

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 54 No. 5

JUNE 2025



VILLAGE DIARY FOR JUNE

Tue 3	Parish Council Meeting (p 3)	Village Hall	19:15
Every Wed	DAMASCUS Youth Project (ADYP)	Rec Ground	18:30-19:45
Thur 5 & 19	WeCare2 (p 11)	River Room	11:15-12:30
Sat 7	Community Brunch (p 10)	River Room	9:30-11:30
Every Sat	The Abbey Café (p 7)	The Abbey	10:00-14:00
Sun 8	Friends of All Saints' Garden Party (p 5)	8 Church St	12:30
Thur 12	Together in Stitches (p 9)	River Room	19:30-21:00
Thur 12 & 26	Community Café (p 9)	River Room	10:30-12:00
Mon 16	Knit & Natter (p 9)	River Room	14:00-16:00
Sat 21 Sun 22	Flower Festival (p 10)	The Church	10:00-17:00 14:00-17:00
Tue 24	Bridge Afternoon (p 11)	River Room	14:00-17:00
Tue 24	Sutton Courtenay News AGM (p 13)	Village Hall	19:00
Sat 28	Movie Matinée (p 10)	River Room	16:00

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

JULY/AUGUST 2025 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE 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.





S106 Art project – Village Green vehicle barriers

The Village Green is registered which means it is an area of land that has been officially designated for community use, typically for sports, recreation, or informal gatherings. Once registered, the land is protected from development and preserved for public enjoyment. Part of the protection of the space is the exclusion of vehicles.

Many of the 200+ posts protecting the grass areas of the Village Green need to be replaced. If the posts are replaced like for like they would be funded from the precept (the Parish Council's portion of Council Tax). Whilst the existing posts have provided a practical solution to ensure vehicles do not drive or park on the Green, they are not an attractive feature in the historic centre of the village. Parish Councillors believe this could be a great opportunity to enhance our Village Green, and celebrate what makes our village so special. This new project aims to celebrate Sutton Courtenay's history, its stories, people, and the natural beauty that surrounds us. **We would love to hear your ideas!**

Funding for the Project - The Parish Council has access to funding provided by developers, and held by the District Council which is ringfenced, through legal agreements, for art projects in the parish.

The Parish Council has been considering how to best use the funding in a practical way whilst adhering to the terms of the legal agreements. Last year, the Parish Council used some of this funding to provide the oak benches and noticeboards/village map, which you will have noticed are installed in multiple locations across the parish. Prior to this some was used for the stained glass window in the church extension.

Your Feedback - At the moment, this new Art Project is a blank canvas with possibilities ranging from decorative posts, low level metal arches, or something more substantial such as the walnut sculptures in Drayton. Whether you have thoughts or ideas on what theme could be adopted, what materials could be used, or what type/style of barriers could be installed **we want to hear from you!**

We are happy to accept ideas by email, text, WhatsApp or post, if you wish you can submit drawings too. **Please send them to the Clerk, Jennie Currie, whose contact details are below, by Wednesday 26th June 2025.**

Council meetings and contact details

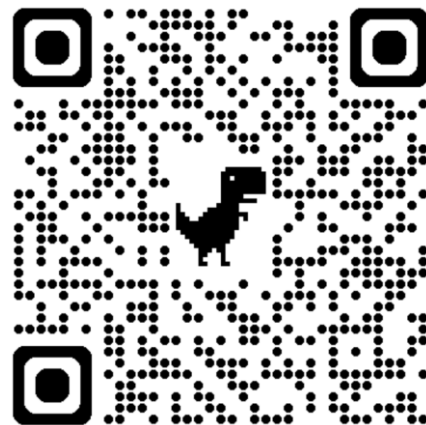
Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings. The dates of the next meetings are Tuesday 3rd June, Tuesday 1st July, (no August meeting) and Tuesday 2nd September at 7.15pm. Meetings are normally held in the Committee Room at Sutton Courtenay Village Hall.

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.

Use this QR code to access the
Sutton Courtenay Parish Council website





In recent weeks, I've been focused on Planning. I was appointed to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill Committee, where MPs from various parties scrutinise this new government legislation. We are reviewing the bill line by line, suggesting improvements before it returns to the House of Commons. Experts and charities have provided evidence, and I have advocated for amendments to protect nature, ensure genuinely affordable housing with necessary infrastructure, and introduce solar panels above car parks. The committee debated the vital role of planning committees in ensuring transparency and community engagement. While the government may not adopt many amendments, we continue pushing for improvements, and it is important that the government ministers championing the Bill hear the full range of concerns about it.

I also led my first Westminster Hall debate, championing walking and cycling for journeys to school, and urging its prioritisation in the Road Safety Strategy. I raised local examples, including a safe crossing over the A415 in Culham for Europa School students and improvements to the walking and cycling path there, and a much-delayed walking and cycling bridge project over the A34 in Milton, to link Milton Heights with Milton Park and Milton Village. We discussed safety concerns like pavement parking forcing people using wheelchairs and buggies onto the road and the need for investment in rural cycle and footpaths. Minister Lillian Greenwood is set to visit a local school to observe Bikeability training, which boosts children's confidence in cycling to school.

Recent Westminster activities include meeting Lord Vallance to discuss concerns that our local area may not benefit from the proposed 'Oxford to Cambridge Growth Corridor', and summing up a debate on St George's Day, where I referenced Dragon Hill in Uffington and The George pub in Upton. I also participated in a debate on estate management fees affecting new residents and raised questions with ministers on various local concerns, including export license processing for small businesses, stalking protections, transgender rights, and the lack of coordination in roadworks.

Regarding the mega-reservoir, a High Court hearing on 24th and 25th June will determine whether a Judicial Review into the Government's decision to approve Thames Water's plans for the Abingdon Reservoir without a Public Inquiry should proceed. I have secured a meeting with Emma Hardy, Minister for Water and Flooding, to ensure the government fully understands the community's concerns about this major infrastructure project.

The Planning and Infrastructure Bill Committee has kept me in Westminster more than I'd like, but I was glad to meet residents in Wantage and Didcot at my advice surgeries, visit Church Street and Newbury Street GP practices, celebrate VE Day in Wantage, and visit Linda Benton's art exhibition championing beautiful and old local trees in Didcot and East Hagbourne.

Alongside my regular appointment-based surgeries, I am planning drop-in sessions in some villages this summer – look out for details of the dates and times. In the meantime, feel free to contact me at olly.glover.MP@parliament.uk (or leave a voice message at 0207 219 7657) if there is anything I can help with. *Ollly*

Ollly Glover MP for Didcot & Wantage Constituency



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

PETER STEVENS DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Following the 1st May election, I am delighted to have been re-elected as your county councillor, responsible for the division covering Drayton, Sutton Courtenay, Steventon, Milton, Milton Heights and Appleford. The boundaries have slightly changed, replacing the area covering Marcham, Abingdon Airfield / Dalton Barracks, Shippon and St Helens Without, with the area covering Steventon. Hello Steventon! As a Stevens, it is also great to represent Steventon!

For those who voted for me, thank you – we had a brilliant result with more people voting than last time, and personally I gained around twice the number of votes as the next closest person standing. For those who did not, I still hope to represent you just as well, if not better, than my predecessor. I have met a lot of people across the area in a short space of time and look forward to meeting many more in my time as councillor.

I am a liberal democrat because I believe that holding the centre ground is the best place to be. I believe that the best lasting solutions are those in the middle that try to accommodate as many people as possible.

During the campaign, I may have knocked on your door and I would like to apologise if I disturbed you, but I am only trying to engage with everyone living here, and give you a chance to meet me, hear concerns and exchange views.

It is all part of the democratic process which is supposed to make our country great, fair and open. Some of this process does feel increasingly under threat, undermined by negativity and mis-information.

Fighting misinformation with triangulation of facts from different trusted sources to make the best decisions is important to me, from holding Thames Water to account properly for their reservoir strategy, to building our resilience to flooding and climate change, to ensuring the restoration of the brownfield land between our villages in order to improve our area and uphold respect for the beauty of our villages.

It is also important to me to fully utilise the brilliant science and technology that resides locally, such as in Milton Park, so that we make the most of our local energy assets from the power station, from solar and battery power to world-leading nuclear fusion research, reducing pollution and powering the transformation of the national grid to clean green energy.

Our small area punches well above our weight across many spheres, and I aim to take this even further, making it a great place to be.

Best wishes, Peter

Councillor Peter Stevens

For Drayton, Steventon & Sutton Courtenay Division

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS'



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 sjenkins33@aol.com

Cash bar, Raffle,
Children's entertainment

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



RSPB LOCAL GROUP



The last event in the RSPB Local Group (Vale of White Horse) 24/25 season is a walk on the evening of the 22nd of June at Greenham Common where we hope to see 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!!

NORDIC WALKING

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



At the Heart of Our Village – Compassionate, Inclusive, and Ambitious for Our Children

We are delighted to share the vibrant journey of our school during the first half of the Summer Term—a term filled with learning, growth, and community spirit. We remain steadfast in our mission to provide a holistic education that nurtures the whole child. Our vision is rooted in compassion, inclusion, and ambition, and we are proud to be a school where every child is known, valued, and empowered to thrive.

This term, our pupils have embraced a wide range of enriching experiences. From the Year 2 residential trip to Hill End, where children explored nature and boosted resilience, to the Year 6 SATs, where our oldest pupils demonstrated determination and maturity, every moment has reflected our commitment to high expectations and personal growth. Our sports days brought the school community together in a joyful celebration of teamwork and perseverance, while our Reading Ambassadors have taken their love of reading beyond the classroom—reading to the congregation at the local church and collaborating with peers from Didcot Girls' School to strengthen pupil voice and leadership.

We were also thrilled to welcome P.C. Dix from Thames Valley Police, who delivered an engaging and informative session to our Year 5 and 6 pupils and their families about staying safe and understanding the law—an important step in preparing our children to be responsible, informed citizens.

Among the most exciting developments this term is the transformation of our school library. Thanks to the incredible support of our community—including generous donations through our Amazon Wishlist and the success of the Roving Book Shop, which raised over £370 in commission—we are creating a space that will be the beating heart of our school. More than just a room of books, our library will be a sanctuary for curiosity, empathy, and imagination. It will reflect our vision of a school where every child can see themselves, understand others, and be inspired to shape a better world. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed to this dream and invite others to join us in building a library that will nurture the minds and hearts of generations to come.

With gratitude,

Raluca Chende

Headteacher, Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School

office@sutton-courtenay.school

Telephone: 01235 848333



The Abbey Café

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

We are open every Saturday from 10 am 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.

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 Adrian Rance-McGregor for a workshop on the 14th June. Adrian has experienced meditation in different religious traditions and in the secular approach to mindfulness. He practices as a lay Christian and is an ordained interfaith minister. For many years he has been active in the movement to encourage a renewal of contemplative life and the contemplative wisdom tradition of Christianity. During this workshop, you will encounter mindfulness, Christian meditation, 'Centering' Prayer and ancient Christian practices.

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 or a workshop. These events will be held in the Library from 11am to 1pm on Saturdays (or 10am to 4pm for a workshop).

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

Accommodation

The Abbey can accommodate up to 25 people for residential stays. We have 5 twin and 4 single rooms in The Abbey Garden Lodge and 2 twin, 2 double and 3 single rooms in The Abbey main building. The Garden Lodge can also be booked for independent self-catering stays via Airbnb.

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 Suttoncourtenay

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





**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,

On 29th June the church remembers two important people from its history - St. Peter and St. Paul. In the church calendar they are celebrated on the same day. This is because it is believed they were both killed on that date, Peter in around 64AD and Paul a few years later in around 67AD. Both were killed for their faith and this, along with the influence they have had on the church over the centuries, is why they are remembered. Two of the churches in our parish are named after them – St. Peter's in Drayton and St. Peter and St. Paul in Appleford – as are many other churches around the country and the world.

Both Peter and Paul understood the importance of telling people about Jesus, and the words and stories written by them and about them in the Bible teach us many things. One of the most striking things about what is written is how it contains details of the mistakes they both made. So much so that Paul, in one of his letters, even criticises Peter for a mistake he is making. Examples like this show us that Peter and Paul were not perfect, and this helps to remind us that neither are we. It is how we respond to the mistakes we make that is most important.

This is often in contrast to what society tells us today. Whether it is the picture-perfect lives we see on social media or the fear that a genuine error could lead to some sort of penalty, we are frequently made to feel that we cannot get things wrong. What Peter and Paul show us is that it is acceptable to fail as God forgives and loves us even when our mistakes are talked about some 2000 years later!

To hear more about this, please join us at 4pm on 29th June at St Peter's Drayton. This is a special service for the whole DAMASCUS parish where I will be celebrating communion for the first time after being priested at Dorchester Abbey that morning.

With prayers and best wishes,

The Reverend Dov Whittle, Assistant Curate 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

Holy Baptism

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

Riley Orsen HAMLING (27th April 2025)

Frederick (Freddie) Henry Paul BARTZ-LEONARD (4th May 2025)

Charlotte Elena Elizabeth LEONARD (4th May 2025)

All services conducted by the Reverend Dov Whittle

Rest in Peace

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

Doreen Joyce KING

Kathleen Elizabeth SLATER (Kay) (*see obituaries page 14*)

**Please note there will no service in
All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay on
Sunday 29th June.**

**You are all invited to attend the Ordination
Service at 10.30am in Dorchester Abbey,
followed at 4pm in St Peter's, Drayton with
Dov's First Celebration of Communion.
This service will be followed with a Cream
Tea! Please do come and show your
support for Dov at this really important
moment in his ministry amongst us.**

CHURCH DIARY FOR JUNE

Tuesday 3rd – 19.30 Sutton Courtenay Local Church Committee

Sunday 8th – 11:00 Holy Communion with Baptism.
12:30 Friends of All Saints' Church, Garden Party – see ad for details.

Sunday 15th – 11:00 Morning Worship

Sunday 22nd – 11:00 Holy Communion. 13:00-17:00 Flower Festival 'Bells in Song and Verse' with Cream teas. 15:00 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. 4pm Service of Holy Communion at St Peter's, Drayton followed by Cream Teas – all welcome as Dov celebrates Communion for the first time. Please come and support him if you can.

CHURCH DIARY FOR JULY

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

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

Thank you to all those who turned up on 17th May to help keep the churchyard in good order. We are very grateful for all the hard work you put in on a hot morning!



Update - Thank you to all those who came to the screening of 'Liberation to D-Day' on 17th May. The evening raised over £800 for our Tower and Bells Appeal.



Hopefully many of you will have been able to see our plans for the re-ordering of the tower to provide safe access for ringers and visitors, and the necessary repairs to the bells, at the Vicar's Fun Day. We need to raise approximately £150,000 to complete this work and are currently working on

various grant applications and obtaining the necessary permissions.

If you would like to donate to our appeal then contributions can be sent via Bank Transfer to DAMASCUS PCC. 00031419. 40-52-40. Quoting ref. SCTABA or by cash or cheque payable to the DAMASCUS PCC, c/o The Parish Office, All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, OX14 4AE. Thank you.



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

Community Café in the River Room



Run by the church for the whole community

Thursday 12th & 26th June

from 10:30-12:00

all welcome!

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

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

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

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!

MOVIE MATINEES

The next Movie Matinee in the River Room is on **Saturday 28th June 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.



Milton Methodist Church Hall
Milton High Street, OX14 4EJ



Another lovely Milton Minors Playgroup session today.

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

**Come along
and join us!**

**£4 per session
including
refreshments.**

Flower Festival



“Bells in Song or Verse”

**All Saints' Church
Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4AE**

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

Entrance by Donation

Cakes and Cream Teas

Served in the River Room - £5 per person

At 3pm on Sunday 22nd there will be an act of commemoration around the grave of Eric Arthur Blair (George Orwell) with the Orwell Society

Raising money for All Saints' Church



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 BRUNCH

The NEXT Community Brunch will be from

9:30-11:30

in the River Room, All Saints' Church

Saturday 7th June

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 AFTERNOON

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



BRIDGE AFTERNOONS

The regular Friday afternoon Bridge sessions in the River Room are on a Summer Break for the months of June, July and August.
We will start again on 5th September

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

We're looking for Scouting volunteers in Sutton Courtenay!

Join us round the campfire and help us create adventures for the young people of the village



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Why Volunteer?

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- Enjoy unforgettable moments and great friendships
- Be part of a movement that inspires the next generation

What You'll be Doing

- Helping young people earn badges and develop essential life skills through fun challenges
- Creating a safe and supportive environment where young people can grow and thrive
- Delivering an exciting, engaging, and inclusive programme of activities
- Communicating with parents and carers to keep them informed and engaged
- Mentoring and encouraging new volunteers – when you're ready to do so

No prior Scouting experience is necessary - just enthusiasm, a sense of fun, and a willingness to give it a go. Full training and support are provided!

Join us and be part of something amazing!

email 26thabingdon@btinternet.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT



Action Fraud urge those planning to buy tickets or attend this summer's events and concerts to stay vigilant to criminals, with the total combined loss increasing nearly 50% from 2023 to £9.7 million in 2024. Stay safe this summer from ticket fraud.

Follow our top tips to avoid falling victim to ticket fraud.



According to new data, £9.7 million was lost to ticket fraud in 2024 in the UK alone. Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, has launched a new ticket fraud awareness campaign, warning people to be alert to fraudsters trying to catch out people planning for popular and sold-out events.

How to protect yourself from ticket fraud:

- Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, official promoter or agent, or a well-known ticketing website.
- Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal give you a better chance of recovering the money if you become a victim of fraud.
- The password you use for your email account, as well as any other accounts you use to purchase tickets, should be different from all your other passwords. Use three random words to create a strong and memorable password, and enable 2-step verification (2SV).
- Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts or adverts offering unbelievably good deals on tickets.
- Is the vendor a member of STAR? If they are, the company has signed up to their strict governing standards. STAR also offers an approved Alternative Dispute Resolution service to help customers with outstanding complaints. For more information visit star.org.uk/buy_safe.

If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

SUDOKU

EASY

	8		4		1		9	7
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			7			9	3	
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MEDIUM

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			4					6
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3		8	7			5		

Taken from www.puzzles.ca/sudoku (1095)

LOST & FOUND

Single pearl earring found in the High Street on or about 26th April. If you recognise it, please contact the editors.



SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the AGM of the SCN will be held on

Tuesday 24th June

at 19:00 in the

Committee Room, Village Hall

Nominations for Chairman, Editor, Advertising Manager, Treasurer & Administrator should be sent, together with details of the proposer and seconder, to

Jayne Franklyn scmail836@gmail.com

The SCN is created by the community, for the community.

We welcome your feedback on how we can improve our newsletter.

If there are topics you're interested in that we haven't addressed, we'd love to hear from you.

Let us know what matters to you.

ADYP

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project
Registered Charity 1098966



We meet at the Village Hall, or the Recreation Ground if the weather is good, every Wednesday from 6:30-7:45, and we are open to young people aged 10-18 (Year 6+).

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

Website: www.ycat.org.uk

Email: alfieturner@adyp.onmicrosoft.com

Phone: 07956 038022



PLEASE NOTE

Next month's issue of the Sutton Courtenay News is for July AND August 2025.

Rest in Peace

Doreen Joyce King who died on 16th April 2025 was born on 6th October 1943 and grew up in Abingdon. After finishing school, she worked at the MG factory in the stores office where she met Robin. Doreen and Robin married in 1965, and they lived and raised their children, Jane and Steve, in Sutton Courtenay.

Doreen liked nothing more than spending time with her family, whether it was to watch Robin play cricket, to visit gardens and garden shows, day trips when her children were younger, outings with her grandchildren or get-togethers with the wider family. Doreen enjoyed every minute of every family occasion as well as being able to provide tea, cakes and plenty of other treats.

As a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, mother-in-law, aunt, great-aunt, godmother, friend and neighbour, Doreen looked to always putting others first even when her own health deteriorated. Doreen's calm and loving presence will be greatly missed. Her funeral took place on Tuesday 6th May 2025 in All Saints' Church. *This is an edited extract of the address given by the Reverend Dov Whittle.*

Kathleen Elizabeth Slater (Kay) who died on 13th April 2025, aged 99, was born on 6th July 1925 – the youngest of seven children. Her parents, Samuel and Evelyn Matilda Lewis had moved to Sutton Courtenay from Lechlade in 1909 – a two-day journey by horse and cart. After a few months in temporary accommodation in Church Street they moved to 5 Brook Street. Samuel, a wheelwright by trade, worked for two building companies before setting up his own building business.

Kay had wonderful memories of her childhood. Her father was very musical and played several instruments, including the concertina and tin whistle! Kay always said that 'the house was filled with music and laughter'. She remembered swinging from a beam in her father's workshop, in the garden of Number 5, watching and learning whilst he worked. She and her siblings played games and fished and swam in the river as most of the villagers did then. The family had a pony and later a bull-nosed Morris in which she travelled in the dickie seat with her brother, Ron. They rented two fields and Kay remembered having a ride on their cow when she was very young. They also had a donkey and pigs as well as rabbits and geese, and the family worked three allotments.

One of her father's first building contracts was to convert the disused chapel at the corner of Frilsham Street and the High Street into a small village hall. Her parents then ran Sutton Courtenay's first dances there on Saturday nights. She remembered dancing with her father, standing on his toes. She would also help her mother serve lemonade, but, because she was so young, Kay usually ended up sleeping under the counter! Sadness came when she was thirteen and

she contracted rheumatic fever and missed a lot of school. Her father was also very ill, and he died in 1938.

Soon after, war broke out, and two of her brothers joined up – one in the army, the other in the navy. Bert joined the Royal Observer Corps in the village but sadly contracted diphtheria and died in 1942. For the rest of her life Kay remained a staunch supporter of the Royal British Legion – and attended the Remembrance Service at All Saints' Church every year.

In 1947, at The Queen's Hotel in Abingdon, Kay was introduced to Alan Slater. In 1948 she encountered him again when she and a friend met up to go to a dance in a hall where Waitrose now stands. She and Alan took to the floor and their future was sealed. They were married in All Saints' on 29th March 1952. They moved to Portsmouth, Alan's home town, where they lived for a year, before coming back to live at 5 Brook Street. They had forty wonderful years together – exploring the UK, camping with their beloved dog, Sally – travelled throughout Europe and cruised to faraway places – but always coming home to Sutton Courtenay. Kay was devastated when Alan died on 5th May 1993 but she rebuilt her life – maintaining contact with friends and family and simply enjoying life in her home village, feeding the birds in her garden, and travelling everywhere – mainly by public transport.

She was immensely grateful for the loving support from family, friends and neighbours which enabled her to stay living independently for so long, until, finally, she had to move to Bridge House where she died on 13th April 2025, just a few months short of her 100th birthday. *This is an edited extract of the address given by the Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick at the funeral service held on 12th May 2025 in All Saints' Church.*



WORDSEARCH

The topic is *The Month of June*

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R Q I U R A G R E U F J O P N
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L P X T X W J J X L B W Y P L
F E C S T S E S S A L G N U S

Taken from: www.puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com



Barbeques	Pearl
Birds	Picnics
Butterfly	Sandals
Cut grass	Shorts
Father's Day	Singing
Garden	Sports
Hat	Strawberry
Honeysuckle	Sunglasses
Longest Day	Warm
Outdoors	Wedding

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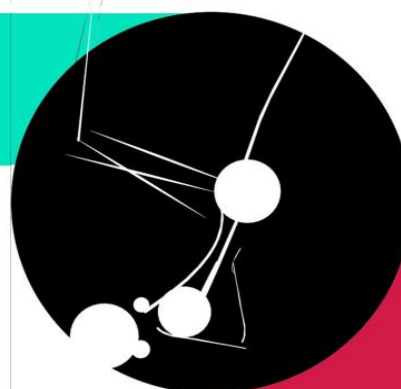
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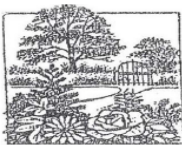
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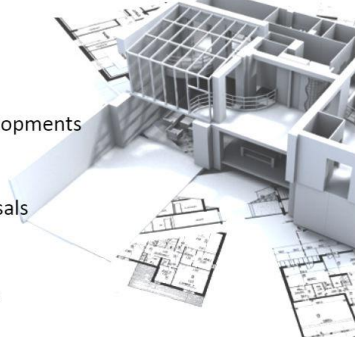


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