

Sutton Bonington
Normanton on Soar

Kingston on Soar

VILLAGE NEWS

November and December 2021



A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to All Our Readers!

POST OFFICE - YOUR COMMUNITY SHOP - UPDATE Wow! There has been an overwhelming response to the share offer. At the last count **247 people** had applied for shares, raising a total of £32,700 which, with the addition of £500 in donations, has completely outstripped the target of £10,000! Thank you to everyone who contributed to this level of funding which gives us even greater confidence in the long-term sustainability of **Your Community Shop**. By the time you read this, the handover process from the Post Office to the Community Shop will be complete.

Lesley will continue to provide support during the transition so don't be surprised to still see her behind the counter. The opening hours will remain unchanged:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 9.00am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4.00pm
Wednesday: 9.00am-12.30pm
Saturday: 9.00am-12.30pm

The first Annual Members Meeting of the Sutton Bonington Community Shop Limited will be held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 18th January Sutton Bonington Village Hall. The sad news is that Jackie Davies, who has worked with Lesley for more than ten years, will step back in the New Year on health grounds. Our thanks and very best wishes go to Jackie. To support Peter, our new Postmaster, we are looking for additional part-time staff as well as volunteers. If you are interested in either of these opportunities please have a word with Peter at the shop.

SUTTON BONINGTON VILLAGE HALL - HELP NEEDED We are looking for new committee members! Do you have experience of building works, legal knowledge, marketing/social media or fundraising? If so, please help us maintain this valuable village facility. We meet four times a year. For further information, contact Rob Ereminowicz - 07989 866402.

NORMANTON ON SOAR COMMUNITY SHOP The shop, post-Covid, is still only open on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings from 10am to 1pm due to a shortage of volunteers. If you are able to spare a couple of hours a week and would like to help please call during opening hours or contact the shop on 01509646464. A loyalty scheme is also being introduced, buy eight coffees and get the ninth one free.

KURLING EVENING Kurling is back again! The annual Kurling Evening returns on Friday 12th November in Normanton-on-Soar Village Hall at 7.00pm for 7.30. No experience is necessary. Families are welcome and the price of £8 includes a fish and chip supper. Tickets will be available from Normanton Community Shop in from Monday 18th October. For further information please contact Neil Blythe (843825).

SUTTON BONINGTON MUSIC SOCIETY Rehearsals have started in person! We run four ensembles; *Symphony Orchestra*, *Singers*, *Folk Band* and *Big Band*. The dates and times for these can be found on the SB music Facebook page and website. We will be preparing for our Christmas Concert on the 4th December, so come along and get involved! All our ensembles are unauditioned and open to everyone. Please visit our website at <https://suttonbonington.wixsite.com/musicsoc> or our FaceBook page for more information (SB Music Society), or e-mail stys11@nottingham.ac.uk for a chat!

ASHMOUNT RIDING FOR THE DISABLED is looking for volunteers to help with their horse riding sessions with the children from Loughborough's Ashmount School. The group rides out from Meadow School of Riding, Stanford Lane on Fridays from 10.00am to 12 noon during Leicestershire schools' term time. Experience with horses is useful but not necessary as training is provided. If you'd like to get involved, please e-mail wendymr6@gmail.com.

***SUTTON BONINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA
Bonfire and Fireworks Display
Saturday 6th November
at
Sutton Bonington Playing Fields
Gate opens at 6.00pm : Bonfire Lit : 6.30pm
Fireworks : 7.00pm***



Adults & over-16s - £4 (or £6 at the gate)
Under-16s & NUS card holders - £3 (or £4 at the gate)
Pre-school Children - Free

Advance tickets are available from Sutton Bonington School Office,
SB Post Office, Pasture Lane Stores, SB Gallery, 119 Main Street, SB
Campus Sports Centre and The Greengrocer, East Leake

Alcohol and sparklers are strictly prohibited

At the event there will be a barbecue, hot drinks, refreshments,
stalls and live music

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to message us via
our PTA FaceBook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/SuttonBoningtonPrimarySchoolPTA>

Looking forward to seeing you on the night!
*And watch this space for announcements about further events
at Christmas!*

NORMANTON ON SOAR MEN'S ASSOCIATION The annual *Skittles Evening*, involving wives and partners, will take place this year at The Wheatsheaf Inn, Thurcaston on Wednesday 24th November. For further information, please contact Neil Blythe (843825). Wives and partners are also invited to the *Christmas Party* which will be held at Rushcliffe Golf Club on Friday 10th December, to include a three-course dinner. For further information, please contact John Herrington (646240). Final details for each event will be published nearer the time so please keep an eye open for them. New members are always welcome at our meetings.

A BIG THANK YOU from Alison and Ian Lloyd, College Road, Sutton Bonington to all who baked cakes, donated raffle prizes and attended our MacMillan Coffee Morning on 25th September where a massive £800 was raised! The weather was just perfect too!

SOAR VALLEY U3A will be holding its Annual General Meeting in Normanton-on-Soar Village Hall at 2.00pm on Tuesday 30th November. Continuing Covid restrictions mean that invitations will be sent only to members because audience numbers must be limited. The speaker will be Mike Storr whose subject is *Masters of Mirth*, an affectionate look at musical laughter makers. Soar Valley u3a provides relaxed learning and leisure activities for retired or semi-retired people in the area. For more information, phone Membership Secretary Marilyn Wood on 07812 913807 or search the website *Soar Valley u3a*.

SUTTON BONINGTON LIBRARY Please note the revised opening times - Tuesday 1.00pm – 5.00pm and Thursday 1.00pm – 5.00pm

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Meetings are always on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in Normanton-on-Soar Village Hall. The programme of speakers is very varied and lots of fun with outings and trips also being enjoyed. You don't have to live in Normanton to be a member. We have current members from Sutton Bonington, Hathern, and Shepshed. If you would like more information please ring Sue James (673460).

NORMANTON ON SOAR HARVEST FESTIVAL Many thanks to all who contributed to this year's Harvest Festival. Instead of harvest produce, we accepted gifts of store cupboard items and tins, fruit and vegetables and beverages such as fruit juice and squash for the Carpenter's Arms in Loughborough. We are also grateful to John Simpson who delivered all these gifts. They were surprised at how much had been donated and asked John to pass on their thanks. Please note that we will continue to collect items for the Carpenter's Arms so if they could be left in the baskets opposite the main door of the church we will deliver them.

SUTTON BONINGTON AND DISTRICT TENNIS CLUB Play at the tennis club continues all year round (weather permitting!) We're progressing with our plans. The first court has been refurbished with work on the second due to start shortly. All the floodlights have now been replaced with LED alternatives which, although a costly investment, are significantly more environmentally friendly and will allow us to play on the darker evenings. The new junior coaching sessions have been really well received and, after some enquiries, we're currently reviewing options for tots tennis and individual lessons. Check our *FaceBook* page for updates or contact Jo (secretary) for more details - *jo@10ant.net*

SUTTON BONINGTON LUNCH CLUB Just a reminder about the dates for the remainder of the year – 11th November and 9th December. Meetings are always on the second Thursday of each month. Remember, too, that lunch is served at 12 noon with tea and coffee from 11.30 in Sutton Bonington Village Hall. Further information from Sue (673460).

SUTTON BONINGTON PLAYScheme's proposed dates are 1st – 5th August and 8th – 12th August 2022.

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIT CONCERT will be at St James church, Normanton-on-Soar, at 7:30pm on Saturday 11th December. We have already had confirmation of availability from The Bridge Singers, Eric Brook, Viola Calthrop-Owen (flute) and Neil and Jane Millensted (piano). Please put the date in your diary! Tickets will be available nearer the time.

SERVICES and EVENTS AT ST MICHAEL'S and ST ANNE'S We are maintaining a cautious approach at both churches. Face coverings will be worn and hand sanitiser will be available. Hymns and carols will be sung with face coverings on. Numbers may be limited for distancing purposes. Please ring Beth Clarke (672110) or e-mail *frankandbeth91@gmail.com* for further advice. *Posada*, where the olivewood crib figures travel round the village, will not happen this year.

ST ANNE'S CHURCH will now be open each day for visitors. From 21st November, Sunday morning services will be held at St Anne's instead of St Michael's.

MEMORIAL SERVICE For the second year there will be no formal service at the beginning of November. Instead, on Sunday 7th November between 4.00pm and 5.00pm, candles to light in memory of a loved one will be available in **St Michael's Church**. Please feel free to come and remember, regardless of how long ago the bereavement occurred. Although there will be no service, music will be playing.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE A service will be held on Sunday 14th November at 10.45am in St Michael's church. The uniformed organisations will be parading. Numbers are limited to ninety - please ring Beth (672110) for advice. Adults will be required to wear face coverings and hand sanitiser will be available. Wreaths will be laid and the two-minute silence observed. The collection will be divided between the *British Legion* and *Combat Stress*. At the end of the service, poppy petals will be scattered in the churchyard from the tower.

ADVENT FAIR As a cautious beginning to fund raising, a Fair will be held in St Michael's church on Saturday 27th November between 10.00am and 1.00pm. There will be various stalls, (cakes, sweets, books, bric-a-brac, crafts, raffle) and the history of the church will be displayed on notices. Refreshments will be non-alcoholic mulled wine and mince pies. Unfortunately only cash can be accepted.

HOLY INNOCENTS Tuesday 28th December is Holy Innocents' Day when the church remembers the babies who were slaughtered by King Herod's soldiers in an attempt to destroy the baby Jesus. On this day we remember children and babies who have died or been miscarried. Candles will be available to light in memory of them in **St Michael's church** from 10.00am to 5.00pm

CHRISTINGLE This service is planned for Sunday 5th December at 4.00pm in St Michael's church, with the Christingles - oranges holding candles and decorated with symbolic red ribbon, dried fruit and sweets - being prepared on Sunday morning in church at 10.00am. In the days before the service the children will receive candle-shaped collecting tubes in which to collect money from family and friends for the *Children's Society*. Collecting tubes will be available from Beth Clarke, the uniformed organisations, or from St Michael's and St Anne's churches. The service will be adapted so there is less movement around the church. Numbers may have to be limited Please ring Beth (672110) for advice. Adults should wear face coverings and use hand sanitiser. There will be no morning service on this Sunday.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT Although we don't expect to replicate last year's superb ecumenical on-line carol service, we are planning to hold a traditional *Nine Lessons and Carols Service by Candlelight* on Sunday 19th December at 6.30pm. Ring Beth (672110) for advice about numbers. No morning service on this Sunday.

CHRISTMAS EVE BLESSING THE CRIB This popular service, where all the figures from the Christmas Story are put into the stable, will be held this year on 24th December at 4.00pm in **St Michael's church** where there is more room for distancing. Some adaptations to the usual service will be necessary.

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION This will be held on Christmas Eve at 11.30pm at St Anne's church. Numbers may have to be limited so please ring David Etherton (672725) or e-mail etherton1@tiscali.co.uk.

CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE on 25th December at 11.00am
A short service with carols suitable for all the family in St Anne's church.
There will be no service on Boxing Day.

ST JAMES CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE On Sunday 21st November there will be a Christmas Fayre at Normanton-on-Soar Village Hall between 10:30am and 12:30pm Admission is free. There will be stalls with Christmas produce, gifts and also a raffle (donations for this would be appreciated and can be dropped off at 25 Far Lane.) Tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies will also be available. All proceeds will be donated to St. James church.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AT ST JAMES, NORMANTON this year will take place at 10:45 on Sunday 14TH November. The service will be led by Rev. Canon Michael Knight with a collection for the *Royal British Legion* and *Combat Stress*.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. JAMES At 5.00pm on Sunday 12th December there will be *Comfort and Joy : A Christmas Celebration* led by Rev. Canon Michael Knight, to which you are most welcome. After last year, it will be good to be able to sing carols again! Village organisations such as the Men's Association, Women's Institute and Soar Boating Club will be taking part and the Boating Club has kindly invited the congregation to join them after the service at the Boat Club for seasonal refreshments (socially-distanced and adhering to the Covid-19 health and safety rules in place at the time).

Following the success of our August Evening Prayer services with music, poetry and prayers we will be holding another on Tuesday 21st December at 6.30pm. Half-an-hour of peace and reflection on the shortest day of the year. At 4.00pm on Christmas Eve we will be holding *Christmas Eve at St James* so we hope that you can join us for that, also. At 09.30 on Christmas Day there will be a service of Holy Communion, again led by Rev. Canon Michael Knight. There will be no service on Boxing Day which, this year, is a Sunday.

QUIET AFTERNOON: THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER: 1:30pm-4.00 pm I welcome you to another opportunity to enjoy a little bit of spiritual space and quietness together with friends. Our afternoon together will reflect on the church's season of Advent. Advent is traditionally a time of getting ready and being prepared. Of course, in Christian terms this means getting ready for Christmas and the annual celebration of the birth of Christ. Our afternoon will concentrate on our preparedness for the events of our lives, not just Christmas, but in our prayers and spiritual lives. What is our experience of prayer and how do we understand it? We will meet for a time of sharing, listening, silence and peace and an opportunity to get ourselves more prepared for Christ and our lives. Do come along - you are most welcome. No qualifications or anything like that to attend. Just a quiet, receptive heart. See you there! Rev. Glenn Martin.

QUIET SPACES AT ST JAMES, NORMANTON-on-SOAR The next Julian Group meeting will be on 30th November at 6:30pm. All are welcome to these contemplative groups. These regular monthly *Julian* meetings encourage each of us in the practice of contemplative prayer. *Julian of Norwich's* writings help us to be still, silent and receptive in God's presence, trusting Him to make Himself known to us. After a brief introduction, our times together are based on the simple idea of spending at least half an hour in silence, waiting on God and are open to anyone who would like to come. You can find more information on the website: www.thejulianmeetings.net or e-mail sue.archbold@btinternet.com (842341) or carolynmbrock@yahoo.co.uk.

SUTTON BONINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Light switch-on and Santa Visit. Save the date - Friday 10th December at 3.45pm (after school) when we hope to invite Santa along! More details to follow.

Family Carol Service on Sunday 12th December at 4.00pm. A simple service of child friendly carols and some craft activities telling the Christmas story. This will be followed by some festive treats.

Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 19th December at 6.00pm. A traditional service of Christmas readings and well-known carols.

Coffee Break Carols on Wednesday 22nd December at 10.30am followed by festive treats.

Christmas Day Family Service at 10.30am. A short service so you won't burn your turkey!



SUTTON BONINGTON GREENING GROUP is a group of local volunteers dedicated to creating a more environmentally friendly and sustainable community. *Sutton Bonington Greening* is working with *Sutton Bonington Hedgehogs* to raise awareness in the village about hedgehogs and what people can do to encourage and protect them. The groups are hoping to create some local wild areas with minimal management to attract hedgehogs and create a safe environment with abundant cover and food for them. The groups are also considering similar measures to those taken by the East Leake Hedgehog group. This would include regularly posting information around the village and on the village social media pages about what people can do to help protect hedgehogs and releasing sightings maps and photos so that people can share their hedgehog sightings with others. Another idea is the instalment of a Hedgehog Highway through the village. Those who agreed to co-operate would put small gaps in their fences to allow hedgehogs to move safely through the village without having to cross the busy roads. If you want to help protect and encourage hedgehogs in your own garden some simple and easy ways to do so can be found on the next page!

Make your pond Hog Friendly. Hedgehogs like to drink from garden ponds but can sometimes get stuck. So, making ‘steps’ out of rocks leading to and from the water can help them get in and out safely.

Have a Hog House. You can buy or make a *Hog House* in which hedgehogs can shelter in your garden. Here are some sites where you can find instructions on how to build hog houses - *Homes for Nature | Free Teaching Resources to Download - The RSPB Hedgehog House Plans DIY - The RSPB*

Put out food for hogs. Although special hedgehog food is available cat food is also perfect for hedgehogs. They will eat wet cat food or dry biscuits. Sunflower seed, nuts, suet pellets with insects and mealworms can also be left out but this should not be done regularly or in large quantities as they can be bad for them (they’re like sweets for hedgehogs). Contrary to popular opinion milk is bad for hedgehogs. Although they will drink milk they shouldn’t as they are lactose intolerant. Special hedgehog milk is available, but it is safer and healthier to leave out fresh water. Shallow or flat bowls are best when leaving out food and water as it is easier for them to access the food. For more information on what and how to feed hedgehogs, please visit: *What Do Hedgehogs Eat? And How to Feed Them - Woodland Trust*

Make a wild area. We all like a tidy garden, but leaving a small wild area where different weeds and flowers can grow will not only make a safe covered area for hedgehogs to hide and eat in but also increase biodiversity. *Sutton Bonington Hedgehog Group* can be found on FaceBook. Please come along and join if you can.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE please to Arnold Goodwin (674563) Christine Elliott (844045) or Geoff Parnell (672639) by Monday 6th December. ***This will cover events for the months of January and February 2022.*** Our e-mail address is villnews@yahoo.com.

SMILE

Smiling is infectious

You catch it like the 'flu

When someone smiled at me today

I started smiling too!

I walked around the corner

When someone saw me grin

And when he smiled I realised

I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about the smile

Then realised its worth

A single smile, like mine

Could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,

Don't leave it undetected

Start an epidemic

And get the world infected.

Spike Milligan 1918 -2002