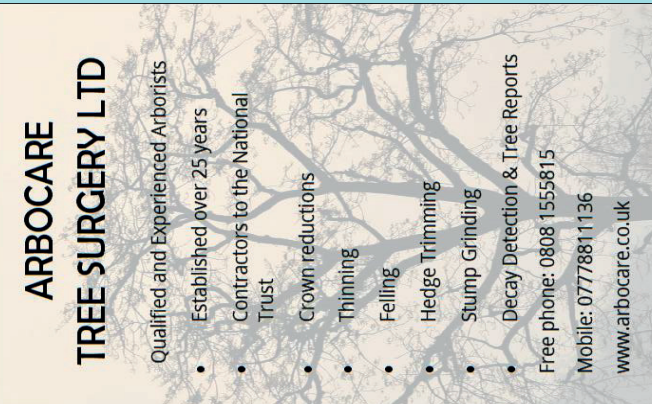
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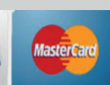
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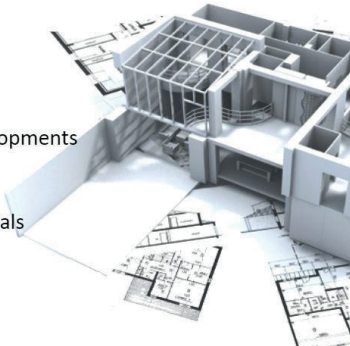


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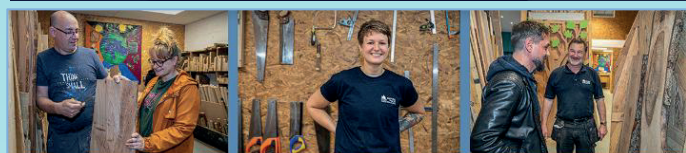


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