

# Sutton Courtenay

## news



Volume 3

no 6

June 1974

### VILLAGE DIARY FOR JUNE

- June 2 Sun. Whitsunday. Family Service and Holy Baptism. 11 a.m. All Saints  
(Holy Communion 8 a.m. Evensong 6.30.p.m.)
- June 4 Tue. Mothers' Union. 2.30. at Vicarage.  
Wives Group. Mrs. Cox. Illustrated Lecture on History  
of Abingdon. 8.p.m.  
Parish Council 7.30.p.m.
- June 5 Wed. Darby & Joan. Annual Outing.  
'Under Fives' 2.30.p.m. at Vicarage.
- June 7 Fri. Wives Group Dance 9 - 1 Tickets only.
- June 9 Sun. Trinity Sunday at All Saints'. Junior Church 10.a.m. Bus 9.45.
- June 10 Mon Camera Club 'How to prepare a Slide Lecture'. R.A. Norman.
- June 16 Sun Trinity I Family Communion at All Saints' 10 a.m. (bus 9.45)  
Bishop of Oxford at Evensong, 6.30.p.m.
- June 18 Tue Wives Group. Walk round tour of some Oxford Colleges.
- June 19 Wed Darby & Joan. Community Singing. (Song books)
- June 20 Thur. W.I. Talk on Radio Oxford. Competition - Radio Voices.
- June 23 Sun Trinity II All Saints' Junior Church 10 a.m. (bus 9.45)  
'Songs of Praise' 6.30.p.m. at Sutton Courtenay School.
- June 30 Sun Trinity III All Saints' Junior Church 10 a.m. (bus 9.45)  
Holy Communion 8 a.m. and 6.30.p.m.

All events take place in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated.  
Contributions to the News to Rogers' Shop, Post Office or 124 High St.

COPY DAY FOR JULY ISSUE - 12th JUNE

2.

Brief advertisements, letters etc. are welcomed. The rate is 5p a line (Trade Advertisements excepted). '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.

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THANKS to this month's cover artist, Mrs. Daphne McClure.

MORE THANKS - belated thanks to the W.I. for donation of £2. They have kindly agreed to make this an annual donation towards our running expenses. Thanks also for a donation from an 'appreciative pensioner'.  
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R.S.P.C.A.

The Spring Sale held at 23 Church Street, Sutton Courtenay on April 23rd was a great success and realised £45. Sincere thanks to all helpers. The Raffle was won by Mrs. Wiblin of Milton who won a bottle of sherry, Miss Ingram of Richmond won the chicken, and Miss Doris Ash from John Radcliffe Hospital won the eggs. Tea was supplied and given by Mrs. Dorman and there were no expenses.

The Mill House garden will be open on Sunday, July 14th as usual.

E. E. Hailey, Hon. Sec.

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FOOTBALL

Sutton Courtenay Football Club would like to thank all those who helped and worked so hard to make the Six-A-Side Tournament such a success. Look for full results in next issue.  
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DO YOU WANT A NIGHT OUT?

Are you desperate for a baby-sitter? Well established Village baby-sitting group would welcome some more members living in Sutton Courtenay. No money involved, done on a token system. If interested, contact Janet Rogers, 15 Milton Road (S.C.453) or Penny Jones, 75a High Street (S.C.668) for more information.  
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COULD THIS BE YOU ?

Young mother with two children, tied to home and thwarted from working and developing other interests, invites anyone similarly placed to contact her. Have an idea to develop interests/work with minimum of sacrifice to family. Ring Sutton Courtenay 360.  
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NO EDITORIAL this month as there is no room, and the results of the recent survey give some food for thought. The survey will be incorporated in the Village Plan now in preparation - it is hoped to produce a draft of this for public inspection in September or October.

### THE 1974 VILLAGE PLAN SURVEY

The survey has now been completed and the first tentative conclusions are given below. Thanks are due to the ten interviewers and the interviewed who shall, of course, remain anonymous! Some 100 households were approached of whom eighty responded, which represents a 10% sample as there are some eight hundred households in the village. A few declined to co-operate and the remainder were apparently never in!

From the survey the population of Sutton Courtenay in April, 1974 is estimated to be 2,640 (cf. 1971 National Census 2,599). 38% are less than eighteen years old, 55% are between 18 and 65 and 7% are over 65. The average village household is of three or four people with one or two working.

An estimated 1087 people are in full or part-time employment. About 22% work in the parish - 16% mainly in shops, farms, the school, etc., 4% at Amey's and 2% in Didcot (in the parish of Sutton Courtenay!) power station. The other 78% work outside the parish. About 20% in shops, industry, etc. in Abingdon, 10% in Oxford, 9% at AERE, 5% in British Leyland factories, 4% in Milton Trading Estate and the remaining 29% elsewhere, with a significant proportion travelling to London. Most people, 57% travel to work by car, over 12% cycle, 7% walk, 6% go by bus, 4% by train and 14% have transport provided.

People generally have more than one place where they like to go for shopping - also true for relaxation. Abingdon is the most popular shopping centre, attracting 42% of the interest to Sutton Courtenay's 32%, Didcot's 18%, Oxford's 6% and the remaining 2% distributed elsewhere. Sutton Courtenay itself collected most support for relaxation (39%) with Oxford next (21%), then Abingdon (17%). The remaining 23% were fairly widely scattered throughout the area - as far away as Windsor, Swindon and Thame - the courting circuit has obviously been greatly extended in recent years!

The comments made about the village are of great interest. Of the eighty people questioned 25 people did not have any specific comment to make or were satisfied. Forty one comments were made on environmental aspects - sixteen approving, liking the river, the local walks, the buildings and character of the village, and twenty five disapproving, deploring the litter, the untidiness of parts of the village, vandalism and the traffic problem. Several commented on the need to resist further estate type development, although two people wanted more council houses and the area near the Post Office improved or developed. Several people commented adversely on the bus service. There is clearly a call for at least one through bus a week to Oxford, and improved services to Abingdon and Didcot. The lack of other services such as chemist, dentist etc., was also mentioned.

The limited recreational facilities for both adults and young people was a cause of real concern and sixteen people specifically mentioned the need for a Social Club in the village. Frankly it must come as a shock to most of us to find that we have over 1,000 young people under the age of eighteen in the village. In this respect the facilities and the efforts of the relatively few public-spirited people appear to be inadequate.

SUTTON COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting preceded the Parish Council Meeting on May 7th, and fifteen parishioners attended. The Chairman reported on the year's work of the Parish Council and the Clerk gave details of the audited accounts for the year ended March 31st, 1973. Matters raised by local government electors were concerned with the grass verge outside the almshouses, the state of the Village green, the erection of a prefabricated bungalow in the grounds of Prior's Court, and a request that copies of Parish Council Meeting minutes might be available for those interested.

The Chairman expressed regret that more parishioners were not present, and hoped that they would take advantage of participation in monthly meetings - if they wished a specific problem to be discussed, the Clerk should be informed beforehand of their intention. The Annual Parish Meeting was then closed and the Parish Council proceeded to the business of the month.

Councillor J.E.J. Francis and Councillor A. Malein were unanimously re-elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively, and the Planning Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mrs. MacKenzie and Councillor Ward were also re-elected.

Among matters arising from the Minutes was the grass verge in front of the Almshouses. A group of Councillors met the District Surveyor, Mr. and Mrs. Hailey and Mrs. Dorman on the site earlier in the month. They apparently came to an amicable arrangement about the protection of the verge and shrubs and access to the garages, by removing part of the privet hedge on one side, and agreeing to bring back the forsythia hedge by a foot or so from the roadside.

Correspondence:

1. The Parish Council were informed of the forthcoming change of licence at the Plough Inn to Mr. Wadd and Mr. Taylor.
2. Burnt-out Barn in High Street. Members were told that the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils would take action in cases where there is failure to remove an eyesore. The Clerk was asked to write to the Friends of Sutton Courtenay asking them to support us in pressing for this.

Planning Applications:

1. Diversion of existing 33,000v Dual Circuit overhead line in the parishes of Sutton Courtenay and Milton. The Council would like further information about this, as it seems it would be sited very near to dwellings not shown on the out-dated map supplied.
2. Extension to form kitchen and bedroom for Mr. H.S. Rayner, 67 High St. No objection.

Footpaths. A date for walking footpaths in the parish was fixed for Saturday, June 1st, meeting on The Green at 2.p.m.

Maintenance man. There being no response to the Council's advertisements for the post, it was agreed to ask the District Council to undertake the necessary work.

Matters raised by parishioners at the Annual Parish Meeting.

With regard to complaints about the grass verges outside the almshouses and the height of the bungalow erected in the grounds of Prior's Court, the Chairman pointed out that these matters were now out of the hands of the Parish Council. The grass verges were being dealt with by the District Surveyor, and, at the time the Parish Council considered the planning application for the bungalow, all residents in the vicinity were informed. Mr. Wilson asked whether parishioners could see copies of the confirmed Minutes of Parish Council Meetings and it was agreed that this could be possible for a small charge to cover printing, etc. and those wishing to have copies posted to them could contact the Clerk. Mr. Davies was asked if he would also display a copy in the Post Office.

Parish Council contd.Matters raised by Councillors

1. The Chairman drew attention to the amount of rubbish that had accumulated outside Mr. Davidge's shop. The Clerk was asked to contact the Environmental Officer about this.
2. Councillor Mrs. Thompson complained of the inadequate parking facilities on the estate, and the fact that there was a waiting list for garages.
3. Councillor Mrs. Blinman asked whether a barrier could be placed across the entrance of the footpath leading up beside the New Inn to Ginge Brook, as cyclists create a hazard to pedestrians and also to prevent children running directly onto the road.

The Council also agreed to obtain a copy of the Enclosure Award (1804) relating to tracks and roads in Sutton Courtenay at that date.

The next meeting is Tuesday, June 4th, at 7.30.p.m.

WIVES GROUP

We have not had a report on our meetings for some little while, so I will try and bring you up to date. In April we had a very interesting and amusing talk and demonstration on Yoga. We had a Bring and Buy evening combined with Bingo and the total proceeds from the evening £20, went to Bennett House School's Summer Fair. On Easter Sunday a party of thirty members and friends went to see 'Sunday Night at the London Palladium' when Sacha Distel headed the bill. In May we once again had a very interesting talk and demonstration on flower arranging by Mrs. Bailey from Abingdon, - unfortunately she is retiring at the end of this year, but we were pleased to have our largest audience so far this year, totalling 61. We also had our annual visit to the Church for a short service and afterwards to the Vicarage for coffee and refreshments. Finally this month we had a trip to Spalding for the Tulip Parade, stopping at Northampton on the return journey for a meal.

The following are some future dates you might like to make a note of:

- July 2nd - Cookery Demonstration which will be an open meeting;
- July 16th - Trip on the Kennet Canal followed by a buffet at the Cuning Man Inn at Burghfield;
- July 30th - talk on Carmen Hari Rollers and other products.

We then have our August break but during this month we are organising a Mystery Tour and an outing for the children. Our meetings then begin again on Tuesday, 10th September, with a film and talk about the Deep Sea Fishermen.

B. Hands, Secretary.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We were delighted that Mrs. Jager agreed to be President for the next year, the Vice-Presidents being Mrs. E. Rogers and Mrs. Steptoe, who acted as Chairman at the April Meeting. Mrs. Morris continues as our Secretary and Mrs. Downs as Treasurer.

At the April Meeting we had a delightful talk called 'Country-Wise' given by Mrs. Lewis. The evening, however, was somewhat marred by the theft of some of our refreshments!

FOOTPATHS

As mentioned in the Parish Council Notes, the Parish Council plans to walk the footpaths in the parish on Saturday, June 1st. Anyone interested is invited to join Councillors and the Footpaths Committee meeting at 2.p.m. on the village green. It is anticipated that people will disperse in groups to walk the various paths, and report on their condition, stiles, etc.

"SON ET LUMIERE" AT SUTTON COURTENAY

Most readers will know that the Berkshire Womens' Institutes are producing "Son et Lumiere" on Sutton Courtenay, 974 - 1974, in All Saints Church on August 21-24 at 8.30.p.m. each evening.

The normal sale of tickets is through W.I.'s. Non-members are invited to apply to Mrs. Jager at the Vicarage for tickets (price 50p including entry to Gardens) by July 1st. Those unable to get tickets will be welcome (free) at the last Rehearsal (on August 20th).

BELFAST ASKS FOR ANOTHER HOLIDAY

At the request of 'Women Together' our Belfast sponsors, who found that not only the children who came here last year, but their whole families and even their neighbours had a lasting 'lift' from their Abingdon Holiday, we have invited them to send another party of thirty eleven year old children on August 6th for ten days. At least eight of them will be coming to Sutton Courtenay, and we still need four new Host Families, as well as £200 of new money.

Theoretical doubts have been expressed as to the wisdom of taking children from their families for this short holiday; but actual experience here last August (and subsequent reports from Belfast) have proved that these holidays are good in practice. We have been assured that 'Abingdon' because of its strong family atmosphere was the best of the lot. The Rev. G.Jager, Sutton Courtenay Vicarage (S.C.228) will welcome enquiries and offers of help, and Paul de Lusignan, Bellapais, Church Lane, Appleford is Treasurer of the 'Abingdon Belfast Holiday Fund'.

'The Church Bus'

This began in Mr. Littlechild's time when the estate was new. Aneys had their own bus parked on the estate, and the driver was willing to bring children to Junior Church and elders to Evensong. This service was so well used and appreciated, that, when the 'Aney's Bus' was no longer available, the firm very kindly hired coaches for us to use instead. But more recently the 'under-loading', of the Evensong bus in particular, has become rather a scandal, and the Vicar and P.C.C. have agreed that this service can now be done by private cars. These will leave Bradstocks Way at 6.15 and pick up en route. The 10 a.m. bus will continue for the present and we hope will continue to be well used. Thank you, Aneys, for this real help over the years.

Car Drivers Wanted

Some have cars, some can afford taxis, sometimes there is a workable bus service. The Hospital Car Service does good work: but there are many whom it cannot serve. Cars for hospital visiting, cars for chiropody, cars for Clinics, and now, - cars for Church. Mr. Frank Nelson, 6 Tullis Close, (S.C.567) is our volunteer drivers' co-ordinator and will be glad to know of anyone who has a car and is willing to give occasional or regular help in this way. In many cases running costs can be reclaimed.

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Editor's Note: We seem to be in the middle of the season for sponsored walks and other similar activities. All these are for very worthy causes but couldn't something more constructive be done rather than just walking, etc., however pleasurable that may be - how about building something, repair work, digging old folks' gardens - or does that take all the fun out of it ? !!

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STOP PRESS - Youth Club Jumble Sale, Saturday 22nd June,  
 2.30 pm at the Village Hall.

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