



VOL. 3

May 1974

VILLAGE DIARY FOR MAY

May 1 Wed. "Under Fives" 2.30 p.m. at Vicarage.  
May 2 Thur. Horticultural Society A.G.M.  
May 5 Sun. "St. George's Day Parade Service" 11 a.m. All Saints'. (Bus 10.45)  
May 7 Tue. Wives Group. Mrs. Bailey "Flower Arrangements". 8 p.m.  
May 8 Wed. Darby & Joan. Talk and Film on R.S.P.C.A.  
May 11 Sat. Football Club Six-a-Side Tournament.  
May 12 Sun. Christian Aid Week Begins. Church buses from Bradstocks Way:  
9.45 for Junior Church; 5.30 for United Service at Steventon.  
May 13 Mon. Camera Club. "Travels in California". E. Thompson.  
May 14 Tue. Mothers' Union 2.30 at Vicarage (instead of Tue. 7th).  
May 15 Wed. Playgroup Open Day. 10 a.m. Raffle. Nearly New Bring & Buy Sale.  
May 19 Sun. Family Communion at All Saints' 10 a.m. (Buses 9.45 & 6.15)  
May 20 Mon. Camera Club. "Land of the Midnight Sun."  
May 21 Tue. Wives Group Service at All Saints'. Rev. Peter Doble.  
Afterwards at Vicarage.  
May 22 Wed. W.I. Summer Outing.  
Darby & Joan. Bingo.  
May 26 Sun. All Saints' Services at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m. & 6.30 p.m.  
(Buses 9.45 & 6.15)  
May 12 Sun. Football Club Six-a-side Tournament.

All events take place in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated.  
Please take contributions for the News to the Post Office, Rogers' Shop,  
or the Editor, Mary Thompson, 124 High St. before Copy Day.  
Copy day for June issue is Wednesday, 15th May.

Brief advertisements, letters, etc. are welcomed. The rate is 5p. a line (except for trade ads.) "Welcome to Sutton Courtenay", "Found", and "Work wanted" are free. All contributions to the Post Office, Rogers' Shop or the Editor, Mary Thompson, 124 High Street, before Copy Day.

OBITUARY

January 2 Walter Chambers, 43 Milton Road, aged 71 years.  
March 19 Rev. Vaughan Rees, lately of 4 Courtenay Close, aged 83 years.

If requested by next of kin, the Sutton Courtenay News will be pleased to mention local deaths as a service to those concerned.

WELCOME TO SUTTON COURtenay

Mr. and Mrs. Orbell, 20 Tullis Close.

SUNNY SMILES

Thank you everybody who saved for Sunny Smiles. I hope you didn't think we were too much of a nuisance going round the houses, but it was worth collecting £72.43 for the National Childrens Homes for the children whose parents have died.

THANKS from the News for a donation of £5, and donations from the John Mason School, £2; The British Legion, £3; Darby & Joan, £3.

THANKS also to this month's cover artist, Mr. Derek Longstaff.

WANTED

SNOOKER TABLE, 6' x 3'. 5, Southfield Drive. Tel. S.C. 631.

FOR SALE

CENTRAL HEATING RADIATORS. Two radiators, 4ft. x 2ft. double bank. £5 each. Telephone S.C. 469.

SUTTON COURtenay PLAYGROUP  
OPEN DAY

Wednesday, 15th May at 10 a.m.

This is an opportunity for ANYONE, as well as for parents and friends, to visit our Playgroup. There will be a raffle for such prizes as fruit, groceries and other small items. Also a Nearly New Bring and Buy Stall.

Any items for stalls please give to: Mrs. Mathews, 1, Harwell Road. Coffee and biscuits 5p. PLEASE SUPPORT US.

Vacancies are now available for term commencing April 23rd. Apply Mrs. E. Rogers, 16 Tullis Close.

CLEARWAY SCHOOL OF MOTORING M.O.T. Approved. Dual-controlled cars. Immediate bookings now available. Telephone Steventon 293.

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The A.G.M. of the YOUTH CLUB, due to take place on 25th April has been cancelled until further notice.

Editorial: Interviewing people recently for the Village Plan Survey it was interesting to note how many people complained of the untidy state of the village. There has so far been no response to the Parish Council's appeal for a maintenance man which is very unfortunate, as the "personal touch" would work wonders for the appearance of the village.

Living near a shop as I do, I spend much time picking up sweet wrappings, crisp packets etc. which people are just too lazy to dispose of properly. If we all did our bit, it would make a great difference to the litter and rubbish lying around.

It is disturbing to witness the vandalism that is rife all over the village. The garages and so-called children's playground on the estate are in a shocking condition, and the behaviour of young people there is causing considerable distress to nearby residents, including those in the old people's flats. Now I hear that the Football Club's Pavilion has been broken into and wrecked yet again, whilst in another part of the village shrubs have been damaged. Whilst recognizing that such wanton destruction is a nation-wide social problem, there must surely be some parents reading this who must have some pangs of conscience, not to mention the youngsters themselves. A valiant group of helpers struggles to do something constructive through the Youth Club, but meets with much criticism and very little practical help from either parents or villagers.

I would like to draw your attention to the appeal for lodgings in the area on page 5 - there evidently is an urgent need and this would appear to be a sensible move towards meeting it.

#### A Visitor From "Down Under"

Some of you may have met Mr. Bob Mathews during his recent visit here from Australia after nearly 30 years. I had an interesting chat with him - he had just walked from Abingdon via the Otneys and his comment was that it was obvious few people are using the footpaths nowadays! I could have listened for hours to his fascinating memories of the village and its inhabitants but he has promised to send us an article from Australia. (He won a national competition for an article he wrote there so it should be good!) Meanwhile, Caroline Mathews sent us the following in response to the names published in last month's News from information gleaned from Mr. Bob Mathews:-

"Number 1, Harwell Road where we live is 'Badwell House'. Badwell Furlong is probably the orchard. The story is that a well was sunk and the water was undrinkable, hence the name 'Badwell'. Before my husband's grandfather bought the property in 1906, it was owned by a Mr. Johnson, and used as a smallholding.

Summerfed is the meadow opposite the bungalows along the Appleford Road. Lummisham is the meadow opposite what is now Mr. Fidler's farm along the Drayton Road. Mill Swathes is opposite the Mill where Mr. Lacey lives and Tullis Meadow is where Tullis Close now stands. Lady Field is where the present "Lady Place" now stands. Could the "Forty Horn Down" be what are now called the Otneys? These are the fields running from Drayton Road alongside the Manor and the river. The name might have become changed and abbreviated over the years."

I am grateful to Miss Cullen for similar information about Lummisham, and also that Hulgrove (or Hulgrave) Farm was between Dropshort and Milton Road and was divided into 4 holdings after the 1914 war.

4.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, April 2nd.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting were discussed as follows:-

- 1) Burnt-out barn in High St. The Clerk had forwarded to Mr. Caudwell the offer made to dismantle the barn free of charge, except for use of material salvaged. Mr. Caudwell replied that £250 had already been deducted from insurance for salvage, so this offer was unacceptable.
- 2) Additional street lighting. One light is to be placed on the post between 11 and 12 Town Close, one at the junction of Hobbyhorse Lane and Frilsham Street, and one in Churchmore Road just beyond the wall of Prior's Court.

Correspondence.

- 1) The Berkshire County Council Elm Disease Officer wrote stating that fallen elm trees harbour beetles and spread disease, so they should have the bark stripped off and be fumigated. Likewise anyone owning piles of timber should contact the Parish Council about fumigating and spraying.
- 2) A letter from the Berkshire County Council stating that the barns in High Street have been up-graded from Grade 3 to Grade 1 and have had a temporary (6 months) Preservation Order placed on them.
- 3) A letter was received from Mrs. Hailey and Mrs. Dorman re shrubs planted on the Almshouses grass verge. The Council felt that the complaint was not justified as the shrubs (planted by the Brownies and Guides to commemorate National Tree Planting Year) were in fact planted to prevent cars from parking on the grass in front of the Almhouses which is maintained by the Parish Council. The Clerk was requested to write to Mrs. Hailey and Mrs. Dorman explaining this and also that there was no access for cars across this grass.

Tree Planting. Twenty-three flowering trees (all donated by local associations) are to be planted on grass verges throughout the village. Stakes indicate where these are to be planted, but if anyone has any objection, please contact the Parish Council.

(The planting of the trees has now been postponed, as it was felt the season was too far advanced to guarantee their successful growth. Editor)

Matters raised by Councillors

Councillor Mrs. Thompson asked what progress had been made in finding a maintenance man for the village. No reply having been received to the advertisement in the News, it was decided to insert an advertisement in the Abingdon Herald and, if that fails, we should accept the offer of the District Council to provide maintenance work at a charge of £1 an hour. Councillor R. Jones complained that since September last, when he had first drawn attention to the state of the garages and nearby playground on the housing estate, nothing had been done and the situation was rapidly deteriorating. Children climb on the garage roofs, break them up, and create disturbance around the old people's flats as well as nearby houses. The Council agreed that members should meet on site two days later to investigate the situation before forwarding their findings to the Vale of White Horse Housing Department.

The next Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting will be on May 7th at 7.30.

Have YOU got a pile of wood? - Dutch Elm Disease

Fallen elm trees or piles of logs may harbour beetles and spread the disease. You are asked to contact the Clerk of the Parish Council as this wood should be SPRAYED. (See Parish Council notes above).

SUTTON COURtenay FOOTBALL CLUB

G R A N D S I X - A - S I D E T O U R N A M E N T

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, 11th and 12th MAY

Senior Competition on Saturday, commencing at 12 p.m.  
 Junior Competition on Sunday, commencing at 11 a.m.

Among Recent Achievements:-

Representative game for Oxford County Youth - P. McGowan.  
 Representative trials, N. Berks Under 11 Boys - I Thompson,  
 P. Tyler, K. Thomas.

Sutton Under 18's try for their triple win of the North Berks War Memorial Cup on Sunday 28th April at Milton Ground. Kick-off 3 p.m.  
 WE HOPE THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF SUPPORT FROM THE VILLAGE.

S U T T O N   S   T   R   E   A   K   E   R   S

On April 1st, at Cumnor, in the Annual Boys Football Quiz Final, a team representing Sutton Courtenay Boys Football Club exposed themselves to some very difficult questions about the game. Laying bare their vast knowledge of football, they streaked to a victory over 2 teams from Cumnor, scoring as many points as the combined opposition.

Nick Lowe of Oxford United presented the Trophy to the team which was ANDREW MATHEWS, NICHOLAS BOND, AND GARETH JONES. The boys also received individual medals.

This is the first time a team from Sutton has entered the competition and they had to win through a preliminary round and semi-final before the final triumph. Well done!

CONGRATULATIONS also to a team from Sutton Courtenay Primary School who recently were Runners Up in a Six-a-Side Tournament for North Berks Primary Schools. The team was:-

Mark Beisley, Simon Elford, Andrew Mathews, Ian Thompson, Paul Tyler, Nicholas Ward. Reserves, Douglas Bolton, Anthony Day.

LODGINGS NEEDED - CAN YOU HELP?

Abingdon and District Volunteer Centre

The following appeal from the Management Committee has been received:-  
 "It is clear from the many requests reaching us at the volunteer Centre that there is a great need of lodgings in this area. We also believe that there are many people in Abingdon and District who would be willing to help meet this need if they could be sure that their offer would be treated confidentially. This is just what the Centre undertakes to do. The list of various kinds of accommodation that we hope to compile will not be handed out to enquirers. It will be referred to only by us at the Centre when someone enquires if lodgings are available. Then, if what you can offer seems likely to meet the need, you will be consulted first and advised about the people seeking accommodation. It will then be for you to decide whether or not you would like the Centre to put them in touch with you. Thus embarrassment for either party will be avoided.

If you can help us please advise: Mrs. A. Geere, Abingdon and District Volunteer Centre, Park Road, Abingdon. (Tel. Abingdon 22438) and give details of what you can offer, and for how long. For example: bed and breakfast for young man or woman; furnished rooms for young couple; accommodation for mother and child; and any other helpful details. Please let us know your number if on the telephone.

The Roads and Tracks in Sutton Courtenay in 1804

When, by Act of Parliament, Commissioners came to draw up the Enclosure Award for Sutton Courtenay together with the township of Sutton Wick, they accomplished the biggest change that the parish had seen since it was formed in middle Saxon times. The major change was the replacement of the strip system of open field cultivation by large fields, a matter which needed Commissioners to see that justice was done to all members of the parish.

The Award consists of some 29 pages of text and 2 maps, the first dealing with Sutton Courtenay, the second with Sutton Wick. The maps, in addition to showing the boundaries of properties and fields, show and name the gravel pits; the highways, described in the text as carriageways, usually 40 feet wide; and the public "bridle road and driftways," for riders and for driving cattle, usually 30 feet wide. Footpaths are also marked and named.

In spite of traffic being less there were, in fact, more public highways for vehicles in 1804 than now. From east to west there were not only the existing Drayton and Appleford roads, but an upper and lower road to Wallingford leading respectively from Cross Trees and the middle of the High Street. Both crossed the large area from which gravel has been extracted by Amey's and then joined one another near the level crossing. I imagine that both ceased to be carriageways when the branch line from Didcot to Oxford was built.

In 1804 not merely was there no railway, but Sutton Bridge over the Thames had not yet been built. Just this side of the bridge was a ferry at the end of what was known as Culham road. For riders and those on foot one way to Abingdon would have been via the Drayton road, along the bridle and driftway known as Oday lane, to the bridge over the river Ock adjacent to the Abingdon Almshouses. The traveller would have stayed in the parish of Sutton Courtenay with Sutton Wick all the way to the Ock bridge and reached Abingdon without crossing the Thames at all.

From the small Green, called the Forty, at the upper end of the village (situated at the junction of Frilsham Street and High Street) there was a public road and driftway of 30 feet leading in a southward direction, known as Harwell and Didcot road. It mentions, in the Enclosure Award, that it also served as a private carriage road for the use of owners of land and tenements adjoining it. It is described as passing through Lower and Upper Badwell Furlong, then over part of Woodway Furlong and Woodway itself to Moor Bridge (the bridge which still carries the road over the Moor Ditch from Milton). The road then went across the Moor to the end of Cow Lane, the public bridleway and driftway from Harwell, where it turned in an easterly direction along the south side of the Moor until it entered the parish of Didcot.

The references in this route to Badwell, Woodway and the Moor are linked with the change in soil as one moves away from the gravels which filled the hollows in the Thames valley. On the east-west line at which the gravel ends, towards the end of our Harwell Road, springs are marked on the map and soon the land, gault clay, becomes heavy and with poor drainage (hence the moor). There was even a small lake here. Such land was often kept as woodland, and hedges and trees from former times are still to be seen in and around the C.E.G.B. Nature Reserve. Mr. Curd tells me that, in this appropriate habitat, 200 European conifers were planted this Easter by the Sutton Courtenay Field Study Centre.

Each parish was given its own copy of the Enclosure Award. Many have either retained their original copy or obtained a photocopy to provide, locally, an important source of information about the community. Sutton Courtenay has not retained its copy but a photocopy could be seen in the County Record Office at Reading in March of this year.

John Fletcher.

- SUTTON COURtenay DIRECTORY -

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