

# SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 44 NO.

MARCH 2015

## VILLAGE DIARY

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

March				
Sunday	1st	10.30am	Education Sunday Service	School (NO service in Church)
Tuesday	3rd	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tuesday	3rd	7.30pm	Spiritual Fellowship	Village Hall
Saturday	7th	7.30pm	Friends of All Saints' Quiz Night	Village Hall
Tuesday	10th	2pm	Women's Christian Fellowship	Church
Thursday	12th	7.30pm	WI	Village Hall
Saturday	14th	tba	Dementia Awareness Training	Church
Wednesday	18th		SCN COPY DEADLINE	
Friday	20th		Closing date for applications to Sutton Courtenay (National Power) Trust	
Sunday	22nd	7.30pm	All Saints' Singers Concert	Church
Tuesday	24th	7.30pm	SC Local History Society	Village Hall
Thursday	26th	10.30am	Coffee Shop and Booksale	Church
Saturday	28th	11am	Litter Pick	Village Hall

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 0800 71 46 14</b>

## VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

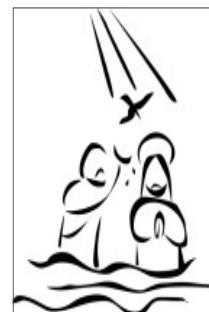
Various organisations have permanent bookings for use of the Village Hall on certain days of the week. Local individuals or organisations may nonetheless enter one-off bookings for events which clash with permanent bookings. **At least seven weeks notice must be given to Rita Atkinson (848694) or Caroline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

There were none in February



### HOLY BAPTISM

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

There were none in February

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

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

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### **Footpath alongside The Abbey – Cross Trees to the village green**

The Parish Council had received comments about the difficulty in walking this path. The footway is the responsibility of the County Council and it has been referred to that authority to investigate.



### **Didcot Volunteer Centre - Funding**

The Volunteer Centre operates a dedicated transport service for those unable to use public transport and have no access to private transport, by taking people to hospital, doctors, and on shopping trips etc. It serves the Sutton Courtenay area. The County Council is reviewing its grant funding of the centre, and the Parish Council has written in support of the continuation of this service, to ensure that local residents in need have access to the transport that they require.

### **Damascus – Litter Pick**

Parish Councillors have been invited to attend a litter pick organised by Damascus on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March starting at 11.00 a.m. at the village hall. Please would residents willing to help make a note of the date and time in your diaries.

### **Parish Council Elections May 2015**

It may seem a little early to consider elections in May, but the term of office for the current Councillors comes to an end in May. Elections for the Parish Council, should there be more candidates than seats, will be held at the same time as the General Election and District Council Election. Now is the time to begin to think about standing to serve the community.

The Parish Council has a wide, but limited, range of powers to provide and maintain a variety of important local services such as recreation facilities, bus shelters, open spaces etc, and it acts as a consultee for many issues. It has representatives on many local committees and it is a very busy time in a changing parish with much going on.

Further information about standing as a candidate and the requirements of office can be obtained from the clerk.

### **Planning Applications**

Owing to the fire at the offices of South Oxfordshire District Council no planning applications have been received for consideration.

However, lodged with the Vale of White Horse District Council, are enquiries from 3 developers as to whether an Environmental Impact Assessment would be required should they lodge planning applications for housing development at their respective sites. The enquiries relate to sites, North of the Appleford Road, East of Harwell Road, and off Hobbyhorse Lane (known as Sutton Courtenay East). The Parish Council is not a consultee in these enquiries, and it will be for the Vale of White Horse District Council to determine whether each of the circumstances meets the criteria for an impact assessment, as set down in planning legislation.

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd March, 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall, Frilsham Street.**

**Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham Tel: 01865 391833 or  
email: [info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk).**

## SUTTON COURTENAY (NATIONAL POWER) TRUST

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

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

### Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project



Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project  
Registered Charity 1098966

## Sutton Community Sweep

Come along and help keep your village clean

**11am on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

Meet at the Village Hall to be assigned areas and then regroup at 1pm for tea, coffee and butties.

Fun for all the Family

**Litter picks, high vis and gloves provided**

To help with catering please do let us know if you can join us  
Roxy 0787 564 9008 or Rita 848694



## SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

At Sutton Courtenay C of E Primary School we believe that the children should have a wide range of enriching experiences to enhance their education and broaden their horizons.

For the fifth year, the school has taken a large choir of around 40 children to the London O2 Arena to perform as part of the Young Voices choir. This is the largest mass choir event in the world with 7500 children forming the choir.



Rehearsals for this fantastic event start in September – as we need this time to perfect the wide-ranging songs and learn the choreography before performing in January! Nothing can prepare you for the sound of thousands of children singing in harmony. Young Voices combines the power of singing together as one, with accompaniment from a wide range of musicians and artists, to create an amazing performance.

Over the years the children in the choir have performed with artists such as Alexandra Burke, Joss Stone and Gary Barlow, as well as raising over one million pounds for Children's charities such as CLIC Sargent.

With a full live band, backing singers and the internationally acclaimed conductor David Lawrence, it makes for one of the most exciting and memorable musical experiences you can imagine.

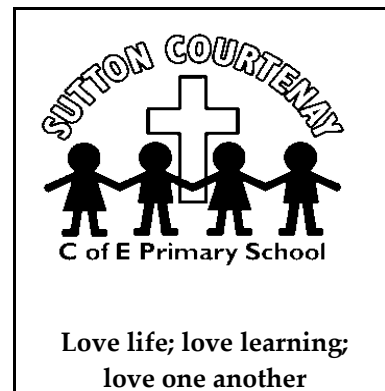
As well as the children singing, they are treated to performances from a wide range of talented artists and also wowed by a street dance group called Urban Strides. We have also had the choreographer, Andy Instone as one of the guest artists, run workshops in our school in the past so that the whole school has benefitted.



It is hard work to learn the words off by heart as there are so many songs, and this year there was the added challenge of learning Mozart's Requiem (in Latin) and some songs that were in Swahili which formed part of a tribute to Nelson Mandela.

It is a wonderful experience that brings the joy of music to many. Most children sign up for this concert year after year, as do the parents. In fact the only ones that are disappointed are our Year 6 children who will not be able to join us in the following year as they are moving on to secondary school! Please do visit our website and look at the gallery for photographs of this event.

**EDITORS' NOTE: Don't forget to visit the village website [w2suttoncourtenay.co.uk](http://w2suttoncourtenay.co.uk) where you'll be able to view these pictures and all other illustrations in colour.**



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](mailto:Helen@kendricks.fsnet.co.uk)

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

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

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

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

### MONTHLY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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

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

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

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

Wednesday: BCP Holy Communion at 9.45am

### From the Ministry Team...

#### Why not become a Pilgrim in Lent?

On Wednesday afternoons from 2-4.30pm in The Vicarage (3 Tullis Close, Sutton Courtenay) we are running a six-week Lent Course for anyone interested in exploring the Christian Faith.

The sessions will run on the following Wednesdays 25<sup>th</sup> February; 4<sup>th</sup> March; 11<sup>th</sup> March; 18<sup>th</sup> March; 25<sup>th</sup> March; 1<sup>st</sup> April

Pilgrim is a major new teaching and discipleship resource from the Church of England. It aims to help every local church create a place where people can explore the Christian faith together and see how it can be lived out each day.

Pilgrim takes a different approach to other Christian programmes. It approaches the great issues of faith not through persuasion, but participation in a pattern of contemplation and discussion with a group of fellow travellers – wherever you may be on the journey.

For more information please contact The Reverend Tim Hewes: 07771 880117 or Tim Budd 820942 or e-mail [helen@kendricks.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:helen@kendricks.fsnet.co.uk) for more information.



A COURSE FOR THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

With love and prayers, Helen

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

### EDUCATION SUNDAY – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015

#### DISCOVERING WHO YOU ARE

**Family Service at 10.30am**

Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School

ALL WELCOME

***NB NO SERVICE IN CHURCH***

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

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April** – 12noon-3pm - Launch of Fundraising Appeal for the Community Heritage Room and new toilet & kitchen facilities with **Sir Roy Strong** (historian, gardener and diarist, author amongst many books of 'A Little History of the English Country Church) who will be giving a short talk on "Church Adaptation Then and Now". Tickets for this event (£15 for adults/ £5 for children to include a buffet lunch) on sale from Burgreys or contact Rev Helen Kendrick 01235 848297 or David McKenzie 01235 847489

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May** – St James' Singers in SC

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> / Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> June** – Lyra Concert in SC – the Russians return

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June** – Friends of All Saints' Garden Party

**20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> June** – Open Gardens & George Orwell Weekend

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!**



**At Easter we provide an opportunity to remember loved ones with a display of lilies in church. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of this year's Easter lilies in memory of a loved one, please put your donation in an envelope and write on the front the name(s) of the person(s) you wish to remember and deliver it to Ann White (24 Frilsham Street). A list of those remembered will be on display in Church.**

**Many thanks.**

**COFFEE SHOP & BOOK SALE**

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

**10.30am-12noon**



**All Saints' Church**

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

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CONTINUED

### CHURCH DIARY FOR MARCH

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>** – 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 2<sup>nd</sup>** – 8pm Baptism Preparation in All Saints' Church for all parents wishing to have their children baptised

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>** – 2.30pm Lent Group at the Vicarage

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>** – Friends of All Saints' Church Quiz Night

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>** – 2pm Women's Christian Fellowship Easter Meditation in All Saints' Church led by Helen Kendrick

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>** – 2.30pm Lent Group at the Vicarage

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>** – Dementia Awareness Training in All Saints' Church – all welcome – more details coming soon

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>** - 2.30pm Lent Group at the Vicarage

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>** - 2.30pm Lent Group at the Vicarage

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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' Singers' Concert

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>** – PALM SUNDAY – Meet at 10am at Tullis Close to walk with the donkey to the church for our Palm Sunday Service at 10.30am.

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup>** – 7.30pm-8.15pm – Reflection for Holy Week

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>** - 7.30pm-8.15pm – Reflection for Holy Week

### CHURCH DIARY FOR APRIL

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>** - 2.30pm Lent Group at the Vicarage. 7.30pm-8.15pm – Reflection for Holy Week

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>** – 7.30pm MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER with Communion (to help with catering please sign list at back of church)

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – GOOD FRIDAY – 10.30am Hot Cross Bun Family Service. 12 noon Holy Hour Reflection.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>** –from 9.30am Church Spring Clean – many hands make light work so please come and help if you can!  
8pm-9pm Easter Vigil Service.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>** – 10.30am Parish Eucharist (with Junior Church Easter Egg Hunt for children)

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>** – Launch of Fundraising Appeal



## 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:

DOREEN ROSEMARY JOHNSON (who died aged 91 on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2015) was born on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1923. Brought up by her mother and maternal grandparents she had a happy childhood with her brother Peter, and sister Wendy. Determined to do well for herself, she won a scholarship to the Godolphin and Latimer School. She was very proud of this but really enjoyed the sports more than the academic side of life. When the war came she was evacuated to Newbury, where she met her future husband David. A great partnership developed - David's adventurous, capable and dependable qualities combined with Doreen's overwhelming love of life. She trusted him to take her to Africa where they lived quite basically in the early years, with a massive lump of ice for a fridge and wooden stoves to cook on. She launched herself into her new life, and together they made Africa their home for over thirty years. They went onto have three children Sue, Chris and Wendy. Together Doreen and David led a very busy life with their growing family which involved lots of socializing and Doreen became a wonderful hostess. The family moved to America from Zambia - and found life very different; as if they had moved from the slow lane into the fast lane. David's job took him away travelling and soon after arriving in the US, Doreen had to learn to drive; she chose a massive American station wagon with snow tyres to cope with the five - six inches of snow that came in Winter. She was always very good at adapting and facing up to life's challenges. David and Doreen retired to Scotland but David died of a stroke in 1998 and after six months, Doreen decided to move to Sutton Courtenay. She soon built a new life for herself with her family and her pets around her, making friends quickly and was a very positive influence on her grandchildren. When Doreen first came to the village, she lived in Long Barn next door to Cocky the cockatoo, who belonged to Nancy and Virginia, and Doreen decided that the cockatoo needed to get some exercise out of his cage; there were many occasions when her family was called to bring a ladder to get Cocky down from the top of an apple tree. She became a loyal and faithful member of the worshipping community of All Saints and was a generous provider of refreshments - willingly baking cakes or making the most perfect sandwiches for any occasion. She was a steadfast member of the Women's Christian Fellowship - attending every meeting she could and running the raffle stall for many years. She loved being a 'welcomer' at services, greeting everyone with a warm smile, and was very frustrated when her legs stopped working and she could no longer help as she wished. She loved animals and had a series of dogs, cats, and chickens. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends who gathered for her funeral in All Saints' on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015. *This is an edited extract from the address given by the Reverend Helen Kendrick at the service.*

EMILY JAMES known as Emma (died aged 77 on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2015) was the oldest child of Emma and Joby Loveridge, and was born in Staines. She spent her early years travelling around the country with her Mum and Dad following the harvest and going where the work was. Over the years the family grew with the arrival of her sisters, Joan, Sally and Dolly. Emma, as the eldest, was always in charge and would tell them what to do. In the summer months they would spend time at Evesham, picking fruit and planting vegetables, and her sisters remember Emma driving a tractor and towing them behind her planting vegetables. After travelling they came and settled down at her grandparents bungalow in Sutton Courtenay. The girls and their cousins used to run through the hedge to get to Mathews Flower and Fruit and Veg Shop and help themselves to the apples! The family moved from Sutton Courtenay to Berinsfield in the 1950s - into a former air force hut - before they were given the house on Fane Drive. From being a young child Emma was always a hard worker and as she grew up she would work with her Dad, Joby, scrapping and clearing out the Jumble Sales. She would spend hours sorting through the rags and shoes. When her sister, Sally, married in 1972, Emma would go scrapping with Andrew and they would travel all over the country - from Birmingham to Blackpool - three or four times a year. One day she turned up in Richard Mathews shop asking if he would take her to Covent Garden. He did and from then on she ran a Flower Stall in the layby on the Oxford-Reading Road near Notcutts. She became a very familiar sight to many drivers who would stop and buy, not only flowers, but pickles and logs as well. She was never idle and - if not working - spent her time keeping her house immaculate. She could turn her hand to anything. She loved dogs - and was known to have driven all the way to Wales for one. Emma was stubborn and set in her own ways. She always knew her own mind and no one could make her do anything she didn't want to do. Over the years she also proved to be tough and resilient, coping with the ups and downs of life but she also had a heart of gold. She and John were married in Wheatley in 1979 and they became a family with step-son John. She had a good sense of humour and liked to laugh - particularly at the old favourites on TV. In the last few years the great delight of Emma's life was her great-nephew - Jack. In recent years ill-health came to dominate her life - but she still remained independent and stubborn - refusing to give up smoking even when she was put onto oxygen. This stubbornness resulted in her blowing herself up - apparently she went up like a chimney and ended up with a blackened face and hair standing up on end but she wouldn't be told! She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends who filled the church for her funeral on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015. *This is an edited extract from the address given by the Reverend Helen Kendrick at the service.*

## SUTTON COURTENAY WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION APPEAL SUCCESS!



**THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed to this appeal. I am delighted to let you know that £13,475.26 has been raised and passed to the Parish Council.**

The total includes:

£332.00 from the proceeds of the Local History Society Publication of the Roll of Honour by Sarah Ward.

£1,150.59 from the children, staff and parents of Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School

£352.17 from the Remembrance Evening (with especial thanks to the DAMASCUS Youth Project and all those who took part)

£2,000.00 from the Vicar's Fun Day Fund

£500 from MEPC

£5,710.00 from the War Memorial Trust (thanks to the hard work of Rita Atkinson on behalf of the Parish Council)

And the rest in individual donations

The Sutton Courtenay National Power Trust have also agreed to set aside £5,000 for the project if necessary and the Parish Council are hopeful that work will begin on the restoration this summer so that we can look forward to a re-dedication of the Memorial and an opportunity to give thanks for the successful completion of the project taking place on Remembrance Sunday 2015.

*The Reverend Helen Kendrick*

## SUTTON COURTENAY WI



As we gather ourselves together after another fun day of dance, not the Tango this year, something a little different - Morris Men and the stick dance! - we wait for the daffodils to burst into flower and what do we have to look forward to in March? We have our Oxfordshire Federation Council meeting in Oxford Town Hall. One of the speakers is Lucy Worsley, TV Historian. Denman College is hosting a full day event entitled 'Modern Day Farming' with speakers Minette Batters and Neil Rowe; this proposes to be an informative and inspiring day.

The WI Golf Society (WIGS) is running competitions and also a Golf Taster Session at North Oxford Golf Club. There will be an Indoor Bowls Triples Day - Sutton Courtenay has won this lovely trophy previously. There are trips to Sudeley Castle and gardens and also a theatre trip running from the village to see Legally Blonde - both in May. Our meeting in March is our AGM and our lunch this month is on the 12<sup>th</sup> at The Swan.

As ever, we always welcome new members, and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next round of events.

Beryl Davies

## SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

On Tuesday February 3<sup>rd</sup> our advertised speaker/medium regrettably had to cancel, but Sharon Higginson, a village lady, gave us an excellent evening with a really good address and some fine clairvoyance. We are pleased to say she is with us again in December.

Enquiries - Pat or Sam 01235 847460

Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 7.30pm Village Hall. Spiritual Meeting with Tom Dodd

Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Village Hall. Spiritual Meeting with David Chapman.

### Having a Spring Clear-Out? Scouting for Bargains?

The Beavers and Cubs of the 26<sup>th</sup> Abingdon Scout Group are having a Nearly-New Sale on Saturday 18 April at 2-4pm in the Scout Hut, Sutton Courtenay. Everyone welcome! The money raised will buy new tents for the summer camp.



We are looking for donations of **good condition** children's books, toys and clothes (aged 5-15), bric-a-brac, raffle prizes and cakes. Please bring any items to 12 Tullis Close, SC or contact 01235 848932 for collection.

## NAG5 SAFETY CORNER

### Action Fraud

Is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and financially motivated cyber-crime. Run by the City of London Police, working alongside the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, this specialist team uses information from all reported fraud and cyber-crime cases to create alerts about new types of crime, or those which are increasing in severity.



Action Fraud is now working with the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network's Neighbourhood Alerts team in order to increase the distribution of fraud prevention alerts. Over the next few months these alerts will include information about the following common fraud and cyber-crimes:

- People calling to tell you there is an issue with your bank card, which they need to collect from you to fix the problem.
- Fraud committed by people selling event and entertainment tickets, weight-loss and teeth whitening drugs and selling vehicles online.
- Fraud committed by people who cold-call thousands of people in the UK in order to sell them an investment in shares or precious metals, or want them to invest their pensions.
- People pretending to be someone they are not in order to persuade your business to send money to a new bank account to pay for an invoice.
- Activities of cyber-criminals, who want to infect your computer or smartphone in order to steal your banking details or to 'lock' important files to prevent you from using or viewing them.
- Fraudsters who persuade people to pay a fee in advance of receiving a loan, which never materialises.



You can help to protect yourself by following the simple prevention advice provided in every Action Fraud alert sent by Neighbourhood Alert. To receive these alerts by telephone or by text message please call Neighbourhood Alert on **0115 9245517**. To sign up for e-mailed alerts please visit the Neighbourhood Alert website at <https://www.member-registration.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/20/join>.

If you believe you have been a victim of fraud or cyber-crime please report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visit the website at <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk>.

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

### PCSO Sandra Syphas

Many of you will know Sandra who can be frequently spotted cycling, in all weathers, round the village and interacting with the community right across the village, building a level of trust that allows them to approach her whenever they feel the need. She is well known and well liked in our community; she is especially good with young people who all respect her for her efforts in the community. Sandra has a good relationship with the elderly residents and will contact them even when off duty if they need it. She has been responsible for several initiatives and helping in the village school and community events.

In 2013, Sandra was chosen to be the 'PCSO of the year'

Sadly (for us) after eight years of sterling service to our community Sandra is now moving to the Eynsham Neighbourhood Team. Sandra lives in Eynsham and felt she couldn't let this opportunity go by.

She will be hugely missed but we wish her all the best for the future and thank her for her service.

Rita Atkinson  
NAG5

## USE OF FOOTPATHS

Over recent months there have been a number of reports of aggressive behaviour by cyclists to walkers using the designated Footpaths in the village. It should be remembered that cycles are not permitted on designated Footpaths only on designated Bridleways. Footpaths and Bridleways are defined as :-

**Footpath:** a public right of way with recorded rights for walkers. Waymarked with yellow arrows.

**Bridleway:** a public right of way with recorded rights for walkers, horse riders and cyclists. Waymarked with blue arrows.

In particular it should be noted that the path beside the weirs behind Church Street and from Churchmere Road alongside the Millennium Common are designated Footpaths and should not be used by cyclists.



Sandra Syphas

Police Community Support Officer

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

## QUIZ NIGHT

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

7.30 for 8.00 pm

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

Available at Burgrey Stores or by contact with [fred.cubbage@btinternet.com](mailto:fred.cubbage@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.

## SUTTON COURTENAY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Village Hall 7.30pm**

### **“THE HISTORY OF SALTERS STEAMERS”**

#### **Illustrated talk by Simon Wenham**

Many people will have enjoyed a leisurely trip on the River Thames on one of Salters steamers. The Thames boat firm, founded in 1858, and based at Folly Bridge in Oxford has an interesting history, not only for pleasure boating but for its role in wartime.

Simon Wenham's doctoral research was on the history of Salters steamers. He is now a research assistant and part-time tutor in history, gives talks about the Thames to different groups and is a regular contributor on Radio Oxford on local history.

\*\*\*\*\*

At the Society's meeting in January Bill King gave a comprehensive account of the Roman invasion of Britain and its colonisation. Before the Roman invasion Britain was a tribal society living in isolated hamlets with frequent raids between tribes. We learnt that this area would have been part of the Catuvellauni tribe which quickly and peacefully adapted to Roman rule and lifestyles. This explains why there are the remains of Roman villas in the area but no forts which were built in other parts of Britain where the Romans met with more resistance. A villa may have had a community of up to 100 people, and it is interesting to reflect on what the villa excavated in Sutton Courtenay would have been like.

Everyone welcome to meetings

Members free: Visitors £3

Information about the Society on website [sclhs.org.uk](http://sclhs.org.uk)

Mary Thompson

### **SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY**

## ***Vicar's Fun Day Tea Party***

### **2.30 – 5.00 pm on The Green**

Side stalls, Bouncy Castle and other Entertainment

**Preceded by**

***Vicar's Fun Day Bake-a-Thon***    Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

**If you wish to extend your baking skills join in with others to prepare for the  
Tea Party..... further details from Lynne Cabbage (01235) 848768**

## CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Oxfordshire Mind's specialist Benefits for Better Mental Health team give anyone with a mental health problem expert advice and guidance to help them navigate the complex benefits system.

Now the Oxfordshire Mind Benefits team are working more closely with Didcot/Henley Citizens Advice Bureau, as part of the Tap-In Advice Service across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse. David Bryceland, Oxfordshire Mind's Benefits Project Service Manager, explained what the team can do to help people having problems with their benefits:

"We often get people visiting our service who are very confused about the benefits system and who are worried that their current benefits could be taken away. Our team will work one-to-one with that person to give them a thorough 'benefits health check' to make sure they are claiming everything that they're entitled to. We can explain what the letters they receive actually mean and resolve any problems they might be experiencing. We can also help them complete the right forms and make difficult phone calls.

"As we work with people with mental health problems, we have a lot of experience in helping people apply for Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and Personal Independence Payments. We also have an excellent track record of winning appeals when people have been turned down for ESA."

The Benefits team will be working out of both the Didcot CAB and Henley CAB twice every month. Anyone who has a mental health problem and would like their advice should make an appointment by either contacting their local CAB or by ringing the Benefits for Better Mental Health hotline (Mondays to Thursdays, 10am to 1pm) on **01865 243585**.

In or around Henley, call Adviceline on **03 444 111 444** or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau, which is located at 32 Market Place, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2AH. For opening hours, see [www.caox.org.uk](http://www.caox.org.uk)



### Sutton Courtenay

## *OPEN GARDEN SATURDAY*

20<sup>th</sup> June

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

Several have already responded to the previous announcements. Just a commitment to open your garden to visitors for the day.

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

## ED VAIZEY MP

A subject which I know is close to the hearts of many of my constituents is Community Pubs. Since the Localism act brought in the right to bid, people across the country have nominated around 600 pubs which have then been listed as Assets of Community Value. These are assets – land and buildings –that are important to the community and have traditionally been used by the community. Once submitted if the asset comes up for sale a special window is opened to give the community the chance to buy the asset before it goes on the open market. Pubs have proved to be the most listed type of asset! By the end of March the Government is planning to bring forward more legislation so that in future when a pub is listed as an Asset of Community Value a planning application will be needed for a change of use or demolition. Any planning application will be considered in the light of national policy as well as Neighbourhood Plans. Hopefully this will lead to 1000's more of our most valuable pubs becoming Assets of Community Value and retain them at the heart of our communities.

Screening films is also another fantastic way to get communities and people from all walks of life together. A new project has been designed by the British Film institute and funded by the National Lottery to support groups launching and running their own Community Cinema. It aims to bring the cinema experience to more people across the UK particularly those who are unable to enjoy regular screenings because of social and economic reasons or simply because they live too far from the cinema. This project includes advice on how to actually start up a cinema, funding, licencing and how and where to book films. Details can be found at [www.neighbourhoodcinema.org.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodcinema.org.uk) it is well worth looking at if this is an idea which interests you and your friends and neighbours.

My mailbag this month has been dominated by the issue of mitochondrial donation, widely reported in the press under the headline “three-parent babies”. As you may know, the House of Commons voted to approve a new scientific technique that will help prevent mothers from passing on serious mitochondrial diseases to their children. Whilst I am very aware of the concerns that a number of constituents have raised with me in emails and letters, I think it is very important to note that thorough, scientific reviews have found no evidence that these techniques are at all unsafe. The scientific community has been clear in its support for the introduction of these regulations. Estimates show that 1 in 6,500 children born in the UK each year suffer from a serious mitochondrial DNA disorder. Parliament’s intention in approving these regulations is to ensure that mothers who carry damaged mitochondria can have children with the confidence that they will be born without the devastating and often deadly conditions that can be caused by serious mitochondrial disease. The approval of these regulations will be life-changing for those families who are affected by mitochondrial disease.

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. 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](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk) or sign up at [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com). Surgery details can be found at [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com)

Ed Vaizey MP



## COUNTY COUNCILOR'S REPORT

### Cost savings...

Two ideas are being seriously considered in an effort to wrestle the County's finances back into the black. The first is the suggestion that an Oxfordshire Unitary Council (one Council responsible for everything) would certainly save some money. How much money is arguable. There is evidence that Oxfordshire is probably too big to deliver all services. There is also the issue that the commissioned report into just how much money might be saved, itself cost the hard-up county some £40K. The idea has gone down like a lead balloon with all the District Councils who argue that their own, relatively healthy financial positions, would be jeopardized by such a move. It would surely have been more sensible to consult the Districts first before commissioning the report.

The second idea is to remove the post of Chief Executive from the County Payroll. It seems it is more than an idea as the CEO has already announced that she will be going in May. The Council is being told that her roll will be taken over by the Leader of the Council – this has not been agreed by the Council as yet and will be the background to a very stormy Council Budget meeting. The potential savings are considerable. The issue is whether it is right, appropriate or sensible to hand over the running of a near £1 billion turnover organization to a politician.

### Election reflection....

We may be angry or concerned at the state of democracy in this country, but spare a thought for the newly elected.

On May 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> all across the country, thousands of people will wake up to discover that they have become new Councillors or MPs. Some will see this as a just reward for weeks of canvassing and delivering. Some (in so-called "safe" seats – assuming such things still exist) will continue as normal. A few, who thought they were taking part simply to make up the numbers, will find themselves elected against all odds and now have obligations to people they hardly know.

The world of the new councillor is bewildering. There is no manual on what to do or what is expected of you. Everyone around you seems to speak a different language. Mrs X rings up to complain that next-door's parrot has just eaten her prize geraniums and what is the new Councillor going to do about it? The first unintelligible Council agenda, the size of a telephone directory, drops through the letter box. Mr Y emails to ask what is the new Councillor's position on sewage treatment and the NPPF?

Within a year you will either have gone mad, resigned or possibly, just possibly, become a truly great Councillor - fluent in council-speak, able to explain the SHMA to the man in the street, connecting the needy with those that can help them. Most probably, like the rest of us, the new councillor will have had many failures and one or two successes, and, like rabbit golfers, only remember the storming 5 iron hit on the 7<sup>th</sup> last year, conveniently forgetting the 6 strokes before and the two after.

Local politics is just like life – full of good and bad, success and failure. Please remember that whatever party he/she may represent, your new councillor is more than likely to be doing his/her best.

It may be that national politics is different, but I doubt it.

Richard Webber Cllr

Sutton Courtenay & Marcham Division

***Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com***

01235 534001

***cllrrichardwebber.wordpress.com***

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

### Vale of White Horse Local Plan

As your elected Vale district councillor, I thought villagers might like to know the two suggestions I have formally made to the Inspector.

Those of you with long memories may recollect that Halcro produced a plan for Abingdon traffic known as Abits. The most localised part of Abits is what we now have as the central Abingdon traffic scheme, but Halcro also added a further section saying that if we really wanted to solve Abingdon traffic congestion, we needed a complete ring road round the town and that would involve three bridges. Those of us who sit in rush hour queues on Culham or even Clifton Hampden bridges will not need much persuasion of the need for a new additional bridge in our locality.

Of course in the present economic climate no one expects the Government to go round building new bridges however desirable; bridges are very expensive items, but some bridge near Culham bridge will have to come one day and for that reason a proposal for it is included in the long term aspect of the local plan. The plan indicates a bridge further down stream towards Clifton Hampden, but the fields round there flood and building up a long anti-flood raised approach road would add a huge amount to the total cost. I recall discussion about this about a decade ago as part of the expansion of Didcot plans, and some argued that we needed a major new road to link up with the M40 at the 3 Pigeons.

That may or may not be good idea, but I have suggested an alternative river crossing be included in the plan so that different ideas can be considered. Remember that FCC have agreed to vacate their site by 2030, and they had earlier promised to do that long before that date. When FCC go, there will be a number of what I gather are technically bridleways which FCC, Hanson and their customers regularly use. These will become redundant and though they are currently private roads not made up to public road standards, there will be a lot of basic roads leading north out of Didcot perimeter road, and the Hanson gated road exit at the edge of Sutton Courtenay will be available. I think those roads should become full public roads, and the Hanson gate should be the starting point of a bridge a few yards down stream of the existing Culham bridge, and this option if adopted at some future date would take traffic across the Thames up to somewhere near the Waggon & Horses to join the Dorchester road.

I believe there are two main advantages of this new bridge route: much saving of money and using the existing redundant private roads. A new bridge in the Long Wittenham area would involve a long built up approach road, very costly. A second Culham bridge would be much cheaper as the Thames is narrower and the land on either side higher, so the bridge span and approach road costs would be less. I would be glad to know what readers think of the options.

My second suggestion to the local Vale of White Horse Plan

Everyone now knows that a large portion of the Didcot A station site has been sold to developers, and the developers have held an exhibition to explain their plans. Many of us have grown more and more alarmed at seeing green field after green field being devoured by developers, and I must confess that I often wonder just how many of these permitted house will actually be built, and if they are, whether people can afford them. We shall see on that, but the Didcot A site is wholly different. Since it is already an established brown field site, and brownfield sites are pretty rare in this area, so I welcome the redevelopment of this site with mixed shops, houses, offices and warehouses.

But I have two worries, which I could not put in any detail to the Local Plan as the developers ideas were not made known till after the Local Plan comment deadline. But I did express my worry to the Inspector in general terms because I fear all this rush to build vast numbers of houses could very easily mean that an expanding Didcot would swallow up and urbanise a lot of adjacent villages: Long Wittenham, Appleford, Sutton Courtenay, Milton, and Harwell, and probably also other villages on the southern side of Didcot eg Hagbournes but they are not in the Vale. This RWE site is mainly like the Power Station itself[despite its name] in Sutton Courtenay with only a very small corner in Didcot. An urbanised Didcotisation would destroy local villages, and in my book that is to be avoided. We must have, and keep, clear green spaces between Didcot and surrounding villages.

Now that they are public I have studied the new plans for this site, and on the whole I welcome them. There is some greenery and trees at the Didcot end, and I welcome that. But I have put one suggestion to the developers, namely that they replace their hotel with blocks of less expensive small one and two bedroom flats, perhaps 5 or 6 stories high. I am not against hotels, and there is a shortage of hotels in the locality, but others are building more hotels including one by the station, and another just outside Didcot the other end on Milton Park.

My concern is for those who cannot afford green field site expensive if nice village houses: young single people, small families, elderly who have downsized, and others especially those on lower incomes. Those who work in all the Didcot warehouses will never be able to afford what a high flying Harwell scientist or a Milton Park entrepreneur can. Economics are squeezing out affordable homes, and I think it behoves those of us who have nice village houses to remember those who can only afford less. My suggestion is to replace the proposed hotel with small flats to meet these needs.

*Gervase Duffield, your local Vale District Councillor*



## The All Saints' Singers Passiontide Concert

All Saints' Church Sunday March 22nd 7.30pm

### Requiem- Gabriel Fauré

We are pleased to announce the return of this great work.

Its moving sonority and subtlety of phrasing makes this work a delight to perform and of the many settings of the Requiem, this is probably the most widely loved by audiences everywhere. When compared with larger scale masterpieces, Fauré's setting seems gentle and unassuming, yet this quality of understatement is what gives it such universal appeal.

The soloist in this performance will be Anna Shackleton.

Other works in the concert are:

Durufié : Quatre Motets

Fauré : Salve Regina

Franck : Panis Angelicus

Fauré : Cantique de Jean Racine

Fauré : Pavanne op 50

Choir and orchestra directed by Gulliver Ralston

Tickets on sale at Burgrey Stores or by ringing **01235 848205**

## STEVENTON CHORAL SOCIETY

### MOZART REQUIEM

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, Steventon Choral Society will be singing Mozart Requiem in St. Michael & All Angels' Church, starting at 7.00 pm. Tickets cost £7 (children aged 12 and under free) and can be obtained on the door or in advance from Caroline Miller (01235 834015) or Trish Napper (01235 848292).

Soloists: Helen Pearce (soprano), Abby Evans (alto), Howard Feather (tenor), Leslie MacLeod-Miller (bass)  
Organist: Robert Thomas; Continuo: Val Cooper, Musical Director: Terry Pearce

Wine and nibbles will be available.

Trish Napper



## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### The reality of living next to a building site

Anyone who has visited the 'Earthquake experience' at the London Science Museum will know what it's like to wake up in Milton Road. The walls shake violently because of heavy, noisy machinery and BOTH sides of the road are affected. There is also the 'skidpan' experience because of the huge amounts of mud slewed across the road which the road sweeper struggles to clear (drains?). Heavy lorries carrying building materials trundle past throughout the day and, best of all, the site is so wet (as we warned them) that they have recently 'required' pumps to stay on 24 hours a day in order to continue building the houses, depriving many of us of much needed sleep.

While no-one would opt for a housing estate instead of a field at the rear of their garden, the houses are very close and parallel to our bungalows, looming over our gardens with rows of windows looking straight into our properties. The Vale of White Horse Planning Department could at least have insisted on them being arranged in a more sensitive way so that the houses were not placed in one long row.

Sadly, as Lesley Clements recently pointed out in the Sutton Courtenay News, there are more plans afoot for more building in the village and many more people will have to go through our experience. I would urge anyone to try as hard as they can to preserve their quality of life. However, again as Lesley mentioned, we made very reasonable objections to the Planning Department, raising all the possible issues resulting from allowing these applications to go forward.

I am extremely disappointed at the seemingly rash planning decisions being made by the Planning Department which are affecting our quality of life. Soon there will be hundreds more cars travelling through the village and it will never be the same again. Although we are in the 'front line' in Milton Road, all our issues affect the rest of the village too. I would also mention the access to the Pye development at the end of Milton Road. A huge cement lorry was parked outside the entrance recently and, observing the speed limit, but in poor light, we were suddenly confronted with it: it really is a hazard to traffic coming from the direction of Milton.

I am grateful to the Parish Council, especially Bill Hanks, who has listened to our issues and acted promptly upon them.

Nicki Broadbent

Milton Road

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### Who needs these houses?

I might be wrong, but I understand that the majority of people needing houses in this area are those who need affordable housing or social housing. Why is it, therefore, that of the likely thousand houses to be built in Sutton Courtenay, if plans are adhered to, only 100 houses will be "affordable" and 300 will be housing association? That means that 600 houses will be expensive, private housing. The balance does not really seem based on need!

The Pye building site is still a mixture of mountains of earth and large puddles which appear to be draining into the flooded, boggy part of the ditch making the footpath like a swamp! The incessant noise of engines and the clanking of the buckets as they try to unstick the mud is unbearable. Lorries full of cement seem to be arriving at very regular intervals, often causing hold ups of traffic and dangerous blind spots at the bend!

Finally I would like to apologise to the County Councillors for wrongly saying that they had approved the warehouse development..... it was actually the District Council who approved this monstrosity.

Lesley Clements

continued.....

**LETTERS TO THE EDITORS CONTINUED**

**The activities of FCC**

Having read Ed Vaizey’s piece in the February edition of SCN, where he reminded us all of the upcoming General Election, I was surprised to read in a re-cycling publication that he visited FCC on January 9th to open a new facility on that site.

Given the smells and flooding which this village has suffered from the activities of FCC I would have thought it was in our interests to know about further developments at the site and what implications these have for our quality of life. Who better to find out for us than our MP? But he has been strangely silent...

During the past year I have been forwarding my complaints about the negative impact of FCC on the quality of our lives in Sutton Courtenay to Mr Vaizey’s office- just as he recommends we do. I have many e-mails in reply from one of his assistants, assuring me that Mr Vaizey is taking a close interest and his staff are demanding information and action from FCC on our behalf.

Seeing him “cosying up” to the company in this way I now ask “how can we trust our politicians or government institutions (since the Environment Agency are so useless) to protect our interests?”

We need to be clear about the answer before we put any Xs on paper on May 7th.

Rita Twiston Davies

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**FURTHER COMMENT ON ‘ TO FRACK OR NOT TO FRACK’ .....DECEMBER ISSUE**

Arguments against using Fracked hydrocarbons to maintain Britain’s energy supply make fulsome assumptions on the potential and economics of using so called Green Energy; in particular it assumes Solar Heating, Photovoltaic Electricity and Wind power can offer a realistic substitute to the present hydrocarbon based U.K. energy supply.

*The short term answer is that Green Energy cannot achieve this.*

Much of the investment in Green Energy in Britain over the last ten years duplicates programmess used in Australia over 50 years ago. Australia has a unique insight because it is probably the only developed country *without* a national energy grid. It has therefore been forced to adopt alternative energy programs for many years, and learned some lessons.

**WIND FARM PROBLEMS – STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE**

\* Wind power is economically useless on a large scale without a viable storage system.....and in Britain most if not all Wind Farms have no means of storage. Until this is tackled widespread investment in Wind power is a political folly...perhaps one among many.

In Australia most windmills used over the last 100 years have used pumped water storage to balance the demand and supply fluctuations of these systems.

\* Wind generators are very maintenance intensive, yet maintenance costs are almost always excluded from promoter’s proposals for wind farms. Anyone visiting the Spanish coast between Tarifa and Gibraltar will immediately observe that up to 25 % of the large number of windmills located there are not operating due to bearing or gearbox failure or other maintenance problems. ( Geoffrey de Havilland partly solved this problem in the 1950’s by designing a hollow propeller windmill with holes in the propeller tips producing a substantial vacuum which was then fed to an air generator at ground level thereby drastically reducing bearing and gearbox maintenance loads.) continued.....

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS CONTINUED

### **SOLAR HEATING PROBLEMS –WHEN YOU NEED MOST HEAT- ITS WINTER SUN, AND COLD**

\* Even in Australia solar heating is a marginal investment, requiring long payback times to recover the initial investment ( typically 15 to 20 years). Sure you get lots of hot water...but hot water is only a small percentage of the average U.K. household energy cost. Solar heat for the big cost – central heating - requires a very large initial investment in a heat pump and a very well built and large property, with a very long payback. It simply doesn't work for a two bedroom semi or even a four bedroom detached house in the U.K.

In Britain the economics of solar heaters even for hot water are questionable. The exception is Passive Solar Heating built into a new house. Still the best Solar House I've ever seen had a south facing wall made of beer bottles containing water...a very efficient and economic solar system for central heating, but perhaps impractical for Sutton Courtenay High St.

### **SOLAR ELECTRICITY - PHOTOVOLTAICS HAVE LOW ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND...**

#### **A BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM.**

Photovoltaics convert less than 20% of the solar intake. They are expensive to install, are almost all made outside the U.K., and the current inverters used are unlikely to last the payback period required ( read your contract carefully on this component).

They therefore represent a questionable capital investment risk, a significant balance of payments problem if widely adopted, and most uses are highly regressive using subsidies from conventional electricity users to subsidise those able to afford the up front PV cost.

It is also questionable whether using farmland, where crop growing is a very efficient use of solar energy, for inefficient photovoltaic ' farms' makes any sense in Britain where arable land is scarce. Place them on buildings... or on waste land....but using farm land is daft.

#### **SO WHAT TO DO?**

\*Invest in Green Energy only if all the costs including maintenance and insurance are included. It's a mature industry and should stand on its merits.

\* Stop using regressive taxpayer funded subsidies to meet political targets .. a fool's game...there are better areas for energy investment.

\* On a national scale substituting Fracking gas for imported or deep mined coal is probably at least as green and better for the carbon problem than shipping wind and photovoltaic systems from far off China....and certainly we could use a reduced balance of payments.

\* For the average home saving energy using a growing range of conservation technologies, smart meters and thermostats, waste air and water exchange, air tightness testing, LED lighting and new glazing technology, floor and external wall insulation, energy monitoring....can all provide much better economies than solar energy collectors, and lower investment risk.

Above all Green Energy is never free and should stand on its own economics against the current mix of nuclear and hydrocarbons - unless there is a case for supporting U.K. jobs.

David Mckenzie

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## OTHER EVENTS NOTIFIED TO EDITORS

### **Family Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday 29th March 2015, 11am-2pm, The Plough, Long Wittenham**

The Long Wittenham Pre-School Family Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday 29th March 2015, at The Plough, Long Wittenham (by kind permission of Kim and Liam). Starting and finishing in The Plough garden, the Egg Hunt clues will take you down to Acklings Field (where we hold our Forest School) and back again. To complement the Egg Hunt there will be face painting, egg and spoon races, a raffle, tea and cake stall and more! £2.50 per child, adults are free. The Plough will be open serving delicious home-cooked food and country ales - please book early!

### **Nearly New Sale, Saturday 18th April 2015, 10am-12noon, Long Wittenham Village Hall**

Long Wittenham Pre-School is holding a Nearly New Sale of top quality baby and children's clothes (0-7 years), toys, games, equipment and maternity clothes on Saturday 18th April 2015, from 10-12 noon at Long Wittenham Village Hall. £1 entry (per adult, free for children). There will also be a cake sale of delicious homemade cakes and biscuits. Please remember that early birds always get the best bargains!

If you want to make some extra cash, support the Pre-School, and your house is full of baby and children's things (0-7 years) that are good as new, contact us for details about selling at the sale. Sellers will keep 70% of the sale price of all items sold. If you would like to donate items to be sold at the Nearly New Sale, please do get in touch and we may even be able to arrange collection!

For more information, please contact Claire by mailing [nearlynew@longwittenhampreschool.co.uk](mailto:nearlynew@longwittenhampreschool.co.uk).

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### **Annual Earth Trust Hedgelaying Competition**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 9.15am-4.30pm**

Come and take part in this friendly hedgelaying competition. Competitors will work in pairs and have five hours to lay 10 yards. Expert Clive Leeke will be on hand to provide advice and the top three pairs will win prizes! Free to enter (donations gratefully received) but please book: 01865 407792 or [admin@earthtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@earthtrust.org.uk).



### **Foraging and Calzone Pizza Making**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 10am-2pm**

Drop in and go foraging for some natural ingredients and turn them into a delicious calzone over the outdoor fire. £4 donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

### **Lambing Weekends**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> & Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 10am-4pm**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 10am-4pm**

Earth Trust's annual lambing weekends in partnership with Little Wittenham Lamb. Enjoy a day out on our working farm visiting the new spring lambs. Plenty of fun craft activities to also have a go at, and refreshments will be available. Don't forget your wellies! £6 adult, £3 child, £15 family, FREE for Earth Trust Friends.

### **Earth Trust Explorers: Clumps Club**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 9am-5pm**

Wild adventures for children aged 8-12 years! Join us for outdoor fun as we build dens, cook on the fire and make new friends. Easter-themed activities also included! £25 per child per day; booking essential: 01865 407792 or [admin@earthtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@earthtrust.org.uk).

### **Little Explorers**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 10am-11.30am**

Sensory buggy walk for babies and toddlers. We will use our senses to learn about the natural world around us - stopping to smell, touch, taste, listen and look! £4 donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.





**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

Evening Set Menu - 2 Courses £11.95

**Wednesday night is Pie & Pint night**

Choice of Steak & Ale , Chicken & Ham,  
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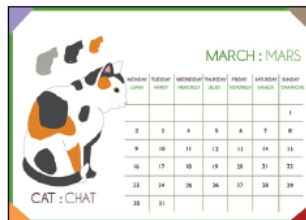
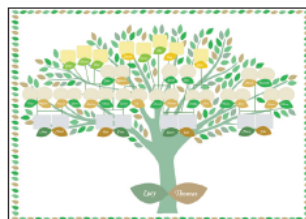
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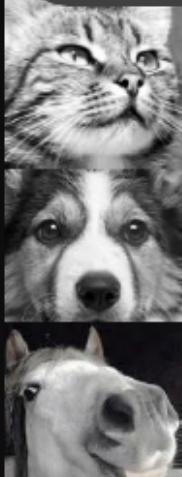
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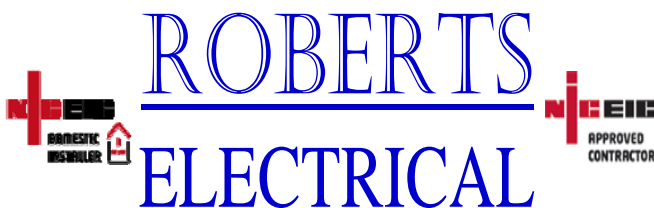
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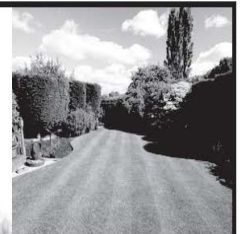
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When?	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> May Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> May Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> June Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> June Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> July

**Contact for more details and to book onto classes.**

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