

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 42 No.4

MAY 2013

VILLAGE DIARY

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

MAY

Thur	2nd	7am-10pm	Election to Ox County Council	Village Hall
Tue	7th	7.30p m	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tue	7th	7.30p m	Spiritual Fellowship	Village Hall
Tue	7th	7.30p	AGM Friends of All Saints'	Church
Tue	14th	2pm	Women's Christian Fellowship	Village Hall
Wed	15th		SC News Copy Date	
Thur	16th	7.30p m	SC Local History Group Talk and AGM	Church
Tue	21st	7.30p m	WI 'Save our High St'	Village Hall
Mon	27th	10.45a m	English Music Festival	Church
Thur	30th	10.30-12	Coffee Shop and Book Sale	Church

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

	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

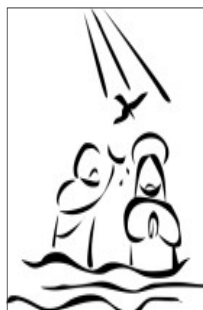
Various organisations have permanent bookings for use of the Village Hall on certain days of the week. Local individuals or organisations may nonetheless enter one-off bookings for events which clash with permanent bookings. **At least seven weeks notice must be given to Rita Atkinson (848694) or Caroline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

There were no weddings in April



HOLY BAPTISM

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

There were no baptisms in April

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Highway Verges – Gas Works

Following the completion of the installation of the new gas piping in the village, Southern Gas Networks are inspecting all the highway verges in the village to check for areas where restoration is needed. They will be levelling and reseeded any areas where trenches have been dug. Please do not park your cars on the verges as this will prevent the appropriate restoration from being carried out.

Rural Footpaths

At this time of year as the growing season gets underway weeds and overhanging tree growth begin to take over some of the rural rights of way. Whilst the County Council has some responsibility to protect the public rights of way so that the public can use and enjoy them, it can also require owners to cut back overhanging growth from the side of a path and can deal with obstructions on any of the routes. If you are the occupier of land adjacent to a path, then please help to it clear to allow pedestrians to use it without hindrance. Also in the past there have been grass cuttings dumped on the rural paths. Please help to keep the village tidy by placing garden waste in the brown bins available from the Vale of White Horse District Council or take it to the local recycling centre at Drayton.

English Heritage – Didcot Power Station

Confirmation has been received that English Heritage had submitted a recommendation to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, that Didcot A power station should not be added to the list of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historical Interest and that a certificate of immunity should be issued. The cooling towers at the Power Station will therefore not become listed.

Local Government Boundary Commission – Vale of White Horse

The Local Government Boundary Commission has completed its electoral review of the area and confirmed that the Vale of White Horse District Council will have 38 councillors from the next elections in May 2015. The aim of the review was to recommend ward boundaries that ensured that each councillor represented approximately the same number of residents. The recommendation is to leave Sutton Courtenay Parish with Appleford Parish in a one member ward.

Planning Applications

The following applications were received by the Parish Council:

P13/V0463/CA and P13/V0462/FUL Demolition of 2 existing dwellings, and erection of 2 detached family dwellings with associated landscaping at 2 and 3 Abbey Cottages, High Street. These applications were amendments to a previously approved application, and the Parish Council had no objections.

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxon OX13 6PU Tel: 01865 391833
Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7th May, 2013 in the village hall, Frilsham Street at 7.30 p.m. This meeting will be the annual meeting of the Council.

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Do you value having a monthly copy of Sutton Courtenay News hand delivered free to your address?

If so, please consider helping the Sutton Courtenay News team. We need two willing volunteers to replace Judy Prout and Sheila Cox, whose job is to take delivery of the SC News from the printers at the end of the month, and sort and deliver the 1100 copies to our dedicated team of house distributors, who live all over Sutton Courtenay. It only takes 3 hours a month (you have December and July off) and you need a car. If you are interested, please contact Judy on judyprout1@aim.com, tel 01235 847333, or Diane and Clare, the editors, on editor@suttoncourtenay.co.uk. We will need you from August onwards, earlier if you can do it.

DID YOU KNOW?

On 24th March the Sunday Times printed its Best Places to live in Britain. In the Best for Families section, Sutton Courtenay came 10th on the list. We quote: 'Tucked away in the Vale of White Horse, Sutton Courtenay is perfect for first timers to the countryside seeking classic village life pub, excellent CofE primary, community website and celebrity locals while remaining close to urban comforts (in Abingdon, four miles away, and Oxford,10)....'

Whilst recognising that there are downsides, as readers of Sutton Courtenay News will well know, we feel that we should recognise the efforts of all who work so hard to make Sutton Courtenay a pleasant place to live, against what sometimes seem to be increasing odds. Because of the mention of the community website, we would particularly like to pick out Stuart Martin, the designer and administrator of the Sutton Courtenay website, who has been so helpful to us here at Sutton Courtenay News, and who downloads the News onto the website each month. Thank you, Stuart!

ADVANCE NOTICE OF A VILLAGE LITTER PICK

A village litter pick to tidy the village is being planned

JOIN US AT THE RECREATION GROUND

SATURDAY 29th June, 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

All equipment including: Litter pickers, high visibility vests, gloves and sacks are provided courtesy of Biffa. Refreshments provided at the end. For more information contact

Linda Martin 01865 391833

Rita Atkinson 01235 848694

SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

**We will be having an Open Day on Wednesday 26th June
from 9.30am – 3.30pm and you are all invited!**

**Ever wondered what Sutton Courtenay C of E Primary
School was like?**

Wanted to visit but haven't got round to it yet?

This is your opportunity!



Love life; love learning;

Come and visit us to find out more about our *exciting curriculum* and see our *inspirational teachers* and *fantastic children* in action!

The school has fantastic facilities: Refurbished *Nursery Classroom* with outdoor area, children's *Food Technology* room, 32 *laptops*, huge *outdoor space* with two playgrounds, *gardening* area, *wildlife* area and *Forest School* site. *Adventure playground* and a *play galleon* for the younger children, large *multipurpose School Hall* and an *outdoor classroom* space including our three pet guinea pigs!

We follow a *creative curriculum* which was much praised by our recent *Ofsted Inspection* and fully engages the children into learning. We offer many visits throughout the year such as whole school *theatre trips*, local visits such as *Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre* and to further afield – for example visiting *London* using train and tube or going to the *seaside* for the day. Older children also have the opportunity to *experience a week away* tackling adventurous activities such as *abseiling and raft building!*

Whether you are looking for a *School or Nursery Place* for your child, or just would like a look round the school, we would be delighted to see you.

No need to make an appointment, just turn up!

Remember that the website also gives you lots of information, photographs and films about the school, so please do visit it and let us know what you think on the 'Guestbook' page of our website.

**We look forward to welcoming you all to our school on the Wednesday 26th June for our
Open Day – and again on Saturday 29th June for our
Annual Grand Summer Fete!**

Easter Journey – A Big Thank You!

At the end of the Spring term, The Reverend Helen Kendrick, Tim and Alison Budd, Fred and Lynne Cabbage led our Key Stage Two children on an Easter journey. The children gained so much from this spiritual experience and had many interesting questions. The school would like to thank them for their time in preparation and delivery of this wonderful experience.

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: 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.....

I have just returned from a four day conference, run by the Diocese of Oxford, on 'Leading Your Church into Growth'. Over 100 clergy and laity from across the diocese were there to hear that church growth, whilst extremely challenging in the present climate, is not impossible! And the story of Pentecost is just part of the encouragement we can find in the Bible.

2000 years ago Jerusalem was crowded with thousands of visitors, for one of the most popular feast-days in the Jewish calendar – the Feast of Firstfruits. A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

In one small room of that great city, a small group of people who had followed Jesus were praying. There was nothing else left for them to do: Jesus had died, he had risen, and he had ascended, promising to send them 'a Comforter'. Jesus had told his apostles that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for his apostles – but he knew they could not do the work themselves – they would need his help. And so the apostles and disciples waited in Jerusalem, praying together for several days.

And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them.

The Holy Spirit came to dwell in the apostles and disciples of Jesus: and the Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent and the church grew.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian church that morning: proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded to Peter's words, were converted, and were baptised – now how's that for fast church growth?

With love and prayers, Helen

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

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



Discipleship EXPLORED

is an 8 week course for anyone who wants to make the most of their Christian lives.

We will be looking at Paul's letter to the Philippians and exploring the meaning of Paul's words 'for me to live is Christ and to die is gain.' Each session has a group discussion, picking up on the previous week's material and a short study in Philippians, a short talk or DVD as a theme for that week, and a further group discussion on issues arising.

8th May: Righteous In Christ - Philippians 3:1-9

22nd May: Knowing Christ - Philippians 3:10-4:1

5th June: Rejoicing In Christ - Philippians 4:2-9:

19th June: Content In Christ - Philippians 4:10-23

All the evenings begin at **7.30pm** with a coffee and a pudding in the Church, and finish at **9.30pm**.

You are very welcome to come even if you have not attended before. To find out more please contact one of the following: Tim Budd (820942) or Helen Kendrick 848297 (helen@kendricks.fsnet.co.uk)

COFFEE SHOP & BOOK SALE

Thursday 30th May

10.30am-12noon



All Saints' Church

Why not drop by?

CHURCH DIARY FOR MAY

- **Wednesday 1st** – 11am Small Saints. 7.30pm DAMASCUS Group Council Meeting at All Saints' Church.
- **Saturday 4th** – 2.30pm Wedding.
- **Tuesday 7th** – 7.30pm Friends of All Saints' Church Annual General Meeting in the Church.
- **Wednesday 8th** – 11am Small Saints. 7.30pm 30pm Discipleship Explored at the Church.
- **Thursday 9th** – ASCENSION DAY – 7.30pm Holy Communion.
- **Sunday 12th – Saturday 18th** – CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
- **Tuesday 14th** – 2pm Women's Christian Fellowship in the Village Hall.
- **Wednesday 15th** – 11am Small Saints. 7.30pm Sutton Courtenay PCC Meeting.
- **Thursday 16th** – 7.30pm Local History Society AGM.
- **Sunday 19th** – PENTECOST – 10.30am Family Eucharist followed by a Bring and Share Lunch – do come and celebrate the church's birthday!
- **Monday 20th** – 7.45pm Deanery Synod.
- **Wednesday 22nd** – 11am Small Saints.
- **Monday 27th** – English Music Festival returns to Sutton Courtenay – look out for the posters or visit the EMF website to buy tickets!

Thursday 30th – 10.30-12 noon Coffee Shop & Book Sale in All Saints' Church.

CHURCH DIARY FOR JUNE

- **Sunday 2nd** – Lyra Ensemble return to All Saints' – more details coming soon
- **Saturday 8th** – Wedding at All Saints'.
- **Monday 10th** – 8pm Baptism preparation at the Vicarage for all those interested in baptism for their children – please contact Helen for more details.
- **Tuesday 11th** – 8pm Holiday Club Planning Meeting at the Vicarage.

Saturday 15th – DAMASCUS Group PCC Away Day to explore Leading the DAMASCUS Group into Growth.

NORMAN MACONOCHIE

Liz and family of the late Norman Maconochie would like to express sincere thanks to everyone for their kind messages and support.

Norman's best friend of 60 years, Roger Clayton, conveyed Norman's coffin sedately, from home to the church, in a traditional hearse drawn by two magnificent black horses to be met at the church gate by Norman's many friends.

The Reverend Helen Kendrick conducted a lovely service of thanksgiving for Norman's life to a packed church. She related the story of Norman's life with a mixture of fun and sensitivity; most friends would have been unfamiliar with his struggles in earlier years and the development of his widespread talents.

We would like to thank everyone for their generous donations which will be divided between the two causes that played such a big part in Norman's life. Barnardo's - for giving him a chance in his early years and latterly the Cardiac Unit on Level 0 at the John Radcliffe Hospital - for helping to extend his life.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12-18 MAY

Thousands of churches will stand together this Christian Aid Week to speak out for change. Some 100,000 committed volunteers will go out and put their faith into action, raising funds to help some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

This includes Britain's largest house-to-house collection, an extraordinary act of witness – demonstrating to our communities that we care about ending poverty and injustice.

There is enough food for everyone in the world, but one in eight people will go to bed hungry tonight.

This year's Christian Aid Week tells the story of how Christian Aid is helping communities to bite back at hunger through the lens of land rights in Bolivia, new technology in Kenya and innovative agriculture in Zimbabwe.

You can support Christian Aid Week by donating via the House-to-House Collection in Sutton Courtenay or at a church service in the special envelopes

FORTHCOMING LOCAL EVENTS IN MAY

Earth Trust events in May: 11th, 16th, 18th, 19th, 29th. Advance booking required, call 01865 407792

Earth Trust Events, Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham www.earthtrust.org.uk Event on 16th May at Wallingford Castle Meadows and on 18th May at Thrupp Lake, Radley.

Get on your bike for Sue Ryder on 12th May. To find out more or to sign up visit www.sueryder.org/ridenettlebedforryder

Classic Oxon Bike Ride and Family Fun Day

Sun 5th May, Harwell, in aid of breast cancer. Contact emily@againstbreastcancer.org.uk, tel 01235 534211

Plant Sale and Church Fete at Culham, 18th May, 1.30-4pm, St Paul's Church, Culham

SeeSaw Charity House and Garden Fair

Tue 21st May, 10.30-3.30pm, Fallowfields Hotel, Kinston Bagpuize, OX13 5BH, tel 01865 391193

Didcot & District University of the Third Age

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. May meeting will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 21 May at Didcot Civic Hall in the Ladygrove Room, where seating is restricted to 100. Admission by ticket only. Ring 07804159993 to enquire. The topic will be **Opera – not all shrieking ladies and fat tenors.**

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7th May 2013 at 7.30pm

You are all invited to attend the AGM of the Friends in All Saints' Church, whether you are already a Friend or would like to become one. You don't have to be a church-goer or a member of another church, but if you would like to help maintain the fabric of our historic church, which dates back to the 12th Century, then please join us.

There will be wine and nibbles after the meeting.

Nora Harragin

Chairman of the Friends

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Our meeting held on Tuesday 9th April 2013 was very much enjoyed by all who came to listen to and see the illustrated talk given by Mr Nick Brazil called 'A journey through Peru'. He proved to be a very good speaker. Very knowledgeable and without notes. We will probably book him again in the future for another one of his talks.

Our next meeting is to be a talk by Mrs Jane Hornsby called 'Living with the homeless'.

Visitors are always very welcome at any of our meetings and hopefully may wish to join our Fellowship.

Rose Woodward (Secretary)

OFFER OF LOAN OF TEA URN

I had an occasion to borrow a tea urn for a local based charity in Oxford April 7th to discover borrowing a tea urn has many difficulties.!!

So I am now the proud owner of a Swan tea urn 20 litre capacity. I am happy to loan this urn to anyone in the village who has need of one in exchange for a donation to The Pendyffryn Children's Trust. www.pendyffryn.org

I hope this will be helpful to anyone in need.

Sheelin De Freyne

Mobile 07766870808

11 High Street

FROM ED VAIZEY M.P.

One of the issues that concerns many constituents is the local postal service, and the wish to preserve the service that we have. Getting the post out to all the residents in our very rural constituency is no mean feat, as I see for myself every Christmas when I visit sorting offices to thank the post teams who do all the work. At the moment, one particular small but important issue is being considered - protecting rural post boxes. Ofcom have set out proposals that would protect post boxes in our villages by tightening the criteria which oblige the Royal Mail to ensure that there is a post box within reasonable reach of people in all but the most isolated places. This won't mean more post boxes being installed, but it should prevent any more being removed. I think that is much to be encouraged!

As an MP I am often alerted to opportunities that I think may benefit constituents, and two have recently come my way. Firstly, if you are working on a community project, do have a look at the People's Millions website. There's an application form there which allows local community-based projects to bid for up to £50,000. Past successes have included a training service for blind people and a cyber café run by disadvantaged young people, as well as a project that built a new toilet and washbasin area for young people in a memorial hall. There's clearly all sorts of ways such funding could be used, and with the wealth of community projects and activities across the constituency, I am sure that we have some great ideas that could be put forward. The deadline is 13th May, so please don't delay.

Small businesses are vital to our economy, and they too need some help from time to time. One particular problem can be late payments – when larger organisations take far too long to pay smaller suppliers. The Federation of Private Business has let me know about their website -[www.fpb.org/page/531/Late payment Hall of Shame .htm](http://www.fpb.org/page/531/Late_payment_Hall_of_Shame_.htm) which shows details of companies that really ought to behave better than they do in this respect. It is not a website where anyone can post unproven allegations, but does allow small businesses to report late payers. If the behavior is shown to be bad then details will be posted on the website by the Federation. I'd very much hope that no businesses in the constituency either need to be reported or have to report others, but if the reasons are there, then the website will be a very useful tool.

This month I've received a great many emails about the protection of bees in the UK. The decline of bees around the world is a real problem and one that I looked into and raised myself during the last Parliament. In response to recent concerns about pesticides my colleague in the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs, Lord de Mauley, has written a detailed letter about the work being done in the UK to safeguard bees and the scientific evidence that has been investigated with regards to the harm caused by neonicotinoids and other pesticides. Other campaigns that I have seen in my mailbox include support for the British Red Cross' campaign "Pupil, citizen, lifesaver", which seeks humanitarian and first aid education in the classroom, and also support for this Government's commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of our gross national income on development and aid spending abroad.

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 M.P.

Ed Vaizey MP

Tues May 7th 7.30pm Village Hall Spiritual Meeting with Christina Green
Tues June 4th 7.30pm Village Hall Spiritual Meeting with Patrick Carbury

UPDATE FOR KEEP SUTTON COURTENAY RURAL

Thanks again go out to everyone who has objected to the Pye and Redrow applications that threaten to substantially alter the nature of the village. Over 100 objections were posted on the council website for each of the applications. It is still not too late to get your concerns heard by contacting the Vale of White Horse Planning department with your objection. The latest new on the applications is as follows:

Pye Homes: The target decision date for the Pye Homes' application for 34 houses on a green field site behind 92a-110 Milton Road was 24th April. However, the planning officer has confirmed this is not possible because he has yet to receive, from the developers, outstanding information on a number of issues. He has also indicated that the earliest the application could go before the Vale of White Horse Planning Committee would be 22nd May.

KSCR is planning to collect further traffic information, as that provided by the developers was unreliable and incomplete. Traffic survey work, already delayed by the road works in the village, will now need to be held back because of the impact on SC of road works in Milton High Street.

Because of the unreliable nature of the data Pye provided, Oxford County Council Highways Liaison Office (HLO), the statutory consultees on traffic, have used their own data, collected in 2008, upon which to base their response. The HLO conclusion is that, for the Pye site alone, there is not sufficient severe harm from increased traffic to justify refusal, although they do seek the fulfilment of several other highways related conditions.

However, it has been noticed that the 2008 data appears to show traffic volume lower than that identified in Milton Road, in a village survey conducted in 1995. KSCR will seek clarification from OCC concerning their data. Clearly data collected by KSCR, once the work in Milton High Street is completed, will provide a more accurate appraisal of the current situation. Furthermore, the HLO have given no consideration to the cumulative effect of additional traffic from the Pye and Redrow proposals taken together.

Redrow: The Redrow target decision date, for 70 dwellings behind 28-74 Milton Road currently remains 12th June.

Harwell Road Warehouse: At the time of writing there are no further developments on the, as yet, non-submitted application for a mega warehouse in Harwell Road.

Pauline Wilson and Chris Doel
On behalf of KSCR

SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

Tues May 7th 7.30pm Village Hall Spiritual Meeting with Christina Green
Tues June 4th 7.30pm Village Hall Spiritual Meeting with Patrick Carbury

On April 2nd we were very pleased to have our friend David Chapman again. He arrived one hour late due to his train from Paddington being delayed as the service was disrupted by the works at Reading. I (Pat) started the service, gave the address, and went into the clairvoyance with John Scotcher. When David arrived he carried on with some excellent messages, and in spite of the hiccup it was a very successful evening. The service finally finished at about 10 o'clock followed by the usual chats with tea, coffee, biscuits and cakes.

Our next meeting on May 7th we have been able to get that really excellent speaker/medium Christina Green again, from Herne Bay in Kent.

Enquiries Pat and Sam Quennell 01235 847460

SUTTON COURTENAY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



**Thursday 16th May
All Saints' Church 7.30 pm**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and "THE HISTORY & RESTORATION OF THE WILTS & BERKS CANAL"

The speaker, **Chris Coyle**, is from the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust which belongs to the partnership formed to restore the waterway for the recreational benefit of local communities and to create a habitat for wildlife. The boundary changes of the 1970's means part of the canal is in Oxfordshire. It opened in 1910 and operated until 1914 for the transportation of coal and other goods with the wharf at Abingdon handling many tons of coal etc. Recently a new connection, Jubilee Junction, was made with the Thames at Abingdon. Chris Coyle will describe the significant history of the canal and its ongoing restoration which will have an impact on our local area.

Members free: Visitors £3

In April the Society enjoyed a talk by Judy Dewey on Wallingford's important place in history, and we look forward to a guided walk of the town led by her in June. Judy is the Curator of Wallingford Museum and if you are a fan of Agatha Christie, who lived on the outskirts of the town, the Museum is currently holding an exhibition about the local life of "The Queen of Crime".

Mary Thompson

SUTTON COURTENAY WI

At our March meeting we had our voting in of new president and committee. Ann Henderson was voted on as president for the next year. We said goodbye to Sally Furze our retiring president. We also wish committee members Pam Carter, Doreen Cramner, Chris Davis, and Yvonne Mocler Twigg happy retirement. All were long serving members of our WI. The new committee wish to thank them on behalf of all the members for all they have done for us in their term of office.

This year we have some new places to visit and a varied programme for the next year. If you have anything you would like to do or place you think we can visit please tell a committee member and we will see what we can do. Our first outing this year is on Sunday 26th May, to Gloucester Docks to the tall ships. You will have time for lunch and a look round. We will leave the garage at 9am pick up in Abingdon and return at 4pm. Cost will be £10 A SEAT, all welcome, member or not. We would very much like to see some younger members join us. Come for a visit, we are not all jam and Jerusalem. Our lunch a month will be on May 2nd at Yarnton garden centre by popular demand, more than a garden centre having shops, books and animals.

If you want a lift to the lunch or to go on the trip, keep this number 01235847472.

Margaret Hamilton.

DIDCOT POWER STATION

The demise of an old friend

The Didcot A coal fired power station is no more. At least it is still standing there, but it will never be used again, though it now has to go through a period of decommissioning, and then finally demolition, so it could easily be five years before it finally disappears, and of course meanwhile there is a gradual run down of staffing levels. (The B station continues to flourish and will be expanding).

I must be one of the few locals who was resident here before the A station was conceived and then built. So readers might be interested in a few facts and salient features. The station was designed in the 1960s and built to open in 1970, and has run pretty well without a serious hold up ever since until this Spring. It took nearly 30,000 tons of steel in its construction, and the main foundations took almost 500,000 tons of concrete. Getting on a four miles of roads were constructed.

By the 1990s the A station was joined by its B sister, a gas fired station and very much smaller which started generating in 1997, and is still going strong. Didcot A survived the miners' strike but had to get special permission to bring in coal by road, since the station had been planned for exclusive rail deliveries. There were some disagreements and misunderstandings about the despatch of spent fuel to Radley lakes, but now happily resolved. There was unauthorised entry and tower climbing by Greenpeace and others, but the police and the station staff dealt with that promptly though these invasions did cost the owners a lot of money which no doubt ended up on all our electricity bills.

I doubt if I am the only one who feels a certain nostalgia about the end of Didcot A which incidentally is overwhelmingly in Sutton Courtenay despite its name. We had all got so used to it there, and you could see it for miles around, but now it is going if not gone, and we have to move on. In conclusion I would like to pay tribute to the staff who were well known in the community, especially local schools, and unlike some other major companies Didcot A was an admirable corporate citizen in the community.

Gervase Duffield, Vale of White Horse.



SUTTON COURTENAY GUIDES AND SCOUTS

I am a Guide Leader with Sutton Courtenay Guides and we are looking to get some new members.

Guides start from the age of 10 through until about 14 years old.

We meet on Tuesday nights 7pm-8.30pm at the Scout Hut next to the Village Hall on Hobby Horse Lane. Our Guides take part in many different activities including kayaking, camping, cake baking, crafts, various badges and making pizza, among many other things. We start back after Easter on 16th April and the summer term will include outdoor cooking and kayaking when it is warmer.

If anyone is interested in coming along either pop down to the hut one Tuesday night or contact myself at helen_walker90@hotmail.co.uk

Helen Walker



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Please contact Ruth Knight on 01235848602 or email ruthknight1@gmail.com for further information.

BIRDWATCHER

New visitors to the garden since the March issue have been a beautiful Grey Wagtail with its bright yellow underside, and a pair of tiny, busy Chiffchaff's. Most of our village birds have built or are just finishing their nests by the time this issue is printed, so please try and avoid disturbing trees and hedges for the next 4-6 weeks.

I have been fascinated by raptors & owls (birds of prey) since my childhood. Their very survival means they have to kill almost every day. The Red Kites over our village often prompt a discussion on "How dangerous are they?" Well, unless you are smaller than 5-6 inches, you are very safe. Red kites eat mainly carrion (dead animals) that they are able to find, as they are too weak-footed to kill any prey much bigger than a baby rabbit. Their diet consists primarily of small rodents, beetles and earthworms. The Red kite hunts by flying low over open country, using the forked tail to steer like a rudder. Kites prefer hilly country, where woodland and open grassland occur close together. Sutton Courtenay with its woodlands and varied farmland provides a good location for the birds to nest and feed.

From my perspective, they help clean up our neighbourhood, and look magnificent as they float on the thermals above our houses. The image below was taken of a Red Kite above our village church.



© 2012 – Mike Dowsett
www.wildlife-gallery.com

Additional Red Kite Info: Length: 2' – 2' 6"
Wingspan: 4' 8" – 5' 6" - They can live for more than 20 years. By mid-April, the female Red Kite has usually laid her eggs, although it might be a little later this year, due to the very cold weather. The eggs hatch after 30 days or so.

My daughter and I took a short cycle ride through the village and down Mill Lane this past weekend, and we disturbed a Common Buzzard from the roadside hedge where it was preying on wood pigeons in the open

field. Somewhat startled, it flew away, no more than 6 feet from where we had stopped. Hopefully, the next time we see this impressive bird, I will have my camera.

ITV'S SECRET DEALERS

The programme is looking for people in our area to take part in the show. They are currently filming the fourth series.

Secret Dealers sees three rival antique dealers doing battle in private homes for items they can sell. The competing dealers tour the house inspecting everything of value. The owners are then faced with a bonanza of surprise valuations and cash offers on some of their most prized (or not so prized) possessions. They can either accept or reject the offers and the owners must then face the choice between sentimental attachment and the chance to make a fast buck.

People can apply to be on the show by post, phone or email.

Secret Dealers 0117 970 7674 secretdealers@rdftv.com, PO Box 3024, Bristol BS89EY.

For more information, visit <http://www.itv.com/beontv/secretdealers>

Sam Williams, Assistant Producer

SUTTON COURTENAY PRODUCE & CRAFT SHOW

7th September 2013 (*Show open for viewing at 2 pm*)

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

Produce

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 3 potatoes, any one variety | 11. 3 beetroot = with 3" tops |
| 2. 6 runner beans | 12. 5 shallots (trimmed) |
| 3. Bunch of fresh herbs | 13. 3 dessert apples |
| 4. 3 onions (trimmed) | 14. 3 cooking apples |
| 5. 3 leeks | 15. 5 plums |
| 6. 3 tomatoes | 16. 3 pears |
| 7. Cherry tomatoes on the vine | 17. 2 capsicum peppers |
| 8. 2 courgettes | 18. Dish of 9 soft fruits, any one variety |
| 9. Collection of 3 different vegetables (3 of each) | 19. Funniest vegetable |
| 10. 4 carrots =with 3" tops | 20. 3 hen's eggs |

Flowers

- | | |
|--|--|
| 21. Vase of 3 stems of roses | 26. A potted fuchsia |
| 22. 1 specimen rose | 27. 1 pot plant in flower |
| 23. Vase of 4 herbaceous flowers (different varieties) | 28. An orchid |
| 24. 4 dahlias | 29. 1 pot plant shown for foliage |
| 25. 1 potted cactus or succulent | 30. Vase of not less than 5 mixed garden flowers (inc. shrubs) |

Cookery

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 31. Spiced Carrot Cake (given recipe must be used) | 37. Jar of pickle |
| 32. Jar of jam | 38. 4 cherry scones |
| 33. Jar of marmalade | 39. 4 pieces of shortbread |
| 34. Jar of jelly | 40. An apple pie |
| 35. Jar of lemon curd | 41. 4 sausage rolls |
| 36. Jar of chutney | 42. 4 chocolate cup cakes |

Drinks

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 43. 1 bottle wine (white) | 45. 1 home- made lemonade |
| 44. 1 bottle wine (red) | 46. 1 bottle fruit gin or vodka |
| 47. Bottle home-brewed beer | |

SUTTON COURTENAY PRODUCE & CRAFT SHOW CONT'D

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>48. New hand knitted garment</p> <p>49. New hand knitted item- not a garment</p> <p>50. An item of cross stitch</p> <p>51. An apron</p> <p>52. Home-made item of jewellery</p> | <p>53. Home-made soft toy</p> <p>54. A hand-made book-mark</p> <p>55. Garment made from fabric.</p> <p>56. A hand-made greetings card</p> <p>57. A piece of original craft work – any medium</p> |
|---|--|

Art *(Items not to have been shown before)*

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <p>58. Drawing (pencil, charcoal or pen-and-ink)</p> | <p>59. Painting (any medium)</p> |
|--|----------------------------------|

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>60. Black and white photograph</p> <p>61. Colour print – general</p> | <p>62. Colour print: Men at work</p> <p>63. Colour print – Didcot Power Station</p> |
|---|---|

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>64. Original picture of a pet. Age 6 and under.</p> <p>65. Original picture of a pet. Age 7-11.</p> <p>66. A decorated crown</p> | <p>67. A painted paper plate</p> <p>68. 4 decorated fairy cakes</p> <p>69. A picture made from Lego bricks (Max size A4)</p> |
|---|--|

Flower Arranging *(Accessories must be within size limits)*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>70. Miniature : max 4x4x4"</p> <p>71. "A West End Show", max 21" height x 20" square, accessories allowed</p> | <p>72. Arrangement in a beer glass or tankard (garden flowers only)</p> <p>73. "A new baby" max 20" square, unlimited height, accessories allowed</p> |
|--|---|

Carrot Cake 1lb Plain Flour, Large pinch Salt, ½ Level tsp. Bicarb of Soda, 1 level tbsp. ground Cinnamon, ½ Level tsp. grated Nutmeg, ¼ level tsp. Ground Cloves, 4oz Butter, 1 lb. Carrots – coarsely grated, 2oz Brown Sugar, 2oz Caster Sugar, 3oz Clear Honey, 1½ oz. Black Treacle, 1½ oz. Golden Syrup. Add enough Milk until a good dropping consistency.

Grease and line 8" round cake tin. Sift together dry ingredients in large bowl. Rub in butter. Add carrots to mixture; make a well in the centre. Warm sugar, honey, treacle and golden syrup together over a low heat and pour into dry ingredients. Mix with milk to dropping consistency. Put in prepared cake tin and level surface. Bake at 190°C / 375°F/Gas Mark 5 for 1hr – 1hr 15 mins until a skewer comes out clean. Turn cake out of tin and leave to cool on a wire rack.



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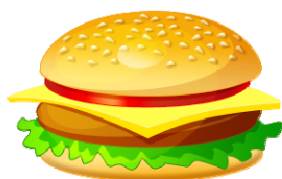
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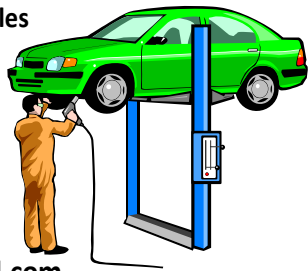
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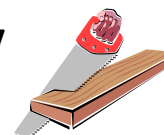
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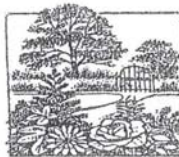
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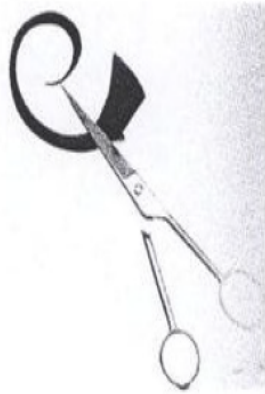
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