

# SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 50 No. 7

SEPTEMBER 2021



**The Taste of Summer in Sutton Courtenay**

## THE VILLAGE IN SEPTEMBER

We are delighted to report that the village seems to be opening up this Autumn with many events filling the diary to the point where it would take up the whole of the cover. Please refer to page 8 for the church diary but also find other exciting and important events on pages 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 17. There are also calls for help from the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, DAMASCUS Youth Project, SCIDS, Citizens Advice and the Church - lots of opportunity to get actively involved in village life, to work with like-minded people and to enrich your own life by helping others enjoy theirs.

N.B. Sadly the **Produce Show has been cancelled** and will not be held as planned on 4<sup>th</sup> September. This is because of Covid concerns.

Previous copies of SCN are available on the website under Archives at [suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](http://suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk)

**OCTOBER 2021 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

Unless otherwise stated the Sutton Courtenay News copy deadline is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

## VILLAGE CONTACTS

County Councillor: Richard Webber, 534001  
(Schools, Roads etc.) [richardwebber777@gmail.com](mailto:richardwebber777@gmail.com)  
District Councillor: Richard Webber—as above  
(Planning, Waste etc.)  
Parish Council Chair: Eileen Daw  
[eileendaw@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:eileendaw@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk)  
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts: Adrian Rouse, 07730 313384  
[adrian.j.rouse@gmail.com](mailto:adrian.j.rouse@gmail.com)  
Brownies: Mary [steventonrainbows@gmail.com](mailto:steventonrainbows@gmail.com)  
Stay & Play Toddler Group: Facebook page: [@SCstayandplay](https://www.facebook.com/@SCstayandplay)  
Friends of All Saints - Chair: Sue Jenkins 07885 437454  
Matrix Music School: 847264  
The Abbey: 847401  
Village Hall – SC: [scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com](mailto:scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com)  
Cricket Club: [drb71@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:drb71@hotmail.co.uk)  
WI - Sutton Courtenay Val Melville 847612  
Nordic Walking Group: Graham Wells 847322  
Churchmere Carp Synd.: Roger Rance 847241  
DAMASCUS Youth Project: 848694  
SC Local History Society: Mary Thompson 848527 [selhs.org.uk](http://selhs.org.uk)  
[marydthompson@outlook.com](mailto:marydthompson@outlook.com)  
SCIDS (Drama Society): Morna Whitlock, 848335  
[morna28whitlock@gmail.com](mailto:morna28whitlock@gmail.com)  
All Saints Singers: Kathy Harrop-Griffiths, 848230  
[secretary@allsaintssingers.org](mailto:secretary@allsaintssingers.org)  
[www.allsaintssingers.org](http://www.allsaintssingers.org)  
Sutton Courtenay Action: [suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com](mailto:suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com)  
Non-urgent Police: 101 or policing team email:  
[AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)  
Environment Agency: Landfill Odours 0800 80 70 60  
Thames Water (leaks): 0800 71 46 14  
Power Cuts: 105  
**Websites:**  
Sutton Courtenay News: [www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](http://www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk)  
Parish Council: [www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk)  
Vale of White Horse DC: [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)  
Oxfordshire CC: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## SUTTON COURTENAY POST OFFICE

A wide range of key Post Office products & services are available at Hari & Esha News (formerly Burgrey Stores) in the High Street.

The opening hours are:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 08:00 - 18:00

Wed: 08:00 - 17:00

Sat: 08:30 - 13:00

Sun: 09:00 - 12:00

## 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 in the old BT phone booth opposite the Nursery on the High Street. The third is outside the Fish, Appleford Road.



## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

### The Ministry Team

Rector: The Reverend Helen Kendrick

The Rectory, 3, Tullis Close, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4BD  
01235 848297 [rector@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@damascusparish.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: The Reverend Rosie Bruce

07766 421773 [rosie-bruce@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rosie-bruce@hotmail.co.uk)

Associate Priest: The Reverend Phil Sutton 01235 526114

or 07507 378737 [revphil@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:revphil@damascusparish.org.uk)

Associate Priest: The Reverend Meg Heywood

01235 537110 [revmeg@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:revmeg@damascusparish.org.uk)

Lay ministers: Tim Budd (527853), Jack Jarvis (831395) & Alex Landsbert (847443)

Authorised preacher: Paul James (848129)

Churchwardens: Nicola Turner (01235 833938)  
or Hilary Otterburn (01235 834725)

### Services of Worship

1st Sunday: Family service at 10:30 am

2nd Sunday: Parish Eucharist @ 10:30am + Junior Church

3rd Sunday: Morning Worship @ 10:30am + Junior Church

4th Sunday: Parish Eucharist @ 10:30am + Junior Church

5th Sunday: Special services across the Damascus Parish – please see church noticeboard for details.

Wednesdays: BCP Holy Communion at 9:45 am.



## 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 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 e-mailed to [editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](mailto:editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk), taken to Sutton Courtenay Tyres petrol station shop or posted in the mailbox on the outside of the garden door of Cross Trees, 1 Church Street before the copy date entered on the front page. 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](mailto:advertising@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk)

For distribution enquiries please contact Sue on 847158 or Shirley on 847241 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](http://suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk) but please contact the editors to discuss what other arrangements can be made for those unable to access the website.



**Odours from the landfill** - Odours from the landfill can be reported to the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60. It is important that all cases of odours are reported as they can only investigate on issues that

they are aware of. If reporting, it would be useful if you could also keep a note of the dates that reports are made.

**Drayton Road Buildout** – This matter is now being progressed by Oxfordshire County Council. A separate longer report on a recent meeting which took place between the County Council and Parish Council can be found later in the magazine on page 4.

**Casual Vacancy** – A further casual vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council due to the resignation of Cllr Jennifer Corrigan. We are, at the time of writing, awaiting confirmation as to whether an election will be called or whether the vacancy can be filled by co-option. If by co-option, we would be looking to do this at the October Council meeting. Please contact the clerk if you are interested in the position.

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Cllr Corrigan for her hard work during her time on the council.

**Recreation Ground redevelopment** – The Parish Council have employed the services of a local landscape architect who will be preparing designs based on the results of the questionnaire responses received to both the questionnaire in the Sutton Courtenay News and the questionnaire prepared by members of the DAMASCUS youth project. Primary School pupils also provided details of what they would like to see (with some lovely pictures) and a group of young people took a tour of local play areas and provided a report on what they particularly liked and disliked. Thank you to all who have provided their feedback. Once the plans are prepared, we will be consulting with the public again so please keep an eye out over the next few months for further information on this.

**Footpaths** - Following a request to the OCC Countryside Access Officer, a voluntary group from the Ramblers VOWH have cleared an area of the footpath between Sutton Courtenay and Appleford. They cut down nettles and other plants growing on the surface of the path, including small saplings, and trimmed back the blackthorn etc. that was growing over the path. *See below.* They wish residents an enjoyable walk along it now that it is cleared.

As the Rights of Way portal can be difficult to navigate to report problems, the Parish Council have set up a specific email address where issues with footpaths can be reported. The email address is [footpaths@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:footpaths@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk).

**Cemetery** - The Parish Council are in the process of arranging for preparation of the next stage of the cemetery, which should provide burial space within the village for many years to come. Further details will be provided in due course once plans have been prepared. A survey of the land will, by the time of publication, have been carried out to allow a detailed plan of the cemetery to be prepared.

**New bench on the Village Green** - You may have noted the new bench on the Village Green. This bench was purchased by the Sutton Courtenay Women's Institute to celebrate its centenary. Thank you to the WI for their donation to the village.

**Neighbourhood Plan** – a draft of the plan has now been produced. Once this has been checked and any amendments made, it will be passed to the Vale of the White Horse District Council who arrange for the consultation to take place with residents. Please keep an eye out for further updates in the near future.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall. Please check the noticeboard outside Hari and Esha stores or the parish council website for further details on the meeting.

Contact details: Helen Savery, Clerk to Sutton Courtenay Parish Council, 10 Sovereign Place, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 9GF. Email: [info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk) Tel: 01235 364211.

West end of the footpath clearance before .....



.....and after work by the Ramblers VOWH



## DRAYTON RD. CHICANE OR BUILDOUT

Sutton Courtenay Parish Council and County Councillor Richard Webber met with Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department in August to agree the location and details for a chicane to be built on Drayton Road, B4016, to slow traffic approaching the village from Drayton. The chicane's exact location is yet to be finalised but is likely to start circa 50m west of number 9 Drayton Road. The start of the 30 mph speed limit and the signs will be moved to circa 50m west of the chicane. It is hoped a temporary chicane will be built by November and subject to the results of this trial a permanent chicane will replace it by the summer of 2022. Highways pointed out that, for safety, the chicane would normally be illuminated and will look into the lighting being solar powered.

Sutton Courtenay Parish Council will be consulted on the details of the chicane before any final decision is made. Comments on this long-awaited scheme are welcome, please email the Parish Council Clerk, Helen, at [info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk).

Simon Lazare



Survey of Drayton Road by the highways team watched by Eileen Daw, Chair of Sutton Courtenay PC, and Councillor Richard Webber.

## SC PRODUCE SHOW

We have decided regretfully that we will not be holding The Produce Show this year because of the difficulties in keeping everyone safe. We were concerned about the judges needing to handle/taste the entries in some classes.

Hopefully the show will take place again in 2022 on Saturday, September 3rd with the same schedule.

The Produce Show Committee

## VILLAGE HALL



The village hall is a registered charity available for hire for community related recreational activities. It is located in Hobbyhorse Lane (OX14 4BB).

It has a large main hall, a smaller meeting room and kitchen. There are regular activities that take place on some weekday evenings. To find out more or book the hall please contact the Secretary to the Village Hall Management Committee Rita Atkinson on 01235 848694, email [scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com](mailto:scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com).

Hire charges vary depending on the nature of the use of the hall. The maximum hire charge for the main hall is £16 per hour. Commercial bookings and regular hire are negotiated separately. Visits prior to hire are welcomed.

In accordance with government rules to prevent, and protect against, the spread of the coronavirus, the Village Hall Management Trustees have prepared risk assessments, guidance and new conditions of hire for users. These are being kept under constant review as the government guidance changes. Please do get in touch to check if your activity is permitted under the regulations.

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**Sutton Courtenay Village Hall (Registered Charity 300213)**

### NOTICE OF AGM

**7 pm on Thursday 23 September 2021**

The Management Trustees of the above charity invite you to its AGM. At the meeting a report on the work of the charity and the audited accounts will be presented.

Please do attend. We are actively searching for new members, to join us as trustees, who would like to take a share in the work and responsibility of managing this community building for the benefit of all. Fresh thinking and new energy to raise major funds are needed to take the hall on to its next stage of development.

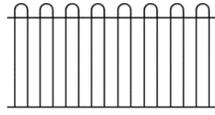
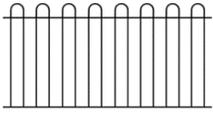
The trust deeds allow for up to 12 members to be elected at the AGM. Any resident is entitled to attend and put themselves forward for election as a trustee. The duties and responsibilities of a trustee can be obtained from the Charity Commission ([www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3)).

The trust deeds also entitle specified organisations to appoint trustees (a maximum of 11) – most of these are no longer functioning. In the interests of getting a good mix and a representative cross-section on the committee – all regular user groups are invited to consider sending a member to be appointed on to the committee and share in the management of the hall.

**Venue:** Sutton Courtenay Village Hall (covid restrictions permitting) or virtually

Please email [scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com](mailto:scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com) if you are attending and you will be sent a link to the meeting if it has to be held virtually.

Rita Atkinson  
Secretary



## Making Ourselves heard

The big news of the summer is that after two years of campaigning we have been awarded a substantial grant to completely refurbish the entire perimeter fence around the site. **You may be aware that this has been an area of concern** for some time. The existing wire mesh fence is so easy to climb and totally unsuitable for keeping the children and the site safe. The new plans are for a high quality, but attractively designed, metal security fence which will make the site much safer for the children. We also included new gates in the design. This has been achieved due to a huge amount of work by a lot of people – the Trust board at Ridgeway Education Trust, the central admin team, the governors, and most importantly, **the children**. They made their voices heard by writing letters, making a video, and speaking to the local councillor Richard Webber.

This is an important lesson for them – that they do not have to accept second best and that collectively we can work together to ask, firmly and politely, for what we need. Here is a little reminder of the video the children made in November <https://youtu.be/3AQcHZy7wQ0>.

## A new building for After School Club and Breakfast Club



Meanwhile, there are other improvements to the site in place already. Our popular Breakfast and After School Club has a new home! A modular building

arrived at the end of June. It caused huge excitement in the school and sabotaged several classes that were trying to complete assessments that day! Here is another chance to see it arriving: [https://youtu.be/ys2o-4VHd\\_0](https://youtu.be/ys2o-4VHd_0)

It has attractive wooden ramps and steps up to the door, and skirting around the bottom. Inside, the building is bright and surprisingly spacious.



We are aiming to furnish it in a style to make it look more like a home than a classroom, with carefully chosen pieces of real pre-loved furniture. We have already had some donations of curtains to replace the office blinds it came with! We hope to paint it cream to match the render of



the new building, which will help it to blend in with the whole site. Its official name is now 'The Beehive!'

## Endings and beginnings

Due to the COVID restrictions, the end of term was adapted for the second year running. However, all the major milestones were passed with creative flair. The whole of Key Stage 2 worked together on a production of The Greatest Show, which we recorded scene by scene before it was edited together into a full-length film. Because we were not constrained by the layout of the hall or audience, we were able to be much more creative with settings and scenery. Mr Greenough constructed a huge Big Top backing using the PE parachute, and the bars came in handy to swing a trapeze!

As term drew to a close, the children were able to visit their new teachers for a transition day, and the Year 6 leavers enjoyed a very moving service outdoors with Reverend Helen leading the prayers.

Headteacher: Ms Rachel Hornsey

Asst. Headteachers: Lisa Knight and Louise Potter  
[office.3243@sutton-courtenay.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3243@sutton-courtenay.oxon.sch.uk)

Tel: 01235 848333

### PLEASE SUPPORT

#### 'ALAN ON THE MOVE AGAIN'

as he walks TWO half marathons on consecutive days  
**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September**  
 from Sutton Courtenay to Wittenham Clumps and back  
**RAISING MONEY FOR SOFEA**



In 2020 Alan Calver, 84, raised over £4,000 for NHS Charities.

This year he is walking double the distance to raise money for SOFEA – a local charity, whose mission is to enable the transformation of people's lives and their communities, with a major focus on young people from Didcot and the surrounding villages.

Please sponsor him to raise **£1,000** for SOFEA.

You can donate via the **Just Giving** website to 'Alan on the Move Again' page.

or by cheque, payable to 'SOFEA' and sent c/o

The Reverend Helen Kendrick, The Rectory, 3 Tullis Close,  
 Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4BD

# ABINGDON DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT

## The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

Registered Charity 1098966



Youth & Community Acting Together

Summer has been and gone in what feels like a blink of an eye! The team were super busy supporting young people from across all the DAMASCUS Parishes and it was great to see some young people being active and moving between villages to attend more than one of our sessions.

This year we held our first 'Summer Funweek' at the village hall which was all about having lots of fun as the name suggests. It was great to meet a few new young people and their parents. We hope that those who attended made some new friends and enjoyed their time playing, painting, singing, dancing and learning some cooking skills along the way!



As always, we have been busy in the office supporting lots of young people in Sutton Courtenay to build and improve their CVs as they have reached that age where work is the next step. The team were lucky enough to be shown some tips and tricks by Shane Hicks from the village and it has already been put to good use in benefiting the young people.



Our sports and gazebo sessions are still very well attended, and we have had lots of interesting chats around culture, politics and preparations for school starting again. If you would like to attend and are between the ages of 10-18 please do drop by the recreation ground on Wednesdays at 6pm – if it is raining we will be in the village hall!

The ADYP Team – Roxy Elford, Jake Fleetwood and James Quartermain, Emily Astley-Madge

Do contact any of us on: [jamesq.ycat@gmail.com](mailto:jamesq.ycat@gmail.com), [jakef.ycat@gmail.com](mailto:jakef.ycat@gmail.com), [roxy.ycat@gmail.com](mailto:roxy.ycat@gmail.com), [emily.adyp@gmail.com](mailto:emily.adyp@gmail.com)

Tel: 01235 848694 or 07875649008



Jake Damascus, Roxy Damascus, James Damascus, Emily Damascus



Jake\_Damascus; James\_Damascus:

Roxy\_Damascus; Emily\_Damascus

YouTube – The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth

Project – MIND GYM

Website – [www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk](http://www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk)

## Two Part-time Young Leader Posts

**EMPLOYER:** The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project (Registered Charity 1098966)

We believe in developing inclusive communities in which young people have opportunities to be significant contributors. An important part of this vision is recruiting young leaders who have the passion to make a positive difference to younger people and their communities and have aspirations to be youth workers. Subject to funding (31<sup>st</sup> August expected confirmation date) we are setting up two opportunities for young people aged 16 to 19 to train with us. Previous volunteering experience in youth and community work is essential. Both opportunities will involve supported street work. However, one will focus on the use of sports (particularly football) as a tool. The other is to assist in developing our social media content. If you are interested in youthwork as a career do get in touch with us.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and we expect all volunteers and staff to share this commitment and undergo appropriate checks and training and provide references.

**CONTACT:** For more information, please contact [rita.atkinson@googlegmail.com](mailto:rita.atkinson@googlegmail.com) or [anne.whitehead284@gmail.com](mailto:anne.whitehead284@gmail.com). If you are unable to access the internet, please telephone 01235 848694 or 07846663010

**DEADLINE:** Wednesday 15th September 2021. Start Date: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

DAMASCUS Youth Project is also supported, locally, by the Parish Councils of Drayton, Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon and Abingdon Town Council

# NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP (NAG5) SAFETY CORNER

N.B information correct at the time of writing, in August.

## Test and Trace scam

Action Fraud has issued a warning to anyone returning from international travel, who may need to quarantine for ten days. During this time, you might receive a visit from someone working for NHS Test and Trace, to check that you're complying with the rules.

- Staff employed on behalf of the NHS Test and Trace service will visit the address listed on the passenger locator form.
- They will be wearing NHS Test and Trace branded clothing.
- They will identify themselves verbally, and present an ID card with information which includes their name, role and employer.
- They will follow social distancing guidelines where possible.
- They will state your name, and ask you to confirm it. They will also ask to see your driving licence or passport to confirm your identity.
- They will then ask you a few questions to help establish whether you're following your duty to quarantine and to enable them to provide additional information, support or guidance where necessary.
- You may receive follow-up visits within the 10-day quarantine period.
- If you're not happy with the service contact NHS Test and Trace online at <https://enquiries.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/s/> or call 119.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS



I shall be retiring from Neighbourhood Watch as Area Co-ordinator for Appleford, Drayton and Sutton Courtenay (and as a scheme Co-ordinator in Sutton Courtenay) at the end of August and

unfortunately, at the time of writing in mid-August, have been unable to find replacements.

Neighbourhood Watch members receive Neighbourhood Alerts from their Co-ordinators, which provide important information and updates about fraud, scams, local crime etc. However, anyone can register to receive these Alerts direct to their email inbox. Visit Thames Valley Alert at:

<https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/>, and click on the 'join' button.

If you'd like to find out if there's a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in your area, visit the Neighbourhood Watch website, and use your postcode to search for details, at <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/>.

Many thanks for your support over the years.

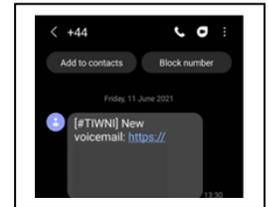
Bridget Haffenden

Genuine NHS Test and Trace staff will not:

- Enter your home; ask you to provide your name; ask for your National Insurance number, telephone number or any other identification other than your passport or driving licence; photograph your identification documents; ask you for financial details (such as bank or credit card information) ask you for money or issue a fine.
- NHS Test and Trace staff have no legal power to issue a fixed penalty notice or a fine. Only the police can issue fixed penalty notices for breaching quarantine rules.
- **If someone visits you claiming to be from NHS Test and Trace, and you do not believe they are genuine, call 999 and ask for the police.**

## Fraudulent links texted to mobile phones

If you often miss calls on your mobile be careful not to be caught off guard by texts like these. Criminals hope to trick you into clicking on dangerous links in order to obtain your financial details and your money.



## CONTACTING THE POLICE

The police request that you should only call 999 in an emergency and 101 if it's urgent. If possible, please use the online reporting services at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

Contact NAG5 by calling 01235 848694 or e-mail [neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com](mailto:neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com)

## THANK YOU BRIDGET

After many years Bridget has decided to stand down and we have been asked to include a note of thanks from all the NAG members for her very caring and effective contribution not just to the village news but projects that NAG undertook over the years. It was her energy and organisation that got the Sutton Courtenay and Drayton Primary school children to design speed watch posters which were installed as temporary signs through the villages raising awareness of speeding.

Bridget will be a hard act to follow. Sadly, no one else has come forward to take her place to gather the information and write the article for the village news.



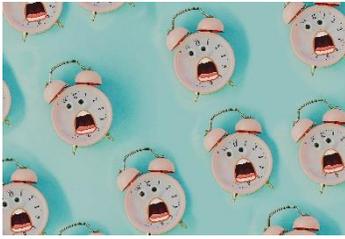
A hornet taking nectar from buddleia



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.....



### Just a minute ...

I wonder how your soul is. We've been through a period of unusual stress and strain over the last 18 months or so. Life slowing down, speeding up, closing down, opening up. It has all taken its toll on

many of us as we've tried to cope with different scenarios time after time. We may be aware that we've become less loving, our internal fuse is shorter with people and situations, tension and anxiety levels are higher. There just doesn't seem to be the emotional energy available any more to respond well in relationships. Many of us may be able to identify with Bilbo Baggins in *Lord of the Rings*, 'I feel all thin, sort of stretched, like butter that has been scraped over too much bread.' Maybe there is a sense of wanting to stop and get our lives back again, to refresh our souls again.

But it's often difficult to find the energy to do what we know is good for us – and hope that a quick fix will do it instead – a raid on the fridge, switch on the TV, browse the internet, go shopping, do the next job ... whatever gives us comfort quickly. Yet our souls could be looking for something more than a quick fix. They could be thirsting for something deeper, for a Someone that allows them to rest and just be, to catch up with themselves in a world that is demanding so much of them. This is where 'Just a minute' may be helpful.

Just a minute in those transition times of the day: dropping the children off from school, just before starting a new piece of work, or after a phone call, before getting out of the car, making a cup of tea ... pause, stop for just a minute.



Just a minute to stop, to take time to breathe deeply, to slow our minds down, to pause and be, to savour the beauty of the world around us, to recall the kindness of others, to hear the gentle whispers of that Someone - God, loving us, wanting to be with us, wanting to tend to our souls, like a good shepherd with His sheep. As King David in the Bible found ...

*The Lord is my best friend and my shepherd.*

*I always have more than enough.*

*He offers a resting place for me in his luxurious love.*

*His tracks take me to an oasis of peace near the quiet brook of bliss. That's where he restores and revives my life.*

*He opens before me the right path*

*and leads me along in his footsteps of righteousness so that I can bring honour to his name.*

*(Psalm 23:1-3 - The Passion Translation)*

May we all find our souls being restored in the precious hands of God so that we can regain our lives again.

**Meg Heywood.**

*Associate Minister. DAMASCUS Parish.*

### CHURCH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>** - 10:30-12:30 – WeCare2 in the River Room

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>** – 17:30 Episcopal Visitation for the Swearing in of Churchwardens, St Michael and All Angels Church, Steventon

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup>** – 19:30 Baptism Preparation for all families interested in baptism for their children in the DAMASCUS Parish, St Blaise, Milton.

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>** – 10:30-12 noon Community Café in the River Room

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>** – 10:00-18:00 Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride

14:00 Wedding of Lennox Smith & Camille Lecoecuch

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup>** - 19:30 DAMASCUS PCC Meeting

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>** – 15:00 Grand Opening of River Room

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>** – 19:30 Sutton Courtenay Local Church Council in the River Room

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>** – 10:30-12 noon Community Café in the River Room

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>** – 14:00 Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School Harvest Festival in All Saints' Church

### CHURCH DIARY FOR OCTOBER

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – 10:30 Harvest Festival Family Service (please bring tinned goods and dried food for the Abingdon Food Bank or cash donations for Farm Africa)

### Holy Baptism

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

**Georgia Carys Sofia Leonard** (1<sup>st</sup> August 2021)

**Max Michael Hank Porter** (8<sup>th</sup> August 2021)

### Holy Matrimony

We send our best wishes and congratulations to the following who were married in All Saints' Church recently:

**Adam John Osborne & Zoe Sherri Hunter** (11<sup>th</sup> June 2021)

**Oliver Peter Hargreaves & Sophie Virginia Louise Draper** (25<sup>th</sup> June 2021)

**Ashley Daniel Smith & Gemma Lawson** (1<sup>st</sup> July 2021)

**Thomas James William Hardiing & Jessica Louise Elford** (24<sup>th</sup> July 2021)

## 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:

**Jacqueline Mathews** who died on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Dylan Hayden**, whose funeral took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> July

## Community Café in the River Room



Run by the church for the whole community

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September &

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

(in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care)

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. If you need transport to and from the church, please 'phone the Parish Office on 01235 847179

## THE RIVER ROOM at All Saints' Church

It has been a busy summer in the River Room. Community Café has re-started, and the Cream Teas have seen many visitors on Sunday afternoons. Thank you to everyone who has supported these events. We are now looking forward to the:

### Grand Opening and Dedication of the River Room

by the Right Reverend Gavin Collins,

Bishop of Dorchester

3-5pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021

(opening ceremony at 3.30pm)

Bubbly and canapes will be served

If you would like to attend, please ring the Parish Office on 01235 847179 by Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September or add your name to the list at the back of the church.

**The Fundraising continues...** Tickets are still on sale for the **Raffle Draw** to be called at the Grand Opening and the 200 Club is up and running. Please contact the parish office if you would like to buy some tickets or join the 200 Club.

**Also**, Alex has been selling donated goods on eBay and has raised several thousand pounds already. We would welcome more items to sell either online or at the Jumble Sale on 6<sup>th</sup> November from 1-5 pm (see separate advert). We can arrange collection if necessary. Please contact Alex on 01235 847443 or email [landsbert@west-manor.co.uk](mailto:landsbert@west-manor.co.uk)  
Thank you!

## RIVER ROOM 200 CLUB

### In Support of the All Saints' Community Space

The winning numbers at the Draw on August 12 were:

1<sup>st</sup> – No. 93 (£40.00)

2<sup>nd</sup> – No. 51 (£20.00)

3<sup>rd</sup> – No. 83 (£7.00)

New members always welcome. Please see the information in All Saints' Church or email [landsbert@west-manor.co.uk](mailto:landsbert@west-manor.co.uk).

The next draw will take place on Thursday September 9 at the All Saints' Community Café in the River Room at 10.30 am.

## Can you help secure the Future of the Christmas Eve Procession?

For over twenty-five years All Saints' Church has run, organised and insured the Torchlight Procession through the Village culminating in carols around the bonfire in the Churchyard (apart from 2019 when it was held on the Village Green because of our building work and 2020 when it had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 restrictions).

For the majority of those years we had the amazing support of Colin and Adrian Whitehead and family who provided all the lights, sound and power to make the event run as smoothly and safely as possible. We are immensely grateful for all they provided for so many years. But they retired in 2019 and we then had to employ someone to provide all the equipment and set up and dismantle it at the end. This cost just under £700. Unfortunately, the church cannot afford this level of expenditure and unless we have financial support we will not be able to run the event.

As you will know we do a bucket collection every year but all the money raised from that goes to a nominated charity. We are extremely reluctant to reduce the amount we give to charity in order to cover costs, therefore we are looking to the wider community for support.

Over the years thousands of you have enjoyed taking part and we hope you want it to continue for future generations. So, if you would like to contribute towards the financial costs then please send a donation

- By bank transfer  
The DAMASCUS PCC  
CAF Bank Limited Account  
40-52-40 00031419  
Reference – SC Torch
- Or by writing a cheque payable to The DAMASCUS PCC and sending it to the DAMASCUS Parish Office, All Saints' Church, The Green, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4AE. Please mark the envelope 'SCTorch'

The good news is that we have already received a pledge of £200 towards the costs for this year.

# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

## A DRAMATIC OPPORTUNITY

...not to be missed!

SEALED bids are invited for Theatre Tokens worth £250, in aid of the River Room. The tokens are in the form of a Gift Card which can be redeemed at 260 venues across the country – including the New Theatre Oxford and the Oxford Playhouse. (For participating theatres see the Theatre Tokens website). They may be redeemed over the phone or in person. You can use all or part of the balance on the card, or part-pay for a performance. There is no expiry date.

Please put your sealed bid in an envelope with your name and address and post it to the Parish Office at All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4AE (letter box in North Vestry Door) by **30 September**.

**BARGAINS GALORE!**

## *Jumble Sale*

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>  
November  
1 - 5pm  
Sutton  
Courtenay  
Village Hall**  
With tea & coffee  
available

**RAISING MONEY FOR THE  
CHURCH GENERAL FUND**

**QUALITY BRIC-A-BRAC  
CLOTHES – TOYS – BOOKS etc etc**

Donations on the day  
between 11:00-12:00  
or to arrange collection beforehand  
please contact  
01235 847179  
Or email [rector@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@damascusparish.org.uk)



## PLAY BRIDGE IN THE RIVER ROOM

On 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday afternoons in the River Room, starting 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2-5 pm, with a cup of tea and piece of cake - £5. Tables, cards and score cards provided.

Initially, please come with a ready 4, or ring Alex Landsbert in advance (847443).

All standards of play welcome. Contract or Chicago – you choose. When numbers are sufficient, we hope that those who would like a bit of variety may be able to move between tables.

## SYRINX RETURNS!

*For a fundraising concert in All Saints' Church*

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

3.30pm Tea and Cakes

4:00pm Concert Begins

TICKETS £10 per person (to include tea and cake)

On sale via [rector@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@damascusparish.org.uk) or by 'phoning the Parish Office on 01235 847179 or from Hari & Esha's (formerly Burgrey Stores)



Simon Salisbury – Flute  
Rachel Porter – Oboe  
Peter Foster – Clarinet  
Benj Colyer – Horn  
Bill Fox – Bassoon

Syrinx is a Wind quintet based in Oxfordshire whose repertoire includes classical wind ensemble music and contemporary music in serious and popular styles. Since our establishment in 2001, we have provided music for many concerts and charity events in the south of England and the Midlands. The name Syrinx means pan-pipe or flute in ancient Greek, and comes from a legend about the origins of the flute.

This will be the second time Syrinx have performed in All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay, although in the past, some of the players have been regular members of the orchestra that accompanied the All Saints' Singers.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

**10:30am in All Saints' Church**

**SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER**

Followed by a Harvest Lunch (Cottage Pies and Apple Pies and Crumbles) in the River Room at 12:15

Please sign the list at the back of church if you would like to come so we know for how many to cater.

If you can help with the cooking, there will be another list to sign too!

Do you live with, or care for someone living with Dementia?

## Wecare2

Wecare2 hopes to sing and socialise one morning a fortnight in the 'River Room' at All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay from 10.45am to 12 noon on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, commencing on Wednesday 1st September.

If interested, either as a customer, or to help, please contact Morna Whitlock

Brookfield, 30 Chapel Lane. Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4AN

[morna28whitlock@gmail.com](mailto:morna28whitlock@gmail.com) 01235 848335 or 07787 521039

Numbers will be limited at the moment and governed by Covid 19 restrictions

## S.C.I.D.S.

Just to confirm that the "team" are on the case and "The Real Legend of Robin Hood"

will be performed, Covid allowing, in March 2022

The "sign on" date will be announced in the October Sutton Courtenay News. S.C.I.D.S. always welcomes new members. There are roles for anyone from age 7 to 107 onstage - backstage - costumes - music .....

Any enquiries to Morna on [morna28whitlock@gmail.com](mailto:morna28whitlock@gmail.com) 01235848335

## FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Clearly village social life is looking up now that lockdown is behind us. SCN is full of exciting events, and it has been difficult squashing everything in!

We are sorry to hear that Bridget Haffenden has retired from her roles in Neighbourhood Watch and NAG5. The editors would like to say thank you to her for her excellent contribution to the magazine and to the village over the years.

Another person who is moving on is Jennie Corrigan who has been one of the editors on the Sutton Courtenay News since January. She has also sat on the Parish Council and is mentioned on Page 3. The remaining editors would like to thank Jennie for her helpful input over the last few months. We wish her well in her new ventures.

With all these lovely events coming up we need some nice weather. Sitting at my desk listening to the pouring rain I am dreaming of a nice sunny September, and a better winter than Roger Rance's swans are thought to be predicting.

Here's hoping!

Editor

## THE FRIENDS' SUMMER GARDEN PARTY



We had the pleasure of entertaining over 60 at our annual garden party held in the beautiful garden of Cross Trees, home of Robert & Kathy Leonard. It was the first time many of our guests had ventured out to an event following Covid and from the responses we received afterwards everyone enjoyed the occasion immensely.

We were delighted to have raised over £900 towards the upkeep of the ancient Norman Church within the village. Thank you to everyone who attended for supporting us.

We look forward to our next event, the popular **Yuletide Evening** in the Abbey. More information later.

Sue Jenkins (Chairman)



## SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, RUN BY OXFORDSHIRE HERITAGE CHURCHES TRUST

Oxfordshire has a rich heritage of churches of all denominations. Many of these date from Saxon and Norman times, standing as landmarks in their neighbourhoods and providing an important focus of continuity and stability in ever-changing times.

OHCT is an entirely volunteer-led organisation which aims to provide funding to help local communities repair, maintain and improve Oxfordshire's historic churches, preserving them for future generations. The initial involvement from trusts such as the OHCT provides vital encouragement and confidence to church councils and is a key factor in preserving these architectural gems.

OHCT works to increase public understanding of these buildings via a programme of events, one of these is the annual Ride & Stride. If you enjoy cycling, walking, running, please join us at this event. You will find further information at <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride> or please contact Sue Jenkins on [SJenkins33@aol.com](mailto:SJenkins33@aol.com) or 07885437454

All Saints Sutton Courtenay will be offering refreshments as you pass through our village as will many other churches on your route

## Volunteers (non-advice roles) needed at Citizens Advice



It's not widely known that Citizens Advice needs volunteers to help manage the organisation, as well as volunteers to provide advice.

In particular, we are looking for people who can offer a day a week to help us with our Research and Campaigns work, our new website, IT support, fundraising administration, maintaining links with towns and local communities, organising events with MPs (planned for autumn), preparing case studies, interviewing people for our e-newsletters, office administration and much more.

Our main offices are in Abingdon, Didcot, Henley and Thame. Since March 2020 our volunteers and staff have been advising the public from home on our Adviceline service. Recently we partially re-opened our offices, in part to train new advisers.

What will you get out of it? You will join a friendly team, meet new people, develop your skills and make a real difference to people's lives.

You'll need to have good interpersonal skills, a willingness to learn and be confident with computers. Full training will be provided.

If you have eight hours a week to spare for the next two years or more and are looking for a satisfying and stimulating volunteer role in your local community, please contact us at:

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/)

## OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH AND VALE CITIZENS ADVICE – NEW TRUSTEES NEEDED

**Role:** Trustees

**Organisation:** Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice (OSAV CA)

**Location:** Head Office, Abbey House, Abingdon, OX14 3JD

We are looking for new Trustees to join our Board. As well as broad experience, we would particularly welcome those with skills in governance, IT strategy or fundraising.

We encourage applications from people of any age, background or identity and are committed to equality and diversity.

We are a local charity providing free, confidential and independent advice to help people in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse resolve their problems.

The main issues people bring us concern benefits, debt, employment, housing, relationship and consumer problems. Following advice, four in five people are able to resolve their problem and we help most to find a way forward. We also use evidence to influence policies and practices that affect people's lives.

Our 145 volunteer advisers and 15 FTE staff advise about 10,000 people each year from 4 Advice Centres. Since March, our staff and volunteers have been operating our Adviceline service from home.

We are members of National Citizens Advice, which means we have access to its services, resources and support and it sets and audits our advice standards. However, as an independent charity, we are responsible for running our own affairs and much of our funding comes from District, Town and Parish Councils and local charities.

Trustees are asked to attend 6 Board meetings a year, held in the evening at various locations (although remotely for the moment). Each Trustee is encouraged to take an interest in a particular aspect of the charity's work.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity, please contact Jon Bright, the Director, via [jon.bright@osavcab.org.uk](mailto:jon.bright@osavcab.org.uk)

Please apply via [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/oxfordshire-south-vale](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/oxfordshire-south-vale)

## NORDIC WALKING

This is your last chance to take up this offer!

As the summer ends why not be taught how to keep fit during the coming months. We have walked, laughed, kept sane and very fit during the whole of Covid, and have never given in.

Come and join us and rediscover your pre-Covid happiness. Lessons are free, no charge whatsoever. Do not look back!

Contact [active.communications@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:active.communications@southandvale.gov.uk) to book a one-to-one session in Sutton Courtenay, but please be aware that places are limited.

Thank you

Graham Wells



Photo by Shirley Rance

### Some reflections on watching villages grow

One of the major concerns of those who sat down to begin the Drayton Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) nearly 10 years ago now, was the need for the village to be more interconnected as this would generate a better sense of community. For decades village planning had been obsessed with all homes being immediately connected to the main highways. This led to endless ribbon developments with people living far apart from one another. The villages of Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford have all suffered. The Drayton NDP has ensured that each of the three main new developments is well connected within the village and also to the main highways. There are now a range of interesting circular walks all round the village.

The new developments in Sutton Courtenay are less well connected to each other and the distances some have to walk to get to village services are a challenge, particularly to the elderly. The concerns of residents at one end of the village are often very different from those at the other end. Appleford has the same issues but, being a much smaller village, generating a feeling of community is less of a challenge.

Marcham is rather different and, in planning terms is far more compact. Whilst, as in all families, Marcham is not above disagreeing with itself, it is not surprising that the village generally has a strong community feeling. However, even here there have been issues within some of the new developments over some residents resisting planned connecting roads and paths.

The Drayton experience is that connecting roads and paths is the secret to generating functioning communities.

Covid has made it easier for all of us to hide from each other and to stop meeting and talking to one another. However, our village communities and their Covid Groups have done a magnificent job in

minimising this damage. Indeed, our communities are probably better at caring for each other than ever before. As we come out of the pandemic, it would be tragic to slip back behind our front doors. There are very powerful economic reasons for encouraging working from home but not at the expense of community life.

### Holiday news

1. The long awaited “build out” on Drayton Rd, Sutton Courtenay has now been agreed and is funded. Various legalities have to be gone through, but the project should be fully operational by spring next year.
2. The application for Mill Rd Bridge has been passed and work should begin shortly. This will restore the pedestrian path between Drayton and Marcham.
3. The repainting of all the white lines on the Milton interchange roundabout will be done in September.
4. Appleford continues to fight for an adjustment to the new HIF Road. We expect to see the formal application very soon.
5. In common with many councils across the country, the national shortage of HGV drivers, together with the “pingdemic”, has led to the temporary suspension of the Brown Bin service for the month of August in order to ensure there is no threat to other waste services. It is hoped that the garden waste collection will be reinstated in early September. In the meantime, residents are asked to be patient and take their garden waste to the Drayton recycling depot where possible.

Richard Webber Cllr

[Richardwebber777@gmail.com](mailto:Richardwebber777@gmail.com)

01235 534001

## DAVID JOHNSTON MP



I held a very productive pre-COP26 summit for Wantage and Didcot constituents this month. We had a great range of speakers, including the CEO of the independent Climate Change Committee.

Interesting fact: the UK is currently 20 years ahead of the global average for cutting emissions, as well as cutting them faster than the other G20 countries. It won't surprise you that the way we build houses featured regularly.

I put the event on because tackling climate change is very important to me, very important to a significant number of constituents and we have a big opportunity to demonstrate leadership when the world's leaders come to Glasgow for the actual UN summit in November. It was also a great chance to showcase good local organisations like Greencore Construction, Westmill Wind and Solar and the Earth Trust. I am sending a summary of the concerns and ideas raised at the event to Alok Sharma, President of COP26, and will let everyone know how he responds.

As you might have seen, I held my debate in parliament on Royal Mail's performance recently, making clear again that I don't blame their workers for the problems. The following day I visited the Didcot Delivery Office. It's clear that Royal Mail HQ have taken the criticisms seriously and have worked to try and improve the service – many people have told me it has. But you should let me know if you continue to encounter problems.

My first '10 minute rule bill' will be on behalf of the AEAT Pension Campaign. This constituency has more of the AEAT Pensioners than any other constituency and they were all encouraged – via assurances that turned out to be false – to transfer to a pension scheme that has meant their pensions are now worth considerably less than they should be. It is a tale that sounds familiar, but a unique case in that it was advice from the Government's Actuary Department in the 1990s that was strengthened to encourage the transfer and, at the moment, the advice can't be investigated as the Ombudsman in question doesn't have the powers to. The Bill would enable the Ombudsman to investigate the advice given and was first introduced by Ed Vaizey not long before he stood down. It is a long and difficult route to pass a law this way, but I am full of admiration for the campaigners who have been dogged in seeking to right the wrong.

Recess is fast approaching. I will be back home in Didcot for most of it, albeit working, contrary to the suggestion MPs are on holiday! In addition to regular meetings, surgery appointments and visits, I'll be holding some roundtables on issues constituents have raised repeatedly with me (including on GP appointments) and trying to attend as many of the events that couldn't take place last year as I can – let me know if you think there is a good one for me to attend near you.

As ever, if I can help with anything, do email me via [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)

## THE PATH LESS TRAVELLED BY SIMON LAZARE

This month's walk is a circa 13km, 8-mile walk starting from the Village Hall along some Permissive Paths and Public Rights of Way (PROW) to the south and west of the village to Steventon. There are shortcuts if you don't want to do the whole walk. Note some paths on this walk are prone to flooding and can be muddy.

From the Village Hall turn right and take the first turning on the left, south, on to Christchurch Way. This is Bridleway (BR) 25. Follow the BR south, east, then south again until you get to the fence belonging to the old power station site, now a data centre. Turn right, west, on BR 24 and walk 260m to Harwell Road.

Cross Harwell Road and turn left, south, to the gate into the field on your right, Kelaart's Field. In Kelaart's Field take one of the paths, heading diagonally, south west, to the bridge over Moor Ditch, on the far side of Kelaart's Field, toward Milton Park. The mapped route follows the permissive path keeping to the left, south, and then following Moor Ditch, west, to the foot/cycle bridge (continuing straight over the north side of the dead-end road which also bridges Moor Ditch on the way).

Take the foot/cycle bridge into Milton Park and follow the shared use cycle pedestrian path west then south, across Park Drive at the crossing, continue south and then west parallel with the railway to Backhill tunnel, on the left (south). The building on the right, before you get to the tunnel, is 99 Park Drive, there is a new café, Pierrepont Café, managed by Julia, which is open to the public. Continue across the face of the tunnel on to the bark-covered path running between the duck pond and the railway, until it goes right and links back up with Park Drive.

Follow Park Drive west to the junction with High St Milton, on the right (north). Cross Park Drive North. Then cross Milton High St, west, where you will find Milton's FP 14. Follow FP 14 south-west under the A34. After the underpass, turn right, north west, and continue on Milton's FP 18. After 350m you will reach the boundary with Steventon Parish, where Milton's FP 7 joins from the right. Continue west on Steventon's FP 15. After 220m you will see the entrance to Steventon's FP 13 on your right, north. Take FP 13 north, across the wooden bridge over the Ginge Brook, north to the stile and on to Kennel Lane. Follow Kennel Lane north west, for 350m, noting the Tudor houses, until you reach The Green, Steventon. Cross The Green, north west to the north corner of The Green on Abingdon Road, B4017.

Follow the B4017, north, using the pavement on the west side for about 300m until you see Farmhouse Bakery on your right. Here you can take a break and enjoy a nice coffee and bacon bap, if your partner will let you!

When suitably revitalised, leave the bakery turning left back along the B4017 to the Green. This time walk back across The Green, south east, keeping to the left on Steventon's FP 19, with the ditch on your left. The path turns right, south west, where it is paved (crazy paving), this is FP 3. After about 50m there is a small concrete bridge over the ditch on your left. Cross the ditch, south, passing the Thames Water pumping station and cross the second small concrete bridge over the second ditch, turn immediately left, east, on Steventon's BR 12 part of the Vale Way. As you follow the cobbled path for about 400m to the parish boundary with Milton, look out for the deer in 'By The Meadow Farm' to the north. The path continues as Milton's BR 5, an unmade path below the level

of the ditch on your right. The water in this ditch is usually higher than the path and surrounding fields, which often flood.

Milton's BR 5 continues over the footbridge, across the A34. On the far side, at the bottom of the steps, turn left and continue on BR 5, north east, still part of the Vale Way, north then east around the back of Milton Manor. After walking 450m east on BR 5, now a metalled track, on your right, south, you will see a narrow path between the high walls of the Manor with offset barriers, Milton FP 8. Take FP 8, south, past Saint Blaise's Church then turn left, east, through the church yard or along the road past the Plum Pudding Public House to High St, Milton.

Cross the High St, turning right and then left, east, on School Lane. Follow the lane south east, back to Milton FP 4, Finger Post on the left, east. This is the continuation of the Vale Way. Follow the path east for 650m passed the houses and across the field to the cycle track on Kelaart's Field. Turn left, north, on the cycle track (shared cycle and footpath – Milton FP 1 and Vale Way) for 400m to Sutton Road/Milton Road.

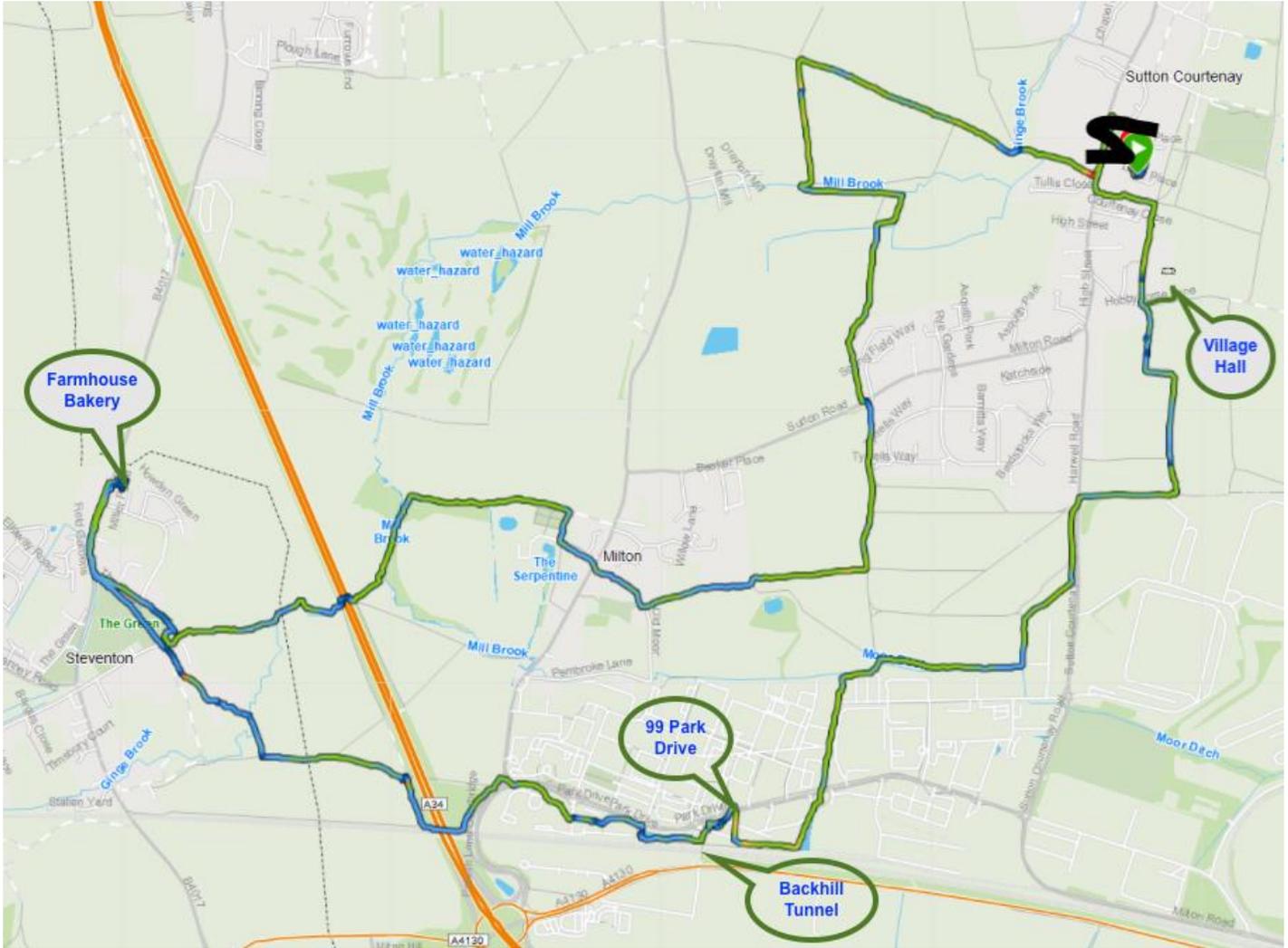
Take care and cross Milton Road to Frog Hole, the narrow-unmade path going north along the side of the houses, Sutton Courtenay FP 21. This is still the Vale Way and we will follow it until we reach Drayton East Way. This often-muddy path goes north along the edge of the houses and on along the hedgerow and ditch. The PROW is on the other side (east) of the ditch but an unmade but maintained path runs along the west side before crossing over further north where you will see a narrow wooden bridge over a ditch. After crossing the bridge, into Drayton FP 10, turn right, east, for about 50m before turning back north and continuing along the ditch until you reach the Ginge Brook again.

Turn left and follow the Ginge Brook upstream until you reach another narrow wooden bridge on the right, north, over the Ginge Brook. After the bridge turn right then left, the path crosses the middle of the field but is a maintained gravel path. Continue north until you reach a track going east/west. This is Drayton East Way. The Vale Way continues north across the middle of the next field before continuing north along Peep-O-Day Lane to Abingdon. However, we will turn right, east along Drayton East Way, Drayton's path No. 1, back to Sutton Courtenay, back across the Ginge Brook, for the last time, on to Mill Lane, Sutton Courtenay BR 26, then on to the High Street.

Turn right, south, on the High St, find Doctors Lane Path, FP 8, on the left, east, between 53 and 55 High St. The path is a narrow gravel path between houses for 170m then turn right, south, at the end of the houses, on to FP 27 for 280m. About half way along it becomes Frilsham St. At the south corner, junction with Hobbyhorse Lane and Christchurch Way, turn left on byway 9 west for 100m, along Hobbyhorse Lane, back to the Village Hall.



# MAP FOR THE PATH LESS TRAVELLED BY SIMON LAZARE



## ALL SAINTS' SINGERS



Past and present members of All Saints' Singers enjoyed a splendid tea party in the River Room recently to thank Patrick Salisbury for his presidency. Patrick founded this choir in 1982, forty years ago next year, and retired as president earlier this year. He was presented with a glass inscribed with the choir's logo. The main part of his present will establish the **Patrick Salisbury Prize for Musical Endeavour** to be awarded every year to a Sutton Courtenay child of school age.



Patrick Salisbury with Sandra Knowles, the current chairman.

### Do You Enjoy Singing?

**All Saints' Singers of Sutton Courtenay  
are looking for new members**



Research has shown that singing in a choir is good for you – it improves well-being, helps memory, posture and breathing, and reduces stress.

Come and reap the benefits of singing together!  
We are a friendly community choir with an excellent music director.  
There is no audition, and it is not necessary to be able to read music.

**Please visit our website for details**

[www.allsaintssingers.org](http://www.allsaintssingers.org)

**07870 506774**

### STOP PRESS

Rehearsals are starting 17<sup>th</sup> September in All Saints' Church to sing Haydn's 'Te Deum in C' & Mozart's 'Sparrow Mass'



## WE'RE BACK!

We've started our meetings again

- in July we met (safely!) - laughed and shared our experiences during lockdown,
- August is our 'Roaring Twenties' BBQ
- in September we'll have fun painting self-portraits and in October we'll celebrate Autumn with a tasty Harvest Supper!

We meet every third Tuesday of the month in the River Room, Sutton Courtenay at 7.30pm

If you wish to join us, contact our Secretary on 847612 for information



It is with great pleasure that Sutton Courtenay WI have been able to donate a new bench on the village green for all to enjoy. It was made possible through fund raising for a year during lockdown.

The WI was 100 years old in Sutton Courtenay in May this year, and we thought it should be remembered. Members decided that the bench would be a benefit to all in the village. We held a little ceremony to declare that the bench was available for all to enjoy. We then, by kind permission of the landlord of the George and Dragon, held a picnic in his garden.

We would like to thank C and N Autos for placing the bench and securing it down for us.

If anyone in the village would like to join us do come along to your first meeting free to see if you think it's something you would like to do.

PS. you will find we don't do much jam and Jerusalem.

Margaret Hamilton



## HEALTHWATCH



### Using interpreters – tell us your views!

Have you, your family members or friends used interpreters for health and care appointments or treatments? We'd like to hear from you about what it's like using interpreters in Oxfordshire. Whether you've used interpreters for GP, dentist, hospital appointments and treatments or for other health and social care services, we want to hear your views! Please tell us what worked well, and what could be better. We'd particularly like to hear from you if English isn't your first language, or you use British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters. You can give your own views or help give the views of relatives or friends or someone you support in your work.

Please take time to fill in our short, anonymous survey at [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/usinginterpreters](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/usinginterpreters)

We will share what you tell us with local health and care decision-makers to help shape the support people need and improve services. Please ask us if you need this survey in another language, a paper copy or in large print. If you want our help filling in the survey or to tell us your story of using interpreters, please contact us by calling **01865 520520** or emailing [hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk](mailto:hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk)



Photo by Shirley Rance



The countryside charity

The latest consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 has now been launched and runs until 8 October.

The Oxfordshire Plan will set the development framework for the county for the next generation. It will affect all Oxfordshire residents, either directly (through development) or indirectly (through impacts on services, infrastructure, our countryside and rural character).

CPRE Oxfordshire is fighting to make sure that the growth options are deliverable without undue damage to our countryside and to ensure good policy proposals for getting to net zero and restoring nature. That means guiding development to the right places and building high-quality compact housing to make the best use of scarce land.

**We urge you to respond to the consultation – it is our best chance of influencing both the outcomes of this Plan and the OxCam Arc proposals.**

**Have your say NOW – it’s too late to act when the bulldozers arrive.**

Find more information on the CPRE Oxfordshire website [www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)

Julia Benning | Communications Manager

It has been quiet on the lake over the past two months, carp have been caught by members who put in the hours, not just fishing but putting in the hours. We have suffered this year with very heavy weed growth, so to get the business end of your tackle to the floor of the lake, where the fish tend to eat, it is necessary to rake your swim, then move the weed to the dump area. This has been invaluable with rewards to those involved. Of course, some anglers watching where others have toiled have also gained, that is the way of the world.

Fish caught have proved to be in fine condition, with the younger fish putting on weight over the last seven years showing in the high teens and even low twenty range. Very good bream are also showing, to the agitation of the purists, but if every time your alarm went off it was a thirty carp where’s the fun or skill in that? Variety is the spice of most activities.

The lake is looking good, with the lilies putting on quite a grand display. The hollyhocks are beginning to fade but have done well. We now seem to have five resident swans; they don’t appear to be breeding this year - do they know something about this winter coming? The kingfishers are doing well, but we have had a very poor show from our summer visitors, the swallows and martins.

We have a work party on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September so come along and watch as we do our best to improve our fishery, and your view on your walks.

Roger Rance

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editorial Team

The other week I was walking along Ginge Brook in the field where horses are kept, when I came across a couple from Abingdon picking up litter from near the stream.

They had come to Sutton Courtenay to enjoy the beautiful scenery here but were concerned by the litter a group had left behind. Of particular concern was the fact that the litterers had taken the trouble to cut up metal drinks cans into small shards, posing not just a hazard to the animals that graze the field but also to anyone walking barefoot next to the stream.

This couple went to considerable effort to tidy up the plastic and sharp metal shards to keep our neighbourhood clean and safe. Thank you to those kind people.

We all must take care of ourselves and our environment.

**Anne Leonard**



Metal shards from drinks cans



Rubbish left lying around!



Common Toadflax

**SC-CYCLE**

Single-drawer filing cabinet with stationery drawer. On casters, with wood sides and black top.

Nick Dunton

07774 838310

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

Volunteers needed to look after horses at Milton Manor, in return for rides.

Anthony Mockler - Contact via 07946 474238

## REST IN PEACE

**Jacqueline Mathews** (known as Jacqui) who died on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 was born in Faringdon on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1920. She did not have an easy childhood and moved to Milton to live with her Gran and was brought up by her until her Gran died. She had two half sisters, Barbara and Christine. She attended school locally and then went to the Council School in Abingdon before leaving to go into service – working first for a family in Rowstock – who were very kind to her and treated her well – and then at a College in Oxford. The family are not sure how she met her future husband, Lawrence Mathews, but their courtship involved a lot of cycling between Sutton Courtenay and Oxford for both of them! They were married in Milton Church and set up home together at 2 Harwell Road before moving to number 19. They went on to have six children – Jim, Richard, Susan, David, Pauline and Rose. She was a good Mum – firm but fair.

Jacqui was a lovely cook – not just making delicious homemade meals to feed the family but also making cakes for a variety of people and occasions – from birthdays to weddings. She was a great knitter – making jumpers and tank tops for all the family and was also good at smocking – making dresses for the girls when they were in fashion. Bringing up a large family was always a challenge and Jim and Richard, in particular, always seemed to be up to some sort of mischief and, even well into adulthood, were always playing tricks and teasing her.

Jacqui always remembered the time during the war when some soldiers marched down the cinder track past their house and Jimmy followed on behind without anyone realizing – he was eventually found at Culham swimming with the soldiers in the river! She also had vivid memories of the practice parachute drop when hundreds of soldiers descended from the sky but not all their parachutes made it back to their base as they were highly prized as a precious dress material.

As well as caring for her family she was always busy helping run the family business in partnership with Lawrence. Once she had passed her driving test – which she took many times before she succeeded – she would often help out in the shop or drive deliveries around the local area.

In the wider community she was a founder member of the Camera Club in Sutton Courtenay and enjoyed their regular

meetings. She loved bingo in the Village Hall and was a member of the WI. She used to bring Rose to choir practice in the church and was always a helpful and friendly neighbour who became known as ‘Gran’ to many young people as they were growing up in the village. Sadly, she was widowed at a relatively young age when Lawrence died after a long illness throughout which Jacqui nursed and cared for him.

After Lawrence died, she did make a once in a lifetime trip to Australia and she always enjoyed holidays in Cornwall. And when she was 75 years old, she made the move to Penryn, near Falmouth, where she soon made friends with her supportive neighbours. But home was always Sutton Courtenay and she remained interested in the village and the lives of all those she knew here. She spent the last two years of her life in the Godolphin House Care Home in Helston where she was well looked after.

Jacqui was a kind woman, a supportive wife, a good mother and a friend and a Gran to many. She had a good sense of humour but could, on occasion, be sarcastic. She was always a straight talker - you knew where you were with her. And she was never afraid to speak her mind. But she was also a good listener. She always tried to help if she could. She was strong-willed and proud of her independence well into later life. She was a bit of a perfectionist and liked things to be done right and in the proper way. But, above all, Jacqui was a person whose entire life was focused on her family and who put loving and caring for them before anything else. She was very proud of her children and the subsequent generations of the expanding family.

*Her funeral took place in All Saints’ Church on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and this is an edited extract of the address given at her funeral by the Reverend Helen Kendrick.*

**Dylan Hayden**, a member of the Abbey Community in Sutton Courtenay, whose funeral took place in All Saints’ Church, Sutton Courtenay on Thursday 22nd July. It was a Greek Orthodox Funeral conducted by Father Ian, a Greek Orthodox Priest from Oxford.



Himalayan Balsam near the Thames in Sutton Courtenay

# DONKATHON



*Mrs Polly Vacher MBE, Melhuish Farm, Wallingford Road, North Moreton, OX11 9BA*  
*tel: +44 (0)1235 817554, mobile: +44 (0)7876 681669, e-mail: pvacher@aol.com*  
[www.donkathon.org](http://www.donkathon.org)

On a cloudy but dry June day there was a special send off for the two donkeys, Wizard and Muffin and our standard poodle Nelson. We had a catering bus selling bacon butties and two pipers to send us on our way. I remember thinking as we drove through Appleford and Sutton Courtenay on our way to Drayton, our first overnight stop, 'take one day at a time' and this is what we did. The Donkathon had begun.

We had a large banner over the carriage which read '**DONKATHON FOR MS RESEARCH**'. This was a stroke of genius as all along the route people stopped us for a chat and to give us a donation. We raised over £4,000 in our collecting boxes this way. Our route took us through Burford and into the Cotswolds. Some of the hills were a challenge for the donkeys but when we came to steep hills everyone except the driver got off the carriage and walked. On country lanes Nelson ran alongside the carriage. Of course, hills go down as well as up and the old adage is true '*Going uphill the donkeys sweat – going downhill the driver sweats!*' Travelling through the network of country lanes at 2 mph was a special privilege. You see and hear so much that is just not possible to hear or see from a car. At Notgrove we had a warm welcome from Notgrove Holidays, one of our sponsors and in the next village of Kinton we had a ford to cross. This is very near the Cotswold Farm Park and Adam Henson (from Countryfile) came out to help us across the ford.

Excitement mounted as we entered Wales but frustration as well. The border is not a straight line and we found ourselves weaving in and out of Wales. We have several different photos of 'Welcome to Wales' signs! The weather was warmer, but the donkeys thrived on the warmth even if the humans found it more stifling.

On the last day nostalgia set in – we had had such an amazing experience we didn't want it to end. At St Melangell we had the warmest of welcomes and the donkeys held their heads high as a clapping crowd awaited our arrival. As soon as the donkeys were settled in their field shelter Christine Browne (Vicar of St Melangell) held a moving service outside in the donkey field. She had worked hard at researching references to donkeys in the bible and wove the service cleverly around that. It was an emotional time as John Hughes – the singing farmer accompanied himself on his guitar for another rendering of 'the Donkathon song' (see [www.donkathon.org](http://www.donkathon.org)).

For more details check out the 'Daily Blog' on [www.donkathon.org](http://www.donkathon.org) where you will also find the full script of the service at St Melangell.

Money is still coming in and you can still donate on the website but currently the total stands at over £43,000 for MS Research. A huge thank you to everyone.



Leaving Little Barrington



Being led through a ford at Kinton by Adam Henson (from Countryfile)

By Mikal Ludlow, photographer



It has been a difficult time for our Scout group: as with many other organisations we were badly affected by COVID restrictions, and our usual meetings were held online for many months. Our longstanding group leader resigned from his position, and the number of active members dropped as well.

On a positive note, we re-established the executive committee, and the Cub leader has successfully continued with various training modules. Also, the “hire” of our marquee is going well, and, more importantly, young people are keen to start a new ‘normal’ Scouting again.

But we still have needs! We need more adults to help run the activities.

**HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP!**

Do you remember your youth, and a time when you were a Scout, a Cub or a Beaver yourself? Did you want to be one but there was no local group in your village? Do you have children yourself who want to join Beavers or Cubs? Are you looking for something meaningful to do? Or are you simply looking for something to enhance your CV?

**WE NEED YOU! - WE CANNOT CONTINUE WITHOUT YOU!**

Do you think you could spare 2 hours a week to help with one of the sections? If you think *Yes, I may have the time but no experience* - don't worry about that! Scouts will provide training, ideas and anything you may need to be successful.

Currently, we are the only group in our village which organises activities for children under 10 and it would be a great shame if our children lose this opportunity.

If you would like to have a little chat to find out more we are happy to meet you. Please get in touch.

**Contact:**

Email us for more information

[26thAbingdon@gmail.com](mailto:26thAbingdon@gmail.com).

(Please note, we respond to every email we receive, so if you cannot find our response please check your spam folder or give us a few extra days.)

Magdalena Wyatt

# WANTED

Former Scouts, Cubs and anyone who wants 26<sup>th</sup> Abingdon Sutton Courtenay Scouts group to continue its activities in our great village!

The group has been around for 119 years let us try to continue together for a few more!

BOUNTY

Get in touch: [26thAbingdon@gmail.com](mailto:26thAbingdon@gmail.com)

COMMENTS

Let's get children outside again  
Let's give children chance to be children  
Let's all have fun

6	7		9	8		5	1	3
5	1		3					
						6		
			8	5			2	
			2		7		8	6
2			6		3	9	5	
1			4		9	8		5
3	5					4	9	1
8			1				3	2

By Sudokuweb.org

**Sutton Courtenay theme - part two**

C D L E I F G N I R P S  
 A H N O T L I M Y S E O  
 S A U K M I N S W U L S  
 W W L R S C G E H T Y D  
 G T D N C K E W K T R E  
 N H W A D H Y P I O G N  
 O O S F J T M L F N H A  
 T R E D K I T E A M U M  
 Y N M Z Y S L E R R Y T  
 A S T C I P B L N E K I  
 R O O R P L L E W R A H  
 D E W A R B L E R D A Y

Appleford (Road)	Skylark (Fields)
Churchmere	Spring Filed (Way)
Drayton (Road)	Sutton (Road)
Ginge (Brook)	(The) Hawthorns
Harwell (Road)	Town (Close)
Milton (Road)	Tyrrells (Way)
Red Kite (Close)	Warbler (View)

Editor's note: Spring 'Field' is the clue above rather than 'Filed'.

Puzzles by Magdalena Wyatt

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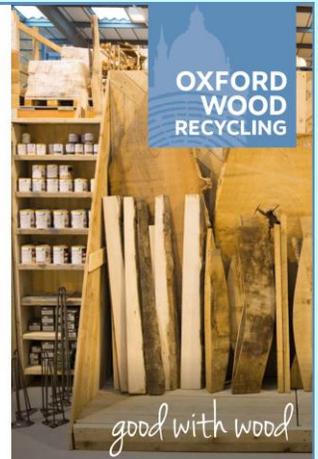
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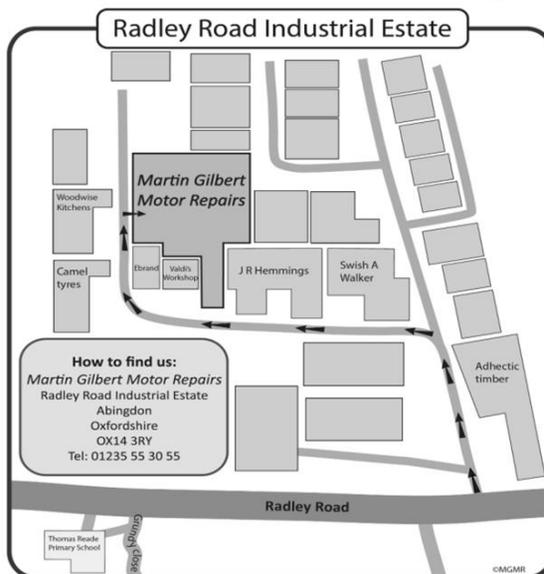
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