



VILLAGE DIARY FOR MARCH

- Mar. 3 Sun. Family Service at All Saints' 11.00 a.m.
Evensong (each Sunday in March) at Appleford.
Buses 10.45 a.m. & 6.15 p.m.
- Mar. 5 Tues. Mothers' Union 2.30 at Vicarage. Speaker Mrs. Payton
Parish Council Meeting 7.30 p.m.
- Mar. 6 Wed. "Under Fives" 2.30 p.m. at Vicarage.
Open Group 8.00 p.m. at Vicarage (weekly)
- Mar. 10 Sun. Matins 11 a.m. at All Saints', Preacher, Vicar of
Steventon.
Junior Church 10 a.m. Buses 9.45 & 6.15 p.m.
- Mar. 11 Mon. Annual Church Meeting 7.30 p.m. at All Saints'
- Mar. 12 Tue. Camera Club Annual Show 7.30 p.m.
- Mar. 13 Wed. Darby & Joan. Mrs. Bernard entertains. Fish & Chip tea.
Horticultural Society 8.00 p.m.
- Mar. 14 Thur. Wives Group. Visit from 'Falcons' Free Fall Team
Open Meeting 8.00 p.m.
- Mar. 17 Sun. Family Communion 10 a.m. at All Saints'. Buses 9.45, 6.15.
- Mar. 19 Tue. Confirmation at All Saints' 7.30 p.m.
- Mar. 21 Thur. W.I. A.G.M. "Doing Patchwork" - Mrs. F.E. Downs.
- Mar. 24 Sun. MOTHERING SUNDAY. Family Service at All Saints' 11 a.m.

DIARY CONTINUED AT BOTTOM OF PAGE 3.

Thanks to SIMON BISHOP who did the Cover this month.

All events take place in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

Please take contributions for the "News" to the Editor, Mary Thompson, 124 High Street, The Post Office or Rogers' Shop
BEFORE COPY DAY, WEDNESDAY, 13th MARCH for April issue.

2. NEWS, VIEWS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

Brief advertisements are welcomed. Rate is 5p. a line (approximately 10 words) except for "welcome to Sutton Courtenay", "Found", and "Work wanted", which are free. All contributions to the Post Office, Rogers' Shop or the Editor, Mary Thompson, 124 High Street, before Copy Day.

FOR SALE - CLINKER BLOCKS - 520, enough for 65 sq. yds. size of each 438 x 220 x 100mm. (Approx. 18" x 9" x 4") Suitable for interior partition and lining walls. 7p each o.n.o. 2 Tollgate Road, Culham. Tel. Abingdon 540.

R.S.P.C.A. The newly formed Committee of the R.S.P.C.A. have arranged to hold a Bring & Buy Sale at 23 Church Street on Tuesday, 23rd April, when tea will be served at River Cottage. Gifts of produce, cakes, etc. will be gratefully received beforehand, including nearly new goods. There will be a raffle with tickets being sold beforehand also. E.E.Hailey, Hon. Sec.

THANKS Mrs. P. Steptoe would like to thank everybody who sponsored Debra when she swam for "Help the Aged". The Amount she collected totaled £16.

THANKS also from the SUTTON COURTENAY FOOTBALL CLUB, who would like to thank belatedly all those people who so kindly donated prizes for their Christmas Draw. The Draw was a great success and thanks to all for their help and support.

SUCCESS FOR SUTTON BOYS !

At Gumnor, on Tuesday, 29th January, a team of boys from Sutton Courtenay Football Club won their heat in a Football Quiz, defeating three other teams. In so doing they obtained the highest number of points so far achieved in this year's competition. The team was GARETH JONES, NICHOLAS BOND, and ANDREW MATHEWS.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ian Greenstreet of 1 Town Close, who came third in a Chess Competition held recently in Abingdon, in which thirty Cub Packs took part.

3rd SUTTON COURTENAY GUIDES have some vacancies. Please contact Mrs. Miles, 86 Milton Road.

SUTTON COURTENAY DIRECTORY please note that the address of Mrs. Clifford, Secretary of Camera Club is now 102 High Street. One important omission from the Directory was Mr. F. Nelson, 6 Tullis Close Tel. S.C.567, who is the local Liaison Officer for the Social Services Department, and who will readily put people in touch with the right service should the need arise. There may well be people in special difficulties during the present crisis, so don'tt hesitate to seek help.

HELP ! The Vicarage Garden is smaller now: but it still needs a paid gardener ! Ring S.C. 228.

CONGRATULATIONS to the YOUTH CLUB who recently raised approximately £100 during sixteen hours of continuous football throughout the night to raise money for the hard court for community use. It was the inspiration of the new Club Leader, Joe Johnson, and the Club wishes to thank Hon. David Astor for the use of his barn.

SCHOOL FAIR there will be no Summer Fair at Sutton Courtenay Primary School as no volunteers were forthcoming to take responsibility for the organisation of the Fair.

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3.

EDITORIAL - MONEY, MONEY, MONEY It's something we are all short of and the News is no exception ! Despite the generous donation of £50 by the Parish Council, and the fact that we raised the charges for advertising this year, we shall probably still not make ends meet without YOUR help. We have just learned that the cost of paper and materials has risen by 40% over 1973 prices, which has been a nasty shock. Please - ANY donation, whether large or small, from organisation or individual, would be most gratefully accepted by the "Sutton Courtenay News".

We are pleased to acknowledge an anonymous donation of 50p, with many thanks, also a donation of £5 from All Saints' Church.

Many people in the village will be sorry to hear of the Vicar's retirement in August, 1975. It seems a long way off, and at this stage may we just hope that Rev. & Mrs. Jager's last 18 months or so among us will be happy and fruitful ones.

No one can say that the Wives Group don't have a varied programme ! In one month their meetings range from a visit by the Falcons Free Fall Parachute Team, to a talk on the "Pill" and its effects on women approaching the menopause, and then a talk on Facial Hairs! More on Page 6.

DIDCOT POWER STATION - ROAD CLOSED?

At the time of writing the private road through Didcot Power Station remains closed due to picket action during the present miners' strike. I suggest it would have been good public relations, to say the least, to have warned the public through the press, or notices, that the road might be closed during the duration of the miners' strike. The future of the road remains uncertain as in a recent announcement the C.E.G.B. declared the road may be closed because Berkshire County Council refused to contribute to its maintenance. Whether the new authority, Oxfordshire, will adopt a different policy remains to be seen. One of the objections to the road being opened to the public is the consequent increase of traffic through the village, though much of this is now diverted along Milton Road, so we get the traffic anyway. However, it does seem absurd for one half of the energy industry to be encouraging the other half to be wasteful by considerably increasing its mileage during the fuel crisis! I understand that efforts are being made to organise a group to take some action over the possible closure of the road and "sound out" local opinion on the matter.

VILLAGE DIARY FOR MARCH CONTINUED

Mar. 25 Mon. Camera Club Dinner
Mar. 26 Tue. Wives Group - 8.00 p.m. Family Planning Association, talk on 'The Pill' - Open Meeting.
Mar. 27 Wed. Darby & Joan - Bingo. Bring & Buy Stall
Mar. 31 Sun. Junior Church 10.00 a.m. Matins 11.00 a.m. at All Saints' Church. Buses at 9.45 a.m. & 6.15 p.m.
Advance announcement - Horticultural Society - Spring Show April 6th in the School.

HAIRDRESSER NEEDED

Nurse Parker tells me she had no response to her appeal for someone to do the hair of elderly ladies - very happy to pay - who are unable to get out and about. Are you on a 3 day week ? Perhaps you would be glad to keep your hand in! Please contact Nurse Parker at the Surgery, Bradstocks Way. (Tel. S.E.646)

STOP PRESS - Churchyard Jumble Sale 2.30 p.m. at the School
Saturday, March 30th.

4. PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, 5TH FEBRUARY, 1974

Matters arising from the Minutes were discussed as follows. The Clerk read a letter from the C.E.G.B. in answer to the correspondence expressing parishioners' concern at the volume of smoke and steam emitted by the high chimney stack. The Board reported that they also were concerned about this and were investigating the problem. In reply to the Parish Council's complaint that the barrier across the road was constantly down, the Board stated that they were considering closing this road, because Berkshire County Council have rejected responsibility for repairing it, and also on account of trouble with the barrier.

Correspondence - A letter from the Editor of the Sutton Courtenay News asked whether the Parish Council would make a donation towards the running of the News as their cost have greatly increased, and their only income is from advertisements, the charge for which has also increased. It was proposed by Councillor Blinman and seconded by Councillor Major-General Jones that a donation of £50 for the current year be granted. A letter was read from Mrs. Curran asking for financial assistance towards the Old People's Christmas Dinner, but as this is some time ahead it was agreed to ask for further information before making a decision.

Planning Applications

(1) Listed Building Consent, Demolitions of Agricultural Buildings, West side of High Street for the Association for the Study of Human Nutrition, Ltd. Councillors felt that these barns, on the site for which planning approval for 47 houses has been refused, are an important part of the character of the village and they registered unanimous strong objection

(2) Bedroom and bathroom for Mrs. Baughan, Norreys.. No Comment

(3) Lounge and Study for Mr. A.C. Rogers, 15 Milton Rd. No Comment

The Council then proceeded to discuss the question of the village Green. At a meeting of the Parochial Church Council to discuss the enlargement of the Churchyard, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council were present and it was suggested that the top soil removed from the churchyard site would be a solution to the problem of improving the surface of the Green. A decision had to be made quickly and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman agreed to accept the offer, so that the earth was already deposited on a corner of The Green, unfortunately before other Councillors had been informed. It was not anticipated that the work would be done before the meeting of the Parish Council. However, at the meeting the Council registered their approval of the decision when a proposal endorsing it was made by Councillor Rogers and carried unanimously, with the exception of Councillor Major-General Jones. The Clerk then read a letter from Mr. Pomeroy, and also one from Dr. & Mrs. Fletcher strongly objecting to the dumping of earth on the Green before discussion at a Council Meeting. The Clerk was asked to write to the Fairground people to inform them that this year there could only be limited accommodation on The Green, or, alternatively, they might be able to use part of the recreation ground, as had happened before.

Matters raised by Councillors

Councillor Francis complained of the mud and debris deposited on roads through the village by farm vehicles. Councillor Davies suggested that local bye-laws, perhaps unknown to new residents, could be published in the "Sutton Courtenay News". Councillor R. Jones asked if the R.D.C. could remove the litter of old prams, etc. outside the garages on the Council Housing Estate. Councillor Mrs. MacKenzie complained that builders engaged in alterations to a house on The Green, parked on the diagonal path across the Green, thus blocking it for pedestrians and also for funerals.

Councillor Mrs. Thompson asked whether some sort of bus stop could be contrived for passengers alighting at the Council houses by 1066 on the Drayton Road. Councillor Mrs. Blinman reported on the excellent design of the stiles supplied to Mr. Caudwell which are now in place. The Clerk was asked to write thanking Mr. Caudwell. A street light was also requested outside Cross Trees Cottage.

Next Meeting - March 5th at 7.30 p.m.

"Puffin Asquith" - A Book Review

In February 1968 some of us read with sadness of the death of Anthony Asquith, the Director of films which had filled the cinemas for over 30 years. And what films they were - "Tell England", "Pygmalion", "French Without Tears", through to "The Yellow Rolls-Royce" to name but a few. We were not surprised, therefore, to see the long line of flowers, exotic wreaths but also the simple bunches at his funeral. The expressions of affection were many and perhaps some of us may have felt that this may all have been part of that rather artificial world of films.

On reading R.J. Minney's biography "Puffin Asquith", one realises how very honoured we are to have such a man laid to rest amongst those who are buried in our churchyard. His father, great because of his position as Liberal Prime Minister, his mother, famous for her outspoken championship of many causes are there too. Their son, Puffin, (given this name by his mother on seeing his puffin-like nose) was a genius in many ways. He had hoped to be a musician and wherever he went a piano was always at hand, but instead his artistry and his love of films came together and created some really unique "Takes". But he was also unique in his personal relationships - no artist had ever been directed before in so gentle and sensitive a manner. His friends came from all walks of life - two with whom he enjoyed staying owned a cafe at Catterick. He got to know them when filming "The Way to the Stars" in 1945 and used to spend holidays with them. He enjoyed serving behind the counter (and long-distance lorry drivers contributed to the Anthony Asquith Memorial Fund). Yes, this man who liked to be called Puffin was someone really special and I hope these few words will encourage others to read more about him.

A.E.B. Lenton.

(For more fascinating reading on the Asquith family and the political world at that time I can personally recommend Margot Asquith's Autobiography. Editor)

An Old Berkshire Rhyme - Could this be You ?

Sluck-a-bed, sluck-a-bed, Barley Butt,
Yer yead be zo heavy 'e can't get up!

S T O P P R E S S It is possible a small gulley may be made across the Green car park to drain away storm water as a temporary measure.

THE VILLAGE PLAN - A SURVEY

The Village Plan is a document now in preparation by the Parish Council, assisted by three members of the Friends of Sutton Courtenay, which will give a brief history of the village, its situation at present, and possible plans for the future. It will eventually be consulted by a higher Authority, such as the Vale of White Horse District Council, when considering the future development etc. of this area.

Some valuable information has already been collected, but more up-to-date information is required and for this purpose a survey will shortly be conducted throughout the village. The kind of information required will be mainly about where people work - in Sutton Courtenay, or outside the village - methods of transport and nothing of a personal nature. It will be of valuable assistance in future planning, so your co-operation is welcomed in this project.

WIVES GROUP

We began the new year with a Beetle Drive and then followed a discussion evening on various Television Programmes with Mrs. Jager. On the 12th February we had a very interesting visit to Didcot Ambulance Station, and on the 26th February we are to have a talk on Facial Hairs by a representative from the Tao Clinic in Oxford, when we shall be pleased to welcome any visitors who may be interested. We also are holding a Dance on Friday, 22nd February - admission by ticket only. During March we are having a visit from the 'Falcons' Free Fall Parachute Team and also a talk by a doctor from the Family Planning Association on the 'Pill' and the effects it is having on women approaching the menopause. Again we shall be very pleased to welcome any visitors who may be interested in this subject.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Annual Dinner has been arranged for Saturday, 27th April. Please book the date - More details in the next month's issue.

Mr. Musgrove, the South Eastern Secretary, visited the branch, and discussed matters dealing with Benevolent work. Your Committee would like to know if any ex-service member is in need.

The Challow Branch has proposed that a new area called 'The Vale of White Horse', affiliated to Berkshire, be formed, and our area not merged with Oxfordshire when the new county boundaries come into force in April. Further meetings are being arranged to discuss this.

D.M. Matheson, Secretary.

THE SUTTON COURTENAY CAMERA CLUB

Most people in the village know that there is a Camera Club held regularly in the Club Room of the Village Hall, but not everyone knows that we are not all experienced photographers, and always welcome complete beginners as well as the more experienced. Why not come along to one of our meetings and see what goes on for yourself?

Our Annual Show is on the 12th March (15p Adults and 10p Children) and please note that we are starting earlier this year (7.30 p.m.) to enable you to bring the children, and consequently shall be finishing earlier. Tickets are available from members and several shops and the Post Office in the village. We have our Dinner and Cup and Trophy presentations at the end of March, but on 8th April one of our members, John Herring, will be entertaining us, and on 22nd April the title of the competition is "My Four Favourite Slides" for the President's Cup.

By the way, please note that the Secretary is still Mrs. Joan Clifford, but the address is now 102, High Street, Looking forward to meeting some of you at future meetings. J. Clifford, Secretary.

- SUTTON COURTENAY DIRECTORY -

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