



WEALD VIEWS

In the Three Suttos

December 2020

50p



The East Sutton Christmas Fair will have to be run a little differently this year!

See page 6 for full details

(Photos from 2018/17)



20th December @ 11.30

East Sutton Christingle

Please inform a churchwarden if you would like to attend



St Peter & St Paul,
East Sutton Road,
East Sutton,
Kent ME17 3DE

**CHURCH OFFICERS
OF:**

**ST. MARY'S,
SUTTON VALENCE**

**SS. PETER & PAUL,
EAST SUTTON**

**ST. MICHAEL'S,
CHART SUTTON**

Vicar THE REV'D FIONA HASKETT

fiona.haskett@btopenworld.com **01622 891804**

Benefice website: **www.handschurches.org**

Churchwardens

Mr G. James
01622 842681
Mr S. Pereira
01622 843146

Mrs N. Worsfold
01622 843101
Mrs J Ireland
01622 891058

Hon. Secretary PCC

Mrs N Worsfold
01622 843101

Ms H. Knowler
01622 749012

Hon. Treasurer PCC

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Organist

Mr G. James
01622 842681

Mr G. James
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Captain of Bells

Mr N. Hodgson
01622 863337

Ms H. Knowler
01622 749012

CLERGY LETTER

Dear Friends

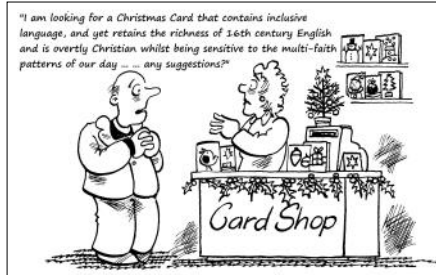
I don't think that anyone can argue with the fact that 2020 has been a very difficult and strange year for us all. One tiny, invisible virus, has spread throughout the entire world leaving death, chaos and financial ruin and uncertainty in it's wake and adversely affecting the lives of every single one of us.

Yet for us, in Headcorn and the Suttons Churches, the year started off so well. Benefice and Parish planning days had infused us with a sense of purpose and optimism and we were already starting to put some of our new plans into action. But, no sooner had we started than.....

Yet, Mothering Sunday still happened, as did Easter, Ascension & Pentecost, although we couldn't celebrate them in our normal fashion, we found other ways to mark these special days, as we also did with All Souls and Remembrance. Indeed, to be honest, I think that the fact that



"I am looking for a Christmas Card that contains inclusive language, and yet retains the richness of 16th century English and is overtly Christian whilst being sensitive to the multi-faith patterns of our day -- any suggestions?"



we had to do things differently, may even have helped us to appreciate and get more out of them.

And now, well we look toward Advent & Christmas. Although we will hopefully be able to open our churches for worship again by the beginning of December, I'm afraid that, as I said last month, we will not be able to have our normal big

Christmas Services where we invite you to come along and belt out your favourite carols. But I do hope that you will support and appreciate those things that we do have to offer.

In particular, we are trying to organise simple services of lessons and carols at both East Sutton and Sutton Valence on 13th & 20th December respectively – where we hope that you will be able to enjoy listening to our small choirs singing the carols that you love. We will also have a Christingle Service at East Sutton on 20th

Continued on next page....

December and the Christingle & crib service will go ahead as normal at Sutton Valence on Christmas Eve. However, as spaces are strictly limited we would ask you to let the churchwardens know if you would like to attend. The same applies for our services on Christmas morning.

However, for those of you who would prefer not to come out, there will be a special on-line carol service which will be available to view on our website www.handschurches.org or via our Facebook page Headcorn & the Suttons from 3pm on Sunday 13th December

We are afraid that we have decided not to have a live service on Sunday 27th, instead we will be putting something on the website.

As I said at the beginning – although we started the year

with a sense of purpose and positivity it has not been an easy year, however, the virus has not overcome us and we look forward to the day, hopefully in the not too distant future, when it will be eradicated. In the meantime, let us all make the best of what we have this Advent and Christmas and let us concentrate on the things that we can do rather than mourning the things we can't.

And let us not forget the real message of Christmas – that God loves us all so much, that he sent his son to be born as a human baby, to live, grow and die among us and for us and to give us help, support and guidance to the end of time – and nothing, not even Covid-19 can overcome that.

Wishing you all a very happy and Blessed Christmas 2020 and a healthy New Year 2021



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.

From the Registers:

Funeral

20th October – at St Mary, Sutton Valence—Barry Wright

Church Services in the Three Suttons (subject to Covid restrictions) will be:

Sunday 6th December – Advent 2 – Reading Mark 1:1-8

St Mary, Sutton Valence – 10am – Holy Communion

St Michael & all Angels, Chart Sutton – 6pm – Evensong

Sunday 13th December – Advent 3

St Mary, Sutton Valence – No Service

St Michael & All Angels – No Service

St Peter & St Paul, East Sutton – 6pm – Carol Service

Sunday 20th December – Advent 4

St Mary, Sutton Valence – 6pm – Carol Service

St Michael & All Angels – No Service

St Peter & St Paul, East Sutton – 11.30 – Christingle

Thursday 24th December – Christmas Eve

St Mary, Sutton Valence – 4pm – Christingle & crib service

St Michael & All Angels – No Service

St Peter & St Paul, East Sutton – No Service

Friday 25th December – Christmas Day – Reading Luke 2:1-14

St Mary, Sutton Valence – 10am – Holy Communion

St Michael & All Angels – 8.45 – Holy Communion

St Peter & St Paul, East Sutton – 11.30 – Family service

Sunday 27th December – on-line service only.

*Please ensure that you inform a church warden if you
wish to attend any of the Christmas services.*

*Whilst visiting Edmeds Farm Shop on
Chartway Street, East Sutton*

Why not Check out our "Near Normal"

East Sutton Church Christmas Fayre

Win a Turkey , guess the weight of the Christmas cake,

Home made Jams and Chutneys ,

Holly and Mistletoe along with a Raffle

Open Friday 4th December 9.30 - 3pm

Saturday 5th 9.30 - 12pm

Monday 7th December to

Friday 11th December 9.30 - 3pm

Wishing everyone a Very Happy Christmas and New Year,

in whatever form it may be and particularly remember to look after anyone who is on their own, even if we are still having to be careful because of the pandemic (COVID). A friendly wave or a telephone call to cheer someone up will we are sure help someone on their own.

Clear up flower borders, removing any remaining

leaves, and cutting down chrysanthemums and perennials. Shorten tall stems on rose bushes, this will prevent them rocking about in strong winds.

VEGETABLE GARDEN AND/OR

ALLOTMENT Keith tells me that it is still possible to plant broad beans and onions in the vegetable garden or allotment, so give them a try.

Many shrubs and fruit bushes can be propagated from hard wood cuttings taken at this time of the year. Also peg down long shoots of ivy to root and raise new plants if required.

*Keith and Jean's
Garden Jottings*



Broad beans



HOUSE PLANTS need less water during winter, but check them once a week. Keep flowering plants, like azaleas and cyclamen in cool rooms to prolong their display. Keep all pot plants away from radiators. Never trap them on freezing windowsills or behind curtains at night.

Please remember to **avoid using salt** to clear snow-covered paths or icy paved areas

adjoining any borders. Once the thaw begins, the dissolved salt will permeate the soil and may damage the roots of nearby plants, instead, sprinkle with sand, grit, ashes or gravel, which will melt the snow without harming the nearby plants.

May we all be able to look forward to 2021 without fear and trepidation.

Keith and Jean.

What's in a (Christmas) Name?



What do your family call him, that cheerful old man in a red robe and floppy hat who pops up everywhere at Christmas? Sometimes he's Father Christmas, sometimes Santa Claus, and in parts of Europe he's Saint Nicholas. That's his real name, abbreviated to 'Santa Claus' by Brits and Americans who don't like to follow the Europeans, and then turned into a more homely, cuddly kind of name for the children. Whatever

he's called, his function is the same – delivering presents to children at Christmas.

The first St Nicholas was bishop of Myra, in the country we now call Turkey, in the fourth century. He was known as the friend of the poor, and especially poor or abused children. At (or just before) Christmas he went around handing out presents to them, as well as rescuing some from dreadful circumstances. The red robe our modern Santa Claus wears may be a vague representation of a bishop's garment, and the floppy hat is his mitre!

The original good bishop from 1600 years ago is remembered by the Church on 6th December, and the lucky children in Belgium and the Netherlands get their presents then.

Picture

The teacher asked her Sunday School class to draw a picture of a Bible story with a Christmas theme. She was puzzled by Kate's picture, which showed four people on an airplane. She asked her which story it was meant to represent. 'The Flight to Egypt,' was the reply.

Pointing at each figure, the teacher ventured: 'That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?'"

'Oh,' explained Kate happily, 'that's Pontius - the pilot!'



Christmas cake

Every Christmas, composer Giacomo Puccini would have a cake baked for each of his friends. One year,

having quarrelled with Arturo Toscanini just before Christmas, he tried to cancel the order for the conductor's cake. But it was too late, as the cake had already been dispatched.

The following day, Toscanini received a telegram from Puccini: "Cake sent by mistake."

He replied by return: "Cake eaten by mistake."

Nineteen walkers enjoyed a walk on the morning of 4th November through Leeds Castle grounds and the surrounding area under a clear blue sky which set off the castle to perfection.



Our second walk in November was, of course, due to take place on the 18th but sadly we had to suspend all further walks due to the lockdown. This walk has, therefore, been postponed to 9 December in the hope that it can go ahead.

Meet at Smarden Charter Hall car park (Chessenden Lane, TN27 8NF) at 9.30 for a 9.45am start for a four mile walk across fields and through a small wood, crossing the railway to the edge of Dering Wood. No hills, a few stiles.

Our first walk in the New Year will be on the 6th January, more details later.

Don't forget, it is now necessary to book a place on each walk on a first come, first served basis and although this is a

nuisance it seems to be working well.

For further information on any of our walks, contact Barry (barry@watersideeast.com) or to book your place, contact Paula on **07525 260539** (paulasmale@btinternet.com).

Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Barry Walker

Our pretty Christmas cards do not do it justice – the stable that Jesus was born in would have been smelly, dirty, and full of mess. So why did God not provide something better for His beloved Son? Why let Joseph and Mary scrounge around until they ended up in a smelly stable?

Perhaps because the King of Kings being born in a foul stable is a perfect picture

Why was Jesus born in a barn?



wonder the angels sang "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:14)

of redemption. Jesus came from glory into a world filled with the dirt, filth and darkness of sin. And Jesus was not put off by darkness in the least – instead, He came to be the Light of the World. Thank God for His unspeakable gift. No



Miscellaneous observations during the Christmas season...

- ◆ Putting on weight is the penalty for exceeding the feed limit.
- ◆ Christmas: The time when everyone gets Santamental.
- ◆ People say it's the thought that counts, not the gift, but couldn't people think a little bigger?
- ◆ Christmas is the season when your neighbour keeps you awake playing 'Silent Night'.
- ◆ You might as well do your Christmas hinting early this year.
- ◆ Father to three-year old: "No, a reindeer is not a horse with TV antenna."
- ◆ Every year, Christmas becomes less a birthday and more a Clearance Sale.
- ◆ Christmas is in my heart 12 months a year, and thanks to credit cards, it's on my Visa card statement 12 months a year as well.
- ◆ Some of these new toys are so creative and inventive. This year they have a Neurotic Doll. It's wound up already.
- ◆ Christmas is a time when people get emotional over family ties, particularly if they have to wear one.



New Year's Eve is coming soon...



The inventor of the bagpipes was inspired when he saw a man carrying an indignant asthmatic pig under his arm. Unfortunately, the man-made sound never equalled the purity of the sound achieved by the pig. - *Alfred Hitchcock*.

Bring not a bagpipe to a man in trouble. - *Jonathan Swift*.

12 ways to avoid stress this Christmas



Change your expectations this Christmas. Don't waste time lamenting what should have been. Instead, try and enjoy whatever is possible this year.

Make a list. Include sending cards, buying presents and organising food for

the big day. Having a lists helps keep you in control of your life.

Set a reduced budget this year. With a pandemic raging, this no time to take on Christmas debt. If you can't pay for it this month, probably best not to buy it.

Exercise each day - it releases happiness-inducing serotonin. That will help you to keep calm and positive over the festive period.

Don't overindulge. Too much alcohol and rich food won't improve your life.

Keep calm and keep kind – urge your family members to try and avoid any flare up of family tensions. If you need to cry, cry, but then, keep on keeping on.

Remember those everyday essentials: batteries for new toys, toilet paper, milk, paper towel. Those things you never think about – until they are gone.

Entertain the kids: plan ahead various films, games and whatever it takes to give them a memorable Christmas.

Make the most of Zoom this year with far-flung relatives and friends.

Most of all, include God in your Christmas! This is His Son's birthday - include Bible readings and carols in your family routine over the festive period.

How many Christmas carols do you really know?



Here is a challenge: why not spend some time learning the words to traditional carols this year? Polls have found that too many of us know the title of a carol and the tune and the opening line or so, but then we have to make it up. This year you probably have more time at home, so get going!

When I cut my grass – I can't call it a lawn – in October, I had hoped that it might be a final outing for my mower but the weather was so mild that it needed cutting again last month. That will have to be it now until spring is in the air; I have no intention of getting the mower out again until then however long the grass gets. It certainly won't be long enough to hide the abundant

cowslips that, over the years, have colonised the wilder areas of grass.

More people than the few that it was officially recommended there should be attended the short service in Chart Road on Remembrance Sunday after which the wreaths were laid on the war memorial. When the names of those who died during the two World Wars are read out, it always saddens me that it is only the names inscribed on the war memorial. There is a memorial in the north aisle of the church to Edward Charles Webber, only son of the village doctor in those days, who lost his life in November 1914 at the battle of Coronel off the coast of Chile when the British Pacific fleet tried to stop its German

December Jottings



counterpart returning to the Atlantic via Cape Horn. The British vessels were nearing the end of their useful lives and were no match for the Germans. The German fleet, however, got its comeuppance a few weeks later when it encountered a much better British squadron at the battle of the Falkland Islands.

I have no idea how the names of those villagers who lost their lives in the two world wars were collected but I suspect there may be others whose names never got inscribed on the war memorial.

What sort of a Christmas are we going to have this year? If the rule of six still applies later this month, I imagine that there might be a surplus of turkeys – especially the larger ones.

Happy Christmas!

Michael Beaman



St Michael's Church, Chart Sutton



Hello. As I write this we are half way through "Lockdown 2" and I am sure we are all looking forward to it finishing and returning to something a little easier as we move towards Christmas.

Our service rota has obviously been suspended for the period of November

but we are hopeful that, come December, we will be able to return to our service of "Evensaid" (as opposed to Evensong, as we're not allowed to sing!) on the **1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.**

We are definitely aiming to have a Christmas morning service – which will be at 8.45am.

Apart from that, it is difficult to know what will be allowed and what not, with a likelihood that the Carol Service in the village hall and the Carol singing around the village likely to be casualties of "The Virus". If it proves possible for either of these to go ahead, we will put posters in prominent places around the village.

The good bits from the last couple of months were that we managed a Harvest Festival in early October and a wreath laying service (outside the church) for Remembrance Sunday. While only a few could attend, it was all the more poignant for that. The wreaths will lie in the church for the next year as usual.

Finally, I am also hoping that we will be able to have our November churchyard maintenance morning on Saturday 12 December instead, socially distanced, of course. 9.30am at the church, bring your own refreshments.

Do remember, the Vicar is still contactable if you need to talk to her (01622 – 891804) and services continue to be streamed on the website and Facebook.

Heather

St Michael's PCC



Noticeboard

Samaritans Purse Shoebox appeal

Many thanks to everyone who filled a shoebox with presents for children in disadvantaged parts of the world. Thanks to your generosity 75 of them will have a Christmas that they will remember forever.



St Mary's Monthly Draw

100
Club

Winners of the
November 2020 draw

First Prize - First Prize - Mr Les Tomsett

Second Prize – Second Prize – Mrs Jean May

Congratulations!!!

the **WI**
INSPIRING WOMEN

For information ring
Rosie **01622 842034**



Headcorn & the Suttons

Seeds of Spring

No matter how bad the winter, Snowdrops are a promise to us all that spring is just around the corner.

Plant some snowdrops now—either in a pot or in your garden, and know that as they bloom, the promise of spring and a New Year are already being made.

Bulbs available from the Lychgate at
Headcorn church.



Reverse Advent Calendar



Put an item aside each day and donate to the food bank to help a family in need.



FOOD

Cereal
Soup
Pasta & Rice
Longlife or powered Milk
Pasta sauce
Beans
Tinned meat
Tinned Fish
Jam/Peanut Butter spreads
LongLife Fruit Juice
Instant Mash
Tinned vegetables
Tea/coffee/Hot Chocolate
Tinned fruit
Biscuits
Sponge Puddings
Custard
Tinned Rice Pudding



TOILETRIES

Deodorant
Toilet paper
Sanitary products
Shower gel
Shaving gel
Shampoo
Soap
Toothbrushes
Tooth paste
Hand wipes



BABY SUPPLIES

Nappies
Baby wipes
Baby food (not formula)



HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Laundry liquid detergent
Fabric Softener
Laundry powder
Washing up liquid
Cleaning Wipes
Carrier Bags



There is a collection box inside
Headcorn Church.

All donations are taken to the
Maidstone Salvation Army
who distribute food parcels to needy families
throughout this area.

If you are going to spend Christmas in a house with a resident cat, it may be worth knowing how to win its favour on the big day.

Recent research at Sussex University has found that humans

become more

attractive to a cat when they slowly blink at it, and mimic what is known as a 'cat smile.'

Cats are more likely to slow-blink at their owners after their owners have slow-blinked at them. Cats are also more likely to approach an outstretched hand after a person has slow-blinked the cat.



Impress the cat this Christmas

As one professor said, this is something 'you can try yourself with your own cat at home, or with cats you meet in the street. It's a great way of enhancing the bond you have with cats.' (Presuming you want such a

bond!)

Try narrowing your eyes at them as you would in a relaxed smile, followed by closing your eyes for a couple of seconds. You should find they respond to you in the same way. You might even start a sort-of conversation.



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**

The story of mince pies



Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.

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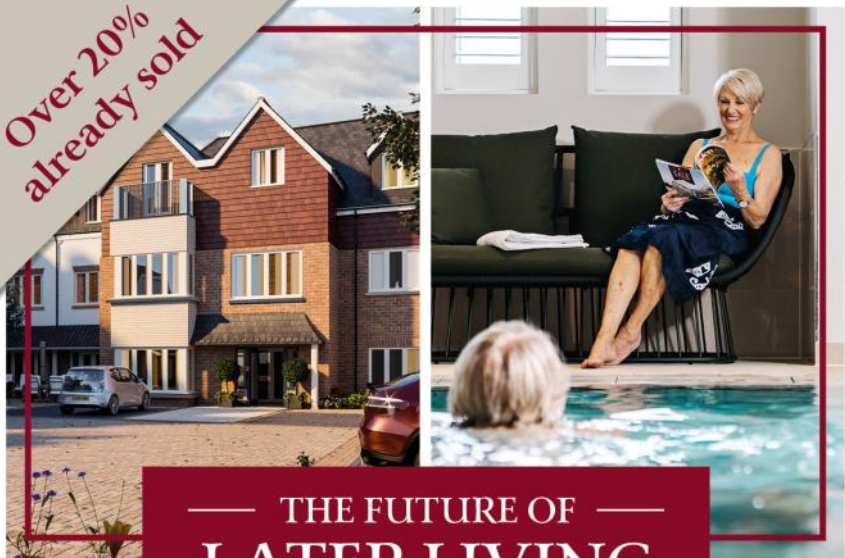
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VEHICLE RECOVERY: **HILLTOP GARAGE** Tel 01622 844545

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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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
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	Samantha Chapman	07809 135501
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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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.842346

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

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