
VillageVoice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

April 2023

Calendar for April

3th - Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm, The Old Guardroom

7th – Good Friday

9th – Easter Sunday

STANTON HARCOURT PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council main income, 'the parish precept', of £35,000 a year comes from you, the residents of the parish. This money is used to improve facilities and services for local people. The precept is collected via council tax, and for 2022/23 accounted for just £74.62 of the full £2,082 council tax bill for a band D property, so a very small portion of the overall bill.

The Parish Council decided to set our precept budget requirement at £35,000, so the precept remains frozen at £35,000. The good news is that because we now have more households within the parish to spread the cost across, this has resulted in a slight decrease in the precept part of the council tax bill. The band D precept cost has reduced to £71.01 this year.

In addition to the precept occasionally we receive donations from residents past and present, for these we are incredibly grateful.

What have we delivered for our community this year:

We responded on your behalf to many planning applications during the year, and will continue to do so.

We spent £12,100 on maintaining the parish environment, grass cutting, maintaining the play areas and equipment, maintaining the cemetery and the benches around the village, and emptying the litter bins throughout the village, this item alone cost £2,400!! Although it was not our idea to change the bins, style and location, that was a WODC initiative.

The Parish Council is registered as a Super User on the road repair website FixMyStreet. We believe that has helped to speed the process of getting roads and kerbs repaired. FixMyStreet is a national website for residents to report any issues with roads and pavements, such as pot holes, to direct the action of their County Council. Councillor Keith Hickson undertook training as a Super User of the site. This

means we are able to authorise basic repairs to roads and kerbs once alerted to enable it to be remedied more swiftly. If residents spot any issues, we advise visiting the website Fix My Street Oxfordshire and logging the problem as usual. The Parish Council will then be informed. We will inspect the site, mark up the area in need of repair and arrange for it to happen as quickly as possible.

We spent £10,700 on Parish administration, professional advice, and insurance for the Village Hall, various play parks and public open spaces within the Parish.

£1,000 was spent on the production and delivery of village voice which is delivered to every home in the village throughout the year.

£1,700 was spent on repairing the church clock mechanism, this has been funded via a donation.

We obtained a £34,000, section 106 grant from WODC, for the Village Hall solar system, this grant along with a smallish additional grant from the Village Hall Management Committee generated from fund raising events ensured the project was delivered at zero cost to the community. The panels on the roof generate energy from light, which is now stored in a battery, so the solar energy(electricity) can be used when it is needed within the hall. The benefit is lower on-going bills whilst producing less CO2. This project was managed at delivered by the Village Hall Management Committee thanks to Lucy Heath.

The Old Guardroom on the Air Field (Hayford Green) was donated by the developers (Hayfield) to the Parish Council along with a set-up grant of £6,000 in July 2022. £4,500 of this grant has already been spent on tables, chairs, crockery and cutlery the rest of the £4,500 on property rates, electricity and water rates. As yet we have received very little income from hiring out the facility. We recognise the facility needs to be rented out regularly to pay its way and we need your help with this. We plan to install a solar system (subject to planning permission and successful grant submission) so that we can improve the heating within the building and lower the overall running cost this year.

We were able this year to help our local Cricket team obtain a bowling machine, which enables team

members of all ages to practice and improve their skills.

As a result of a generous donation, we were able to replace two of our current village notice boards and install a new one at the Old Guardroom. Hopefully, the plastic covers on the front of these boards will ensure fewer notices blow off causing unintentional litter.

Our priorities for 2023/24 are.

- Continuing to respond on your behalf to planning application and consultations.
- Obtaining a grant and install a solar system and improved heating for the guardroom, hopefully at no cost to the village.
- Improve the Village Hall Car Park, both the surface and drainage, we have received a substantial donation of £20,000 towards this and will apply for a grant to complete the job so the project will be delivered at no cost to the community
- We will start to build a fund that will enable us to extend the footpath towards the cemetery
- Improve the speed management throughout the village, including reinstating speed watch within the village.
- Continue to maintain the Old Guard Room, the play areas and our village environment, maintaining the planting, the green areas, and disposing of litter for the benefit of the whole community.
- We hope to also apply for grants to help to enable the church bells to be rehung. This is an expensive project that only need to be done every 100 years or so with a current estimated cost of £70,000 that we hope to fund via a developer grant.

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

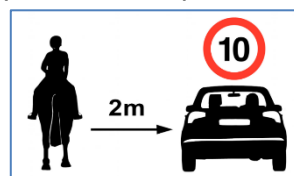
Village Shop & Post Office

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



Be nice to horse riders on our roads

Many of our country roads have blind bends, please think before you speed around them, there may be more vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists and horses just around the corner. Horses can get spooked and become unpredictable when vehicle drive too close and too fast past them. The Highway Code was updated in January 2022, stating that drivers must pass horse riders and carriages at a distance of two metres at speeds below



10 miles per hour. Reminding drivers to be patient, do not sound your horn or rev your engine immediately you have passed them.

This month Charlotte is reading... Sorry for the Dead – Nicola Upson

In the summer of 1915, the violent death of a young girl brings grief and notoriety to Charleston Farmhouse on the Sussex Downs. Years later, Josephine Tey returns to the same house - now much changed - and remembers the two women with whom she once lodged as a young teacher during the Great War. As past and present collide, with murders decades apart, Josephine is forced to face the possibility that the scandal which

threatened to destroy those women's lives hid a much darker secret.

I went for a walk then the pub, when I got back Charlotte had finished it.

Church News

Lower Windrush Benefice

EASTER

7th Good Friday

Benefice Pilgrimage Walk – all welcome.

Setting off from the Rectory

06:30 and walking between each of the churches in the Benefice.

08:00 Sts Nicholas & Swithun, Yelford followed by breakfast

10:00 St Giles, Standlake followed by coffee

12:00 St Denys, Northmoor (reading of St John's Passion) followed by lunch

14:00 Finishing at St Michael's, Stanton Harcourt

9th Easter Sunday

09:00 Holy Communion (CW), St Michael's, Stanton Harcourt

May

7th Sunday Easter 5

08:30 Holy Communion (BCP) followed by breakfast, St Michael's, Stanton Harcourt.

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



St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Eynsham

For information about services at St Peter's please visit

www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk/

This month's recipe–Pea and Chorizo Soup

1lb Peas

4oz Crème Fraiche

4oz Chorizo – chopped small cubes

1 large onion - chopped

2 Vegetable stock cubes mixed with 1pt hot water

Method

Gently fry the onions and Chorizo until slightly brown.

Add peas and vegetable stock

Gently simmer until peas soft

Add Crème Fraiche

Salt and pepper to taste

If too thick add a little vegetable stock

Blend to a smooth consistency

April in the garden

- Spray the new leaves of disease-prone roses with fungicide to control mildew, rust and black spot
- Prune hydrangeas, cutting back the old stems to a healthy shoot lower down
- Sow sweet peas at the base of supports, and transplant those sown in autumn into their final position
- Sow sunflowers in a sunny, open site, then water regularly and protect seedlings from slugs and snails

Poetry Corner - The Owl and the Chimpanzee

By Jo Camacho.

The owl and the chimpanzee went to sea
In a beautiful boat called The Mind
The owl was sensible, clever and smart
The chimp was a little behind
The owl made decisions, based on fact
And knew where to steer its ship
The chimp reacted a little too fast
And often the boat would tip
The waves would come and crash aboard
The chimp would start to cry
Large tears would roll right down his face
Afraid that he would die
The chimp and the owl would wrestle at night
When the world was quiet and still
The chimp would jump up and rock the boat
And the boat would start to fill
Then the owl stepped in and grabbed a pail
And started to empty it out
And the chimp would start to get quite cross
And would often scream and shout
The battle continued night after night
Until the chimp started to see
That if it let the owl take control
A more peaceful night it would be

Stanton Harcourt and Sutton Summer Festival 2023

"Stanton in Wonderland"

Festival Week Events: 17th June to 25th June

Festival Day: Saturday 24th June

Festival Royals – Attendant required!

Kyra Munro was our Festival Attendant last year and will be crowned as our Festival Queen on

Festival Day. We are looking for a new Festival Attendant to join Kyra on the Royal Float and become Festival King/Queen in 2024.

If you are in school year 7 or above and would like to be our Festival Attendant, email your details to gill@gillmason.com before 6pm on Friday 14th April. A name will be drawn "from a hat" of those who have expressed interest and we will announce the result in May's edition of Village Voice.

(Youngsters – please ask your parent or carer to email on your behalf. Grown-ups – please make sure that any young person you are nominating is happy to take on this role!)

Our Festival Prince and Princess will also be chosen in a draw that will be made at Stanton Harcourt School in the next few weeks.

And a reminder of who to contact if you want to get involved in festival this year:

Festival Week Events

If you or your village group would like to hold an "event" get in touch with Keith Hickson (07764 132178, email keith@shpc.co.uk). Keith is co-ordinating the event schedule for the week.

Festival Day Stalls

If you would like to have a stall on the field on Festival Day, contact Lucy on 07775 604466 or email lucylowe1974@gmail.com

Programme Booklet

If you have a local business and would like to place an advert in the Festival Programme booklet then contact Gill (gill@gillmason.com)

For other Festival enquiries you can contact our Chairperson Jo Wilby (jowilby@hotmail.co.uk)



Join us to hear about our Community Action Plan to reach Zero Carbon Energy, at an open meeting at Eynsham Village Hall, Wednesday 26 April, 7:30pm.

Join local community group [Green TEA](#), members of [Low Carbon Hub](#) and [Project LEO](#) (Local energy Oxfordshire), to find out about the Community Action Plan for Zero Carbon Energy. Hear about the opportunities, how to get involved and the support available, at an open meeting on

Wednesday 26th April 7.30 pm at Eynsham Village Hall (small hall), Back Lane.

Refreshments from 7pm. Parking and EV chargers nearby.

Climate change, with the linked biodiversity crisis, is the most serious challenge we face. We hear a lot about reducing carbon emissions to 'net zero' by 2050 but we need to take radical action now and over the next few years if we are to keep a habitable planet.

Green TEA has been working with Low Carbon Hub, representatives of West Oxfordshire District Council and some of the local parish councils, on Project LEO Smart and Fair Futures, to demonstrate how a smart, locally balanced energy system can bring social, economic, and environmental benefits for everyone. Project LEO is a national innovation project seeking to accelerate the UK's transition to a zero-carbon energy system. It is the first project of its kind and will help other communities to develop their own energy action plans.

Over the last few years, we have been developing a Community Action Plan for a clean, green future with zero carbon emissions and we are ready to tell you what we have found. If we make changes now - from saving energy, changing the way we travel and heat our buildings to producing our share of renewable energy - we can have an energy system for the future that will be fairer to people and to the planet we rely on.

Who is the Community Action Plan for?

The *Smart and Fair Futures* project has developed a Community Action Plan for Zero Carbon Energy for the communities served by our local electricity substation. This includes all of Freeland parish, most of Eynsham parish and parts of Hanborough, North Leigh, South Leigh, Cassington, Stanton Harcourt and Cumnor parishes.

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

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