

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 44 No.1

FEBRUARY 2015

VILLAGE DIARY

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

February				
Tue	3rd	12.30 to 5.30pm	Public Consultation, Harwell Rd development	Village Hall
Tue	3rd	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall
Tue	3rd	7.30pm	Spiritual Fellowship	Village Hall
Sat	7th	7.30pm	Boulevard Swing Concert	Church
Tue	10th	4 to 8.30pm	Public Consultation, Harwell Rd development	Village Hall
Tue	10th	2pm	Women's Christian Fellowship	Village Hall
Sat	14th	4pm	Movie Matinee	Church
Tue to Thur	17th to 19th	10 to 3pm	Half term events	SC Environ- mental Education Centre
Tue	17th	3.30 to 5pm	Pancake Party	School
Tue	17th	7.30pm	WI meeting	Village Hall
Wed	18th		COPY DEADLINE SC NEWS	
Thur	26th	10.30am	Coffee shop and book sale	Church
March				
Sat	7th	7.30 for 8pm	Quiz Night	Village Hall

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

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

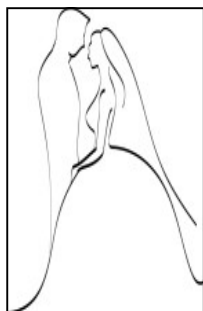
To advertise, e-mail advertising@suttoncourtenay.co.uk or telephone 07831-526784

VILLAGE CONTACTS

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

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

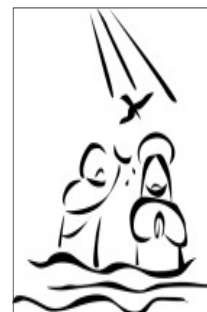
Various organisations have permanent bookings for use of the Village Hall on certain days of the week. Local individuals or organisations may nonetheless enter one-off bookings for events which clash with permanent bookings. **At least seven weeks notice must be given to Rita Atkinson (848694) or Caroline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



HOLY MATRIMONY

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

There were none in January



HOLY BAPTISM

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

There were none in January

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

Council budget 2015/16

The Parish Council has carefully considered its budget for 2015/2016 looking in detail at its income and expenditure. The Parish Council will receive a grant from the Vale of White Horse District Council in the sum of £2039 and the requirement raised from council tax is £43378. The Council is very prudent with its spending and this is the sixth year that the Council has held the figure the same.



Drayton Road Traffic Calming

Oxfordshire County Council is now progressing this scheme again following a change of staff. Final drawings are being prepared on the basis of a double pinch scheme. This is similar to the scheme in Steventon on the Hanney Road, making traffic both entering and leaving the village slow up on the approaches.

Didcot "A" redevelopment

The Parish Council was very concerned to learn that no exhibition regarding the redevelopment of the Didcot "A" site was being held locally in Sutton Courtenay, particularly as the site is within the parish of Sutton Courtenay. It has raised this issue with the planning consultants for the developer and with the Vale of White Horse District Council.

Warehouse, Sutton Courtenay Lane

The Parish Council spoke against the warehouse application at the planning committee meeting in December. The committee members, however voted in favour of the application and a resolution to approve the application was passed.

Recreation Ground Car Park - Litter

It has been noticed that quite a bit of litter is being dropped in the car park and recreation ground. The Council would ask that rather than just dropping the litter that you take it home with you and dispose of it properly.

Culham Bridges

Abingdon Road and Tollgate Road will have waiting restrictions in place and road closures when temporary traffic signs are in place, from 14th February until 6th March. This is to enable footway works to be undertaken, and is the re-commencement of the work which was temporarily suspended in November last year. The likely hours of closure are the same as last year, approximately 9.30 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been considered :

P14/V2415/FUL Extension and alterations to create 2 dwellings at 11 Harwell Road. The Council objected owing to the tall sided building protruding in front of the building line, the lack of amenity garden space, insufficient room for parking, and the overshadowing of the adjacent property.

Continued overleaf

PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED

P14/V2621/HH Erection of a two storey side extension at 77 Bradstocks Way. The Council had no objections

P14/V2623/HH Erection of double garage on the side of the existing house at 93 Bradstocks Way. The Council had concerns regarding the access at the junction, and referred to the previous planning history of refusals for an increase in building at the side.

P14/V26652/HH Single storey rear and side extension to enlarge kitchen and study and add utility room at 13 Lady Place. The Council had no objections

P14/V2730 Internal alterations and insertion of two external doors to North West elevation, to convert existing 3 units into 2 larger units at 17, 19 and 21 Almshouses, Church Street. The Council had no objections

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd February, 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in the village hall, Frilsham Street. Developers, London Regeneration Ltd, will be giving a presentation to the Council about its proposals for housing development rear of Harwell Road. The Council will be listening to the presentation and will not be debating anything, nor will there be public debate. Public consultation on the scheme is taking place earlier in the day and also on 10th February. Please see notice on page 16 of this issue.

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

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION STEVENTON AND DISTRICT

Another year passes, and your local British Legion Branch is set to have another full year of events across the District, and further details will be promulgated in forthcoming updates. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their continued support, and trust that all had an excellent Christmas and New Year.

A big thank you must also go out to all at the Steventon Sports and Social Club for their unflagging support. The recent darts night went very well, raising almost £100 for the Poppy Appeal, and the Committee is genuinely appreciative of the continued efforts made by the Club to support us throughout the year.

As ever, your local branch is always available to support and advise, and key contact details for the Committee members are:

President: Pat Buckland, 07778 039967

Vice Chairman: Al Costley, 07832 340468, e-mail – al_costley@hotmail.co.uk

Secretary: Paul Francis, 07799 026666, e-mail – francisoxo@aol.com

Treasurer: Rod Clewley, 01235 831206, e-mail – rod@clewley.orangehome.com

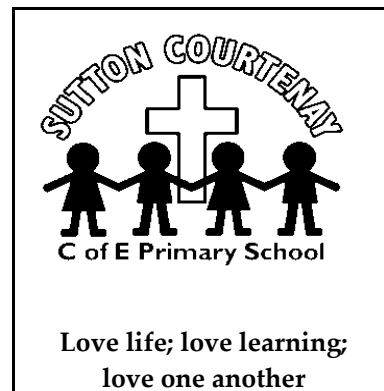
The next Branch meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 16th February 2015. Please note that this is a change in timings, and we now start 30 minutes earlier. The venue has also changed and is now the Cherry Tree pub in Steventon, starting from 7.00pm on for a pre meeting drink, before the committee meeting itself at 8.00pm. New members are always most welcome, from across the Steventon and District area.

Al Costley

SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been a little over two years since the school was inspected and found to be good in all areas. The strengths of the school were also highlighted as being:

- The Head Teacher is an outstanding leader. She is determined and successfully helped staff to raise the pupils' achievements in all subjects.
- Families are becoming more involved in their children's learning.
- The curriculum is rich and involves a lot of interesting topics that grab the pupils' interest.
- Reception children make rapid progress because of outstanding teaching. In Years 1 – 6 teaching is almost all good.
- Reading standards are impressive.
- Governors offer the school strong and effective support and challenge.



We have continued to build upon these strengths, further developing our creative curriculum with the new even more demanding demands of the new national curriculum that was introduced for September 15 – but in our school in January last year.

Of course, we have also worked on the areas that Ofsted had highlighted – indeed they were already areas that we had identified as a school and had begun work on.

Improvements in the Nursery: The Ofsted report noted that the classroom was shabby, resources not sufficiently stimulating and teaching not vibrant enough. Since then the nursery was completely renovated (which was planned prior to the inspection) with many new resources purchased and organised in such a way that the children have a greater amount of choice. The teaching within the nursery is now creative, engaging and fun. Children quickly settle into the nursery and its routines. The classroom has been further enhanced this year with an interactive whiteboard and the outside area has been completely revamped with a new playhouse and artificial grass area so that children can always play outside.

Independence: We have continued to build up pupils' independent skills by teaching them about how they learn and by developing a growth mindset attitude.

Excellence and success are celebrated at school and we have extremely high expectations for each and every child. Our teachers take their time to get to know the wonderful individuals that we have within the school so that they are able to get the very best out of them.

If you would like to know more about the school or to arrange a visit, do contact the school office and I would be delighted to show you around.

Please note: Action for Children who run the Family Centre sessions from the building within our playground are relocating to the Scout Hut as of February. The building that is operated by Oxfordshire County Council (and not the school) is in need of a significant amount of repair and Action for Children do not have the funds that would be needed to rectify the issues.

ALISON ASHCROFT
Headteacher

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

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS' SUTTON COURTENAY

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS', SUTTON COURTENAY

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

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

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

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

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

MONTHLY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

1st Sunday: Family Service at 10.30am

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

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

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

Wednesday: BCP Holy Communion at 9.45am

If you could have any super power what would it be?

For one moment in his life, Peter, follower of Jesus, found himself with a super power of walking on water. As it says in Matthew's Gospel, "Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake... 'Lord, if it's you,' Peter replied, 'tell me to come to you on the water.' 'Come,' he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came towards Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?'" *Matthew 14:25-31*

Unfortunately, this story isn't evidence that Jesus is in the habit of handing out superpowers to all his followers but we can still learn something from it. Like most modern superhero stories, this incident is less about the superpower on display and more about what the characters learn about themselves and those around them. The first thing Peter sees is Jesus doing what God alone can do. In the Bible, power over the wind and waves is always attributed to God. Jesus' feat of walking on water is more than just a clever trick. To Christians it's further evidence of his authority – an authority which enables Peter himself to walk on water. Even more remarkably, we can trust that the power of Christ residing in us through his Spirit will enable us to walk through life's storms without fear. The second thing Peter learns is that he can't do it himself, in his own power. He began to walk towards Jesus, "but when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!'" Peter was aware of the wind and the waves in his peripheral vision when he climbed out of the boat. But when he stopped focusing on Jesus and allowed his vision to be filled with the storm, he began to sink.

We might not find ourselves in a boat surrounded by a storm, but we regularly weather metaphorical storms in our own lives. These storms might be due to the stresses of modern life - financial worries; impossible deadlines at work; family strife and conflict; ill-health or the breakdown of a relationship. But when we find ourselves in a storm, what do we do? Do we allow the wind and waves to fill our vision and overwhelm us, or do we keep focusing on Jesus? Do we trust that, if we begin to sink, he will reach out and catch us? From my own experiences I believe that the one we can always look to is God, who not only directs the winds and waves but also death and life, the only one who can save us and carry us through the storms of today. *(with thanks to Gemma Curran - The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity)*

With love and prayers, Helen

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

HOLD THAT DATE! EVENTS IN THE YEAR AHEAD FOR ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

- **Saturday 18th April** – Launch of Church Heritage Room Fundraising Appeal with Sir Roy Strong as Guest Speaker. Sir Roy Strong was born in 1935 and educated at Edmonton County Grammar School and the University of London. He joined the National Portrait Gallery in 1959 and became its Director in 1967. In 1973 he became Director of the Victoria & Albert Museum, a post which he resigned in 1987 to pursue a freelance career in the media and as a writer and consultant. He was knighted in 1983. Over the years he has written extensively on the country's history and culture as well as on garden design. His more recent books include *The Laskett, The Story of a Garden, Coronation, A Little History of the English Country Church and Visions of England*. **Details of this event will be coming very soon.**
- **Sunday 10th May** – St James' Singers in SC
- **Saturday 16th / Sunday 17th May** Vicar's Fun Day Bake-a-Thon on Saturday followed by Vicar's Fun Day Tea Party on Sunday 2.30-5pm – with teas, bouncy castle and fun for all the family – watch out for more info. soon!
- **Sunday 24th May** – Once again we are looking forward to hosting one of the English Music Festival Concerts. This time the Choral Group ALBION is coming. Albion is dedicated to the exploration and performance of the songs of the British Isles. Working with up to twelve singers at a time, Albion performs mostly unaccompanied, allowing the purity of the human voice to sound across the centuries. The group is known for a fresh sound and vibrant energy, and for warm, wholehearted music-making.
- **Saturday 6th June** – Lyra Concert in SC – the Russians return
- **Sunday 14th June** – Friends of All Saints' Garden Party
- **20th/21st June** – Open Gardens & George Orwell Weekend
- **Saturday 3rd October** – Barn Dance

An invitation is extended to all of you to all of these events for the whole community – please put the dates in your diaries!

CHURCH DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

- **Saturday 7th** – 7.30pm Boulevard Swing Concert (see advert elsewhere in the News for details – tickets available from Burgrey Stores)
- **Monday 9th** – 8pm PCC Meeting in the Church
- **Tuesday 10th** – 2pm Women's Christian Fellowship Meeting in the Village Hall – talk on Falls Prevention. 3.30pm-5pm Pancake Party in the School Hall for all 0-11 year olds accompanied by an adult
- **Sat 14th** – 4pm Movie Matinee in the Church
- **Tuesday 17th** – SHROVE TUESDAY
- **Wednesday 18th** – ASH WEDNESDAY – 7.30pm Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes
- **Saturday 21st** – Marriage Preparation Day for any couple getting married in our churches in 2015 – contact Helen for details
- **Sunday 22nd** - 12 noon following the morning service Hungry Saints – if you would like to join us for Sunday Lunch in a local pub add your name to the list at back of the church.
- **Thursday 26th** – 10.30-12 noon Coffee Shop & Book Sale in the Church – all welcome
- **Fri 27th** – 2pm Wedding in All Saints' Church

CHURCH DIARY FOR MARCH

- **Sunday 1st** – EDUCATION SUNDAY – 10.30am Family Service in Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School – please note there will NOT be a service in church – everyone is welcome to join us at the school
- **Monday 2nd** – 8pm Baptism Preparation in All Saints' Church for all parents wishing to have their children baptised
- **Sat 7th** – Friends of All Sts' Church Quiz Night
- **Tuesday 10th** – 2pm Women's Christian Fellowship Easter Meditation in All Saints' Church led by Helen Kendrick
- **Saturday 14th** – Dementia Awareness Training in All Saints' Church – all welcome – more details coming soon
- **Sunday 22nd March** – 12 noon (following the morning service Hungry Saints – if you would like to join us for Sunday Lunch in a local pub please add your name to the list at the back of the church. **7.30pm** All Saints Concert

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CONTINUED

CHRISTMAS THANKS

With your generosity we raised £1,000 for the DEC Ebola Crisis Appeal from the church choir carol singing around the village and the collection on Christmas Eve at the Torchlight Procession. Thank you!

And, as ever a BIG THANK YOU goes to the bellringers; the choir; the hosts of the village carol singing; the flower arrangers; the church cleaners; the churchwardens and Junior Choir for decorating the tree (supplied by Richard & Judy Mathews) and the crib; the readers and intercessors; the leaders and members of Junior Church for the Crib Service; the children who came dressed as shepherds, angels, kings and sheep; Burgrey Stores, Changes Hair Salon and Costcutter for selling the torches; the Allen family and Callum Mackenzie for the Christmas Eve bonfire and the many hundreds of people who joined in with the procession from far and wide; Andrew Mathews for the Christingle oranges and finally to all of you who came to worship, to sing, to pray and to wonder once again at the greatest story ever told – thank you! Helen

Thank you to everyone who came to our Christingle Service at the beginning of January. The collection came to £343 to which the PCC will add £50 making a grand total of £393 which we will send to The Children's Society to support their work with vulnerable children.

COFFEE SHOP & BOOK SALE

Thursday 26th February

10.30am-12noon



All Saints' Church

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

EDUCATION SUNDAY

1st March 2015

DISCOVERING WHO YOU ARE

Family Service at 10.30am

Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School

ALL WELCOME

NB NO SERVICE IN CHURCH



Movie Matinee in the Church

Saturday 14th February at 4pm

A romantic comedy - details of the film to be shown will be publicised in the Church.

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

Bring your friends!

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CONTINUED

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 Barbara Wood who died 12th November 2014 was born on 13th November 1919 in Twickenham to her parents Sarah and Frederick Adams. She grew up with her brothers Peter and John and sister Kay and was always known as Barbara, never Eileen. Aged 14 she took a job book-keeping at the Co-operative Society. She met her husband, Harry, at Richmond Ice-rink where he literally fell at her feet. They were married 2nd June 1941 and went on to have three children: Brian, Raymond and Anne (Whitehead). As Harry joined the RAF they moved around the country and after the war Barbara worked in Nelson Primary School, Whitton before they moved to Brimpton in 1958, Minster Lovell in 1968 and then to Abingdon in 1977. She loved her extended family and was very proud of her children and her seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Over the years she loved to knit, going to Speedway and motor cross races, cycling, swimming, chatting and chocolate. With age, arthritis took away her joy of knitting and sadly Harry became ill and died earlier this year. But, with an early diagnosis of Alzheimer's and the correct medication, she regained her happy spirit. She continued to enjoy the company of her family and friends. She loved family gatherings and holidays at the beach. In October she very much enjoyed her last family holiday in Norfolk, eating sherbet and chocolates and keeping everyone entertained with her brilliant one liners. Sadly she caught a chest infection, had a series of mini strokes and died 1 day short of her 95th birthday. She was an honourable, loving, generous, kind, funny woman with an infectious giggle and a ready smile. She was rich in that she was a contented woman. She was very devout and said her prayers every night. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Her funeral, conducted by the Reverend Helen Kendrick, was held in All Saints' Church on 28th November 2014. *This is an edited extract of the tribute given at Barbara's funeral by her son, Brian.*

James (Jim) Howe who has died aged 75 on 26th December 2014 was born on 4th March 1939 in Co. Durham to his parents, Jack and Evelyn Howe. After school he did an apprenticeship in Electronics. He did his National Service for two years in the RAF but afterwards finding no work available in Co Durham came south and found a job at Harwell. Jim met Sylvia at a dance. For Jim it was love at first sight and, although Sylvia lived 12 miles away in Sunderland, he was determined to see her again. For the first few dates Jim missed the last bus home and had to walk the 12 miles back. At least, as Sylvia said, it proved he was serious! They were married in Sunderland on 14th September 1963 and, after their honeymoon, came to live in Abingdon where they brought up their girls – Vanessa and Lisa. Jim went on to work for Oxford Medical in Abingdon for 25 years before having to retire due to ill-health. They moved twenty years ago to Sutton Courtenay and strove to make the most of retirement. Jim loved cooking. He was mostly self-taught and he took great delight in serving Sylvia delicious tasting meals, beautifully presented, on her return home from work. Always a country man at heart he loved the great outdoors and anything to do with nature and wildlife. He liked birds and flowers and fishing and loved being so close to the River Thames. Over the years the family enjoyed some memorable holidays and Jim instilled in his girls a similar love for the countryside. He and Sylvia set themselves the challenge of walking the Thames path in stages and they managed to walk from the source as far as Maidenhead. They had also walked the majority of the Ridgeway Path – at least twice – as they would park the car, walk to a pub, have lunch and walk back to the car again! He loved sea-fishing and rugby and also supported Abingdon United Football Club. Above all, Jim was a caring, devoted family man, who loved his family and always put them first. He and Sylvia had a strong and enduring partnership – and they lived out their wedding vows by loving and caring for one another through good times and bad. Jim had a romantic streak – he had been known to buy roses! And he could also be stubborn and a bit cantankerous at times but it was this same stubbornness that pulled him through some very challenging times. Following his final diagnosis of lung cancer Jim faced his illness bravely and stoically – lovingly cared for at home by Sylvia and the family. His strength and determination was such that he succeeded in not only being there for Christine's wedding in June – but also walking into the ceremony and standing for all the photographs with a proud smile on his face. And finally, he made it to Christmas Day – when the family all gathered together for what Sylvia will always remember as a happy occasion which Jim so much appreciated and enjoyed. And on Boxing Day he passed away peacefully, knowing he was loved, in the arms of his beloved Sylvia. His funeral was held in All Saints' Church on 14th January 2015. *This is an edited extract of the address given at Jim's funeral by the Reverend Helen Kendrick.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Defibrillator in Sutton Courtenay

I would like to ask residents of Sutton Courtenay if they think we should try and raise money for a defibrillator? I have spoken to friends in other local villages who are rather surprised we do not have one. I know we would have to find a safe place to keep it, and one or two trained people to use it. But if we don't look into it we will not know who is out there willing to help. For those of you who are not sure what a defibrillator does, it is the machine which can do massage in case of heart attacks. We are quite a long way from the local hospital, the John Radcliffe, and I think it would be very useful to have one in the village in case of emergency. It is something that could be of benefit to any one of us. What do people feel about this? Please get in touch if you are interested in finding out more about getting one.

Margaret Hamilton 01235 847472

Warehouse

Once again, Sutton Courtenay has lost a planning battle! The warehouse outline application has been approved. I was amazed at how few Sutton Courtenay residents objected to this second application. Perhaps they thought that their objection to the first application would count....not that it would have made any difference. The number of County Councillors who changed their minds, when the second application was very little changed, was also amazing!!

Only a week or so before this application was heard, the newspapers were highlighting the schools, hospitals and old people's homes should not be built in air polluted places and yet, this warehouse, with HGV's arriving and departing every minute, day and night, is to be built practically opposite the village school!!The so-called "experts" actually stated that there would be little difference in the amount of traffic generated! - by the HGV's and the "supposed" number of employees who would be driving into work in three shifts!

Once again, Sutton Courtenay has been dumped upon! As far as I am concerned, Planners should be looking at the cumulative effect - the likelihood of a thousand more houses being built in the village as well as the thousands in Didcot. Is a hamburger roundabout really going to make that much difference? I leave it to you to imagine the traffic problems . It is time these developers stopped blackmailing County Councils who live in fear of fines and costs! How can this warehouse, so near to the village, accessed by a lane, unlikely to provide any income to the local authority, be sustainable. Perhaps we should have a County Councillor living in the village!!

Lesley Clements

We have all seen the huge number of new houses approved for Sutton Courtenay, Milton, and other villages in Oxfordshire. Just before Christmas the giant warehouse at the end of Harwell Road was given the green light. What they all have in common is that local opinion has not had a real say in whether they go ahead. Any objections from residents, Parish Councils or County Councillors are effectively ignored in the planning process. It is growth at all costs. Valid worries about traffic, pollution, flooding, building on green field sites and such like have been swept aside and our representatives on Councils might as well just stay at home. We all want affordable homes and decent jobs, so a lot of the growth is welcome, but we also want to be listened to when the development plans are unreasonable. If our elected representatives are worried about why people don't trust politicians or engage in politics, they should try looking close to home.

A concerned resident (details supplied)

Sutton Bridge

I notice in the December issue of Sutton Courtenay News that the bridge over the Thames between Sutton Courtenay and Culham is referred to as Culham Bridge in several places. Please note that this bridge should correctly be referred to as Sutton Bridge. Culham Bridge crosses the Swift Ditch adjacent to the A415 at the west end of Culham village.

John Talbot

SUTTON COURTENAY WI



Have you made a New Year's resolution? Perhaps broaden your horizons and try new things? Your local WI could be the way forward.

The Women's Institute (WI) was formed in 1915 to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War. Since then the organisation's aims have broadened and the WI is now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK. The WI

currently has 212,000 members in around 6,600 WIs. The WI plays a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities. - See more at:

<http://www.thewi.org.uk/about-the-wi>

Your local group meets on the third Tuesday of each month in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall. Our meeting starts at 7.30pm. We are members of Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes: www.oxfordshirfedwi.co.uk and, as such, benefit from the many talks and trips organised by our enthusiastic Federation teams.

We are fortunate to have the WI's own Denman College situated close by in Marcham, where they have a cookery school and run many interesting courses: www.denman.org.uk.

We always welcome visitors to our meetings in Sutton Courtenay.

Forthcoming meetings include the following:

- 17 February: Talk - Land's End to John O'Groats - Daphne Samworth
- 17 March: - AGM with Pizza
- 21 April: - Talk - Antiques Roadshow - Simon Jones

Many thanks to everyone who supported our coffee morning in The Plough before Christmas. The generous donations of bric a brac and cakes raised £306.77 for our local charities.

The February lunch will be on the 12th at The Chilton Garden Centre.

Beryl Davies

SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

Our meeting in January saw us with Warren Fisher who has been with us once before. He held every ones attention with his sincere address and clairvoyance. Some new people came who are most welcome, and as usual our congregation was most co-operative and friendly. Next month, February 3rd, we have a speaker/medium who is fresh to us - Kerry Jones. She is very sincere and good. In March we have our old friend Tom Dodd.

Enquiries - Pat or Sam 01235 847460

Tues.	Feb.	3rd	7.30pm	Village Hall	Spiritual Fellowship Meeting with Kerry Jones
Tues.	March	3rd	7.30pm	Village Hall	Spiritual Fellowship Meeting with Tom Dodd.

NAG5 SAFETY CORNER

The Silver Line

There are many people who go for days without seeing or talking to anyone. They may be bereaved, isolated, house bound or caring for someone else. Friends or family may not live in the area or are perhaps no longer around. More than half of people over 75 live alone. Many can often feel lonely but are reluctant to ask for help.



The Silver Line is the UK's only free and confidential telephone helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people. And it's open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. The Silver Line team can offer friendship, someone to talk to and someone who cares. It can be as simple as a call in the morning to talk about the day ahead or a quick call in the evening before bed time. No question is too big nor any problem too small.

Call free on **0800 4 70 80 90** at any time of the day or night on any day of the year.

From a mobile call **0300 4 7 80 90** (charged at local rates).

Or visit the web site at <http://www.thesilverline.org.uk> for more information.

Cyclists

Pedestrians have reported that some cyclists are continuing to ride on the footpath over Sutton Bridge (often referred to as Culham Bridge), and at a dangerously fast speed. Cyclists have been observed riding very fast on the footpath in Harwell Road and in the High Street, some of them without any lights while cycling in the dark. The following are some of the legal requirements for cyclists. If a breach is witnessed the police can issue an on-the-spot fine.

- If used before sunrise, after sunset or in poor visibility bicycles must have, and use, fully operational front and rear lights. They must also have a red rear reflector.
- Riding a bicycle on a footpath is not permitted (with the exception of very young children).
- Obey a traffic sign or order (e.g. stop at the line when a traffic light is at red, or contra-flow to permitted traffic direction).
- Obey a signal from a police officer or traffic warden.
- Riding a bicycle under the influence of drink or drugs is not permitted.
- A bike is for one person only - passengers must not be carried by a cyclist.

For your own safety please wear head protection and ensure visibility to other road users.

Reporting breaches of HGV restrictions

Residents who wish to report a suspected breach of HGV regulations are asked to complete and submit the online form available on Oxfordshire Trading Standards web site by visiting <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/weight-restriction-orders>.

Residents who do not have internet access are requested to write to Trading Standards with details of the date, time and location of the incident, the town or district, the direction in which the vehicle was travelling, vehicle registration number, vehicle make and model, company name or any other distinguishing marks, plus their own name, address and telephone number. Please keep any notes as they may be required as evidence if the matter goes to court.

NAG5 SAFETY CORNER CONTINUED

Send the letter to: Oxfordshire Trading Standards Service, Graham Hill House, Electric Avenue, Ferry Hinksey Road, Oxford OX2 0BY. It is essential that any report submitted is in writing rather than verbally. Please also note that it is the police, rather than members of the public, who have the jurisdiction to stop vehicles and enquire about their destination.

Smartwater update

PCSO Sandra Syphas and members of NAG5/Neighbourhood Watch will continue to visit households in Drayton and Sutton Courtenay in the New Year. If you would like a Smartwater kit, available through Thames Valley Police at a much reduced price of £15, please phone the police on the non-emergency number 101, or contact NAG5 using the contact information below. More information is available on the Smartwater web site at <http://www.smartwater.com/> or call Smartwater on 0800 521 669.



Thames Valley Alert: Community Messaging

Thames Valley Alerts offer people who live and work in Oxfordshire the opportunity to receive messages with important information, crime alerts and witness appeals relating to their local area. The message alerts are sent by telephone, e-mail or text message. To register or for more information please see the web site at <https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/> or call 101.

Dogwatch and rural crime

Dogwatch circulates information about stolen dogs to the police, dog wardens and re-homing centres. Information is also circulated relating to vandals, poachers, thieves and snoopers in order to help to detect and prevent rural crime. For more information, or to sign up for Dogwatch alerts, please visit the website at <http://www.dogwatchalert.com/>.

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

PARENTS AND AMATEUR DRAMATISTS NEEDED!

Parents sought to start a Rainbows group (the pre-Brownie group for 5-7 year olds) in Sutton Courtenay or Drayton!

There is great demand for a new group, but volunteers are needed to make it happen. If this is something you feel you could do, please contact Mary Thompson at steventonrainbows@gmail.com

Drayton Players are planning their next play

We have an experienced director waiting in the wings and we are currently selecting a suitable comedy which will most appeal to our audiences. We would welcome some new talent in the group to perform in the next show.

During the past few years many families have settled in the area, and we would very much like to hear from anyone (all ages welcome) who would consider joining us in what is a really interesting pastime. You may feel that being on stage is not your favourite place, but that is just the tip of the iceberg, with all manner of backstage support equally important. Lighting, set building, sound, wardrobe, front and back of house..... The list is very long, and if you would like to fit into our team somewhere, please do contact us on 01235 821351, or email info@DraytonPlayers.org.uk

And look at the website www.DraytonPlayers.org.uk

Watch this space for more details soon.

Mike Davies – Chairman, Drayton Players.

HARWELL ROAD DEVELOPMENT

what's happening.... have your say

London Regeneration Limited

Land to the rear of Harwell Road, Sutton Courtenay:



Development Proposals:

At this stage it is envisaged that the development proposals for this land identified by Vale of White Horse District Council in their Local Plan as a potential housing site will be based on the following principles;

- Up to 180 homes including detached or semi-detached houses and some apartments
- Vehicular access designed in consultation with Oxford County Highways Authority to ensure safety and aide traffic flow in the area
- Public Open Space
- Enhancement of natural features & new opportunities for wildlife
- Significant landscaping providing lots more trees
- Enhancement of the rights of way and footpaths

PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT SUTTON COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL, OX14 4BB BETWEEN 12:30PM AND 5:30PM ON TUESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY AND BETWEEN 4:00 PM AND 8:30PM ON TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2015. REPRESENTATIVES OF LONDON REGENERATION LIMITED AND THEIR CONSULTANTS, WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE TO DISCUSS YOUR IDEAS AND THOUGHTS ABOUT PROPOSALS FOR THE SITE. A QUESTIONNAIRE AND FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE DAY OR CAN BE ACCESSED ONLINE AT [HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/S/B2CCY9G](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/B2CCY9G)

Saturday 7th March is the date of this year's

Q U I Z N I G H T

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

7.30 for 8.00 pm

Please note: Tickets required for this year's event at only £5.00

Available at Burgrey Stores (from 09.03.15) or by contact with fred.cabbage@btinternet.com 01235 848768 before 6th March.

Admission at the door is £7.50.

Tables of 6 maximum.

6 rounds including General Knowledge, Music, History etc. Prizes. Cash Bar

An event by the Friends of All Saints' to raise funds for the church fabric

ABINGDON CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Child contact procedures

Recent years have seen an increase in the number of people visiting the Citizens Advice Bureau after the breakdown of a marriage or a relationship.

Where children are involved, one issue that frequently arises is that the father is seeking the right to keep his child living with him, or the right to visit them. Fathers are often concerned that the judge will favour the children's mother and that hiring a lawyer to obtain a court order will be far too expensive. Going to court over your children is a last resort, as it is very costly and time-consuming.

If you are a separated father in this situation, the first recourse should be for you to come to an agreement with your partner about the care of your children. If this is not possible, the next step is to enlist the help of a local family mediation service in order to solve the dispute out of court. You must prove that you have considered mediation before you go to court, but this does not apply in some cases - e.g. if there has been domestic abuse. Legal aid is sometimes available to help pay for mediation, whereas it is not available for the court proceedings of private family law cases. You can find out more about the availability of legal aid for family mediation at www.familymediationhelpline.co.uk

Decisions reached with the mediation service are not legally binding, and mediation is not a substitute for legal advice. You will be encouraged to consult a solicitor during the mediation process to advise you on the personal consequences of your decisions.

At the end of mediation, the decisions you have reached can be used as the basis for a divorce settlement, or a legal separation agreement.

An unmarried father doesn't necessarily have the right to play a role in his child's future, even though he might be supporting them financially. This right will depend on whether he has "parental responsibility" for the child. Fathers who are named on their child's birth certificate (if it dates from 2003 or after) do have parental responsibility. Another way to obtain parental responsibility is to ask the court for an order.

If you want your children to live with you, you will need to apply for a residence order. If the children will be living with their mother, you will need to apply for a contact order. This will set out the kind of contact you will have with your children - for example how often you can see them or take them away on holiday. It can be a good idea to apply to the court for both a contact order and a parental responsibility order at the same time, if you don't already have parental responsibility.

If you are thinking of going to court to deal with arrangements for your children, you should consult an experienced adviser, which you can do for free at a Citizens Advice Bureau, or go to www.adviceguide.org.uk to find out more.



ED VAIZEY MP

As you are all no doubt aware, 2015 is the year of a General Election. In my constituency this is being held alongside elections for both South Oxfordshire and The Vale of White Horse District Councils and elections for many towns and parishes.

The way people register to vote is changing and it is very important that as many of you as possible have the chance to have your say at the ballot box. Individual Electoral registration (IER) is being implemented which requires each person to register to vote individually rather than by household. Residents who have automatically been re-registered on the electoral roll will have received a confirmation letter from the returning officer, and will not have to do anything more.

To try and increase the number of people registered to vote council staff will be visiting the homes of those who are not registered, or who have not sent back forms asking who lives at the property. These canvassers will always carry identification badges, so please ask to see them, and there is no need for them to enter your homes. You can register securely online by visiting www.gov.uk/yourvotematters or by contacting the shared elections office on 01235 540310.

Thursday May 7th (the date of the election) falls in a week with the May Day bank holiday on the Monday, so if you are planning to take this opportunity to go on holiday, please register for a postal vote as soon as possible.

As so many elections are taking place at the same time, counting the votes is being spread over several days. The General Election votes will be counted after polling stations close at 10pm on the night of 7th. District Council counts will take place on the afternoon of 8th and town and parish council counts on 9th. If you are interested in getting involved in any of these counts please contact elections@southandvale.gov.uk or telephone the phone number above.

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

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Here we are at the start of another year. Best wishes to everyone.

We had our first meeting on the 13th January 2015, which was a social one. Committee members prepared and served tea to all members present. Everyone said how they had enjoyed the afternoon. We had a 'Bring and Buy' table, which was well supported with lots of nice things to sell, given by members. Many thanks to them all.

Our next meeting will be on 10th February 2015, when we will have a talk by Shirley Wong for the Falls Prevention Service. Our meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 2pm. Visitors are very welcome at any of our meetings.

Rose Woodward (Secretary)

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

The NPPF and what's left of Localism

The fall-out from the 160 home Taylor Wimpey application in South Abingdon has had an enormous impact on the way that OCC Transport/Highway officers can argue traffic impact as a reason for refusing an application. The NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) states that the impact on traffic must be “severe” before traffic can be used to block an application. Various pieces of case law have demonstrated that unless traffic is at an almost complete and permanent standstill, it will not be deemed “severe” enough. This puts OCC officers, VWHDC officers and planning committee members under enormous pressure to overlook traffic implications in almost all cases. In short, the NPPF trumps almost all traffic considerations.

Much the same situation has now arisen over “safe routes to school” in the same South Abingdon application. After months of wrangling, the OCC Cabinet have agreed that arguments over the safety of proposed pedestrian crossings in Ock St and Marcham Rd in Abingdon are trumped by the NPPF pressure to allow housebuilding. In short, the NPPF trumps child and pedestrian safety.

The VWHDC Planning committee's decision to pass the latest iteration of the giant Warehouse on the edge of Sutton Courtenay because traffic impact is deemed to be “not severe enough”, air quality “not bad enough”, scale “not large enough” and cumulative impact of 500 odd houses + Didcot B + FCC recycling + Milton Park not large enough” to warrant refusal, is the latest example of the NPPF's enormous impact on planning. Indeed, one begins to wonder if planning committees have any room for manoeuvre at all. Faced with County and District Officer recommendations to accept applications, it seems that the financial risks are so great that refusal of large scale applications is all but impossible.

A select committee of MPs from all parties made recommendations to the Minister for Local Government broadly in support of the arguments above and that the NPPF was in need of modification. The Minister disagreed stating that he felt the NPPF was delivering housing and growth as it was designed to do, and there was no need to modify it.

So there we are. More houses, more jobs, more traffic, more growth and, under the NPPF, at almost any cost. The problem for our area is the very uneven dispersion of the population. 90% of population, along with the jobs and the traffic is crammed into about 5% of the available land. Abingdon, Didcot and all the villages in between are on the verge of merging. We may just about get away with our planned numbers and allocations for 2031, but heaven help us if we cannot find a better solution thereafter.

Politicians need to be starting a grown-up conversation on 2031 solutions now – not in 15 years - a conversation which allows the voice of Localism (so drowned by the NPPF) to be heard.

Sutton Courtenay Flooding issues

As a result of sustained pressure from a number of persistent (and well-informed) Sutton Courtenay residents, a site tour and meeting was held with OCC Planners and the EA to try to get some effective measures in place in time to limit the chances of a 2014 repeat flooding incident on the edge of the village. It very soon became apparent that the maps being used by FCC and the EA were not accurate (as argued by residents) and that this would mean a rapid revision of the FCC Flooding strategy and necessary immediate actions. Whilst we are still some way from a long-term strategy in which everyone can feel confident, OCC, the EA and FCC are very close to some immediate actions. All are aware of the need to get these in place quickly – and in the meantime, we hope that the elements will” lay off “for the few weeks it will take to happen. – More on this next month.

Richard Webber

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

01235 534001

<https://cllrrichardwebber.wordpress.com>

SUTTON COURTENAY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

Stick Man – adventures with sticks

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

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

No booking necessary - so just drop in. Picnics welcome. £4 donation / child

Get in touch

Email sceec@bbowt.org.uk

Tel 01235 862024

MILTON METHODIST CHURCH

Services each Sunday at 10.30:

- 1 Feb Mrs Boyer
- 8 Feb Service at St Blaise, Patronal Festival
- 15 Feb Mr Malcolm Newton
- 22 Feb Mr Stephen Atkinson

Weekday activities

Lunch club, 1st Tuesday of month, 3 February, speaker Mr Chris Caddy, talking about National Parks.

Ring Mary Hancock (848336) or Geoff Caudle (531409) to book a lunch, cost £3.50 payable on the day.

Knit and natter, 4th Tuesday, 10- 12, 27 January, 24 February, £1.50 to include refreshments

I was very pleased to take another consignment of 41 hats, 19 jerseys and 140 jersey and hat sets to the charity Knitone2save one in early December as well as six small blankets to the JR.

Art group, Friday afternoons 2-4.00, £2 to include refreshments.

Mostly members work on their own projects but occasionally we have a tutored session. Next tutored session: Friday 6 March. Tutor Sue Klemencic: drawing for landscape planting. Visitors welcome £10, start 1.30

Mary Hancock

Cornerstone's new Comedy Club offers a great opportunity to blast away the winter blues with a healthy dose of comedy from three of the latest hot names on the comedy circuit, plus an expert compere each month. Local lad Matt Richardson will compere on Thursday 5 February. Throw in some beer, a curry and a handful of your favourite mates and you've got a great night out.



Mother and daughter **Chris and Kellie While** are an outstanding folk music duo. Their exquisitely pure voices have that unique harmonising quality found only within close family partnerships. Self-accompanied on guitars they present a mix of self-penned material and imaginative interpretations of other singer-songwriters' compositions on Saturday 7 February.

Get ready for a superb evening of tassels, tease, comedy and cabaret, on Saturday 14 February, with **Missy Malone and Friends Burlesque Revue!** This glorious theatre show, widely regarded as the best of its kind currently touring the UK, is the perfect way to spend the evening on this special day. This Valentine's Day performance includes a special guest host and best dressed competition.

Families and children love our **Top Fun Sundays**. They're the perfect **Family Fun Day** out, offering rib-tickling children's shows, lots of great free activities to keep the little ones amused and delicious family food. What more could you want?!

Sunday 15 February brings **Shoe Kangaroo and The Big Bad Boot** for ages from 4+ years. Enjoy clowning, mime and beautifully crafted puppets in this fantastical journey.

Back by popular demand **Comedy Club 4 Kids** pays another visit to Cornerstone on Sunday 1 March. Top Fun Sunday cracking entertainment for everyone over 6 and under 400 years old as some of the best comedians from the UK circuit do what they do best...but without the rude bits!

Barb Jungr and her trio return to the songs of Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen with the release of her new album, *Hard Rain*. Often referred to as 'the politicised chansonnier', Barb turns to Bob Dylan's most politically hard-hitting songs along with Leonard Cohen's most impassioned songs of conscience. Catch her at Cornerstone on Saturday 21 February.

Steve Empson's 'Nature of Change' exhibition in the Cornerstone gallery runs until 1 March (free admission). Take a walk along the coast of North East England into the hinterland of the North Yorkshire Moors through the delicate palette of Steve Empson's work. His paintings are a closely observed record of both the forceful and gradual transformations of these natural and manmade environments.

Full details of the spring season programme can be found on the Cornerstone website at

<http://www.cornerstone-arts.org>, where online booking is available. Or call the Box Office on 01235 515144, open from 10am to 6pm Tuesday to Saturday and from 11am to 4pm on Sunday. (Closed Monday.)

BOULEVARD SWING

(Popular easy-listening Band who play music in jazz-swing style*)
are coming to Sutton Courtenay for the first time!!



*www.boulevardswingjazz.com

Saturday 7th February 2015

7.30pm All Saints' Church

Sutton Courtenay

Tickets £10

Advance tickets from Burgreys, Sutton Courtenay, Vickery, Drayton,
Steventon Co-op or by telephone **01235 848768**

Cash Bar and Interval Raffle

All proceeds towards disabled access in All Saints' Church

SUTTON COURTENAY OPEN GARDEN EVENT

Saturday 20th June

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

- **The 'Open Garden' concept is not new.** Events have been staged across the country in towns, villages and cities. They have helped in building a sense of community as well as attracting visitors from outside the locality.
- **'What's involved?'** Owners of homes with gardens (big or small, horticultural gems to basic courtyards, newly established or cottage gardens) are invited to participate for just one day (or two days at your discretion). It doesn't have to be a show garden! You don't have to be an expert!
- **'What is the commitment?'** To open up the garden for a minimum of 6 hours on 20 June with the owner or a representative present.
- **What happens?** Your garden will be listed in a programme. Cream teas/refreshments will be available at the Church, at least. You don't have to take any money yourself although there is the opportunity for you to sell plants/crafts/refreshment on your own initiative. You can retain any income or donate to a charity. The programme will highlight the Village's rich, unique heritage.

Join others to make an interesting garden trail throughout Sutton Courtenay.

Further details available from **Alison Budd (820942)** or **Lynne Cabbage (848768)**

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WEBSITE: theplumpuddingmilton.co.uk

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Wednesday night is Pie & Pint night

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Friday Nights

Order any Gourmet burger and get a free pint



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Valentines evening Saturday 14th February

3 course menu £25 p/p



Fresh fish Friday

2 x fish main courses, 1 x bottle of house wine red or white, every Friday from 6.30pm choose from 3 dishes every week, £27.00 for two people



NEW!! Tuesday and Wednesday evening – freshly prepared pizzas from £10 freshly made tomato sauce, homemade mozzarella, take away available

Lunchtime specials menu £8.95

Selection of dishes available Tuesday-Friday lunchtimes changes every week

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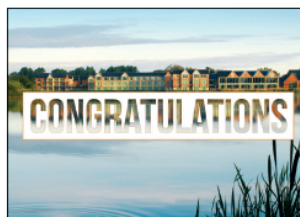
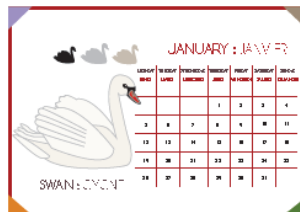
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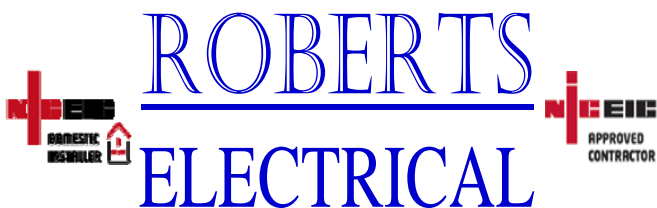
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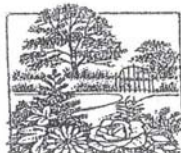
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