

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 42 No.9

NOVEMBER 2013

VILLAGE DIARY

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

November				
Saturday	2nd	4.30pm	Firework Display	Culham Park
Sunday	3rd	6.00pm	All Souls' Service	Church
Tuesday	5th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tuesday	5th	7.30pm	Spiritual Fellowship	Village Hall
Sunday	10th	11.00am	Act of Remembrance	War Memorial
Sunday	10th	11.15am	Service of Remembrance	Church
Tuesday	12th	7.30pm	SC History Society	Village Hall
Tuesday	12th	2.00pm	Womens Christian Fellowship	Village Hall
Tuesday	19th	7.30pm	WI	Village Hall
Wednesday	20th		SC News Copy Date	
Saturday	30th	11.00am	School Christmas Bazaar	SC Primary School

Sutton Courtenay News

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held
in the Committee Room, Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

on 5th December 2013 at 7.30pm

Everyone welcome

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.)	Richard Webber <i>Richard.Webber77@ntlworld.com</i>	534001
District Councillor: (Planning, Waste etc.)	Gervase Duffield Appleford House, Appleford	848319
Parish Council Chairman	Michael Jenkins Danluda, Churchmere Road <i>msjenkins@msn.com</i>	847174
Bookings for Village Hall	Rita Atkinson Caroline Grundy	848694 848697
Sutton Courtenay Website	www.suttoncourtenay.co.uk	
Environment Agency: 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.

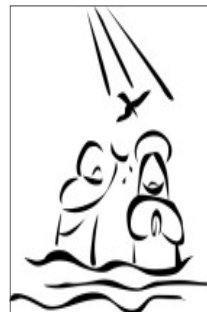


HOLY MATRIMONY

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

Colin Bardell and Sally Gale Watson 20th September 2013

James Matthew Carter and Jade Dianna Bolton 21st September 2013



HOLY BAPTISM

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

Lillian Frances Smith 22nd September 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:

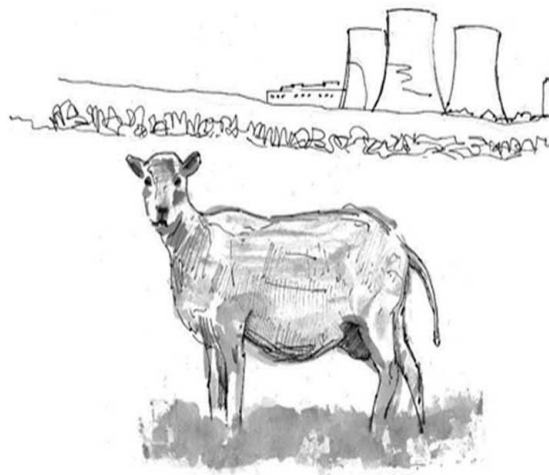
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The Sutton Courtenay News is printed with support from Sutton Courtenay Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Road Closure B4016

The section of the B4016 between Sutton Courtenay and Appleford is scheduled to close from 11th November for 5 days to allow for carriageway resurfacing. The closure area is from the junction with Abingdon Road right through to the turning to Didcot beyond the Appleford level crossing into the landfill site. Access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and residents in the closure area.



Review of Parish boundaries

The Vale of White Horse District Council is currently undertaking a community governance review and has recommended that consideration be given to placing the whole of Milton Park in a single parish. Sutton Courtenay Parish Council however, believes that any change would not have a positive impact for community governance in this area, and it has not supported the principle of considering the parish boundaries.

Parish Housing Policy

Residents have suggested that the Parish Council give consideration to drafting a housing policy for the area, given the number of applications that have been lodged recently. At the moment a group of volunteers in the village is undertaking a community led plan. The Parish Council has therefore decided to wait until the analysis of those questionnaires is complete, and the community led plan drafted, and it can then consider producing a summary sheet containing the key issues for housing in the parish.

Grants

The Parish Council considers any requests for grants when setting its budget for the next financial year. Therefore, if there is any worthy and needy organisation where Sutton Courtenay residents benefit, which is considering applying to the Parish Council for a grant, then please write to the Clerk as soon as possible, stating the purpose of the grant and supplying a copy of your organisation's accounts.

Fireworks

A reminder to be considerate of neighbours and the many pets and animals in the village when letting off your fireworks. Please notify others when any fireworks are going to be lit so that villagers are aware and arrangements can be made to keep pets indoors.

Continued overleaf.....

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been considered :

P13/V1893/HH Alterations to conservatory and change garage flat roof to pitched roof at 8 Harwell Road. The Council had no objections

P13/V1991/HH Oak framed extension to kitchen/breakfast and single storey extension to study at The Barn House, Old Wallingford Way. The Council had no objections

P13/V1988/LB Replacement of boiler at The Abbey, The Green. The Council had no objections

P13/V1832/O Erection of new buildings for storage and distribution on land west of the Power Station off Sutton Courtenay Lane. The Parish Council lodged strong objections to this proposal owing to the traffic implications for the village, the lack of a travel plan for employees, the cumulative impact of all developments in the area, the effect on the local residents and school, the design, size and height of the buildings. acoustic impact, drainage, effect on biodiversity, socio-economic impact and the coalescence of settlements. The Parish council has urged the District Council to refuse the application.

Erection of 9 dwellings – Peewit Farm

The Parish Council has been advised that an appeal against the refusal by the Vale of White Horse District Council, to erect 9 dwellings at Peewit Farm off the Drayton Road had been turned down.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 5th November, 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall, Frilsham Street.

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

LETTER REGARDING WATER LEAKS

We seem to be having a number of water leaks in the Village these past few weeks.

I am concerned about the leaks that I know of in Milton Road, Harwell Road and the High Street. Some of them may be because of the laying of the new gas pipes in the Village, but two that I have reported to Thames Water were not. I appreciate that most of the pipework is getting old but do Thames Water actually do any checking or do they just wait for a leak to occur then send in contractors to deal with one problem at a time? I also noticed today that there appears yet another leak in the High Street next to the Garage. Are the Parish Council being kept aware of these problems with the water pipework by Thames Water?

To find a Freephone number to ring I had to go into Thames Water website. May I suggest that this number **0800714614** is printed in the Sutton Courtenay News to make it easier for others to use when they see any leaks.

(name and address provided)

SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our first term back at school has flown past and it will not be long until we are building up to Christmas.

Last term there were many different projects going on in school to engage the children and help to bring their learning to life. The whole of Key Stage 2 (ages 7-11) studied the topic entitled 'Scream Machine'. This focused on Science as the main area of the topic and in particular looked at the forces of gravity and friction. The children have had fantastic learning experiences: making paperclips 'float' whilst exploring the forces of magnetism, investigating friction whilst doing 'jelly races' and as a finale all the children visited Legoland to see forces in action.

Year 2 (ages 6 and 7) have been exploring the Orchestra and composing different pieces of music and Year 1 have also had a science focus: electricity.

This year we have started all sorts of initiatives, one of which is replacing the 'School Council' with a Pupils' Parliament. This involves all children in Years 2-6 making decisions about different aspects of school life. Their work this term has involved looking at the values that we want all members of our school community to display at all times. This is what the children decided:

We are honest.

We co-operate.

We are responsible.

We show respect.

We are kind.

We persevere.

We always do our best.



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

Our iPads have also added to the learning experiences with children from reception upwards using them to create eBooks using a range of features and different apps. This wonderful resource has become a very important part of the learning that we are able to offer.

Term 1 has also seen us launch our new sports initiatives. For the first time we entered a Cross Country competition and our boys team came 9th out of 21 with the girls finishing 8th out of 19. Our football team has also started playing in the small schools league. After school clubs are very popular with basketball, football and zumba all attracting over 20 children every week.

If you have a child who will be 4 by 31st August 2014 and you are looking for school places for September 2014, I would be delighted to show you round the school. Please do make an appointment to come and visit by telephoning or e-mailing the office.

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

Two poems and a prayer for November... the time of remembering

All Souls' - Sunday 3rd November at 6pm in All Saints' Church

Remembrance Sunday – 11am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial followed at 11.15am by the Service of Remembrance in the Church.

Heavenly Father, In this month of long nights and dull days, we remember those we have known, those we have loved and lost recently. We ache and we cry, as individuals and as a nation. We read the lists of names of those who died in wars that are now history. Few of us knew those brave ones as living people, and we realise that life is fleeting. We too will soon be just names on a list, or on someone's family tree. And we wonder what life means. Help us, Lord, to switch our focus, from our limited, "now" view, to your unlimited and eternal bigger picture - and to be re-assured. Thank you for sending Jesus to make sense of life, paradoxically, by his death on the cross. Thank you that through knowing him, we can know you. Our names will never be forgotten, because we shall live forever with you, if we put our trust in Jesus. Thank you Lord for remembering us. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

With love and prayers, Helen

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



Walking back to life - By Sam Doubtfire

I look down at the bed and say,
 "Aren't you getting up to-day?"
 and then I potter, hoping you'll get in my way
 whilst emptiness declares that Death has
 robbed me.

I try to tidy tidiness,
 adjust myself to timelessness,
 and take each memory from its store
 as tears caress ethereal hands
 that, from Heaven's shore, would draw me.

And then I sit down in my chair
 where memory becomes a prayer
 of thankfulness for all we had.
 Then, from despair, I find myself
 walking back to life more boldly.

The Stile - By Nigel Beeton

He turned, with his foot on the stile,
 And gave a last nod of his head,
 Blew a kiss, and gave her a smile –
 "I'll be back home for Christmas," he said.

She waved back to him with great pride,
 As he went off to fight in the war,
 No sense of foreboding inside
 He'd soon be back home, she was sure.

From time to time o'er that stile,
 Came the post, with mail from abroad.
 Though apart by many a mile,
 There was love in every word.

The letters then suddenly ceased
 A telegram came in their stead,
 She read it, and said, "Well at least,
 He's only gone missing, not dead."

She watched that old stile through her tears,
 Through long days of rain and of sun,
 She watched it for sixty more years
 And never lost hope that he'd come.

ALL SOULS'

You are invited to a special service of naming and remembering for All Souls' in
All Saints' Church
 Sutton Courtenay
 on

Sunday 3rd November 2013 at 6pm

This service will provide an opportunity to remember and to give thanks for the lives of those we love, who have died. During the service the names of those for whom we have conducted a funeral service in the past two years will be read out and a candle lit in their memory. If there are other people you also wish to remember, regardless of where or when they died, please add their names to the list in church.

If you need transport to and from the service, or have any other questions, please leave a message at the Vicarage by telephoning
 (01235) 848297

COFFEE SHOP & BOOK SALE

Thursday 28th November

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

CHURCH DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

- **Sunday 3rd** – 10.30am Service of Confirmation with the Bishop of Reading followed by a bring and share lunch. All welcome! **6pm Service of Naming and Remembering for All Souls'** (see advert for details)
- **Sunday 10th** – 10am Shortened Parish Eucharist. 11am Act of Remembrance at War Memorial. 11.15 Service of Remembrance. 6pm Evensong.
- **Monday 11th** – 7.30pm Sutton Courtenay Parochial Church Council Meeting in the Church.
- **Sunday 17th** – Save the Children Card Sale after the main Sunday service in All Saints' Church (about 11.30am). 12.30 Hungry Saints Lunch – sign up on the list at the back of church if you wish to come.
- **Sunday 24th** – 7.30pm All Saints' Singers Advent Concert
- **Thursday 28th** – 10.10-12noon Coffee and Cakes at All Saints'
- **Saturday 30th** – 11-2pm Christmas Bazaar at the School (see advert for details)

CHURCH DIARY FOR DECEMBER

- **Sunday 1st** – 10.30am Family Service for Advent
- **Saturday 7th** – 2pm Wedding. 6.30pm Friends of All Saints' Church Yuletide Evening in the Abbey.
- **Tuesday 10th** – 2pm Women's Christian Fellowship Meditation for Christmas meeting in the Church.
- **Sunday 15th** – 3pm Street Nativity in Appleford.

REST IN PEACE

We send our condolences and the assurance of our prayers to the family and friends of the following person who has died recently:

Sebastian Peter Grootz who has died aged 28 on 23rd September 2013 was born 19th March 1985 in Oxford on and grew up in Sutton Courtenay, Didcot and Scotland. He went to Northborne Primary School and to St Birinus. From an early age he was interested in life – energetic and curious, a live-wire with a mischievous streak. He was the baby of the family and grew up with his big brother Kai and big sister Nina – putting up with all that a little brother must. As a young man he spent several months in New Zealand – a time which proved to be very formative for him and left him with a lifelong love of the country and a desire to return – the only thing holding him back was the thought of leaving all his family and friends who meant so much to him.

Sebastian met Emily in 2009 and, although Emily's first impression of him was not entirely favourable, his charm did eventually win her over and he, apparently liked Emily from the first moment as she actually laughed at his jokes. In due course Seb and Emily set up home together and their daughter Scarlett was born on 25th July last year and Ruben, their son, is on the way. Seb proved to be a very good father – always prepared to change nappies and very keen to get involved in all aspects of being a parent. He had a natural connection to children and he always wanted some of his own. He had a sense of adventure, a hunger for life and for all the experiences it offered. He loved motorbikes; relished the cut and thrust of rugby and enjoyed time with Kai on their mountain bikes. He was addicted to the Harry Potter films and used to like drumming – although, as his Dad observed, that wasn't so popular with the neighbours. He was an inventive cook, not afraid of experimenting. In many ways he was a free thinking, free spirit but also proved himself to be very determined, hard-working and committed to providing for his growing family. After various jobs in sales he began working for Asda and embarked on a college course to train as a plumber and with dreams of starting his own business – determined to carve out a future for himself and his family. Tragically this was not to be, as he died in a motorcycle accident on 23rd September. He will be greatly missed by his partner Emily and all his family and his many friends.

This is an edited extract of the address given at Seb's funeral on 8th October 2013 in All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay by the Reverend Helen Kendrick. Personal tributes were also paid by Seb's brother Kai, his sister Nia and John, one of his many friends.

WOMENS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Our meeting on the 8th October 2013 was very interesting. We had a talk from one of our members, Pat Steptoe, about her holiday in Singapore and Australia a few years ago, with slides shown by Jim Hayden. All members enjoyed this meeting very much, and our thanks go to Pat and Jim for making it so interesting.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th November at 2pm in the Village Hall, when we will be having mince pies with our tea.

We have recently had two new members join our Fellowship and they are most welcome. Visitors are always very welcome to join us at any of our meetings.

Rose Woodward (Secretary)

SUTTON COURTENAY WI

Hello from Sutton Courtenay WI.

Our October meeting was well attended with 50 people hearing about 'How I cast away'. We had a very good 'lunch a month' at Long Wittenham at The Plough. Nineteen of us sat by the big open fires in two rooms. The service was very good and the food very tasty.

We would like to congratulate Florence and Jim Hayden and all who gave help or donated to the cancer coffee morning. Over £200 was raised. Well done everyone.

For our 'lunch a month' in November we will be going to Chilton Garden Centre, and you will have a chance to buy Christmas gifts. The date has not yet been decided.

As winter seems to be drawing in, why not come and see what your local WI has to offer? Our next meeting will be on November 19th. All are welcome, in fact we even had a gentleman visiting in September, as there was a talk on Pinewood Studios, something he was interested in.

If you need transport call me on 847472 or leave a message.

Margaret Hamilton

DIDCOT AND 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 November meeting will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 19 November at Didcot Civic Hall. The topic will be **The work of Sobell House.**

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>

The All Saints' Singers

Concert

Sunday November 24th at 7.30pm

Duruflé: Requiem

Choral works by Beethoven, Bruckner, Holst and Rheinberger

Albinoni: Adagio for strings

Maurice Duruflé was born in Normandy at the beginning of the 20th Century. His early education as a chorister at Rouen cathedral introduced him to plainsong chant and it is this style of singing which has strongly influenced his requiem. He was a fastidious composer constantly re-working his compositions and often burning discarded writing, as such only 14 opus numbers are known to exist. This work displays a subtle and expressive reading of the requiem, in contrast to the somewhat fiery settings of Verdi and Berlioz at the time and represents the idea of comfort, faith and hope.

The choir will be joined by a mezzo soprano and baritone soloist, with a full supporting orchestra.

For a number of years now, we have neglected to use the fine organ we have in our church and we shall be using this magnificent instrument throughout the concert

Tickets: (£12) 01235 848205

Burgrey Stores, Sutton Courtenay

The Bookstore, Bury Street Precinct, Abingdon

FORTHCOMING EVENT

Oxford Harmonic Society

A concert for Christmas with music from Charpentier, Vaughan Williams and others

Saturday 30 November, 7.30pm

Oxford Town Hall

£16/£14 (concessions available)

For more details see www.oxfordharmonicsoc.org.

SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

Tues Nov 5th Village Hall 7.30pm. Spiritual Fellowship Meeting with David Chapman

Tues Dec 3rd Village Hall 7.30pm. Spiritual Fellowship Meeting with Ben & Penny Gater

On Tuesday 1st October Patrick Carbury was with us once more and he gave good evidence which was received by many, preceeded with a very spiritual address.

We were pleased to have some fresh faces, but the attendance was down a little. Every one is most welcome.

Anything you do not quite understand or any queries do give us a ring.

Pat and Sam 01235 847460

100TH BIRTHDAY—DORIS HARRISON

Invitation

On the 10th November 2013 my mum Doris Harrison will be 100 years old and as far as I know is the oldest person in the village.

To mark the occasion on Saturday 9th November we will have open house at 35 Milton Road between 10.00am – 2pm. Anyone who knows Doris is invited to wish her a happy birthday and celebrate with her with a cup of tea and a piece of cake. Please make her day by calling in, the more the better.

Doreen Denton



NORA HARRAGIN

Many of you will now know that Nora, who is the past editor of the Sutton Courtenay News, has had an operation at the John Radcliffe following a fall. She is such a huge contributor to Sutton Courtenay life that we send best wishes for a speedy recovery on behalf of us all.

FROM ED VAIZEY M.P.

As we are now approaching the first anniversary of the Localism Act, it's worth remembering the range of powers and programmes which communities can use to shape their areas. The Government has published a guide which can be accessed at this website:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/youve-got-the-power-a-quick-and-simple-guide-to-community-rights

It's described as quick and simple, and as it runs to just 23 pages it is a model of brevity compared to many documents produced by civil servants. There's concise guidance on the options that might be available in different sets of circumstances and then advice on what each process will involve as well as examples of how each of the powers has been used by a different community. It's well worth a look.



This has been a busy month in politics. The major parties have all had their conferences and Parliament has returned for the autumn. With all the issues that have arisen and the policies that have been discussed in recent weeks, it's no surprise that my mailbag has also been keeping me busy. I have had emails on a wide variety of issues but 2 campaigns have been particularly noticeable:

Firstly, there is a campaign to speed up the approval of a Royal Charter to regulate the press. I can assure you that the Government and I are committed to implementing a tough new system of press self-regulation, and a royal charter with cross party agreement was agreed to earlier this year. This is now being fully considered, to ensure that the process of implementing the Leveson recommendations is as robust as possible. While I understand the desire to see changes made as soon as possible, given the importance of these measures I would be reluctant to see the process rushed in any way.

Secondly, there have been a number of emails arising from the film 'I Am Breathing', which tells the story of Neil Platt, a young man with motor neurone disease. MND is a dreadful, devastating disease and I am sure that his important film will not only raise awareness of the condition, but act as an inspiration for others. The cause of MND is unknown and therefore there is no known cure. However, the treatment of MND and other long-term health conditions remains a priority in this Government's plans for the NHS, which is why there is now a £3.8bn fund to aid the joining up of different health and care services to ensure that people get the specific care that is right for them.

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

SUTTON COURTENAY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



“TIN HATS AND GAS MASKS”

Speaker – Martin Way

Tuesday 12th November 7.30pm

Village Hall

We enjoyed an entertaining evening with Martin Way when he gave a talk on the life of the Anglo-Saxons. At this return visit he will explore the work of the Home Front during World War 2, such as the contribution of the civilian population who provided active support for the military through home defence, the mobilisation of women, rationing etc. This will stir some memories and be an insight into life at that time for younger generations. We can expect another lively talk from Martin Way who brings along many items of interest and memorabilia to illustrate his talk.

Everyone welcome. Members free: Visitors £3.

Roll of Honour Book

The History Society has funded the production of a Roll of Honour Book which was researched and written by Sarah Ward. The book is a valuable record which commemorates the lives of the men from the village who lost their lives during both World Wars. A hard back copy has been donated to the church and will be on display for the first time at the Remembrance Service.

Copies of the book in a different format are available for sale at £5 each and all proceeds will go towards the restoration of the war memorial.

History Website

By the beginning of November the Sutton Courtenay Local History Society will have its own website, www.sclhs.org.uk. This will be the official website about the history of the village. It will provide information about meetings of the Society, and accounts of the rich and varied history of the village which will be added to over time.

Mary Thompson

BIRDWATCHER

Wow. The season has truly changed now and most of our migratory birds have flown south by now. The rain has been relentless and the leaves are really starting to fall. On a positive note, the autumnal colours are wonderful to capture in a photograph.

Some recent sightings for this birdwatcher, around our village include both male and female Blackcap (see image below), several Common Buzzard's including a trio circling over their prey between the A4130 and the train line, as well as a Fieldfare and a Skylark which were nice surprises too (along the Appleford Road).

My biggest question was a partial sighting of what I thought was a Merlin. Now maybe this is because I think the Merlin is a beautiful raptor and I would really like to see one locally... It could well have been small a Sparrow Hawk. I'll never be sure, as I did not have my camera and long lens with me at the time. It may have just been wishful thinking on my part, but I hope it was a Merlin.



Photo: A male Blackcap in Sutton Courtenay

I am really looking forward to a short trip to the Isle of Mull before the next edition. I'll let you know what we find exploring this wildlife rich island on the West coast of Scotland.

Have a fun and safe Halloween on the 31st of October!

Mike Dowsett – mike.dowsett@sky.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP 5 (NAG 5)

At the last meeting of NAG5, the discussions centred on the June meeting of The Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch & in particular the protection of property. A major concern expressed by the Police at that meeting was the high volume of lost & recovered stolen property held by police which could not be identified with the owners. The police stressed that there are simple means of marking property which would identify the owner to the police.

There are ultra violet (UV) marker pens with which owners mark valuable items with their post code and also there is a brand of forensic marking fluid known as Smartwater. This liquid is invisible to the eye when dabbed onto valuable items, but as with marker pens, glows under UV. Each bottle contains sufficient to mark about 50 items and the contents are unique to the purchaser much like DNA. Advantages of Smartwater over marker pens are that it is linked with the owner not the address, and does not wear off. Should an owner move house the Smartwater register needs to be updated with the new address but it is not necessary, unlike with marker pens, to re-mark the items. Information provided with the Smartwater kit includes a registration form containing the liquid's unique number which the user completes and returns to the address provided. Stickers to affix to windows and doors to show that Smartwater has been used are also provided. Any items coming into police possession are scanned on arrival and if marked are linked with the owner. Neighbourhood policing teams also carry with them ultra violet lanterns which they use on stop checks, search warrants & scrap yard checks.

There are a limited number of Smartwater kits available at the police station, priced £15, heavily discounted. They can be ordered by phoning 101 & asking for the front desk. Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators may wish to encourage participation in this scheme by their groups. Help and advice can be sought from our neighbourhood police team. Appleford is now designated a Smartwater Zone as a large number of residents are using Smartwater. This should discourage thefts.

There are few Neighbourhood Watch schemes registered on the Watch website. There is only one registered in Sutton Courtenay whereas there are several in the village. This makes it difficult for those wishing to join a scheme to find one local to their address. Coordinators are asked to register their schemes on the website, www.ourwatch.org.uk and go to the Home page and follow the instructions.

Peter Delany

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Saturday 30th November

11am-2pm

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SUTTON COURTENAY COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Oxfordshire County Council, in common with most County Councils is very short of money. It has capital reserves, but its Revenue Budget gets tighter and tighter every year. In the next financial year, it is going to have find tens of millions of annual savings to makes its books balance. Hard decisions are going to have to be made over which services, traditionally offered by OCC should be cut. With Social Services, Roads and Education being the major costs, and the Education budget being largely protected, the options are not attractive. By contrast, District Councils, by and large, are comparatively wealthy; Parish Councils also have more freedom to raise money (at present) than either District or County Councils.

We can either complain and demand a reverse of direction or we can embrace the change and endeavour to make it an opportunity rather than a threat. Money flowing down the chain towards Parish Councils, empowering people to take more responsibility for local decisions, raising the status of, and public interest in the work of Parish Councils, is no bad thing. Indeed, it is what Localism is about.

However, giving people more power over their own lives only works if a) local people are prepared to take up the responsibility and b) those, who have traditionally held the power, understand that they are required to give some of it up. None of this will happen quickly, indeed, it may take years to achieve. However, having watched the Parish Councils in my Council Division in action, I cannot accept the old argument that such bodies are not capable and fit to make sensible decisions for their communities. There is much to threaten us out there at present, but there is also great opportunity. So where does this leave a County Council? Maybe Social Service responsibilities are gradually being handed downwards. Academies are steadily removing County powers over Education. It seems that the only certain future responsibility of Counties is around Roads and Transport. It may well be that in future, what money the County Council has is spent largely here. If the whole place is not to seize up, if people are going to be able to get to our Schools and our Social services, we are going to need some solutions to our transport problems in this rather overcrowded part of these overcrowded islands.

It is a sad fact that it takes a fatality to focus everyone's mind on a road problem. The Milton road out of Drayton has just seen its third fatality in the last five years. In each case, it was a lone driver (in two cases, motorcyclists), who died. In no case was there a multiple collision. It seems that the drivers lost control on one of the numerous S- bends between Milton and Drayton. At present, the speed of the road is not restricted. In other words, it is legal to drive at 60mph on it. I do not know a single person, resident, Parish Councillor from Drayton, Milton or Sutton Courtenay who thinks that 60mph is a safe or sensible speed to be travelling on that stretch of road. Reason and public opinion all; argue that it should be 40mph. Arguments against are around enforceability, precedents and the cost of implementing a change. Enforceability is, of course, an issue for an overstretched Police Authority – but if the effect of a 40mph limit is only to reduce the average speed on a road by say 10%, surely this is worth it – a smaller risk of lives lost – even if it cannot be fully enforced? And if there are other stretches of road which could be affected by such a change, is that such a bad thing? No, the argument for me, is all about cost. There are legal costs to such a change, costs of consultation and costs of implementation. In the case of Milton Road, the total costs are estimated at between £3-4K. OCC has no budget for this, but until April, at least I have some money (maybe up to £1K) from a thing called the Area Stewardship Fund which could be spent on it. The rest of the money would have to be found from a general whip round the Parish Councils and Milton Park, but I would like to pursue this. This is urgent. We do not want any more fatalities. If you agree, and live in Drayton, Milton, Sutton Courtenay, or work at Milton Park please encourage everyone to support this initiative.

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NOVEMBER 2013

25 Station Road, Didcot, OX11 7NE
Box Office: 01235 515144 Website: <http://www.cornerstone-arts.org>

- Fr 1 **Jim Causley Music: Folk** 8pm
Five times BBC Radio 2 Folk award nominee Jim is a distant relative of children's poet Charles Causley. Singer Julie Murphy and multi-instrumentalist Ceri Owen-Jones join Jim to play new songs and talk about Charles and his poems. Ages 10+.
- Sat 2 **Mappa Mundi: The Compleat Female Stage Beauty Theatre: Classic** 8pm
London, 1661, crowds flock to see an 'actress of exquisite beauty and charm', Edward Kynaston. When King Charles II changes the law, allowing women to act, Ned's world is turned upside down. . Big cast, big set, big costumes, full on raucous fun.
- Sun 3 **Arthur's Dream Boat Children's: Theatre** 2pm
Arthur dreams about a beautiful pink and green boat with a stripy mast one night. Then the vessel starts growing out of his head and Arthur's bouncing along the waves in his own dream boat. Beautiful puppetry and original music. Workshop before show. Ages 5+.
- Fri 8 **Mark Thomas: 100 Acts of Minor Dissent Comedy: Stand-up** 8pm
Mark is well versed in the art of creative mayhem and over the years has got under the skin of those whose skin most needs it. Returning to mischief-making his quest is to commit 100 acts of minor dissent in one year.
N.B. POLITICAL VIEWS, SOME SWEARING.
- Sat 9 **An Afternoon with the Anita Harris Jazz Trio Music: Matinee** 2pm
Anita's performing career spans fifty years. With a wonderful cocktail of song, glitz, chat and humour she comes to tell us the story of her life, interspersed with songs of the ages and accompanied by her jazz trio.
- Sun 10 **Tiffin Concert: Duo Diez Classical: Music** 2pm
Top class musicians, violinist Violeta Barrena and guitarist Dimitris Dekavallas share a passion for Spanish and Latin American music. Their one hour programme will include music by Bach, Piazzolla, Paganini, Lorca and Sarasate.
- Fri 15 **Go On Do It Jump Bar Gig** 8.30pm
Go On Do It Jump distil their combined influences in a transatlantic alternative/indie rock melting pot, where a driving rhythm section blends with intertwining guitars and soaring vocals unafraid of catchy melodies. **FREE**
- Sat 16 **St Giles Orchestra: Totally Tchaikovsky Music: Classical** 7.30pm
Featuring the Marche Slave and Capriccio Italien, well-known movements from opera Eugene Onegin plus unforgettable highlights from The Nutcracker. Family tickets available.
- Fri 22 **Jacqui Dankworth Music: Jazz** 8pm
One of the classiest singers in modern jazz Jacqui's style incorporates elements of folk, blues and pop all sung with her inimitable phrasing, on a par with Streisand. Singing classics and songs from her new album she's accompanied by her band and Charlie Wood on piano.
- Sat 23 **Gyles Brandreth: Looking For Happiness Talk: Comedy** 8pm
Gyles set out to find the secret of happiness and found himself in the psychiatrist's chair. This, added to some useful lessons picked up from Freud, Frankie Howerd and the Queen make an incredibly funny and wildly indiscreet one man show. **N.B. ADULT CONTENT.**
- Sun 24 **The Grumpiest Boy In The World Children's: Theatre** 2pm
Zachary Briddling thinks he's awfully middling until his mum reminds him of places where there are giants, miniatures, hairy things and flying things, where he would not be middling, so he sets off to find where he stands out. Great jokes for young and old! Ages 4+.
- Wed 27 **The Big Sleep: Didcot Film Club** 8pm
- Sat 30 **Betrayal by Harold Pinter Theatre: Classic** 7.30pm
Emma, married to publisher Robert, has been having an affair for 7 years with Robert's best friend Jerry, a literary agent. Beginning after the end of the affair, with time turned upside down and pursuing an intricate and gripping journey, the play charts events in reverse.



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