

# SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 43 No.2

MARCH 2014

## VILLAGE DIARY

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

<b>March</b>				
Tue	4th	3.30pm	Pancake Party	School
Tue	4th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tue	4th	7.30pm	Spiritual Fellowship	Village Hall
Tue	11th	2pm	Women's Christian Fellowship	Village Hall
Sat	15th	10am	Coffee Morning for Air Ambulance	The Plough
Sun	16th	4pm	Vicar's Fun Day Tea Party	Village Hall
Wed	19th		<b>COPY DATE SC NEWS</b>	
Sun	23rd	7.30pm	All Saints' Singers Passiontide Concert	Church
Tue	25th	7.30pm	SC Local History Society	Village Hall
Thur	27th	10.30am	Coffee Shop and Book Sale	Church
Sat	29th	7.30pm	Friends of All Saints' Quiz Night	Village Hall

### DISTRIBUTOR VACANCY

After 25 years of distributing the Sutton Courtenay News to the even numbers of Barretts Way our distributor would like to retire. Many, many thanks for such dedicated service. If anyone would like to take over the distribution of Sutton Courtenay News to the even numbers of Barretts Way please contact the Editorial Team for details.

All contributions for the next edition should be e-mailed to [editor@suttoncourtenay.co.uk](mailto: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.

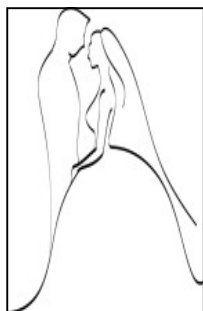
To advertise, e-mail [advertising@suttoncourtenay.co.uk](mailto:advertising@suttoncourtenay.co.uk) or telephone 07831-526784

## VILLAGE CONTACTS

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

## VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

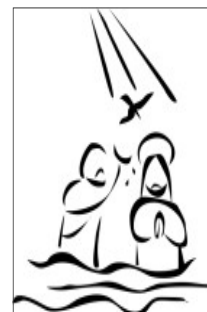
Various organisations have permanent bookings for use of the Village Hall on certain days of the week. Local individuals or organisations may nonetheless enter one-off bookings for events which clash with permanent bookings. **At least seven weeks notice must be given to Rita Atkinson (848694) or Caroline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

Christopher John SMITH & Philippa Ann YOUNG (Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2014)



### HOLY BAPTISM

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

There were no baptisms in February

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

### **X1 Bus Service**

Complaints have been received by the Parish Council about the new X1 bus service and the route it takes, as well as the timings of it. The bus after travelling the High Street turns left and through Drayton to Abingdon, and does not follow the route of the former 32 service which turned right and served the Appleford Road and Culham. The Council has invited the Operations Manager from Thames Travel to attend a meeting to explain the company's thinking and to answer questions.



### **High Street - HGVs**

HGVs have been spotted again in the High Street. There is a 7.5 tonne weight limit and they should not be using this road. Trading Standards at Oxfordshire County Council can take action against offenders where there is evidence. They have recently successfully prosecuted a driver elsewhere who breached a weight limit. Can residents who are aware of HGVs in the weight restriction area e.g. High Street, Milton Road and Harwell Road, please gather information about the vehicles, such as the registration numbers, who they belong (often they have company details on the sides), and make a note of the day, date, time and direction of travel. A photograph too would help provide the evidence needed to report these drivers onto the authorities that can take action.

### **Footpaths**

The Parish Council is planning to check all rural footpaths once the weather is a bit drier, and has earmarked some money from its budget to have the rights of way strimmed and made more easily accessible for the Summer.

### **Overhanging Hedging**

The Council had received reports that there are hedges and shrubbery overhanging footways making it difficult for pedestrians and those with pushchairs to get through without leaving the path and going onto the muddy verge. As Spring approaches and new growth appears, the problem will only get worse. Would residents please check their front boundaries, and be mindful of those who walk the paths, and trim back the parts of hedges which are overhanging the highway.

### **Vale of White Horse – Local Plan 2031 – Housing Delivery Update**

The Local Plan will shape the future of the Vale. The updated proposals are at a draft stage, and the District Council is inviting comments on the proposals, as there are changes to the Plan published last year. The Plan is available for viewing at [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/localplanpartone](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/localplanpartone) or is available at Abingdon library or the District Council's offices at Abbey House, Abingdon. Local exhibitions and meetings are being held. An exhibition will be held in premises at the precinct, Abingdon on Saturday 22nd March between 10.00 a.m.- 3.00 p.m. See also the District Council's website for further information.

### ***Planning Applications***

#### **The following planning applications have been considered :**

**P14/V0011/LB** Repairs to boundary wall at the Mill House, Appleford Road. Council had no objections.

**P14/V0023/HH** Demolition of garage, rear extension and extension to west elevation to provide accommodation at first floor level at 83 Milton Road. Council had no objections .

Continued.....

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS CONTINUED

**P14/V2331/RM** – Amendments to reserved matters for 65 dwellings for Redrow Homes in Milton Road. Council had concerns over the drainage of the site, and to ensure adequate protection for trees on the southern boundary, with screening on the western boundary.

**P14/V0069/HH** Demolition of existing rear extension, conservatory and outhouses. Erection of new first floor extension, garage conversion and single storey rear and side extension at 30 Chapel Lane. Council had no objections

**P14/V2491/FUL** Proposed redevelopment to provide new buildings for storage and distribution and ancillary facilities on land west of Didcot Power Station. Although this warehouse proposal had been reduced in size, there had been no significant changes, and the Council continued to maintain its objections.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th March, 2014 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](mailto:info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk)

## SUTTON COURTENAY POST OFFICE

Are you aware that the Post Office is now situated in Burgrey Stores in the High Street? It opened as a new Post Office service in March 2012, and has been operating just over a year. It operates from a newly formatted open plan counter within the shop. A wide range of key Post Office products and services are available.

### The opening hours are:-

Mon-Fri 05.30 – 19.00,

Sat 06.00 – 17.30,

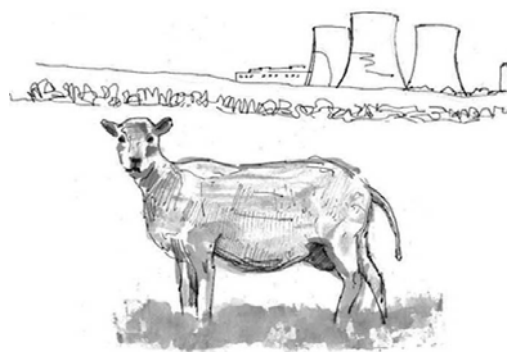
Sun 06.30 -13.00.

## SUTTON COURTENAY(NATIONAL POWER) TRUST

This Trust was established with the donation from what was National Power (now RWE nPower). The Charity will consider grants specifically for the relief of poverty and distress, education and recreation and any other general charitable purposes. If there is any local organisation or individual who would like to be considered for a small grant, then please contact the Clerk to the Trustees by 20th March stating the purpose for the grant, the amount required, and if an organisation supply a copy of the latest accounts or details of financial circumstances.

Clerk to the Trustees:

Mrs. L. Martin,  
90 Howard Cornish Road,  
Marcham,  
Oxon  
OX13 6PU  
Tel: 01865 391833



## SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

At the end of January, 52 children from Sutton Courtenay C of E Primary School joined a mass choir of over 7,000 children to take part in the Young Voices concert series at the London O2 Arena.

This is the fourth year that the school has taken part in the concert and we took our largest choir yet. The children start rehearsing in September when we receive the music packs and we certainly need plenty of time to learn all the words and dance moves off by heart for the concert in January – especially when the children have to also learn more songs for our very popular Christmas carol service too.

This experience is certainly one that is very memorable. Every child is made to feel very special, and being part of something so large – especially for a small school such as ours, starts enabling children to have a different perspective. Every voice, every movement is important and they are part of something amazing.

David Lawrence, the Principle Conductor, rehearses the children for around two hours before the concert in the afternoon and ensures that the choir has a good sound. David Lawrence is one of the UK's most versatile conductors, working with orchestras, symphony choruses and national youth choirs. He has worked with the London Philharmonic Choir, the Hallé Choir, and the CBSO Chorus for whom he is the Associate Conductor, as well as the national youth choirs of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. David has adjudicated at international choral festivals, as well as for the BBC Choir of the Year and Young Musician of the Year competitions. He conducts for BBC Television's 'Songs of Praise' and directed 'The People's Chorus' for BBC Four.

The music is arranged by Craig McLeish – who also arranges music for Les Miserable and Miss Saigon and with a live band, Young Voices Singers and guest artists, the evening is certainly very special.

Being part of Young Voices has exposed the children to a wide range of music from different countries and a huge range of styles and whilst the Pop Medley is always popular, it is not always the children's favourite song to sing!

The children have already told me that they would like to go again next year and I can't wait!

If you would like find out more about our school and the opportunities we can offer. I would be delighted to show you around. Please telephone or email the office for an appointment.



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



**ALISON ASHCROFT**  
Headteacher

**[www.suttoncourtenayprimary.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Family Service at 10.30am

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

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

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

Wednesday: BCP Holy Communion at 9.45am

### From the Ministry Team...

### #Do1NiceThing Lent Challenge

Lent is a time of preparation around remembering the forty days Jesus spent in the desert praying and preparing for his public ministry. It is the period from Ash Wednesday to the events of Easter weekend - a time traditionally of giving up - but this year can we also encourage you to GIVE OUT? #Do1NiceThing is about loving and serving others and the wider community. It is about being the change, making positive steps to make life better for others (and yourself in the process!). The ideas are generally very simple and require not much thought or pre-planning. If you don't like one of the ideas, do something else! #Do1NiceThing also links with The Big Read 'Barefoot Prayers' - visit [www.loveyourstreets.org.uk](http://www.loveyourstreets.org.uk) for more details. The campaign is also encouraging people to tweet and facebook the daily ideas and other thoughts using #Do1NiceThing.

#### Wednesday 5th March - Sunday 9th March - #BIGRead14 Theme of Week - Gatherings

5th March - Engage in conversation with the people who serve you (e.g. shop keepers)

6th March - Say thank you to someone as they work and say how much you appreciate them

7th March - Call in on an elderly neighbour - take some cake, have a cup of tea and a chat

8th March - Shop locally and support local farmers, local veg growers and local shops

9th March - Walk round your neighbourhood and pick up litter (please wear gloves and use a strong bag) or see if there is anything more you can recycle at home

#### Monday 10th March - Sunday 16th March - #BIGRead14 Theme of Week - Awakenings

10th March - Hold doors open for those behind you

11th March - Smile at people

12th March - Be a nice driver - spread road-calm!

13th March - Email / write a local charity you think does a great work and thank them and those who volunteer

14th March - Take time to pray for your neighbours

15th March - Spread the niceness on Facebook and Twitter - compliment some of your friends

16th March - Organise a Love Your Streets Easter street party for the Easter weekend in your neighbourhood (see [www.loveyourstreets.org.uk](http://www.loveyourstreets.org.uk) for ideas and resources for organising a street party....)

**Monday 17th March - Sunday 23rd March - #BIGRead14 Theme of Week - Occasions**

17th March - Write a letter to a local emergency service and thank them for the work they do

18th March - Say hello to people

19th March - Look at joining or setting up a **Neighbourhood Watch** scheme

20th March - Spot ways of helping people and do it

21st March - Go on a thankful walk - see all the positive things you can be thankful for in your neighbourhood

22nd March - Buy **Fairtrade** where you can today

23rd March - Take a single person (elderly person, single mum...) out for Sunday lunch

**Monday 24th March - Sunday 30th March (Mothering Sunday) - #BIGRead14 Theme of Week - Puzzles**

24th March - Buy seeds ready to create a wildlife garden (or tub or window box!)

25th March - Commit to collect used stamps for **The Leprosy Mission**

26th March - Catch a bus (#Do1NiceThing for the environment) and say thank you to the bus driver

27th March - Give a tea/coffee to a homeless person.

28th March - Email / write to your MP and say thank you for representing you and that you are praying for them

29th March - Take a prayer walk round your neighbourhood and pray for needs

Mothering Sunday 30th March - Take some flowers to mothers and grandmas on your street

**Monday 31st March - Sunday 6th April - #BIGRead14 Theme of Week - Responses**

31st March - Say sorry even when it's not your fault!

With love and prayers, Helen

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

**SMALL SAINTS**

Meet every Wednesday in term time from 11-12 noon in Saints' Church. We are a friendly group of 0-4 year olds with their parents/carers and we look forward to welcoming you for a bible story, a craft activity, fun singing and refreshments!

For further information please contact  
Helen Kendrick, 848297

**ADVANCE NOTICE – COMMUNITY EVENT****VICAR'S FUN DAY****SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014**

Please put the date in your diary now!

If you would be able to help in anyway then please contact  
either Helen Kendrick 848297 or Rita Atkinson 848694

**DAMASCUS GROUP SHARED SERVICE****SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH****10AM ST PETER'S CHURCH,  
DRAYTON**

(Please note there will be NO  
service  
in Sutton Courtenay)

**CHURCH DIARY FOR MARCH**

- **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – 8pm-9pm Baptism Preparation in the Church.
  - **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>** – **SHROVE TUESDAY** – 3.30pm-5pm Pancake Party in the School Hall
  - **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>** – **ASH WEDNESDAY** - 7.30pm Holy Communion.
  - **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>** – 4.30pm Wedding Blessing. 6.30pm-8.30pm Cheese and Wine Party for all Couples recently married in our churches.
  - **Monday 10<sup>th</sup>** – 8pm PCC Meeting in the Church.
  - **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>** – 7.30pm Lent Group – see advert for details
  - **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>** – 3pm Wedding.
  - **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>** – Vicar's Fun Day Tea Party for Senior Citizens in the Village Hall – please book your place using the form in this issue of the SC News.
  - **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>** – 7.30pm Lent Group – see advert for details
  - **Friday 21<sup>st</sup>** – 2pm Wedding.
  - **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>** - 7.30pm All Saints' Singers Passiontide Concert
  - **Monday 24<sup>th</sup>** – **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>** – Diocesan Clergy Conference at Swanick
  - **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>** – 7.30pm Lent Group
  - **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>** – 7.30pm Friends of All Saints' Quiz Night in Village Hall
- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>** – 10.30am Family Service for Mothering Sunday

**CHURCH DIARY FOR APRIL**

- **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>** – 7.30pm Lent Group
  - **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>** – 2pm Women's Christian Fellowship Meditation in the Church
  - **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>** – 7.30pm Lent Group
- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>** – **PALM SUNDAY – PROCESSION WITH THE DONKEY**

**COFFEE SHOP & BOOK SALE**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

**10.30am-12noon**



**All Saints' Church**

**Lent Groups 2014****Living Faithfully**

*Following Christ in Everyday Life*

A course based on the book by John Pritchard,  
Bishop of Oxford

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

FACING GOD - Living Faithfully

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

FACING MYSELF - Living Gracefully

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

FACING THE WORLD - Working Faithfully

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

FACING OTHERS - Sharing Faith

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

FACING THE FUTURE – Handling Future Shock

**ALL WELCOME!**

All the sessions run from **8-9.30pm**  
at **The Vicarage, 3 Tullis Close**

Any questions?

The Rev'd Helen Kendrick 848297



## 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:

**COLIN BOLTON who died aged 58 on Christmas Day 2013**, was born in Abingdon on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1955. He was the third child of Donald and Doris Bolton's seven children and he grew up with Reg, Gerald, Ronnie, Kath, Mandy and Doug in Bradstocks Way, Sutton Courtenay. He attended the old village school, making many friends over the years. His love of football developed from a very early age and he soon showed some very promising skills. Sadly, a knee injury stopped him from pursuing football to higher levels but his passion for Chelsea seemed to grow stronger with the years. He was always keen to pass on his enthusiasm for the sport to friends and family. And he was on the touchline as often as he could be shouting encouragement at Carl when he played. After primary school he went to Fitzharrises in Abingdon before starting work as a porter, moving office furniture for £12 a week, and then to Lambourn Asphalt as a road builder where he earned the princely sum of £100 per week. This was a job he greatly enjoyed and, over the years he also worked for Thames Water and as a Construction worker for Clancy Docra. His eldest son Kris was born in 1979 and in 1988 Colin married Stephanie and the family continue to grow with the birth of Jade in 1989, Carl in 1990 and Chelsea in 1991. Tragically Stephanie died in 1998 and this was a devastating loss for everyone who knew her but Colin, with strength and determination worked hard to be the best father he could be and provide for his children. It was a really tough time but Colin was determined to keep the family together and he successfully brought up a family of which he was immensely proud. He became an even prouder grandfather on the birth of his first grandchild – George – last November and was looking forward to the arrival of the next one. Always a child at heart he had a great affinity with children. He had always loved animals – particularly dogs – but at one point he and Steph had also tried to adopt a lamb called Ruffles – unfortunately it didn't seem to want to stay around and jumped the fence into next door's garden! In his leisure time he enjoyed playing Darts – he and Steph used to play and they taught the children - and he often competed with Jade in doubles matches. He also liked playing Aunt Sally at the Pack Horse. He was competitive but seemed to enjoy the teasing banter just as much as the winning. A new chapter in his life began when he met Barbara at Milton Football Club and it was love at first sight for both of them. They were married in September 2012 in a castle in Bude surrounded by their family and friends. They both regarded themselves as very blessed to have had a second chance at love in their lives and were greatly enjoying their life in Blewbury with their dog, and ducks and chickens and simply spending as much time as they could with each other. Colin did have one weakness and that was for white chocolate –which he would hoard in a drawer – even when he wasn't meant to be eating sugar! Colin coped stoically with the loss of his leg in 2007 and, with the loving support of those around him still led an active and fulfilling life. All his life Colin strove to do what he could for those he loved. He was very friendly and approachable and had the gift of being able to talk to anyone – even complete strangers – and put them at their ease. His puns were legendary and he was naturally able to lift people's spirits. His friends filled All Saints' Church for his funeral which took place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends. *This is an edited extract from the address given at his funeral by The Reverend Helen Kendrick.*

**ELEANOR RUTH DAVIES, who died on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014** aged 87, was born in 1926 in Cheltenham, the youngest child of an extended family, to her parents Mabel and George Hawkins. She attended school in Cheltenham before going to the University of Bristol to study Chemistry. On graduating she worked for Esso Research and she was based at Esso House where she met her future husband Roy. They were married in Cheltenham in August 1953 going on to form an enduring partnership in which their personalities and skills complemented and balanced one another. In May 1954 they bought West Wilden – then an extremely run down and neglected property with an extensive garden. It cost them less than £3,000 and they moved in with two pieces of furniture! Over the years they worked on attempting to renovate the house but it was the garden that soon became their focus and where they expended their time and their energy, transforming it over the years into a beautifully cared for slice of paradise. It became their pride and joy. Like everything she did in life she took gardening very seriously and over the years Eleanor attended gardening courses at Waterperry to improve her skills. Kate their eldest child was born in 1956 followed by Joanna, Harriet, Oliver and Anthony. She enjoyed cooking – mainly in order to cook her home grown vegetables. She belonged to a book group, before they became the fashionable things they are today, and she was a voracious reader all her life. When not visiting their much loved holiday home in Pembrokeshire both she and Roy loved travelling and they explored Europe and England extensively – holidays were not to sit on beaches but to study ecclesiastical architecture. She had a constant thirst for knowledge. For many years Eleanor played a significant role as the matriarch of her large family supporting them throughout all the challenges of life. She was very proud of all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren - who knew her as Garra – and took a keen interest in their lives (continued)

and all their activities. She was a woman with a deep personal Christian faith who took life seriously; someone with a strong will who was very forceful, direct and determined. She was a straight forward, straight talking individual, not afraid to say what she thought and she enjoyed having the last word in any discussion! She was fiercely intellectual but also with a great deal of common sense, and although she was not one to suffer fools gladly, she was also a good friend to many - offering kind and sympathetic support whenever and wherever needed. Above all she gave generously of her time and her talents in the community. From serving on the Parish Council for many years to working as a Guide Leader for several years - Many girls have reason to be grateful for the hours of voluntary service Eleanor gave to them. She was active in the church community on various rotas and helping out in any way she could. She was one of the distributors of the SC News and served Meals on wheels around the local area. Roy died in 2010 and soon afterwards Eleanor identified the house in Chapel Lane she wished to move into as she accepted that West Wilden and its garden were simply too big for her. On moving she soon transformed the garden and made it the way she wanted. Eleanor coped stoically with the last few years of increasing old age and growing infirmity, determined to maintain as much independence as she could, but she was also immensely grateful for the support of her family, friends and neighbours who will greatly miss her. *(This is an edited extract from the address given at a thanksgiving service in All Saints' Church on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014 by the Reverend Helen Kendrick )*

**JANET ROGERS who died, aged 72, on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014**, was born in Oxfordshire, spending her early years in Yarnton with her parents, Olive and Leonard Mead-Harris. She had a sister who died young and sadly her father was killed in the War whilst serving with the Fleet Air Arm. Her Mother went onto marry John Gurl, a policeman, who brought Janet up as his own daughter. The growing family, which included John's son, Mike and the new arrival, Peter, lived in Headington Quarry where Janet attended St Margaret's School before being apprenticed at Elliston and Cavell the leading department store in Oxford at that time where she trained as a furrier. From there she went to work at the Nuffield Orthopedic Hospital as a splint maker and here she met Alan when she began work in his department. They were married in 1964 in Headington Quarry Church and began married life living above the premises of the general store in Sutton Courtenay which Alan had bought and converted into a sweet shop in 1963, called A C Rogers. Janet went onto run this for many years with the help of Vera Eustace and two or three other ladies from the village. They had over 50 jars of sweets – and it is an establishment very fondly remembered by many people in Sutton Courtenay. In 1968 Felicity was born and they had to move from the sweet shop across the road to 15 Milton Road as the pram wouldn't fit through the door. Growing up, Felicity has fond memories of her mother cycling her to primary school until she was old enough to walk or cycle herself and remembers her serving in the shop with a checked blue overall, busy with many customers, and, after school, helping to reload the Corona drinks machine, the chocolate counter or helping people in the back room choose cards. She was talented at many handicrafts – sewing, embroidery, tapestry and patchwork – and made Felicity's wedding dress, sewing on hundreds of pearls. Felicity said they were meant to be doing it together but suspects that her mother re-sewed many of the pearls she had done to make sure that it was perfect on the day! Over the years she was a keen participant in the Horticultural Show, entering many different classes and encouraging Felicity to do the same. They won prizes for everything from needlework to baking. Janet was a good cook and the family remembers her Lemon Drizzle and Fruit cakes and marmalade. She would do large scale baking for the WI and the Farmer's Markets. She belonged to the Thames Craft Club in Abingdon and the WI in Sutton Courtenay. She was also a volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels and she was often seen cycling around the village helping to deliver the SC News and waving cheerily to neighbours. She loved playing croquet – either at home or at the Thames Croquet Club in Abingdon. She was very competitive but anyone who played with her had to play according to 'Janet's rules'! She delighted in wildflowers, birds and trees – although Alan would only let her plant them around the edge of the lawn! She loved to dance at any opportunity and the family have fond memories of her washing up and dancing around the kitchen with sheer joy of being alive. Janet always had a great spirit of adventure and loved to travel on holidays and at weekends to new places. Every Easter Alan and Janet would go to Scotland and in later years found great pleasure in cruising. Janet also enjoyed many truly happy times at their holiday cottage, called Rosemary, near Barnstaple in Devon and later at their house in Poole which Janet thought was ideal because it was close to both the sea and the shops. In everything she did Janet was a perfectionist. She was gentle, kind and loving and always keeping herself active and busy. She was always willing to help and organize and get involved. She was often full of giggles and laughter. She was a woman who had a natural ability to enjoy life. She loved parties – going to them and hosting them. She enjoyed nothing better than spending time with family and friends and she loved her granddaughters – Alexandra and Isabelle and doted on her son in law Guy. Having bought 'Lakeside' in All Saints' Lane Alan and Janet sold the sweet shop in 1980 and moved into what has been their home ever since. Sadly 10 years ago she developed the first signs of Dementia and, cared for initially by Alan and Felicity, eventually needed the more specialist care Vale House could offer. Even in her illness the strong core of determination which kept her going did not diminish and it meant that, with Felicity's help, she recovered amazingly well from a broken hip and learnt to walk again. She never liked to sit still and right to the end was always wanting to be up and about. *This is an edited extract from the address given at her funeral on 23<sup>rd</sup> January in All Saints' Church.*

**FRANCES BUCKLE was born in Sutton Courtenay on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1933**, the youngest of a family of eight and always regarded this village as home. Her parents were Leah and Jim Belcher but Frances was mainly brought up, as was often the case in large families, by her sister Brenda. Her father, Jim, was a Batman in the Army. He had been awarded the Victoria Cross in the First World War and continued to serve on the Didcot Depot. Frances was very close to her Dad and she had many fond memories of what she regarded as a good and happy childhood during which she was known as 'the little fairy'. As a child she loved dogs and always said that she wanted dogs and not children when she grew up! Bright, intelligent and hard-working she attended school in Didcot before going to the Marcham Road Hospital where she trained for four years as a nurse. This really developed the compassionate and caring side of her nature and she loved her work – particularly with children. It was whilst caring for children on the Scarlet Fever Ward that she caught it herself. Frances made the decision to give up her nursing career to care for her children and over the years she brought up Michael, Beverly, Therese, Val, Jesse and Ricky. After living briefly in Abingdon the family moved into Tyrrells Way in 1958 and Frances lived there from then on. Her family was always her first priority and her philosophy was that children should be encouraged to grow like flowers. Although they might not have had much money or many material possessions they all knew themselves to be well loved and were always well-fed. Frances brought them up firmly but fairly, teaching them manners and respect and encouraging them to treat other people as they themselves wished to be treated. She sent them to Sunday School, here at this church, and she instilled in them the ethos of hard work. Alongside bringing up the children, she would work through the seasons on the village farms – from potato picking for Allens to Turkey plucking for Cauldwells and helping with the fruit harvest at Harwell. Although it was hard she enjoyed the outdoor work and it kept her fit and healthy and she would encourage the children to join in too. As they said to me, she gave them the tools for life. Over the years Frances enjoyed travelling in England having fun at the seaside or going on train rides or magical mystery tours by bus. She also had a bit of a reputation as a boy racer in her Metro! Frances was very musical and could play the piano by ear and would often sing just to keep the children happy. She loved to dance – and in her younger years particularly enjoyed the Jive but also enjoyed the Country and Western Dances in the Village Hall when Jess was playing with his band. In later years she loved watching and singing along to Songs of Praise. The family share many memories of musical evenings and parties in their home with friends and family. Frances was a generous friend, very sociable and enjoyed throwing parties. She loved a glass of ginger wine and had an entertaining sense of humour – enjoying the banter! She would always help someone in need and was willing to share whatever she had. The last few years, since Bernie died, had been hard and, despite the fulltime care of Therese and the rest of the family, she became increasingly frustrated at not being able to get out and about. Last year she celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren – or her blessings as she called them. She had a strong faith which kept her going through some tough times but she was always thankful for what she had. Her mission in life had been to care for her children and she finally felt she had accomplished this. *This is an edited extract of the address given by the Reverend Helen Kendrick at the funeral held in All Saints' Church on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014.*

## WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Our first meeting of this year was a social one, when the Committee members provide and serve tea to all members. This proved, once again, a very enjoyable meeting and all who came really enjoyed it and also the Quiz provided by one of our members, June Luther.

Our February meeting was a Flower Arranging Demonstration by Mrs Beryl Fudge and even though the attendance was lower than usual everyone who came really enjoyed it. The lovely flower arrangements were raffled and three lucky ladies were very pleased to win them.

Our meeting to be held on Tuesday 11th March is to be another visit from Mrs Christine Wild when she will show us how to decorate eggs, then for members to have a go. So please will members who wish to decorate an egg(s), please remember to bring two eggs (blown if possible) with them.

As always, visitors are very welcome to attend any of our meetings.

Rose Woodward (Secretary)

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH EASTER FLOWERS

At Easter we provide an opportunity to remember loved ones with a display of lilies in church. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of this year's easter lilies in memory of a loved one, please put your donation in an envelope and write on the front the name(s) of the person(s) you wish to remember and deliver it to Ann White (52 Lady Place). A list of those remembered will be on display in Church.

Many thanks.

## SUTTON COURTENAY SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March Village Hall 7.30pm Spiritual Meeting with David Chapman

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April Village Hall 7.30pm Spiritual Meeting with Caroline Price and Pat Quennell

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb we were pleased to welcome a lovely congregation in spite of the weather conditions. Our mediums were Sheila Webb and David Townsend from Swindon who both gave remarkable evidence. It was good to see them work and their messages were excellent.

Any enquiries just give us a ring. Pat and Sam Quennell 01235 847460

## COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF THE AIR AMBULANCE

**15th March 2014**

**10am - 12.30pm**

**The Plough**

Sutton Courtenay WI are holding a coffee morning by kind invitation of Pepe the landlord at The Plough in aid of the air ambulance on 15th March at 10 till 12.30. There is no entrance fee. You will find teas, coffee, cakes and soft drinks on sale, We also have over 500 good books, a brick a brac stall, a Grand Raffle and a cake stall. Please drop in and see us, We hope to have a fine day. The Air Ambulance will be there with a stall. We need a good turn out as the Air Ambulance only runs on donations. Please show your support as we never know who may need this very valuable service.

Margaret Hamilton, WI

## SUTTON COURTENAY WAR MEMORIAL

### RESTORATION APPEAL 2013 - 2014



The War Memorial, unveiled by Lord Asquith, Earl of Oxford in 1920, is in urgent need of repair and restoration.

This will cost approximately **£15,000** and we would like to complete the work to mark the anniversary of the declaration of the First World War in 2014.

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

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

A BIG THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED SO GENEROUSLY.

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

**Please mark envelope Sutton Courtenay War Memorial Restoration Appeal** and do include your name and contact details so that an acknowledgement can be sent to you.

For more information, or if you have any ideas for fundraising, please contact

The Reverend Helen Kendrick on 01235 848297

or e-mail [helen@kendricks.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:helen@kendricks.fsnet.co.uk)

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

## FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' QUIZ NIGHT

Is the shortest half mile in Oxon or even the UK?

Come and test your local, general and specialist *factual* knowledge at this year's Quiz Night on 29 March.



See page 19 for more information .

## CORNERSTONE ARTS CENTRE

Hello from Cornerstone!

Looking ahead to March we have lots of exciting shows coming up.

On Sunday 2nd there's a super afternoon of music especially for children and families in Blast Off With Kid Carpet. Not only will Kid Carpet and the Noisy Animals blast off into space but they'll keep everyone entertained as they make friends, play games, contemplate the world and finally rock out at a grand dance contest. Along the way they'll share lots of interesting facts and information. Astronaut costumes are very welcome but not obligatory!

**COR  
NER  
STON**

Stand-up comedian Lucy Porter comes to Cornerstone on Friday 7 March. Familiar to many from her appearances on Have I Got News For You, Never Mind The Buzzcocks and Mock the Week, Lucy's thoughtful and funny show will include anecdotes from her real life.

The Only Way Is Downton comes to us direct from the West End on Saturday 22nd. Combining the super popular period drama with contemporary reality TV shows Luke Kempner is a superbly versatile actor and impressionist, and switches between thirty two different characters. You really don't need to know anything about Downton to enjoy an evening of great entertainment.

There's a real treat in store for folk music lovers on Saturday 29 March with Emily Smith, one of the leading singers of the contemporary Scottish folk scene. She's been likened to 'a Scottish Joni Mitchell' and has worked with a wide range of artists from the folk scene and beyond. She's touring to launch her new album 'Echoes' and is accompanied by Jamie McClellan on guitar, fiddle and vocals and Matheu Watson on guitar and whistle. Finally we have a great range of activities lined up for the February half-term and Easter holidays. More information is available on the Cornerstone web site <http://www.cornerstone-arts.org> or from the Box Office tel 01235 515144.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

PCSO Sandra Syphas has contacted us about the following current scam:

A fraudster 'cold calls' the victim on their landline and claims to be from a bank or the police where they claim they have identified a discrepancy on one of the victim's accounts.

- To gain the victim's trust they will ask the victim to call them back straight away, but unknown to the victim they have not disconnected the call and when the victim dials the real number they are still connected to the fraudster. The fraudster will then ask for the victim's bank account details, PIN numbers and / or sometimes cash.
- Finally, the fraudster sends an innocent taxi driver or courier to the victim's house to collect the items. The fraudster will then use the card to withdraw cash, make purchases in stores or online.

Most of the victims have been elderly people.

Sandra also writes:

'I'm currently in the process of going door to door with my NHW coordinators, and offering a "Smartwater" forensic marking kit for household belongings, as part of a neighbourhood action group project to deter would be burglars. If you were not at home when we called, and would like to obtain a kit, or find out a little bit more about the project, please contact me on 101 or email me at [Sandra.syphas@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Sandra.syphas@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk). The kits are £15 each and contain enough fluid for approximately 50 items.

My aim is to get as much of the village as possible protected, and we are currently in the process of getting permission for the erection of permanent street signs to endorse this.'

PCSO Sandra Syphas C9482  
Abingdon Outer Neighbourhood Team  
Drayton, Sutton Courtenay, Appleford 101

## SUTTON COURTENAY COMMUNITY-LED PLAN - UPDATE

Thank you very much to all who worked tirelessly to distribute and collect questionnaires in the autumn last year. The questionnaires were duly sent to the Vale of White Horse District Council for collation of the data.

We have received the collated data back from the District Council and are now in the process of grouping all the 'free script' comments into themes so that action points can be formulated. There are 151 pages of feedback comments.

A total of 1854 questionnaires were distributed of which 707 were completed and returned. This gives a return rate of 38%. Some households chose to complete one questionnaire on behalf of all the adults in the household rather than each adult complete a questionnaire. However, we are not able to reflect this in the return rate.

We will also be including feedback and comments elicited by the Community-led Plan group from residents at various village events. We also have feedback from young people and children.

Once the themes are established the Community-led group will be preparing the plan. We will give monthly updates through the Village News but hope to have the completed report in April/May.

Last but not least – you may recall that each completed questionnaire is to be entered in to a prize draw and the lucky winner takes home £100. This will be done at the time the report is published.

Rita Atkinson

On behalf of the Community-led plan group

## ED VAIZEY MP

As regular readers of my newsletter will know, as an MP I receive many interesting snippets of news about the Didcot and Wantage Constituency. I recently heard from the National Lottery that they have given grants totalling more than £500,000 in the last year to good causes across the constituency. The recipients were hugely varied, with two rewards of just under £1,000 to individuals under the 'Heroes Return' programme that helps veterans of World War II to take part in commemorative visits at one end of the scale and £365,000 going to Circles South East, whose aim is to reduce the harm caused by sexual abuse in our communities. In all there were 18 projects across the Constituency supported by the National Lottery: you can see more about lottery-funded projects here: [www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/](http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/)

Quite apart from the good news about funding, each of those 18 projects represents a huge amount of effort from volunteers and campaigners across the Constituency. Applying for a lottery grant is never easy, and each application in itself is the result of many hours of work gathering the right information and presenting it in the right way. Behind that effort, is the work each group or organization does day to day, providing services, facilities, activities or support for many other individuals and groups in our communities – a network of effort and help for others. As your MP I am able to meet many of these fantastic people, and see and hear about the work they do and I am constantly amazed by the dedication of the people I meet.

So much of this voluntary work is unsung, and can pass unnoticed, so I'd like to take a small opportunity to say 'thank you' to all those who work for others, in any way at all. We are all grateful!

This month's postbag has been a real mix of domestic and international affairs, with issues such as autism, blasphemy laws in Pakistan, transparency in politics, wildlife crime and animal rights in South Korea featuring frequently.

I also received many emails and letters from constituents concerned about the plight of Syrian refugees. As the conflict in Syria continues to force millions from their homes, it is vital that we do our utmost to assist those suffering at this time of great need. I therefore welcomed the Home Secretary's commitment to provide refuge to some of the most vulnerable refugees here in the UK. Following the announcement, I received an email from a local family who wish to offer their home to a refugee, which provides just one example of why the UK has such a proud tradition of supporting those most in need.

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

**Ed Vaizey MP**



## SUTTON COURTENAY WI

Well what a bad month we have had with the weather, hope by the time you read this things will have picked up. Our January speaker was very good and gave a talk on bee keeping, which we all enjoyed. Our lunch this month was to have been at Notcutts but due to Culham bridge being closed we were not able to go. A big thanks to the staff at The Swan on The Green ,where we went with no notice. We all 20 of us had a very nice meal. Our lunch next month will be at Notcutts. Please keep March 15th free for our coffee morning at The Plough by kind invitation of Pepe, the landlord. It will be in aid of the Air Ambulance who rely on our donations. We have over 500 good books, a bric a brac stall. lots of lovely cakes and a grand raffle. Please try and support us 10 till 12.30. Last of all it's with regret we have to say Janet Rogers passed away, she was a long time member of the WI. We send our sympathy to Alan and the family. Finally get well soon Yvonne Hastings who has a broken leg.

Margaret Hamilton

## SUTTON COURTENAY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



### NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Village Hall 7.30 p.m**

**“IT WILL DO HIM MORE GOOD THAN GOING TO  
SCHOOL”**

**Child labour in 19<sup>th</sup> century Oxfordshire**

**Speaker: Liz Woolley**

Liz Woolley is a lecturer at the University's Department for Continuing Education with a particular interest in the lives of rural people. She is a popular and regular speaker on local history to history societies and other groups. Her illustrated talk will have significance for Sutton Courtenay when it was a very rural village in the nineteenth century.

(Members free: visitors £3)

Mary Thompson

## SUTTON COURTENAY COUNTY COUNCILLOR

### **40mph Limit**

The consultation period for the proposed new 40mph stretch of road between Drayton and Milton is about to begin. The funding is in place, the will is there indeed, the only thing which could derail the process is if a large number of the public and authorities object. I urge all those interested (and in particular those in favour!) to respond.

### **Warehouse Proposal.**

I am unclear as to how the developers expected the residents of Sutton Courtenay and surrounding villages to react to their new proposal to reduce the area from 1 million square foot to 950,000 square foot. Or indeed, if they expected local residents to be reassured by plans to institute, monitor and police HGV restrictions when current HGV restrictions go unmonitored and far too often abused.

I find it hard to see how a plan to offer an employment site to 2000 people on close to minimum wage in an area short of affordable housing and already suffering severe transport congestion is even remotely compatible with ambitions to make this area a focus for Hi-Tech / Bio-Tech industry.

Are there not parts of the country (even in the South East) crying out for employment?

I will continue to argue this wherever and whenever possible.

### **Budget**

Later this month the county's budget will be set and we will be able to see where cuts are to be made. Home to school transport is going to be a major area of contention. So are large parts of the Social Service budget. We are incredibly lucky that much of our Youth support service does not depend on OCC funding. In the villages of Appleford, Sutton Courtenay, Milton, Drayton and Steventon the Damascus Youth Project has been doing its excellent work for many years now. Based in its new premises in Milton Park (once again many thanks to MEPC for their generosity), I was delighted to steer the last of the Big Society Fund their way. I hope this will allow them to purchase their much needed vehicle. Other smaller grants were made to Evergreens towards transport costs, Sutton Courtenay Primary School for computing equipment, a Defibrillator for Drayton, and equipment for the Wootton and Dry Sandford Youth Club.

### **X1 Bus Service**

There have been a number (a large number) of complaints about the new X1 Bus service through Sutton Courtenay and Drayton. Buses late, buses not appearing, poor customer care compared with the now defunct 32 service through Sutton Courtenay. Thames Travel has been made aware of all these concerns and will be producing a new (and hopefully more meaningful) timetable within the next month. In the meantime, Sutton Courtenay residents should be aware that the bus arrives at the triangle and turns to Drayton. Residents of Drayton should be aware that unlike Sutton Courtenay, they also enjoy the benefit of the X2 service. I am aware that people living at the Appleford end of Sutton Courtenay have a long way to walk to catch the bus and that many of them are elderly. I am asking Thames Travel if they could look at this issue in the meantime a regular and reliable service of any kind for Sutton Courtenay would be nice....

Richard Webber

Cllr, OCC

*[Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto:Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com)*

01235 534001

## QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March is the date of this year's

## QUIZ NIGHT

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

7.30 for 8.00 pm

Please note: Tickets required for this year's events at only £5.00 (with lucky number). Available at Burgrey Stores (from 08.03.14) or by contact with [fred.cabbage@btinternet.com](mailto:fred.cabbage@btinternet.com) 01235 848768 before 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Admission at the door is £7.50.

Tables of 6 maximum.

6 rounds including General Knowledge, Music, History etc. Prizes. Cash Bar  
An event by the Friends of All Saints' to raise funds for the Church fabric.

## VICAR'S FUN DAY: SENIOR CITIZENS TEA PARTY

Sunday 16 March 2014

4pm to 7pm in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

This is a warm invitation to all Senior Citizens to come and join us in an afternoon of fellowship, fun and refreshments. This year young people from the DAMASCUS Youth Project will be helping in the organisation of the event. Please do come and join us.

To help us with catering numbers, if you are planning to come, please complete the reply slip below and return to the Rev. Helen Kendrick (848297) or Rita Atkinson (848694) or Roxy Elford (07875649008) or Pat Steptoe (847362).

If you would like help with transport please do make sure you include your contact phone number and address. If you would like us to collect the reply slip from you please do ring one of us.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**Reply Slip:** Please detach, complete and return to Helen Kendrick at the Vicarage or telephone one of the above numbers.

I am able to attend the event on Sunday 16 March 2014

I do / do not require help with transport

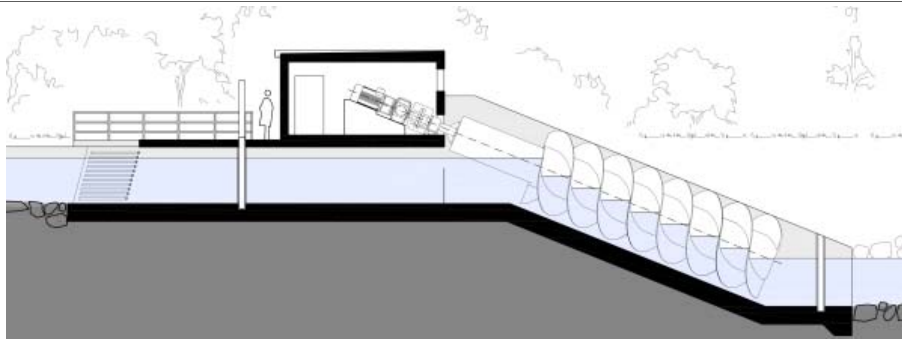
I have /do not have any special dietary requirements

Please state requirements

-----  
Contact phone number -----

Address  
-----

## HYDROPOWER IN SUTTON COURTENAY?



Thank you for turning out at the Public Meetings to discuss water power in a time of flooding! There are several possible sites from which energy could be captured, but we should only expect the Environment Agency to agree to one. The show of hands in both villages was clear – overwhelming support for taking it further. I think we all recognise that it won't be easy.

### Starting with the concerns that were expressed

**Canoeists** – they value the pools because they suit a range of skills, and would like to work with us to get the best outcome

**Fishing** – there was one vociferous opponent, but there was support from other anglers for improving the fishing environment; they remain open to consultation

**Flooding risk** – clearly any scheme has to comply with EA guidance, which means at worst being flood-neutral, and at best means improving the flow and ground conditions. There is no record of hydropower contributing to flooding

**Noise** – mustn't be an issue, we could run noise simulations for reassurance

**Visual** - the generator houses will be smaller and lower than the existing pump house on the NDA weir, and can be built to look traditional

We thought that one gentleman in SC summarised the concerns perfectly – *'if we want to stop piling carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, whether we do that with nukes or renewables, everyone has to be prepared to give a little'*.

To these concerns, we should add **the challenges** posed by **land ownership**, the **EA**, the **Planners**, and last but not least raising **finance**, including somehow covering the upfront studies and applications before we know whether we've secured a site or not.

### Now, the benefits and the opportunity

Domestic electricity prices have been rising by 5-8%, and investing in renewable energy is one of the only ways to directly offset this. It is not possible for hydro schemes to be linked directly to villages, although something may come of this in future; nor can we simply sell cheap electricity to local users. However, generators can produce steady dividends which shareholders can use to offset their electricity bills.

A scheme at Sutton might cost £2m, and if all that money can't be raised locally we might be wise to structure things to attract investment on commercial terms. For example, maybe we should only go ahead if it pays for itself in under 10 years?

.....continued.....

## HYDROPOWER IN SUTTON COURTENAY?

Other developers have already applied for licenses in Sutton Pools as well as us, so we need to keep the pressure on. Henry and I would like to take up some of the offers of support and assemble a small group from the local communities; we'll be approaching some of those volunteers, who should be encouraged by the forest of raised hands! Or was that just a vote to end the meetings on a happy note, and get back to doing what pubs were built for...

James Walton, Sutton Courtenay

Henry Reily-Collins, Culham

*james@jgwalton.com*

*henry@hallidays.com*

\*\*\*\*\*

### The Editors have received the following letter about the project:

Last week [11th February] we attended a very useful meeting in Sutton Courtenay where village resident, James Walton, and Culham resident and hydraulic engineer, Henry Reily-Collins, outlined the possible benefits and opportunities of having our own Archimedes Screw Hydroelectric system, sited on one of the weirs in Sutton Courtenay pools. This is a good starting point, but it is very important that if it is to be successful as a community project, a number of issues are clarified as soon as possible.

#### 1. The issue of ownership

How is the money to be raised and who "owns" the project? This includes how the electricity generated is sold to the National Grid and what is to be done with any profits that may accrue over the first 20 years. From reading the accounts of other similar projects: e.g. Osney, Abingdon and Settle (see website links below), it is significant that they have all been seen as community owned projects. The rivers are a community asset and any benefits raised from this project need to be shared by the whole village.

#### 2. Where do we start?

Obviously there will be money required for the initial professional surveys. Although Henry Reily-Collins kindly offered his professional help and advice, it was unclear who we would get to do the engineering and land surveys – and how these would be paid for. Also, who are the relevant land-owners and how willing they would be to be involved in this project? This will depend on which weir we are discussing. We need advice on the choice of weir as well, as the height of the water fall is critical for the production of electricity.

#### 3. When do we start?

There are obviously a number of interested parties within the village, including the water sport and angling communities that need to be involved. It is important that, within the very near future, we get a working committee together that represents the whole village in order to discuss the project and then pass the information on to the rest of our community. Clearly, transparency about the aims and financing of this project are essential for it to be supported by the good-will of this community.

#### Suggested websites that may be of use:

<http://www.osneylockhydro.co.uk/technical-details/>

<http://www.abingdonhydro.org.uk/>

[www.mannpower-hydro.co.uk](http://www.mannpower-hydro.co.uk).

[communities@cse.org.uk](mailto:communities@cse.org.uk)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EuCbUZYZQ-c> – this clip explains the system.

Jane Bremner and Su Braden



The All Saints Singers are proud to announce their forthcoming concert, Sunday March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30 pm in All Saints Church, Sutton Courtenay.

## Joseph Haydn: The Creation

The work is based on three sources, Genesis 1: 1-2 : and 3. Sections of Milton's Paradise lost and the book of psalms.

Three sources, three parts.

Part One, covers the first four days of the creation, from chaos to the appearance of the sun, moon and stars

Part Two, days four through to six. The creation of birds, fish and beasts

Part three: The awakening of Adam and Eve.

This gloriously delightful, sophisticated and deeply moving oratorio is definitely not to be missed, written by Haydn at the peak of his composing ability.

Haydn was at the forefront of music for most of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and his talent can best be summed up by quoting Mozart, who said of him;

"Haydn alone has the secret, both of making me smile and of touching my innermost soul."

The All Saints' Singers are joined by 3 soloists, our professional orchestra and resident conductor and director Gulliver Ralston.

We are pleased to announce that the very demanding soprano role of both Eve and Gabriel will be performed by Anna Shackleton of Sutton Courtenay

Tickets: (£12) 01235 848205

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Parking on the High Street

A few days ago residents at the 'Triangle' end of the High Street awoke to find their cars bearing "Polite Notices" on laminated cards.

These cards expressed a desire on the part of the author that the owners of these cars should desist from parking their vehicles with two wheels on the pavement.

The principal reason cited was that obstruction to the pavement caused inconvenience for wheelchair users, parents with children in buggies, anyone using mobility scooters, etc.

I would invite people to consider some alternative points of view.

- 1) The only unbroken footpath running the length of the High Street is on the OTHER side of the road.
- 2) Having the wing mirror smashed off your car is a not infrequent occurrence for residents at that end of the High Street, even when they choose to park partly on the pavement.
- 3) There is nowhere else to park.
- 4) Although one or two people per week might be inconvenienced by having a narrower usable pavement, or by having to cross to the wide pavement on the other side of the road, hundreds of daily road users will be held up as a consequence of the reduced road width.
- 5) Cars parked wholly in the road will make it impossible for a car and, say, a lorry or bus to pass each other in what remains of the road.

As an aside, I can't help observing that merely printing "Polite Notice" on an unsolicited communication doesn't automatically validate either its politeness or its authenticity as a "notice". Particularly when it is anonymous, has no contact details or other mechanism for continued dialogue, and seems calculated to leave the author's identity - and therefore responsibility and culpability - beyond the reach or reproach of those whom he or she has accused of, effectively, irresponsibility.

David Connor, High Street, Sutton Courtenay

\*\*\*\*\*

### Chemist on Milton Park

Dear Readers

You may have received a letter from Marcham Road Health Centre explaining how you have to go to a nearer chemist to receive your medication prescription. Our nearest, I have found out, is on Milton Park Estate. It's called Apollo Chemist, and is situated under the large canopy, Unit 5A, opposite the Hairdressers. It's friendly and very helpful and has the added bonus that it delivers prescription medication **free of charge**.

When you next visit Marcham Road Health Centre tell them you wish to use the chemist on Milton Park and they will explain everything to you. Just phone 01235 835961. Not many people realise this useful chemist delivers **free to your door**.

Carol Venables

## UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



**DIDCOT & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE** celebrates its first anniversary in February 2014. It's been a fantastic success story with over 250 members and over 25 interest groups in its first year.

D&D U3A meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month.

The **March 2014** meeting is being held at 2pm on Tuesday 18 March at Didcot Civic Hall

Tel: 078041 59993, email [didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com](mailto:didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com)

Website <http://3asites.org.uk/didcot>

## OTHER EVENTS NOTIFIED TO THE EDITORS

### LONG WITTENHAM SCHOOL

Nearly New Sale, Saturday 22nd March, 10am-12 noon, Long Wittenham Village Hall

Long Wittenham Pre-School is holding a Nearly New Sale of top quality baby and children clothes, toys, games, equipment and maternity clothes on Saturday 22nd March, from 10-12 noon at the Long Wittenham Village Hall. If you are after a bargain please come along and get there nice and early! Alternatively if you want to make some extra cash and support the Pre-School and your house is full of baby and children's clothes, toys, games and/or equipment that are 'good as new' contact us to get your seller code and more details about how to become a seller. Sellers keep 60% of the sale price for all items sold, 70% for items over £20. Or if you would like to donate items to be sold at the Nearly New Sale please get in touch and we may even be able to arrange collection! If you would like to come along, sell, donate items or need more information please contact Angela Green by emailing [info@longwittenhampreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@longwittenhampreschool.co.uk)

Family Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday 6th April, 11am-2pm, The Plough, Long Wittenham

The Long Wittenham Pre-School Family Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday 6th April, 11am-2pm, at The Plough, Long Wittenham (by kind permission of Kim and Liam). Starting and finishing in The Plough garden, the Egg Hunt clues will take you down to Acklings field where we hold our forest school) and back again. In addition to the egg hunt, there will be face painting and an egg and spoon race, as well as a other Easter activities and a prize for the best fancy dress. Food is available at from The Plough or bring along your own picnic. £2,50 per child, adults are free.

\*\*\*\*\*

### OXFORD HARMONIC SOCIETY FORTHCOMING CONCERT

Mendelssohn *Elijah*

Saturday 22 March, 7.30pm

Oxford Town Hall

£16/£14 (concessions available)

For more details see [www.oxfordharmonicsoc.org](http://www.oxfordharmonicsoc.org).



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Rain! RAIN! lashed down in waves of woe,

Invaded by storms we battled the foe,

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And flooded all; from Cardiff to Staines.

Amber alerts, wild winds; power cuts and gloom,

Weathermen gorged on dire warnings of doom,

Ministers wrung their hands; "its not our fault",

"Labour caused it all; that Brown's a dolt".

Some said we're suffering from Global Warming.

It cant be stopped; Polar Vortex is forming,

Caused by developers, capitalists, immigrants, the French,

Blame rises with sewage; who caused this stench?

Strange sightings of beasts, a crocodile in Bristol,

Environment Agency quangocrats sighted in Amptill,

The army sent in to save the nation,

With missiles, tanks and sandbags, they held their station.

But the water rose up ignoring the government,

With inexorable strength it broke every embankment,

Through hovel and mansion, school, and town hall,

Not even Canute in his pomp, could command it to fall.

Milord and Lady, yon peasant and pleb,

None can escape Mother Nature's web,

Chief Scientist, Prime Minister, Parliament's Black Rod,

Humbled by weather; an Act of God.



David McKenzie



# The Wandering Kitchen Village Restaurant

7:30pm, Friday 11th April: Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

The Wandering Kitchen's Village Restaurant pops-up in different Oxfordshire and Berkshire villages offering four courses of home cooked, locally sourced food with an elegant twist. Dishes such as belly pork, lamb shank and mushroom wellington and lovely home-made desserts such as sticky almond cake and crème brûlée. Add majestic decor and a fabulous atmosphere and you have the perfect evening.

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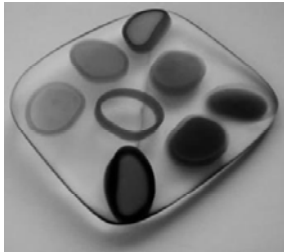
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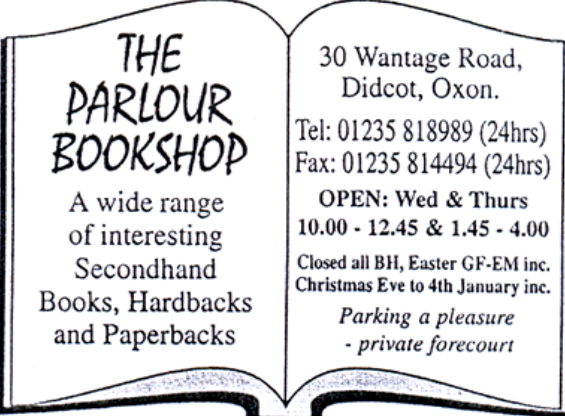


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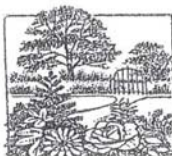
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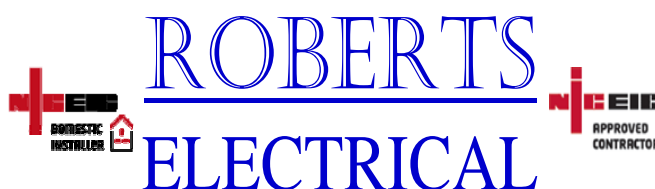
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