

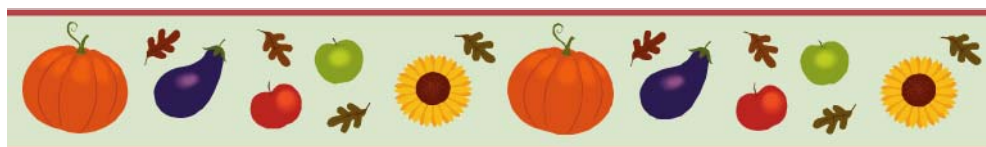
# SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 43 No.8

OCTOBER 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>October</b>				
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Harvest Festival Family Service	Church
Tues	7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tues	7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Spiritual Fellowship	Village Hall
Weds	8 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	School Harvest Festival	Church
Sat	11 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Barn Dance & Family Supper	Village Hall
Tues	14 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	Women's Christian Fellowship	Village Hall
Weds	15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	DAMASCUS Youth Art Project	Village Hall
Weds	15 <sup>th</sup>		<b>SCN NOVEMBER COPY DEADLINE</b>	
Thurs	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Coffee Shop & Book Sale	Church
<b>November</b>				
Sun	2 <sup>nd</sup>	6pm	Service or naming & remembering for All Souls	Church
Weds	5 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	DAMASCUS Youth Art Project	Village Hall
Sat	8 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Evening of Remembrance	Church
Sun	23 <sup>rd</sup>		All Saints' Singers Concert	Church



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.

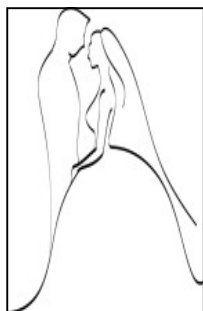
To advertise, e-mail [advertising@suttoncourtenay.co.uk](mailto:advertising@suttoncourtenay.co.uk) or telephone 07831-526784

## 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	848694
<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

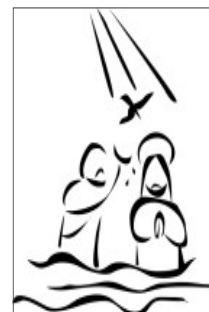
Various organisations have permanent bookings for use of the Village Hall on certain days of the week. Local individuals or organisations may nonetheless enter one-off bookings for events which clash with permanent bookings. **At least seven weeks notice must be given to Rita Atkinson (848694) or Caroline 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

13<sup>th</sup> September 2014 – Darren John CRAWLEY & Lisa Dawn HEREDGE



### HOLY BAPTISM

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

No Baptisms

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

### *War Memorial*

Parishioners are still generously donating to the war memorial renovation project, and the Council would thank everyone for their help. Children at the Primary School undertook a sponsored cycle ride to raise funds. They put in a great deal of effort, and the Council is extremely grateful to them and the staff that organised, and the families that supported, the sponsored event. A cheque in the sum of £1140.59 was given to the Council.

The war memorial is made of Bath stone which is quite soft and advice has been sought from the War Memorial Trust as to cleaning and restoration. The Trust has advised that there is a limited number of times that lettering can be recut into the stone, and that if inappropriately cleaned at the wrong time of the year can store up problems for the future by causing irreversible damage. The War Memorial Trust is the expert in conservation of war memorials and its guidance and comments come from many years of experience and knowledge. The Council accepts that they are the experts and following advice of not to start the project at this time of the year, has agreed that it would be better to wait until the weather improves next Spring. It is unfortunate that the war memorial will not be at its best for Remembrance Sunday this year, but the Council is keen to ensure the correct preservation of the war memorial



### *Vale of White Horse District Council – Local Plan*

The District Council will soon be publishing the latest “submission” version of the local Plan for its final round of consultation before it submits its plan to the government for an independent examination. The Council has confirmed that the site it proposed for allocation at East of Sutton Courtenay is included in the submission version of the plan. This is the field next to the village hall running northwards up to the recreation ground. The proposed allocation is unchanged at 220 homes. The publication of the local plan is expected at the beginning of November.

### *Street Naming*

Houses currently under construction and those that are about to start will require new street names to be allocated in the future. The Vale of White Horse District Council is the street naming authority and invites the Parish Council to make suggestions as to possible names. It also asks the developer for suggestions. Once it has gathered in several ideas, the Vale of White Horse District Council will choose a new street name, or devise one of its own. If anyone has any suggestions of names that they would like to put forward, please contact the clerk.

### *Footpaths*

The checking of the state and condition of the footpaths is continuing. There are numerous instances where paths are impassable or extremely narrow, owing to the growth that is overhanging from neighbouring trees and shrubs. The Council has agreed to contact landowners to request that these be cut back. If you have rights of way going over your property, could you please check that there is a reasonable width of path available for pedestrians, and that there are no overhanging branches which impede passage.

## PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED

### *Planning Applications*

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

P14/V1902/HH Renewal of P098/V1363 Erection of extensions at 3 Hillyard Barns. The Council commented that the 2 storey extension may cause some loss of light to the adjacent property.

P14/V1877/HH Single storey timber outbuilding at 18 High Street. The council had no objections provided the separate building was not converted to living accommodation.

P14/V1447/FUL Change of use to private health club/gym at 2B Trident Park, Basil Hill Road. The Council had no objections

P14/S2430 Archimedean Screw hydropower installation and associated works

Land north of River Thames Weir. The Council did not object in principle to this, but wished to see a design in keeping with the open countryside and a more sympathetic building in place. There was the opportunity for bill boards and educational displays. The footpath should remain open and the open views remain rather than the footpath going behind a brick building.

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 at 7.30 pm. in the village hall, Frilsham Street.  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham Tel: 01865 391833 or  
email:info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk.**

## SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

### DISTRIBUTORS

Over the summer a few of our long serving distributors have retired. The Editorial Team would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their dedicated service over the years.

If you think you could spare some time once a month (except August and January) to help deliver the Sutton Courtenay News the Editorial Team is always pleased to hear from prospective volunteers. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information about what is involved please contact the Editorial Team on *distributor@suttoncourtenay.co.uk*

## SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

During the five years that I have been Head Teacher at Sutton Courtenay C of E Primary School, the school has grown in numbers from 85 children to currently 135. Fortunately, the school building is currently big enough to accommodate this growth in numbers and at present, we do have limited spaces available for new children in all our year groups.

With the planned growth for the village there are already plans in place to increase the school by at least two classrooms within the next few years in order to accommodate any extra children. I am expecting an Architect in order to begin drawing up plans very soon.

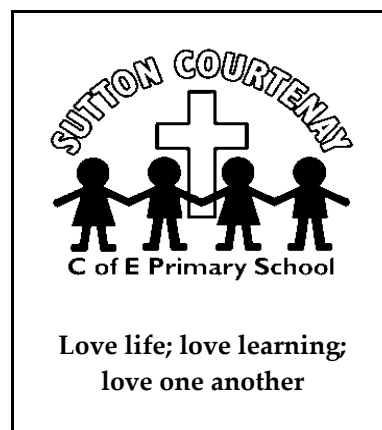
We are fortunate to occupy a very large site. We have: two playgrounds, an enormous field, our own Forest School area, garden area, outdoor learning spaces and a pond area. Extra classrooms will not impact upon these facilities.

Once the classrooms are built we will then be able to offer 30 places per year group instead of the current 20 places and be able to teach our children in single year group classes.

It is very exciting to see our school growing in so many ways. The children are relishing the challenges and ever increasing expectations that we have on them. The new curriculum that has come into force is more demanding than previous requirements so in order to ensure that our children are fully prepared (especially within maths and English), the new curriculum was implemented within our school last January instead of September.

We are still committed to providing a creative curriculum that brings all subjects to life. Trips and experiences bring this to life and despite only being a few weeks into term, Year 2 have had an exciting canal boat trip, Year 3 have had visitors in from The Co-operative in Steventon to talk about where the food all comes from and they brought some interesting food to try! Year 5 and 6 are busy making preparations for their fast approaching residential where they will be trying all sorts of new challenges such as: climbing, abseiling and zip wire, before visiting the Imperial War Museum in November as part of their 'Fallen Fields' topic to learn more about World War 1.

If you would like to visit, to 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](http://www.suttoncourtenayprimary.co.uk)  
Telephone: 01235 848333  
email: [office3243@ocnmail.net](mailto:office3243@ocnmail.net)

## THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS' SUTTON COURTENAY

### THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS', SUTTON COURTENAY

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

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

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

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

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

### MONTHLY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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...

The story behind ... Come Ye Thankful People Come

*Come, ye thankful people, come,  
Raise the song of harvest home!  
All be safely gathered in,  
Ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our maker, doth provide  
For our wants to be supplied;  
Come to God's own temple, come;  
Raise the song of harvest home!*

*We ourselves are God's own field,  
Fruit unto his praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown,  
Unto joy or sorrow grown;  
First the blade and then the ear,  
Then the full corn shall appear:  
Grant, O harvest Lord, that we  
Wholesome grain and pure may be....*

**By H Alford (1810 – 71)**

If you come to our Harvest Celebration at 10.30am on 5<sup>th</sup> October in All Saints' Church we will be singing this Harvest hymn. It was written by the Rev Henry Alford, DD, a Victorian clergyman who had been a student at Trinity College, Cambridge with Alfred Tennyson, and whose transparent goodness and friendliness seem to have made him liked and appreciated wherever he went.

His ministry began as vicar of Wymeswold, a tiny village in Leicestershire with a badly neglected church. Over 18 years, Henry rebuilt the faltering Christian community, faithfully visiting every person in his parish, and preaching his way through the Bible in sermons that were so clear that everyone could understand him. He then moved on to the incumbency of Quebec Chapel in London for four years, before moving to the Deanery of Canterbury, in 1857, where he lived until his death in early 1871.

Henry was one of life's good people; gentle, kindly, grateful for everything he had (he used to say 'grace' before AND after each meal), and eager to encourage all those whom he served. He was prodigiously productive: writing something like 50 books. The best known of these was a four volume exposition of the New Testament, which took him nearly 20 years.

His famous hymn draws upon two of Jesus' parables: the story of the wheat and tares (Mt 13:24-30) and also the story of the seed that grows unbeknown to the sower (Mark 4:26-29). Both are parables drawn from agriculture; both are about the ultimate harvest of our souls before God. During this lifetime we properly give thanks to God for our harvest of the gifts of this world, but we should also reflect on what seed we are sowing in our lives, and what harvest we may expect; as one day God will gather us together for the eternal heavenly harvest.

Continued.....

I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, flowers and practical support given so generously during my extended sick leave over the last five months. Every single act of kindness has meant a great deal and helped us through what has been a very difficult and challenging time. I am very grateful to all the people who have worked so hard and helped out in the parishes – particularly the Reverend John Coombs, the Reverend Tim Hewes, the Reverend Philip Tovey, the Reverend Colin Patching, the Reverend Josie Midwinter and the Reverend Michael Beasley, Jack Jarvis – and of course the Ministry Team of Tim Budd and Paul James and the Churchwardens Pat Napper and David McKenzie and the members of the Parochial Church Council.

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October at the 10.30am Parish Eucharist we will be welcoming the Reverend Tim Hewes, who will be joining our Ministry Team as an Associate Priest, serving the parishes of Sutton Courtenay with Appleford and across the DAMASCUS Group. He will be working on Sundays and two week days and assisting with weddings and funerals. Tim is very familiar with Sutton Courtenay having spent a substantial part of his childhood here and he has been helping out during my absence. We are very much looking forward to welcoming him home and benefitting from his ministry amongst us.

With love and prayers, Helen

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

## 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:

EILEEN JANE KIMBREY (nee Castle), who died aged 78, on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014 of Milton was born in the New Inn, Sutton Courtenay on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1936. She grew up in the village, attending the school and singing in the church choir and was married to her husband Tim, in All Saints' Church where her funeral was held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014. They lived for many years in Rowstock and then in Milton. The service was conducted by the Reverend Colin Patching.

## ALL SOULS'

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

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2014 at 6pm**

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

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

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CONTINUED

### COFFEE SHOP & BOOK SALE

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

10.30am-12noon



All Saints' Church

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

#### HARVEST GIFTS

THE PORCH CHARITY RUNS THE STEPPIN' STONE CENTRE IN OXFORD, PROVIDING DAY LONG SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS AND VULNERABLY HOUSED PEOPLE WANTING TO MOVE FORWARD IN THEIR LIVES, AWAY FROM STREET-LIFE AND ADDICTION.

EACH YEAR, AT OUR HARVEST FESTIVALS, WE COLLECT HARVEST GOODS AND MONEY TO HELP SUPPORT THEIR WORK. THIS YEAR THEY NEED EITHER CASH DONATIONS, TO BUY FRESH PRODUCE THROUGH THE YEAR, OR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- *coffee, tea, squash, sugar, honey, jam*
- *tins of: tomatoes, beans, vegetables, soup, fruit, meat, corned beef, ham, fish*
- *stock cubes, herbs, pasta, rice, pasta sauce, cooking oil, biscuits*
- *washing powder, shaving foam, deodorants, disposable razors*
- *new socks, boxer shorts, hats, scarves, gloves.*

Please bring your donations to the Harvest Festival Celebrations on

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2014** either at  
**9.15am** in St Peter & St Paul, Appleford or  
**10.30am** at All Saints', Sutton Courtenay.

Thank you!

#### CHURCH DIARY FOR OCTOBER

- **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>** – 10.30am Harvest Festival Service (see advert for details of harvest donations needed for the Steppin' Stone Centre)
- **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>** – 2pm School Harvest Festival in All Saints' Church.
- **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>** – Barn Dance and Supper – see advert for details
- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup>** – 8pm Sutton Courtenay PCC
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>** – 10.30-12 noon Coffee & Cakes & Book Stall in the Church – open for all

#### CHURCH DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

- **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>** – 10.30am Family Service for All Saints' Day. After the morning service there will be a sale of cards and wrapping paper in aid of Save the Children. 6pm Service of Naming and Remembering for All Souls'.
- **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>** – 7-8.30pm An Evening of Remembrance with readings, poems, songs and stories from the WW1 Experiences of the men of Sutton Courtenay's Roll of Honour. Tickets £5. All proceeds to the War Memorial Restoration Appeal.
- **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>** – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 10am Shortened Parish Eucharist. 11am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial. 11.15am A Service of Remembrance for the whole community.
- **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>** – 10.30-12 noon Coffee & Cakes & Book Stall in the Church – open for all



## SUTTON COURTENAY WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION APPEAL 2014 UPDATE



We are in the process of applying for grants from a variety of sources, but the fundraising within the village is still much needed. A BIG THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED SO GENEROUSLY. The amount raised so far by donations is **£3910.59** in total. That includes the amazing sum of **£1150.59** from the children, staff and parents of Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School. In addition there is still £2,500 to come from the Vicar's Fun Day Funds and the proceeds from the Local History Society's publication of the Roll of Honour. Other fundraising events are also being planned, including a Vintage Tea Afternoon and the Evening of Remembrance on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November (see advert for details).

**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.*

### An Evening of Remembrance in Sutton Courtenay Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014

7-8.30pm

An Evening of Remembrance with readings, poems, songs and stories  
from the WW1 Experiences of the men of  
Sutton Courtenay's Roll of Honour  
(and artwork from the DAMASCUS Youth Project on display)

**Tickets £5**

all proceeds to the War Memorial Restoration Appeal  
(Available on the door or in advance from Burgrey's)  
Light Refreshments will be available.

## WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Our September meeting was our AGM which was well attended.

We are pleased to welcome two new members to our Fellowship and hope they will enjoy our forthcoming meetings.

Our next meeting which will be on Tuesday 14 October is called 'Memories' where some members will talk a little about their early lives. Should be interesting.

Visitors are always welcome at any of our meetings.

Rose Woodward (Secretary)

## 2014 DUCK RACE RESULTS

### And the winners were:

Thank you to all who attended the Duck Race on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Luckily, the weather held good for us and we had a good attendance. Thank you also to Changes, who helped to sell the tickets – it was much appreciated.

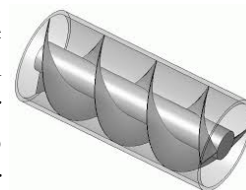
Well done to all. John Napper

- First Prize – Mizzie Coles
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Carolyn Fordham
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Leanne Cox
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize – Rita Atkinson
- 5<sup>th</sup> Prize – Pam Bance
- 6<sup>th</sup> Prize – Mary Spalding
- 7<sup>th</sup> Prize – Jasmine Hornsey
- 8<sup>th</sup> Prize – Maria Black
- 9<sup>th</sup> Prize – Mrs Priest
- 10<sup>th</sup> Prize – Roger Rance



### Archimedes comes to Abingdon!

After four years of research and planning, Abingdon Hydro is near the end of the bureaucracy required for generating hydroelectricity from the Thames. The £1 million scheme will harness the sustainable, green power of the river without diverting it or enclosing it. Some of the water currently flowing over Abingdon weir will instead go through two reverse Archimedes screws, 3.3m in diameter. Up to 5 tons of water per second can pass through each screw, generating a total of up to 100kW of electrical power. Environment Agency records for the Thames go back up to 70 years, giving confidence in the expected long term output. This project was set up as a community enterprise to make the profit available to support environmental community projects in the town. As far as we know this is Abingdon's first green, ethical, community investment, and the opportunity is coming up later this year to buy shares. This is a long term investment, with a target return of about 4%. The minimum investment is £500 and it will qualify for a tax rebate under the Enterprise Investment Scheme.



There is much more information on the web site, <http://www.abingdonhydro.org.uk>, where you can register to receive updates on the project and share offer, or you can email [info@abingdonhydro.org.uk](mailto:info@abingdonhydro.org.uk), or phone Richard on 01235 521931.

**ALL SAINTS' SINGERS ADVENT CONCERT****23rd November 7.30pm****Handel's Oratorio, The Messiah**

This great oratorio returns to All Saints' Sutton Courtenay to fill the church once again with the glorious sounds of one of the finest and most stirring musical offerings in the repertoire. The work is a great favourite of the choir and many of us sang in our last presentation in 2008. Audiences everywhere have delighted in hearing much loved choruses and arias and from the very first performance in 1742 to our offering in 2014 the work has always been recognised as a truly great masterpiece. As always, we will have excellent soloists and our own professional orchestra.

The Soloists are Penelope Appleyard, Soprano, Emma Ashby, alto, Felix Leach, Tenor and Nick Ashby, Bass

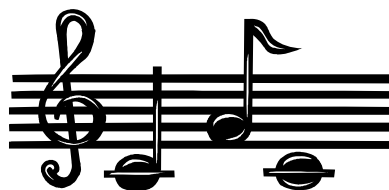
Please take careful note of the date and book early, for seats always sell out well in advance. Tickets will be on sale shortly from Burgrey Stores and from any choir member.

Readers may be interested in this extract from The Dublin Times immediately after its first performance, "Seven hundred people attended the premiere on 13<sup>th</sup> April. So that the largest possible audience could be admitted to the concert, gentlemen were requested to remove their swords, and ladies were asked not to wear hoops in their dresses."

Should any reader wish to join our choir, you are invited to attend rehearsals in The Matrix music school building, where you will be given a warm reception, especially if you have a soprano or tenor voice! No auditions take place, just come along, sing and see if you like us.

Readers may be interested in the significant and ground breaking Oxford based research on the benefits of choral singing for health and wellbeing, put simply,

*Singing in a choir is good for you!*



## SUTTON COURTENAY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



### H.H.Asquith and World War 1

The centenary of the start of World War 1 has drawn attention to former Prime Minister Asquith and events at the time of the declaration of war with relevance to Sutton Courtenay.

In 1912 the Wharf was purchased by Asquith's second wife, Margot, with the help of a benefactor, partly as a country retreat and also because their son was at a prep school in Oxford. The Asquiths frequently came to Sutton Courtenay, particularly at weekends. It is known that members of Asquith's government sometimes came here for meetings and it is likely that discussions took place about the situation leading up to the war which may have given rise to various versions of events that have circulated over the years. However it is incorrect, as has been claimed, that Asquith was in Sutton Courtenay when war was declared.

Recently a number of historians and a biographer were contacted to investigate this and all are in agreement that Asquith and his wife were in London throughout the days leading to the outbreak of war. Records show that each day Asquith was engaged in cabinet meetings and discussions with colleagues. On Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> August the cabinet met in the morning to formulate and despatch the ultimatum to Germany. In the afternoon Asquith addressed the House of Commons after which he and Margot sat in the cabinet room waiting for the ultimatum to expire at 11 pm. Margot Asquith's War Diary, which has recently been published, also confirms their whereabouts and activities at this critical time.

It seemed important to clarify some of the statements that have appeared recently both in print and on the local radio.

Some historians and authors have criticised Asquith for his leadership during the first two years of the war until his resignation in 1916, whilst others consider his reputation as an unsuitable war leader is unfair. Asquith's peacetime premiership from 1908 to 1914 has been favourably regarded as his government introduced significant domestic reforms, including welfare legislation and a reduction in the power of the House of Lords.

Mary Thompson  
Sutton Courtenay Local History Society

## SUTTON COURTENAY CRAFT & PRODUCE SHOW

I would like to thank everyone for turning out last Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September as we had a really nice show. The entries this year just keep on getting better and better and it is lovely to see new and old faces alike. We even had a new cup to present this year in honour and memory of Daphne Sinclair. All the judges were ask to choose a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> from the whole of the show (not just their categories, which they judge) and they found it really tough.

The judges were as follows and a tremendous thank you from the committee to the judges for their time and effort. Always appreciated.

Produce	Fred Gee.
Cookery & Wine	Zylvia Pumphrey.
Art	Lorna Rowe.
Flower Arranging & Flowers	Lynn Elsmore.
Photograph	Kevan Boitoult.
Craft	Diane Chesterman & Beth Revell.
Childrens	Naomi Hanlon.

Now, a big thank you to the committee from me to them:-

Valerie Dalby – Secretary.  
 Roderick Hamilton.  
 Liz Machonochie.  
 Mike Kerswell.  
 Terry Mulvey.  
 Brenda Budd.  
 Sue Draper.  
 Sally Furze.

All of the committee muck in and do a lot of work behind the scenes to make the day run smooth and we also have some help from the WI and I would like to thank June, Florence and Clarissa for being consummate hosts serving tea, coffee, cake and raffle tickets.

I would like to add that the committee had a couple of queries before the show regarding how many items can be shown against one class? i.e. Can I show more than one photo in the general colour class? The answer to this is no! It is only fair that you submit one item per class. So entering 20 colour photos and everyone else enters 1 (for example) is not really cricket..... Next year please only enter 1 of anything which you wish to submit. Along the similar lines if anybody asks if you could submit their work for them please ensure a form is submitted for that person and not under any other entrance form or name.....

Okay, that all said and done please keep up the hard work and bring on next year.

Tracey Frankum.



Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project  
Registered Charity 1098966

## **The DAMASCUS Youth Project 100 Year WW1 Memorial Art Project**



**Sutton Courtenay Village Hall  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> October  
and 5<sup>th</sup> November  
6 to 7:30pm**

**In remembrance of those who died, were wounded or reported missing during World War One, the youth project would like to hold art and creative writing sessions around remembrance which will then be displayed at the Church.**

**All Welcome – young people and adults!**

**£1 entry**

*Adults – special request if you are able and would like to support young people on this theme please do contact us – we would love to hear from you.*

**Roxy Elford 07875649008 or Rita Atkinson 01235  
848694 or Rev Helen Kendrick 01235 848297**



Hello from Cornerstone. Our Autumn season's now well under way and here's a taste of what's on offer through October and into the first day or two of November. The world premiere of a brand new version of Henrik Ibsen's **A Doll's House** comes to us on Saturday 4 October. Set in the 19th century this ground-breaking play is about marriage, money and the freedom of women. Torvald and Nora have a loving marriage. But Nora has a secret, and the arrival of an unexpected visitor threatens to tear their lives apart for ever...

Have you heard yet about our **Family Fun Day every Sunday** which runs throughout the Autumn season at Cornerstone? **Top Fun Sunday** means fun-filled children's shows, lots of great free activities to keep the little ones amused and some delicious family food. It all adds up to the perfect day out!

- **Magic, music and mischief for ages 3 to 8 years** with Hey Presto on Sunday 5 October. Talented magician Presto the cat and his friend Monty the dog join a funfair and start a magic show, but fame goes to Monty's head.
- **Pillow makers always use magical Stuff to fill their pillows.** There are two performances, for ages from 1 to 5 years, on Sunday 12 October at 10.30am and 2.30pm. One day Mr Pillowmaker finds his Stuff Box is empty. Join him inside the cosy set on stage to help discover how to make it return. Why not try the workshop between the two performances?
- **The Queen's Knickers is perfect for ages from 4.** This children's classic comes to us on Sunday 19 October. Dilys guards HRH's smalls as if they were the crown jewels. But one day the knickers go missing, causing a national state of emergency and a diplomatic incident of catastrophic proportions.

**Children's interactive dancing and workshop**, Baby Boogie, on Sunday 26 October, offers a great opportunity for parents and toddlers (ages 5 and under plus accompanying adults/family members) to learn some funky moves from a professional dance tutor and enjoy a groovy dance in our auditorium, accompanied by a live DJ. This is hugely popular in London and Oxford, come along and do it in Didcot too!

**Top Fun Sunday MULTI-BUY. Buy tickets for two Top Fun Sunday shows and get the third set of tickets for free.**

Offer excludes The Queen's Knickers and Comedy Club 4 Kids. All three shows must be booked at the same time. Only one discount per booking. The same value of tickets must be booked for each show.

We have two great evenings of fun and entertainment for families this month. Firstly, Jules Verne's classic globetrotting tale, **Around The World In 80 Days**, is brought to life by three actors portraying a cast of thousands on Saturday 18 October. For ages 7 years and up, there's lots of silliness and a quirky set celebrating the spirit of Victorian invention. **West End Magic** comes direct from London's Leicester Square Theatre on Saturday 25 October, and hits Cornerstone with an evening of the most exciting names in UK magic. There's illusion, mind-magic, clever switches and comedy magic. All compered by the wonderful Oliver Tabor. Suitable for ages 8 upwards.

A reminder that our varied range of **half-term term holiday activities** for under 16s run from Wednesday 29 October to Sunday 2 November. See the website or call the Box Office for details.

**A special Café Scientifique event** on Sunday 19 October at 2pm with Engineering Past and Future. Professor John Womersley who is Chief Executive Officer of the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) will talk about STFC's work and how it ties in with his other love of railways and locomotives. Suitable for ages 14+.

**Stringfever**, on Saturday 1 November, offers classical music with a twist from the world's first genetically modified string quartet which combines the best of popular and classical tunes with electric instruments. Don't miss six people all playing one cello at the same time, and 40 tunes packed into five frenetic minutes in The History of Time! For ages from 12 years upwards.

This year's fun-packed, audience-interactive, music and laughter-filled **family Christmas show is The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus**, which comes to us from the company that brought us last year's hugely popular The Night Before Christmas. Tickets are now available for family and school performances - phone the Box Office or see our website for further information.

Details of our full Autumn season programme and online booking are available on our website at <http://www.cornerstone-arts.org>, or call the Box Office on 01235 515144 (closed Monday).

## SUTTON COURTENAY WI



The wonderful autumn colours will soon be appearing around our countryside and, no doubt, some of our keen members will be entering their photos for the Oxfordshire Federation calendar 2016 entitled 'Colourful Oxfordshire'. Another interesting competition coming up in Oxfordshire is our Gold Medal Competition for skill using a sewing needle – I'm sure that Sutton Courtenay will have a few

entries there!. The WI explores and encourages many talents; unfortunately, our Sutton Courtenay bowls team was not able to defend its title this year, and we haven't found anyone to join the Golf Society yet. Currently, our head office is also running some excellent courses entitled 'Go Online,' have you used the WI Moodle yet?

This month our speaker was Judy Kendrick-Simonsen, who took us back in time to the life of an English Country lady. She spoke to us about how women's roles in society had influenced fashion. She brought a selection of her vintage outfits and accessories. Some of our ladies remembered having dresses made from curtains during the war and one lady recalled her mother making underwear from parachute silk.

Whilst we are always very happy for non members to pop in and join our meeting, next month we are having an open evening where we positively invite you to come and join us to see just what the WI is all about. We are meeting on 21 October in Sutton Courtenay Village hall at 7.30 pm when Jennie Matthews will be entertaining us with Singalong Showstoppers. We hope to see you there. Beryl Davies

## SUTTON COURTENAY WI ADDITIONAL DATES

### Saturday November 24th

#### Coffee Morning at the Plough.

Mince pies and coffee, bric a brac and plants. The Youth Club is joining us this time for fund raising. Free entry, please come and support us, a warm welcome awaits. Pop in and have a chat and bring your friends.

The bar will also be open. See you there.

### Sunday November 25th

#### Day trip to Gloucester Quays Victorian Market

Coach leaves at 9am. Close to Cathedral, and lots to see. Indoor shopping mall, nice places to eat, music, mulled wine, special gifts. Come and do your Christmas shopping and bring your friends.

All welcome at £10 for the day. To book a seat, ring 01235 847472, or call at 53 Bradstocks Way.

Margaret Hamilton 01235 847472

For the coffee morning, any donations, raffle prizes, cakes, or bric a brac will be welcome. We can collect.



## SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

On Tuesday 2nd September we had very happy evening with Irene Fowler who gave a fine address and many meaningful messages. We also had a special raffle with a harvest prize. A fine and enjoyable evening.

Tuesday. 7th October. 7.30pm Village Hall. Spiritual meeting with Patrick Cadbury.

Tuesday 4th November. 7.30pm Village Hall. Spiritual meeting with Maureen Bright.

Enquiries - Pat @ Sam. 01235 847460


**Sutton Courtenay**  
**Environmental Education Centre**  
 A journey of learning and discovery

Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
Oxfordshire



## Wildplay

Tues 28th, Wed 29<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> October, 10am – 3pm

Why not join us for some wild play in the woods this half-term? Build a den, create your own muddy masterpiece and then head over to the campfire for toasted marshmallows.

All activities take around two hours, and there's no need to book – just drop in. Picnics welcome. **£3 donation / child**

For those with **pre-school** children we run Nature Tot sessions every month. A great opportunity for you and your little one to have fun natural surroundings. Activities include; mud painting, mask making, bug hunting and much more. **Booking essential.**

Get in touch  
Email: [sccec@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:sccec@bbowt.org.uk) Phone: 01235 862024

Where to find us  
Milton Park Estate, off the A34, 3 miles north of Didcot  
Sutton Courtenay, Sutton Courtenay Road, Abingdon, OX14 4TE

Supported by   
An RWE company

See what's happening at our other education centres at College Lake near Aylesbury and Woolley Firs near Maidenhead:

[www.bbowt.org.uk](http://www.bbowt.org.uk)



## NAG5 SAFETY CORNER



**DOORSTEP CRIME** is the name used to describe a range of crimes which all involve attempting to obtain money from people in their own homes. Criminals usually target older people living alone, knowing that they can use scare tactics, bullying or intimidation to get money from their victim. Doorstep crime includes rogue traders and distraction burglary.



### **ROGUE TRADERS**

Aim to persuade the home owner to have work carried out on their property. This work is often unnecessary, may be charged at grossly inflated prices and is normally very poorly done. The trader will also often charge for uncompleted work. Typically it will involve roofing, guttering gardening or driveway repairs.

#### Typically rogue traders may:

- be insistent, reluctant to leave once the door has been answered and will not agree to let the victim have a few days to consider before agreeing to have the work done.
- use fear and intimidation to get the victim to agree to the work.
- claim that something needs urgent attention so that the victim agrees on the spot.
- provide a quote that is much lower than the final amount charged for the work.
- not provide any paperwork, or have paperwork with only a vague address and details.
- often say they have materials left over from another job.

#### Traders claiming to be a member of a Trade Association

If a trader claims to belong to a professional organisation, e.g. the Federation of Master Builders, check this with the organisation, either by calling them or looking on their web site. It is an offence under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 if they lie about this.

#### Buy With Confidence

Trading Standards can provide details of reliable local tradesmen and women to carry out work around the house and garden. Visit <http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk> or call 0845 051 0845.

### **DISTRACTION BURGLARY**

An unexpected caller arrives on the doorstep, often with a claim to be from the council, be a police officer, needing to read the gas or electricity meter and suchlike. They may often have someone else with them and, once they are inside, one will distract the householder while the other steals money and/or possessions.

#### How to deal with an unexpected caller:

- Ask to see the caller's ID and if they do not have ID do not let them into the house.
- If they have ID which you suspect is not genuine do not let them inside until you have called the organisation they claim to represent. Use the internet or the telephone book for the number. Do not use the number from their ID card. Genuine officials will be happy to wait while you check.
- If you are still concerned ask the trader to make an appointment to call back later, and ensure a friend or member of the family is with you when they return.

#### If you are caught out

- If you have fallen for scams like these, had money stolen or been threatened with physical violence you should report it to the police.
- Call Trading Standards on 0845 051 0845.

Continued.....

## NAG5 SAFETY CORNER CONTINUED

Call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline for advice on 03454 040506 (open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday). Report it on the police's Action Fraud web site at <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk> or call 0300 123 2040.

### Useful information to report

Key dates - when the trader first contacted you and the date when work started.

Whether the trader is still at your home and, if not, whether they will be returning at a later date.

If you know the trader is still working in the area, or mentioned that they had worked on another property in the area.

Whether you have paid for the work you agreed to have done and, if so, how you paid.

If you paid by cheque, the name the cheque was made out to.

The name of the trader or business.

The registration number and description of any cars or vans, including any business names or telephone numbers on them.

A description of the trader's appearance - clothes worn, accents or other noticeable features.

Details of any paperwork such as receipts or invoices.

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NAG5 can be contacted at [neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com](mailto:neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com) or by calling 01235 848694

## CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Abingdon Citizens Advice Bureau is warning that innocent secondhand car buyers could have their vehicle taken away from them because of an outstanding loan on the car dating back to the previous owner.

"Logbook loans", officially called bills of sale, are often taken out against the purchase of a car. The bill of sale gives the lender ownership of the car and the lender gives the car buyer the right to drive the car as long as loan repayments are up to date. If a borrower fails to repay the loan, the car can be seized by the lender. But most people do not realise that if the car is sold on while the loan is still outstanding, and payments are not being made, the logbook lender is legally entitled to take the car away from the new owner.

In one case made known to Citizens Advice, a man said he had spent £1,100 on a secondhand car. A few weeks later he received a letter from a logbook loans company saying he owed them £637. The man contacted the loan company to explain that the car had been sold to him, providing the loan firm with the seller's address, but somebody still turned up to take the car away. Worried that he would be left without any way to get to work, the man had to borrow money in order to pay off the previous owner's loan.

Drivers can carry out checks before buying a car, to see whether a loan is attached to it. However, there is a charge for these searches, and not all loans will show up.

Evidence collected by Citizens Advice suggests that people are signing up for logbook loans, tempted by the promise of fast cash and no credit checks, without realising the full implications. Interest rates charged are much higher than those for a conventional loan, and borrowers can end up much deeper in debt as they struggle to repay amounts which exceed the original cost of the car by almost three times.

If you are facing a situation like this after buying a secondhand car, call Adviceline on 08444 111 444 or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau, which is located at Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon OX14 3JE. For opening hours, see [www.caox.org.uk](http://www.caox.org.uk)

## ED VAIZEY MP

Over the summer there were many events both across my Constituency, in the UK and across Europe which marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. Each was quite different – from the names on the war memorial being read out in Wallingford to the unveiling of the Memorial Arch in Folkestone where I was deeply moved to see a parade, which was a stark reminder of the men who marched off to serve their country a century ago. For me, perhaps the most moving event of all was when people all over the country put their lights out and we all paused to remember the courage and dignity of the millions who fought for freedom and democracy, so many of whom never came home.

It's so important that we don't just remember for a day or a week, but that we really do try to learn the lessons of what became known as the Great War, which so sadly was not, as so many hoped, the war to end all wars. In particular, getting young people today to engage with the real impact of the First World War is a challenge. I was therefore delighted to come across a truly imaginative and effective way to do just that set up by one of my constituents - a Facebook page of a soldier-to-be had the platform have been available 100 years ago. I know that young people are already checking out the Facebook page to see the latest information, and I'm sure that the numbers will continue to grow over the summer. You can see the page at [www.facebook.com/WWISoldiersTale](http://www.facebook.com/WWISoldiersTale). Not only does the page recount the events in one life, but it sets it all in the context of a family and friends, and all the other events – local and national – happening at the time. Not least among those events is the campaign for votes for women: it is still less than a century since any women at all were allowed to vote and it was only in 1924 – within living memory - that women were finally able to vote on the same basis as men.

Reading about the fight for the right to vote is a timely reminder that our we can, perhaps, take our democracy and our right to participate for granted. Over the next few months, the electoral roll which will be in place for the 2015 General Election will be compiled. Please do make sure that you encourage anyone just coming up to 18 both to look at the facebook page above and to get on the electoral roll – and do both yourself too!

This month my mailbag was dominated with concerns over the breeding and sale of puppies and kittens, where there is believed to be a lack of thought for the health or welfare of the animals. I was pleased that MPs had the opportunity to debate this issue, which is clearly of great importance to many of my constituents. The debate helped clarify the belief that dog breeders only need a licence if they have a bitch producing five or more litters per year. DEFRA discovered that when the relevant Act came into force under the last Government, the Home Office sent a circular indicating this; it is now writing to councils to stress that anyone in the business of breeding dogs must be licenced. Recent Government action shows that much can be achieved without new legislation. That said, I do share concerns about unregulated sales over the internet, so am pleased that the Government has acted to create a voluntary code which has resulted in 100,000 adverts being removed since the start of 2014.

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](mailto: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](http://www.vaizey.com).



## COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Bullfinch and beyond..

When I first joined the County Council, Operation Bullfinch was well underway. This was a combined, co-ordinated project to understand, to learn from and to ensure that the chances of Child Sex exploitation ever raising its head again in this county would be very small. It took honesty, courage and determination to admit past mistakes and put new, more thorough procedures in place. Last May it seemed that Oxfordshire might be seen as the "home" of child sex exploitation. As a result of Operation Bullfinch, I am happy to say that Oxfordshire is now seen as leading the way. CSE is a national problem, needing national solutions - but we can all take heart in our county having come to terms with the problem first.

A policy of no hope..

About 3 months ago, I heard a County Highways Officer talking about the Council's policy on how to manage road maintenance and improvement in an atmosphere of ever tightened budgets. He talk of a policy of "managed decline". I assumed that this was a personal view rather than a council policy. Yet last week, I heard on the evening news, the County Cabinet Member for Highways use the same expression. "Managed Decline" could be argued to be a reasonable short term policy in tough times, but as a long term plan, it seems a policy of total gloom and doom. Very gradually we will manage our road conditions downwards until potholes fuse and all traffic is at a standstill. Surely, we should have a long term strategy to improve things. OCC has the temporary (2 days a week) use of 2 large machines that operate like roadside combine harvesters. They clear out, fill and resurface in one operation, leaving a permanent repair ready to drive over in minutes. The same machines spend 2 days a week on the roads in Essex, where I am told the potholes are like tank traps.

Doubtless the machines are fiendishly expensive to hire or buy. But could a number of counties not get together to get more of them? What about prudential borrowing? At least its the sort of idea which might fix the problem and offer us a more hopeful policy than one of "Managed Decline!"

Grants

Any Community Groups needing small sums of money (£100-£1000) have a possible source in the County Community Grants. Please let me know if you have ideas.

Richard Webber

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

### Planning: houses in the Didcot area

It seems to me that villagers and other locals would be well advised to take a good look at what is happening in housing locally. We all know that the Government via the Vale Council which is made up almost entirely of the two party components of the present government is seeking to force very large numbers of houses into Oxfordshire, and particularly our part of that county. We also know that this worries a very large number of locals. What exactly is likely to happen? The honest answer is that no one really knows for sure, but the history of housebuilding shows that it is economics that call the tune, not Governments or planners. It is one thing for planners to push everything through in the teeth of determined though largely powerless local opposition, it is quite another for all the houses actually to get built. Banks will not lend if they think a builder cannot sell his houses, and buyers will not appear if they cannot afford the houses. And there are many economic warnings around, and it is at least arguable that our Government is unwisely propping up the housing market and parts of the economy. Consider briefly a) Help to buy schemes heavily criticised by the International Monetary Fund and by the Government's own Office for Budget Responsibility. What will happen to those who can just about afford a house with mortgage help and then interest rates go up as they surely must? And is the Help to buy scheme inflating house prices in itself? b) the Bank of England has held bank rate down since 2009 against all market forces, and meanwhile the Bank is printing money fast, something I used to be told only 'banana republics' did! The economic situation for future housing is far from certain, and I am getting a steady stream of advice from City financiers warning against the housing market collapsing; c) what will happen to those large builders who have borrowed heavily to buy up land, if the housing slows down? So beware of assuming too easily that all sites getting planning permission will produce all those houses.

### Our Immediate Area

Now whether all the houses get built or not, consider planning in our immediate area, in and around Didcot; not just Sutton Courtenay or Appleford but all planning in the vicinity. Starting at the eastern end in South Oxfordshire, up to 2000 approx houses to the north along side the Appleford & Vale boundary; then Didcot Park stretching from Didcot perimeter up to Appleford level crossing, then in Sutton Courtenay the Ameys site, the Roman Catholic Church site, either side of Milton Road, and a new large development on the Didcot A station site; and then across into Milton the new Linden development about to come to planners, and Milton Heights. Where does all that leave us? I cannot speak for south of Didcot as that is SODC territory not Vale, but I should be surprised if the Hagbournes are not experiencing the same pressures. Get out a local map and look at what all this involves. It seems to me inescapable not to conclude that in a few years time all our villages will be subsumed as suburbs of Didcot and be urbanised. Do we want that? If not, we need to fight hard, understanding the overall position, marshalling our arguments and suggesting alternative ideas for housing development.

### The Next Step

The Vale cabinet and the planners are intending to make public the next stage of the Local Plan about mid-September, and they will come to the October council meeting for their subsequent stage, and if passed, then go out to consultation again. We must be active at this point, and we have to be ready with our criticism, and if we want to win through, with constructive alternatives. Here I hope to suggest one or two such ideas for you to consider. (The Harwell Rd. Diageo warehouse appeal is important, very important, but I am not considering it here as it is commercial not housing).

### Some different planning ideas

First, I believe our area must plan on the basis that Didcot, a valuable rail centre to most of us, and also an expanding town, needs to be told firmly to stay in Didcot, so that we can keep the green field buffers in position and not allow Didcot to absorb all the **nearby** villages. If you agree with me on this, it is crucial that we get this curbing of Didcot over to our planners, convince them of its merits, and hold them to it.

Continued.....

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

Second, working from that, Didcot needs more housing, but where and what type? To date expansion in the area has just been commercial developers doing deals with landowners for yet more estates in villages, older planning laws more or less suspended, local objections ignored, and developers getting pretty well anything they want. That might result in a lot more estates being built in villages, but my problem is that I do not believe there are enough people who can afford such housing, so we need something else. Now the Didcot A site is of course a brownfield site, and so as long as houses are kept away from the immediate vicinity of the B station, that site could well take a much greater density of housing, so that we meet the Government imposed Vale target housing figures but use much less land in the process. It is true that this site is in Sutton Courtenay not Didcot, but it is brownfield and it is in the industrialised end of Sutton.

Third, my suggestion is that we invite the developers to build blocks of one and two bedroom flats, for folk who need a roof over their heads but are never likely to be able to afford a nice new village house. How about blocks going up to 4 or 5 or even 6 floors to cater for poorer folk, for single folk, or perhaps the ground floor flats for the elderly? Locals have to understand that whether we like it or not, our planners have to meet Government imposed housing figures, and just about the only way we can save our village green spaces, is to use **greater housing density** and hence blocks of flats. I do not say this is a perfect solution, so if anyone has better ideas, please let me know. But at least it cuts down the pressure on our remaining green spaces in villages.

Gervase Duffield, your District Councillor.

### CHANGE AHEAD ROADSHOW

From September 2014 the law is changing for  
Children and Young People with  
Special Educational Needs and Disability.

What does this mean to you and your child?

We will be coming to a venue near you with presentations, information & answers

1. Choose a venue near you

Banbury - Tue 23 Sept 10am-1pm Banbury Town Hall  
Bicester - Thurs 25 Sept 10am-1pm John Paul II Centre  
Carterton - Fri 26 Sept 10-1pm Community Centre  
Henley - Mon 29 Sept 10am-1pm The Red Lion Hotel  
Oxford City - Wed 1 Oct 7pm-9.30pm County Hall  
Didcot - Fri 3 Oct, 10am-1pm Civic Hall 10am-1pm

2. Choose two workshops

- Support at School Action & School Action +
- Replacing Statements with Education Health & Care Plans
  - Personalisation & Personal Budgets
  - Co-production & getting your voice heard

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### THANKYOU

Patrick Salisbury wishes to thank those many kind friends who expressed their condolences at Rosemary's passing last June; as a result of the retiring collection at the funeral and other donations received, a total sum of £970 has been sent to Save the Children in her memory.

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We would like to thank you all for the lovely sympathy cards and messages you sent us following the sad loss of our dad Reg Bolton. Our thanks go out to everyone who joined us for dad's funeral service on 14th August. Around 160 people turned up on the day. It was fantastic to see so many of his friends all come together on such a sad day despite the heavy rain and thunderstorms. Thank you all for your kind donations, which raised £440 for the Hospital at Home charity. Dad will be greatly missed by us all. Lisa & Alison x

## OTHER EVENTS NOTIFIED TO THE EDITORS

Nearly New Sale, Saturday 11th October 2014, 10-12 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 11th October 2014, from 10-12 noon at the Long Wittenham Village Hall. 50p entry. 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).

Pre-School Halloween Family Event, Saturday 18th October 2014, 2-5pm, Long Wittenham Village Hall

Details to be announced via <http://www.longwittenhampreschool.co.uk/dates>

### FEMALE ACADEMIC SEEKING ROOM TO RENT

Female academic seeks room in house from Tuesday 21 October.

Currently volunteering at the Abbey, Sutton Countenay.

References available.

Please contact Karen on 07951 172512.





## GEORGE & DRAGON

SUTTON COURTENAY



TRADITIONAL ENGLISH PUB WITH A LOVELY TERRACE GARDEN AT THE BACK  
ENJOY A QUIET DRINK OR SOMETHING TO EAT, HOME COOKED MEALS, LUNCH  
& DINNER.

LARGE PARTIES WELCOME. CASK MARQUE ALES, TRADITIONAL SUNDAY ROAST  
LUNCH MENU

CATERING FOR BIRTHDAY PARTIES AND CHRISTENINGS IN OUR SEPARATE  
RESTAURANT AREA

### New special for Wednesday evenings

Chilli , rice and fried tortillas or  
a choice of 5 curries with onion  
bhaji, cucumber raita, mango  
chutney, rice and poppadom with  
a pint for

**£10-95**

### Friday Nights

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