

VillageVoice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

September 2022

Calendar

3rd Men's Breakfast Club 8.00am, The Harcourt Arms
5th Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm, Village Hall
5th 12th 19th 26th Knitting Group 10.30 - 12.30pm, The Chapel
6th Sutton Singers Meet Again 7.00pm, The Chapel
7th Cafe at the Chapel 10.00am - 12.00pm, The Chapel
10th Village Market 12.00 - 2.00pm, Village Hall

Dear Villagers,

I am sad to say that the time has come for me to hand over my responsibilities as Editor of the Village Voice to someone who lives in the village.

It's been a blast, and I thank you all for your support and patience as you read the random ramblings and nonsense that often fill these pages.

If you're looking for a new venture and think being Editor of this most prestigious institution is for you, please get in touch at village-voice@hotmail.co.uk.

Training and handover will be provided.

This is probably not a job for just one individual, unless you have plenty of time to spare. Ideally a formidable team of the brightest editing talent the village can offer will take over the mantle and continue this tradition.

As the wise Dr Seuss stated "It's not about what it is, it's about what it can become".

Yours, ever nonsensically, Sarah

Wild Oxfordshire - Water Report

We are pleased to share with you our water quality summary report for 2021-2022, though it doesn't make for great reading. The incredible data collected by volunteers is now the biggest contributor to water quality monitoring in the catchment and is showing that sewage effluent is the main cause of poor water quality in the Evenlode.

Water is the basis of life. Our rivers are facing significant challenges from pollution, physical modifications, climate, over-abstraction and the Evenlode is no exception. Many of the streams flowing into this river, as well as the river itself, have been affected by poorly treated wastewater, spills and agricultural runoff. This has led to the loss of biodiversity, habitats and ecological services.

The Evenlode Catchment Partnership (ECP) is led by Wild Oxfordshire and brings together partners from across the catchment including members of the Evenlode community, Thames Water Utilities, the Environment Agency and Earthwatch Europe; all working towards improving the catchment for the benefit of wildlife and people.

Visit this link to read the report: <https://bit.ly/3pCyomQ>

Or look at our infographic here: <https://bit.ly/3CrW70S>



Ahoy there mateys, did ye know that there 19th September be talk like a ~~pirate~~ gentleman o' fortune day? why not grab yer rum an' trusted feathered mate, an' set off on a treasure 'unt to pass the time. If ye 'aven't tried geocachin' in the village yet ye could give that there a try?
www.geocaching.com



Solar System goes live at Village Hall

We are very pleased to now be generating solar energy at the Village Hall provided by 46 panels on the rear roof next to the play area. This will potentially provide up to 60% of our electricity usage. The panels have been inset and we have saved the tiles we removed either to sell on or reuse if we need them in the future. We are very pleased with JoJu Oxford, our supplier, and look forward to the next stage in early October when the 2 large batteries arrive and we will be able to store the excess energy generated. Any surplus both now and after the batteries are full, is being fed into the grid with a small financial return to the hall funds.

Our thanks go to the Parish Council, who have hosted the contract and also secured the S106 planning obligation funds from recent housing developments in the village. We have topped this up with our fundraising efforts to cover the final bill and should recover this with savings on our electricity bills over the next 18 months or so, based on how much energy we are predicted to generate.

Lucy Heath on behalf of the Village Hall Committee



Sutton Singers

Tuesday 6th September 7pm, Sutton Methodist Chapel

Sutton Singers start to meet again on Tuesday 6th September, at 7pm. Would you like to sing?

Join in the joy and fun of singing together?

Get in touch with Jan Tomlinson on

Phone: 01865 881709 or email:

janandpaultomlinson@gmail.com



Use Your Voice

Council Consultation - 24th August to 21st September

West Oxfordshire District Council has opened the 'Your Voice Counts' consultation. Your responses will be used to help shape the Council's new 'Council Plan' which will set out the key priorities for the Council.



This year the consultation is taking place online, but residents unable to comment online will be able to access the questionnaire either in the Council offices in Welch Way, Witney or in a local library.

For more information, and to take part visit:

<https://yourvoicecounts.commonplace.is/>

Parish Council News

Next Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall

Monday 5th September 7:30pm

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

Your Parish Council

After a month break, we are back for a meeting in September. Although there hasn't been a meeting, we can still be contacted for any issues. Our contact details are at the end of this section. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting on 5th September.

Since our last meeting in July, there have been some changes. Tony has taken over from Rachel to run the Speedwatch group. He already has some volunteers, and they will be getting ready to undertake their training with the new scheme that has more 'teeth'; however he will always take on more. If we can get the speeds recorded with the Police, hopefully something can be done.

Potholes to notholes

Keith has taken on the role of super user for the fix my street initiative. This means that he can report directly into the system with things such as potholes, so that they can be fixed quicker so you may have already seen him out and about with his tin of spray paint. His new role means that repairs can be made quickly, and we are already seeing the results of his work. Please contact Keith on keith@shpc.co.uk if you come across any that don't have markings around them so that he can get them reported.

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 heading towards the colder months. 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. 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.

Don't lose your vote

Most of you should have received a letter through the door about your vote. Please make sure that the details are up to date, so that your voice can be heard when it comes to elections.

The Old Guardroom is open

The Old Guardroom is now available for bookings. The room is slightly smaller than the Holland Room in the Village Hall but does have a large outdoor space. If you wish to find out more information or to make a booking, please check <https://www.hugofox.com/community/stanton-harcourt-and-sutton-parish-council-13404/home> for contact details.

The Old Guardroom compliments the facilities already available at the Village Hall. If you do want to book the Village Hall, this can be done through <http://stantonharcourtvilleagehall.co.uk/> or 01865 880736 (after 5pm)

Huge thanks to The Editor

As you have seen in this edition, the current editor of Village Voice is standing down. The Parish Council would like to thank Sarah for all her hard work, and we are very sad to see her go.

With her leaving, this leaves a vacancy. If you think that you have what it takes to become the new Editor, please head over to the advert for more details.

Your West Oxfordshire District Councillors are:

Lynette Nicholls

• Mobile: 07766 251125

• Email: lysette.nicholls@westoxon.gov.uk

Charlie Maynard

• Mobile: 07487 708681

• Email: charlie.maynard@westoxon.gov.uk

Your Oxfordshire County Council councillor is:

Dan Levy

• Mobile: 07852 748362

• Email: dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Your 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

Get your news on the go

Have you subscribed to Village Voice emails yet?

Use the link below, or scan the QR code, to receive the monthly village newsletter online. Perfect for when you're on the go and forgotten the post office opening hours or need your parish councillors details at your fingertips! <https://bit.ly/3NhQfbW>





CAFE AT THE CHAPEL

WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 10.00 – 12.00

FRESH ROASTED COFFEE SELECTION OF TEAS

TOASTED TEACAKES, CRUMPETS AND HOT BUTTERED TOAST

CRAFT AND GIFT TABLE TO BROWSE

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!



*It's been said that one o' the reasons
gentlemen o' fortune wore me good eye patches
been to 'elp keep one me good eye adjusted to
night vision fer seein' below deck*

Village Market & Cafe: Autumn Dates

Saturday 14th May 12-2pm, Stanton Harcourt Village Hall

Autumn is approaching, which means it's the perfect time to pop by the monthly village market to feast on local produce and warm up on chilly Saturdays with a bowl of hot soup. And, dare we say it, start thinking about those Christmas gifts and the festive markets at the end of the year!

Market dates for your diary:

September 10th

November 12th

October 8th

December 10th



Page Three Bird - Song Thrush



Meet IIIain (*three-an*), a Song Thrush from the UK, fresh from a successful appearance at Toast Festival where he headlined with Ronald Stevens and Emu Dreams.

The song thrush is a popular garden songbird whose numbers declined by 54% between 1970 and 2010. Their conservation status is amber (of moderate concern), but there is good news – they moved from red to amber status recently.

The song thrush's habit of repeating song phrases distinguish it from the blackbird. Their repertoire can consist of 100 or more distinct phrases, including mimicry of other birds and sounds such as car alarms. As a 21st century song thrush, IIIain creates a melody of low-fly chill hop beats inspired by nature and his love of the English countryside; the perfect accompaniment to a balmy summer evening with a rhubarb and blackberry gin.

When IIIain isn't practising his set or recording a new album for Spotify he likes to eat snails which he breaks into by smashing them against a stone with a flick of the head - he's been spending too much time with Wiggly Tim!

For more information about the UK Birds of Conservation, and how you can help make a positive difference visit www.rspb.org.uk

What we can do to help:

- Maintain or restore damp areas of pasture, woodland, or ground; this will encourage earthworms and snails, a vital part of the song thrush's diet
- Avoid management of hedgerows between March and August to protect nesting song thrushes
- Save some blackberries for our feathered friends to pick too

Ghost Writer

It was a dark and stormy night. Martha was settling down with a steaming mug of tea and a ginger biscuit to participate in some late night biscuit dunking. She liked to test how long she could let the biscuit soak up the tea before releasing it and popping the soggy ginger deliciousness in her mouth. She often failed. And despite enjoying a tea soaked biscuit, a biscuit filled tea was one of her worst nightmares.

Biscuit number three. Martha bent over the mug of tea, concentration etched on her face watching the soggy line slowly creep up and soak into the natural cracks of the biscuit.

She blocked out all external distractions. Focused only on the biscuity scene in front of her. "Almost there..." Martha readied herself, left hand cupped ready to catch any drooping biscuit.

CRACK!

A flash of lightning echoed across the kitchen.

PLOP



A splash of hot tea caught Martha in the middle of her forehead. In her right hand the remaining quarter of the biscuit hung precariously.

One look at the gloopy biscuity tea and Martha knew she'd been bested yet again by the unpredictable consistency of a ginger biscuit. "Will I never learn?" she sighed.

Are you a budding writer and in school years 4 – 6? We bet you can write something better than this!

We're looking for a short ghost story for our November issue, which will be released in time for Halloween.

If you fancy winning a **£25 book token** for your writing please submit your entries to us no later than

Thursday 20th October.

No more than 500 words. village-voice@hotmail.co.uk

Men's Breakfast Club

1st Saturday of every month
8am at The Harcourt Arms

£12.00

Full English Breakfast

To book your place call:

John Holland OX 881906 or The Harcourt Arms OX 416516



Don't Forget To Register to Vote

West Oxfordshire residents are being urged to check their electoral registration details or risk losing their chance to vote on decisions that affect them as the Council starts its Annual household canvass to check everyone's voting details are up to date.

With local elections taking place in May 2023, this is an opportunity for residents to make sure they can take part.

If you have recently moved, you might not be on the register. The easiest way to register to vote is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote



Poetry Corner

21st September marks the UN's International Day of Peace: a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

The 2022 theme for the International Day of Peace is "End racism. Build peace."

"Achieving true peace entails much more than laying down arms. It requires the building of societies where all members feel that they can flourish. It involves creating a world in which people are treated equally, regardless of their race." <https://bit.ly/3PG5wVw>

Below is an extract from Maya Angelou's poem,

Amazing Peace

In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.

At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.

We listen carefully as it gathers strength.

We hear a sweetness.

The word is Peace.

It is loud now. It is louder.

Louder than the explosion of bombs.

We tremble at the sound. We are thrilled by its presence.

It is what we have hungered for.

Not just the absence of war. But, true Peace.

A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.

Security for our beloveds and their beloveds.

We, Angels and Mortal's, Believers and Non-Believers,

Look heavenward and speak the word aloud.

Peace. We look at our world and speak the word aloud.

Peace. We look at each other, then into ourselves

And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation.

Peace, My Brother.

Peace, My Sister.

Peace, My Soul.

Maya Angelou (1928 – 2014)



Fer as long as there 'ave been ships, there 'ave been criminals who 'ave taken to the sea. Fer example, 'istorians 'ave found evidence o' gentlemen o' fortune in the mediterranean as farr aft as 1353 B.C. Durin' that there time, the Egyptian pharaoh Akhenaten complained o' gentlemen o' fortune who 'ad raided 'is coastal cities an' ports.

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

POST
OFFICE

The Phantom Footpath Fairy Triumphs Again - Thank you!

No more limbo dancing under tree trunks or scraping shins on the rotten stile. The dog gets lost however in the thigh high grass but one can't have everything!



Fruity Tea Loaf

22nd September is World Hobbit Day, which celebrates the birthdays of Bilbo and Frodo Baggins. Why not throw a hobbit party: rustle up some tasty morsels, grab yourself some Old Toby, and sit back whilst your dwarf friends raid your pantry.

If you're feeling especially hobbit-like you could go barefoot in honour of our favourite little people.

This tasty tea loaf is perfect after second breakfast with a mug of tea made with the finest Shire tea leaves.

Ingredients: (serves 12 slices)

150g sultanas
150g raisins
300ml freshly made tea (using 2 tea bags)
250g plain flour
2 tsp baking powder
200g soft light brown sugar
1 tsp mixed spice
2 tbsp unsalted butter, melted
2 large eggs



Method:

1. Place the sultanas and raisins in a bowl and pour over the hot tea. Cover and allow to soak up the liquid overnight.
2. Preheat the oven to 170°C. Line a 2lb loaf tin with baking parchment or a loaf tin liner.
3. Combine the flour, baking powder, sugar and mixed spice in a mixing bowl and stir together.
4. Mix in the melted butter and eggs using a wooden spoon or spatula.
5. Add in the raisins, sultanas and any liquid left in the bowl.
6. Stir together until everything is thoroughly combined. It will be a very wet mixture.
7. Spoon the mixture into the lined loaf tin, place in the oven and bake for 1 hour to 1 hour 15 minutes, or until an inserted skewer comes out clean. Cover with foil if the top is starting to look too dark.
8. Once cooked, remove from the oven and leave to cool in the tin for 10 minutes. Then remove from the tin and allow to cool completely on a wire rack before slicing and serving.

Church News

Lower Windrush Benefice

St Michael's Church, Stanton Harcourt

Regular online Zoom services (zoom link found on our website):

Every Wednesday evening at 8.30pm - Compline Night Prayer

Every Thursday morning at 7.30am - Early Bird Prayer

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 September

3.00pm Led by our Minister, Fred Ireland - everyone welcome

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Eynsham

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

200 Club Draw Results

Sorry folks, it is collection time again so I will be putting an envelope through doors in a couple of weeks for your year's subscription (£6 per number). Thank you for your support. We still have numbers not allocated so contact me on 882020.

Liz Strange

July 2022

270 P. Salway £25

183 Mrs Field £12

265 J. Banks £8

115 L. Ives £5

August 2022

285 A Hill £25

208 M. Powell £12

142 P. Jacobs £8

189 E. Floyd £5

September 2022

144 Mr P Henton £25

103 Jane Watts £12

164 J. Butt £8

210 Mrs G. Gray £5

Last Issue's Riddle Answers

1. After Eights, 2. Quality Street, 3. Whisper, 4. Smarties, 5. Minstrels, 6. Roses, 7. Chocolate Buttons, 8. Dime Bar, 9. Bounty, 10. Snickers

Deadline for next issue is 20th of the month
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.



Many o' the phrases we associate with gentlemen o' fortune today actually originated from the 1950 Disney film Treasure Island.