

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 43 No.10

DECEMBER 2014

VILLAGE DIARY

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



The Sutton Courtenay Editorial Team
Wish you
a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



December

Tue	2nd	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Sat	6th	6.30pm	Yuletide Evening	The Abbey
Mon	8th	7.30pm	AGM of Sutton Courtenay Newsletter	Village Hall
Tue	9th	2pm	Womens Christian Fellowship	Church
Sun	13th	4pm	Movie Matinee	Church
Mon	15th	6pm	Church Choir Carol singing	Start at 28 Milton Rd
Sun	21st	6pm	Service of 9 Lessons and Carols	Church
Wed	24th	3pm	Crib Service	Church
Wed	24th	6pm	Torchlight Procession and Carols by bonfire	School to Church

January

Wed	21st		COPY DATE SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS	
Thur	22nd	10.30am	Coffee Shop and Booksale	Church
Tue	27th	7.30pm	SC History Society, the Romans in Britain	Village Hall

February

Sat	7th	7.30pm	Boulevard Swing Concert	Church
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All contributions for the next edition should be e-mailed to editor@suttoncourtenay.co.uk or taken to Changes in Milton Road or Burgrey Stores in the High Street on or preferably before the copy date entered in the Diary above.

To have any contribution published you must provide your name & contact details to the Editors.

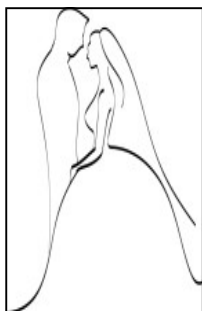
To advertise, e-mail advertising@suttoncourtenay.co.uk or telephone 07831-526784

VILLAGE CONTACTS

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

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

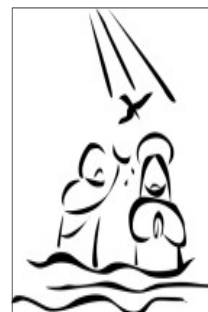
Various organisations have permanent bookings for use of the Village Hall on certain days of the week. Local individuals or organisations may nonetheless enter one-off bookings for events which clash with permanent bookings. **At least seven weeks notice must be given to Rita Atkinson (848694) or Caroline Grundy (848679) of the hall management team, e-mail: scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com** This allows one week for them to convey the needful six weeks notice to whichever organisation had the permanent booking.



HOLY MATRIMONY

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

NONE



HOLY BAPTISM

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING WHO WERE WELCOMED INTO THE FAMILY OF THE CHURCH THROUGH BAPTISM

RILEY JOHN NOBLE STOCKS on 19th October 2014

This newsletter is produced by the editors, Diane Armstrong and Clare Pennicott, and Peter Draper, who is in charge of advertising. Mary Pike is responsible for distribution. Our contact details are:

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Culham Bridges – Closure

The road closure at Abingdon Road and Tollgate Road and Culham has been temporarily suspended. The County Council has realised that the bridge is a particularly sensitive location, and leaving it open for the time being will help avoid delays elsewhere in the road network. The planned footway improvement works will start in the New Year, so a further closure will be necessary at that time.



A34 Chilton to Milton Drainage Maintenance Scheme

The highways Agency will be carrying out essential maintenance works to the drainage system along the A34 between the A4130 Milton Interchange and A4185 Chilton junction. This scheme aims to reduce the risk of future flooding and supports the County Council's proposed improvement schemes at Chilton and Milton. Work is likely to start in December and continue until June 2015. There will be a 24 hour narrow lane running with a temporary 50 mph speed limit. There will also be occasional full overnight closure of the A34 between the two junction with traffic diversions in place. Further information can be found at www.highways.gov.uk/a34didcotdrainage

Didcot "A" Update

There are approximately 160 contractors on site at present. The majority of these are removing asbestos which at present is about one third complete. The stores and workshop buildings on site have gone. The demolition of the cooling towers was carried out satisfactorily with about 30,000 tones of concrete left on site. The removal of the northern cooling towers together with the main building and chimney will be carried out within the next 2 years. 90 acres of the land will be retained by the owners, and 114 acres left for development of light industry and housing. The Parish Council will be seeking early consultation on the proposals and involvement at an early stage.

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

New regulations are in force which, in addition to members of the public being able to attend Council meetings, now allows them to record the proceedings, either visually or make an audio recording. This is permitted provided there is no disturbance to the progress of the meeting, and complies with basic requirements. Should there be anyone wishing to tweet or blog during a meeting or record the meeting, it would be helpful if you could let the clerk know in advance.

Reminder - School Admissions – Entry to primary or infant school September 2015

If you are a parent or carer of a child born between 1st September 2010 and 31st August 2011 then you need to apply for a primary school place now. Go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions for further information. The closing date for applications is 15th January, 2015.

Reminder - Mobile Libraries

The County Council is proposing that the mobile library that visits the village stops just at Bradstocks Way. If you are a user of the mobile library service and are affected by the proposed change or anyone else interested in the library service, and wish to have your say, then visit

<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/mobilelibraryserviceconsultation/consultationHome> where you can take part in the consultation.

Street Naming

As requested in the last issue of SC News if anyone has suggestions for street names for the new housing areas in the village, please contact the clerk.

Old Wallingford Way - Road Closure

Old Wallingford Way will be closed to traffic on Monday 1st December to allow for resurfacing works. Depending on the progress of the works, the closure may be extended.

Continued overleaf.....

PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED

Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been considered :

P14/V1906/O Proposed redevelopment of existing buildings and land to provide new buildings for storage and distribution and ancillary facilities, car and lorry parking, service areas, access and landscaping (resubmission), on land off Sutton Courtenay Lane

The Council objected to the proposal as the concerns raised with the previous application had not been addressed and the reasons why the District Council has refused the previous application were still relevant

P14/ V2061/Reserved Matters application for the appearance, layout, landscaping, and scale following outline consent for residential development on land south of Appleford Road.

The Council objected to the detail raising concerns regarding the number of dwellings, the need for an improved layout, and practical parking, impact on drainage, and access to Appleford Road

P14/V2362/FUL Demolition of 74 and 78 Milton Road. Residential development comprising 26 units, car parking, public open space and landscaping on land off Milton Road.

The Council objected on grounds of the accumulative effect that further development would have on the drainage, and traffic in the area. It also had concerns regarding the point of access and school buses stopping presenting a danger for children.

P14/V2247/HH Proposed ground and first floor rear extension. Proposed new roof over with habitable accommodation at 80 Milton Road

The Council requested obscure glass in first floor windows

P14/V2242/HH Conversion of existing bungalow to chalet bungalow. Raising roof ridge, and rear extension. New roof to existing garage at 95 Milton Road

The Council requested obscure glass in windows that overlooked adjacent land

P14/V2391/HH Proposed side extension at Mill Swathe, Mill Lane

The Council had no objection

P14/V2406/HH Extension to rear. New roof containing first floor accommodation, new porch to front at 5 Milton Road.

The Council had no objection

P14/V2311/A Removal of existing entrance sign and erection of replacement entrance sign and additional directional sign at SC Environmental Educational Centre, Sutton Courtenay Lane.

The Council asked that the signage did not obstruct or interfere with the cycle track

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 2nd December, 2014 at 7.30 pm. in the village hall, Frilsham Street.

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham Tel: 01865 391833 or

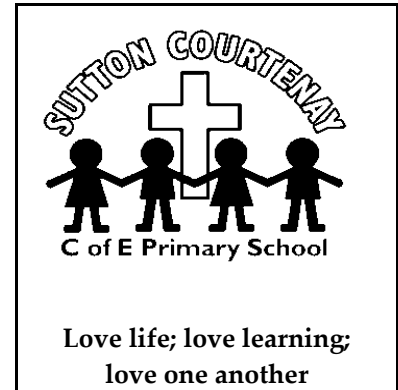
email:info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk.

The Council wishes everyone a happy Christmas and New Year

SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term, children in Years 4 to 6 have been finding out about the First World War – and in particular researching the stories from men in Sutton Courtenay who never returned.

As well as the research that had already been done by the village, the school is really fortunate to have school log books dating back into the 1800's – as well as the punishment books to go with them.



There are a few entries that mentioned how the school (which of course was in its original building nearer the church end of the village) was affected by the war – which were mainly closures due to children having to pick blackberries to make into jam for the war effort!

The children have been really fortunate to work with a professional actor to produce 'a play in a day'. The resulting piece of drama, which was shaped by the children's contributions, was extremely moving and very informative of the events of the war and the impact that this had on Britain.

I was extremely proud of the number of children who took part in the Remembrance Day Service – as there were many that were either in school uniform, Cub/Beaver uniform or in the church choir.

If you would like to find out more about our school and would like to arrange a visit, I would be delighted to show you around.

I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of pupils, staff and governors of the school to wish the whole village a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2015.

ALISON ASHCROFT
Headteacher

www.suttoncourtenayprimary.co.uk
Telephone: 01235 848333
email: office3243@ocnmail.net

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

Churchwardens: David McKenzie (847489) Pat Napper (848292) **Treasurer:** Tim Budd (820942)

Director of Music: Ian Miles (01235 426109, mob 07788 715873) **Tower Captain:** John Napper (848292)

Children's Church: Vivienne Maunders (847077) **Sacristan:** Pamela Vivian

Flowers: Ann White (848857) **Women's Christian Fellowship:** Rose Woodward (848510) **Friends:** Nora Harragin (848235)

MONTHLY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

1st Sunday: Family Service at 10.30am

2nd Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 10.30am (with Children's Church) and Evensong at 6pm

3rd Sunday: Morning Worship at 10.30am (with Children's Church), & Evening Praise at 6pm

4th Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 10.30am (with Children's Church)

Wednesday: BCP Holy Communion at 9.45am

From the Ministry Team...

CAROLLING IN FROSTY AIR – A Reflection on Christmas Carols from Canon David Winter

Christmas and carols go together. You can't have one without the other. It would require a high degree of ingenuity for anyone to get through the Christmas season without hearing a carol - and probably singing one, too. They're on the speakers in the supermarket, they're on the radio, carol singers come round the streets singing them, the brass band plays them in the market place - and, of course, there's the church carol service, the crib service and the midnight communion. Most of us could name lots of them: Hark the Herald, Good King Wenceslaus, In the Bleak Midwinter, Away in a Manger, Once in Royal David's City . . . and so on.

Some of those carols are very old, some relatively modern. They're perhaps the only Christian songs we actually know the words of - but familiarity can breed if not contempt, then at least inattention. Occasionally in those familiar lines we sing absolute nonsense: 'In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron' - in Bethlehem? 'Little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes' - so the baby Jesus wasn't human after all? 'And io, io, io by priest and people sungen'? No, not a bad case of the stutters, but a medieval carol-writer's mischievous description of the mumbo-jumbo of incomprehensible Latin in church!

We've been spared other bafflement by the work of editors. Charles Wesley's first line was originally 'Hark how all the welkin rings' - no 'herald angels'. 'Welkin' comes from an Old English word meaning 'heaven' and has absolutely nothing to do with shell-fish.

But enough of problems. On the whole carols are wonderfully clear in their message and profoundly moving in a simple and touching way. The last verse of 'Once in Royal David's City' always moves me:

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high.

Trust Mrs Alexander to get it exactly right. And Christina Rossetti's last verse, asks a question so searching that her meteorological musings fade into thin air:

What shall I give him, poor as I am?
if I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

And there are plenty of opportunities for you to sing these carols and more at all our Christmas Services and the Carol Singing around the village. We look forward to welcoming you!

With love and prayers, Helen

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

This Christmas All Saints' Church will be supporting the DEC Ebola Crisis Appeal. Collections will be held during the Church Choir Carol Singing Around the Village on Monday 15th December and around the bonfire on Christmas Eve at the Torchlight Procession. Please give as generously as you can. If you would like to bring a donation to any of the church services then please put it in an envelope clearly marked 'DEC Ebola Crisis Appeal'. Thank you.

CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE

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

on:

MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER

6pm Outside 28 Milton Road

6.30pm Tullis Close

7pm Outside 24 Lady Place

7.45pm Outside 25 Church Street



and of course we will be at the Friends of All Saints' Church Yuletide Evening on Saturday 6th December at the Abbey from 6.30-8.30pm; at the Carol Service on Sunday 21st December at 6pm in the Church; on Christmas Eve singing round the bonfire in the churchyard following the Torchlight Procession and singing at

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

If you would like to join us in singing over Christmas then please come to the Church for rehearsals on the following Fridays: 5th December, 12th December, 19th December. Juniors meet from 6.15pm-7.15pm and Adults from 6.30pm-7.15pm.

Any questions please contact Ian Miles
07788715873.

CHURCH DIARY FOR DECEMBER

- **Saturday 6th** – 2pm Wedding in All Saints'. 6.30pm-8.30pm Yuletide Evening hosted by the Friends of All Saints' in the Great Hall of the Abbey
 - **Sunday 7th** – 10.30am Family Service for Advent
 - **Monday 8th** – 8pm Baptism Preparation in the Church for any parents wishing to have their child/children baptised in the next few months
 - **Tuesday 9th** – 2pm Christmas Meditation in the Church led by the Reverend Helen Kendrick
 - **Saturday 13th** – 4pm Movie Matinee in the Church – entry free, donations welcome. Refreshments available.
 - **Monday 15th** – Church Choir Carol Singing around Sutton Courtenay – come and join us at one of the venues detailed in the advert.
 - **Sunday 21st** – 6pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.
 - **Wednesday 24th – CHRISTMAS EVE** – 9.45am Holy Communion. 3pm Crib Service. 6pm – Torchlight Procession from the School to the Church, followed by carols around the bonfire.
 - **Thursday 25th – CHRISTMAS DAY** - 10.30am Family Eucharist.
 - **Sunday 28th** – 10.30am Parish Eucharist with the Reverend Philip Tovey.
- ### CHURCH DIARY FOR JANUARY
- **Sunday 4th** – 10.30am CHRISTINGLE SERVICE for all the family.
 - **Monday 12th** – 8pm Sutton Courtenay Parochial Church Council Meeting in All Saints'.
- ### CHURCH DIARY FOR FEBRUARY
- **Saturday 7th** – 7.30pm Boulevard Swing Concert

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CONTINUED

**A Service of Nine
Lessons and Carols**



Sunday 21st December 2014

at

6.00pm

**All Saints' Church
Sutton Courtenay**

COFFEE SHOP & BOOK SALE

Thursday 22nd January 2015

10.30am-12noon



All Saints' Church

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



MOVIE MATINEE

in All Saints' Church

Sunday 13th December at 4pm

We will be showing the a film about a
boy on a boat with a Tiger, certificate
PG and it runs for approximately 121
minutes.

Entry is free but donations are
welcome and there will be
refreshments for sale.

Bring your friends!

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

For all the family

10.30am

SUNDAY 4TH JANUARY 2015

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

SUTTON COURTENAY



Come and make your own Christingle!
*A Collection will be taken for the work
of The Children's Society and*

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CONTINUED

And thank you again to all those who participated in our Evening of Remembrance on Saturday 8th November in All Saints' Church as we retold the stories of the men of Sutton Courtenay from our WW1 Roll of Honour. People of all ages from across the village took part, including members of the DAMASCUS Youth Project (who had also produced their own creative work for the evening), the Local History Society and the Church. It was a profoundly moving and poignant evening. And, thanks to all those who came to listen, we raised another £400 for the War Memorial Restoration Appeal.

Thank you in particular to:

Daniel Aitken, Jack Bristow, Alison Budd, Tim Budd, Fred Cubbage, Lynne Cubbage, Bill Hanks, Diana Hasting, Christopher Kendrick, Marlie Kendrick, Maisie King, David Knowles, Ian Miles, Pat Napper, David, Denise & Josh McKenzie, Joan Newport, Jake Oliver, Lennox Roberts, Clare Simpson, George Simpson, Simeon Spencer, Jasmine Talbot, John Talbot, Mary Thompson, Jessica Toogood and Sarah Ward – on whose book the script was based.

Helen Kendrick



Thank you to all those who gave so generously to the Poppy Appeal on Remembrance Sunday. The collection taken during the service in church was £254.01 and the addition of £50 from the PCC made a grand total of £304.01



TORCHES FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION

Will be on sale in mid-December from Burgrey Stores; Changes and the Church (at Sunday Services)

Price: £3.50 each (NOT FOR SALE TO UNDER 16s)

Glowsticks for Children will also be available for £2.50 each

REST IN PEACE

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

JILL JEPHCOTT of Lady Place, who died on 4th November 2014, aged 91. Her funeral was held in All Saints' Church on Monday 17th November 2014, conducted by the Reverend Tim Hewes. The tribute was given by the family.

THANK YOU

Cyril, Alan, Paul and Karen would like to thank everyone who joined us for Gerald Prior's funeral on 19th August. It was so nice to see so many of his friends joining us on such a sad day. Thank you for all your kind donations which raised £228.60 for Macmillan nurses.

Karen Frost



**Have you purchased the
2015 FLOWER FESTIVAL DESK CALENDAR
yet?
A special record of this year's All Saints'
event.
Ideal for yourself or to give as a unique gift.**

**See an example and order form at the Church Welcome Desk.
Price £5.00.**

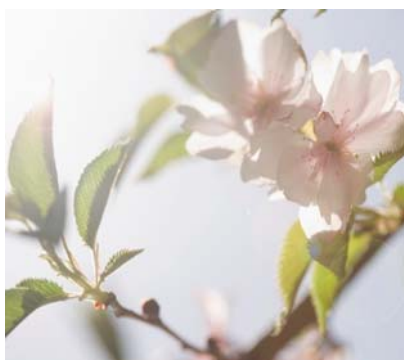
ALL PROCEEDS FOR THE CHURCH

Some dates for your 2015 diary:

- Boulevard Swing Concert** Saturday 7th February in the Church*
- Friends of All Saints' **QUIZ NIGHT** Sat. 7th March in the Village Hall
- Friends of All Saints' **GARDEN PARTY** Sunday 14th June at The Manor

Sutton Courtenay *OPEN GARDEN SATURDAY* 20th June

If you have a garden, big or small, new or old, you are invited to join in a special event celebrating the Village's heritage and environment.



Several have already responded to the advertisement in the September SCN. Just a commitment to open your garden to visitors for the day. Participate in a visitor trail from the Primary School to the Church (and beyond).

Contact Alison Budd (820942) or Lynne Cabbage (848768) for more details.

Follow all the Church's activities on Facebook.

Just check us out at 'All Saints' Church Sutton Courtenay'

*See advert in this edition.

THE EARTH TRUST, LONG WITTENHAM

Introduction to Hedgelaying

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December, 9.30am-4pm

A hands-on two day course learning to lay a Midlands-style hedge. £75; booking essential (if the course becomes fully booked please ask about our January and February hedgelaying weekends).

Natural Christmas at the Earth Trust

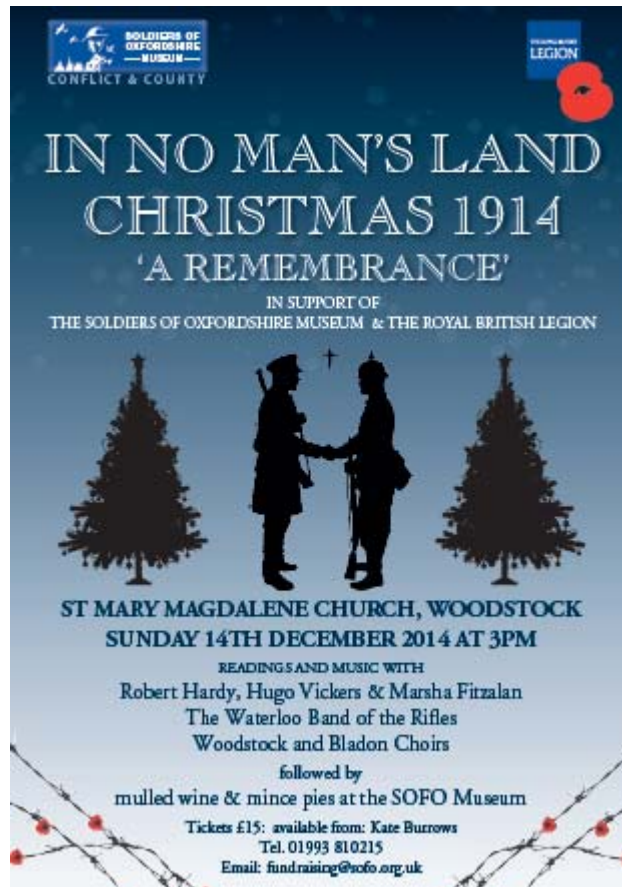
Sunday 7th December, 10am-2pm

Re-use, recycle, bake and make this Christmas! Come along and learn how to make traditional, natural Christmas decorations. There will be a range of activities to suit all ages, from popcorn garlands to festive wreaths. You can also meet Father Christmas and purchase some Earth Trust Christmas cards. Activities cost between £1 and £12; free entry and parking. Poem Tree cafe will be open for light refreshments.

Heritage Skills Taster Session: Hedgelaying

Sunday 14th December, 10am-4pm

Have a go at hedgelaying in this free taster session. Please book on to the morning (10am-1pm) or afternoon (1.30pm-4pm) session, or both: volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk or 01865 407792.



NAG5 SAFETY CORNER

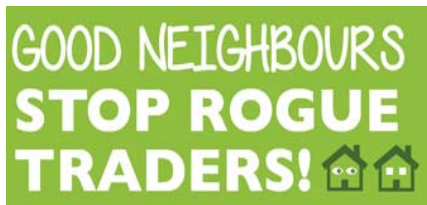
Smartwater update

PCSO Sandra Syphas and a member of NAG5 have visited houses in Gravel Lane and the High Street in Drayton, and visits will continue to other households in the village. Appleford village is now a designated Smartwater zone, with signs at the entry and exit points and we congratulate Sandra and the Appleford NHW Coordinator on achieving this. Houses using Smartwater in Sutton Courtenay continue to increase with Church Street, The Green and Churchmere Road the latest to have been visited.



More information can be found on the Smartwater web site at <http://www.smartwater.com>, by calling Smartwater on 0800 521 669, or call the police on the non-emergency number 101. Alternatively contact NAG5 using the contact details below.

Good Neighbours Stop Rogue Traders!



This is a campaign run by Oxfordshire Trading Standards which focuses on preventing doorstep crime by encouraging neighbours, family and friends to look out for those at risk in their communities. Anyone who feels vulnerable can choose to be 'buddied' with a nominated neighbour, whom they can trust and call, if they're unsure of someone who 'cold calls' at their door.

A 'nominated neighbour' card and other doorstep crime prevention leaflets will be provided to those who wish to participate in this initiative. The idea is that the name and address or telephone number of the buddy should be written clearly on the card which can then be held up at the window or pushed through the letterbox if a cold caller arrives on the doorstep. The card says 'I DO NOT RECOGNISE YOU! We do not answer the door to strangers. Please go to or call [buddy details inserted] who is my NOMINATED NEIGHBOUR. They will CHECK your identity and return with you.'

Local NAGs and Neighbourhood Watch groups are considering participating in this campaign. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in joining this initiative we would very much like to hear from you. Please use the NAG5 contact information below.

Further details are available from Oxfordshire Trading Standards on 01865 815000, or visit their web site at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/node/181251>.

Cycle checks

Members of the public have, once again, reported cyclists using the footpath over Culham Bridge, some of whom have been cycling dangerously fast. Cycling on a footpath is not permitted, and the police can issue an on-the-spot fine in such circumstances. Anyone who feels they do not have sufficient time to cycle across the bridge before the lights change should get off their bike and walk with it, on the footpath. A police check on cyclists using Culham Bridge will take place during the next few weeks.

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Despite the HGV restriction signs residents are still concerned about the number of lorries driving through Sutton Courtenay. Some vehicles may need to come through the village for access. Members of the public are reminded that they are entitled to stop vehicles and enquire about their destination.

NAG5 can be contacted at neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com or by calling 01235 848694

**SUTTON COURTENAY
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE**

Lantern Making Workshop

Saturday 6th December 10-12am or 1.00-3.00 pm

Join us by the woodburner for a Christmas Lantern Making workshop. Then get creative using natural materials to make your own decoration to take home.

Feel free to explore the nature reserve when you have completed the activities (remember to bring warm clothes). Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Suitable for children aged 8 years +.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL. £4 donation / child

Stick Man – adventures with sticks

Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th February 2015
10 am – 3 pm

Discover the adventures of Stick Man at Sutton Courtenay. Bring the Stick Man story to life as you follow his journey across our beautiful reserve. Have a go at pooh sticks, creating stick flags, stick towers and much more.

Magical Christmas – festive music and carols with Steventon Choral Society

Thursday 18th December and Saturday 20th December 2014

7.30 pm at Steventon Village Hall (pre-concert bar from 7.00 pm)

Tickets £8 (accompanied children free) includes interval refreshments and can be obtained from

Trish Napper (01235 848292), Caroline Miller (01235 834015) or Steventon Post Office

The Saturday concert is to raise funds for a community defibrillator for Steventon



A Bold New Class to help people with Parkinson's



In the next 15 years, the number of people with Parkinson's in Oxfordshire will have doubled as a result of our ageing population. It is the second most common neurological disorder in the UK.

That's why Age UK, in conjunction with the Physical Disability Physiotherapy Service part of Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, has created a new community exercise class called Big, Bold and Balanced. As part of Age UK's Inspire and Include programme, a 3-year Sport England funded project to get older disabled people active, Age UK has set up a session specifically aimed at encouraging people with Parkinson's to stay active. Research has shown that patients benefit from a range of physical activities; physiotherapy-specific exercise can offset the effects of Parkinson's to minimise deterioration in strength, endurance, flexibility and balance. In the class they work on improving muscular strength, flexibility and balance using standing and seated exercises.

Big Bold and Balanced is a financially self-sustaining class as attendees pay £3.50 which covers costs. Such targeted exercise programmes have been shown to reduce the costs of care by an average of £292.

These weekly sessions, which started at the beginning of October, are already proving to be extremely popular – as a result, there are plans to set up further classes. Carers can join the class free of charge.

Roger Lane, who attends the class, commented "it is great to have a class that targets Parkinson's sufferers' specific needs and a bonus is that it's sociable too!"

Keeping active can really make a difference to those with Parkinson's. Take the inspiring story of Jenny Lambert, 67, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's last March 2013, and attends a Generation Games class. Despite having Parkinson's she is active, devoting her time to orphanages in Bulgaria.. Her advice to others: "Keep positive and keep active!"

These activities and classes are part of Generation Games, a project funded by Age UK and the Oxford University Hospitals trust, which aims to get Oxfordshire's over 50s population more active. People can sign up to access these and other Generation Games activities and classes via the website www.generationgames.org.uk or by phone **01235 849403** or email generationgames@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk. They will receive a personalised prescription telling them which activities / classes (of the 1200+ running in Oxfordshire) they might enjoy based on their Oxfordshire location, preference and fitness level. They also receive an incredibly popular free DVD, a 30 minute gentle exercise programme suitable for everyone, whatever your ability or fitness level, which features carefully selected seated and standing exercises to improve cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength and balance. As of 13th November the DVD is now also accessible on Youtube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76Np7Xb_8Z0

Exercise and physical activity offer many health benefits, as well as improving an individual's emotional wellbeing and encouraging participation in a group setting may help to avoid isolation and loneliness.

ABINGDON CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Buy heating oil early to cut costs

As winter approaches, Abingdon Citizens Advice Bureau is urging heating oil users to buy early to help reduce the cost of heating their homes.

By stocking up on heating oil now, people can make the most of lower costs before high demand over the winter months pushes up the price. Fuel is generally more expensive from December to February.

People who buy oil now could also benefit from faster delivery times, as suppliers often have spare capacity before demand picks up.

It is also important to shop around for the best price. One of the challenges for heating oil customers is the large upfront cost so, if you have difficulty paying for your fuel on delivery, ask your supplier about flexible payment options.

Joining a heating oil club can help cut the cost of oil significantly. An oil club is a buying group that purchases oil in bulk on behalf of its members. The club is able to negotiate a lower price per unit of oil because it has more bargaining power. Many oil clubs also order from a number of different suppliers in order to get the lowest price.

Buying with others reduces the number of journeys suppliers need to make, which can mean lower delivery costs.

Many oil clubs already exist in Oxfordshire. The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council runs a bulk oil-buying scheme which you can join via its website at www.oxonrcc.org.uk.

To find out more about oil clubs, go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk/oilclubs The website also has advice on how to start your own oil-buying group.

If you are struggling with your household bills, the CAB can help you to draw up a budget and make sure that you're getting all the help to which you're entitled.

For further help, call Adviceline on 08444 111 444 or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau, which is located at Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon OX14 3JE. For opening hours, see www.caox.org.uk



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

You wouldn't believe it!

Last week, a neighbour of mine living in Milton Road, backing onto what will be the Pye development, needed to have her trees pruned in case the branches interfered with the overhead wires. The owner of the field had generously given permission for the tree surgeon to drive his land rover over the field to the back of her garden to collect the lopped branches.

However, when the day came, the tree contractors were told that the ground was far too wet for a vehicle to drive on.

Andthis is where planning permission has been granted to build 34 houses!!!!

Lesley Clements

Serious Noise Pollution In Sutton Courtenay

Can anyone enlighten me as to what and where this Apocalyptic Noise is emanating from?

I have heard it four times in the space of five days this week (16 /20/21 (twice) November) It sounds like huge metal containers falling out of the sky and banging into other metal objects. It has been going on for months.

Is it the Landfill site, could it be Hansons or Mike Jenkins says it could be the electrification and maintenance being carried out at Foxhall Bridge ?

Someone surely must be able to identify this ghastly noise which is happening from before midnight until 6 am.

Christina Pilkington

Fireworks

Bonfire night was on the 5th November. As this was a Wednesday I can appreciate that many folk with children would celebrate either on the previous Saturday, the actual night or the Saturday after. Expecting this we kept our cat in on those nights as he is terrified of loud bangs.

However, on Saturday 15th November occupiers of a house on the Appleford Road decided to let off a series of extremely loud bangs, rockets etc – 2 of which landed in our garden- and generally probably terrified any pets in the area. Our cat was out at the time as we naturally felt bonfire night had long gone! No doubt the people enjoying this late bonfire do not have pets of their own or if so would have safeguarded them. Consideration for others in the future would be appreciated.

Name and address supplied

Archimedes screw

With reference to Roger Rances' letter in the November issue concerning the Archimedes screw: I welcome this alternative form of energy, in fact I think using the energy of all the weirs on the Thames and other rivers in the County is the way forward.

Our generation will go down in history as the greediest one with the way we have plundered this planet for its natural resources, leaving nothing for the generations who follow us.

I welcome Greeks bearing gifts in the form of Archimedes screw.

Martin Lally



If you are a carer, the Care Act 2014 will make a difference to you



The Care Act is a new law about care and support for adults in England that will come into operation from April 2015. Currently there are many different laws regarding care and support which makes it difficult to know what care and support is available. For the first time, the Act gives carers the same rights as those they care for.

There will be clear and simple rules and guidance about the law which will say:

- what carers and those being cared for should be able to receive
- what councils will have to do

The main themes of the Care Act are around promoting:

Independence and wellbeing: Having greater choice and control in what care and support carers receive so that they can live their lives the way they want.

Prevention: Thinking about things that will help to stop problems before they start, or to stop them getting worse as early as possible.

Integration: Working with other organisations to provide the support that carers need.

Choice and control: Care and support plans will help carers to do the things that are important to them, like having a break.

Information and advice: Having good quality information to help carers choose the right care and support.

Carers' entitlements and rights: Carers will now have a clear right to services, and the Care Act removes the requirement for the carer to be providing substantial care on a regular basis. The only requirement is that the carer may have needs for support - whether currently or in the future.

A lifetime cap on care costs: There will be a limit to the amount those being cared for will have to pay for care in their lifetime (this will not come into force until April 2016 and will be set initially at £72,000).

A national eligibility criteria and changes to assessment for care: There will be the same rules about who can get care and support all over the country.

Advocacy: If carers find it very difficult to be involved at any stage of the assessment or care planning, and there is no-one else to speak for you, then the council must find an independent advocate who will help you to say what you want to say and represent your best interests to get the services you need.

Keeping adults safe: This is the first time there will be a law telling councils what to do to help keep adults safe from abuse or neglect.

To find out more about how this will affect you as a carer visit websites below or contact the Carers Centre on 01235 510 212

www.carersuk.org/for-professionals/policy/policy-library/care-act-2014

www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-2014-part-1-factsheets

John Tabor
Manager

South and Vale Carers

www.svcarers.org.uk





Throw a party, raise money, help homeless people

Crisis Skylight Oxford is calling on community groups, families, schools businesses, to host a Christmas party with a difference from December 8 - 14, to raise money in support of its work with homeless people across Oxfordshire.

Being homeless is a cold, miserable experience and never more so than in Christmas party season when most of us are sharing in the warmth of family and friends. By dedicating your Christmas party to Crisis, you could help someone access vital support and the chance to make a fresh start in the year ahead.

Anyone who organises a #crisismasparty will be helping Crisis Skylight Oxford raise vital funds to support its year-round education, employment and housing advice services for single people affected by homelessness. Whether it's a Christmas cake bake-off, a dress-down day at work, singing Christmas Carols or holding a Christmas hat competition, people will have lots of fun while helping homeless people to turn their lives around. If 8 - 14 December isn't convenient, just register to take part, and you can hold your event at any time up to Christmas! You can download a free Crisis Christmas Party pack, full of all sort of ideas and everything needed to throw a party at home, school, or in the office on the website www.crisis.org.uk/christmasparty

- You can contact your local Christmas Party team on 01865 263 911. email christmasparty@crisis.org.uk
- Register online and for more information you can visit www.crisis.org.uk/christmasparty
- To make it super easy, if you want to give Louise Esplin a call, she will fill in the registration online for you! - Tel 01235 850115/07775 678237

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

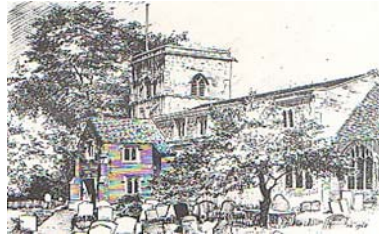
On behalf of The Royal British Legion I would like to thank everyone who recently supported and gave so generously to the 2014 Poppy Appeal. A special thank you to the house-to-house collectors for giving their time and continued support. In this centenary year of World War One I am delighted to report that a total of £2,631.76 was collected, comfortably exceeding last years' record £2,429.46.

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

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



FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH



YULETIDE EVENING



In the Great Hall of the Abbey
On Saturday 6th December 2014
from 6.30-8.30pm

Paté, Cheese and French Bread

Mulled Wine

Raffle

Carols



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

SUTTON COURTENAY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Tuesday 27th January
Village Hall
7.30 pm

**THE ROMAN INVASIONS, OCCUPATION AND COLONISATION
OF BRITAIN**
By Bill King

How does this talk relate to Sutton Courtenay? This illustrated talk will give an outline of Roman influences in Britain over a period of some 400 years. It should help us to understand how the Romans came to create important settlements in our region. There have been significant discoveries of Roman occupation in Sutton Courtenay, Appleford, Abingdon and Dorchester, to name just a few in the immediate vicinity.

Some time ago Bill King gave the society an illuminating talk on "The Thames at War." Bill has a keen interest in military history and research. He has acted as historical adviser and appeared in several TV programmes, as well as giving talks on a range of topics to History groups and organisations.

Everyone welcome

Members free

Visitors £3

Mary Thompson

SUTTON COURTENAY WI



I have just returned from another entertaining meeting in Sutton Courtenay village hall. This week, Lynda Warren spoke about her work as a location manager for a television company, explaining how locations are found and how the challenges of period filming can be overcome in a modern location.

There was a buzz in the air as everyone was looking forward to our coffee morning at the weekend in The Plough. Mince pies and cakes are to be baked; raffle prizes to sort; bric a brac to collect. Money raised will go to local charities as usual.

In November, some of us spent a fascinating evening with Michael Portillo at Oxford Town Hall. He spoke a little of his political career, a little about his jackets but mainly about his television series about railway journeys.

This month, some members have attended a Christmas craft day and others an IT training day. There is a great deal to be learned on the WI Moodle. If you are looking for a New Year resolution, members can contact Valerie to register as an online learner.

Our knitters are still busy making tiny jumpers and hats for the fish and chip babies in Africa (so named because the new born leave hospital wrapped in newspaper). If you have any spare wool, please pass on to a WI lady.

Our lunch this month is on the 11th at The Midget in Abingdon. Please pre-book this event with June.

Next month is our Christmas party: there will be fun, food and frivolity in the village hall on the third Tuesday of December.

Beryl Davies

Thankyou

Sutton Courtenay WI would like to thank Pepe at the Plough for all the support he gave us this year with fund raising. We look forward to next year working with him again. We wish you and Pepe a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Margaret Hamilton

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Our meeting held on the 11th November 2014 was an illustrated talk by Florence and Jim Hayden on their holiday last year to Russia. It was very interesting and much enjoyed by all those who attended.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th December and will be our Christmas Meditation to be led by our Vicar, the Rev Helen Kendrick, in Church at the usual time of 2pm. Visitors are always welcome at any of our meetings.

On behalf of all members of the WCF I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Rose Woodward (Secretary)

BOULEVARD SWING

are coming to town...



Saturday 7th February 2015

7.30pm All Saints' Church

Sutton Courtenay

Tickets £10

On sale at Burgrey Stores

Cash Bar and Interval Raffle

All proceeds towards disabled access in

All Saints' Church

RIDE AND STRIDE

Many thanks to the following stalwarts who cycled on 13th September: David and Kaja Ward, Fred Cubbage, Chris Kendrick, Stephanie and Simeon Spencer and David McKenzie. Between them they raised the magnificent sum of £619.50, half of which comes to All Saint's Church and the other half to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. 43 people visited our church.

Nora Harragin

WANTED

Seeking a Second-Hand Car

I am seeking a second-hand car, that's small, safe and economical.

I am a cash buyer.

If you know of anything suitable, please contact Karen on 07952 172512 or orkaren_m_malone@yahoo.com

Sutton Courtenay News

Notice

Of

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of will be held in
the Committee Room, Sutton Courtenay Village Hall
on 8th December 2014 at 7.30pm

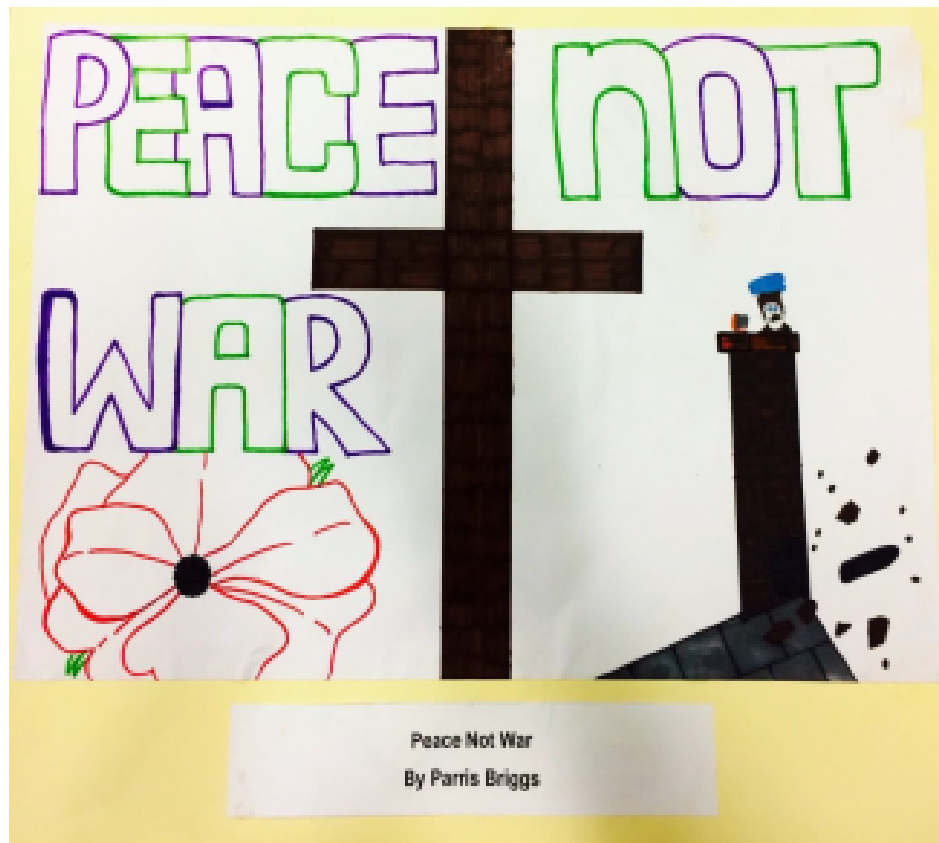
Nominations for Chairman, Editor, Advertising Manager & Treasurer together with the details of two seconders should be sent to Clare Pennicott at clarepennicott@btinternet.com or

8 Church Street, Sutton Courtenay.



Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

Sutton Courtenay WW1 Remembrance Project



Young people from the Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project spent Wednesday evening sessions in October making poppies, painting pictures, modelling clay medals, making ration books and war time posters and writing postcards and poetry in remembrance of those young men who left Sutton Courtenay 100 year ago to fight in WW1 and never returned. The art work was on display in All Saints' Church for the Remembrance evening and the poppies were used to create our version of a sea of poppies. Against the backdrop of these poppies, many young people (who had no previous experience of public speaking) bravely stood up and read their own poems as well as extracts from Sarah Ward's booklet on the lives of the young men who were from our village and died in the war. There is so much creative material that it is not possible to reproduce it all in the village news. We include here some extracts from the WW1 project.

Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

WRITING IN REMEMBRANCE

<p style="text-align: center;">POST CARD</p> <div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 30px; margin-left: auto;"></div> <p>Dear Jonathan</p> <p>Missing you so much I cannot sleep well at all knowing that you're out there. I eagerly await your return. Word about the village is that Mrs Carter is pregnant again. Can't wait to hear from you darling.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Love Edna</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">POST CARD</p> <div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 30px; margin-left: auto;"></div> <p>Dear Edna,</p> <p>I am missing you so much. I cannot wait to hear from you. The nights are so cold but the sheer thought of you is keeping me warm. Keep me updated with all the news in the village please. Miss you. Yours forever</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Love Jonathan</p>
---	--

POST CARD

Dear Mother, Father & beloved baby Izabelle

Life is very hard and tiring in the trenches; There is little food and we are all extremely hungry but still, we carry on. Jonathan was taken from us last week – God bless his soul. We are being sent medical supplies tomorrow so maybe our feet will start healing soon. I must go now. I miss you all lots. Take Care, love Harry

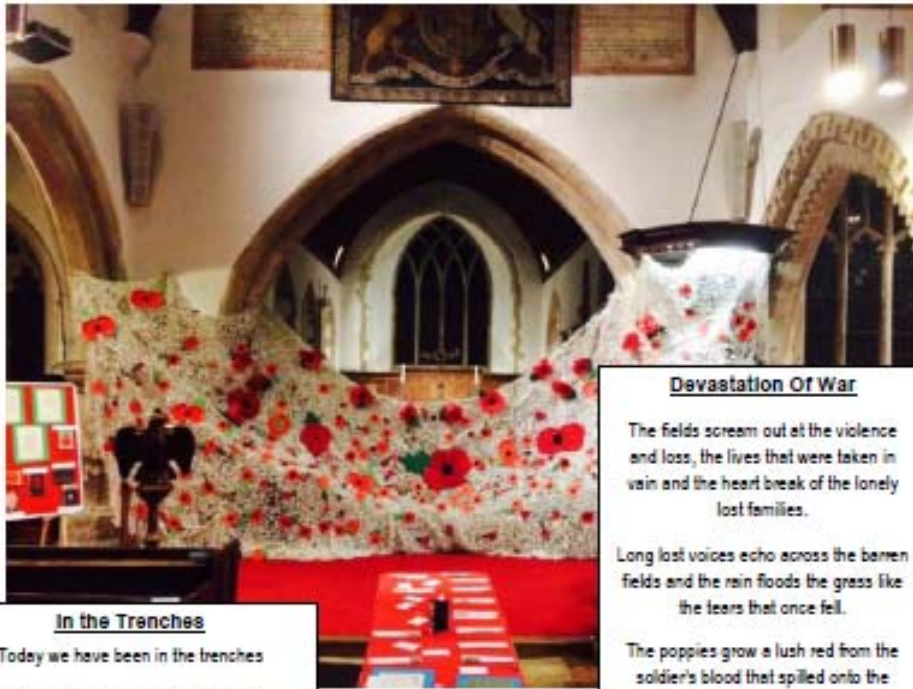
Fighting At War

Fighting at war, believe me it's tough
 I look to my friend to state that I've had enough
 Every explosion is causing more devastation
 Will I make it out of this horrid situation?
 My back is aching, the pain from the weight that I hold
 I won't ever stop because I do what I'm told
 And you won't see me searching through no man's land,
 no chance because I don't want to die till I'm old
 All around me is death and destruction
 Waiting for that final eruption
 Struggling with stress but it's vital to function
 Survival relies on that one thing
 Now I'm here and determined to see to the end
 The same mind-set as the rest of my friends
 Now none left or they've changed – god bless
 Chances are this'll be the last letter that I send
 By Jack Bristow

Poppy Pride

A young boy and I'm twelve years old.
 I'm in a trench and it's so very cold.
 Laying in my bed and I'm covered in mud
 I may not make the day to see my brother grow old.
 I'm scared growing up in World War One.
 The Germans are coming with all their guns.
 Being over here I swear is not very fun.
 I pray for the day that the war is done.
 Imagine your family being sent off.
 It's the worst thing I could have dreamt of.
 People with dead fathers will feel lost.
 That's a path I don't want to cross.
 So today wear your poppies with pride
 To respect all the ones that lost their lives
 To think my great granddad could have died
 Thinking of the tragedies I just wanna cry
 By Ryan Frost

Continued overleaf



In the Trenches

Today we have been in the trenches
and focussed on fixing the fences.
It seems certain death is expected,
If I died would I ever be remembered?
The gun shots have got my ears vibrating,
The fear has my eyeballs dilating,
Is there a chance of escaping?
Survival would be so amazing.

By Jake Oliver

Devastation Of War

The fields scream out at the violence
and loss, the lives that were taken in
vain and the heart break of the lonely
lost families.

Long lost voices echo across the barren
fields and the rain floods the grass like
the tears that once fell.

The poppies grow a lush red from the
soldier's blood that spilled onto the
broken soil.

The broken hearts continue throughout
people's lives and the screams echo
through the witnesses minds over and
over again - a continuous record that is
repeated.

Lives were destroyed and people
mutilated because of one war, one day
humanity disappeared into the mist.

By Marie Kendrick

Days Gone By

Days gone by, minutes do diminish
Everything is changing, such a painful
way of living
Although there are still days to come,
has this nightmare just begun?
Trenches are getting muddy; I try to stay
steady as I sink
However hard I try, I could lose my life in
a blink.

By Jessica Toood

Acknowledgments: It was good to see adults come along to our Wednesday evening sessions and engage with the young people and help in all the art work.

A special thanks goes to our young support youth worker Daniel Aitken who was extremely good at drawing out the creativity in young people.

Rita Atkinson

Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

TO FRACK OR NOT TO FRACK...

The trouble with so many of today's issues – Europe, Immigration, the Environment and so on, is that there is an ocean of misinformation out there. I am one of those attempting to sail a boat across this ocean in an effort to reach an island where sensible, achievable, evidence-based solutions are found. Solutions on which I can base my opinion. Solutions I can support with my vote.

The County Council held a full meeting dedicated to the subject of “Fracking” in general and “Fracking in Oxfordshire” in particular. Having waded my way through a flotilla of placards (I may as well stick to my metaphor) demanding “No to “Fracking”, we then heard a number of speeches demanding “say No to Nuclear” “say No to destroying our countryside” and even “say No to wind farms”. It seemed the easiest thing in the world is to say “No” to something.

However, there is an undeniable fact that in the next 10-20 years we, particularly in the UK, will be facing an “energy gap”. If we wish to keep the lights on, we have to fill this gap. We are told that additional Nuclear power takes too long to happen, that renewable energy technology is growing too slowly, and that traditional gas and oil supplies are running out. We are told that here is a looming threat of the UK being forced to rely on energy from politically unstable parts of the world. Saying “No” to anything which might offer a solution, or even part of a solution is simply not an option.

So in this ocean of misinformation, sensible people are looking earnestly for a few “islands” of certainty. Islands where “real, undeniable facts” are to be found. For what it is worth (and to stimulate urgent debate) here are the 5 “islands” I have found, on which I will be developing my opinion on “Fracking”.

1. 1. The latest UN report on Global warming and its causes I find utterly compelling. Even for those who wish to argue that global warming is not man-made, to do nothing about it is a risk I would not wish the world to take. If we do not cut world carbon emissions to zero by 2100 it will be too late. I do not want our great, great grandchildren to blame us for doing nothing about it now.
2. 2. A bit of good news (lost in all the current “anti-EU” rhetoric). Under the leadership of the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change, all EU nations have just signed up to an agreement to cut their Carbon emissions by 40% by 2030. Still a long way to go, no doubt, but an initiative which will encourage/shame other nations to follow suit.
3. 3. Say “No” to coal. Not here, not in Europe, not anywhere. The impact on carbon emissions alone of coal burning are unacceptable and make the current targets unachievable. It is possible that carbon capture and storage technology will advance to make coal burning an option in the future – but certainly not in time to do anything about the energy gap.
4. 4. Fracking has much less impact on C emissions than coal. Given the shortage of options, it should certainly be considered in the mix. Unfortunately UK geology is nothing like US geology and the amount of gas which could be economically gained in the UK could only be a small part of the solution to the energy gap. In Oxfordshire, it is likely that there are only a small handful of sites which would be suitable.
5. 5. For the UK at least, the answer lies in a short term mix of energy sources – some of which will make the emission targets harder to achieve but we have to keep the lights on.
6. 6. We need to keep up the pressure to develop renewables of all types – wind (offshore and onshore), solar, tidal and others. Anything or anyone who impedes this is, in my view being irresponsible.

Continued overleaf

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

If Drayton is concerned about extra houses, spare a thought for Sutton Courtenay, that village has Didcot B, FCC recycling, an extra 500+ houses (at the last count), and now the prospect of the country's largest warehouse/distribution centre right on its doorstep. If ever there is an argument for the need to consider the cumulative impact of growth on communities, it is in Sutton Courtenay. Work on the new "hamburger" interchange at Milton is about to start. With the additional commercial and housing growth, we all need to cross our fingers that the new interchange is going to cope.

The Local Plan for consultation

We now know that Milton Heights has been spared the prospect of expanding by 1400 homes from its present 200. Milton's gain is at the expense of north Abingdon and the Green Belt. The AONB area (area of outstanding natural beauty) around Harwell is also under severe threat. VWHDC is accepting the entire SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment) figures in an effort to get its Local Plan accepted more quickly. This they argue will protect us from future speculative planning applications. The County Highways department have said that the road network can cope. We need to hope that they are right!

It is a moot point whether or not the damage will already have been done before the Local Plan is in place.

Joining the 21st Century.

For those that have still not had enough, I am now the proud owner (is that the right word?) of a "Blog" which you can follow on:

clrrichardwebber@wordpress.com

Richard Webber

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

01235 534001

Sutton Courtenay Post Office

The Post Office is now situated in Burgrey Stores in the High Street.

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 8.00-18.00

Sat 8.30-13.00 and Sun 9.00-12.00

ED VAIZEY MP

We've all noticed in recent years that there seem to be ever more special days and weeks set aside to remind us of particular good causes. I've come across two recently which particularly struck a chord with me.

The first was SUDEP Awareness Day on 23rd October. This day was set up by SUDEP Action, a charity which was set up by Jane Hanna OBE and which is based in Wantage. SUDEP Action campaigns to raise awareness and understanding of the risk of Sudden Death in Epilepsy. I was very pleased indeed to be invited to become President of SUDEP Action and to host an event at the House of Commons on 23rd October which helped MPs to understand both the risk of sudden death for those with epilepsy, and the relatively simple steps that can be taken to reduce that risk quite significantly. It was sobering to hear from families who had been bereaved through sudden death in epilepsy and inspiring to see how determined they are to help others learn from their very sad experience.

If you, or someone you know, has epilepsy even in a very mild form, please do take a look at the website www.sudep.org and spread the word about this important but little-discussed issue.

Adoption brings challenges, immense rewards and can make a huge, positive difference to the lives of children and those who adopt them. National Adoption Week, which took place from 3 – 9 November, made all of those points and more.

This is particularly important for children who often wait the longest to be adopted – sibling groups, children with disabilities, children aged 5 and over and children from some black and minority ethnic backgrounds. The campaign encouraged us all to think about, and hopefully come forward, to adopt these children and give them a loving home. As you'd expect, there's a website for this week too where you can find more information about adoption - www.nationaladoptionweek.org.uk/adoption. If you've ever wondered if this might be something to consider, why not take a look at that too.

It seems that every day or week now has a special label or significance. Not all are relevant to many of us, but some really do bring an opportunity to highlight an important issue and make a real difference.

As ever please feel free to contact me on any matter at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or vaizeye@parliament.uk. Email is the quickest and most reliable way to get in touch, as I keep a very close eye on my emails and can reply very quickly. I also send out occasional general interest emails about developments in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please do email me at vaizeye@parliament.uk or sign up at www.vaizey.com. Surgery details can be found at www.vaizey.com.

And finally, as the festive season approaches, may I wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Ed Vaizey

Waggon and Horses

Abingdon Road, Culham

01235-525012



Opening times: Monday-Thursday 11h00 – 23h00
Friday & Saturday 11h00-midnight
Sunday 12h00 – 22h30

Food Times: Monday – Friday 12-3 & 6-9
Saturday 12-9
Sunday 12-5 Carvery Only

Traditional British pub food with a South African twist

Christmas Party Menu 2 courses £12.95 / 3 courses £15.95

see website for details www.waggonhorsesculham.com

Charlotte Storrs Stoneware Pottery Open

Friday 5, 12, 19 December
Saturday 6, 13, 20 December
11am to 4pm



The Pottery, 8 The Green, Culham, Abingdon, OX14 4LZ
Pottery at the back of the house
www.charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk



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bookings@theplumpuddingmilton.co.uk

WEBSITE: theplumpuddingmilton.co.uk

CHRISTMAS MENU AVAILABLE
ON THE WEBSITE
NEW YEARS EVE
LIVE MUSIC

The Benbows

The Swan Food House & Bar

The Green, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4AE

Tel: 01235 847446



We would like to wish all our customers a very merry Xmas and a
 happy New Year and thank you all for your support over 2014

New lunchtime menu specials all @ £8.95 available Tue - Fri 12pm till 2pm

Fresh Fish Friday every Friday evening from 6.30pm 2 x mains 1 x bottle of
 wine £27 for two people



New Years Eve set menu

£25 per head 3 course menu

Xmas Party menu available
 Tues-Sat lunch and dinner
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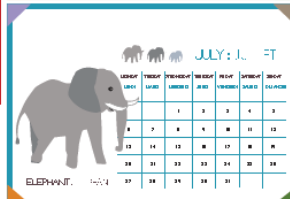


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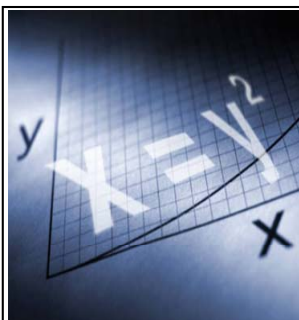


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LIFESTYLE

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25 The Nursery Sutton Courtenay Oxon OX14 4UA Tel: 01235 848822 Fax 01235 848688
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Providing Services in the South & Vale to Private Customers / Direct Payments Customers /
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References available

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Established since 1989

LIFESTYLE

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CHANGES

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