

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 55 No. 3

APRIL 2026

Happy Easter



Photo: James Franks

VILLAGE DIARY FOR APRIL

Every Wed	ADYP Drop-in	Village Hall	18:30
Thur 2 & 16	WeCare2 (p 10)	River Room	11:15-12:30
Every Sat	The Abbey Café (p 12)	The Abbey	10:00-14:00
Tue 7	Parish Council Meeting (p 4)	Village Hall	19:00
Tue 7	Community CPR & Defibrillator Training (p 6)	Village Hall	19:30-21:30
Thur 9 & 23	Community Café (p 9)	River Room	10:30-12:00
Thur 9	Together in Stitches (p 10)	River Room	19:30-21:00
Fri 10 & 17	Bridge Afternoon (p 10)	River Room	14:00-17:00
Sat 18	Community Litter Pick (p 4)	Village Hall	14:00
Sat 18	Electors' Meeting (p 5)	Village Hall	16:00
Mon 20	Knit & Natter (p 10)	River Room	14:00-16:00
Tue 21	Ladies' Tuesday Club (p 15)	River Room	19:30
Sat 25	Movie Matinée (p 10)	River Room	16:00

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

MAY 2026 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL 2026

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):	Sally Dubock, 847707 sallydubock@gmail.com
Sutton Courtenay Singers:	Kathy Harrop-Griffiths, 848230 secretary@suttoncourtenaysingers.org www.suttoncourtenaysingers.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 www.gov.uk/report-smell
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.





This term at Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School has been a wonderful celebration of community, curiosity and the joy of learning. We are deeply proud of the way our parents, carers, staff and children come together to create an environment that is warm, ambitious and rooted in our shared values. This term has shown that spirit at its very best.

One of the highlights has been our **Book Week**, which was an authentic celebration of our collective love of reading. Rather than focusing on costumes, we centred the week on books themselves and the passion our teachers bring to reading every day. Inspired by *The Wonder* by Tom Percival, children explored the magic in small moments: Year 2 went on an enthusiastic adjective hunt outdoors, Year 6 lay beneath the trees and quietly reflected on nature, and Year 3 crafted thoughtful poems that captured imagination and curiosity. It was a beautiful reminder that reading is at the heart of our culture — a source of joy, connection and inspiration for all our pupils.

Our **Science Week** was equally inspiring — made especially meaningful because every visiting scientist was a parent from our own school community. Their expertise brought real-world science vividly to life: medicinal chemistry, asthma research, clinical trials, and hands-on investigations into plants and reactions. The children asked thoughtful questions, made impressive links to their own learning, and saw first-hand how the skills they practise in school connect to real careers. We are deeply grateful for the generosity and talent within our community, which enriched the experience for every child.

This week, we have enjoyed seeing our **Year 3 and 4 pupils** preparing to share their Spring performance, rooted in the Easter story that sits so closely with our identity as a Church of England school. It is always a genuinely joyful moment — one that reflects our values, showcases teamwork and confidence, and allows children to explore and express the themes of hope, new beginnings and compassion that shape our Christian distinctiveness. Performances like this bring people together, strengthening the sense of belonging that makes our school such a valued part of village life.



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

In Early Years, our Nursery and Reception children have continued to flourish in an environment where purposeful play, outdoor exploration and strong relationships help them grow with confidence. Their much-loved trip to Didcot Railway Centre was filled with wonder, discovery and hands-on learning that linked beautifully to our curriculum.

As we reflect on this term's successes, we are reminded that our work is not simply about the present — it is about preparing our children for the future. Whether through curriculum experiences, ambitious projects, rich discussions or community events, our pupils are learning to think widely, act wisely and approach the world with compassion. We are proud of the young people they are becoming and excited for the possibilities ahead of them.

We look forward to the next part of the term with gratitude, commitment and a continued sense of wonder.

Raluca Chende

Headteacher, Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School

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Telephone: 01235 848333





2026 Community Litter Pick – Saturday 18th April 2026

Following the success of the October litter pick and considering feedback from people who would like to be involved in future events, the next litter pick will be held on Saturday 18th April 2026 at 2pm – we will meet at the Village Hall. Everyone, including children accompanied by adults, is welcome to join Councillors in litter picking designated areas of the village. Equipment is provided on the day. On return to the hall there will be refreshments. Please also see note on Electors' Annual meeting on the same day at 4 pm during which children can stay and continue to enjoy the refreshments as the business of the meeting is very short.

HIF1

Oxfordshire County Council's HIF1 delivery team has now appointed two contractors who will deliver this major project (estimated costs between £320 million and £400) which has four major sections to it including a new river crossing and a roundabout junction between Appleford and Sutton Courtenay. It is expected to take at least 2 years to complete the construction and current intent is to run all the four sections concurrently. For full details please see: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/roadworks/major-current-roadworks/didcot-and-area-improvements

The parish council has been spending considerable time studying the documentation produced to discharge the more than 75 planning conditions. Of particular interest and concern is the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) – at this early stage of the project it is short on detail but there is major concern regarding options being considered to route HGVs coming off the A34 through Sutton Courtenay along the B4016 (Drayton Road, Church Street and Appleford Road). Another option being considered is to close off the section of B4016 (Appleford Road) between Sutton Courtenay and Appleford to expedite the completion of the project. Sutton Courtenay is missing from the list of affected stakeholders. The parish council has submitted its objections, but it is important that as many parishioners as possible also write in to express their views.

HIF1 Delivery Team: hif1project@oxfordshire.gov.uk

OCC Planning: planning@oxfordshire.gov.uk

HIF1 Web Site: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/didcot
(for updates & periodic newsletter)

The planning application reference for the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) is **R3.0022/26**.
myeplanning.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Planning/Display/R3.0022/26

Local Government Review (LGR)

At the time going to press, the parish council is preparing its response to the government's proposals for the reorganisation of local government. The intent is to have just one tier (referred to as a Unitary Authority) instead of the current two-tier with services and functions split across County and District councils. Currently, county councils run public services such as education, libraries, roads and social care, whilst district councils are responsible for matters such as waste, environment and housing. A Unitary Authority runs all of the services. Following consultations with the all tiers of the Oxfordshire councils in 2025, the government has now put three LGR options out for consultation. The parish council is weighing the pros and cons of the Ridgeway Unitary (South Oxfordshire District Council; Vale of White Horse and West Berkshire – currently a small unitary) and the One Oxfordshire option. For more information do go to the district council websites and to:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/oxfordshire-local-government-reorganisation#consultations

Further down the line there will also be the creation of new Strategic (Mayoral) authorities spanning more than one county. It is possible at that stage there will be some services will be taken over by the new strategic authorities (*possibly* a Thames Valley Strategic Mayoral authority), but the detail of how the Strategic and Unitary authorities will share duties will need to be settled by them into the future.

Electors' Meeting - Saturday 18th April at 4pm

What is the Annual Electors' meeting and why is it being held?

1. This is a meeting of **all electors** of the Parish of Sutton Courtenay. It is **not** a Parish Council meeting.
2. It gives electors the opportunity to discuss community issues, ask questions of the parish council, and review the parish council's activities for the year.
3. A report of the parish council's activities from the previous year is presented.
4. Electors attending the meeting can propose resolutions and each registered elector present has one vote*.
5. It is an annual statutory requirement to hold the Electors' meeting under the Local Government Act 1972 and must be held between 1st March and 1st June inclusive.
6. The meeting is usually convened and chaired by the Chair of the Parish Council.

*While not binding, the parish council is required to consider any resolutions passed at the Electors' meeting. The resolutions are placed on the agenda of a subsequent regular parish council meeting for discussion. The parish council may choose to adopt the suggestion in the resolution, ask for more information, or decide to disregard it. The Clerk minutes the outcome of any parish council discussion on the resolutions. This outcome is then reviewed at the next Annual Electors' meeting.

Hobbyhorse Lane North 175 houses development

The developers are making a presentation to the parish council at its meeting on 7th April. The presentation will be at 7pm and the council meeting will follow immediately after.

Councillor Vacancies

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 7th April, 5th May, 2nd June and 7th July 2026. Meetings normally start at 7.15pm and are 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.

Councillors: Rita Atkinson (chairman), Robert Dalby (vice chairman), Paul Galliver, Cathy King, Joanna O'Callaghan, Lia Plowman, Ian Pratley, Hugo Raworth and Jason Warwick.

Correspondence should be sent to the Clerk, Sutton Courtenay Parish Council, Innovation Centre, 99 Park Drive, Milton, OX14 4RY, info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk 07496 924 685. Alternatively, you can contact Councillors directly, their email addresses are on the website.



THE ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING

will be held at
Sutton Courtenay Village Hall
Hobbyhorse Lane,

on Saturday 18th April 2026 at 4pm

Refreshments will be served

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 1st April 2025
3. Parish Council Chairman's Report
4. Open Forum for Electors

Councillor Rita Atkinson

Chairman, Sutton Courtenay Parish Council

Contact - Clerk: Miss Jennie Currie, Sutton Courtenay Parish Council

Email: info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 07496 924 685



SC (NATIONAL POWER) TRUST

Do you need financial help?

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

- The Trust is a charity based in Sutton Courtenay.
- It can make grants to individuals living in Sutton Courtenay and organisations based in Sutton Courtenay which operate for the benefit of the residents of the civil parish of Sutton Courtenay.
- Grants MAY be available to assist with a number of charitable purposes e.g. personal financial hardship, education, illness, charitable activities that benefit Sutton Courtenay residents.

For more information, in confidence, about the type of applications the Trustees will consider 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.



Spring is finally here, and I am pleased to say it has brought some great progress in the constituency, as well as hopeful developments in Parliament.

The roads have been a main topic of discussion, particularly the ongoing roadworks near Milton and Culham designed to improve road safety and the stepping up of pothole repairs now the weather has improved. There is more work to be done, so please continue reporting potholes and other defects on www.fixmystreet.com to make sure they are logged with the County Council.

As a regular cyclist myself, I raised concerns in parliament about the lack of government investment in active travel, which in many areas could reduce congestion, improve public health, and lower carbon emissions. In a Transport Committee meeting, we heard interesting evidence about the future of electric vehicles and the barriers which prevent them from being more widely used.

I asked the Department for Culture Media and Sport minister about the much-loved Vale and Downland Museum in Wantage, which, like many others, has battled against funding cuts to keep up the valuable work they do for the community.

COMMUNITY CPR & DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

A community training session will be held at Sutton Courtenay Village Hall on Tuesday 7 April, 7:30pm–9:30pm, to help local residents feel more confident in knowing what to do if someone's heart suddenly stops.

The session will cover chest compressions (CPR) and how to use the yellow Public Access Defibrillators (PAD) located at Sutton Courtenay Tyres, the Recreation Ground, and The Fish.

Training will be delivered by Community First Responders, who are trained volunteers supporting the NHS ambulance service by attending emergency 999 calls in their local areas. One responder is based in the village, with others coming from neighbouring communities in Oxfordshire.

The session is practical and hands-on, with everyone having the opportunity to practise CPR on training mannequins in a relaxed and supportive environment. No previous experience is needed. Learning these simple skills can make a real difference in those first critical minutes when someone's heart stops.

Places are limited to 20 participants. To reserve a place, please email adrian@oxac.co.uk.

The South Central Ambulance Charity normally asks for a £10 contribution per person towards the cost of running community training sessions. A generous local grant will cover the cost of this session, so contributions are entirely optional, but any donations will help support the work of Community First Responders and further community training.

In the Westminster Hall Debate on Environmental Protection and Biodiversity, I had the opportunity to raise the outstanding work of many local groups and organisations. Community action groups, including The Letcombe Brooke Project, The Earth Trust, and Sustainable Didcot, need adequate support from the government to continue to protect the countryside that surrounds our constituency.

My team has received a significant amount of casework on student loan repayment plans, and I was able to raise two of these cases in a parliamentary debate. The Treasury Committee have now launched an inquiry into student and graduate finance to identify ways to make it fairer. If you are over 16 you can respond to their survey via www.parliament.uk/treascom

Back in the constituency, I have had the pleasure of meeting Carbon-ion Energy, a tech company developing next-generation energy storage, and Agratas Innovation Lab, a cutting-edge research facility on battery manufacturing. At UTC in Didcot, I spoke with students and staff, answering questions about local and national political activities, and even shared my own curry recipe.

As always, if there is anything you feel I can help 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



PLEASE HELP YOUR COMMUNITY - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sutton Courtenay News still 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

Happy Easter!

Last month, the A34 Milton/Didcot Interchange had its long-awaited re-surfacing, which was great, apart from the road markings were painted incorrectly, forcing an emergency night closure the following day to re-paint them. Now, all should be fine, and work continues on track with Steventon lights project, which will complete before the HIF1 road work starts.

HIF1 new road

The new HIF1 road bypasses Clifton Hampden, runs past Culham Campus, and then across a new bridge across the Thames between Appleford and Sutton Courtenay, around Didcot, through the new Data Quarter, to link into the A34 Milton Interchange, removing a lot of today's rat runs and congestion. However, to build it requires a lot of construction through to 2028.

For our section between the A34 and the river, The HIF1 project team are planning for most construction materials to be delivered by train to Appleford Sidings, and for the rest to use the existing internal corridor roads used by FCC, Hanson Heidelberg and Forterra, via Colletts roundabout north of Didcot, meaning little disruption to our villages.

However, for the second half of the project, from around July 2027, there will be road closures of the B4016 between Sutton Courtenay and Appleford to tie it in with the new road, and we are liaising with the planners and contractors to work out the least disruptive way to do this, and any contingencies that need to be put in place. Appleford residents, who will be most affected, have held two public meetings to discuss this so we can create the best plans.

Thames Water

Other news: Thames Water have written to me to apologise for the sewage overflow onto Oday Hill ditch next to the Peep'o'Day Lane cycle path. They received a report of pollution at this location on 26 February, and attended the same day to investigate. The sewage overflow was due to the heavy rainfall which also resulted in Abingdon Sewage Treatment Works discharging excess storm overflows into the watercourse. The overflow led to blockage of the brook and water stasis. Site inspections continued on 27 February and 28 February following further reports of pollution. Thames Water state that recent discharges occurred in compliance with the permit at this location.

Since January 2023 Thames Water have been providing near real-time notifications of discharges from permitted discharge points. Their interactive map showing data for all these discharge points can be found at: www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/performance/river-health/investing-in-river-health. These notifications are designed to help people decide whether or not to take part in recreational activities, such as swimming, in rivers and waterways. However, there are also other potential hazards in rivers, including bacteria and parasites in the water, from livestock and other animals, along with pollution from farming, industry and roads. Works started on 5 March to clean the impacted stretch of the watercourse.

For background: discharges are designed to happen automatically when, after heavy rain, more flow arrives than can be treated or stored, or when sewer networks become overloaded. Thames Water cannot completely control the amount of flow entering our sewers or arriving at the works and trying to do so would cause flooding upstream, from the sewers backing up. For this reason, the majority of sewage works are designed so that surplus sewerage, over and above the capacity of the treatment works, is diverted automatically to storm tanks to await a reduction in incoming flow when treatment can take place. Once storm tanks are full, any excess overflows automatically into the river.

I think that because Peep'o'Day Lane was flooded for the previous few weeks, none of us could see what was happening, until the floodwater subsided and the path could be re-used. If you do see any issue with sewage, please contact Thames Water's hotline on **0800 316 9800**. Lines are always open.

Didcot Power Station

Lastly, last week, I visited Didcot Power Station, where I quizzed representatives of RWE (who run many power stations and most of our offshore wind farms) about the future plans for energy in this country, particularly about the anomaly where, although half our power is from wind and the most of the rest from the North Sea, our UK electricity prices are still set by oil and gas global markets, leaving us at the mercy of wars and atrocities beyond our control. RWE acknowledged this absurdity (which should be addressed by Ofgem) and felt the answer lay in renewables like battery storage providing the peak power shortfalls in the future.

However, until then (2050 is the UK target), our local gas power station provides vital power in periods of low winds and high demand onto the national transmission network. RWE plan to open their national training centre on the site next year and this should create some local jobs. There have been zero safety incidents this year on a site where safety is paramount - this year is the 10th anniversary of the tragic events where four people died during the demolition works at Didcot A, whose lives were commemorated on 23rd February in a special service on the site.

Councillor Peter Stevens

Advance Notice of the **ABINGDON MARATHON**

Sunday 18th October 2026

For further information about the revised route, traffic management, call for volunteers and entertainment please see the website at:

www.abingdonmarathon.org.uk

Further information will be provided closer to the event.



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

At the time of writing this letter from the DAMASCUS ministry Team, the conflict in the Middle East dominates the news headlines, and is in our conversations, thoughts and prayers. The unease and uncertainty of the outcomes may have eased by the time you read this. However, whether or not world events have become more peaceful, there is still a need for reassurance and, above all, hope.

The message of Easter is a message of hope and reassurance. The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of Christian hope, and reassurance that spiritual eternal life is God's promise to us. Jesus wanted for us to have life, and to live it abundantly. One of the most frequent phrases in the Bible is "do not be afraid". Throughout, Jesus' example to us is of how to live together; and in his teaching, he shows and tells us to treat others as we would like to be treated. "Love your neighbour as yourself". In the prayer which he gave to his followers and friends, the Lord's prayer, we say "forgive us our trespasses/sins, as we forgive those who sin/ trespass against us". Love and forgiveness is the way of life that's an aspiration for many of us particularly when we seem to be surrounded by the opposite and especially when we, as individuals, seem unable to control what is happening, or influence the decisions made. There's a famous quote of Dr Martin Luther King which I remind myself of frequently as I find it so inspirational, "Hate cannot overcome hate, only love can do that".

Our churches are open daily for quiet times to still our hearts and minds, for prayer and reflection, and for finding some peace.

A prayer by the Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford.

Ever-loving God,

who hears us in our anguish and distress,
and longs for us to be free.

We pray for the people of Iran and the wider Middle East,
at this time of fear and uncertainty.

Be near to those who are anxious;
bring comfort to all who are suffering.

Guide those with the power to make decisions,
and lead them in the ways of wisdom, compassion and moderation:

that people of goodwill would seek harmony and reconciliation.

Join us with our Christian brothers and sisters in all places,

in praying for peace with justice,

through him who is the prince of peace,

Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Reverend Rosie Bruce, Associate Priest of the DAMASCUS Parish

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

Holy Baptism

We send our best wishes and congratulations to the following who were welcomed into the family of the church through baptism:

Elizabeth Fiona BINT (22nd February 2026)

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:

David Lawton WARD (20th January 2026)

See obituary on page 17

CHURCH DIARY FOR APRIL

EVERY TUESDAY – Feel like you have no time to pray? Why not join our **online** prayer Group for 30 minutes every Tuesday (DAMASCUSonlineprayer@gmail.com)

Wednesday 1st - 19:30 Lent Course, River Room – all welcome to join us as for the final session as we 'Discover Jesus through the Eucharist'

Thursday 2nd MAUNDY THURSDAY - 19:00 A Celebration of the Last Supper with a Meal of Lamb Stew (Vegetarian option), Grapes and wine interspersed with a service of Holy Communion shared around the table. Please add your name to the sign up list at the back of church if you wish to join us – all are welcome.

Friday 3rd GOOD FRIDAY – 11:00 A Reflective Family Service followed by Hot Cross Buns in the River Room

Saturday 4th – From 9:00 Church Spring Clean – any time you can offer to help prepare the church for the Easter Celebrations is welcomed – refreshments provided.

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO COMMUNITY BRUNCH IN APRIL – THE NEXT ONE IS ON SATURDAY 2ND MAY

Sunday 5th EASTER DAY Alleluia! Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed, Alleluia! 11:00 Service of Holy Communion (with Easter Egg Hunt for children)

Monday 13th - 19:30 Sutton Courtenay Local Church Committee Meeting

An Announcement

On Sunday 22nd March Helen announced that she would be taking early retirement from parish ministry, after over 23 years in Sutton Courtenay and Appleford and the DAMASCUS Parish. Her final service will be on Sunday 30th August at 10.30am in All Saints' Church followed by a celebratory lunch to which all are invited - more details to follow. Helen, and her husband, Christopher, will be retiring to their home in Wales.

Helen said, "The decision has not been easy and comes after much prayer and reflection. It has been an immense privilege and blessing to serve the people of God in this place and to share in the mission of the Church with you all. As I move towards early retirement I remain committed to serving the parish and the wider Church in any way that is appropriate and helpful during this time of change and transition. Thank you all for your love and support over the years. I will continue to pray for you all as I hope you will pray for me and my family."

There is already a team of representatives from each church currently working on the Associate Priest vacancy and the Parish Profile. This team will continue its work and will now focus on both vacancies. This will include ongoing conversations and consultation across all five churches – starting with an open forum following the APCM on 20th May. If you have any questions or concerns about the future in the parish please speak to Alison Budd as Churchwarden or Dov Whittle, our Curate.



PLEASE NOTE there will be NO COMMUNITY BRUNCH

in April (Easter Weekend)

but we will be back

9:30-11:30

in the River Room, All Saints' Church

Saturday 2nd May

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)

EASTER LILIES

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH



At Easter we provide an opportunity to remember loved ones with a display of lilies in church. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of this year's lilies in memory of someone, please put your donation in an envelope with the name(s) of those to be remembered and deliver to Ann White at 24 Frilsham Street before Friday 3rd April. A list of those remembered will be on display in Church.



- Tea & Cakes
- Bouncy Castle & Children's Games
- BBQ & Food served all day at the George and the Swan
- Stalls and Games
- Books & Jigsaws
- Nearly New Plants
- Bottle Tombola & more!
- Abbey Brass
- Raffle
- Abingdon Town Crier
- Sutton Courtenay Village Green (by kind permission of the Parish Council)

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 25th MAY VICAR'S FUN DAY 12-4pm

Bringing the Community Together and raising money for All Saints' Church



If you would like to help please ring the parish office and speak to either Helen or Alison on 01235 847179 or email: rector@damascusparish.org.uk

Community Café in the River Room



Run by the church for the whole community

Thursday 9th & 23rd April

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

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & INFORMATION

BRIDGE AFTERNOONS

Come and play bridge in the River Room from 2-5pm with a cup of tea & a piece of cake - £5

Next sessions: 10th & 17th April 2026

N.B. no Bridge on Good Friday 3rd April

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.

Come and join us.

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

MOVIE MATINEES

The next Movie Matinee in the River Room is on **Saturday 25th April 2026 – 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** and refreshments are available.



Milton Minors Playgroup

Every Wednesday
- including school holidays
9:30 until 11:30 am

Come along and join us
£4 per family, refreshments included

Milton Methodist Church Hall,
Milton High Street OX14 4EJ

YOUR BELL TOWER NEEDS YOU!

Come along to practise on Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm.

Beginners are welcome: tuition is available.

For further information contact John Napper on 848292

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!



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



What a fantastic show! SCIDS celebrated its 10th birthday in style, watched by over 300 people across three performances and supported by many people in the village. SCIDS is about bringing our community together, making friends and having fun. So, let's hear what the children had to say...

Making friends with all of the cast and making Sundays more enjoyable! *Gabi*

I had such a fun time seeing everyone this year and I really enjoyed performing! *Jess*

I liked the feeling of being on stage with my friends singing, dancing and performing. *Sophie*

I love gaining experience in acting and singing. It's really helped me grow in confidence. *Florence*

A fun way to start acting on stage and get ready if you wanted to be an actor. *Rosela*

I've made so many friends in a supportive, inclusive environment doing something we all love. *Beth*

I always enjoy rehearsals and socialising with other people there. *Coral*

It gives me something fun to do on Sunday afternoons. I like the dancing and singing! *Luisa*

SCIDS is great for discovering what it takes to run a show backstage. *Quentin*

SCIDS is always amazing! And I love it!!! *Leo*

It's relaxed and fun. I will miss SCIDS. *Josie*

It's a wonderful environment because everyone is so welcoming - you'll make lifelong friends!
Emilia

The most incredible experience and so sad it's over this year. *Afina*

An incredible place where you can make LOADS of new friends, build your confidence, feel supported and welcome. *Isla*

Every year is fun and this time was nothing different - I met loads of new people, I made new friends! *William M*

A welcoming community where I learnt so much. It really brings the community together. *Jasmine*

It's fun, I made new friends and I enjoyed the performances. *William S*

When they know you they give you the best role that suits you. And the cakes are delicious. *Tylia*

I can't say one thing because I really loved everything! *Helena*

The best drama show I've ever done; I know that the whole team truly put their heart in it. *Julie*

I like the community feel of it, there's always something to do; I'm not bored on Sundays. *Erin*

THE ABBEY, SUTTON COURTENAY

Saturday talks at The Abbey

In November 2024, we were pleased to launch our Saturday talks as part of our educational programme. You can find the full list of events on our website and social media pages.

Over the past months, we have been organising a variety of talks and workshops covering a wide range of topics. These sessions have created valuable opportunities for participants to learn, exchange ideas, and engage in meaningful discussions within our community.

We remain open to new approaches and fresh perspectives, and we are always looking for ways to expand and enrich the topics and formats we offer. If you have ideas or suggestions for future talks or workshops, we would be delighted to hear from you. These events will be held in the Library from 11am to 1pm on Saturdays.

To stay informed about upcoming talks and workshops, we encourage you to check our website and follow our social media channels regularly.

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. The café may occasionally close due to scheduled retreats. We recommend checking our website or social media for any updates.

Holistic Structured Writing Retreat

Following the success of the first edition, we are delighted to hold our second 3-day holistic writing retreat at the Abbey from Monday 20th July to Wednesday 22nd July 2026. You don't need to be an academic or a professional writer to attend. This structured writing retreat is open to all and combines yoga sessions, nature walks and delicious vegetarian meals, all designed to provide you with an opportunity to write in a supportive, beautiful, peaceful and productive environment.

The retreat will be facilitated by Alison Eardley and Tina Cartwright. Alison is an academic, and is also a trained writing retreat facilitator, who has been running structured writing retreats for 9 years. Tina is a qualified yoga instructor and is also an academic. Her yoga practice is based on Hatha Yoga. Yoga sessions at the retreats will suit everyone from absolute beginners to regular practitioners.

More information is on our website.

Volunteering at the Abbey

The walled garden

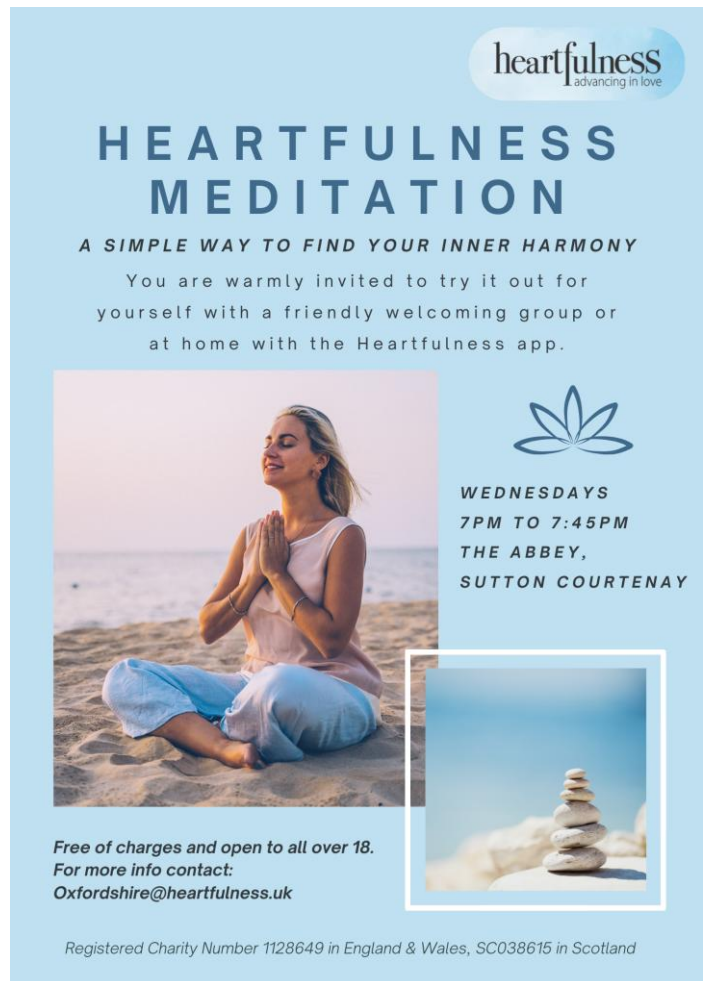
We are developing a great team of volunteer gardeners. If you have a few hours to spare each week and want to help us care for our beautiful walled garden, we'd love to hear from you. Gardening experience is not necessary. Come and spend time in this special garden and enjoy working with other volunteers and make new friends.

The Abbey Workshop

We have a small but keen band of volunteers who, on top of pursuing their own interests in various woodcraft activities are now also contributing their many and varied skills to helping us maintain the Abbey. New members are always welcome, so please contact us at: abbeyworkshop@theabbey.uk.com if you're interested and would like to know more.

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 Suttoncourtenay](https://www.instagram.com/theabbey Suttoncourtenay)

THE ABBEY OFFICE OPENING TIMES: - 9AM - 1PM weekdays





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THE ABBEY,
SUTTON COURTENAY

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For more info contact:
Oxfordshire@heartfulness.uk

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The Abbey
Workshop



New team launched to help tackle criminals on our roads

Last month I joined Thames Valley Police Officers for the launch of the Force's new Roads Policing Unit (RPU) Tasking Team.

The RPU Tasking Team will deliver a more strategic and targeted approach to road safety across the Thames Valley using data and intelligence to identify areas of greatest risk and highest harm. The team will then proactively deploy to these locations to directly address the behaviours and offences driving those risks.



The creation of the Roads Policing Unit Tasking Team will be a major boost to Thames Valley Police's capability to bear down on the dangerous and illegal drivers who put others at risk and on the criminals using our roads.

In addition to their proactive work, the team will support local policing operations wherever possible and will also target those individuals known to us through intelligence, including those involved in drink or drug driving.

In a two-day operation last month to mark the launch of the new team, police officers were joined by other agencies including Immigration Enforcement, HMRC, taxi licensing and Environmental Health.

During the operation 16 arrests were made for drug driving and immigration offences and over a hundred dangerous vehicles were taken off the road.

Of course, this kind of work is what Roads Policing Officers do each and every day, but the purpose of this team is to be much more proactive. Previously officers would often be called on to respond to collisions on our roads or to assist other officers with arrests. The RPU Tasking Team is intended to focus more dedicated resources to take criminals and dangerous drivers off our roads. Matthew Barber



THE FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

The Friends of All Saints' Church AGM TUESDAY 5TH May at 7:30pm

Venue: All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay

The AGM is open to all members and anyone who would like to find out more about our fundraising events within the community.

The Friends of All Saints' Church is a Charity supported by villagers of various faiths & of none

We welcome anyone who has a concern for this historic and wonderful 12th Century, Grade 1 listed building to help maintain it for today and for future generations

Sue Jenkins (Chairman)

SAVE THE DATE:

THE FRIENDS' GARDEN PARTY SUNDAY 7th JUNE 2026

VENUE: East West, All Saints' Lane
Sutton Courtenay OX14 4AG



Contact Sue Jenkins at sjenkins33@aol.com or ring
07885 437343 for further details

CRAFT AND PRODUCE SHOW

Sutton Courtenay Craft and Produce Show 2026. The Village Hall on 5th September

Show open for viewing at 13:30pm

Entry drop off 09:45-11:00. Late entries will not be accepted. Entries must not have been previously exhibited.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES		CRAFTS	
1	Seed tray with mixture of vegetables	38	Hand knitted baby item
2	Three chilli peppers	39	An item of hand embroidery: cross stitch or canvas work
3	Three potatoes, any one variety	40	Hand knitted or crocheted toy
4	Six runner beans	41	A hand made card
5	Bunch of fresh herbs	42	An item of beadwork
6	Three shallots	43	Something new from something old
7	Three tomatoes	44	An item for a child, made from fabric
8	A truss (on vine) of tomatoes - any variety	45	A piece of original craft work: wood
9	Two courgettes no larger than 8" / 20cm	46	A piece of original craft work: ceramic
10	Three carrots with 3" / 8cm tops	CHILDREN'S CLASSES a) 6 and under b) 7-11	
11	Three beetroots with 3" / 8cm tops	47	A Lego structure (not from a kit)
12	Three dessert apples	48	A decorated pebble
13	Three cooking apples	49	Collage of a garden
14	Five plums	50	Four chocolate rice crispy cakes
15	Three pears	COOKERY	
16	Two peppers	51	Jar of jam
17	One cucumber	52	Jar of marmalade
18	Funniest looking vegetable	53	Jar of lemon curd
19	Three leeks	54	Jar of chutney
FLOWERS		55	Six cheese straws
20	Vase of three stems of roses	56	Four pieces of flapjack
21	One specimen rose	57	Four cheese scones
22	Vase of four different herbaceous flowers	58	Six squares of rocky road
23	Four dahlias	59	One slice of treacle tart
24	Three stems from a flowering shrub	60	Swiss Roll
25	Vase of five or more mixed garden flowers / shrubs	<p>Recipe Ingredients: 4 large eggs (at room temperature) 100g (4oz) caster sugar, warmed 100g (4oz) self-raising flour</p> <p>Filling ingredients * caster sugar * about 5 tbsp jam - raspberry</p> <p>Preheat the oven to 220°C / Fan 200° / Gas 7. Grease a Swiss roll tin 33x23cm (13x9 in) and line with non-stick baking paper. Whisk eggs and sugar together until light and creamy and the whisk leaves a trail when lifted out. Sift flour into the mixture and carefully fold in with a metal spoon. Turn the mixture into the tin and shake gently to level. Bake in the oven for 10 minutes or until sponge is golden brown and begins to shrink away from the edges. While the cake cooks, cut a piece of non-stick baking paper a little bigger than the tin and sprinkle with caster sugar. Remove the cake from the oven and invert onto the sugared paper, peel off paper from cake. To make rolling easier, score cake on the short edge, don't cut through and roll. Cool on wire rack. When cool, remove paper, spread the cake with jam almost to the edges. Re-roll and sprinkle with more sugar.</p>	
26	A flowering houseplant		
27	A pot plant shown for foliage		
FLOWER ARRANGING. Accessories to be within size limits			
28	Petite: 4" wide 9" high / 10cm wide 23cm high		
29	Arrangement using only foliage		
30	Arrangement in an unusual container		
31	Harvest and Hedgerow arrangement max 20" / 50cm sq. unlimited height. Accessories allowed		
ART			
32	Drawing of a village scene– pencil, charcoal, pen or ink (max A3)		
33	Picture of an urban scene – any medium including collage (max A3)		
PHOTOGRAPHY. Must have been taken by exhibitor. Mounted, overall size max 14"x10" / 35cm x 25cm			
34	Black and white photograph of a door		
35	Colour photograph of an insect		
36	Black and white photograph of birds		
37	Colour photograph of a stained-glass window		

SUTTON COURTENAY TUESDAY CLUB

We always welcome new members

We meet every third Tuesday monthly in the River Room, All Saints Church, at 7.30 pm

Come along for a visit

TUESDAY 21st APRIL

Contact us via email at kathyhead809@gmail.com

Or 07766076599



A fantastic talk at the River Room was a March highlight - Katie Thorpe from Middleton Lakes reported their superb conservation success, not only for the inimitable Bittern, but many other species (bird, mammal, insect...) too. Now we are planning a visit to Warwickshire to see for ourselves! Our onward programme is below. Membership for the remainder of the 25-26 season is now reduced to £10 for adults (whether or not you are an RSPB member), and free for under-16s. This gets you the talks and walks below, and a quarterly e-Newsletter. If you prefer to attend individual 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.

- Sun 29th Mar: College Lake walk
- Mon 20th Apr: Wildlife of the Chilterns (Jon Mason) (7.30pm River Room) - Jon is an experienced birder, naturalist, photographer (and he'll announce the winners of our photo competition!) and geographer. He will talk about the wonderful Chilterns - local biodiversity hotspot famous for red kites, beech woodlands, and rare chalk grassland species like the Chiltern gentian and Adonis blue butterfly.
- Sun 26th Apr: Greenham Common walk
- Mon 18th May: AGM & Members' Evening (7.30pm River Room)
- Sun 31st May: Otmoor walk

RAINBOWS



'We play loads of fun games, do activities and challenges and sometimes get badges'

Matilda

Rainbows

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall
Term time Mondays 5-6:15pm

Girls play, learn and have tons of fun
for ages 4 to 7

At Rainbows, we welcome all girls to play, learn and have fun in a creative, safe space for all abilities.



Registered charity number: 306016

Join a local Rainbows group girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

Visit: www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/

Help us recycle more at our Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Sort your waste before you arrive on site.
It will speed up your visit.

If you are unable to sort everything before you set off, don't worry! We have sorting areas on site to help you out.



What can I recycle?

Use the Waste Wizard to find out

oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard



Book your time slot **up to 30 minutes*** before you visit or **up to two weeks** in advance:

oxfordshire.gov.uk/hwrcbooking

*subject to availability



The River Room

Looking for the perfect place for a group meeting, private party, art or exercise class, case conference or team away day?



The River Room is an attractive, light and modern room suitable for any get-together. There is an adjacent well-equipped kitchen, entrance foyer and two WCs (one of which is accessible). It has capacity for 40 seated to 80 standing, and there is a projector, complete A/V system and digital piano.

FOR HIRE

Enquiries: 01235 847179 or
admin@damascusparish.org.uk
 All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay OX14 4AE

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2pm to 5pm

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Tour of the house and access to the grounds:

Adult £10 Child £3

Grounds only: Adult £5 Child £1

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Sorry - no dogs

See www.miltonmanorhouse.com for details

ADVERTORIAL SERIES – BUILDING WORK

BUILDING REGS AND HOME EXTENSIONS (2)

In my last article, I discussed the issues around Building Regulations, which deal with building safety. There are two ways to comply with Building Regulations requirements: a Full Plans application or a Building Notice application.

With a Full Plans application, a complete set of construction drawings is submitted to the local Building Control authority. The drawings are checked, and any construction details requiring changes or specification notes are addressed at this stage, after which Conditional Approval is given. These approved drawings form the documentation and schedule of works that builders quote from, and form the basis of your contract with the builder. The builder then constructs the job with regular Building Control Officer inspections to ensure work follows the drawings, issuing a Final Certificate upon completion confirming the work meets Building Regulations requirements.

The Building Notice procedure was introduced as a quicker, more flexible alternative to Full Plans. A building notice doesn't require drawings but requires the builder to inform the Building Control Officer at specific work stages for inspections. The builder must be confident the work will meet requirements—if not, work must be re-done. For this reason, Building Control departments favour Full Plans submissions, which is also my position. Building Regulations application fees vary with local authorities, but Building Notice fees are higher than Full Plans fees.

There are common problems with Building Notice applications. Because no formal plans are checked beforehand, there's a greater risk of non-compliant work.

Errors may only come to light during construction, leading to delays, additional costs, or enforcement action. Builders must have a strong working knowledge of the regulations, and failure to notify Building Control at the right stages can result in non-certification.

A lack of pre-approved drawings can also cause problems when selling the property. Mortgage lenders and solicitors usually ask for clear documentation showing that work was carried out lawfully. Properties approved under a Building Notice may face extra scrutiny or delays. Homeowners, assuming Building Notice approval guarantees compliance, may later discover work is substandard or illegal, requiring further work.

The Building Notice procedure was driven by administrative efficiency needs and economic practicality, influenced by increasing post-war construction demands, urban expansion, and growing Building Regulations complexity. While a Building Notice can provide faster, more flexible compliance routes, it carries significant risks. Lack of pre-approved plans can result in delays, enforcement actions, and additional costs. While it can save time at the outset, the risks are considerable, especially for less experienced builders. The Full Plans procedure remains the preferred and more reliable method. Please get in touch if you would like further guidance.

Jan Liberadzki BA Arch (Hons), MSc
 JLDA (see advert on page 34)

OBITUARY

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:

David Lawton Ward, who died on 20th January 2026, was born in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire on 13th May 1932 to parents Eric and Edith. He was an only child. He attended King James Grammar School, Almondbury where he became a prefect and captain of tennis, swimming and cross country. He was almost certainly the only vegetarian in Yorkshire at that time which meant he had to cycle home every lunchtime to be fed. His father was a panel beater and owned a garage which meant he was able to run a car from an early age. He spent alternate Saturday afternoons watching either Huddersfield Town AFC or Huddersfield Rugby League. David delighted in telling his grandchildren how he spent his Saturday evenings celebrating various sporting successes.

David won a place at Sheffield University to study Mechanical Engineering. He lived in lodgings where his vegetarianism was quickly brushed aside. It was sausages or starve. After graduating he got a job at BSA in Birmingham. He spent his Saturday nights at hops eager to show off his moves on the dance floor. At one such event he met young Sarah Elizabeth Adams, English graduate and daughter of a doctor. Sarah and David soon married and then moved to the south of England where he took up a role with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. He was to spend the rest of his working life devoted to UKAEA – eventually rising to Head of Engineering at Culham. He absolutely loved his work.

The young married couple spent 2 years in Canada followed by 2 years in Norway. They had 3 children along the way. In 1967 they bought a plot of land in Sutton Courtenay and built a house where they lived happily for the rest of their married life. Luckily David played golf a lot better than Huddersfield play football. He was a member at Frilford for many years where he made many good friends. He also loved his time as Head of Engineering in Dounreay, Northern Scotland when he was able to play at the links course in Reay.

He was a stalwart of Harwell Golfing Society and loved nothing more than skiving off from his vital work with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and tearing it up on some distant golf course with only a breakfast bacon bap, luncheon triple decker sandwich (with chips), 3 course dinner, several pints of best bitter and a glass or two of claret to sustain him. He never complained. David was a deceptive golfer. He struggled to move the ball off the tee and most of his opponents licked their lips as they watched him hacking his way up the fairway. However, it was surely just a ruse because he became a different man when the green was in sight. Deadly from 150 yards he would often chip and putt his way to victory. Even if he lost, he was cheerful and never let it get to him. He had the ideal golfer's psychology.

David was a very kind and generous man. He worked hard and played hard. He raised a lot of money for a variety of charities. He helped at Sutton Courtenay Youth Club, participated in the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Sponsored bike ride for many years and worked for the Parish Council. He organized advertising for the Sutton Courtenay News and raised funds for the Liberal Democrats. He organised fetes at Sutton Courtenay Primary School, St Helen's and St Katherine's School and Abingdon School as well as garden parties for the Church. He had limitless energy and enthusiasm. He loved visits to The Fish with family and friends. He enjoyed holidays in France and walking his dogs. He was a skilled joiner and gardener. He loved watching sport. He was always cheerful. Even when Huddersfield let him down – yet again. He had many friends and was much loved. He loved his family: wife Sarah, his 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

His funeral took place on 25th February 2026 in All Saints' Church, followed by burial of his ashes in the churchyard and was conducted by the Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick. This is an edited extract of the tributes given at the funeral.




DORCHESTER ON THAMES
FESTIVAL
1st-10th May 2026

The biennial Dorchester-on-Thames Festival is one of Oxfordshire's leading Festivals, taking place over 10 action-packed Spring days, based in and around the stunning location of Dorchester Abbey.

Since 2005 the Festival has raised £350,000 for Dorchester Abbey and local charities. In 2026 we are partnering with local charity **Be Free Young Carers**. This wonderful charity enables Oxfordshire Young Carers to achieve their full potential by delivering a far-reaching developmental and emotional support network of people and resources in their daily lives, schools and communities.

Highlights in 2026 include **The Kings Singers, Regents Opera, Brian Bilston, the BBC Elstree Concert Band, the now legendary abseil down the abbey's 100ft tower, cookery & art workshops, poetry, comedy, folk & jazz nights, a gift & food fair, dog show, fun run and even a duck race.**

<https://dorchesterfestival.com>

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Karl Beacham

Mortgage Adviser

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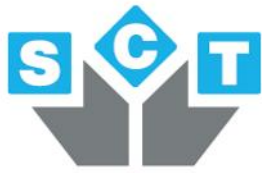
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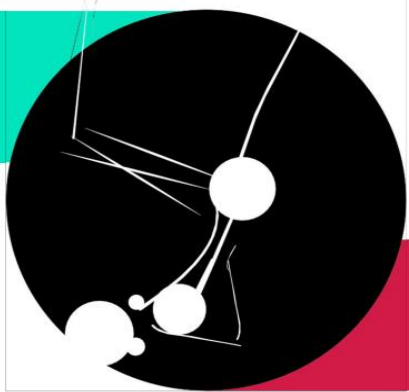
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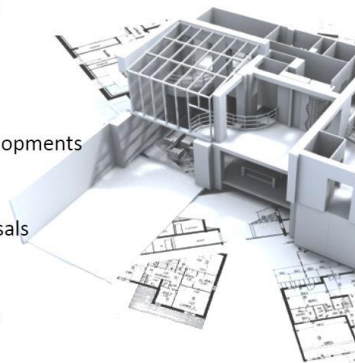


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