



# VillageVoice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

March 2021



## Calendar

- 1<sup>st</sup> - St David's Day *Leeks for dinner and welsh cakes for after!*  
 3<sup>rd</sup> - World Wildlife Day *Forests are in trouble – can you help?*  
 4<sup>th</sup> - World Book Day *No reason you can't still dress up at home!*  
 8<sup>th</sup> - International Women's Day *The battle isn't over yet*  
 14<sup>th</sup> - Mother's Day *Celebrate those female role models in your life*  
 17<sup>th</sup> - St Patrick's Day *Guinness drinking & hat wearing compulsory*  
 19<sup>th</sup> - Red Nose Day *Have an outrageously silly day*

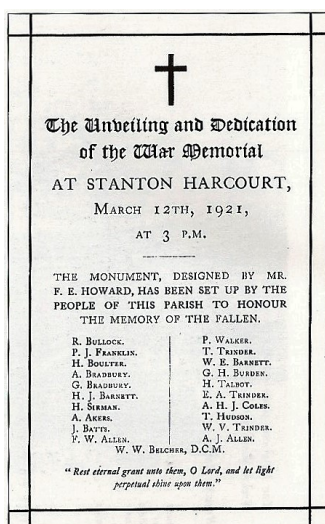
## Village History

This month marks 100 years since the unveiling and dedication of Stanton Harcourt's War Memorial.



On the 12th of March 1921 the War Memorial, designed by Mr F E Howard, was unveiled in St Michael's Churchyard.

The memorial stands to this day and is the focal point of all Remembrance Day services. The names of villagers who died during the First and Second World Wars can be found on the memorial – many of whom are ancestors of present day villagers.



15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> March is Shakespeare week.  
*Shakespeare wrote at least 38 plays and over 150 short and long poems. Can you name all of his plays?*



## Suspicious Behaviour

We may live in a lovely sleepy village, but this does not mean we are without any suspicious activity.

Please look out for your neighbours. Don't let anyone into your property that you do not know.

*If you encounter something you are uncomfortable with, or you know is a crime, please contact the police.*

The police can often only start to help with any long term or regularly occurring problems if they receive enough information from members of the public.

**Emergencies call: 999 Non-emergencies call: 111**

Or email the local neighbourhood policing team at [eynshamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:eynshamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

## Village Volunteer Group

We offer assistance (free of charge) with anything from posting letters, walking the dog, collecting shopping or prescriptions, etc. Or an ear on the phone if you are feeling isolated.

Leave a message any time or if you want to speak with someone call between 9:00 and 18:00 from Monday to Saturday

07778 924 964 - Gill Sellars 07977 502 209 - Matthew Judson  
 07803 133 141 - Michelle Poynter 07717 755 497 - Tami Warriner  
 07966 506 426 - Gil Hilleard



## Covid News

The vaccine roll-out is underway and many villagers have received their first inoculation, which is fantastic!

***Please remember, your GP will contact you about your vaccination. Do not contact them directly about this unless they have asked you to.***

For all up to date government guidance please refer to the gov.uk website <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

**Do not hesitate to get a test if you are displaying any of the symptoms of COVID-19.**

**Book a test at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus) or calling 911**

## When does your rubbish not become your responsibility?!

Recent storms and high winds have meant not all rubbish is finding its way into the bin lorries on collection day.

Please consider picking up any rubbish that may have strayed onto your land, or onto the road.

Not only does it look a mess, but leaving litter to fester is bad for wildlife and our environment.



Let's not ignore it or shove it in a hedge hoping no one will notice: pick it up and put it in your bin.

This doesn't just go for your land; perhaps take a bag on a walk once in a while and fill it with the rubbish you see along the way. We can all do our bit to make the village a cleaner, nicer place to live.

***\*\* Always wash your hands after, or wear gloves, when picking litter up \*\****

Thank you in advance to those picking up litter and helping our environment.



**Global Recycling Day is on 18<sup>th</sup> March**

Why not recycle what you find if you can?

Recycling helps limit the amount of new materials we have to take from Mother Nature. More information can be found here: [www.globalrecyclingday.com](https://www.globalrecyclingday.com)

## Ballot of you will have heard about the local elections...

The government have confirmed elections will be happening in May. Don't forget to **register to vote by 19<sup>th</sup> April** so you can have your say!

The deadline for receiving nominations is 4pm on 8<sup>th</sup> April. More information here: <https://bit.ly/37F6r55>

Watch this space for more election news next month!



# Parish Council News

Next Parish Council Meetings, via Zoom

March: Monday 1st 7:30pm.

For Zoom link see Parish Council Website

## Storm Water Flooding



We live in a low-lying village on the edge of a flood plain, which although not classified as a high flood risk, recent events have shown flooding can happen anywhere if the right precautions are not taken. We all need to take responsibility on ensuring surface water flows away through the correct channels unimpeded. Useful guide:

<https://bit.ly/2ZHD7GM>

**Rainwater Removal.** When the sewer system was built it was specified for the removal of foul water/sewage only. The sewer system in Stanton Harcourt and Sutton is not fit for purpose. Thames Water lays much of the blame for the sewer problems on rainwater getting into the system. Please check that your rainwater drainage is not connected into the Thames Water Sewer. You could benefit as this qualifies the householder for a discount on their water bill.

**Ditches and Culverts.** If you own land adjoining, above or with a water course running through it, you have certain rights and responsibilities. In legal terms you are the 'riparian owner' which means you have responsibility for upkeep and maintenance of the watercourse. Traditionally, people used to make a day of clearing the ditches and gullies outside of their homes which was an annual social event. Maybe that is something to revive with a street party, perhaps when we are let out of lockdown? Climate change is happening, and many floods around the country have been caused by silted and blocked water courses - please don't let that happen here!

Please help to ensure Thames Water has no excuse for not investing in their infrastructure.

## Census Day - 21 March 2021

**census  
2021**

Every ten years, the census provides a unique snapshot of our society. The next census is happening 21<sup>st</sup> March, and will be the first digital-first census. It's easy to do and can be done on any device. You'll get an access code from the Office for National Statistics between the 3 to 13 March. Simply go online and enter the code into the secure website to get started.

By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you'll help make sure your community is counted in decisions on services and funding. Billions of pounds are allocated to local services using census-based information every year. It is important the census accurately captures everyone in our society.

## PPE

Wearing face masks is compulsory in some settings – but one place we don't want to see PPE is on the ground. Protect our community and make sure disposable masks and gloves go in a litter bin – or take them home and throw away in your household rubbish please.



## Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP)

Residents and organisations across Oxfordshire are being offered the chance to help shape OCC's vision for transport and digital connectivity across the county in a new consultation from 15 February to 29 March. OCC believe it is important to have a clear long-term plan for transport in the county. The LTCP vision is the first step in developing a long-term plan and OCC hope it will outline the framework for delivering a more sustainable, prosperous and healthier Oxfordshire. What do you think? OCC welcome your feedback via the online questionnaire:

<https://bit.ly/3dD5Kx9>

## Work along A40 at Wolvercote

Oxfordshire County Council has begun the main phase of work along the A40 on a short section of the road just to the west of the Wolvercote roundabout. This is scheduled for completion in late 2021.

This stage will include full widening of the road to offer improved cycle/footpaths as well as a bus-only eastbound lane. Signs will divert cyclists and pedestrians from one side of the A40 to the other at various stages via a temporary crossing to the west of the work area and the existing crossing at the Wolvercote roundabout. Both lanes of the A40 will be kept open for most of the work but there will be traffic flow reduction with lane widths. Some night work is planned for this stage, but traffic access will continue, controlled by temporary traffic lights. There will also be a speed limit of 40mph in force. The work has been designed to keep the area open to business as usual as far as possible.

## Eynsham Toll Bridge



Repairs to the road beside the Toll Bridge collection booth have been scheduled by OCC. The B4044 will **CLOSE from 15 to 20 March** inclusive, between the junction with Eynsham Oxford Road roundabout and Farmoor, for resurfacing / patching at Swinford toll bridge.

## A Guide to Spotting Romance Fraudsters



Due to the growth of this type of crime Thames Valley Police Economic Crime Unit has developed a new romance fraud [e-booklet](#). This booklet has been designed to demonstrate the clever tactics used by romance fraudsters. It also dispels the myths of shame and embarrassment often associated with this crime by highlighting the link to coercive control.

<https://bit.ly/3aGJVe6>

## QUICK CONTACTS:

Your Parish Council: All official communications should be addressed to the Parish Clerk: Trudi Gasser, 5 Woodlands, Standlake, Oxon, OX29 7RA. [trudigasser@rocketmail.com](mailto:trudigasser@rocketmail.com)

West Oxfordshire District Council:

Cllr Hilary Fenton [hilary.fenton@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:hilary.fenton@westoxon.gov.uk)

Cllr Steve Good [steve.good@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:steve.good@westoxon.gov.uk)

Oxfordshire County Council: Cllr Charles Mathew 01865 882205, County Hall 01865 792422

MP: Robert Courts 58–60 High Street, Witney OX286HJ, 01993 225020 [robert@robertcourts.co.uk](mailto:robert@robertcourts.co.uk)

## The World of STEM

STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) is becoming bigger than ever in our modern world. STEM subjects have a key role in our future, so it is really important for young people to get involved and learn more about these topics. Here are some recent, amazing developments in STEM:



- The Covid vaccination has been a huge milestone in science: the average vaccine takes around 10 years to go through all of the trials, whereas the Covid vaccine has been researched and created in a year.
- At Cambridge University the first lab grown organ transplant has taken place with a liver being replaced, which will change the way we see organ transplants happening.
- It is also Pi Day on the 14th of March. A great way to remember the first few numbers of Pi "May I have a large container of coffee" the number of letters in each word correspond to the numbers of Pi.
- The first images of Mars are coming from NASA with Rover Perseverance landing on Mars.
- This is a great time to get into STEM. Here's a link to a really cool science experiment to do with kids at home to do with water densities. <https://bit.ly/37zVQZi>

- WISE (Women in Science & Engineering) are an organisation committed to bringing about positive change by encouraging more women to become involved in STEM subjects from school into adulthood. Their website has a plethora of handy information, along with events and guidance for STEM careers [www.wisecampaign.org.uk/](http://www.wisecampaign.org.uk/)





## Poetry Corner

Held every year on 21<sup>st</sup> March, World Poetry Day celebrates one of humanity's most treasured forms of cultural and linguistic expression and identity.

Why not try your hand at writing a few lines yourself? We find nonsense rhymes a lot of fun to write!

This month's theme is women's rights, to coincide with International Women's Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

### Why Tinkerbell Quit Anger Management

I had to give up on their remedies.  
They kept trying to make me less angry,  
but I refuse to surrender to my rage.



Because whole kingdoms have already spent  
millennia trying to keep women subdued,  
only to be discarded in old age.

My fury gets things done,  
it has saved lives, it has made the world listen;  
where I could not speak, my anger has screamed.

Think Helen of Troy when they took her freedom.  
Think the Rani of Jhansi leading rebellions.  
Think Joan of Arc leading armies on what she dreamed.

So now I love my tinderbox heart  
So easy to light up,  
all it takes is half a spark.

A woman's anger can change the world,  
I know mine can and this is not a gift  
I will give it away.

I am small and I am angry,  
it is how I channel my energy  
and I like me that way.



*Nikita Gill, from Fierce Fairytales*

## Handy Hints for Horticulturalists

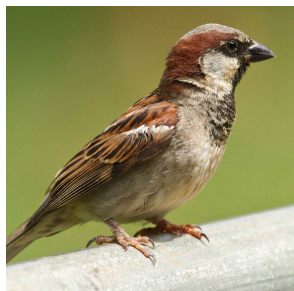
*Jobs for your garden this March:*

- \* Prune those roses
- \* Get bare-root plants into the soil
- \* Plant and divide perennials
- \* Start planning your kitchen garden and prepare seed beds
- \* Plant early potatoes
- \* Sow a bee & butterfly friendly flower meadow
- \* Sit back and enjoy the sea of colour starting to pop up from the cold earth



## Page 3 Bird – Sparrow

The sparrow is a small bird with a big personality. Usually travelling in large flocks, sparrows know the power of togetherness, and while they're super-friendly, they are also courageous and clever. The ancient Egyptians believed that they carried the souls of the dead on to the next life, while the Greeks associated them with the goddess of love, Aphrodite. In Europe, it was considered an ill omen if one flew into your home, but in Indonesia the opposite is true. These tiny birds are symbols of good fortune.



## Church in Crisis

Over the last 10 months of continuous restrictions and now our 3rd lockdown the, normal avenues to raise money have almost ceased and St Michael's Church Fundraising has reached crisis point.

In order to keep this beautiful, 900yr old historic building safe and open to the public we urgently need to increase our funds.

To all of you now working from home, would you consider donating some of your commute money to our fund?

For details on how to do this please contact  
[Stm.fundraising5rj@gmail.com](mailto:Stm.fundraising5rj@gmail.com)

Thank you

St Michael's fundraisers.



*Shakespeare is the second most quoted writer in English, only losing to the Bible.*

## Bruce Bogtrotter Chocolate Cake

Enjoy recreating this mouth watering chocolate cake from Roald Dahl's *Matilda*! Perfect for World Book Day celebrations



### INGREDIENTS

450g plain chocolate

1 tsp salt

350g butter

8 tbsp flour

Maldon sea salt

2 x 20cm cake tins

**Icing:** 250g plain chocolate

450g caster sugar

6 eggs, separated

1 tsp vanilla

250g double cream

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 180. Melt chocolate, then butter, then add sugar, flour, vanilla, salt and egg yolks.
2. Beat egg whites and stir in carefully. Cook both cakes for approximately 35 minutes. Leave to cool.
3. For the icing, melt chocolate and combine with cream. Stack and ice cakes. Top with a light dusting of salt.

## International Women's Day 8<sup>th</sup> March



This year's theme is Choose to Challenge.  
How will you help forge a gender equal world?

International Women's Day is about women all across the globe. You may think things are pretty equal here in the UK, but there are huge disparities in other parts of the world with women being badly mistreated simply because of the gender they are.

We all have a part to play: collectively, we can help create an inclusive world and challenge the hardships and atrocities women across the world face every day.

This year, why not celebrate women's achievement, and raise awareness against bias? Take action for equality.

For more information and ways we can make a difference visit the International Women's Day website:  
<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

*International Women's Day*



*William Shakespeare is said to have created around 3000 words that found their way into the English dictionary*

## Village Shop & Post Office Opening Times at the Village Hall

**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

## Church News

**St Michael's Church, Stanton Harcourt**  
 All services will be held online for the foreseeable future.

Updates regarding services, along with Zoom service links can be found on the Lower Windrush Benefice website, or the 'A Church Near You' website.

[lowerwindrushbenefice.org/](http://lowerwindrushbenefice.org/)

**St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Eynsham**

For information about services at St Peter's please visit [www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk/](http://www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk/)

**Scams** The pandemic has led to an increase in all manner of different types of scam.

Please be vigilant and careful if someone approaches you for personal information, or puts pressure on you in any way.

*If you've uncovered a scam or been targeted, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via their website, [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).*

*Call the Police on 101 if you know the suspect, or they're still in the area.*



*During Shakespeare's era it was also not socially acceptable for women to appear on stage as actors: men regularly played the female roles.*

LOWER WINDRUSH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

400 years of  
**Oxford  
 Botanic  
 Gardens**  
 MARK DAVIES

2nd March 2021 • 7pm • Via Zoom  
 email [lwshcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:lwshcommittee@gmail.com)  
 to find out more • £2.50 per person  
 or join the whole series for £10

## World Book Day

4<sup>th</sup> March is World Book Day: a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and - most importantly - a celebration of reading.

WORLD  
**BOOK  
 DAY**  
 4 MARCH 2021

Many of us have taken to reading more than usual to escape and while away the hours during the pandemic. We would love to receive your recommendations for anything you've been enjoying recently, or old classics you'll never forget.

25th March is Tolkien Day, and our editor couldn't let that go without a mention! Please enjoy this Lord of the Rings themed word search whilst you have a tea break and tuck into a slice of cake.

## Lord of the Rings Wordsearch



SAURON, BILBO, FRODO, RING, SHIRE, HOBBIT, ARWEN,  
 TOLKIEN, PIPPIN, ARAGORN, GANDALF, ELROND,  
 TREEBEARD, MORDOR, GOLLUM, ISENGARD, LEGOLAS

## Mother's Day Gift:

Don't forget 14<sup>th</sup> March is Mother's Day folks.

If you've been caught out (like us, every. single. year.) we've got you covered!



### Bottle Photo Holder

1. Find some old bottles you have at home (you could add a bottle of your mum's favourite tippie for a special touch).
2. Find yourself a cork that will fit in the bottle, you may need to cut one down to size. Make sure it fits nice and snugly.
3. Grab some paint, maybe in your mum's favourite colour.
4. Paint the outside with a brush OR tip paint into the centre and swirl it around inside until all is covered and tip out the excess.
5. Pop a paper clip into the cork, you may need to make an incision with a knife, and then put your favourite photos in.



Please subscribe using the link on the Stanton Harcourt online website [www.stantonharcourt.online](http://www.stantonharcourt.online)

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

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