

SUTTONS SEASONS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018



*I wonder if the sap is rising yet ,
If wintry birds are dreaming of a mate,
If frozen snowdrops feel as yet the sun
And crocus fires are kindling one by one;
Sing robin sing:
I am still sore in doubt concerning Spring*

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Village Diary

13 February	7.30pm.	WI Pancake Supper.	Abingdon Hall IM
17 February	2.30pm	Rudi the Otter	SW Village Hall
21 February	2.30pm.	WI Bonny Sartin of the Yetties	Abingdon Hall IM
21 March	2.30pm.	WI Rare Breeds.	Abingdon Hall IM
14 March	7.30pm.	Parish Council Meeting	SW Village Hall
18 April	2.30pm.	WI AGM + Roger Daniels, Magician	Abingdon Hall IM

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the new look Suttons Seasons. I hope that you continue to enjoy the publication and also benefit from the new format which allows greater space for more pictures, new topics and other innovative ideas. If you have any issues concerning the magazine, or the village, its residents or the wider world then why not voice them in "Letters to the Editor". Simply write an email to suttonseasons@suttonwaldron.info. All letters submitted with an address in the village will be published in the next issue—copy date 25th March for the April issue. If you wish to remain anonymous to the readership

SUTTON WALDRON & IWERNE MINSTER WI

When we arrived at the Abingdon Hall in November we were greeted by a lovely colourful display of hats made by one of our members who had been inspired by a millinery course.

After a brief but important discussion on the WI Federation's 2018 resolutions Caroline O'Brien explained how she had made some of the hats which all looked very professional. We then had the chance to try some of them and decide which ones we would like to borrow for future weddings!

Our traditional Christmas lunch in December, enjoyed by 30 members, was cooked and served by the committee apart from a husband who dutifully carved the turkey breast.

Last month Louise Talbot gave us a very technical talk about cheese making. Louise used to own a dairy farm in New Zealand where she made a variety of cheeses and still enjoys practising her skills locally. We were all unaware that 20% of the population has some form of lactose intolerance. She demonstrated various aspects of how to make several cheeses and then we had the opportunity to try some of her warmed Cypriot halloumi made from sheep's milk which was delicious.

Sandra Jelbart

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Village Hall Committee are in the process of devising a new programme of events for 2018 and we start the year



with a visit from an Asian Short Clawed Otter named Rudi! His owner has very kindly said she would come with Rudi and tell us all about her life with otters and Rudi. This will take place on Saturday 17th February at 2.30 in the Hall and if you haven't already

received a leaflet all about this you soon will, giving all the details. It will be a fascinating afternoon for children and adults alike so we hope you will come along.

Jane McNeill 811008

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The roadworks on the A350 are progressing and the re-surfacing has now reached the bus stop by Sutton Waldron. In addition to the re-surfacing, gates are going to be erected at the start of the village on the A350. The plan for the Sutton Waldron gates can be downloaded from the village website. the speed limit between the gates will be 30mph and the speed limit up to Fontmell Magna will be 40mph. The Highways will be back in the near future to put up the gates and the speed limit signage. In addition the speed limit through the Village coming from Vale Farm up to the junction with the A350 will be 30mph.

The A350 Community Group, the local councilors and MPs are actively lobbying for a better North/South route. The improvement of the North/South route has been discussed for more than 30 years. Previously the focus has been on the detrimental impact to the residents along the A350 but now the focus is on the economic benefits to North Dorset. The funds for any improvements cannot be found locally therefore a case has to be made to central government. The initial step will be to persuade central government to commence a strategic study to improve the roads taking traffic between Poole and the M4. To this end the local MPs have recently written to the government asking for such a study.

At the last Parish Council meeting the Parish Council set the budget for 2018/19. After some discussion it was agreed that the precept should be reduced from £2900 in 2017/18 to £2400 for 2018/19. It was also agreed that the Parish Council would hire someone to maintain the Spinney. In the past this had been done by volunteers but notwithstanding their hard work it was felt it was time to employ someone to take on this task. The plan is to bring the Spinney back to its former glory by removing the brambles and nettles to allow for the growth of grass and wild flowers.

The Parish Council have also agreed to purchase a dedicated dog-poo bin. The bin near the phone box is now to be used for general waste only. The new bin will be located at the end of the Village Hall hedge on Church Lane. Both bins will be emptied by the Dorset Waste Partnership

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 14th March 2018 at 7.30 in the Village Hall. As ever everyone is welcome.

Marianne Wheatley

Suttons Seasons is now available to all in the following ways:-

Full colour: Downloaded in pdf from the Village website on www.suttonwaldron.info

or in pdf via personal email—write to suttonseasons@suttonwaldron.info

Black and White copies: available in limited quantities from the telephone box or church porch

In Praise of Gravy

(Part One!)

There was a young man from Sutton,
Who for gravy was a bit of a glutton.
He supped it like soup,
Delicious brown gloop,
And ate it with pork, ham and mutton!

He slurped off a spoon,
And sucked through a straw,
Till the boat with the gravy was no more.
And with a lick of the tongue and a smack of lips,
Used his finger for those hard to reach bits!



Oh gravy, oh gravy, why are you so grand?
Chicken, beef, veg; I don't fuss for the brand.
But it has to be rich, salty and thick,
And there has to be loads for me after to dip!

The boiling of bones is the best way to go,
It makes it all meaty and tasty although...
The juice from the meat will do just as well,
To make excellent gravy it's best to be slow,
And sift the flour finely, but stir as you go.

Then gradually you should add the stock to the pan,
That you made from the veggies, now that's a good plan!
Viscous dark gravy that will hold up a sprout,
That when left turns solid and you can not pour out.
That is the best says the young man from Sutton,
Not transparent-thin gravy, that's my deduction!

So serve it with roast in copious amounts,
With pie, mash and peas, it is paramount.
With chops and joints and it's delicious with crackers,
A spoon of hot gravy with the crackers you scatter!

So I have been compelled to write a short rhyme,
In an ode to worship a best food of all time.
And the young man I live with is the one in the story,
Yet he shall remain nameless, to protect him from glory!

To Be Continued.....

Celia Myth



GARDEN NOTES

Here we are on the verge of Spring and I am sure everyone has noticed a great deal of activity amongst the birds. Robins, Blue Tits and Blackbirds, as have many others, started nesting already; so please stay your hand with any shrub or hedge pruning now. This work should have been done! Climbing plants still remain to be trained and pruned but keep a look out for any birds nesting.

A lot of hard work still awaits but soon the rewards of all your graft should be delighting you with spring bulbs and early flowering shrubs. You need to get the compost and mulch down on your borders and, if you haven't already done so, get on with planting shrubs and herbaceous plants. It's never too late! The trouble is though one tends to forget what was going on in your garden in the previous year.

If you are still thinking of planting winter flowering shrubs may I suggest two candidates for your shopping and planting list.

Chimonanthus praecox or Winter Sweet



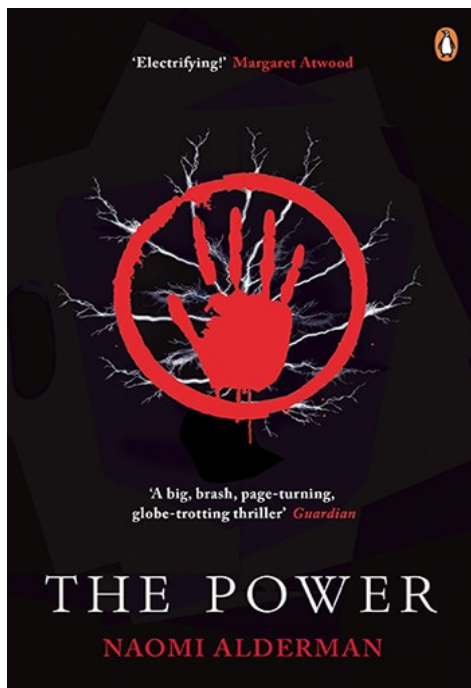
It makes a largish shrub but has a glorious scent at this time of year. It can be trained against a wall in a cold place. It needs to be sited where one sometimes walks to get the full benefit of its perfume.

Daphne odora 'Aureomarginata



For a smaller scented shrub you cannot go wrong with this plant in a sheltered spot. They can be temperamental and expensive but well worth all that as they are beautiful plants for a time of year when we all need some harbinger of the abundance of Spring.

DM



BOOK REVIEW

Last summer *The Power* by Naomi Alderman won the Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction and as a result got a fair amount of PR. I read it and loved it, although admittedly some 9 months later may struggle to pin down exact details (it's true; I struggle to remember what I was doing last week...) but I will do my best.

It got a reasonable amount of publicity for being labelled science fiction (or even worse dystopian – what does that mean?!) which always bothers me as labels can put so many people off but it is a fantastic thriller

which describes a world where women, gradually, around the world, started to develop and control electrical surges through their bodies. At the beginning this power was not used to fatal effect but allowed the formation of supportive and protective female only communities often in response to male aggression. Now, we all know that when communities with a collective identity which is different to the one in power start to increase in size and attract attention, uncertainty and then aggression follow. There are many more wise minds than mine that can comment on the female / male dynamic but this book really encourages thought about power and corruption which in today's world has to be relevant. There are religious metaphors aplenty, not least with one of the main characters being described, despite her efforts to the contrary, as the new messiah and the visual image of her with arms outstretched, electrical power surging from wounds on both wrists, is fairly obvious. It also draws attention to broken & forgotten communities and how desperate they are for one person to provide them with hope, even if it is unrealistic. And how we are all flawed and unpredictable. Uncontrollable even. I also enjoyed the theme of social media and news agencies creating international "facts" based on snapshots and reinterpretation of images and how powerful and destructive this can be.

We ignore how easy it is to create fake, but believable, news at our peril.

The plot surges towards a startling and violent conclusion complete with global political tension and then there is an "epilogue"; a series of communications between editor and writer discussing gender roles but completely reversed from today's accepted norms which is particularly thought provoking. As the author herself said "I don't



Naomi Alderman

have the answers to the problems of gender but hopefully I have some interesting questions."

Enjoy.

Next time: *Good Me, Bad Me* by Ali Land. A Richard & Judy Book club choice, and another fast paced thriller with a decent twist at the end.

A book lover

Notes From A Country Church



Firstly, a big, big thank you for your support at the annual church Jumble Sale. Despite not getting our usual vast array of jumble, we raised over £600 on the day. Many thanks to all of the helpers and very special thanks to Ian Pinder for his herculean work in managing the exercise and making it so successful - **you're a star Ian.**

Are you a family with children wondering whether now is the right time to take the plunge and sample a church service? Why not try our family service on the 3rd Sunday of the month. It is very friendly, the children will love it and it provides a very gentle introduction to the Christian faith.

We hope you like the restoration of the iron railings and gates. The next outdoor project is to tidy up the Old Churchyard Nature Reserve by restoring the path through the grounds, replacing rotten nesting boxes and putting a bench to give a lovely view of the downs. If you would like to be part of the working party then we would love to hear from you (rod@swchurch.uk)

As usual, we would love to get your feedback on what happens in the Church – your opinion matters.

Rod Swift – Churchwarden

SW2: SUTTON WALDRON SKY WATCHERS

I suppose anyone can say what you would see in the night sky at the moment - *Cloud*. I think though as we move into February and March there is a good chance of some crisp clear sky and some good viewing. Mercury makes an appearance in the predawn sky for the first few days of February, it will be in the south east for about 30 mins before sunrise. Venus will appear brilliant in the early evening sky becoming brightest in early March. The moon makes its closest



approach to us (perigee) in the early days of February so will appear particularly bright and large at its lowest point. If you can see Jupiter with any optical aid around about 9th you should get a view of its four bright moons.

Three facts

On Venus one day is longer than a year (it takes longer to spin on its axis than it does to orbit the Sun)

One million Earths could fit inside the Sun

You become taller in space (On the Earth the effect of gravity compresses your vertebrae)

Joe Mabbort

Astronomy word search

M	B	C	L	C	A	R	H	C	X	R	T
P	L	E	H	I	A	L	E	L	O	D	F
E	A	S	A	T	G	P	U	T	X	U	I
D	C	R	S	V	H	H	C	B	N	Y	H
U	K	A	A	E	O	E	T	I	E	S	S
T	H	P	I	L	L	N	V	Y	Z	N	D
I	O	D	W	F	L	E	R	T	E	G	E
N	L	R	E	Z	R	A	V	E	A	A	R
G	E	R	L	S	Q	O	X	H	P	R	R
A	E	G	E	Y	X	A	L	A	G	U	H
M	O	R	E	F	R	A	C	T	O	R	S
E	L	B	A	I	R	A	V	N	O	V	A

Try and find these words: Black hole, Nebula, Reflector, Variable, Cepheid, Nova, Refractor, Galaxy, Parallax, Star, Light Year, Parsec, Supernova, Magnitude, Red shift, Universe. *This is quite a difficult word search. Some of the words go across, some up or*

WHAT'S ON NEARBY



After all the food and inactivity of the festive period is this now the time for a new fitness regime?

High and low intensity aerobics classes are available now in Fontmell Magna and Iwerne Minster.

The instructor, Abby Down, with infectious energy, aims to promote a fun fitness party in a non-intimidating atmosphere. Zumba Fitness® - an excellent choice of weight loss and body toning has been brought to local villages in Abby's own eclectic style.

Details:-

Any sex or age over 14 welcome - young or young at heart. The introductory class is only £4 - just to see if you like the infectious music!

Clayesmore Sports Centre: Monday evening 7.30 start
Fontmell Village Hall: Thursday morning 9.30 start

For more information ring Abby on 07901597129

or email zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com

There are no silly questions - ask Abby anything

Art Club Exhibition

The Art Club Biennial Exhibition will be on Sunday 25 February between 2pm and 5pm in Fontmell Magna Village Hall. Entry is free and everyone is invited to come along and see what we do. Tea, coffee and homemade cakes will be available. The event will be supporting Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.



Two ladies from Sutton Waldron belong to the 21 strong Fontmell Magna Art Club which meets every week. Members paint a variety of subjects in different styles and media. Last autumn we had an afternoon portrait session with renowned artist Anthony Connelly and

two very patient models. Many members had never attempted a portrait before. Anthony ensured that everyone received some individual instruction and most of us were pleased with the results. Some of these will be on display at the exhibition.

KEITH SAMWAYS

Keith Samways died suddenly on Monday January 22nd despite the stalwart efforts of the paramedics and Dorset Air Ambulance. We would like to thank everyone who has sent cards, letters, phoned and visited. All these kind things really do help me and my family cope with our loss. It shows what a friendly and supportive village this is.

My daughter tells me that Gillingham primary school is collecting milk bottle tops for the Dorset Air Ambulance so if anyone has any I would be pleased to receive them and pass them on.

Gill Samways

We were all stunned and shocked at the sudden death of Keith Samways. When the Hall was being refurbished in 2008/9 Keith was an integral part of the team of volunteers and since then had often carried out running repairs on the fabric of the building. Gill has been on the Committee for many years and Keith was a great support behind the scenes. We will miss him and his humour and our thoughts and prayers are with Gill and their family.

Jane McNeill

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor: Keith Prenton:
email suttonseasons@suttonwaldron.info

Dear Sir

I am most concerned about the proposed housing development on the southern edge of Fontmell Magna for the following reasons:-

The proposed development is right on the edge of a designated area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). One is forced to ask what are AONB's created for if not to protect and conserve an area. I am afraid that council planners are ignoring this basic tenet of conservation and riding roughshod through its *raison d'être*.

It will be a scar upon the landscape and the village in that it has not been integrated within its envelope and planned without reference to local infrastructure. There will be excessive light pollution and increased traffic on already congested roads. This points to a general lack of care in planning.

As a resident of Sutton Waldron my fear is that this development, once started, will lead to an eventual merging of our two villages.

This development takes prime agricultural land out of production when we need all we can get in the future with the prospect of worldwide starvation and the consequences of regaining our sovereignty.

It seems to me that this development is being forced upon Fontmell Magna by Dorset Council planning department. Of course there is a bigger picture here with increased population pressures but, in my opinion, a lot more thought needs to go into this proposal.

This is such a beautiful area of rural England and it should be cherished. Once developed it can never be regenerated.

Yours faithfully

David Milanes



If you have anything to say about the letters in this magazine or have views on any topic, local or worldwide that you wish to share within the village, then please address them to the above email. No letter will be published if it uses threatening, profane, racist language or does clearly show details of name and home address. If you do not wish to have your name published alongside your letter for any reason then please write in your email clearly "mark my letter—name and address supplied."

Editor's note:-

The section below is dedicated to the memory of my neighbour and friend, Keith Samways. At times during the preparation of this magazine I have been in doubt as to whether I should include this new section into the publication. In the end there was no choice. He is, as was always his way, standing behind me telling me to "get on with it". We compiled this list of useful prices which affect all households in the village not to be cleverer or smarter than anyone else, just to help and inform. I am sure that many can beat these figures as I am equally sure that many cannot. Over time they may become of historical value—who knows. **Kp**

Key local price indicators

Description	Price	Amount/timing	Source	Date
Shopping—best priced standard trolley	£123.25	Per month	Which Report	December 2017
Heating Oil	£243.97	500 litres	Boilerjuice	31st January 2018
Electricity	£708.52	5000Kwh p.a.	Website: Annual contract	31st January 2018
Broadband, unlimited	£23.99	Per month	Website: Annual contract	31st January 2018
Broadband, Fibre, unlimited + calls	£29.99	Per month	Website: Annual contract	31st January 2018
Savings Rates, easy access	1.30% variable	Per annum	Website	31st January 2018
Savings Rates, notice account	1.45% variable	Per annum	Website	31st January 2018
Diesel	123.9p	Per gallon	Website	31st January 2018
Petrol	120.9p	Per gallon	Website	31st January 2018