

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 54 No. 9

NOVEMBER 2025



VILLAGE DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

Sat 1	Community Brunch (p 10)	River Room	9:30-11:30
Every Sat	The Abbey Café (p 7)	The Abbey	10:00-14:00
Tue 4	Parish Council Meeting (p 3)	Village Hall	19:00
Every Wed	ADYP Drop-in (p 4)	Village Hall	18:30
Thur 6 & 20	WeCare2 (p 11)	River Room	11:15-12:30
Fri 7 & 21	Bridge Afternoon (p 16)	River Room	14:00-17:00
Thur 13	Together in Stitches (p 11)	River Room	19:30-21:00
Thur 13 & 27	Community Café (p 10)	River Room	10:30-12:00
Mon 17	Knit & Natter (p 5)	River Room	14:00-16:00
Mon 17	RSPB Local Group Talk (p16)	River Room	19:30
Tue 18	Ladies' Tuesday Club (p 5)	River Room	19:30
Sat 22	Movie Matinée (p 10)	River Room	16:00
Sat 29 & Sun 30	Artisan Christmas Market (p 7)	The Abbey	11:00-16:00

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

DECEMBER 2025 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2025

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

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Parish Council: Clerk, 07496 924 685
info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk

Stay & Play Toddler Group: Facebook page: [@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
Office: 01235 847179 Home: 01235 848297
Mobile: 07443 524216 rector@damascusparish.org.uk

Assistant Curate: The Reverend Dov Whittle
07586 969985 curate@damascusparish.org.uk

Assistant Priest: The Reverend Rosie Bruce
07707 087131 rosie-bruce@hotmail.co.uk

Churchwarden & Pro-Warden: Alison Budd alison@pbudd.me

Pro-Warden: Mary Warrington contrary63@gmail.com

Parish Administrator: Alison Bampton. 01235 847179
admin@damascusparish.org.uk

The DAMASCUS Parish Office, All Saints' Church, The Green,
Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, OX14 4AE

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 9:00 to 17:30 with a final collection time of 16:45. It is closed on Saturday & Sunday. Further afield there are Post Offices in Didcot (in TG Jones, 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.





Hobbyhorse Lane North Site

Savills, who is acting as the Planning Consultant on behalf of HarperCrewe Ltd. to develop the Hobbyhorse Lane North site, requested a meeting with the Parish Council. Savills have agreed to attend the Council's 4th November meeting to give a presentation and answer questions. The meeting will start at the earlier time of 7pm and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Final call for grant applications for 2026-27

In the October edition we summarised our grant application process, the final deadline for this year is 9th November 2025. If you are a member of a local group which would benefit from a grant, please complete the form available on the Parish Council website and/or contact the Parish Clerk (details below).

Councillor Vacancy

Sutton Courtenay Parish Council can have a maximum of 11 Councillors. At present there are two vacancies and the Council is looking to fill the positions by co-option. Individuals who are on the electoral register and who live or work in the parish or within 3 miles of the parish can be considered for co-option. If you are interested in working in a small team to contribute to local life, taking forward projects which benefit people across the parish, then please contact the Clerk.

Please note the role is unpaid, as a minimum you would be expected to attend monthly meetings and check your Council email account at least once a week. You would be asked to take an active role in a couple of areas of the Council's work across recreational amenities, the cemetery, planning policy, community infrastructure (defibs, benches, bins), community events and representing the Parish Council at meetings with local charitable and commercial organisations.

Council meetings and contact details

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings. The dates of the next meetings are Tuesday 4th November *7pm start*, (18th November Finance), and 2nd December 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.



PLEASE HELP - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sutton Courtenay News needs volunteer distributors for the Heritage Park Area. If you are interested and want to know more, please contact: Lynnette by text to 07966 490233 or email editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk

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

SUTTON COURTENAY (NATIONAL POWER) TRUST

Do you need help? Are you struggling financially?

Sutton Courtenay (National Power) Trust may be able to give some help.

The Trust is a charity local to Sutton Courtenay. It has the ability to make grants to individuals living in Sutton Courtenay and organisations based in Sutton Courtenay which operate for the benefit of the civil parish of Sutton Courtenay.

The Trustees can consider applications for grants to assist with many charitable purposes including personal financial hardship, education, religion, illness, other charitable activities that would benefit Sutton Courtenay and the people who live there.

If you would like more information about the type of applications the Trustees will consider for a grant or how to apply for a grant, please email the Clerk to the Trustees clerk.scnpt@gmail.com or write to 8 Church Street, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4NJ

**APPLICATIONS FOR A GRANT TO ASSIST WITH FINANCIAL HARDSHIP
ARE CONSIDERED IN COMPLETE CONFIDENCE**



The past month has been a particularly busy and productive period, marked by the Liberal Democrat Conference, ongoing parliamentary work, and a range of constituency engagements. Most notably, I'm honoured to have been appointed as the Liberal Democrats' Transport Spokesperson, and my team and I are currently coordinating the transition to this new role.

At the Liberal Democrat Conference in Bournemouth, it was a pleasure to meet so many people and discuss the needs of residents and communities in Didcot and Wantage with national charities and organisations. I was especially pleased to contribute to policy discussions and outline key local issues. Particular highlights included interviews with ITV and LBC, taking part in a Q&A on men and boys' mental health and wellbeing, and proposing a new policy to protect the UK's space sector - citing the vital role of Culham and Harwell in supporting our national economy.

In Parliament, I attended an event focused on the future of the UK Space Strategy, spoke at the High Speed Rail Group's Political Engagement Network meeting, and met with Wave Optics, a manufacturing site based in the constituency. I also attended the launch of the new PlaceShapers report exploring the potential of housing associations, and continued my ongoing work as a member of the Transport Committee.

Back in the constituency, I met with the new parking regulators and the Orchard Centre in Didcot along with the Centre's manager, where I pressed them on the new parking payment method, antisocial behaviour, Christmas lights this year, and traffic issues – I will be meeting with them again and reporting back on progress. Additionally, I enjoyed meeting young people from Youth Challenge, and attended a climate event in Oxford with constituents. I have also recently released a health survey, which hundreds have already responded to. The link can be found here: oxonlibdems.typeform.com/25healthsurvey.

Outside work, I managed to take a short cycling trip across Europe - a great reminder of the potential for improving cycling infrastructure here at home. There is so much we can learn from our European partners about safe, accessible, and sustainable travel.

As always, if there is anything you feel I can help you with, please do not hesitate to contact me and my team at olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk, or by leaving a voice message on 0207 219 7657.

Olly

Olly Glover, MP for Didcot and Wantage

ADYP

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project
Registered Charity 1098966

Youth & Community Acting Together

Sutton Courtenay Youth Club

6:30pm – 7:45pm

WEDNESDAY

@ Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

Year 6 plus

WELCOME

For more info contact

@abingdon.damascus.youthproject

lisaharold@adyp.onmicrosoft.com

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project
Registered Charity 1098966

WE'RE RECRUITING TRUSTEES

JOIN OUR WONDERFUL TEAM OF TRUSTEES

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project (ADYP) is looking for local volunteers to join our team of trustees to help support young people and residents in our villages.
Commitment dependent on your availability.

DESIRABLE SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE:

- Administration
- Working with Young People
- Human Resources
- Fundraising
- A passion for community
- A willingness to help others

For more information contact:
roxy.ycat@gmail.com / 07875649008

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Following last month's revelation about the sky-rocketing tripling of costs for the new locally funded reservoir which will be passed on to our bills for many years to come, I am taking a motion to council to request the Secretary of State to direct Thames Water to re-evaluate, against a range of measures, the options for their Water Resource Management Plan compared with other options, such as the Severn-Thames Transfer Pipe, which probably now make better sense, in order to save us from another national infrastructure white elephant like HS2. Public consultation by Thames Water opens on 28th October and runs to 13th January, and I encourage everyone to take an interest. I will provide more details next month.

The new HIF1 road from the A34 Didcot/Milton Interchange past Appleford, across the Thames to Culham and on past Clifton Hampden is moving along swiftly through detailed design; 8 new detail planning applications have been submitted this month, which I am working through carefully with local parish councils – particularly Appleford whose residents are most concerned by its impact both during construction and once built.

For Appleford, we have been pushing for improvements for the train station and services. We have submitted requests to the OxRail Strategy consultation for more trains to stop there as well as the introduction of a Sunday service. I am pushing for more services to start in line with the HIF1 construction as the best alternative to getting around the road works. However, to make the station usable, it needs to be much more accessible, and we are developing plans in line with HIF1 to open a safe path over the bridge next to the platform exits and onto the adjoining safe cycling and walking network enabled by HIF1. The latest piece in the puzzle is that FCC have agreed to provide land for a new car park for the station which will enable users from Sutton Courtenay and elsewhere to benefit from the station and help drive demand, thus reinforcing the need for a more comprehensive train service. Fingers crossed!

WANTED

I have an elderly gentleman friend (in a care home) who needs a music centre that can play his LP records and CDs. If anybody has one that they no longer need, he would be happy to give it a new home.

Please contact Phil Stubley 01235 847434

Ladies' Tuesday Club

Every third Tuesday @ 7:30 pm

River Room

All welcome –

Come and see your friends and make new ones

Next meeting 21st October

Linked to this, I am now chair of the Abingdon Localities group, which looks at council developments and plans across the area. HIF1 presents an excellent opportunity for improvements beyond Appleford too. Work continues to improve the Hobbyhorse Lane byway across to Sutton Courtenay, and the route to the Europa School is being considered, with improvements at the Tollgate Road A415 crossing already in design stage and funded for completion. The new cycle and footpath linking Abingdon from Peep'O'Day Lane through to Milton Park and onto Steventon is also resourced, and its feasibility study starts this autumn. The main sticking point will probably be agreeing with local landowners to give up a strip of land to enable it to be built. I hope this is straightforward.

At the same time, there will be a feasibility study for what to do with the Steventon bridge. This will include local consultation. Remedial repair work finished in the summer, but it remains restricted to one way traffic because of concerns that re-opening it fully will cause further damage. There are lots of options, and I favour a solution like going under a narrow rail bridge – two way car traffic is possible but big vehicles have to use the centre of the road forcing others to give way. Let's see what's best.

The last thing to report is that the Planning Committee threw out the application to extend the Waste Transfer Facility at Sutton Courtenay from 2030 to 2050. This is good as it reinforces the overall plan for restoring the whole landfill site from 2030, rather than letting things go on indefinitely. Although restoration is likely to include clean energy developments, this is considerably better than a dirty waste site. I will work with the landowners and the council to ensure plans meet our needs as well as theirs and strategic energy infrastructure needs.

Best regards, Peter



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



The first term at Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School has been a powerful celebration of growth, leadership, and togetherness. From the very first week, our children have embraced opportunities to lead themselves and others—guided by the values of democracy and tolerance.

Our Year 6 pupils set the tone early. Thanks to our new handwriting approach and raised expectations, nearly half the class earned their pens within weeks. Their pride in presentation and the quality of their work has been exceptional, inspiring younger pupils and reinforcing the value of effort and excellence.

Leadership has flourished across the school. Our Junior Leaders, Reading Ambassadors, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, Eco Ambassadors, Playground Buddies, Community Leaders, and Librarians have stepped into their roles with confidence, helping to shape a culture of ambition, compassion, and inclusion. Whether supporting peers, assisting staff, or representing the school, these young leaders are learning that leadership begins with self-awareness and grows through service.

We've launched Forest School for Reception and Years 1 and 2, where children explore nature, build resilience, and develop teamwork in the great outdoors. Our Forest Lead, Mrs Aitio, is tireless in providing children with the best experiences possible. Our Harvest Festival brought the community together in gratitude and generosity, while this week's trip to Ramsbury Manor promises to be an outstanding art, nature, and science experience for our Year 5 pupils—offering rich learning beyond the classroom.

Physical activity and creativity have thrived through tennis and rugby taster sessions, a newly equipped playground, and a wide range of after-school clubs—from art to sport. The excitement of more trips and opportunities to come is already building.

This week, we are celebrating the official opening of our new school library. Staff and pupil leaders will welcome Jo Cotterill, our RET Patron of Reading, to help us mark this milestone. On Friday 17th October, we'll host our first **Library Reading Café**—a joyful event led by our Junior Leaders, Reading Ambassadors, and Librarians. Families are invited to choose a book together in the new library, then enjoy quiet reading time in our Hall Café with tea, coffee, and biscuits. Every child will receive a small gift and have the chance to write a mini review of their chosen story.

This term has shown us what is possible when children are empowered to lead, learn, and connect. It's been a term of stories—written in books, lived in experiences, and shared across our school community.

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 live music.

We are open every Saturday from 10 am to 2pm. Occasionally the café won't be held in the Great Hall if we are hosting a retreat or another event so check our website and social media for any updates.

Saturday talks at The Abbey

Join us on Saturday 22nd November for a conversation with Catherine Coldstream, author of the award-winning memoir, 'Cloistered'.

Catherine will speak about her childhood in London; what led her to seek silence and contemplation among the Carmelites in the north of England; what she loved about her life there; why she stayed for twelve years; why she left; and how her sense of the life and practice of the spirit has changed and developed in the years since her departure. Catherine will be happy to sign copies of her books as part of the evening.

We're open to approaches too, so do contact us if you have an idea for a 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. Come and spend time in this special garden and enjoy working with other volunteers and make new friends.

Artisan Christmas Market Weekend – last weekend in November

The Great Hall will be decked out on 29th and 30th November for our first Christmas market, with locally made original gifts and art for sale! We'll have food and drinks too, including mince pies, mulled wine and more, to be enjoyed with live music. Save the dates!

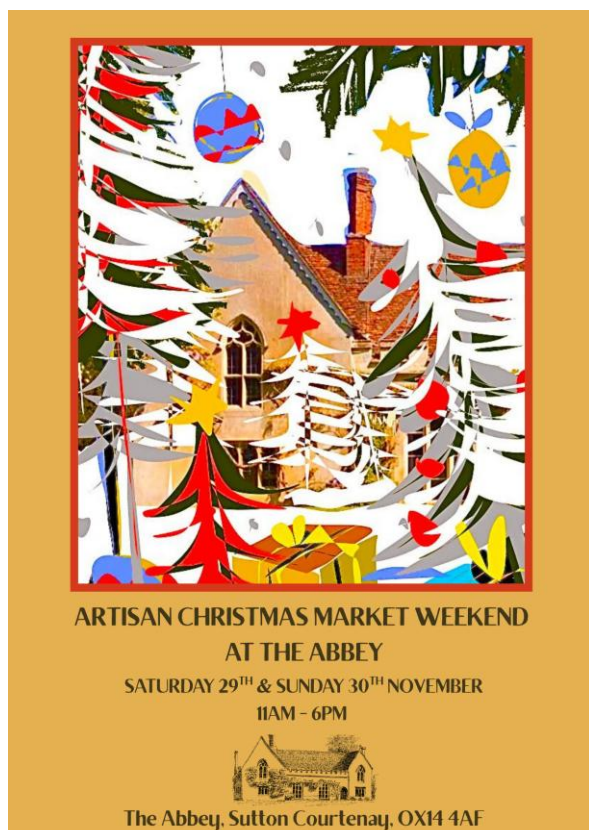
Meditation at the Abbey

The Abbey offers an opportunity to experience stillness in tranquil and beautiful surroundings with a supportive group.

Meditation can help us to feel more connected, balanced and at peace. Heartfulness is a very simple and natural method which guides participants to focus on a deeper source within our hearts and to experience harmony within. It is offered to anyone interested, for free.

The meetings take place on Wednesdays at 7pm for 30-45 minutes in the Abbey. All are welcome regardless of experience. (more information at www.heartfulness.org.uk) Please contact us 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

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

November marks the end of the Church calendar year; it is a month with many occasions to look back and remember. First in the month, is All Saints' Day, previously known as All-Hallows, meaning holy. (Halloween is the old English for holy eve). The festival of All Saints is when Christians celebrate those who have been an inspiration in their life of faith and an example of encouragement for others to follow Jesus.

All Saints is followed by All Souls. This is a special service to many who share in the loss of loved ones. It is a time to remember with thanksgiving before God those whom we have known more directly: those who gave us life and love, encouragement or who nurtured us in faith.

The noise and spectacle of fireworks on Guy Fawkes night reminds us to;

*Remember, remember, the fifth of November
Gunpowder, treason, and plot;
I see no reason why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot.*

"Lest we forget" (Rudyard Kipling) is often to be found inscribed on our War Memorials. It is also recited, along with "their name liveth forever more" (Ecclesiasticus) in Remembrance Day services. Their traditional use dates back to 1919 and was meant to encapsulate a national obligation to remember the sacrifices made rather than to glorify victory. The fourth verse of the poem "For the Fallen" by Lawrence Binyon, (written 1914) has influenced the way in which the nation has responded in times of crises and tragedies:

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

Silences have increasingly become the standard response to terror attacks and disasters, whether of nature or of human making. Some observers say that we are having more of them, because we want to be seen to care; it demonstrates to the people involved that they are not alone. Not only do **I** care, **WE** care. The impact of a football stadium crowd or busy shopping centre suddenly falling silent is an impressive message, and an impactful gesture.

The lighting of candles and the laying of flowers and wreaths are more lasting, visual signs of remembering. Rituals such as these are important for the well-being of both individuals and communities. Our churches are here in good times and in bad, offering space to find peace throughout the year, and places for remembering. *Rev Rosie Bruce*

Services of Worship

1st Sunday: Family service at 11:00 am
2nd Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 11:00am + Junior Church
3rd Sunday: Morning Worship at 11:00am + Junior Church
4th Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 11:00am + Junior Church
5th Sunday: Special services across the Damascus Parish – please see church noticeboard for details

Rest in Peace

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

Margaret Mary HAMILTON (Maggie) who died on 6th September 2025

Gena PEDGE (nee Buckle) who died on 31st August 2025
See obituaries on pages 14-16

ALL SOULS' SERVICE

**A Special Service of Naming and Remembering
those who have died
3pm on Sunday 2nd November
All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay.
Refreshments of tea, coffee and cake will be
available afterwards in the River Room.**

Invitations will be sent to the next of kin of all those for whom we have conducted a funeral over the past two years. But if you wish us to remember someone else – regardless of when or where they died – please add their name to the list at the back of church or let us know at the parish office. We will then ensure their name is read out and a candle is lit in their memory.

If you need transport to and from the service, or have any other questions, please contact the Parish Office on 01235 847179 or admin@damascusparish.org.uk

CHURCH DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

Saturday 1st 9:30-11:30 Community Brunch, River Room. All welcome!

Sunday 2nd 11:00 Family Service for All Saints'. 15:00 All Souls' Service followed by refreshments in the River Room

**Sunday 9th – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 11:00
Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial. 11.15
Service of Remembrance in All Saints.**

Monday 10th – 19:30 DAMASCUS PCC Meeting in St Peter's Church Room, Drayton



Season of Remembrance...

Sunday 2nd November 11:00 Family Service for All Saints' Day

3pm Service of Naming and Remembering (with the lighting of candles) for All Souls

Sunday 9th November 11:00 Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

11.15 Service of Remembrance in All Saints' Church with the Reading of the Roll of Honour and the placing of poppies on the cross in their memory

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

We are planning, once again, to make up Christmas Hampers for distribution around Sutton Courtenay in the week before Christmas. If you know of an individual, a couple or a family who would appreciate a gift of a hamper then please let us know their name and address and we will do our best to ensure a hamper is delivered to them.

The aim of the hampers is simply to spread the love of Christmas around the community.

Please email the name and address of the person(s) you wish to nominate (letting us know how many adults and children in the household and any allergies / dietary requirements of which we should be made aware)

admin@damascusparish.org.uk

or 'phone 01235 847179 by

Sunday 7th December 2025



CHRISTMAS CHOIR at ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

We invite you to join the Christmas Choir to sing at our Christmas Services – particularly the Carol Service at 6pm on Sunday 21st December 2025.

Philip Agg, one time Director of Music and Organist at All Saints' will be leading the practises on: Tuesday 21st October, NOT 28th October (half term), and then Tuesdays 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th November and 2nd, 9th, 16th December.

If you interested, please come along from 19:30 – 21:00 in All Saints' Church. Phone the parish office on 01235 847179 for more details.

We can promise some musical joy (& a bit of hard work).

All are welcome!

500 Crafted Christmas Trees Needed!

Hunting for a crafted Christmas tree decoration the weekend before Christmas is now a tradition in Sutton Courtenay and Appleford - which many look forward to. Last year volunteers across the villages crocheted, knitted and sewed over 500 bells. This year we're setting the challenge to make **500 Christmas Trees** – any craft which will withstand being in a plastic bag overnight in midwinter is welcome.



If you can help, instructions and suggested patterns are available at the back of the Church.

Alternatively, phone 01235 847179 or email

admin@damascusparish.org.uk or contact us via our

Facebook page and we'll get them to you. Your crafted trees need to be in church by (or before) **Friday 5th**

December. The sooner you can get them to us the easier it is for us to prepare them for the Tree Hunt on the weekend of Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st December.

THIS YEAR'S CROP OF TREES HAVE ALREADY STARTED TO ARRIVE IN THE PARISH OFFICE

Thank you!



VILLAGE CAROL SINGING

Thursday 18th December from 6pm

Every year the Singing Saints and friends sing around the village to raise money for our Christmas Charity which this year is going to be shared between Helen and Douglas House (the hospice for children & young people) and the Sutton Courtenay Tower and Bell Appeal.

Starting at 6pm we stop at different houses, making our way south to north through the village, ending at

The George.

Would you & your neighbours like to host one of our stops? We don't need to come into your house and are quite happy to sing outside but we do appreciate light seasonal refreshments to keep our spirits up and in good voice!

If so, please email rector@damascusparish.org.uk or ring 01235 847179



Buy a Balloon and Join our Virtual Balloon Race!

All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay
(part of the **DAMASCUS** Parish)

The race starts at **12.00** on **Sunday 23rd November 2025**
and ends at **12.30** on **Sunday 7th December 2025**
(live viewing of start and finish in the River Room)

Each balloon costs **£3** each and you can
name it and choose the colour.

£30 gift voucher for first place!

Use this link to buy your balloon

<https://www.balloonrace.net/tdpa>

Purchase by Thursday 20th November.

Raising money for



COMMUNITY BRUNCH

is happening

9:30-11:30

in the River Room, All Saints' Church

Saturday 1st November

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 - ALL WELCOME!

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

MOVIE MATINEES

in the River Room

Saturday 22th November 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.

Community Café in the River Room



Run by the church for the whole community

Thursday 13th & 27th November

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

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

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

CHRISTMAS EVE TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION AND BONFIRE

Torches will be on sale in the local shops from
Saturday 6th December.

Price: **£3.50** each

(NOT FOR SALE TO UNDER 16s).

The procession begins at 6pm from outside the school gates – please follow the guidance of the stewards and keep to the pavements – culminating in the churchyard at All Saints' for carols around the bonfire.

This Christmas we will be raising money to be shared between Helen and Douglas House and the Sutton Courtenay Tower and Bells Appeal – cash and contactless payments taken.

HELP NEEDED!

To make sure this event runs as safely as possible we need plenty of stewards along the route. If you would be willing to act as a steward on the night – please do let us know as soon as possible.

01235 847179 or admin@damascusparish.org.uk

Cleaning Volunteers Needed

All Saints' Church has a band of weekly cleaners who come and keep the church clean but we have found that we could do with a few more as we have vacant weeks to fill. Cleaners usually work in pairs – it takes about an hour or so dusting, sweeping the porch, mats etc., and hoovering the carpets with our cordless vacuum cleaner.

Can you help with 1 hour of cleaning in the church every 5 weeks or so? If you can, please contact Mary Warrington on contrary63@gmail.com. Thank you. - we really do need your help.



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

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS'



The Friends of All Saints'

Yuletide Evening

a festive occasion with supper and musical entertainment

The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay

Saturday 13th December 2025

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Tickets £12 adult/£6 child at
sjenkins33@aol.com
or 07885 437454

Cash bar, raffle, fun!

The Friends of All Saints' is a charity which contributes to the upkeep of the Grade 1 listed 12th century church in Sutton Courtenay

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!

IMPROVEMENTS TO SUTTON COURTENAY'S COUNTRYSIDE PATHS

I have an update on the work FCC have in-hand, or completed recently, to improve our public rights of way to the east of the village.

Actions Completed:

BOAT 9 – Hobbyhorse Lane (between the Village Hall and Haul Road):

- FCC used a flail mower to trim back the verge vegetation where possible.
- FCC removed any metal objects sticking out of the surface.
- FCC have cleared the plastic pipe and other waste materials from the verges. The works were completed before the end of September 2025.

Footpath 7 – North from Hobbyhorse Lane (diagonally across the corner of the landfill):

- FCC removed the fence across the right of way at the southern end.
- FCC cut a 2-metre-wide path through the crop to reinstate the legal route of the right of way but have stated they don't currently intend to stop people walking along the edge of the field which is FCC land and not a right of way.

BOAT 10 – Old Wallingford Way (between the Tarmac Haul Road and the Village):

- FCC will use a flail mower to trim back the verge vegetation.

Footpath 7 – South from Old Wallingford Way towards Hobbyhorse Lane:

- To help us move the path back to the DMS (legally designated) route and discourage illegal use of the path by motorbikes etc., FCC has cut back the overgrowth and undergrowth between the PRoW gate at the Wallingford Way (BOAT 10) end and the stile at the Southeast corner of the Recreation Ground.
- FCC also cut back the vegetation around the pedestrians' gate and closed the large gates.

FCC report they have done their best to cut back the vegetation as much as they can at the moment. During October, they will use a side arm mower to cut back their hedges. They will try to clear this area a bit more, but there are some larger trees on the footpath line that may need some attention from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) as anything growing on the path is OCCs responsibility to remove.

This and any other issues on public rights of way should be reported using the OCC footpath reporting site publicrightsofway.oxfordshire.gov.uk/standardmap.aspx

Actions Outstanding:

Footpath 7 – South from Hobbyhorse Lane towards the Power Station:

- FCC will do further hedge cutting and brush cutting between the two fence lines.
- FCC will have removed all the barbed wire on the fences by the end of September 2025.

BOAT 9 – Hobbyhorse Lane (between the Village Hall and Haul Road):

- FCC will to bury the exposed pipes and cables crossing the route.

A follow up meeting is being arranged with OCC, FCC and Thames Water for November. The time, date and venue will be confirmed by OCC soon. This will be a public meeting and anyone interested will be welcome.

If anyone has any questions I don't mind if they contact me via Sutton Courtenay News, and I will answer if I can or follow up with FCC, Thames Water or OCC!

(BOAT – Byway Open to All Traffic)

Simon Lazare

◇ UPDATE *◇*

Our next meeting with Thames Water and others, to discuss the works required to repair Hobbyhorse Lane has been confirmed for 2pm, 11 November 2025 in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall.

Importantly this meeting is open to the public and will be also be attended by the key people from Oxfordshire County Council, responsible for the oversight and surface management of our Public Rights of Way. We have also invited FCC, the waste management company responsible for the landfill site between Sutton Courtenay and Appleford and the PRoW that cross this land.

This meeting is important because, after years of campaigning, the key parties responsible for the upkeep and condition of the PRoW to the east of our village have accepted that more needs to be done and have agreed to meet with us to discuss who should be doing what and when. The focus of the meeting will be on Hobbyhorse Lane, this is an important path connecting Appleford and Sutton Courtenay without having to use the B4016, Appleford Road, which can be dangerous for cyclists, walkers and equestrians.

This initiative is also supported by our County and District Councillor, Peter Stevens and our Member of Parliament Olly Glover.

If you have any interest in what happens to our paths in and around the village please attend the meeting and extend the invitation to any other interested parties in or outside our village.



Oxford temporary congestion charge

Starts Wednesday 29 October 2025

7 am - 7 pm
Charge for cars only
Pay online by midnight tomorrow

If you drive a car in Oxford

From Wednesday 29 October cars with permits and all other vehicles can pass through the congestion charge locations for free.

If you don't have a permit you will need to pay £5 per day to drive a car through the six congestion charge locations.

Permits are available for residents, blue badge holders, community health and care workers, mobile traders and many other groups.

Find out more about the congestion charge

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/congestioncharge

Building connections, expanding opportunity

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



Helping you live life to the full

NHS

NHS HEALTH CHECK

Helping you prevent
diabetes
heart disease
kidney disease
stroke & dementia

If you're over 40, find out if you're eligible – your future self may thank you.

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/nhshealthchecks

Think of it as an MOT for your body.

The aim of the check is to keep you as healthy as possible and reduce the chances of problems in the future.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Sutton Courtenay residents may apply for a permit allowing 25 days of annual travel through the congestion charge area. Apply online via the website.

Better Housing & Better Health provide support to all residents to help them stay warm, safe and independent in their homes. You can contact them on 0800 107 0044 or via their website: www.bhbm.org.uk

SUDOKU

EASY

		2	6	1		7		5
3					9		6	
	8		4				2	
			9		2			
					8		1	
	3				6			8
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MEDIUM

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	1	4			8			
					5	6		

Taken from www.puzzles.ca/sudoku (1097)

Rest in Peace

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

Margaret Mary Hamilton (Maggie) who died on 6th September 2025 was born on 24th February 1945 to Fred and Alice Poole in Barton-under-Needwood in Staffordshire. Her mother was the Nanny and Housekeeper to the local village doctor and the family lived in a part of the doctor's house. Margaret grew up alongside her younger brother, Gordon, and she always said she had a very happy childhood with lots of animals – cats, dogs, chickens, pigs, a pony and a donkey! Her love of animals was something which never left her and for many years, right up until her death, she was actively involved in volunteering and raising money for the Donkey Sanctuary.

Margaret disliked school but she loved belonging to the Red Cross of which she was a member for many years. She also enjoyed singing in the local church choir. She left school at Christmas 1959, when she was just 14 years old and went to work as a housemother in a local residential school for deaf children, a job she stayed in until she was 18. Even at such a young age she was building lifelong friendships and she remained in contact for the rest of her life with some of the children she had looked after. She then went to work at a local factory – cycling 10 miles there and 10 miles back each day. From there she moved to a local chicken farm which was where she met her future husband, Roderick. It wasn't exactly love at first sight, according to Roderick, but something clicked and they were married in 1965 and moved to Hayley Green near Ascot.

A year later they moved to Sutton Courtenay, when Roderick started working for Frank Cauldwell. It was then that they had their daughter, Geraldine. Margaret continued to work; at night as a cleaner at the Culham Laboratories, and during the day as a child-minder. Nathan came along in 1969 and Margaret then went to work the evening shift at the plastic factory on Milton Park. Whilst there she met a gentleman who offered her a job at a new chemical factory and she later became a part-owner of the business, until she sold her shares. Margaret then went to Securicor as a night-cleaner until she became Assistant Manager and had to work days. She left there and went to work for Mars as a vending machine operator because the hours fitted in with the children going to school. Her next job was with the Oxford Intensive School of English collecting the students from Paris and Germany until she met another gentleman who worked for a holiday company who got her a job as a travel guide. She went onto work for them for over 25 years. She loved the job – making many friends, visiting many places all over Europe and seeing lots of concerts performed by stars including Phil Collins, Cliff Richard and Pavarotti. She also worked in Disneyland, Paris twice a year and the Edinburgh Tattoo every summer.

Always sociable and outgoing, the family hosted a lot of house parties over the years – although Margaret could not be described as the best of cooks. As Roderick said, she was a functioning cook. One memorable meal, served to Christine and Nathan, involved a 'potato crumble'. It should have been apple but Margaret failed to notice that she had defrosted potatoes rather than apple from the freezer! Geraldine and Nathan both remember 'Russian Roulette Tea', where Margaret would open unlabelled tins and it was just luck if it was peaches rather than beans! She was, however, very green-fingered, although Roderick claims he did all the work in the garden! She was a keen competitor in the Sutton Courtenay Village Show – winning many prizes over the years. She was notorious for pinching cuttings from plants whenever she visited a stately home and liked what she saw. She was a bit of a hoarder. She never said no to anything when people gave her stuff to sell at car boot sales – which she seemed to attend almost every weekend. Again, it was more about meeting people than selling stuff.

Over the years they had many happy family holidays – always camping in a tent – apart from one year when they purchased what they described as a chicken coop on wheels or, in other words, the smallest touring caravan in the world. Despite her busy working life and looking after the family Margaret managed to be actively involved in many aspects of village life. She was a member of the Young Wives and eventually the WI which had only recently morphed into the Tuesday Club under Margaret's care. She supported the Community Brunch and the Community Café held in the River Room. She always came to the Knit and Natter – but spent more time nattering than she ever did knitting. She was a volunteer driver and spent a lot of her time taking people to medical appointments or to the airport. So many people have reason to be grateful for Margaret and her willingness to help in any way she could.

Several years ago, she became the guardian to Edgar, a young Russian school boy at Kingham School. He and his friends would come and stay with Margaret and Roderick every holiday. Tragically he was killed in a car accident in Oxford but, because he had loved England so much, his parents decided he should be buried in Sutton Courtenay and Margaret kept in touch with his family and lovingly tended his grave in the cemetery on their behalf. However, Margaret was no plaster saint. She had her own strengths and weaknesses. She was a great storyteller – and was not afraid to tell a joke against herself. She was self-deprecating and she secretly enjoyed being teased by her family – especially the grandchildren! She could also be stubborn – once she had made her mind up it was hard to change her opinion. Her timekeeping was dreadful and, although she always had a colourful tale to tell giving the reason she was late – over the years the family learnt to always tell her where she had to be an hour ahead of time and she did improve in later years.

After 35 years working on the farm Roderick was made redundant and they bought a house in Bradstocks Way. They became grandparents to Fraser, Edgar and Erin who Margaret always said she was lucky enough to see growing up. She loved looking after them – although they always went home tired because they had too much fun with Grandma to go to bed! She did her best to go to every sports event or play that they took part in and I know that she was immensely proud of all three of them. Margaret's and Roderick's marriage was an enduring partnership as they celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary at The Swan with friends and family – just days before Margaret died. Although she was in acute pain she was determined to be there celebrating with those closest to her and about whom she cared so much. Margaret, although 80, seemed to have the energy and enthusiasm of someone so much younger.

I first encountered Margaret when she was working in the shop over 22 years ago and I had just arrived in the village as the new Vicar. It soon became clear that she knew more about me than I did! I discovered that she was the fount of all knowledge about this village and its people – or as Nathan described her – the Town Crier. This wasn't just curiosity – she genuinely cared about people. She was always friendly, sociable and outgoing, looking out for the needs of others. She loved to meet people and keep up to date with all the news. She was always generous with her time and her money in helping others and serving her community.

This is an edited extract from the address and tribute given to Margaret at her funeral held in All Saints' Church on Tuesday 30th September 2025 by the Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick, when the church was filled to over-flowing with family, friends and neighbours from across the village and the country.

Gena Pedge (nee Buckle), who died on 31st August 2025, was born on 9th September 1956 in The Warren, Abingdon and grew up on the Drayton Road, Sutton Courtenay. She first met her husband Steve at the Sutton Courtenay weirs in 1972 when he impressed her as he was canoeing down the open weirs. They met again at the local village dance the following weekend and continued to meet for a few months before going steady and eventually marrying in All Saints' Church on 13th May 1978. Gena trained to be a hairdresser at Richards hair salon in Abingdon, and subjected Steve to many new hair styles through those training years. Their first child Cathie was born on 20th July 1982 and their second, Hannah on 31st July 1985. Tom arrived on 16th May 1991 - a Thursday, the day Gena's aunties would come over to have their weekly shampoo and sets done. Midway through doing their hair, Gena telephoned Steve at work to say she had gone into labour, the baby was on its way. He made a mad dash home only to find that she was still hairdressing! A true professional she had to finish what she had started!

In 1993 Gena lost her father to cancer and it was a tough time for the whole family. As a farmer, Reg was always busy,

other than the odd weekend he had a little time to spend with the grandchildren. Having just retired he had so many plans for them. Grandma was to be the saving grace, teaching the grand children how to cook, sew and even knit. She often had them overnight, but only one at a time! Grandma became a central figure in the family. Alongside Gena, the two very caring figures were to be great influencers on the children. As the children got older and less dependent on her, Gena decided to go back to work, not as a hairdresser, but as a nursing assistant. She worked as a bank nurse for the NHS, and took shifts in many of the Oxfordshire hospitals, but it was working in maternity that she enjoyed the most. Gena worked at Wantage maternity unit for a number of years, helping to bring new life into the world. With her caring nature and her own experiences of childbirth she was in her element, sadly this came to end when the unit closed. The next chapter of her working life would prove to be a bit more challenging. Still working for the NHS Gena would take on a role looking after adults with learning difficulties. This entailed taking them out into the community and doing day to day things such as going to the shops, cinema or just going for a walk. Some days would be a challenge for her, but offloading to Steve seemed to help ease the burden. That is what you call teamwork and what marriage is all about. Helping each other through life's troubles.

In 2020 face to face work stopped and Gena was now in the office phoning clients to make sure they were OK. This spelt the end of this particular job, Gena could not cope with office work and decided to move on. Another support worker suggested she contact Pennyhooks Farm, a trust that supports young people and adults on the Autistic Spectrum. This turned out to be the dream job for Gena, working with animals and people who needed her support, she was in her element. The other love in Gena's life were the grandchildren, Rory, Bella, Noah and Koby. Gena loved to spoil them, whether it was buying them clothes, sweets or other treats, they were always treated equally. If they wanted a breakfast cereal they were not allowed at home she would buy it. Thursdays would become grandchildren day. Family commitment was not just limited to immediate family. Gena's commitment to her aunts and uncles was just as important, arranging doctors' appointments, hospital visits, getting them their shopping, the list goes on. Gena's ability to care about people knew no bounds, it even extended to animals and birds. She kept ducks and chickens, if one of them fell ill it had to go to the vets. It would have to be given a chance of further life, if possible, and Steve's wallet bears the scars!

Over the last six years Steve and Gena decided that it was their time to travel while they had good health and their adventures with friends took them to Kenya on a seven day safari followed by six days in Zanzibar; then a trip to Sri Lanka where the highlight of the holiday for Gena was to witness a turtle laying her eggs on the beach, she was in awe of this event. Once the turtle had finished laying her eggs the

beach warden came and removed them and took them to a safe area where they would be hatched. Gena asked the warden if she could go and see the hatching area. Once at the hatching centre she had the chance to release some new hatchlings. If you could picture this in your mind - Gena placing newly hatched little turtles gently on the sand and watching them scuttle off to the sea – making sure they made it, to see the broad smile on her face was a picture worth seeing. Trips to India and then to Sorrento in Italy followed. The villa was beautiful. There were chickens and cats at the villa, Gena's caring nature kicked in, she was concerned the cats and kittens looked thin and needed fattening up. By the end of the holiday the cats would be lined up in the morning waiting to be fed, she made sure the chickens were also looked after giving them extra food. Every holiday was filled with laughter.

Gena was a modest, unassuming person who nevertheless let her light shine brightly before others. She seemed to have an infinite capacity for caring and touched the lives of people in so many different ways. She would have been surprised and delighted by the love shown by all those who attended her funeral in All Saints' Church.

This is an edited extract from the tribute (written by Steve, Gena's husband) and the address given by the Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick at Gena's funeral on 1st October 2025. Tributes were also given by Gena's children and her brother Tim.

ALL SAINTS' SINGERS

All Saints' Singers
Sutton Courtenay

Music Director
Sebastian Thomson

WINTER CONCERT

Rutter: Gloria
McDowall: A Winter's Night
Bach: Jauchzet, frohlocket
With Abbey Brass
& Audience Participation Carols

All Saints' Church
Sutton Courtenay

Sunday
7th December 2025
@ 7:00 pm

Tickets £15
 from: Hari & Esha's in Sutton Courtenay,
 the Bookstore, Bury Street, Abingdon or →

for more information: allsaintssingers.org

The RSPB Local Group (Vale of White Horse) hosts monthly talks in the River Room - in October live owls visited us! Upcoming talks are:

- 17th November: Stonechats & horse-snatchers: the cultural framing of birds (Prof Andrew Gosler) - Prof Gosler will build on his talk from last season (recap included if you missed it!) with more fascinating insights into the English names for birds. (7.30pm in the River Room, and broadcast by Zoom for those who prefer not to travel)
- 15th December: Project Turtle Dove (Rick Bayne) - Turtle doves have declined by 93 per cent since the 1970s, and are ecologically unique as the UK's only migratory dove species. Operation Turtle Dove has worked to understand the problems faced by turtle doves and the conservation action needed. The project is optimistic that we can reverse the fortunes of this enigmatic and culturally significant bird; the latest figures give real hope that things are on the right track. (7.30 pm Zoom only)
- 19th January: Giving Corncrakes a Home (Anne Guichard) - Anne is an RSPB Conservation Officer in Northern Ireland. Her talk includes Corncrake ecology and the RSPB's work on Rathlin Island to bring the corncrake back. (7.30 pm Zoom only)
- 16th February: Filey International, Arrivals & Departures on the North Yorkshire coast (Mark Pearson). (7.30 pm Zoom only)
- 16th March: Bringing a Boom to Middleton Lakes (Katie Thorpe). (7.30pm River Room)
- 20th April: Wildlife of the Chilterns (Jon Mason). (7.30pm River Room)

Membership for the 25-26 season remains at £15 for adults (whether or not you are an RSPB member), and is free for under-16s. This covers our programme of monthly talks and wildlife walks (see our website), and a quarterly e-Newsletter If you prefer to attend just one or two talks, you can do this as a non-member for £5 a time You can join using the form on our website (under "Contacts"): www.rspb-vwh.org.uk, or at a meeting (bank transfer, cash, cheque).

See you there.

BRIDGE AFTERNOON

BRIDGE AFTERNOONS

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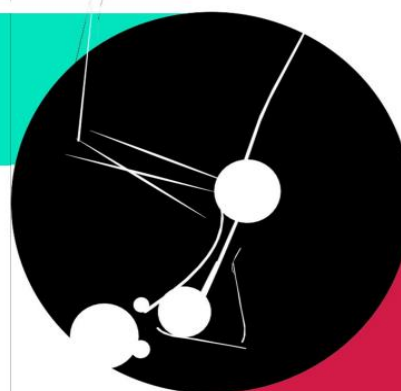
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