



SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS



VOLUME 41 No. 6

JULY 2012

DIAMOND JUBILEE EDITION

VILLAGE DIARY

The Diary is compiled from entries in the Village Diary kept at Burgrey Stores. Please enter your events in this Diary.

JULY				
Sun	1st	1pm	Olympic Fun Day	Recreation Ground
Tue	3rd	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tue	3rd	7.30pm	Spiritual Fellowship	Village Hall
Tue	10th	2pm	Womens Christian Fellowship Garden Party	23 Harwell Rd
Tue	17th	7.30pm	WI talk on Wartime Evacuees	Village Hall
Sun	22nd	6pm	Parish Proms 'The charm of the cello'	Church
Sun	29th	6pm	Parish Proms 'A treasury of vocal gems'	Church
AUG				
Sat	4th	10-12 noon	WI Bring and Buy Coffee Morning	37 Church St
Sun	5th	6pm	Parish Proms 'Duettists' delight'	Church
Sun	12th	5pm	Parish Proms 'Fascinating flute'	Church
Wed	22nd		COPY DAY FOR SEPTEMBER SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS	
SEPT				
Sat	1st	2pm	Produce and Craft Show	Village Hall



All contributions for the next edition should be e-mailed to editor@suttoncourtenay.co.uk or taken to Changes in Milton Rd or Burgrey Stores in the High St on or preferably before the copy date entered in the Diary above. To have any contribution published you must provide your name & contact details to the Editors. To advertise, e-mail advertising@suttoncourtenay.co.uk or telephone 07831-526784



VILLAGE CONTACTS

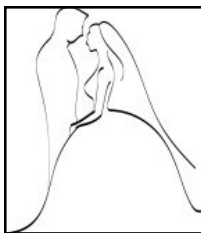
	Contact	Telephone
County Councillor: (Schools, Roads etc.)	Stewart Lilly 2 Hengest Gate, Harwell Village	832867
District Councillor: (Planning, Waste etc.)	Gervase Duffield Appleford House, Appleford	848319
Parish Council Chairman	Michael Jenkins Danluda, Churchmere Road	847174
Bookings for Village Hall	Rita Atkinson Caroline Grundy	848694 848697
Sutton Courtenay Website	www.suttoncourtenay.co.uk	
Environment Agency: Odours from Landfill		0800 80 70 60

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Various organisations have permanent bookings for use of the Village Hall on certain days of the week. Local individuals or organisations may nonetheless enter one-off bookings for events which clash with permanent bookings. **At least seven weeks notice must be given to Rita Atkinson (848694) or Caroline Grundy (848679) of the hall management team, e-mail: scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com** This allows one week for them to convey the needful six weeks notice to whichever organization had the permanent booking.

ALMSHOUSE VACANCY

Applications are invited for the vacant almshouse which is a bedsit. Preference will be given to elderly widows with a connection to Sutton Courtenay. For further information please contact Mrs. Rosemary Allen, The Orchard, Mill Lane, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, OX14 4BE. Tel. 01235 848667.



HOLY MATRIMONY

WE SEND OUR BEST WISHES & CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING WHO WERE MARRIED IN ALL SAINTS' CHURCH RECENTLY

Philip David Thomas & Alison Clare Rayner on Saturday 26th May 2012



HOLY BAPTISM

WE SEND OUR BEST WISHES & CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING WHO WERE WELCOMED INTO THE FAMILY OF THE CHURCH THROUGH BAPTISM

Ethan Thomas Argent & Lexie Faith Argent on Sunday 20th May

This newsletter is produced by the editors, Diane Armstrong and Clare Pennicott, and Peter Draper, who is in charge of advertising. Our contact details are:

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Burglaries/Theft

Sutton Courtenay has a low crime rate and is usually a very safe place to live. There have, however, been burglaries and siphoning of petrol of late. Residents are warned to be vigilant and take sensible measures to ensure that they do not experience problems. Individuals and groups such as neighbourhood watch schemes and community groups can receive free crime alerts and information via email or telephone, so that they know what is going on in the area. Should you be interested in registering to receive information, then visit www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk for further details and to register.

Low Flying helicopters

Complaints are being received about low flying helicopters. The Parish Council has contacted RAF Benson. They have advised that exercises after dark are undertaken, and that in the Summer months, given the lighter evenings, this is not until very late evening. They are planning a briefing in due course which representatives from Parish Council will attend. In the meantime, should anyone have concerns about low flying aircraft, then contact RAF Benson Low Flying Complaints Team on 01292 837766 extension 5218 or email BEN-OPSWG-STNOPS@mod.uk

Footpaths

Owing to the contrasts in weather this Summer with heavy rain followed by sun, the hedgerows and grass seem to have become overgrown in places. The Parish Council does have some statutory powers to assist the County Council in the maintenance of public footpaths, but would ask landowners to keep the public rights of way clear and any stiles and gates in good condition.

Materials Recycling Facility- Landfill Site

A planning application was lodged by WRG some while ago for the continued development of a permitted recycling facility at the landfill site. Previous consent existed for a small building, but the more recent application increased the size of the building and enabled the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) to be constructed and operated without the construction of the In Vessel Composting (IVC) which was part of the previously approved plans. The Parish Council lodged an objection to this, and spoke against the application at the County Council's planning and regulation committee. They were supported by Cllr. Lilly, the County Councillor, who too spoke at the meeting. The County Council, however, approved the application.

Courtenay Close

The Parish Council has received comments about potential dangers both to pedestrians and motorists crossing and leaving Courtenay Close, given the lack of visibility owing to the high wall. The difficulty is not unique to that location as there are several high walls and hedges next to vehicle accesses around the village. Please be mindful of the dangers whichever driveway you are crossing, and perhaps motorists could emerge from their gateways and drives with caution. It would be most unfortunate should there be an accident through lack of forethought.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered by the Council at its last meeting:

P12/V0982 Alterations, extension and raising the roof to form chalet bungalow
40 Harwell Road
The Parish Council had no objections

P12/V0972 Ground floor extension and first floor extension to include raising the roof
with bedrooms
20 Appleford Road
The Parish Council had no objections

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS CONTINUED

P12/V0981 Replacement for existing studio building with flood resilient dwelling
West Wilden, Brook Street
The Parish Council objected

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxon OX13 6PU Tel: 01865 391833
or email@ info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd July, 2012 in the village hall, Frilsham Street at 7.30 p.m.

FROM ED VAIZEY MP

In November, we will be asked to go to the polls and vote for a position which has never been elected before – an elected Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner who will be responsible for choosing and implementing the policing priorities for Thames Valley Police (TVP). In preparation for this, the TVP has released a report called “Policing the Thames Valley: How We Cut Crime and Protect Our Community” which you can read on-line <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/>. If you don't have access to the internet I can send you a copy. The report has some interesting statistics: there were 8,600 fewer victims of violent crime and 22,500 fewer victims of crime than last year; burglaries are also down by nearly 4,000, which is also very impressive. The report also lays out the current strategies and procedures of the TVP, it gives a detailed analysis of how they work with communities and neighbourhood groups and it also gives case studies of how they deal with all varieties of policing matters from personal theft to policing Royal Ascot. In short it outlines every reason we should be proud of our local police force and gives you everything you need to make an informed decision on polling day.

I was surprised to learn recently that the author of *The Wind in the Willows*, Kenneth Grahame, used to live in Blewbury – yet another reason to be proud of this constituency's rich history. We also boast Agatha Christie and George Orwell in the literary stakes. To celebrate the 90th anniversary of Grahame's death (July 6) pupils of Blewbury Primary School and others gathered to unveil an English Heritage Blue Plaque which has been put on the house where Grahame lived with his family.

As the Olympics are around the corner, here is the constituency's link: the youngest ever British Male Olympian is from Wallingford. Ken Lester, who coxed a pair in the Rome Olympics 1960, was a member of Wallingford Rowing Club and has lived in the town all his life. He's still very much involved in rowing in the town, and is the current Mayor's Consort since his wife, Ros Lester, became Mayor in May this year. Interestingly, the last Olympics in London (1948) were also held while Cllr Lester was Mayor of Wallingford - not exactly the same Cllr Lester, but members of the same distinguished local family!

Finally, I am delighted to hear that 3 more rowers from Wallingford have been selected for the Olympic Squad in 2012- Lindsey Maguire and Katie Greves are in the Women's Eight and Zac Purchase in the Men's Lightweight Double Sculls. Zac won a gold medal in Beijing. I'm sure everyone will join me in sending them our very best wishes.

As ever please feel free to contact me at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350
vaizeye@parliament.uk. Surgery details can be found at www.vaizey.com.

SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Focus on Pupil Voice

In the last few years, 'pupil voice' has been an important element of school life. This enables pupils to have a say in how and what they learn and to give their opinions and thoughts on a range of issues across the school and to suggest improvements. This is done in a variety of ways within our school: School Council, pupil questionnaires, discussion groups, mentoring and pupil's carrying out their own inspection!

Our school will not be alone in having a '**School Council**'. This is made up of a group of children from across the school that have been voted on to the council by their peers. The children in the council know that they have a responsibility to their class mates to bring up issues that they have concerns over and also to help plan some of the events in the school calendar. Most notably, this has been to decide which charities to support over the year. This year the School Council supported Sports Relief and raised over £700.

One of the most popular activities that the School Council get involved with is to help with teaching appointments. They are always very proud to be helping with this task. During one of our meetings I work with the children to devise some questions – and they always come up with some very interesting ones! The whole group interviews the candidates, supported by a member of staff and then pass on their thoughts and recommendations to the panel. I know, from experience, that it is quite daunting being interviewed by the children, but it is a very important part of the selection process.

At the end of May another group of children were selected to carry out their own 'Pupil Inspection' of the school. They had a full day of inspection to carry out! They interviewed over 60 children throughout the day and came up with some key findings: football causes issues on the field - we have now reorganised this and there was a request for more maths equipment. The children they spoke to reported that they really enjoy their topics and feel they have learnt so much from them. They also praised the marking system that the school uses as it makes 'it really easy to identify what we have to do to improve'. The full report was shared with staff and parents of the school.

Thank you!

This year the school has been the chosen charity for Sutton Courtenay WI and we are incredibly grateful for their kind donation of £200. This has been used to purchase instruments for the school to use within their music lessons. Thank you also to all those that supported our May Fun Day in all sorts of ways: the WI for running the tea tent all afternoon, and all those that donated, spent money and helped us to raise over £1500. This will be used to create a Food Technology room within the school for the children to develop their cooking skills.

Alison Ashcroft

Headteacher

www.suttoncourtenayprimary.co.uk

Telephone 01235 848333



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS' SUTTON COURTENAY

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS', SUTTON COURTENAY

Priest-in charge: The Reverend Helen Kendrick (848297) Helen@kendricks.fsnet.co.uk

Churchwardens: Mary Warrington (847346) & David McKenzie (847489) **Treasurer:** Lynn Cabbage (848768)

Director of Music: Ian Miles (01235 426109, mob 07788 715873) **Tower Captain:** John Napper (848292)

Children's Church: Vivienne Maunders (848077) **Verger:** Bill Clarke (847183) **Sacristan:** Pamela Vivian

Flowers: Pat Napper (848292) **Women's Christian Fellowship:** Rose Woodward (848510) **Friends:** Nora Harragin (848235)

MONTHLY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

1st Sunday: Family Service at 10.30am

2nd Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 10.30am (with Children's Church) and Evensong at 6pm

3rd Sunday: Morning Worship at 10.30am (with Children's Church), & Evening Praise at 6pm

4th Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 10.30am (with Children's Church)

Wednesday: BCP Holy Communion at 9.45am

Going for Gold... The kind of winning that matters

It cannot have escaped your attention that the 2012 London Olympics (27th July to 12th August, Paralympics 29th August to 9th September) are fast approaching. A total of 26 sports in 38 disciplines (20 sports and 21 disciplines for Paralympics) will gather millions of people to three arenas in the Olympic Park in Stratford in East London and other venues, such as Wimbledon, Wembley Stadium and the O2 - some 9.2 million tickets have been made available. Many millions more will watch the Olympics on television or the Internet.

The arrival of the Olympic Games in London signals an increased interest in all things sporting. In school PE lessons, in sports clubs, in training gyms up and down the land, the Games will provide the motivation to spur people on to greater heights of physical stamina. Whether it's just about healthy living and getting fit, or competing to win at something, more and more emphasis will be put on sport and recreation over the coming months.

This global event we're about to experience was very familiar to the writers of the New Testament. The Greeks had hosted the first ever Games in 776 BC, so they were something of a fixture by the time Jesus was alive.

St Paul made several references to athletics competitions in his teachings on discipleship. So, we can assume people have long since found spiritual inspiration in an event which, on the face of it, seems so physical.

Though Paul uses the illustration of sport to teach on discipline and stamina, his main purpose for using it is to teach about persevering to win. He speaks of prizes and trophies – all things which seem rather worldly and irrelevant to us in our daily walk with God. Yet Paul is challenging his readers to think about what kind of winning matters to them. As they watch the races between world-class athletes, as they hone their own bodies to be fit and healthy, what goal are they really pursuing? What prize do they most want to win? Is it man's or is it God's?

As the nation goes 'sport crazy', we, as the Church have the responsibility of challenging people to think about the eternal score-board. And of praying that the Games will cause people to ask deeper questions about their lives.

And so we pray:

Lord, when we see greatness in sport, on TV, in life in general. When we see great names perform or compete, when we see great achievements. We pray that this would encourage and inspire us to excel in our own spheres of life so that we might exert influence and see transformation for the sake of your Kingdom. Help us realise that we can do nothing of Kingdom value by ourselves but only as we are dependent upon, and are energised by, your Holy Spirit. Help us to consider everything we have attained in this life as loss compared with the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord to whom we give all the glory. We seek greatness for His Kingdom in every context in which you have called us to serve. In His name which is the name above every name – Jesus Christ the King – Amen

NB A Special Family Service to Celebrate the 2012 Olympics will be held at 10.30am in All Saints' Church on Sunday 1st July before the Olympic Fun Day on the Recreation Ground – All welcome!

With love and prayers, Helen

The Reverend Helen Kendrick, Priest-in-Charge of Sutton Courtenay with Appleford

RAISING THE TEMPERATURE CHURCH HEATING APPEAL

As recorded in the Sutton Courtenay News in May All Saints' Church launched an appeal to raise £30,000 and in six weeks we have met our target. We have been overwhelmed by the response and would like to thank everyone who has contributed in anyway. At the time of going to press £25,630 has been given or pledged and with Gift Aid of £5,755 this brings us to a Grand Total of **£31,385**. With a grant of £5,000 from the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and the money from the Friends of All Saints' Church and all the relevant permissions in place we are now ready to start work on Monday 27th August (yes the Heating Contractors do work on Bank Holidays).

Please note that during September/October regular Sunday & Wednesday services will still take place but no bookings for weddings or baptisms will be taken. We will do our best to accommodate funerals – but there will be some disruption and the church will be dusty! We ask for your understanding at this time.

Some preliminary work will be done through the summer (so as not to clash with weddings) and the new dais and carpet should be completed by early November. Once the work is finished we will be holding a Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving – watch this space for details!

We are now looking ahead to the next fundraising challenge for the building of new (disabled) toilet and kitchen facilities and a meeting room. If you have not yet contributed to the appeal but wish to do so then all donations will still be gratefully received.

CHURCH DIARY FOR JULY

- **Sunday 1st July** – Olympic Fun Day on the Recreation Ground – 1-4pm
 - **Friday 6th** – 1pm Wedding at All Saints'
 - **Monday 9th** – 8pm Holiday Club Planning Meeting at the Vicarage.
 - **Tuesday 10th** – 2pm Women's Christian Fellowship Garden Party at 23 Harwell Road.
 - **Friday 20th** – 10am Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School Leavers' Service at All Saints'
 - **Saturday 21st** – 2pm Wedding at All Saints'
 - **Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th** – Church Holiday Club
 - **Sunday 22nd** – 6pm Parish Prom at All Saints'
- Sunday 29th** – No service at All Saints' – 12 noon DAMASCUS Group Lunch and Service at St Michael's Steventon followed by walk to Milton and afternoon service at 3pm at St Blaise, Milton (transport will be available for those unable to walk). 6pm Parish Prom at All Saints'

CHURCH DIARY FOR AUGUST

- **Saturday 4th** – 1pm Wedding at All Saints'
- **Sunday 5th** - 6pm Parish Prom at All Saints'
- **Saturday 11th** – 2pm Wedding at All Saints'
- **Sunday 12th** - 5pm Parish Prom at All Saints'
- **Saturday 18th** – 2pm Wedding at All Saints'
- **Saturday 25th** – 12 noon Wedding at All Saints' and 3pm Wedding at All Saints'
- **Monday 27th** – Work on installation of new heating system at All Saints' begins.
- **Tuesday 28th** – Choir and Junior Church Summer Outing to Seaside.

CHURCH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

- **Sunday 2nd** – Duck Race (subject to water levels) – keep an eye out for posters!

Saturday 8th – Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

The **JUBILATION CELEBRATIONS** on **Sunday 3rd June** were a great example of community spirit triumphing over adversity. It is a real credit to the hard work of many people that a large crowd braved the elements to gather together and picnic in the festively decorated Church; enjoy the spectacle of the Thames Pageant on the large screen; sample the delicious Cream Teas served by the WI and just enjoy one another's company. On the Village Green one brave family put up their own tent and others enjoyed decorating their own commemorative plate or mug or cupcake. Meanwhile music from the past 60 years played out through the rain to keep everyone's spirits up. It might not have been the sun drenched day we had hoped for but it certainly put a smile on many faces as we celebrated together and were certainly 'Singing in the Rain'! Thank you to everyone who made it possible. *Helen*

**And Get Set for the Olympic Themed
Children's Summer Holiday Club 2012
Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th July.
from 10-3pm.**

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE
The cost for both days is £10 per child.

If you would like to register your child/children then please contact
Helen Kendrick on 01235 848297 or helen@kendricks.fsnet.co.uk

This is run by All Saints' Church, SC and St Peter's Church, Drayton – It will be held in the School Hall, Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School by kind permission of the Headteacher.

REST IN PEACE

We send our condolences and the assurance of our prayers to the family and friends of the following:

Neville Johnson Grundy (Nev) who died aged 76 on 6th June 2012 was born on 1st January 1936 to Nina and Alan Grundy. The oldest of three children he grew up with his sister, Marie, and brother, Alan in Manchester. On leaving school he did his National Service in the Army and was sent to Didcot Barracks in 1955. It was here that he met his future wife Shirley in the canteen. As Shirley remembers it was love at first sight and they went onto get married in January 1956 in Abingdon Registry Office. They started married life in Sutton Courtenay living in Frilsham Street with Shirley's parents before moving to the estate for 10 years and then to Town Close in May 1968. On leaving the Army, having passed his HGV test, Nev started working at Ameys and then for various car transport companies. In 1965 he made the national press when he fell asleep at the wheel and rolled his lorry. It was reported how the driver escaped with only minor cuts and bruises. Whilst working for STVA Car Transporters he was awarded Driver of the Year. He loved his lorries and treated every one of them as if it was his own. He never got lost and never used Sat Nav. Nev retired at 65 but within two months he was back driving long distance journeys until two years ago when he finally stopped age 74. Even when not working Nev loved being on the road and would make sure that he took the family on holiday for two weeks every summer. He would plan the holidays like a military campaign, navigating his way across the country from pub to pub! As a Dad his children will remember him as a good Dad who was very generous to them. He was always very sociable – would talk to anyone – knew everything that was going on – a good source of information in the village. He had a good sense of humour and enjoyed teasing his ten grandchildren and making his family laugh. Nev liked to think he could fix things but in reality he was a bit of a bodger. From childhood days spent on the farm where his Father had worked he loved animals and had fond memories of his horse Septimus. He loved his dogs and he enjoyed watching the Red Kites come down to feed in the garden. Neville was a hard-working and dedicated man who strived to provide for Shirley and the family. His family were the main focus of his life but he also enjoyed his leisure time in the pub. Always a sociable man he liked nothing better than a pint and a conversation.

Continued....

Stubborn and argumentative he also had a good sense of humour and was a teller of amusing tales and anecdotes. He had an intelligent and enquiring mind. He loved the challenge of crosswords and Sudoku puzzles. His other great passion was of course football – he only supported three teams – Manchester United, Oxford United and Manchester United Reserves. But he enjoyed nothing better than an excursion to a football match and the pub. He will be greatly missed by Shirley and all his family and the many friends who filled All Saints' Church for his funeral on Monday 18th June 2012. *(This is an edited extract from the address given at his funeral by The Reverend Helen Kendrick)*

Derek Pritchard who died aged 85 on 11th June 2012 was born on 20th June 1926 in Prestatyn, North Wales - the youngest of a family of four. His parents, William Elias and Louise Pritchard, owned and ran the main High Street Chemist in the town. Derek was sent to prep school and then attended the Kings School in Chester. On leaving school he went to Liverpool University to study Science. His studies were interrupted when he was called up to join the 16th & 18th Hussars – a Calvary Regiment which became a Tank Regiment - in which he saw active service during the D-Day Landings. He recalled being in the second wave of tanks to land and having to drive over the top of tanks which had already sunk in the waves. He was subsequently involved in reconnaissance work as he spoke fluent German. On being demobbed he returned to Liverpool to complete his studies from where he joined Shell – working in the field of Oil Technology at Ellesmere Port - until he retired. It was whilst working for Shell that Derek, along with five other colleagues, spent his free time in the Shell Laboratories experimenting until they successfully developed some totally indestructible paint. As they had done the research and development at Shell all the rights to the product belonged to the company who promptly sold it to a paint company – who on realising what indestructible paint would do to their profits destroyed the formula and it never reached the open market! Although both Olwen and Derek grew up in Prestatyn they did not meet each other until they were both in Liverpool after the war. They were married in April 1952 in Prestatyn and moved to Brombrough on the Wirral to live and bring up their two children – Graham and Kate. In 1979, shortly after Derek retired they moved to Sutton Courtenay to help Kate with the grandchildren and in recent years the Great-Grandchildren. Over the years Derek and Olwen operated an open door policy welcoming dozens of people – particularly children - into their home and into the life of the family. There was always a lot to talk about and much shared fun and laughter. As a Father he was supportive but not pushy and firm but fair – not taking any nonsense but also very caring. Derek was a highly intelligent man – quiet, reserved and unassuming. He had keen sense of humour and he was a man who would never willingly do anyone harm – even in difficult and challenging times. He was not judgmental and loved his fellow men – he knew how precious life was. He strived to be a considerate and good husband. He loved Olwen dearly – as he once said, 'She is my hobby'! His other hobbies included Deep Sea Fishing – and he owned some beautiful handmade fishing rods. He always had an affinity with animals and was fantastic with horses – perhaps dating back to his time in the Calvary Regiments. Over the years the family enjoyed many holidays in Wales and in retirement Derek and Olwen travelled all over the world – even going to Rome and receiving a blessing from the Pope. Sadly it was shortly after arriving in Sutton Courtenay that Derek experienced a major breakdown and this marked the beginning of his decline into dementia. It is a real tribute to Olwen and the whole family that Derek was able to remain at home for as long as he did – being so well loved and cared for. Sadly two years ago he became very ill and, after a lengthy spell in the Acute Medical Ward at the JR, eventually moved to Hayley, near Witney. Here Derek was well cared for and I know that Olwen is very grateful for the kindness shown to Derek and the family by all the staff. He will be greatly missed by Olwen and all his family and friends. *This is an edited extract of the address given at his funeral held on 19th June in All Saints' Church by the Reverend Helen Kendrick.*

WOMENS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Our June trip to Waddesdon Manor was very successful and all who came enjoyed the day.

Our meeting on 10th July will be our garden party. This year it is being held in Mrs. Joan Moss's garden at the usual time of 2.00pm. If possible please bring a garden chair. Joan lives at 23 Harwell Road.

Rose Woodward
(Secretary)

COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER... OLYMPIC FUN DAY SUNDAY 1ST JULY 2012

ON THE RECREATION GROUND, SUTTON COURTENAY

PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

1pm Opening Ceremony

4pm Prize Giving & Closing Ceremony

All Day Refreshments...

Cash Bar

Hog Roast

B-B-Q

Tea and Cakes

All Day Stalls...

Grand Raffle

Tombola

Bouncy Castle

All Day Fun...

Team Challenges

Fast-fill water in a bucket

Penalty shoot out

Knit-a-thon

Intergenerational egg and
spoon & obstacle races

Dominoes

Many more



COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN
TO HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THE RE-
FURBISHMENT OF THE RECREATION
GROUND

SUTTON COURTENAY SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

On Tuesday 5 June our popular medium David Chapman was present. The congregation was a little smaller, no doubt to it being the Jubilee holiday, but as usual David gave us a great evening, and his messages were gladly received by everyone.

To know more about his work and pictures go to his website, www.davidchapmanspiritualmedium.co.uk

Thanks again to our various helpers.

Tue 3rd July, at Village Hall, meeting with Patrick Carbury

Tue 7th Aug, at Village Hall, meeting with Helen Stroudley

Enquiries-Pat or Sam 01235 847460

BIRD WATCHER

In spring the Crows become very territorial as they prepare to nest and in April near Ginge Brook I saw a pair of Crows attacking a Buzzard which strayed into their territory.

In complete darkness in mid April I heard a male Blackbird in full song. The blackbird is a wonderful songster and its habit of sometimes singing at night has occasionally led to it being mistaken for a Nightingale.

The local Skylarks begin to sing in full song in spring. In winter they give the occasional burst of song, but nothing like the non-stop singing as they hover over their nest. It was formerly thought that the male was defending his territory but now it is thought that he may also be watching for any unattached male mating with his partner.

There seem to be more Mistle Thrushes feeding for worms on the playing fields this year. They look quite like their relatives the Fieldfares, but these have all returned to the Continent by April. In early May I was watching two birds walking towards me on the football field and in the distance I thought they were Mistle Thrushes, but as they got nearer I realised that they were Red Legged Partridges. These are more colourful than our smaller native Grey Partridge. They were originally introduced from the Continent and were then known as French Partridge.



Red Legged Partridge

Letter to Bird Watcher

Extremely happy to inform you that we have a pair of Great Spotted Woodpeckers living on All Saints Lane. They feed daily on the peanut feeder and also on a high energy seed cake. Very exciting as they chat rather a lot which draws your attention to this supposedly inconspicuous bird!

Christina Pilkington

PS also when I bought fat balls containing insects ...robins appeared...if I cannot purchase these and buy the plain ones just blue tits feed.

DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT

In this issue of the Village News we are including a brief overview of our YCAT initiative and are also requesting feedback on your perception of issues relating to drug and alcohol misuse through completion and return of a questionnaire included in this issue. The questionnaire has been based on discussions with focus groups of young people and adults.

As part of a project to provoke young people's thinking and stimulate debate on drug and alcohol misuse, young people are going to put together a leaflet to be distributed to households in the community to raise awareness of these issues. As part of that project we are seeking feedback from adults in the community to establish the general level of awareness that currently exists. This will enable a community-relevant leaflet that addresses perceptions and also factually informs people in the community about risks/dangers and professional support available. Young people will learn a lot in the process of producing the leaflet.

First a brief overview of YCAT



Youth and Community Acting Together

Our support to young people in the DAMASCUS villages is delivered through structured packages of work which we collectively refer to as YCAT. These are:

Street Work (grassroots) - trained youth workers engage with the different groups, build up a needs analysis of the community, establish core relationships with key young people and adults, are a positive presence in the community.

Young Leader Training - young people are trained to be positive role models and provide 1-2-1 support to younger people in the community.

Issue-based focused work – we use young-people led approaches to increase awareness on issues relating to drugs, underage drinking, sexual health and smoking and empower young people to resist negative peer pressure.

Intergenerational events and workshops - we have organised several of these in the villages – e.g. workshops and quiz nights, community litter picks and village events.

Acti-force – a force for positive change - two of our young youth workers run physical-activity based sessions in the villages or local gym.

Weekly sessions in village/community centres

Job/study support – in addition to individual support with agencies, we are also building a network of community support.

Community school link – our young leaders mentor both in the community and at school

Please support us by completing and returning the Questionnaire. Thank you - Rita Atkinson



LOTTERY FUNDED

DAMASCUS Youth Project
Drugs and Alcohol Questionnaire

1. It is clear that in society today drugs and alcohol have become an issue, do you think your community has been affected and if YES, then how?

2. What drugs do you think are most commonly used or what drugs are you aware of? (Please circle) If you don't know please state that.

Cannabis Cocaine Amphetamines (Speed etc) Ketamine Alcohol

Please list any others you of which you are aware:

3. How available do you think drugs are now and has this changed over the years?

4. From our research, the misuse of drugs and alcohol has become more acceptable over the years, why do you think this is?

5. What worries you most about drugs and alcohol misuse in the community?

6. What could we do as a community to support those that have drug or alcohol misuse issues?

DAMASCUS Youth Project Drugs Abuse Questionnaire continued

7. How much factual knowledge do you have about drugs and its effects?

8. What impact would drug or alcohol misuse have on an individual?

9. Do you know what support is available for those who have drug or alcohol misuse issues?

10. Would you attend a short workshop by a professional on drugs and alcohol to increase your awareness? (Please circle)

Yes / No

Thank you for your time.

Return of Questionnaire or request for an electronic copy

Posting boxes have been placed in Burgrey Stores and Sutton Courtenay Primary School and there are also some spare copies left there. Please post your completed questionnaire in one of these boxes.

If you would like to be emailed an electronic copy to complete, please email Gary Hibbins at gary.ycat@gmail.com or Roxy Elford at roxy.ycat@gmail.com or do ring Gary Hibbins on 07766014676.

We do appreciate your time – thank you very much.

Deadline for return 31 July 2012

DAMASCUS Youth project is also supported, locally, by Champion Recruitment; Drayton, Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon Parish Councils and a Natwest Community Force grant.

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

10th JUNE 2012



I have had many kind remarks about the success of this year's Garden party and saying that the food was even better than ever.

I must thank my Committee for all their hard work and for preparing the wonderful food and, of course, drink as well!

The magnificent marquee was a great success and thanks are due to Peter and Linda for letting us use it and for their hospitality in allowing us to hold our Garden Party in their lovely garden and for all their help.

The weather was unbelievably kind (unlike the next day's torrential rain!) and we were able to open the sides of the marquee and some people sat outside in the garden.

The event raised the wonderful total of £1065. Many thanks to all those who came!

Nora Harragin

Chairman of the Friends of All Saints' Church

PS. If anyone lost a bright yellow umbrella please contact the Editor.

PROBUS GROUP

New Probus Club in the Sutton Courtenay area— a chance to join

The opportunity exists for retired and semi retired senior professional and business people to become members of a the new **Oxfordshire Probus Club** which has recently been formed. The focus for membership of the club is based upon the villages and rural areas in South Oxfordshire.

Through a programme of monthly lunches, talks, social and recreational activities the new club provides the opportunity for the promotion of fellowship and friendship. Our luncheons and meetings are held at the White Hart Hotel in Dorchester.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the club should email John Edwards the Club Secretary **cs.soxprobus@gmail.com** including their personal details and a synopsis on how they meet the criteria to become a member of the club.

THE ABBEY SUTTON COURTENAY

01235 847401

www.theabbey.uk.com

email: admin@theabbey.uk.com



Further details and charges for these events can be found on The Abbey website www.theabbey.uk.com, or by phoning the number above. It is essential to pre-book at least one week in advance for all of these events

3rd – 5th July

REST AND RENEWAL RETREAT

A self directed retreat. Three days for yourself, for reflection and self nurture

18th July

KREISLER ENSEMBLE “Equilibrium”

A memorial concert for Michael Graham Jones

Kreisler Ensemble was formed in 2003 by seven musicians with one common purpose: to create a new platform for contemporary music and challenge existing perceptions about the way new music is currently performed. Commissions form an integral part of the ensemble’s work. The group seeks to commission works by talented young composers, and to make new works integral to our musical consciousness.

20th – 22nd July

SINKING INTO SUMMER, SINKING INTO THE BODY – A Weekend of Mindfulness and Relaxation with Anna Howard

Developing, or deepening, a mindfulness practice is one of the most beneficial ways of combating stress – but it’s also a wonderful practice for simply enjoying your life to the full. This weekend the emphasis is on the body, discovering how valuable the body is in our mindfulness practice. It’s our direct experience that matters, not our judgements of the body, and we’ll spend time developing our compassion and learning to let go of tendencies to find fault with our bodies or with ourselves.

21st July

THE HEALING POWER OF VOCAL SOUND with James D’Angelo

A key to our self-transformation lies in the vibrational spin of the chakras. The closer their frequencies are to the optimum the more we experience sound health at every level. Through therapeutic vocal sound the chakras are stimulated dissipating blockages and releasing fine energies. To achieve this aim we will explore toning practices East and West. The workshop will also include Taoist sounds for the organs, natural sounds, tuning forks and chanting. Simple movements and gestures are used to encourage and direct the sounds. No previous experience is necessary but pre-booking is essential.

22nd July

EXPLORING SPIRITUALITY FROM CHILDHOOD TO OLD AGE – with Tony Eade

This day is intended to enable both collective and personal reflection on how our own spirituality may have changed, or may change, over the life cycle, from childhood to old age. This will include the types of experience and the external factors which may affect how this is understood and manifested. Those present will be encouraged to share their personal experiences in a safe but exploratory environment, with opportunities to reflect on childhood and significant moments in our spiritual lives. The maximum group size will be 15, pre-booking is essential.

VILLAGE PRODUCE AND CRAFT SHOW

We are looking for a record number of entries in the show, which will be held in the Village Hall on September 1st. This is to remind you that schedules and entry forms will be available from Burgey Stores, Changes, or from Doreen Cranmer, 54 Barrets Way, or from me with any queries at The Croft, High Street. The schedule is also printed on Page 18.

Daphne Sinclair

ANIMAL WELFARE CHARITIES

Following a very successful Cream Tea and Sale we were very pleased with the total amount taken, £280. Very many thanks to everyone who came and to the tireless band of helpers. Donations have been sent to The Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary; Oxford Animal Sanctuary; Redwings Horse Sanctuary to help towards the cost of the horse, Samson, whom we adopted; the Orang-utan Appeal UK; and Little Foxes Rescue and Care.

Daphne Sinclair

SUTTON COURTENAY WI

We were very lucky to have a beautiful afternoon for our annual garden party held in our President's delightful lakeside garden.

Clare Morley came from the local charity 'Footsteps Foundation' which is based in Dorchester. This is our charity of the year and Clare gave a very interesting talk on the work they do with children who suffer from various neurological and developmental ailments. It is certainly a charity worth supporting.

After a delicious barbecue cooked to perfection by Fred Melville (a husband invited in for the evening!), we had a draw for two bursaries at the W.I. College in Marcham. The two lucky winners were Doreen Denton and Wendy Norman who can now choose which of the many exciting three day courses they wish to attend. We finished the evening with some silly games in the sunshine.

At our next meeting on 17th July we will be hearing stories of wartime evacuees. Do come and join us at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Sutton Courtenay.

In August we plan a trip to see the newly refurbished Kensington Palace. There may still be seats available on the coach. Please ring Margaret on 847 472 if you are interested.

Yvonne Moeliker-Twigg

VILLAGE PRODUCE SHOW

Sutton Courtenay Produce and Craft Show

1st September 2012 (Show open for viewing at 2 pm)

Please note: Entries must be staged by **11 am** when judging begins. Late entries cannot be accepted.

Produce

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3 potatoes, any one variety 2. 6 runner beans 3. Bunch of fresh herbs 4. 3 onions (trimmed) 5. 3 leeks 6. 3 tomatoes 7. Cherry tomatoes on the vine 8. 2 courgettes 9. Collection of 3 different vegetables (3 of each) 10. 4 carrots –with 3” tops | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. 3 beetroot – with 3” tops 12. 5 shallots (trimmed) 13. 3 dessert apples 14. 3 cooking apples 15. 5 plums 16. 3 pears 17. 2 capsicum peppers 18. Dish of 9 soft fruits, any one variety 19. Curliest cucumber 20. 3 hen’s eggs |
|---|--|

Flowers

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Vase of 3 stems of roses 22. 1 specimen rose 23. Vase of 4 herbaceous flowers (different varieties) 24. 4 dahlias 25. 1 potted cactus or succulent | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 26. A potted geranium 27. 1 pot plant in flower 28. An orchid 29. 1 pot plant shown for foliage 30. Vase of not less than 10 mixed garden flowers (including shrubs) |
|--|--|

Cookery

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 31. Apple Cake (given recipe must be used)¹ 32. Jar of jam 33. Jar of marmalade 34. Jar of jelly 35. Jar of lemon curd 36. Jar of chutney | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 37. Jar of pickle 38. 4 lavender scones 39. 4 chocolate brownies 40. A lattice topped apple tart 41. A savoury quiche 42. 4 jubilee cup cakes |
|---|--|

Drinks

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 43. 1 bottle wine (white) 44. 1 bottle wine (red) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 45. 1 bottle home- made lemonade 46. 1 bottle sloe or damson or plum gin or vodka 47. 1 bottle home-made flower or vegetable wine |
|--|---|

Crafts (No item in this class to have been shown or used before)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 48. New hand knitted garment 49. New hand knitted item- not a garment 50. A lavender bag 51. A peg bag 52. Home-made item of jewellery | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 53. Home-made soft toy 54. A hand-made book-mark to commemorate the jubilee 55. Garment made from fabric. 56. A hand-made anniversary card 57. A piece of original craft work – any medium |
|--|--|

Art (Items not to have been shown before)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 58. Drawing (pencil, charcoal or pen-and-ink) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 59. Painting (any medium) |
|---|---|

Photography (Photographs to be taken by exhibitor and not previously exhibited; mounted; overall size max. 14” x 10”)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 60. Black and white photograph 61. Colour print – general | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 62. Colour print: A sporting theme 63. Colour print – Jubilee celebration |
|--|--|

Children’s Classes (Must be child’s own, unaided work. Child’s age must be given.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 64. Original picture of The Queen. Age 6 and under. 65. Original picture of The Queen. Age 7-11. 66. A decorated hard-boiled egg | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 67. Garden on a plate 68. A gingerbread figure 69. A fairy-tale character made from vegetables |
|--|--|

Flower Arranging (Accessories must be within size limits)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 70. Petite : max 4x4” wide and 9” high 71. ‘Jubilee’, max 21” high, 20” wide, accessories allowed | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 72. Arrangement in a tea pot-using garden flowers only 73. ‘The Olympics’ max 20” wide, unlimited height, accessories allowed |
|--|--|

¹ **Apple Cake** ½ cup (125g) butter or margarine, 1 ½ cups sugar, 2 eggs, beaten, 1 cup apple puree, 2 cups flour, ¼ tspn salt, 1 tspn baking powder, ½ tspn bicarbonate of soda, 1 ½ tspn cinnamon, 1 ½ tspn ground cloves, 1 cup (165g) chopped raisins .

Cream butter or margarine and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs and beat well. Add apple puree and sifted dried ingredients. Beat until smooth. Fold in raisins. Pour into a well buttered and floured 20cm (8inch) square cake tin. Bake at 180°C, 350°F or Gas mark 4 for about 50 mins.

DIAMOND JUBILEE PULLOUT SOUVENIR



Sutton Courtenay celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in style despite the weather. Many events and competitions were organised over the Jubilee weekend.

One of the first events organised was the competition for the best dressed house and business in the village. On a damp Saturday 2nd June, our judge, Mrs. Audrey Holloway from Steventon, went round the village to judge the entries. Several properties had been decorated with Union Jack bunting and flags. Some had also especially assembled plant pots with red, white and blue flowers.



Prizes were awarded to the Frost family for best decorated residential property and to Changes Hair Salon for the best decorated business property. A special prize was awarded to the school for the huge emblem on the school gate with a very special commendation:-

“for creativity and personalised input. The children are the jewels in the crown – a lovely thought’.

All the school children had had their photograph taken and were included in the diamonds on the spectacular crown.

The main celebrations were planned for Sunday 3rd June with lots of activities arranged to take place on the Green including the Big Lunch picnic. The downpour that greeted us on the 3rd meant hasty changes at the last minute .



With the help of many willing volunteers all the events scheduled for the Green were seamlessly transferred to the Church. Though some still decided to just as much fun could be had in the rain!



With picnic tables set up down the central aisle of the Church everyone brought their picnics into the Church and enjoyed all the activities that had been organised. The Church looked resplendent decorated with bunting and red, white and blue floral displays.



Some watched the Jubilee Flotilla which was broadcast on a big screen (churches were given special exemption for the day to broadcast without the need for a TV license for the day) trying to spot Sutton Courtenay's own representative in the Flotilla. Quentin Hoodless from the Norman Hall with his boat the Lady Bea were selected to take part in the first group of Historic Vessels after the Dunkirk Little Ships. It was one of many Star Craft and Bates built boats included in the Flotilla.



The Lady Bea mustering at Teddington Lock with other boats in the Flotilla before proceeding along the Thames.

Lady Bea in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant by Quentin Hoodless

12:30 pm on Saturday 2nd June and we are in the lock at Teddington, preparing to travel down the tideway to take up our final "mustering" mooring on the buoys at Putney.

It all started more than a year ago when we heard that a thousand boats were to proceed down the River Thames in London to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. With the deadline for applications approaching, I entered and, at the end of December, we heard we were in!

Over the next few months there followed a trail of preparation and rehearsal and, as the day approached, we set off down river, everything in order and just the safety check to pass. Last minute completion of our Passage Plan ensured that we were OK. We even had the right sized bucket on board.

After leaving Teddington, we moored up to our buoys in time to dress the boat with our selection of flags and pennants, waiting for our guests to arrive by water taxi the following day.

The Pageant started for us with the arrival of the man-powered squadron, beginning their journey from Hammersmith between the lines of moored motorboats. We gave the rowers and paddlers rousing cheers as they went by. They had a long way to go – with no engines to help. One of the high spots of the day.

2:26pm, right on schedule, we slipped our moorings and joined the other boats of the Historic and Service Squadron. Putney Bridge gave us the first taste of what was to come. Thousands of spectators on the bridge and the river banks, cheering and waving. We gave them a blast on the horn.

Downstream and the numbers watching and cheering grew, a riot of Union Flags being waved, in spite of the increasing drizzle. Battersea Park, where the official Pageant party was well under way. Past the MI6 building. Did I hear the James Bond theme playing? Now Westminster and the RAF Memorial. Was that the Dam Busters? We passed London Bridge with the raised bascules of Tower Bridge in the background. Through the Avenue of sailing ships, we were nearly there. As the sky opened to let in torrential rain, we passed Tower Bridge to where the Royal Barge was moored. In spite of the driving rain the Royal Party was clearly visible and The Queen acknowledged our efforts, our boats dipping their ensigns in Royal Salute.

Once we had passed through, we headed downstream to the safe haven of West India Docks, where it took several hours for all the Pageant boats to get in. The following day we left the dock to begin our passage back to our base. Pressing on, we made our mooring for that day after another 13 hours on the river.

Tired but still excited we arrived home to reflect on what had been a truly remarkable experience. All the planning and preparation had been worth it.



Others enjoyed the fascinating display of photographs and village memorabilia from the Queen's 60 year reign. In the background, music from the last 60 years played as residents were invited to choose their favourite songs for the Jubilee Pick of the Pops. Colin Whitehead played many requests for songs from Cliff Richard, Abba, Beatles, Robbie Williams, Elvis Presley, Take That and Roy Wood and many more.

Some of the activities did remain outside but were well protected by the Scout Marquee. Adults and children alike decorated their own souvenir plates and mugs. Clare Simpson helped and guided them with designs.



Sian Frost had baked 100 fairy cakes for children to decorate and decorate they did - red, white and blue iced as children made Union Jacks and other patterns.



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FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

As your District Councillor I report on 3 areas of activity in the Vale, one fully and two briefly.

1. Water Bills and other utilities. In our constrained times rising utilities bills are a matter of considerable concern. I have no expertise with electricity and gas though there may be parallel situations, but I have been involved in the battle with Thames Water. I gave evidence at the 2010 Summer Enquiry where the Inspector turned down Thames's reservoir plan (my evidence was mainly on the vast amount of water Didcot A station is allowed to take from the Thames, and when A closes shortly they do not automatically lose the extraction rights as many of us thought), and now I chair the Vale group examining the next stage of Thames' water planning. That is still in the future, but meanwhile I have taken some action to try to deal some basic problems as to why water bills always seem to go up. I do not expect to change anything quickly, but it is necessary to persuade the Government to change the terms of reference. The motion I put to the Vale was passed without dissent and read:

'This Council calls on the Government to change the basic instruction to OFWAT requesting less encouragement in huge capital projects and more in terms of good customer value for money.'

Cont. overleaf.....

FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR CONTINUED

To understand why the problem has arisen, we have to look back at the history of privatisation in the last century. Privatisation was necessary, inter alia, because Government bodies had not spent much in capital on the utilities, and massive investment was needed to catch up, hence utilities were encouraged to invest in big capital intensive projects. But that situation is now very much changed, especially for the water industry, and we don't need the huge capital spending just good value for money. Critics of the former reservoir idea were able to show there were at least two ways of doing the job for water consumers at about half the price of that reservoir: reverse osmosis (technical for cleaning up dirty water and reusing it) and the one I have always favoured, water transfer from the Severn Trent area. If that reservoir had been built, water bills would have gone up a lot over the next 25 years. Setting out the now failed reservoir plan cost Thames a tidy sum with all the bought in expertise, and who paid for it? We the customers are the source of Thames' income, and that means you and me. The Vale and its allies had to try to refute the scheme with very much less money available, but even that meant more public spending, and again you and I paid for it. If we are to pull water costs down, we have to get the Government to change the way OFFWAT works, and how it instructs water companies.

It does not concern the Vale but Thames Water did exactly the same with a sewage scheme, west of London. Sewage was leaking into rivers, and they proposed a huge sewage tunnel round much of west London. The Government evaluators came and looked at it, and said they only needed a fraction of that tunnel. The same principle: try for a vast capital scheme and then shareholders will make the most money and all of us will pay for it. That has to stop and change, hence my motion. It may be a long hard procedural slog but it seems the main way to save water rate payers money.

2. Housing. I suppose the quick way to describe the situation is a mixture of counter pressures, some confusion, and great uncertainty and anxiety. I mention a few factors; the previous Vale controlling group, the Liberal Democrats, left the current Conservative group about 5000 houses short of target. So unsurprisingly there is a great Government push for houses, and a push for jobs in construction. That could result in just building new estates everywhere and anywhere, and again unsurprisingly those who care about our countryside are apprehensive and worried. There is another major factor behind all this over which the Vale has no control. No sane builder will build if he knows, or at least fears, he cannot sell his house. The major economic problems of Ireland and even more Spain were caused by building houses no one could afford to buy, and that is not confined to Europe; tiny little Dubai found just the same. Can people really afford to buy and will they get mortgages? The Government New Build scheme under which public cash would underwrite new mortgages has so far flopped completely with almost no take ups. The housing situation is certainly confusing and I think worrying.

3. Abingdon Centre. Abingdon is the main local town for many of us, and thus the financial health of its centre is a matter of concern. The previous Lib Dem regime legally signed off the present deal, which I have always opposed as a second best scheme not worthy of an ancient town like Abingdon. The new Conservative council felt it had gone too far to stop, something which I regret and opposed as I had done earlier under the Lib Dems.. Just consider the situation in the locality. Newbury has a new town centre, Witney has one, Cowley has one, Didcot has one. I could easily go on, but what does Abingdon get? A bodged up very out of date 1970s style centre which is bound to date even more as time goes on. Abingdon does not deserve the second rate when all its neighbours are getting up to date new centres.

Gervase Duffield

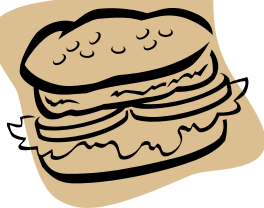


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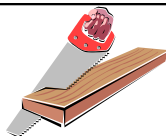
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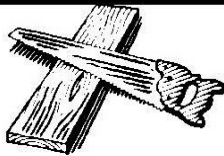
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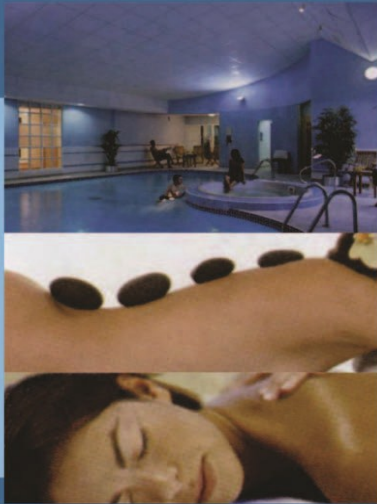
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