

Village Voice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

December 2022

Calendar

1st – 24th Advent Windows Map available at Village Shop
3rd Men's Breakfast Club 8.00 am, The Harcourt Arms
5th 12th 19th Knitting Group 10.30-12.30 pm, The Chapel
5th Parish Council Meeting 7.30 pm, Old Guardroom
7th Cafe at the Chapel 10.00am - 12.00 pm, The Chapel
10th Village Market & Cafe 12.00 - 2.00 pm, Village Hall
10th Carols by Candlelight & Gift Service 4.00 pm, Church
16th Carols around Christmas Tree 6.30 pm, The Harcourt Arms
20th Sutton Singers in Concert 7.00 pm, St Michael's Church
24th Christmas Eve Don't forget the reindeer!
25th Christmas Day Merry Christmas!
26th Boxing Day Have you got room for more cheese?
31st New Year's Eve Thanks 2022 - you've been a year
1st Jan - New Year's Day What day is it?
21st Jan - Big Fat Quiz of 2022 7.00 pm, Village Hall

New Editors Ahoy

I'm pleased to announce that we've got a new editing team!! The new team will be taking over in 2023, with their first publication being February's issue. Be kind to them as they take on this new challenge!

Thank you all for your support the last few years - it's been great fun editing the Village Voice for Stanton & Sutton. And a huge thank you to our deliverers for venturing into the outside to get your news and my ramblings through your doors. Good luck to the new team!

A very merry wintertide seasonal greetings, jolly holly, brandy butter mince pies to each and everyone of you! Sarah

The Proof is in the Pubbing

What's happening at the Harcourt Arms this December?

Friday 2nd December Live Music with Drew Bryant @ 8:00pm

Sunday 11th December Pianist tinkling the ivories for Sunday Lunch

Friday 16th December Sutton singers with carols around the Christmas tree, mulled wine and mince pies @ 6:30pm, followed by Live Music with Al Jenkins @ 8:00pm

Sutton Singers Christmas Activities

Christmas is coming! Do please come along to our Christmas Concert - just perfect to get you in the mood for celebrating. Old familiar songs and some new Winter tunes.

Tuesday 20th December 7 for 7.30 sing At St Michael's Church.

£5 entry for St Michael's Church Fund

Festive refreshments available

We will also be singing outside at The Harcourt Arms on 16.12.22 at 6.30pm. Watch social media for further details from The Harcourt Arms.

If you fancy joining us do get in touch to come along. No audition needed. For information contact:

Jan Tomlinson 01865 881709 / janandpaultomlinson@gmail.com

Keep singing! It reaches the parts of our brain other vocal skills can't!!

Village Market & Cafe

Saturday 10th Dec 12-2pm, Stanton Harcourt Village Hall

Come along to the final village market of the year and join in the festive cheer! Soup, cake, tea, coffee - what more could you want?! There will be plenty of festive goodies for last minute gifts. Or why not treat yourself? Go on, you deserve it.



Welcome Aboard Shipmates!

For those of you receiving this Village Newsletter for the first time - Welcome to the villages of Stanton Harcourt and Sutton. You're joining a friendly and active community with plenty of events taking place where you can meet your new neighbours.

Copies of the Village Voice can be received online along with a local contact list by subscribing to our emails. Use the link below, or scan the QR code, to sign up to our monthly email reminders and the electronic version so that you can receive and read it wherever you happen to be in the world! <https://bit.ly/3NhQfbW>



Church Raffle Tickets

It's almost that time of year, where you can win yourself a fabulous hamper full of tasty festive treats, amongst other great prizes.

Keep your eyes peeled for raffle ticket sellers outside the shop in December!

200 Club Draw Results

October 2022	November 2022	December 2022
293 M Boorer £25	100 P Burden £25	163 Dixon-Brown £25
246 H Parker £12	148 N Elliot £12	217 J Holland £12
190 L. McEachern £8	221 B Buckley £8	109 Watts Family £8
198 S Brown £5	223 R Lucas £5	182 P N Floyd £5



St. Nicholas Day is celebrated across Europe on the 5th, 6th or 19th December depending on where you live. St. Nicholas has a reputation as a bringer of gifts. Children will often receive a small gift, and their shoes will often be filled with sweets.

Don't forget, there's no January issue of Village Voice.

But don't fret - your new editor will be bringing you your village news again in February 2023!

Deadline for next issue is 20th January

Parish Council News

Next Parish Council Meeting at the Old Guardroom

Monday 5th December 7:30pm

Online observation link: <https://meet.google.com/ifb-ezdy-dci>

Thank you to The Editor!

This is the last edition that Sarah will be editing. On behalf of the Parish Council, past and present, thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. It has not gone unnoticed. We wish you well in your 'retirement' and look forward to seeing the next steps for Village Voice.

Financial help for those struggling

West Oxfordshire District Council want to try and help everyone get through this tricky time financially, especially as we are now in the colder months with more help available for more people. If you are struggling, there are some useful bits of information and help on their website:

www.westoxon.gov.uk/news-items/help-if-you-re-struggling-with-living-costs

This site has access to things such as help with pension credit, childcare costs, debt advice and much more. You may not have been eligible before, but now are so always worth a check. If you don't have access to the internet, they can be called on 01993 861000 or by popping into the town centre shop in Witney.

WODC continues to support Covid-19 vaccination boosters

West Oxfordshire District Council is increasing its support for the NHS booster programme by offering extended use of its Elmfield Offices in Witney to provide space for booster vaccines to be given over the coming months as winter grips the district and the risk of increased Covid-19 cases rises.

WODC would encourage all those eligible for the booster vaccine to book online and get vaccinated to help keep Covid-19 under control and reduce the impact on the NHS. They would also urge people to get their flu vaccine as well so that we are doing all we can to protect our amazing NHS.

The Council's Elmfield Office in Witney has been used as a venue for vaccinations one day a week since February and the council has now agreed with local health services to provide it for two days a week so local people have more options for receiving their vaccine. Residents can check if they are eligible for the Covid-19 booster vaccine and book their appointment by visiting the NHS website.

Upcoming roadworks – plan your journey

There is a multi-million pound station upgrade in Oxford underway. The railway bridge on Botley Road will be worked on during 2023, leading to road closures in this area throughout the year. Please keep this in mind when planning your journeys in the new year.

Most buses will terminate at the Seacourt Park and Ride, with a shuttle service running to the railway bridge. From there, pedestrians can walk into the city or pick up buses at the station. The station will be open throughout, apart from a period during August, when additional use of Hanborough and Parkway stations is expected.

Budget consultation 2023/24

On 14 February 2023, Oxfordshire County Council will meet to agree its budget. In this consultation they are asking residents, businesses and others for their views on our budget proposals for 2023/24, with a specific focus on savings. They are also welcoming any ideas from you on how we can make savings. You can find out more information and put forward any ideas on: <https://bit.ly/3VlIP0A>

Plant a tree for the Jubilee

In late November, Matthew, Rachel and Reverend Jo planted 30 trees in Jubilee field to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee for Queen Elizabeth II. We wish these little trees all the best and that they grow into big, strong trees in her honour. The trees planted are wild cherry, silver birch and rowan.

And finally...

Your Parish Council would like to wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to a new year with new activities and potential challenges with you all as well as maintaining the links and friendships that spread throughout the villages of Stanton

Harcourt and Sutton. Please keep an eye out for any seasonal activities that are coming up as well as the WODC website for any updates on bins and other Council services.

Your West Oxfordshire District Councillors are:

Lynette Nicholls

• Mobile: 07766 251125

• Bus. email: lysette.nicholls@westoxon.gov.uk

Charlie Maynard

• Mobile: 07487 708681

• Bus. email: charlie.maynard@westoxon.gov.uk

Your Oxfordshire County Council councillor is:

Dan Levy

• Mobile: 07852 748362

• Email: dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk

You Member of Parliament is:

Robert Courts

• Phone: 0207 219 5638

• Email: robert.courts.mp@parliament.uk

Your Parish Councillors are:

• Matthew Judson, Chairman, matthew@shpc.co.uk

• Rachel Arnold, Vice Chairman, rachel@shpc.co.uk

• Keith Hickson, keith@shpc.co.uk

• Joe Deane, joe@shpc.co.uk

• Gill Sellars, gill@shpc.co.uk

• Tony Pentland, tony@shpc.co.uk

Parish Council Information

All official communications should be addressed to the Parish Clerk: Trudi Gasser, 5 Woodlands, Standlake, Oxon, OX29 7RA. Clerk@shpc.co.uk



Nicolas Kim Coppola is another famous Nicolas (also known as Nicolas Cage, or to his fans, the One True God). Notorious for adventures involving the American declaration of independence, you're more likely to find a clue in his wake than a gift filled shoe.



CAFE AT THE CHAPEL

WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER 10.00 – 12.00

FRESH ROASTED COFFEE

SELECTION OF TEAS

TOASTED TEACAKES, CRUMPETS AND

HOT BUTTERED TOAST OR A MINCE PIE!



A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO ARRANGE TO MEET UP WITH FRIENDS
FOR A CHAT AND CATCH UP OVER COFFEE
WITHOUT HAVING TO DRIVE OUT OF THE VILLAGE
OR JUST DROP IN FOR A CHAT AND SOME FRIENDLY COMPANY
WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!

Christmas at The Oxfordshire Museum

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/christasmuseum



Experience Christmas at The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock, with something for everyone to enjoy:

* Family Christmas I Spy trail

* Late night event - 8 Dec

* Craft Guild Winter Exhibition

* Seasonal storytelling and crafting & more!

Page Three Bird - Turtle Dove



Meet Aphrodite, a streptopelia turtur - more commonly known as a turtle dove. You'll find her cooing at her favourite kitten videos on Youtube or, rather more appropriately, purring her 'turr turr' song (hence the Latin name, Streptopelia turtur).

Aphrodite is a dainty soul, only a little bigger than a blackbird, which makes her winter African migration all the more impressive. Sadly, we're just as unlikely to see a turtle dove when they've returned to the UK, being classed as the UK's fastest declining bird, having declined 98% since

1970. Plus, her mottled chestnut, black, and blue colouring help her blend in perfectly with the woodland areas she frequents.

Turtle doves are commonly used to represent love. In Greek mythology, the birds pulled the chariot of Aphrodite, the goddess of love, which is where our Aphrodite claims her namesake (a tradition handed down from her great, great, great grandmother!)

Despite being related to pigeons, Aphrodite holds a PhD in metaphysics and enjoys regular visits to the Globe Theatre in Stratford with the love of her life, Selene, where they enjoy the odd recital under a moonlit sky.

Since 1996, turtle doves have been firmly on the conservation red list. Operation Turtle Dove aims to fix this. Don't let her Aphrodite and her kin become another myth. find out more here: <https://bit.ly/3EAc98g>

The

Big Fat Quiz

of

2022

Saturday 21st January
Stanton Harcourt Village Hall
Doors open 7:00pm Quiz starts 7:30pm

*All questions will be relevant to or about events
 That took place in 2022 so start revising!*

Maximum 6 per team
Bar and snacks

Tickets £5

Available from Village Shop, Bronwen Buckley, Carole Burden or Jane Watts
 Proceeds to St. Michael's Church

Lower Windrush Historical Society

Our new season of talks has commenced and we welcome new members and visitors. Email lwshcommittee@gmail.com for more details, or come along to our next talk. Visitors are welcome at £5/talk, or email for details on membership.

6th December 2022, 7.30pm Standlake Village Hall - **'Nineteenth Century women travellers and explorers'**, by Katherine Bradley

7th February 2023, 7.30pm Standlake Village Hall - **'How the English fell in love with tea'**, by Melanie King

7th March 2023, 7.45pm Standlake Village Hall - **'WW2 rationing and cooking for victory - with food samples'**, by Karen and Bret Wiles

4th April 2023, 7.30pm Standlake Village Hall - **'Armistice 1918 and After: Some Local Perspectives'** by Stephen Barker



Nikola Tesla (1856 - 1943), a Serbian-American engineer and physicist, made dozens of breakthroughs in the production, transmission and application of electric power. It's in part thanks to his work that we're able to have our cheery festive lights.

Deadline for next issue is 20th of January
village-voice@hotmail.co.uk

While we try to ensure the accuracy of information in Village Voice, readers use the information at their own risk. Opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Editor. Inclusion of an advertisement does not indicate endorsement of the product, service or event being advertised.



Carols by Candlelight



And Gift Service
Saturday 10th December
4:00 pm
St Michael's Church
Stanton Harcourt
Everyone Welcome

*This is beautiful service for
 all the family to enjoy.*

*Please bring an un-wrapped gift for children up to
 16yrs.*

*Gifts are distributed locally by the Salvation Army to
 children who would otherwise receive nothing at
 Christmas.*

Poetry Corner Sometimes, when times are hard or there's a lot going on it's good to have something a little surreal and nonsensical to lighten the mood. American band Deerhoof have been providing just that remedy since forming in 1994 in San Francisco.

Described as "experimental pop mired in a pure punk sense of adventure" Deerhoof are known as one of indie rock's most renowned and influential groups, despite being classed as "the most difficult and unclassifiable noise of the mid-'90s". The band look at things differently and buck trends, not only with their music and lyrics: they are known for their use of low-budget and eco-friendly productions and touring.

Being unclassifiable isn't a bad thing - if anything it means you've got more options.

Fresh Born

*Bambi boo stand push up
 Born born born born born
 Bambi totters foot foot
 Tot tot tot tot tot*

*Mini body S.O.S. dotty
 Downy hairy tip toeing moony
 Tiny hoofies bend oh bend bonny
 Puffy booty stand up now waggly
 Bamboozle hide in grass
 Down down down down down*

*Bambi boo hop step jump
 Fawn fawn fawn fawn fawn*



Deerhoof (released 2008)

Combe Mill Christmas Market

Sun 4th December 11am - 4pm, Combe Mill, OX29 8ET

Don't miss out, come along and bring the children to 'Listen to a story with Santa', get a present, browse the variety of market stalls for a Christmas gift, enjoy a BBQ, mulled wine & chestnuts, tea room open, raffle with fantastic prizes, tombola and gift shop. Find an excellent selection of Christmas gifts available. Combe Mill's blacksmiths will be in the forge to make pokers, with VIEWING ONLY in the Mill, no machinery will be operating.

Blacksmiths' items on sale, made by our very own blacksmiths, make a very popular gift for Christmas.

All funds raised will go to Combe Mill Society's charitable aims of Community Education **Free Entry & Car Parking.**

Stanton Harcourt and Sutton Summer Festival 2023

Dates for your diary!

Following the "Jubilant" post-covid return of our village Summer Festival in June, the Festival Committee are now turning their attention to plans for 2023!

Our week of Summer Festival events in 2023 will take place from:

17th June to 25th June

Our village Festival Day will take place on

Saturday 24th June 2023

2023 marks the 125th Anniversary of the death of Charles Dodgson who was a scholar and teacher who spent most of his life at Christchurch Oxford. He is better known by his pen name Lewis Carroll and he wrote a number of notable children's stories the first of which was published in 1865 and was of course called "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland".

So, our festival theme 2023 is going to be:

"Stanton in Wonderland"

Look out for more details about Festival 2023 in Village Voice from the start of next year.

If you have ideas for an event that you would like to hold or if you would like to get involved in organising the week then you can email Jo Wilby at joilby@hotmail.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from lots of you!
In the mean-time best wishes for the festive season.

The Festival Committee



POST
OFFICE

Village Shop & Post Office

Monday Shop only 08:00 - 10:00
Tuesday Shop & Post Office 08:00 - 11:30
Wednesday Shop only 08:00 - 10:00
Thursday Shop & Post Office 08:00 - 11:30
Friday Shop only 08:00 - 10:00
Saturday Shop & Post Office 08:00 - 11:30
Sunday Shop only 08:00 - 10:00

Nicolas Flamel (1330 - 1418), a French scribe and manuscript-seller who developed a reputation as an alchemist was believed to have discovered the philosopher's stone and thereby achieved immortality. Perhaps he did? Do you know a mysterious Nick with ancient eyes and a curious use of the old French language? Maybe he and St Nick are one and the same...

Do you play the
clarinet or saxophone?

NEW PLAYERS WANTED

Clarinet Ensemble: Mondays 19.00-20.30
Saxophone Ensemble: Thursdays 19.00-20.30

Director: Tim Payne
Rehearsals take place in Sutton



07989581312

www.oxfordshiremusic.com

Church News

Lower Windrush Benefice

St Michael's Church, Stanton Harcourt

For December service dates see the poster in this month's issue

Wednesday 21st

8:30pm Compline via Zoom

Wednesday evenings at 8:30pm we have a short service of Compline via Zoom.

Thursday mornings we have Early Bird Prayer at 7:30am via Zoom.

All Zoom codes can be found on www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org

For more information about all services taking place in the Benefice (Stanton Harcourt, Northmoor, Standlake, Yelford) please visit the Lower Windrush benefice website:

www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org



Sutton Methodist Chapel

Sunday 11th December

3.00pm Service, led by Rev. Fred Ireland – all are very welcome

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Eynsham

For information about services at St Peter's please visit www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk/

This Too Shall Brass

Witney Music Society's December concert will be given by the prize-winning brass quintet Connaught Brass. Their programme includes arrangements of works by Bizet and Fauré together with original works for brass quintet. The concert is at 7.30pm on Friday 9 December at High Street Methodist Church, Witney.

Tickets (£15, £1 for under 19s) are available in advance online or at the door from 7pm. For more information, please telephone 01993 898020 or visit the Witney Music Society website www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk

SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Sunday 4th

8:30am Communion (BCP) at St Michael's, Stanton Harcourt

11am Matins at St Denys, Northmoor – Gift Service

11am Informal Communion at St Giles, Standlake – Gift Service

4pm St Nicholas storytime Sts Nicholas & Swithun Yelford followed by

6pm Evensong Gift Service

Saturday 10th

4pm Candlelight Carol Service at St Michael's, Stanton Harcourt. Gift Service.

Sunday 11th

10am Benefice Communion at St Michael's, Stanton Harcourt

(including Christening)

3pm Christingle at St Giles, Standlake

Friday 16th

6pm Christmas Evensong

followed by mulled wine & mince pies at Yelford church.

Sunday 18th

8:30am BCP HC at Yelford

10am Benefice All Age at St Michael's, Stanton Harcourt

4pm Carol Service at St Giles, Standlake

Friday 23rd

4pm Carol Service, St Denys, Northmoor

6pm Carol Service, St Denys, Northmoor

Saturday 24th Christmas Eve

7pm Beer and Carols! Meet at Standlake Post Office to walk & sing, finishing at the Black Horse for drinks.

11:30pm Midnight Communion at St Michael's, Stanton Harcourt

Sunday 25th Christmas Day

8:30am HC (BCP) Yelford church

9:30am Family HC St Giles, Standlake

10:30am All Age at St Michael's, Stanton Harcourt (Lay led)

10:30am All Age at St. Denys, Northmoor