



WEALD VIEWS

In the Three Suttons

May 2020





Please join us for our online services every Sunday from 10am, services also can be viewed at any time after that.

Visit: www.handschurches.org

Or to view Fiona's "thought for the day"

Search for: Headcorn and the Suttons on facebook

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CLERGY LETTER

Dear Friends

I don't know how many of you read last month's letter – or how many will read this month's to be honest – however those of you who did, may recall that I focussed on the fear and anxiety that was beginning to grip the nation with the onset of the covid-19 pandemic and how we might all be affected. Well, many of the questions I raised then have now been answered.

The current lock down has made it very clear that, No, we mustn't go out – unless we really have to – and even then, we must ensure that we always maintain social distancing. No, we cannot go ahead with the major events that we have been planning and looking forward to – Easter services and the annual Easter Egg Hunts, VE Anniversary celebrations have all been cancelled as was the visit by the Gospel choir, Weddings and Baptisms have had to be postponed, while, as you all know, our churches are now closed for all acts of public worship.

In addition, we are all very aware of the enormous toll that the virus is having on just about every aspect of our national and personal lives.

However, despite all of this, I get the impression that now that the virus is wreaking it's worst on the nation, the



intensity of fear and anxiety that we were all feeling before the lock down started, has abated significantly. Why, I wonder is this?

Well, I suppose that one of the reasons is that for most people, the greatest fear is that of the unknown – and we now know what we are

dealing with – indeed, more than that, we also know that we are “dealing” with it – personally and corporately. It may be a struggle at times – who really wants to self-isolate for the foreseeable future and of course, we have to admit that the financial impact on local shops, businesses and meeting places is immense.

But, I know that I am not alone in seeing that this has all brought out some amazing positives. For a start, there has been a definite resurgence in community spirit – people are genuinely helping and caring for one another. There have also been some incredible acts of generosity – only this morning someone contacted me for details of where she could make donations to a local foodbank while I know that several children are now selling their toys and books in an effort to raise money for good causes. There has not only been hard work and selfless bravery on the part of so many of our key workers – and especially

Continued on next page...

those who work for the NHS – but also a willingness to support them in any way possible. For many of us, the pace of life has now slowed and given us the opportunity to take more care of ourselves, to enjoy quality time with our children, spend time in the garden or go out for walks and simply enjoy the surroundings.

I don't think that anyone would have wished for the virus to have happened and our hearts definitely go out to all those who have been adversely affected by it – those who have lost loved ones before their time, those whose own health will never be the same, those who will

lose businesses or spend years paying off the debts that are currently building up. But I pray that, when we finally do come out of this, all of our lives will have been changed for the better and we can enter a happier, more peaceful and mutually supportive way of life.

As St Paul says in his letter to the Romans – “God works for good in all things with those who love him” (8:28 – Good News Bible) I pray that this will be so now.

God bless and stay safe.

hane

You may have noticed that we are currently running a competition for children called “#seedsofhope”. If not, may I encourage you to join in now by planting some seeds of your own.

The message is quite simple. As we plant the seeds, we have the expectation that if we nurture them properly, they will grow and, in about three months time produce a wonderful flower that will not only be a thing of happiness and beauty, but will also be capable of feeding birds or small animals during the winter, or creating new plants next year.

Seeds of hope



This should remind us that, despite the difficulties that we are all facing at the moment – we will get through this national crisis. Indeed, hopefully, we will be coming out of the lockdown in time to walk around our villages and see all the wonderful Sunflowers that have been planted now.

Life may not be easy at the moment – but life does go on and it will go on. May our “seeds of hope” assure us of the good and happy times that will come as soon as we have beaten the virus.

hane

Breaking News - IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

As a result of the increased risk posed by the Coronavirus the Government has ordered the closure of all churches for the foreseeable future.

We will however endeavour to ensure that there is access to Spiritual, Worship and Pastoral support for all those who would appreciate it. Available from our Facebook page, Website, or we can provide a "hard copy".

Please do not hesitate to contact Fiona if she can be of any help.

CANCELLED

Cancer Research North Downs Walk

14 June 2020

Harrietsham Village Hall

Regrettably we have had to take the difficult decision to cancel THIS YEAR's walk, in light of the recent escalation regarding coronavirus.

We had hoped to be able to go ahead with the walk but all advice and common sense dictates that we put the health of everyone at the forefront.

With apologies to you all for the disruption and disappointment.

Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent

Duncan Payne, Walk Chairman 01622 890234

WEALD VIEWS

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The final deadline for the submission of material is the 14th of the preceding month. Acceptable formats for articles are MS Word, MS Publisher or text files. PDF files can sometimes be used, but as their proportions cannot be altered without distortion, they can't always be used. Suitable picture formats include: Jpeg, BMP, PNG, GIF, etc.

Smile Lines

Rings

They have Dial-a-Prayer for atheists now - you call up and it rings and rings but nobody answers.

Good view

At his wife's insistence, a man purchased a home on a hilltop in a very exclusive section of the community. "I'll bet there is quite a view from way up there," said his friend enviously.

"Yes," replied the homeowner in a resigned manner. "On a clear day you can see the bank that holds the mortgage."

Good and kind

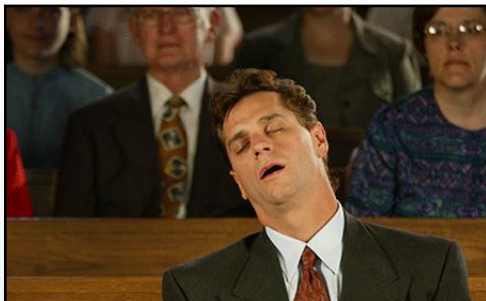
The retiring sidesman was instructing his youthful successor in his Sunday morning duties. "And remember, my boy," he said, "that we have nothing but good, kind Christians in this church - until you try to put someone else in their pew."

Broad subject

The young, very ambitious minister who felt he had a lot to say was invited to speak before a great convention. The letter he received gave him his subject: 'The World, the War and the Church.' The scope of this bothered him considerably, and so he decided to take action. He wrote back: "Dear Sirs, I should like to address your convention, but I find it difficult to think of the World, the War and the Church. I should be glad if you will add to it: 'The Sun, the Moon and the Stars'."

Worth remembering.

A man felt he was overloaded in the 'trouble shooting department' of his office, until he found this memo on his desk. "Be thankful for the problems, for if they were less difficult, someone with less ability would have your job."



Asleep

A young man fell asleep in the Sunday morning service, and soon began to snore. The preacher stopped and impatiently motioned to the young boy beside the man to wake him up. The boy said: "Wake him up yourself, you put him to sleep."

Meow

"What is your kitty's name, James?" asked the visitor.

"Ben Hur," said James.

"That's a funny name for a cat. Why did you name it that?"

"Well, we just called him Ben - until he had kittens."



VEGETABLES

Sow runner bean seeds outside in areas where the risk of frost after the third week in May is remote. If poles are to be used to support plants, put these in first. If supported by strings, these can be put up later. When supported by poles, sow two or three seeds 5cm / 2in deep and 10-15cm / 4-6in apart, at the base of each support. If in rows and supported by strings, sow seeds 15cm / 6in apart, 5cm / 2in deep and in rows 60cm / 2ft apart.

Vegetable crops to sow in the kitchen garden include mangetout peas, French and runner beans, beetroot, Spring onions, swede and turnips.

Salads, such as lettuce and radish, should be grown to provide a succession of crops, sowing a few seeds every fortnight.

Cover soft fruit bushes with netting to keep the birds away. Spread straw



along rows of strawberries to keep their fruits off the soil. Thin out congested gooseberries, leaving the

remaining fruits to reach a larger size.

Plant up grow bags in the greenhouse (if you have one) or failing this they can be planted in grow bags in a sunny spot, in

either case you will need to keep an eye on them to ensure they do not run out of water – it is not always easy to re-dampen them once they have dried out!!

Cucumber plants and peppers will also grow in grow bags if you have enough

room. Start feeding these plants once or twice a week once they have established. Tie plants to support canes as they grow.

Move tender bedding plants outside during the day, but back to the warm greenhouse at night, gradually acclimatising them to outdoor conditions. They can be planted out at the end of May or early June when the frost risk has passed.

*Enjoy your garden best wishes
from Keith and Jean*

Parental excuses!!

These are actual 'excuse notes' from parents excusing their children from missing school (includes original spelling):



- ◆ My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please execute him.
- ◆ Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.
- ◆ Dear School: Please excuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.
- ◆ Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.
- ◆ John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.
- ◆ Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part.
- ◆ Megan could not come to school today because she has been bothered by very close veins.
- ◆ Chris will not be in school cus he has an acre in his side.
- ◆ Please excuse Ray Friday from school. He has very loose vowels.
- ◆ Please excuse Tommy for being absent yesterday. He had diarrhea and his boots leak.
- ◆ Irving was absent yesterday because he missed his bust.
- ◆ Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.
- ◆ I kept Billie home because she had to go Christmas shopping because I don't know what size she wear.
- ◆ Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday.
- ◆ Sally won't be in school a week from Friday. We have to attend her funeral.
- ◆ Please excuse Jason for being absent yesterday. He had a cold and could not breed well.

Noticeboard

Children's Society Collection Boxes

Very many thanks to all those who had a collection box and gave so generously to the Children's Society. We raised a total of £338.31 for this worthy cause. This is a slight decrease on last year, but taking into account loose change is becoming a rarity I think this a fantastic result.

Thank you everyone, I am grateful for your continued support.

Mary Brett - 01622 843748



Sutton Valence WI will not be meeting this month. Any queries please ring:

Rosie on **01622 842034**.

**FEAR
NOT**
for
I AM
with you

Isaiah 41:10

100
Club

St Mary's Monthly Draw

Winners of the April 2020
draw

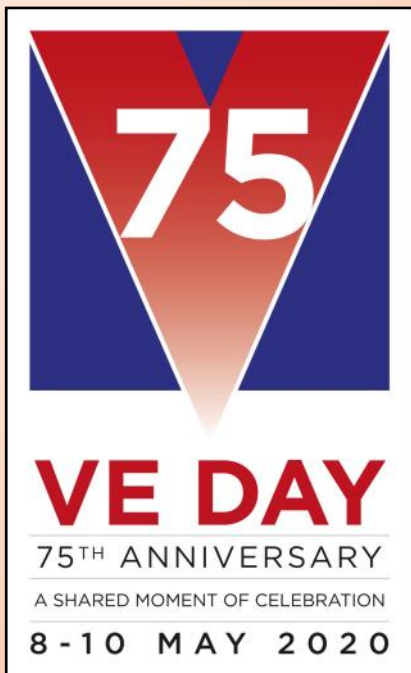
First Prize - Mrs Jeanette Henderson

Second Prize - Mrs Jane Farrant

Congratulations!!!



The twins had been doing Messy Church at home.



Remembering VE Day

I was 15 in May 1945, when Britain celebrated VE Day. It stood for Victory in Europe and followed an agreement by the Allied powers following the German surrender. Needless to say, although the war with Japan was not over, it was a noticeable moment. No more bombs, missiles and blitz – and the ‘boys’ would come home!

I have two very clear memories of the day itself. The first was the street party which took place in our road on a housing estate in North London. With official permission, the road was closed off, tables were set up, food and drink were served. We spent the afternoon in races and competitions. Dads, mums, teenagers and children then sang the wartime songs, and ‘Jerusalem’ and ‘God save the King’.



The other memory is an image of a sailor kissing a young woman - surrounded by happy laughing people. This iconic photograph was in one of the papers the next day, then on camera newsfeeds and is in just about every journalistic library. Somehow it captures the mood of the day –

freedom, warmth, the good things of everyday life.

VE Day did indeed mark a turning point, though not everything was going to be easy in the post-war years. But the hideous shadow of war had gone and 75 years later it has yet to return to these shores, thank God.

David Winter



VE Day – the end of World War II in Europe

VE Day (Victory in Europe) – was celebrated 75 years ago this month, on 8th May 1945, marking the end of World War II in Europe. It was marked with a public holiday.

The previous day the formal act of military surrender had been signed by Germany, and celebrations broke out when the news was released.

Big crowds gathered in London, impromptu parties were held throughout the country, and people danced and sang in the streets. King George VI and his family appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and Churchill made a speech to huge applause. The two princesses Elizabeth and Margaret mingled with the crowds outside.

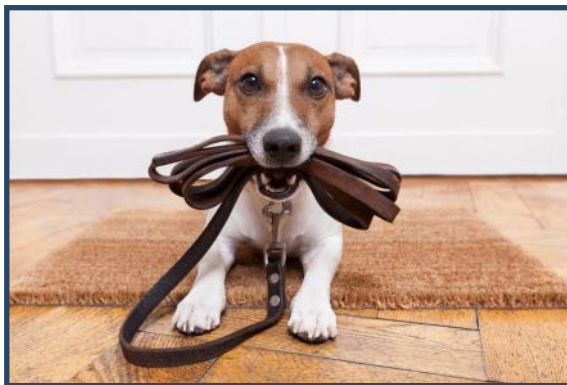
Many went into churches to give thanks – and to pray for those still involved in the war in the Far East, because the real end of the war, Victory over Japan, would not happen until 15th August. At St Paul's Cathedral there were ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each attended by thousands of people.

The celebrations masked the fact that so many had lost family and friends, as well as possessions and homes. But for the moment normal social conventions broke down, strangers embraced, and love was in the air.

Tim Lenton



May Jottings



Who would have thought at the beginning of the year that our lives this summer would be so abnormal? And one of those abnormalities for many of us is, I am sure, our inability to go to a garden centre and buy all those things we usually buy at this time of year. It's heart breaking to think of all those millions of young plants that would normally be selling like hot cakes just going to waste.

Maybe by the time you read this the Government will have relented and allowed garden centres to open as long as they, like supermarkets, make it possible for visitors to observe the correct social distancing rules. I hope so.

Now that I don't walk my dog as far or as often as I used to in years gone by - he has to make do with the same mile long walk every morning before breakfast - I have less chance of hearing or seeing some of the birds that I know must be in the neighbourhood - birds like the cuckoo which, although its cuckooing can be heard from quite a distance, I very seldom hear from my garden. I shouldn't

be at all surprised if the first of them crossed the Channel on the warm southerly air flow that gave us such a glorious first weekend last month as they are usually here by the middle of April.

The summer term should have started by now and I gather that it has - not in classrooms and on games

fields but at home. The modern technology that makes this possible is wonderful but I wonder how difficult it is both for teachers and pupils to get used to. And, staying with the subject of education, the allocation of exam grades based on pupils' work and progress is something I came across more than 30 years ago in New Zealand. If I remember correctly, only those pupils whose mock exam result suggested that they would not pass were required to sit the exam; those who did well in the mocks got grades allocated by the teaching staff.

Michael Beaman

Priest who gave his respirator away



Sky News recently reported on the poignant story of an Italian priest who contracted coronavirus. Friar Don Giuseppe Berardelli, 72, was the priest for the parish of Casnigo, a small village just 40 miles north east of Milan.

According to the hospital, a parishioner quickly bought him a respirator, but the priest refused to use it, instead giving it to a younger patient he did not even know.

Friar Berardelli died in hospital in Lovere, Bergamo, one of the worst-hit areas in Italy. No funeral was able to be held for Friar Berardelli. Instead people stood on their balconies at noon on 16th March and gave him a round of applause.

Funerals during the coronavirus restrictions

Funerals have changed almost beyond recognition under the strict new rules to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Church of England funerals may now take place only at crematoria or at gravesides. Only immediate family may attend, and they must keep their two-metre distance.

To help those who are grieving-at-a-distance at this difficult time, the Church of England has published a simple guide. It provides both prayers and also suggestions of how people can pay their own tribute at home to the person who has died.

These include finding a photograph of the person who has died, writing down memories of them, and lighting a virtual candle in memory of their loved ones.

The Revd Canon Dr Sandra Millar, Head of Welcome and Life Events for the Church of England, said: "It's so difficult when you can't go to a funeral... to say your last goodbye and know that your special person's life has been honoured, prayers offered, and God's love experienced."

More details at: <https://www.churchofengland.org> / Life Events.



The church is closed – but the Church is not!

If you ever wondered why sometimes the word Church is written with a capital C and sometimes it is written with a lower case one, now is your opportunity to find out.

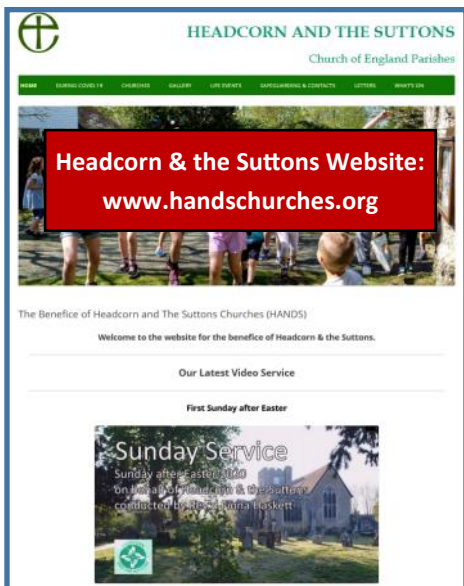
Indeed, it is very simple – church (with a small c) refers to our buildings, in our case, St Mary's, St Michael's and St Peter & St Paul's. As you will all know by now, we have been instructed to close these buildings for the foreseeable future, which means that no acts of worship can take place in them or be recorded from them.

However Church (with a big C) stands for far more than the bricks (or stones) and mortar of the physical building. Instead, it is the worshipping

and serving community that gathers together or looks to it as being their home. Although we cannot physically meet together at the moment, that does not say that we have ceased to function as a community. Far from it, we have just had to find new ways. So, how have you managed that? I hear you ask.

Well, first and foremost, we have embraced several aspects of new technology. A number of us from across the Benefice use the video conferencing

programme “zoom” to gather to say night prayer (compline) together most evenings. It is a wonderful opportunity to see and talk to each other in a way in which all can be actively involved in the service and we





Facebook page – Headcorn and the Suttons – in addition to various competitions and the vicars “thought for the day”, we have also

can pray together for all those who have requested it. While for those who might struggle with technology, we have put together service booklets and other material – please do contact me if you would like a pack or have any issues that you would like me to hold in prayer – either in my own personal prayers or as part of our Compline gathering.

We know that you have been phoning each other on a regular basis and our pastoral teams are also keen to offer any help or support you might need – again, please contact me if you would like to take advantage of this offer.

In addition, you may have noticed that there is a lot more activity on our website www.handschurches.org and

broadcast both pre-recorded and live services. If you haven’t yet checked them out, please do now – just go to the Covid-19 page. Indeed the service of first light which was broadcast live on Holy Saturday evening has been viewed by over 500 people (slightly more than the dozen or so that usually join us).

So, the next time you hear or read someone saying “the church is closed” – please remember that it’s only the building that is closed. The worshipping community is still going strong.

Hand

“Don’t aim at success – the more you aim at it and make it a target, the more you are going to miss it. For success, like happiness, cannot be pursued; it must ensue, and it only does so as the unintended side-effect of one’s dedication to a cause greater than oneself.” - Viktor Frankl (*Psychiatrist, concentration camp survivor and author of Man’s Search for Meaning*)



Chart Sutton has a small but successful shop in the heart of the village on The Green run entirely by volunteers for the benefit of the community.

It is looking for more volunteers to help run it. It is open between 7am-5pm Mon-Fri and 8am-12noon at the weekend and Bank Holidays. Hours to suit, most volunteers do 2 hour stints. There are some permanent slots available but if you would rather be available for ad hoc covering that is fine as there are times when last minute cover is required.

The volunteers are a great bunch who very much enjoy being part of the community, meeting a wide variety of people. If you are interested in becoming part of this team please call either Valerie on **843232** or Jane on **843743** for an informal chat.

Sutton Strollers



Join us and enjoy the glorious countryside around The Three Suttons on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Contact:

Chris **01622 842629**

Graham **01622 745484**

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The Three Suttons
Helpline has been

The Three Suttons Helpline

operating as a "good neighbour" scheme for about 20 years to make life easier for those needing to get to medical appointments, but who do not have their own transport or cannot easily be helped by family or friends and for whom public transport is infrequent and not a viable option. This scheme covers the villages and surgeries in Sutton Valence,

Chart Sutton, East Sutton,
Kingswood and Langley.

If anyone would like to use the scheme, please telephone one of the following numbers: **844301 842530 842346**

If you have any other queries or if you feel that you may like to help, please contact Christine Parkes. (email:

christineparkes@hotmail.com or tel. **842217**

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- UPHOLSTERY:** **THEOBALD UPHOLSTERY** - All types of furniture upholstered and repaired. Cushion replacement service. Furniture made to order. Sundries for DIY enthusiasts. New furniture direct from our showroom from Alstons, Sherborne, Parker Knoll and Celebrity made at craft workshops. No. 5 Slaney Place, Headcorn Road, Staplehurst, Kent. Tel 01580 890055
- VEHICLE RECOVERY:** **HILLTOP GARAGE** Tel 01622 844545

KCC Community Wardens

Kent County Council Community Wardens are able to assist with any issues or concerns you may have. Wardens can offer support, advice and can refer to many partner agencies to help you. Wardens work closely with Kent Police and can also assist in tackling low-level crime and anti-social behaviour (such as graffiti, littering, fly tipping and vandalism). Wardens encourage communities to work together to build stronger and safer communities.

Your area warden Dawn Riach-Brown - 07773 397125

Area supervisor - Janet Greenroyd - 07773 397131





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AROUND THE SUTTONS



Clubs, Societies and Activities

EAST SUTTON CRICKET CLUB	Mr N Edmed	01622 843219
EAST SUTTON COMMUNITY YOUTH THEATRE	Mr M Dyer-Ball	01622 844321
EAST SUTTON WHIST DRIVE	Mr R Morgan	01622 843955
MOTHERS UNION	Mrs G Smith	01622 842530
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION	Mr M Fitzgerald	01622 743270
SUTTON SAINTS FOOTBALL CLUB	Janet Burnett	01622 844135
SUTTON VALENCE CHORAL SOCIETY	Mr A Hutchinson	01622 843325
SUTTON VALENCE GARDENERS ASSOCIATION	Mr D.Gallafant	01622 842439
SUTTON VALENCE HOCKEY CLUB	Mr L Davies	01622 844046
SUTTON VALENCE KARATE CLUB	Mr S Pereira	07768 388163
SUTTON VALENCE MUSIC SOCIETY	Mrs A Hutchinson	01622 843325
SUTTON VALENCE TABLE TENNIS CLUB	Mr A Collins	01580 892755
SUTTON VALENCE TENNIS CLUB	Mrs J Waterman	01622 768654
SUTTON VALENCE WOMENS INSTITUTE	Mrs R Easton	01622 842034
THE SUTTONS BEAVER SCOUTS	Mrs C Hampson	01622 862894
THE SUTTONS BROWNIES	Mrs S Smith	01622 730680
THE SUTTONS CUB PACK	Mrs L Waring	01622 843112
THE SUTTONS SCOUT TROOP	Mr T Waring	07754 701086
THREE SUTTONS DARBY & JOAN CLUB	Mrs M Mackleden	01622 861783
WARMLAKE SHORT MAT BOWLS	Mrs B French	01622 843560
WEALD OF KENT PRESERVATION SOCIETY	Mrs M Jones	01622 890119
SUTTON STROLLERS	Mr C Webb	01622 842629



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AROUND THE SUTTONS - LOCAL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Sutton Valence	Cllr. Wendy Young	01622 842917
Chart Sutton	Cllr. Steve Munford	01622 741310
East Sutton	Cllr. Martin Round	01622 890276
	Cllr. Karen Chappell-Tay	079186 75619

CLERKS TO THE PARISH COUNCILS

Chart Sutton	Mrs T. Jenkins	01622 745043
East Sutton	Mrs J. Burnett east Sutton parish council@gmail.com	01622 844135
Sutton Valence	Mrs J. Burnett clerk@suttonvalence.org.uk	01622 844135

DOCTORS

Cobtree Medical Practice		01622 843800
Langley Surgery		01622 863030
Sutton Valence Surgery		01622 842212
On Call Care : 0845 1552255	NHS Direct : 0845 4647	
Maidstone Hospital		01622 729000

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

101

THREE SUTTONS HELPLINE

M.844301

M.842530

01622 842346

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Support Line

01622 604396

SCHOOLS

Sutton Valence School	Head: Mr B Grindlay	01622 845200
Sutton Valence Preparatory School	Head: Miss C Corkran	01622 842117
Sutton Valence Primary School	Head: Miss M Terry	01622 842188
Sutton Valence Pre-School	Mrs F Davidson	01622 842388

KENT MESSENGER REPRESENTATIVES

Sutton Valence - Mrs J Burnett	clerk@suttonvalence.org.uk	01622 844135
Chart Sutton - Mrs V Underdown	valerie95@outlook.com	01622 843232

VILLAGE HALL HIRE BOOKINGS

East Sutton Filmer Hall	Mrs J Coyle	07703 815215
Chart Sutton	Annegret Fidock (csvillagehall@hotmail.com)	01622 844741
Sutton Valence	Mrs J Burnett (svvhbookings@gmail.com)	01622 842024
Youth Centre (behind St Mary's Church)	Graham Haskett (temporary arrangement)	01622 891804

HEADCORN AND THE SUTTONS

www.handschurches.org

SUTTON VALENCE VILLAGE WEBSITE

www.suttonvalencepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

EAST SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

www.eastsuttonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

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