

SUTTON COURTENAY —

NEWS



VOL 3 NO 1 JANUARY 1974

VILLAGE DIARY FOR JANUARY.

Jan	1	Tues	Mothers Union Party at Vicarage 7.15 p.m.
Jan	2	Wed	Under-Fives Party at Vicarage 2 p.m.
			Darby & Joan 2.30 pm. Parish Council Meeting 7.30 p.m.
Jan	6	Sun	11 a.m. Family Service at All Saints' (Bus 10.45 a.m.)
Jan	13	Sun	Junior Church re-opens 10 a.m. (Bus 9.45 a.m.)
Jan	14	Mon	Camera Club - Slides & Talk by J. Guthrie "Australian Journey"
Jan	15	Tue	Wives Group - Beetle Drive - 8.0 p.m.
Jan	16	Wed	Darby & Joan .
Jan	20	Sun	10 a.m. Family Communion at All Saints'
			6 p.m. United Service at Drayton Church Bus 5.40 p.m.
			No Evensong at All Saints'.
Jan	21	Mon	Bible Study at Vicarage - 7.30 p.m.
Jan	24	Thu	Horticultural Society - Slide Evening
Jan	28	Mon	Camera Club - Trophy - Set of 4 slides
Jan	29	Tue	Wives Group - Television Discussion evening with Mrs. Jager
Jan	30	Wed	Darby & Joan
			Open Discussion Group at Vicarage 8 p.m.

All events take place in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated.
Please take contributions to the Post Office, Rogers' Shop or the
Editor, Mary Thompson, 124 High Street, BEFORE COPY DAY, January 16th.

MANY THANKS to this month's artist, MISS CUNNINGTON, for the cover picture.

NEWS VIEWS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

Brief news items and letters are welcomed. The rate for adverts is 5p a line (approx. 10 words) except for "Found", "Work wanted", and "Welcome to Sutton Courtenay", which are free.

WELCOME TO SUTTON COURTENAY

Mr. and Mrs. Upstone, new licencees of the "George & Dragon".

Mr. and Mrs. Cox 6 Milton Road.

Mr. and Mrs. Webster 29 Milton Road.

People placing Advertisements "For Sale" in the News have had outstanding success - why don't you try it if you want to get rid of something?

FOR SALE.

CORGI ROCKET SET. Twin Track - £1.50 3 Courtenay Close. Tel. S.C.553

DOUBLE BED - £10. WARDROBE - £7. SINGLE BED - £3.

DOLL'S PRAM - £3. DOLL'S COT - £1.

GENTS UNIFORM - 2 pairs trousers & cap. 40" Chest, 36" Waist. Navy Blue Telephone S.C. 362.

FOUND

In the region of Chapel Lane - a gilt bracelet with two hearts entwined and the names SUSAN and Graham engraved on it. Apply - 31 Harwell Road.

R.S.P.C.A.

It has been suggested that Mrs. Hailey might continue her work with the R.S.P.C.A. in the village if she had the help of a Committee, and this she has agreed to do.

WANTED URGENTLY!

Nurse Parker, District Nurse, has asked us to appeal to anyone who could do some hairdressing for elderly ladies in the village to come forward. There is a real need for this helpful service, as apart from being a great boost to their morale, some elderly people are unable to get out to have their hair done. They are quite happy to pay for the service, and it might suit someone with a small child who still wants to keep her hand in. Please contact Nurse Parker at Dr. Vivian's Surgery, Bradstocks Way by leaving a note for her, or telephone S.C. 646 (Surgery).

ATTENTION ALL BROWNIES OR WOULD-BE BROWNIES

Would parents of girls wishing to join please contact either Miss Joan Carter, Mrs. Margaret Mackenzie or Mrs. Potts so that names can be added to waiting lists. The number of Brownies in a Pack is limited by Girl Guide rules and if children just turn up at meetings hoping to stay, we very much regret they must be turned away, thus causing disappointment.

Beryl McVicar, District Commissioner.

CONGRATULATIONS! To 2nd Sutton Courtenay Brownies who grew 50p into £11 for SHELTER, mainly through selling cakes, cauliflowers and notepads!

SECRETARIES.....SECRETARIES.....SECRETARIES!!!!!!

No, this is not an appeal for Girl Fridays, but a FINAL and LAST appeal to all secretaries of organizations in the village to give us up-to-date information for the 1974 Directory. So far, despite three appeals, only about six organizations have responded. Neither Mrs. Mackenzie nor I have the time to chase you all up, so if we do not hear from you before JANUARY 1st, the names will go in the Directory as per last year.

THANKS to the Wives Group for a generous donation of £5 to the "Sutton Courtenay News".

MANY THANKS to this month's artist, MISS CUMMINGTON, for the cover picture.

EDITORIAL. As the "Sutton Courtenay News" goes into its third year of production the time has come round for me - and you - to express sincere thanks to all those volunteers who help to produce it. After I have collected up all the bits and pieces on Copy Day, I type it up, edit it and arrange it more or less as it should be printed before handing it over to one of a team of typists who type the stencils for printing. The typists include Mesdames Barnham, Cook, Denton, Elford, Hands, Newton, Rayner, Steptoe and Woodward. The stencils are then passed on to two able printers, Peter Dell and Paul Francis. The printed sheets are then stapled together at my house with another group of helpers who include Mesdames Baker, Rayner, Rogers and Woodward. The copies are carefully counted and bundled ready for delivery to the Girl Guides, under Mrs. Davies and Mrs. Miles, who distribute them to all homes in the village. As you can see from this brief summary of the operation, it is a co-operative effort, and thanks to contributors and helpers alike.

Mr. Davies (Post Office) and Mrs. Mackenzie and myself are the 'Editorial Board' and Mrs. Mackenzie also organizes the artists for the cover picture each month. Mr. Chris Taylor is the Secretary, Mr. Alan Rogers the Treasurer, Mrs. Cook the Advertising Manager, Mrs. Davies and Rev. Jager complete the Committee for the "Sutton Courtenay News".

POWER STATION.

The C.E.G.B. have announced that noise from the power station may be heard as safety tests are carried out. They state that two of the power station's four units have been operating satisfactorily throughout the power crisis, and the addition of the third unit which is involved in the tests, should make a significant contribution to the power situation.

STREET LIGHTING DURING THE POWER CRISIS.

Under a Government directive, authorities have been ordered to cut street lighting by 50%. As a result, in Sutton Courtenay, Lights will be retained on main roads through the village and on Bradstocks Way. In addition, a light will be on near the Village Hall to facilitate travel to and from the Village Hall, and also by the Village Green car park. PLEASE DO NOT REPORT LIGHTS THAT ARE OUT OF ACTION DURING THE PRESENT CRISIS.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS.

The following items were among those raised at the Parish Council Meetings in November and December:-

School Buses - Much concern was expressed over the lateness of buses picking up children in the morning, when primary schoolchildren are then going to school. Also children have been left behind in Abingdon, and the Clerk is in touch with Mr. Roberts who is responsible for school transport.

Footpath 22 (from Tullis Close to Milton Road) has now been closed.

Planning Applications - The Football Club's plans for a new pavilion and flat were approved, with the proviso that the flat is not sold separately. A similar condition was recommended for the proposed staff bungalow in the grounds of Priors Court.

The question of public participation in Parish Council Meetings was discussed, so that residents with a genuine problem might have the opportunity to air it before the Council. It was suggested that prior application in writing, about the problem, be made to the Clerk at least one week before the advertised date of the next meeting from any parishioner wishing to have some problem briefly discussed. The Council unanimously agreed that such participation would be very welcome.

Please note that the date of the next Meeting is Wednesday, Janaury 2nd.

SUTTON AND ITS ROYAL RESIDENTS.

Two recent events within a month - the visit here of the Dalai Lama and the Royal Wedding in Westminster Abbey - recall a brief but important period, from 1100 to 1102 A.D., in the past history of our village. As far as I know, that period covered the last recorded occasion on which a head of state came to stay here. He was Henry I, visiting this, his royal vill, and while here having his seal fixed to various royal commands recorded as being given 'at Sutton'.

At that time the Green was some three times larger than at present and stretched as a triangle from the church almost to the Rectory House (now known as the Abbey). The large manor of Sutton, which included not only Sutton Wick but land now in East Hendred and a part of Hulgrove Farm now in Drayton, was administered from a complex of several courtyards which lay between The Green and the Mill Stream arm of the River. It was probably enclosed on the land side by a wooden stockade, stretching from near the mill almost to Cross Trees. Apart from the barns, stables and other farm buildings, there was access to the Wharf, then sited by the small man-made island which lies near the present Manor House. Towards Norman Hall, not at that time built, would have lain, in a separate courtyard, the hall and chambers reserved for the King and other royal personages who from time to time came to stay at Sutton on their ceaseless journeys through the kingdom.

In the years 1100 to 1102 these courtyards by The Green were unusually active because Sutton was chosen as the place for Matilda, Henry's wife, to have her first confinement. This followed the first Royal Wedding to be held in Westminster Abbey, also a November day, and easily remembered as being on the 11th day of the 11th month of the year 1100. Not for them a honeymoon in the Caribbean or even by the Mediterranean. But we can imagine Matilda, who linked our Royal family with the Saxon kings, enjoying the spring of 1101 by the banks of the Thames in this quiet part of Wessex, glad, apparently, to be freed from the threat of spending all her days in a nunnery, (her father, a King of Scotland, had been slain).

Faratius, Henry's appointment as Abbot of Abingdon Abbey, and his Italian colleague, Grimaldus, were not only Matilda's friends but also her medical advisers and obstetrician. Charters record certain benefits she was able to obtain for the Abbey. How often Henry I visited her here we do not know, nor is there any record of where the birth of her first child (who died in infancy) took place, but in Sutton seems certain. Parts of her second pregnancy, which followed closely, were also spent here but then after 1102 there are no more charters signed by Henry I 'at Sutton'.

How much survives from the time when Matilda was a resident? The mill stream was by then a century or so old, but of the church, probably mainly a wooden structure, there is nothing with the possible exception of part of the tower. Excavations on the land belonging to the Manor House and Norman Hall would no doubt reveal the lay-out of several, separate, timber-framed buildings of late Saxon or early Norman date. But, fortunately, incorporated in the Manor House is a two-storied stone range which has the characteristics of early Norman work and may well have been in existence as a separate domestic building when Matilda was here - and, to be speculative, even perhaps used by her.

John Fletcher.

CHRISTMAS NIGHT by Jennifer Mason

Christmas night,
Christmas night,
It is so dark
And not very light.
Who is that
Climbing up the willow?
It's Santa Claus
Now climbing through the window
I lie down,
Too frightened to peep.
I see his beard
And he starts to creep.

Up to my bedside,
Kneels down by my stocking.
He steps on a pin
An starts hopping.
He climbs back
Right through the window.
Now I see him
Climb down the willow.
I hope that now
You all believe
In Santa Claus
On Christmas Eve.

At the last meeting of the Village Hall Committee several matters arose that will be of interest to the users of the Hall. The meeting was held in a rather chilly Committee room, so it was not surprising that there was some talk of future prospects for heating the building in these times of growing energy shortage. We have been informed by the Berkshire Community Association adviser that our storage heaters may still operate on a restricted time basis, but as we are in the midst of installing new and more powerful apparatus this should mean that the rooms will be usable though perhaps not very warm on cold nights. If the building is cold, there is very little that the Committee can do except repeat the advice that doors should be kept closed as much as possible.

The other main discussion centred upon the feeling that there were some functions which - perhaps inevitably - caused greater expenditure on caretaking time and cleaning materials. The Committee felt that it was time to fall in line with the practice of other halls available for hire by making a surcharge for hiring beyond 11 p.m. and by asking that, for certain functions, provision be made to cover any financial outlay on extra cleaning time or accidental damage. The following amendment has therefore been made to the conditions for hire set out on the booking form:-

"There will be a surcharge of £3 for the hour 11 p.m. till midnight and £5 for midnight to 1 a.m., plus a deposit of £15 payable in advance to cover extra expenses and any damage caused. This sum, or part thereof, will be returnable in the event of Hall being left in a reasonable condition".

May I make it clear through the "Sutton Courtenay News" that our wish, as always, is that all users of the Village Hall should benefit from the facilities and that hire charges should be fair and as low as possible. It was apparent, however, that public functions which large numbers attend were causing a great drain upon our resources. I hope that, as in the past, we can expect and rely upon the co-operation of all those who appreciate the value of the Hall in our community by using it as the venue for functions and meetings of all kinds.

Frank H. Bird, Chairman, V.H.M.C.

THE CHRISTMAS FIAR.

Thank you, everyone, for the record total of £894.72½ with a little more to come in from late sales. Considering that it is four years since we had a Church Bazaar this is really wonderful. The detailed totals are in the Church porch. Everyone helped in this, from the generous and ingenious stall holders and helpers, led by Mrs. Newell, our Bazaar Chairman, to the generous and very numerous customers.

The Quilt, which gave us such good publicity in newspaper photographs, was won by Mrs. Garlick of 126 High Street.

THE CHURCHYARD - RUBBISH AGAIN!

What a nuisance it is when people start using the wrong rubbish heap! This has been happening for some time in the Churchyard and the Vicar has put the following notice on the mound at the East end which is O.K. for soil, but is not for old flowers, wreaths or paper. "PLEASE HELP TO KEEP OUR CHURCHYARD TIDY! by putting flowers and wreaths on the rubbish heap by the GATE (and plastic and paper in the incinerator there) and NOT on this mound, which is for earth only!"

I have just moved six barrow loads of dead flowers and dirty plastic and paper from here to the proper heap - and have better ways of spending my day off!!

Vicar.

(The rubbish heap is by the gate so that it can be conveniently cleared when full).

HERE'S PART OF A QUIZ, sent in by Mr. Tobin - you can do it by candle-light if the lights go out!

1. Two Americans are walking down the road. One is the father of the other one's son. What is their relationship?
2. Place 8 coins of equal value side by side, head, tail, head, tail, etc. In four moves arrange the coins to finish with four heads, four tails.
3. A worm is trying to reach the top of a 30ft. pole. If he climbs 3ft. a day, and slips back 2 ft. a night, how many days to reach the top?
4. A train left London for Liverpool: at the same time a train left Liverpool for London. What was the name of the driver going to London?
5. If a boy said he was 15 two days ago, how can he be 18 next year?

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION.

At the 47th Annual General Meeting held on 6th December, the following officers were elected:

<u>President</u>	-	Major General B.D. Jones, Churchfields.
<u>Chairman</u>	-	Mr. B.R.W. Wilson, The White House.
<u>Secretary</u>	-	Mr. D.M. Matheson, 102 Milton Road.
<u>Treasurer</u>	-	Mr. J. Hurd, 9 Frilsham Street.

The Chairman praised the work done by Commander Chisolm Batten as Benovolent Secretary, and was pleased to record that a Service Committee of four members had now been formed. A new inovations was electing an Entertainments Committee for the forthcoming year. A report from Mr. E.N. Musselle thanked all the collectors who had helped to increase the collection to over £100 for the first time.

WOMEN'S SECTION.

We are not so well known but we manage to have and do quite a lot of interesting things. During this year we have had coloured slides, Bingo and Whist sessions, and have had various speakers. We had a most entertaining evening of skittles at Chieveley, and some of us went to the Max Bygraves Show. We had great pleasure when we enjoyed an open gathering in our President's garden. There a sale of disabled men's work brought in £37.78 for the industries of the disabled. We visited the Bulmers Cider factory at Hereford and enjoyed the drive seeing the scenes of the Wye Valley in their autumnal tints.

After our A.G.M. in November, a "Pippa Dee" party was held and now we are looking forward to an open evening to play whist. Our President and Secretary will be making parcels for the senior members of our branch for Christmas. Why not join us? For a subscription of 25p per annum all these happy gatherings could be yours. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month.

President	-	Mrs. Francis.	Treasurer	-	Mrs. Gilbert.
Hon. Sec.	-	Mrs. Turner.	Chairman	-	Mrs. Ling (Senior)

and a Committee of Ten members.

FRIENDS OF SUTTON COURTENAY.

A Committee Meeting of the Friends of Sutton Courtenay was held on Wednesday 14th November. The business included a discussion on the placing of a seat and planting of two trees in the High Street. It is hoped that this work will be carried out in December and a plaque will be attached to the seat. Mr. Ford reported progress with the Society's work in helping the Parish to prepare a Village Plan. Concern was again expressed that the burnt-out modern barn in the High Street and the debris of the demolished cottages had not been moved. The Chairman undertook to contact the Parish Council again on this matter and also to receive assurance that the "protected" barns will not be allowed to fall into decay.

Steps to enforce speed limits on vehicles using the High Street, the use of weed killer on road verges, and vandalism were among other subjects discussed. The possibility was raised of having seats placed along the riverside behind Church Street, and this is to be followed up with the authorities concerned.

The Committee would be pleased to have any suggestions or comments for future discussion.

B. Phelps. Secretary.

WIVES GROUP.

Our Dance on December 7th was a great success and once again thank you to all who helped organize it, with a special thank you from us all to our President Mrs. Audrey Torevell, for all the work she has done during the year. A Happy Christmas to you all and we look forward to a successful 10th year in 1974.

B. Hands. Secretary.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ on Page 5. 1. Man and wife. 2 You must move two coins at a time (which must be together) and wherever you take two from you must return two coins into that place. 3 28 days. 4 Mr. Watt. 5 The boy was talking on January 1st 1973; on 30th December 1972 he was 15. On 31st December 1972 he had his 16th Birthday, on December 31st 1973 his 17th Birthday, on December 31st 1974 his 18th Birthday.

SUTTON COURTENAY DIRECTORY

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