

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 42 No.10

DECEMBER 2013

VILLAGE DIARY

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

Dec				
Tue	3rd	7.30	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tue	3rd	7.30	Spiritual Fellowship	Village Hall
Sat	7th	6.30	Yuletide Evening	The Abbey
Tue	10th	2pm	WCF Meditation	Church
Tue	17th		WI Christmas Celebration	
Wed	18th	6pm	Village Carol Singing	Around Village
Sun	22nd	6pm	Carol Service	Church
Tue	24th	3pm	Crib Service	Church
Tue	24th	6pm	Torchlight Procession & Carols	Church
Wed	25th	10.30	Family Eucharist	Church
Jan				
Wed	15th		COPY DATE SC NEWS	
Tue	28th	7.30	SC Local History meeting	Village Hall

We wish all our readers, contributors, funders, distributors, advertisers, and Burgrey Stores and Changes, a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

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

VILLAGE CONTACTS

County Councillor: (Schools, Roads etc.)	Richard Webber <i>Richard.Webber77@ntlworld.com</i>	534001
District Councillor: (Planning, Waste etc.)	Gervase Duffield Appleford House, Appleford	848319
Parish Council Chairman	Michael Jenkins Danluda, Churchmere Road <i>msjenkins@msn.com</i>	847174
Bookings for Village Hall	Rita Atkinson Caroline Grundy	848694 848697
Sutton Courtenay Website	www.suttoncourtenay.co.uk	
Environment Agency: Landfill Odours Thames Water leaks		0800 80 70 60 0800 71 46 14

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

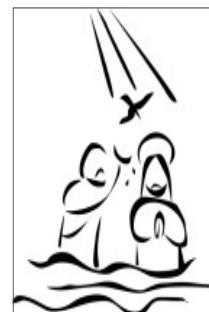
Various organisations have permanent bookings for use of the Village Hall on certain days of the week. Local individuals or organisations may nonetheless enter one-off bookings for events which clash with permanent bookings. **At least seven weeks notice must be given to Rita Atkinson (848694) or Caroline 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

There were no weddings this month



HOLY BAPTISM

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

ELLA BEATRICE BRACLIK

21st October 2013

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:

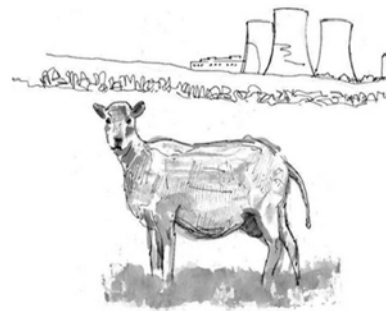
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The Sutton Courtenay News is printed with support from Sutton Courtenay Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Sutton Courtenay Bridleway 24 (Cycle Route 5)

A temporary road closure was arranged to apply to part of Sutton Courtenay Bridleway 24 (Cycle Route 5) whilst electricity cabling and drainage works were carried out. This is the route that runs around the northern perimeter of the power station. Unfortunately the works have overrun. There is no possibility of re-opening the path immediately, as the path is not in a safe state for public use, and any works to recover from this would need to be undone in due course to complete the original works, thus merely extending the period of disruption into winter months. The path will therefore remain closed for a few more weeks.



School Transport

The County Council has launched a new consultation on proposals to reduce the amount it spends on home-to-school transport. The County Council has to find huge savings right across its services, and is currently providing school transport to a greater level than the statutory requirement. Go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/htspconsultation and give your comments on line. Also a public meeting to discuss the matter will be held on Tuesday 10th December at Larkmead School, Abingdon at 7.00 p.m.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The Council tax benefit scheme has ceased to exist and has been replaced by the council tax reduction scheme. The reduction will take the form of a discount on the council tax bill for eligible persons. As central government funding is gradually reducing, the Vale of White Horse District Council continues to administer its own local scheme. The Parish Council will have to take into account the reduction scheme and the effect on local council tax bills when setting its budget.

Council budget 2014/15

The Parish Council is holding a meeting on 10th December to discuss its budget for the next financial year. Should there be any local organisation wishing to apply for a grant, then please note your application needs to be lodged immediately.

Didcot A Power Station

Noise levels have changed since Didcot A closed and therefore on still calm days, background noise is lower, therefore when Didcot B is operating the noise level is possibly more noticeable. Coleman and Cole have been appointed as the demolition company. They are currently assessing the demolition project and a report is expected in the early part of next year. Demolition is expected to take 2.5 – 3 years to complete. The Southern cooling towers and stack will be taken down first and the Northern cooling towers will be considered later. The area South of Moor Ditch will become available for development, and the area North of Moor Ditch will be retained.

Peep O Day Lane

The Parish Council has received several reports that motorcycles are using Peep O Day Lane. It would like to point out that the lane is a bridleway only and should not be used by motor vehicles. It is an offence to drive on a bridleway. Pedestrians, families and young children lawfully walking along Peep O Day Lane have come across unexpected and unauthorised motorcycles which put them in danger. Would motorcyclists using this route please find an approved alternate route.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been considered :

P13/V2137/HH Retention of barn for purposes incidental to the dwelling house Peewit Farm. The Council objected should the barn be outside the residential curtilage of the site.

P13/V2189/D Removal of 562.6m of pipework between the river and Appleford Road. The Council had no objections

M.137/13 To continue the development and retention of a leachate tank on the landfill site. The Council had a holding objection until the wording of “ continuing the development and retention..” could be clarified.

MW.136/13 Waste transfer facility to handle 60,000 tonnes of non hazardous waste and 200 tonnes of clinical waste at the landfill site. The Council objected owing to a lack of proven need, being contrary to policies, and had concerns regarding drainage, and impact on the highway network.

P13/V2239 Erection of detached bungalow (amendment to approval P13/V0052) at 10-14 Milton Road. The Parish Council objected as a previous application for a similar dwelling had been refused. The proposal did not provide adequate amenity space.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd December, 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall, Frilsham Street.

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

The Council wishes everyone a happy Christmas and new year

POPPY APPEAL RESULT

On behalf of The Royal British Legion I would like to thank everyone who recently supported and gave so generously to the 2013 Poppy Appeal. A special thank you to the house-to-house collectors, old and new, for giving their time and continued support. A total of £2,429.46 was collected this year, comfortably exceeding last years' record £2,104.07.

I shall need some additional house-to-house poppy collectors in Sutton Courtenay and Appleford to help with next year's appeal and would be delighted to hear from anyone willing to help.

Mark Haffenden
Poppy Appeal Organiser
Sutton Courtenay & Appleford
Tel: 01235 847177
E-mail: mark-haffenden@hotmail.co.uk



SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

A love of reading is what we are aiming for at Sutton Courtenay C of E Primary School. Reading for enjoyment is so important. Reading can really take you places – from imaginary worlds to those firmly based in fact.

Children start to develop this love of reading and the skills to read right from the start – within our nursery where they focus on listening for sounds and have a rich diet of books within their story time sessions. This continues throughout the school with children being ‘read to’ as well as listened to.

The skill of reading is ever more essential communication skill, as technology has evolved. Reading e-mails, texts and messages has become part of working life and social life – now reading is not just about literature.



**Love life; love learning;
love one another**

In order to foster this love of reading, our reading scheme is modern and wide ranging with a good blend of fiction and non-fiction books, which cover many different subjects to grasp different interests. Children have group reading opportunities, as well as individual reading sessions, to really get into the book, find out more about authorial techniques and really get to grips with inference and deduction skills. We also subscribe to First News (a newspaper written for children) and this forms part of the Year 5/6 group reading sessions whilst keeping them up to date with current affairs.

One class also runs a library at lunchtimes which is stocked with newly published books (funded by our PTA). Annually we hold a book week around a theme: exploring different books, inviting in authors, holding book awards and book quiz events – as well as the traditional dressing up!

Last year we became part of the *Oxfordshire Reading Campaign* which has been highly publicised in the Oxford Mail. This has enabled us to train two of our Teaching Assistants to deliver an intervention programme to children who are 6 or 7 who are finding reading difficult. This has already had excellent results. In addition to this we would also like to run a **Volunteer Reading Scheme – and would like your help to make this successful!** we would also like to run a **Volunteer Reading Scheme – and would like your help to make this successful!**

We are looking to recruit members of the community to come into school and read one to one with a child for two 30-minute sessions each week for 10 weeks, commencing in January 2014. This Reading Scheme is a structured programme and all volunteers will receive training and a handbook from our School's Co-ordinator – All reading books and materials will be supplied. The volunteer would be reading to the child to further foster the enjoyment of reading.

If you think you would be interested in helping us out with this project, please contact the office on 01235 848333.

I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of pupils, staff and governors of the school to wish the whole village a very happy Christmas.



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

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: Ann White (848857) **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...

HAVING TROUBLE FINDING THE PERFECT GIFT?

A Special Gift - Christmas is the time for giving special gifts to those we love. This can be both a challenge and an adventure, as we seek out just the right present. Thinking about what makes that gift special, reminds us of God's gift to each one of us at Christmas in the person of Jesus Christ.

A Personal Gift - The best gifts are always those which are really appreciated by the person receiving them. The birth of Jesus tells us that God knows each one of us personally and wants us to know him too. Amazingly, the creator of the universe relates to us on our level, 'The Word became flesh and blood and moved into our neighbourhood' (John 1:14, The Message).

A Practical Gift - When buying a gift for someone, we want it to be practical. A middle-aged woman posted her Christmas wish list on the refrigerator for her husband to read. She requested 'something that will make me look sexy and beautiful.' To her surprise the husband gave her an exercise bike as a gift! Father Christmas may bring what we deserve; God delivers what we don't deserve i.e. life with him. This is God's gift to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus, which brings forgiveness, joy, peace and a new start.

A Permanent Gift - Unlike some gifts, God's gift to us has lasting value beyond Christmas Day. Jesus spoke of 'life in all its fullness' i.e. eternal life. This is a friendship which can start today and last forever, 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16).

A Purchased Gift - Gift vouchers are very popular today; we don't need to spend the money, just claim the value of the gift ourselves. This is the good news of the gospel, because Jesus has already purchased salvation with God for us. Our part is simply to receive this gift by faith for ourselves, recognising that there is nothing more we can do to attain God's forgiveness other than accepting it through Jesus Christ. 'At Christmas time, when we receive presents we don't really need, God offers us a gift we cannot do without.' (J John).

So as we celebrate again this Christmas season, with Paul we can say of this baby in the manger, 'Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift' (2 Corinthians 9:15).

With love and prayers, Helen

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

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

For all the family

10.30am

SUNDAY 5TH JANUARY 2014**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH****SUTTON COURTENAY****Come and make your own Christingle!**

*A Collection will be taken for the work of
The Children's Society and refreshments
will be served after the service.*

SMALL SAINTS

Christmas Party Wednesday 11th December
from 11-12 noon in All Saints' Church and we
start again on Wednesday 8th January 2014
at 11am.

For further information please contact
Helen Kendrick, 848297



**TORCHES FOR THE
CHRISTMAS EVE TORCHLIGHT
PROCESSION**

Will be on sale in mid-December from
Burgreys' Store; Changes, Costcutters and
the Church (at Sunday Services)

Price: £3.50 each (NOT FOR SALE TO
UNDER 16s) Glowsticks for Children will
also be available for £2.50 each

CHURCH DIARY FOR DECEMBER

- **Sunday 1st** – 10.30am Family Service for Advent
- **Saturday 7th** – 2pm Wedding. 6.30pm Friends of All Saints' Church Yuletide Evening in the Abbey
- **Tuesday 10th** – 2pm Women's Christian Fellowship Meditation for Christmas meeting in the Church
- **Sunday 15th** – 3pm Street Nativity in Appleford with Chocolate the Donkey
- **Wednesday 18th** – Church Choir Carol Singing around the village
- **Saturday 21st** – 2pm Wedding
- **Sunday 22nd** – 10.30am Parish Eucharist. 6pm Carol Service.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE** – 3pm Crib Service (if you would like your child to participate in this please contact Julia James 848129 as soon as possible or just turn up on the day – a limited number of costumes are available) 6pm Torchlight Procession starting from outside the school and culminating at the churchyard for carols around the bonfire. 11.30pm Midnight Mass at APPLEFORD for both the congregations of Sutton Courtenay and Appleford. Please note there will be NO Midnight Mass in Sutton Courtenay this year.

CHRISTMAS DAY – 10.30am Family Eucharist Service.

CHURCH DIARY FOR JANUARY 2014

- **Sunday 5th** – 10.30am Christingle Family Service
- **Monday 13th** – 7.30pm Parochial Church Council Meeting in All Saints' Church

Thank you to all those who gave so generously to the Poppy Appeal on Remembrance Sunday. The collection taken during the service in church was £327.00.

CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE

The Church choir and friends will be singing around the village raising money for the DEC Philippines Appeal – our Christmas Charity. Please come and join us or listen out for us at the following stops at the approximate times on:

WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER

6pm Outside 28 Milton Road

6.30pm Tullis Close

7pm Outside 22 Lady Place

7.45pm Outside 9 Chapel Lane

8.20pm Outside 25 Church Street



and of course we will be at the Friends of All Saints' Church Yuletide Evening on Saturday 7th December at the Abbey from 6.30-8.30pm; at the Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December at 6pm in the Church; on Christmas Eve singing round the bonfire in the churchyard following the Torchlight Procession and singing at 11.30pm Midnight Mass at Appleford

This Christmas All Saints' Church will be supporting the DEC Philippines Typhoon Appeal. Collections will be held during the Church Choir Carol Singing Around the Village on Wednesday 18th December and around the bonfire on Christmas Eve at the Torchlight Procession. Please give as generously as you can. If you would like to bring a donation to any of the church services then please put it in an envelope clearly marked 'DEC Philippines Typhoon Appeal'. Thank you.

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols



Sunday 22nd December 2013

6.00pm

**All Saints' Church
Sutton Courtenay**

COFFEE SHOP & BOOK SALE

Thursday 30th January

10.30am-12noon



All Saints' Church

Why not drop by for coffee, cake & conversation and to browse the books on offer

SUTTON COURTENAY WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION APPEAL 2013-2014

The War Memorial, unveiled by Lord Asquith, Earl of Oxford in 1920, is in urgent need of repair and restoration. This will cost approximately **£15,000** and we would like to complete the work to mark the anniversary of the declaration of the First World War in 2014.

A small working party has been set up to raise the necessary funds on behalf of the Parish Council.

We will be applying for grants from a variety of sources, but will also need to do a substantial amount of fundraising within the village. This is a stone reminder of our history and our heritage. Please help us to preserve it for future generations.

Donations can be sent to The Vicarage, 3 Tullis Close, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, OX14 4BD (Cheques payable to Sutton Courtenay Parish Council)

Please mark envelope Sutton Courtenay War Memorial Restoration Appeal

For more information, or if you have any ideas for fundraising, please contact
The Reverend Helen Kendrick on 01235 848297
or e-mail helen@kendricks.fsnet.co.uk

More information about the men from our village, commemorated on the memorial and who died in the two World Wars, can be found in the Sutton Courtenay Local History Society Publication 'Roll of Honour' – proceeds from the sale of which will be going to the restoration appeal.

MILTON METHODIST CHURCH

Services in December at the Milton Methodist Church, 10.30- 11.30 Sunday mornings. All welcome.

1 December	Dr Paul Williams
8 December	Esther Woollgar
15 December	Rev Peter Bennett, Communion
22 December	Rev John Sturney
25 December	special Christmas Day service, Geoff Caudle
29 December	Michael Howlett
5 January	Marion Chalkley

Lunch Club Tuesday 3 December Christmas lunch

Lunch club meets on the first Tuesday of each month serving home prepared meals.

In December we will have a Christmas lunch with home made Christmas puddings etc. After lunch children from Milton Heights Primary School will join us for a short Advent service led by Rev Peter Bennett and Rev Colin Patching. A few spaces are available for lunch, cost £3.50, booking required (Mary Hancock Ab 848336) and everyone is invited to come and join us for the Advent service at 2.00 p.m. with seasonal refreshments at 2.45p.m.

We were able to despatch 8 Christmas shoe boxes for the Romania appeal which seemed a wonderful effort from a small group of people and hopefully will bring a bit of cheer to elderly people who are hard pressed to provide their day to day necessities.

It was also a great pleasure to take 140 small jerseys, 28 hats, 3 sets of bootees and three blankets to the Knit One 2 Save One charity at Yattendon. Jannice Schneeberger was very grateful and will be pleased if we can make some more- they manage to send a consignment of life saving baby wear to South Africa every few weeks. So well done to all the knitters, and keep going!

Art group, Milton Methodist Hall

Art group meets every Friday 2-4 , £2 includes refreshments. You are very welcome to join us. We occasionally have a tutor but most weeks people bring their own project work to pursue.

Mary Hancock, Church Family Secretary

SUTTON COURTENAY WI

Well, what a busy month we had in November. 15 members went to the Day of Dance and were able to sample several types of dance. Then two of our members went on a Murder Mystery Night and reported back that it was a very good evening.

A further 22 members went to hear William the Butler who worked for many years with the royal family and it was a case of what the butler HAD seen! Yvonne Hastings and her team came second in the quiz held at Drayton, so well done!

At our meeting on 19th November we all had good fun listening to Carol Bunyan talking about 'The Choir Mistress'. She told us stories about her early years at the BBC and about plays and stories she had written and produced. If you get the chance to see her, she is very funny.

Thirteen of us had a very nice lunch at Chilton Garden Centre. Some of our ladies found things to buy at the Edinburgh Woollen Mill, which is new to the garden centre. To end the month, Ann our President laid a wreath on the war Memorial on behalf of us all.

Congratulations to Olive Lovelady who made a super pennant for the office in Tackley. Commiserations to all who made very imaginative pennants and we will sew them together for display on our own wall. Well done, ladies, all very beautifully done.

Don't forget lunch this month is at The Plough, Long Wittenham, in front of the big open fires, on 12th December. Our Christmas lunch will be in January. Anyone needing a lift, please let me know.

Last of all, from Ann and the Committee we wish all members, family and friends, a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Margaret Hamilton Tel 01235 847472

ATTENTION

To the gentleman who came to our meeting in September about Pinewood Studios

If you will get in touch with me I have something of interest you may like to have. I was given it as a present, but think you would enjoy it more than me.

DIDCOT AND DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



Email: didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com

Website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/didcot>

To celebrate the festive season the December meeting will be a fantastic Christmas Entertainment including quiz to be held at 2pm on 17 December

The January 2014 meeting will be held at 2pm on 21 January 2014.
(The topic will be Working as a Met Man in the Falklands with Mike Palmer.)

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

YULETIDE EVENING



In the Great Hall of the Abbey
On Saturday 7th December 2013
from 6.30-8.30pm

Paté, Cheese and French Bread

Mulled Wine

Raffle

Carols



Tickets £9 (under 12 £6) available from Nora Harragin (848235)
and Members of the committee

SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

Tues Dec 2nd 7.30pm Village Hall Spiritual Fellowship Meeting with Ben and Penny Gater
January No Meeting
Tues Feb 4th 7.30pm Village Hall Spiritual Fellowship Meeting. Medium to be announced

On Tuesday November 5th our ever popular speaker and medium David Chapman gave a great meeting with much philosophy, humour and clairvoyance. This time the trains were OK so he arrived in good time and he held every ones attention. It is good to see more new people and the evening was most enjoyable, ending up with the usual chat with tea, coffee and biscuits.

Thanks to the various helpers.

We wish you a happy Christmas and New Year and hope to see you all in February which is our next meeting.

Enquiries – Pat or Sam 01235 847460

100TH BIRTHDAY—DORIS HARRISON

Many thanks to all who called in to wish my mum Doris Harrison a happy 100th birthday on the 9th November. We had a really wonderful day with lots of visitors. She really enjoyed showing everyone her card from the Queen and telegram from Ian Duncan Smith. She received well over 100 cards lots of flowers and many gifts. I would also like to thank Peppie at the Plough for allowing us to hold the family party on the Sunday we had a lovely day with about 50 close family in attendance. They travelled from all over the country to attend and it really made the day special.

Doreen Denton



SUTTON COURTENAY CRAFT EVENING GROUP

Knitting for the 'fish and chip' babies

Through the efforts of the Sutton Courtenay knitters, with huge help from some of their relatives, friends and some of the workers at the Burford Garden Centre, plus one jumper made by an elderly gentleman, we have between us made over 100 of the little jumpers needed by the 'fish and chip' babies in Africa.

This all came about by Mary Hancock of Milton Methodist Church asking us who go to Milton Lunch Club to help with this Project. We obtained a copy, which was circulated to members of the Craft group, of the Appeal together with the pattern, worded as follows:

'Fish and chip' babies need you

Newborn babies, many of them suffering from Aids, are being called 'fish and chip' babies because many are sent home wrapped in newspapers for warmth

To help these tiny babies we are asking you to knit a small jumper which will be sent to Africa. Average knitters can complete a jumper in an evening—it's a quick and easy pattern. Special instructions are: use only double knitting wool; no pastels or whites please as these garments may never be washed; bright and mixed colours, or stripes, are best. Then follow the pattern details.



What an array of colours they all make when put together. Many thanks to all who made the little jumpers.

Mary will take these, together with others made by her friends, to an address near Newbury, from where they will be taken to Africa. We hope the little babies will benefit from our efforts.

Rose Woodward

LADIES BREAKFAST

Ladies! *

Something different for 2014!

Inviting you to have a morning's break after Christmas.

All Saints' Church is inviting you to a relaxing breakfast to be held at Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School.

Saturday, 11th January 08.30-10.00

Good coffee, croissants, bacon rolls and a chat!

Sign up on the list at school or at church or for further details: Lynne Cabbage (848768)

*Strictly ladies only!



SUTTON COURTENAY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Tue Jan 28th

Village Hall 7.30pm

LOCAL FAMILY HISTORIES

This will be an informal evening when several members with a long family association with Sutton Courtenay will talk about their family histories.

Everyone is welcome to come along to add their own stories and bring any photos or items of interest for people to look at. (Members free: Visitors £3)

There is a lot of interest in family history and we get enquiries from people far and wide trying to trace family members. A reminder that a group from the History Society recorded and transcribed all the memorials in the church, the churchyard and the cemetery. This was made into a CD by the Oxfordshire Family History Society and records every name and location of the memorials and can be a useful aid when investigating family histories. The church and the History Society have copies of the CD so do get in touch if you know of anyone making enquiries. (Mary Thompson Tel: 848527).

The Roll of Honour Book, with details of all those from the village who lost their lives in both World Wars, is now on permanent display in the church, and will also be helpful.

People who attended the History Society meeting in November enjoyed an evening full of information and entertainment by Martin Way about the activities of the Home Front during wartime. This was enhanced by a comprehensive display of memorabilia. Many schoolchildren study the history of the wars and I wish more had been there to learn from a lively talk by an expert on the subject.

Mary Thompson

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Our November meeting was smaller than usual, as several members were away on a short break and other members not too well. However, all who came really enjoyed the excellent talk given by one of our members, Mary Thompson, entitled 'Tales from Sutton Courtenay Churchyard' and helped by our own Vicar, Helen, who operated the computer and screen—whereby giving us some very good pictures. Many thanks to both members.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Mediation on Tuesday 10th December at 2pm and held in Church and will be lead by our Vicar, Helen. As always visitors will be very welcome to join us.

On behalf of all members of the Women's Christian Fellowship I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Rose Woodward (Secretary)

BIRDWATCHER

Something slightly different this month, and as promised a few words from our short vacation on the beautiful wildlife haven – The Isle of Mull (Off the coast of West Scotland).

Everyone who has travelled north to Scotland will know that it is quite usual to have some rain or snow at any time of year. What my family and I didn't plan for was four full days of torrential rain. On a positive note, we were able to see lots of rainbows including some double rainbows too.

On the second day the temperature dropped to 3°C at sea level, but above 300M the rain turned to snow and was quite stunning to see, while driving around the single tracks of Mull, cautiously avoiding the deer and highland cows !



Photo: A short break in the rain and the clouds, time for a photo. Isle of Mull.

The wind and rain tried its hardest to keep the wildlife away, but even in the most harsh weather conditions we saw a pair of Golden Eagles, 3 different White Tailed Eagles along with many Common Buzzards. Although the lochs were being battered by high winds, the wetland birds were still feeding on the shoreline, including Curlew (photo below), Red Shank, Grey Heron and Oyster Catcher. There were many gulls of course, and we sat and watched an Iceland Gull catch a crab and devour the entire creature, shell and claws too !

As this edition will land on your doorstep a couple of weeks before 2013 comes to an end, I would like to remind you to keep feeding our feathered friends as it is predicted that we will have a harsh winter AND... to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and a great 2014.



Photo: A Curlew on the Isle of Mull

Mike Dowsett – mike.dowsett@sky.com

KEEP SUTTON COURTENAY RURAL

Pye application for 34 houses on green fields above Milton Road approved for development

Not good news on keeping Sutton Courtenay rural. The application for outline permission for 34 houses at the end of Milton Road has been passed by the Vale planning committee. This was despite KSCR getting an expert witness to state that the drainage of the site had not been properly examined by the developer and there was unknown flooding risk to surrounding and downstream properties as a consequence of the development. Indeed our expert, a Senior Lecturer at University College London specialising in flood hazard, stated that "the developer's assessment does not identify the wider catchment area of the Ginge Brook (which receives water from the site) and the potential impact on downstream properties. This view is required for a development of this nature". The planning committee chose to ignore this advice. Indeed our own County Councillor Richard Webber was "on the horns of a dilemma" and could not draw himself to vote against the application. The application was passed 8 votes in favour with 6 abstentions.

With the remainder of the Amey development, Pye, Redrow and Hobbyhorse Lane we now can't stop an extra 500 cars being on the roads of the village within a couple of years and at least an extra 30 pupils wanting to attend the primary school. There are other significant new developments likely to be applied for around the village as well. The government's planning guidance is heavily biased in favour of developers at the moment and greenfield sites yield larger profits than brownfield.

We can't stop an extra 500 cars on the roads

On other matters, the mega-warehouse scheme next to the village is now under consideration by the Vale and the Redrow development for 65 houses north of Milton Road, which was given outline planning permission in the spring, has now come back for full planning permission. Although the Redrow development can't be stopped, you can comment on the more detailed plans on the Vale website, references P13/V2321/RM, P13/V2324/DIS. Lastly, the FCC application for its Waste Transfer Facility is likely to be considered at the OCC Planning Committee on Monday 2 Dec at 2pm.

The only slight ray of hope was a concession the Vale planning committee made at the October meeting in which the combined effect on the village of all this development carnage will be considered at some stage in the future. Unfortunately great damage to the rural nature of the village has already been and continues to be done.

If you can help KSCR in any way please get in touch. Any legal expertise would be very welcome. Lastly, thanks to the continued support that is being given to KSCR. It is greatly appreciated.

The Committee of Keep Sutton Courtenay Rural (www.kscr.org.uk)

Editors' note: Gervase Duffield, our local District Councillor, will write a piece on present planning policies in the next edition of Sutton Courtenay News

LETTERS ABOUT PYE PLANNING APPLICATION

So, residents of Sutton Courtenay, we have medical facilities in the village which is one of the reasons Sutton Courtenay is so sustainable for all this extra development.....well, according to the planning officer, Mark Doodles, we have! He stated this when promoting the Pye development at the council meeting on Wednesday the 30th of October and, of course, protocol prevents anyone from correcting him.....maybe he meant the Vet!!!! How easy is it for any of us to reach any medical facilities using the “frequent” bus service?

Dr. Harvey Rodda, an eminent hydrologist, who was commissioned to write an independent report, using donations from many of you, dear fellow residents, spoke on behalf of the village. His findings were fully explained in the objections booklet which was presented to all the councillors and planning officers. One of the planning officers asked if this “new information” had been made public!!!! That expensive document, produced by KSCR, paid for by you, had obviously not been read!!!

It was also stated at the meeting that the development is 2 metres below the level of the road and so any displaced water should not affect adjacent properties! A number of adjacent properties are below the road height and their gardens regularly flood now!!!!

But this is now a “done deal”. We were not allowed to correct these discrepancies due to council protocol. Is this democracy when the residents and the Parish Council all object?

A very disillusioned resident of Sutton Courtenay

I have received a reply from Adrian Duffield, chief planning officer, today, the 21st of November. He seems to feel that I misunderstood what was said about the medical facilities... I didn't misunderstand, the planning officer stated that Sutton Courtenay had medical facilities so making it more sustainable!

He says that he is satisfied with the drainage issues but noticed that none of the Oxfordshire consultants referred directly to KSCR's independent expert. He emphasises that Sutton Courtenay needs a neighbourhood plan so that we can identify where development should take place.....more green fields! We will run out soon!!!

The villagers said No...

The Parish Councillor said No...

The Ward Councillor said No...

The Eminent Hydrologist said No...

The VOWH Planning Committee said YES!!!

Thanks to a Planning process that is not fit for purpose, the Vale of White Horse Planning Committee (VOWH PC) has foisted a further planning permission on Sutton Courtenay increasing the size of the Village by a total of over 25% in the near future

25% more school children, 25% more cars, 25% more sewage and of course 0% more infrastructure.

This is the result of a planning process that has more in common with Stalinist dogma than anything else, let me explain:

1. The VOWH PC blindly follows the latest diktat from Central Government.
2. The VOWH PC can only operate within a “5 year Plan”
3. The VOWH PC completely ignores the pleas of the “plebs” who will have to live with the emotional and practical impact of their planning approvals.

So, dear VOWH DC, if you read this, please remove the word democratic from all your job titles, (Democratic Services Officer), e-mail addresses (*democraticservices@whitehorsesdc.gov.uk*) and web pages (*democratic.whitehorsesdc.gov.uk*) You are giving the word democratic a very bad name.

Christian Bergesen FCCA

I registered to vote recently, and I intend to use it.

ABINGDON DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT

The Big Sister Project

The Big Sister Project was set up during the summer as an all-girls young leadership group. The older girls in the community have been mentoring and organising projects for the younger girls. It has been a great success and many new young girls have joined the project because of it. Together they have completed a litter pick around the village, an art project, a dance workshop, an ethical fashion project and workshops focusing on issues about body image and relationships. Here are some photographs showing the obvious enjoyment of the girls.

Roxy Elford (Youth Worker)



Registered Charity Number

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The DAMASCUS Youth Project is also supported in its work in Sutton Courtenay by Champion Recruitment, All Saints' Church, the Parish Council, OCC and VWHDC.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP5 (NAG5)



Focus over the past few weeks has centred on Smartwater, the forensic property marking liquid, details of which were provided in the NAG5 update in November's edition of Sutton Courtenay News. This and previous editions can be viewed online at the village web site <http://www.suttoncourtenay.co.uk/>.

Houses in the high numbers of the High Street were recently visited by PCSO Sandra Syphas and a member of NAG5/Neighbourhood Watch promoting the use of Smartwater kits. Each household had the opportunity to ask questions and to see the contents of a kit - a container of Smartwater forensic marking liquid sufficient to mark fifty items, instruction leaflet, stickers and registration form. The response was extremely positive and the upper part of the High Street will shortly have signs displayed denoting it as a 'Smartwater Zone'. It is hoped to extend the use of Smartwater more widely in the village.

Residents have expressed concern about the safety of cyclists and other road users as winter approaches. We therefore repeat some of the advice given in February's issue of this magazine. The following are some of the legal requirements for cyclists for which the police, if they witness a breach, can issue an on-the-spot 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. (Very young children excepted.)
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.
7. For your own safety please also wear head protection and be visible to other road users.
8. Spot checks at Culham Bridges will be carried out over the next few weeks.

Peter Delany and Bridget Haffenden for NAG5
12 November 2013

UPDATE ON DIDCOT POWER STATION

With the March closure of the A station most of the disentangling of the two stations is complete, and the next stage is the actual demolition of A. The contractor has been named as Coleman well known in the West Midlands, and experts in providing engineering solutions to tricky demolition problems, as well as the usual trials of removing all asbestos from the site. The present stage is one of exploring all the difficulties, agreeing solutions, and then next year demolition itself will begin.

The next question will be what to do with the surplus land. The main outlet for that has always been warehousing and light engineering, but there could be some residential. RWE, the owners of the whole site, have now decided that the land north of Moor Ditch is to be retained but south of the Ditch will be available for development. Moor Ditch flows through Sutton Courtenay and the Power Stations site, and becomes the boundary of the Vale from South Oxfordshire, and parishwise the end of the Vale Eastwards in Appleford with Long Wittenham starting the western part of South Oxfordshire.

Meanwhile the B station continues its life. But it has been pretty quiet this summer with the recession having reduced overall electricity demand, and the high price of gas making B less competitive. In fact B has not run at all during the summer, and RWE has been cutting back in both Germany and Holland as well as UK. Some readers may have noticed that with A closed the site is much quieter, the reason being the A station is no longer running on base load all the time.

There is one further point that locals should note. Over its lifetime the A station has been generous to the local communities, especially schools. Now that A is closed it is costing RWE money rather than generating it, and inevitably that means a reduction in the amount of money now available for helping community projects. RWE management intend to keep on their charitable work in the local communities but it has to be on a reduced scale. The closure of A has meant far fewer staff on site, and Power station staff have been much to the fore in the charitable work for local communities. So RWE locally now has far fewer staff (more than half left with A's closure), it is earning considerably less money, and those two factors must mean less money and people available for charitable activities. But RWE intends to retain some charitable giving.

Gervase Duffield your District Councillor

Further information from your District Councillor

Hanson pit

This has been largely in mothballs of late, but may well soon burst into greatly increased activity taking on more local staff. It depends on continuing growth of housing market in our area and thus greater need for more aggregates. It also depends on Hanson who have other pits not too far away, some of which they wanted to run down and finish off. But expect renewed activity soonish.

Ladygrove and Didcot Park

Reading University are well advanced in their plans for a large housing development north of present Ladygrove which will extend up to the T junction Didcot turn. This is of course in South Oxford District Council area, not Vale, so I as a Vale councillor have no direct say in it, but I have seen the draft plans (soon to be submitted) and am pleased that they seem to leave a decent boundary of greenery the other side of Moor Ditch which is the Vale's and Appleford's boundary.

Adjacent to this Ladygrove northern extension is the proposed and euphemistically named Didcot Park which, if approved, will take extensive building north of the Didcot perimeter road into Appleford, and thereby bring industrial buildings and housing plus a small lake shun right up to the level crossing. This application too is due shortly. What are the implications of this? Villagers need to think that one out, check carefully on a local map, and ask themselves at what point does Appleford cease to be a village and become a suburb of Didcot?

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Shortage of money is once again the headline this month. OCC's lack of money is going to mean that we all need to be very clever with how we operate and plan the County services. Everyone agrees that of all transport issues, road safety should always be near the top of the priority list. The sad statistics around the Milton Road out of Drayton (3 fatalities in the last 5 years), and the need for a 40mph limit on this stretch of road (at present it is unrestricted) has made us all think hard. I am very pleased to say that Drayton PC, Milton PC and Milton Park are all expressing an interest in contributing to the cost of this. County Councillors (for this year at least) have a small pot – some of which can be used. The result is that the fighting fund is all but in place. I hope to have good news in the early new year. In the meantime, please drive carefully, and slowly.

Social Services, particularly Youth services are very likely to be cut back in the budget round. This is particularly relevant to our own Damascus Youth service. I am hoping that the local Parish Councils and the District Council will feel like gathering round to ensure the long term survival of this outstanding organisation. I cannot remember a time when our young people seem happier and more engaged with the rest of us. (We old ones could still do more in trying to engage with young people. Smiling and saying hello is a good start.)

The model of the Damascus Youth Project is admired all across the wider area and I shall be working with OCC and VWHDC to ensure the proper funding of Damascus whilst trying to find ways of expanding its influence. I am hoping that there could be substantial economy of scale savings to the public purse.

The FCC liaison Committee set up by my predecessor, Cllr Stuart Lilly, has been doing some excellent work in bringing the issues and concerns of local residents to the attention of FCC Management. The numbers of complaints re noise, smell etc have been on steady decline over the past year. The picture would have been better still but for a couple of glitches. On one occasion, the complaints helped the authorities to narrow down the cause and quickly remedy the situation. On the other occasion, the authorities were on the case within an hour of the first complaint, but were unable to trace the source.

The number of
complaints about noise
and smells have declined
over the past year

As a newcomer, it seemed to me that the complaints procedure was very effective and speedy, but that the ability to source the complaint and remedy it often lagged behind. This is no one's fault. The nature of odours is that they are often intense but often very short-lived. This could give rise to some frustration amongst the complainants and other residents. Whatever the reason, it is very important that people do not lose faith in the system. The information the public give the authorities allows them to react much more speedily and effectively - so please, if you have an issue, the EA and FCC are ready and able to resolve problems when you contact them.

There is still some money left in the Community grants pot. If you have a local community project run by a committee and need some help, please contact me.

Richard Webber

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

01235 534001

YESTERDAY AND TODAY IN SUTTON COURTENAY

I think back to 1960 when I first came to live here, comparing the village then to the present. Fifty odd years have seen many changes, not necessarily all to the good! Like many residents, not village born and bred, but certainly 'countrified' I prefer the lifestyle offered by villages, with smaller communities and shared interests.

I cannot say however that I have been a very active member of the community. Working and raising a family has meant little time for socialising, that and a passion for gardening. I do appreciate living here, having been born and bred in Cornwall. I'm happy here and fortunate to have good neighbours.

Sutton Courtenay, wedged between Didcot and Abingdon, how does it compare with the Hanneys or the Hendreds? Not so favourably, I would say, traffic being a major problem and being in close proximity to Milton Park.

Having recently returned from a few days in very rural villages in Northumbria, I feel here we are caught up in modern day living, although the Church and the Green and the avenue of trees are still reminders of the old village. I would welcome other people's viewpoints, especially any that suggest environmental improvements!

Donald Symons

80 Tyrells Way

Christmas Thoughts

The tree stands lone and bare
 Surely the tinsel must be here
 Crackle of paper string and things
 I have lost the message of the kings
 Some soap for Auntie I think
 God, could I use a drink.

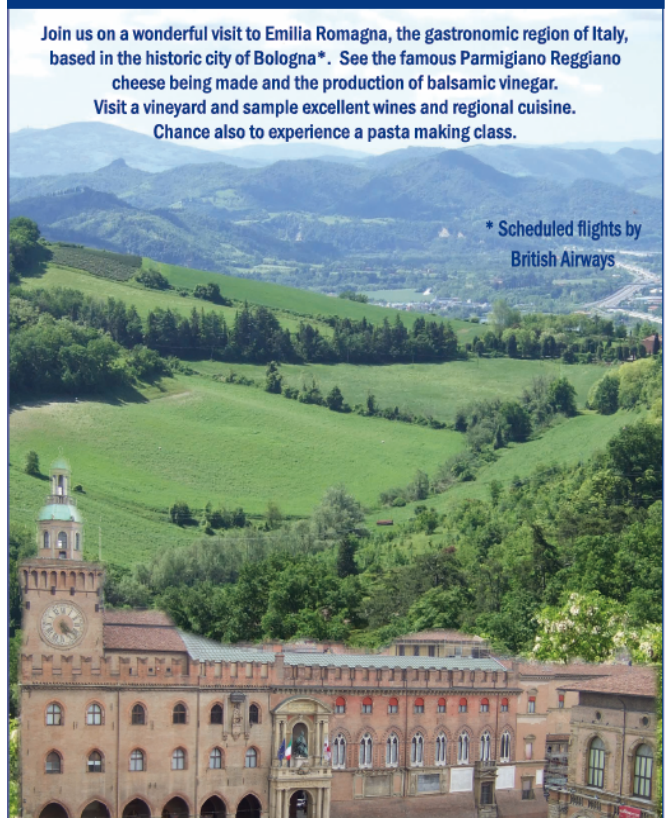
Stop listen, music from afar
 Is that a heavenly star?
 Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh
 How I hate this time of year
 I've yet to ice the cake
 Really all for the children's sake.

In that stable come and look
 See the babe of Holy Book
 Innocence and love shines round
 Symbol of love and hope abound
 Humbly kneeling ponder
 Stay my thoughts not wander
 Surely very God as child is here
 Now for Auntie say a prayer
 Tree and cake can wait
 Peace and quiet enfolds me late.

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