

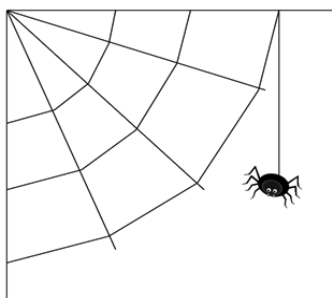
# SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 44 No. 8

OCTOBER 2015

## VILLAGE DIARY

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



### October

Saturday	3rd	9-11am	Biffa Compost Giveaway	White Horse Leisure Centre
Saturday	3rd	6.30pm	Harvest Barn Dance	Village Hall
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Harvest Festival	Church
Tuesday	6th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tuesday	6th	7.30pm	Spiritual Fellowship	Village Hall
Tuesday	13th	2pm	Women's Christian Fellowship	Village Hall
Friday	16th	4 - 7pm	Exhibition of proposed housing	Village Hall
Saturday	17th	9 -12 noon	Churchyard Working Party	Churchyard
Saturday	17th	4pm	Movie Matinee - The Imitation Game	Church
Monday	19th	7pm	Village Hall AGM	Village Hall
Tuesday	20th	7.30pm	WI Meeting	Village Hall
Wednesday	21st		COPY DEADLINE SC NEWS	
Thursday	22nd	10.30am	Coffee, Cakes and Books	Church

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

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

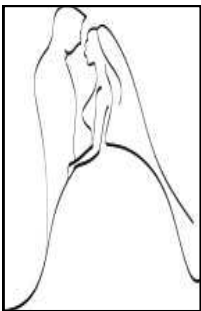
To advertise, e-mail [advertising@suttoncourtenay.co.uk](mailto:advertising@suttoncourtenay.co.uk) or telephone 07761-375991

## 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

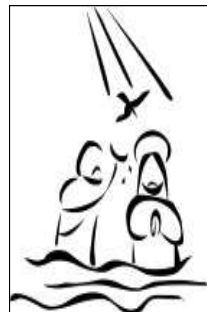
Various organisations have permanent bookings for use of the Village Hall on certain days of the week. Local individuals or organisations may nonetheless enter one-off bookings for events which clash with permanent bookings. **At least seven weeks notice must be given to Rita Atkinson (848694) or Caroline 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 no weddings in September



### HOLY BAPTISM

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

Poppy Joy RICHARDS (6<sup>th</sup> September 2015)  
Edward Keith TAME (13<sup>th</sup> September 2015)

This newsletter is produced by the editors, Diane Armstrong and Clare Pennicott, and Bernie Jones, 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

### Bus Services

The Parish Council has listened carefully to residents who have expressed concern that there is no longer a bus which serves the village on a Sunday. It has contacted Thames Travel to ask that the service X2 which currently just serves Drayton and Steventon, alternates between Steventon and Sutton Courtenay, so that there is at least some bus provision on a Sunday for the village.



### Biffa Compost Giveaway – Change of location

Owing to Abingdon fair at the beginning of October, Biffa has changed the location for the compost give away from Rye Farm Car Park, Culham Road to the overflow car park at the White Horse Leisure Centre, Audlett Drive, Abingdon. The event will still take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October between 9.00 .am. – 11.00 a.m.

### Recycling

From 5<sup>th</sup> October you will be able to put even more items out for recycling . From that date the Vale of White Horse District Council and Biffa will start collecting small electrical items and clothes or textiles from the kerbside. Small electrical items like toasters, kettles, irons, hairdryers, small electronic toys, and radios need to be placed in a carrier bag and put out next to your grey waste bin. Textiles too such as torn or worn out clothes, curtains and bedsheets that are not good enough for charity should be put in a tied carrier bag next to your grey waste bin.

### Sutton Bridge and Cross Trees

Representatives from the Parish Council, and the County Councillor, met with staff from Oxfordshire County Council to discuss road issues in the village.

Sutton Bridge - Motion detectors have been installed. These look at each section of the bridge, and will extend the clearance period holding off the opposite traffic, up to a limit, while motion is detected. This should help cyclists who regularly face oncoming traffic. Unfortunately the carriageway and footway are too narrow to include a cycle lane or a dual cycle/footway.

Cross Trees – The County Council is planning to replace the junction warning sign in Church Street, with one on a high visibility background, so that west bound traffic will be more aware of the turning to the High Street.

### Didcot Power Station

Earlier in the Summer, the Council's representatives on the Power Station liaison Committee attended the regular meeting, and are able to report that the cooling towers at the "B" station, which were damaged by fire are undergoing repair. The station has a good safety record overall. The blowdown for the demolition of the smaller section on the north side of the main building structure at the "A" site was planned for around the end of September. A temporary road closure of the A4130 at Southmead Industrial Estate would be required on grounds of safety. The sky line will not change significantly until the remainder of the main building is demolished at the end of the year.

### Environment Agency – Oxford Flood Relief Scheme

At the last meeting of the Parish Council, representatives from the Environment Agency spoke regarding the Oxford Flood Relief Scheme. Work started in 2007 on planning how to solve the flooding problems. Short term measures such as clearing and dredging have been completed. There is still a risk to some 1800 houses and stage II of the plans is to build a western flood channel, with longer term plans for Abingdon and flood storage options. Questions were asked as to the impact downstream, the likely effect on Sutton Courtenay and the chance of greater and faster water flows. We were told that there would not be an effect downstream. Assurances were given that there would be public access to the calculations, and that evidential proof that the scheme would not pass the flood risk downstream would be part of the planning process. Work on the design of the Abingdon relief scheme has yet to start. Pressure was put on the Agency to include Sutton Courtenay as part of the modelling, and to come back and provide another presentation when more information was available.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been considered :

**P15/V1721/HH** Proposed first floor extension/office extension at The House, All Saints Lane. The Council objected to this as the proposal appeared for business use, rather than home office use.

**P15/V1530/HH** Proposed 2 dormer windows to existing roof space at 52d Tyrrells Way. The Council commented that the application was similar to one previously refused and also dismissed on appeal.

**P15/V1497HH** First floor extensions and single storey rear extension and conversion of integral garage to boot room and utility at 4 The Nursery. The Council had no objections.

**P15/V1937/HH** Two storey rear extension at 30 Tyrrells Way. The Council had no objections.

**P15/1921/HH** Walk in bay window to front with pitch roof at 56 Barretts Way. The Council had no objections.

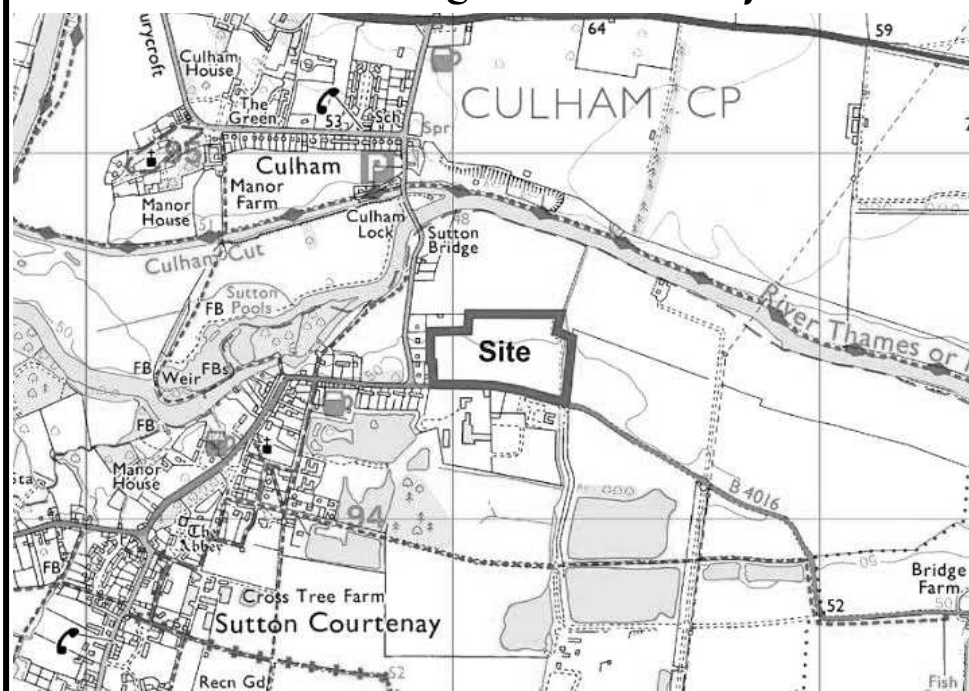
**P15/V1636/FUL** Internal alterations and extension to form main hall on first floor with 2 classrooms on ground floor and additional classroom/staff room/waiting area or exhibition space at The Matrix Arts Centre, The Nursery. The Council objected as no additional parking had been provided.

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 at 7.00 pm. in the village hall, Frilsham Street. Please check noticeboard outside Burgrey stores in case arrangements change.**

**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).**

### Notice of Public Exhibition regarding Proposed Housing North of Appleford Road Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015 4.00pm to 7.00pm Village Hall on Hobbyhorse Lane



The exhibition is being organised by O and H Properties and will set out draft proposals for about ninety dwellings on land north of Appleford Road

Representatives of the project team from Savills, Peter Brett Associates and EDP will be at the exhibition to explain the background to the proposals

## SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Expertise at Sutton Courtenay C of E Primary School

At present there is a shortage of teachers nationwide but we are very fortunate at Sutton Courtenay that the staff that we have are experts in what they do.

I have been teaching for twenty years now and I can honestly say that I love my job! Before becoming the Head Teacher of Sutton Courtenay C of E Primary School six years ago, I was Deputy Head of Chilton Primary School for ten years. I left to take up my headship here just after that school was graded as outstanding by Ofsted. My leadership at Sutton Courtenay has been recognised by Ofsted as outstanding and has led me to become selected as an Ofsted Inspector after a series of rigorous assessments.

Also holding the National Award for Special Needs Co-ordination and as a previous leading teacher in mathematics for Hampshire, I am able to utilise these specialisms both within Sutton Courtenay and during inspections.

Louise Tristram, who is our Foundation Stage Leader at Sutton Courtenay is a true early years expert. Having been recognised as the Outstanding Newly Qualified teacher of the year in her first year of teaching, you can be certain that children starting school for the first time are in very good hands. Louise supports other schools around the area in moderation of the Early Years and is very highly regarded.

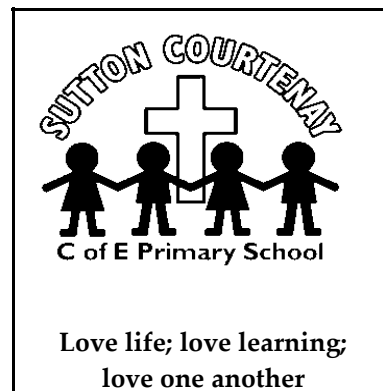
Mathematics specialisms are held by a number of teachers in school. Emma Marsh attained the Maths Specialist Teacher status a couple of years ago and is now leading the work of the maths subject leaders across the Abingdon Partnership, as well as teaching our nursery class and other year groups across the school. Nicky Holliss is highly trained as a Maths Intervention Teacher – Numbers Count – and works with small groups of children to support their mathematical development and within our Year 5/6 maths lessons.

Lianne Vickers, currently our year 1 and 2 teacher is just completing the National Award for Special Needs Co-ordination and has also received specialist training in behaviour management. Lianne is our Special Needs Coordinator who works with our Special Needs Advisory Teacher, Phillipa Purvis who is a specialist in dyslexia.

Lisa Knight brings a wealth of experience to the school and expertise in PE. She is currently working with staff in school to continue to develop this important part of the curriculum.

Maggie Hamblin has been at Sutton Courtenay for a long time. A real expert in English teaching, Maggie's passion for this vital subject ensures that it is taught to a high standard across the school.

All our staff continue to receive high quality training throughout their career to ensure that the children within our school have the best possible outcomes.



**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

*Part of the DAMASCUS Group of Churches (Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay And Steventon)*

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

**Associate Priest:** The Reverend Tim Hewes (07771 880117)

**Churchwardens:** David McKenzie (847489) Fred Cabbage (848768) **Treasurer:** Tim Budd (820942) **Director of Music:**

Ian Miles (01235 426109, mob 07788 715873) **Tower Captain:** John Napper (848292) **Children's Church:** Julia James (848129) & Vivienne Maunders (847077) **Sacristan:** Pamela Vivian **Flowers:** Ann White (848662) **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 Junior Church) and Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Choral Evensong at 6pm

3rd Sunday: Morning Worship at 10.30am (with Junior Church)

4th Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 10.30am (with Junior Church)

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Special services across the DAMASCUS Group – please see church noticeboard for details

Wednesday: BCP Holy Communion at 9.45am

### From the Ministry Team... Who is my neighbour?

“One day an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus: ‘Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus replied, ‘What is written in the law? How do you read it?’ The man answered, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength, and with all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ ‘You have answered correctly!’ Jesus replied. ‘Do this and you will live!’ The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’”(Luke 10:25-29) “And who is my neighbour?” This question, and Jesus’ response to it, continues to echo through the centuries and challenge us today.

The largest refugee crisis since the Second World War seems to have elicited widely differing responses across the political spectrum – from those who advocate entirely open borders to those who want to batten down the hatches. None of us could fail to be moved by the image of three year old Aylan Kurdi, drowned on a Mediterranean beach. Two immediate responses were either to open our hearts to these people, or to blame the parents for being so reckless. And easy though it is to label the former as naive and the latter as cruel, it really isn’t as simple as that. Syria has been embroiled in a vicious and bloody civil war for years now, and this has created a huge flood of refugees. The number travelling to Europe is a tiny proportion of the total, and is largely made up of those with the health, opportunity and resources to get here. They’ve still been made homeless, lost loved ones, and had their lives destroyed. These are the ones who have chosen hope over despair, who want a better life, and have decided it’s worth everything – even life itself - to try for it. And yet clearly, the more who are encouraged to make the journey, the more lives will be lost.

So what should a Christian response be to this crisis? Firstly, we must remind ourselves that Jesus himself was a refugee. Shortly after his birth his parents fled to Egypt to keep him safe, and only returned once the danger was over. Secondly, being a refugee is not something people choose - and it is not their fault. And thirdly, Jesus made it clear that he came to save all people and in so doing broke down the human constructed barriers which divide us. To be a Christian is to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God which spans the globe and does not distinguish between race or nationality but responds in love to need wherever it is found. One day we hope and pray that this Kingdom will be universal, and there will be no refugees, no rich and poor, no war and no dead children on a Mediterranean beach. For Christians, the only option open to us is to love our neighbour, be they on our doorstep or half the world away - and Jesus is clear - that includes everyone, whether we think them deserving or not. This isn’t about politics, it’s about love. It’s about basic human decency, it’s about human compassion and it’s about responding to the refugees as we would want others to respond to us were we in their place. And if you want to find out what Jesus’ response to this question was – read Luke 10.25-37!

With love and prayers, Helen, *The Reverend Helen Kendrick, Priest-in-Charge of Sutton Courtenay with Appleford*

## COFFEE, CAKES & BOOKS

Thursday 22nd October

10.30am-12noon



### All Saints' Church

Why not drop by for coffee, cake & conversation and to browse the books on offer? All Welcome – a good place to meet.

## HARVEST GIFTS

The Porch charity runs the Steppin' Stone Centre in Oxford, providing day long support for homeless and vulnerably housed people wanting to move forward in their lives, away from street-life and addiction.

Each year, at our Harvest Festival, we collect harvest goods and money to help support their work. This year they need either cash donations, to buy fresh produce through the year, or any of the following:

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

Please bring your donations to the Harvest Festival Celebrations on **Sunday 4th October 2015 at 10.30am at All Saints', Sutton Courtenay.**

Thank you!



**SUTTON COURTENAY DUCK RACE** - this has been postponed until April 2016 because of the water level in the stream - watch out for more details then!

## CHURCH DIARY FOR OCTOBER

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – 6.30pm – Harvest Barn Dance for all the family – please see advert elsewhere in SC News for further details – all welcome!

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>** – 10.30am Harvest Festival Service - please bring donations of cash or Harvest gifts as per the list on the right.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup>** – 7pm Planning for the Church/School Christmas Bazaar, meet at The Swan.

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>** – 7.30pm DAMASCUS Group Pastoral Care Course begins in All Saints' Church

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>** – 9am Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School Harvest Service. 5.45pm Beavers and Cubs Explore the Church.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup>** – 8pm Sutton Courtenay PCC Meeting in the church

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>** – 2pm Women's Christian Fellowship in the Village Hall – all welcome!

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>** – from 9am Churchyard Working Party – all volunteers welcome to help clear brambles and control the ivy etc – refreshments provided. 4pm Movie Matinee – The Imitation Game – entrance free – refreshments available - donations welcome

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>** – after the morning service Hungry Saints meet for lunch – add your name to the list in in church if you would like to join us.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>** – 10.30-12noon Coffee & Cakes in Church – all welcome

## CHURCH DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>** – 10.30am Family Service for our Patronal Festival of All Saints – all welcome to worship and celebrate with us – cake and bubbly served after the service and there will be a sale of Christmas cards for Save the Children.

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>** – 7.30pm All Souls Service of Naming and Remembering – see box for further details

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>** – 11am wedding in All Saints

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** – 10am (NB earlier time) shortened Eucharist followed by 11am Act of Remembrance and rededication of the restored War Memorial. 11.15 Service of Remembrance

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH** CONTINUED**CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED****SATURDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER - From 9am-12noon**

Many hands should make light work of the bramble and ivy clearance that is needed to help keep our village churchyard looking beautiful – all welcome – please bring secateurs and other useful tools with you! Refreshments will be provided.

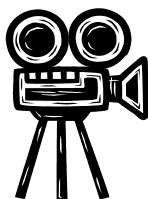
**ALL SOULS'**

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

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 at 7pm**

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

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

**Movie Matinées****All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay****Starting at 4pm****Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October – The Imitation Game (cert. 12)****Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November – Paddington (cert. PG)****ENTRANCE FREE – DONATIONS WELCOME - REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**



*Junior Choir and Junior Church*  
*Harvest Tea Concert*  
*October 4<sup>th</sup> 2015 from 3.30 – 4.30pm*  
*At All Saints Church*



**BARN DANCE &  
 HARVEST SUPPER**



**Dancing to Oddsox, returning by popular demand**

**Saturday 3rd October**

**commencing at 6.30pm\***

**\*Earlier start to suit more families (end 9.30pm)**

**Sutton Courtenay Village Hall**

**Tickets (to include two-course meal)**

Adults     **£15:**

Under 16s     **£6**

Family ticket **£38** (2 adults + 2 children)

Tickets available from **Burgrey Stores**

Lynne Cabbage (848768) or Alison Budd (820942)

**A Village Community event for all ages**

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CONTINUED

### All Saints' Building Project

#### There is work in progress!

First - a big **thank you** to all those who have already pledged via the appeal; those who have donated already and to all those who have organised and/or supported a fund raising event.

The fund has raised so far approximately £82 thousand pounds – wonderful but with work to be done! If you have any questions regarding any aspect of the plans or fundraising please do contact Helen Kendrick; Tim Budd or either of the Church Wardens who will be glad to help. The working group will be updating the village on progress over the coming months in the Sutton Courtenay News.

At the present time the group is awaiting a meeting between our architect and the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and English Heritage whilst also pursuing all possible grants that the project may be supported by.

#### An initial meeting of the Events “Dynamic Doers” Group will be held on –

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 11.45 in the Church**

This follows the Family Service and is a gathering of all those members of our community, church goers and all others who believe that the Church is an important building and who have the extension of the Church as a meeting place for everyone in their hearts.

#### **A meeting to share any thoughts; ideas; plans for fundraising events.**

Bring along the family, while you are meeting a treasure hunt around the churchyard will be run, with two age-appropriate level hunts! So all young will be safe and occupied!

#### The Christmas Tree Festival

A new competition open to all residents of the village. Bring along a Christmas Tree; decorate it; and then visit the Church the following day to judge all the entries, or if you do not want to enter just visit the church to join in the judging!

**Setting up – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 2.00pm – 6pm and 7.30 – 8.30pm**

**Church open for viewing/enjoying/judging**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am – 4.00pm Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 12.00 – 4.00pm**

**Watch this space next months for further details!**

### RIDE OR STRIDE

I would like to congratulate our intrepid cyclists who took part in the Ride or Stride on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>.

I would also like to thank those who manned the Church and dispensed refreshments during the day.

Nora Harragin

## SUTTON COURTENAY WI

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

1915 FOR 100 YEARS 2015

Well, 2015 has certainly been a celebration year for the Women's Institute. The WI has featured on radio and TV magazines and in newspaper articles. Her majesty, The Queen, invited us to our own WI garden party at Buckingham Palace and graciously attended our AGM at The Royal Albert Hall. Over the past 100 years, WI members have campaigned to empower women within society. And you can be certain that we will continue that role in promoting women's rights, health and building a fairer society. The WI - inspiring women!

This month, some of our members attended a celebration at Christ Church Cathedral and in the evening at our meeting in the village hall, we enjoyed a celebration cake made and decorated by one of our members, and a glass of fizz after painting commemorative pottery so that we all had something to take home.

The Oxfordshire Federation has many exciting days planned for us, mainly now on a Christmas theme (well ladies, we have to be ready!): Christmas flowers, Christmas market trip, Christmas songs, Gold medal competition for the best re-fashioned article, a Short Mat bowls fun day, a trip to the ballet in London and paintballing.

Our lunch this month is on the 8<sup>th</sup> at the Pack Horse Milton Hill.

Our meeting in October will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> in the Village Hall in Sutton Courtenay at 7.30 pm, where our speaker will be entertaining us with an Oxford city Quiz. Visitors are always very welcome.

Beryl Davies

Our President is Ann Henderson and she is happy to receive any enquiries about our Sutton Courtenay group <tel:01235 821834>, email: [annhenderson279@hotmail.com](mailto:annhenderson279@hotmail.com)

## WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Our September meeting was our AGM, and we had a fair attendance. We mainly talked about the future of our Fellowship. After a lengthy discussion it was voted that our WCF would close after our December 2015 meeting. There are several reasons why this has come about and we all feel sad about it.

Please note there is to be a change to our October meeting. We will now be having a Photograph Show by Jim Haydon - always very popular.

Rose Woodward (Secretary)

## SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

On Tuesday September 1st Linda Abbot from Benson kindly stepped in for us and gave us a very good evening with humour, which the congregation appreciated.

We were pleased to see so many new people.

Any queries - Pat & Sam 01235 847460

### DIARY

Tues. Oct 6th. 7.30pm Village Hall. Spiritual Meeting with Patrick Carbury.

Tues. Nov 3rd. 7.30pm Village Hall. Spiritual Meeting with David Chapman and Kath.

## SUTTON COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL AGM

Monday 19 October 2015 at 7pm in the village hall

To receive the report and accounts from the trustees for work done in the 2014/15 financial year. An invitation to all - we do hope you will attend. We are also looking for new trustees to join the management committee and help look after your community building. If you would like to know more before you commit yourself please do get in touch.

On behalf of the trustees I would like to record a big thank you to Jackie Greenough who does a tremendous job in looking after the building on a day-to-day basis. This is also evident from the many compliments that have been received from users.

Rita Atkinson (848694)

Secretary (Sutton Courtenay Village Hall Management Committee)

## OXFORDSHIRE ADVOCACY

Oxfordshire Advocacy, is an organisation that provides free advocacy services for vulnerable adults (18+) and adults (50+) affected by cancer. The service is free, independent, non-judgemental and confidential. The aim is to help anyone who is affected by cancer (either as a patient or family member, friend or carer) and is aged 50 or over, to resolve issues or difficulties (cancer-related or not) and to improve the quality of their lives. We can help with many issues, including treatment and care, social, financial and employment issues and can provide a listening ear.

A new service run by Oxfordshire Advocacy in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, providing one to one support for anyone aged 50+ affected by cancer, whether they are a Patient or a Carer.

**Give us a call on 01865 230203**

**Email us at [copa@oadg.org.uk](mailto:copa@oadg.org.uk)**

If you know of anyone affected by cancer and aged 50 or more

If you feel that they might benefit from having a Macmillan trained volunteer to support them at appointments or with getting the practical help they need

If you are interested in volunteering yourself

## Sutton Courtenay News

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Sutton Courtenay News will be held  
in the Committee Room, Sutton Courtenay Village Hall  
on 7th December 2015 at 7.30pm

Nominations for Chairman, Editor, Advertising Manager & Treasurer together with the details of two seconders should be sent to Clare Pennicott at [clarepennicott@btinternet.com](mailto:clarepennicott@btinternet.com) or 8 Church Street, Sutton Courtenay.

## NAG5 SAFETY CORNER

With shorter days and approaching colder weather it's a good time for safety and security reminders.

### Pedestrians

- Use pavements, or paths, whenever possible.
- If there is no pavement keep to the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic, keep close to the side of the road and walk in single file
- In poor daylight conditions help road users to see you by wearing or carrying something light-coloured, bright or fluorescent.
- When it's dark use reflective materials (armbands, jackets, waistcoats, sashes, footwear). Drivers using headlights can see reflective materials three times further away than those that are non-reflective.
- Never try to cross the road in front or behind of a vehicle with its engine running.

### Cyclists

- At night white front and red rear lights must be lit. Flashing lights are permitted but it is recommended that cyclists who are riding in areas without street lighting use a steady front lamp. Bicycles must be fitted with a red rear reflector. Lights and reflectors should be kept clean and in good working order.
- Brakes must work efficiently, gears should be working correctly and the chain properly adjusted and oiled.
- Tyres should be in good condition and inflated to the pressure indicated on the tyre.
- All traffic signs and traffic light signals must be obeyed. You must not cross the stop line when the traffic lights are red. Some junctions have an advanced stop line to enable you to wait and position yourself ahead of the traffic.
- You must not cycle on a pavement (if you are concerned for your safety, or that of young children, you can dismount and push your bicycle on the pavement until you feel it is safe to re-join the road).
- For your own safety please wear a helmet and light coloured or fluorescent clothing in daylight and reflective clothing at night to help to ensure that other road users see you.

### Vehicle drivers

- Keep your windscreen and other windows clear of dirt and remove any snow from front and rear lights, windscreen, windows and roof using de-icer and a scraper as necessary.
- Ensure the windscreen wipers are in working order and keep the screen wash reservoir topped up.
- Ensure front and rear lights are in full working order and free from dirt. Use headlights in seriously reduced visibility.
- Keep number plates clean and visible.
- Tyres should have a minimum 2mm of tread and preferably 3mm or above.
- Avoid the water pump freezing by using antifreeze.
- Car batteries rarely last longer than five years. Consider replacement if it's nearing the end of its life - lights, heating and wipers place a high demand on batteries during winter months.
- Remember that stopping distances are **10 times longer** in ice and snow.
- Carry an emergency kit in the car: tow rope, shovel, hazard-warning triangle, a fully charged mobile phone, de-icing equipment, a working torch, warm clothing, wellington boots, blanket and emergency rations including a hot drink in a flask.

### The Highway Code & ROSPA

Full information for pedestrians and road users is available in printed copies of The Highway Code or online at <https://www.gov.uk/highway-code/contents>. A copy of The Highway Code e-book can be downloaded at <http://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/download-pdf.html>. Alternatively, visit ROSPA's website at <http://www.rospa.com>, or call ROSPA's general information line on 0121 248 2000.

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Contact NAG5 by calling 01235 848694 or e-mail [neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com](mailto:neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com)

## ED VAIZEY MP



In my role as Minister of Culture, I am pleased that we have announced plans to publish a White Paper – essentially a national strategy – on the arts and heritage next year. It is 50 years since the first – and only – White Paper on the arts was published. Government’s role in supporting the arts and culture has grown and changed since then; responsibility for the arts, museums, libraries and heritage has been brought together in one Department; the National Lottery has transformed funding opportunities; and free access has helped open up our national museums to new audiences. I’d love to hear your views on how to support our arts and culture, so do feel free to visit my blog on <http://dcmsblog.uk/2015/09/share-your-ideas-for-a-new-cultural-programme/> and email me your thoughts.

This month I have received hundreds of emails and letters regarding the Syrian refugee crisis. The photos and accounts we have seen are shocking and harrowing, which is why we continue to be at the forefront of the international response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria – including as the second biggest bilateral donor of humanitarian aid, having already pledged £1 billion. I know that Britain is a moral nation and we will fulfil our moral responsibilities. I have been moved by the number of people in the Wantage and Didcot constituency who have contacted me to say they would like to provide a room in their home to a refugee, and I will continue to discuss the issue with you as things progress.

In terms of the action we have taken - we have sent the Royal Navy to the Mediterranean, saving thousands of lives; we are the second biggest bilateral donor in the world to Syrian refugee camps; and have granted asylum to nearly 5,000 Syrians and their dependents since the crisis began. But I absolutely accept that we can do more, and welcome the Prime Minister’s proposal that Britain should resettle up to 20,000 Syrian refugees over the next five years. Simply taking people is not a solution to this crisis. We need a comprehensive solution that deals with the people most responsible for the terrible scenes we see: President Assad in Syria, ISIL, and the criminal gangs that are running this terrible trade in people – we have to be as tough on them at the same time.

Last month I wrote about the Assisted Dying Bill – and it is interesting to see that Parliament overwhelmingly voted down the measure when it was debated. I voted against the Bill.

As ever please feel free to contact me on any matter at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or [dicksonce@parliament.uk](mailto:dicksonce@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.

**Ed Vaizey MP**

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

### Children’s Centres

I am sure I am not the only one who remembers school exam multi-choice questions ,where you thought you knew the answer and none of the options seemed right. Reluctantly, you were forced to choose what you thought was the least “wrong” answer. So it may well be the caes with the latest OCC consultation on Children’s Centres. There are three options to choose from and they all assume that, to make necessary savings, we have to get rid of all 44 across the County.

In the last budget, Council voted that over the next three years, it would make £6m of savings from the current £16m budget. These Centres have been providing a universal support service for families and children from infancy to adolescence, places where struggling families and parents can access support and advice on all aspects of family life and bringing up children. There is no doubt that the service they offer has prevented many children and families from slipping into extreme need. This has almost certainly saved the County budget millions in on-going costs. Almost all those involved – trustees, governors, parents and children - are desperate to retain these Centres and are determined to fight the proposals.

.....continued

## COUNTY COUNCILOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

At a recent Cabinet meeting, a group of nearly a hundred members of the public witnessed heart-rending appeals, from people who had benefitted from the service, to retain the Centres. Many of the speakers asked to work with the Council to find ways of keeping their local Centre whilst making savings.

However, this consultation does not give them that option and, in my view, that is a mistake. The savings that any of the present options offer are very uncertain. There are a number of possibilities where joint managing and joint working would reduce costs. There are also instances where other bodies (Councils, schools and voluntary organisations etc) could relieve OCC of some of the costs, so allowing the council to focus on providing what it can in the way of social care expertise.

It seems certain that, for the time being, at least, the Council will be able to offer less back up for the Centres than in the past. However, getting rid of ALL 44 Centres will be a permanent step and the service will have gone for good.

Call me an optimist, but I would much prefer to see us retain as many Centres as possible so that there is a semblance of a universal service remaining on which one could rebuild –if/when circumstances improve.

However you feel about the issue, please consider responding to the consultation on the OCC website.

Richard Webber Cllr OCC, SC & Marcham Division

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING FOR SUTTON COURTENAY

### **Neighbourhood Planning - A date for your diary – 25 November, 7pm, Sutton Courtenay Village Hall**

Neighbourhood planning is a legal right for communities introduced through the Localism Act 2011. The idea is that a community, such as Sutton Courtenay, can shape housing development in the community by putting together a Neighbourhood Plan that sets out a vision for the area and describes planning policies for the use and development of land in that area. When formally complete, the Sutton Courtenay Neighbourhood Plan would become part of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan and the policies in the Sutton Courtenay plan would then be used in the determination of future planning applications in the village. It is important to note that the Neighbourhood Plan could not be used to block development that is already part of the VoWH Local Plan, but what it could do is help to shape where that development goes and what it looks like.

### **Should we put together a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Sutton Courtenay?**

The Parish Council is responsible for leading on Neighbourhood Planning and has recently been weighing up whether to begin work on a plan for Sutton Courtenay. We have reached the point where we really need to gauge wider community opinion before going further. We would therefore like to invite everyone to a public meeting on 25 November, at 7pm in the village hall. The meeting will give more information on neighbourhood planning and what is involved in producing a plan, as well as some of the potential advantages to Sutton Courtenay and the arguments against doing a plan. A key part of the meeting will be an opportunity for everyone to discuss the merits of doing a Sutton Courtenay plan and to vote on whether we should develop a Neighbourhood Plan or not. We hope very much that you will be able to come along and give your input. Please also feel free to contact any member of the parish council with your views in the meantime.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### CYCLING & ROAD SAFETY

I refer to the article, "Cycle checks at Culham (Sutton) Bridge", in last month's *Sutton Courtenay News*.

The emphasis of the article seemed to be critical of cyclists' behaviour. This is a surprising tone to adopt for the following two reasons. Firstly, the increasing popularity of cycling. The Department for Transport's road traffic statistics indicate that cycle traffic has risen every year since 2008 (<http://bit.ly/1Oap2XR>). In addition, Vale of the White Horse is in the top 20 local authorities in England for the proportion of residents who cycle at least three times a week. (<http://bit.ly/1M6oeQo>) Secondly, Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC) view, which is set out in Connecting Oxfordshire: Local Transport Plan 2015-2031. The plan views cycling as a "sustainable, inexpensive, reliable, and pollution-free way of getting around ... with the added benefit of improving our health, happiness and well-being." OCC regard cycling as "obvious and growing part of the solution" to "solve the problem of congestion on our roads."

I, of course, acknowledge that cyclists riding on the pavement are not following the Highway Code. However, I can fully understand why a cyclist on the Sutton Bridges would regard the pavement as a safe haven if pedestrians are not inconvenienced. The likelihood of a cyclist causing an inconvenience to a pedestrian is arguably less than a motorist not showing care and consideration to a cyclist when overtaking, given the width of the road over the bridges.

With this in mind, in addition to the extracts taken from the Highway Code, Rules for Cyclists (59 to 82), I would like to bring to the attention of your readers the requirements of the Highway Code for motorists to act in a considerate way towards other road users.

"You should always reduce your speed when sharing the road with pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders." (Section 125, <http://bit.ly/1g1Qtv6>)

"When overtaking you should give cyclists at least as much room as you would when you overtake a car." (Section 163, <http://bit.ly/1EXCprK>)

"When overtaking you should pay particular attention to any sudden change of direction they may have to make." (Section 213, <http://bit.ly/1iJOWXo>)

Surely the point here is that cyclists are particularly vulnerable and they rely on the goodwill of motorists to follow the Highway Code and show respect. This is a growing issue with the increase in the number of people cycling and the likelihood of the increase in traffic over the coming years due to proposed house building.

Perhaps, the easy and cost-effective answer to this issue is designating the existing pavement to be a shared pathway for the use of both cyclists and pedestrians. This situation works well outside Didcot Parkway Railway Station, which has signs denoting a "pedestrian priority - considerate cyclists welcome."

Joanna O'Callaghan, Brook Street.

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Why I can't cycle on the road with my children.

I am very saddened by the way cyclists in the Sutton Courtenay are displayed as a continues nuisance. I cycle with my children on a very regular basis over the Culham Bridge. On my own, I stick to the road. However, I have had people honking their horns at me, giving me the finger and trying to push me off the road, because I dared to be in the way. I will NOT expose my children to this. Some car driver's impatience could well end the life of one of my children one day. So, we take the side walk, and if we see a pedestrian, we slow down and make sure we do not hurt or scare the pedestrian. These pedestrians are extremely rare by the way. I think in a year's time, we have encountered maybe a handful. It seems common sense to share the side walk and let the cars have the road.

And car drivers, please respect my children's right to cycle to school. They will occasionally go to the middle of the road to avoid a pothole, they will sometimes do a stupid crossing, but the only way they can learn it, is by doing it. I do not want to live in a village where the only safe way to get to school is by getting into a car.

Desiree Correia, Bradstocks Way

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With regard to the article in the September issue re speeding through the village. I wonder what time of day these checks were carried out. As I am out walking my dog I am shocked at how fast some cars are travelling. I have to say a lot of them are driven by local people WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER, shame on you.

Pat Steptoe, Milton Road



The recent contributions from NAG5 SAFETY CORNER regarding cyclists using the pavement over the Culham "Sutton" bridge have forced me to respond. I am a mother of 2 children who would love to cycle to school every day from Sutton Courtenay to Culham, unfortunately the dangerous roads throughout the village make it impossible for us to do so unless we break the law and use the footpaths. It would seem that according to the police check, conducted during the school run hour, that we are not alone. An astonishing 70% of cyclists crossing the bridge felt compelled to use the pavement rather than risking life and limb on the road. The safety of cyclists is, without doubt, compromised by the dangerous conditions on Sutton bridge.

Therefore instead of listing the rules of the highway code, we need to look at finding a workable solution for both pedestrians and cyclists. People are clearly cycling on the pavement as they feel unable to use the road. If we want to encourage cyclists to use the road we must make the road cycle friendly. This may be achieved by making motorists more aware of cyclists using the bridge, perhaps a sign at the entrance of the village up to the shared cycle and footpath on the Abingdon road. Or a picture of a bicycle on the roads. This may also reduce abuse given to cyclists when they cycle over the bridge, as they are encouraged to do so by the law. Only the other day, my partner and 6 year old son were verbally abused by a motorist for taking too long to cross the bridge, and when confronted, he sprayed them with his windscreen wipers! Unfortunately these incidents are far too commonplace.

Another answer could be to make the pavement section over the bridge a shared cycle and pedestrian path. Local authorities have the power to create "shared use" paths and in fact when this has been done it has been found to increase rates of cycling, thus alleviating the roads from extra traffic.

We need to encourage responsible cycling in the village and by this I mean flexible cyclists able to cycle slowly on pavements, even get off and push when conditions require it, such as encountering pedestrians on the bridge. Let's get the village cycling to work or school. Let's reduce the amount of cars on our over congested roads. Let's work together, rather than vilifying the brave few who chose to abandon the gas guzzlers, and create a safer village to live in.

Joanne Soddy, Chapel Lane

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Re: Fatal Crash, Drayton Road, Sutton Courtenay at the end of July.

Dear Sutton Courtenay Residents,

At the end of July, an unimaginable scene unfolded on Drayton Road, one that the residents had feared was sadly inevitable. During the afternoon, a car mounted the verge and collided with a tree, with the passenger losing her life. The Air Ambulance and around 30 fire fighters, paramedics and police attended the scene and did an amazing job. In the days after the crash the police erected a yellow 'Crash' sign and flowers were laid at the site. Drivers slowed to a sensible speed to pass as a mark of respect and to take a moment to consider the impact, and strangely the road felt safer than it had done in years. Sadly this reduction in speed only lasted about 4 days and by the weekend traffic was again speeding down Drayton Road.

This was not the first accident of this kind on this stretch of road, but we would like it to be the last, and it is this that has prompted this letter. Since the fatal crash we have not been surprised to learn that about 15% of people speed down the road, with most being local residents (that's nearly 1 in 5 of you!). Local residents have counted 14 occasions that cars have left the road in recent years on this stretch and have lost count of near misses. The accidents have involved men and women of all ages and vehicles of all sizes. It is not just the 'young drivers and motorbikes'. It is 40mph for many reasons, including a blind bend on a hill, lots of homes and the exit from the Peep-o-day Lane cycle path. In fact the stretch may even meet the criteria for a 30mph limit. You might be thinking 'but I know the road... it's ok to break the speed limit a bit.' It is not. You don't know what is just around the corner as you speed towards it... There could very easily be a tractor, a car pulling out of their drive, a fog/ice patch, a horse, a large puddle, a slow moving bicycle or a pedestrian walking on the narrow road. These are all regular occurrences here. There is barely enough room for two large vehicles to pass and there is no pavement.

It is less than a mile between where the crash happened and the middle of Sutton Courtenay. Slowing down by 10mph would cost you around 18 seconds. That's all. Is it really worth speeding, especially when keeping to the speed limit could save you a life-time of regret?

If, like us, you have concerns about the safety of this stretch of road, please share these with Sutton Courtenay Parish Council and the Highways team at the County Council

We would like to end this letter by thanking those of you who do drive safely down our road. It honestly makes a huge and very noticeable difference.

With kind regards, NAME & ADDRESS SUPPLIED

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS CONTINUED

### ED VAIZEY & ASSISTED SUICIDE

As one of those who wrote to Mr Vaizey regarding the recent free vote on assisted suicide, I thought the other constituents who wrote to him on the issue might appreciate hearing of my correspondence with his office – and maybe also some of those that didn't.

In July, I wrote to ask Mr Vaizey to vote in favour of changing the law i.e. to allow those with life-shortening illnesses who were of sound mind and who wished to, to be allowed to have help to die with dignity. He replied more or less stating his position as given in the last issue of the Sutton Courtenay News - that is he would oppose the bill. I asked him how many of his constituents had written to him and how many were in favour of changing the law. He replied, stating that he had received 70 letters/emails of which 70% were in favour of changing the law. However, he said, that this did not necessarily mean that 70% of the Wantage constituency, which has an electorate of 82,951, were in favour of changing the law, and that he was still going to vote with his conscience and vote against changing the law. (Can I point out that it also might mean that 70% of constituents support the law being changed – it's just that no-one bothered to ask them?)

I then wrote asking "If it could be shown that a clear majority of Ed's constituents were in favour of the law being changed, contrary to Ed's stated position on this, would a vote of conscience mean that Ed would still oppose the bill being changed?" His one word response was "Yes".

This of course, raises the wider point whereby Ed Vaizey's own personal view transcends that of his constituents. Even if it could have been proved that most people were in favour of changing the law, Mr Vaizey would have ignored this fact. Is this democracy? Under such circumstances, how can **any** law ever be changed if an MP chooses to ignore the views of his constituents?

Dr Jennifer Corrigan, ADDRESS SUPPLIED

P.S. A 2015 Populus poll of 5000 people showed that the 80% supported a change in the law in assisted dying for mentally-competent, terminally ill adults. This poll also showed that 53% of people would think more positively about an MP who supported assisted dying, while only 10% would think more negatively. Furthermore, 44% of those people polled would break the current law and help a loved one to die; the penalty for doing so is a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison.

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Editors' note: The government website <https://www.gov.uk/rules-for-cyclists-59-to-82/overview-59-to-71> in Rule 64 states that "You **MUST NOT** cycle on a pavement. Laws HA 1835 sect 72 & R(S)A 1984, sect 129"

## BRAVE THE SHAVE (FOR MACMILLAN NURSES)

*Editors' note: As promised in last month's SCN! How many of you remember Kojak?*



On September 10th Roger had a complete hair to raise funds for the McMillan nurses as you can see from the photos he really did it and looks very different. Roger would like to sincerely thank everyone who supported him and the McMillan nurses. At the time of going to press he has raised £700 with hopefully more to come. Many thanks, Roger

## SUTTON COURTENAY PRODUCE SHOW

In January three of us sat round a table and wondered if we could keep this event going and whether it was worth the effort that it takes to put on the show.

The original Horticultural Society was progressed into the produce and craft show by Daphne Sinclair. Last year we decided to award a cup in her memory for the best Exhibition in the show chosen by the judges. Without the help of the secretary Val Dalby the show would not be possible and we are all grateful for her contribution adding up the points.

By March seven of us got together and made it work. This year we have tried to encourage all the village, the allotments, the WI and the church to join in and make the show a community effort.

It works like this - nine categories need nine judges and nine stewards and we need to set up, measure out, collect the cups, count the entries, lay out the tables, organize the tea, the raffle and then clear it all up and hope that we have some happy results.

I would like to thank Sutton Courtenay News for publishing the entry forms and support, the exhibitors that make it all possible, the WI for the teas and especially the committee for the time .

As a result with the funds we raise, we hope to plant more daffodils and improve our village environment.

We look forward to seeing lots of exhibits next year and especially seeing the allotments which we have integrated into the show. Well done everybody and thank you

Sally Furze

	1st place cup winners
<b><u>Produce</u></b>	Mike Kerswell
<b><u>Flowers</u></b>	Carolyn Fordham
<b><u>Cookery</u></b>	Liz Maconochie
<b><u>Drinks</u></b>	Karen Maconochie
<b><u>Crafts</u></b>	Olive Lovelady
<b><u>Art</u></b>	Mrs R Busby
<b><u>Photography</u></b>	Fred Cabbage Sally Furze
<b><u>Children's Classes</u></b>	Abigail Dalby
<b><u>Flower Arranging</u></b>	Val Dalby
<b><u>Overall</u></b>	Sally Furze
<b><u>Daphne Sinclair</u></b>	Lynne Cabbage
<b><u>Memorial Cup</u></b>	



*Editors' Note: This year's Show was excellent. We understand that there were 51 separate entrants with many entering many different classes. 26 of these had entered for the first time. This year 14 children entered, more than in recent years which was very pleasing.*

**OTHER EVENTS NOTIFIED TO THE EDITORS**

**LONG WITTENHAM PRE-SCHOOL**

Is your home full of baby and children’s clothes (0-7 years), toys,games and/or equipment that are “good as new”? Would you like to make some extra money? Long Wittenham Pre-School is holding a Nearly New Sale on Saturday 17 October 2015 from 10-12 noon at Long Wittenham Village Hall. Sellers will receive 70% of all sales, with the other 30% going to Pre-School. There will also be delicious homemade cakes and biscuits for sale, and we would be grateful if all sellers could donate a cake/biscuits for the cake sale. All proceeds will go to Pre-School.

If you are interested in selling at our Nearly New Sale (if you haven’t sold with us before you will need a seller code), would like to donate items to sell or would like more information about how to become a seller, please email [nearlynew@longwittenhampreschool.co.uk](mailto:nearlynew@longwittenhampreschool.co.uk).

If you are planning to come and shop at the sale, please use the school car park and leave buggies and prams at home – the hall can get very crowded!

Thank you for supporting our Pre-School (Registered Charity #1158950).

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**STEVENTON CHORAL SOCIETY**

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October, Steventon Choral Society will be presenting ‘A GALA EVENING’ in support of Voices for Hospices (World Hospice & Palliative Care Day, Sobell House Hospice Charity). It will be held at 7.30 pm in Steventon Village Hall. Tickets cost £10 (children aged 12 and under are free) include interval refreshments and can be obtained from Trish Napper (01235 848292), Caroline Miller (01235 834015) or Steventon Post Office.

Trish Napper

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**ABOVE THE DREAMING SPIRES, OXFORDSHIRE’S GREAT WAR AVIATION STORY**

Celebrate the longstanding links between Oxfordshire and military aviation with a visit to SOFO and its new exhibition.

The exhibition highlights the importance of training in making air power a reality and how this transformed the landscape, while bringing economic and social change. Personal narratives are used to bring the excitement of air power alive from the Flying Sikh, Hardit Singh, a Yank in Oxford, Elliott White Springs and Oxfordshire’s Aussie Ace, Charles Stone.

Sir Peter Jackson, the Oscar winning director, responsible for Hollywood Blockbusters, ‘King Kong’, ‘The Hobbit’ and ‘Lord of the Rings’ is supporting the exhibition by providing his film, ‘Crossing the Line’, a story of a young infantryman and a pilot as they go into battle.

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum is behind the Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, in Woodstock





**Calling all knitters!**  
**Get knitting for the Big Knit 2015**



Age UK Oxfordshire is calling on nimble-fingered knitters in Oxfordshire to whip out their wool and needles and create little woolly hats for Age UK and innocent's Big Knit and help local older people keep warm, safe and well in winter.

Now in its 12th year, The Big Knit returns and budding knitters across the UK are being called upon to knit miniature woolly hats to adorn innocent smoothie bottles, which will be sold in stores nationwide from February 2016. For each be-hatted smoothie sold, innocent will donate 25p to help Age UK fund national and local winter projects. Age UK Oxfordshire is calling on local knitters to get as many hats as possible to them by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and needs knitters of all ages to help make this a reality.

Each winter, one older person dies needlessly every eight minutes because of the cold. With over a decade of support from knitters up and down the country, The Big Knit has raised vital funds to support local and national winter projects to help older people keep warm and well in winter.

Last year alone, more than 16,000 hats were lovingly created in Oxfordshire, raising over £3,000 for Age UK Oxfordshire's Information and Advice helpline during the winter months.

To get involved in the Big Knit, knitters can contact Age UK Oxfordshire on 0345 450 1276 to get a free hat pattern or visit the website [www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/bigknit](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/bigknit) to download one. Please send completed hats to Age UK Oxfordshire, 39 West St Helen Street, Abingdon OX14 5BT by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015.



# Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre

A journey of learning and discovery

Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
Oxfordshire



## Family Fun: Haunted Habitats

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>  
October

Discover more about the creepy, slimy, slithery things that make their home on our nature reserve. Have lots of fun with both indoor and outdoor activities. Please dress for all weathers.

No need to book, just drop in! Suitable for children aged 5+

We request a £4 donation for each participating child

### Get in touch

Email: [access@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:access@bbowt.org.uk) Phone: 01235 862024

### Where to find us

Wilks Park Estate, off the A34, 3 miles north of Didcot  
Sutton Courtenay, Sutton Courtenay Road, Abingdon, OX14 4TE

Supported by



an FIVE logo

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

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



## THE EARTH TRUST, WITTENHAM CLUMPS

### Autumn Water Festival

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 11am-4pm**

A celebration of autumn, harvest and our use of water. Did you know that jellyfish and cucumbers are both 95% water? Lots more fun facts and watery activities for all the family. Don't forget your wellies! Please see our website for all the latest details: [www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson). £5 adult, £2 child, £12 family.



### Woodland Adventure

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October, 10am-12pm**

An expedition for 5-8 year olds. Use your detective skills to discover the Earth Trust's woodland, where we'll explore, build and play. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

### Discover and Play

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 10am-12pm**

Forest School for pre-school children. Join the Earth Trust for a morning of play and discovery in our woodlands. Forest School offers hands on learning experiences in a natural environment. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

### Spooky Dusk Discovery Walk

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 5.30pm-7.30pm**

Do you dare come out to the woods tonight? Join us for a moonlit Halloween walk to experience the Earth Trust's woodland at night. Torch and courage essential. £5 adult, £2 child; booking essential: 01865 407792 or [admin@earthtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@earthtrust.org.uk)

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### Gardeners Required

Do you have green fingers? Do you have a little time to spare?

If the answer to these questions is "Yes!" then the Earth Trust would love to hear from you!

Around the Earth Trust Centre in Little Wittenham there are some gardens in need of attention. The area includes fruit bushes, five beds of shrubs and ground cover plants, low box hedges, two herb beds, and three climbing plants. There are also some less formal areas used by school groups: an orchard, wild play area, wildlife pond and living willow structures, plus native hedgerows.

"Whilst it's great to leave some areas of your garden to grow wild, to benefit local wildlife, some plants require a bit more care, so we're looking for green fingered volunteers to help us maintain and develop these gardens and other areas. We'll provide support, tools, gloves and other safety equipment when necessary, as well as the all important tea, coffee and biscuits. Ideas for new plantings and other improvements would be welcomed so there is a real opportunity for someone to put their own stamp on it," said Jez Elkin, Volunteer Engagement Officer at the Earth Trust.

Much of the work is dependent on the time of year but the Trust could easily accommodate a couple of volunteer gardeners one or two days a week. If you are interested please contact Jez on 01865 409413 or [volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk). For more information about the Earth Trust see [www.earthtrust.org.uk](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk)



The Oxfordshire Craft Guild will be staging its centre-piece 6 week long Christmas exhibition at The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock from 14 November until 23 December 2015. With over 25 designer makers showing their work, this established fixture on Oxfordshire's arts calendar is a must see event.

The Guild also has shorter exhibitions in the Chipping Norton Town Hall from 27 – 29 November and at the Arts and Crafts Market in Broad Street, Oxford on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of December.

Members of OCG have to go through a rigorous selection process, so visitors can be assured of the quality of the handcrafted pieces on show. Those looking for unique gifts for Christmas will find a wealth of beautiful objects from which to choose.

#### Oxfordshire Museum

Park Street, Woodstock

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

14 November -23 December

Tues – Sat 10.00 am-4.45 pm

Sundays 2.00 pm-4.45 pm

Closed Mondays

#### Chipping Norton Town Hall

Chipping Norton

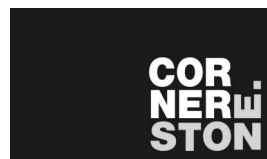
27 – 29 November

#### Arts & Craft Market

Broad Street, Oxford

5 & 6 December

Our autumn programme is now in full swing and our popular **Top Fun Sundays** offer loads of fun for families. Come along and enjoy a selection of family friendly activities from 11am (which might include dressing up, arts and crafts or meeting the cast), followed by a fabulous children's show at 2pm. Families are well catered for at Cornerstone, with high-chairs, booster seats for the auditorium and a friendly team of staff on hand to welcome and assist families during their visit.



October's **Top Fun Sunday** shows include **Pitschi, The Kitten with Dreams**, on Sunday 11 October. This original production uses a rich mix of story-telling, physical theatre, music and song to tell the story of a kitten that learns to be happy by being exactly what she is. For families and children from 3 and up.

Perfect for families and children aged 6+ **Baccala Clown: Pss Pss** offers an evening of ace clowning, superb circus skills and a trapeze on Thursday 8 October. This Cirque du Soleil Prize-winning show features two highly skilled performers who find magic in the mundane, using a unique blend of juggling, acrobatics, clowning and apples.

An evening of fast-paced musical comedy for ages 10+ and families on Saturday 31 October in **Dickens Abridged**. An absurdly talented cast of four bring hundreds of the great author's best-loved characters to life in 70 minutes. This wonderful show is a singing, dancing love-letter to the life and works of the great man, and unlike any Dickens-based show you've ever seen before. More comedy for ages 12+ and families in **He Had Hairy Hands**, on Saturday 17 October. It's an hilarious spoof horror with brilliant effects, bizarre characters and a spectacular finale. This award-winning comedy is a 1970s detective werewolf mystery. Hilarity, mystery and mayhem guaranteed for ages 12 and up!

On Friday 9 October English musician and guitarist Martin Simpson and American guitar and banjo player Dom Flemons come to Cornerstone as **Simpson and Flemons**. Both artists have explored how folk songs travelled from England to North America, and vice versa, changing shape en route and will perform brand new collaborative material rooted in English and American folk traditions.

Laugh your socks off with **Patrick Kielty: Help** as he returns to his stand-up roots with a brand new show on Sunday 18 October. Join this TV household name as he attempts to write a modern rule book for love, life and happiness.

Full details of our autumn season programme are available on our website <http://www.cornerstone-arts.org>. Online booking is available or bookings can be made by telephone from the Box Office on 01235 515144, or in person. (Open Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6pm and Sunday 11am-4pm. Closed Monday.)



### Citizens Advice puts pension options in your hands

**Q.** I've heard that the new pension reforms say I will have full access to my pension pot when I turn 55. How do I work out what I should do with my pension savings?

**A.** The pension reforms that came in this April give people the freedom to access their defined contribution pension and do whatever they want with it. You can buy an annuity, or take your pension out in one go, or withdraw it bit by bit and leave some of it invested. Planning for your retirement can be complicated so it's important to get guidance on your options.

The good news is that the Government has introduced Pension Wise, a new free service offering guidance online, over the phone with The Pensions Advisory Service, or face to face with Citizens Advice. Appointments are pre-booked 45-minute sessions tailored to your individual circumstances. Guidance is impartial, meaning that it will not recommend products or services, but the person you talk to will describe your options and help you consider their impact.

To get the most out of Pension Wise guidance, preparation is important. First, work out the value of your pension pots. Look at your most recent statement or contact your provider. Check and see if there are any restrictions attached. Next, get a state pension forecast, and gather the details of any benefits you receive.

The next step is to work out your likely expenditure. Include the cost of essentials like housing or utilities, and leisure activities. This should give you a rough budget.

Bring this information to your Pension Wise appointment. Citizens Advice staff will help you think through your circumstances and present the options available to you.



CLASSIFIED SERVICES DIRECTORY

# M-g Kitchens

Kitchen & Bedroom Showroom  
 Tuesday - Friday 9.30-5.00pm  
 Saturday 10.00 - 4.00pm

**01235 810029**  
**sales@m-g-kitchens.co.uk**

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