SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 42 NO.1

February

FEBRUARY 2013

VILLAGE DIARY

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

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All contributions for the next edition should be e-mailed to editor@suttoncourtenay.co.uk or taken to Changes in Milton Road or Burgrey Stores in the High Street 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

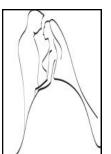
SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

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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.

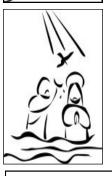


HOLY MATRIMONY

We send our best wishes & congratulations to the following who were married in all saints' church recently

30th November 2012

Kevin Richard Bint & Lucy Elizabeth Willans



HOLY BAPTISM

We send our best wishes & congratulations to the following who were welcomed into the family of the church through Baptism

16th December 2012

Reme James

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: Diane editor@suttoncourtenay.co.uk tel 07553 801032

Clare editor@suttoncourtenay.co.uk tel 07778 284193

Peter advertising@suttoncourtenay.co.uk tel 07831 526784

The Sutton Courtenay News is printed with support from Sutton Courtenay Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

<u> Road Closure – Church Street</u>

Church Street from its junction with Brook Street down to the George and Dragon will be closed for approximately 5 days from 25th February owing to resurfacing works. Exemptions for access are included for the police, fire and ambulance services and to adjacent premises which are only accessible from the closed section of road. The alternative route is via Drayton, Abingdon and Culham.

Proposed Housing rear of 92 -112 Milton Road

Residents will have received back in January a newsletter from Pye Homes through their letter boxes regarding a possible planning application for new housing development rear of 92-112 Milton Road. The proposal is for housing units, including affordable units, and a landscaped public open space, with the vehicular access on the site of the current 110 Milton Road. A public exhibition was held on 18th January in the village hall, and residents had the opportunity of viewing the proposals and talking to the developer. The Parish Council is in contact with the agents for the developer, and will advise residents if and when any planning application is lodged. Information about the development will be posted by the developer on its designated website *www.miltonroadconsultation.co.uk*.

<u> Milton Park – Local Development Order</u>

The Local Development Order, as referred to in the last issue, has been approved by the Vale of White Horse District Council and has now been submitted to the Secretary of State. The Parish Council has continued to object to the inclusion in the Order of part of the field between the existing Milton Park and the estate at the Southern end of the village, as this open area represents a buffer zone. It has therefore written to the Secretary of State requesting that the field area be removed from the Order. Any plans for the area would then be subject to a planning application and formal consultation rather than being automatically approved under the LDO.

<u>High Street – Verge damage</u>

Comments have been received by the Parish Council about the restoration of the verges in the village following the new pipe works by Southern Gas Networks. The company is relaying new plastic pipes to improve the gas supply to the area. It is understood that they still have the Milton Road pipes to replace and this work has just started. Information about the project can be obtained from the Southern Gas Network customer services on 0845 070 1431.

Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for ensuring that the company fully restores the verges and roads following any trenching works. Once the works are finished, if anyone has any concerns regarding the standard of restoration, then please let your local councillor know, and the Parish Council can compile a list of the areas to report to the County Council.

<u> Traffic Calming – funding</u>

The Parish Council has been advised by the County Council that some funding under a s.106 planning agreement has been made available. Its use is restricted to traffic calming in the village of Sutton Courtenay in such form and at such time as the County Council shall in its discretion decide. The Parish Council has been discussing where the funding could be used for the benefit of the community. It has resolved that it has a preference for some type of traffic calming feature in Drayton Road at the start of the built up area of the village. This would probably be a chicane feature similar to that at the end of the Harwell Road. The Parish Council is currently talking with the County Council to see what can be achieved. Once a scheme is drafted, there will be full consultation with local residents.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS CONTINUED

Council budget 2013/14

The Parish Council has carefully considered its budget for 2013/2014 looking in detail at its income and expenditure. This year the Council has also had to take into account the Government's changes to the Council tax benefit scheme. From 1st April 2013 the Vale of White Horse District Council will determine and administer its own council tax reduction scheme, which has an effect on the parish element of the council tax. Sutton Courtenay Parish Council has taken a positive decision not to increase the precept in view of the economic climate and the financial difficulties that people are generally facing. The precept will therefore remain the same for the fourth year running at £46136. This equates to approximately £45.30 per year for a property on Band D council tax or 87p per week.

Thames Valley Alert - Community Messaging

Thames Valley Police believes that by improving the flow of information between the community and the police it can improve the prevention and detection of crime and anti social behaviour. By registering with them you can receive messages about crime alerts and information about the local area. For further information visit www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been considered :

P12/V2306/FUL Removal of existing bungalow and construction of 2 storey replacement dwelling ,20 Appleford Road Council expressed concerns regarding the appearance which did not match other properties.

P12/V2371/HH Two storey side extension - 93 Bradstocks Way Council objected owing to the impact on the street scene

P12/V2244/HH Two bay garage extension to the existing single bay - 44A Appleford Rd Council objected as the proposal was a dominant structure beyond the building line

P12/V2310/FUL Installation of new entrance barrier, card reader and call point, Engineering and Technical Support Centre, Didcot Power Station Council had no objections

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

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting is being planned for Tuesday 5th February at 7.30 p.m. Please check the Council's noticeboard for any changes.

FORTHCOMING EVENT

Oxfordshire Welsh Society present a Gala Charity Concert celebrating St David

featuring South Wales Male Choir at Oxford Town Hall on Sat 2nd March

Tickets £15 from www.oxfordshirewelshsociety.com ,

Oxford Playhouse 01865 305305, Oxford Town Hall 01865 249811

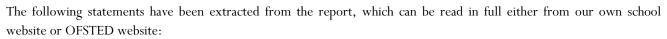
Supporting Parkinsons (UK)

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SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

I am delighted to report that in November 2012 the school was inspected by OFSTED and was found to be a 'GOOD' school. Having been found to be 'satisfactory' in 2009 was certainly not what any of the staff wanted for the school and the team's efforts have now been rewarded by this judgement.

The new round of school inspections, which were following a new set of very stringent guidelines, was implemented in September 2012. This meant that the school was telephoned at lunchtime the day before the inspector arrived! The old category of 'satisfactory' was replaced with 'requires improvement' and in order for the school to achieve 'GOOD', standards across the school had to be extremely high.



- The curriculum is rich and involves a lot of interesting topics that grab the pupils' interest.
- Reading standards are impressive: almost half of Year 6 obtained Level 5 in 2012; and Year 1 were above the standard expected in their national phonics assessment.
- The Headteacher is an outstanding leader. She is determined and has successfully helped staff to raise the pupils' achievements in all subjects.
- Reception children make rapid progress because of outstanding teaching. In Years 1 to 6 teaching is almost all good.
- Governors offer the school strong and effective support and challenge.
- Pupils are confident, safe and happy in school and their behaviour is good throughout the day. They concentrate exceptionally well in assembly and enjoy seeing each other take the lead. They say that teachers all have similar expectations for good behaviour and rarely need to use the agreed sanctions for misbehaviour.
- Kindness and fair turn taking are clearly evident and pupils follow through from the strong moral teaching they receive. They view others with respect and are quick to help new arrivals to settle in and feel part of the happy atmosphere.
- When in class, pupils work well in pairs and small groups. They are keen to include everyone and readily pay attention when asked. Disabled pupils and those with special educational needs are well supported and integrated into all aspects of school life.
- The rich developments in the quality and diversity of the curriculum are a good example of the impact that the staff team has achieved. These range from successful mathematics and book weeks to splendid, and largely pupil devised events.
- Pupils benefit from more music teaching and the Headteacher leads a choir that takes part in national events.
- The school's weaknesses have been systematically eradicated so pupils are fully engaged in their lessons and more readily use correct scientific vocabulary. Years 5 and 6 thoroughly enjoyed their science lesson and the linked workshop on the 'potions and substances' held during the inspection.
- The pupils are given excellent spiritual, moral and social guidance and their experience of the diverse cultures in Britain is developing well.
- Pupils are very proud of their school.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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Love life; love learning; love one another

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

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 Churchwarden: David McKenzie (847489) Treasurer: Tim Budd (820942) Director of Music: Ian Miles (01235 426109, mob 07788 715873) Tower Captain: John Napper (848292) Children's Church: Vivienne Maunders (848077) 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

From the Ministry Team...

What is the point of temptation?

'Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. James (1:12)

Comforting words for those struggling not to be tempted to give up on New Year resolutions! Lent is often used by people as their 2^{nd} go' at a new way of living when they feel they've failed to live up to the resolutions they made at the start of the New year.

The good news is that temptation can become a stepping stone rather than a stumbling block when you realise that it's just as much an opportunity to do the right thing, as the wrong thing. Temptation just gives you the choice!

It's helpful to remember that God develops the fruit of the Spirit in each of us by allowing circumstances in which we're tempted – to express the exact opposite quality. For instance, he teaches us to love by bringing unlovely people into our lives. It takes no character to love people who are lovely and loving towards us. God teaches us joy in the midst of sorrow by causing us to turn to him for comfort and strength when all our other supports are gone.

He develops peace within us, not by making things go the way we planned, but by allowing times of chaos and confusion. Peace comes when we choose to trust God in situations where we're tempted to worry or be afraid. Likewise, patience is developed through circumstances in which we're forced to wait and are tempted to be angry or have a short fuse. We can't claim to be good if we've never been tempted to be bad; or be faithful if we've never had the opportunity to be unfaithful.

Our integrity is built through defeating dishonesty; our humility grows as we refuse to give place to pride; our endurance develops as we reject the temptation to give up. The truth is that each time we defeat a temptation, we become more like Jesus. Why not try living your life this way during Lent and beyond?

With love and prayers, Helen

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

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EDUCATION SUNDAY FEBRUARY 3rd 2013

BELIEVING & BELONGING

Martin Luther King Jr once said that "Before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world". We can't live independently of others, and there are many ways in which this happens in the world of education. The concepts of community and interdependence are fundamental to a Christian understanding of education. It takes a village to raise a child – so why not come

and celebrate with us...

10.30am Sunday 3rd February 2013

in Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School, Bradstocks Way.

ALL ARE WELCOME to join us for our act of worship in the school hall, followed by refreshments. (Please note that there will NOT be a service in All Saints' Church).

CONGRATULATIONS

TO SUTTON COURTENAY CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL ON ACHIEVING 'GOOD' IN THE RECENT

Ofsted INSPECTION.

A well-deserved result after all the hard work from the whole school community – Mrs Alison Ashcroft, the Head Teacher, and all the staff, pupils, parents and governors. Well done – we truly have a growing and flourishing school we can be proud of at the heart of our community.

CHURCH DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

• Saturday 2^{nd} – 7.30pm Candlemas Concert - Celebrate Candlemas with the Cathedral Singers of Christ Church, Oxford in All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay. Tickets £12 (concessions £10)

• **Sunday** 3rd – 10.30am **EDUCATION SUNDAY** SERVICE in Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School (NB no service in All Saints' Church)

• **Thursday 7**th – 3.30pm-5pm Pancake Party in Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School

• Wednesday 13th – ASH WEDNESDAY – 7.30pm Holy Communion & the Imposition of Ashes with the Rev'd Josie Midwinter.

• Wednesday 20th – 8pm Lent Group in All Saints' Church.

• **Saturday 23rd** – 6-8pm Cheese & Wine Evening for all those recently married in All Saints' Church.

• **Tuesday 26**th – 1.30pm-3pm Women's Christian Fellowship Bible Study in the Vicarage

Wednesday 27th - 8pm Lent Group in All Saints' Church.

CHURCH DIARY FOR MARCH

• Wednesday 6th - 8pm Lent Group in All Saints' Church.

• **Saturday 9th** – Friends of All Saints' Quiz Night in the Village Hall (see advert for details)

• **Tuesday 12**th – 2pm Women's Christian Fellowship Meditation for Lent & Easter in All Saints' Church

• Wednesday 13th - 8pm Lent Group in All Saints' Church.

- Wednesday 20th 8pm Lent Group in All Saints' Church.
- Friday 22nd Launch of Stewardship Campaign

• Sunday 24th – PALM SUNDAY – 10am Procession with Donkey from Tullis Close to All Saints' Church. 10.30am Parish Eucharist.

• **Monday 25th-Wednesday 27th** – 7.30pm Holy Week Reflections in All Saints' Church.

• Thursday $28^{\text{th}} - 7.30 \text{pm}$ MAUNDY THURSDAY Supper with Communion

• Friday 29th – GOOD FRIDAY – 10.30am Hot Cross Bun Family Service. 2pm Holy Hour.

• Saturday 30th – 9am Church Spring Clean.

Sunday 31st – EASTER DAY – 10.30am Parish Eucharist

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

ALL SAINTS' SUTTON COURTENAY

THANK YOU for all your support for the church and our Christmas charity

- The Christmas Bazaar at the end of November an event jointly run by the All Saints' Church and Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School made an incredible profit £1948. This has been shared between the church and the school and thanks go to all those who helped set up, run the stalls and clear up at the end and to all those who came and shopped. It was a great event and will be repeated on Saturday 30th November 2013!
- We supported the work of PACT an adoption and fostering agency which also helps support vulnerable families across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshired by sending presents for children who would otherwise not have any and we raised **£684.00** from the Church Choir Carol Singing around the village and the collection at the Torchlight Procession and a donation from the PCC.

As ever a **BIG THANK YOU** goes to the bellringers; the choir; the flower arrangers; the church cleaners; the churchwarden for decorating the tree and the crib; the readers and intercessors; the leaders and members of the Junior Church for the Crib Service; the children who came dressed as shepherds, angels, kings and sheep; Burgrey Stores & Changes Hair Salon for selling the torches; the Allen family and Callum for the Christmas Eve bonfire and the many hundreds of people who joined in with the procession from far and wide; and finally to all of you who came to worship, to sing, to pray and to wonder once again at the greatest story ever told. *Helen*



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ALL SAINTS' SUTTON COURTENAY

LENT 2013

A Five Week Lent Course

From **8pm-9.30pm** at All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay

On the following Wednesdays:

 $20^{th} \& 27^{th}$ February & 6^{th} , $13^{th} \& 20^{th}$ March

All are welcome – please ring Tim Budd (01235 820942) if you plan to come.

ALL WELCOME

PANCAKE PARTY THURSDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2013



Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School, Bradstocks Way 3.30pm-5.00pm Open to all 0-11 year olds (must be accompanied by an adult) Entry on the door: 50p per person for 2 pancakes (you can buy more if hungry!) Easter Egg Raffle and Games For more information please contact the Rev'd Helen Kendrick, 848297

or Alison Bampton 847226

SMALL SAINTS

A weekly session for 0-4 year olds and their parents or carers offering a Bible story, craft activity, prayer and songs to help young children on their Christian journey,

followed by play and refreshments.

At 11am-12 noon on Wednesdays in term time in All Saints' Church. For further information please contact Helen Kendrick, 848297 or Pat Napper, 848292



SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

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SUTTON COURTENAY WI

It was great to welcome so many new ladies to our first meeting in 2013. And I'm sure they were not disappointed as we had an excellent talk from Nicola Bird from the Oxford University Museums. She gave us a brief, but comprehensive history of the Museums in Oxford and then we had the opportunity to see and hold some of the more usual objects from the Museums.

We have an exciting programme planned for 2013 and some forthcoming events include a trip to Adam Henson's Cotswolds Farm Park, a Chess Taster day, a Beading Workshop and we are hoping to organise a coach trip from Sutton Courtenay to Gloucester Quays to see the Tall Ships. (Watch this space for more details).

If this dull weather is getting you down, why not come along to one of our meetings and meet new friends, you will be made very welcome. No age limit. New members bring new ideas and that's what the WI is all about, plus it can be great having a go at something you have never tried before.

For our next meeting on Tuesday 19 February at Sutton Courtenay Village Hall at 7.30pm we have the truly inspirational speaker Keith Jansz who after a motorcycle accident was left paralysed. Through determination and a lot of effort, he took up painting, and is now one of this country's finest Mouth Painting Artists. He has had several exhibitions in this country and abroad including Italy, Mexico and America.

For further details please phone Ann 01235 821834.

SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

February 5th Tuesday 7.30 Village Hall. Spiritual Fellowship meeting with Maureen Bright

March 5th Tuesday 7.30 Village Hall. Spiritual Fellowship meeting with Lita Bell

On Tuesday December 4th, our last meeting of the year went very well with our good friend Tom Dodd who stepped in as our advertised medium was unable to come. Tom held peoples attention with his own style of messages. In spite of the cold weather many attended, and the Village Hall was quite warm.

Thank you all for your support and help.

Enquiries - Pat or Sam 01235 847460

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Our first meeting of this New Year was a social one whereby our Members were served tea provided by Committee Members. It was well attended and appreciated by all. We also had a Bring and Buy stall which proved to be popular. Our Members were very generous in their donations to the Fund Raising event and we thank them all.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday the 12th of February 2013 when we will be having a talk by Mrs Christine Whild who will talk about the meaning of some of the Easter traditions. As always, visitors will be very welcome to join us in the Village Hall at 2pm.

Rose Woodward (Secretary)

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP (NAG5)

(Neighbourhood Action Group covering Appleford, Drayton and Sutton Courtenay)

Concerns about the safety of all road users and pedestrians in the dark evenings, as there had been some near misses involving cyclists riding without lights or on pavements, were brought to the meeting in January.

It was agreed that it may be helpful to publish information on the some of the legal requirements for cyclists for which the police, if they witness a breach, can issue a minimum on the spot $\pounds 30$ fine.

- 1. Obey a traffic sign/order (e.g. going through a traffic light at red or contra flow to permitted direction of traffic).
- 2. Obey a signal of a PC/traffic warden.
- 3. Riding a bicycle on a footpath is not permitted.
- 4. Drunk in charge of a push bike is not permitted.
- 5. A cyclist cannot carry a passenger on a pedal cycle a bike is only for one person.
- 6. Bikes must have operational lights, front and rear, if being used after sunset and before sunrise and also in poor visibility conditions.

Dedicated cycle paths (where available) should be used for safety of both cyclists and motorists.

Spot checks will be carried out over the next few weeks over the bridge.

It should be said that the vast majority are responsible cyclists who:

- Wear head protection.
- Use appropriate lights on bike in dark and poor visibility conditions.
- Wear high visibility clothing.
- Check brakes and tyre pressure regularly.
- Check road conditions/traffic before turning etc.
- Do not ride on the pavements (very young children are excepted).
- Don't speed or weave through slow moving traffic.
- Don't drink excessive amounts of alcohol and expect to cycle home safely.

SUTTON COURTENAY CRAFT GROUP

NEW OPPORTUNITY TO GET CRAFTY IN 2013

The Sutton Courtenay Craft Group – Craft Share- has been meeting on a regular basis for the last two years. New skills have been learnt and exchanged on an informal basis. Knitting, crochet, sewing etc for all abilities. Items have been made for personal use and for charity. All the meetings have been in the evenings to date but from next month, February, additional afternoon sessions will be held in different homes in the village.

Why not come along to the next gathering? <u>Second and fourth Thursday of every month.</u>

Afternoon 14.00 – 16-00. Evening 19.30 – 21.00.

For venue details contact Lynne Cubbage on 848768 or lynne.cubbage@btinternet.com

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL CONTINUED

As with all inspections, schools are given areas to work on. In our case the areas had already started to be addressed within our School Development Plan for the year. The areas identified were:

- 1. Create a more vibrant nursery environment.
- 2. Consolidate the good teaching across all classes and increase the proportion of outstanding teaching.

The nursery is in the process of having a revamp. The entire nursery space will have new flooring in early April and new furniture and resources are being purchased.

In order to address the second area, the school has revised the gifted and talented register and is looking at ways of further developing pupils' independence and critical thinking skills.

I have always been very proud to be the Headteacher of this school and am delighted that the hard work that everyone has put into improving the outcomes for the children have been recognised and that the village can say that they have a 'GOOD' school. The school will continue to strive towards an 'outstanding ' status over the coming years. In December the school was also recognised as being the most improved school in the whole of Oxfordshire – there has certainly been plenty to celebrate here!

Now that the new term is well underway (and is pretty short in duration), the children are very busy in their studies. Year 5 and 6 are looking at modern history in their new project: Heroes and Villains and will be visiting Madame Tussauds and the Tate Modern by train and tube, Years 3 and 4 are studying the Vikings but hope to be able to 'Skype' a Viking soon!, Year 2 are looking at packaging in their Supermarket topic (having visited behind the scenes at Sainsbury's in their first week of term). Year 1 are looking at Superheroes and reception are studying dinosaurs.

If you are interested in registering your child in our school and would like to visit us, please make an appointment with Ms Cannings on 01235 848333 and we would be delighted to show you round.

Alison Ashcroft

Headteacher

www.suttoncourtenayprimary.co.uk Telephone: 01235 848333

BIRD DIARY

Early November saw small numbers of Fieldfares in trees around the village. It wasn't until near Christmas that they were back in large numbers.

Around this time the Robins began to sing at full force. They are one of the few birds that sing throughout the winter, and after the shortest day they begin to sing to defend their territories as the breeding season approaches. Robins can be very aggressive towards intruders. Experiments with artificial robins show that it is the red breast which gives rise to the aggression and birds can even be killed in the fights.

Soon after Christmas other birds begin to sing regularly, especially the Blackbirds and Songthrushes. The Great Tits start around the same time, and have many different calls, but most of them are similar to the Chiff Chaff. Most of these have migrated and won't return until the spring, although a few overwinter here. Several species do this, the idea being that if the weather is severe in either place, some birds will survive to nest and revive the population.

This winter, Russia and Scandinavia have had a very bad berry harvest, and as a result there has been a larger than usual migration of Waxwings to Britain. They move form the coast inland so we may see them in the village as they have already been seen in Oxford.

Birdwatcher

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Make a date in your diary <u>now!</u> It's time again for the annual

QUIZ NIGHT

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall Saturday 9th March 2013 –

7.30 pm for 8.00 pm

Individual Entry only £3.50

Teams of maximum 6 persons

Please register your table in advance* or just turn up on the night at 7.30pm

6 rounds including General Knowledge, Music etc. Prizes.

* Further details from Fred Cubbage (848768) or

Nora Harragin (848235)

CASH BAR Come and brighten a winter's evening.

SUTTON COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall AGM (Registered Charity 300213)

The Management Trustees of the above charity invite you to their AGM to be held at 7 pm on Thursday 7th February in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall. At the meeting a report on the work of the charity and the audited accounts will be presented.

Please do come. We are also 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 and allotments for the benefit of all.

Rita Atkinson

Secretary 01235 848694

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KEEP SUTTON COURTENAY RURAL



Protecting our village's character and identity from inappropriate development.



Readers will know that Sutton Courtenay has come under a barrage of development proposals from waste company FCC, Milton Park, warehousing on Harwell Road and at least 120 houses on Milton Road. It is probable that further development applications, especially for larger housing projects, will be made for other parts of the village in the near future.

Keep Sutton Courtenay Rural (**KSCR**) formed recently to examine and where necessary challenge any larger scale proposals that will further diminish the rural character of our village. To date our activities have included:-

Leafleting the entire village so that residents received a summary of the threats to the rural nature of our village;

Encouraging attendance at the village hall exhibition of their plans, held by Bidwells and Redrow developers on 11th December and Pye Homes on 18th January, so that villagers could gain an understanding of what these housing estate development companies are planning for us;

Attending meetings in Milton and Milton Park to understand what possible negative impacts the Local Development Order for Milton Park, recently signed off by the Vale of White Horse District Council will have on Sutton Courtenay and identify objections that are being forwarded to the Secretary of State;

Liaising with members of the Parish Council on the warehousing proposal for Harwell Road;

Setting up working groups to identify local planning policy and issues which can be used to defend our rural status and various impacts of individual and cumulative planning applications on traffic; drainage, flooding & sewerage; school places and other services, such as medical, ambulance and fire; archaeology; natural habitat and wildlife. It is clear we will need to obtain professional advice to produce expert reports on some of these matters.

We are in contact with our local MP Ed Vaizey, our County Councillor, Stewart Lilley, our District Councillor, Gervase Duffield and Sutton Courtenay Parish Council and campaigners in Milton Village.

KSCR has a campaign committee and a growing list of supporters; but we need everyone, who does not want to lose the rural nature of our village, to contribute in any way they can.

We are keen to hear both from those who would like to volunteer relevant expertise in the key areas of impact and planning policy and those who generally want to support our campaign. Contact can be made via email: *keepsuttoncourtenayrural@yahoo.co.uk* or call Sheila Worsley on 847508. Registering your interest will ensure that we can keep you informed.

Inevitably, this campaign will require funds. At time of writing we are determining the amounts that may be required and ask potential donors from the village and a wider area to pledge financial support, at all levels of contribution.

At time of writing, it is likely that Redrow and Pye will submit their planning applications shortly. It is crucial that everyone who wishes to challenge them writes personally to **Adrian Duffield** Vale of White Horse Head of Planning Department, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, OX14 3JE, copied to your District Councillor, **Gervase Duffield** (no relation) at Appleford House Appleford, ABINGDON, OX14 4PB and MP **Ed Vaizey**, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA,

KSCR will publicise when these applications are submitted and hold public meetings, so please look out for leaflets and notices about this.



Sheila Worsley, Chair on behalf of KSCR

SUTTON COURTENAY PRODUCE AND CRAFT SHOW

When there are sufficient funds from the Sutton Courtenay Produce and Craft Show, money is used to give something back to the village and this time the committee decided to purchase daffodil bulbs for planting on the Village Green. It may have been rather late to be doing so but eventually this was accomplished on Saturday, January 11th. Members of the committee and young people from Sutton Courtenay of the Damascus Group planted three very large sacks of three types of daffodil on the piece of land at the end of the Green adjoining the Abbey grounds. Very many thanks for all their hard work go to Sian, Ryan, Billy and Lennox of the Damascus Group with Roxy, their leader and Doreen, Tracey, Sally and Val from the Produce Show Committee and also to Paul and Rita for their invaluable help.

Hopefully there will be a fine display of daffodils in the spring for the whole village and visitors alike to enjoy.

Sutton Courtenay Produce and Craft Show committee

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

The editors have been contacted by Mr. Bergeson of Ginge Brook who is exceptionally concerned about the proposed development off Milton Road as his home was flooded during the 2007 floods, which was a traumatic experience and one that he does not wish to experience again. He has requested that the following letters be reproduced, as they may be of interest to other residents of the village.

Dear Mr Bidwell,

I would like to register my strong objection to further large scale developments in and around Sutton Courtenay:

- There has been no infrastructure developments here for as long as I remember

- The roads are already clogged up and unable to cope as anybody who has tried to cross the single lane bridge over the Thames in the morning can tell you, and don't even think of going through Abingdon from Drayton!!!

- These developments are motivated by central politicians who ignore local residents completely

- People need jobs before they can buy a home, other than temporary employment in the construction sector I see NO evidence that you are creating lasting jobs in the area

To sum up; Sutton Courtenay is full, no infrastructure, no development

Dear Mr Vaizey,

Perhaps you could state your position on the matter of central government planning policy in the next issue of the Sutton Courtenay news? This is an increasingly important matter to the residents and will certainly have a bearing on my voting intentions in the next election.

Mr. Bergeson has also mentioned that he has not received a reply from Mr. Vaizey and that since writing the above letters he has learnt that the developers propose to drain surface water from the site into Ginge Brook, he presumes because the existing drainage system would be unable to cope with the water volume. He believes that this will increase the flood risk to properties downstream from the site.

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD WINNER

We are pleased to announce that the winner of the Sutton Courtenay News Christmas Crossword was Becki Stewart . Well done Becki.

FROM YOUR LOCAL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Milton Park and the LDO

What on earth is an LDO, you may well ask, and to be honest I hardly knew myself till a month or two back. LDO stands for Local Development Order, and is a recent Government invention for an accelerated planning process where the Government deems there is a case for an already existing business enterprise to expand further with flexible planning within an agreed overarching planning structure without individual planning permission for every planning item. The Milton LDO lasts for 15 years, and will be monitored regularly by the Vale of White Horse planners.

The parish councils of Sutton Courtenay and Milton were both critical of some of the details, but neither wanted to oppose an LDO as such. An action group was formed initially in Milton but soon joined by folk from Sutton Courtenay. It is true that initially some folk were against the whole thing, but critics discussed the LDO as its ratification went ahead fast track through the new Vale procedures; local criticism focussed on three main areas. There was a public meeting in Milton Manor where the room was packed, and after that small action group people met to plan strategy.

The Issues:

1. The major concern was over a field to the NE of the Milton Park site north of Moor Ditch. The concerns were a] narrowing the gap between the edge of the Park and Sutton Courtenay school with particular anxiety about noise and light, b] encroaching on Kelaart's field with its monument, and c] archaeology in the fields, quite apart from losing yet another Greenfield site as Didcot and entourage continue to expand.

2. The Park is intended to expand for high tech and advanced scientific specialisation rather than the earlier emphasis on warehousing a few years back, but some of us thought there was too much emphasis on residential care homes round the fringes, especially as their nature seemed rather ill-defined. Would we get an overflow from Berkshire's Broadmoor or would development be just for the plain elderly? And in any case did residential care homes quite square with high tech science?

3. Not too many folk felt that a car saleroom proposed as an allowable possibility at the southern entrance to the Park off the A34 via Milton interchange was appropriate as the main gateway to the Park, and was that anything remotely to do with high tech science?

The battle and the outcome to date:

The two parish councils submitted their criticisms to the Vale as a result of which and a wider public consultation, some modifications were made by the Vale. The Vale Cabinet then considered the LDO [in the new fast track LDOs they do not go to the planning committee at all]; the critics were given a full hearing with five spoksmen permitted; Mike Jenkins, SC PC chairman, Martin Wingett, and John Waddam and Gwendoline for Milton, and James Walton for SC objectors, with Milton Park spokesmen given a right of reply. As a mere listener on this occasion I thought the five spokesmen did exceptionally well with carefully reasoned points put across with dignity and restraint, and within their tight time limits.

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CONTINUED

The LDO then went finally to the Council itself where I as the Sutton Courtenay local member put the case for the critics. But before that Anthony Mockler had arranged a dignified demonstration outside the Guildhall complete with posters and a drum (and on one of the coldest nights of the year), and the Council had an allotted space for critics to speak. Anthony began carrying his demonstration placard up to the microphone, and Robin Draper from Sutton C concluded in magisterial fashion, putting aside his microphone and walking around amongst the seated councillors to make his points. Again I thought the spokesmen were excellent, they knew their stuff, made their points tellingly and delivered their criticism in a restrained way. When I had to speak in the main Council debate, their speeches made it a lot easier for me, because I knew I was up against it.

I welcomed the idea of an LDO for Milton but would have preferred the three critical points, especially the field, to be left out of the LDO and treated as normal planning later. I got some support from others councillors, and Matthew Barber, the Council leader, whilst admitting that he was in favour of the whole scheme was scrupulously fair, and even suggested the Council give general approval, and he invited me as a local member to join the final revision which was of course confined to smaller matters, not the LDO substance. Towards the end of the Council debate Margaret Turner, one of the two Milton local members, declared herself much happier after the debate, though she did not elaborate.

For the final revision I had nearly two hours in front of the two leaders and planners. It was hard work for that length of time, but some further small concessions were achieved including moving the field boundary south half way across that disputed field.

Achievements & Otherwise

With the new fast track procedure of an LDO, the tight timetable, and the substantial amount of money involved from the business rates which Vale will be able to use for jobs and development in the area, with all that, the odds were always going to be against any major criticisms being accepted, but there were some overall gains. I list a few.

1. Initially there was a lot of criticism of lack of information; that is history now; Vale and Milton Park are setting up a liaison committee, as the Power Station and waste management sites each have, and I welcome that.

2. Milton like Sutton Courtenay are now on the map in the Vale and are known as villages that do not just do as they are told, but will examine suggestions critically and fight their corner if they think them against the interests of the locals. To maintain that requires dedicated people inside and outside parish councils.

3. Critics did get some smaller concessions, and it is encouraging to realise that each time the LDO was revised, small concessions were made.

4. Milton Park got the flexibility they wanted, and so avoid possible long planning delays.

I hope readers will realise that they owe a lot to a small group of people who care enough about their local community to give up a lot of their time to study the LDO, evaluate it and make their criticisms and suggestions. I found it a pleasure to work with such people, and I thank them for their dedication. Live village communities need such people, and should value their contributions.

Gervase Duffield, Sutton Courtenay Vale District Councillor

FROM ED VAIZEY MP

I recently visited 105.5FM in Swindon, an amazing community radio station that can be heard in the west of the constituency. One of the things they mentioned to me is Weeeuse. This excellent idea means that corporate companies can support organisations such as Swindon 105.5FM, merely through channelling their unwanted IT inventory through the Weeeuse process. Any charitable project which would benefit from a donation of IT equipment, or any institution looking to channel their old hardware through a reuse process, can read more at *www.weeeuse.org*. I know that Weeeuse would be delighted to hear from you.

There's another opportunity for local groups with the Carnegie Trust, which is launching a new project 'Neighbourhood News' in January 2013. The Trust will be seeking applications from local commercial and civil society organisations across the UK and Ireland to become a Carnegie Partner and develop new and innovative ways of producing local news. The Trust will make $\pounds 10,000$ of funding available to five Partner organisations during 2013. This funding will enable each Partner organisation to deliver a local news project in a clearly defined geographic area. There are many local organisations that might benefit from such funding, so please do pass the information on.

The start of the year always is a time to look for new opportunities, so I'd like to let musicians and small venues in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency to enter Rock the House 2013, Parliament's biggest competition which celebrates up-and-coming British artists and the live music venues that support them. Rock the House is a great opportunity for aspiring artists of any age looking to find a way into the industry. I am really looking forward to listening to the tracks that constituents come up with, and hope to receive as many submissions as possible.

This competition is the perfect opportunity for talented artists to promote their music, and win some lifechanging prizes in the process - from guitars and amps, to slots at gigs and festivals. It will also put me and other MPs in touch with musicians and small venues in our constituencies. Rock the House has discovered some great talent in the past, and I can't wait to see who we find this year! The competition is backed by Brian May, Queen guitarist and songwriter.

Applications will close on March 1st 2013, and the competition is open to all music lovers who fall into the following categories: solo artist, band, under 19 solo artist, under 19 band, and best small live music venue. This year Rock the House has teamed up with BandApp to make submissions easier and better. For any artists involved this means they'll get a great tool to promote them and their music. Any music lovers wishing to enter the competition need to head to *www.rockthehousehoc.com* to create this BandApp.

I will nominate my favourite from each category, after which a judging panel made of international music industry experts will chose the finalists. The finalists will compete in a live battle of the bands, and the winner of each category will then perform live on the balcony of the House of Commons on the evening of the 26^{th} of June 2013. I know that there is a wealth of talent in the Constituency, and can't wait to hear it!

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

Ed Vaizey MP

THE OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY WOODFUEL PROGRAMME

The Oxfordshire Community Woodfuel Programme is a new initiative run by the Trust for Oxfordhire's Environment and several partner organisations. It aims to help local communities to:

- Connect with their local environment and local energy supply, and understand the productive nature of woodlands
- Increase their supply and demand for woodfuel

In doing so, reduce their carbon footprints, improve their biodiversity, and reduce their 'fuel miles'

I am the programme manager and hope to send you regular briefings. This first note is about buying woodfuel, for anyone with a wood burning stove or fireplace. Please help your wallet, your flue, and your local woodfuel merchants by being an informed buyer.

The environmental advantages of using woodfuel decrease the further the wood has to travel. So aim to **get your wood locally**: from your community woodland or local woodland owners: look in shop windows or notice boards, or try *www.sylva.org.uk/myforest/, www.woodfueldirectory.org* and *www.coppice-products.co.uk*. Unless stated otherwise, wood from garage forecourts or supermarkets is unlikely to be local. Kiln dried wood has been – as the name implies – heated up to drive off water. This heating process uses energy, and also reduces the environmental advantage of burning wood.

Logs are generally sold by the load, but there is no specification of what a 'load' is. Rules of thumb for purchasing logs include:

• Buy logs that have been dried for at least one year under cover, otherwise you may well get logs with a high moisture content, and spend much of the wood energy just turning this into steam. The ends of dry wood often look greying and old, with radial lines of splitting. Alternatively buy freshly cut logs, which will be cheaper, and dry them yourselves for a year under cover.

• When completely dry, all wood produces roughly the same amount of energy per weight. However hardwood (e.g. ash, hazel, fruit tree) logs weigh more than softwood (pine) logs, and so produce more energy per log. This means that a tonne of hardwood logs will take up less space than a tonne of softwood logs, and fewer 'top ups' of hardwood logs will be needed to keep a log stove running for a given time. So be clear about whether you are getting hardwood or softwood.

- Make sure that the logs are cut short enough to fit into your stove.
- Any logs that have a diameter of more than 10cm (8 inches) should be split.

Look for certificates like HETAS and Woodsure, which guarantee wood quality.

The Oxfordshire Community Woodfuel Programme is working on developing a specification for firewood, including what a 'load' means, and what moisture content the wood should have. Watch this space!

You could consider **buying woodfuel as a group**. It is easier and cheaper for a supplier to serve one large customer than many small customers, so community woodfuel buying scheme may get a better price because of these economies of scale. The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council runs a community oil buying scheme, and may be able to provide advice on setting up a similar scheme for logs: contact them at *oil@oxonrcc.org.uk*.

Finally, we **encourage woodfuel suppliers to register with websites** so that people can more easily find their local suppliers. The main free sites are *www.sylva.org.uk/myforest/, www.woodfueldirectory.org* and www.coppice-products.co.uk.

And please contact me with any ideas and questions about woodfuel – 01865 243488, *riki@phonecoop.coop*.

Ed Vaizey's 2013 Surgery Dates

All surgeries are on a Friday between 5.30pm and 7pm. There is no need to book an appointment.

18th January - Faringdon, Pump Rooms, SN7 7HL 1st February - Wantage, Civic Hall, O X12 9BX 1st March - Didcot, King Alfred Drive Community Centre, OX11 7NU 15th March - Wallingford, Town Hall, OX10 0AD 22nd March - Grove, Old Mill Hall, OX12 7LB 26th April - Faringdon, Pump R ooms, SN7 7HL 10th May - Didcot, King Alfred Drive Community Centre, OX11 7NU 14th June - Grove, Old Mill Hall, OX12 7LB 21st June - Wallingford, Town Hall, OX10 0AD 5th July - Didcot, King Alfred Drive Community Centre, OX11 7NU 12th July - Faringdon, Pump Rooms, SN7 7HL 19th July - Wantage, Civic Hall, OX12 9BX 20th September - Wallingford, Town Hall, OX10 0AD 11th October - Faringdon, Pump Rooms, SN7 7HL 18th October - Wantage, Civic Hall, OX12 9BX 8th November - Didcot, King Alfred Drive Community Centre, OX11 7NU 15th November - Wallingford, Town Hall, OX10 0AD 6th December - Wantage, Civic Hall, OX12 9BX

Candlemas Concert

Celebrate Candlemas with the Cathedral Singers of Christ Church, Oxford At All Saints' Church Sutton Courtenay *"Music from throughout the Christian Year"* Director - John Padley Saturday 2nd February 2013 7:30pm Tickets £12 (£10 conc) to include interval refreshments

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OBITUARY

Ken Haines who has died - 18th January 2013 aged 90 - was born in 1922 into the Haines family. He was brought up in West Hendred then lived in both Drayton and Steventon before moving to Sutton Courtenay in 1958. Ken has lived in in Sutton Courtenay continuously since 1958 where he and his wife Betrina brought up their 5 children – Ivan, Alec, Angela, Larraine and Teresa.

Ken and Betrina met during the second world war when they were both serving their country. Ken served as a Royal Marine and Betrina served in the ATS. They married during the 1944 leap year on the 29th February. Ken and Betrina celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary 5 years before Betrina passed away in May 2008.

During his 55 years in the village Ken worked for several local companies including Harris & Matthews, Canons, Gleesons, MacAlpine. He was a keen vegetable gardener and always willing to help family, friends and neighbours. Ken has played an active role in bringing up his grand children and great grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by the family and friends.

At the time of writing his funeral was being planned for the end of January at All Saints' Church.

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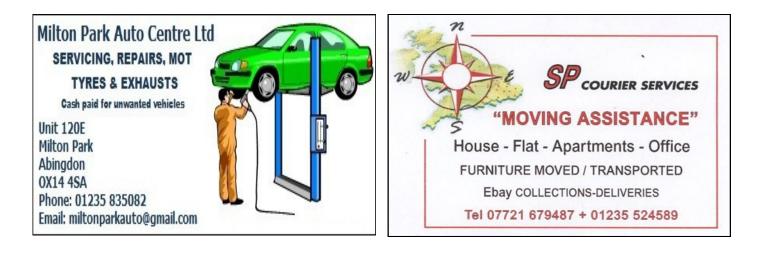


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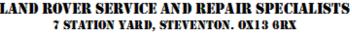
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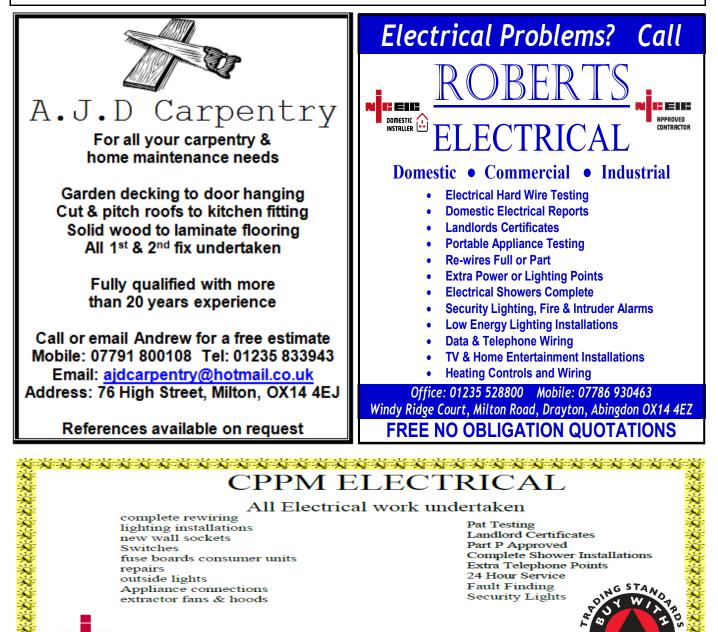
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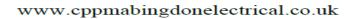


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