

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 44 No. 3

APRIL 2015

VILLAGE DIARY

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



Happy
Easter



April				
Tue	7th	7.00pm	Annual Meeting of Parish	Village Hall
Tue	7th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tue	7th	7.30pm	Spiritual Fellowship	Village Hall
Tue	14th	2pm	Women's Christian Fellowship	Village Hall
Wed	15th		COPY DEADLINE SC NEWS	
Sat	18th	2- 4pm	Scouts Nearly New Sale	Scout Hut
Tue	21st	7.30pm	WI Meeting	Village Hall
Thur	23rd	10.30 - 12.00	Coffee and Cakes	Church
Sat	25th	8.30 -	Ladies' Breakfast	Church
Sat	25th		WI Coffee Morning	The Plough



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.

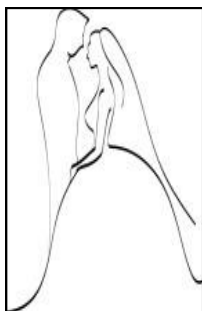
To advertise, e-mail advertising@suttoncourtenay.co.uk or telephone 07831-526784

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

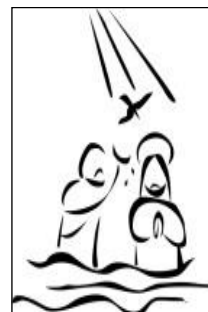
Various organisations have permanent bookings for use of the Village Hall on certain days of the week. Local individuals or organisations may nonetheless enter one-off bookings for events which clash with permanent bookings. **At least seven weeks notice must be given to Rita Atkinson (848694) or Caroline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

27th February 2015 Scott Allan BAILLIE & Teresa Jayne DRAPER.



HOLY BAPTISM

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

There were no baptisms in March

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

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Annual Meeting for Electors in the Parish

This meeting is not a Council meeting, but a public meeting of Local Government electors in Sutton Courtenay and an opportunity for electors in the parish to raise any items relating to parish matters.

This parish meeting may, by law, discuss all parish affairs and pass resolutions about them.

You are invited to take part.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th April 2015 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Frilsham Street.



Parish Council News

Parish Council Elections May 2015

Do you enjoy being involved in parish matters, listening and understanding the views of people in the community? Do you have time to spare to attend one meeting per month, plus serving on working parties and representing the Council at outside meetings. The Parish Council provides a focus for the community to identify concerns and projects and endeavor to solve them locally themselves. Training is available for new members. All councillors are expected to abide by a Code of Conduct including the registration and disclosure of interests.

There are lots of interesting things happening in the parish at the moment, so if you are interested in community issues, then consider putting yourself forward to serve on the Parish Council.

Further information about how to stand as a candidate and on the role of a Parish Councillor in general can be obtained from the clerk. Nomination packs are available to download at <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/local-democracy/elections/elections-2015/information-candidates-and-election-age> or a hard copy can be obtained from the Vale of White Horse District Council or the Clerk. Completed nomination papers have to be returned to the Vale of White Horse District Council at Old Abbey House, Abingdon by 4.00 p.m. on Thursday 9th April.

Vale of White Horse – Science Vale Area

The Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils are preparing a joint planning document containing specific planning policies, regarding the whole Science Vale area from Culham in the north to the Harwell Site in the South and from Didcot in the East across to Grove in the West. Sutton Courtenay sits in the middle of this, so will be greatly affected by whatever is decided for the area. The District Council is currently consulting on the scope and content of what should be in the final planning document. The Parish Council has formed a working party to look at the draft paperwork and will respond to the District Council shortly. Any member of the public too can submit comments to the Vale of White Horse until 5.00 p.m. on Friday 17th April. Information can be found at <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/science-vale>

Continued.....

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS CONTINUED

S. 106 agreements

These provide a formal legal mechanism to secure measures that help make development proposals acceptable in planning terms. From the developments within Sutton Courtenay

s. 106 agreements have been prepared or are in the course of preparation. Information as to the agreements already completed can be found at <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=Section106List>

To date £260,509 has been secured from developments in Sutton Courtenay for issues such as outdoor sport, social and healthcare, street signage, indoor sport, play areas, public art and police.

Planning Applications

P15/V0212/HH 2 storey side extension and relocation of single storey garage at 12 Southfield Drive. The Council had concerns regarding the general loss of amenity space and the location of the garage in regards to manoeuvring of vehicles in terms of access.

P14/V2362 Demolition of 74 and 78 Milton Road. Erection of 28 units, car parking, public open space and landscaping on Land north of Milton Road (Amended plans). This application represented an increase from 26 to 28 dwellings, and the Council reiterated its concerns on the previous application regarding the access, the accumulative effect of several developments within the village, vehicular increase, and drainage issues.

ROAR – Rural Oxfordshire Action Rally

The Parish Council has been advised of the ROAR group. See advertisement below. Those who have strong feelings about what is happening in planning and development in the area may wish to consider joining ROAR as individuals.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7th April, 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.

ROAR

Rural Oxfordshire Action Rally is an independent group of residents and action groups who want their views on unsustainable development to be heard loud and clear ...

So-called “sustainable development”, as enshrined in the NPPF, has created open season for speculative developers to target greenfield sites on an excessive scale and in inappropriate locations. Local authorities which cannot demonstrate 5 years' housing land supply are now vulnerable to having planning application refusals overturned at appeal based only on an untested and presumptive economic need, completely ignoring the social, infrastructure and environmental impacts. Sutton Courtenay is one of those areas about to double in size should all the current planning proposals go ahead.

This is NOT sustainable development and this is NOT localism.

Should you feel angry and upset about the lack of control at local level and what is happening in planning, then consider joining ROAR and come and attend the ROAR Rally to say “NO” to unsustainable development in Oxfordshire. The local rally is being held on Sunday 12th April at 11.00 a.m. in Wantage Market Square. All parliamentary candidates are being invited to speak and the public will have the opportunity to ask questions. For more information about ROAR see <http://www.roartoday.co.uk/>.

SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

A Green School.....

This school year, our caretaker, Richard Greenough, has been sharing his gardening knowledge with the children each week to develop our extensive school grounds. The school is now full of daffodils and crocuses with tulips just beginning to appear.

Mr Greenough wanted to further extend the project and develop our own allotment space and this is now taking shape. Within the allotment area we are going to have a greenhouse – but not just a normal one made with glass.

Ours will be special by being made out of plastic bottles! We need to have around 500 bottles to complete our bespoke greenhouse that Mr Greenough has planned and currently have around 200 – so if you do have any clean 2 litre plastic clear bottles that we can recycle, please bring them to us at school.



A Reading School.....

Would you like to make a difference? Do you have a love of reading? Would you like to share your enjoyment with our children as part of our Reading Volunteer Scheme?

If so Alison Bampton, our Reading Volunteer Co-ordinator would be delighted to hear from you. The Reading Volunteer Scheme has been a great success so far. Sharing a book with a child to build up reading for enjoyment is so crucial and unfortunately this does not always happen outside of school due to a huge number of reasons.



If you have any spare time (two 30-minute sessions each week, over a 10-week period) and would be interested in finding out more about this scheme, please contact Mrs Bampton at school. Our current volunteers are doing a fantastic job and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them. It is always lovely to welcome and see new people in our school.

A Community School.....

In February's edition of the Sutton Courtenay News there was a request for fundraising for an automated external defibrillator. The school has just purchased one and is happy to act as a community link for this important resource during term.

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

From the Ministry Team...

Why Easter will never go away

How do we make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man did rise? At the end of St Luke's Gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24.4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: "You crucified Jesus, but God raised him up!"

How did they know this? Because of experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord.

Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But of course each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal, perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So did they pretend they had seen Him? This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds. He recovered in the tomb, and escaped. The disciples nursed Him back to health. But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead, and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit.

If the disciples had been hiding Jesus, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Continued.....

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life-changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: "He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: 'Follow thou me', and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is."

Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter.

With love and prayers, Helen

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

CHURCH DIARY FOR APRIL

- **Wednesday 1st** - 2.30pm Lent Group at the Vicarage. 7.30pm-8.15pm – Reflection for Holy Week
- **Thursday 2nd** – 7.30pm MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER with Communion (to help with catering please sign list at back of church)
- **Friday 3rd** – GOOD FRIDAY – 10.30am Hot Cross Bun Family Service. 12 noon Holy Hour Reflection.
- **Saturday 4th** –from 9.30am Church Spring Clean – many hands make light work so please come and help if you can! Also plans for the church room extension and new toilet and kitchen facilities on display for questions and comments.
8pm-9pm Easter Vigil Service.
- **Sunday 5th** – 10.30am Parish Eucharist (with Junior Church Easter Egg Hunt for children)
- **Saturday 11th** – 3pm Wedding.
- **Sunday 12th** – 6pm Choral Evensong at Appleford (with Sutton Courtenay Church Choir) to pay tribute to Denis Gibbs, a long time resident of Appleford, who died earlier this year – all welcome.
- **Monday 13th** – 8pm Baptism Preparation Session in All Saints
- **Wednesday 15th** – 7.30pm Annual Parish Meeting. This is a joint meeting of those whose names are on the church electoral roll, together with 'persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a Register of Local Government Electors' Churchwardens Measure 2001 paragraph 5(1) and is held for the purpose of electing Churchwardens. Following straight on from the Annual Parish Meeting will be the Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 7.45pm. This is a meeting of those whose names are on the church electoral roll for the purposes of presenting the annual report and accounts for 2014 and for electing Parochial Church Council Members and Deanery Synod Representatives.
- **Saturday 18th** – Launch of Fundraising Appeal for the Church 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 Burgrey Stores or David McKenzie 01235 847489 or Helen Kendrick 01235 848297.
- **Thursday 23rd** – 10.30-12 noon Coffee & Cakes @ All Saints' Church

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CONTINUED

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

- 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.
- Sunday 24th May – 2.15pm – English Music Festival Concert by the Choral Group – Albion. 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. Tickets available via the English Music Festival website or on the door.
- 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!

SITUATION VACANT - Our Village Church of All Saints is a gem with a special atmosphere. It is thus because it has been maintained and preserved over the centuries by local voluntary labour. The building fabric is in good shape but like us all, it thrives on constant attention. The present Clerk of Works is retiring in the summer when the next phase of improvement is completed. Is there someone to replace him, someone who would enjoy the challenge and privilege of looking after this lovely building? Someone of a practical bent with an understanding of old buildings, woodwork and electrical installation? We have a network of professional advisers and contractors who know the building, but their work needs coordinating, arranging and managing to meet the needs of the Church community and the available finance. You do not necessarily have to be a member of the existing church community. The reward? Enormous satisfaction and the privilege of being trusted with the care of a building which will outlast all of us and be here in the centuries to come. Please contact the Reverend Helen Kendrick on 848297 or the Clerk of Works, David Knowles on 847903.

COFFEE SHOP & BOOK SALE

Thursday 23rd April

10.30am-12noon

All Saints' Church

REST IN PEACE

We send our condolences and the assurance of our prayers to the family and friends of the following people:

JUDITH ANNE MATHEWS (JUDY) who died, aged 63, on 17th February 2015. was born to Jack and Doreen Hartwright, in Abingdon on 15th August 1951, younger sister to her brother Clive. They were brought up together on Hill Farm in Appleford. She had a happy childhood, attending school in Long Wittenham and making many lifelong friends and learning the value of hard work from her parents at an early age. She loved riding and relished growing up in the countryside and the freedom life on the farm brought her. Bright and intelligent she won a scholarship to St Helen's in Abingdon. Although she was not always the model student, confessing in later life to having cheated on the compulsory cross-country runs by hiding in the porch of Shippon Church and then re-joining the race on the final circuit. She was always wise enough to join at the back and never at the front! She joined Abingdon Young Farmers at school and this was an interest she kept all her life, encouraging each of her children to join and supporting their activities in any way she could. She served as their President for four years. It was whilst she was still at school that she first met Richard when he drove to Hill Farm to collect the eggs to sell at his Dad's shop in Sutton Courtenay. For him it was love at first sight and he has always said he knew from that moment that Judy was the girl he was going to marry. They were married on 3rd April 1972. Lucy was born the following year, followed by Paul, Amy and finally Jack. Judy loved being a Mum and was immensely proud of her children and their achievements. She was supportive of them – as long as they were doing the right thing – and they always knew where the boundaries were. The only time they ever heard her shout was at the Young Farmer's Tug of War Competition!

Continued.....

Judy always offered open-house hospitality and visitors of all ages were always made most welcome. One of their friends described the Mathews home as full of 'magic and mayhem'. She loved to celebrate and enjoyed a good party – with family and friends gathered all around. On leaving school she worked for a short while at MAF in Marston and she also worked at Bennet House in Abingdon for a short while but her main career was in the family business. When Richard's father retired the business was split and Judy and Richard built the Flower business from scratch, both working long hours which often involved taking their babies to Covent Garden with them in the early hours of the morning. Judy got a book on how to make wreaths and wedding flowers and set about teaching herself all she needed to know. Through trial and error and sheer hard work she became an expert and professional florist. No request for any number of extraordinary flower arrangements ever defeated her. She loved people and through the business of the shop she knew what was going on in most people's lives in both our villages and beyond – when they were celebrating or when they were grieving. But whilst friendly and talkative she also knew when to be discrete. In all of this she worked in partnership with Richard. It is rare to find a couple who both live and work together 24 hours a day and for whom the bonds of love and affection were so obvious and so strong to all those privileged to have met them. Even with the pressures of running the business, over the years she and Richard had enjoyed holidays to all the Spanish Islands, to Australia and to Canada to visit cousins and they also enjoyed meeting regularly with friends at the local pubs; trips to the theatre; the Local History Society talks; the Easter Monday Point-to-Point at Lockinge and trips to Bath races and the all-important annual family trip to the seaside to celebrate her birthday. Judy worshipped in Appleford Church all her life and followed in her Mother's and Lucy's footsteps by serving on the PCC and then becoming Churchwarden. The whole Mathews family were involved in fundraising events – the Race Nights being particularly memorable – and in helping to maintain the church. She loved bringing her grandchildren to services and this is perhaps how I will remember her best – as a Grandma at the centre of her family. All the Mathews grandchildren are graduates of our Small Saints' Toddler Group and many times it was Judy who would bring them along. Memories of Judy singing 'Jesus love is very wonderful' surrounded by one or more of her grandchildren is something never to be forgotten. She will be greatly missed by Richard, her family and all her many friends and customers. Her funeral took place in Appleford Church on 2nd March 2015, with over 300 people inside and outside the church. *This is an edited extract of the address given at her funeral by the Reverend Helen Kendrick*

AUDREY PARTRIDGE was born in 1940, the second daughter of Cyril and Doreen Partridge. She grew up in the family home at 26 Appleford Road, Sutton Courtenay along with her elder sister, Sheila and younger siblings Sue and Les. Audrey attended Sutton Courtenay Primary School and her secondary schooling was at Boxhill in Abingdon. She spent these years in close friendship with Cousin Joan and was active in the brownies and guides. Audrey and Joan spent lots of time together and became known as the 'Partridge Girls'. Audrey left school at 15 to work as a Nanny for a family in Appleford and then moved to work for several retailers in Abingdon. Audrey married Michael at All Saints' Church in 1959. They initially lived in Bostock Road in Abingdon before moving to Sutton Courtenay where their son Paul grew up. Audrey worked at Nelritas, a ladies boutique just opposite the Crown and Thistle Hotel, and then at Fenwicks in Oxford, returned to Abingdon to Smiths the Chemist and finally worked for Hadleighs China and Glass in the Abingdon, Wantage and Witney Stores. Audrey was never shy to take the lead. She was involved in the Sutton Courtenay Wives Group and Paul has many memories from his childhood of the raucous laughter that would emanate from the lounge at the family home after the girls had been out for a meal. Audrey was also actively involved in the Sutton Courtenay slimming club. Audrey was of course a great lover of fashion and glamour and particularly the colour PINK. We all know that Audrey always looked immaculate with a particular love of shoes and handbags. In the mid 70's Audrey and Michael sadly parted and Audrey lived with Paul at Sadlers Court in Abingdon, where they were some of the first residents. Audrey soon became actively involved in the Residents Association and was always the first to welcome new neighbours with cards and a bunch of flowers. Audrey eventually met Jack and they formed a partnership that lasted for 40 years. Audrey and Jack had regular holidays to warmer parts of the world, and it was on these trips that Audrey developed her skills as a stage performer. She never took much persuading to take to the stage to perform in the latest musical productions put on by the hotel staff, especially if it meant dressing up in a Glam costume with the spotlights on her! Audrey always loved the water – swimming regularly at Radley College where she developed more friendships. She did have a rather unsuccessful attempt getting on a jetski on one summer holiday. And, as Jack was a commercial diver, Audrey had a try at scuba diving but didn't like going underwater - this was probably due to not wanting to mess up her hair! Having supported Paul when his first wife, Ashley died of cancer, Audrey was delighted when Paul and Emma married in 2011 and Audrey looked stunning on the day in her pink outfit. Audrey, in her usual thoughtful and caring way, had planned a surprise guest appearance of Paul's Greyhound, Beryl who had been re-homed with Anne Whitehead's family in Sutton Courtenay. Soon after, however, Audrey began to develop some symptoms of the disease to which she finally succumbed. Jack immediately dropped everything and has been with Audrey constantly providing care 24 hours a day for the last 3 years. She will be greatly missed by her son Paul, partner Jack and all her family and friends. *This is an edited extract of the address and tribute given at the funeral held in All Saints' Church on 12th March 2015.*

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Our meeting on the 10th March was our Easter Meditation and held in Church. It was a well attended meeting and all who came appreciated the peace and quiet while Helen was reading to us.

Our next meeting will be on the 14th April 2015 and will be a talk by Mrs Sandra Pike entitled 'Street Pastors in Abingdon'. It should be very interesting and will be held in the village hall at 2pm.

Visitors are very welcome at any of our meetings.

Rose Woodward (Secretary)

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH AND FACEBOOK

In a matter of only a very few years there is no escaping the impact of social media. National/regional television and press refer to it, even the local bus company notifies you to check its Facebook pages for special timetables during inclement weather. Not all social media is viewed favourably but it is not surprising that clubs and religious organisations as well as businesses should join the trend to maintain contact through this means. Many All Saints/All Saints' churches around the world have created their own Facebook pages. Our own Church started just over two years ago. At the end of 2014 the number of 'likes' exceeded 100. An extremely modest number compared with, say, All Saints Anglican Church of St Antonio with nearly 9.500 (but better than a few with the same name in the UK)! A regular posting of church/village related events are reaching a wider audience to not only local but also former residents, some living abroad.

A typical 'post' on www.facebook.com/pages/All-Saints-Church-Sutton-Courtenay (the means of accessing the pages for anyone unfamiliar with Facebook) reaches around 150 individuals. However when pictures of the demise of the Power Station towers was posted on the morning of the 27th July last year nearly 1,500 accessed the images due to others sharing the details. A general misunderstanding is that it is necessary to join Facebook in order to view the information. However, only existing members in their right can 'like' another page. At the moment all the pictures (including albums) are originated by the Church but it would be very good to feature other people's content, such as some wedding pictures, for example. There is already quite a record of Village activity to be found after only two years. If you have time you can also view what is going on at All Saints churches as far afield as Beverley Hills, Rome or Guyana too!

Fred Cabbage

Inviting all Ladies* (irrespective of whether you attend Church or have children at School)

Join us for the first breakfast of 2015

All Saints' Church is inviting you to a relaxing breakfast on
Saturday, 25th April 08.30-10.00

Good coffee, croissants, bacon rolls and a chat!

To book a place and venue details: Lynne Cabbage (848768) or complete the booking form in the Church.

*Strictly ladies only!



SUTTON COURTENAY WI



Our AGM this month was well attended and we enjoyed a brief talk from our Oxfordshire Digital Champion, who encouraged us to explore the WI MOODLE, our own training and resources website. It really does hold some fascinating information.

Our committee was appointed for the coming year and we were pleased to retain Ann Henderson as our President for another year.

A vote was taken and it was decided that our local charity for the past year should be Maggie's centre at The Churchill Hospital and a cheque

will be sent to them in due course.

In April we celebrate the arrival of our Centenary Baton to Oxfordshire. This has travelled the length and breadth of the UK accompanied by parties and celebrations. I am pleased to say that we will not be sporting our running shoes but as the baton reaches Abingdon on the 16th, there may be a few ladies lining the streets dressed as if it were 1915. Our lunch this month is at The Narrows in Abingdon on the 16th before the baton travels on the Salters steamer on to Oxford.

We have numerous interesting speakers visiting our county over the next couple of months: Lucy Worsley; Julie Summers; Isla St Clair; and Francis Benton. There are also day trips, rambles, golf, indoor bowls competitions and theatre trips.

We are also holding another coffee morning at The Plough on Saturday 25 April. There will be books, plants, bric-a-brac and of course our delicious cake stall. Please pop the date on your calendar, dust off your bicycles and bring the family.

April's meeting is on Tuesday 21st at 7.30pm at Sutton Courtenay Village Hall. Simon Jones will be speaking about his work as an auctioneer. As always, we welcome new members.

Beryl Davies

Coffee Morning

Sutton Courtenay WI will once again hold a cake and coffee morning on 25th April, by kind invitation of Pepe at the Plough.

NO entrance fee, coffee and cake, raffle, lots of books, bric a brac, plants, do come and see what we have on offer. The bar will be open from 11am to 1pm if you don't fancy coffee.

Plea for contributions

I need your books, plants, unwanted gifts, anything we can sell at the coffee morning. I can collect anything you donate, anytime. Last year we did very well, so let's do it again. Thank you.

Margaret Hamilton Tel 01235 847472

REMINDER

Sutton Courtenay Open Garden Saturday on 20th June

If you would like to take part ring

Alison Budd on 820942 or Lynne Cabbage on 848768

NAG5 SAFETY CORNER

You've won the lottery! Or have you...?

A lottery scam occurs when criminals pretend you've won a prize, often a lottery. Criminals will normally get in touch either by letter or e-mail and try to engage you in a dialogue. Once they've convinced you that they are 'genuine' they will ask for a fee to be paid to release your winnings. They may claim this fee is to pay taxes or duty or for a solicitor, banker or judge to authorise the transaction. No genuine lottery will ever ask for any sort of fee to be paid.

This first fee will often be small, but once they know you're willing to pay they will ask for more and more money, with ever-changing excuses as to why they need it. Victims can end up losing tens of thousands of pounds over the course of months, or even years.

You may be surprised that anyone could fall prey to such a scam when they haven't entered any lotteries. Why would they have to pay money when they're supposed to have won millions? The sad truth is that these criminals are incredibly persuasive and prey on people who are very trusting. Even if you know you would not be defrauded in this way, please spread the message to family, friends and neighbours.

Prevention:

- If you haven't entered a lottery or prize draw you haven't won one.
- Delete any e-mails which say you've won money or are in a position to make a fortune.
- Look out for unusual behaviour in anyone you know, e.g. someone paying money via money service bureaux such as Western Union or MoneyGram, or buying Ukash vouchers.

Never discuss your bank account with strangers

Fraudsters are targeting people by 'cold calling' them on the telephone.

1. They will state that they are from the Bank Fraud department, the police or other law enforcement.
2. They will say that fraud is being carried out on the victim's bank account and, that to prevent it, the victim should do any of the following: access their bank account online, hand over their pin numbers and bank cards to a courier/official sent to collect them, hand over money to a courier/official sent to collect it or transfer money to a 'safe' bank account that the fraudster will provide details of.
3. Victims will then be told that once the call is terminated they should check the caller's credentials by telephoning the 'fraud' number they may have on the reverse of their bank card, telephone their bank or even telephone the police to check that there is an investigation

Don't be fooled! **Do not make any more telephone calls** as the fraudster will not have terminated the call. The phone line will remain open and you will be telephoning them back without realising. They will then continue, with your assistance, to steal your money.

Protect yourself:

- Neither a bank nor the police will ever telephone you out of the blue to ask you to transfer money into another account or to ask you to hand over any money or bank cards. It's your money!
- The bank and police will never ask for personal bank account details or pin numbers over the phone.
- If you really want to check a caller's credentials go into your bank and speak to the bank manager, or use another phone to call the bank or the police.
- If you are still unsure go to a police station.
- **Never discuss your bank details with strangers who call you.**

If you, or anyone you know, feel they have been a victim of fraud or internet crime please report it by calling Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or report it via the website at <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk>



NAG5 SAFETY CORNER

Traffweb

This website is designed to provide basic injury collision, casualty and camera site information within the Thames Valley Police and Hampshire Police areas and is now available to the public. Current data covers the period from January 2011 to June 2014 with the remainder of 2014 data to be provided in the coming months. Search for the area you're interested in then, referring to the legend, click on the map for details. <http://www.tvphampshiretraffweb.co.uk>

Mobile speed camera van in Church Street, Sutton Courtenay

125 offenders were identified during 14 visits in 2014 and 23 offenders in the first two months of 2015 during 3 visits.

Smartwater update

Householders in Amey Close, Sutton Courtenay, have recently purchased Smartwater kits. If you would like to buy a kit, for £15, please call the non-emergency police number 101 or contact NAG5.



NAG5 can be contacted by calling 01235 848694 or e-mail neighbourhoodactiongroup5

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Do you have a problem getting your child to school on a school bus?

As one of your Parish councillors, I have been contacted by various parents in the village regarding the problems they are having with transport to Didcot and Abingdon. Where you live in the village seems to be a major issue for being entitled to a bus pass for your child. Some children have to pay for the pass, others are entitled to a free pass and some children are being told that walking or cycling to Didcot from Sutton Courtenay is perfectly acceptable!

I am amazed that with all the new homes being built and planned for the village and the local area, children getting to school is not a high priority. Do they realize the extra traffic that will be forced onto the roads if parents cannot get their child on a school bus?

I am interested to hear what you think about this and the information I receive will be reported back to Richard Webber, your local County councillor. Please contact me on bill.hanks1@btopenworld.com. I will be interested too see how many people are affected by this. Don't forget, if the buses are stopped it will be too late to do anything about it.

Thank you. Bill Hanks

SUNDAY 17th 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 16th 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

MILLENNIUM COMMON

Millennium Common is an area of land immediately to the south of the Amey Site in Appleford Road, that was formally handed over to Sutton Courtenay and Appleford villages by WRG (now FCC) in September 2001. It had been set up originally in December 1996 for an 80-year period as part of a Section 106 Undertaking involving both WRG and Hansons and with a grant from the latter.

The land is controlled by a Management Committee that meets twice a year (February and July) but is administered by Oxfordshire County Council. The overall management objectives for the Common are:-

- To manage it as a nature reserve with a diverse range of habitat types to support a wide range of plant and animal species; and
- To provide an open-access public open space for local residents.

The Common is reasonably well used by local residents for informal recreation purposes and occasional management work is undertaken by the Management Committee in order to keep the Common open and unobstructed.

The Committee is, however, aware that more could be made of the Common from a local amenity perspective and with that in mind we are looking to attract more local interest and encourage greater usage.

In order to achieve this there are two things we would like to :-

- Invite ideas as to possible uses/activities - obviously connected with the nature of Millennium Common as a nature reserve;
- Invite any local resident with an interest in the Common to come forward and either join the Committee or be prepared to help out at times with management/maintenance work, we are, for example, looking to attract somebody to take over as Secretary/Clerk to the Committee (only two meetings a year)

If there is anybody out there interested in getting involved in one way or another, I would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact me either on david@jcemmett.co.uk mobile 07764 894453 or 01235 847753.

David Hignell
Chairman

Having a Spring Clear-Out?

Scouting for Bargains?

The Beavers and Cubs of the 26th 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.



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Two whole pages last month each protesting about new housing problems; what shall we do?

- First, let me make clear my own position as your District councillor. I think Nicki Broadbent, Lesley Clements and Robin Draper all know that I have opposed the oppressive invasion of houses on greenfield sites, and also that warehouse. I have helped folk organise against them, I have spoken against them, and voted against them where I had opportunity. I am considerably less opposed to houses on brownfield sites (in our area Ameys and Didcot A station) because we have to have some houses. So my position is clear, but what can we do?
- Second, both main political parties are committed to even more housebuilding, so whether we like it or not, we are going to get a lot more houses pushed at us.
- Third, building sites. Well no one would choose to live next to one. Some things can be controlled by the Vale, and should be reported. Others are unpleasant but alas necessary. I recall when I was building our library in Appleford we had to run pumps solidly for nearly 3 days and nights. I did not like it and I am sure my neighbours felt the same, but the water table was high the drains were low, so we had to do it. A friendly approach to the site foreman might help. He knows his men, and it is not in his interests to fight all the locals. But I fear we all have to put up with some building site disturbance.
- Fourth, we need to be in touch with other larger parishes facing similar problems and there are plenty such. We are more likely to be influential if we work together than just protest on our own. We need to coordinate pressure on Vale planners, and Government, via our MPs and others with clout.
- Fifth, there are also practical things we can each do locally; how many readers know that at every planning committee meeting, nowadays fortnightly, the agenda contains [usually on the second page] two items. 'Statements & Petitions from the public on planning applications' and next item 'Statements, petitions and questions from the public on other matters.' Anyone can do this, you do not have to make any great speech, but you do need to check Vale standing orders and it is probably wise to get advice from the parish council chairman or a Vale councillor like me. The other thing to say is, Don't be frightened by the word petition; it does not mean some vast number of signatures. In this context one or two folk can present a petition.

Just ask yourself what might be the effect of petitions and questions every planning committee from all over the Vale. But alas few know their rights in this matter, and even fewer use them. If you feel strongly act, but do so advisedly and know your case, and if possible make constructive counterproposals. I think that is much more likely to gain influence. We are not going to win everything immediately but I believe we can have a cumulative influence over time, and we are only utilising our democratic rights. And parallel rights exist at Vale Council meetings also.

Gervase Duffield, your Vale District Councillor.

ED VAIZEY MP

As the General Election looms I have been reflecting on what an honour it has been to serve the Wantage and Didcot constituency over the past ten years. One of the most fantastic aspects of my role as your MP is meeting so many dedicated volunteers and getting involved in some of the many great causes in the constituency.

I am incredibly proud to have become president of SUDEP Action, a charity based in Wantage, which is working towards the prevention of sudden unexpected death in epilepsy. This charity was set up by local resident Jane Hanna and provides information and a support network for the bereaved. Last month there was an important Parliamentary debate which called on the Government to address major issues facing people with epilepsy and resulted in a commitment from the Government and MP's to do all they could to raise awareness of the risks associated with epilepsy by "red-flagging" those at increased risk of fatality. They also pledged to try to reduce avoidable epilepsy related deaths.

Friends of OSCAR is a national charity, based in Didcot, of which I am also a recent patron. This charity helps children, and their families, when they are diagnosed with brain or spinal tumours. I recently attended the launch of a bag of essential items, such as toothpaste and overnight necessities, given to parents when they arrive at hospital often without time to pack. This is one of the many ways the charity supports families at such a traumatic time.

Another very worthy cause that I have recently become involved in is Mission Motorsport. The aim of this national charity, based near Wantage is to aid the recovery and rehabilitation of those affected by military operations, by providing opportunities through Motorsport. Not only do they provide a support network but focus on training and direct vocational skills to help those affected to get back into the workplace.

These are just a few examples of the many good causes I have encountered and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who volunteers and helps to make this constituency such a wonderful place to live.

This month I have received letters and emails on a wide range of topics including protecting the wildlife, dementia and beer duty. However, the issue I received most correspondence on, some 100 plus emails, relates to concerns over the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). I believe the agreement does not carry the risks that some have put forward, and I am reassured that as Parliament will scrutinise the proposals and ultimately has the final veto power, a final agreement will only be reached if it is in the United Kingdom's interests.

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.

Ed Vaizey

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The problem for the poor, cash-strapped County Council is that much of the infrastructure requirement and costs resulting from all the growth going in the County falls on them. Even "New Homes Bonus" (the Government's incentive to get more building going) goes 80% to District Councils and only 20% to the County. As a result, the Districts are relatively wealthy whilst the OCC budget grows a little more desperate each year. This has meant that the infrastructure which the County must provide is getting harder and harder to fund. And this is key infrastructure around Education, Transport and Social services – all high cost items.

In Education, we have a problem of how to manage increasing pressure on our schools. Tricky decisions on "when" new classrooms, more teachers or even whole new schools are needed have to be made. Contributions from developments are supposed to generate the funding for this, but get the timing wrong decisions wrong, and we wind up having to bus children (even very young children) around in an effort to find school places.

In Transport, new development is supposed to fund all the new roads and road improvements we need. Our problem is that this takes no account of the fact that many of our roads are already in a poor state from past under-funding.

It all points to the desperate need for a "Grand Plan". But we have one of these (maybe not at a national level but certainly at a local level). We call it, or called it Science Vale UK (It now seems to have become Science Vale Oxford). We applied for, and received large amounts of government money to fund infrastructure to cope with future growth from hi-tech industries. We are due to become, if all goes well, "Silicon" or "Bio-tech" Valley UK. To get there, we will require the right amount of the right type of housing to accommodate the employees of such industry – be they PhDs, technicians or support personnel. As we generate these jobs, we will need to be building the houses at the appropriate rate. What we must not do, and, in my view, we are in danger of doing, is anything which makes this "Grand Plan" harder to achieve. It makes no sense at all,

- 1 To be filling up our little available space with more Distribution centres providing far more low pay jobs than we currently need.
2. To be putting ever more stress on our infrastructure and most importantly
3. To be clogging up our already congested transport network such that Science Vale UK industry has no room to expand.

I hope that the next government, whoever they are accepts this message and I hope that the next District administration, whoever they are, gets a robust Science Vale Planning strategy document in place just as quickly as possible.

Appleford Mirror

The much-needed pedestrian safety mirror at Appleford Bridge is going to make life better for all Appleford residents and Station users. I very much hope that it will also stimulate more use of the Station. Many thanks to all those at OCC who have helped to make this happen.

Richard Webber

01235 534001

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

FCC Waste Disposal Site (1)

I was sad to read the letter published in the March edition of the Sutton Courtenay News from Rita Twiston Davies.

Firstly, that's because the information she's been given about my visit to the FCC site is incorrect. I visited the site in December 2013, some 15 months ago, with Richard Webber, the local County Councillor, to see their new recycling facility as I very much wish to encourage recycling of waste rather than landfill precisely in order to reduce the impact of the landfill activities on their site on local communities. The more that is recycled, the less there is to be buried in huge holes in the ground and create problems for local residents. I have not been back to their site since, and I don't believe that one visit in more than 3 years constitutes 'cosying up'

Secondly, I was not aware that Rita was so unhappy with the response she has had from my office. The last email we had from her, after we had obtained information for her about the activities of the Environment Agency actions to monitor the FCC site in November 2014 was very cordial and thanked us for our help. Had I heard from Rita that she had further concerns, or felt that we had not done enough to assist her, I would have ensured that I took further action. I'm not always able to solve every problem for my constituents, but I will always do all I can to advance their interests.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Vaizey MP

FCC Waste Disposal Site (2)

Further to Mr Vaizey's response on the website to my letter in last month's SCNews, I was sent an item from a re-cycling publication and failed to spot that it was a year old, hence the misdating of Mr Vaizey's activities.

However, I did not and have never criticised his office. He has dedicated staff and Jonathon Badyal and Lynda Atkins have always been most courteous and attentive, hence my gratitude to them as expressed in the e-mail to which Mr Vaizey refers. I am at a loss as to how he interpreted my reference to them as criticism of them or their work. I state categorically that neither was it nor was it intended as such. I hope that is unequivocal enough for Mr Vaizey.

Mr Vaizey's support for recycling is not surprising given the record we have here in Oxfordshire of around 68%, one of the highest in the UK. However, the county also imports waste from 112 other areas, from Northumberland to Cornwall. The traffic this generates is nothing to be proud of. According to the Oxford Mail of February 20th this year ("Oxfordshire has become the dustbin of the South East") County Councillor David Nimmo Smith has agreed to a review of this situation.

Will Mr Vaizey be supporting Councillor Nimmo Smith in calling for a review -and, one hopes, implementing one? Is there any other action our MP is considering regarding the landfill site and the nuisances it causes us?

For example, despite complaints about the foul odours from the FCC site in October 2013, to which the Environment Agency promised an investigation, nothing further has happened. Yet this is a breach of the permit FCC holds.

Would Mr Vaizey be prepared to chase up the EA re these issues and inform us of what, if anything, the EA has been doing about such breaches of permit by FCC?

It would be useful if Mr Vaizey could assist in securing a list of all extant planning and permit conditions imposed on the site operator. Would he also help evaluate these to identify such breaches?

In view of the off-hand dismissal of our concerns over the Sutton Courtenay Planning Blight by our District Council, it would be reassuring to see our MP supporting us in these issues with FCC. At least we could believe that democracy is not quite dead round here....

Yours sincerely,

Rita Twiston Davies

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS CONTINUED

Planning issues (1) *The following is a copy of a letter to the Vale of White Horse Planning Service*

Both Sutton Courtenay Parish Council and I have, for some years, been seeking some positive action on the part of the District Council in respect of the large number of unauthorised commercial uses that are taking place at Cross Trees Farm. An application for a Certificate of Lawfulness was submitted to the Council in 2012 under your reference P12/V2454/LDE. The application submission was hopelessly inadequate and despite the Council bending over backwards to give the applicant the opportunity to provide some corroborative evidence, a refusal notice was issued dated 6 June 2013.

Since that time the Council's inactivity, in pursuit of the unauthorised uses and the appallingly harmful effect they are having on those of us who live near the site, has been nothing short of spectacular and scandalous!

The unauthorised uses firmly ensconced in Cross Trees Farm attract levels of vehicular generation that should only be found on trading estates. The traffic is destroying the lane leading to the Farm (public bridleway 373/3), which is nothing more than an unmade farm track and which, until today (17.3.15), had become virtually impassible. The effect of this is to force traffic along the Byway open to All Traffic No 373/10 that serves my house and joins Old Wallingford Way outside my house.

Today, there has been unprecedented levels of traffic along these single track dirt tracks to and from Cross Trees Farm into Old Wallingford Way and also traffic is now accessing Old Wallingford Way from the Farm near the recreation ground and cemetery, further east. This is a new and worrying development, given the large number of pedestrians, cyclists and others visiting the cemetery and the children's' playground in the recreation ground.

Added to this, it is becoming increasingly apparent that work is taking place in the farmyard at weekends. Although not a regular occurrence that I am aware of, I can occasionally hear sports performance engines being worked on with loud revving of engines. I also sometimes notice the noise from angle grinders. I do not live as close to the farm yard as those further along Old Wallingford Way, who, I would imagine, might be in a better position to provide evidence of these disturbances.

I am now given to understand that the Environment Agency has been called in to investigate environmental pollution complaints. You will see that I have copied The EA into this email for the sake of completeness.

I have raised my concerns in the past with Oxfordshire County Highways and the results have proved similarly disappointing. Having raised my concerns again this morning with the County I am also copying that authority into this email using the reference number I was given this morning - 688090.

I would now like both The Vale and Oxfordshire County to take this matter seriously and I would like to see some action by both authorities as a matter of urgency. I should point out that I have a couple of neighbours who are contemplating approaching the Commissioner for Local Government (The Ombudsman) but I have persuaded them that we can only get to the Ombudsman through the Councils' own formal complaints procedures. First things first.

What I want to see is the Council giving this village some support after all the rubbish it is in the process of dumping on Sutton Courtenay; - half a mile long warehouse, an uncontrolled waste recycling site where the operators get away with flouting conditions quite easily, wholesale redevelopment of the Power Station, which is in our parish, and hundreds of houses that, if all get approved, will actually double the size of the village.

It is unbelievable what is happening from a planning (or lack of) in Sutton Courtenay and I have had enough of this lack of action over important matters that affect the village. I hope to hear from the Council as soon as possible, advising me what it intends to do about Cross Trees Farm. I would also hope that this email will sting OCC into some sort of reaction, as well.

Yours faithfully
David Hignell

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS CONTINUED

Planning issues (2) *The following is a copy of a letter to Ed Vaizey MP*

Just to let you know that my wife and I who are long time residents of Sutton Courtenay, 65years for Sally and 43years for myself. Over this length of time we have seen and accepted that change is inevitable but just lately it has become completely ridiculous in this village. When you came and spoke about people's concerns at a meeting held in the village church, you suggested on several occasions in your talk that probably 50percent of applications would not be built, so far all applications that where being discussed have been passed and some are under construction. Since then there have been 5 more applications for developments in the village which if all get the go ahead will result in approx 1000 more houses in a village of just over 1000 existing properties. This is due in full to the N P P F which has given developers the freedom to rape villages like ours, as saying no to them results in a threat of an APPEAL and the Vale will incur cost which seems to scare off the planning officers from making democratic decisions, which would seem to have occurred in the Warehouse application. Back in May 2014 Planning Committee Officers voted 10 to 3 to reject the application, I seem to remember even the Chairman commented before the vote that the warehouse was to big and in the wrong place. Now with a slight reduction in height and a 7 meter high pile of soil around the site to attempt to hide an 18.5 meter building from villagers view it's the best thing since sliced bread. Apart from Councillors Webber and Webber reminding of the previous vote and the safety of village children going to the nature reserve, also the fact that it is only 150meters from school playing field so risk to children's health. I could go on with reasons for rejecting, but suddenly the vote changed in Decembers planning meeting to 10 votes to 4 to accept the application. Did it have something to do with the fact developers are APPEALING? If this is conservative democracy then my wife and I who are long time conservative voters will not be helping to keep you in a job in this years election.

I would like your response to the points we raise.

Regards

Sally and Steve Noys

Planning issues (3)

Annoyed with all the house builds being added to the village.....or the bridge closed yet again so a few feet of footpath are repaired.....or that monster warehouse looming large.....or perhaps the A34 traffic jam wont go away.

They all have the same origin....Government isn't working!

But wait a minute...all the planning applications somehow are for greenfield sites in existing villages...Sutton Courtenay has over 1000 in the pipeline, against the current existing 800 houses. Surely that will overload the bridge, the roads, the A34. Right! Because the provision of infrastructure is partitioned between all sorts of Public and Private bodies, completely separately from House Planning. There's Oxfordshire County Council – roads and the bridges, Thames

Water – water and sewage, National Rail – railway development, Highways Agency – trunk routes. And all these organisations hardly talk to each other let alone to the house builders! Now why aren't they building on brownfield sites – well, you guessed, developers don't want to and the Government can't or won't force them.

We need a unitary planning authority – present government planning isn't fit for purpose – and without this, the shambles will continue!

David Mackenzie

This letter is a shortened version of the original owing to lack of space—editor



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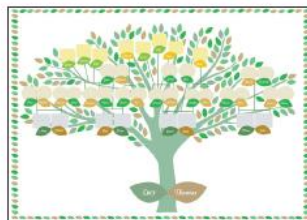
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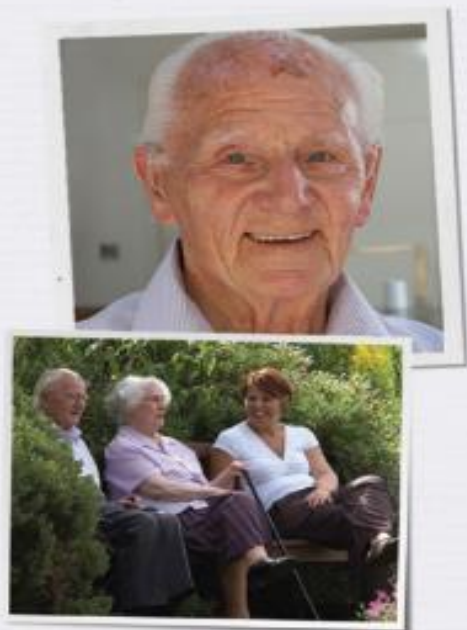
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