

King's Sutton Times

No 230, Summer 2024





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View from the village

This is the summer edition of the King's Sutton Times, though how much summer we have had to date is a moot point. However, the village has been busy as you will gather from the following pages.

We have two articles about different parts of the village – Astrop and Church Walk, both with significantly interesting historical links; but apart from the history both are in different neighbourhoods and have different links with the rest of the village. Does your house, or neighbourhood have interesting characteristics? Did interesting people, famous or infamous, live round about? What do you particularly like about your area? What makes it special? We would love to have other articles about other neighbourhoods, old or modern.

Hedgehogs are in decline and the posters in the village remind motorists to look out for them. The danger time is at night when they come out to look for food. Do you have hedgehogs in your garden? We do, and we sometimes see them bumbling about at night, but the most obvious signs are small black droppings on the grass. Some villages have hedgehog

pathways, making it possible for them to move from one garden to another through holes in the fences or walls. Some even record them on night cameras, and pretty funny they look!

Meanwhile the village moves on with numerous summer activities, whether it's the church fete, the village show, outings to the seaside or just enjoying the facilities at home which now include the adult gym equipment on the Rec. The chicane on the Charlton Road has been installed and the road resurfaced, which in itself is a great improvement. Ian, Jill, and Wendy have left the Post Office after 12 hard-working years and the new owners are busy changing the retail side into a cake shop while still running the postal services; we wish them well.

Thanks to all of you who sent in news and photos; they are lovely and I am very sorry that we couldn't incorporate them all or had to cut down the text. It's great to have a surplus of material and simple guidance about how to submit your entry, and especially photos, is available either from myself or from Pat Carter (see back cover for contact details).

Helen Forde (editor)

Village diary

50 + CLUB

Our last two trips have had to be cancelled due to a lack of numbers wanting to go. I'm not sure why this is the case when we have nearly 60 members and all our trips are open to people outside the club as well as members. Our trips have always attracted attention in the past, so it's both frustrating and worrying that this has changed.

The trips have been selected by the committee with the view of offering interesting and enjoyable places to visit at a reasonable cost. The coach is not cheap to hire so we can only run if enough people take advantage of the low cost we offer (much cheaper than that offered by the coach companies themselves, as we are not trying to make a profit). The cost of venues with an entrance fee is outside our control, though as a group there is usually a small discount which we pass on to you. Any feedback on this would be welcomed.

Our programme for the next two months is as follows;

14 August Coach Trip to SOUTHEND-ON-SEA SOLD OUT

Leaving:

Orchard Way 8.30am / Banbury Lane 8.35am

We return to this popular seaside venue by request from those who came two years ago.

11 September Meeting in Millennium Memorial Hall (small hall). £1.00 Taster session of Line Dancing with Nicky Andrews

For more information on any of the above, or about joining our club, contact Keith on 07548 268733.

Keith Moses

KING'S SUTTON VILLAGE SHOW AND CRAFT FAIR - SATURDAY, 17 AUGUST 2024

Please come and support our King's Sutton Village Show which is taking place at the Millennium Memorial Hall on Saturday 17 August.

The schedule details and entry forms can be found at the Co-op and the Post Office. The entry form should be completed and returned together with entry fees (50p per class, children free), to the Show Secretary at the Memorial Hall, **Wednesday 14 August 2024 between 6.30pm and 8pm**. (Please note that photographic entries need to be submitted with entry forms on 14 August as they will be judged in advance)

The order of the day will be:

Entries	8am-10am
Judging	10am-12.15pm
Open to the public	2pm-4.30pm
Presentation of prizes	4pm

There will be refreshments with homemade cakes, Tombola, and a craft fair. Look out for our posters around the village. We look forward to seeing you there.

FILM SOCIETY

Due to continued support and funding from Gigaclear I'm glad to announce that the Film Society is able to continue until the end of the year. Depending on the financial situation going forward, and the cost of the film rental, we will be looking at any possible funding options available to us over the coming months so that we can continue into next year.

The films for the rest of this season are

- 4 September - Bob Marley One Love
- 2 October - Boys in the Boat
- 6 November - Wicked Little Letters
- 4 December - The Holdovers

I hope to see as many of you then as possible, and of course, anyone else who has not been to see a film shown in the village. The doors open at 7 pm for the film start at 7.30 pm. The cost is £6 cash on the door, and refreshments are included.

Looking forward to seeing you all in September.

Jacqui Creed jacquicreed54@gmail.com

CALLING ALL BRIDGE PLAYERS - TRY DUPLICATE BRIDGE – IT'S FREE



KING'S SUTTON BRIDGE CLUB

www.bridgewebs.com/kingssutton

If you play rubber bridge at home or in a golf club or wherever, you may well get added enjoyment out of the great game by trying out Duplicate bridge. Bridge is bridge; but Duplicate bridge has some added features and benefits.

How is duplicate different?

In a duplicate bridge club, we play in partnerships as usual but we change opposition at the end of each round by East/West moving tables. The cards move round as well. They are held in 'boards' keeping the hands exactly the same for each partnership to play. So, by the end of an event you will have played against every pair in the room and played the same boards as all the other

pairs playing in your direction, East/West or North/South. We then draw up a league table to show how well you have played the hands compared to everyone else.

Duplicate is unpredictable and the results are highly variable. The better players will tend towards the top on average, but they will have their evenings when it all goes wrong, and they come near the bottom. The opposite is true as well. Less experienced players will have their moment in the sun when the boards go particularly well for them and not so well for others. It frequently occurs that the person who was top last week is bottom the following week - don't know why, it just happens.

Equipment is a bit different too. We play with computer-dealt hands and enter the outcome of each hand into tabletop devices. We get the result the moment the last table has finished the last hand.

How do you try it out?

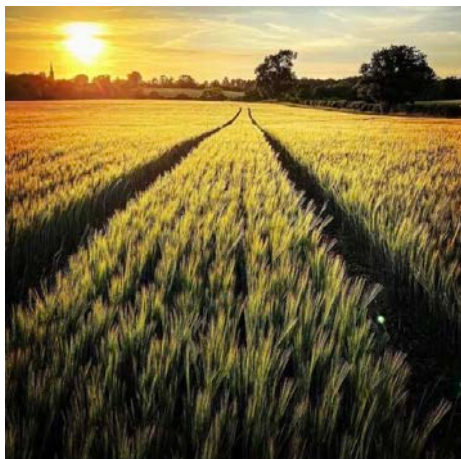
At King's Sutton our bridge club welcomes newcomers to two possible methods of trying out duplicate bridge. If you have a partner, you could come straight to the Thursday evening club nights. You need to be fairly confident you can play 24 hands in three hours to feel comfortable. If you don't have a partner, why not come to the Wednesday morning supervised bridge where you can find a partner and learn the ropes at a much slower speed of play? Even if you have a partner, the Wednesday morning session is a good way to meet us and try things out. Your first couple of sessions are free, then our table money is £3 an evening including refreshments, surely the best value night out in the area!

That's it in a nutshell. I've not mentioned the opportunities to get better at the game. I haven't mentioned post-match analysis, playing Duplicate in Teams, mentoring or the courses we run.

Village diary cont...

Come and try it out and we'll tell you more. We all enjoy our night out, we do our best with the cards we get, we make new friends, and we have a laugh. For more information Phone Ken Langdon 07850 616069.

Ken Langdon



FOOTPATH UPDATE

We have now laid mud control slabs on the path by the sewage works. Thanks to the parish council (i.e. you) for funding this. The next project is to collect gravel and chippings for spots where slabs aren't suitable. It's summer – do get out and enjoy your local footpaths!

NB: Facebook users can join the dedicated footpaths group.

Jeremy Renals

KS Parish Council Footpath Warden
footpaths@kingssutton-pc.gov.uk

GYM EQUIPMENT ON THE REC

The Parish Council hopes that residents are enjoying the new gym equipment on the Rec which is designed for adults aged 14 and over. Whilst children won't actually come



photo: David Bostock

to harm if using it, they would be better off playing on the equipment designed for their own age range, leaving the community gym space for the enjoyment of adults and teenagers. There are QR codes on the equipment to enhance your gym experience.

The Parish Council has been asked to consider introducing some new children's equipment which is accessible to children with special needs and disabilities. We have started to explore ways in which we can do this, probably by replacing some of the old toddler metal play pieces. This project would require fund raising and obtaining grants in advance. Look out for more details later in the year!

The summer brings longer warm evenings (hopefully!) meaning that the Rec is used for longer hours than at other times at the year. Some residents live close to the area, and we ask that users of the equipment are careful not to disturb them, especially in the evenings. For example, residents who retire to bed early can have their sleep disturbed by noise from those playing football.

Using the gym equipment

The new equipment which has been installed on the Rec for the community and village to use is a great way to start any new or ongoing fitness journey, is suitable for all ages and abilities and is totally free to use.

For most of us the hardest part in starting a fitness regime is just getting out of our heads and out of our own front doors. Sometimes you may take a break from the laptop for a walk so instead why not a short twenty or thirty minutes on the equipment? Next time you're going past why not take a short five-minute pit stop to get familiar with the equipment and build your confidence slowly, breaking that comfort zone?

There are so many benefits to outside exercise, here are just a few.

- Sunshine naturally increases your serotonin and releases endorphins, both helping anxiety and depression and improving overall well being
- Exercising outside helps improve your immune system
- It can help support better sleep
- It's a chance to be social
- It's all FREE with no membership required
- Being in the natural environment is a great distraction to all our worries
- Will boost self-esteem and confidence

Exercise of any type is great for our heart health; movement really is the medicine for our minds as much as for our body.

Zoe Crowhurst Ladies Fit Club Instructor

WELL DONE THE PARISH COUNCIL!

The Council is to be congratulated on arranging for the excellent range of outdoor gym equipment that is now available on the Rec.

As a young teenager the local park keeper chased us off the play equipment as it was only for children. I always wondered why no one thought of making his life easier by providing equipment for us teenagers. Although somewhat older, at last I have this superb adult facility a few minutes' walk from home and in a pleasant setting. It is an amenity I make use of most days of the week. It is used by adults of all ages and abilities including teenagers.

There is no doubt that for some of the more elderly and less mobile villagers it provides a facility prolonging mobility and well-being. It would be useful to have a notice stating the minimum age for use as a number of adults are inhibited by the equipment being taken over by children. Let us hope the equipment is respected and cared for as the council has provided local residents with a life enhancing facility.

Graham Winton

LET'S BEE HAVING YOU!



photo: Unsplash Damien Tupinier

The Parish Council is considering providing support to allow a community group to be established to manage several beehives. This project is in its early stages, we are currently gauging the level of potential interest from residents, whether they are experienced beekeepers or not.

There was a definite buzz of anticipation in the air for the first meeting of the Community Beekeeping Project Group held on 13 June with seven residents attending to find out more. Cllrs David Wood and David Bostock explained that the Parish Council had pledged support for the project and would seek grants for the necessary equipment. It is anticipated that the hives will be installed at the back of additional land purchased by the Parish Council behind the Mill Lane cemetery as part of a nature area.

Village diary cont...

Cllr Bostock has been on an introductory course at Oxfordshire Beekeepers Association, and it is hoped that a mentor could be found to support the King's Sutton group. It is planned to purchase the equipment in the autumn and for some residents to go on the full training course next Feb/March with a view to having the bees in place in March/April.

One of the residents present had previously kept bees which will be very helpful as the project progresses. In time we will harvest the honey and beeswax which will add another dimension to the project.

It's not too late to join this exciting community project – no experience is needed and it's a great way to learn new skills with like-minded people! Contact **Liz Hart** clerk@kingsutton-pc.gov.uk for more information.

Parish Council News

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORT

The 2024 Parish Meeting took place on Thursday 18 April in the King's Sutton Millennium Memorial Hall. As well as local residents and several Parish Councillors, Rebecca Breese (WNC Councillor) and two candidates for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's role were in attendance. At the start of the evening, a special presentation was made by the Parish Council Chairman, Robert Burrell to Dave Hall for his long service to the parish during his time as Footpaths Warden (almost 20 years).

Dave was awarded the **Freedom of the Parish** and presented with a dedicated scroll. Granting the Freedom of the Parish is the highest honour that the parish can bestow. Although it carries no privileges, those who receive the honour may use the

title of Freeman. The honour is awarded to those who have gone the extra mile in the contribution they have made to their parish or stand out head and shoulders above others in what has been achieved.

After the presentation, the Chairman gave his annual report. The Chairs of the Planning Committee and of the Finance, Governance and Policy Committee were available to respond to any queries arising from their reports and Cllr Rebecca Breese also responded to questions from the floor following her summary of the last year at



photo: Liz Hart

West Northamptonshire Council. Anna Savage Gunn and Danielle Stone explained what their main priorities would be if they were elected to be Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. Representatives from the Preschool and the Baptist Church allots thanked the Parish Council for grants received and explained the difference they had made.

Finally, there was an opportunity for residents to ask questions of those present. A resident thanked the Parish Council for everything it has done throughout the last year on behalf of those present and the evening came to a close.

Report to the Parish Council on 2023

This report to the Annual Parish Meeting is intended to present an overview of the organisation and range of activities undertaken by King's Sutton Parish Council (KSPC) over the last year.

PARISH COUNCIL ORGANISATION

The constitution of our parish council (PC) allows for 11 parish councillors. In practice, for the whole of the past year, 10 villagers have served as councillors and there remains a continuing vacancy for 1 councillor. (A list of current councillors is provided at the end of this report).

By law, other than the Annual Parish Meeting, the full PC is only required to meet three times a year. However, during the past year we have continued, with the exception of August, to meet on the first Thursday of every month. An additional extraordinary meeting was also held in April to consider a belated request from the Butcher's Arms PH for sponsorship to hold an event to mark the coronation. (So, in total the full parish council has met twelve times).

Each councillor is assigned an individual remit relating to the different areas of the council responsibilities. They also serve on the PC's two standing committees – the Planning Committee and the Finance, Governance and Policy Committee (FG&P). Both of these committees make recommendations to the full council, and both have held their full normal schedule of meetings throughout the year. (Additional information on the work of these committees is available in their separate reports on the council's website).

All meetings of the council and its committees are required to be open to the public.

Representatives of the council also sit on the village Playing Fields Association committee, and, as its nominees, act as trustees on the management committee of the Millennium Memorial Hall and the village's Poor's Allotment charity.

The council has also appointed wardens - who are not councillors - to oversee the Mill Lane cemetery, the council's trees, the war memorial, the 23 miles of footpaths and the community bus shelter library on its behalf. During the past year these roles have once again been conscientiously undertaken by Antony Alcock, Anne Martis, Andrew Waite, Jeremy Renals and Zabin Al-Anazi. I wish to take this opportunity to thank them on our and your behalf.

The council employs one person, Liz Hart, who acts as both the Parish Clerk and the council's Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). She is currently employed for 25 hours a week, working (at her discretion) from either the parish office (on the first floor of the Health Centre) or from her own home. Throughout the past year her performance in both roles has once again been truly outstanding and exemplary.

ACTIVITIES DURING THE PAST YEAR

Turning now to the work of the parish council over the past year. For the sake of brevity, I will do this under the following headings:

- Planning application consultations
 - The Mill Lane cemetery
 - Traffic calming measures
 - Street footway lighting
 - The Rec
 - The council's other amenities
- and then lastly,*
- The council's finances

PLANNING APPLICATION CONSULTATIONS

During the past year the council has been consulted on 24 planning applications

and information notices from the planning authority (West Northants Council). The council has objected to a number of these applications and for more information I would refer you to the detailed website report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

Because of our objection, the PC was particularly interested in the outcome of the appeal by Rectory Homes against the planning authority's refusal to grant permission for the development of 32 houses off Hampton Drive – the appeal was dismissed.

Consultations with West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) have also taken place on a range of draft policies such as redefining village confines; changes to parish boundaries; village development hierarchies and the proposed national changes to the rules of permitted development.

In last year's report I expressed the council's frustration with the drop in the level of service received from the planning authority since it became a Unitary Authority. Subsequently we met with Cllr Breese who advised us that WNC acknowledged there is a problem and were putting in place measures to address it.

On the recommendation of the Planning Committee, the council has decided to defer consideration of the development of a Neighbourhood Plan pending more detailed guidance from central government.

MILL LANE CEMETERY

During the past year

- A stock fence has been installed to enclose the recently purchased land which forms an extension to the cemetery. The PC is now working on plans to provide an access road with parking spaces along the south side of the extended site

- The lytch gate is being professionally repaired/renovated
- The cemetery footpaths have been professionally cleaned and treated with biocide which should negate the need for such treatment for several years
- A notice recognising the inclusion of War Graves Commission graves at the cemetery has been installed adjacent to the lytch gate

In future:

- Bird and bat boxes are to be installed to encourage more wildlife
- Repairs are being carried out to the wooden lytch gates and the roof support this spring

TRAFFIC CALMING

The PC's support for new traffic calming signage at Lowfields corner, Upper Astrop has now been actioned by the Highways authority. However, the request from a resident for a new 50 mph speed restriction at the top of Buxton farm hill – which the PC also supported – has not been approved by Highways. The Astrop Road chicane, towards which the PC is making a significant financial contribution, has now been approved by Highways and is expected to be installed during May.

STREET FOOTWAY LIGHTING

The council is responsible for the 120+ village footway lamps and has a project to convert them all to LED. The standard type of footway lamps has already been upgraded and the heritage type of lamps are to be upgraded in phases over the next five years to spread the cost. Electricity for the lamps is now supplied by green energy – consumption of which should drop with the installation of the LED lamps.

THE REC

Following the parish clerk's successful application for grants from a number of sources, the PC has decided to go ahead (at a cost of £27,200) with the installation of a range of community gym equipment on the Rec. This should be installed in late April. In 2023 the "No Mow May" policy was adopted for the perimeter verge of the Rec and it has been decided to repeat the practice again this year.

OTHER AMENITIES

- Eight electric vehicle (EV) charging-point bays have been installed within the Hall carpark and are now beginning to be used
- Following the survey of villagers, the community library in the Astrop Road bus shelter has been formally adopted by the council and a new low level stone wall has been constructed to prevent the ingress of water and blown leaves. The shelter is to be redecorated later this year
- The possible installation of CCTV to cover the facility has been deferred
- A yellow Bus Stop box has been painted on the road to help deter inconsiderate parking
- The PC has established a Climate Change Working Group to advise it on how it might advance biodiversity matters within the parish – by, for example, promoting community beekeeping
- On the recommendation of the Footpaths Warden, Mudcontrol slats have been purchased to improve the footing on a number of grass footpaths which sometimes become hazardous in wet weather. These are in the process of being laid where considered necessary
- A comprehensive professional survey of village trees under the control of the council has recently been completed and the identified remedial work is to be

undertaken in the coming months

- St Rumbold's wellhead, Astrop Road has been refurbished and the council has now taken over its guardianship from WNC
- A new editor and editorial board have been appointed to the council sponsored *King's Sutton Times* following the retirement of Liz Al-Anazi. There will be three rather than four issues of the village journal this coming year.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The auditor's Annual Governance and Accountability Return of the accounts for 2022/23 once again commended the effectiveness of the council's arrangements for financial management. Credit for this is directly attributable to the diligence of the parish clerk in her role as our Responsible Financial Officer.

BUDGET 2024/25

The council has set its portion of the Council Tax precept for 2024/25 at £86,127 which equates to a Band D payment of £100.01. This represents a 5.95% increase on last year (an extra £5.61 per year or 10.8p per week). Residents can be assured that this increase was only agreed following a very close evaluation of the council's reserves.

I would refer you to the detailed online report of the Chairman of the Finance, Governance and Policy Committee for further financial information.

GRANTS

The PC has awarded the following grants during the year to village groups and organisations:

- £1,750 for a new water trough at the Baptist Church allotments
- £816 for the development of an area for under two-year-olds to King's Sutton Preschool

- £374 for scanning a hard copy of the history of King's Sutton published 1993 so it can be available digitally on the PC's website
- £150, £200, and £650 to the Sequence Dance Club, the PTFA and the Butcher's Arms PH respectively for events to celebrate the coronation
- The council also decided to subsidise the newly organised Friday Coffee Shop, as it is an important health and well-being asset, by paying its hall hiring charges for three months (January – March 2024). (The council continues to do the same for the weekly Mother and Tots session at the Hall.).

CONCLUSION

I wish to conclude this report by thanking my fellow councillors for their continued support and hard work on behalf of the residents of the village during the past year.

I would also take this opportunity to remind everyone that there is currently a vacancy on the council, and that elections for the parish council as a whole will take place in May 2025 - irrespective of when the general election is held.

Bob Burrell, outgoing Chairman, KSPC
18 April 2024

- Susanne Read-Maskell (Amenities, PI C)
- David Wood (Vice Chair of Council; Chairman of FG&P)
- Stephen Wood (FG&P)

Key

FG&P = Finance, Governance and Policy Committee

PI C = Planning Committee



MILLENNIUM MEMORIAL HALL AND HEALTH CENTRE – ELECTRIC CHARGING POINTS

A reminder that the village has four electric car charging points, capable of providing 7.5 Kilowatts of power for up to eight cars at any one time. These are all located at the bottom right-hand side of the Millennium Memorial Hall and Health Centre car park. They are available 24 hours a day.

The chargers are provided by bp pulse and can be used in one of two ways:

1. Download the bp pulse App onto a mobile device (e.g. phone) from an App Store and follow the instructions online to set up a bp pulse account. To use the charger, you will need to transfer money from your bank account to your bp pulse account, which is enabled through the App.

and/or

2. Apply for a RFID card by visiting **www.bppulse.co.uk**

Parish Council News cont...

COUNCILLORS AND THEIR INDIVIDUAL REMITS AND ROLES DURING 2023/24

- Adrian Barry (Rec; PI C, Police Liaison Representative)
- David Bostock (Communications, PI C)
- Bob Burrell (Chairman of Council; FG&P)
- Jacqui Creed (Cemetery, FG&P, PI C)
- Ross Field (Lighting, FG&P, PI C)
- Ronnie Irving (Chairman of PI C; FG&P)
- Isabelle Malcolm (Traffic Calming)



NO MOW MAY

As it did last year, King's Sutton Parish Council is participating in No Mow May by leaving the road side verge along the Astrop Road and The Knob sides of the Rec unmown throughout the months of May and June (and possibly longer).

This land is approximately 236 metres long by 9.5 metres wide and therefore will liberate a space of approximately 2.2 square kilometres for nature by allowing smaller plants to grow and flower, providing a feast for pollinators, and locking away atmospheric carbon below ground. Last year there were some beautiful poppies covered with bees. The use of Yellow Rattle is being considered for next year.

If residents would like more information on how they can participate, please see Plantlife's No Mow May Movement

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>

HOGWATCH

Many thanks to the Parish Council for purchasing our lovely hedgehog signs! Some are already up but do contact the facebook group if you have seen any hedgehogs regularly somewhere without a nearby sign and another can be put up.

If you find a sick, injured, or dead hedgehog in the daylight or in the winter please get in touch with Brackley Hogwatch on 07528 119416. It is a volunteer run charity in Brackley which takes in sick and injured hedgehogs, monitors local numbers, and has currently rescued over 1000 hedgehogs to date! (www.facebook.com/groups/2045515149003338) Charity no:1188770



MILL LANE CEMETERY

The new black compost bin for spent flowers is being well used; please note that the WNC bins are for general commercial waste (although they are coloured green!) and so it is much better to use them for non-compostable items only. Bird and bat boxes have recently been installed in the cemetery to encourage biodiversity.

The lytch gates and roof support have now been repaired and the Parish Council



thanks Tony Alcock for repainting them in his voluntary role of Cemetery Warden. Tony and his family continue to tend the Jubilee Rose Garden.

Please note that while dogs are allowed in the cemetery to visit graves with their owners, they must be well behaved and on leads at all times. (Owners may dispose of any bagged dog waste in the WNC bins). The cemetery is obviously a place of quiet contemplation; there are NO public rights of ways which go via the cemetery into the field on the northern hedge boundary and therefore the paths in the cemetery should not be used to access that point as part of a recreational dog walk. Other visitors to the cemetery would also perceive this as disrespectful so compliance with this request would be very much appreciated.

Finally, a reminder that there are published regulations on the Parish Council website relating to memorial upkeep. Please note that no gravel should be placed around a tablet or headstone and neither should any plants be planted directly into the soil. These make it dangerous and difficult for our contractor to strim around the graves.



photo: Jacqui Creed

St Peter & St Paul's Church

Summer arrived just in time for our Summer Fête and it was lovely to see many of you there; I would like to thank everyone who supported the event, and to everyone who helped to organise and run the various stalls, games and activities. It was a wonderful afternoon. If you weren't able to make it, and missed the opportunity to buy some of the mouthwatering treats on sale then our regular **Dee's Deelights** event will return at 14.00 on Saturday 28 September. There will be a selection of cakes, jams, marmalades and more to buy, and a raffle and refreshments will also be available.

One of the many privileges of being the Vicar is the opportunity to take christening services. These are such happy, joyful occasions, and I always look forward to them. Christening is another word for baptism, and it is available for adults and children alike; it is never too late to be baptised! A christening is an occasion for giving thanks for the gift

of life, and to be welcomed into the Christian Church. The service beautifully encapsulates the fundamental tenets of the Christian faith. If this is something you'd like to explore, whether for yourself or for a member of your family, do contact me on the number below.

Two important dates in the church calendar will feature prominently in our plans for the second half of the year; at 11.00 on Sunday 22 September, we will celebrate our **Harvest Festival**. As we become more aware of the precious nature of the environment, and our dependence on it, this ancient service has taken on a new significance in our time. And on Sunday 10 November we will remember those who made the supreme sacrifice at our annual **Remembrance Sunday** service. This year we have been recalling the events of D-Day, and so with those memories we will gather at the War Memorial on The Square just before 11.00.

Our normal programme of services continues, with our **MAIN SUNDAY SERVICE AT 11.00**. Our **Children's Church meets on the first Sunday of the month at 11.00**. Each month there are stories, songs, craft activities, and refreshments. Anyone with young children is welcome, and those with pre-school children are also welcome to join our **Parent & Toddler Group, now re-named Little Blessings at 9.30 on Fridays**. For full details of what's going on in the Parish Church do see our Facebook page or website. Their addresses are printed below. You are always welcome to attend any of our services.

With all good wishes,
Father Matthew
Tel. 811364

Email: fathermatthew.r@icloud.com
Website: kingssuttonchurch.weebly.com
Facebook: **St Peter & St Paul's Church, King's Sutton**

King's Sutton Baptist Church

As a church family we want to thank everyone that came along to our church sale at the end of April. It was so lovely to have the whole church building bustling with people, with a chance to catch up with old friends and new. We hope those of you who came along enjoyed yourselves and found a bargain or two! It's a real church family effort to put these events on and it's always fun to be part of. If you missed out this time keep an eye out for our next one, a warm welcome is guaranteed. I must also let you know we raised over £880, for which we are really very grateful.

A highlight that we are looking forward to in the coming weeks is the Village Show. Our Messy Church team will be providing a small craft tent outside on the Rec, with crafts to do suitable for all ages. Do come and say 'Hi' and join in with the fun when you are visiting the show.

Don't forget keep an eye on our notice board and Facebook page for the most up to date news on our activities and events.

As a church family we pray for our village as a whole regularly, however if there are things that you would value us holding specifically in prayer, please get in touch, or pop a note in our prayer post box in our hall or through the Manse letter box.

Every blessing to you all,
Rev Abby (and all the Baptist Church family)
revabbyl@gmail.com or 01295 812436

Our stamp box at the bus stop

As some of you may have noticed we have a stamp collection box at the book bus stop. I popped the box there as an old school friend had discovered that their son had bone cancer.

At just six years old, Freddie was diagnosed with metastatic (in more than one place)



Ewing Sarcoma, which is a form of bone cancer. He went through 10 months of gruelling chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment and was a shadow of his former self by the end as treatment is so brutal. Some of the drugs used are so outdated, and prognosis is poor.... there is such a lack of research into this cruel disease, which is why Freddie's future was upset. You can read the full story at www.bcrf.org.uk/freddiesfuture.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

You collect your used stamps; small stamps, large stamps, new stamps, franked and international stamps and I then collect all the stamps, post them to the charity and they are then sold on to stamp collectors. Carefully cut the stamp from the envelope or package,



leaving a 1cm border around the edge. By saving just 1kg of stamps you can help fund one hour of life-saving research!

There are so many different types of stamps, and we love them all! Whether they are new or used, first or second class, foreign, first days covers, horizon labels or part of a larger collection or album. We can use them all to help fund our life-saving work.

Thanks again for the continued support and to everyone that has popped stamps in the box or to me; we have sent so many to the charity already so hopefully we can continue to send even more!

If anyone has any questions or wants to get in touch for me to collect any stamps, please get in touch.

Emma Watts 07855555343

<https://www.bcrf.org.uk/>

Climate change: looking after our water

Looking after our water follows the previous articles on Single Use Plastic and Ending Food Waste, as part of the Parish Council's Climate Change Campaign.

We are experiencing more droughts as a result of climate change, which contribute to water shortages. It is a fact that with population growth, water usage has been rising year on year.

SOME FACTS THAT MIGHT SURPRISE YOU:

- 50% of the UK's water is used in the home, averaging 142 litres per person a day
- Toilets use most water, accounting for nearly 30% of an average homes' indoor consumption
- Improved personal hygiene means more showers, using 75-90 litres in a 5-minute shower

Of course, it's not just about us. Nature

photo: Unsplash Kobu Agency



depends on fresh water for survival. Our lakes, rivers and wetlands provide a home for thousands of precious species which need water, like us, to survive. However, it is these freshwater resources from which we take our own water and which should be carefully stewarded. Sadly, reports in the media constantly remind us of poor maintenance and lack of investment in our water system, with pollution an all too frequent event. Let us not forget to hold the polluters to account!

TOP TIPS FOR SAVING WATER IN THE HOME:

- Spend less time in the shower but do use the shower instead of a bath
- Get a water butt to collect rainwater
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth, just enough for a rinse. This also applies while using soap, shampoo, or shower gel, when showering
- Fill up kettles only as much as you need
- Use full loads for your washing machine and dishwasher
- Maintain home appliances, e.g. repair taps, toilets, leaks etc
- Do not use sprinklers, the grass will recover!
- Fill up a jug of cold water so you always have a supply of cold water without running the tap.

Using your water at home more wisely also makes financial sense. The less water you use, the lower your water bill will be!

David Wood, Parish Councillor

Astrop then and now

The hamlet of Astrop, now joined to King's Sutton, dates back to at least the 15th century and the very tall hedge which towers over the right-hand side of the Charlton Road, bordering the Grey Court estate, was planted to commemorate the defeat of the Spanish Armada, according to a poem written by Deborah Warren entitled *The Armada Hedge* (1588).

Astrop Spa, (the well itself dated back to the 13th century) was discovered in 1664 and became one of the most sought-after spas in England. Dr Ratcliffe of Oxford was known to have patronised Astrop Well and recommended the waters to his patients. Huge numbers of people visited it including the Prince and Princess of Wales in 1739. The following year a pamphlet noted 70 conditions cured by the waters and stated, 'It penetrates every occult passage where other medicines cannot come'. Due to its popularity, it is said 'there were tearooms, a dance hall, long gravel walks and most importantly, many conveniences for revellers to repair to when the waters operated.' However, the Spa declined in popularity and by 1786 had been overtaken by other more fashionable rivals.

Astrop House was built for Sir John Willes c 1740, who was the Lord Chief Justice; subsequently it was bought by Sir William Brown (1865). The original roadway for horses and carriages came through Walton Grounds and past College Farm, continuing round the building known as The Round House (no. 53 Astrop Road) on to Charlton Lane and through the Astrop Estate to Newbottle. This road, and the Astrop Spa were located on his land and he closed both to the public, erecting a replica well on the left-hand side of the newly built Charlton Road. The main thoroughfare through the village became the Astrop Road and onto

Charlton Road, bypassing Newbottle. The Astrop estate was broken up in 1929 and the tenants were offered the opportunity to buy their holdings.

The old **School House** (built in 1847 at a point midway between Astrop and Kings Sutton known as 'Tween Towns') overlooks the Recreation Ground which was originally part of the Astrop Estate but was given to the village at a rent of 6d. per year until 1930 when it was bought by the Parish Council for £5.



The recreation ground 1870

The original **Astrop Grange** (now demolished) was mainly built in the 18th century but parts of it dated back to between 1565 and 1640 and it may have been extended to capitalise on the popularity of Astrop Spa.



Astrop Grange

And now, since World War II, the land between the Grange and the centre of the village has been built up and the names of some of the current roads indicate the previous use of the land; Glebe Rise is the prime example

being the original glebe land of the vicar (used to provide support for him) but there are also Orchard Way, Astrop Gardens and Dairy Ground suggesting the original functions of those areas. The Grange was eventually demolished in the early 21st century and was replaced by a similar, more modern building retaining many of its original features, although the sheltered housing, in the form of bungalows, remain in the front grounds.

Harry Robinson

3 CHURCH AVENUE AND ITS STORIES

Like so many old houses, number 3 Church Avenue has many stories to tell; some of which we know to be true, and some are a little more imaginative. We moved into the white cottage outside St Peter & Paul's in 2014 and connected with it, its location and history instantly. So many villagers have shared their stories and memories of the house and Church Avenue, from when it was attached in a row before the adjoining house burned down, to parties outside the front door at new year, and when tall trees lined the top of the graveyard blocking the now stunning view of the church. The house is registered differently by the post office and District Council; as Carpenter's Cottage (apparently dating back to the 18th century



The cruck beam



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when it was a pub frequented by the village carpenters), and The Nutshell (we believe linked to the Walnut Tree that once grew in the garden).

It is grade II listed, but despite its various features and history, the main reason for the listing is the cruck beam that sits in the roof. A structure (like a wishbone) that was commonly used in properties in the 16th century rests on two upright beams that bore the thatch and other beams that would have sat on top.

King's Sutton residents were very quick to point out another feature, for which our house seems to be known – the witch's shelf. On the public footpath side, above the window, is a wedge-shaped stone where folklore would have us believe that it was placed to invite a witch to sit, to distract her from cursing the livestock and crops in the village. One local book tells us that these shelves are known and documented occasionally on properties from this era, but number 3 has an additional feature. Next to the witch's shelf, is a small ledge...could this be for her cat? They happen to be protruding above where there was possibly once a bread oven. Who knows the real secrets of our house...but we feel incredibly lucky to be temporary custodians of a home that people in the village are also connected to and enjoy sharing their stories with us.

Ian Nutt

King's Sutton Preschool

At King's Sutton Pre-school we have had an incredibly busy term welcoming many new families into our community and showing around families wanting to join us in September.

The weather has brought many wonderful learning opportunities, one week we were collecting and measuring rainwater and practicing puddle splashing skills and the next



week we were learning about the UV rating and how to keep ourselves safe in the sun! We have had many celebrations and wow moments,

World Earth Day, St Georges day and Eid are just a few. We have also welcomed Brackley Hogwatch into Preschool, bringing with them Windsor the hedgehog which the children loved, showing him such care and concern.



Rebecca Herbert (Pre-school manager)

The Pre-school committee members and staff have also been busy with lots of fundraising events. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the local community and businesses donating seeds, pots, and gardening bits for our slowly growing children's Echo Garden. We also owe a huge thank you for all the kind donations from our breakfast club for all the lovely play equipment for our older children and a very kind donation from Karen and Wayne from the Butchers Arms. If anyone



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is having a clear out and has any games or Lego they would like to donate for our older school aged children, who attend our breakfast club, we would be very grateful as they need things to keep them entertained on rainy days! Please contact our chair who will happily collect any donations.

We also held our second very successful Drag Queen Bingo night; thanks to our fabulous committee treasurer Amy Osenton and other committee members' hard work the event again was a huge success!

We are very lucky to have some amazing Pre-school committee members so we can continue to fundraise and help run our outstanding Pre-school, but please still get in touch if you feel you can help in any way; if you are interested in enrolling your child, get in touch with Emma Watts at **chair@kingssuttonpreschool.co.uk**, call us on **01295 816006** or email **kingssuttonpreschool@outlook.com**

Emma Watts (Preschool Committee Chair)

King's Sutton Primary Academy

At King's Sutton Primary Academy, the children, staff, and friends of the school have been very busy over this summer term. The Year 6s completed their Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs), were incredibly focused and worked extremely hard to achieve their very best results. Year 6 have been taking part in transition sessions at their new secondary school and we wish them every success for their next steps in education and beyond.

All year groups have taken part in some special enrichment visits. The Reception class went to Broughton Grounds Fair, and really enjoyed the day, learning about the different animals and work on the farm. The middle year groups took a trip to Cadbury's

World in Birmingham to learn how chocolate first came to Europe and to discover that originally it was used as a medicine before being sold as a sweet treat. The oldest children went to the home of the World War Two Code breakers, Bletchley Park, and explored the amazing work of the men and women who were fundamental in the war effort.

We have continued to take part in all the local sports festivals. The children get so much out of these experiences, and we'd like to thank everyone who makes these events possible. With support from the school's PTFA, we have installed new roll over bars and a tree climbing area within the school grounds. The children are absolutely thrilled, and they enjoy getting plenty of use out of these all through the week.

In April the Department for Education approved our proposal for a SEND resource base for children with Autism. We are working closely with West Northants Council to get things ready for its opening. Our mainstream school has some places available in the Reception class, the Year 1 / 2 class and Year 3 / 4 class. Please contact West Northants Council admissions to request a place: School Admissions, West Northamptonshire Council (**westnorthants.gov.uk**) or contact the school: **office@kspa.prime7.org.uk** to arrange a visit.

If you would like to visit our friendly school, please get in touch to make an appointment to look around and to find out what we offer.

<https://www.kingssuttonpa.co.uk>.

For our social media, hot links are available from the homepage of our website, or you can find us on Facebook using @**kingssuttonprimaryacademy** and on Twitter using @**KSPA_news**.

Mrs Laura Wade, Headteacher

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Cuppa and a Chat! with Dave Hall

It was really lovely to chat with Dave Hall, the newest Freeman of King's Sutton! Dave was awarded the prestigious award at the Parish AGM in recognition of his years of faithful service to the village as the footpath warden.



Abby: Congratulations on becoming a Freeman of the Village! How did you feel when you received it?

Dave: I was staggered to receive the freedom of the village. The only other Freeman I know is Walter Mullis, chairman of the parish council for years, so I was really surprised they gave it to me too.

A: How long have you lived in the village and what brought you here?

D: 52 years after I moved from Gloucester; originally, I lodged in Banbury and then I had a big old Bedford van which I slept in during a very warm summer for 3 months while I was looking for a house. I'd virtually agreed to buy one in Banbury, but I was in the estate agents and the lady said, 'Hang on Mr Hall, I think I've got just what you are looking for'. When I looked at the particulars, I got straight on my push bike to come and see it, it had a big garden and being in this nice little village, I said no to the other one and yes to this one! It was £7250. I paid a bit extra for the furniture, which I've still got!

A: What got you involved in being the Footpath Warden here?

D: I knew Don Brown and his brother-in-law, Mick Coombes, who use to do it before me and when they died, I took it on. I'd already been retired a couple of years and so it was just a little bit extra to what I was already enjoying, walking.

A: What does a Footpath Warden do?

D: They make sure that the footpaths are well maintained, signposted and aren't obstructed. Sometimes I talked to landowners and the council about the footpaths. I also got half a dozen styles made into kissing gates, so they are easier to get through, though I can still just about get over a style! I used to walk all the local footpaths a couple of times a year to check them. Jeremy, the new chap, is doing a good job, putting up new signs.

A: Do you have a favourite village walk?

D: I do now, walking down and along the canal.

A: If someone was new to the village, what would be your top tip for settling in well?

D: Get a copy of the *King's Sutton Times*, look out for notices of what's going on, and put your name forward to take part in things, there's lots going on.

A: If you could have a cup of tea with anyone, who would it be?

D: My late wife would be one. And then if I'm allowed more than one all those I go dancing with.

A: What's your favourite biscuit with your cup of tea?

D: Oaties

A: Dunk or not to dunk?

D: Sometimes dunk!

You'll find a list of local walks on the parish website; click on The Parish tab and then Local Walks to find a PDF of 6 walks around King's Sutton. Dave also mentioned that you can record any obstructions to footpaths via the **Fix my street** app. Our current Footpath Warden is **Jeremy Renals**, and he can be contacted by email: footpaths@kingsutton-pc.gov.uk

<https://kingsutton-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/six-walks-around-kings-sutton-july-2020-lr.pdf>

Rev Abby Lintern





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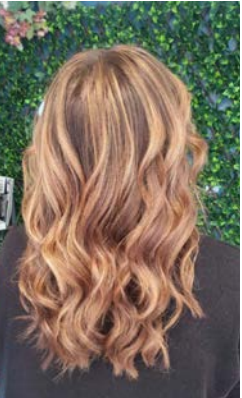
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Leaving King's Sutton

After nearly 10 years of living here, this August I'll be saying goodbye to King's Sutton to move back to London with my husband, Robbie, and young daughter, Astrid. We're excited about the move but will be very sad to leave and will miss so much about this place.

Until moving here I'd never lived in the countryside so I didn't know what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised; never before had fields, sheep, and horses been part of my everyday life; I'm not sure that's something we'll come by so easily in London. We loved having a garden, chickens, and a kitten; our beautiful cat is still with us and we kept the hens for several years but when our daughter arrived on the scene, we realised that there was only a certain amount of cleaning up we were prepared to do!

Our lives initially revolved around us teaching at Chenderit (and Robbie's still does). Bumping into friendly students on the Rec or in the shop is always a pleasure. We'll miss being part of that community, though we might be more relaxed in a pub where we're not being served by people we used to teach!

In July 2020 we moved to Hong Kong for a couple of years. It was the beginning of the pandemic and I was pregnant – I've made more sensible decisions. Despite everything we had a brilliant time but came back in 2022 so Astrid could meet her family. And so, the parenting chapter of our lives in King's Sutton began. I met Lynn in the playground that summer. Through her fantastic toddler group in the Millennium Hall, and later through the amazing Preschool, and nearby Wade Gymnastics, we met a lot of other people enduring tantrums and nappy changes.

Other highlights of living here for us have included Arts Week, Fireworks Night, the

Tennis Club, walks around the Church, (and for Astrid walks along the Baptist Church wall), the Post Office, the Co-op, the bus-stop library, and the odd adventure down to the canal. What a wonderful place to live! The city lights beckon us but who knows, maybe we'll be back one day. We'll definitely come as visitors and look forward to bumping into some friendly faces when we do.

Nicole Boothman

King's Sutton Post Office

A very warm welcome to **Mandy and Matt Burn**, who took over the running of the Kings Sutton Post Office and Shop on the 17 June. Mandy has a background in hospitality and in producing home-made cheesecakes, and Matt has been in banking and estate agency. They have two adult boys and a teenage girl and they all live in Balscote. It is great news for the village that they have taken on this task.



Mandy and Matt have now been fully trained to run a Post Office: provision of post office services was only interrupted for a morning! They have plans to take the shop in a different direction. The first items to be available for sale will be home-made cheesecakes. Mandy has been making them

for some time now and they have received some great reviews. You can contact her with regards to cheesecakes as follows:

Facebook: 'The Little Cheesecake Corner'

Email for cheesecake orders: mandy@thelittlecheesecakecorner.co.uk

Website (in construction): thelittlecheesecakecorner.co.uk

Beyond the cheesecakes, the shop will be focussed on offering products more akin to those found in a delicatessen, or those under the heading of 'Larder'. So, for example, they anticipate offering spicy meats, delicious and unusual sauces, a range of cheeses, vinegars, pasta sauces, olives, 'posh pop', etc. Customers will also be able to leave with a cup of coffee (flat white, latte etc).

However, it will take a while to convert the shop so that it can offer all these items. Mandy and Matt estimate that the majority of them should be available by the end of July, but some will be available earlier than that. Mandy and Matt would love people to pop in to say 'Hello' and to make suggestions as to what else they would like to see available in the shop.

It is great news that the village is going to continue to have a post office and shop that will complement what is available elsewhere in the local area. We wish Mandy and Matt good luck and every success in their new venture.

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday 9am - 5.30pm
Saturday Post Office: 9.30am - 12 midday
Saturday Shop 9.30am - 12 midday, but opening until 5pm from the end of July
Sunday closed

Telephone: 01295 811379

Email: kingssuttonpost@gmail.com

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



Wearing a poppy is a demonstration of support for the service and sacrifice of our armed forces veterans and their families. The poppy has been a symbol of remembrance for over 100 years. Sales of poppies directly support the Armed forces Community and fund numerous projects to help veterans and their families. Last year King's Sutton contributed just over £2,000 to the total of £49.2m that will support over 33,000 veterans and their families.

We raise funds through door-to-door collections as well as through our collection boxes in the pubs, the Co-op, and the Post Office and of course at the Playing Fields Association Firework Display. This year we are seeking new volunteers to support with door-to-door collections. This involves spending a few hours collecting once the Poppy Appeal launches at the end of October. If you would be interested in supporting us please contact **Ross Field at field.ross@yahoo.co.uk or on 07985 726100.**

This year we are also planning a Poppy Appeal Quiz which will be held on Sunday 27 October from 7.30pm at the Butcher's Arms. Please put this date in your diary. Each year we mark Remembrance with a ceremony at King's Sutton War Memorial on the green just outside the Church. It is always well attended by villagers.

Songs for the Road

Let me begin by thanking everyone who supported the concert at the church on the 27 April. It was a wonderful evening. My inspiration for Songs for the Road came from my wife Susan. She had been diagnosed with an incurable medical condition and was attending Katharine House Hospice for therapy. On our frequent trips to Katharine House, no-matter how carefully I drove, Susan experienced traumatic pain when I went over the potholed access road. She was eventually taken in for end-of-life care, and in her last few days she gave me lots of instructions, one of which was to fix the road at the hospice.

I realised that the problems with the road affected everyone who works at KHH and everyone who visits by car. As a civil engineer I knew I could use my skills to repair the road and the little bridge, and as someone who enjoys singing, I felt I might be able to put on a fund-raising concert. I wanted to raise sufficient money to sort out the road as well as to invite companies with appropriate skills to offer their services; and I wanted to use my own civil engineering experience to manage the process of design and construction. I have built roads in many countries, so that part of the challenge didn't faze me, but putting on a concert did.

I found a ladies' choir in King's Sutton who agreed to help and they sang beautifully. The daughter of a friend offered to play her saxophone, a friend from the north

of England offered to give a monologue, I sang a couple of duets with a soprano from the hospice, my brother, who had been a professional opera singer came out of retirement and gave two short performances. Other friends came forward to assist with organising ticket sales, refreshments, a raffle, and a mini auction. King's Sutton church was full to capacity and the result was a magical evening which everyone seemed to enjoy. We raised almost £5,000.

By the beginning of May, with other activities and donations, I had £8,000 in available funds so I set about organising some of the work. At this stage I found the generosity of people and friends in the engineering business to be overwhelming, and so far, the potholes have been filled, the entrance has been surfaced and the steel barriers, which will replace the wooden ones on the bridge are currently being fabricated by a friend in Wales. We still need funds to complete the surfacing of the road and I would like to reach out to people who read this article to please send a donation to Katharine House and mark it Donation for the Road.

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David Barratt



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You also need to pre-book your seat for each journey as spaces are limited. To book your seat telephone Ability on **01327 604123**.

We look forward to welcoming you on board!

Please ring Ability with any queries on **01327 604123**.

photo: Alison Dimitrakopoulou



Easter flowers in St Peter's and St Paul's church



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MONDAY 19 AUGUST	FROSTS CENTRE IN MK	FREE	Beautiful nurseries, excellent shopping and must visit for any gardener
FRIDAY 30 AUGUST	BICESTER TOWN, GARDEN CENTRE OR BICESTER VILLAGE	FREE	The last Friday of the month a trip to Bicester town/Garden Centre/Village *Please advise which location you require*
WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER	BANBURY TOWN OR GATEWAY	FREE	The first Wednesday of the month visit to this local town or Gateway Retail Park *Please advise which location you require*
WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER	ABINGDON 	FREE	Stroll around the town and soak in the wealth of architecture, historical treasures, shopping, independent stores and the beautiful Thames river
WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER	BELL PLANTATION & CAFE	FREE	Garden centre and café with some independent stores
FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER	BICESTER TOWN, GARDEN CENTRE OR BICESTER VILLAGE	FREE	The last Friday of the month a trip to Bicester town/Garden Centre/Village *Please advise which location you require*

The King's Sutton Times is sponsored and published by King's Sutton Parish Council. However, the magazine maintains editorial independence and its content does not necessarily reflect the council's view.



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Editorial Contributions

The King's Sutton times very much welcomes articles, photographs and artworks relating to the village and its residents. Please submit contributions to Helen Forde, ksteditor@kingssutton-pc.gov.uk.

Otherwise drop in a paper copy of your contribution to the Parish Clerk with a note stating in which section of the magazine you would like it to appear. Please note that we reserve the right to edit or refuse any item submitted for publication.



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