

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 42 No.6

JULY 2013

VILLAGE DIARY

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

JULY				
Tuesday	2nd	7.30pm	Spiritual Fellowship	Village Hall
Tuesday	2nd	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tuesday	9th	2pm	WCF Garden Party	23 Harwell Rd
Tuesday	16th	7.30pm	WI	Village Hall
Sunday	21st	6pm	Parish Proms-St James Singers	All Saints' Church
Wednesday	24th		Local History Society visit to Ab-	Abingdon
Wednesday & Thursday	24th & 25th	10-3	Children's Holiday Club	Drayton School
Thursday	25th	10.30-12	Coffee and Cakes	All Saints' Church
Sunday	28th	6pm	Parish Proms—Cellist Choice	All Saints Church
AUGUST				
Sunday	4th	6pm	Parish Proms-Songs of Summer	All Saints' Church
Sunday	11th	6pm	Parish Proms-Flute Finale	All Saints' Church
Sunday	18th	1-4	Vicar's Seaside Fun Day	Village Green
Wednesday	21st		SEPTEMBER COPY DEAD-	
Thursday	29th	10.30-12	Coffee and Cakes	All Saints' Church
SEPTEMBER				
Saturday	7th	11 am	Produce and Craft Show	Village Hall

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

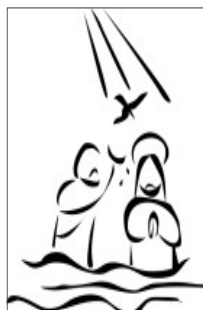


HOLY MATRIMONY

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

Martyn William YOUNG and Rachael Marie SHAW (24th May 2013)

Timothy Charles WALTERS & Alice Elizabeth Patricia MARPLES (8th June 2013)



HOLY BAPTISM

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

Phoebe Grace Grisbrooke (26th May 2013)

Thomas Brian Hill (9th June 2013) Laura Janet Simpson (16th June 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

Didcot Community Forum

A local forum meets to discuss proposals for the Didcot and surrounding area. The community forum is made up of representatives from a wide range of community organisations, businesses, parish, district and county council. Sutton Courtenay Parish Council has a representative on the forum who reports back to the Parish Council. More information about what is proposed in the area can be found at <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/business/support-businesses/already-doing-business-area/town-centre-vitality/d-4> and also downloadable from that website are the presentations given to the forum meeting in February last year and May this year. The presentation from May provides information as to the science Vale area which includes Milton Park and the emerging strategy and the vision for the future.



Footpaths

We have experienced very unseasonal weather of late and the grass and tree growth is exceptional. There are some paths in the village which are impassable. The Parish Council would kindly remind landowners adjacent to footpaths that it is their responsibility to keep anything overhanging trimmed back to the boundary to allow people to get through.

Highway Verges

The Parish Council is still in contact with the County Council regarding the restoration of the verges following the Southern Gas Networks operations to replace the pipework. Please do not park on the verges now, and particularly once the works are complete, in order to keep the village looking as best as it can.



Millennium Common

In the April edition of SC News a request was included for volunteers to become involved with the Millennium Common Committee and the management of the Common area. The Council would thank those that have contacted the clerk. The Committee is now considering its future and the best way to manage the site.

Litter Pick

The Parish Council would thank all those who came to take part in the litter pick on Saturday 22nd June organized by Rita Atkinson. Several sacks of litter were collected which helped transform the village into a tidier and cleaner place for the benefit of all.



Continued overleaf

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Planning Applications

The following planning applications in the parish have been considered by the Parish Council

P13/V0663/HH Erection of single storey rear extension
46 Barretts Way - The Council had no objections

MW.0060/13 Transport depot and associated development
Sutton Courtenay Landfill site - The Council objected as there seemed to be no overriding need to have a depot at this particular location, and no other sites had been considered.

P13/V0949/HH and P13/V0950/LB Demolition of existing outbuildings and construction of new hardwood conservatory
13 High Street – The Council had no objections

Decisions at Planning Committee of the Vale of White Horse District Council

The demolition of 44 Milton Road and the erection of 70 dwellings for Redrow Homes was approved at the planning committee on 5th June. However, the application by Pye Homes considered by the District Council's planning committee on 19th June for the erection of 34 homes further down Milton Road at the rear of nos. 92-112 was refused.

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

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 2nd July, 2013 in the village hall, Frilsham Street at 7.30 p.m.

Sutton Courtenay Post Office

Are you aware that the Post Office is now situated in Burgrey Stores in the High Street? It opened as a new Post Office service in March 2012, and has been operating just over a year. It operates from a newly formatted open plan counter within the shop. A wide range of key Post Office products and services are available. The opening hours are Mon-Fri 05.30 – 19.00, Sat 06.00 – 17.30, and Sun 06.30 -13.00.

DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT

SUMMER is coming - our street work team has been out and about engaging with young people. We have also worked with several groups of young people planning our summer holiday programme of activities - we have sports projects, community empowerment events, young leadership schemes and many other fun activities happening throughout the summer holidays.

You will also see us out and about on street corners, play parks etc with our new gazebo which we are using as a mobile hub – do pop along and say hi - our street work team is on hand to support with any issues you may have - you might just want to come and have a chat and a drink.

We would also encourage any adult to come and say hello if they see us out - (we won't try and sign you up to doing things) it's always nice to meet the whole community and we know young people appreciate it when they have adult engagement.

For more details on any of the projects / events please do contact Ryan Tappin 07446027858 or Gary Hibbins 07799014676 or email us on askgazz.ycat@gmail.com

SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL



The end of the school year is rapidly approaching, and what a year it has been! I am extremely proud to be the Headteacher of Sutton Courtenay C of E Primary School – I have the best job in the world! I have a fantastic staff team and the most wonderful children.

I thought I would take this opportunity to reflect on this Academic Year:

Autumn Term: The school grew even more with our new intake into the reception class. We held a fabulous **music week** with performances from professional musicians and workshops for all the children. Year 5 and 6 tried out all sorts of **adventurous activities** at PGL Liddington.



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



We also had a pupil takeover day when pupils stood in our shoes! Lessons were taught and even an assembly was delivered! In November, we were inspected by **OFSTED** and we were delighted to be awarded a **'Good School'** grading across every area. We also found that we were the **'most improved school in Oxfordshire'**.

Christmas performances and a very special carol service ended the term. In January, the school choir – almost 50 in number, took to the stage at the O2 Arena as part of the **mass choir at Young Voices**. We held a **poetry week** and a formal **'Book Award Ceremony'** was organised to recognise our talented writers.



A very thought provoking **'Holy Week' experience** was held at school, organised by the Reverend Helen Kendrick.



The sponsored cycle ride we held in April, raised an amazing £1000 for the Felix Fund – Didcot Bomb Disposal Unit charity. The nursery was renovated and trips were held to visit Madam Tussauds and the Tate Modern by

tube and train.

The summer term has seen topics on Pirates – as Year 6 prepare to perform 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' and KS1 seaside visits. Alongside all of these enrichment activities children have been working extremely hard with all the subjects that are covered by the curriculum. There is certainly never a dull day here at Sutton Courtenay C of E Primary School! We are already planning the curriculum and experiences for all our children in September and are looking forward to another exciting year!



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...

As fine silver...

Malachi 3:3 says: "*He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.*" This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study. They got to wondering what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group. That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest, so as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot, and then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver." She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?"

He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy - when I see my image in it."

So if today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has his eye on you and will keep watching you. His aim is not to abandon or destroy you, but to refine you - until he sees his image in you.

With love and prayers, Helen

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

There were 43 men from Sutton Courtenay killed in the two World Wars – 32 in the First War and 11 in the Second. They are commemorated on the War Memorial and on two brass plaques in the Church. The idea of collecting their stories and some photos into one book came from Rev Helen Kendrick and, although it has taken some time, it should shortly be ready for printing, in time for the Centenary of the outbreak of the First World War.

The Local History Society is funding the project and it is hoped to have one book on display in the Church and further copies for sale, if there is enough demand. As soon as the book is finally ready, details will be advertised in the Sutton Courtenay News.

Sarah Ward

COFFEE SHOP & BOOK SALE

Thursday 25th July

10.30am-12noon



All Saints' Church

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

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



CHURCH DIARY FOR JULY

- **Sunday 7th** – 10.30am Football & Faith Themed Family Service (followed by a thank you celebration for the Stewardship Campaign)
- **Monday 8th** – 7.30pm Sutton Courtenay PCC Meeting
- **Tuesday 9th** – 2pm Women's Christian Fellowship Garden Party at 23 Harwell Road.
- **Wednesday 10th** – 11am Small Saints' Teddy Bears' Picnic at the Church.
- **Friday 19th** – 10am School Leavers' Service in the Church
- **Sunday 21st** – 10.30am Morning Worship followed by Hungry Saints - why not join us for Sunday lunch at the Swan after worship? 6pm Parish Proms.
- **Wednesday 24th** – Space Academy 2013 – Children's Holiday Club (see advert for details)
- **Thursday 25th** - Space Academy 2013 – Children's Holiday Club (see advert for details). 10.30-12 noon Coffee and Cakes at All Saints'.
- **Sunday 28th** – 6pm Parish Proms.

CHURCH DIARY FOR AUGUST

- **Sunday 4th** – 6pm Parish Proms.
- **Sunday 18th** – Vicar's Seaside Fun Day (see advert for details but if you can help in anyway please contact Rita 848694 or Helen 848297 as soon as possible.
- **Sunday 25th** – 2.30pm Wedding at All Saints'.
- **Thursday 29th** – Choir & Junior Church Outing. 10.30-12 noon Coffee and Cakes at All Saints'.

CHURCH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

- **Sunday 1st** – 10.30am Pet Service – bring your pets to church to give thanks for their companionship.
- **Monday 16th** – 8pm Baptism Preparation Evening in All Saints'.
- **Sunday 29th** – 10.30am BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY



SPACE ACADEMY 2013

Wednesday 24th & Thursday 25th July- 10-3PM

in DRAYTON SCHOOL

A SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB FOR Children aged 5 to 11 years
(school years 1-6)

at Drayton School, Hilliat Fields

COST £20 FOR TWO DAYS- to be paid with booking form

*This Club is run by St Peter's Church, Drayton & All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay.
We can only take 48 children and places will be given to those who book first for both
days.*

**BOOKING FORMS AVAILABLE FROM THE CHURCH, THE VICARAGE, OR SUTTON COURTENAY COFE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

CHURCH'S TIME CHALLENGE

The Church exists to serve the whole community not just for those who worship regularly from week to week. You may think that you don't have a need for the Church at this moment but perhaps at some time in the past you have done in the future you may do. Its continuing existence cannot be taken for granted. When you next visit, either for a church service, special family occasion, a concert or with the visitor please bear in mind that the Church's operational expenses are increasing, just like at home. More details are available in a new leaflet "An essential part of the Village for nearly 1,000 years. Is time running out?..". Collect one from the Church or download one from Sutton Courtenay's website w2.suttoncourtenay.co.uk

Any village in the country which has its own magazine will have recorded very similar issues over the years - new housing pressures, shops and doctor's surgery closing, threats to bus services etc. Some will have chronicled church closures (even here in Oxfordshire). While Sutton Courtenay News includes a constant reminder of the varied activities at All Saints' Church, there's never been a hint that there is a threat to keeping the church open and maintaining a Christian Presence in the village. Yet this is the real prospect recently contemplated by the Church's Stewardship Committee. In 2012 the current weekly income averaged 15% less than what is required to meet total Ministry costs. This was not an isolated occurrence. Unless action is taken the Church reserves might be entirely depleted in five years if the trend was to continue!

The Church's regular worshippers and its other supporters have already made an impressive response to help bridge the gap in income, a target of at least £7,500 a year, since the launch of the stewardship campaign in April. However, the on-going cost of maintaining the exceptional Grade I building, part of which is nearly 1,000 years old, cannot be ignored.

While the current challenges may have been diminished by new generosity, the Church has exciting plans to make it even more serviceable for the wider community in the future. Details of a new extension which will provide much-needed extra toilet facilities and a new kitchen will be made known in 2014 with the launch of a special appeal. In the meantime if you want to come and see what happens in your local church, put forward some new ideas, or lend some skills, anyone listed on the regular Church's page would like to hear from you.

Friends of All Saints' Church has been in existence for many years to help preserve the building and support specific projects (like the 2012 new heating installation). If you feel unable to make a regular contribution to the Church's Ministry you may wish to consider an annual subscription to the Friends. Details from Nora Harragin on 848235.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT

All Saints' Church Sutton Courtenay has just been confirmed as a 'Quality Assured Place of Interest' by VisitEngland, the national tourist board for England. It joins just over 100 other places assessed since the Places of Interest Scheme was launched in 2010. This is the first site to receive this accreditation in Oxfordshire and surrounding area. Several churches are included in the national list but there are other diverse locations from the Angel of the North, the 20 metre public sculpture off the A1 near Gateshead, to an exhibition of 20 large hand embroidered panels displayed at the Blue Belle Gallery at Lyndhurst in the New Forest.

"We sought to get this recognition" said the Rev. Helen Kendrick, Priest-in-Charge of All Saints' "to acknowledge both the Church's special qualities and what improvements we have made. We also wanted to learn what we could do better." Maintenance of both the interior and churchyard (which includes the graves of George Orwell* and Prime Minister Herbert Henry Asquith) was rated as 'very good to excellent'.

The Church is now entitled to display the rose quality marque which is also readily associated with accredited accommodation across the country plus over 1000 visitor attractions. "Raising awareness of the Church and its Christian Ministry is all important to us." continued Helen. "We have also just launched a Facebook page and a website is in preparation."

This official endorsement of quality standards coincides with the launch of the Church's all-important stewardship campaign where the aim is to increase regular annual income by at least £7000 in order to correct the Church's finances. "Our challenge is that the current weekly income averages 15% less than what is required to meet total Ministry costs." commented Helen. "Unless we take action now our reserves will be entirely depleted in five years. However, we have been very encouraged by the initial response."

JOYCE FENN

My Aunt Marie Joyce Fenn ("Joyce"), who died at home at the age of 92 on 2 June 2013 after a short illness, was born on the 21 April 1913 in Wembley, North London as the second of three sisters. Her parents owned a jewellers and watchmakers shop in Wembley High Street. Neither Joyce nor her younger sister Jean Olive married or had children. The eldest sister Evelyn Francis ("Eve") was my mother. After attending a Grammar school in Wembley, Joyce found employment in London at British Rail and then at the Design Centre. She later moved to Reading and latterly Sutton Courtenay, where she lived for over 30 years. Her last job was in the office at the UKAEA in Harwell. All three sisters loved nature, gardening and art.

For many years, Joyce was an active member of the Abingdon Naturalists' Society and went on birdwatching trips. She was also a member of the local Women's Institute, and I suppose that, in earlier years, her strong will which she still had in old age helped to get things organised.

Joyce had been receiving 24/7 care at home for over two years and her physical health had started to deteriorate in the last 6 months or so. I live and work in Germany and although I was only able to visit Joyce about twice a year during my holidays, we used to phone once a week. In recent years when Joyce was no longer able to do things herself, I was also responsible for organising all of the practical things around her house such as the gardener, the carer and the plumber. We were also very lucky with Joyce's carer, who was very practical and reliable in addition to looking after my Aunt very well.

Joyce was cremated in a very small circle on the 12 of June. It is planned to held a small memorial as part of a church service at the Parish Church of All Saints in Sutton Courtenay, the date is not yet decided but likely to be end of July / beginning of August. I am trying to contact some of her old friends, but at 92 years there aren't so many left. Please contact me as soon as possible if you want to attend or have suggestions and I will let you know when the date has been decided. To make this easier, the following Devon number redirects to my place of work in Hannover: 01566-818187. Alternatively, look at my web site www.davidlong.de for my postal and email address. In later years, my father wrote a 300 page biography of our family which often mentions Joyce. Please let me know if you want a copy which I can send you by email as a PDF file. From: David Long, Hanover, Germany

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

As a VWHDC Councillor, I am well aware of how the planning system in the UK operates. Under current conditions, it is under more pressure now than it has been for years. Planning, as many will know, is a District issue, but as your County Councillor, I have already had the opportunity to view the system from another angle and to see ways in which it is, in my view, in dire need of revision.

At the recent planning meeting to consider the Redrow application in Milton Road, I requested permission to speak on your behalf. I wanted to ask if the results of the surveys into traffic and education, produced by 'Keep Sutton Courtenay Rural', had been considered by the County Transport and Education Officers?, And had KSCR seen reasons why their conclusions had been rejected? I was told that County Councillors had no right to speak at Planning Meetings except as members of the public, and, as such would be taking up some of the '3 minutes' available to the Parish Council and KSCR combined. 3 minutes was so little time that the PC and KSCR Reps had to go at such a pace that it was almost impossible to follow their arguments.

As the Parish Councillor representative on a neighbouring Parish – heavily affected by extra traffic generation in Sutton Courtenay, I requested the opportunity to explain their concerns. Again I was told that I would have to use up some of the precious 3 minutes. Not to be defeated, I tried again in my capacity as a District Councillor for a neighbouring Ward. Same answer. If Sutton Courtenay PC, Keep Sutton Courtenay Rural, and almost all the 30 or so village residents present were frustrated and not a little angry at the way the meeting was conducted, I certainly knew where they were coming from.

Planning is such a contentious subject at present, it is essential that the process maintains its integrity, and is seen as open, fair and as quasi-judicial as possible. It should have nothing to do with party politics and everything to do with planning law. It must allow the public the time to present sensible argument and evidence, and where such argument and evidence is rejected by statutory authorities, it is clearly explained to them why. All this particularly applies to major housing applications. If this makes planning meetings longer, so be it.

I will be working closely with the District Councillors for Sutton Courtenay and Marcham in an effort to ensure that the public is given more time, respect and rather more credit in future, and that these issues are understood by both VWHDC and OCC. As your County Councillor, I will be pressing for the same principles to be applied to county planning applications – at least there I will be allowed to open my mouth!

If you have feelings on this or any other County issue you would like me to hear, please contact me (if you have not already done so!) on 01235 534001 or Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

FROM ED VAIZEY M.P.

In recent weeks I have had one or two constituents e-mail me to ask why I do not discuss either national or controversial local issues in this newsletter. Because I am writing for all my constituents, I try to stay off national topics, because I do not want to be accused of using this space to push political propaganda! Those of you who have written to me on national issues know that I respond quickly and in detail setting out my position.

I try to include local news where relevant, but I have not covered the vexed subject of planning. This is without doubt the major issue in the constituency at the moment, with many people writing to me to express their concerns about the number of developments being proposed. I have set out my views in some detail here www.wantageandgrove.org/ed-vaizey.php and this statement is now on some other parish web sites. I am pleased that the Vale Council has appointed a new head of planning, and two new planning officers. I am also writing to the Planning Minister to ask him to clarify whether housing numbers override local planning considerations. In too many cases, it seems, the Vale is approving proposals which do not fit local planning considerations because, they claim, they need to reach their housing targets. I want to get some clarity from the Government on whether this is right or not.

continued

FROM ED VAIZEY M.P. *CONTINUED*

Finally, related to this issue, I am delighted that the Department for Transport has allocated £5 million to help sort out the Milton Interchange on the A34. This junction is a significant 'pinch point' which has long needed addressing. The scheme will improve the operation and increase the capacity at Milton Interchange, by providing a 'hamburger' style roundabout of the type which have so improved the traffic flows around the Oxford bypass. It should enable the junction to operate effectively even with planned growth in traffic, and help all of us living and working in the area.

Although I don't comment on national issues, I do highlight every month what is in my postbag, so you have some idea of the issues of concern. This month has been dominated by proposals for a badger cull. The spread of bovine TB and the climate change issues that have arisen from the passage of the energy bill have produced around 300 emails and letters between them. Bovine TB is a serious disease which is spreading faster and faster. It cost the taxpayer £500 million in the last 10 years. One part of the current solution being used by the Government is the controlled culling of badgers because it is the most immediately effective measure. The Government has also funded and developed an injectable badger vaccine but this has its limitations. It involves trapping badgers and repeating the process annually for many years.

On the Energy Bill, the Government is committed to decarbonising the UK's energy supplies, but this must be at the lowest overall cost for consumers because energy bills are a big concern for struggling families at the moment. Carbon saving has created a business sector that is now worth £122 billion and employs close to a million people, so being pro-business and anti-carbon is making more sense in modern politics.

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

Ed Vaizey MP

WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING LETTER IN THIS MONTH'S EDITION

Dear Mr. Vaizey,

I have previously written to you in this magazine asking you to share your position on the deluge of planning applications destroying our village, but I have not seen a reply.

Currently, planning applications for new homes will increase the size of our village by over 26% - without one iota being spent on infrastructure. Apart from the damage this will cause our village, the only benefit from developing large green field sites are to the developer's profit margin, as green field sites are far cheaper to develop than other sites. Calling this "sustainable development" is an oxymoron when so many alternatives exist.

In the latest move, our village is about to come under further strain by a massive warehouse development in our Parish which will cause meltdown in a road infrastructure already above capacity. 2,000+ jobs = 4,000 commuter journeys per day - many of those through our village.

Your lack of response is particularly upsetting as your colleague, Sir Tony Baldry, MP for North Oxfordshire, has managed to intercede on behalf of his "incensed" constituents. As a result the Secretary of State has "called in" multiple opportunistic planning applications for Banbury and surrounding villages, this is reported on Sir Tony Baldry's own website. Another of your fellow MPs, Mr. Phillip Hollobone MP (Con) Kettering has also been outspoken in support of his constituents... "Random development is spoiling the village" he said in a BBC article on May 22.

Please may I ask you to clarify where you stand on these matters and what you are going to do to help protect our village?

I look forward to your reply.

Kind regards

Christian Bergesen FCCA

CORDEA SAVILLS PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENT

Public invited to have their say on new development

Cordea Savills, the company behind the plans for two new distribution and logistics buildings, adjacent to the Didcot Power Station, is extending its public consultation.

Following two exhibitions that were held earlier this month at the Sutton Courtenay Village Hall on Friday 14 June and the Didcot Civic Hall on Saturday 15 June, local people have a further opportunity to comment on the proposed development.

Cordea Savills will now be posting further information and feedback forms about its plans through residents' letterboxes over the next week and is asking comments to be sent to on freepost cards by 14th July 2013.

The proposals

The proposed state-of-the-art development will include two separate buildings on the 62 acre site and will create approximately 2,000 new jobs as well as attracting inward investment and generating opportunities for local businesses.

Cordea Savills have already undertaken a lot of work to ensure the proposed development takes account of constraints. This includes carefully considered building design, comprehensive landscaping to create a robust green edge to the development, a routeing agreement for vehicles and a new site access to avoid these vehicles driving through local villages.

Key features include:

- Approximately 2,000 new jobs
- Inward investment
- Two state-of-the-art buildings – comprising 1,000,000 sq ft
- A new site access with a specially designed junction to ensure traffic is routed away from, and not through, Sutton Courtenay village, Milton village or Milton Park. A dedicated routeing agreement will also be put in place
- Extensive landscaping
- A package of acoustic management measures
- Carefully designed lighting across the development

Look out for the feedback forms.

Simon Leonard
Senior Account Director www.acceleris-mc.com

NEW WAREHOUSE DEVELOPMENT

Are Sutton Courtenay residents aware of the potential plans for a warehouse off Sutton Courtenay Lane and the impact on this village?

The information supplied for this building is as follows 1,000,000 square feet floor plan 28 Metres(91.8 feet) high and 700 Metres (0.435 of a mile) long, employing 1,500 full time staff on a shift pattern(500 building it) it will take approx two years to complete. There will be a new entrance created between S shed turning and the chicane at the end of Harwell Road. The building will be a distribution centre this will involve approx 1,300 to 1,500 lorry movements in and the same out per day.

The building will be I believe, the biggest in Oxfordshire!!

This site is approximately 91.4 Metres (100 yards) away for the nearest house. The building will be operating 24 hours a day.

I feel that residents must be aware of the potential noise, lorry exhaust and light pollution. Also the potential traffic issues to local roads.

Although this area is a brown field site, do you feel that this fits into the Science Vale direction for the area?

The company gave a presentation in the village hall on Friday 14th June but although advertising this in the local press and informing the PC did not bother to do a leaflet drop to any of the residents!

It would be good for me to hear the resident's views on this please do contact me on 848881 or email bill.hanks1@btopenworld.com

Bill Hanks Parish Councillor



Site map supplied by developers

KEEP SUTTON COURTENAY RURAL

70 Homes North of Milton Road Get the Go-ahead but Pye Application Refused

The Vale of White Horse planning committee has approved the Redrow development for 70 homes north of Milton Road in Sutton Courtenay. There appears to be no opportunity for appeal but we will explore every possibility. The approval is for outline planning permission which means that Redrow will have to submit the details of the plans for approval at a later stage but it is unlikely that refusal is a prospect.

Over 200 objections were raised to the expansion of Sutton Courtenay around this location but pure objections or village sentiment count for nothing in the planning process. The objection has to be on planning grounds. The VoWH was obviously happy for Sutton Courtenay to have over 27% more people in the village in just a few years time with more than an additional 500 cars on our roads.

Some examples of the arguments outlined in favour of the development at the planning committee were:

- This would help the Vale meet its (disputed) 5 year housing supply target;
- This development would make the shape of the village either side of Milton Road nice and symmetrical on google maps;
- A Councillor's village had grown since the 1st World War so there is no reason why Sutton Courtenay shouldn't expand further.

No sensible weight was given to the fact that this development would exacerbate the severe problems of congestion on our local roads or the fact that the green space around Sutton Courtenay is rapidly disappearing. David Hignell from the Parish Council, Gervase Duffield from the District Council, Chris Doel Chair of KSCR and a local resident all spoke against the development. Margaret Turner of Harwell and Fiona Roper of Wantage, both of whom live in areas that have had similar development pressures, voted against along with Gervase. The rest of the committee were in favour.

Please keep writing to our local M.P. Ed Vaizey. We are now seeing some limited practical help from him but the whole Vale policy of targeting large villages for development has to change along with the government's carte blanche to developers to cherry pick green field sites that are the most profitable places to build (with the useless proviso that any new development has to be sustainable). When we see a change in this policy we will have seen some real practical help. In the meantime, further significant damage to historic villages is being wrought across the Vale.

Special thanks go out to all the people who have supported the KSCR campaigns so far. Dozens of supporters have made the effort to attend the three VoWH Planning Committee meetings and over the last few months a multitude of volunteers have helped with leaflet drops, letter writing and contributed thousands of pounds of their own money to fund the fight against these dreadful developments. We shall continue this battle to stop Sutton Courtenay being damaged even further and, as explained elsewhere in the magazine, there has been success in the refusal of the Pye development for 34 houses, so this shows what we can achieve. However, Pye will likely come back and the mega-warehouse is looming so there is no time for rest.

We are urgently looking for more volunteers to become actively involved in the KSCR committee so that we can maintain the momentum. Please get in touch with us at KeepSuttonCourtenayRural@yahoo.co.uk or on 07768 645544 to help contribute.

Thank you
Chris Doel
Chair of Keep Sutton Courtenay Rural (www.kscr.org.uk)



BIRDWATCHER

I find the month of June one of the strangest of the year for observing our feathered friends. The active parents of newly born chicks are feverously seeking food for their young and many of the regular garden birds are not even seen at all.

We are fortunate to see lots of water birds in the village and I have been very lucky to watch 10 goslings grow from tiny balls of yellow fluff (seen in the picture below) into huge scruffy brown grass processing machines in just a few short weeks. They have also quadrupled in size.

The two families of Canada Geese are now firmly established on the lawn at the back of our house, one family has four goslings and the other six, with the latter about 8-10 days younger and slightly less developed.



I called the Geese 'grass processing machines' because they eat almost incessantly and leave a trail of droppings EVERYWHERE. Even when they sit down to take the weight off their legs, they keep eating grass.

I look forward to seeing some of the Robin and Blue Tit fledglings as they are due to fly the nest any day now and I have to say that I am so pleased the Kingfishers are feeding well, which hopefully means they have one or two young in their bank-side tunnel (fingers crossed).

The regular pair of Great Spotted Woodpeckers who visit my garden have also been taking plenty of offerings from the feeding area; so again, I hope to see some young GSW's soon.

Mike Dowsett

Editors' Note on drawings on Page 3 of this edition

The drawings accompanying the text are by Felix Wilkinson of Sutton Courtenay and are part of a small series of village scenes which will appear in the coming issues of Sutton Courtenay News

NAG5

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

Some of you may already be aware of the well deserved award of 'Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) of the year for Oxfordshire and Thames Valley' to our very own PCSO Sandra Syphas. The award was on the basis of nominations by the public and colleagues at work.

Congratulations to Sandra and a big thank you to all those who took the time to complete a nomination form and show your appreciation for Sandra's commitment and dedication go the extra mile to make a difference in our communities.

Other news - It may be useful to look at the following web links:

Neighbourhood Watch - http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/get_involved/ . There are some schemes in the villages but not as many as they used to be. If you are in a scheme please do make sure it is registered as it helps folks new to the area to locate the nearest scheme should they be interested.

Thames Valley Alert - <https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/> . A system for receiving crime and policing updates in the Thames Valley has been launched. You can receive information via text and more traditional landline and email messages are also available.

If you are interested in the above and do not have access to the internet please do have a chat with Sandra at the Police Office on the High Street.

Rita Atkinson

CLIFTON HAMPDEN SURGERY

Patient Participation Group

Clifton Hampden Surgery has instigated the formation of a Patient Participation Group which met for the first time on 17th May. At the moment the group has seven patient members and the meeting was also attended by Dr Estelle James and by Hilary Rogerson.

The purpose of the group is to provide a forum in which there can be discussion on the services on offer and how improvements can be made for the benefit of patients. It provides the opportunity to suggest positive ideas and also to voice concerns.

Improved communication between GPs and patients can only be for the benefit of everyone involved. It provides a route for patients to advise the practice o, matters of concern - but must not be for patients to resolve their own personal complaints and issues not must it be a doctors' fan club.

The opportunity for organising health promotion and educational events, providing feedback from other local organisations and providing support to them and to individual patients are all things which might be possible in the future. The group will also publish news-letters to keep everyone in touch with what is going on. Full details of contacts will be circulated shortly.

Finally, two short news items – the provision of a handrail from the car park to the surgery is being organised and the provision of a second handrail up the steps to Reception is to be considered soon.

Mary Braybrooke

SUTTON COURTENAY COMMUNITY-LED PLAN

What is it?

- Brings together the views, needs and opinions of the whole community on issues that matter to all of us.
- Sets out what we need and what we value.
- Gives everyone a chance to guide future development of our community.
- An action plan that will prioritise the issues raised by our community, and set out how they might be tackled.
- A collective vision for the future of Sutton Courtenay.

Why produce a Community-led Plan?

- Everyone can have a say about how our local area and services are managed.
- Make a real difference – to what we do within our community, and to how we work with others.
- Provide evidence and a mechanism to influence our local authority, service providers and planners.
- As a tangible expression of the local voice, our Community-led Plan should be widely recognised by those making

Who creates the Community-led Plan?

- You do!

Everyone in Sutton Courtenay can help create the plan. The most important thing that anyone can do is contribute ideas and opinions to ensure that the Community-led Plan is built on a broad consensus and represents the views of the whole village.

A steering group has been set up to co-ordinate the production of the plan. Members are – Rita Atkinson, Dave Butler, Bill Hanks, Mike Jenkins, Kathy Whittaker and Colin Woodward.

On the basis of previous consultations, at various village events, a questionnaire has been produced to collect up-to-date and accurate information on conditions, needs, views and lifestyles in the village. The Plan will be based on your responses to the questionnaire.

NOW WE NEED YOUR HELP

Please get in touch if you could spare a little time to help distribute and collect back the questionnaires. There are just over 1000 households in Sutton Courtenay. Each resident will get a questionnaire to complete (separate one for under 16s).

TIMELINE

We would like to distribute and collect the completed questionnaires over August and September. The Vale of White Horse District Council has offered to electronically scan the completed questionnaires produce the analysis of the data. To ensure that the plan is completed in 2013 we should get it back to Vale by October.

WIN a £100 – each completed questionnaire will be entered in to a prize draw and the lucky winner takes home £100.

Please do get in touch if you could spare some time and certainly do complete and return your questionnaire.

Rita Atkinson (01235 848694)

BBOWT SUTTON COURTENAY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

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Help in our Wildlife Garden

The garden around the building is looked after by enthusiastic volunteers. It shows how gardens can be havens for wildlife and enjoyed by people.

Hundreds of visiting school children discover what insects, birds and pondlife live in the garden. They explore the colours and scents of the plants. Holiday activities often make things out of materials from the garden.



Sutton Courtenay Environmental Centre

New garden volunteers are welcome.

No experience is needed, just an interest in wildlife gardening.

The garden group meets fortnightly on Mondays 10am—2pm. Seasonal work includes planning, planting, weeding and maintaining the hard landscapes. Tools are provided. There are opportunities to share and improve your knowledge.



The next sessions are Mondays 1 July, 15 July and 5 August.

Come along, or email rachelstrachan@bbowt.org.uk or phone the centre on 01235 862024.

SUTTON COURTENAY WI

Well, another month has gone by. We had the Movers and Shakers at our May meeting and they were very entertaining. Sally and Liz went to Cardiff to the Resolution meeting. We also had a very good trip to see the tall ships in Gloucester docks. It was a nice sunny day and the docks were very lively. We were joined by Abingdon Harwell and Stevenson WIs.

We have lots of different things planned for the next few months so why not come and join us. Keep this date for your diary - August 20th, our day at the seaside, we plan to go to Bournemouth for the day, please come and join us. We have some different ideas for later on in the year so always keep your eye on Burgrey store window, and read SC News in case you miss a good day out.

Our lunch a month was at the Barley Mow at Clifton Hamden. Sixteen of us sat out for a couple of hours in the sun, enjoying a very pleasant lunch. We have a mini bus ordered to go out to a garden near Aylesbury on 10th July and lunch will be at the Pheasant at Brill, we will be having afternoon tea with Lady Newell. If you are not able to join us on any of our trips we hope to see you after the holidays. Or if you think of a place you want to visit please see a committee member and we will try to arrange it for you.

Margaret Hamilton

LETTER TO EDITOR

I just wanted to send a little note to the person who picked all the roses off the bush in my garden, I hope they are giving you as much pleasure as they would have given me! What with flowers being stolen from the church yard and it seems peoples gardens, also benches being smashed up on the green we don't seem to have much respect for one another any more.

Tim Buckle

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Our river trip on the 11th June was very enjoyable. The weather could have been better. There were 24 members and friends on the trip by Salter's Steamer from Abingdon to Sandford Lock, where we got off the steamer and had a meal in the King's Arms public house. The meals we chose were very good and very reasonable in price. We caught the return steamer from Oxford and arrived back in Abingdon at about 4.30pm. A very successful day.

Our next meeting will be on 9th July and will be our yearly Garden party, and once again by kind permission of Mrs Joan Moss will be held in her garden at 23 Harwell Road, Sutton Courtenay, at 2pm. If you are able please bring a garden chair.

In August there is no meeting. Our meeting in September will be our AGM and your committee hope you will all be able to attend.

Visitors are always welcome to attend our meetings.

Rose Woodward (Secretary)

4TH SEASON ! 2013

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21 July

Saint James Singers

We are delighted to open our 2013 season by welcoming this fine local *a capella* ensemble (in their own 20th anniversary year) ~ sharing the pick of their broad and eclectic repertoire from across 12 centuries of worldwide song, sacred and secular

28 July

Cellist's Choice

Versatile local professional **Valerie Findlay** returns with a further varied programme of pieces for this evocative instrument
Accompanied at the Kreisler baby-grand piano by Ian Miles

4 August

Songs of Summer

Abingdon soprano **Lynne Winter** and friends bring us a beguiling selection of vocal items in classical and lighter vein
 ... whatever season the weather may be offering us!

11 August

Flute Finale

Sutton's own fine flautist **James Thompson** rounds off our season with another sparkling programme, accompanied by **Ian Miles** and including a welcome return visit by remarkable young local guitarist **Rory Evans**

**SUN – SEA – AND SAND
VICAR’S SEASIDE FUN DAY**

**The Village Green
Sutton Courtenay**

1-4pm

SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST 2013

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Ice Creams – BBQ – Cream Teas

Tombola – Grand Raffle

Olwyn’s famous plant stall

Fun & Games for all ages!

If you can help in anyway please contact

Rita Atkinson 848694 or Helen Kendrick 848297

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Didcot & District University of the Third Age

DIDCOT & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to one meeting as a taster before joining.

The July meeting will be held at 2pm on 16 July. The topic will be **The life and work of Brunel**. The August meeting will be held at 2pm on 20 August (the topic will be **The Cooke Islands**).

U3As are self-help, self-managed lifelong learning co-operatives for older people no longer in full time work, providing opportunities for their members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning not for qualifications, but for fun. *There are over 20 interest groups including wine appreciation, science & maths, play reading, creative writing, walking, knitting, bridge, crafts, books, poetry, singing, badminton, photography and 5 languages. There's something for everyone!*

Tel: 07804159993

Email: didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com

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

JOHN O'SHEA

The family of the late John O'Shea, who died suddenly on 25 May, would like to thank everyone for the many flowers, cards and messages of support which they have received during this sad time and to those who attended John's funeral on Wednesday 5 June.

We would also like to thank everyone for their generous donations to Headway Charity which gives help and support to people affected by brain injury.

The O'Shea family

SUTTON COURTENAY CRAFT AND PRODUCE SHOW

Since my last little written piece to you all regarding the show this year, I have been busying myself with organising judges for the 7th September and worrying about the weather as veggies and flowers seem to be on the late side again this year.

I am hoping this sunny spell keeps up and we can all enjoy a summer this year and maybe an Indian summer to follow?

Putting the weather to one side. I do hope there are going to be lots of children entering the show this year as I do believe it would make the judge's day to see many entries from the children. All of the children's classes on the schedule, are pretty much weather proof. Hint, hint, knock, knock!

I am looking forward to see a huge variety of crowns made from lots of different mediums!

I also would like to reach out to anyone who likes to draw or paint and not to be shy in showing your work. The wonderful beauty of the art world is that anything goes and maybe we have the next Dali in the making?

I have already been asked to clarify if the Spiced Carrot Cake recipe in the schedule requires eggs? The recipe does not require any eggs as I make it quite often.

I would like to extend a big thank you to Stuart Martin for posting the pictures of the daffodils on the Green on the Sutton Courtenay website, and **adding the schedule for this year's show and it can be downloaded from the website. The entry form will follow on line too.**

I would have been vocal sooner in the Sutton Courtenay News but, the days have been running away with me and I am not quite sure where May went to!

Tracey Frankum (Chairman)



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GENERAL

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