

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 43 No.3

APRIL 2014

VILLAGE DIARY

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

| April | | | | |
|-------|------|---------|---|--------------|
| Tue | 1st | 7.30pm | Parish Council Meeting | Village Hall |
| Tue | 1st | 7.30pm | Spiritual Fellowship | Village Hall |
| Fri | 4th | | Deadline for responses to VWHDC District Plan | |
| Tue | 8th | 2pm | Women's Christian Fellowship | Church |
| Fri | 11th | 3.30pm | Village Meeting with Ed Vaizey MP | Church |
| Sun | 13th | | Palm Sunday procession with Donkey | |
| Tue | 15th | 7.30pm | WI Meeting | Village Hall |
| Wed | 16th | | COPY DATE SC NEWS | |
| Sun | 20th | | Parish Eucharist with Easter Egg Hunt | Church |
| Thur | 24th | 10.30am | Coffee and Cakes | Church |
| Sat | 26th | 8.30pm | Ladies' Breakfast | School |



DISTRIBUTOR VACANCY

Another distributor wishes to retire after many years as unfortunately she has been in hospital. We wish her well and many, many thanks for such dedicated service. If anyone would like to take over the distribution of Sutton Courtenay News please contact the Editorial Team for details.

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.

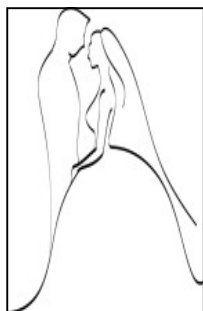
To advertise, e-mail advertising@suttoncourtenay.co.uk or telephone 07831-526784

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 Caroline Grundy | 848694 848697 |
| 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.

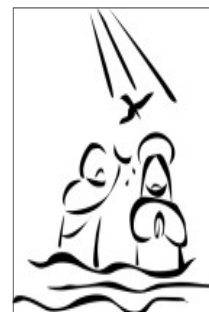


HOLY MATRIMONY

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

Nathan Paul TUSTAIN & Hayley Anita BROOKER 15th March 2014

Darryl and Diane BOLTON Service of Thanksgiving for 10th Anniversary 8th March 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 March

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

Mr. Edmund Tresham, Commercial Manager at Thames Travel, attended the last meeting of the Parish Council. He advised that services were mostly being commercially run and whilst it was regrettable that the Appleford Road end of the village no longer had a bus service it was not viable to restore it. Routing the X1 service via Drayton and the Caldecott area of south Abingdon provided more passengers. Thames Travel appreciated that there had been problems with timetabling and buses leaving termini at the correct time, particularly as a bus terminated as one service then started out a new journey as another. There had been knock on delays that had occurred. They are dealing with this problem and monitoring passenger numbers, the timetabling of the X1 and other services. They are keeping an open mind and the services are being kept under review.



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

As mentioned last month the District Council is inviting comments on the housing proposals for the area. The District Council has carried out an assessment of potential housing development sites and has included a site off Hobbyhorse Lane for approximately 220 houses. This is the field next to the village hall, and runs northwards to the southern boundary of the recreation ground. Also there are draft policies for Didcot A Power Station to safeguard this as an employment site, and for other development. The employment use should comprise predominantly general business uses, but probably with general light industrial or storage uses on less visible parts of the site. New access will be provided via the new planned science bridge from the south side of the A4130. The deadline for comments is 4th April.

The Plan is available for viewing at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/localplanpartone or is available at Abingdon library or the District Council's offices at Abbey House, Abingdon. See also the District Council's website for further information.

Oxfordshire County Council – Proposed reduction in speed limit Milton Road from B4016 to Coopers Corner, Milton village

The County Council is proposing to reduce the speed limit on the road from the B4016 leading to Milton village from 60 mph to 40 mph. The Parish Council has welcomed this move.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been considered :

MW.0009/14 An application to continue the development approved by consent SUT/616/59-CM for the deposit of non hazardous waste including surcharging the existing landfill, without complying with condition 5 date for completion, to allow working until 31st December 2020 at Sutton Courtenay Landfill site. The Council had no objections provided the works were completed on time and that there were no further changes to the end date.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 1st April, 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.

ED VAIZEY TO MEET SC CONSTITUENTS**ED VAIZEY, MP****VISITING SUTTON COURTENAY****11 APRIL at 3:30PM****ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

We are delighted to welcome our MP, Ed Vaizey, to meet with constituents in Sutton Courtenay. The purpose of his visit is to hear our concerns and discuss what he will do to address the challenges we face. The current flooding demonstrated how weak is our current infrastructure and how rare is joined up thinking between government departments as well as amongst central and local governments. Between the planned and proposed housing developments as well as the 1 million square foot warehouse and the ongoing attempts by FCC to expand its operations, our village is being asked continually to support an extraordinary increase in pressure. This manifests itself through potentially more sewage, more traffic, more pollution, more flooding as the green fields are developed and more potential for accidents and dangerous incidents.

Please come to the Church and have your voice heard. Naturally, donations to the Church for hosting us will be extremely welcome.

Sally Rowley-Williams

SUTTON COURTENAY POST OFFICE

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

A wide range of key Post Office products and services are available.

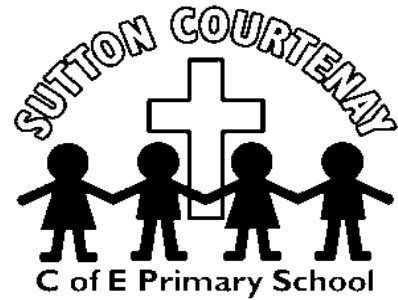
The revised opening hours are:

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Mon—Fri | 8.00 to 18.00 |
| Sat | 8.30 to 13.00 |
| Sun | 9.00 to 12.00 |

SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reading at the School

As I have previously written in the Sutton Courtenay News, 'Reading' is extremely important. The methods that are now used in school such as synthetic phonics have been much talked about in the press and they are used within our school but alongside this children are exposed to a myriad of different books within Sutton Courtenay C of E Primary School through sharing them with each other and having books read to them by their teachers.



This is also what our **Reading Volunteers** carry out week-on-week. We are so fortunate to have a large group of Reading Volunteers who are helping to create a love of books by sharing them with a child on a one-to-one basis. The children look forward to their session and **favourite books** are already emerging. Thank you to all those within our village who have committed to the 'Reading Volunteer Programme' and are making a difference – Your time is **valuable and very much appreciated!**

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

Recently, we held a book week in school which we entitled: 'Telling Tales'. This focused on traditional tales and oral story telling techniques. We began the week with a whole school retelling of Goldilocks and later on in the week tested the knowledge of our children with a quiz. Alongside, a story teller spending the day with us and a dressing up day at the end – The children certainly had a memorable week.

We would like our children to be able to 'get lost' in a book, find out new ideas and not want to put that book down. In this technological age books could seem almost outdated and it is vital that children see the reason for having a novel or non-fiction book, which is in fact, sheer enjoyment.

Nursery – If your child is 3 before the end of August, they could start in our Nursery class in September 2014. 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.**

ALISON ASHCROFT
Headteacher

www.suttoncourtenayprimary.co.uk
Telephone: 01235 848333

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS' SUTTON COURTENAY

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS', SUTTON COURTENAY

Priest-in charge: The Reverend Helen Kendrick (848297) Helen@kendricks.fsnet.co.uk

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.....

What is the Grand Day Out?

It's a day out for the whole church family. That's everyone who lives and worships in the 815 churches across Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. We don't often get together – but on that day we'll be gathering with our Bishop John, his team and each other. We'll be joining in prayer and worship, taking part in a feast of different activities and sharing a massive picnic.



When is it? - Saturday 20 September 2014

Where? - The Grand Day Out is taking place in venues in Oxford around or near our cathedral. Everywhere is in easy walking distance of the Park and Ride drop-off points in the City Centre.

Why? - 2014 is a special year for the Diocese of Oxford. It's the final year of the initial five-year phase of Living Faith. As we reach that point, the Grand Day Out is designed to help us think afresh about the challenges and opportunities of living as Christians at the start of the 21st century and explore where God is leading us next.

So who is it for? - Everyone! Young, old, lay, ordained, families, single people, life-long Anglicans and people new to church. There'll be a wide ranging programme of events and everyone is welcome.

What will it be like? - We're aiming for a Grand Day Out. We'll be fed by the God who's the source of our Living Faith. We'll have the chance to get together – and see that we're each part of a bigger picture. And we hope we'll return to our churches and communities with our imaginations inspired for the future.

So what's going on? - - speakers (including Mary Berry) and workshops- prayer and worship - family activities - geocaching – games - youth events - events for people with learning disabilities - pilgrimage

As part of the day, Partners in World Mission are running a Photographic Competition and Display.

continued.....

Timetable for the day (continued)

As part of the Bishop of Oxford's Thames Pilgrimage, the day will start with a mini-pilgrimage from Binsey to Christ Church.

0700 - Morning Prayer will be said at St Margaret's Binsey

0730 – Leave Binsey

1000 - Gather for prayer in Christ Church/ linked churches in city centre

1100 - Range of workshops, speakers and activities in venues around Oxford (details to be announced)

1230 - Picnic on Christ Church meadow

1400 - Further workshops, speakers and activities

1530 - Worship in churches around city centre

Do I need to book? - Yes. Though the Grand Day Out will be free of charge, we do need to know how many people are coming. And as the programme develops, we need to keep you up to date with all that's planned. See more at: <http://www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/projects/imagining-faith-grand-day/#sthash.wVm2ol6r.dpuf>

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 18TH 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

CHURCH DIARY FOR APRIL

Wednesday 2nd – 7.30pm Lent Group

Sunday 6th – 12 noon Hungry Saints Lunch at The Swan – please sign the list at the back of the church if you would like to join this

Monday 7th – 8pm Baptism Preparation Evening in Church for those interested in baptism for their children

Tuesday 8th – 2pm Women's Christian Fellowship Meditation in the Church

Wednesday 9th – 7.30pm Lent Group

Sunday 13th – **PALM SUNDAY** – PROCESSION WITH THE DONKEY

Monday 14th – Wednesday 16th – 7.30pm Reflections for Holy Week in the Church.

Thursday 17th – 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Supper with Communion in the Church.

Friday 18th – **GOOD FRIDAY** – 10.30am Hot Cross Bun Family Service. 3pm Holy Hour Reflective Service.

Saturday 19th – from 9am Spring Cleaning and decorating the Church for...

Sunday 20th – **EASTER DAY** – 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Easter Egg Hunt for the Children.

Wednesday 23rd – 7.30pm Annual Parish Meeting This is a joint meeting of those whose names are on the church electoral roll, together with 'persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a Register of Local Government Electors' Churchwardens Measure 2001 paragraph 5(1) and is held for the purpose of electing Churchwardens. Following straight on from the Annual Parish Meeting will be the Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 7.45pm. This is a meeting of those whose names are on the church electoral roll for the purposes of presenting the annual report and accounts for 2013 and for electing Parochial Church Council Members and Deanery Synod Representatives.

Thursday 24th – 10.30-12noon Coffee and Cakes.

Saturday 26th – 8.30-10am Ladies Breakfast in the School

CHURCH DIARY FOR MAY

Thursday 1st – 8pm Planning Meeting for the Summer Holiday Club

Tuesday 6th – 7.30pm AGM for the Friends of All Saints

Thursday 8th – Service at Dorchester Abbey to mark the transfer of the Deanery of Abingdon from the Berkshire Archdeaconry to the Dorchester Archdeaconry.

Sunday 11th- Sunday 18th – CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

REST IN PEACE

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

Irene May Hoborough (Rene) who died on 7th February 2014 was born on 27th December 1917 in Abingdon, where her family lived in a cottage at the Drayton end of Ock Street. They moved to Sutton Courtenay when her father went to work on Allen's farm as a stockman. Rene attended school in Culham before going to the old school in Sutton Courtenay. During the war she worked at a components factory in Abingdon. Her husband Reg, from Drayton, was born in 1914 and he worked as a civilian driver for Culham Naval Air Station, taking the huge low loaders called 'Queen Mary's' all over the country. In later years he continued working for the Property Services Agency at Culham. We don't know how they met but they always enjoyed dancing together – often going to dances at the then Village Hall on Old Wallingford Way. Rene and Reg were married in 1940 and their first and only home together was 29 High Street, Sutton Courtenay. Rene tended their long back garden with great enjoyment. She was a good cook and always provided hearty meals. She was known as 'a good trencher woman'. Over the years they enjoyed many seaside holidays, always accompanied by their two large parrots – which was why they always stayed in caravans and never in hotels! From the end of the war Rene worked as the village post-lady for 28 years and became very well-known across the whole community. During this time she wore out three bikes and was usually accompanied by Miss Towle's huge white Pyrenean Mountain Dog called Bruno. Rene would often make extra journeys after her delivery round, fetching pensions and shopping for elderly residents in Appleford Road in simple acts of kindness. When she finally retired her leaving present was a new bike and a cheque. All her life Rene was a passionate cat lover – especially of ginger ones – and her home and garden were never without at least two indoors and various visiting strays and their kittens. She would make up beds for homeless animals in her back porch and was a loyal customer to the travelling fishmongers. Reg died in March 1976 and although she lived independently for many years she eventually began to find life on her own a hard struggle – even with the kind support of friends and neighbours from across the village. Rene very much enjoyed receiving visitors – greeting them with a welcome smile and a good chat by her fireside. After a bad fall she was admitted to Didcot Hospital and it was from there that she decided to go into care. For the past three and a half years she was living comfortably and well cared for in Old Station House, Abingdon. I know that she was very grateful for the ongoing support and visits from Joan and other friends which kept her in touch with village life and the outside world. To me Rene was one of a disappearing generation of village characters. She always had some great tales to tell of her childhood and of her times as the village post lady and the characters she remembered (in often very colourful language). She died peacefully on the evening of 7th February and her funeral took place, as she wished, at Oxford Crematorium on 24th February 2014. *This is an edited extract from the address given by the Reverend Helen Kendrick with information provided by Rene's friend, Joan Carter.*

COFFEE SHOP & BOOK SALE

Thursday 24th April

10.30am–12noon



All Saints' Church

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

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Our meeting on the 11th March was another visit by Mrs Christine Whild who brought along her collection of painted eggs. Several members who were at the meeting had a 'go' at decorating an egg, and the results were very good. The different styles and colours chosen were very mixed and attractive. There was lots of laughter at the attempts made to 'blow' an egg - I'm sure my children could have shown us how.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th April, then it will be our Easter Meditation lead by our Vicar, Helen. It will be in Church at the usual time of 2pm.

Visitors are always welcome to come to any of our meetings.

Rose Woodward (Secretary)

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

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.

VICAR'S FUN DAY AFTERNOON TEA PARTY

We would like to thank Rita and her young helpers for a very nice tea on Sunday. Helen called Bingo for us. We had a very good musician who played 60s and 70s music. It was good fun with the youngster having a dance with us. We enjoyed a selection of sandwiches, savouries, crisps, and home made cakes. Tea and coffee was plentiful and most of us enjoyed a glass of wine. Thank you to all the adults who gave a hand, but special thanks to the lovely youngsters who gave their time to give us a memorable afternoon.

Roderick and Margaret Hamilton.

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to Helen, Rita, and all the helpers including the youngsters in the Damascus group for all the work they did in giving us such a wonderful tea on Sunday 16th March. It was a very enjoyable afternoon and much appreciated by everyone present. Once again thank you to you all.

Barbara Hands

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 WI

Hello again from Sutton Courtenay WI. Since you last had our news we have once again been very busy. On 25th Feb we had our annual dinner at the Fox in Steventon, a very tasty meal. On the 27th some of us went to Snowdrop Day at Welford Park, it was bright but cold and the snowdrops were spectacular. 'Lunch a month' was at Notcutts. Our big event was Sat 15th March, the village Coffee Morning, see a report on Page . On 18th March we had our AGM and Ann Henderson was voted in as President again with two new committee members, Beryl and Liz.

'Lunch a month' will be on 19th April and will be at Chilton Garden Centre. Coming soon will be news on days out for the coming months, now that we have time to fix days out for you. The next meeting is on 15th April. If you fancy coming along to our meeting, you will find warm welcome. If you don't have transport but would like to come, please tell us and we will find you a lift.

Margaret Hamilton.

SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

On Tuesday March 4th a new medium visited us - Warren Fisher, who held everyone's attention with some meaningful philosophy and good mediumship. An excellent evening and we will look forward to seeing Warren again.

Any queries - Pat & Sam 01235 847460

DIARY

Tues April 1st. 7.30pm. Village Hall. Spiritual Meeting with Pat Quennell and Caroline Price.

Tues May 6th. 7.30pm. Village Hall. Spiritual Meeting with Patrick Cadbury.

COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF THE AIR AMBULANCE

A massive big thank you to Pepe at the Plough for letting us turn his pub into a great big coffee shop.

We had 600 books out on the roadside. Bric- a-brac ,a grand raffle, soft toys and an air ambulance stall were in his lounge and the bar was turned into a coffee shop. We were very lucky to have a very nice sunny day. Lots of cars passing came to a halt and popped in to see us, passing cyclists came in for coffee. We also had dogs pop in to see us, with their owners, of course. We were very happy to see lots of young mums with children all coming to support our charity. Thank you so much to all who gave us donations of goods, books, cakes, and cash. Without your help we would have not been able to make the grand sum of £650, so once again to every one who gave, time, gifts, donations, a massive big thank you.

Margaret Hamilton for the WI

JO ALLAN (1920 TO 2014)

'Birdwatcher' for Sutton Courtenay News 1999 to 2007

Jo's daughter Judy writes:

Jo's fascination with plants and animals began at school in Somerset when she overcame a fear of tunnels to peer down a microscope. She became particularly interested in birds. In one of her Bird Diaries she vividly recalled as a small child watching four long-tailed tits feeding a brood and, when the young had flown, looking closely at the beautifully constructed nest. She put her finger in the tiny entrance hole to feel the warm, soft feather lining and then was fascinated to learn that it was quite common for parent long-tailed tits to be assisted by other family members. From these early experiences, the natural world was to become a source of joy and inspiration throughout her life.

From an early age, Jo also showed a talent for art and continued to practise it for most of her life. As well as creating her own art, she worked as an art teacher, designed and painted scenery for Abingdon Drama Club and, in later years, designed weather vanes. Jo trained during the War at the art college in Bristol where she met the love of her life, Doug, a research physicist evacuated from London. She survived the Bristol Blitz and then joined the Women's Land Army, writing and illustrating letters home about her experiences. Jo and Doug moved to Oxfordshire (Berkshire as it then was) in 1947 when Doug's work brought him to AERE Harwell. They had four children – Bridget, Judy, John and Viki.

In 1958, Jo and Doug were looking for a house that would accommodate their family as well as Jo's parents. They eventually found something they could afford in Sutton Courtenay - two barns, an open cart shed and the old farmyard they enclosed. With the help of a local architect, a series of local builders and with many challenges along the way, they finally had the house of their dreams two years later. Both keen gardeners, Jo and Doug also worked hard on converting the overgrown farmyard into a beautiful garden that became a haven for wildlife.

After Doug suffered a debilitating stroke in 1969, Jo worked as a Personnel Administrator at the JET project in Culham. After retirement she kept herself busy doing voluntary work, including as a National Trust steward at Basildon Park. Jo died peacefully at home with family around her in the house she loved.

In her Bird Diaries Jo reported on everything she found interesting on her walks around the river, the Common, the gravel pit lakes, in the village and in her garden. She had a deep well of knowledge to draw upon and, when unsure about something, she would enjoy reading her favourite reference books to make sure of the facts. She might tell her readers about the territorial disputes or breeding successes on the angling lake; the current occupants of the many holed "tenement tree"; that year's dominant wild flower species on the Common; the tame blackbird who came knocking on the kitchen door each morning for his breakfast; the behaviour of a particular species of bird or the declining numbers of another.

As Jo's mobility declined, she missed her walks around the village and the challenge of meeting her Bird Diary deadlines, but she never tired of watching the birds in her garden.

Editors' note: We are very grateful to Jo for the eight years of Birdwatcher columns written for this Newsletter. They were always beautifully written and highly informative, giving the sense of how much she loved and appreciated the birdlife she observed around her. We hope to be able to reproduce one of her articles in a forthcoming issue.

LADIES BREAKFAST



Inviting all Ladies *

(irrespective of whether you attend Church or you have children at School)

Join us for the second breakfast of 2014

Inviting you to have a morning's break after Easter.

All Saints' Church is inviting you to a relaxing breakfast to be held at Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School.

Saturday, 26th April 08.30-10.00

Good coffee, croissants, bacon rolls and a chat!

Further details: Lynne Cubbage (848768)

* Strictly ladies only!

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP (NAG5)

Do you know or care for someone who is affected by dementia or memory problems?

Do you feel more could be done to make your local community more dementia friendly?

Those affected by memory problems and dementia, and their carers, can sometimes feel that they don't know where to turn for help or how to find out what assistance they are entitled to, which can lead to feeling isolated and unsupported. Members of NAG5 recently attended a course run by Oxfordshire Rural Community Council at Sutton Courtenay Village Hall as we wanted to have a better understanding of dementia, what it means to live with it and how best to communicate with those who have it.

We also learned more about **Neighbourhood Return**, which was set up to help to find people who are lost. People at risk of getting lost can be registered with Neighbourhood Return. If they're reported lost, volunteers are quickly contacted by text message to request a search in their neighbourhood, enabling the person missing to be found quickly and returned home or to a safe place.

Oxfordshire is working towards Dementia Friendly Communities. We would like to hear from anyone who has suggestions or ideas about how we might make the NAG5 community – villages of Appleford, Drayton and Sutton Courtenay - more dementia friendly.

Please e-mail neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com or contact Rita Atkinson on 01235 848694.

We will keep you updated on the initiative through the village newsletter

Bridget Haffenden
For NAG5

continued on Page 13

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP (NAG5)

IMPORTANT If you are in need of immediate advice or information please look at the information below

Neighbourhood Return

Tel: 07584 051004 (enquiries)

Website: <http://www.ourturn.org.uk>

Oxfordshire Adult Social Services

Tel: 0845 050 7666

email: socialandhealthcare@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Out of hours emergency: 0800 833408

Age UK Oxfordshire Dementia Helpline

Tel: 0844 887 0005 (8am-7pm)

email: dementiainfo@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

National Dementia 24 Hour Helpline(out of hours Oxfordshire cover)

Tel: 0845 120 4048

email: dementiahelpline@guidepoststrust.org.uk

Website: <http://www.dementiaweboxfordshire.org.uk>

Young Dementia UK

PO Box 315 Witney OX28 1ZN

Tel: 01993 776295

email: mail@youngdementiauk.org

Website: <http://www.youngdementiauk.org>

Carers Oxfordshire

Tel: 0845 050 7666

Website: <http://www.carersoxfordshire.org.uk/cms>

The Alzheimer's Society Oxfordshire Office

Tel: 01865 876508

email: Oxfordshire@alzheimers.org.uk

Website: <http://www.alzheimers.org.uk>

The Independent Living Centre (see NOTE1)

Abingdon Resource & Day Centre

Audlett Drive, Abingdon OX13 3GD

Tel: 01235 524857 (9am-5pm Monday to Friday)

email: ilc@guidepoststrust.org.uk

Website: <http://www.guidepostsilc.org.uk>

NOTE1

The Independent Living Centre in Abingdon has access to a range of equipment for viewing and demonstration to enable: moving around, reaching things, preparing or eating food, getting into and out of bed, using the bathroom and going up and down stairs. There is also assistive technology available, such as sensors and monitors. Regular Open Days are held, each of which focuses on a particular theme or product range.

ED VAIZEY MP

As your MP, I am often asked to help communities with challenges they face. Usually, these will just affect one town or village, but there is now one issue which will affect most of the Didcot and Wantage Constituency: the electrification of the railway in Oxfordshire, and the resulting plans to close 18 railway bridges across the area. Even if you don't live near a bridge which may be closed for, we hear, up to 6 months, the chances are you will travel through an area which will be affected.

I am very much aware of the problems that the temporary closure of railway bridges and subsequent traffic diversions would cause and share the concerns of so many Constituents on that score. I have been directly in touch with Network Rail about the issue for some weeks and a member of my staff attended a briefing about the matter at County Hall. I have also visited a business owner to hear about the impact on his and other local businesses, which will be dreadful. To begin to try to sort things out, I have called a meeting with Network Rail senior executives specifically about this matter. I believe Network Rail have proved to be both insensitive and incompetent so far, as sadly has been demonstrated in the very, very poor process and communications about Fulscot Bridge which is to remain closed for months to come even though it should, by now, have reopened.

I am also arranging to meet the Minister responsible, Stephen Hammond MP, to make it clear that while I support the electrification of the railway line, which will lead to cleaner, more efficient railway services, it cannot be introduced at the expense of grotesque inconvenience to my Constituents.

I have quite a large list of Constituents to whom I send occasional updates on progress in dealing with Network Rail on the general issues about electrification and particularly the impact on bridges and road closures. If you would like to be added to that list, please email me at vaizeye@parliament.uk and I will ensure you are kept up to date – but will try not to swamp you with communications.

Another issue, of course, that has affected many people across the Constituency is the recent flooding. I was very pleased that work done by my communities since our last major floods in 2007 meant that things never got quite as bad as they did then. As the waters subside, I have been working with others both locally and nationally to try to help with the immediate recovery, but also to look to the longer term and to make sure that we take the most effective possible measures to protect against such extreme weather in the future.

My mailbag this month continues to include a diverse mix of issues, ranging from pupils taking holidays during school term time to the use of wild animals in circuses. With the Chancellor of the Exchequer set to deliver his Budget in March, I have received a particularly high number of letters and emails calling for beer duty to be frozen for this year. I am pleased that the Government decided to make a targeted reduction in beer duty and abolished the beer duty escalator at Budget 2013. I'm assured that the Chancellor is fully aware of many of the arguments made in favour of a freeze in beer duty for 2014, and is also sympathetic to the case of responsible drinkers.

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. Surgery details can be found at www.vaizey.com.

Ed Vaizey MP

BROADBAND IN OXFORDSHIRE

Ed Vaizey MP has welcomed the Government's announcement of an additional £2.15 million of Superfast Broadband funding for Oxfordshire.

In addition to the £1.2 billion central and local government are already investing to give homes and businesses access to superfast broadband across the UK, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have announced an extra £250 million for local authorities to extend superfast broadband to 95% of the country by 2017.

More than 10,000 homes and businesses across the UK are gaining access to Superfast Broadband each week, with the number expected to rise to 40,000 per week by the summer of this year.

Ed Vaizey MP said: "Superfast Broadband benefits everybody. This additional funding will come as welcome news to Oxfordshire residents, and in particular to those homes and businesses who have yet to have access to Superfast Broadband.

"It will make a significant contribution to the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire project, which will see Superfast Broadband rolled out right across the county."

FLOODING IN SUTTON COURTENAY

This press release was received from Ed Vaizey too late for inclusion in last month's edition of Sutton Courtenay News:

The flooding has not only dominated the national news recently, but also caused huge concern locally. Luckily, the flooding was not as bad in 2007, with fewer homes flooded, partly as the result of local action taken by local flood groups. Nevertheless, some homes were flooded, many roads closed, and a lot of farmland remains under water. I have personally visited a number of communities and farmers.

Over the worst week end my office was in touch with a number of affected constituents in Sutton Courtenay. In particular, we contacted FCC over concerns that poor drainage was leading to flooding in the village. I have also sought assurances that the FCC are complying with all of the planning conditions relating to drainage, which have been agreed with the District and County Councils.

It is now important that we do all we can to enable homes and businesses affected to get back on their feet. I will therefore be continuing my dialogue with both the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the County Council to ensure that those eligible for the Government's recently announced Repair and Renew Grant are able to access the funds without delay. It is also important that all future housing development takes in to account the impact that flooding can have.

SUTTON COURTENAY COUNTY COUNCILLOR

X1 Bus Service

The Local manager for Thames Travel very kindly (and bravely) attended the last meeting of SC Parish Council. The new timetable we are assured will be up and running “very soon”, and they are very hopeful that the glitches, which beset the last timetable, will have been ironed out. We were told that the section of the X1 route, which continues through Abingdon to Oxford City Centre, was programmed to satisfy a perceived need by Sutton Courtenay Residents to be able to get directly to Oxford. It was pointed out that, if the X1 service terminated at Abingdon, anyone could easily change to any of the many Oxford fast service buses. Indeed, given that all the buses concerned were run by Thames Travel, no business would be lost. We all understand that bus services need to make financial sense as far as possible, but terminating the X1 service at Abingdon would surely allow an extra service (perhaps Didcot to Abingdon via Appleford / SC East / Culham). This would please all those who feel stranded in SC East, Appleford (and Culham) by the abandonment of the old 32 Service. If you agree, please contact Thames Travel and let them know.

Grants

Good news in that the hard-pressed County Budget has managed to find some money to continue the Community Grants for next year. The sum is halved from last year, but at least organisations such as SC Primary School, transport for the elderly and the Damascus Youth Project (all of which benefitted this year) will still have somewhere to go for something next year!

Flooding

At a very useful meeting I attended last week, a representative of Thames Water suggested that the reason that many people in South Abingdon were having problems with their drainage in the recent heavy rainfall was because they were not using their WCs correctly. This took me right back to 2007, when the councils, the various agencies and the residents all became involved in a blame game as many people’s homes were in the process of being flooded. Thankfully, although there is still plenty of room for further progress, the authorities are now much better at working together. The causes of flooding are rarely simple. Our ability to predict who will flood and when it will happen is still far short of perfect. When it floods, rapid, co-ordinated responses are what is needed, not blame. We can sort out who was to blame later. Telling people whose houses are about to flood that they are not using their cisterns properly is not likely to be very productive.

Railways and Railway Stations

The railways have been in the news a lot recently. HS2 will it encourage people to be less London-centric and to live and work further North? Or will it have the opposite effect and simply suck in even more people, money into the capital? Rail electrification looks a great thing, but it does involve closing bridges and causing temporary traffic mayhem while it is going on. Having a Railway station is seen as an enormous asset to an area, but it does send up house prices, and it is used as a justification to place houses nearby. Having a Railway station is said to give an area sustainability in planning speak. Grove needs one. Radley has one. And so, interestingly, does little Appleford.

Appleford may have lost its shop and its Pub, but it still has a Station – no station car park – but a station nevertheless. Should Appleford keep quiet and hope that the authorities will allow the status quo to persist, or should the presence of Appleford station be used as a reason to make the village more “sustainable” - with all that that might imply?

Richard Webber Richard.webber@ntlworld.com 01235 534001

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2014

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CORNERSTONE ARTS CENTRE

The iconic Hazel O'Connor returns on Friday 4 April, showcasing her latest album, *I Give You My Sunshine*, and featuring legendary saxophonist Clare Hirst and with Sarah Fisher on keyboards and backing vocals. With support from India Electric Company it's an evening not to be missed. If pop doesn't float your boat the sublime ten piece Tuxedo Jazz Orchestra and singers will be at Cornerstone on Saturday 5 April with the hot, sweet, music of the 1920s and 30s and celebrating the best of band music from that era. If folk's more your scene Heidi Talbot and her band come to us on Thursday 24 April. Heidi's touring with her new album, written with her collaborator John McCusker, and recorded with an array of special guest including Mark Knopfler, King Creosote and Julie Fowlis.



On Saturday 26 April *The Remarkable Death of Marilyn Monroe* is a fascinating and captivating take on an iconic subject from Dyad Productions, headed up by Rebecca Vaughan who toured very successfully with Guy Masterson and brought Austen's *Women* to Cornerstone.

Easter holiday activities kick off on Sunday 6 April with Comedy 4 Kids. Comedians who generally play to adults love playing to children because there's such an immediate and unguarded response. Adults can come with our without their children! Whichever, it's fantastic comedy for any age from 7 to 107 and the perfect afternoon out for all the family to enjoy and have a laugh together. A pre-show workshop's also available for ages 7 to 13 offering an opportunity to learn how to write and perform comedy, and a chance to show off new jokes and skills to parents at the end!

During the Easter holidays we have a selection of new activities at Cornerstone on offer: the opportunity to explore the colourful and creative art of Mosaics, a chance to learn and master the athleticism and dance skills involved in Cheerleading and the excitement of planning, devising, writing and shooting a Film In A Day! Firm favourites at Cornerstone are not forgotten with Funny Faces Animation for ages 6 to 9 and Amazing Animation for ages 9 to 13 as well as Youth Dance sessions. Light Fantastic is another of our very popular family days, exploring the science of light, with hands-on activities, demonstrations and special workshops.

As usual full details are available on our website at <http://cornerstonearts-org.uk>, or from the Box Office on 01235 515144.

DIDCOT & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to a meeting as a taster before joining.

The April meeting will be the AGM and will be held on 15 April.

D&D U3A is a self-help, self-managed lifelong learning co-operative for older people no longer in full time work, providing opportunities for its members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning not for qualifications, but for fun. There are over 25 interest groups including family history, gardening, wine appreciation, dance, science & maths, play reading, creative writing, walking, bridge, crafts, books, poetry, singing, badminton, photography and 5 languages. There's something for everyone!

Tel: 07804159993 or *Email: didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com Website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/didcot>*

The Ridgeway Day

Saturday, 10th May, at Court Hill Centre, Wantage

10.30 am to 4.00 pm



Walk The Ridgeway - Britain's oldest road. Guided walks to **Segsbury Castle**.

Nature trail and treasure hunt for the kids.

Relax at Court Hill, and enjoy the gorgeous view.

Lunches and home-made cakes at the **Barn Café**.

Meet the **volunteers** helping to preserve The Ridgeway and its wildlife

Admire **art** inspired by The Ridgeway.

Birds of prey display

Live music

From Wantage, take the A338 towards Hungerford, and turn right to The Ridgeway Centre just before the crest of Court Hill. Limited Parking.

The Friends of The Ridgeway (Charity no 1107926) supports the preservation of The Ridgeway and its quiet enjoyment by the public.

Website: www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk. Contact: [ridgewayfriends @googlemail.com](mailto:ridgewayfriends@googlemail.com)

FLOWER FESTIVAL

FLOWER FESTIVAL

21 - 22 June 2014

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This year **All Saints' Church** will be staging a **Flower Festival** featuring arrangements/displays portraying works of literature. **Any** individual or organisation is invited to participate.

Get in contact with: Alison Budd (820942), Lynne Cabbage (848768) or Ann White (848857) asap to find out how you can be part of this special event.

Open to **adults and children**.



OTHER EVENTS NOTIFIED TO THE EDITORS

Stonehill House, Drayton

Saturday 5th April: 'The shot that changed the world' ...how the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand led to the end of the Romanovs & the rise of the Bolsheviks. Speaker: Chris Danziger (Oxford University Dept of Continuing Education).

Saturday 26th April and Saturday 3rd May: 'From Impressionism to Blast'how Russian artists entranced European minds on the eve of the Great War. Part 1: 1874-1894 and Part 2: 1894-1914.

Speaker: Rosamund Bartlett (author and Russian translator; biographer of Chekhov & Tolstoy)

To book and for more information: www.stonehillhouse.co.uk or 01235-536011

The Park Club, Milton Park

Try a range of activities for age 50+ at The Park Club, Milton Park every Tuesday morning 9.30-10.30am. No experience/fitness level required so all welcome including non-members. Sessions are free for the launch in April too .

Monthly Schedule: 1st week – Badminton, 2nd week—Short tennis, 3rd week –Pickleball, 4th week-Health walk, 5th week-Kurling

Contact Richard Claydon on 01235 861289 or email rclaydon@soll-leisure.co.uk

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parking in the High Street

Regarding the letter written by a Mr Connor last month, he's got a point. I don't know much about road regulations and by-laws or whatever, but I know you can't get two big Masseys or New Hollands past each other up that end of the High Street if the cars are all parked right in the road and not a bit on the pavement. Doesn't matter so much this time of year but you wait until harvest time. I'm a farm contractor and I can tell you that people won't thank us for blocking up the road come August/September.

For the sake of a bit of pavement, your telling me that everyone's got to sit and wait for me to haul loads of rape and muck and bales through?

Health and safety gone mad. Let's have a bit of common sense here.

Frank Pickles, Sutton Courtenay.

I am very sympathetic to David Connor's parking problems I too am a driver and recognise the issues related to finding somewhere to park and also a pedestrian and sympathetic to the concerns of his anonymous sign writer. However there are a number of issues Mr Connor has not considered and I would invite him to do so.

Parking on the pavement is an absolute offence; there are no exceptions in law, it is an obstruction of the footway.

Pavements are not designed or built to take the weight of a motor vehicle.

Parking on them damages the pavement making them unsafe for pedestrians and can lead to accidents costing the NHS and councils additional funds which we the taxpayers pay for, an inconvenience for considerably more than one or two people a week.

It is not a pedestrian's responsibility to choose one pavement over another; the pavement is intended for the free passage of pedestrians.

There are other places to park, albeit a walk probably from the cottages on the High Street.

Finally, Mr Connor knew there was no available parking at his house when he moved there.

P Osborne, Sutton Courtenay

EDITORS' NOTES

We are very sorry to report that Mike Dowsett, our current Birdwatcher, has now moved away from Sutton Courtenay and will no longer be able to contribute to Sutton Courtenay News. We are very sorry to see him go. He had a particular way of communicating his enthusiasm and we especially enjoyed the stunning photography which accompanied his articles, although we regretted that our black and white copies did not do justice to his original photographs.

We thank Mike for all his hard work, wish him well for the future, and trust that he will continue to find success with his wildlife photography.

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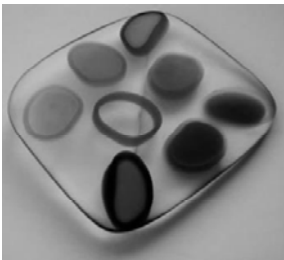

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GENERAL

Anna Shackleton
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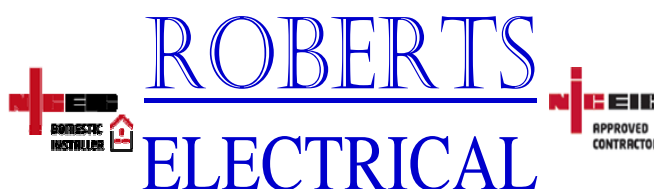
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